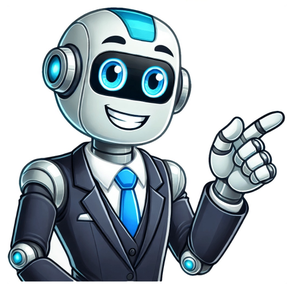
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High Valyrian, the elegant and revered tongue of the Valyrian Freehold from the world of „Game of Thrones,“ is a fascinating language with a distinct structure and lyrical sound. Originally crafted by linguist David J. Peterson, High Valyrian has captured the imagination of fans worldwide. Here’s a guide on how to embark on your journey to learn this ancient language. ### 1. Use Online Resources Begin your language journey using online platforms such as Duolingo, which offers interactive lessons. Websites like „The Dothraki Wiki“ provide detailed explanations of grammar and vocabulary. ### 2. Study the Grammar Understanding High Valyrian requires a grasp of its complex grammatical structure. The language features four grammatical genders, multiple cases, and a variety of verb conjugations. ### 3. Engage with the Community Join online forums such as Reddit’s r/HighValyrian where learners share resources and tips. Engaging with fellow enthusiasts can greatly enhance your understanding and motivation. ### 4. Practice Regularly Set a consistent practice schedule. Incorporate learning into daily activities, such as labeling household items with High Valyrian words to enhance vocabulary retention. ### 5. Utilize Multimedia Immerse yourself in the language through „Game of Thrones“ clips with Valyrian dialogues. Listening helps improve pronunciation and comprehension. ### 6. Explore Additional Resources Books and courses by language creators often provide in-depth insights. Consider David J. Peterson’s own works that delve into the construction and history of conlangs like High Valyrian. ### Conclusion Learning High Valyrian is not just about linguistic mastery, but also engaging with a vibrant fandom and deepening your appreciation of Westeros. With patience, consistent practice, and the right resources, you will be able to understand and even converse in this captivating language. With Game of Thrones back for its final season, there's no better time to brush up on High Valyrian, the fantasy language spoken by the most powerful characters on the show. Linguist David J. Peterson created both Dothraki and High Valyrian for the HBO series, and he stopped by our office to share stories behind the making of the languages, as well as tips for speaking Valyrian and his thoughts on which actors have the best accent. (Watch the video below for highlights from our interview.) Watch this: How Game of Thrones language High Valyrian comes to life 08:25 Peterson has been crafting languages for over ten years and has worked on creating new languages for a number of TV shows and movies. He is currently working on several for the upcoming Dune movie.Read more: Game of Thrones season 8: When it starts, schedule and how to stream HBO without cableWhat started as a few phrases in George R.R. Martin's books has evolved into fully built-out languages thanks to Peterson's work. High Valyrian, which is a bit like an ancient Latin for the Seven Kingdoms, now has more than 2,000 words with real rules and structure. So how can you make folks believe Valyrian is your mother tongue? Peterson offers a few points of guidance below -- along with some phrases you can use in your everyday life:1. Roll those Rs"Roll every 'R' you see," says Peterson. "Every single one. Roll it extra. That's going to give you a nice Valyrian accent. Other than that, it's just intonation." Peterson says actress Emilia Clarke, who plays Daenerys Targaryen, may not always get her consonants perfect, "but her intonation is so good and so beautiful it kind of changed the way I pronounce High Valyrian myself."2. Learn from Grey WormFor Peterson, no one speaks Valyrian as good as actor Jacob Anderson, who plays Grey Worm on the show. "Trying as hard as I might, I may never be as good as him," Peterson said.3. Study Valyrian for free on DuolingoThe language-learning app Duolingo offers a free course on High Valyrian, with the lesson crafted and voiced by Peterson. Hearing it can help you get the vowels right, and I found it surprising how quick it was for me to pick up on basic vocabulary.The Duolingo team says that over the past two weeks, there's been a 65% increase of people signing up for the High Valyrian course. Who knows, you may find the challenges rewarding -- or maybe even learn some pickup lines to use at a Game of Thrones viewing party.4. Order a burger and shakeIf the best way to learn a language is to practice with someone, then perhaps the most useful (and tasty) way to practice is by ordering from Shake Shack's secret High Valyrian menu. Peterson worked with the burger chain to craft the lingo for the limited-time menu. The minty Dragonglass Shake (Zīrtom Perzomy Rholītsos) pairs well with a spicy Dracarys Burger (Drakaro Parkliapos). Customers can order a spicy Dracarys Burger, which is a double Monterey Jack cheeseburger with bacon "imported from Essos." There's also a Dragonglass Shake, a minted white chocolate custard made with "packed snow harvested beyond the Wall" and hand-churned by Night's Watch members, topped with shards of Dragonglass, er, black toffee. But to properly order this meal of fire and ice, you'll need to speak Valyrian. So if you'd like the shake (Zīrtom Perzomy Rholītsos), that would be pronounced ZEER-tom PEHR-zo-mee ro-LEET-sohs. And the burger (Drakaro Parkliapos) would be pronounced druh-KAR-ro parr-klee-AH-pos.Although I'm not sure what the Valyrian word is for fries.5. Work it into everyday conversationFace your fears and find ways to use High Valyrian in your daily life. I asked Peterson to help create a few common phrases to sprinkle casually into conversations:Winter is here: Sōnar mastanHold the door: Nerni ōrēs Where's the bathroom?: Skoriot rāenābion ilza? I'm sick and can't come into work tomorrow: Lumie iksan sepār zān botagon koston daor.When is the next book coming out?: Skorī amāzīlare tembyr urnīli? Can I have your HBO password?: Aōho HBO-enko tistaliot ūliapossa mazemagon kostan?(Okay sure, they may not have a Home Box Office in Westeros. But asking for the keys to someone's HBO vault in High Valyrian is one sure way to show your friends you deserve access to their account.)This story was originally posted April 12, 2019. Duolingo is well known for being one of the best ways to learn real-world languages, but did you know you can learn some fictional ones as well?Well, get excited, Game of Thrones fans, as one of Duolingo’s top fictional languages is none other than High Valyrian!It’s been available on Duolingo for a few years now and, to celebrate the launch of House of the Dragon, it’s recently received a swanky new update.In this article, we’ll go over everything you need to know about High Valyrian on Duolingo.Sound good? Let’s jump in!This page may contain affiliate links. This means that we may receive a commission for any sign-ups or purchases made, but at no extra cost to you. Learn moreHigh Valyrian is a fictional language created by David Peterson for the hit TV show Game of Thrones. It’s based on the writings of George R.R. Martin in the book series A Song of Ice and Fire.In ASoIaF, Martin laid the basic foundation for High Valyrian. Using this, Peterson was then able to construct a more complete version of the language, doing so “without drawing grammar or vocabulary from an existing natural language.“High Valyrian has been available on Duolingo since 2019 and is one of two fictional languages (the other being Klingon from the TV series Star Trek).Game of Thrones came to an end back in 2019. However, with the launch of the prequel series, House of the Dragon, High Valyrian’s making a comeback! And to celebrate, Peterson and Duolingo have updated the course with a bunch of new words, sentences and skills (which we’ll go over shortly!).Given High Valyrian is a fictional language, it should come as no surprise that it isn’t officially spoken anywhere in the world.Well, in our world, anyway!In the Game of Thrones universe, High Valyrian was the language of the old Valyrian Freehold, which was located on the continent of Essos.In the series, it was most notably spoken by the likes of Daenerys Targaryen, Lady Melisandre and (rather comically) Tyrion Lannister.Duolingo delivers its High Valyrian course in pretty much the same way as all its other courses.It follows what is commonly referred to as the lesson tree.