

# Russian alphabet: Handwriting in block letters

| Printed letter | Handwritten letter | Letter name                             | English letter | Pronunciation |
|----------------|--------------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| А а            | А А                | а<br>ah                                 | A              | father        |
| Б б            | Б Б                | бэ<br>beh                               | B              | boot          |
| В в            | В В                | вэ<br>veh                               | V              | voodoo        |
| Г г            | Г Г                | гэ<br>geh                               | G              | goo           |
| Д д            | Д Д                | дэ<br>deh                               | D              | do            |
| Е е            | Е Е                | е [й'э]<br>yeh                          | YE             | yes           |
| Ё ё            | Ё Ё                | ё [й'о]<br>yo                           | YO             | your          |
| Ж ж            | Ж Ж                | жэ<br>jeh                               | ZH             | rouge         |
| З з            | З З                | зэ<br>zeh                               | Z              | zoo           |
| И и            | И И                | и<br>ee                                 | I              | meet          |
| Й й            | Й Й                | и краткое<br>(short И)<br>ee kratka-yeh | Y              | yes           |

К к      К к      ка  
ka      K      skin

Л л      Л л      эль  
el      L      pill

М м      М м      эм  
em      M      moot

Н н      Н н      эн  
en      N      noon

О о      О о      о  
o      O      chore

П п      П п      пэ  
peh      P      span

Р р      Р р      эр  
er      R      ≈rest<sup>1</sup>

С с      С с      эс  
es      S      soup

Т т      Т т      тэ  
teh      T      stand

Ү ү      Ү ү      ў  
oo      U      boot

Ф ф      Ф ф      эф  
ef      F      fool

Х х      Х х      ха  
ha      Н, КН      home

Ц ц      Ц ц      цэ  
tseh      TS      cats

<sup>1</sup> The Russian R (P) is rolled with the tip of the tongue.

|     |     |  |    |                      |
|-----|-----|--|----|----------------------|
| Ч ч | Ч ч | чэ<br>cheh                                     | CH | chip                 |
| Ш ш | Ш ш | ша<br>sha                                      | SH | rush <sup>2</sup>    |
| Щ щ | Щ щ | ща<br>sha                                      | SH | sheep <sup>3</sup>   |
| ъ ъ | ъ   | твёрдый<br>знак<br>(hard sign)<br>tvyordi znak | -  | f(ъ)ew <sup>4</sup>  |
| ы ы | ы   | ы<br>iy  | ≈Y | ≈hit <sup>5</sup>    |
| ь ь | ь   | мягкий знак<br>(soft sign)<br>myahkee<br>znak  | -  | ≈f(ь)ew <sup>6</sup> |
| Э э | Э э | э<br>eh  | E  | bed                  |
| Ю ю | Ю ю | ю [й'у]<br>yoo                                 | YU | youth                |
| Я я | Я я | я [й'a]<br>ya                                  | YA | yard                 |

\*Russian words can't start with letters ы, ь, ь.

<sup>2</sup> A backward (hard) version of SH. Pull the tongue back.

<sup>3</sup> A front (soft) version of SH. Push the tongue forward.

<sup>4</sup> Occurs in English. ь = separation like /j/ in "few" /fju:/.

<sup>5</sup> A backward version of И. Pull the tongue backward.

<sup>6</sup> Does not occur in English. Sounds similar to /j/ in "few" /fju:/ inside words. Changes the sounding of a preceding consonant by making it soft/palatalized. To learn to pronounce ь, you need to learn to pronounce soft/palatalized consonants first. Until then, pronounce the soft sign (ь) exactly like the hard sign (ъ) inside words and use mimicry to produce it at word-final positions.