Bulgarian is the official language of Bulgaria, where it has about eight million speakers. It is a South Slavic language. It is also considered a member of the Balkan language area (Aronson 1992). The dialect recorded here is the common literary language, known as Contemporary Standard Bulgarian.

**Bulgarian Consonants:**

The major contrasts are fortis/lenis and palatalized/non-palatalized. Palatization is distinctive only before back vowels (Aronson 1992). The fortis obstruents are often unaspirated, but the lenis obstruents are generally voiced. The 'r' symbol represents an apical trill. The /l/ in Bulgarian is pronounced as quite dark, except before a high front vowel, where it becomes clear. The sounds [l] and [f] are rare, and may exist only in borrowed words. Stress in Bulgarian is mobile and distinctive (Scatton 1984); it is represented here by an acute accent over the syllabic nucleus.

Fortis:  
- p  t  ts  tf  k  
- p̊  t̊  ts̊  t̊  k̊  

Lenis:  
- b  d  d  ʒ  g  
- b̊  d̊  d̊  ʒ  g̊  

Fricatives:  
- f  s  ʃ  x  
- f̊  s̊  ʒ  

Nasals:  
- m  n  
- m̊  n̊  

Liquids:  
- r  l  
- r̊  l̊  

Glides:  
- j  

**Bulgarian Vowels:**

Bulgarian has essentially six full vowel phonemes:

- i  u  
- e  ə  o  
- a  

The vowel /e/ may manifest as [ɛ]. The vowel /o/ is usually pronounced rather low when stressed, like [ɔ], but occurs as [u] in unstressed positions. Both /a/ and /ɔ/ generally reduce to [ɔ] in unstressed positions. In this
environment, /a/ may also retain the [a] pronunciation, especially in careful speech; I doubt that unstressed /a/ ever manifests as anything suitably distinct from [ə] to justify being transcribed otherwise. As it is, unstressed [ə] is difficult to hear as having a quality distinct from stressed [œ] in anything other than careful speech, as the schwa in Bulgarian sounds rather higher than the Canadian English schwa.

I. Word Lists

Consonants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>[p]</td>
<td>[pop] “priest”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>[pɔp]</td>
<td>“navel”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>[p̥a]</td>
<td>[p̥a̞na] “foam”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>[p̥ur]</td>
<td>[p̥ur] “purée”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>[b]</td>
<td>[bɔp] “bean”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>[b]</td>
<td>[bik] “bull”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>[b̥]</td>
<td>[b̥al] “white”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>[b̥al]</td>
<td>[b̥a̞gəm] “to run”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>[t]</td>
<td>[tɔm] “tome”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>[t]</td>
<td>[təm] “there”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>[t̥]</td>
<td>[t̥ɛlɔ] “body”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>[t̥u̞t̥]</td>
<td>[t̥u̞t̥] “tobacco”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>[d]</td>
<td>[dɔm] “house”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>[d̥u̞m]</td>
<td>[d̥u̞m] “word”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>[d̥á]</td>
<td>[d̥ádu] “grandfather”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>[d̥u̞]</td>
<td>[d̥u̞u̞] “quince”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>[ts̥]</td>
<td>[ts̥əpəm] “oil soil”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>[ts̥]</td>
<td>[ts̥ip] “peel”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>[ts̥]</td>
<td>[ts̥al] “whole”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>[ts̥]</td>
<td>[ts̥ər] “medicine”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>[t̥]</td>
<td>[t̥ɛt̥iri] “four”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>[t̥]</td>
<td>[t̥u̞vεk] “person”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>[t̥]</td>
<td>[t̥i̞n] “desk”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>[d̥3̥]</td>
<td>[d̥3̥əp] “pocket”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>[d̥u̞d̥]</td>
<td>[d̥u̞d̥] “dwarf”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>[kum] “godfather”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>[kɔn]</td>
<td>“horse”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>[ki̞p]</td>
<td>“it boils”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>[k̥]</td>
<td>[k̥opəf] “clumsy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>[k̥]</td>
<td>[k̥up] “clay pot”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>[g]</td>
<td>[gufər] “lizard”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>[g]</td>
<td>[gol] “naked”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>[g̥]</td>
<td>[g̥ibel] “downfall”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>[g̥]</td>
<td>[g̥ul] “rose”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
35 [gˈuvetʃ]  "pot of stew"
36 [f]  "bean"
37 [foʃul]  "street light"
38 [fǔɾer]  "führer"
39 [iskufal]  "senile" (m. sg. participle)
40 [v]  "will" (noun)
41 [volk]  "wolf"
42 [v]  "wind"
43 [v̞aɾə]  "faith, belief"
44 [s]  "elephant"
45 [sǔpa]  "soup"
46 [ʃ]  "as if"
47 [ʃanˈka]  "shadow"
48 [ʒ]  "tooth"
49 [zv̞eʃdǎ]  "star"
50 [ʒ]  "hyacinth"
51 [z̪apɔm]  "I gape"
52 [ʃ]  "noise"
53 [ʃapka]  "hat"
54 [ʃabə]  "frog"
55 [ʒəlt]  "yellow"
56 [ʒɔlˈazə]  "iron"
57 [x̞uʃuʃ]  "beautiful"
58 [xɔrə]  "people"
59 [x̞ap]  "bread"
60 [m]  "mother"
61 [miʃka]  "mouse"
62 [mlàku]  "milk"
63 [m]  "place"
64 [mɔx]  "wineskin"
65 [n]  "norm"
66 [niɛ]  "we"
67 [n]  "flair; scent"
68 [nˈamə]  "there is not"
69 [r]  "fish"
70 [reʃ]  "order"
71 [r]  "rare"
72 [ɾˈapə]  "turnip"
73 [l]  "hunt" (noun)
74 [lɔt]  "crazy"
75 [l]  "left"
76 [lətu]  "summer"
77 [ʃ]  "hole"
78 [ʃazva]  "ulcer"
Vowels:

1 /ɨ/ [imɔm] “I have”
2 /ɪ/ [ístina] “truth”
3 /imə/ [ime] “name”
4 /ɛ/ [ɛfin] “cheap”
5 /ɛzik/ [ezik] “language”
6 /e/ [elen] “deer”
7 /ɛɾlet/ [prəlet] “spring”
8 /a/ [kamək] “stone”
9 /iksɾa/ [iskra] “sparkle” (noun)
10 /kɔkɔ!/ [kokɔ] interrogative pronoun (m. sg.)
11 /kal/ [kal] “mud”
12 / cynical] [sgol] “corner”
13 /vɔlna/ [volna] “wool”
14 /vəlna/ [volnə] “I wave”
15 /grep/ [grep] “back”
16 /gɔlp/ [golp] “pigeon”
17 /gɔmə/ [gome] “pot”
18 /o/ [səm] “eight”
19 /usə/ [usə] “wasp”
20 /uftsə/ [uftsə] “sheep”
21 /uglədəlu/ [ugladəlu] “mirror”

End of Tape 1

22 /u/ [um] “mind”
23 /urʃ/ [surʃ] “to be raw” (m. sg.)
24 /ulu/ [ulu] “pipe”
25 /pųjo/ [pųjo] “turkey”

Palatalization contrasts:

The following are minimal pairs which contrast only by means of palatalization on a consonant. The contrast for velars only occurs in words of foreign origin (Scatton 1984).

1 /kupa/ [kupa] “bowl”
2 /kupɔ/ [kupɔ] “I buy”
3 /bala/ [bala] “bail of yarn”
4 /bala/ [bala] “white” (f. sg.)
5 /tam/ [tam] “there”
6 /təm/ [tem] pronoun (3p. dat. pl.)
7 /dala/ [dala] “to give” (f. active participle)
8 /dala/ [dala] “to cut away (wood)” (3p. sg.)
9 /tsar/ [tsar] “tsar”
10 /tsar/ [tsar] “medicine”
11 /kup/ [kup] “heap”
12 [kȗp]  “earthen pot”
13 [gȗl]  “naked” (m. sg.)
14 [gȗl]  “pond”
15 [prȗva]  “right”
16 [prȗva]  “I do”
17 [kusȗ]  “hair”
18 [kusȗ]  “I mow”
19 [sȗlzȗ]  “tear” (noun, from the eyes)
20 [sȗlzȗ]  “tearing (eyes watering)” (1p. sg.)
21 [kuzȗ]  “goat”
22 [kȗzȗ]  “comes from a goat”
23 [mȗxa]  “he waves”
24 [mȗxa]  “the wineskin”
25 [zȗnȗ]  “the ringing”
26 [zȗnȗ]  “I ring”
27 [dȗrȗ]  “the gift”
28 [dȗrȗ]  “I give (a gift)”
29 [lȗva]  “lava”
30 [lȗva]  “left”

Stress contrasts:

The following pairs contrast by means of stress placement. Note the change in some of the vowel qualities when the stress value changes.

1 [kȗba]  “quire (a printer’s sheet)”
2 [kȗtȗ]  “car”
3 [pȗra]  “steam”
4 [pȗra]  “coin”
5 [rȗfo]  “I comb”
6 [rȗfo]  “I decide”
7 [jȗka]  “strong” (f. sg.)
8 [jȗka]  “collar”
9 [bȗlȗ]  “ridge”
10 [bȗlȗ]  “to be” (neut. active participle)
11 [kȗlȗn]  “muddy” (m.)
12 [kalȗn]  “tempered” (m. sg. perf. participle)
13 [rȗdȗn]  “birth, native” (m. sg.)
14 [rȗdȗn]  “born” (m. sg.)
15 [jȗde]  “he ate” (3p. sg. aorist)
16 [jȗde]  “he eats” (3p. sg. present)
17 [pȗje]  “you (all) write” (2p. pl. present)
18 [pȗje]  “write” (2p. pl. imperative)
19 [kȗlkȗ]  “legs” (pl.)
20  [kráča]  “legs” (numerative)
21  [tšulên]  “seal” (noun, animal)
22  [tšulên]  “tulle”

II. Spontaneous Speech

III. Reading Sample

References: