

# Lecture 1 Russian Alphabet

## **Learning Incentive:**

### To learn about:

- The Russian Alphabet
- Vowels and Consonants
- How to pronounce Russian letters
- The handwritten Russian alphabet

#### 1. RUSSIAN ALPHABET



- Cyrillic script is used in over 50 different languages in the world
- Consists of **33** letters
- 21 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 silent sounds

#### 5 letters that look and sound similar to English:

#### Russian Letter Name of the letter English equivalent Example

| A, a | ah  | a | as in r <u>a</u> ther |
|------|-----|---|-----------------------|
| К, к | kah | k | as in <b>k</b> ept    |
| М, м | ehm | m | as in <u>m</u> et     |
| 0, 0 | O   | О | as in m <u>o</u> re   |
| Т, т | teh | t | as in <b>t</b> ent    |

#### 7 letters that look similar to English but sound differently:

Russian Letter Name of the letter English equivalent Example

| В, в | veh | V  | as in <u>v</u> ine     |
|------|-----|----|------------------------|
| E, e | yeh | ye | as in <u>ye</u> ll     |
| Н, н | ehn | n  | as in <b>n</b> ame     |
| P, p | ehr | r  | like a rolled <b>r</b> |
| C, c | ehs | S  | as in <u>s</u> mile    |
| У, у | OO  | ОО | as in p <b>u</b> ll    |
| X, x | hah | h  | as in lo <b>ch</b>     |

#### 13 letters that do not look similar but sound familiar:

| Russian Letter | Name of the letter | <b>English equivalent</b> | Example                  |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Б, б           | beh                | b                         | as in <u>b</u> utton     |
| Γ, Γ           | geh                | g                         | as in <b>g</b> o         |
| Д, д           | deh                | d                         | as in <u>d</u> o         |
| Д, д<br>Ё, ё   | yo                 | yo                        | as in <b>yo</b> lk       |
| 3, 3           | zeh                | Z                         | as in <b>z</b> oo        |
| И, и           | ee                 | ee                        | as in f <u>ee</u> t      |
| Й, й           | У                  | У                         | as in bo <u>v</u>        |
| Л, л           | ehl                | 1                         | as in <b>l</b> oft       |
| П, п           | peh                | p                         | as in <b>p</b> en        |
| Ф, ф           | ef                 | f                         | as in <b><u>f</u></b> an |
| Э, э           | e                  | e                         | as in n <b>e</b> t       |
| Ю, ю           | yu                 | yu                        | as in <u>u</u> se        |
| Я, я           | ya                 | ya                        | as in <u>va</u> rd       |

#### **8** Letters that do not sound or look similar to English:

#### Russian Letter Name of the letter English equivalent Example

| Ж, ж | zhe       | zh                    | as in mea <u>s</u> ure       |
|------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Ц, ц | tseh      | ts                    | as in si <u>ts</u>           |
| Ч, ч | cheh      | ch                    | as in <u><b>ch</b></u> imp   |
| Ш, ш | sha       | sh                    | as in ma <b>sh</b>           |
| Щ, щ | shcha     | shch                  | as in <u>s</u> ure           |
| Ъ, ъ | hard sign | adds a slight pause   |                              |
| Ы, ы | i         | unrounded "oo"        | as in w <u>i</u> ll          |
| Ь, ь | soft sign | softens the consonant | as in <u>l</u> i <u>ll</u> y |

# Russian Alphabet in chronological order

| <b>Russian Letter</b> | Name of the letter | English equivalent | Example       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| A, a                  | ah                 | a                  | as in rather  |
| Б, б                  | beh                | b                  | as in button  |
| В, в                  | veh                | V                  | as in vine    |
| Г, г                  | geh                | g                  | as in go      |
| Д, д                  | deh                | d                  | as in do      |
| E, e                  | yeh                | ye                 | as in yell    |
| Ë, ë                  | yo                 | yo                 | as in yolk    |
| Ж, ж                  | zhe                | zh                 | as in measure |
| 3, 3                  | zeh                | Z                  | as in zoo     |
| И, и                  | ee                 | ee                 | as in feet    |
| Й, й                  | y                  | y                  | as in boy     |
| К, к                  | kah                | k                  | as in kept    |
| Л, л                  | ehl                | 1                  | as in loft    |
| М, м                  | ehm                | m                  | as in met     |
| Н, н                  | ehn                | n                  | as in name    |
| O, o                  | O                  | O                  | as in more    |

| <b>Russian Letter</b> | Name of the le | tter English equivalent                    | Example                |
|-----------------------|----------------|--|------------------------|
| П, п                  | peh            | p  | as in pen              |
| P, p                  | ehr            | r  | like a rolled <b>r</b> |
| C, c                  | ehs            | S  | as in smile            |
| Т, т                  | teh            | t  | as in tent             |
| У, у                  | OO             | OO   | as in pull             |
| $\Phi, \Phi$          | ef             | f  | as in fan              |
| X, x                  | hah            | h  | as in loch             |
| Ц, ц                  | tseh           | ts   | as in sits             |
| Ч, ч                  | cheh           | ch   | as in chimp            |
| Ш, ш                  | sha            | sh   | as in mash             |
| Щ, щ                  | shcha          | shch                                       | as in sure             |
| Ъ, ъ                  | hard sign      | adds a slight pause before the next letter |                        |
| Ы, ы                  | i              | like saying "oo" but with lips unrounded   | as in will             |
| Ь, ь                  | soft sign      | softens the preceding consonant            | as in lilly            |
| Э, э                  | e              | e  | as in net              |
| Ю, ю                  | yu             | yu   | as in use              |
| Я, я                  | ya             | ya   | as in yard             |
|                       |                |  |                        |

#### 2. HANDWRITTEN ALPHABET

Аа Да Бб Бб Вв Вв Гг Гг Дд Дg Ее Ее Ёё Её Жж Жж Зз Зз Ии Ии Ййй Кк Кк Лл Лл Мм Ши НН Ян Оо Оо Пп Пп Рр Рр Сс Сс Т т Пт уу Уу ФФРФ Хх Хх Цц Цц Чч Уч ШшШш Щщ Шущ Бъъ Ыы ы Бь 6 ЭэЭЭ Юю Юю Яя Яя



#### **WELL DONE!**

In this lecture you have learned:

- The Russian Alphabet
- Vowels and Consonants and how to pronounce them
- The handwritten Russian alphabet