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FRIENDLY RUSSIAN

Introductory Course

Part I

RUSS 1201

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Preface

This Introductory course is called “Friendly Russian” for two main reasons: first, because I did my best not to leave anything unexplained (with the exception of one section – see below); second, because the course has a very practical orientation, both in terms of vocabulary and grammar. The course also gives you some tips on Russian culture, which is very important in any intercultural activity.

Organization of the book

This Introductory Course consists of **three chapters**.

The primary purpose of the first chapter is to teach you how to read Russian. Russian is written in the Cyrillic alphabet. On your way, you will get familiar with many Russian words (mostly nouns) and will also learn some important grammar structures.

The second chapter will introduce you to Russian verb conjugations, the prepositional case of nouns and personal pronouns, as well as basic numerals.

In the third chapter, students are introduced to basic adjectives and other adjectival words, as well as more numerals (cardinal and ordinal).

After completion of this course, you are expected to have mastered reading, to be able to name many things around you, to describe them, to say (and to ask) who they belong to, where they are located, and also to speak about yourself your family, about some places (cities/towns, houses, dormitories, etc.), and some activities. All of this should give you a very solid basis for dealing with other Russian language issues later on.

Beyond the alphabet, you will find **6 sections** in every lesson:

Grammar

Reading Practice

Exercises

Survival Kit

Language and Culture

Speech Practice

All of these names are self-explanatory except perhaps for one: **From the Survival Kit**. This small section contains very common conversational formulas whose grammatical base will be explained later (in more advanced chapters). Try to put them to use right away in **Speech Practice** assignments. Such carefully selected ‘running ahead of grammar’ is necessary if you want the language to become functional sooner rather than later.

There is also a non-compulsory additional section called **The Second Tier** in some of the lessons. It is offered only for those students who plan to study Russian in greater depth.

I will expect you to do your best in learning the course. Don’t think that any language can be learned without an effort on your part (unless you are born ‘amidst it’). Usually, 1 –2 hours a day (besides the class) is enough to succeed in learning the language, and you must find time for comprehension and reading practice and doing exercises. Good luck! - Желаю удачи!

Abbreviations and Symbols

adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
F (f)	feminine
Inf.(inf)	infinitive
Imprf (imprf)	imperfective (aspect of the verb)
lit.	literal (translation)
M (m)	masculine
N (n)	neuter
Pl (pl)	plural
Prf. (prf)	perfective (aspect of the verb)
Sg (sg)	singular
Sl.	slang



The material is on audiotape

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The Russian Alphabet

print	script	Name	approximate pronunciation
Аа	<i>Аа</i>	Ah	F ather
Бб	<i>Бб</i>	Beh	B utter
Вв	<i>Вв</i>	Veh	V oice
Гг	<i>Гг</i>	Geh	G olf
Дд	<i>Дд</i>	Deh	D ay
Ее	<i>Ее</i>	Yeh	Y es
Ёё	<i>Ёё</i>	Yo	Y ork
Жж	<i>Жж</i>	Zheh	Plea S ure
Зз	<i>Зз</i>	Zeh	Z one
Ии	<i>Ии</i>	Ee	M ee t
Йй	<i>Йй</i>	ee-kratkoe-short 'и'	B oy
Кк	<i>Кк</i>	Kah	K arate
Лл	<i>Лл</i>	Ell	L ook
Мм	<i>Мм</i>	Em	M ama
Нн	<i>Нн</i>	En	N ot
Оо	<i>Оо</i>	Aw	P aul
Пп	<i>Пп</i>	Peh	P arty
Рр	<i>Рр</i>	Err	R ock
Сс	<i>Сс</i>	Ess	S alt
Тт	<i>Тт</i>	The	T om
Уу	<i>Уу</i>	Oo	M oon
Фф	<i>Фф</i>	Eff	F oot
Хх	<i>Хх</i>	Hah	Scottish " l och"
Цц	<i>Цц</i>	Tse	B oot s
Чч	<i>Чч</i>	Cheh	C heck
Шш	<i>Шш</i>	Shah	S helf
Щщ	<i>Щщ</i>	Shchah	fresh ch ease
Ъ	<i>ъ</i>	hard sign	(no sound)
Ы	<i>ы</i>	I	D in
Ь	<i>ь</i>	soft sign	(no sound)
Ээ	<i>Ээ</i>	Eh	A ny
Юю	<i>Юю</i>	Yu	U se
Яя	<i>Яя</i>	Ya	Y ard

Preface to the Chapter I

The main purpose of this chapter is to introduce you to the Russian alphabet (Cyrillic) and to teach you how read and write in Russian.

As you learn the alphabet, take notice of the boldfaced words, as they are frequently used in every day communication. Don't feel overwhelmed by their numbers, you'll encounter them frequently throughout the program and they will eventually stick. So relax and just read on!

The section **From the Survival Kit** features useful expressions to carry out a conversation. In this chapter, this section will teach you:

1. how to greet people and say good-bye.
2. how to thank and apologize.
3. how to introduce yourself and ask somebody's name.
4. how to talk about what you have.
5. how to ask about the meaning of word.
6. classroom-related expressions.

The **Grammar** sections in this chapter will introduce you to:

1. Russian word order.
2. personal pronouns (I, you, he, etc.)
3. the structure of statements and questions.
4. frequently-used conjunctions (and, or, etc.)
5. the notion of grammatical gender.
6. numerals 1-10

The **Language and Culture** section will provide information that will prove useful to avoid communication mishaps.

If by the end of this chapter you've learned how to read the Cyrillic characters, you will have accomplished the main goal of this chapter.

Chapter I – Глава I

Learning how to read and write in Russian

Lesson 1 – Урок 1

The alphabet:

Letters and sounds that are like English ones: **Aa Kk Mm Oo Cc Tt**

aa	k	m	o	s	t

Letters like English ones that sound differently: **Bb Ee Hh Pp Yy Xx**

v	yeh	n	r	u	h

Grammar: 1. Word order in statements and questions 2. Omission of the link verb in the present tense 3. Grammatical gender in Russian.

