

## Ударение и Произношение – (Stress and pronunciation)

Reading in Russian can be tough for several reasons: first, you need to be able to recognize the letters; second, some words seem to never end as they are so long (this makes it hard to memorize them); and third, there are some accentuation/stress rules that you need to know in order to pronounce them correctly: *ex: писáть (to write) ≠ пúсать (to piss).*

So, if we can't help you with the first 2 problems, we can remedy Problem #3 →

The Russian language is full of stresses that are really important because if you do not stress the words properly, you might end up saying something completely different (*as you might have noticed in our example*). And the difficulty for foreigners is that stresses are never written, so basically it is through practice and repetitions that you will master pronunciation.

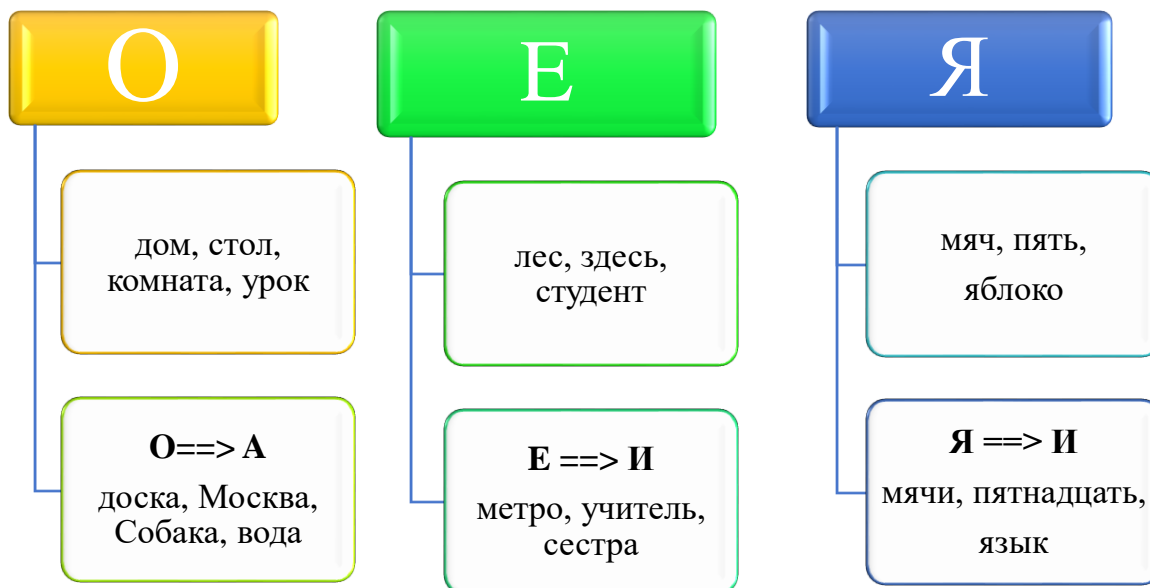
However, in order to ease the life of beginners, stresses are usually written using ' . So, whenever you see this apostrophe on the word, you will know it is the letter you must stress. **Be aware that vowels are the only letters that can be stressed!**

Now, let's have a look at the different rules!

### 1) Pronunciation rules for vowels

Here are some rules that will be necessary for you to know as time comes in order to speak, pronounce and hear the words properly:

- ✚ When **О** is not accentuated in a word, it is pronounced as А  
*ex: молоко́ (=milk) is pronounced [mAlAkO] instead of [mOlOkO]*
- ✚ If the letters **Я, Е** and **Э** are not accentuated and not situated at the end of a word, then they tend to be pronounced as И  
*ex: семья́ (=family) is pronounced [sEEmya] instead of [syemya]*
- ✚ The **Ё** letter is always accentuated in a word *ex: тяжё́лый (=hard) is pronounced [tljYOlly] instead of [tYAjyolly]*

**Practise:**

**Every word has a stress in Russian. Stressed vowels are pronounced with more strength and do not change in sound.** Now, as we said, the tricky part is that Russian people do not write the stress on the words, and there is no specific rule as to how it works, so the best you can do is, every time you learn a new word, you write down the stress, learn where it is, and just repeat.

ex:

замОк [zamók] – lock

зАмок [zámok] – castle

ýже [úzhe] – more narrow

ужé [uzhé] – already

**Exercise:** practise reading the following text on the Russian Bear out loud. You can first listen to the following audio document to get an idea if it helps:

<https://www.russianforfree.com/text-russian-bear.php>



## Русский медведь (*The Russian bear*)

Некоторые иностранцы думают, что в России медведи ходят по улицам. Конечно, это неправда! Медведи живут в лесу и не любят людей.



Встреча с медведем может быть очень опасна. Русские люди любят ходить в лес и собирать грибы и ягоды. Они делают это с осторожностью, так как медведи тоже очень любят ягоды и могут напасть на человека. Медведь ест всё: ягоды, рыбу, мясо и даже насекомых. Особенно он любит мёд.

Зимой медведи обычно спят, потому что погода слишком холодная и нет еды. Пока медведь спит, он может похудеть на 80 (восемьдесят) килограмм!

Русские люди очень похожи на медведей. Зимой они тоже становятся медлительными и много спят, потому что на улице слишком холодно и темно.

Поэтому русские любят медведей и называют их "мишки". Миша - это талисман летней олимпиады 1980 (тысяча девятьсот восьмидесятого) года в Москве.