

**SELF-STARTER**

**PRE-DEPARTURE MATERIALS**

**GJUHA SHQIPE - ALBANIAN LANGUAGE**

***Congratulations and welcome to the Peace Corps Albania family!*** Don’t be overwhelmed by the amount of material enclosed in this introduction – go at your own pace, and familiarize yourself with the look and sound of the language. You will find the language lessons during pre-service training (PST) will be the most valuable, but it doesn’t hurt to do a little pre-departure prep – LE TË FILLOJNË AVENTURËN! (Let the adventure begin!)

**This course is broken down into nine lessons:**

* **Lessons 1 - 3** let you practice the alphabet.
* **Lessons 4 - 9** are some basic useful phrases.

**The Albanian alphabet**

The Albanian language has thirty-six letters. Most of the letters in Albanian are readily recognizable and represent much the same sound as in English; however, others look familiar but represent different sounds. Nine letters are digraphs, which mean they are written as a combination of two consonants but are considered a single letter; these tend to be the sounds that many of us struggle with. Listen to the audio file below to hear the entire alphabet:



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter** | **Sound** | Technical Description | Similar English sound | **Example** |  |
| A a | a | *low back vowel* | *f****a****ther* | **a**nije | (ship) |
| B b | b | *voiced bilabial stop* | ***b****oy,* ***b****at* | **b**a**b**ai | (father) |
| C c | ts | *voiceless apical affricate* | *ca****ts,*** *ha****ts*** | **c**opë | (piece) |
| Ç ç | t∫ | *voiceless palatal affricate* | *ca****tch****, wa****tch*** | **ç**antë | (bag) |
| D d | d | *voiced apical stop* | ***d****oor,* ***d****ebt* | **d**erë | (door) |
| DH dh | ð | *voiced interdental fricative* | ***th****ey,* ***th****en* | **dh**omë | (room) |
| E e | ε | *front unrounded mid vowel* | ***e****stuary,* *b****e****d* | **e**ra | (wind) |
| Ë ë | ә | *mid central lax vowel* | ***a****round,* ***a****lone* | h**ë**na | (moon) |
| F f | ƒ | *voiceless interdental fricative* | ***f****oot,* ***f****ar* | **f**lamur | (flag) |
| G g | g | *voiced dorsal stop* | ***g****round,* ***g****o* | **g**oca | (girl) |
| GJ gj | ɟ | *voiced palatal stop* | ***G****ermany, bar****g****e* | mën**gj**es | (morning) |
| H h | h | *voiceless aspiration* | ***h****otel,* ***h****at* | **h**otel | (hotel) |
| I i | i | *high front unrounded vowel* | *w****ei****rd , b****ea****d* | **i**nteres**i** | (interest) |
| J j | j | *palatal glide* | ***y****esterday,* ***y****es* | **j**eta | (life) |
| K k | k | *voiceless dorsal stop* | ***c****ome,* ***c****ar* | **k**ëmba | (foot, leg) |
| L l | l | *palatalized lateral liquid* | *a****l****so,* ***l****ean* | **l**u**l**e | (flower) |
| LL ll | L | *velarized lateral liquid* | *fa****ll****, ca****ll*** | **ll**ampa | (lamp) |
| M m | m | *voiced bilabial nasal* | ***m****orning,* ***m****an* | **m**otër | (sister) |
| N n | n | *voiced apical nasal* | ***n****oo****n, n****ot* | **n**ë**n**a | (mother) |
| NJ nj | η | *voiced palatal nasal* | *an****n****ual, o****n****ion* | **nj**ë | (one) |
| O o | o | *back unrounded mid vowel* | ***o****r, f****ou****r* | **o**ra | (hour) |
| P p | p | *voiceless bilabial stop* | ***p****arty,* ***p****en* | **p**unë | (work) |
| Q q | c | *voiceless palatal stop* |  | **q**eni | (dog) |
| R r | r | *apical flap* | ***r****emembe****r, r****oom* | **r**adio | (radio) |
| RR rr | R | *apical trill* | *bo****rr****ow* | ku**rr**ë | (never) |
| S s | s | *voiceless apical sibilant* | ***s****i****s****ter,* ***s****on* | **s**eminari | (seminar) |
| SH sh | ∫ | *voiceless palatal sibilant* | ***sh****all,* ***sh****ow* | **sh**umë | (many) |
| T t | t | *voiceless apical stop* | ***t****able,* ***t****an* | **t**avolina | (table) |
| TH th | θ | *voiceless interdental fricative* | ***th****ank you,* ***th****in* | **th**oni | (speak) |
| U u | u | *back rounded high vowel* | *c****oo****l, f****oo****d* | **u**ra | (bridge) |
| V v | v | *voiced interdental fricative* | ***v****ery,* ***v****an* | **v**era | (wine) |
| X x | dz | *voiced apical affricate* | *a****dz****e* | **x**i**x**ë | (spark) |
| XH xh | dℨ | *voiceless palatal affricate* | ***j****oke,* ***j****et* | **xh**a**xh**a | (uncle) |
| Y y | y | *high front unrounded vowel* | *-------* | **y**lli | (star) |
| Z z | z | *voiceless apical sibilant* | ***z****oo,* ***z****ero* | **z**ogu | (bird) |
| ZH zh | ℨ | *voiceless palatal sibilant* | *plea****s****ure, vi****s****ion* | **zh**urmë | (noise) |