From the survival kit: Saying “hello” and “good-bye” in Russian

Language and culture: Greeting people and saying good-bye

The Russian alphabet and its origin

The Russian alphabet is called Cyrillic, after the name of one of two Greek missionary brothers from Byzantine, Cyril and Methodius. In 863 A.D., these two highly educated monks were sent to spread Christianity to Slavic tribes, then predominantly pagan. In addition to developing the alphabet, based mainly on the Greek system of writing, the brothers translated some Gospels and other parts of the Bible.

Prince Vladimir of Kiev and his Eastern Slavic people adopted Christianity a little over a century later - in 988 A.D.

The Russian alphabet has changed considerably over time but still retains its original name.

Let us begin studying the alphabet

Many people consider Russian intimidating because of the Cyrillic alphabet. As a matter of fact, you may learn to read in Russian faster than you learned to read in English. Why? First, because you already know how to read in English and some of the Roman letters are part of the Cyrillic alphabet. Second, Russian, to a great degree, is a phonetically written language. For example, the Russian 'A' when stressed, is always 'Aa' like in the word "mama"; its 'O' when stressed, is always 'Oh' like in the word "Oh"; its sound 'K' is always conveyed by the letter 'K', whereas the

letter 'C' is reserved for the sound 'S' only. The 'one letter - one sound' correlation is rather consistent, making reading in Russian a relatively easy task. As a matter of fact, you may begin to read some Russian words right away. Just watch your 'C's!

Letters (and sounds) coinciding in Latin and Cyrillic alphabets:

Aa	Kk	Mm	Oo	Cc	Tt
aa	k	m	o	s	t



Listen:

ма́ма mama	мак poppy	мо́ст bridge	ко́т tom-cat	кто́ who	та́м here	ко́смос outer space	то́ст toast
со́к juice	сто́ hundred	ма́ска mask	а́том atom	ка́к how	ка́то́к skating-rink	комо́к lump	та́к so

Pronunciation tips:

1. Please notice that accent (stress)* makes vowels slightly longer. The unstressed vowels are naturally less distinct, or so-to-say 'reduced'. This reduction makes two different vowels - 'A' and 'O' - sound very similarly in an unstressed position. Compare them in two words "ка́то́к" and "комо́к". Always pay attention to the stress. Reduction is typical of *all* unstressed vowels.

2. Most of the Russian consonants that are similar to their English counterparts are somewhat more relaxed, less intense. There is no "puff of air" typical of English consonants. For Russian "T" the tip of the tongue touches the upper teeth, not the ridge behind them (the same is true for its voiced counterpart "Д" corresponding to the English "D", but you will deal with this sound later).

Additional tip: Relax. Following note 2 is not crucial for making yourself understood. It is important only for those who want to fully get rid of their foreign accent.


Reading practice

Listen again and then read the Russian words several times until you find it easy to pronounce them. Read the words (in bold) a few more times trying to memorize your first vocabulary.

* You'll find stress-marks only in textbooks and readers published for students of Russian.

Grammar tips

1. The Russian equivalent to the verb "to be" in the *present* tense – “am,” “is,” “are” is **almost never used**, so we can already make some simple sentences out of those few words you

have just learned. Listen and read: 



Ма́ма там.
Mother is there.



Со́к там.
The juice is there



Ко́т там.
The cat is there.




2. **Russian has free word order.** So you can correctly say: 

Там ма́ма. Там со́к. Там ко́т.

However, since **the last word in a Russian sentence tends to be the most meaningful**, the sentence “ма́ма там” will sound like an answer to the question “Where is mother?” whereas the sentence with the reverse word order “там ма́ма” may be an answer to the question “Who is there?”

3. **Questions are usually formed in Russian by intonation.** The word order does not have to be changed and there are no auxiliary (helping) verbs.

Just listen and repeat: 

Ма́ма там?

Is Mother there?

Ко́т там?

Is the cat there?

Со́к там?

Is the juice there?

You can also ask: **Там ма́ма? Там ко́т? Там со́к?**

It's worth knowing the question asked when someone knocks or rings on the door:

Кто там? – Who is there?



EXERCISES in Writing

Learn how to write in script. Copy the following lines in your notebook. Repeat each set of letters and words until you fill a complete line. Make sure you understand the text:

Аа - *А а* **Кк** - *К к* **Мм** - *М м*

Оо - *О о* **Сс** - *С с* **Тт** - *Т т*

Кто там? - Who is there? *Там мама.* - Mother is there.

Там сок. - Juice is there. *Там кот.* - The cat is there.

More of the alphabet

Letters which are the same or similar, but sound differently:

Вв	Ее	Нн	Рр	Уу	Хх
v	yeh	n	r	u	h

These letters are treacherous. They stand for different sounds in Russian and you have to overcome your habit of pronouncing them as in English. It will take some training.



Read after listening and reading *pronunciation tips* below:

Вв - v **воТ** **воСТОК**
/very/ here (is/are) east

Ее - yeh **Е́ва** **век** **ме́сто** **свет** **отме́тка**
/yet/ Eve century place, seat light mark, grade

Нн - n **ноС** **неТ** **он** **она́** **оно́** **окно́** **темно́** **океа́н**
/noise/ nose no he she it window dark/adv/ ocean

ва́нна **веша́** **ко́мната** **стакáн** **стена́** **сон**
tub spring room glass wall dream (noun)

Рр - r **роТ** **река́** **мо́ре** **но́мер** **торТ** **теа́тр** **сестра́** **се́вер**
/pero/ mouth river sea number cake theater sister north

in Spanish **ка́рта** **ма́рт** **рестора́н** **страна́** **стра́нно** **метро́**
map March restaurant country strange/adv/ subway

Уу - oo (u) **у́тро** **туТ** **вкúсно** **уро́к** **су́мка** **со́ус** **рука́** **ку́ртка**
/boom/ morning here tasty(adv.) lesson bag, purse sauce hand, arm jacket

Хх - h **у́хо** **са́хар**
/loch/ ear sugar

Pronunciation tips:

1. Russian "Pp"(Rr) is a most difficult letter for some students. Not even all native Russian speakers can master it. For example, Lenin couldn't. So, you may happen to be in famous (or infamous?) company. Relax: an imperfect sounding "p" won't interfere with being correctly understood. Still, give it a try. The tip of the tongue should vibrate against the teeth-ridge. It's a trilling sound, like the Spanish or Scottish "r".
2. Add a little more friction to the Russian "X" as compared with the English "h," but don't make it too harsh or scraping, otherwise "K" may result instead of "h".
3. Like many Russian consonants, "B" becomes voiceless before other voiceless consonants and at the end of a word: in "вкúчно" (tasty) and in "пов" (ditch) it is pronounced as 'f'.
4. In an unstressed position, the vowel "e" sounds almost like "и" which corresponds to English "ee". Compare "мéсто" (place, seat) and "метро" (subway) in the lines above.