*The tree is broken up into a set of units…Each unit has a set of skills…Each skill has up to 6 crown levels…And each crown level has a set of lessons…The basic goal is to work through the tree by completing every lesson… in every level… in every skill… in every unit.As of September 2022, Duolingo’s High Valyrian course has a total of 3 units, broken down into a total of 43 skills.There are 215 crown levels in Duolingo’s High Valyrian course (not including the legendary levels).The exercises are pretty much the same as in Duolingo’s other courses. Some of the common exercises include:Complete the translationMark the correct meaningPicture flashcardsSelect the missing wordSpeak this sentenceSpeak the correct responseTap the pairs (standard and audio)TranslationTap what you hearFill in the blanks*Duolingo are switching up their courses to a brand new format known as the Learning Path. It’s only been rolled out to a handful of users so far, so the majority of users will get the traditional lesson tree above. However, if your High Valyrian course looks different to the above, then you’ve probably got the new path. Check out this post from Duolingo to learn more!This is a difficult one to answer as I’ve only spent a little bit of time with the High Valyrian course. There’s plenty of useful ‘show’ vocabulary, which I’ve noticed when watching House of the Dragon.For instance, whenever the characters speak High Valyrian, they often end their sentences with the word “daor”. Thanks to the Duolingo course, I now know it always turns the sentence into a negative — representing either no or not.So if you’re looking to better understand the TV shows, then Duolingo will definitely help.That said, I would be extremely surprised if you could reach a conversational level. In Duolingo’s best and most fleshed-out courses, they aim to get you to a B2 level on the CEFR. However, this depends as much on passive exposure to the target language as it does time spent on Duolingo.This is a lot easier to achieve with a real-world language like Spanish or French. There’s plenty of authentic content available in both written and audible forms. Plus it’s not difficult to find native speakers to practice with.Obviously, this isn’t the case with High Valyrian.Although Peterson and Duolingo recently updated the course, it’s still really short. Duolingo’s best courses have as many as 10 units, whereas the High Valyrian course only has 3.Furthermore, beyond Game of Thrones and House of the Dragon, there isn’t really any authentic content available to learn High Valyrian from. You’re completely dependent on a couple of TV shows. Plus, as far as I’m aware, there aren’t really any native speakers to practice with.Becoming conversational, therefore, is going to be pretty difficult. You should be able to pick up some useful vocabulary and grammar rules that will make understanding the TV shows easier. But I wouldn’t bank on going much further.Whether Duolingo’s High Valyrian course is worth it will boil down to your goals and preferences.It goes without saying that, unless you’re looking to get a job on the set of House of the Dragon, it isn’t a language you’re ever likely to need. The odds of meeting other people that speak High Valyrian are slim, as is the likelihood of you ever needing it for work.And, as above, it’s going to be very difficult to become fluent. The course is extremely short and there isn’t much authentic material available.That being said, High Valyrian is definitely one of Duolingo’s coolest courses. Duolingo have worked closely with Peterson to create a really polished and fleshed-out experience that, in some respects, manages to exceed many of Duolingo’s real-world-language courses.It’s filled with familiar content from the Game of Thrones universe with lots of fancy artwork. You can tell they’ve put lots of effort into it and it definitely makes for a fun and quirky experience.Ultimately, if you’re a big Thrones fan, then you’re probably going to love the High Valyrian course. The fact that Peterson has recently updated it as well shows the course is alive and kicking — and well worth diving into!If you’re an avid Game of Thrones fan and want to make a deeper connection with the series, then Duolingo’s High Valyrian course is definitely worth sinking some time into.However, be sure to manage your expectations — you’re unlikely to be speaking as fluently as a Targaryen anytime soon!Anyway, what do you think of the course? Have you given it a go? Do you think fictional languages are worth it?Let me know in the comments! High Valyrian, the elegant and revered tongue of the Valyrian Freehold from the world of „Game of Thrones,“ is a fascinating language with a distinct structure and lyrical sound. Originally crafted by linguist David J. Peterson, High Valyrian has captured the imagination of fans worldwide. Here’s a guide on how to embark on your journey to learn this ancient language. ### 1. 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Listening helps improve pronunciation and comprehension. ### 6. Explore Additional Resources Books and courses by language creators often provide in-depth insights. Consider David J. Peterson’s own works that delve into the construction and history of conlangs like High Valyrian. ### Conclusion Learning High Valyrian is not just about linguistic mastery, but also engaging with a vibrant fandom and deepening your appreciation of Westeros. With patience, consistent practice, and the right resources, you will be able to understand and even converse in this captivating language. Rytsas, gūrēñarossas! (Hello, learners!) We’re excited to announce a few updates to our High Valyrian course ahead of HBO’s Game of Thrones prequel, House of the Dragon. Are you new to High Valyrian, or has it been a while since you’ve practiced? Here’s everything you need to know: First of all: What is High Valyrian?High Valyrian is known as a “conlang,” or “constructed language”—this just means it was intentionally created by someone, versus languages that emerge naturally without a single creator, like Spanish, French, or English! More specifically, High Valyrian is an a priori conlang, built without drawing grammar or vocabulary from an existing natural language.High Valyrian was created by David J. Peterson for HBO’s popular series, Game of Thrones. In fact, Peterson has been a go to “con”-linguist for various television shows and feature films that require a unique language, including Doctor Strange (Nelvayu), Penny Dreadful (Verbis Diablo), and Dune (Chakobsa and Sardaukar).In 2019, we partnered with Peterson to launch a High Valyrian course on Duolingo so more fans across the globe could learn the language. It now has 514,000 active learners! (Maybe you’re one of them?)How exactly did David J. Peterson create a brand-new language?It helped that George R.R. Martin planted the seeds that would eventually become the High Valyrian language. Peterson built High Valyrian around the little bit of language Martin scattered throughout the series: two sentences (Valar dohaeris and Valar morghulis), five or six nouns, and all of the character names. Peterson saw Greek and Latin influence in Martin’s sampling of the language. “Latin and Greek have some familiar sounds to them, governed primarily by the fact that most of their content words have predictable and recognizable endings (-um, -a, -os, -ion, -arum, -ibus, -us, -is, etc.),” Peterson explained over email. “With the words and names, George R. R. Martin mostly prescribed what the sound system of High Valyrian was going to be. In fact, I only added two sounds to Valyrian that aren't found in the books: z [z] and ñ [ɲ]. I felt they fit.”Peterson’s work on the language involves many of those specific decisions to determine the vocabulary, grammar, and patterns of High Valyrian. Learners will find genders and noun cases in High Valyrian, like many other natural languages, but unique to High Valyrian is the type of noun classes: lunar, solar, aquatic, and terrestrial. These cases “fit the overall theme” of the world. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to learning this intricately constructed language!Why should you learn High Valyrian on Duolingo?Sure, you’re probably not going to travel to Westeros on your next summer vacation, and you likely won’t need it for a job or other everyday uses. But that doesn’t mean learning High Valyrian doesn’t have its benefits. For one, Game of Thrones superfans can use the language to connect more deeply with the series and the world of Ice and Fire. Learn more about why we love constructed languages!What’s new in the Duolingo High Valyrian course?Peterson’s updated High Valyrian course includes 159 new vocabulary words! As you progress through the High Valyrian course, you’ll learn everything from the basics (talking about food, using numbers, and discussing clothing), to unique skills that would benefit you in Westeros, like commanding dragons. Learning to command dragons is one of five new skills in the course, along with learning how to talk about buildings in Valyria. Then, there are a few new skills that help with tricky grammar concepts, like learning how to make excuses (which helps with imperfect tense), discuss cooking (grammatical gender of numbers), and talk about yourself (reflexive verbs).Learn how to command dragons on Duolingo!Gaomōbagon rhaenās (start practicing) High Valyrian! To help accelerate your learning, we’re offering 1 free month of Super Duolingo for a limited time—redeem the offer here.**Account sign-up and credit card required. Redeemable by visiting duolingo.com/redeem in a browser or on mobile web only and entering code DRACARYS. After 1-month trial, Super Duolingo subscription will automatically renew, unless canceled. Offer is eligible to both New and Returning Super Duolingo users (current Super Duolingo subscribers are not eligible). FAQ can be found here. The longest word in the world has 189,819 letters and describes a protein. George R.R. Martin clearly wasn't going for that record when he created High Valyrian - but judging by how lost most fans feel, he might as well have.And honestly? That confusion is totally understandable. Martin's twisted fantasy world throws so many made-up words and bizarre names at us that they all start blending together after a while. As hyped as we all are for House of the Dragon, it would be nice if HBO hooked us up with a guide to refresh our memories on the Valyrian language, am I right?I mean, it's been almost two years since we got our Thrones fix!Are you REALLY confident you still remember every single High Valyrian phrase that rolled off Dany's tongue as she struggled to control her "children"? Or those intricate sacred whispers from the Lord of Light's followers?If you're like me, all that stuff is a jumbled mess in your brain right now. But don't worry, we've got you covered! In this guide, we'll go over the basics of the Valyian language so you can speak a foreign language like a true Dragonlord, impress fellow fans, and summon ancient magic (if you can!). High Valyrian was the prestigious language spoken by the noble dragonlord families that ruled the Valyrian Freehold in George R.R. Martin's fictional world.While mentioned in the books, High Valyrian wasn't fully developed until the Game of Thrones TV series, when language creator David J. Peterson constructed it from scratch.In House of the Dragon, major Targaryen characters like Rhaenyra, Daemon, and Aemond will showcase their mastery of the harsh High Valyrian tongue.Learning key High Valyrian words, phrases, and commands can help fans immerse themselves in the Targaryen world. What Is The High Valyrian Language?High Valyrian was the prestigious language spoken by the noble dragonlord families that ruled the Valyrian Freehold. It's part of the Valyrian language family that spans the A Song of Ice and Fire novels and Game of Thrones/House of the Dragon shows.Think of it like the Latin of Westeros - while High Valyrian and its descendant languages were often mentioned in the books, they weren't fully developed beyond a few lines (about 56 Valyrian phrases to be exact!). It wasn't until the TV series that language creator David J. Peterson actually constructed the guttural, harsh-sounding High Valyrian tongue from scratch.And he didn't just slap some random made-up words together - Peterson developed High Valyrian as a proper language system with legit linguistic rules. In fact, the Colangers community defines it as a head-final language, meaning adjectives come before nouns in their sentence structure.High Valyrian also features four gender classes:Hūrenkon Qogror (Lunar Class) from the word hūra "moon"Vēzenkon Qogror (Solar Class) from the word vēzos "sun"Embōñor Qogror (Aquatic Class) from the word embar "sea"Tegōñor Qogror (Terrestrial Class) from the word tegon "earth"On top of that, this fictional language also has four grammatical numbers, eight noun cases, and conjugated verbs. So you're talking about a full-fledged, logically cohesive tongue with its own unique grammar rather than just jumbled fantasy words.As for the Valyrian writing system, you can see that it's the same as Latin so it's pretty easy to pick up!What Are The High Valyrian Languages?High Valyrian wasn't the only language game in town once the mighty Valyrian Freehold fell. After that catastrophic "Doom of Valyria" event, High Valyrian transformed from the lingua franca of an empire into more of a scholarly lore language kept alive by the elite nobles, poets, and scholars across Essos and Westeros.Bastard Valyrian Or Low ValyrianEach of the Nine Free Cities developed their own distinct Low Valyrian tongue like the Braavosi, Lorathi, Lysene, Myrish, Norvoshi, Pentoshi, Qohorik, Tyroshi, and Volantene.So while High Valyrian remained the sacred, elite lore language, these Low Valyrian offshoots became the common vernacular - the everyday language of the peasants and lower classes throughout the former Valyrian empire's colonies and territories.Who Speaks High Valyrian Language In House Of The Dragon?Unlike Game of Thrones where there are other fictional languages, in House of the Dragon we'll be hearing a lot more of the ancient dragonlord tongue.The Targaryen family drama at the center of the prequel series is steeped in their Valyrian heritage, so expect those harsh syllables to be flying! Here are some of the major House of the Dragon characters you'll hear rocking that magical mother tongue.Rhaenyra TargaryenAs the firstborn child of King Viserys I, the heir apparent Rhaenyra was undoubtedly trained from birth in the prestigious language of the dragonlords. Her mastery of High Valyrian reflects her status as the initially chosen successor to the Iron Throne.Daemon TargaryenThe rogue prince Daemon, younger brother to King Viserys, personifies Valyrian arrogance and ambition. This dragon rider's linguistic skills likely match his martial prowess on the battlefield and penchant for mischief.Aemond TargaryenOne of the younger sons of Alicent Hightower and Viserys I, Aemond's fluency in High Valyrian represents his blood claim to power as a descendant of Old Valyria's rulers. Despite his youth, he wields their ancient language as skillfully as he does dragon fire.Easy High Valyrian WordsReady to start dropping High Valyrian vocabulary like a true Targaryen? This essential word list will let you fake it until you make it. Sprinkling in these basic nouns, verbs, and adjectives is an easy way to boost your Thrones cred and impress even the most devoted fans.Greetings And Basic WordsStart with the basics. These High Valyrian greetings and common phrases will help you say hello, goodbye, and more like a true Targaryen. EnglishHigh Valyrianyesissawelcomejiōrnahi, hellorytsasgoodbyegeros ilaspleasekostilusactuallydrīvosenot todaytubī daorcalm downlykirī Family And PeopleWant to talk about family in High Valyrian? Use these words to refer to mothers, brothers, princes, and more. EnglishHigh Valyrianmothermuñamothersmuñīfatherkepewifeābrazÿrysfemaleābrenkawomanābrawomenābriboytaobaboystaobigirlriñagirlsriñiolder brotherlēkiayounger brothervalonqarolder sistermandiayounger sisterhāedartwinidañaMother of DragonsMuña ZaldrizotiprinceDarilaros AnimalsFrom dragons to wolves, these High Valyrian words cover the creatures of Westeros and beyond. Use them to describe your pets... or your enemies! EnglishHigh ValyrianbirdhontesbirdshontessecatskēlicatskēlawolfzoklawolveszoklībullvandisdragonzaldrīzesunsulliedDovaogēdi Descriptors And Misc.These are the everyday words that fill in the gaps. Use them to describe people, give directions, or add detail to your Valyrian sentences. EnglishHigh Valyrianandsenodaoragainarlīknightazantysknightsazantyssyguestzentyssguestszentyssymanvalamenvaliblood of the dragonzaldrīzo ānogarlong nightbantāzmaswordkorzehammergalrymoneygēliorbreadhavonGame of ThronesTymptir Dēmalȳtipiece of fruitgerpiexcellentrōvēgriorwhiteimpablackzōbrieredmeleyellowqeldliehorseannegrapesaveragrapeaveroyouaoto bakebāngagonnamebrōzimountainblēnonfreedomdāervesqueendāriaseaembarsilvergēlionnowheredaoriotlordāeksiosmallbykaluck, happinessbiarvesfireDracarystempleanogrion Easy High Valyrian PhrasesIf words are not enough and you want to speak High Valyrian like a pro, then read this section. Trust me, your watch party will bow down to your newly-acquired language skills. Just don't burn down the living room with your new dragon-riding talents!Ready to go beyond greetings? These simple phrases will help you hold a basic conversation in High Valyrian — perfect for casual chats or impressing fellow fans. EnglishHigh ValyrianHow are you?Skorkydoso glaesā?I am well.Syrī glaesan.I am not doing well.Syrī glaeson daor.How’s it going?Skorkydoso glaesā?I am good, thank you.Sȳz iksan, kirimvose. QuestionsNeed to ask something in High Valyrian? Start with these common questions to find out names, reasons, and opinions. EnglishHigh ValyrianWhy?Skoro syt?What’s your name?Skoroso jemēle brōzā?What do you think?Skoros otāpā?Will you marry me?Ao ynoma dīnilūks?My name is (name).