

The Romansh Alphabet and Pronunciation

The following list of sounds may appear daunting at first sight. Of course, you should not try and learn it all at once, but use it as a reference you keep returning to during your first weeks of learning Romansh. The list is in alphabetical order for ease of reference, but you might find it easier to learn all the consonants first and then the vowels, or vice versa. As you work through the list you will find that several sounds are the same as in English, although they may be spelt differently. Many others are very similar to English and usually pose no problems.

There are no more than half-a-dozen sounds that could be considered as genuine tongue twisters for Romansh beginners.

If you are familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet (API system), you will probably find the pronunciation given in square brackets helpful. Apart from that, the descriptive text explains how you can get near to the sound from your familiar English starting point.

Romansh spelling is almost perfectly “phonetic”. What that means is that, unlike English, the language it is nearly always spoken as it is written. With very few exceptions, that are presented in the list below, you can reliably pronounce any word whether or not you have seen or heard it before. As you work your way through the list, just concentrate on the pronunciation. The meaning of the words is not important at this stage; you will learn that in due time.

This pronunciation guide applies only to standardised Romansh (*Rumantsch Grischun*).

The traditional written idioms of Romansh use different (and, in part) contradictory spellings.

Consonants are pronounced in a similar fashion throughout the whole Romansh-speaking territory. The values of vowels, however, can vary considerably.

Modern Romansh contains many words borrowed from other languages. Swiss German and Italian have traditionally predominated here, on account of their geographic proximity, but numerous French terms have been espoused too. More recently, as you would expect, many English expressions have made their way in to the language too. It remains to be seen how many of these new foreign borrowings will become an integral part of the language and how many will disappear again as short-live fashions. Generally, the original spelling of borrowed terms is maintained to begin with, and the original pronunciation is mimicked too. It is only once a borrowed word really becomes rooted in Romansh itself that its spelling will eventually be adapted too.

Alphabetical List of the Sounds of Romansh

© This list was compiled by Mike Evans (www.evans.ch), who would like to thank Anna Alice Dazi and Ester Caduff of the Lia Rumantsch (www.liarumantsch.ch) for their assistance. You may make any copies of this list that you need to help you or others learn the Romansh language. It may not be copied for any commercial purpose without permission.

A	<p>[a]; [a:] or [ə]</p> <p>A clear [a] is produced further back in the mouth and with your tongue lower down than in English. Open your mouth nice and wide as if at the dentist's and say “a”. This sound may be either short or long. (Whenever there is any doubt, long vowels are followed by a single consonant and short ones by a double consonant.)</p> <p>An unstressed “a”, especially at the end of a noun, may become a less clear sound [ə] that is also very common in English and is to be found for instance in the second syllable of words like “butter”, “runner” or “other”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[a] glatscher, tram, banc [a:] recl<u>a</u>ma, carnun, dar [ə] reclama, libella, insumma</p>
AI	<p>[a:i]</p> <p>This diphthong sounds like the English word “eye” or “I”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[a:i] anglais, activamain, mais</p>

AU	<p>[a:u]</p> <p>This diphthong sounds like the English “ow” in words such as “cow”, “how” or “now”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[b] <i>auditur, baud, jau,</i></p>
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B	<p>[b]; [p]</p> <p>The normal pronunciation of “b” is the same as in English. At the end of words and syllables, however, it is usually hardened to a “p”, except where it is elided with the following word/syllable. A double “b” is pronounced the same as a single “b”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[b] <i>bun, bab, bler</i></p> <p>[p] <i>arab, bab, verb</i></p> <p><u>Note</u>, for instance, that “bab” (“father”) is usually pronounced [bap].</p>
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C	<p>[k]; [ts]</p> <p>When “c” is followed by “a”, “o” or “u” it is pronounced the same as in English, but without the aspiration that is common in English.</p> <p>When “c” is followed by “e” or “i” it is pronounced like “ts” in English. At the end of a word or syllable, it is pronounced “c”.</p> <p>A double “c” is pronounced the same as a single “c” when followed by “a”, “o” or “u”; when followed by “e” or “i”, it is pronounced like an English “k” followed by and English “ts”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">[k]</td> <td>buc, carr, a<u>cc</u>ident</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[ts]</td> <td>center, cifra, a<u>cc</u>ident</td> </tr> </table>	[k]	buc, carr, a <u>cc</u> ident	[ts]	center, cifra, a <u>cc</u> ident
[k]	buc, carr, a <u>cc</u> ident				
[ts]	center, cifra, a <u>cc</u> ident				