Grammar tips:

1. You have already seen three personal pronouns: **ОН** (he), **ОНА́** (she), **ОНО́** (it). In Russian, "**ОН**" and "**ОНА́**" are much more heavily employed than their English counterparts, since they **can substitute not only for living things but inanimate objects too. All inanimate objects have gender in Russian – masculine, feminine or neuter.** Thus, "урок" - lesson (**consonant** ending) is "**ОН**", "сúмка" – purse, bag ("a"- ending) is "**ОНА́**", and "ýтро" – morning ("o"- ending) is "**ОНО́**." Here are some rhyming examples with words from the lists above:

ОН - сон - (dream) - **consonant** ending (masculine gender)

ОНА́ - весна́ - (spring) - **A**-ending (feminine gender)

ОНО́ - окно́ - (window) - **O**-ending (neuter gender)

You will read more about gender in Lesson 8.

2. "**НЕТ**" and "**НЕ**": Roughly speaking, "**нет**" is "**no**" and can be used as a self sufficient negative answer: "Ма́ма тут?" – "**Нет.**"

The particle "не" is less independent and is mostly used before the word it denies (verbs, adverbs, adjectives, etc.) For example:

Са́хар там? – Нет, не там, он тут. (Is sugar there? – No, (it's) not there. It's here).

Сúмка тут? – Нет, не тут, она́ там. (Is the purse here? – No, (it's) not here, it's there).

3. **“ВОТ”** and **“ТУТ”**: **“ВОТ”** is usually translated by “here is/are” or “this is / these are,” and **“ТУТ”** means “here.”

Reading practice

1. **Listen again and read** the lists of Russian words above as many times as you need to make your pronunciation smooth. Concentrate on the words that are singled out by bold print - they are your priority to memorize.

2. **Read the following sentences:**

1. **Вот карта.** Тут восток. Тут север. **Вот страна.** Тут море. Тут река.

Here is a map. The east is here. The north is here. Here is a country. A sea is here. A river is here.

2. Он тут, она там. Как странно! - He is here, she is there. How strange!



3. **Вот торт.** - Как вкусно! - Here is the cake. - How tasty!

4. **Вот сахар.** **Вон там** соус. - Here is sugar. **Over there** is the sauce.

5. **Вот комната.** **Вот стена.** **Вот окно.** **Странно, тут темно.**
Here is the room. Here is a **wall**. Here is a window. Strange, it's dark here.

6. **Куртка тут?** - Нет, она там.
Is the jacket here? - No, it's there.

7. **Вот рука.** **Вот нос.** **Вот рот.** **Вот ухо.**
Here is a hand. Here is a nose. Here is a mouth.
Here is an ear.



куртка

8. Театр тут? - Нет, он вон там. - Is theater here? - No, it's over there.

9. Тут театр. Там ресторán.- Here is a theater. Over there is a restaurant.

10. Сумка тут, а куртка там.- The handbag is here, and the jacket is there.



сумка

EXERCISES

1. **Writing in script, copy the following lines in your notebook. Repeat each set of letters and words (until you fill a complete line). Make sure you understand the text:**

Вв - В в **Ее - Ее** **Нн - Н н**

Рр - Р р **Уу - У у** **Хх - Х х**

Тут метро. Там ресторán. - The subway is here. The restaurant is there.

Вот сумка. Вот куртка. - Here is a handbag. Here is a jacket.

рот рука ухо - mouth hand/arm ear

комната стена окно ванна - room wall window tub

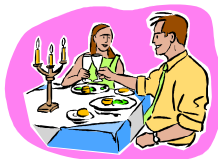
сестра урок театр стакан сахар - sister lesson theater glass sugar

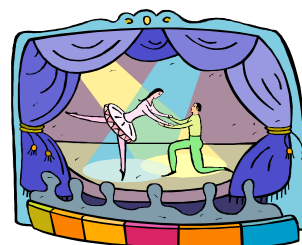
карта страна океан море река север восток

map country ocean sea river north east

2. Write proper Russian words under the pictures, both in print and script:

торт ванна театр куртка окно сахар комната страна стакан сок сумка





3. Sort the words (*nouns only!*) in bold print from the previous pages by their appropriate genders. Make sure you understand those words.


ОН: сок ... _____

ОНА: рука... _____

ОНО: окно... _____

4. Make up questions and answers according to the following model: Сумка тут? – Нет, она́ там using the following words: ванна, сахар, сок, сестра, окно, кот, место, метр, куртка and translate the results.

FROM THE SURVIVAL KIT

 **Listen and transcribe the following words and phrases.** They include sounds and letters that you haven't studied yet, but try to repeat them after the voice on the cassette. Write the expressions by using any type of transcription that you know. Memorize them.

Saying “Hello” and “Goodbye”

ЗДРАВСТВУЙТЕ! (formal) - Hello!

ДО СВИДАНИЯ! - Good bye!

здравствуй! (informal) – Hello!

пока! (informal) – So long!

привёт! (very informal) – Hi!



Здравствуйте!



До свидания!

