

# Второй урок

# 2

Диалог:	Я ни черта не помню <i>I don't remember squat</i>
Грамматика:	2А: Spelling Rules for Unpaired Consonants 2Б: The Sound Ъ

Я ни черта не помню

*I don't remember squat*

Люда	1 2	Паша, что хорошего? Ты уже привык к занятиям?	<i>Pasha, what's up (what's the good word)? Are you used to classes yet?</i>
Паша	3 4	Ты шутишь, что ли? Это ужас! Особенно мой курс русского языка. Я ни черта не помню.	<i>Are you joking (or something)? It's a horror! Especially my Russian course. I don't remember squat.</i>
Люда	5 6	Не говори! Слушай, как твой новый сосед по комнате?	<i>Tell me about it. So, how's your new roommate?</i>
Паша	7 8	Не спрашивай. Он без конца крутит этот дурацкий диск 'N Sync. Я просто с ума схожу.	<i>Don't ask. He keeps playing that idiotic 'N Sync CD. I'm (just) going crazy (out of my mind).</i>
Люда	9 10	Я тебе не завидую. Слушай, ты уже ходил на «стрит»?	<i>I don't envy you. So, have you been to The Street™ already?</i>
Паша	11	Рáза два.	<i>Once or twice.</i>
Люда	12	Ну и как?	<i>And...(how was it)?</i>
Паша	13	Ничего особенного. Всё по-старому.	<i>Nothing special. Everything's the same as before.</i>
Люда	14	Не говори!	<i>Tell me about it.</i>

\*See <http://www.nvkz.kuzbass.net/maximum/articles/nsync/index.html> for info in Russian on 'N Sync.

## Словарь

1	что хорошего?	<i>what's up?; what's the good word?</i> (This is quite colloquial – use it only with friends.)
1	привыка́й+ // привык[ну]+ к + dative or imperfective infinitive	<i>get used to (something/someone)</i> (This verb is most often used in the <b>perfective past tense</b> – as in the dialogue. Be sure to learn this as an entire phrase – including к + dative or imperfective infinitive.)
2	занятие	<i>class</i> (This noun usually appears in the plural. More on this when we cover education.)
4	ни черта	<i>squat; nothing at all</i> (The noun is <b>чёрт</b> 'devil'. What form is черта and why?)
5	слушай	<i>so; anyway</i> (Literally, <b>слушай</b> is an imperative form meaning <i>listen!</i> It is also a very common transition word, often used to get someone's attention.)
7	*крути́+ // с- (Recall that т mutates to ч in the я-form of the present tense)	<i>spin; turn</i>
8	с ума сходи́+ // {сойд+'/сош(ё)+'} infinitive сойти́	<i>go crazy; lose one's mind</i> (Last year we had the expression <b>Каждый ходит с ума по своему</b> , which literally is <i>Everyone loses his mind in his own way.</i> )
12	ну и как?	<i>and...?; so, how was it?</i>
13	всё по-старому	<i>same old thing; just like before; nothing has changed</i>

\*This year the symbol indicating shifting stress will indicate in which direction the stress moves. In the case of крути́+, the indicates that stress moves from the ending in the я-form (кручу́) to the stem in all of forms of the present tense (крути́шь, крути́т, крути́т). Later on we'll where > indicates shifting to the ending in the feminine form only of past tense verbs.

## 2.A Spelling “Rules” For Unpaired Consonants

In the last lesson we saw that the choice of which vowel letter to write (а vs. я, ы vs. и, о vs. ё vs. е, etc.) depended on the quality of the preceding paired consonant (as well as on the position of stress in choosing between ё and е). In this lesson we review how to spell vowels following *unpaired* consonants, i.e., the velars (к, г, х) and the permanently hard (ш, ж, ц) or permanently soft (ч, щ) consonants. Note that the permanently soft consonant й is (almost) never followed by a vowel – more on this in the section on the sound й.