CH	<p>[k]; [tʃ]</p> <p>Before an “e” - and in some cases before an “i” - the “h” is silent and merely has the function of keeping the “c” “hard”. One very common Romansh word is “che” (= “that”). It is pronounced like "che" in Italian (or the English letter “k”).</p> <p>In most cases the combination of letters “ch” represents a sound similar to the English “ch” but pronounced further forward in the mouth. For historic reasons, the combination “ch” is only used at the start of words. In the middle or at the end of words, or before an “e” the same sound is represented by “tg”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">[k]</td> <td>architect, bizochels, China</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[tʃ]</td> <td>chasa, chombra, Chile</td> </tr> </table>	[k]	architect, bizochels, China	[tʃ]	chasa, chombra, Chile
[k]	architect, bizochels, China				
[tʃ]	chasa, chombra, Chile				

D	<p>[d]; [t]</p> <p>The normal pronunciation of “d” is the same as in English. At the end of words and syllables, however, it is usually hardened to a “t”, except where it is elided with the following word/syllable. A double “d” is pronounced the same as a single “d”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">[d]</td> <td>dent, dubel, Londra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[t]</td> <td>agid, citad, entitad</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: “ed” (a version of “e” used before vowels) is pronounced “ed” not “et”. The reason is that is always elided with the following vowel (i.e. pronounced like a single word). The same applies to “dad” (a version of “da” used before vowels).</p>	[d]	dent, dubel, Londra	[t]	agid, citad, entitad
[d]	dent, dubel, Londra				
[t]	agid, citad, entitad				

E	<p>[ɛ]; [e:] [ə]</p> <p>Romansh has a short “open e” and a long “closed e”. In unstressed syllables, “e” may become the same “indistinct” sound as in English.</p> <p>The “short e” is like the “e” in English words such as “bed”, “fed” or “red”. The “long e” is like the sound frequently represented by “ay” in English in words such as “hay”, “may” or “pay”. In English we tend to make a diphthong out of this sound. We pronounce a long [e:] and then we add on a “little y”. In Romansh, you should try and pronounce a pure sound (leaving out that “little y”). (Whenever there is any doubt, long vowels are followed by a single consonant and short ones by a double consonant.)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">[ɛ]</td> <td>è, emna, postella</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[e]</td> <td>bler, per, video</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[ə]</td> <td>cusseglier, beneventar, prender</td> </tr> </table>	[ɛ]	è, emna, postella	[e]	bler, per, video	[ə]	cusseglier, beneventar, prender
[ɛ]	è, emna, postella						
[e]	bler, per, video						
[ə]	cusseglier, beneventar, prender						

<p>EI</p>	<p>[e]+[i]</p> <p>In standardised Rumantsch Grischun, this combination of letters represents two distinct sounds and not a diphthong. In certain place names (such as Breil), the two sounds do combine to form a diphthong,</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [e]+[i] europeic, reimportaziun, reinventar</p>
<p>EU</p>	<p>[ɛu]; [e]+[u]</p> <p>This diphthong is one not used in English. Simply start with an “e” and then glide into a “u”.</p> <p>In certain words, the “e” of the prefix and the “u” of the stem are pronounced separately:</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [ɛu] euforia, euro [e]+[u] museum, reunir</p>
<p>F</p>	<p>[f]</p> <p>“F” is pronounced the same as in English. Words that are spelt with “ph” in English are usually spelt with “f” in Romansh. A double “f” is pronounced the same as a single “f”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [f] fitg, flad, foto</p>

