

## 1. Getting acquainted

Get acquainted with your new classmates. In this context, **informal** speech is appropriate. Feel free to ask how the person is doing, too.

ты: — Привет!	“Hi!”
— Привет!	“Hi!”
— Меня зовут _____. Как тебя зовут?	“Me they call _____. How you they call?”
— Меня зовут _____.	“Me they call _____.”
— <u>О</u> чень <u>п</u> риятно <u>п</u> ознак <u>о</u> м <u>и</u> ться.	“Very pleasant to get acquainted.”
— Мне <u>т</u> оже <u>о</u> чень приятно.	“For me also very pleasant.”

## 2. Vowel purity

Remember: each Russian vowel represents a single, pure sound. Be especially careful pronouncing Russian **о** and **у**.

**стол** table  
**стул** chair

**бельё** laundry  
**ключ** key

**журнал** magazine  
**университет** university

**компьютер** computer  
**телефон** telephone

Listen for the difference between **и** and **ы**. Remember — **ы** is also a single, pure vowel sound, not a combination of sounds!

**кино** cinema  
**фильм** film

**ты** you (sing.)  
**вы** you (pl.)

**мыло** soap  
**письмо** letter

**учебник** textbook  
**имя** first name

## 3. Stress

Paying attention to stress is **ESSENTIAL** in Russian. Watch for the **stress marks** in the book and pronounce accordingly!

**карандаш** pencil  
**велосипед** bicycle

**комната** room  
**кошелёк** wallet

**картина** picture  
**проблема** problem

**расписание** schedule  
**упражнение** exercise

## 4. Vowel reduction

Reduction is most conspicuous with Russian **а** and **о**. If they're **not stressed**, they may be pronounced very differently!

**окно** window  
**место** place, seat

**одеяло** blanket  
**одежда** clothing

**работа** work  
**ошибка** mistake

**зеркало** mirror  
**карандаш** pencil

**идея** idea  
**неделя** week

**страница** page  
**газета** newspaper

**письмо** letter  
**кресло** armchair

**комната** room  
**простыня** bedsheet

## 5. Consonant devoicing

Devoicing is most conspicuous in **final consonants**. Obviously, words ending in vowels will never have devoicing of this kind!

**велосипед** bicycle

**Союз** Union

**Чехов** Chekhov

**Ахматова** Akhmatova

## 6. Soft consonants

The hard / soft distinction is extremely important in Russian. Which consonants below are soft, and how do we know?

**день** day  
**шампунь** shampoo

**одежда** clothing  
**идея** idea

**ключ** key  
**неделя** week

**картина** picture  
**кошелёк** wallet

**IMPORTANT:** If you **need more review** of the alphabet and pronunciation, you are strongly urged to revisit materials (especially the video lessons) for Days 1-3 in the series.