Except for {О} (and the combination of ц + {I}) - see below for details), all the unpaired consonants behave similarly with respect to which vowel letter must be written.

### 2.A.1 All Vowels Except {О} (and Ц + {I})

After the velars (к, г, х) and the inherently hard (ш, ж, ц\*) or inherently soft (ч, щ) consonants write only the following vowel letters. Stress plays no role.

А (never Я)	Е (never Э)	И (never Ы*)	У (never Ю)
капу́ста	кем	кино́	купи́ю
кни́га	ге́ний	гита́ра	гуля́ть
ха́рактер	му́хе	тихи́й	ху́же
хоро́шая	шесть	хоро́шие	шум
му́жа	же́нщина	жизнь	жук
ца́рь	це́нтр	*Е́льцин / Солже́нийцын	певи́цу
ча́сто	чем	чи́стый	чужо́й
насто́ящая	ще́дрый	щи	това́ришу

### \*2.A.2 The Spelling of {I} after Ц

After ц you find both ы and и: цыплёнок *chick*, цирк *circus*. Generally, и is found in foreign borrowings while ы is used in native Russian words. There are exceptions, as we see in Ельцин (a native Russian word with ци). Contrast Ельцин with Солженицын, and you can see how arbitrary this spelling is. (In fact, many Russians were surprised to discover that Ельцин was spelled with и and not ы.)

### \*2.A.2a Only Ы (Not И) After Ц In Grammatical Endings

In *grammatical endings* (e.g., masculine-feminine nominative/accusative [inanimate] plural and feminine genitive singular) *only* ы is written after ц: ста́рые отцы́; до́брые учи́тельницы́; у э́той певи́цы; не́ было ку́рицы́.

There are even several (rather obscure) adjectives with stems ending in ц. As expected, we find ы, not и, in the various endings that begin with {I}: ку́цый *short-tailed*, as well as a number of adjectives built on the stem ли́цый from лицо́ *face* – бледноли́цых *pale(-faced)*, широколи́цыми *wide-faced*, (whatever that is supposed to mean). You don't have to know any of these; they're just good examples that prove that the above rule works.

## Our experience shows...

Generally, students don't have a hard time with the vowels **а, е, у**. (See directly below for the troublesome spelling of {**О**}.) However, for some reason, students often mistakenly write **ы** after some of the above consonants (leaving aside the question of **ы/и** after **ц**). Please, don't ever write **ы** after the velars or **ш, ж, ч, щ**. Спасибо.

### 2.A.3 Basic {**О**} after the Velars: **О**, never **Ё** (or **Е** – sort of)

First, the easy part: After the *velars* (**к, г, х**) write only **о** (never **ё**). Stress makes no difference: **кóмната, рúское; гóрод, стрóгое strict; хóчет, тíхое**.

Several adjectival endings begin with {**О**}, so be sure to write only **о**, never **е** or **ё**. Some examples: Neuter nominative/accusative singular **рúское, дорогóе**; masculine/neuter genitive singular **америкáнского, дóлгого**; masculine/neuter dative singular **плóхому, тíхому**; masculine/neuter prepositional singular **мужскóм, лéгком**. Of course, the spelling of {**О**} with **о** after the velars is not restricted to grammatical endings, as we saw in the examples above **кóмната, гóрод, хóчет**, etc.

### 2.A.2a The Vowel Letter **Е** Following Velars Must Represent {**Е**}

Does the above rule mean that the spelling combinations **ке/ге/хе** are impossible in Russian? Not at all. Many common words contain these combinations: **кефíр** *yogurt-like drink*; **гéнии, ўхе** (prepositional of **ўхо**). Here, however, the vowel letter **е** *must* represent basic {**Е**}. Think about why this is so – we'll ask you in class.

