

# ПЯТЫЙ УРОК Lesson Five

**Dialogues:** A: "He's a lawyer"; B: "She's a doctor"  
**Grammar:** Informal vs. Formal forms of address (cont'd)  
 Nouns denoting people that *don't* change with gender  
 Personal pronouns  
**Spelling/Sounds:** The basic sounds of Russian  
 - Hard vs. soft  
 - What is a basic sound?  
 - Paired consonants: 1 letter for 2 basic sounds  
 - Vowels: 2 letters for 1 basic sound  
 - The soft sign 'ь'

## Диалóги

## Dialogues

### А. Он адвокат He's a lawyer

(Still looking at the фотография)

<b>Людá:</b>	1	Хорошо́. Значит, это ты.	<i>All right (= OK). So that's you?</i>
<b>Стёпа:</b>	2 3	Да, это я. А это мой младший брат Гриша. Он живёт в Атланта́. Он – адвокат.	<i>Yes, that's me. And that's my younger brother Grisha. He lives in Atlanta. He's a lawyer.</i>
<b>Людá:</b>	4	А это твои родители?	<i>And those are your parents?</i>
<b>Стёпа:</b>	5 6 7	Да. Это мой отец. Его зовут Вади́м Петро́вич, а это моя мать. Её зовут Гали́на Алекса́ндровна. Они́ живу́т в Нью-Йо́рке, в Кви́нсе.	<i>Yes. That's my father. His name is Vadim Son-of-Peter*, and that's my mother. Her name is Galina Daughter-of-Aleksandr*. They live in New York, in Queens.</i>

\*(We'll explain these son-of / daughter-of forms in an upcoming lesson.)

### Б. Она́ врач She's a doctor

(Still looking at the фотография)

<b>Ге́на:</b>	8	Хорошо́. Значит, это вы и ваш муж?	<i>All right. So, that's you and your husband?</i>
<b>Ю́ля:</b>	9	Да. Мы бы́ли в Москвё.	<i>Yes. We were in Moscow.</i>
<b>Ге́на:</b>	10	А это ва́ша сестра́?	<i>And that's your sister?</i>
<b>Ю́ля:</b>	11 12	Да. Это моя ста́ршая сестра́ Ира. Она́ живёт в Вашингто́не. Она́ – врач.	<i>Yes. That's my older sister Ira. She lives in Washington. She's a doctor.</i>

## Слова́рь

## Vocabulary

1	хорошо́	<i>good, well, OK, all right</i> (indicates speaker understands)
1	значит	<i>so ...</i> (lit.: that means ...)
2	да	<i>yes</i>
2	мла́дший	<i>younger</i> (masculine)
3	адвока́т	<i>lawyer</i>
3	живёт	<i>he/she lives</i>
4	твои́	<i>your</i> (informal plural)
4	роди́тели	<i>parents</i> (always plural in Russian)
7	они́	<i>they</i>
7	живу́т	<i>they live</i>

8	ВЫ	<i>you</i> (formal singular or plural)
8	и	<i>and</i>
9	бЫли	<i>were</i> (pl; more on the Past Tense of <i>be</i> in 10.IV)
9	МосквА	<i>Moscow</i>
11	стАршая	<i>older</i> (Fem)
12	врач	<i>doctor</i>

## 5.A Informal vs. Formal Forms of Address (cont'd)

ТЫ VS. ВЫ (1, 6)

Людa addresses Стёпа with **ТЫ**, the informal 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular, while Яша uses the formal **ВЫ** with Оля, which means that he is not on close terms with her. Only **ВЫ** is used when addressing more than one person, regardless of formality. So, even when talking to your two best friends, you must use **ВЫ**. Also note the corresponding differences in possessive forms and in the “name formula”:

	SINGULAR		PLURAL
	Informal	Formal	Informal & Formal
<i>you</i>	ТЫ		ВЫ
<i>your</i> (masculine)	ТВОЙ		ВАШ
<i>your</i> (feminine)	ТВОЯ		ВАША
<i>you</i> (plural)	ТВОИ		ВАШИ
<i>‘What’s your name?’</i>	Как тебя зовут?		Как вас зовут?

