



The Albanian Language Gjuha Shqipe



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The text accompanies the following audio tracks:


- AL_Albanian_Lesson_1.mp3 (Time: 1:53) (File Size: 1.73 MB)
- AL_Albanian_Lesson_2.mp3 (Time: 0:42) (File Size: 666 KB)
- AL_Albanian_Lesson_3.mp3 (Time: 1:38) (File Size: 1.49 MB)
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Information about Albanian

The Albanian language belongs to the family of Indo-European languages. It is one of the oldest languages, yet different from the others. Albanian language seems to have kept its own features from very ancient times. The earliest text in Albanian known so far is the "Baptizing Formula", written in 1462. Historically, unified national literary Albanian can be traced to 1908, when the decision was made to accept the Latin alphabet. Since 1972, the unified literary language remains the only one used in Albania and Yugoslavia.

Albanian language is spelled more or less phonetically. Each letter has a specific sound that doesn't change in the context, making its reading and writing rather easy. As a rule, Albanian spelling corresponds to the pronunciation of words quite directly. The alphabet has 36 letters, 29 consonants and 7 vowels. There are two main dialects, the *Geg* dialect in the North of Albania and the *Tosk* dialect in the South. In spite of the differences of the two main dialects, both spoken and written Albanian are understood by all Albanians. Education and mass media have facilitated this process. Today Albanian is spoken by about 10 million people around the world, 3.5 million in Albania, 3 million in Yugoslavia (Kosovo, Macedonian, Serb and Montenegro), over 1 million in Turkey, as well as large groups of Albanians in South Italy (known as *Arbereshe*), Greece, Europe, USA, Canada and Australia.


- Albanian is an inflected language, which means that grammatical endings play an indispensable role in the language grammatical system.
- Nouns can have either a feminine or masculine gender (the neutral gender isn't very common)
- Depending on their role in the sentence (such as subject or object, nouns change their endings. The different roles they play are called cases. Albanian has five cases: Nominative (subject), Accusative (direct object), Dative (indirect object), Genitive (possession) and Ablative (nouns following prepositions).
- Nouns can be either definite or indefinite. This is marked by their ending rather than an article like the English *the*. Even names of people and places can be definite. The capital *Tirana* could then be literally translated as *the Tiranë*.
- Adjectives change depending on the gender, number, definiteness and case of the noun they follow.
- Instead of the pronouns (*I work, you work, he she/it works, we work, you work, they work*), verbs use endings (*punoj, punon, punon, punojmë, punoni, punojnë*). The pronouns exist (*unë, ti, ai/ajo, ne, ju, ata/ato*) but are used only for emphasis.
- Compared to the English 14, Albanian only has 8 tenses whose use is very similar to their English equivalents.
- Another prominent feature of Albanian is its clitics *e/i* and their forms which have many different functions. One of the language's functions is the direct object pronoun: *Unë e shoh*. (I see it.) What may be confusing is that it is used even when the full object is there: *Unë e shoh librin*. (I see [it] the book.)

 Lesson 1: Albanian alphabet and sounds

Albanian language has 36 letters, each presenting a different sound from the other. Nine letters are digraphs, which means they are written as a combination of two consonants but are considered to be a single letter. **Sh, th**, and others and are considered letters. Words beginning with them are listed separately in the dictionary.

Letter	Sound	Similar English sound	Example	Meaning:
A a	a	father	anije	(ship)
B b	b	boy	babai	(father)
C c	ts	cats	copë	(piece)
Ç ç	tʃ	charm	çantë	(bag)
D d	d	door	derë	(door)
DH dh	ð	they	dhomë	(room)
E e	ɛ	estuary	era	(wind)
Ë ë	ə	around	hëna	(moon)
F f	f	foot	flamur	(flag)
G g	g	ground	goca	(girl)
GJ gj	-	-----	më ngjes	(morning)
H h	h	hotel	hotel	(hotel)
I i	i	interest	interesi	(interest)
J j	j	yesterday	jeta	(life)
K k	k	come	këmba	(foot, leg)
L l	l	little	lule	(flower)
LL ll	L	fall, call	llampa	(lamp)
M m	m	morning	motër	(sister)
N n	n	noon	nëna	(mother)
NJ nj	ŋ	new	një	(one)
O o	o	all, or	ora	(hour)
P p	p	party	punë	(work)
Q q	c	-----	qeni	(dog)
R r	r	remember	radio	(radio)
RR rr	R	-----	kurrë	(never)
S s	s	sister	seminari	(seminar)
SH sh	ʃ	shall	shumë	(many)
T t	t	table	tavolina	(table)

TH th	θ	<i>thank you</i>	thoni	(speak)
U u	u	<i>cook, foot</i>	ura	(bridge)
V v	v	<i>very</i>	vera	(wine)
X x	dz	-----	xixë	(spark)
XH xh	d□	<i>joke</i>	xhaxha	(uncle)
Y y	y	-----	ylli	(star)
Z z	z	<i>zoo, zero</i>	zogu	(bird)
ZH zh		<i>pleasure</i>	zhurmë	(noise)

 Lesson 2: Difficult sounds in Albanian

These pairs of sounds are particularly difficult and often wrongly interchangeably when used:

r <i>kur</i> (when)	rr <i>kurrë</i> (never)	l <i>pula</i> (hen)	ll <i>pulla</i> (stamp)
xh <i>xhaxha</i> (uncle)	gj <i>gjellë</i> (soup)	q <i>qen</i> (dog)	ç <i>çelës</i> (key)

Sounds in Albanian Language

(No Audio)

Vowels

Each of the **vowels** can be either short or long

Case	Name	Phonetic symbol	Note
Ë ë	Ë	[ə]	It is similar to the first vowel in English around when short, and to the vowel of burn when long. për [pər] for hënë [hə: n]
A a	A	[a]	It is similar to the English sound in cut when it is short, or cart when it is long. mal [mal] mountain zanë [za :n] fairy
E e	e	[ɛ]	It is very similar to the English sound as in get , dead , set etc. In Albanian it also has a long counterpart. vesh [vɛ ʃ] ear bletë [blɛ: t] bee
I i	i	[i]	It is similar to the English sound as in hit , or as in meet if it is long. mik [mik] friend pikë [pi:k] point
O o	o	[o]	It is similar to the English hot when it is short, and thought when it is long. sot [sot] today botë [bo: t] world
U u	u	[u]	It is similar to the English bush when short, and moon when long. mbush [mbush] fill fushë [fu: ʃ] field

Consonants

1. The following consonants:

b[b], ç[tʃ], f[f], g[g], j[j], m[m],

n[n], s[s], sh[ʃ], v[v], xh[dʒ], z[z], zh [ʒ]

are like the initial English sounds in the following words: **book**, **church**, **foot**, **goal**, **jet**, **moon**, **note**, **sheep**, **vowel**, **judgement**, **zip** and **pleasure**:

bukë	[bu:k]	bread	sa	[sa]	how ?
çfarë	[tʃ far]	what?	shikoj	[ʃ ikoj]	to see

fik	[fik]	<i>fig</i>	vit	[vit]	<i>year</i>
gisht	[gɪʃt]	<i>finger</i>	xhep	[dɛp]	<i>pocket</i>
jam	[jam]	<i>to be</i>	zi	[zi]	<i>black</i>
me	[mɛ]	<i>with</i>	zhurmë	[u:rm]	<i>noise</i>
nesër	[nɛsər]	<i>tomorrow</i>			

2.

p[p], t[t], d[d], k[k]

are pronounced like their English counterparts but are not aspirated even when they are in an initial position. They are similar to **p**, **t**, **d** and **k** in *pen*, *top*, *door* and *skin*.

penë	[pɛn]	<i>pen</i>	derë	[dɛr]	<i>door</i>
tani	[tani]	<i>now</i>	kokë	[ko:k]	<i>head</i>

3. nj[ɲ] is pronounced like the initial sounds in the English word *new*.

njeri [ɲɛri] *person*

4. h[h] is very similar to the English as in head, heat, etc.

humb [humb] *lose*

5. th[θ] and dh[ð] are similar to English in *think* and *they*, but in Albanian these two sounds tend to be more interdental, that is, you put the tip of your tongue between teeth.

