

# Второй урок Lesson Two

**Dialogue:** "Hi! How's it going?"  
**Spelling/Sounds:** The Russian alphabet - Part I  
 Group I: Letters that look and sound (roughly) the same as English  
 Group II: Letters that look like English but represent a different sound  
 Group III: Letters that look different than English

The following dialogue is basically the same as Dialogue A in Lesson 1, with three new words in lines 1, 2 and 3. Be sure to listen to the recording very carefully.

## Диалог

## Dialogue

**Здравствуй! Как дела?**

**Hi! How's it going?**

<b>Вэра:</b> <i>Vera</i>	1	Здравствуй, Миша! Как дела? [Zdrástvuy, Mísha! Kak delá?]	<i>Hi, Misha! How's it going?</i>
<b>Миша:</b> <i>Misha</i>	2	Прекрасно! А у тебя? [Prekrásno!. A u tebyá?]	<i>Great! How about you?</i>
<b>Вэра:</b> <i>Vera</i>	3	Неплохо. [Neplókho].	<i>Not bad.</i>
<b>Миша:</b> <i>Misha</i>	4	Извини, мне некогда. Пока. [Izvini, mne nékogda. Poká.]	<i>Sorry, I'm in a hurry (= I have no time). Later</i>
<b>Вэра:</b> <i>Vera</i>	5	Ну, ладно, до свидания. (Миша уходит) Нахал! [Nu, ládno, do svidániya. (Mísha walks away) Nakhál!]	<i>Well, OK, see you later. (Misha walks away) Jerk!</i>

## Словарь

## Vocabulary

1	здравствуй	[zdrástvuy] (first 'в' [v] is silent)	<i>hi</i> (not quite as informal as <b>привет</b> [privét])
2	прекрасно	[prekrásno]	<i>great; superb(ly)</i>
3	неплохо	[neplókho]	<i>not bad</i>

## 2.A The Russian Alphabet - Part I

All of the following descriptions of Russian pronunciation are approximations. First and foremost, **listen carefully** to your instructors in class, and, perhaps more importantly, the speakers on the recordings, and do your best to imitate them.

### 2.A.1 Group 1: Letters that look and sound (roughly) the same as English



Listen and repeat:

RUSSIAN LETTER	APPROXIMATE SOUND
<b>А/а</b>	<b>a</b> as in <i>f<u>a</u>ther</i>
<b>Е/е</b>	<b>e</b> as in <i>b<u>e</u>d</i> <b>ye</b> as in <i>y<u>e</u>s</i> <i>(We'll explain later how to predict which to use)</i>
<b>К/к</b>	<b>k</b> as in <i>s<u>k</u>in</i>
<b>М/м</b>	<b>m</b> as in <i><u>m</u>om</i>
<b>О/о</b>	<b>o</b> as in <i>b<u>o</u>rn</i>
<b>Т/т</b>	<b>t</b> as in <i>st<u>o</u>p (with the tongue against the upper teeth)</i>



Now some real words (*don't worry about the meanings, though a few are cognates*):

акт (*act*), там (*there*), кто (*who*), кем (*by whom*), тем (*by that*), кот (*male cat*), мат (*checkmate*), том (*tome*)



#### TWO IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unstressed vowels:** When **O/o** and **A/a** are not stressed, their pronunciation gets 'reduced' to the sound roughly the same as the last sound in *sofa*. Unstressed **E/e** gets reduced to the *ee* in *keep*, but slightly shorter. More details on vowel reduction in Lesson 9.
- Word-Initial E/e:** At the beginning of the word (and a few other places) **E/e** is pronounced [ye] as in *yet*. Much more on this later.



Listen and repeat (keeping in mind the above two notes):

ма́ма (*mom*), ко́ма (*coma*), ко́та́ ([*of a*] *male cat*), ем (*I eat*), то́ме ([*in a*] *volume*), то́ке ([*about*] *electric current*), ма́ме ([*about*] *mother*), тома́т (*tomato*), те́ма (*theme*) коме́та (*comet*)

## 2.A.2 Group 2: Letters that look like English but represent a different sound



Listen and repeat:

RUSSIAN LETTER	APPROXIMATE SOUND
<b>В/в</b>	v as in <i>victory</i>
<b>Н/н</b>	n as in <i>no</i> (tongue against the upper teeth)
<b>Р/р</b>	r as in <i>run</i> (but trilled)
<b>С/с</b>	s as in <i>set</i> (also: c as in <i>ice</i> )
<b>У/у</b>	u as in <i>lunatic</i>
<b>Х/х</b>	no exact English equivalent (roughly <b>ch</b> as is <i>Bach</i> or Scottish <i>Loch</i> )



Listen and repeat:

**В/в**

воТ (*here is*), веК (*century*), ва́та (*cotton padding*), ваМ ([to] you), ве́ко (*eyelid*), ве́то (*veto*), Ё́ва (*ate the apple*)