G	<p>[g]; [c]; [dʒ]; [tʃ]</p> <p>When “g” is followed by “a”, “o” or “u” it is pronounced the same as in English. When “g” is followed by “e” or “i” it also changes pronunciation in the same way as in English; in other words, it sounds like an English “j”. At the end of words or syllables, “g” is usually hardened to [k]. At the end of a very few place names, it hardens to [tʃ]; this phenomenon does not occur in the normal vocabulary of standardised Rumantsch Grischun.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">[g]</td> <td>gugent, galant, gol</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[k]</td> <td>aug, ambig, catalog</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[dʒ]</td> <td>agid, Engiadina, gugent, suggeriment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[tʃ]</td> <td>Rosegg</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note the two different “g”s in “gugent” - a word used frequently in Romansh.</p>	[g]	gugent, galant, gol	[k]	aug, ambig, catalog	[dʒ]	agid, Engiadina, gugent, suggeriment	[tʃ]	Rosegg
[g]	gugent, galant, gol								
[k]	aug, ambig, catalog								
[dʒ]	agid, Engiadina, gugent, suggeriment								
[tʃ]	Rosegg								

GL	<p>[gl] [f]</p> <p>In most combinations “gl” is pronounced the same as in English.</p> <p>When followed by an “i” or at the end of words (and some syllables), however, it takes on a different sound – the same as the sound represented by “gli” in Italian or by “ll” in Spanish. You will be very near to it if you pronounce an English “l” followed immediately by an English “y”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">[gl]</td> <td>glatsch, global, glucosa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[f]</td> <td>avrigl, glied, bigliet</td> </tr> </table>	[gl]	glatsch, global, glucosa	[f]	avrigl, glied, bigliet
[gl]	glatsch, global, glucosa				
[f]	avrigl, glied, bigliet				

GN	<p>[J]</p> <p>The combination “gn” is pronounced as a single sound. It is the same as a “gn” in French or Italian or an “ñ*” in Spanish . It is approximately like an “n” followed immediately followed by “y” in English (such as in the word “<i>onion</i>”).</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[J] bogn, gnerv, Spagna</p>
H	<p>[]</p> <p>In Romansh, “h” by itself is always silent. It has been retained in certain words for historic reasons. In a few instances, it is used to distinguish between homophones (words which sound the same, but have different meanings). In a number of proper names (mainly of German origin) and borrowed terms, it is pronounced as in English.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[] ha, has, han [h] Haiti, hamburger, hobi</p>
I	<p>[i]; [i:]</p> <p>This sound is produced with the tongue little further forward in the mouth than in English. This sound may be either short or long. (Whenever there is any doubt, long vowels are followed by a single consonant and short ones by a double consonant.)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[i] dischillusiun, istoric, simmetria [i:] : activa, chamischa, alternativa</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">IA</p>	<p>[ja:]; [i]+[a]</p> <p>This diphthong is like an English “y” followed by an “a”.</p> <p>At the ends of words, the two letters are usually pronounced separately and the “i” is stressed.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [ja] immediat, Italia, figlia [i:]+[a] Austria, industria, via</p> <p>Note: when an “i” follows a “g” it often only has the effect of softening it (making it like an English “j”) and is not usually heard as a separate sound. Examples are: ligiongia, gia, Norvegia</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">IE</p>	<p>[Ie:]</p> <p>This diphthong is like a short English “i” or “y” followed by a closed “e” (roughly like the English “yeah”).</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [Ie] biera, chapientscha, Vaniescha</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">IEU</p>	<p>[jeu]</p> <p>This common Romansh triphthong is not used in English. Start with a short “y”, follow it with a somewhat longer “e” and finish with a short “u”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [je] fieu, lieu, gliעד</p>