thumb [θumb] *sting* dhe [ðɛ] *and*

6. c [ts] is pronounced by trying to produce at the same time the sound [t] and [s], whereas x [dz] is pronounced by trying to produce at the same time the sound [d] and [z]

ca [tsa] *some* xixë [dzi:dz] *spark*

7. q [c] and gj [gj] are two consonants that do not exist in English.

qaj [caj] *cry* gju [gju] *knee*

8. r[r] is a single trill, whereas rr [R] involves more than one trill.

risk [risk] *risk* rregull [ReguL] *order*


9. l[l] is pronounced similarly to l in *leaf* or *long*, whereas ll[L] is more like the final sound in *bill*, *hall*, etc.

lojë [lo:j] *game* lloj [Loj] *kind*

Syllables and word stress

According to the number of vowels, Albanian words may consist of one, two, three or more syllables. In the Albanian language the position of the word stress is not fixed. In some words the stress falls on the first syllable: *Ti=you*. In others, it falls on the last syllable: *Parti-a = party*. There are words with the stress falling on the middle syllable: *Punë-a = work*. It is advisable to pay attention to the stress when memorizing Albanian words. Word stress in Albanian is more emphatic than in English; the stressed syllable is articulated with much greater force than the unstressed one, therefore lengthened.

In general, in Albanian 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 word. Although this holds for the vast majority of words in Albanian, some of them do not obey this general principle.

 Lesson 3: Greetings

Përshendetje

Welcome!

Mirë se vini!

Hello!

Përshëndetje

Good morning!

Mirëmëngjes!

Good afternoon!

Mirëdita!

Good evening !

Mirëmbrema!

Good bye!

Mirupafshim!

Please!

Ju lutem!

Excuse me.

Më falni

Thank you (very much)!

Faleminderit (shumë)!

Yes

Po


No

Jo

 Lesson 4: Useful phrases

Shprehje të përdorshme

Where are you from?	Nga jeni ju?
I am from the United States.	Unë jam nga Amerika.
I am American.	Unë jam amerikan.
Where do you live?	Ku banoni ju?
I live in ...	Unë banoj në...
How are you?	Si jeni ju?
Fine, thanks!	Mirë, faleminderit!
What do you do?	Cfarë pune bëni ju?
I am a volunteer.	Unë jam vullnetar.
I speak only English.	Unë flas vetëm anglisht.
I don't speak Albanian.	Unë nuk flas shqip.
What time is it?	Sa është ora?
Please, speak more slowly.	Flisni më ngadalë, ju lutem,
Please, speak more loudly.	Flisni më zë më të lartë,ju lutem.
I understand...	Unë kuptoj...
I don't understand.	Unë nuk kuptoj...
Repeat it, please.	Përsëriteni, ju lutem.
Write it down, please.	Shkruajeni, ju lutem.

 Lesson 5: Phrases containing adjectives

Shprehje mbiemrore

I am...

hungry

full

thirsty

busy

free

tired

sick

thirsty

happy

sad

glad

angry

Unë jam...

i/e uritur

i/e ngopur

i/e etur

i/e zënë

i/e lirë

i/e lodhur

i/e sëmurë

i/e etur

i/e lumtur

i/e trishtuar

i/e gëzuar,

i/e zemëruar

The prefix *i* is used when the speaker is a man and *e* is used for women.

 Lesson 6: Other phrases

Shprehje të tjera

I need help.

(Unë) Dua ndihmë.

Look out!

Kujdes!

Listen!

Dëgjoni!

Can you help me?

Mund të më ndihmoni?

Can you tell me?

Mund të më tregoni?

I am looking for...

Po kërkoj...

I want to go...

Unë dua të shkoj...

I know

(Unë) E di.

I don't know

(Unë) Nuk e di.

I think so.

(Unë) Mendoj kështu.

I don't think so.

(Unë) Nuk mendoj kështu.

I believe, yes.

(Unë) Besoj se po.


I don't believe.

(Unë) Nuk besoj.