**Lesson 1 – Vowels**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Case*** | ***Name*** | ***Note*** |
| Ë ë | Ë | It is similar to the first vowel in English **around** when short, and to the vowel of **burn** when long.  **Për** - for **hënë** - moon |
| A a | A | It is similar to the English sound in **cut** when it is short, or **cart** when it is long.  **Mal -** mountain  **zanë** - fairy |
| E e | E | It is very similar to the English sound as in **get**, **dead**, **set** etc. In Albanian it also has a long counterpart.  **Vesh** - ear  **bletë** - bee |
| I i | I | It is similar to the English sound as in **hit,** or as in **meet** if it is long.  **Mik** - friend  **pikë** - point |
| O o | O | It is similar to the English **hot** when it is short, and **boat** when it is long.  **Sot** - today **botë -** world |
| U u | U | It is similar to the English **bush** when short, and **moon** when long.  **Mbush -** fill **fushë** - field |
| Y y | Y | The sound **Y** does notoccur in English but is easy enough to produce. The way to make it is to pronounce a word with the vowel I (like hit or tea) and then round your lips as if you are blowing out a candle while still saying the vowel.  **Dyqan** – shop **byrek** – pie |

The Albanian vowel “ë” is always fully pronounced if it occurs at the beginning of a word. It is usually pronounced when it occurs in the middle of the words but may be dropped if it does not carry the stress in the word.

One of the more difficult letters for English speakers is “y”- this is a letter that takes a little practice and one that we all struggle with.

Try not to look at the letters as English characters, but instead think of them by their Albanian names, which are helpfully one and the same as the sound they make. This is especially helpful and important with the vowels “e” and “i” as they are opposites in English and Albanian.

*Note:* To hear these words pronounced on your computer double click the speaker icon.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sound “**ë” | **Sound “**y**”** |
| ë**ngj**ë**ll *(angel)*** | y**lber *(rainbow)*** |
| ë**sht**ë ***(is)*** | **at**y ***(there)*** |
| **h**ë**n**ë ***(moon)*** | **h**y**rje*(entrance)*** |
| **d**ë**gjoj *(hear)*** | **th**y**ej *(break)*** |
| **b**ë**j *(do/make)*** | y**ll *(star)*** |
| **bim**ë***(plant)*** | y**nd**y**rë *(fat)*** |

**Lesson 2 - Consonants**

###### Since the Latin alphabet has fewer than 36 letters, it is impossible to represent all Albanian sounds with a single Latin character. Because of this, Albanian has nine digraphs – also called compound letters. Each of them represents a single sound. Each has a separate section in Albanian dictionaries, i.e., words that start with **‘th’** are not to be found in the “t” section of a dictionary.