We’ll discuss the endings of the possessive forms a little later in the chapter.

## 5.B Nouns Denoting People That *Don’t* Change With Gender

Она́ врач (11)

In Lesson 1, we saw two words for *jerk* (**наха́л** – *masculine*, **наха́лка** – *feminine*), depending on the gender of the jerk. Not all such nouns distinguish gender. “Respected” professions and titles tend not to have separate forms for masculine and feminine, and normally end in a consonant, which is grammatically masculine:

Он }  
Она́ } – врач.

He }  
She } *is a doctor.*

Он }  
Она́ } – профе́ссор.

He }  
She } *is a professor.*

Па́ша }  
Ма́ша } – адво́кат.

Pasha }  
Masha } *is a lawyer.*

Мой брат }  
Моя́ сестра́. } – фи́зик.

My brother }  
My sister } *is a physicist.*

## 5.B Personal Pronouns

Here are the personal pronouns:



Listen and repeat:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>1<sup>st</sup> pers.</i>	<b>Я</b> (lower case!) <i>I</i>	<b>МЫ</b> <i>we</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> pers.</i>	<b>ТЫ</b> <i>you (informal)</i>	<b>ВЫ</b> <i>you (Formal)</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> pers.</i>	<b>ОН</b> <i>he/it</i> <b>ОНО́</b> <i>it</i> <b>ОНА́</b> <i>she/it*</i>	<b>ОНИ́</b> <i>they</i>

\* Throughout the book we will use the order Masculine-Neuter-Feminine strictly for grammatical reasons.



Translate into Russian:

1. They live in Atlanta.
2. He is a rather good-looking guy.
3. I am a lawyer.
4. She is a doctor.
5. Are you (informal) joking?
6. We were in Washington.
7. Where is it (the tree)?
8. Were you (plural) in Moscow?

## 5.Г The Basic Sounds of Russian

*This is a **very important** section. Understanding how the basic sounds of Russian are represented in the spelling system will help you immensely throughout the rest of the course. Please take your time going through these explanations. If there is anything that is the slightest bit unclear, jot it down and ask about it in class. Even if you're not entirely sure what it is that you don't understand, just write a big ? next to that section and ask about it. Don't be shy; if something is even a bit unclear to you, we can guarantee that you are not alone.*

### 5.Г.1 Hard vs. Soft Consonants

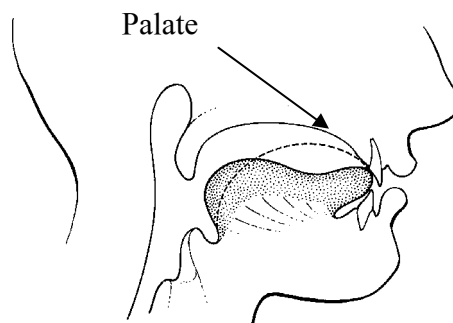
In the presentation of the alphabet, for each consonant we gave just one sound: 'Б' = [b], 'Д' = [d], etc. Actually, this is not the full picture. For twelve consonant letters (б, в, д, з, ж, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф) there are **two basic pronunciations**:

**1. SOFT (or FRONTED or PALATALIZED) consonants** – When pronouncing a soft (or palatalized) consonant, you should arch the forward/middle part of your tongue (right behind the tip, but not the tip itself) toward the part of the palate that is located about 1-2 inches behind your front teeth (see diagram). (This is sometimes referred to as 'secondary articulation': in addition to the regular position of the tongue/teeth/lips, the front/mid part of the tongue is raised and moved forward.)

**2. HARD (or PLAIN or NON-PALATALIZED) consonants** – When pronouncing a hard (or plain) consonant, the forward/middle part of the tongue is not raised.

In the diagram below, the shaded area shows the position of the tongue when pronouncing **hard н** (as in **о́н**), while the dotted line shows the position of tongue when pronouncing **soft н<sup>б</sup>** (as in **о́н<sup>б</sup>**). Note that the *tip* of tongue is in the same position for both sounds; it is the position of the forward/middle of the tongue that creates the softness.

