

Our Women Are Free

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Gender and Ethnicity in the Hindukush

Wynne Maggi

Ann Arbor

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For Lilizar and the children of Rumbur,
And for Ariel and Emma.
May you live meaningful lives.

With inspiration from Priscilla Beal and Saras Gula Aya

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Kalasha villages built into the steep valley walls

Grom village in Rumbur Valley

Kalasha women clean wheat

A goatherd watches over his flock

A young man makes cheese in the high pastures

A woman makes an unleavened morning bread

A baby boy celebrating fall by eating grapes

A Kalasha man

Women singing lighthearted songs during the Chaumos winter
solstice festival

A young girl learning to sew

Wives of Chitralli officials with Kalasha women

Female relatives from different villages catch up at a
Chaumos gathering

A girl washing her headdress near the river

A woman in the bashali offering the first peek at her
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Three cousins begin their daily laughter and mischief

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Pronunciation Guide

Kalashamon, the Kalasha language, is unwritten. Transcriptions of Kalasha words in this book follow the system devised by Trail and Cooper (1999), and this pronunciation guide is adapted from their *Kalasha Dictionary*. Transcriptions are broadly phonetic, sometimes phonemic. Many Kalasha sounds have no corresponding English sound.

Klasha Sound	American English Sound	Explanation
ˈ		This mark over a vowel means that the word should be stressed on that syllable.
a	a	Low to mid central vowel. Pronounce like “a” in “father.” If the “a” occurs in an unaccented syllable, it is pronounced like the “a” in “about.”
ã		All vowels written with a tilde above are nasalized.
ḷ		All letters written with a dot beneath are retroflex.
ḷã		All vowels written with a dot as well as a tilde are both nasalized and retroflex.
aw	ow	Diphthong. Pronounced like English word “cow.”
ay	I	Diphthong. Pronounced like English word “sky.”

b	b	Voiced unaspirated bilabial stop. Pronounced like the “b” in “bit.”
bh		Voiced aspirated bilabial stop.
č		Voiceless unaspirated palatal affricate. Pronounced like “ch” in the English word “cheese,” but not aspirated.
čh	ch	Voiceless aspirated palatal affricate. Pronounced like the “ch” in “cheese.”
č̣		Voiceless unaspirated retroflex affricate.
č̣h		Voiceless aspirated retroflex affricate.
d	d	Voiced unaspirated dental stop. Pronounced like the “d” in “dog.”
ḍ		Voiced unaspirated retroflex stop. Pronounce like the “d” in “dog,” but with the tongue tip farther back in the mouth.
dh		Voiced aspirated dental stop. Pronounced like the “d” in “dog,” but aspirated.
ḍh		Voiced aspirated retroflex stop.
dz	dz	Voiced unaspirated dental affricate. Pronounced like the final two sounds in “adds,” but with the tongue against the back of the front teeth.
e	e	Mid-front vowel. Pronounced like the “e” in “best.”
ey	a	Diphthong. Pronounced like the English word “say.”
g	g	Voiced unaspirated velar stop. Pronounced like the “g” in “girl.”
gh		Voiced aspirated velar stop.
h	h	Voiceless. Pronounced like the English “h.”
i	ee	High front vowel. Pronounced like the “ee” in “feet.” If the “i” occurs in an unaccented syllable, it is pronounced like the “i” in “fit.”

ɟ	j	Voiced unaspirated palatal affricate. Pronounced like the “j” in “judge.”
ɟ̠		Voiced unaspirated retroflex affricate.
ɟʰ		Voiced aspirated palatal affricate.
k	k	Voiceless unaspirated velar stop. Pronounced like the “k” in “skin.”
kh	k	Voiceless aspirated velar stop. Pronounced like the “k” in “king.”
l̠	l	Dental lateral (velarized). Pronounced like the “l” in “tool,” but tongue touches the back of the front teeth.
l	l	Palatal lateral. Pronounced like the “l” in “leap,” but made a bit with the tongue blade rather than the tongue tip.
m	m	Bilabial nasal stop. Pronounced like the “m” in “money.”
n	n	Dental nasal stop. Pronounced like the “n” in “no,” but the tongue tip touches the back of the front teeth.
ŋ	ng	Palatal nasal stop. Pronounced like the “ng” in “sing.”
o	o	Mid to high back vowel. Pronounced like the “o” in “go.” If it occurs in a closed syllable (between two consonants), it is pronounced like the “oo” in “foot.”
p	p	Voiced unaspirated bilabial stop. Pronounced like the “p” in “spin.”
ph	p	Voiceless aspirated bilabial stop. Pronounced like the “p” in “pin.”
r		Alveolar tap. Just a tap of the tongue tip against the front of the palate.
s	s	Voiceless alveolar fricative. Pronounced like the “s” in “sing.”
ʂ		Voiceless retroflex fricative. Pronounced like “s,” but the tongue tip touches farther back in the mouth.

š	sh	Voiceless palatal fricative. Pronounced like the “sh” in “sheep.”
t	t	Voiceless unaspirated dental stop. Pronounced like the “t” in “stare,” but the tongue tip touches the back of the front teeth.
ṭ	t	Voiceless unaspirated retroflex stop. Pronounced like the “t” in “stare,” but the tongue tip touches farther back in the mouth.
th	t	Voiceless aspirated dental stop. Pronounced like the “t” in “tear,” but the tongue touches the back of the front teeth and there is a puff of air.
ṭh	t	Voiceless aspirated retroflex stop. Pronounced like the “t” in “tear,” but the tongue touches farther back in the mouth and it is aspirated.
ts	ts	Voiceless unaspirated dental affricate. Pronounced like the “ts” in “Betsy.”
tsh		Voiceless aspirated dental affricate. Pronounced like the “ts” in “Betsy,” but aspirated.
u	oo	High back vowel. Pronounced like the “oo” in “too.”
w	w	Bilabial semivowel/glide. Pronounced like the “w” in “water.”
y	y	Palatal semi-vowel/glide. Pronounced like the English word-initial “y” in “you.”
z	z	Voiced alveolar fricative. Pronounced like the “z” in “zebra.”
ḏ		Voiced retroflex fricative. Pronounced like “z,” but the tongue tip touches further back in the mouth.
ž		Voiced palatal fricative. Pronounced like the “z” in “azure” or the “s” in “television.”

Place Names

I have written place names as they are commonly pronounced in English. Kalasha pronunciation is as follows:

Ayun	ēhē
Badtet	baṭét
Balanguru	balangurú
Birir	biríu
Bumboret	mumurét
Chet Guru	čhet gurú
Chitral	čhetráw
Kalashagrom	kaḷáṣa grom
Kort Desh	koṭ deš
Rumbur	ruk mú

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