

Седьмой урок Lesson Seven

Dialogue: "You've got the wrong number."
Grammar: Numerals from 0 -12
 Phrases for the phone
Spelling/Sounds: Unpaired consonants and spelling rules
 - Mixed Hard or Soft - Depending on following vowel: К, Г, Х
 - Inherently hard or soft consonants: Ж, Ш, Ц; Ч, Щ, Ы
 - Spelling rules
 - Spelling {О} after inherently hard/soft consonants

Диалог

Dialogue

Вы не тот номер набрали

You've got the wrong number

Тамара:	1	Алло?	<i>Hello?</i>
Гюга:	2	Алло, можно Диму?	<i>Hello, may I speak to Dima?</i>
Тамара:	3	Вы не тот номер набрали.	<i>You've got (= dialed) the wrong number.</i>
Гюга:	4	Это 7-4-2-9-0-8-5?	<i>Is this 7-4-2-9-0-8-5?</i>
Тамара:	5	Нет, это 6-1-3-5-2-0-4	<i>No, it's 6-1-3-5-2-0-4</i>
Гюга:	6	Извините.	<i>Sorry (= Excuse me).</i>

Словарь

Vocabulary

1	алло	<i>hello?</i> (Used only when answering phone. Also note that many Russians pronounce both л's soft /аллэ/.)
2	можно + first name in {U}	<i>may I speak to ...</i> (See grammar)
3	не тот	<i>the wrong</i> (lit.: not that - masculine)
3	номер	<i>telephone number</i>
3	набрали	<i>dialed</i> (past plural) (best to memorize the phrase: Вы не тот номер набрали.)



7.A Numerals from 0 – 12

(There is a listening exercise for the numbers on the next page.)

0 ноль	7 семь
1 один	8 восемь
2 два (related to <i>dual</i>)	9 девять
3 три (related to <i>tricycle</i>)	10 десять (related to <i>decade</i>)
4 четыре	11 одиннадцать
5 пять	12 двенадцать
6 шесть	

Some spelling hints / mnemonics for the numbers:

- Think of четыре *four* as an ‘ы-sandwich’: an “ы” between two slices of “е.”
- All of the numbers ≥ 5 end in a –ь.
- Don’t forget the two н’s in одиннадцать. Incidentally, 11-19 all end in -надцать, which is equivalent to “-teen.”



Question: Why is it двенадцать? I expected дванадцать.

Answer: Our most sincere apologies. Just learn it.



Listen and repeat:

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0



Some college level math. No calculators (this isn’t the SAT).

+ **плюс**; – **минус**; = **будет** (actually, there’s a fancy word for *equals*, which we’ll ignore for now)

Example: $6 - 4 = 2$ \Rightarrow *Шесть минус четыре будет два.*

1. $2 + 7$

2. $5 - 1$

3. $8 + 3$

4. $12 - 7$

5. $6 + 4$

6. $11 - 3$

7. $12 - 0$

8. $2 + 3$

Last note on numerals: Even though we’ve already seen a hint of the plural (**родители, дети**), you cannot simply put a number in front of a plural noun. It will be a while before you can say things like *5 golden rings*.

7.5 Some Telephone Phrases

a) Answering a phone – Алло́?

You can only use **алло́** when answering a phone. Otherwise, to say *hello* use **здравствуй(те)** or **приве́т** (but you can't use **здравствуй(те)** or **приве́т** to answer a phone).

b) Asking for someone – Мо́жно Са́шу / Ма́шу / Га́лю?

For now it's best to memorize this construction: **Мо́жно** + first name in {U}. (You can only do this with first name that end in {A} – which is why we only let you pick first names that end in {A}. Pretty sneaky.)

Мо́жно Жа́нну?

Can I speak to Zhanna?

Мо́жно Ё́нну?

Can I speak to Inna?

Мо́жно Ви́тю?

Can I speak to Vitya?

Мо́жно Бо́рю?

Can I speak to Borya?

So, for now you cannot call and ask for Влади́мир Пу́тин, unless you call him Воло́дя. (Not recommended.)

c) Reciting phone numbers

Actually, the dialogue is not 100% realistic. Russians usually recite phone numbers as follows:

245-65-19: 245 (two hundred forty-five) 65 (sixty-five) 19 (nineteen)

756-90-06: 756 (seven hundred fifty-six) 90 (ninety) 06 (zero six)

There does, however, seem to be a trend among Russian immigrants to mimic the American way of pronouncing each digit. Also, it's not completely unheard of for a Russian to say each number, though it's not the norm.

7.B Unpaired Consonants and Special Spelling Rules

You may have noticed in our discussion of paired (hard vs. soft) consonants in Lesson 5 that several consonants were not mentioned. That's because these consonants do *not* have two basic pronunciations. They are either always hard or always soft. There are two groups of unpaired consonants: 1) mixed hard and soft, and 2) inherently hard or soft.

7.B.1 Mixed hard or soft (depending on the following vowel): The Velars – К, Г, Х

The consonants **К, Г, Х** are known as the **velars** (since they are pronounced toward the velum, in the back top of the mouth).