### Position of Tongue for Hard H (Shaded) Versus Soft H<sup>б</sup> (Dotted Line)



#### 5.Г.1a The “Smile” of Palatalization

A neat tip: When pronouncing soft consonants, it may help if you smile. Smiling helps to raise the tongue into the proper position.

We're going to be using a special notation to represent the basic sounds or words. To represent a soft consonant we'll write the letter followed by a raised soft sign <sup>b</sup>; hard consonants have no <sup>b</sup>:

л – hard [l]                      б – hard [b]                      д – hard [d]                      р – hard [r]  
л<sup>b</sup> – soft [l]                      б<sup>b</sup> – soft [b]                      д<sup>b</sup> – soft [d]                      р<sup>b</sup> – soft [r]

There is a reason for this choice of notation: when a soft consonant is not immediately followed by a vowel (i.e. at the end of the word or before another consonant) you actually do write **ь** after the consonant: **мать, отстаньте**

Below we'll discuss how to spell soft consonant followed by vowel.

### 5.Г.2 What is a Basic Sound?

By 'basic sound' we mean that л (hard [l]) is a distinct, unique sound, which is as different from л<sup>b</sup> (soft [l]), another basic sound, as it is from н or н<sup>b</sup>, or д or д<sup>b</sup>, (4 more basic sounds), etc. That is:

**л and л<sup>b</sup> are two completely<sup>1</sup> distinct basic sounds** (as are д and д<sup>b</sup>, р and р<sup>b</sup>, з and з<sup>b</sup>, etc.)

In fact many words differ only in the quality [hard vs. soft] of a single consonant. To a Russian, **стал** *became* (with л) sounds as different from **сталь** *steel* (with л<sup>b</sup>) as, say, *ship* does from *sheep* to a speaker of English. (And as a matter of fact, many non-native speakers of English cannot hear any difference between *ship* and *sheep*, while to a native speaker the difference is overwhelmingly obvious.)

### 5.Г.3 Paired Consonants: 1 letter for 2 Basic Sounds

The 12 consonant letters (б, в, д, з, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф) are often called *paired consonants* because each consonant represents a pair of basic sounds: hard and soft.

These 12 letters actually represent 24 *basic sounds*. So, when you see one of these consonants how do you know whether to pronounce it hard or soft? The quality of the consonant (hard or soft) is indicated by the *following* letter (if any). There are four things that can follow a consonant, as seen in the following chart:

What Can Follow a Consonant: (using т and т <sup>b</sup> as examples)	
1. A vowel	т <u>ы</u>
2. Another consonant:	т <u>ра</u> в <u>а</u> ,
3. A soft sign:	ма <u>т</u> ь (see below for details about the use of ь)
4. Nothing (at the end of a word):	ма <u>т</u>

So, if someone shows you the following word (мат■ - where the letter following the т is covered for some reason – hey, it could happen) and asks you to pronounce the third letter ('т'), your answer should be: "I can't tell. It could be т or т<sup>b</sup>. Uncover the next letter, if any, and I'll tell you." In order to answer this question (т or т<sup>b</sup>), we first need to look at how *vowels* work.

<sup>1</sup> Obviously, they are not COMPLETELY different: л does sound more like л<sup>b</sup> than it does з or к. Still, the point is that they are not just variations of one sound; they're distinct sounds.

### 5.Г.4 Vowels: 2 letters for 1 basic sound

Vowels work exactly the opposite as (paired) consonants. That is, instead of there being 1 letter for 2 basic sounds (e.g. б can represent either [б] or [б<sup>h</sup>]), there are 2 vowel letters for 1 basic sound. There are 10 vowel letters (а/я, э/е, ы/и, о/ё, у/ю) for 5 basic vowel sounds, {A}, {E}, {I}, {O}, {U}.



**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE ON NOTATION:** From now on, when representing a basic vowel sound – for example in noun, adjective or verb endings – we will write basic vowel sounds UPPER CASE LATIN LETTER inside curly brackets. (Basic consonant sounds will be written with lower case Cyrillic letter ±<sup>b</sup>) This will really make a lot of things much easier to understand. Trust us.

