

# Восьмой урок Lesson Eight

Dialogues: A: "Here's your tea"  
B: "Here's your coffee"  
Grammar: The Past Tense: a first look  
Russian to English (cont'd): Sentence structure  
Spelling/Sounds: The consonant sound [y]

## Диалоги

## Dialogues

### A. Вот вам чай Here's your tea

	1	(В ресторане)	(In a restaurant)
<b>Рита:</b>	2	Чай, пожалуйста.	Tea, please.
<b>Джон:</b>	3	Пожалуйста.	Here you go.
<b>Рита:</b>	4	Спасибо. (starts to drink)	Thank you. (starts to drink)
	5	Это не чай. Это кофе. Что я сказала? Я сказала	This isn't tea. This is coffee. What did I say? I
	6	«чай». Вы понимаете: «чай»!	said 'tea'. Do you understand, 'tea'!
<b>Джон:</b>	7	Извините. Я плохо понимаю по-русски. Я	Excuse me. I don't understand Russian very
	8	американец.	well. I'm an American.
<b>Рита:</b>	9	Извините, пожалуйста.	Oh, excuse me, please.
<b>Джон:</b>	10	Ничего. Вот вам чай.	Don't worry about it. Here's your tea.
<b>Рита:</b>	11	Спасибо.	Thank you.
<b>Джон:</b>	12	Пожалуйста.	You're welcome.

### Б. Вот вам кофе Here's your coffee

		(В ресторане)	(In a restaurant)
<b>Валера:</b>	13	Кофе, пожалуйста.	Coffee, please.
<b>Пэм:</b>	14	Пожалуйста.	Here you go.
<b>Валера:</b>	15	Спасибо. (starts to drink)	Thank you. (starts to drink)
	16	Это не кофе. Это чай. Что я сказал? Я сказал	This isn't coffee. This is tea. What did I say? I
	17	«кофе». Вы понимаете: «кофе»!	said 'coffee' Do you understand: 'coffee'!
<b>Пэм:</b>	18	Извините. Я плохо понимаю по-русски. Я	Excuse me. I don't understand Russian very
	19	американка.	well. I'm an American.
<b>Валера:</b>	20	Извините, пожалуйста.	Oh, excuse me please.
<b>Пэм:</b>	21	Ничего. Вот вам кофе.	Don't worry about it. Here's your coffee.
<b>Валера:</b>	22	Спасибо.	Thank you.
<b>Пэм:</b>	23	Нé за что.	Don't mention it.

## Словáрь

## Vocabulary

1	ресторáн (No 'т' at the end of the word in Russian!)	<i>restaurant</i>
2	чай	<i>tea</i>
	пожáлуйста	1) <i>please</i> 2) <i>here you go</i> (service worker giving something to customer) 3) <i>you're welcome</i>
4	спаси́бо	<i>thank you</i> (there is no way to shorten this word, despite the best efforts of American students)
5	ко́фе	<i>coffee</i> (Masc – note the gender!)
	сказа́ла	<i>said</i> (Past Tense, Fem)
6	понима́ете	<i>(you sg-Formal / pl) understand</i>
7	плóхо	<i>poorly</i>
	я понима́ю по-ру́ски	<i>I understand Russian</i> (don't leave out the hyphen!)
8	америка́нец	<i>American</i> (noun, Masc; <u>note</u> : not capitalized)
10	ничегó	here: <i>don't worry about it; it's nothing</i> (lit.: nothing; cf. Lesson 1)
	вот вам [noun]	(handing something to someone) <i>here's your[noun]</i>
16	сказáл	<i>said</i> (Past Tense, Masc)
19	америка́нка	<i>American</i> (noun, Fem; <u>note</u> : not capitalized)
23	не́ за что	(response to <b>спаси́бо</b> ) <i>don't mention it</i> (lit.: There isn't anything (to thank me) for)



## 8.A The Past Tense (a first look)

Что я сказа́ла/сказáл? (5, 16)

We've seen several instances of the Past Tense already: **бы́ли** *were* (plural), **перепу́тал** *mixed up* (masculine)

For now just note two things:

1. The consonant 'л' as a past tense marker.
2. The ending changes depending gender and number (-л = masculine sg, -ла = feminine sg, -ли = plural)

### The Past Tense (a first look)

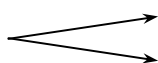
SINGULAR		PLURAL
MASCULINE (я, ты, он): -л	FEMININE (я, ты, она́): -ла	(мы, вы, они́): -ли
перепу́тал	перепу́тала	перепу́тали
сказáл	сказáла	сказáли
был	была́	бы́ли
	(*note: stress shifts to ending)	

There will be a more in-depth explanation of the past tense in Chapter Two.



