

1. Reviewing basic greetings

Practice both versions of yesterday's dialogue; today, try telling how you really feel, choosing between four different words.

— Здравствуйте! / Здравствуй!

— Здравствуйте! / Здравствуй!

— Как у **вас** / у **тебя** дела?

— Отлично (great) / хорошо (good) / нормально (OK) / плохо (bad). А у **вас** / у **тебя**?

— Отлично (great) / хорошо (good) / нормально (OK) / плохо (bad).

— До свидания!

— До свидания!

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

Go back over the more detailed examples in the book as time allows... Today's topics will take plenty of practice to master.