

Frisian is a Western Germanic language that is spoken in northern Germany and in the Netherlands. There are three main dialects of Frisian: Eastern, Western, and North. Eastern Frisian is not mutually intelligible with Western Frisian and there were 11,000 speakers in 1976. North Frisian is spoken on the northwest coast of Germany and the surrounding islands by about 10,000 people (1976). Western Frisian has the largest community of the three with 730,000 speakers (1976) in Friesland plus another 300,000 speakers elsewhere in Europe and North America. Most Frisian speakers are at least bilingual, primarily with Dutch or German.

The speaker in this recording is a 59 year-old female from Arheim, Friesland (SW).

Frisian Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p	t	k	ʔ
	b	d	g	
Fricatives:	f	s	x	h
	v	z	ʝ	
Nasals:	m	n	ɲ	ŋ
Liquids:		l r		
Glides:	v		j	w

The phonemes /ʔ, ɲ, ŋ, v/ were not exhibited in this speaker, however, this could be partially due to the size of the sample. The segment /θ/ was observed in addition to the above inventory, as well as the allophone [r].

Frisian Vowel & Diphthong Phonemes:

i(:) y(:)	u(:)	iə yə	uə uj
ɪ		iə	
e: ø(:) ə	o(:)	øə øɥ	oə o:j
ɛ(:) œ	ɔ(:)	ɛj	
a			aj a:j aw

Vowels & Diphthongs Encountered:

i(:) y(:)	u(:)	iə y:ə	uə
ɪ Y			
e: ø(:) ɔ	o(:)	eə	oə
ɛ: œ	ɔ(:)	ɛj œə	
a(:)			aɥ aw aw

Again it is possible that the sample was not adequate to encompass all phonemes.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Numbers 1- 10

III. Word Lists

Vowels:

1.	[iz]		'is'
2.	[in]		'in'
3.	[witə]		'to know'
4.	[wit]		'white'
5.	[wit]		'wide'
6.	[pi:p]		'pipe'
7.	[mem]		'mother'
8.	[le:t]		'leaf'
9.	[sɛ:t]		'full' (from eating)
10.	[be:t]		'bed'
11.	[we:t]		'wheat'
12.	[he:x]		'high'
13.	[slapkə]		'small bib'
14.	[slap]		'bib'
15.	[wa:ɔ]	[waxɔ]	'wait'
16.	[wa:x]	[Vax] ɔ	'scare'
17.	[wɔl]	[Vɔɪ]	'wool'
18.	[wɔ:l]	[Vɔɪ]	'canal bank'
19.	[hɔp]	[hɔp]	'hops'
20.	[hɔ:n]	[hɔ:n] (hɔ:n)	'hand'
21.	[skom]	[skom]	'foam'
22.	[slɔ:p]	[sɔ:p]	'pillowcase'
23.	[ɔp]	[ɔp]	'on'
24.	[hɔ:pjə]	[hɔ:pjə]	'to hope'
25.	[fuskjə]	[fuskjə]	'shake hands'
1.	[hu:t]	[hu:t]	'skin'
2.	[muzən]	[muzən]	'mice'
3.	[mu:s]	[mu:s]	'mouse'
4.	[pœt]	[pœt]	'well'
5.	[kœst]	[kœst]	'coast'
6.	[snœfəljə]	[snœfəljə]	'sniff'
7.	[snø:ɹ]		'disappointing'
8.	[tyn]	[tyn]	'garden'
9.	[sny:f]	[sny:f]	'snuff'
10.	[Yt]		'out'
11.	[dry:f]		'grape'

Diphthongs:

1.	[beiaðə]	'to roast'
2.	[stia̯t]	'stands'
3.	[e:ɣən]	'eyes'
4.	[dre̯əmdə]	'dreamed'
5.	[do̯ərə]	'to dare'
6.	[no̯ərve:ɣən]	'Norway'
7.	[fu̯ət]	'foot'
8.	[sju̯ən]	'seen'
9.	[skr̥æ̯ən]	'written'
10.	[kl̥æ̯ən]	'climbed'
11.	[ny:̯ət]	'tame'
12.	[natu̯ər]	'nature'
13.	[rawə]	'mourning'
14.	[rau̯ljə]	'to exchange'
15.	[fraw]	'lady'
16.	[bawə]	'to build'
17.	[mwa:jər]	'prettier'
18.	[bwa:jəm]	'bottom'
19.	[sne:jə]	'to snow'
20.	[ve:jə]	'to ordain'

References:

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