LANGUAGE and CULTURE Greeting people and saying good-bye

The above forms of greeting and saying good-bye can be used regardless of the time of day. “Здравствуйте” is both the plural form, used in addressing more than one person, and the formal form, said to someone who is older, or superior, or just not your close friend, i.e. people with whom you are on “вы-terms” (i.e. formal terms) with. In informal relationships (among family members, close friends, and children: all those who are on “ты-terms”) its singular form “здравствуй” is used. Another informal greeting, especially popular with young people, is “привёт.” Don’t use it to greet your professor or a person who is older than you – it may sound disrespectful! Restrict “пока” to informal situations too.

Speech practice

- From now on greet each other and your professor and say goodbye in Russian. Use the informal “Здравствуй!” for classmates and formal “Здравствуйте!” for your professor and older people. Say “До свидания!” to your classmates and your professor when leaving the class.
- Working in couples, act out short dialogues like: - “Окно там?” -”Да, оно там.” or “Нет, оно не там” or “Нет, оно тут.” Use all the words you know. Alternate your roles.

LESSON 2 – УРОК 2

The alphabet: Russian vowels: А - Я; О - Ё; Э - Е; У - Ю; Ы - И.

aa	ja	o	jo	e	je	u	ju	i	ee

Grammar: Statement-forming word “ЭТО” – “This is.../These are...”

From the Survival Kit: Giving thanks

Language and culture: Thanking people and answering to thanks

RUSSIAN VOWELS

So far, we have dealt with the letters common for both Latin and Cyrillic alphabets. Before getting to letters which are different from Latin, we'll take a step aside and look exclusively at the vowels. We need to learn them sooner rather than later because no words in Russian can be formed without them.



There are 10 vowels in Russian, which can be neatly divided into 2 groups of 5:

Hard vowels	→	А	О	У	Э	Ы
		↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Soft vowels	→	Я	Ё	Ю	Е	И

The upper and lower vowels form natural couplets: each of the lower vowels (except for the last “И”) begins with a ‘j-slide’ and is a kind of ‘diphthong reflection’ of its upper counterpart. If you sing or drawl a lower vowel (except “И”), you will end up singing its corresponding vowel above.

Notice the “j-slide” quality of four vowels above – Я, Ё, Ю, Е:

Я - ja-a-a...; Ё - jo-o-o...; Ю - jy-y-y...; Е - jэ-э-э...

This division of all vowels into couplets is very important for good pronunciation, spelling, and some grammar choices (as you will see later).

Any of the upper level vowels makes a preceding consonant sound hard; any of the lower level vowels makes it sound soft.



Listen carefully (the two columns are read from left to right):

ма́ ма	- мя́ со (meat)	со́ к (juice)	- Се́ ма (Semeon)
ма́ р (mayor)	- ме́ сто (place; seat)	то́ т уро́к (that lesson)	- те́ тя (aunt)
мы́ (we)	- ми́ р (peace; world)	рука́ (hand; arm)	- рюкза́ к (backpack)

Cons
onant
s can
also
be

softened by soft sign – “Ь” (we’ll deal with it at the end of Chapter I).

It’s worth knowing that:

1. **The vowel ë is always stressed** and for that reason you will never see a stress mark above it.
2. **There are no words beginning with the vowel ы.**

Meaningful Vowels:

- Я - I** - a personal pronoun which is never capitalized in Russian unless it begins a sentence
- И - and** - a conjunction
- А - and, but** - a conjunction which usually expresses some degree of contrasting (can also be used at the beginning of a sentence to make an easier start)
- О – about**
- У - at, by, etc.** - prepositions which you will study in later chapters.

GRAMMAR

Once you know the vowel “Э,” you can start forming new sentences with the help of one of the most common words in the language – “**это**” – “**this is/these are**”:

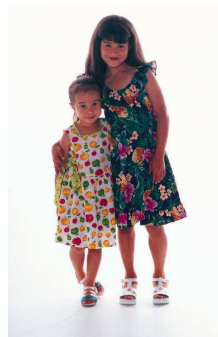
Это ка́рта. – This is a map.

Это ресто́ран. – This is a restaurant.

Это су́мка. – This is a bag/purse, etc.

Это со́к. - This is juice.

No verb is needed for the verb “to be” in the present tense, remember?



Это сестра́ и я, а это́ ко́т.



Reading practice

Read and translate the sentences below. Try to figure out the meaning of new words:

Это театр, а там кинотеатр.

Я тут, и сестра тут.

Это университет.

Это такси, а это автобус.

Это рюкзак, а это сумка.

Это квартира (apartment) номер три.

Кто это? – Это мама и тётя.

Это театр? – Нет, это не театр. Это ресторан.

Это метро? – Нет, это не метро, а театр.



Это рюкзак.



Это сумка.

EXERCISES

1. Writing in script, copy the following lines in your notebook. Repeat each set of letters and words (until you fill a complete line). Make sure you understand the text:

Ёё - Ёё Ии - Ии Ээ - Ээ Юю - Юю Яя - Яя

мир мы рюкзак - piece we backpack

мама и тётя – mother and aunt

Мы тут. – We are here.

суп и мясо - soup and meat

Кто там? - Это я, Юра. – Who is there? – It's I, Yura. (*Юра* is a man's name)

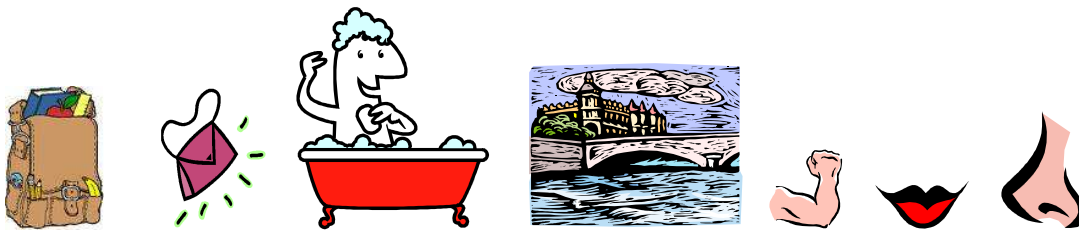
Это не театр, а метро. – This is not a theater, but a subway (station).