Familiarize yourself with the digraphs below. We will break them down with the sounds in the lesson as well:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dh | Gj | Ll | Nj | Rr | Sh | Th | Xh | Zh |
| dh | gj | ll | nj | rr | sh | th | xh | zh |

All consonants except **“h”** are paired. The bolded letters are made using the same vocal technique, with the upper letter atonal and the lower letter the tonal version:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **(voiceless)** | ***p*** | ***t*** | ***k*** | ***f*** | ***th*** | ***z*** | ***sh*** | *h* | ***c*** | ***ç*** | ***q*** | *l* | *r* | *m* | *nj* |
| **(tonal/voiced)** | ***b*** | ***d*** | ***g*** | ***v*** | ***dh*** | ***s*** | ***zh*** | *--* | ***x*** | ***xh*** | ***gj*** | *ll* | *rr* | *n* | *j* |

The following consonants are like the initial English sounds in the following words:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **b**  book | **f**  foot | **g**  goal | **j**  yet | **m**  moon | **n**  note |
| **s**  sea | **sh**  sheep | **v**  vowel | **xh**  jet | **z**  zip | **zh**  pleasure |

*Note:* double click the speaker icon on the right side to hear these words pronounced on your computer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **b**ukë | [**b**u:k] | *bread* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **b**ëj *(to do/ make)* | m**b**arim *(end)* | ku**b** *(cube)* |
| **b**ërtas *(to yell)* | hum**b**ur *(lost)* | tu**b** *(pipe)* |

**B** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **f**ik | [**f**ik] | *fig* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **f**las *(to speak)* | as**f**alt *(asphalt)* | du**f** *(rage)* |
| **f**igurë *(figure)* | da**f**inë *( bay)* | bu**f** *(owl)* |

**F** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **g**isht | [gi∫t] | *finger* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **g**rabis *(to capture)* | an**g**azhoj *(to commit)* | pir**g** *(pile)* |
| **g**atuaj *(to cook)* | n**g**adalë *(slow)* | rin**g** *(ring)* |

**G** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **j**am | [jam] | *to be* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **j**ashtë *(out)* | gjobit**j**e *(penalty)* | dëgjo**j** *(hear)* |
| **j**elek *(waistcoat)* | gërhit**j**e *(snore)* | këndo**j** *(sing)* |

**J** 

*“****j****” is a semi-vowel which may be used before or after a vowel or consonant or between two vowels. It is fused into an inseparable character when it follows “g” or “n”.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **m**e | [mε] | *with* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **m**ësues *(teacher)* | the**m**bër *(heel)* | the**m** *(to say)* |
| **M**erita *(girl’s name)* | lu**m**i *(river)* | gju**m**ë *(sleep)* |

**M** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **n**esër | [**n**εsәr] | *tomorrow* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **n**atë *(night)* | lë**n**g *(juice)* | **n**da**n** *(to split)* |
| **n**dal *(to stop)* | që**n**droj *(to stand)* | gje**n**de**n** *(to be found)* |

**N** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **s**a | [**s**a] | *how?* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S**aranda | a**s**pak *(not at all)* | fla**s** *(to speak)* |
| **s**ardele *(sardine)* | a**s**tar *(lining)* | bërta**s** *(to yell)* |

**S** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| s**h**ikoj | [**∫** ikoj] | *to see* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **sh**es *(sell)* | dë**sh**mi *(testimony)* | ko**sh** *(bin)* |
| **sh**i**sh**e *(bottle)* | a**sh**tu *(so)* | da**sh** *(ram)* |

**Sh** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **v**it | [**v**it] | *year* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **v**ij *(to come)* | për**v**jetor *(anniversary)* | ja**v**ë *(week)* |
| **v**arur *(hung)* | pa**v**arësi *(independence)* | akti**v** *(active)* |

**V** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **xh**ep | [**dℨ**εp] | *pocket* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **xh**ungël *(jungle)* | **xh**a**xh**a *(uncle)* | **xh**u**xh** (dwarf) |
| **xh**aketë *(jacket)* | in**xh**inier *(engineer)* | bor**xh** *(debt)* |