Ñuha brozi (name) issa Affirmations And ResponsesSometimes a quick “yes,” “no,” or “thank you” is all you need. Use these common responses to keep the conversation flowing in High Valyrian. EnglishHigh ValyrianThat one is good.Kony sȳz issa.Not today.Tubī daor.Thank you.Kirimvose.You’re welcome.Biarvose. ExclamationsWant to sound dramatic like a true Targaryen? These High Valyrian exclamations add emotion, excitement, and flair to anything you say. EnglishHigh ValyrianThe day is beautiful.Tubis gevie issa.Seven Hells!Sīkudi nopāzmiI love you.Avy jorrāela Easy High Valyrian Commands For Your PetsLet's be real - every Game of Thrones fan has dreamed of commanding their dog or cat using the ancient guttural language of the dragonlords. With these easy High Valyrian commands, that fantasy can finally become a reality! EnglishHigh ValyrianQuickly!Aderī!No!Daor!Sit!Demās!Down!Embrot!Left!Geptot!Good!Gevī! / Hegnīr!Drink!Iēdrot!Back!Inkot!Stand!Iōrās!Move!Jās!Eat!Kisās!Be calm!Lykirī! / Rāpirī!Come!Māzīs!Forward!Naejot!Slow!Paerī!Right!Paktot!Land!Ninkiot! / Parmot! / Tegot!Touch!Renīs!Listen! Obey!Rȳbās!Wait!Umbās!Up!Vēzot!Come! (to me)Ynot! Take On A Real-World Language With LingopieThere you have it - all the essential High Valyrian words, phrases, and commands to start speaking like a true scion of the dragonlords. You're now equipped to impress fellow Game of Thrones fans and maybe even awaken some dormant magical abilities.But if simply mastering the ancient Valyrian tongue isn't enough for your fandom goals, give Lingopie a try. Our engaging language learning features and TV and Movie content can help you pick up new languages while staying entertained. While High Valyrian may be off the table (for now), you can still explore real-world tongues to expand your cultural horizons.Who knows, you may even discover a new passion for language learning along the way! Just don't go expecting Lingopie to help you communicate with your zaldrīzes! Some mysteries of the Known World are better left unsolved...High Valyrian FAQIs High Valyrian a real language?Yes, High Valyrian is a constructed (fictional) language created by linguist David J. Peterson for Game of Thrones and House of the Dragon. It’s not naturally spoken but is fully developed with grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation rules. Fans can learn and speak it just like any real-world language.How do you say “hello” in High Valyrian?The word for “hello” in High Valyrian is “Rytsas.” It can be used both formally and casually when greeting someone. You might also hear “Kirimvose” for “thank you” in the same context.How many words are in High Valyrian?High Valyrian currently has around 2,000 words, according to its creator David J. Peterson. The vocabulary continues to grow, especially with new phrases added in House of the Dragon. While smaller than most natural languages, it's extensive enough for basic conversation.Do only Targaryens speak High Valyrian?No, not just Targaryens. While the language is tied to Valyrian nobility, other groups in Essos like the Braavosi or scholars of the Free Cities also preserve and use High Valyrian. The Targaryens are just the most famous speakers in Westeros.What does “Dracarys” mean in High Valyrian?“Dracarys” means “dragonfire” in High Valyrian. It’s famously used by Daenerys Targaryen to command her dragons to breathe fire. In the show, it’s also become a symbol of vengeance, power, and rebellion. Credit: Kathy Hutchins - Shutterstock If you are a Game of Thrones fan, I’m sure you’ve already watched the first episode of GOT prequel House of Dragons on HBO at least once, but if you want to inject your fandom even deeper into your consciousness, you can join over 700,000 other gigantic nerds and learn how to speak “High Valyrian” through the free DuoLingo app.High Valyrian, the tongue of the old Valyrian Freehold located on the eastern continent of Essos in the GOT/HOD universe, is a constructed language developed by linguist David J. Peterson that has more than 2,000 words in its lexicon, and the same kinds of rules “real” languages have. “For English speakers, I might say it’s probably about as difficult to get into as Russian—with less idiomatic stuff to learn for the very, very specific reason that we don’t know a lot about the culture of those who spoke High Valyrian,” Peterson told Marketplace. “It is kind of still a secret that’s yet to come in the books.”DuoLingo has been offering a course in High Valyrian since 2019, but the course is now taught in conjunction with HBO, and the new series means new words have been added to the lexicon. DuoLingo is offering two free months of DuoLingo Plus to HBO subscribers, and you can use the premium version to learn languages that are actually spoken on Earth, as well. Yes, you can use DuoLingo to learn KlingonDuoLingo is no stranger to fictional languages—it’s long offered a course in Klingon for folks who are into space adventure—and it’s also no stranger to trend-hopping. The language-learning platform has nearly 5 million subscribers to its TikTok feed of meme-worthy videos, and maintains a hub in video game Roblox that is “crammed full of experiences” designed to teach languages in a game-y way.“We try and find moments in culture, where there are these cult audiences—these cohorts of people—who are hardcore fans about something,” James Kuczynski, creative director of brand and marketing at DuoLingo, told digiday.com. “What we do is really try and resonate with them because we feel like when we can inspire identification with them and our brand and what we do as an education language brand, they almost become ambassadors for us. That in and of itself is a piece of content we can share and go back and engage with that community.” High Valyrian as a gateway languageI don’t know about you, but there’s nothing I love more than companies resonating with me to inspire identification with their brand! Sign me up for one ambassadorship, please! But seriously, according to DuoLingo, 43% of users who take Klingon or High Valyrian lessons also start learning another language through the app, and the company is working on content devoted to teaching endangered and indigenous languages, so it’s ultimately doing some good. 2022 was the year of House of the Dragon. We read the source material, memorized the Targaryen family tree, and obsessed over small — but important — details. By the time the Season 1 finale reared its dragon-scaled head, I'd spent so much time thinking about Westeros that there was no way I was ready to let it go. So I set myself a new goal: to master High Valyrian, the Targaryens' mother tongue.High Valyrian may have started as a few phrases in George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series, but it is now an actual language with its own rules and expansive vocabulary. That's all thanks to linguist David J. Peterson, who created High Valyrian and Dothraki for Game of Thrones. Since High Valyrian was built by Peterson as opposed to emerging naturally over time, that makes it an example of a constructed language, or "conlang." Just like with natural languages, it's entirely possible to learn a conlang. For example, you can find books that teach Sindarin from Lord of the Rings and Klingon from Star Trek. Peterson himself has written Living Language Dothraki, a conversational language course for Dothraki. However, if you want to learn High Valyrian, you need look no further than language learning app Duolingo, which carries a High Valyrian course created by Peterson. It is one of three conlangs you can learn on Duolingo, the other two being Esperanto and Klingon. After starting to learn High Valyrian in October, I've discovered that it's all my House of the Dragon-loving heart needs to weather the long wait before Season 2. Yes, I miss seeing Rhaenyra and her Targaryen clan every Sunday, but with these lessons I can set aside a few minutes every day to imagine I'm having a conversation with them. Of course, in House of the Draon their High Valyrian conversations typically cover complex familial dynamics and political plotting, whereas my level of knowledge skews towards the basics like "hello and goodbye" (Rytsas se geros ilas). Still, a girl can dream!How did High Valyrian wind up on Duolingo? Promotional materials from Duolingo about their High Valyrian course. Credit: Duolingo Originally, Duolingo reached out to Peterson about creating a course in Dothraki. Since he'd already released a book about Dothraki, he suggested High Valyrian instead. The first version of the course launched in July 2017. It has since gone through two updates: one in 2019, and one in 2022, prior to the release of House of the Dragon. According to Duolingo in data they shared with me over e-mail, over 3.2 million learners worldwide have studied High Valyrian as of the course's launch.2022 was a particularly big year for High Valyrian on Duolingo. A blog update from Duolingo in July of 2022 said that the course had 514,000 active users. Then, from September to October, while House of the Dragon was airing, Duolingo revealed that it saw a 56 percent increase in High Valyrian learners. There's been more interest in High Valyrian than there's ever been. - David J. Peterson "There's been more interest in High Valyrian than there's ever been... Even before, High Valyrian never had this level of interest around it. Now it does," Peterson said in a video call with Mashable. "And honestly, I think it comes down to the way that it's used [in House of the Dragon], the way you can actually see the back and forth. Because even in Game of Thrones, it was something for Daenerys giving speeches or laying down announcements, very magisterial. Here [in House of the Dragon], you can actually hear how it is a language."House of the Dragon puts High Valyrian front and center.My desire to learn High Valyrian wouldn't have been so pronounced had the language not featured far more prominently in House of the Dragon than it did in Game of Thrones. The increase in High Valyrian usage in House of the Dragon comes down to the context of the show: Here, hundreds of years before Game of Thrones, the Targaryens are still in power, and still keeping the language of their ancestors from Old Valyria alive.Peterson noted that the High Valyrian we see in the show "is actually closer to what you hear with Daenerys and Game of Thrones than it would be to the language you would have heard spoken around the time of the Doom [of Valyria]."He also pointed out that while we do see more High Valyrian speakers in House of the Dragon, it is by no means a common language in Westeros. "The Targaryens and families like the Velaryons, they're keeping up High Valyrian as a spoken language," Peterson said. "But you can already see that maybe it's starting to wane with the youngest kids. You can see that they're clearly not being brought up as fluent as Rhaenyra was." Elsewhere, the only other people in Westeros who would be speaking High Valyrian would be the Dragonkeepers and the Maesters, who would teach it to the wealthiest people in the realm. "But if they don't have any connection to Valyria, it's not like they think of [High Valyrian] as important. So it's just this kind of literary, scientific, highbrow language for everybody else in Westeros," explained Peterson. Mashable Top Stories Peterson described the level of High Valyrian taught in the Duolingo course as being "post-Doom, but a little bit more proper and standard, so closer to Aegon's conquest [of Westeros]." Of course, as with any language, there are several nuances and exceptions to rules that you might not learn until you've studied the language for a long time at a high level. But while the Duolingo course might not get us to that point in High Valyrian as of now, it's still a great starting point to dive into the nitty-gritty basics of the language.What can you expect to learn in the High Valyrian Duolingo course? Promotional materials from Duolingo about their High Valyrian course. Credit: Duolingo Like with all Duolingo courses, the High Valyrian course starts by teaching you the basics of a language and building on those. The first vocabulary words you learn include man (vala), woman (ābra), girl (riña), and boy (taoba). Later, you'll learn about High Valyrian's four genders — solar, lunar, aquatic, and terrestrial — and encounter words like korze (meaning long sword) or sēter (meaning spell or enchantment).I definitely get the biggest kick whenever these fantasy-centric words are peppered in along more "standard" vocabulary. Usually, when I think of learning a language, I imagine that phrases we learn early on will include "How are you?" and "Where's the bathroom?" With the High Valyrian course, I learned how to say "I have dragons" (Zaldrīzī eman) and "They love the Iron Throne" (Āegenkon Dēmalion jorrāelzi). And honestly? I love it. The regular fantasy references further immerse me in the language and remind me where High Valyrian comes from — a context that was immensely important to Peterson while constructing the course."Valyrian is essentially two things," he explained. "It is an actual language. It's something that you can use today, right now. But it's also a set piece. That is, it's a language that is supposed to have a fictional history... I'm very clearly setting a level of instruction at a particular time in this fictional history." Valyrian is essentially two things. It is an actual language... But it's also a set piece. - David J. Peterson He continued, "When I first started working with Duolingo, they said, 'Here, you can use some of these other courses as models.' And it's [units] like traveling at an airport, going to a restaurant, calling a taxi. These are very useful things, but it completely doesn't exist in this fictional universe. And that's the whole point of the language, is to serve this fiction."Peterson hinted that maybe one day he'd create a bonus skill where we could learn to discuss levels of technology that don't exist in Westeros yet — but none of those words or phrases would really fall in Valyrian. "I had to find other things that would be useful or common from that time period," Peterson said, hence the swords and sorcery. "It might not be very useful to a modern speaker, but at least it's interesting and it fits the world." The High Valyrian Duolingo course is full of treats for Game of Thrones fans.As you work through the High Valyrian course on Duolingo, you'll begin to pick up pieces of High Valyrian dialogue from the show, including the iconic "Valar morghulis, valar dohaeris." The first names you'll use in exercises include Daenerys, Viserys, and Jon (translated to Iōnos), so you'll be able to say phrases like "Daenerys is a friend of the dragons" in no time.Peterson tried to fit as much Game of Thrones dialogue into the course as he could. However, this endeavor became much harder with House of the Dragon, which saw more complicated conversational High Valyrian. "I'm going to keep adding to [the course] as long as they'll let me, so hopefully we'll get there eventually, but there's some pretty tricky stuff in the House of the Dragon dialogue," he said.His biggest challenge? Translating the phrase "would that it were," which shows up in episode 4. It took Peterson several weeks to come up with the High Valyrian approximation "Hegnīr iksos jaelan," essentially meaning "I wish it were that way." If you want more translations of House of the Dragon's complex High Valyrian conversations, Peterson posts them, episode by episode, on Archive of Our Own. I toggle between telling people that Paris is a beautiful city and letting them know that my dragons are extremely powerful. I haven't run into any phrases nearly that complicated in the Duolingo course. I'm still working through the "Intro to High Valyrian" section. However, I've found that my absolute favorite thing about learning High Valyrian is how connected it makes me feel to the shows and books. Because of it, I'm thinking more about the history of Westeros and the context of the language. I'm listening harder to the House of the Dragon's High Valyrian in order to catch snippets of vocabulary that I might recognize. When watching the Season 1 finale for the first time, I cheered when Aemond called Lucerys "taoba," because I knew even without any subtitles that it meant "boy." (Don't worry, that cheering stopped as soon as Vhagar chomped down on Lucerys — I'm not a monster!)Learning High Valyrian has also offered a deeper connection with my friends who love House of the Dragon. We'll text each other phrases that make us laugh because of their significance in the show. Some of my favorites include:Oh no... Credit: Screenshot: Duolingo Ned spreading misinformation about everyone's favorite bastard. Credit: Screenshot: Duolingo Hey, that's the name of the show! Credit: Screenshot: Duolingo It all comes back to language learning.Aside from the fantasy references and the meme potential of certain phrases, the High Valyrian course's greatest accomplishment is the fact that, like the mighty flames of Syrax (or Vhagar, or Caraxes), it has re-ignited my joy about learning a language. Every morning I get pumped up to spend a bit of my day talking about dragons and spells and thrones. This excitement stems from both the fun of High Valyrian and Duolingo's gamified approach to teaching, which incentivizes users to maintain a daily learning streak. Duolingo's streak system and gamification actually intrigued Peterson well before he began working on the High Valyrian course. "More important than anything else when it comes to language instruction is you have to engage with it every day," Peterson said. "You have to just keep up with it and keep doing it. Duolingo has found a way to get people to want to do that, which is the hardest part."Since you can work on multiple courses at once in Duolingo, I've used my daily forays to learn High Valyrian to simultaneously brush up on my French. Now, I toggle between telling people that Paris is a beautiful city and letting them know that my dragons are extremely powerful. It's truly the best of both worlds, as well as a welcome chance to re-visit language skills I'd unfortunately let slide the past few years. For that chance, and for the opportunity to get to know Westeros a little better, I have one thing to say: Kirimvose. (Thank you.) Topics Apps & Software Game Of Thrones House of the Dragon Rytsas, gūrēñarossas! (Hello, learners!) We’re excited to announce a few updates to our High Valyrian course ahead of HBO’s Game of Thrones prequel, House of the Dragon. Are you new to High Valyrian, or has it been a while since you’ve practiced? Here’s everything you need to know: First of all: What is High Valyrian?High Valyrian is known as a “conlang,” or “constructed language”—this just means it was intentionally created by someone, versus languages that emerge naturally without a single creator, like Spanish, French, or English! 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Peterson built High Valyrian around the little bit of language Martin scattered throughout the series: two sentences (Valar dohaeris and Valar morghulis), five or six nouns, and all of the character names. Peterson saw Greek and Latin influence in Martin’s sampling of the language. “Latin and Greek have some familiar sounds to them, governed primarily by the fact that most of their content words have predictable and recognizable endings (-um, -a, -os, -ion, -arum, -ibus, -us, -is, etc.),” Peterson explained over email. “With the words and names, George R. R. Martin mostly prescribed what the sound system of High Valyrian was going to be. In fact, I only added two sounds to Valyrian that aren't found in the books: z [z] and ñ [ɲ]. I felt they fit.”Peterson’s work on the language involves many of those specific decisions to determine the vocabulary, grammar, and patterns of High Valyrian. Learners will find genders and noun cases in High Valyrian, like many other natural languages, but unique to High Valyrian is the type of noun classes: lunar, solar, aquatic, and terrestrial. These cases “fit the overall theme” of the world. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to learning this intricately constructed language!Why should you learn High Valyrian on Duolingo?Sure, you’re probably not going to travel to Westeros on your next summer vacation, and you likely won’t need it for a job or other everyday uses. But that doesn’t mean learning High Valyrian doesn’t have its benefits. For one, Game of Thrones superfans can use the language to connect more deeply with the series and the world of Ice and Fire. Learn more about why we love constructed languages!What’s new in the Duolingo High Valyrian course?Peterson’s updated High Valyrian course includes 159 new vocabulary words! As you progress through the High Valyrian course, you’ll learn everything from the basics (talking about food, using numbers, and discussing clothing), to unique skills that would benefit you in Westeros, like commanding dragons. Learning to command dragons is one of five new skills in the course, along with learning how to talk about buildings in Valyria. Then, there are a few new skills that help with tricky grammar concepts, like learning how to make excuses (which helps with imperfect tense), discuss cooking (grammatical gender of numbers), and talk about yourself (reflexive verbs).Learn how to command dragons on Duolingo!Gaomōbagon rhaenās (start practicing) High Valyrian! To help accelerate your learning, we’re offering 1 free month of Super Duolingo for a limited time—redeem the offer here.**Account sign-up and credit card required. Redeemable by visiting duolingo.com/redeem in a browser or on mobile web only and entering code DRACARYS. After 1-month trial, Super Duolingo subscription will automatically renew, unless canceled. Offer is eligible to both New and Returning Super Duolingo users (current Super Duolingo subscribers are not eligible). FAQ can be found here. Learning Tagalog can be relatively approachable for English speakers due to its straightforward grammar and vocabulary. Tagalog, the basis for Filipino, has a simpler verb conjugation system compared to many other languages, and it does not have complex noun cases or gendered nouns. The language uses a phonetic alphabet, which makes pronunciation easier to master. However, some challenges include understanding its affixation system, which alters the meaning of verbs and nouns, and the presence of numerous loanwords from Spanish, English, and indigenous languages. Despite these complexities, Tagalog is accessible and rewarding to learn, especially with consistent practice and the use of effective resources like language apps and immersive experiences. About Tagalog Tagalog is an Austronesian language spoken by approximately 28 million people, primarily in the Philippines, where it serves as one of the official languages. It is the basis for Filipino, the national language of the Philippines. Tagalog uses the Latin alphabet and features a relatively straightforward phonetic system, making pronunciation relatively easy for learners. The language has a simple grammatical structure compared to many other languages, with no noun cases or gendered nouns. However, it has a complex system of verb affixes that alter verb forms to convey different aspects and moods. Tagalog vocabulary includes many loanwords from Spanish, English, and various Philippine languages, reflecting its diverse cultural influences. Despite some challenges, especially with its verb system, Tagalog is accessible and rich in cultural context, offering a valuable linguistic experience. Did you know? Tagalog is a language rich with interesting features that reflect its diverse history. One notable aspect is its extensive use of affixes to modify verbs, which can create a variety of meanings and nuances from a single root word. For instance, prefixes, infixes, and suffixes are used to indicate tense, aspect, and focus, which can be complex for learners to master. Tagalog also includes a significant number of Spanish loanwords due to over 300 years of Spanish colonization, integrating terms related to daily life, culture, and government. Additionally, the language has a unique system of focus or voice that changes the verb form to highlight different parts of the sentence, such as the subject or object. Another curious fact is that Tagalog is often used in a "code-switching" manner, blending with English and other Philippine languages in everyday conversation, reflecting its dynamic and evolving nature. How does Beelinguapp help me learn Tagalog? Beelinguapp helps you learn Tagalog through an engaging and effective approach. The app offers bilingual texts that display Tagalog alongside your native language, allowing you to read and compare both versions simultaneously. This format helps you understand vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure more easily. Additionally, Beelinguapp includes audio recordings by native Tagalog speakers, which aid in improving your pronunciation and listening skills. By immersing yourself in real-world content such as captivating stories, current news, and music, Beelinguapp makes learning Tagalog both enjoyable and effective. Rytsas, gūrēñarossas! (Hello, learners!) We’re excited to announce a few updates to our High Valyrian course ahead of HBO’s Game of Thrones prequel, House of the Dragon. Are you new to High Valyrian, or has it been a while since you’ve practiced? 