

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*

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

Б. Вот вам кофе *Here's your coffee*

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

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	америкáнец	<i>American</i> (noun, Masc; <u>note</u> : not capitalized)
10	ничего́	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	америкáнка	<i>American</i> (noun, Fem; <u>note</u> : not capitalized)
23	не́ за что	(response to спаси́бо) <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* (pl), **перепу́тал** *mixed up* (Masc)

For now note 2 things:

1. The consonant 'л' as a Past Tense marker.
2. The ending changes depending gender and number (-л = Masc sg, -ла = Fem sg, -ли = plural)

The Past Tense (a first look)

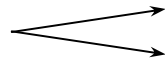
SINGULAR		PLURAL
MASCULINE (я, ты, он): -л	FEMININE (я, ты, она́): -ла	(мы, вы, они́): -ли
перепу́тал	перепу́тала	перепу́тали
сказáл	сказа́ла	сказа́ли
был	была́	бы́ли
	(*note: stress shifts to ending)	

There will be a more in-depth explanation of the Past Tense in Chapter 2.



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.Б 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.

- 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*), большо́й (*big*), плохóй (*bad*), гéний, ой, пей (*drink!*), здра́вствуйте, танцúй (*dance!*), бей (*beat!*), йо́га (*yoga*), Нью-Йóрк, спра́шивай

- 2) **Using a soft-indicating vowel я, е, ё, ю, (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 (except ‘и’ either in word-initial or unstressed position – see more below) 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 initial ‘й’ sound:



Listen and repeat:

THREE PLACES WHERE SOFT-INDICATING VOWELS 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>), мо́й, тво́й, даё́т (<i>he gives</i>), её, сво́ю (<i>one’s own</i>), твою́
3) Following а ь о г ь	сви́ня (<i>swine</i>), объ́ятие (<i>hug</i>), се́мье (<i>family</i>), съе́л (<i>he ate up</i>), сви́ньи (<i>swine’s</i>), ста́тьи (<i>articles</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 **н■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 can’t 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:

- 1) Softening of immediately preceding consonant: (**приве́т**, **Ле́ня**). Our notation: C^b{V} (any soft consonant + any vowel)
- 2) 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 ^b + {A}	теб <u>я́</u>	й + {A}	я, мо <u>я́</u> , сви <u>н</u> ь <u>я́</u>
е	д ^b + {E}	де <u>т</u> и	й + {E}	е <u>х</u> ать, у <u>е</u> хать, се <u>м</u> ь <u>е́</u>
и	т ^b + {I}	э <u>т</u> и	й + {I}	мо <u>й</u> , ста <u>т</u> ь <u>я́</u>
е̋	л ^b + {O}	Ле <u>н</u> я	й + {O}	е̋лка, тво <u>е̋</u> , жи <u>т</u> ь <u>е̋</u>
ю	н ^b + {U}	ку <u>х</u> н <u>ю́</u>	й + {U}	ю <u>м</u> ор, тво <u>ю́</u> , п <u>ь</u> ют

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	себе́	с ^b {E}б ^b {E}
твоя́	тв{O}й{A}	Ива́н	{I}в{A}н (no /i/ before word-initial {I})
твоё̋	тв{O}й{O}	я	й{A}
твой	тв{O}й{I}	ста <u>т</u> ь <u>я́</u>	ст{A}т ^b й{I}
шу <u>т</u> и <u>ш</u> ь	ш{U}т ^b {I}ш ¹	фото <u>г</u> ра <u>ф</u> ия	ф{O}т{O}г <u>р</u> {A}ф ^b {I}й{A}
её̋	й{E}й{O}	мла <u>д</u> ш <u>и</u> й	мл{A}дш{I}й
до <u>ч</u> ь	д{O}ч ²	жи <u>в</u> у́	ж{I}в{U}
оп <u>я</u> ть	{O}п ^b {A}т ^b	по <u>н</u> и <u>м</u> аю́	п{O}н ^b {I}м{A}й{U}
о <u>к</u> но́	{O}кн{O}	сто <u>и</u> т	ст{O}{I}т (no /i/ before unstressed 'u')
се <u>р</u> д <u>ц</u> е	с ^b {E}рд <u>ц</u> {O}	Ю <u>п</u> и <u>т</u> ер	й{U}п ^b {I}т ^b {E}р
<i>(The previous word, окно́, indicates that the underlying (noun) ending is {O}.)</i>		его́	й{E}г{O}
		их	{I}х (no /i/ before word-initial {I})
бо <u>ль</u> шо́е	бол ^b ш{O}й{E}	жи <u>в</u> е <u>т</u>	ж{I}в ^b {O}т
хо <u>р</u> о <u>ш</u> ее	х{O}р{O}ш{O}й{E}	по <u>н</u> и <u>м</u> а <u>е</u> т	п{O}н ^b {I}м{A}й{O}т
<i>(The previous word большо́е indicates that the underlying (adjectival) ending is {O}i{E}.)</i>		<i>(The previous word, живё<u>т</u>, indicates that the underlying (verbal) ending is {O}m.)</i>	

¹ Here we write 'б' as a full letter rather than ^b (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.

² 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}B{A}H** 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. There is no instance of **ы** following another vowel either, i.e., **{I}** after a vowel always corresponds to the letter ‘**и**’: **м{O}{I} = мой**. So, problem solved.

We realize that the exact details about the presence/absence of a ‘**й**’ sound with the vowel ‘**и**’ are rather involved (only pronounce ‘**й**’ when ‘**и**’ is *stressed* following either a vowel or **ь/ъ**). The most important thing to keep in mind is that word-initial ‘**и**’ is different from all the other soft-indicating vowels, and is not pronounced with the ‘**й**’ sound.

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>)
кста <u>т</u> и (<i>by the way</i>)	ста <u>т</u> ьи (<i>articles</i>)
<u>Л</u> ёня	<u>л</u> ьёт (<i>s/he pours</i>)
<u>ч</u> удо (<i>miracle</i>)	<u>ч</u> ью (<i>whose</i>)
* remember: pronounced /чю/	

**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 _____
 объяснѣть _____
 по-руськи _____
 окно _____
 статься _____
 Люда _____
 Аляска _____
 хорóшее _____

8-й урок**Homework****Exercise 2**

Transcribe the following words in terms of their basic sounds:

Example:

большáя



б{O}л{A}ш{A}й{A}

Ивáне



{I}в{A}н{E}

1. я _____ 2. плохáя _____

3. это _____ 4. пьют _____

5. узнаёт _____ 6. понимáет _____
(this word shares the same ending as 5)7. окнó _____ 8. сёрдце _____
(this word shares the same ending as 7)

9. интерес _____ 10. чай _____

11. сказáли _____ 12. пожáлуйста _____

**Exercise 3**

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

1. Как вас зовúт? _____

2. Спасíбо. _____

3. Вот вам чай. _____

4. Извинíte рáди Бóга. _____

5. Э́то твой брат? _____

6. Как делá? _____