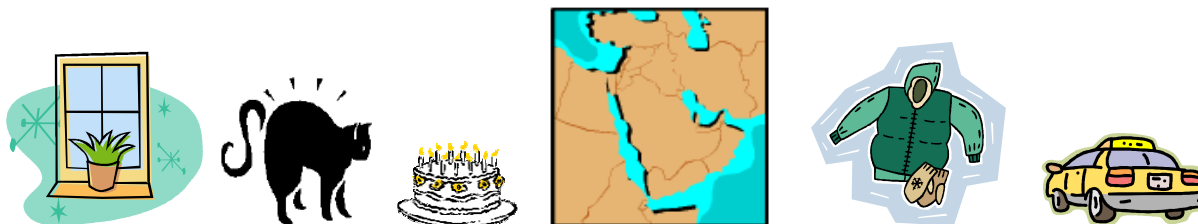
Кто это? - Это Ира. - Who is there? – It's Ira. (*Ира* is a woman's name)

Я тут, и сестра тут. – I am here and (my) sister is here.

Это всё. - This is all (that's it).


2. Make statements about what you see in the pictures. Write them both in print and script after the following model: Это кот. *Это кот.* Choose from the word bank:
рука́ рюкзак нос рот сумка река ванна кот карта куртка окно такси торт





3. Ask questions about the pictures above from exercise two. Model: “Это кот?”
Mind your intonation.
4. Make up 4-6 statements with “это” using words which are not included in the above exercises.

FROM THE SURVIVAL KIT.

 Listen and transcribe the following words and phrases. They include sounds and letters that you haven't studied yet, but try to repeat them after hearing them. Write the expressions by using any type of transcription that you know. Memorize them.

Giving thanks

- **СПАСИБО.** - Thank you.

- **ПОЖАЛУЙСТА.** - You are welcome. OR: **НÉ ЗА ЧТО.** - No problem.



Спасибо. - Пожалуйста.

Спасибо! - Нé за что.

LANGUAGE and CULTURE

Giving thanks.

The universal word of thanks is **“спасибо.”** If you want to make it sound stronger, say **“большое спасибо,”** which is an equivalent to “thank you very much,” but literally means “big thank you.”

In response to thanks, Russians tend to belittle whatever favor they did, and the most common answer is **“нé за что,”** which basically means: “there is nothing to thank me for.”

The word **“пожалуйста”** (you are welcome) in return to thanks is somewhat less common. This word **“пожалуйста”** has other meanings as well, **“please”** being the most common of them.

On the whole, Russians are considered to be less polite than the English or Americans. True, some words, or rather set phrases of English speech etiquette are not very common in Russian, for example “Thank you for calling” or “Thank you for asking.” However, this doesn’t mean that they don’t feel gratitude in their hearts.

SPEECH PRACTICE

1. Don’t forget to greet your professor and classmates in Russian when arriving to class. Also, use Russian words for “good-bye” when leaving the class (which is always done by Russian

students).

2. Thank each other and answer accordingly in Russian for any favor done.

3. Draw or cut out pictures and ask questions about things you know in Russian in class, like: "ЭТО ОКНО?"

Self-check. Answer these questions in writing and read your answers out loud:

Which Russian words related to food do you know?

Which pronouns do you know?

Name the words related to school.

Read parts of the body that you can find on the lists.

What words can be mentioned in reference to a geographical map? (cardinal points, sea, river, etc.) What words referring to nature do you know?

How many statements can you make naming things around you? (Like "ЭТО СТЕНА." – This is a wall)

What terms of kinship do you know?

Name things related to home.

LESSON 3 – УРОК 3

The alphabet: **Бб Гг Дд Ёё Зз Ии Йй**

| | | | | | |
B G D JO Z EE J

Grammar: Personal Pronouns

From the Survival Kit: Asking somebody's name and introducing oneself

Language and Culture: “ВЫ” and “ТЫ”

More of the alphabet

Different letters with familiar sounding:

Бб Гг Дд Ёё Зз Ии Йй

| | | | | | |
B G D JO Z EE J

Pronunciation tips:

1. Don't forget that Russian consonants are generally formed with less tension and without a puff of air, as opposed to their English equivalents.
2. "Д" is produced by the tip of the tongue pressed against the upper teeth (like Russian "Т", but it is voiced).
3. Many voiced consonants become voiceless (like their voiceless counterparts) at the end of a word or before a voiceless consonant (e.g.. “автобус”- bus, “всегда”- always).
4. Do your best to listen to the tape as many times as you can and imitate the pronunciation. Concentrate on the meaning as well (of words in bold), since most of them are of high priority. You will gradually memorize them through repetition alone. They will be used intensively in exercises and texts below.



Бб - B бар **собака** **брат** буква **автобус** **работа**
/bʌd/ bar dog brother letter (a, b, ..) bus work, job

Гг - g **гора** Бог берег **нога** август громко бумага
/gʊn/ mountain God shore leg, foot august loudly/adv/ paper

Дд - d да **дом** **дома** год **доска** **вода** обед друг город **диван** где вход
/dɔg/ yes house at home year board water dinner friend city sofa where entrance

Ёё – jo всё мёд
/jɔgʊrt/ everything honey

Зз - z зонт завтра завтрак зима газета звонок
/zɔʊ/ umbrella tomorrow breakfast winter newspaper bell

Ии – ee /ee/	и and	они they	кни́га book	рис rice	кино́ movie	кинотеáтр cinema	университéт university
	карти́на picture (painting)	квартíра apartment	библиотéка library	кабинéт office, study	магази́н store, shop	вино́ wine	

Йй - j /boʏ/	ой ouch	май may	дай give (me)	ру́сский Russian (m)	трамва́й street car	йо́гурт yogurt
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Note: As you can see and hear, **“И” and “Й” are different letters (and sounds).** **“И” is a vowel, whereas “Й” is a consonant.** Never forget to put the extra mark above “Й.”

Reminder: Listen and read the lines above as many times as you need for smooth pronunciation.

