

# 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, Ъ
- Spelling rules
- Spelling {O} after inherently hard/soft consonants

## Диалог

## Dialogue

**Вы не тот номер набрали**

**You've got the wrong number**

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

<b>0</b> ноль	<b>7</b> семь
<b>1</b> один	<b>8</b> восемь
<b>2</b> два (related to <i>dual</i> )	<b>9</b> девять
<b>3</b> три (related to <i>tricycle</i> )	<b>10</b> десять (related to <i>decade</i> )
<b>4</b> четыре	<b>11</b> одиннадцать
<b>5</b> пять	<b>12</b> двенадцать
<b>6</b> 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  $\geq 5$  end in a -ь
- Don’t forget the two н’s in одннадцать. Incidentally, 11-19 all end in -надцать, which is equivalent to ‘-teen’.



**Question:** Why is it двеннадцать? I expected дваннадцать.

**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 **здрáвствуй(те)** or **привéт** (but you can't use **здрáвствуй(те)** or **привéт** 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 {У}. (You can only do this with first name that end in {А} – which is why we only let you pick first names that end in {А}. 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. 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**.<sup>1</sup>



Listen and repeat:

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

{O} **к**о́шка (*cat*), **м**олоко́ (*milk*), **г**оро́д (*city*), **г**овори́ть (*to say*), **х**ор (*choir*), **п**ло́хо

{U} **к**упи́ть (*to buy*), **от**ку́да (*from where*), **г**у́ба (*lip*), **г**уля́ть (*to stroll*), **х**удо́й (*thin*), **х**улига́н (*hooligan*)

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



Listen and repeat:

{E} **к**ем (*by whom*) **к**ефи́р (*kefir*), **г**е́ний, **Г**е́на, **с**хе́ма (*diagram; chart*), о му́хе (*about a/the fly*)

{I} **к**ино́ (*cinema*) **ру́сский** (*Russian*), **г**ита́ра (*guitar*), **ст**ро́гий (*strict*), **х**и́трый (*sly*), му́хи (*flies*)

The Velar Consonants – К, Г, Х	
<u>Hard</u> before {A}, {O} and {U}	<u>Soft</u> before {E} and {I}
Write and say only ‘a’, ‘o’ and ‘y’	Write and say only ‘e’ and ‘и’

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.

Two final notes about the Velars:

1. The Velars can never precede ‘Ь’; there is no **кь, гь, хь**.
2. As the above chart illustrates, the Velars become soft only before {E} and {I} which means, unlike with paired consonants, the hardness/softness of the Velars is *predictable* from the following vowel. Therefore, in transcriptions of words containing Velars, we do not need the notational distinction between **к/г/х** vs. **к<sup>b</sup>/г<sup>b</sup>/х<sup>b</sup>**: **г**оро́д → **г**{O}p {O}д; **г**ита́ра → **г**{I}т{A}p{A}.

<sup>1</sup> This applies to native Russian words. In foreign words it’s possible to have just about any combination: **Г**е́те (*Goethe*), **К**юраца́о (*Curacao*).

<sup>2</sup> Again, foreign words can violate this rule: **К**э́ррол (*Lewis Carroll*), **Х**э́нкок (*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 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.

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. 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{ь}{ш}ь.

## 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
живёт (it really sounds like [жывёт])	ча́сто ( <i>often</i> ) (it really sounds like [чя́сто])
ше́ст ( <i>pole</i> ) (it really sounds like [шэ́ст])	щади́ть ( <i>to spare</i> ) (it really sounds like [щяди́ть])
цирк ( <i>circus</i> ) (it really sounds like [цырк])	чу́до ( <i>miracle</i> ) (it really sounds like [чу́до])



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

a) *Permanently hard consonants:*

ша́хматы (*chess*), ше́ст (*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*), щекá (*cheek*), щи (*cabbage soup*), ещѐ (*still; yet*), шу́ка (*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, ‘ш’ is about 1½ times longer than ‘щ’. (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/щар
ше/ще	шест/щест
ши/щи	шит/щит
шо (шѐ)/щѐ	шóки (шѐки)/щѐки
шу/щу	шу́ка/щúка

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

In Lesson 6 we learned that basic {O} can be spelled three ways ('o, ѐ, e'), depending on stress and on the hardness/softness of the preceding consonant. For {O} preceded by unpaired consonants 'ж, ш, ц, ч, щ', the *general* rule is:

Write 'ó' if the vowel is stressed, 'e' if unstressed.

In other words: No **unstressed** шо/жо/цо/чо/що. Instead write ше/же/це/че/ще.<sup>3</sup>

All of the underlined letters in the words below are basic {O}:

свежó / свéжее  
*fresh / fresh*

хорошó / хорóшее  
*well / good*

кольцó / сéрдце  
*ring / heart*

плечó / вéче  
*shoulder / assembly*

борщóм / óвошем  
*(with) borscht / vegetable*



There are several exceptions to these rules: stressed {O} after 'ж, ш, ч, щ' is sometimes written as 'ѐ'.

Stressed letter 'ѐ' о чѐм (*about what*), чѐрт (*devil*), чѐрный (*black*), шѐпот (*whisper*), жѐны (*wives*), течѐт (*flows*), ещѐ (*still, yet*), Хрущѐв (*former Soviet leader*)

We'll give some clues later on for determining how to chose between ó and ѐ after these letters.

We can tell you that after 'ц' only stressed 'ó', never 'ѐ', is found: лицó (*face*), кольцó (*ring*)

<sup>3</sup> Again, foreign words can violate this rule, as seen in шокоóлад (unstressed 'o' after 'ш').

**Exercise 1** Write out the following equations in Russian:

Example:       $8 - 2$      $\Rightarrow$     Восемь мѳнус два бѳдет шесть.  
                    $4 + 5$      $\Rightarrow$     Четыре плѳс пять бѳдет дѳвять.

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?

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b) What are the inherently hard consonants?

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c) What are the inherently soft consonants?

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

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**7-й урок****Домáшнее задáние****Exercise 3**

Cross out the impossible spellings, write the word correctly, and explain the problem:

Examples:

гость (OK)

хорошяя (хорóшая. Can't write я after ш)

1. кн́и́ги \_\_\_\_\_
2. пожа́р \_\_\_\_\_
3. хоро́ший \_\_\_\_\_
4. цинк \_\_\_\_\_
5. часть \_\_\_\_\_
6. све́жое \_\_\_\_\_
7. щади́ть \_\_\_\_\_
8. ча́сто \_\_\_\_\_
9. жу́к \_\_\_\_\_
10. гюсто́й \_\_\_\_\_
11. хы́трый \_\_\_\_\_
12. канта́та \_\_\_\_\_
13. хоро́шее \_\_\_\_\_
14. шэсть \_\_\_\_\_
15. хоро́шое \_\_\_\_\_
16. плохёй \_\_\_\_\_
17. шу́ка \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 4**

Underline the “misleading” spellings following the unpaired consonants:

Examples:

число́ (OK: you do expect a Soft-indicating letter 'u' after ч)

горячо́ (because ч is inherently soft, but о is a hard indicating vowel)

- |            |            |           |               |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. хорошо́ | 2. жёны    | 3. ча́сто | 4. слéду́ющий |
| 5. све́жий | 6. све́жая | 7. йщут   | 8. шéсть      |
| 9. Шу́ра   | 10. Са́ши  | 11. чём   | 12. Е́льцин   |