

Alphabet and Pronunciation

The Russian Alphabet (Cyrillic)

The Russian alphabet is based on Cyrillic and has 33 letters: 11 vowels, 20 consonants, and 2 signs (ь, ъ) that modify pronunciation.
Vowels: а, э, ы, у, о, я, е, ё, ю, и
Consonants: б, в, г, д, ж, з, й, к, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф, х, ц, ч, ш, щ
Hard and Soft Signs: ъ (hard sign, separates consonants and vowels), ь (soft sign, softens the preceding consonant)
Note: Some letters change pronunciation depending on their position in a word.

Basic Grammar

Nouns and Cases

Russian nouns have six cases: Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Instrumental, and Prepositional. Each case indicates a different grammatical function.
Nominative: Subject of the sentence (кто? что? - who? what?)
Genitive: Possession, absence (кого? чего? - whose? of what?)
Dative: Indirect object (кому? чему? - to whom? to what?)
Accusative: Direct object (кого? что? - whom? what?)
Instrumental: Instrument, means (чем? чем? - by whom? by what?)
Prepositional: About someone/something (о ком? о чём? - about whom? about what?)

Basic Vocabulary

Greetings and Introductions

Здравствуйте!	Hello! (Formal)
Привет!	Hi! (Informal)
Как дела?	How are you?
Хорошо, спасибо.	I'm fine, thank you.
Меня зовут...	My name is...
Очень приятно.	Nice to meet you.

Verbs and Conjugation

Basic Verbs

Быть (To be)	Important for forming sentences. Often omitted in the present tense.
Иметь (To have)	Used to express possession.
Делать (To do/make)	Common verb for various actions.
Говорить (To speak)	Used for talking or speaking a language.
Знать (To know)	Used for knowing a fact.

Pronunciation Rules

о	When unstressed, usually pronounced as a short 'a' sound (like the 'a' in 'about').
г	Pronounced as 'v' in the genitive ending -оро and -еро.
ж and ш	Always hard sounds, even before 'и'.
ч and щ	Always soft sounds.
ь (soft sign)	Softens the preceding consonant. For example, 'письмо' (letter) has a soft 'с'.

Pronouns

Я	I
Ты	You (informal)
Он/Она/Оно	He/She/It
Мы	We
Вы	You (formal/plural)
Они	They

Common Phrases

Да	Yes
Нет	No
Спасибо	Thank you
Пожалуйста	Please / You're welcome
Извините	Excuse me / Sorry
Я не понимаю	I don't understand

Verb Conjugation Basics

Russian verbs are conjugated based on person (я, ты, он/она/оно, мы, вы, они) and tense (past, present, future).
There are two main conjugation types, traditionally called First Conjugation and Second Conjugation, with different endings.
Example (Present Tense): Я читаю (I read), Ты читаешь (You read), Он/Она читает (He/She reads), Мы читаем (We read), Вы читаете (You read), Они читают (They read)