

## Shiväisith Pronunciation Guide

Shiväisith is the name of the language of the Dark Elves in their own tongue. The pronunciation guide below will get you started on working with the language.

### Longform Pronunciation Guide

- Shiväisith is written with a variant of the roman alphabet. It attempts to keep with the spelling conventions used for some of the other Nordic-inspired names used in the movie and the greater mythos, and so will look a bit like a Scandinavian language. This was done intentionally. Below is a list of each letter or digraph and how it's pronounced, along with a word the letter is used in in Shiväisith. The label in blue following this word is the name of the associated .mp3 file where you can hear the Shiväisith word pronounced:
  - ◉ *A, a*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "father".
    - ❖ Example: *han* "source" ([a\\_samp.mp3](#))
  - ◉ *Aa, aa*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "father", but held for a slightly longer duration than *a*.
    - ❖ Example: *aamar* "I push" ([aa\\_samp.mp3](#))
  - ◉ *Ä, ä*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "fat".
    - ❖ Example: *äshli* "warm" ([adie\\_samp.mp3](#))
  - ◉ *Ää, ää*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "fat", but held for a slightly longer duration than *ä*.
    - ❖ Example: *dääth* "wind" ([aadie\\_samp.mp3](#))
  - ◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "dark".
    - ❖ Example: *domintaa* "scout" ([d\\_samp.mp3](#))
  - ◉ *Dh, dh*: Always pronounced like the "th" in "that"; never pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (for which, see *Th, th*).
    - ❖ Example: *rashidheen* "universe" ([dh\\_samp.mp3](#))
  - ◉ *Dj, dj*: Pronounced like the "j" in "jar".
    - ❖ Example: *djish* "door" ([dj\\_samp.mp3](#))

- *E, e*: Always pronounced like the "e" in "get"; never silent.

  - ❖ Example: *erve* "poison" ([e\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Ee, ee*: Always pronounced like the "e" in "get"; never like the "ee" in "feed". Held for a slightly longer duration than *e*.

  - ❖ Example: *eeju* "quiet" ([ee\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fat".

  - ❖ Example: *sof* "bright" ([f\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *G, g*: Always pronounced like the "g" in "great"; never pronounced like the "g" in "genre" or "gene".

  - ❖ Example: *gondoh* "enough" ([g\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hat". This sound is always pronounced (never silent), including at the end of a syllable or the end of a word. The only instances in which it is not pronounced is when it occurs in the digraphs *dh*, *sh* and *th*.

  - ❖ Example: *heedrä* "power" ([h\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *I, i*: Always pronounced like the "i" in "machine".

  - ❖ Example: *igre* "place" ([i\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Ii, ii*: Always pronounced like the "i" in "machine", but held for a slightly longer duration than *i*.

  - ❖ Example: *iishkä* "loud" ([ii\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *J, j*: Always pronounced like the "y" in "yellow" or the "j" in "Jotunheim"; never pronounced like the "j" in "jeep".

  - ❖ Example: *jen* "we" ([j\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *K, k*: Pronounced like the "k" in "kid".

  - ❖ Example: *koun* "shore" ([k\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *L, l*: Always pronounced like the "l" in "leaf"; never swallowed as in the "l" in "middle".

  - ❖ Example: *lenge* "meat" ([l\\_samp.mp3](#))

- *Lj, lj*: Pronounced like the "ll" in "million".

  - ❖ Example: *rouklju* "who" ([lj\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "Marvel".

  - ❖ Example: *mouha* "enemy" ([m\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *N, n*: Always pronounced like the "n" in "never". (Will change pronunciation naturally before *k* and *g*. This is to be expected.)

  - ❖ Example: *näinä* "roof" ([n\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Nj, nj*: Pronounced like the "ni" in "onion".

  - ❖ Example: *menja* "face" ([nj\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *O, o*: Always pronounced like the "o" in "cōcaptain".

  - ❖ Example: *onol* "yourself" ([o\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Oo, oo*: Always pronounced like the "o" in "cōcaptain"; never like the "oo" in "boot". Held for a slightly longer duration than *o*.

  - ❖ Example: *joohenjel* "we received" ([oo\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Ö, ö*: Pronounced like the "eu" in French "deux" or the "ö" in German "Köln" or the "ö" in Finnish "tyttö". To pronounce this sound correctly, pronounce a pure *e*, but then round your lips entirely as if you were pronouncing *o*. If you do both of these things at the same time, you'll be pronouncing a perfect *ö*.

  - ❖ Example: *völi* "fire" ([odie\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Öö, öö*: Pronounced as described above (see *Ö, ö*), but held for a slightly longer duration.