J	<p>[j]</p> <p>The letter “j” in Romansh corresponds to a “y” in English</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [j] jogurt, juvel, paja</p> <p>In certain words more recently borrowed from English, the original pronunciation [dʒ] has usually been kept:</p> <p>[dʒ] jet, jogger, joint</p>
K	<p>[k]</p> <p>In Romansh, the letter “k” is only used in words of foreign origin, typically units starting with the prefix “kilo...”. It is pronounced as in English (but without the aspiration).</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [k] kil(o), kilometer, kiosc</p>
L	<p>[l]</p> <p>In Romansh, the letter “l” is pronounced the same as an “l” when it occurs at the <i>start</i> of an English word or syllable (a so-called “clear l”) [l] . It is never pronounced like a “dark l” [ɫ] as found at the end of syllables in English. Many native English speakers are not aware of the existence of two “l”s, since they are not interchangeable! You can easily hear the difference in short English words such as “loll” “lull”, “little”. It is the first of these sounds that you must always use in Romansh. A double “l” is pronounced the same as a single “l”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [l] lavar, milli, val,</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">M</p>	<p>[m]</p> <p>“M” is pronounced the same as in English. A double “m” is pronounced the same as a single “m”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [m] commember, milli, um</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">N</p>	<p>[n]</p> <p>“N” is pronounced the same as in English. A double “n” is pronounced the same as a single “n”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [n] En, onns, nanin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NG</p>	<p>[ŋ]; [ng]</p> <p>At the end of words, the combination “ng” is usually pronounced a single sound, i.e. it is not followed by a distinctive “g”. When a syllable is added to such words, the “g” is pronounced too. In certain words, the “n” comes at the end of one syllable and the “g” at the start of the next one. In such cases, they are pronounced separately. This might sound complicated, but it is basically the same as in English.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [ŋ] diftong, lung, pluriling, [ŋg] lunga, plurilinga, lungurella [ng] engraziel, Ungaria, anghel</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">O</p>	<p>[O]; [o:]</p> <p>Romansh has a short “open o” and a long “closed o”. The “short o” is like the “o” in English words such as “cot”, “lock” or “rot”. The ‘long o’ is like the sound in English words such as “boat” “home” or “road”. In English we tend to make a diphthong out of this sound. We pronounce a long [o:] and then we add on a “little w”. In Romansh, you should try and pronounce a pure sound (leaving out that “little w”). (Whenever there is any doubt, long vowels are followed by a single consonant and short ones by a double consonant.)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [O] toc, bavronda, bogn [o:] biro, ovra, chamona</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OI</p>	<p>[Oɪ]</p> <p>This diphthong is the same sound as usually represented by “oi” or “oy” in English in words such as “foil” “noise” or “toy”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [Oɪ] emploiar, loipa, roial</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OU</p>	<p>[o]+[u];[ou]</p> <p>In standardised Rumantsch Grischun, these two letters do not represent a diphthong. They are pronounced separately. In certain place names, they are very similar to the normal long “o” sound in English.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [o]+[u] microunda [ou] Salouf</p>

<p>P</p>	<p>[p]</p> <p>“P” is pronounced the same as in English, but without the aspiration that is common in English. A double “p” is pronounced the same as a single “p”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [p] appartament, palpiri, public</p>
<p>Q</p>	<p>[kw]</p> <p>As in English, “q” is always combined with a “u”. It is pronounced the same way.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [kw] quai, qualitat, quel</p>
<p>R</p>	<p>[r]</p> <p>In Romansh, “r” is a distinctive “rolled” sound as in Italian, Spanish or Scottish. In the standard language, it is never “swallowed” or omitted at the end of words as often happens in English. It is not a difficult sound to learn, but it is one of those sounds that make our tongues work a lot harder than they are used to in English! A double “r” is pronounced the same as a single “r”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [r] radical, carr, meglra</p>

