

PRONUNCIATION AND SPELLING

We generally have a correspondence between writing and reading, between grapheme and phoneme (except in some local fading).

In Friulian there are no words ending in **b-d-g-q-v-z**.

Grapheme “**c**”.

- a) Before the vowels “**e**” ed “**i**” it has a similar sound as in the words *church, check, choice* (affricative palatal sound);
 cisâ (to fry) – cercli (circle) – cinisâr (ashtray) – cevole (onion)
- b) Before the vowels “**a, o, u**” it has a velar sound (hard):
 calme (calm) – cartoline (postcard) – corse (race) – cuarp (body)

Grapheme “**ç**”.

- a) We find it only before the vowels “**a, o, u**” and it has a palatal affricative sound as in the words *charter, chop ...*:
 piçul (small) – çavate (slipper) – çope (clod) – çurviel (brain)
- b) It has the same sound at the end of a word:
 poç (well) – palaç (palace) – braç (arm) – dolç (sweet)

Grapheme “**ch**”.

We find it only before the vowels “**e, i**” ed ha un suono velare (duro) as in:
 cheste (this) – cheche (magpie) – cherafe (caraffe) – chelare (waitress)

Grapheme “**cj**”.

It has a prepalatal unvoiced sound [k']:
 cjalâ (to watch) – cjan (dog) – cjoli (to take) – moscje (fly)

Grapheme “**g**”.

Before the vowels “**a, o, u**” it has a velar sound (hard):
 gare (game) – gome (gum) – goloset (delicacy) – gust (taste)

Grapheme “**gh**”.

We find it only before the vowels “**e, i**” and it has a velar sound (hard):
 ghenghe (inflection) – ghiart (strong) – ghigne (mug) – ghise (cast iron)

Grapheme “**gj**”.

It has a prepalatal voiced sound [g']:
 gjenar (gender) – gjat (cat) – gjaline (hen) – gjoldi (to enjoy) – gjonde (joy)

Grapheme “**gn**”.

It has a nasal palatal sound

gnoc (*flour gnocco*) – gnerf (*nerve*) – gnot (*night*) – gnûf (*new*)

Grapheme “**gl**”.

It has a separate sound:

glace (*ice*) – glesie (*church*) – glîr (*dormouse*) – gloti (*to swallow*) – glut (*sip*)

Grapheme “**j**”.

We pronounce it as a normal “*j*”, both at the beginning of a word and in internal position like in the compounds:

Joibe (*Thursday*) – Jacum (*James*) – quartâju (*to take them*) – disjerbâ (*to weed*)

Grapheme “**n**”.

We pronounce it detached in the few cases we see it double:

innulâsi (*to get coldy*) – innomenât (*famous*) – inneâsi (*to drown*)

Grapheme “**q**”.

We use it only for foreign words, with the names of places and with personal names:

(quiz) – Aquilee (*Aquileia*) – Quirin (*Quirin*)

in no other case:

cuadri (*picture*) – cuiet (*quiet*) – cuintâl (*quintal*) – cuestion (*problem*)

Grapheme “**s**”.

We pronounce it with an unvoiced sound, as in *same, pass, toss, silence*:

- c. at the beginning of a word: sape (*hoe*), sêt (*thirst*), sant (*saint*) ...
- d. in internal position before a consonant: cueste (*rib*), siespe (*plum*), paste (*pasta*) ...
- e. at the end of a word: pes (*fish*), tos (*cough*), curtîs (*knife*) ...
- f. with reflexives: divertîsi (*to amuse oneself*), petenâsi (*to comb oneself*).

In the other cases we pronounce it with a voiced sound as in *to resolve, rose, nose*:

cjase (*house*), pesâ (*to weigh*), vosâ (*to cry*),

It is the only consonant we can find double in Friulian words: we pronounce it with an unvoiced sound as in *passed, kissing, blessing* ...:

passâ (*to pass*), tossi (*cough*), messe (*mass*), casse (*cash*), dissipât (*torn out*)

Grapheme “**'s**”.

In this case it has a voiced sound:

'save (*toad*), 'seminari (*seminary*), 'Sef (*John*), 'suf (*corn flour dish*)

Grapheme “**scj**”.

The pronunciation is separated [skʲ] and not united:

scjampâ (*to flee*), scjassâ (*to shake*), scjaipule (*cage*)

Grapheme “**sgj**”.

The pronunciation is separated [sgʲ] :

sgjâf (*digging*), sgjarnâ (*to spread*), sgjavin (*fieldhead*)

Grapheme “**z**”.