**Xh** 

*(“Xh” represents the sound English commonly writes as “j” in jar or “dg” in ridge.)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| i **z**i | [**z**i] | *black* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **z**inxhir *(chain)* | xhelo**z**i (*jealousy)* | qeli**z**ë *(cell)* |
| **z**akon *(habit)* | erë**z**a *(spices)* | nde**z** *(to light)* |

**Z** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **zh**urmë | [ℨu :rm] | *noise* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **zh**avor *(gravel)* | eta**zh**er *(shelf)* | **zh**villoj *(develop)* |
| **zh**abë *(frog)* | **zh**vesh *(put off)* | **zh**ivë *(mercury)* |

**Zh** 

*(“Zh” exists in American English in a few words borrowed from French. The sound never appears at the beginning of the words in English, but does in Albanian.)*

P, T, D, K are pronounced like their English counterparts. They are similar to **p, t, d** and **k** in ***pen, top, door*** and ***kitten****.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **p**ara | [**p**ara] | *money* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **p**i *(drink)* | o**p**era *(opera)* | te**p**si *(pan)* |
| **p**irun *(fork)* | **p**o**p**ull *( people)* | rri**p** *( belt)* |

**P** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **t**ani | [**t**ani] | *now* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **t**apet *(carpet)* | bosha**t**is *(to empty out)* | saha**t** *(watch)* |
| **t**ani*(now)* | **T**irana *(capital city)* | fi**t**im**t**ar *(winner)* |

**T** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **d**erë | [**d**εr] | *door* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **d**orë (hand) | n**d**er (honor) | mo**d**el (fashion) |
| **d**itë (day) | **d**a**d**o (maid) | ën**d**ërr (dream) |

**D** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **k**okë | [**k**o:k] | *head* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **k**ëmbë *(leg)* | ça**k**ma**k** *(lighter)* | **k**i**k**iri**k** *(peanut)* |
| **k**ërcej *(to dance)* | **k**u**k**ull *(doll)* | maço**k** *(male cat)* |

**K** 

Both “nj” and “h” are always enunciated, regardless of their placement in a word. English speakers often fail to clearly pronounce these letters, especially at the end of words, so take care to practice emphasizing these sounds both in the middle and the end of words.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **nj**eri | [**η**εri] | *person* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **nj**oh *(to know)* | shkro**nj**ëtore *(grammar book)* | **nj**ollë (stain) |
| priftëri**nj** *(priests)* | gështe**nj**ë *(chestnut)* | ulli**nj** *(olives)* |

**Nj** 

*(“Nj” doesn’t correspond to any specific consonant in English. However, it exists in the “nio” combination in “onion”. For Spanish speakers, it is pronounced the same as “ñ”.)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **h**umb | [**h**umb] | *lose* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **h**undë *(nose)* | përkra**h**je *(support)* | de**h** *(to get drunk)* |
| **h**ënë *(moon)* | du**h**an *(tobacco)* | fshe**h** *(to hide)* |

**H** 

**“**Th” and “dh” are similar to English in ***think*** and ***they*,** but in Albanian these two sounds are more interdental (the tip of the tongue between the teeth).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Th**umb | [**θ**umb] | *sting* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **th**em *(to say)* | dja**th**ë (*cheese)* | rre**th** *(circle)* |
| **th**ua *(nail)* | I **th**artë *(sour)* | **Th**e**th**i *(village name)* |

**Th** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Dh**e | [**ð**ε] | *and* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **dh**ëmb *(tooth)* | lo**dh**em *(to get tired)* | dar**dh**ë *(pear)* |
| **dh**ogë *(board)* | li**dh**em *(to tie oneself)* | pre**dh**ë *(bomb)* |

**Dh** 

“X” is pronounced by trying to produce at the same time the sound [**d**] and [**z**]. In Albanian this sound occurs at the beginning and in the middle of the words In English it represents a sound that occurs only at the end of the words, such as “ds” in the plural form of the nouns: *“bids”, “lids”,* etc.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **x**i**x**ë | [**dz**i:**dz**] | *spark* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **x**i**x**ëllonjë *(firefly)* | gu**x**im *(daring)* | n**x**ënës *(student)* |
| **x**in**x**ife *( jujube)* | n**x**ihet *(to get dark)* | n**x**ë *( learn)* |

