

The Russian Alphabet (with English, Polish, and German Equivalents)

Printed Russian	Handwritten Russian	English	Polish	German
А а	<i>А а</i>	a	a	a
Б б	<i>Б б</i>	b	b	b
В в	<i>В в</i>	v	w	w,v
Г г	<i>Г г</i>	g(h)	g(h)	g(h)
• Used for h in non-Russian words, pronounced as v in the genitive ending -ГО.				
Д д	<i>Д д</i>	d	d	d
Е е	<i>Е е</i>	ye,e	ie,je,e	je,e
• Pronounced as ye (Pol./Ger. as je) initially, after vowels, and after Ъ.				
Ж ж	<i>Ж ж</i>	zh	ż,rz	zh,sh
• Polish rz is often written in old Russian as рж.				
З з	<i>З з</i>	z	z	z,s
И и	<i>И и</i>	i	i	i
• German eu is usually written in Russian as ей.				
І і	<i>І і</i>	i	i	i
• This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				
Й й	<i>Й й</i>	y	j	j
К к	<i>К к</i>	k	k	k
Л л	<i>Л л</i>	l	l	l
М м	<i>М м</i>	m	m	m
Н н	<i>Н н</i>	n	n	n
О о	<i>О о</i>	o	o	o
П п	<i>П п</i>	p	p	p
Р р	<i>Р р</i>	r	r	r
С с	<i>С с</i>	s	s	s
Т т	<i>Т т</i>	t	t	t

Printed Russian	Handwritten Russian	English	Polish	German
У у	<i>У у</i>	u	u,ó	u
Ф ф	<i>Ф ф</i>	f	f	f
Х х	<i>Х х</i>	kh	ch	ch
Ц ц	<i>Ц ц</i>	ts	c	z,tz
Ч ч	<i>Ч ч</i>	ch	cz	tsch
Ш ш	<i>Ш ш</i>	sh	sz	sch
Щ щ	<i>Щ щ</i>	shch	szcz	schtsch
Ъ ъ	<i>Ъ ъ</i>	"	no equivalent	"
• Has no sound, indicates that the previous consonant is "hard"; represented in English as ". Prior to the 1918 spelling reforms Ъ was used at the end of all words ending in a consonant unless the consonant was "soft".				
Ы ы	<i>Ы ы</i>	y	y	y
Ь ь	<i>Ь ь</i>	'	no equivalent	'
• Has no sound, indicates that the previous consonant is "soft"; represented in English as '.				
Ѣ ѣ	<i>Ѣ ѣ</i>	ye	ie,je	je
• This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				
Э э	<i>Э э</i>	e	e	e
Ю ю	<i>Ю ю</i>	yu	ju,jó	ju
Я я	<i>Я я</i>	ya	ja	ja
Ѡ ѡ	<i>Ѡ ѡ</i>	f,th	f,th	f,th
• Used in words of Greek origin, equivalent to the Greek theta (th) but pronounced and represented in English as f. • This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				
Ѳ ѳ	<i>Ѳ ѳ</i>	y	y	y
• Used in words of Greek origin, equivalent to the Greek upsilon (u,y) replaced by И after 1918 spelling reforms; represented in English as y. • This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				

CHAPTER II

THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET — Sounds and Symbols

The Russian language employs Cyrillic script, as do certain other Slavic languages: Bulgarian, Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Serbian and Macedonian. Cyrillic script was largely modeled on Greek but includes symbols derived from other sources as well as symbols devised for characteristically Slavic sounds absent in Greek. There are thirty-three characters in the modern Russian alphabet. This number was reduced from thirty-seven as a result of orthographic reforms introduced since 1917.

Буквы печатные Printed	Буквы рукописные Written	Approximate Polish Equivalent	Aproximate English Equivalent
А а	А а	a	a
Б б	Б б	b	b
В в	В в	w	v
Г г	Г г	g	g
Д д	Д д	d	d
Е е, Ё ё	Е е, Ё ё	je, jo	ye, yo
Ж ж	Ж ж	z	zh
З з	З з	z	z
И и	И и	i	i
Й й	Й й	j	y
К к	К к	k	k
Л л	Л л	l	l
М м	М м	m	m
Н н	Н н	n	n

Буквы печатные Printed	Буквы рукописные Written	Approximate Polish Equivalent	Approximate English Equivalent
О о	О о	o	o
П п	П п	p	p
Р р	Р р	r	r
С с	С с	s	s
Т т	Т т	t	t
У у	У у	u	u
Ф ф	Ф ф	f	f
Х х	Х х	ch	—
Ц ц	Ц ц	c	ts
Ч ч	Ч ч	cz	ch
Ш ш	Ш ш	sz	sh
Щ щ	Щ щ	szcz	shch
Ъ	Ъ	—	<i>hard sign</i>
Ы	Ы	y	—
Ь	Ь	—	<i>soft sign</i>
Э э	Э э	e	<i>"e" as in met</i>
Ю ю	Ю ю	ju	<i>as in you</i>
Я я	Я я	ja	ya