Note that **вы** always takes a *plural* form of the verb, even when it's Formal-singular:

**Вы** всё перепу́тали.



*You (guys) mixed up everything.*

*You (stupid professor) mixed up everything.*



Change the form of the verb based on the cue (\*Careful with word order: full nouns follow the verb, pronouns precede):

Example:      Что он сказа́л? (Ма́ша)      ⇨      *Что сказа́ла Ма́ша?*  
                   Что он сказа́л? (о́на)      ⇨      *Что о́на сказа́ла?*

1.    Что о́на сказа́ла? (он, вы – said to a nice policeman, Ко́ля, твои́ роди́тели, мо́я ма́ть, егó оте́ц)
2.    Ми́ша всё перепу́тал. (Ве́ра, я, мы, Ви́тя, о́на, вы – said to профе́ссор, ты – said to бра́т)
3.    Я был/а́ в рестора́не. (Со́ня, мы, он, ты – said to сестра́, мои́ роди́тели, Ди́ма)

## 8.5 Russian to English (cont'd): Different Sentence Structure

Я пло́хо понима́ю по-ру́ски (7)

Here's a perfect example of how a word-for-word translation just won't work. Literally **Я пло́хо понима́ю по-ру́ски** means *I poorly understand in Russian*, though it's best translated as *I don't understand Russian very well*. As we said before, there's no sure way to predict which phrases and sentences are directly translatable and which aren't. Just keep your eyes and ears open for this type of thing.

## 8.B The Consonant Sound [y]: Ё or Soft-indicating Vowel

Like English, Russian has the consonant sound [y] as in *yes*, *boy*, etc. There are two basic ways to spell this [y] sound in Russian. One way is straightforward: just use the consonant letter “**й**.” The other way is a bit more complex: using (certain) soft-indicating vowels.

How the sound [y] is represented

- 1) **Using consonant letter ‘й’.** ‘**Й**’ is seen mostly at the end of a syllable following a vowel, in which case it’s close to the ‘y’ in English *boy*, *they*, but with a real tug on that ‘y’ at the end. It can also appear syllable-initially in foreign words: Нью-**Й**орк.



Listen and repeat the following words (Be sure to give a good ‘tug’ when pronouncing ‘й’):

мой, твой, май, ковбóй (*cowboy*), большóй (*big*), плохóй (*bad*), гéний, ой, пей (*drink!*), здравствуйте, танцúй (*dance!*), бей (*beat!*), йóга (*yoga*), Нью-Йóрк, спрашивай

- 2) **Using a soft-indicating vowel я, е, ё, ю – but not и**

Our previous discussion of soft-indicating vowels was limited to cases in which the vowels were immediately preceded by a consonant. When a soft-indicating vowel я, е, ё, ю (but not ‘и’) is not *immediately* preceded by a consonant, the consonant sound [й] is pronounced (but not written) before the vowel sound. For instance, “**я**” not immediately preceded by a consonant is a single letter representing two sounds: [й] + {A}. As we see in the chart below (and don’t forget to do the oral exercise!), there are three places where a soft-indicating vowel are not preceded by a consonant, and are pronounced with an preceding ‘й’ sound:



Listen and repeat:

THREE PLACES WHERE SOFT-INDICATING VOWELS Я, Е, Ё, Ю DO NOT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW A CONSONANT – AND ARE PRONOUNCED WITH AN INITIAL ‘Й’ SOUND	
1) At the beginning of a word	Я́ша, ястреб ( <i>hawk</i> ), ёл ( <i>he ate</i> ), ёхать ( <i>to ride</i> ), ёлка ( <i>fir</i> ), ёмкость ( <i>capacity</i> ), юмор ( <i>humor</i> ), юность ( <i>youth</i> ) *Word-initial и- is <i>not</i> pronounced with a preceding ‘й’: Ива́н, инженер, и́мя ( <i>first name</i> )
2) Following <u>any</u> vowel	мо́я, тво́я, прие́хать ( <i>to arrive</i> ), уе́хал ( <i>he left</i> ), дае́т ( <i>he gives</i> ), её́, своё́ ( <i>one’s own</i> ), твоё́
3) Following а ь ог ь	сви́нья ( <i>swine</i> ), объ́ятие ( <i>hug</i> ), се́мье́ ( <i>family</i> ), съе́л ( <i>he ate up</i> ), шьё́т ( <i>s/he sews</i> ), объё́м ( <i>scope</i> ), пью́ ( <i>I drink</i> ), адьюта́нт ( <i>adjutant</i> )

Thus, if someone shows you the ‘words’ **м■я** or **■ё** or **п■ю** (with the letter, if any, before the soft-indicating vowel covered) and asks you whether there is a **й** sound in the word, your answer should be: “I cant’ tell as it is. I need to see the preceding letter, if any, to determine whether there should be a **й** pronounced before the vowel. If that letter is anything except a consonant, then there is a **й** sound before the vowel sound.”

So, in addition to the basic vowel sound, soft-indicating vowels represent either:

- Softening of immediately preceding consonant: (**приве́т, Ле́ня**). Our notation: C<sup>b</sup>{V} (any soft consonant + any vowel)
- The presence of **й** sound: (**я, моё́, пью́**). Our notation: й{V}

## More Examples of Basic Sounds

VOWEL LETTER	SOFT CONSONANT PLUS {VOWEL}		Й PLUS {VOWEL}	
	example	as in ...	example	as in ...
я	б <sup>b</sup> + {A}	теб <sup>я</sup>	й + {A}	я, мо <sup>я</sup> , сви <sup>н</sup> ь <sup>я</sup>
е	д <sup>b</sup> + {E}	де <sup>т</sup> и	й + {E}	е <sup>х</sup> ать, уе <sup>х</sup> ать, се <sup>м</sup> ь <sup>е</sup>
ё	л <sup>b</sup> + {O}	ле <sup>н</sup> я	й + {O}	е <sup>л</sup> ка, твоё, жи <sup>т</sup> ьё
ю	н <sup>b</sup> + {U}	ку <sup>х</sup> н <sup>ю</sup>	й + {U}	ю <sup>м</sup> ор, твою <sup>ю</sup> , пью <sup>т</sup>

While this explanation of the й sound may be a bit complex, remember, it's all a matter of *pronunciation*. In all the instances described above, Russians really do pronounce a [й] sound (and they certainly don't know any of these rules).

We are now able to represent the basic sounds of *any word* in the entire language. Let's look at some more examples – some with the sound [й], some without.

твой	тв{O}й	себе	с <sup>b</sup> {E}б <sup>b</sup> {E}
твоя	тв{O}й{A}	Ива <sup>н</sup>	{I}в{A}н (no /ü/ before)
твоё	тв{O}й{O}	я	й{A}
ш <sup>у</sup> тишь	ш{U}т <sup>b</sup> {I}шь <sup>1</sup>	фотогра <sup>ф</sup> ия	ф{O}т{O}гр{A}ф <sup>b</sup> {I}й{A}
её	й{E}й{O}	мла <sup>д</sup> ший	мл{A}дш{I}й
дочь	д{O}ч <sup>ь</sup> <sup>2</sup>	живу <sup>ю</sup>	ж{I}в{U}
опя <sup>т</sup> ь	{O}п <sup>b</sup> {A}т <sup>b</sup>	пони <sup>м</sup> аю	п{O}н <sup>b</sup> {I}м{A}й{U}
окно	{O}кн{O}	сто <sup>и</sup> т	ст{O}{I}т (no /ü/ before 'u')
се <sup>р</sup> дце	с <sup>b</sup> {E}рдц{O}	Юпи <sup>т</sup> ер	й{U}п <sup>b</sup> {I}т <sup>b</sup> {E}р
(The previous word, окно, indicates that the underlying (noun) ending is {O}.)		его	й{E}г{O}
		их	{I}х (no [ü] before u)
большо <sup>е</sup>	бол <sup>b</sup> ш{O}й{E}	живё <sup>т</sup>	ж{I}в <sup>b</sup> {O}т
хоро <sup>ш</sup> ее	х{O}р{O}ш{O}й{E}	пони <sup>м</sup> ает	п{O}н <sup>b</sup> {I}м{A}й{O}т
(The previous word большо <sup>е</sup> indicates that the underlying (adjectival) ending is {O}й{E}.)		(The previous word, живу <sup>ю</sup> , indicates that the underlying (verbal) ending is {O}т.)	

