

1. Russian phonetics for foreigners.

Do you want to speak with the perfect Russian pronunciation?

It is very easy to remember 33 Russian Cyrillic symbols,

абвгд е ё ж з и йклмнопрс туфхчцшщъыь э ю я
 [abvgd 'e-je 'o-jo zh z i jkL mno prs tuF kh ch ts sh sh' ' yu " e 'u-ju 'a-ja]
 and their transcription in Latin symbols.

but it is not easy to learn to read the phrases, that written in these Russian symbols!

There are the six rules for the Russian reading aloud. Please, you compare:

We write: Что я сделаю для него? What will I do for him?

We speak: [шТО йА зд'Элайу дл'А н'ивО?]

In English: [sh-to_ya_zdelayu_dla_nivo?]

For your study of Russian pronunciation,

you must read aloud the many Russian texts with the phonetic transcription,

you must repeat aloud that you listen from the mp3 recording of these texts.

But firstly you must know these four simple rules:

1. There are 42 sounds in Russian language. Six vowels. Thirty six consonants.

Only the five Russian sounds have an especial tongue position in your mouth.

Ы = [y_], hard vowel of и, (и as the У.

_____, You prepare your lips to speak sound of У, but say the sound of и),

Ж = [zh_], as in French "je_". (or as in English [ʒ], as ['pleʒe] in "pleasure", (the pleasure)

Х = [kh_], as in Spanish "j_",

Щ = [sh'] = [sh_ palatalized], the central part of the tongue is raised more than in Ш [sh_].

Р = [R_], as in Spanish "R_ ", with your straight tongue,

_____, which quickly works as a motor, backward and forward.

2. The other 36 Russian sounds are the same sounds, as in your native language.

3. Every consonant sound has two versions: the hard pronunciation, the soft pronunciation.

The hard consonants are in normal position of tongue.

The soft consonants are pronounced with the central part of tongue,
which more raised, than for the hard consonants.

[б'в' г'д' з' к'л' м'н' п'р'с' т' ф' х'], the soft consonants of Russian.

[абв гдэ ж-з-и й-клмно прс туф х-ч-ц ш-щ-ы], the hard consonants.

----- and the six vowels: [а э и о у ы]

[abv gde zh-z-i j-kL mno prs tuF kh-ch-ts sh-sh'-yy],

Their pronunciation in Latin symbols.

4. Please, you speak the accented syllable with more strong voice and for more long time,
than the unaccented syllable.

In the dictionaries the accented syllable has an accent mark above the vowel. рабОта

In our MiR2050 phonetic transcription, the big symbols will show the accented vowels.

рабОта [рабОта]

2. The six rules of reading for the Russian words.

Russian people pronounce the symbols by other mode as these written symbols must sound!

Please, you compare:

We write: что я сделаю для него? What will I do for him?

We speak: [штО йА зд'Элайу дл'А н'иво?]

1. Consonants are hard and soft, ("soft" means "palatal").

In phonetic transcription the soft sounds have apostrophes: [б' в' г' д' з' ...],

in the texts the consonants are pronounced in soft mode before the symbols of Я Е Ё И Ю Ъ.

In phonetic transcription the hard sounds are without the apostrophes,

in the texts the consonants are pronounced with hard position of tongue

before the symbols of А Э О Ы У Ъ.

бя ба ве вэ дё до ми мы ню ну сь сь
[b'a ba v'e ve d'o do m'i my n'u nu s' s]

2. Unaccented vowels are pronounced with more weak voice that the accented vowels.

The unaccented symbols “и э е” are pronounced as [и].

The unaccented symbol “о” is pronounced as [а].

, экономно=[иканОмна], телефонист=[т'ил'ифан'Ист].

3. The Russian symbols Я Е Ё Ю are read with [й] at the beginning of the words,

or after the symbols “ь ъ”, or after the vowels:

, её=[йийО], яснее=[йисн'Эйэ], пью=[п'йу], съест=[сйЭст] .

4. The voiceless sound becomes voiced before the voiced sounds:

сб=[зб], сг=[зг], сд=[зд], сз=[зз], сж=[зж] _ сделать=[зд'Элат']

кб=[гб], кг=[гг], кд=[гд], кз=[гз], кж=[гж] _____ вокзал=[вагзАл]

тб=[дб], тг=[дг], тд=[дд], тз=[дз], тж=[дж] _____ отдых=[Оддых]

5. The voiced sound becomes voiceless before the voiceless sound and at the end of words:

идти=[иттИ], кавказ=[кафкАс], зуб=[зуп]

...в=[...ф], вп=[фп], вк=[фк], вт=[фт], вс=[фс], вш=[фш]

...д=[...т], дп=[тп], дк=[тк], дт=[тт], дс=[тс], дш=[тш]

...з=[...с], зк=[ск], зт=[ст] ...б=[...п], бк=[пк], бс=[пс]

...г=[...к], гк=[кк], гс=[кс], .. ж=[...ш], жк=[шк], жт=[шт], жс=[шс]

6. The symbol “и” are pronounced as [и] or [ы],

жи=[жы], ши=[шы], ци=[цы],

In the end of the word the hard sound makes the initial “и” as [ы], in the next word.

цирк и жир =[цырк ы жыр]

If you want to remember all rules of Russian reading and pronunciation,
you must to read aloud the Russian texts
with phonetic transcription and their mp3 recording.

On website MIR2050 <http://mir2050.narod.ru/rus.html>

we prepared for you many books, films, subtitles, phrase books
with phonetic transcription and mp3 recording, etc.

Welcome to learn Russian!