While you have seen a lot of new words already, and there will be more, don't feel overwhelmed by them. They will be repeated over and over again, and with some effort on your part they will stick. Here are a few tips on how to make this task easier:

- First, listen and read the words out loud as many times as it takes to become familiar with them.
- Analyze the new words. You will find some cognates that are easy to remember: **три** (three), **май** (May), **такси́** (taxi), etc. You will also find some false cognates, like **кабинет** (office), **магазин** (store), etc. Single out those words.
- When memorizing vocabulary and structures, you should try to use all types of memory: visual, auditory, etc. Listen to the tapes. Read out loud whenever you can. Make flash cards and write the translations on the other side. Work with them. Do all exercises in writing.
- Find associations of your own for harder vocabulary.
- As soon as you learn how to combine words correctly, use them in context.
- Memorize set phrases and idioms as units; don't break them into components, even if the literal translation is provided.
- When looking around you, check if you know the Russian names for things.
- Be patient. You know that practice makes perfect. ...And know yourself: Use every trick that works well *for you*.

Exercises

1. Using script, copy the following lines in your notebooks. Repeat each set of letters and words until you fill a complete line. Read them out loud. Make sure you understand the text:

Бб – *Б б* Гг – *Г г* Дд – *Д д* Ёё – *Ё ё* Зз – *З з* Ии – *И и* Йй – *Й й*
квартира картина
магазин библиотека
книга и газета
обед и завтрак
автобус и трамвай

Где вода и сок?

Кто дома? - Дома мама, брат и сестра.

2. Make a list of cognates (out of words given in both lessons).

3. Make a list of false cognates (“false translator’s friends”).

4. Write the appropriate Russian words under the pictures, both in print and script.

Word bank: диван газета дом книга зонт собака нога автобус вино мясо доска такси





5. Identify the gender of the new nouns from the word bank below and write them on the line with the appropriate pronoun. Translate. Word bank: собака работа дом вода мясо обед книга друг звонок квартира картина магазин кино трамвай

ОН _____

ОНА́ _____

ОНО́ _____



картина

READING PRACTICE

Read and translate:

1. Где кинотеатр? – Вон там. (over there) - Где вход? – Вход там.

2. Вот завтрак. Вот сок. 3. Вот обед: вот суп, вот мясо. -

- Как вкусно! 4. Это автобус номер три.

5. Где трамвай? – Вон там. - Где такси? – Вон там.

6. Вот стакан. Это вода. 7. Как тут темно!

8. Где брат и сестра? – Они́ дома. Он дома, и она дома.

9. Брат студент и сестра **студентка** (f).

10. Где собака? – Собака тут. 11. Вот книга, вот газета.

12. Это библиотека. Тут вход, а **выход** (exit) там.

13. Это урок номер **2 (два)**? – Нет, это урок номер **3 (три)**.

14. **Америка** – это страна и **континент**. **Бостон** – это город.

15. Она́ **медсестра** (nurse)? – Нет, она́ студентка.

16. Где зонт? – Вот он. – Спасибо.

17. Тут стена, а там доска. 18. Где кинотеатр? – Вон там.

19. Это квартира номер три? – Нет, это квартира номер два.

20. Это всё. Звонок.



трамвай



суп



стакан



Это город Москва́.



Это Ира.
Она́ медсестра́.

GRAMMAR: Personal Pronouns.

You already know half of them. Here are all of them in a chart:

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1 st pers.	Я - I	МЫ - we
2 nd pers.	ТЫ - you	ВЫ - you
3 rd pers.	ОН - he ОНА́ - she ОНО́ - it	ОНИ́ - they

As you see, Russian has one more pronoun than English. Like Old English and many modern European languages, Russian has two pronouns for “you.”

Read about them in paragraphs below.

LANGUAGE and CULTURE

“ТЫ” и “ВЫ”

You need to pay special attention to the difference between “ТЫ” and “ВЫ”. The first one, “ТЫ,” is the **singular informal** “you.” Russians use “ТЫ” when speaking to children, members of their family, and close friends. Young people may use “ТЫ” speaking to each other from their first meeting, or may switch to it rather soon after getting acquainted.

The second equivalent of the pronoun “you,” “ВЫ,” has a dual function. One function is the same as that of “you” plural – to address or refer to more than one person. The other function is to show respect or a distance when speaking to ONE person, for example an adult who is neither your close friend nor a family member. **Grammatically, the pronoun “ВЫ” will always agree with plural form of the verb.**

Students always use “ВЫ” when speaking to their teachers or professors. Students usually address them by their first name and patronymic and almost never use their titles – Doctor or Professor (**дóктор, профе́ссор**) which, if used at all (at formal meetings and conferences, for example) precede the last name only. In secondary school, teachers address their students by “ТЫ”, but in high school classes “ВЫ” may also be used. University students are always addressed as “ВЫ” by their professors.

Sometimes, adults who are on “ВЫ” terms - “**на вы́**” may decide to switch to “ТЫ” terms - “**на ты́**” (pronounced as one word). They usually do it by mutual agreement which, if it happens at an evening party is accompanied by drinking ‘Bruderschaft’- “**на брудерша́фт**”. They fill their glasses with a liquor, link /intertwine/ their arms, and drink, after which they kiss. More often

than not it is done between a man and a woman, often in a joking manner.

1. The pronoun “Я” is never capitalized unless it begins a sentence.
2. Try not to use “ОН” or “ОНА” in reference to a person who is present – it is considered impolite.

FROM THE SURVIVAL KIT

Asking about person’s name. 

Informal	Formal or Plural
- КАК ТЕБЯ* ЗОВУТ? - What’s your name? (lit: How do they call you?)	- КАК ВАС* ЗОВУТ?
- МЕНЯ ЗОВУТ ЛЕНА. - - My name is Lena. (lit: they call me Lena)	- МЕНЯ ЗОВУТ ЕЛЕНА ПЕТРОВНА.** - My name is Elena Petrovna. (lit: they call me Elena Petrovna)

You may exchange the phrase: **ОЧЕНЬ ПРИЯТНО.** – Nice to meet you. (lit: very pleasant)



Как тебя зовут?



Как вас зовут?



* These are the accusative forms of “ТЫ” and “ВЫ.”