**Н/н**

неТ (*no*), А́нна (*Anna* - as in *Anna Karenina*), окно́ (*window*), ве́на (*vein* or *Vienna*), она́ (*she/it*), то́нна (*ton*), Мо́нта́на (*the state*), Нева́ (*the Neva river in St. Petersburg*)

**Р/р**

река́ (*river*), Го́ронтó (*the city*), Ве́ра (*Vera*, which means 'faith'), крóме (*except*), ро́т (*mouth*), ромáн (*novel; romance*), ракéта (*rocket*), вор (*thief*)

**С/с**

секрёт (*secret*), сок (*juice*), нос (*nose*), Москва́ (*Moscow*), сенáт (*Senate*), се́вер (*north*), Маркс (*as in Karl*), со́рок (*forty*), сове́т (*Soviet; advisory council*)

**У/у**

у́ксус (*vinegar*), у́тка (*duck*), трус (*coward*), рука́ (*arm*), ура́ (*hurrah*), тут (*here*), мука́ (*flour*), му́ка (*torture*), куро́с (*course*)

**Х/х**

хо́р (*choir*), у́хо (*ear*), хво́ст (*tail*), су́хо (*dry*), Техáс (*Texas*), мо́нах (*monk*), мо́х (*moss*), ха́та (*hut*), хо́мыт (*horse collar*) хре́н (*horseradish* - also used as a euphemism, similar to 'fudge!' in English)

Do Oral Exercise 1 in the Homework (page 2-6) now!

## 2.A.3 Group 3: Letters that look different than English (Part 1 today; the rest tomorrow)



Listen and repeat:

RUSSIAN LETTER	APPROXIMATE SOUND
<b>Б/б</b>	<b>b</b> as in <i>bed</i>
<b>Г/г</b>	<b>g</b> as in <i>gun</i> <b>v</b> as in <i>victory</i> (only in the combinations <b>-ого / -его</b> , which is a grammatical ending. We saw this in <b>ничегó</b> .)
<b>Д/д</b>	<b>d</b> as in <i>day</i> (with the tongue against upper teeth)
<b>Ё/ё</b>	1) <b>o</b> as in <i>born</i> 2) <b>yo</b> as in <i>your</i> (We'll explain later how to predict which to use.)
<b>Ж/ж</b>	<b>zh</b> as in <i>Zhivago</i> (also: <b>s</b> as in <i>pleasure</i> )
<b>З/з</b>	<b>z</b> as in <i>zoo</i>
<b>И/и</b>	<b>i</b> as in <i>machine</i>
<b>Й/й</b>	<b>y</b> as in <i>toy</i>
<b>Л/л</b>	<b>l</b> as in <i>leave</i>
<b>П/п</b>	<b>p</b> as in <i>spin</i>



Listen and repeat:

**Б/б**

брат (*brother*, not 'brat', though depending on your brother...), бóмба (*bomb*), табáк (*tobacco*), Бах (*Bach*), брак (*marriage; junk*), банáн (*banana*), бар (*bar* – place to drink), собáка (*dog*), Небрáска (*the state*)

**Г/г**

грех (*sin*), гром (*thunder*), ген (*gene*), губá (*lip*), грубá (*rude*), ногá (*leg/foot*), Вáгнер (*the composer*), Кóнгó (*the country*), Орегóн (*the state*), парý (*stew*)

*Pronounced as [v] in the combinations -его / -ого at the end of a word:*

егó (*him/his*), тогó (*[of] that*), грóмкого (*[of] loud*), бетóнного (*[of] concrete-adj.*), негó (*him*)

**Д/д**

дом (*house; building*), мóда (*fashion; style*), Адáм (*Eve's partner*), дрáма (*drama*), Канáда (*the country*), Дéнвер (*the city*), дно (*bottom*), дéрево (*tree*), дóктор (*doctor*), водá (*water*), два (*two*),

**Ё/ё** (*this letter is always stressed in the word*)

нёс (*carried*), тётё ([*to*] *aunt*), сестёр ([*of*] *sisters*), стёр (*wiped off*), врёт (*is lying*), Гёте, (*Goethe*), ковёр (*carpet*), овёс (*oats*), монтёр (*electrician*), отвёртка (*screwdriver*)

Examples with a preceding [y] sound:

моё (*my*), твоё (*your*), своё (*one's own*), её (*her*)

**Ж/ж**

женá (*wife*), жук (*beetle*), Женéва (*Geneva*), жён ([*of*] *wives*), жарá (*heat*), ужас (*horror*), ужé (*already*), жёртва (*victim*), жетóн ([*subway*] *token*), жанр (*genre*), жаба (*toad*), ва́жно (*important*)

**З/з**

зéбра (*zebra*), коза́ (*goat*), Канза́с (the state) зóна (*zone*), закóн (*law*), за́навес (*curtain*), каза́к (*Cossack*), Гудзóн (*Hudson*), звезда́ (*star*), зóнт (*umbrella*)

