

## 1. Getting acquainted

Get acquainted with your 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 приятно познаком <u>и</u> ться. | “Very pleasant to get acquainted.”       |
| — Мне <u>т</u> оже <u>о</u> чень приятно.       | “For me also very pleasant.”             |
| — Ну, мне пора <u>и</u> дти. Пока!              | “Well, for me (it’s) time to go. Bye!”   |
| — Пока!                                         | “Bye!”                                   |

## 2. Russian “e”

Believe it or not, this is one of the hardest Russian letters for students to master, because of interference from English. Remember: 1) like all Russian vowels, it is **never silent**, and always **constitutes a syllable**; 2) think of it as “**yeh**” (that is, it begins with the sound of **й** — and contrast it with the (much less common) basic vowel **э**). Also, don’t confuse **э** with the Russian version of “z” — **з**.

Never neglect to pronounce Russian **e** at the ends of words

**море** sea

**русское** Russian (n.)

**хорошее** good (n.)

**занятие** assignment

When it comes first in a word, begin with the sound of **й** (again, think — “yeh, yeh, yeh!”)

**еда** food

**еду** I’m riding

**едешь** you’re riding

**ель** fir tree

Now practice **э** — remembering that Russian **e** can itself sound like **э** after **ц** and in **borrowings** (mostly French and English).

**экзамен** exam

**кафе** café

**интернет** Internet

**полотенце** towel

Finally, remember that Russian **ё** involves an entirely different vowel sound — this is soft Russian **о**!

**ёж** hedgehog

**ещё** still

**ковёр** carpet

**ёлка** “little fir tree!”

## 3. Saying “I have…” and combining nouns and adjectives

First, practice all three forms of this chapter’s adjectives. Be sure to “stick the landing” when pronouncing those endings!

| masculine      | feminine       | neuter         |             | masculine        | feminine         | neuter           |           |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>новый</b>   | <b>новая</b>   | <b>новое</b>   | new         | <b>плохой</b>    | <b>плохая</b>    | <b>плохое</b>    | bad       |
| <b>старый</b>  | <b>старая</b>  | <b>старое</b>  | old         | <b>хороший</b>   | <b>хорошая</b>   | <b>хорошее</b>   | good      |
| <b>чистый</b>  | <b>чистая</b>  | <b>чистое</b>  | clean       | <b>большой</b>   | <b>большая</b>   | <b>большое</b>   | big       |
| <b>грязный</b> | <b>грязная</b> | <b>грязное</b> | dirty       | <b>маленький</b> | <b>маленькая</b> | <b>маленькое</b> | small     |
| <b>дорогой</b> | <b>дорогая</b> | <b>дорогое</b> | expensive   | <b>важный</b>    | <b>важная</b>    | <b>важное</b>    | important |
| <b>дешёвый</b> | <b>дешёвая</b> | <b>дешёвое</b> | cheap       | <b>любимый</b>   | <b>любимая</b>   | <b>любимое</b>   | favorite  |
| <b>трудный</b> | <b>трудная</b> | <b>трудное</b> | difficult   | <b>ужасный</b>   | <b>ужасная</b>   | <b>ужасное</b>   | horrible  |
| <b>лёгкий</b>  | <b>лёгкая</b>  | <b>лёгкое</b>  | easy, light | <b>русский</b>   | <b>русская</b>   | <b>русское</b>   | Russian   |

Now use the “**pointing word**” **это** to point out items in the room, combining them with an adjective. Watch gender!

— Что это?

**окно** window

**книга** book

**карандаш** pencil

— Это **грязный** **рюкзак**.

**учебник** textbook

**лампа** lamp

**ручка** pen

**рюкзак** backpack

**стул** chair

**телефон** telephone