In front of the vowels {**A**}, {**O**}, {**U**} the velars are always pronounced and written **hard**, that is, written with the vowel letters “**a**,” “**o**,” and “**y**,” respectively. Thus, you should always write only **ка/га/ха** and never **кя/гя/хя**; only **ко/го/хо** and never **кѐ/гѐ/хѐ**; only **ку/гу/ху** and never **кю/гю/хю**.¹



Listen and repeat:

{**A**} **К**анада (*Canada*), **к**апуста (*cabbage*), **г**алстук (*necktie*), **х**арактер (*character*), **к**нига (*book*),

{**O**} **к**ошка (*cat*), **м**олок**о** (*milk*), **г**ород (*city*), **г**овор**и**ть (*to say*), **х**ор (*choir*), **п**л**о**хо

{**U**} **к**уп**и**ть (*to buy*), **от**к**у**да (*from where*), **г**уб**а** (*lip*), **г**у**л**я**т**ь (*to stroll*), **х**уд**о**й (*thin*), **х**у**л**иг**а**н (*hooligan*)

In front of the vowels {**E**} and {**I**} the velars are pronounced and written **soft**, i.e., with the vowel letters “**e**” and “**i**,” respectively. So, as expected, write only **ке/ге/хе** and never **кэ/гэ/хэ**; only **ки/ги/хи** and never **кы/гы/хы**.²



Listen and repeat:

{**E**} **к**ем (*by whom*) **к**е**ф**ир (*kefir*), **г**е**н**ий, **Г**ена, **с**хе**м**а (*diagram; chart*), о **м**у**х**е (*about a/the fly*)

{**I**} **к**ин**о** (*cinema*) **р**у**с**ск**и**й (*Russian*), **г**ит**а**ра (*guitar*), стр**о**г**и**й (*strict*), **х**и**т**р**ы**й (*sly*), **м**у**х**и (*flies*)

The Velar Consonants – К, Г, Х	
Hard before { A }, { O } and { U }	Soft before { E } and { I }
Write and say only “ a ,” “ o ” and “ y ”	Write and say only “ e ” and “ i ”

The above are often given as “spelling rules” (see below for *real* spelling rules), but it's really a matter of *pronunciation*. Still, be careful never to spell or say any of the velars with the “wrong” vowel.

One final note about the velars:

The velars can never precede “**ь**”; there is no **кь**, **гь**, **хь**.

¹ This applies to native Russian words. In foreign words it's possible to have just about any combination: **Г**е**т**е (*Goethe*), **К**ю**р**ас**а**о (*Curacao*).

² Again, foreign words can violate this rule: **К**э**р**ро**л** (*Lewis Carroll*), **Х**э**н**к**о**к (*John Hancock*).

7.B.2 Inherently Hard or Soft Consonants

The consonants that are either inherently hard or inherently soft are the **hushers** (“ж,” “ш,” “ч,” “щ”), “ц” and “й.”

1) Inherently hard consonants – Ж, Ш, Ц

Ж, Ш, and Ц are always pronounced **hard** (tongue down and somewhat back) *regardless of the following vowel letter or soft sign*.

2) Inherently soft consonants – Ч, Щ, Й

Ч, Щ, and Й are always pronounced **soft** (tongue higher and forward) *regardless of the following vowel letter*.

ALWAYS HARD	ALWAYS SOFT
Ж, Ш, Ц	Ч, Щ, Й



Question: If “ш” is always hard, how can there be a ‘ь’ after it, as we saw in the word **шүтишь**? Is this an exception?

Answer: Very sharp eye. Here the “ь” is meaningless – and actually misleading. It’s just a spelling convention (sort of like the way you have to write “u” after “q” in English). It only happens with the second person singular ending on verbs (and a few other places) and has *no effect* on pronunciation. (We have had several native speakers who instinctively heard a hard consonant and kept forgetting to write a soft sign after “ш” in forms like шүтишь – until we threatened to take off 25 points for this mistake.)

You’ll also find a “ь” after inherently soft consonants, e.g., **вещь** *thing*. Again, it has no effect on the pronunciation.

In basic sound representation we will write a non-raised “ь” after “ш,” “ж,” “ч,” “щ,” simply to indicate the correct *spelling* of the word: шүтишь > ш{U}т{I}шь.

7.B.3 Spelling Rules For Inherently Hard/Soft Consonants

For historical reasons only certain vowels can be written after the inherently hard/soft consonants.

After Ж, Ш, Ч, Щ, Ц* write only:			
а (never я)	е (never э)	и (never ы*)	у (never ю)

*After ‘ц’, both ‘и’ and ‘ы’ can be found. Sometimes the choice between ‘и’ and ‘ы’ after ‘ц’ is rather arbitrary, as we can see in these two last names: Ёльцин (with ‘и’) versus Солженицын (with ‘ы’). In other places, there are rules, which we’ll discuss later on.

Later on we’ll also discuss the spelling of ‘й’ + vowel.