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Learn more about why we love constructed languages!What’s new in the Duolingo High Valyrian course?Peterson’s updated High Valyrian course includes 159 new vocabulary words! As you progress through the High Valyrian course, you’ll learn everything from the basics (talking about food, using numbers, and discussing clothing), to unique skills that would benefit you in Westeros, like commanding dragons. Learning to command dragons is one of five new skills in the course, along with learning how to talk about buildings in Valyria. Then, there are a few new skills that help with tricky grammar concepts, like learning how to make excuses (which helps with imperfect tense), discuss cooking (grammatical gender of numbers), and talk about yourself (reflexive verbs).Learn how to command dragons on Duolingo!Gaomōbagon rhaenās (start practicing) High Valyrian! To help accelerate your learning, we’re offering 1 free month of Super Duolingo for a limited time—redeem the offer here.**Account sign-up and credit card required. Redeemable by visiting duolingo.com/redeem in a browser or on mobile web only and entering code DRACARYS. After 1-month trial, Super Duolingo subscription will automatically renew, unless canceled. Offer is eligible to both New and Returning Super Duolingo users (current Super Duolingo subscribers are not eligible). FAQ can be found here. Las siete bendiciones caigan sobre vosotros. Para hablar como un Targaryen o ser capaz de invocar magia como un sacerdote o una sacerdotisa roja, debes aprender el antiguo alto valyrio. Aprender un nuevo idioma como el alto valyrio puede sonar intimidante, pero no lo es tanto como crees. Es similar a lo que sentirías al embarcarte en tu primer viaje en dragón. Parece irreal y abrumador y, al mismo tiempo, surrealista y extraordinario. La incertidumbre de no saber cómo se monta un dragón se apodera de ti. Pero la cuestión es que nadie sabe cómo montar un dragón hasta que lo hace. Así que si estás pensando en aprender alto valyrio, hazlo. Coge a este dragón por los cuernos, o bueno, de cualquier parte de donde puedas agarrarte. ¡Disfruta del viaje y de la belleza de aprender una nueva lengua! Introducción al alto valyrio El alto valyrio es un idioma ficticio creado por David J. Peterson, un lingüista e inventor de idiomas norteamericano conocido como “el hombre de los idiomas de Hollywood” (según Los Angeles Times). El alto valyrio no es el idioma que se habla habitualmente en el Dominio Valyrio, pero sí es la lengua de la poesía, las canciones, la literatura, además de que es hablado por los nobles que viven en Essos y Westeros. Este antiguo idioma proviene de las novelas que inspiraron el drama fantástico Juego de Tronos. Curiosamente, en los libros de George R.R. Martin sólo aparecen 56 frases en valyrio. Sin embargo, eso no detuvo a Peterson, quien usó esos términos como base para hacer del alto valyrio un idioma establecido. En 2013, el alto valyrio tenía únicamente 667 palabras, pero hoy en día cuenta con cerca de 2000. Como cualquier otra lengua, el alto valyrio tiene sus propias reglas. De hecho, es un idioma que en la gramática inglesa se denomina como “head-final”, lo que significa que en su estructura sintáctica el adjetivo precede al sustantivo. Esta lengua cuenta con cuatro géneros (clase lunar, clase solar, clase terrestre y clase acuática), cuatro números gramaticales (singular, plural, colectivo y paucal), ocho casos sustantivos (nominativo, acusativo, dativo, genitivo, vocativo, locativo, instrumental y comitativo) y conjugaciones verbales. Si eres fan de la serie, seguramente recordarás la icónica escena en la que Jaqen H’ghar da a Arya Stark una moneda de hierro. En esa escena, él le dice estas dos importantísimas palabras: Valar Morghulis. Valar Morghulis es una frase en alto valyrio que significa “Todos los hombres deben morir”, y debe ser respondida con la frase Valar Dohaeris, que significa “Todos los hombres deben servir”. Esta poderosa frase no es una frase cualquiera: se convirtió en el punto de partida para que Peterson desarrollara el idioma. Hablantes de alto valyrio Daenerys Targaryen Daenerys de la Tormenta de la Casa Targaryen, la Primera de su Nombre, Reina de los Ándalos y los Primeros Hombres, Reina de los Siete Reinos, la Madre de Dragones, la Khaleesi del Gran Mar de Hierba, La que no arde, Rompedora de Cadenas. Giphy / Game of Thrones Missandei Missandei, una esclava de Naath, trabajó como intérprete de Kraznys mo Nakloz de Astapor. Pero después de que Daenerys Targaryen la liberara, se convirtió en su más leal sierva y consejera de mayor confianza. Giphy / Game of Thrones Tyrion Lannister Lord Tyrion Lannister es el sabio e inteligente hijo de Lord Tywin Lannister y hermano de Cersei y Jaime Lannister. Es el Señor de Roca Casterly y Mano del Rey Brandon Stark. Giphy / Game of Thrones Varys Varys, también conocido como la Araña, fue el Consejero de los Rumores de la Casa Baratheon. Es un hombre muy misterioso, así como un maestro del engaño y la manipulación. Abandonó Desembarco del Rey con Tyrion Lannister, y más tarde se unió al pequeño consejo de Daenerys, sirviendo como su Consejero de los Rumores. Giphy / Game of Thrones Melisandre Melisandre era una sacerdotisa roja de Asshai y sirvió como consejera de confianza del rey Stannis Baratheon. Melisandre también era conocida como la Mujer Roja y la Bruja Roja. Ella tiene fe absoluta en sus excepcionales poderes mágicos, concretamente la capacidad de predecir el futuro mirando al fuego. Giphy / Game of Thrones Thoros of Myr Thoros de Myr era un Sacerdote Rojo y un gran guerrero que luchó por el Rey Robert Baratheon en la Rebelión Greyjoy. Tiene el poder de encender su espada en llamas con solo pasar su mano. Giphy / University of Alaska Fairbanks Frases en alto valyrio Rytsas – Hola Kessa – Sí Daor – No Kirimvose – Gracias Geros ilas – Adiós Sōnar mastan - El invierno está aquí Valar dohaeris – Todos los hombres deben servir Nerni ōrēs - Mantén la puerta abierta / Abre la puerta (para alguien) Udrizi Valyrio ȳdrā? - ¿Hablas valyrio? Ñuho glaeso hūrus - Luna de mi vida Merbun - Tengo hambre Dovaogēdy – Inmaculado / Un inmaculado Avy jorrāelan - Te amo Ñuhor līr gūrēnna - Tomaré lo que me pertenece Bantis zōbrie issa se ossȳngnoti lēdys - La noche es oscura y llena de terrores Daoruni gīmi, Ionos Sōnaro - No sabes nada, Jon Snow Skorverdon dekuroti Dōros hen kesīr ilza? - ¿A qué distancia está el muro? Riña dōre brōzi ēza- Una chica no tiene nombre Tubī daor – No hoy Aprende un nuevo idioma Rytsas, gūrēñarossas! (Hello, learners!) We’re excited to announce a few updates to our High Valyrian course ahead of HBO’s Game of Thrones prequel, House of the Dragon. Are you new to High Valyrian, or has it been a while since you’ve practiced? Here’s everything you need to know: First of all: What is High Valyrian?High Valyrian is known as a “conlang,” or “constructed language”—this just means it was intentionally created by someone, versus

