

Урок 1

УКРАЇНСЬКА АБЕТКА (THE UKRAINIAN ALPHABET)

The Ukrainian alphabet has 33 letters. As a rule, a letter denotes a sound, so, there will be as many sounds in a word as there are letters.

The Ukrainian graphic system uses the Cyrillic alphabet, as do other Slavic languages such as: Belorussian, Russian, Bulgarian, Macedonian and Serbian (the latter two have two graphic systems in use: Cyrillic and Latin).

A table of the Ukrainian alphabet:

№	Typed letters	Cursive letters	name of a letter in English transcription	Name of a letter in Ukrainian transcription	Sound	Examples
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	А а	<i>А а</i>	[a]	[a]	[a]	А! Like the English: Aha!
2	Б б	<i>Б б</i>	[be]	[бе]	[b]	Ба! Like the English: bed
3	В в	<i>В в</i>	[ve]	[ве]	[v]	БаВ! Like the English: van
4	Г г	<i>Г г</i>	[he]	[ге]	[h]	Га? A glottal sound more like the German Hh: Hut, Haus
5	Ґ ґ	<i>Ґ ґ</i>	[ge]	[ге]	[g]	ґава, like the English: get
6	Д д	<i>Д д</i>	[de]	[де]	[d]	дав, like the English: dad
7	Е е	<i>Е е</i>	[e]	[е]	[e]	Ева, like the English: Ted
8	Є є	<i>Є є</i>	[ye]	[йе]	[ye]	Єва, like the English: yellow
9	Ж ж	<i>Ж ж</i>	[zhe]	[же]	[zh]	жаба, like the English: pleasure
10	З з	<i>З з</i>	[ze]	[зе]	[z]	забава, like the English: Zed
11	И и	<i>И и</i>	[I]	[и]	[I]	ви, more like the English [I], but longer: thin
12	І і	<i>І і</i>	[i]	[і]	[i]	дід, like the English: piece
13	Ї ї	<i>Ї ї</i>	[yi]	[йі]	[i]	їв, like the English: yeast
14	Й й	<i>Й й</i>	[yot]	[йот]	[y]	Йосип, the palatalizing sound like the English:

						Yy+ a vowel: Yes, young
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A table of the Ukrainian alphabet (continuation)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	К к	<i>К к</i>	[ka]	[ка]	[k]	Київ, like the English: kid
16	Л л	<i>Л л</i>	[el]	[ел]	[l]	лев, like the English: lot
17	М м	<i>М м</i>	[em]	[ем]	[m]	ми, like the English: mum
18	Н н	<i>Н н</i>	[en]	[ен]	[n]	ніж, like the English: nice
19	О о	<i>О о</i>	[o]	[о]	[o]	сон, like the English: on
20	П п	<i>П п</i>	[pe]	[пе]	[p]	під, like the English: pet
21	Р р	<i>Р р</i>	[er]	[ер]	[r]	рід, the Ukrainian [r] is pronounced by vibrating the front part of the tongue, like the Spanish, or the Italian [r]: America
22	С с	<i>С с</i>	[es]	[ес]	[s]	син, like the English: son
23	Т т	<i>Т т</i>	[te]	[те]	[t]	ти, like the English: Ted
24	У у	<i>У у</i>	[u]	[у]	[u]	вуса, like the English: group
25	Ф ф	<i>Ф ф</i>	[ef]	[еф]	[f]	фарба, like the English: fine
26	Х х	<i>Х х</i>	[kha]	[ха]	[kh]	хата, pronounced by the friction of the air passing through the gap created by the back of the tongue being brought up closely to the soft palate. The [kh] is somewhat like the glottal English [h], but it is velar.
27	Ц ц	<i>Ц ц</i>	[tse]	[тсе]	[ts]	цемент, is pronounced as the sounds [ts] together: ir's
28	Ч ч	<i>Ч ч</i>	[tshe]	[тше]	[tsh]	час, like the English: child
29	Ш ш	<i>Ш ш</i>	[sha]	[ша]	[sh]	шана, like the English: she
30	Щ щ	<i>Щ щ</i>	[shtsha]	[штша]	[shtsh]	шит, is pronounced as the sounds [sh + tsh] together
31	Ь ь	<i>Ь ь</i>		знак м'якшення	[']	тінь, the Ukrainian <i>ь</i> does not denote any sound of its own, it only palatalizes (makes softer) the preceding consonant sound by bringing the middle of the tongue up to the hard palate while articulating it.
32	Ю ю	<i>Ю ю</i>	[yu]	[йу]	[yu]	Юра, like the English: you
33	Я я	<i>Я я</i>	[ya]	[йа]	[ya]	уява, like the English: yard

Such letters of the Cyrillic alphabet as: **Бб, Гг, Іг, Дд, Єє, Жж, Зз, Ии, Її, Йй, Нн, Пп, Фф, Цц, Чч, Шш, Щш, Ъ, Юю, Яя** are new for the users of the Latin alphabet. As for the letters: **Аа, Вв, Еє, Іі, Кк, Мм, Оо, Рр, Сс, Тт, Уу, Хх**, they can be found in the Latin alphabet too, though, in some cases, denoting quite different sounds.

Nota Bene: When writing by hand Ukrainian language speakers use the cursive system of writing (with all the letters of a word joined and slanted to the right). Compare: *Доброго ранку!* (Good morning!) – *Доброго ранку!*

Доброго дня! (Good afternoon!) – *Доброго дня!*

Доброго вечора! (Good evening!) – *Доброго вечора!*

Word stress in Ukrainian is not fixed, and thus, it must be remembered. The stem vowel of a word is often stressed, but stressed endings occur too.

ВПРАВУЙМОСЯ!!! – PRACTISING!!!

🦉 Вправа 1 (Exercise 1)

Complete each line space with a letter of the Ukrainian alphabet:

Ex.: *Аа, Аа, Аа, Аа ...*

🦉 Вправа 2

Write Ukrainian letters for the following sounds:

[a], [d], [zh], [h], [e], [v], [yi], [z], [ye], [I], [g], [y], [r], [k], [n], [t], [kh], [f], [u], [tsh], [sh], [shtsh], [o], [ts], [p], [m], [s], [ya].

🦉 Вправа 3

Pronounce the following consonant sounds after the speaker:

Бб, Вв, Гг, Іг, Дд, Жж, Зз, Йй, Кк, Лл, Мм, Нн, Пп, Рр, Сс, Тт, Фф, Хх, Цц, Чч, Шш, Щш.

🦉 Вправа 4

Pronounce the following vowel sounds after the speaker:

Аа, Еє, Ии, Іі, Оо, Уу.

🦉 Вправа 5

Pronounce the following sound combinations after the speaker:

- ба, ва, га, ґа, да, жа, за, ка, ла, ма, на, па, ра, са, та, фа, ха, ца, ча, ша, ща.
- бе, ве, ге, ге, де, же, зе, ке, ле, ме, не, пе, ре, се, те, фе, хе, це, че, ше, ще.
- би, ви, ги, ги, ди, жи, зи, ки, ли, ми, ни, пи, ри, си, ти, фи, хи, ци, чи, ши.
- бі, ві, гі, гі, ді, жі, зі, кі, лі, мі, ні, пі, рі, сі, ті, фі, хі, ці, ші, щі.
- бо, во, го, го, до, жо, зо, ко, ло, мо, но, по, ро, со, то, фо, хо, цо, шо, що.