**X** 

“Gj” is a tricky consonant for English speakers, and it is often mispronounced the same way as “xh” is in Albanian. It’s helpful to think of having your molar teeth involved in pronouncing “gj” (as in *urge*) and only your front teeth involved in pronouncing “xh” (as in *juice*).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gj**u | [**gju**] | *knee* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **gj**ej *(to find)* | dë**gj**oj *(to hear)* | zo**gj** *(birds)* |
| **gj**ellë *(dish)* | n**gj**itje *(climbing)* | u do**gj** *(got burned)* |

**Gj** 

“R” is a single trill, whereas “rr” involves more than one trill. The single “r”is pronounced like the English *“r”* in *“bar”* or *“car”.* If you say these words slowly, you will feel your tongue tip curl back at the end of the word.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **r**isk | [**r**isk] | *risk* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **r**aki *(raki)* | ana**r**ki *(anarchy)* | Paza**r** *(bazaar)* |
| **r**adio *(radio)* | ka**r**van (*caravan)* | ofice**r** *(officer)* |

**R** 

“Rr” is sometimes pronounced as a flap “r” and sometimes as a trilled “r”. In a flap “rr”, common in many languages, the tongue gives a rapid tap near the back of your teeth.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rr**egull | [**r**egul] | *order* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **rr**otë *(wheel)* | ka**rr**ige *(chair)* | mo**rr** *(louse)* |
| **rr**epë *(turnip)* | hakma**rr**je *(revenge)* | ko**rr** *(to harvest)* |

**Rr** 

For most English speakers, the most difficult letters to differentiate are “l” and “ll”. The single “l” involves flipping the tongue behind the front teeth, such as in ***plate***. “Ll”is pronounced with the tongue flat against the front of the roof of your mouth (almost *between* the front teeth), similar to the final sound in ***bill, hall,*** etc. Mispronouncing these letters can lead to confusion – a bouquet of “lulet” (*flowers)* would be lovely, but a bouquet of llullet (*tobacco pipes*) would be quite strange!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **l**ojë | [**l**o:j] | *game* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **l**uaj *(play)* | **l**u**l**e *(flower)* | fa**l** *(to forgive)* |
| **l**iri *(freedom)* | b**l**etë *(bee)* | da**l** *(to go/ come out)* |

**L** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ll**oj | [**L**oj] | *kind* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ll**ustroj *(to polish)* | fi**ll**im *(beginning)* | kumbu**ll** *(plum)* |
| **ll**u**ll**ë *(pipe)* | da**ll**gë *(wave)* | ma**ll** *(goods)* |

**Ll** 

“Q” and “ç” are also difficult to differentiate. These sounds exist in English in the form of **ch**. In Albanian these two distinct letters are distinguishable after a while. You need to practice getting these two sounds, so you don’t ask to cry (*qaj)*, when you want tea (*çaj)*. “Q” is a soft **ch**, pushing your breath through your closed molar teeth The sound is soft and doesn’t have much force behind it. “Ç” is a very strong **ch**, and is pronounced by forcing air primarily through your clenched front teeth.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **q**en | [**c**εn] | *dog* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **q**aj *(to cry)* | be**q**ar *(single)* | ka**q***(so much / many)* |
| **q**ershi *(cherry)* | tama**q**ar *(greedy)* | ndre**q** *(to correct)* |

**Q** 

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ç**farë | [t∫ far] | *what?* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ç**ështje *(issue)* | re**ç**el *(jam)* | **ç**eki**ç** *(hammer)* |
| **ç**lirim *(liberation)* | ma**ç**ok *(male cat)* | vi**ç** *(calf)* |

**Ç** 

When vowels occur in pairs, each is pronounced independently (as opposed to creating a diphthong). In English, the “au” in *automobile* is pronounced as a single voiced diphthong [**ah**]; in Albanian, the “a” and “u” and both pronounced [**ah oo**].