Why do you need 10 vowel letters if there are only 5 basic vowel sounds? Because each vowel letter represents not only a basic *vowel* sound ({A} vs. {E} vs. {I} vs. {O} vs. {U}) but also the quality (hard or soft) of the preceding *consonant*. Thus, vowel letters perform ‘double duty.’ We will refer to a vowel as either ‘hard-*indicating*’ or ‘soft-*indicating*’. Remember, despite what you may have heard, there are no hard or soft *vowels*, only hard or soft *consonants*.

BASIC VOWEL SOUND	HARD-INDICATING VOWEL LETTERS	SOFT-INDICATING VOWEL LETTERS
{A}	а	я
{E}	э*	е
{I}	ы	и
{O}	о	ё/е**
{U}	у	ю

\* The letter ‘э’ is not found after consonants in native Russian words.

\*\* The letter ‘ё’ is written ‘е’ when not stressed (and becomes indistinguishable from Soft-*indicating* {E}). (Much more on this in Lesson 6.)

Let’s look at examples of all the vowels after both hard and soft consonants:

Basic sound	Following a HARD consonant			Following a SOFT consonant		
	is spelled ...	example	as in ...	is spelled ...	example	as in ...
{A}	а	б + {A} = ба	соба́ка	я	б <sup>h</sup> + {A} = бя	теб́я
{E}	э	р + {E} = рэ	рэп	е	р <sup>h</sup> + {E} = ре	грех
{I}	ы	т + {I} = ты	ты	и	т <sup>h</sup> + {I} = ти	тигр
{O}	о	т + {O} = то	это́	ё е	т <sup>h</sup> + {O} = те́ с <sup>h</sup> + {O} = се	Сте́па сестра́ <sup>2</sup>
{U}	у	л + {U} = лу	луна́	ю	л <sup>h</sup> + {U} = лю	Лю́да

<sup>2</sup> We’ll explain in Lesson 6 why the second letter of **сестра́** is really {O}.



**2 IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT BASIC SOUNDS:**

1. It is very important that you don't think of, say, **бя** as 'б plus soft {A}'. It's actually 'soft б<sup>b</sup> plus basic {A}'. (This may seem a bit backwards, but it's really the way things are.) Once you have become accustomed to this notion, you will have conquered a major aspect in the workings of the Russian sound system.
2. As you've heard on the recordings by now, the basic sound of a word very often does NOT match its pronunciation. The main reason for this fact is the 'reduction' of unstressed vowels (as we mentioned in Lesson 2). This and other factors affecting pronunciation will be covered in detail in Lessons 9 and 10.

**5.Г.5 The Soft Sign 'Ь'**

In the previous section we saw that the hardness/softness of a consonant can be indicated by the following vowel letter. But what if a consonant is not followed by a vowel, i.e.:

- 1) when a consonant is followed by another consonant; or
- 2) when a consonant is word-final.

In these cases, if the consonant is *soft*, you must use a soft sign 'Ь': **холоди́льник** (*refrigerator*) (soft /л<sup>b</sup>/); **мать** (soft /т<sup>b</sup>/). If the consonant is hard, no special letter is needed: **наха́лка** (hard /л/); **приве́т** (hard /т/).<sup>3</sup>

	A HARD consonant:			A SOFT consonant:		
	is spelled ...	example	as in ...	is spelled ...	example	As in ...
before a consonant	with no special letter	л + к = лк	наха́ <u>л</u> ка	with a ь	л <sup>b</sup> + н = льн	холоди́ <u>л</u> ьник
at end of the word		т at end of word = т	приве́ <u>т</u>		т <sup>b</sup> at end of word = ть	Ма <u>т</u> ь

<sup>3</sup> The hard sign 'Ъ', which was used before the Spelling Reform of 1918 to indicate a *hard* consonant at the end of a word, is so rare today that you don't even have to worry about it. It's like that wacky cousin that everyone in the family pretends doesn't exist. (At most we'll see three words throughout this whole course that have a 'Ъ').

Now let's look at some real words and see their basic sounds representations. Be sure to go through this carefully.