** This is her first name with her patronymic (basically her father’s name), which is the formal way of addressing a person or introducing oneself. (See “Language and Culture” in Chapter II, Lesson 2.)

SPEECH PRACTICE

1. Walk around class asking each student’s name and introducing yourself.
2. Working in pairs, look around and ask your partner about the whereabouts of things in class, like: “Где окно?” The person you are asking should answer with “тут” (here) or “там” (there) or “вон там” (over there) depending on how close the thing is. Take turns in asking and answering.
3. Repeat the previous assignment, using personal pronouns in your answers, like: “Где окно?” - “Оно там.”
4. Who will you address by “ты” pronoun? Who will you address by “вы” pronoun?

LESSON 4 – УРОК 4

The alphabet: **Лл Пп Фф Ц ц Чч**

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
L P F Ts Ch

Grammar: Questions with “**Кто?**” – ‘Who?’ and “**Что?**”- ‘What?’

From the Survival kit: Asking someone’s pardon

Language and Culture: “**ванная**” and “**туалет**” – bathroom

More of the alphabet

Different letters with familiar sounding: **Лл Пп Фф Цц Чч**

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
L P F Ts Ch



Listen and read on:

Лл - l **л**éто **б**лízко **д**алеко́ **р**одители **б**илéт **х**леб **и**ли
/lɒk/ summer near far parents ticket bread or

стол **с**тул **к**рéсло **м**олоко́ **х**óдно **т**епло́ **с**лóво **к**ласс **м**ел
table chair armchair milk cold (adv) warm (adv) word class chalk

Пп - p **п**áпа **п**арк **л**áмпа **п**íво **в**опро́с **а**пте́ка **п**лóхо **п**óлка
/spɪn/ dad park lamp beer question pharmacy bad (adv.) shelf

Фф - f **ф**рúкты (pl.) **п**рофéссор **к**óфе **ф**отоаппарáт **к**óфта
/fɑr/ fruit professor coffee camera (knit) top

Цц - ts **ц**ирк **у**лица **к**ури́ца **л**ицо́ **н**аконéц **с**траница **г**остíница
/cats/ circus street chicken face at last page hotel

Чч - ch **ч**ай **ч**ас **ч**емодáн **ч**áсто **ч**ётко **р**úчка **д**óчка **у**чéбник **о**чки
/child/ tea hour suitcase often distinctly pen daughter textbook glasses

сейчáс **в**éчер **о**тлíчно **п**óчта **ч**еловéк **д**éвочка **п**очему́
now evening excellent (adv) post office person (little) girl why

Pronunciation tips:

1. Compare the **soft “Л”** in the first line with the **hard “Л”** in the second line.
2. The letter “**Ч**” is pronounced like “**Ш**” in the words “**ЧТО**” (what) and “**конечно**” (of course).

Reminder: Listen to the words above and then read them. Repeat as many times as you need to feel comfortable with your pronunciation.

GRAMMAR



Asking about people and things: “**КТО?**” and “**ЧТО?**”

КТО ЭТО? - Who is it?

ЧТО ЭТО? - What is it?

“**Это**” (this, it, these), the most general word in the Russian language, can refer to anything – people, things, situations, etc.

Asking about things you may also use an idiomatic synonym, which sounds more conversationally: “**Что это такое?**” (The adjectival word “такое” (neut.) literally means “such” but here it is just a formative element of the idiomatic question).



- **Кто** это?
- Это Виктор Иванович.
- А кто он?
- Он профессор.



- **Что** это?
- Это фотоаппарат.
- А это что?
- Это видеокamera.

Note: the question-word “Что” (pronounced “shto” – literally meaning “what”) is never used to ask about people’s professions; it is reserved for things only.

Disagreements or negative answers:

To give a negative answer to a question about things or people, you may choose one of two constructions:

- Виктор студент?
- Нет, Виктор не студент. Он профессор. Or: Нет, Виктор не студент, а профессор.
(No, Victor is not a student, but a professor.)

Reading practice

I. Read the words below. They are all cognates. Try to translate them even if you haven't seen them before.

лимо́н суп рис фо́то метро́ авто́бус во́дка класс кот стадио́н воллейбо́л баскетбо́л
 о́пера гита́ра телефо́н актри́са пилóт тури́ст до́ктор
 ра́дио ла́мпа телеви́зор студéнт студéнтка матч флаг такси́



Can you add any more cognates to the list from the words you already know?

Русский флаг

II. Read and translate the following phrases which are thematically united:

Город



Это город Москва.
 Это Красная Площадь.
 This is Red Square.

1. Россия (Russia) – это страна. Москва – это город. Москва – **столица**. (capital)
2. Гостиница близко? – Нет, далеко.
3. Где тут аптека? – Вон там (over there).
4. Где парк? – Парк далеко. - Где метро? – Вон там.
5. Где автобус? – Вон там.
6. Вот, наконец, автобус номер три.
7. Это театр? – Нет, это не театр, а библиотека.
8. **Извините**, (excuse me) магазин далеко? – Нет, близко. Вон там.

Спорт

1. Стадион далеко? – Да, далеко.
2. Теннис – это **игра** (game, play). Баскетбол - игра, бадминтон игра, и воллейбол – игра.
3. Кто он? – Он **спортсмен** (athlete). – А кто она? – Она **спортсменка** (f).

Квартира (apartment)

Виктор: - Вот квартира. Это комната. Тут стол, стул, полка и книги (pl). Тут лампа и телефон. Там окно и кресло.

Катя (looking at the picture): - Это картина или фотография?

В.: - Это фотография.

К.: - А кто это?

В.: - Это родители – мама и папа.

К.: - А кто они?

В.: - Папа доктор, а мама актриса (actress).



Это родители – мама и папа.

Разговóр (conversation)

When reading this text, pay special attention to the gender endings. Also notice that names of nationalities are not capitalized in Russian. Memorize and then act out this conversation.

- В: - Э́рик аме́риканец? - Is Eric an American?
 К: - Не́т, он ру́сскийй. - No, he is Russian.
 В: - И Ка́тя ру́сскаяя? - And Katya is Russian too?
 К: - Не́т, она аме́риканка. - No, she is an American.

