

# Certificate in Russian Language: Basics of Russian- Communication Skills-I

**An Introduction:**

**Shivaji Bhaskar, Assistant Professor (Russian) SOFL, IGNOU**



# Objective



Dear learners,

Welcome to the Massive Open Online Course-

## **Certificate in Russian language**

In this programme we have included many interesting lessons like common Russian words, Greetings in Russian, Common Russian phrases, expressions, Dialogues, Texts etc. and a vocabulary of more than five hundred words. By attempting these lessons you will be able to comprehend Russian language in a better way. By completing these lessons you will be able to:

*Introduce yourself in Russian*

*Communicate with your friends in Russian*

*Speak simple sentences in Russian*

*Express yourself in typical places like at the airport or hospital in Russian*

*Understand Russian culture better*

# Russian Alphabet

А Б В Г Д Е  
Ё Ж З И Й К  
Л М Н О П Р  
С Т У Ф Х Ц  
Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы  
Ь Э Ю Я

In this lesson you will learn the Russian sound system and the phonetic sound of different letters of the Russian alphabet. Learning the basic of Russian alphabet will make you understand the nuances of Russian language. You will be able to understand the role of intonation and stress signs in the Russian speech and pronunciation. By learning to distinguish between different sounds, you will be able to identify different letters of the Russian alphabet in a correct manner.

# Origin of Russian



But before we begin with the basics of the Russian alphabet, let's know more about the history of Russian language. Russian language (РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК) is a Slavic language of the Indo-European family. Russian language is closely related to Ukrainian and Belorussian with about 144 million native speakers in Russia and it is spoken in 30 other countries. The Russian alphabet derived from the Cyrillic alphabet was introduced into Russia (Kievan Rus') at the time of its conversion to Christianity (988 AD). Cyrillic script is named in honor of the Byzantine scholar and monk, Cyril (827-869 AD), who, together with his brother Methodius (826-885 AD), created the first Slavic writing system in the second half of the ninth century in order to translate the Bible and other Christian texts into the Slavic languages. The standard well-known form of Russian is generally called the modern Russian literary language (современный Русский литературный язык). It arose in the beginning of the 18th century with the modernization reforms of the Russian state under the rule of Peter the Great (1672-1725).

# Русский Алфавит



Now after knowing about the origin and nature of Russian language, we will begin with an introduction to Russian alphabet.

In this section you will learn how to write different Russian letters and how to pronounce them in a correct manner.

Let's listen to these letters of the Russian alphabet one by one. For clear understanding we have given separate examples both in Russian and English so that you can distinguish between different sounds.



**There are 33 letters in the Russian Alphabet:**

**10 vowels,**  
**21 consonants**  
**and**  
**2 signs**

# A a

Capital letter **A**

Small letter *a*

Letter name **A**

English approximation **f**ather

Pronunciation in English *Ah*

Sample Russian word **A'тлас**

Meaning in English *Atlas*



# Б б

Capital letter **Б**

Small letter **б**

Letter name **Бэ**

English approximation **bat**

Pronunciation in English ***Beh***

Sample Russian word **небо**

Meaning in English ***Sky***





**B B**

Capital letter **Б**

Small letter **б**

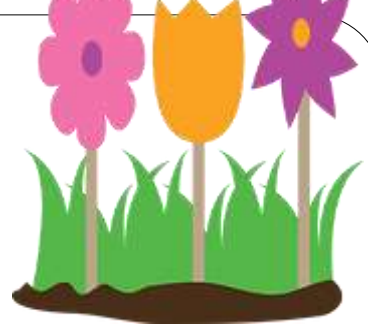
Letter name **Бэ**

English approximation bet

Pronunciation in English ***V**eh*

Sample Russian word Бecha

Meaning in English *Spring Season*



Г г

Capital letter    Г

Small letter    г

Letter name    Ге

English approximation    argue

Pronunciation in English    *Geh*

Sample Russian word    Город

Meaning in English    *City*



Д д

Capital letter Д

Small letter д

Letter name Дэ

English approximation do

Pronunciation in English *Deh*

Sample Russian word ДОМ

Meaning in English *House*



# E e

Capital letter **E**

Small letter *e*

Letter name **E**

English approximation pay

Pronunciation in English *yeh*

Sample Russian word Певец

Meaning in English *Singer*



Ё ё

Capital letter Ё

Small letter ё

Letter name Ё

English approximation audio

Pronunciation in English *yo*

Sample Russian word Ёлка

Meaning in English *Xmas tree*



Ж ж

Capital letter Ж

Small letter ж

Letter name Же

English approximation pleasure

Pronunciation in English zheh

Sample Russian word Жук

Meaning in English Beetle



З з

Capital letter З

Small letter з

Letter name зэ

English approximation zoo

Pronunciation in English *zeh*

Sample Russian word зонт

Meaning in English *Umbrella*



И и

Capital letter И

Small letter и

Letter name И

English approximation sweet

Pronunciation in English ee

Sample Russian word Ирис

Meaning in English Iris





Й й

Capital letter Й

Small letter й

Letter name и (краткое)

English approximation Yield

Pronunciation in English *ee kratkoyeh*

Sample Russian word йогурт

Meaning in English *Yoghurt*



**К к**

Capital letter **К**

Small letter **к**

Letter name **Ка**

English approximation mil**к**

Pronunciation in English ***kah***

Sample Russian word **Книга**

Meaning in English ***Book***



Л л

Capital letter Л

Small letter л

Letter name Эл

English approximation pill

Pronunciation in English *ehl*

Sample Russian word Луна

Meaning in English *Moon*



M m

Capital letter M

Small letter m

Letter name ЭМ

English approximation mute

Pronunciation in English *ehm*

Sample Russian word МЫЛО

Meaning in English *Soap*



Н н

Capital letter Н

Small letter н

Letter name ЭН

English approximation noon

Pronunciation in English *ehn*

Sample Russian word Нос

Meaning in English *Nose*



О о

Capital letter **О**

Small letter **о**

Letter name **О**

English approximation chore

Pronunciation in English oh

Sample Russian word **о**блако

Meaning in English *Cloud*



П п

Capital letter П

Small letter п

Letter name Пэ

English approximation pool

Pronunciation in English peh

Sample Russian word привет

Meaning in English Hello



P p

Capital letter P

Small letter p

Letter name Эп

English approximation run

Pronunciation in English ehr

Sample Russian word Ра́дуга

Meaning in English Rainbow





C c

Capital letter C

Small letter c

Letter name Эс

English approximation soup

Pronunciation in English *ehs*

Sample Russian word собака

Meaning in English *Dog*



Т т

Capital letter Т

Small letter т

Letter name Тэ

English approximation tool

Pronunciation in English *teh*

Sample Russian word Такси

Meaning in English *Taxi*



**y y**

Capital letter **y**

Small letter **y**

Letter name **y**

English approximation pool

Pronunciation in English **oo**

Sample Russian word **y**'TKa

Meaning in English *Duck*



Ф ф

Capital letter Ф

Small letter ф

Letter name эф

English approximation few

Pronunciation in English ehf

Sample Russian word Флаг

Meaning in English *Flag*



**X x**

Capital letter **X**

Small letter **x**

Letter name **Xa**

English approximation **khan**

Pronunciation in English **khah**

Sample Russian word **Xлеб**

Meaning in English *Bread*



Ц ц

Capital letter Ц

Small letter ц

Letter name Це

English approximation tsar

Pronunciation in English tseh

Sample Russian word Царь

Meaning in English Czar



Ч ч

Capital letter **Ч**

Small letter **ч**

Letter name **Че**

English approximation **ch**urch

Pronunciation in English **cheh**

Sample Russian word **Ч**ай

Meaning in English *Tea*



Ш ш

Capital letter Ш

Small letter ш

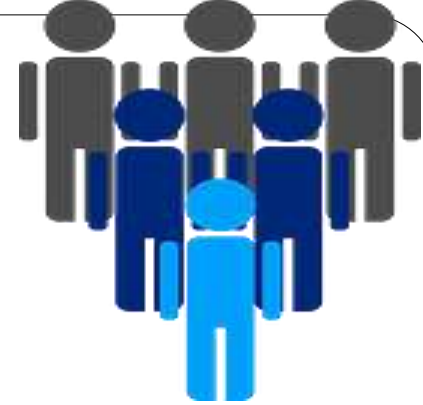
Letter name Ша

English approximation push

Pronunciation in English shah

Sample Russian word Шеф

Meaning in English Boss





Щ щ

Capital letter **Щ**

Small letter **щ**

Letter name **ща "**

English approximation **shoes**

Pronunciation in English **schyah**

Sample Russian word **ЩИТ**

Meaning in English *Shield*



Ъ ъ

Capital letter    **Ъ**

Small letter    **ъ**

Letter name    **ТВЁРДЫЙ ЗНАК (tvyordiy znahk)**

English approximation    Hard Sign (it has no sound, used to emphasize the sound for the preceding consonant and adds a small pause before the next syllable) eg. *подъезд*

Pronunciation in English    -----

Sample Russian word    Об**ъ**екти́в

Meaning in English    *Lens*



**Ы ы**

Capital letter **Ы**

Small letter **ы**

Letter name **Ы**

English approximation bee

Pronunciation in English **i**

Sample Russian word Рыба

Meaning in English *Fish*



В в

Capital letter В

Small letter в

Letter name **МЯГКИЙ ЗНАК** (myagkeey znahk)

English approximation Soft Sign (it has no sound, softens the preceding consonant) eg. *рубль*

Pronunciation in English -----

Sample Russian word КОН**В**

Meaning in English *Horse*



Э э

Capital letter Э

Small letter э

Letter name Э

English approximation met

Pronunciation in English eh

Sample Russian word Экрáн

Meaning in English *Screen*



Ю ю

Capital letter Ю

Small letter ю

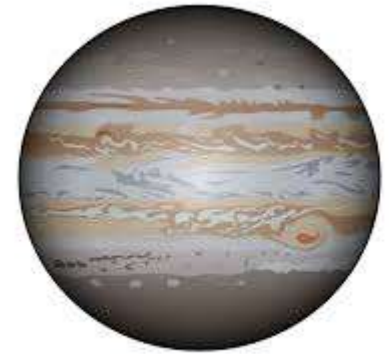
Letter name Ю

English approximation Use

Pronunciation in English yu

Sample Russian word Юпитер

Meaning in English *Jupiter*



Я я

Capital letter Я

Small letter я

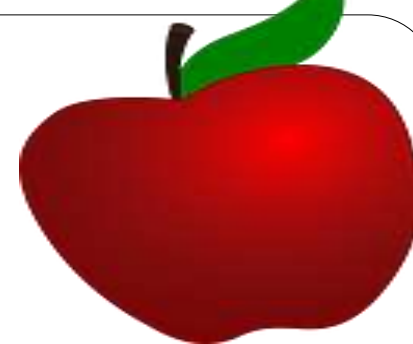
Letter name Я

English approximation yarn

Pronunciation in English yah

Sample Russian word Я'блоко

Meaning in English *Apple*



## Summary

Dear learners in this lesson you have learned about the origin of the Russian language and its structure. You have also learned about the Russian alphabet and its letters in a detailed manner.

In the next lesson you will be learning about the basics of Russian phonetics and you will be introduced to the Vowels & Consonants of the Russian language in a correct and detailed manner.





**Thank you!**