SPELLING	BASIC SOUNDS
собака	с{O}б{A}к{A}
тебя	т <sup>b</sup> {E}б <sup>b</sup> {A}
рэп ( <i>rap music</i> )	р{E}п
привёт	пр <sup>b</sup> {I}в <sup>b</sup> {E}т <sup>4</sup>
мы	м{I}
Митя	м <sup>b</sup> {I}т <sup>b</sup> {A}
это	{E}т{O}
Стёпа	ст <sup>b</sup> {O}п{A}
луна ( <i>moon</i> )	л{U}н{A}
Люда	л <sup>b</sup> {U}д{A}
нахалка	н{A}х{A}лк{A}
вёрьте ( <i>believe</i> )	в <sup>b</sup> {E}р <sup>b</sup> т <sup>b</sup> {E}
мать	м{A}т <sup>b</sup>

SPELLING	BASIC SOUNDS
Борис	б{O}р <sup>b</sup> {I}с
дела	д <sup>b</sup> {E}л{A}
родители	р{O}д <sup>b</sup> {I}т <sup>b</sup> {E}л <sup>b</sup> {I}
были	б{I}л <sup>b</sup> {I}
Принстон	пр <sup>b</sup> {I}нст{O}н
зовут	з{O}в{U}т
меня	м <sup>b</sup> {E}н <sup>b</sup> {A}
нет	н <sup>b</sup> {E}т
где	гд <sup>b</sup> {E}
сын	с{I}н
отстаньте	{O}тст{A}н <sup>b</sup> т <sup>b</sup> {E}
адвокат	{A}дв{O}к{A}т
они	{O}н <sup>b</sup> {I}

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**Question:** This whole system seems backwards. Why are there 10 vowel letters for just 5 basic vowel sounds, and just 12 consonant letters for 24 consonant sounds? Why not have 24 consonant letters for 24 basic consonant sounds and 5 vowel letters for 5 basic vowel sounds?

**Answer:** Excellent question. The short answer is: You're right. *Your* system makes more sense, but there's nothing anyone can do about it now.

The longer answer involves various historical changes in the language, which you don't need to worry about.

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**Question:** Above you said that a vowel letter, besides representing a basic vowel sound, indicates the quality of the preceding CONSONANT. What if the vowel is not preceded by a consonant, say at the beginning of the word, or after a vowel?

**Answer:** Another superb question. Glad to see you're paying close attention.

We won't answer this question in full yet. For now we'll say that Hard-indicating vowels (but not Soft-indicating Vowels) at the beginning of a word are pronounced 'plain', just the pure vowel sound: **Оля**.

Secondly, you generally do not find a Hard-indicating vowel after another vowel (but a vowel followed by a Soft-indicating vowel is all over the place).

<sup>4</sup> The question of what happens to a consonant directly preceding a soft consonant (here, the 'п' directly precedes /p<sup>b</sup>/) is somewhat complex (i.e., as to whether the preceding consonant also softens – even though no 'ь' is written). We won't explore this question further (this year).





Listen carefully and repeat. When pronouncing a soft consonant, you should automatically 'smile' (a result of pushing your tongue forward and up). First the hard consonant will be read, then the soft (follow from left to right - 3 consonants per row.) *This is a fairly long, but VERY IMPORTANT exercise. As we said above, the distinction between hard vs. soft consonants in Russian is fundamental.*

ба бя	ва вя	да дя	за зя	ла ля	ма мя
бэ бе	вэ ве	дэ де	зэ зе	лэ ле	мэ ме
бы би	вы ви	ды ди	зы зи	лы ли	мы ми
бо бё	во вё	до дё	зо зё	ло лё	мо мё
бу бю	ву вю	ду дю	зу зю	лу лю	му мя

на ня	па пя	ра ря	са ся	та тя	фа фя
нэ не	пэ пе	рэ ре	сэ се	тэ те	фэ фе
ны ни	пы пи	ры ри	сы си	ты ти	фы фи
но нё	по пё	ро рё	со сё	то тё	фо фё
ну ню	пу пю	ру рю	су сю	ту тю	фу фю



Listen carefully and repeat (*this exercise contains mostly nonsense syllables*):

Hard vs. soft consonant at the end of a word:

ал аль	дел дель	ун Унь
ом омь	ком комь	эп Эпь
ыр ырь	он онь	кит Кить
ас ась	суп супь	шеф Шефь
от оть	сыр сырь	вын Вынь
эф эфь	час чась	тел Тель



Now listen to these pairs of real words that differ only in the quality of one consonant:

HARD	SOFT
мат ( <i>checkmate; mat; swearing</i> )	мать ( <i>mother</i> )
лук ( <i>onion</i> )	люк ( <i>trap door</i> )
нос ( <i>nose</i> )	нёс ( <i>he carried</i> )
лап ( <i>paws</i> )	ляп ( <i>mistake</i> )
ел ( <i>he ate</i> )	ель ( <i>fir tree</i> )
мэры ( <i>mayors</i> )	мэры ( <i>measures</i> )
стал ( <i>he became</i> )	сталь ( <i>steel</i> )
в зал ( <i>into the hall</i> )	взял ( <i>he took</i> )

## 5-й урок – Домашнее задание



**Exercise 1** Circle the word you hear (*Hard and soft are mixed up here, so be careful*):

- |             |         |            |         |
|-------------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1. там      | тям     | 2. лук     | люк     |
| 3. тып      | тип     | 4. дело    | дэло    |
| 5. нос      | нёс     | 6. мать    | мат     |
| 7. сказа́ль | сказа́л | 8. тётя    | то́та   |
| 9. мы       | ми      | 10. Бо́ря  | Бе́ря   |
| 11. да́да   | дя́дя   | 12. купи́т | купи́ть |
| 13. то      | тё      | 14. зима́  | зыма́   |
| 15. тюпи́к  | тупи́к  | 16. нэп    | неп     |



**Exercise 2** Answer the following questions about the Russian sound system:

1) Why can it be said that vowel letters in Russian perform ‘double duty’?

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2) What is the basic sound represented by the third letter in див■н? Explain your answer.

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5-й урок

Домашнее задание



**Exercise 3** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate personal pronoun:

1. – Это ты? – Да, это \_\_\_\_\_.
2. – Это твои родители? – Да, \_\_\_\_\_ были в Огайо.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ шутишь? (*Lesson 3*)
4. Моя сестра адвокат. \_\_\_\_\_ живёт в Мэне.
5. Это Боря. \_\_\_\_\_ врач.
6. – Это \_\_\_\_\_ и ваш муж? – Да, это \_\_\_\_\_.



**Exercise 4**

**Part 1:** From real spelling to basic sound. What are the basic sounds in the following real words.  
(Remember, before you can determine the hardness/softness of any consonant):

Examples:      холодильник    ⇒    х {O} л {O} д<sup>b</sup> {I} л<sup>b</sup> н<sup>b</sup> {I} к  
ты                    ⇒    т {I}

- |             |       |          |       |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. тебя     | _____ | 2. мы    | _____ |
| 3. родители | _____ | 4. они   | _____ |
| 5. собака   | _____ | 6. пять  | _____ |
| 7. Делавер  | _____ | 8. тётя  | _____ |
| 9. сумка    | _____ | 10. Люба | _____ |

**Part 2:** From basic sound to real spelling. Spell the following words based on their basic sounds:

Examples:      т {I}                    ⇒    ты  
т<sup>b</sup> {I} гр            ⇒    тигр

- |  |       |  |       |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| 1. Т <sup>b</sup> {E} х {A} с                    | _____ | 2. б {A} н {A} н {I}                           | _____ |
| 3. т <sup>b</sup> {E} л <sup>b</sup> {E} ф {O} н | _____ | 4. д <sup>b</sup> {I} в {A} н <sup>b</sup> {E} | _____ |
| 5. м {O} л {O} к {O}                             | _____ | 6. л <sup>b</sup> {U} д <sup>b</sup> {I}       | _____ |
| 7. Л <sup>b</sup> {O} н <sup>b</sup> {A}         | _____ | 8. д {O} в {O} л <sup>b</sup> н {O}            | _____ |
| 9. л {U} н {A}                                   | _____ | 10. сл {I} ш н {O}                             | _____ |