Еда́ (food, meals)

Вот **ку́хня**. (kitchen) Тут ку́рица, мя́со, хлеб и фрúкты. Там - молоко́, ко́фе и сок.
 Где обе́д? - Вот обе́д: суп, мя́со, хлеб и ко́фе. Тут са́хар и молоко́.

Exercises

1. Using script, copy the following lines in your notebooks. Repeat each until you fill a complete line in your notebook. Read them out loud. Make sure you understand the text:

Лл - *Лл* Пп - *Пп* Фф - *Фф* Цц - *Цц* Чч - *Чч*

Фру́кты и ко́фе тут. - Fruit and coffee are here.

Вот ча́й, ко́фе и молоко́. - Here is tea, coffee and milk.

Родите́ли - это ма́ма и па́па. - Parents are mother and father.

Наконе́ц, родите́ли дома́. - At last, (my) parents are at home.

Кури́ца и ри́с там. - *Отлично́.* - Chicken and rice are there. - Excellent.

Зу́т холо́дно, а там те́пло. - It's cold here and it's warm there.

Че́модан и су́мка тут. - The suitcase and the bag are here.

Где би́лет? - Би́лет тут. - Where is the ticket? - The ticket is here.

До́чка дома́? - Да, она́ дома́. - Is daughter home? - Yes, she is home.

Это ру́сский уче́бник. - This is a Russian textbook.

Сейча́с ве́чер, а не у́тро. - Now it's evening and not morning.

Сейча́с зи́ма, а не ле́то. - Now it's winter, and not summer.

2. Working with the last text “Еда́” from Reading Practice, ask questions about nouns and answer using pronouns. Model: Где ла́мпа? - Вот она́. Где крэ́сло? - Вот оно́. Где стул? - Вот он.

3. Look at the pictures. Ask in Russian “What is it?” and answer with the correct Russian name. Write your answers under the pictures in script. Word bank:

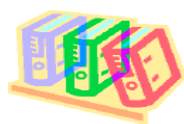
хлеб кресло фотоаппарат курица фрукты аптека улица гостиница полка стул лампа



.....

.....

.....



Hotel

.....

.....

4. Read the questions under the pictures below and disagree giving the correct answer. For Example: “Это стул?” – “Нет, это не стул, а кресло!”



Это автобус?

Это стул?

Это собака?

Это вода?

Это аптека?

LANGUAGE and CULTURE

“туалёт” and “ванная”

The Russian words “туалёт” and “ванная” cannot be used interchangeably like in English as they mean two different things. In most Russian apartments, you will find that there are two separate little rooms with different facilities. The word “ванная” is based on the word “ванна” (meaning “tub”) and that is exactly what you will find in a “ванная.” So if you ask your host where the “ванная” is, you may find yourself a bit surprised!

In public places, ask about the “туалёт” in a low voice, almost in whisper. Russians are rather discrete about this need, and usually address this question to someone of the same gender.

If you happen to go to Russia, don't be misled by the words “**кóмната óтдыха,**” which you can see at airports or railway stations. This room is what its literal meaning suggests, “a room of rest,” and it is mainly designated for mothers with small children or for old people.



вáнная



вáнна



душ



туалéт



туалéтная бума́га

Public toilets in Russia often do not have toilet paper, and it would be wise to have tissues (туалéтная бума́га) with you when you leave your hotel (гостини́ца).

Апте́ка

You won't find much beyond medications and things that are necessary for personal hygiene in a Russian drugstore - апте́ка. For food and other items, you'll need to visit a store - магази́н or a supermarket. This latter word was borrowed from English not very long ago – суперма́ркет.

FROM THE SURVIVAL KIT



Asking someone's pardon.

“Excuse me please.”

Informal

Извини́, пожа́луйста.

Прости́, пожа́луйста.



Formal

Извини́те, пожа́луйста.

Прости́те, пожа́луйста.

You can use either of the words - “извини́/те” or “прости́/те” - to ask someone's pardon or forgiveness. They are synonyms, but the second word is a little stronger. Either of the words can also precede questions aimed at information gathering, for example: “**Извини́те, где метро́?**” “**Прости́те, где тут апте́ка?**” (pharmacy, drugstore)

SPEECH PRACTICE

1. Working in pairs, ask each other about things or people around you: “Что это?” or “Что это такое?” and “Кто это?” and answer accordingly. You may also use pictures or drawings. Alternate asking questions and answering. If you don't know the answer, say in Russian: “**Я не знаю.**” (I don't know) and study those words better.
2. Ask questions that provoke disagreement, like: “Это стол?” “Нет, это не стол, а стул.” Use as much of your vocabulary as you can.
3. Working in pairs, take turns asking each other politely about whereabouts of things, like: “Извините (or: простите), где тут аптека?” – “Недалеко, вон там.” – “Спасибо!” – “Не за что.”
4. Ask for pardon if you accidentally bumped into somebody or caused some inconvenience.

The second tier:

1. As you know from the preceding lesson, questions about things have their idiomatic synonyms, including an extra word “такое”(n), which adds some colloquial sound: “Что́ это?” = “Что это такое?” The questions about people may be formed in the same way, but the word “такое”(n) takes either masculine or feminine ending: “Кто́ это?” = “Кто́ это тако́й?” (m) or “Кто́ это така́я?” (f). You can also ask: “Кто он тако́й?” (m), “Кто она́ така́я?(f).”

2. When used with personal pronouns “ты” and “вы,” the word “что” becomes a part of an idiomatic exclamation expressing strong disagreement: “**Что́ ты!**”, “**Что́ вы!**” – “Oh, no – no way!!!,” “What are you talking about?!” For example:

- Ви́ктор студéнт?

- **Что́ ты!** Он до́ктор.

- Тут темно́.

- It's dark here.

- **Что́ вы!** Тут светло́!

- Oh, no! It's bright here!

Exercise

Read the questions under the pictures in exercise 4 of this lesson and strongly disagree giving the correct answer. For example: “Это стул?” – “Что ты, это кресло!”