S	<p>[s]; [z]; [S]; [Z]</p> <p>“S” is a very busy letter in Romansh, since it has four different pronunciations. Which one is required, is fortunately usually clear from context.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By itself as the start of words, it is pronounced [s]. At the end of words, it is also always pronounced [s] - never [z] as in English; this takes some getting used to! The sound [s] is also used when two “s”s occur between vowels. 2. The sound [z] is used for a single “s” between vowels. 3. When an “s” is followed immediately by an unvoiced consonant, it is pronounced like an English “sh” [S]. 4. When [s] is followed by a voiced consonant, it is pronounced like “zh” [Z] (see note on “sch” below): <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">[s]</td> <td>vossa, nus, Plessur</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[z]</td> <td>disa, rosa, visita,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[S]</td> <td>puspè, ski, sforza,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Z]</td> <td>sbagl, snegar, Svizra</td> </tr> </table>	[s]	vossa, nus, Plessur	[z]	disa, rosa, visita,	[S]	puspè, ski, sforza,	[Z]	sbagl, snegar, Svizra
[s]	vossa, nus, Plessur								
[z]	disa, rosa, visita,								
[S]	puspè, ski, sforza,								
[Z]	sbagl, snegar, Svizra								

SC	<p>[sk]; [sts]</p> <p>The combination “sc” followed by “a”, “o” or “u” is pronounced as in English “shk” [ʃk]!!</p> <p>When followed by “e” or “i”, it is pronounced “sts”. This initially sounds rather strange to the English ear, but you will soon get used to it!</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">[Sk]</td> <td>Pasca, scopo, scuder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[sts]</td> <td>disciplina, scenario, scienza</td> </tr> </table>	[Sk]	Pasca, scopo, scuder	[sts]	disciplina, scenario, scienza
[Sk]	Pasca, scopo, scuder				
[sts]	disciplina, scenario, scienza				

SCH	<p>[S]; [Z]</p> <p>The combination “sch” is usually pronounced the same as an English “sh”. This is <i>always</i> the case at the start or end of words. Between vowels “sch” is sometime pronounced like “sh” and sometimes like the voiced equivalent, i.e. like a French “j” (or “soft g”). This sound is sometimes represented phonetically in English as “zh”. It is heard in a few English words such as “azure”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[S] schanza, enconuscha, glisch [Z] branscha, chaschun, Grischun</p>
STG	<p>[Stǰ]</p> <p>This combination is like an English “sh” followed immediately by an English “ch”. It sounds most unusual to the English ear to begin with, but can be readily acquired.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[Stǰ] carstgaun, perstgisai, stagalim</p> <p>Note: many places in the Engadin have names containing the combination “S-ch” (such as S-chanf, S-charl), which confounds many visitors. It is the local equivalent of the spelling “stg” used in Rumantsch Grischun.</p>
T	<p>[t]</p> <p>“T” is pronounced the same as in English (but without the aspiration). A double “t” is pronounced the same as a single “t”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[t] teater, ti, tomata</p>

<p>TG</p>	<p>[tʃ]</p> <p>This is a sound similar to the English “ch” but pronounced further forward in the mouth. For historic reasons, the combination “tg” is used in the middle and at the end of words and also before an “e”. At the start of words, the same sound is represented by “ch”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [tʃ] artitgel, tge, Turitg</p>
<p>TH</p>	<p>[t]</p> <p>The combination “Th” is often found in Romansh names. The “h” is silent. In other words “th” is pronounced the same as “t”. The two sounds represented by “th” in English ([d],[θ]) are not used at all in Romansh.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [t] Cathomen, Denoth,</p>
<p>TSCH</p>	<p>[tʃ]</p> <p>This combination is pronounced nearly the same as an English “ch”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [tʃ] entschatta, Frantscha, Rumantsch</p>