<sup>1</sup> Here we write 'б' as a full letter rather than <sup>b</sup> (indicator of preceding softness), because, as you recall, 'ш' is inherently a hard consonant. Recall our convention to use an *unraised* 'б' after inherently hard or soft consonants.

<sup>2</sup> The same as above applies here for 'ч', which is inherently soft.



**Question:** If word-initial **и-** does not represent a **й** sound, how can we distinguish the basic sound representation of words beginning in ‘и’ vs. ‘ы’? In other words, what spelling does, say, {I}в{A}н represent, **Иван** or **Ыван**? This problem does not come up in distinguishing initial э- (which has no **й** sound) vs. е- (with **й** sound) or а- (no **й** sound) vs. я- (with **й** sound), etc.

**Answer:** Superb, really fantastic question. Take a look at a Russian dictionary. There are no words that start with the letter “ы.” None. Zilch. Problem solved.

[й] vs. soft consonant

Finally, many students have an especially hard time hearing this **й** sound when it occurs in one-syllable words. Compare the pronunciations (with and without **й** sound):



Listen and repeat:

WITHOUT [й] SOUND	WITH [й] SOUND
<u>п</u> ять	<u>п</u> ьяный ( <i>drunk; inebriated</i> )
<u>с</u> ел ( <i>he sat down</i> )	<u>с</u> ьел ( <i>he ate up</i> )
<u>л</u> ёня	<u>л</u> ьёт ( <i>s/he pours</i> )
<u>ч</u> удо ( <i>miracle</i> ) * remember: pronounced /чю/	<u>ч</u> ью ( <i>whose</i> )

## 8-й урок – Домашнее задание



**Exercise 1** Determine which words have a й sound. Explain how the sound is represented.

Examples:      егó – *Soft-indicating {E} in initial position*  
                      моя – *Soft-indicating {A} after a vowel*  
                      пью – *Soft-indicating {U} after a 'ь'*  
                      твой – *the consonant letter 'й'*  
                      меня – *no /й/ sound*

- я \_\_\_\_\_
- меня \_\_\_\_\_
- мой \_\_\_\_\_
- мать \_\_\_\_\_
- моё \_\_\_\_\_
- её (*think!*) \_\_\_\_\_
- пей \_\_\_\_\_
- даю \_\_\_\_\_
- понимаю \_\_\_\_\_
- Иван \_\_\_\_\_
- хорошо \_\_\_\_\_
- объяснить \_\_\_\_\_
- по-русски \_\_\_\_\_
- окно \_\_\_\_\_
- Люда \_\_\_\_\_
- Аляска \_\_\_\_\_
- хорошее \_\_\_\_\_

## 8-й урок – Домашнее задание



**Exercise 2** Transcribe the following words in terms of their basic sounds:

Example:      большáя      ⇨      б{О}л<sup>Ь</sup>ш{А}й{А}  
                  Ивáне      ⇨      {I}в{А}н<sup>Ь</sup>{Е}

- |              |       |  |       |
|--------------|-------|--|-------|
| 1. я         | _____ | 2. плохáя                                      | _____ |
| 3. это       | _____ | 4. пьют  | _____ |
| 5. узнаёт    | _____ | 6. понимаёт                                    | _____ |
|              |       | <i>(this word shares the same ending as 5)</i> |       |
| 7. окнó      | _____ | 8. сёрдце                                      | _____ |
|              |       | <i>(this word shares the same ending as 7)</i> |       |
| 9. интерес   | _____ | 10. чай  | _____ |
| 11. сказа́ли | _____ | 12. пожа́луйста                                | _____ |



**Exercise 3** Provide an appropriate response to the following (as a full sentence, if possible):

1. Как вас зову́т? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Спаси́бо. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Вот вам чай. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Извини́те ра́ди Бо́га. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Э́то твой брат? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Как дела́? \_\_\_\_\_