Because of the above rules, the spelling of vowels after these consonants can be downright **misleading**: it means you have no choice but to write the soft-indicating vowels ‘и, е’ after inherently hard ‘ж, ш, ц’ and the hard-indicating vowels ‘а, у’ after inherently soft ‘ч, щ’. Don’t be misled - the spelling does not reflect the pronunciation. It’s a common mistake of young Russian schoolchildren (and forgetful Princeton students), who hear soft ‘ч, щ’ and then write the letter ‘ю’, not ‘у’, ‘я’ not ‘а’.

Examples of words with **misleading** spellings:

SOFT-INDICATING VOWEL AFTER INHERENTLY HARD CONSONANT	HARD-INDICATING VOWEL AFTER INHERENTLY SOFT CONSONANT
<u>ж</u> ивёт (it really sounds like [ж ы вёт])	<u>ч</u> асто (<i>often</i>) (it really sounds like [ч я сто])
<u>ш</u> ест (<i>pole</i>) (it really sounds like [ш э ст])	<u>щ</u> адить (<i>to spare</i>) (it really sounds like [щ я дить])
<u>ц</u> ирк (<i>circus</i>) (it really sounds like [ц ы рк])	<u>ч</u> удо (<i>miracle</i>) (it really sounds like [ч ю до])



Pronounce the following words (ignoring the sometimes misleading spelling of vowels):

a) *Permanently hard consonants:*

ша́хматы (*chess*), шест (*pole*), шил (*he sewed*), шок (*shock*), шум (*noise*)
 жа́ба (*toad*), жето́н (*token*), жил (*he lived*), свежо́ (*fresh*), жу́лик (*crook*)
 ца́рство (*kingdom*), це́нтр (*center*), цыга́н (*gypsy*), цо́кот (*clatter*), цукáт (*candied fruit*)

b) *Inherently soft consonants:*

ча́сто (*often*), че́рез (*through; within*), чи́сто (*clean*), плечо́ (*shoulder*), чу́до (*miracle*)
 щади́ть (*to spare*), щека́ (*cheek*), щи (*cabbage soup*), ещѐ (*still; yet*), щу́ка (*pike*)

Finally, let’s compare inherently hard ‘ш’ with inherently soft ‘щ’. In addition to the place of articulation (tongue low and back for ‘ш’, high and forward for ‘щ’), there is also (supposed to be) a difference in length. Generally, ‘щ’ is about 1½ times longer than ‘ш’. (At least that’s what all the books on phonetics – written by Russians – say. You can judge for yourself.)

c) *Compare hard ‘ш’ and long, soft ‘щ’ (mostly nonsense sounds below):*

ша/ща	шар/шар
ше/ще	шест/шест
ши/щи	шит/шит
шо (шѐ)/шѐ	шо́ки (шѐки)/щѐ́ки
шу/щу	шу́ка/щу́ка

7.B.4 Spelling {O} after inherently hard/soft consonants

Spelling {O} after the hushers can get complicated, but there is one crucial rule:

No *unstressed* “o” after ш, ж, ц, ч, щ. Instead write “e”.³

³ Again, foreign words can violate this rule, as seen in шоколад (unstressed ‘o’ after ‘ш’).

7-й урок – Домашнее задание



Exercise 1 Write out the following equations in Russian:

Example: $8 - 2 \Rightarrow$ Восемь минус два будет шесть.
 $4 + 5 \Rightarrow$ Четыре плюс пять будет девять.

1. $9 + 1$ _____

2. $8 + 4$ _____

3. $3 + 2$ _____

4. $11 - 5$ _____

5. $7 - 0$ _____



Exercise 2 Answer the following questions about unpaired consonants:

a) Which consonants are “mixed” with respect to hardness/softness? Before which vowels are they hard? soft?

b) What are the inherently hard consonants?

c) What are the inherently soft consonants?

d) Which vowel letters may appear after inherently hard/soft consonants?

7-й урок**Домашнее задание****Exercise 3** Cross out the impossible spellings, write the word correctly, and explain the problem:Examples: гость (OK)
хорошяя (хорошая. Can't write я after ш)

1. кнѳги _____
2. пожѳр _____
3. хорóший _____
4. цинк _____
5. часть _____
6. свѳжое _____
7. щадѳть _____
8. чѳсто _____
9. жюк _____
10. гюстóй _____
11. хѳтрый _____
12. кантáта _____
13. хорóшее _____
14. шэсть _____
15. хорóшое _____
16. плохѳй _____
17. щúка _____

**Exercise 4** Underline the "misleading" spellings following the unpaired consonants:Examples: числó (OK: you do expect a Soft-indicating letter 'u' after ч)
горячó (because ч is inherently soft, but о is a hard indicating vowel)

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| 1. хорóшó | 2. жѳны | 3. чáсто | 4. слѳдующий |
| 5. свѳжий | 6. свѳжая | 7. ѳщут | 8. шэсть |
| 9. Шúра | 10. Сáши | 11. чѳм | 12. Ёльцин |