U	<p>[U] [u:]</p> <p>“U” in Romansh represents the sound for which we most often use “oo” in English. This sound may be either short or long; as in English, the “long u” is more open than the short one. (Whenever there is any doubt, long vowels are followed by a single consonant and short ones by a double consonant.)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[U] bun, consultar, ussa [u:] broschura, chantun, udir</p>
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UA	<p>[wa]; [u]+[a]</p> <p>This diphthong is similar to “wa” in English</p> <p>In certain words (similar to English), “u” comes at the end of one syllable and “a” at the beginning of the next one. Each vowel is then pronounced distinctly.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <p>[wa] guaffen, guardar, ual [u]+[a] annual, duas, eventual</p>
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UE	<p>[wɛ]; [w@]; [u]+[ɛ]</p> <p>This diphthong is usually similar to the sound in English words such as “when” or “where”. In a few words, the “e” becomes an indistinct [@].</p> <p>In some words the “u” comes at the end of one syllable and the “e” at the beginning of the next one (for instance, where there is an “-esch-“ infix). Each vowel is then pronounced distinctly.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>[wɛ]</td> <td>guerra, consequenza, frequent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[w@]</td> <td>distinguer, luentera</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[u]+[ɛ]</td> <td>cuntinuescha, destruescha, influenza</td> </tr> </table>	[wɛ]	guerra, consequenza, frequent	[w@]	distinguer, luentera	[u]+[ɛ]	cuntinuescha, destruescha, influenza
[wɛ]	guerra, consequenza, frequent						
[w@]	distinguer, luentera						
[u]+[ɛ]	cuntinuescha, destruescha, influenza						

UI	<p>[wi]; [ui]</p> <p>This diphthong is similar to “wi” in English</p> <p>In some words, the “u” comes at the end of one syllable and the “i” at the beginning of the next one. Each vowel is then pronounced distinctly.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>[wi]</td> <td>Cuira, fuin, cuirass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[u]+[i]</td> <td>construir, eruir, gratuit</td> </tr> </table>	[wi]	Cuira, fuin, cuirass	[u]+[i]	construir, eruir, gratuit
[wi]	Cuira, fuin, cuirass				
[u]+[i]	construir, eruir, gratuit				

<p style="text-align: center;">UO</p>	<p>[w@]</p> <p>This diphthong is similar to sound that comes at the start of the word “once” in English. In slow or deliberate speech, the “o” tends to become an [0].</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [w@] Scuol, suonda, Vuorz</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">V</p>	<p>[v]; [f]</p> <p>The normal pronunciation of “v” is the same as in English. At the end of words and syllables, however, it is usually hardened to an “f”, except where it is elided with the following word/syllable.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [v] activa, collavurar, controversa [f] activ, brev, clav</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p>[w]</p> <p>“W” is not used in indigenous Romansh words. It is found in a number of foreign borrowings. In words borrowed from English, it is usually pronounced ‘w’; In words borrowed from German, it is usually pronounced ‘v’.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [v] www, watt, walzer [w] walkman, western, whisky</p>

X	<p>[ks]</p> <p>“X” is pronounced the same as in English.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [ks] cumplex, exact, proxim</p>
Y	<p>[j]</p> <p>“Y” is found occasionally in a number of foreign borrowings, where it is usually pronounced the same as in English.</p> <p><u>Example:</u> [j] yak</p>
Z	<p>[ts]</p> <p>“Z” in Romansh is pronounced the same as “ts” in English. A double “z” is pronounced the same as a single “z”.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> [ts] bellezza, staziun, zunt</p>

Ü, Ö, Ä

These three letters (derived from German) are not generally used in the standardised version of Romansh (Rumantsch Grischun), but you will find them in both place names and surnames especially in the Engadin.

You can ignore them totally to begin with. Two of them, “Ü” and “Ö”, are, however, used in the Engadin versions of Romansh that you may perhaps also learn sometime.

“Ä” is easiest of the three; just pronounce it the same as “e” [E] .

“Ö” is pronounced the same as in German or like the French “oe” [ø] in “soeur”.

Try pronouncing a Romansh “e” and then rounding your lips as for an “o” whilst keeping your tongue in the same position. Alternatively, pronounce a Romansh “o” and move your tongue as far forward behind your teeth as you can, whilst keeping your lips rounded. The vowel sounds in the English words “fur” or “fir” come quite near to a Romansh “ö”.

[ø]

Grönlanda

“Ü” is pronounced the same as in German or like the French or Dutch “u” [y].

Try pronouncing a Romansh “i” and then rounding your lips as for a “u” whilst keeping your tongue in the same position. Alternatively, pronounce a Romansh “u” and move your tongue as far forward behind your teeth as you can, whilst keeping your lips rounded.