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **au:** | **au**tomjet, **au**ditor, **au**torizoj |
| **ae:** | **ae**roport |
| **eo:** | n**eo**logjizma |
| **ia:** | Greq**ia**, teps**ia**, bashk**ia**, p**ia**no |
| **iu:** | m**iu**, ar**iu**, Nazm**iu**, bar**iu** |
| **io:** | rad**io**, Fat**io**n, medal**io**n |
| **ie:** | b**ie**, sht**ie**, shp**ie**, tak**ie**, tesp**ie** |
| **oi :** | dëgj**oi**, mës**oi**, përr**oi**, drag**oi** |
| **ue :** | i dëgj**ue**shëm, lex**ue**s, mës**ue**s |
| **ua :** | l**ua**j, d**ua**, l**ua**n |
| **ye :** | l**ye**j, d**ye**r, rrëf**ye**r |

**Some unusual consonant clusters in Albanian:**

At the beginning of the syllables, Albanian has a number of combinations of consonants that do not occur in English. Here are some of the most common:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **kth:** | ***kth***etër, ***kth***ehem, ***kth***im |
| **mb:** | kë***mb***ë, dhë***mb***, ***mb***ështes, ***mb***retëri, ***mb***es |
| **nd:** | ***nd***ërmarrje, ***nd***er, ***nd***ërgjegjje, ***nd***ikim |
| **ng:** | ***ng***as, ***ng***a, ***ng***atërresë, ***ng***ricë |
| **nx:** | ***nx***ë, I ***nx***irrë, ***nx***itje, ***nx***ënës |
| **zgj:** | ***zgj***erim, ***zgj***at, ***zgj***idhje |
| **zsh:** | lëvi***zsh***mëri |

Remember! These sound pairs are particularly difficult and often incorrectly used interchangeably:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **r** | **rr** | **l** | **ll** |
| ku**r** *(when)* | ku**rr**ë *(never)* | pu**l**a *(hen)* | pu**ll**a *(stamp)* |
| **xh** | **gj** | **q** | **ç** |
| **xh**a**xh**a *(uncle)* | **gj**ellë *(soup)* | **q**en *(dog)* | **ç**elës *(key)* |

Lesson 3 - Pronunciation

Syllables and word stress may be a nightmare for people learning English (with so few rules governing stress, each word’s pronunciation must be memorized), but things are much simpler in Albanian. In general, the main stress falls on the last word of a phrase, on the last stem of a compound word and on the last syllable of a polysyllabic consonant-ending word. This holds for the vast majority of words and phrases in Albanian, though some of them do not obey this general principle.

**General Rules – Nouns**

a) Albanian words are generally stressed on the penultimate (second to last) vowel *if the word ends in a vowel.* If a word ends in a consonant, generally the last syllable is stressed:

kal**a**ja *castle*

kupt**i**m *understanding*

b) In compound words, the stress always goes in the second word:

bashkёpun**o**j *collaborate (together-work)*

parashik**i**m/ I *prediction (before-seen)*

c) A final silent “ё” is never stressed. Furthermore, the vowel “ë” is not stressed unless it is the only vowel, such as in “është.”

ngr**o**htё *warm*

**General Rules – Verbs**

a) Verbs ending in “*j*”are to be stressed on the *“-oj”,* *“-ej”:*

pun**oj** *to work*

parashik**oj**  *to* *predict*

dashur**oj** *to* *love*

kry**ej** *to do/ to perform*

b) In the passive or reflexive form of the verb (i.e., non-active verbs) the stress falls on the last vowel before the conjugation *(hem/ hesh/ het/ hemi/ heni/ hen):*

parashik**o**het *be foreseen*

dashur**o**hem *be loved*

ngr**o**hem *warm oneself*

**General Rules – Adjectives**

1. Adjectives ending in *“-shёm”*, “*-shme”* (endings change depending on the gender of the noun) are stressed on the root, not the ending:

ndj**e**shёm (i) *sensitive* (masculine)

ndj**e**shme (e) *sensitive* (feminine)

