

## Bahtssal Alphabet Sounds

| Consonants  |       |        | Bahtssal                                | English sounds               |
|---|-------|--------|---|------------------------------|
|   |       |        |   | (not translations)           |
| <b>b</b>  |       |        | Bahtssal                                | ball                         |
| <b>ch</b>   |       |        | <b>cha</b> emal                         | <b>ch</b> air                |
| <b>d</b>  |       |        | <b>da</b>                               | <b>da</b> ughter             |
| <b>g</b>  |       |        | <b>gaa</b> ,<br><b>g`</b> <u>uru</u> hu | <b>g</b> arden               |
| <b>h</b>  |       |        | <b>hah</b>                              | <b>h</b> all                 |
| <b>j</b>  |       |        | <b>jii'</b> wa                          | <b>j</b> ee <b>p</b>         |
| <b>k</b>  | as in | soft   | <b>kha</b>                              | <b>p</b> oker                |
| <b>k`</b>   | as in | popped | <b>k`</b> <u>uus</u>                    | <b>k</b> ite                 |
| <b>l</b>  |       |        | <b>laa</b>                              | <b>l</b> oss                 |
| <b>m</b>  |       |        | <b>meh</b>                              | <b>m</b> an                  |
| <b>n</b>  |       |        | <b>nisstha'</b>                         | <b>n</b> ear                 |
| <b>p</b>  | as in | soft   | <b>poh</b>                              | <b>p</b> ole                 |
| <b>q</b>  |       |        | <b>qaayaan'</b>                         | <u>no english</u>            |
| <b>r</b>  |       |        | <b>rikk</b>                             | <b>f</b> ar                  |
| <b>rr</b>   |       |        | <b>marra, garr</b>                      | <b>b</b> urro                |
| <b>s</b>  |       |        | <b>so.</b>                              | <b>s</b> ew                  |
| <b>sh</b>   |       |        | <b>sha.</b>                             | <b>sh</b> ell                |
| <b>tch</b>  |       |        | <b>biigitch'</b>                        | <b>pit</b> ch                |
| <b>t</b>  | as in | soft   | <b>taraa'</b>                           | <b>t</b> all                 |
| <b>t`</b>   | as in | hard   | <b>t`</b> ir                            | <b>t</b> ear                 |
| <b>th</b>   | as in | soft   | <b>tha.</b>                             | <b>th</b> anks               |
| <b>th`</b>  | as in | hard   | <b>th`</b> <u>un'tun</u>                | <b>c</b> artoons             |
| <b>ts</b>   | as in | soft   | <b>ts`</b> its                          | <b>h</b> ats                 |
| <b>ts`</b> or <b>ds`</b>  | as in | hard   | <b>ts`</b> its                          | <u>no english</u>            |
| <b>w</b>  |       |        | <b>wii'q`</b> a                         | <b>w</b> alk                 |
| <b>x</b> — the guttural x --this very distinctive sound can only be learned through listening and practice. xh, and xk may be used to represent these sounds too. |       |        |   |                              |
| <b>y</b>  |       |        | <b>ya<u>o</u></b>                       | <b>y</b> awn                 |
| <i>xtra sounds</i>  |       |        |   |                              |
| <b>hy</b>   |       |        | <b>hya'</b> waa                         | <u>no english</u>            |
| <b>hw</b>   |       |        | <b>hwa</b>                              | may be pronounced <b>wa</b>  |
| <b>hm</b>   |       |        | <b>hnuk</b>                             | may be pronounced <b>nuk</b> |

Bahtssal Alphabet Sounds

Advanced pronunciations of Bahtssal consonants.

You may have observed that a number of Bahtssal sounds have no English equivalent.

For the advanced speaker to pronounce the language correctly, there are a number of xtra ways to create sounds in Bahtssal.

For example—in the old pronunciations there are a number of different types of (t) sounds depending on where in the mouth the tongue is positioned.

Some of them are made by touching the tongue to the roof of the mouth, some touch behind the top front teeth, some touch at the bottom of the top front teeth and another group touches behind the bottom front teeth. Puffs of air may or may not accompany them and they may or may not be popped.

P and k sounds may also be differently pronounced according to whether they have a puff of air at the end as in our examples:

**piithaou** (white)            and   **kha** (spider)

or have glottal pops as in **p`** ohmba (smoke)    or **k`** allii (one)

for our alphabet we have written only those that are popped with these additional marking symbols after the letter. (p`) and (k`)

Linguists have made further distinctions giving (p) a soft (b) sound as in **(p)aka** = **(b)aka** for cow. They also suggested that the soft (k) might be pronounced as a soft (g) as in **(g)a** for house.

For our Bahtssal alphabet we have retained the soft unmarked (p) for **paka** (cow), but we have changed the linguist's (k) to the soft (g) for **(g)a** (house) and other similar sounds.