 🗨️ Lesson 7: Phrases used in a restaurant

 Shprehje të përdorura në restorant

I want a coffee	(Unë) Dua një kafe.
I don't want ...	(Unë) Nuk dua...
I want to eat.	(Unë) Dua të ha.
I want to drink	(Unë) Dua të pi.
I don't want to eat/drink	(Unë) Nuk dua të ha/pi.
I like it.	Më pëlqen.
I don't like it.	Nuk më pëlqen.
This is good.	Ky/kjo është e mirë.
This is not good.	Ky/kjo nuk është e mirë.
How much is this?	Sa kushton kjo?

 Lesson 8: Directions

Drejtime

Where is the...?

Ku është...?

On the left

Në të majtë

On the right

Në të djathtë

Straight-ahead

Drejt

Near by

Këtu afër

Not far from here

Jo larg nga këtu

Above


Sipër

Down the village

Poshtë fshatit

Behind

Prapa

 Lesson 9: Drinks

Pije

water

ujë

coffee

kafe

tea

çaj

milk

qumësht

juice, lemonade

limonatë

mineral water

ujë mineral

wine


verë

beer

birrë

raki

raki

 Lesson 10: Food

Ushqim

sugar

sheqer

salt

kripë

bread

bukë

salad

sallatë

meat

mish

cheese


djathë

butter

gjalpë

egg

vezë

 Lesson 11: Fruits

Fruta

grape

rrush

fig

fik

watermelon

shalqi

melon

pjepër


peach

pjeshkë

pear


dardhë

Lesson 12: Home items	Artikuj shtëpiak
glass	gotë
cup	filxhan
spoon	lugë
fork	pirun
knife	thikë
plate	pjatë
table	tavolinë
chair	karrige
door	derë
window	dritare
bed	krevat
bed sheet	çarçaf
blanket	batanije
pillow	jastëk
home	shtëpi
hotel	hotel
floor	kat
room	dhomë
bathroom	banjë
toilet	banjë
toilet paper	letër higjenike
soap	sapun
towel	peshqir
shampoo	shampo
kitchen	guzhinë
bedroom	dhomë gjumi
dining room / sitting room	dhomë ngrënje / dhomë ndenje

 Lesson 13: Clothing


Veshje

pants	pantallona
blouse	bluzë
shirt	këmishë
dress	fustan
skirt	fund
shoes	këpucë
sandals	sandale
slippers	shapka
boots	çizme
jacket	xhaketë
coat	pallto

 Lesson 14: Colors

Ngjyra

red	i/e kuqe
white	i/e bardhë
black	i/e zezë
yellow	i/e verdhë
green	i/e gjelbër
dark blue	blu
sky blue	i/e kaltër
grey	gri
brown	kafe

 Lesson 15: Places	Vende
village	fshat
town	qytet
shop	dyqan
street	rrugë
building	ndërtesë
flat	pallat
library	biblotekë
restaurant	restorant
school	shkollë
student	nxënës
cultural palace	pallati i kulturës
municipality	bashki
commune	komunë
office	zyrë

 Lesson 16: Family relations


Lidhjet familjare

mother	nënë
father	baba
sister	motër
brother	vëlla
daughter	e bija
son	i biri
grandmother	gjyshja
grandfather	gjyshi
niece	mbesa
nephew	nipi
mother-in-law	vjehrra
father-in-law	vjehri
sister-in-law	kunata
brother-in-law	kunati


 Lesson 17: Numbers 1 - 20

Numrat 1-20

0	zero
1	një
2	dy
3	tre
4	katër
5	pesë
6	gjashtë
7	shtatë
8	tetë
9	nëntë
10	dhjetë
11	njëmbëdhjetë
12	dymbëdhjetë
13	trembëdhjetë
14	katërmbëdhjetë
15	pesëmbëdhjetë
16	gjashtëmbëdhjetë
17	shtatëmbëdhjetë
18	tetëmbëdhjetë
19	nëntëmbëdhjetë
20	njëzetë

 Lesson 18: 10 - million	10 - million
10	dhjetë
20	njëzetë
30	tridhjetë
40	dyzetë
50	pesëdhjetë
60	gjashtdhjetë
70	shtatëdhjetë
80	tetëdhjetë
90	nëntëdhjetë
100	një qind
1000	një mijë
1,000,000	milion

Learning how to count in thousands is especially important because most people still give prices in the so called 'old Lekë' by adding one extra zero.