b) In the past participle form of adjectives, the *“u”* before the *“-ar”* is always stressed:

pun**u**ar (i,e) *worked/wrought*

dashur**u**ar (i,e) *in love*

lëm**u**ar(i,e) *flat*

c) Adjectives ending in “-ur” are stressed on the penultimate vowel before the “-ur”:

b**u**kur (i,e) *beautiful*

tr**e**mbur (i,e) *afraid*

h**i**dhur (i,e) *bitter*

gr**i**sur (i,e) *torn*

paj**i**sur (i,e) *equipped*

d) Adjectives ending in *“-ёr”* do not have the stress on the *“-ёr”.*

v**a**rfёr (i,e) *poor*

k**a**ltёr (i,e) *sea blue*

e) Adjectives identical to nouns get the same stress as the noun.

pun**o**njёs/ e *working*

punёt**o**r/ e *hardworking*

parashik**u**es/ e *predictive*

f) Articled multi-syllable adjectives are rarely/never stressed on the last syllable. On the other hand, **non-articled** (foreign) adjectives are usually stressed on the last syllable of the masculine form.

Ant**i**k/e *antique*

simpat**i**k/e *pretty, handsome*

Lesson 4 – Common Greetings

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pёrshёndetje | *per shun DET yeh* | Hello |
| Ç’kemi | tch KEM ee | Hi/what’s up |
| Mirёmёngjes | meer mun JES | Good morning |
| Mirёdita | meer DEE ta | Good afternoon |
| Mirёmbrёma | meerm BRUM yah | Good evening |
| Natёn e mirё | not en ey MEER | Good night |
| Si ndiheni? | seen dee HEY nee | How do you feel? |
| Si ia kaloni? | see ya ka LOAN ee | How it was going? |
| Mirё, faleminderit. Po ju? | meer, fa leh min DAE reet. po YOU? | Fine, thanks. And you? |
| Jo keq/ çka | yo CATCH/ tchKA | Not bad/ So So |
| Mirё | MEER | Good |

Lessons 5-9 – Common Phrases

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Si shkon? | How’s it going? |
| Mirё | Pretty well |
| Çfarё po ndodh? | What’s happening? |
| Jo shumё | Not much |
| Çfarё po ndodh? | What’s going on? |
| Si zakonisht | The usual |
| Ç’të reja kemi? | What’s new? |
| Asgjë | Nothing |
| Nga ta di unë? | How should I know? |
| Dukesh i/e lodhur  (the *i* is used for men, the *e* for women) | You look tired |
| Nuk kam fjetur mbrёmё. | I didn’t sleep last night. |
| A je mirё? | Are you OK? |
| Kam dhimbje koke | I have a headache. |
| Si tё quajnё?/ Si e ke emrin? | What is your name? |
| Emri im ёshtё - | My name is - |
| Gezohem qё ju njoha | I am pleased to meet you. |
| Edhe unё | Me too |
| Mё falni | Excuse me |
| Po | Yes |
| Sa ёshtё ora? | What time is it? |
| Faleminderit | Thank you |

Lesson 6

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| S’ka gjё./ Urdhëroni | You are welcome |
| Mё falni. A keni orë? | Excuse me. Do you have the time? |
| Po. Ёshtё dy e pesё | Yes. It is five minutes past two (2:05) |
| Faleminderit | Thanks |
| S’ka gjё./ S’ka përse | That’s OK. (literally, “nothing”) |
| Ështё 2 e dhjetё | It is ten after two (2:10).  It is two ten (2:10) |
| Ështё 2 e pesёmbёdhjetё | It is two fifteen (2:15) |
| Ështё 2 e njё çerek | It is a quarter past two (2:15) |
| Ështё 2 e njёzet | It is twenty minutes past two (2:20)  It is two twenty (2:20) |
| Ështё dy e tridhjetё | It is two thirty (2:30) |

