

# Reference Guide for the Russian Alphabet

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Alphabetical order: А Б В Г Д Е Ё Ж З И Й К Л М Н О П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ь Э Ю Я

Russian letter	English equivalent	Sounds like
<b>The Perfect Matches</b>		
А а	A	"a" in "father"
К к	K	"k" in "king"
М м	M	"m" in "most"
О о	O	"au" in "aura" (stressed); the first "o" in "tomato" (unstressed)
Т т	T	"t" in "time"
Е е	YE	"ye" in "yellow"
<b>The False Friends</b>		
В в	V	"v" in "victory"
З з	Z	"z" in "zero"
Н н	N	"n" in "noon"
Р р	R	"r" in "bright" (rolled)
С с	S	"s" in "soup"
У у	OO	"oo" in "shoot"
Ч ч	CH	"ch" in "chair"
Х х	KH	"h" in "hoopla"
<b>The Secret Agents</b>		
Б б	B	"b" in "boy"
Г г	G	"g" in "good"
Д д	D	"d" in "desk"
Ё ё	YO	"yo" in "yonder"
П п	P	"p" in "people"
Ж ж	ZH	"s" in "pleasure"
Ф ф	F	"f" in "fast"
И и	EE	"ee" in "feet"

Й й	Y	"y" in "boy"
Л л	L	"l" in "last"
Ц ц	TS	"ts" in "its"
Ш ш	SH	"sh" in "short"
Щ щ	SHCH	"shch" in "bush chat"
Э э	E	"e" in "echo"
Ю ю	YU	English "you" but shorter
Я я	YA	"ya" in "yard"

### **The Rare Aves**

Ы ы	I	combination of "i" as in "kit" and "u" as in "sugar"
Ь ь	--	soft sign; no sound
Ъ ъ	--	hard sign; no sound