 Lesson 19: Months

Muajt

January	Janar
February	Shkurt
March	Mars
April	Prill
May	Maj
June	Qershor
July	Korrik
August	Gusht
September	Shtator
October	Tetor
November	Nëntor
December	Dhjetor

(No Audio)

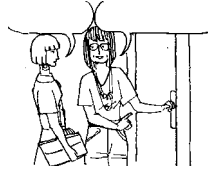
Days of the week	Ditët e javës
Monday	E hënë
Tuesday	E martë
Wednesday	E mërkurë
Thursday	E enjte
Friday	E premte
Saturday	E shtunë
Sunday	E diel

Dialogs (no audio)

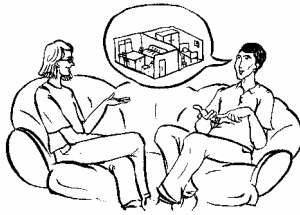
Saying welcome and responding

Mira: Mirë se vini!

Beni: Mirë se ju gjeta!



How are you?



Mira: Si jeni?

Beni: Mirë ,faleminderit! Po ju?

Mira: Mirë,faleminderit!

Would you like a cigarette/coffee?

Mira: Doni një cigare?

Beni: Jo, faleminderit.

Mira: Doni një kafe?

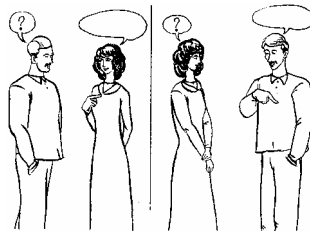
Beni: Po, faleminderit.



What's your name? Where are you from?

Beni: Unë quhem
Arben Marashi.
Po ju si quheni?

Mira : Unë quhem Mira
Luca.



Mira: Nga jeni ju?

Beni: Unë jam nga Lezha.
Po ju?

Mira: Unë jam nga
Tirana,unë banoj në
Tiranë.

Thanks for coming. Good bye.

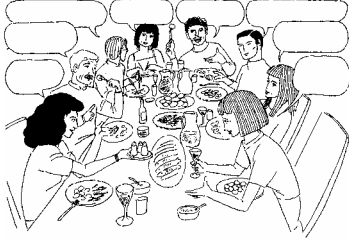
Mira: Faleminderit që erdhët.
Shpresoj të shihemi së shpejti.

Beni: Mirupafshim!

Mira: Mirupafshim!



Cheers! Bon appetite!



Gëzuar!

Të bëftë mirë! Ju bëftë mirë!

Exercises

Choose the correct answer.

1. When someone greets you saying ‘Mirë se vini’ what is the correct reply?
 - a. Faleminderit
 - b. Mirë se ju gjeta
 - c. Mirupafshim

2. “Unë jam nga Amerika” is the correct reply to:
 - a. Si jeni?
 - b. Nga jeni ju?
 - c. Doni nje kafe?

3. What would you like to drink?
 - a. Rrush
 - b. Gotë
 - c. Ujë

4. Si jeni?
 - a. Jo shumë mirë
 - b. Mirë
 - c. C'ka

5. What do you use to greet someone?
 - a. Mirëmëngjes
 - b. Mirëdita
 - c. Mirëmbërëma

Fill in the blanks.

Phrases from the dialogue

1. Unë _____ John Smith.
2. Doni _____ kafe?
3. Unë _____ _____ Tirana.
4. _____, faleminderit!
5. Unë _____ në Tiranë.
6. _____ që erdhët.
7. Të bëftë _____ !
8. _____ të shihemi së shpejti.

Other important Phrases

1. Unë nuk _____ shqip.
2. Kjo _____ e mirë.
3. _____ kushton kjo?
4. Unë _____ vullnetar.
5. Flisni më ngadalë, ju _____.
6. Cfarë pune _____ ju?
7. Jo _____ nga këtu
8. Unë _____ të pi.

Find the word that does not belong to the group:

1. Drinks
 - a. Verë
 - b. Qumësht
 - c. Vezë

2. Clothes
 - a. Fustan
 - b. Fshat
 - c. Këpucë

3. Fruits
 - a. Shalqi
 - b. Pjeshkë
 - c. Gjalpë

4. Weekdays
 - a. E hënë
 - b. E enjte
 - c. E kuqe

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