

# 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, Мiша! Как дела? [Zdrástvuy, Mísha! Kak delá?]	<i>Hi, Misha! How's it going?</i>
<b>Мiша:</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>Мiша:</b> <i>Misha</i>	4	Извини, мне некогда. Пока. [Izviní, 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. (Mísha walks away) 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>A/a</b>	<b>a</b> as in <i>f<u>a</u>ther</i>
<b>E/e</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>K/к</b>	<b>k</b> as in <i>s<u>k</u>in</i>
<b>M/м</b>	<b>m</b> as in <i><u>m</u>om</i>
<b>O/o</b>	<b>o</b> as in <i>b<u>o</u>rn</i>
<b>T/т</b>	<b>t</b> as in <i>s<u>t</u>op (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*), е́м (*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 <u>v</u> ictory
<b>Н/н</b>	n as in <u>n</u> o (tongue against the upper teeth)
<b>Р/р</b>	r as in <u>r</u> un (but trilled)
<b>С/с</b>	s as in <u>s</u> et (also: c as in <u>i</u> ce)
<b>У/у</b>	u as in <u>l</u> unatic
<b>Х/х</b>	no exact English equivalent (roughly <b>ch</b> as is <u>Ba</u> ch or Scottish <u>Lo</u> ch)



Listen and repeat:

**В/в**

воТ (here is), веК (century), ва́та (cotton padding), ваМ ([to] you), ве́ко (eyelid), ве́то (veto), Ёва (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), То́ро́нто (the city), Ве́ра (Vera, which means 'faith'), кро́ме (except), ро́т (mouth), ромáн (novel; romance), раке́та (rocket), вор (thief)

**С/с**

секре́т (secret), сок (juice), нос (nose), Москва́ (Moscow), сенáт (Senate), се́вер (north), Ма́ркс (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), курс (course)

**Х/х**

хо́р (choir), у́хо (ear), хвост (tail), су́хо (dry), Теха́с (Texas), мона́х (monk), мох (moss), ха́та (hut), хомы́т (horse collar) хрен (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>ничего</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...), бoмбa (*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*), Кóнгo (*the country*), Орегóн (*the state*), пагý (*stew*)

*Pronounced as [v] in the combinations -ого / -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*),

**Ě/ě** (*this letter is always stressed in the word*)

нєс (*carried*), тєтє ([*to*] *aunt*), сєстєр ([*of*] *sisters*), стєр (*wiped off*), врєт (*is lying*), Гєтє, (*Goethe*), ковєр (*carpet*), овєс (*oats*), монтєр (*electrician*), отвєрткa (*screwdriver*)

Examples with a preceding [y] sound:

моє (*my*), твоє (*your*), своє (*one's own*), еє (*her*)

**Ж/ж**

женá (*wife*), жук (*beetle*), Женéвa (*Geneva*), жєн ([*of*] *wives*), жарá (*heat*), ўжас (*horror*), ужé (*already*), жєртвa (*victim*), жєтóн ([*subway*] *token*), жанр (*genre*), жáбa (*toad*), вáжнo (*important*)

**З/з**

зэбра (*zebra*), козá (*goat*), Канзáс (the state) зóнa (*zone*), закóн (*law*), зáнавес (*curtain*), казáк (*Cossack*), Гудзóн (*Hudson*), звездá (*star*), зóнт (*umbrella*)

**И/и**

Ирáн (the country), Ирáк (the country), Аризóнa (the state), вампíр (*vampire*), тигр (the animal), вариáнт (*version*), вíски (*whiskey*), Аргентíна (the country), нítкa (*thread*), Нíксон (not a crook)

**Й/й**

йод (*iodine*), Йорк (*York*), Йокогáмa (*Yokohama*), йóгa (*yoga*), мой (*my*), май (*May*), ковбóй (*cowboy*), рýсский (*Russian*), Рéйган (40<sup>th</sup> US president), Кувéйт (*Kuwait*), Дєтрóйт (the city)

**Л/л**

лимóн (*lemon*), Клíнтон (42<sup>nd</sup> US president), Лéнин (Vladimir, not John), Стáлин (Uncle Joe), ёлка (*Christmas tree*), лéтo (*summer*), журнáл (*magazine*), солдáт (*soldier*), Алабáмa (*Sweet Home*), Колорáдо (the state)

**П/п**

Пєтр (*Peter*), труп (*corpse*), Пикáссо (the artist), Платóн (*Plato*), Пастєрнáк (the writer, author of Дóткор Живáго), пункт (*point*), псих (*psycho*), прáвдa (*truth; the newspaper*), Пáкистáн (the country), пáсхa (*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 собáкa, the Russian word for *dog*.
- Jabba (the Hutt) is a variant of жáбa, 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!**

**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.  | А́ва   | 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.  | ванáн     | бану́н    | банáн     | бамáн     |
| 2.  | Оредóн    | 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. | Платóн    | Рлатóн    | Плитóн    | 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. пеликán     | _____ |
| 3. Толстóй   | _____ | 4. Женéва      | _____ |
| 5. хулигán   | _____ | 6. Нíксон      | _____ |
| 7. Техás     | _____ | 8. баскетбóл   | _____ |
| 9. момéнт    | _____ | 10. Айда́хо    | _____ |
| 11. Бру́клин | _____ | 12. тéннис     | _____ |
| 13. каравán  | _____ | 14. Рембра́ндт | _____ |
| 15. зодиáк   | _____ | 16. журнал     | _____ |
| 17. Бетхóвен | _____ | 18. спагéтти   | _____ |
| 19. Наполеóн | _____ | 20. джаз       | _____ |