- c) in internal position, we pronounce it as in plurals ending in “**ts**” (dental voiced sound [ts]),
pots, streets, bats ... :
stazion (*stazione*) – vizi (*vizio*) – esercizi (*esercizio*) spazi (*spazio*)
- g) in internal position or at the beginning with an affricate voiced sound [dz], come nelle parole italiane *zero, zoo ...* :
benzine (*petrol*) – zoo (*zoo*) – zebre (*zebra*) – zodiac (*zodiac*)
- h) at the beginning of a word with an affricate palatal voiced sound [ʤ], as in *gin, John, joke*:
zinar (*son-in-law*) – zovin (*young*) – zâl (*yellow*) – zes (*chalk*)

Particolarità.

The words ending in *–ence, ance* maintain the “**c**”:

penitince (*penitence*) – coerence (*coherence*) – bondance (*abundance*)

ACCENTS

Circumflexion

We use the sign “**^**” with:

- a)
 - 4. infinite of 1.2.4 conjugation, with voiced final: clamâ (*to call*), plasê (*to like*), cusî (*to sew*);
 - 5. regular past participle: lavorât (*worked*), corût (*run*), cusît (*sewn*);
 - 6. in present tenses, in the second plural persons, with a long sound: corês (*you run*), cjolês (*you take*), volês (*you want*);
- b)
 - 1. long sound in voiced vowel: autôr (*author*), taulîr (*chopping board*), madûr (*ripe*), lizêr (*light*), afâr (*affair*);
 - 2. with the vowel “**a**”, if the etimological “**r**” from latin is preceded da *r-m-n*, il the lengthened sound of the vowel is not marked:
cjar (*cart*) cjar (*meat*) for (*oven*) ator (*around*) fer (*steady*)
ma: cjâr (*dear*) vêr (*true*)
- c) with the feminine possessives, singulars and plurals:
 - 1. mê (*my car*) – mês (*my pens*) - tô (*your tie*) – tôs (*your sisters*)
sô (*her mother*) – sôs (*her mistakes*)
 - 2. personal pronouns: jê (*she*), nô (*we*) vô (*you*)
 - 3. with the numeral *three*: trê

Exception the word **pôre** (*fear*)

Particular cases

There are words that have a different meaning according to their short or long vowel sound : pal (*for the*), pâl (*pole*) – as (*as*), âs (*he has*) – mil (*thousand*), mîl (*honey*) ...

The short accent

We use the short accent when it falls on the last syllable in:

9. words with stressed final: cafè (*coffee*), tribù (*tribe*);
10. in the third singular person of the past tense: al lavorà (*he worked*), al scrivè (*he wrote*);
11. first plural person in the polysyllable verbs: scoltin (*we listen*), tornarin (*we'll come*), fasìn (*we do*);
it is maintained in enclitic forms (with a pronoun attached): cjalino? (*are we watching*) – mandìnlu (*let's send it*);
but we do not use it in forms, in the first plural monosyllable verb, and with nouns: nin (*let's go*) – cunin (*rabbit*) – panin (*sandwich*) – puestin (*postman*);
12. polysyllable words ending in **às, ès, is, òs, ùs**: fevelàs (*he spoke*), istès (*himself*), curtis (*knife*), scartòs (*cob*), patùs (*straw*);
but not with monosyllable words: çus (*little owl*) – tos (*cough*) – pas (*step*).

We use the short accent with words with the same pronunciation but with different meaning:

e (<i>conjunction</i>)	Marc e Zuan	è (<i>verb</i>) Al è scûr.
a (<i>preposition</i>)	Puarte a Marc	à (<i>verb</i>) Al à 15 agns.
an (<i>noun</i>)	Chest an	àn (<i>verb</i>) Lôr a àn fam.
di (<i>preposition</i>)	Al è di mê nono.	dì (<i>noun</i>) Il dì e la gnot
si (<i>pronoun</i>)	Si lavore.	sì (<i>affirmation</i>) Sì, o soi jo.
su (<i>preposition</i>)	Al è su la taule.	sù (<i>adverb</i>) Va sù in cjamare.
ju (<i>pronoun</i>)	Ju quarti doman.	jù (<i>adverb</i>) Torne jù.
la (<i>article</i>)	La taule	là (<i>adverb</i>) Vait là.

Particular cases

We mark the stressed vowel with the accent in these words: aïne (*nocca*) – criùre (*frost*) – liùm (*vegetables*) – caïe (*junk*)

The apostrophe

We may use the apostrophe as it is proved both in the written and spoken Friulian:

with the article:

l'arbul (*tree*) – l'acuardi (*agreement*) – l'afiet (*affection*) – l'agnul (*angel*)
l'aghe (*water*) – l'acuile (*eagle*) – l'albe (*dawn*) – l'amicizie (*friendship*)
l'anime (*soul*) – l'ultime (*last*) – l'urtie (*nettle*)

with **che** conjunction, relative pronoun, in exclamations:

O speri ch'al torni- O speri che al torni (*I hope he comes back*) – A son