### 2.A.2б Basic {**О**} after **ш, ж, ц, ч, щ**: **О́, Ё́, or Е**

The spelling of {**О**} after the non-velar unpaired consonants is more complicated. This shouldn't be too surprising, given that {**О**} is the only vowel that has *three* possible spellings: **о/е/ё**. (Just to remind you again.)

After **ш, ж, ц, ч, щ**, as a *general* rule, write **о́** if the vowel is stressed, **е** if unstressed.

Compare these pairs, where both words contain basic {**О**}:

ш, ж, ц, ч, щ + { <b>О</b> }	
Stressed { <b>О́</b> }: <b>О́</b>	Unstressed { <b>О</b> }: <b>Е</b>
хорош <u>о́</u> (adverb)	хорóше (neuter adjective)
свеж <u>о́</u> ( <i>fresh</i> – short-form neuter adjective)	свёже (fresh – long-form neuter adjective)
лиц <u>о́</u> ( <i>face</i> )	сёрдце
борщ <u>о́</u> м (instrumental singular)	товáрищем (instrumental singular)
горяч <u>о́</u> ( <i>hot</i> – short-form neuter adjective)	горячье ( <i>hot</i> – long-form neuter adjective)



After **ч, ш, ж, ш** (but not **ц**) stressed {**Ó**} is *sometimes* spelled with **ë**. In grammatical endings, this is predictable, otherwise, there's no rule:

- 1) In all *verb endings* write **ë**:                    **ш**ёл, **печ**ёте, **жж**ёт *burns*
- 2) In all *noun and adjective endings* write **ó**:    **к**люч**ó**м, **б**орщ**ó**м, **б**ольш**ó**е, **ч**уж**ó**й

<b>Ш, Ж, Ц, Ч, Щ + {Ó}</b>	
<b>Noun/Adjective Endings: Ó</b>	<b>Verb Endings: Ё</b>
больш <b>ó</b> е	ш <b>ё</b> л
чуж <b>ó</b> й	жж <b>ё</b> т
борщ <b>ó</b> м	сокращ <b>ё</b> нный*
ключ <b>ó</b> м	печ <b>ё</b> т
лиц <b>ó</b>	(None exist)

\*This is a *participle* (an *adjective* formed from a *verb*), which we will discuss later in the semester

\*\*\*Note the exceptional **чём** – the prepositional form of **что**. Our rules predict **чóм**. Что же д**ёл**ать!\*\*\*

Otherwise, in “non-grammatical” positions, you find both **ó** and **ë**:

- 3) Other random forms (both **ë** and **ó**):                    **ш**ёлк *silk* ш**ó**рох *rustle* ч**ёр**ный, ч**ó**кнутый, ч**ёр**т,  
ж**ё**ны, ж**ó**р *beak*, е**щ**ё, Хрущ**ё**в (former Soviet leader)

You simply need to memorize which letter to use in these words. Recall that the pronunciation (hard or soft) is fixed with these consonants, so you cannot rely on your ear.

Finally, after **ц**, write only stressed **ó** (never **ë**):    **л**и**ц**ó, **я**й**ц**ó *egg*, **ц**óкать *clank*

Below we include a chart that gives examples of those forms that often cause students the greatest problem – the spelling of {О} after **ш, ж, ц, ч, щ** in certain adjectival endings.

Adjectival Stems Ending in Ш, Ж, Ц, Ч, Щ + Ending Beginning in {О}		
Form	Ending-Stressed	Stem-Stressed
Neuter Nom/Acc Sing Masc/Neuter Gen Sing Masc/Neuter Prep Sing Masc/Neuter Dat Sing Fem Oblique Sing (Gen/Prep/Dat/Instr) and End-Stressed Masc Nom/Acc Sing (ОЙ only)	-ОЕ -ОГО -ОМ -ОМУ -ОЙ	-ЕЕ -ЕГО -ЕМ -ЕМУ -ЕЙ
<b>Ш</b>	большо́е большо́го большо́м большо́му большо́й	хоро́шее хоро́шего хоро́шем хоро́шему хоро́шей
<b>Ж</b>	чужо́е чужо́го чужо́м чужо́му чужо́й	све́жее све́жего све́жем све́жему све́жей
<b>Ц</b>	NONE ☺	ку́щее (quite rare) ку́щего ку́щем ку́щему ку́щей
<b>Ч</b>	NONE ☺	горя́чее горя́чего горя́чем горя́чему горя́чей
<b>Щ</b>	NONE ☺	сле́дующее сле́дующего сле́дующем сле́дующему сле́дующей