Lesson 7

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ështё dy e gjysmё. | It is half past two (2:30). |
| Ështё dy e dyzet e pesё. | It is two fourty five (2:45). |
| Ështё tre pa njё çerek. | It is a quarter to three. |
| Ështё dy e pesёdhjetё e pesё | It is two fifty five (2:55). |
| Ështё tre pa pesё. | It is five minutes to three (2:55). |
| Ështё njё ditё e kёndshme. | It’s a nice day. |
| Sigurisht qё ёshtё. | It certainly is. |
| Sa ditё e bukur! | What a beautiful day! |
| Mund ta thuash pёrseri. | You can say that again. |
| Si e pёlqen motin? | How do you like the weather? |
| Nuk mund ta besoj qё ёshtё kaq ngrohtё tani. | I can’t believe it is so warm now. |
| Nga jeni? | Where are you from? |
| Jam nga Shqipёria. | I am from Albania. |
| Nё çfarё pjese tё Shqiperisё jetoni? | What part of Albania do you live in? |
| Familja ime jeton nё Shqipёrinё qёndrore. | My family lives in central Albania. |
| Duhet tё iki tani. | I have to go now. |
| Mirё. | OK. |
| Ishte kёndshёm tё flisja me ju. | It was nice talking with you. |
| Ndoshta mund tё takohemi pёrsёri. | Maybe we can meet again sometime. |

Lesson 8

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do tё mё pёlqente. | I would like that. |
| Paç njё ditё tё mirё! | Have a good day! |
| Edhe ti. | You too. |
| Mirupafshim. | Good bye. |
| Shihemi së shpejti. | See you soon. |
| Shihemi nesёr. | See you tomorrow |
| Shihemi tё hёnёn. | See you Monday. |
| Shihemi javën tjetёr. | See you next week. |
| Mё merr nё telefon ndonjёherё. | Call me sometime. |
| Mirё, do tё tё marr. | OK, I will. |
| A mund tё tё jap numrin tim? | May I give you my number? |
| Faleminderit. Ja ku ёshtё imi. | Thank you. Here is mine. |
| A mund tё tё bёj njё pyetja? | May I ask you a question? |
| Sigurisht. | Certainly. |
| A e dini ku është…? | Do you know where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is? |
| Më duket se… | It seems to me…/I think it might… |
| Si mund të shkoj atje? | How can I go there? |
| Ku ёshtё stacioni i autobusit? | Where is the bus station? |
| Ështё atje. | It is over there. |

Lesson 9

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ku ёshtё zyra e postës? | Where is the post office? |
| Ecni drejt asaj rruge dhe merrni kthesёn e parё djathtas. | You go down that street and take your first right. |
| Si mund tё shkoj nё Bashki? | How do I get to City Hall? |
| Ecni drejt kёsaj rruge. Merrni kthesen e dytё majtas. Ështё ndёrtesa e tretё nё tё djathtё. | Go down this street. Take your second left. It is the third building on the right. |
| Mё falni. Nuk ju kuptoj. | Excuse me, I don’t understand you. |
| A mund ta pёrsёrisni? | Could you repeat that? |
| Përsëriteni, ju lutem. | Repeat it, please. |
| Kujdes! | Be careful! |
| Ju lutem, thuajeni pёrsёri. | Please, say that again. |
| Çfarё thatё? | What did you say? |
| Ju lutem, flisni ngadalё. | Please, speak slowly. |
| Ju lutem, pёrdorni fjalё tё thjeshta. | Please use simple words. |
| Ç’dite është sot? | What day is today? |
| Sot është e hënë. | Today is Monday. |
| Sa është data sot? | What date is today? |
| Kur e keni ditëlindjen? | When is your birthday? |
| Çfarë ke? | What’s wrong with you? |
| Kam nevojë për diçka. | I need something. |
| Më duhet … | I need… |
| Rrofsh! | Long life! |
| Me jetë të gjatë! | May he/she have a long life! (used when a baby is born) |
| Të priftë e mbara!/ Paç fat! | Good luck! |
| Rrugë të mbarë! | Have e nice trip! |
| Ju bëftë mirë! | Bon appetite! |
| Të lumshin duart! | May your hands be blessed! (used to praise whomever made an item, such as a meal’s cook) |
| Të shkuara! | Get well soon! |