

The Sounds of Vlaški/Žejanski

(Vlashki/Zheyanski, also, Istro-Romanian)

| Letter / Sound | Example | Sound in IPA |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| a | akmo (now), aduče (to bring) | a |
| â | âb (white), ân (year) | ɒ |
| â | ân (in), ârpa (stone) | ə |
| b | bât (stick), bę (to drink) | b |
| c | cire (to hold, to keep) | ts |
| č | čirâ (to eat dinner), čer (sky) | tʃ |
| ć | ćâ (away), ćâro (very) | tʂ |
| d | dintru (out of, from), dinte (tooth) | d |
| e | e (and, but), fečor (child, boy) | e |
| ę | kadę (to fall), sęra (evening) | æ |
| f | fini (to finish, to end), filj (son) | f |
| g | grumb (ugly), gurę (mouth) | g |
| h | hiti (to throw), hlâd (shadow) | h |
| i | igrej (to play), Istrijân (Istrian) | i |
| j | jo (I), ja (yes) | j |
| k | kę (why), kâ (horse) | k |
| l | la (at, by), lucrâ (to work) | l |
| lj | ljepur (rabbit), ljej (to her) | ʎ |
| m | mâja (mother), mânce (earlier, before) | m |
| n | nęvu (snow), nono (grandfather) | nj |
| nj | njive (field), ânj (years) | ɲ |
| o | oklju (eye), opt (eight) | o |
| p | pâre (bread), per (hair; pear) | p |
| r | rušire (shame), râda (gladly) | r |
| s | sâmânj (fair), sâre (salt) | s |
| š | ši (and), šti (to know) | ʃ |
| t | tari (to wipe), tot (everything, all) | t |
| u | ur (one), uskâ (to dry) | u |
| v | vir (wine), vęreę (summer) | v |
| z | zi (day), ziče (to say) | z |
| ž | živi (to live), žukâ (to dance) | ʒ |

Other sounds, not listed in the above table, occur in the language less frequently: In words borrowed from Croatian and Italian, a sound similar to the consonants in English **judge** is used, represented as **đ** in our spelling, e.g., **Đermanije** (Germany). In very rare examples of words borrowed from Italian, a sound similar to the sound of **ds** in English **buds** is used; it is represented as **dz** in our spelling, e.g., **dzero** (zero).

As in other languages, the pronunciation of Vlaški/Žejanski varies slightly depending on where it is spoken. For example, many speakers from Šušnjevičë/Šušnjevica pronounce **c** and **č**, **s** and **š**, and **z** and **ž** in the same way. They use one or the other sound of each pair or a sound that's in between those two. Similarly, most speakers from Žejân/Žejane pronounce the sound **g** as a hoarser sound, /ɣ/ in a linguist's phonetic notation, used in many other languages, such as Castillian Spanish, Greek, Arabic or Dutch.