**И/и**

Ира́н (the country), Ира́к (the country), Аризо́на (the state), вампи́р (*vampire*), тигр (the animal), вариант (*version*), ви́ски (*whiskey*), Аргенти́на (the country), ни́тка (*thread*), Ни́ксон (not a crook)

**Й/й**

йод (*iodine*), Йо́рк (*York*), Йо́кога́ма (*Yokohama*), йо́га (*yoga*), мой (*my*), май (*May*), ковбо́й (*cowboy*), ру́сский (*Russian*), Ре́йган (40<sup>th</sup> US president), Куве́йт (*Kuwait*), Детро́йт (the city)

**Л/л**

лимо́н (*lemon*), Кли́нтон (42<sup>nd</sup> US president), Ле́нин (Vladimir, not John), Ста́лин (Uncle Joe), ёлка (*Christmas tree*), ле́то (*summer*), журна́л (*magazine*), солда́т (*soldier*), Алаба́ма (Sweet Home), Колора́до (the state)

**П/п**

Пе́тр (*Peter*), труп (*corpse*), Пика́ссо (the artist), Плато́н (*Plato*), Пастерна́к (the writer, author of *До́ктор Жива́го*), пункт (*point*), псих (*psycho*), пра́вда (*truth*; the newspaper), Пакиста́н (the country), па́сха (*Easter*)



#### RUSSIAN~STAR WARS CONNECTION?

Some people with way too much time on their hands have noticed some “secret” connections between Russian and several Star Wars<sup>®</sup> characters:

- The robot СЗРО is derived from СССР (Союз Советских Социалистических Республик), the Russian spelling of USSR – though this doesn’t explain the ‘O’ at the end.
- Chewbacca is a variant of соба́ка, the Russian word for *dog*.
- Jabba (the Hutt) is a variant of жа́ба, the Russian word for *toad*.

And, of course, there’s the whole “evil empire” theme. Sorry, no Russian~Jar Jar connection, that we know of.

**Do Oral Exercise 2 in the Homework now!**

**2-й урок****Домашнее задание****Exercise 1**

Circle the word you hear:

- |     |        |         |         |         |
|-----|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1.  | нос    | сон     | сан     | сун     |
| 2.  | номéнт | мумéнт  | мемáнт  | момéнт  |
| 3.  | мука́  | му́ка   | мока́   | му́ку   |
| 4.  | реáтор | рака́та | раке́та | раке́ту |
| 5.  | ну́та  | на́та   | но́ту   | но́та   |
| 6.  | ху́нта | хорва́т | ку́нта  | су́нта  |
| 7.  | Áва    | Éву     | Éва     | Óва     |
| 8.  | Марс   | Маркс   | Наркс   | Марх    |
| 9.  | уса́х  | осéх    | усéх    | уса́к   |
| 10. | срок   | су́рок  | со́рок  | са́рак  |

**Exercise 2**

Circle the word you hear:

- |     |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1.  | вана́н    | бану́н    | бана́н    | бамáн     |
| 2.  | Оредо́н   | Орегóн    | Урегóн    | Орегúн    |
| 3.  | до́ктор   | до́хтор   | да́ктор   | го́дтор   |
| 4.  | са́бава   | забо́ва   | за́бава   | заба́ва   |
| 5.  | бампи́р   | вампи́р   | вампéр    | вамри́р   |
| 6.  | сигаре́та | сидаре́та | гигаре́та | сигари́та |
| 7.  | Домéр     | Гому́р    | Гомéр     | Гумéр     |
| 8.  | тёте      | тéте      | то́то     | тёта      |
| 9.  | за́зда    | жа́жда    | жа́жга    | же́жда    |
| 10. | Вру́клин  | Бро́клин  | Бру́хлин  | Бру́клин  |
| 11. | Плато́н   | Рлато́н   | Плито́н   | Плату́н   |
| 12. | зупна́л   | жорне́л   | журна́л   | жупна́л   |
| 13. | бодéма    | богéма    | бохéма    | вогéма    |
| 14. | Аризóна   | Аризúна   | Аризéна   | Апизóна   |
| 15. | Борéс     | Борáс     | Вори́с    | Бори́с    |

**Exercise 3**

Write the English equivalents to the following Russian words. (*Hint – many are proper nouns*):

- |              |       |               |       |
|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. атака     | _____ | 2. пеликан    | _____ |
| 3. Толстой   | _____ | 4. Женёва     | _____ |
| 5. хулиган   | _____ | 6. Никсон     | _____ |
| 7. Техас     | _____ | 8. баскетбол  | _____ |
| 9. момент    | _____ | 10. Айдахо    | _____ |
| 11. Бруклин  | _____ | 12. теннис    | _____ |
| 13. караван  | _____ | 14. Рембрандт | _____ |
| 15. зодиак   | _____ | 16. журнал    | _____ |
| 17. Бетховен | _____ | 18. спагетти  | _____ |
| 19. Наполеон | _____ | 20. джаз      | _____ |