  - ❖ Example: *ööör* "myself" ([oodie\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *P, p*: Pronounced like the "p" in "pat".

  - ❖ Example: *pohar* "I call" ([o\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *R, r*: Always pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "toro". It's a short flapped "r", not trilled, and not swallowed as English "r".

  - ❖ Example: *rouh* "person" ([r\\_samp.mp3](#))

- *S, s*: Pronounced like the "s" in "sat".

  - ❖ Example: *säli* "cave" ([s\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Sh, sh*: Pronounced like the "sh" in "shape".

  - ❖ Example: *Shiväisith* "Dark Elf language" ([sh\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *T, t*: Pronounced like the "t" in "tar".

  - ❖ Example: *tash* "word" ([t\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Th, th*: Always pronounced like the "th" in "thin"; never pronounced like the "th" in "that" (for which, see *Dh, dh*).

  - ❖ Example: *äither* "aether" ([th\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Tj, tj*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "chair".

  - ❖ Example: *teitjö* "song" ([tj\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *U, u*: Always pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate"; never like the "u" in "cute".

  - ❖ Example: *uli* "berry" ([u\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Uu, uu*: Always pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate"; never like the "u" in "cute". Held for a slightly longer duration than *u*.

  - ❖ Example: *huuthinjel* "we lacked" ([uu\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *V, v*: Pronounced like the "v" in "vat".

  - ❖ Example: *vela* "dark" ([v\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Y, y*: Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue" or the "ü" in German "für" or the "y" in Finnish "tyttö". To pronounce this sound correctly, pronounce a pure *i*, but then round your lips entirely as if you were pronouncing *u*. If you do both of these things at the same time, you'll be pronouncing a perfect *y*.

  - ❖ Example: *ympy* "goat" ([y\\_samp.mp3](#))
- *Yy, yy*: Pronounced as described above (see *Y, y*), but held for a slightly longer duration.

  - ❖ Example: *yydh* "wave" ([yy\\_samp.mp3](#))

- **Doubled Consonants:** Geminated—or doubled—consonants are pronounced just like two separate instances of the same consonant.
  - ❖ **Example:** *tukka* "sheep" ([gem\\_samp.mp3](#))
- **Stress:** Words are stressed uniformly on the first syllable. Exceptions are made only for foreign words.
  - ❖ **Example:** *lahifiksel* "prisoners" ([stress\\_samp.mp3](#))

### Targeted Practice

Listen to the pairs or triplets listed below and practice hearing and producing the distinction.

#### *Short Vowels vs. Long Vowels*

*säli* "cave" ~ *sääri* "time" ([svl\\_1.mp3](#))

*vrith* "he sees" ~ *vuurith* "he saw" ([svl\\_2.mp3](#))

*yfith* "he covers" ~ *yyfith* "he covered" ([svl\\_3.mp3](#))

*parith* "he eats" ~ *paarath* "he saw" ([svl\\_4.mp3](#))

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#### *O vs. E vs. Ö*

*jov* "woman" ~ *jen* "we" ~ *jöh* "knife" ([ovevodie\\_1.mp3](#))

*doomenär* "I looked at" ~ *eeju* "quiet" ~ *hööthär* "I breathe" ([ovevodie\\_2.mp3](#))

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#### *U vs. I vs. Y*

*uli* "berry" ~ *igre* "place" ~ *ympy* "goat" ([uvivy\\_1.mp3](#))

*uuris* "star" ~ *iishkä* "loud" ~ *yydh* "wave" ([uvivy\\_2.mp3](#))

## A vs. Ä

*tash* "word" ~ *päsh* "stone" ([avadie\\_1.mp3](#))

*shaan* "white" ~ *vään* "they" ([avadie\\_2.mp3](#))



## Diphthongs

*säli* "cave" ~ *säih* "now" ([diph\\_1.mp3](#))

*völi* "fire" ~ *köyfe* "air" ([diph\\_2.mp3](#))

*tetteth* "he sang" ~ *teithith* "he sings" ([diph\\_3.mp3](#))

*parith* "he eats" ~ *pausath* "he settles" ([diph\\_4.mp3](#))

*gon* "more" ~ *koun* "shore" ([diph\\_5.mp3](#))



## Th vs. Dh

*hööthith* "he breathes" ~ *igredhöh* "nowhere" ([thvdh\\_1.mp3](#))

*vath* "he, she, it" ~ *yydh* "wave" ([thvdh\\_2.mp3](#))

## Questions?

If you have anything specific you'd like to hear, let me know and I'll record it. I'll be available to help with pronunciation once the dialogue has been translated.