

Section 1: Introduction Information

1.1: The Albanian language and this course

Welcome to the course, thank you for being interested in learning Albanian!

This course is designed to build the foundation of your Albanian Language acquisition. This course will serve as the scaffolding, and will help you read, write, speak, and understand most Albanian you will encounter on a daily basis. The learning responsibility is on yourself to further your studies and language practice into more advanced topics, should you have the desire.

Each section will have a list of new vocabulary words, important grammar rules you should know, and practice exercises. Most instructions will be presented in Albanian with the English translation. Pay attention to the instructions and their translations, as you may learn new things through inference and context!

When doing the practice exercises, I recommend writing them out in a notebook. This not only helps with comprehension of the learning material, but will also allow you to easily refer back to previous topics.

You will never need to memorize the vocabulary words in order to complete the practice exercises. They are there for you to reference when needed, and to learn as you complete the course.

The practice exercises are so you can become familiar with how sentences are structured, how certain words change, and to become accustomed to the general idea of how to speak and write.

As with all language learning, it is essential that you go out and *practice!* Go out and speak to people, try to pick out certain words they say and try to speak with them.

A Few Facts about the Albanian Language:

- Albanian is an Indo-European language, spoken by roughly 7 million people worldwide. It comprises an independent branch within the Indo-European languages and is **not** closely related to any other language in Europe.
- Albanian is an inflected language, which means that grammatical endings play an important role.
- Nouns can be either feminine or masculine gender.
- Depending on their role in the sentence, nouns change their endings.
- Nouns can be either definite or indefinite. This is marked by their ending, rather than an article like “the” or “a” in English. Even names of people and places can be indefinite.
- Verbs in Albanian can stand in a sentence even without the personal pronoun. The person is identified by the endings that verbs take.