

Welcome to the LinguaJunkie.com Russian Alphabet Guide!



This will be divided into 2 parts.

1. The chart of the alphabet, including explanations about pronunciation, the letters' English equivalents and the names of the letters (how the letters themselves are called in Russian.)
2. A writing practice chart to help you write out the letters and get used to the Alphabet.

Things to know:

There are 33 letters but overall, they are not hard. They're quite easy with a bit of practice and you can master them all with this tiny PDF lesson if you actually try.

There are several letters that act, look and sound the same as their english equivalents. Easy.

There are some letters that look like English letters but have a different sound. You'll get used to them.

Then, there are some unique letters



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| Russian Letter | Name of Letter | English Equivalent | Sounds like... |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| А | Ah | a | A in Car |
| Б | Beh | b | |
| В | Veh | v | |
| Г | Geh | g | |
| Д | Deh | d | |
| Е | Ye | ye | Ye in Yes |
| Ё | Yo | yo | Yo in Yogurt |
| Ж | Zhe | zh | G in Genre or Zh in Zhu |
| З | Ze | z | Z in Zelda |
| И | Ee | i or ee | Ee in Jeep |
| Й | Eey | iy | Ey in Key |
| К | Ke | k | K in Ken |
| Л | Leh | l | L in Led |
| М | Meh | m | |
| Н | Neh | n | |
| О | Oh | o | O in Most |
| П | Peh | p | |
| Р | Re | r | |
| С | Se | s | |
| Т | Te | t | |
| У | Oo | u | |
| Ф | Fa | f | |
| Х | Ha | kh or h | H in Hat |
| Ц | Tsa | ts | Ts in Tsar |
| Ч | Cha | ch | Cha in Chai |
| Ш | Sha | sh | Sh in Push |
| Щ | Shya | sch | Sh in Shin |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--|------------------|
| Ъ | tverdiy znak | hard sign – pronunciation symbol (denotes a pause between syllables) | To be explained. |
| Ы | Yeru | i | To be explained. |
| Ь | myahkiy znak | soft sign, makes the previous consonant soft | To be explained. |
| Э | Eh | e | Eh as in Meh |
| Ю | Yu | yu | U in user |
| Я | Ya | ya | Ya as in Y'all |

The empty fields for letters under the “Sounds like” column don’t need much explanation. Their english equivalents do just fine. However, 3 of the 33 letters do need a bit of explanation.

Let’s clear them up.

Ъ is called a hard sign and has no real sound.

It adds a pause between the letter before it and the letter after. For example, think of the word “step.” Now, say “sss....tep” by adding a small pause between S and TEP.

That’s how Ъ works. So, for example:

- объект (object) is pronounced as “ob-yekt.” Remember, there’s a small pause where the dash goes. Without the ъ, it would sound like “obekt.”
- съестъ (to eat) is pronounced as “s-yest.” Without it, it would be read as “sest.” For additional note, the soft sign at the end of τ will be explained lower.

Ь is called the soft sign. It doesn’t have a sound by itself.

It softens any consonant that comes before it.

How? Let’s stretch our imagination about.

Consider the word “Land” and the pronunciation of “L.” It’s a very dull L sound.

Now consider the Chinese last name “Liang” and try to isolate the sound where L starts crossing into the I. The L becomes softer, right?

You’ll typically only see Ъ at the end of words, especially verbs.

If you see it after the letter T, think of the word “tee-shirt.” The T here is soft as opposed to the T in “Tom” because of the impact the vowel has on it. So, ТЪ would sound as “T” in “Tee” just as the T starts crossing into the vowel.

Except you don't elongate the the “Ee” sound. Cut it short.

И is called a Yeru.

What does it sound like?

Take the English word “live” or “lip” or “fish” and notice the sound of “i.” Say one of these words out loud. Now say the “i” part by itself. The sound comes from your throat, doesn't it? It's like “i” in “it” before you say the “t.”

If you can practice that sound with your throat, you can master the yeru.

Alright. You've gotten through part 1.

Part 2 is where the magic will happen.

**It's where you must practice writing
out the letters,**

**This next part will guarantee if you
actually learn the Russian alphabet or not.**

And you can.

But you'll need a pen and paper.

And a possibly a printer.

Part 2. Practice writing the alphabet.

Hope you have a printer ready!

On the next page, you'll have a table with the Russian character on the left hand column and empty rows across.

Write the Russian letter across the empty columns for extra practice. Print out as many copies and keep writing for extra practice.

In my case, I print about 7 copies of the sheet and fill it out. By the 5th or 6th one, I have no problem writing the alphabet.

| А | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Б | | | | | | |
| В | | | | | | |
| Г | | | | | | |
| Д | | | | | | |
| Е | | | | | | |
| Ё | | | | | | |
| Ж | | | | | | |
| З | | | | | | |
| И | | | | | | |
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| Щ | | | | | | |
| Ъ | | | | | | |

| Ы | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ь | | | | | | |
| Э | | | | | | |
| Ю | | | | | | |
| Я | | | | | | |