It turns out that **большо́й** and **чужо́й** are the only two end-stressed adjectives in the entire language whose stems end in a husher. There are no other adjectives in **-шо́й** or **-жо́й**, and none whatsoever in **-цо́й**, **-чо́й**, or **-що́й**. None!

### 2.A.2в One Word for Six Forms

Just a reminder (and we'll go over all the endings in the next few weeks) that any adjective ending in stressed **-ой** is potentially ambiguous between masculine nominative/accusative (inanimate only) singular and all the feminine oblique ( $\neq$ nominative or accusative) singular forms. This applies not only to those adjectives ending in an unpaired consonant. Thus, **голубой/молодой/дорогой/мировой/большой**, etc., each represent *six different forms*: 1) masculine nominative singular; 2) masculine accusative (inanimate) singular; 3) feminine genitive singular; 4) feminine prepositional singular; 5) feminine dative singular; 6) feminine instrumental singular. As you would expect, context always makes it clear which form is being used.

### 2.A.3 The Unpaired Consonants and a Following -Ь (or lack thereof)

The velars (as well as **ц**) are never followed by a soft-sign! Repeat – **по кь, гь, хь, ць!**

Except for **ц**, the other unpaired consonants may be followed by a soft sign, though it has no effect on the pronunciation. For example, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> singular present tense verb ending, **-шь (ты читаешь/говоришь)**, the soft sign is completely meaningless – but you have to write it anyway. As we will see in the next lesson, nouns ending in **-шь, -жь, -чь, -щъ** are always *feminine*.

## 2.Б The Sound [Й]

Like English, Russian contains the sound spelled with the letter *y* in words like *yes, you, to y*. (You may sometimes see the English letter *j* used to represent this sound. To make things easier, we'll stick to the Russian letter **й**.) The tricky thing is that this sound often gets “hidden” in the Russian spelling system. Let's examine how the **й** sound is represented in the Russian spelling system.

There are two basic ways to represent the **й** sound in Russian:

- 1) With the consonant letter **й** itself. (Pretty straightforward) **мой, май, танцуй, закройте**
- 2) With a soft-indicating vowel (*except u*) that is not *immediately* preceded by a consonant. There are 3 possibilities:
  - a. At the beginning of a word **язык, есть, ёлка, Юпитер**
  - b. Following another vowel (hard- or soft-indicating, it doesn't matter) **Рая, знает, своё, синюю**
  - c. Following a **ь** or **ъ** **объясни, съела, льёт, пьют**

Notice that to identify **й** we must look to the *left* of a soft-indicating vowel to determine the pronunciation. In yesterday's lesson on the pronunciation of paired consonants we were constantly looking to the *right*.

## Summary: How the Ы Sound is Represented in the Spelling

The Consonant Letter Ы	Soft-Indicating Vowel (≠И) Not Immediately Preceded by a Consonant
свой, Сайгón, Толсто́й, пейте	1) Word-initial: я, ел, ёлка, юмор
	2) After any vowel: мо́я, твоёй, её, сво́ю
	3) After ь/ь: объясни́ть, съел, льёт, пью

So, in our transcription of basic sounds, we must include **й** every time a soft-indicating vowel (except **и**) is not immediately preceded by a consonant. Let's look at some examples of words containing the sound **й**:

SPELLING	BASIC SOUNDS
мой	м{O}й
я	й{A}
чьему́	чй{O}м{U}
моёй	м{O}й{E}й
пьём	п <sup>б</sup> й{O}м

SPELLING	BASIC SOUNDS
та́йна	т{A}йн{A}
ма́е	м{A}й{E}
твою́	тв{O}й{U}
её	й{E}й{O}
объясню́	{O}бй{A}сн <sup>б</sup> {U}

### 2.Б.1 “Real” Versus “Fake” Ы Sound: Пья́н / Пя́ть

We admit that it can difficult to hear the difference between a combination containing just a soft consonant + vowel (**пя́ть**) and one containing a soft consonant + **й** + vowel (**пья́н**). The problem is that to our ear, softness very closely resembles a **й** sound. In fact, in many transcriptions found in newspapers and history books (for the uninitiated) the English letter *y* is often used to represent softness, as we see in the following words: **нет** = **nyet**, **Та́ня** = **Tanya**, **Тю́тчев** = **Tyutchev** (famous Russian poet, whom we'll read later on). (Notice, curiously, that no *y* is used before *i*, even though the **т** in **Пу́тин** = **Putin** is as soft as the **т** in **Тю́тчев**. Just thought we'd point that out.) While we agree that soft consonants certainly give a hint of a **й** sound, by our definition, words like **нет**, **Та́ня**, **Ле́ня** do not contain a **й** sound. (This leaves open the question of how to represent a soft consonant in English spelling, for which we have not immediate answer.)

No Ы Sound	Ы Sound
пя́ть	пья́ный
самолёт	лёт
Вена <i>Vienna</i>	Вьетна́м <i>Vietnam</i>

### 2.Б.2 Ы Followed by a Vowel

In a few foreign words you *will* find **й** followed by a vowel: **йо́га** *yoga* **Йокога́ма** *Yokohama*, **Йёллоустон** *Yellowstone*, **Нью-Йо́рк**. In theory, all of these **й** + vowel combinations could have been represented by a single soft-indicating vowel, with no change whatsoever in pronunciation. Thus instead of **Йо́рк**, you could have had **Ё́рк**. To some extent, **йо́га**, **Йёллоустоун**, etc., look more “foreign” than **ёга**, **Еллоустоун**, etc. Just thought we'd mention this somewhat minor point.

## 2-й урок - Домашнее задание



### Упражнение 1

Correct any impossible spellings. You may need to take into consideration the word's part of speech. Not all words have errors.

- |                     |              |                    |              |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. хоро́шое         | 2. легкё     | 3. лёгкий          | 4. шол       |
| 5. кём              | 6. чёрный    | 7. т́хое           | 8. цирк      |
| 9. по́мощь          | 10. лице́    | 11. лжёшь (think!) | 12. глупе́ць |
| 13. пт́ици (think!) | 14. ру́сское | 15. Хрущёв         | 16. хю́же    |
| 17. чем             | 18. ру́сский | 19. пеки́          | 20. лягь     |
| 21. чо́кнутый       | 22. хоро́ший | 23. ещó            | 24. течёте   |
| 25. чяс             | 26. бо́льшую | 27. шóрох          | 28. кúцие    |
| 29. жо́ны           | 30. чы́стый  | 31. кит            | 32. плохе́е  |



## 2-й урок - Домашнее задание



### Упражнение 2

Identify any words that contain the sound й and indicate how the sound is represented

1. пять
2. пьян (*drunk*)
3. Ива́н
4. Я́лта
5. чьей
6. зда́ние
7. Та́ня
8. ру́сская
9. йо́га (*yoga*)
10. её
11. ле́то
12. въезд (*entrance*)



### Упражнение 3

Переведите на русский

1. He doesn't know squat about American history.
2. Vera, are you crazy? (have you gone out of your mind? – *think about tense*)
3. I'm not used to getting up early.
4. + What's the good word? – Don't ask. My roommate keeps playing that idiotic Eminem (*it does decline*) CD.