languages that emerge naturally without a single creator, like Spanish, French, or English! More specifically, High Valyrian is an a priori conlang, built without drawing grammar or vocabulary from an existing natural language.High Valyrian was created by David J. Peterson for HBO’s popular series, Game of Thrones. In fact, Peterson has been a go to “con”-linguist for various television shows and feature films that require a unique language, including Doctor Strange (Nelvayu), Penny Dreadful (Verbis Diablo), and Dune (Chakobsa and Sardaukar).In 2019, we partnered with Peterson to launch a High Valyrian course on Duolingo so more fans across the globe could learn the language. It now has 514,000 active learners! (Maybe you’re one of them?)How exactly did David J. Peterson create a brand-new language?It helped that George R.R. Martin planted the seeds that would eventually become the High Valyrian language. Peterson built High Valyrian around the little bit of language Martin scattered throughout the series: two sentences (Valar dohaeris and Valar morghulis), five or six nouns, and all of the character names. Peterson saw Greek and Latin influence in Martin’s sampling of the language. “Latin and Greek have some familiar sounds to them, governed primarily by the fact that most of their content words have predictable and recognizable endings (-um, -a, -os, -ion, -arum, -ibus, -us, -is, etc.),” Peterson explained over email. “With the words and names, George R. R. Martin mostly prescribed what the sound system of High Valyrian was going to be. In fact, I only added two sounds to Valyrian that aren't found in the books: z [z] and ñ [ɲ]. I felt they fit.”Peterson’s work on the language involves many of those specific decisions to determine the vocabulary, grammar, and patterns of High Valyrian. Learners will find genders and noun cases in High Valyrian, like many other natural languages, but unique to High Valyrian is the type of noun classes: lunar, solar, aquatic, and terrestrial. These cases “fit the overall theme” of the world. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to learning this intricately constructed language!Why should you learn High Valyrian on Duolingo?Sure, you’re probably not going to travel to Westeros on your next summer vacation, and you likely won’t need it for a job or other everyday uses. But that doesn’t mean learning High Valyrian doesn’t have its benefits. For one, Game of Thrones superfans can use the language to connect more deeply with the series and the world of Ice and Fire. Learn more about why we love constructed languages!What’s new in the Duolingo High Valyrian course?Peterson’s updated High Valyrian course includes 159 new vocabulary words! As you progress through the High Valyrian course, you’ll learn everything from the basics (talking about food, using numbers, and discussing clothing), to unique skills that would benefit you in Westeros, like commanding dragons. Learning to command dragons is one of five new skills in the course, along with learning how to talk about buildings in Valyria. Then, there are a few new skills that help with tricky grammar concepts, like learning how to make excuses (which helps with imperfect tense), discuss cooking (grammatical gender of numbers), and talk about yourself (reflexive verbs).Learn how to command dragons on Duolingo!Gaomōbagon rhaenās (start practicing) High Valyrian! To help accelerate your learning, we’re offering 1 free month of Super Duolingo for a limited time—redeem the offer here.**Account sign-up and credit card required. Redeemable by visiting duolingo.com/redeem in a browser or on mobile web only and entering code DRACARYS. After 1-month trial, Super Duolingo subscription will automatically renew, unless canceled. Offer is eligible to both New and Returning Super Duolingo users (current Super Duolingo subscribers are not eligible). FAQ can be found here. Rytsas, gūrēñarossas! (Hello, learners!) We’re excited to announce a few updates to our High Valyrian course ahead of HBO’s Game of Thrones prequel, House of the Dragon. Are you new to High Valyrian, or has it been a while since you’ve practiced? Here’s everything you need to know: First of all: What is High Valyrian?High Valyrian is known as a “conlang,” or “constructed language”—this just means it was intentionally created by someone, versus languages that emerge naturally without a single creator, like Spanish, French, or English! More specifically, High Valyrian is an a priori conlang, built without drawing grammar or vocabulary from an existing natural language.High Valyrian was created by David J. Peterson for HBO’s popular series, Game of Thrones. 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In order to speak like a Targaryen or be able to summon magic like a Red Priest or a Red Priestess, you must learn the ancient language of High Valyrian. Learning a new language like High Valyrian may sound intimidating, but it really isn’t. It’s like how you would feel as you embark on your first dragon ride. It sounds unreal and overwhelming. At the same time, surreal and extraordinary. The dilemma of not knowing how to ride one creeps in and it lingers. But the thing is: no one knows how to ride a dragon until you actually ride one. So, if you’re thinking about learning High Valyrian, go for it. Take this dragon by its horns or really anything you can hold on to. Enjoy the ride and appreciate the beauty of learning a new tongue. Introduction to High Valyrian High Valyrian is a fictional language created by David J. Peterson, who is an American linguist and language creator; he is also referred to as “Hollywood’s go-to language guy,” according to the Los Angeles Times. High Valyrian may not be your typically spoken language in the Valyrian Freehold, but it is used in poetry, literature, and by the nobles living in Essos and Westeros. The origin of the ancient language comes from the epic novels that inspired the fantasy drama called Game of Thrones. Interestingly, there were only 56 Valyrian phrases introduced throughout the books written by George R. R. Martin. However, that didn’t stop Peterson from using these terms as the basis for turning High Valyrian into an established language. In 2013, High Valyrian only had 667 words, but now it has evolved to have about 2,000 words. And just like any other language, it has its own set of rules. In fact, High Valyrian is known to be a "head-final" language, which means that in its sentence structure the adjective comes before the noun. The language features four gender classes (lunar class, solar class, terrestrial class, and aquatic class), four grammatical numbers (singular, plural, collective, and paucal), eight noun cases (nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, vocative, locative, instrumental, and comitative), and verb conjugations. If you are a fan of the show, you must remember that iconic scene in which Jaqen H’ghar gives Arya Stark this special coin. In this scene, he says to her these two important words: Valar Morghulis. Feel free to say it: Valar Morghulis. Valar Morghulis is a High Valyrian phrase that means “All men must die” and it must be replied with Valar Dohaeris which means “All men must serve.” This powerful phrase is not just any phrase, because this became the starting point of how Peterson developed the language. High Valyrian Speakers Daenerys Targaryen Daenerys Stormborn of House Targaryen, the First of Her Name, Queen of the Andals and the First Men, Protector of the Seven Kingdoms, the Mother of Dragons, the Khaleesi of the Great Grass Sea, the Unburnt, the Breaker of Chains. Giphy / Game of Thrones Missandei Missandei, a slave from Naath, worked as the gifted interpreter for Kraznys mo Nakloz of Astapor. But after Daenerys Targaryen set her free, she served as her most loyal handmaiden and most trusted advisor. Giphy / Game of Thrones Tyrion Lannister Lord Tyrion Lannister is the wise and intelligent son of Lord Tywin Lannister and the brother of Cersei and Jaime Lannister. He is the Hand of the King to Brandon Stark. Giphy / Game of Thrones Varys Varys, also known as the Spider, served as the House of Baratheons Master of Whisperers. He is a very mysterious man but a master of deception and manipulation. He left King’s Landing with Tyrion Lannister, and later on joined Daenerys’ small council, serving as her Master of Whisperers. Giphy / Game of Thrones Melisandre Melisandre was a Red Priestess from Asshai and she served as King Stannis Baratheons trusted advisor. Melisandre was also known as the Red Woman or the Red Witch. She believes that she possesses strong magical powers, specifically the ability to predict the future by gazing into a fire. Giphy / Game of Thrones Thoros of Myr Thoros of Myr was a Red Priest and a great warrior who fought for King Robert Baratheon in the Greyjoy Rebellion. He has the power to ignite his blade in flames by simply running his hand over it. Giphy / University of Alaska Fairbanks High Valyrian Phrases Rytsas – Hello Kessa – Yes Daor – No Kirimvose – Thank you. Geros ilas – Goodbye. Sōnar mastan - Winter is here. Valar dohaeris – All men must serve. Nerni ōrēs - Hold the door. Udrizi Valyrio ȳdrā? - Do you speak Valyrian? Ñuho glaeso hūrus - Moon of my life Merbun - I’m hungry. Dovaogēdy – An Unsullied. Avy jorrāelan. - I love you. Ñuhor līr gūrēnna. - I will take what is mine. Bantis zōbrie issa se ossȳngnoti lēdys. - The night is dark and full of terrors. Daoruni gīmī, Ionos Sōnaro. - You know nothing Jon Snow. Skorverdon dekuroti Dōros hen kesīr ilza? - How much farther is the wall? Riña dōre brōzi ēza- A girl has no name. Tubī daor. – Not today. Learn a new language