

Family Search handout: Russian Alphabet

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Family Search

The Russian Alphabet (with English, Polish, and German Equivalents)

Printed Russian	Handwritten Russian	English	Polish	German	Printed Russian	Handwritten Russian	English	Polish	German
А а	<i>А а</i>	a	a	a	У у	<i>У у</i>	u	u,ó	u
Б б	<i>Б б</i>	b	b	b	Ф ф	<i>Ф ф</i>	f	f	f
В в	<i>В в</i>	v	w	w,v	Х х	<i>Х х</i>	kh	ch	ch
Г г	<i>Г г</i>	g(h)	g(h)	g(h)	Ц ц	<i>Ц ц</i>	ts	c	z,tz
* Used for h in non-Russian words, pronounced as v in the genitive ending -го.					Ч ч	<i>Ч ч</i>	ch	cz	tach
Д д	<i>Д д</i>	d	d	d	Ш ш	<i>Ш ш</i>	sh	sz	sch
Е е	<i>Е е</i>	ye,e	ie,je,e	je,e	Щ щ	<i>Щ щ</i>	shch	szez	schtsch
* Pronounced as ye (Pol./Ger. as je) initially, after vowels, and after b.					Ъ ъ	<i>Ъ ъ</i>	"	no equivalent	"
Ж ж	<i>Ж ж</i>	zh	z,rz	zh,ah	* Has no sound, indicates that the previous consonant is "hard"; represented in English as ". Prior to the 1918 spelling reforms Ъ was used at the end of all words ending in a consonant unless the consonant was "soft".				
* Polish rz is often written in old Russian as рж.					Ы ы	<i>Ы ы</i>	y	y	y
З з	<i>З з</i>	z	z	z,s	Ь ь	<i>Ь ь</i>	"	no equivalent	"
И и	<i>И и</i>	i	i	i	* Has no sound, indicates that the previous consonant is "soft"; represented in English as '.				
* German eu is usually written in Russian as еу.					Ѣ ѣ	<i>Ѣ ѣ</i>	ye	ie,je	je
І і	<i>І і</i>	i	i	i	* This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				
Й й	<i>Й й</i>	y	j	j	Э э	<i>Э э</i>	e	e	e
К к	<i>К к</i>	k	k	k	Ю ю	<i>Ю ю</i>	yu	ju,jó	ju
Л л	<i>Л л</i>	l	l	l	Я я	<i>Я я</i>	ya	ja	ja
М м	<i>М м</i>	m	m	m	Ө ө	<i>Ө ө</i>	f,th	f,th	f,th
Н н	<i>Н н</i>	n	n	n	* Used in words of Greek origin, equivalent to the Greek theta (th) but pronounced and represented in English as f.				
О о	<i>О о</i>	o	o	o	* This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				
П п	<i>П п</i>	p	p	p	Ѳ ѳ	<i>Ѳ ѳ</i>	y	y	y
Р р	<i>Р р</i>	r	r	r	* Used in words of Greek origin, equivalent to the Greek upsilon(u,y) replaced by и after 1918 spelling reforms; represented in English as y.				
С с	<i>С с</i>	s	s	s	* This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.				
Т т	<i>Т т</i>	t	t	t					

Letters that look
and sound like
English letters

A
I (old letter)
K
M
O
T

Same letters, different sounds

B - sounds like V
E - sounds like Ye
H - sounds like N
P - sounds like R
C - sounds like S
Y - sounds like OOO
X - sounds like Kh (guttural)

New Letters

Б – sounds like B	Ц – Sounds like Ts
Г – sounds like G	Ч – Sounds like Ch
Д – sounds like D	Ш – sounds like Sh
Ж – sounds like Zh	Щ – sounds like Shch
З – sounds like Z	Ы – sounds like ui
И – sounds like I	Ѣ - sounds like ye (old letter)
Й – sounds like Y	Э – sounds like Eh
Л – sounds like L	Ю – sounds like Yu
П – Sounds like P	Я – sounds like ya
Ф – Sounds like F	Ѧ – sounds like F or Th



ACTIVITY

Find the following words or forms of these in the headings for these church records in order to determine what information each column contains:

Metrical Books	Метрические книги (3)
Those being born	родившихся (3)
Baptism	крещение(2)
Marriage	брак(3)
Deceased	умерший(3)
Year (date/Sing)	год(3)
Day	день(3)
Month	месяц(3)
Age	лета(3)
Gender	пола(6)
Male	мужский(3)
Female	женский(3)
Title/rank	звание(5)
Given Name	имя(6)
Patronymic	отчество(5)
Surname	фамилия(5)
Parents	родители(1)
Godparents	восприемники(1)
Bride	невеста(1)
Groom	жених(1)
Death	смерть(1)
Burial	погребения(3)

Метрической книги 1857 года					
Счетъ родившихся.		Мѣсяцъ и день.		Имена родившихся.	Званіе, имя, отчество и фамилія родителей.
Мужскаго пола.	Женскаго пола.	Рожденіе.	Крещеніе.		

часть первая о родившихся.	
Званіе, имя, отчество и фамилія воспріемниковъ.	Кто совершалъ таинство крещенія.

Метрической книги на 1864 годъ					
Счетъ браковъ.	Мѣсяцъ и день.	Званіе, имя, отчество, фамилія жениха и которымъ бракомъ.	Лѣта жениха.	Званіе, имя, отчество, фамилія невѣсты и которымъ бракомъ.	Лѣта невѣсты.

часть вторая о бракосочетавшихся. 139	
Кто совершалъ таинство.	Кто были поручители.

Метрической книги на 1858 годъ							
Счетъ умершихъ.		Мѣсяцъ и день.		Званіе, имя, отчество и фамилія умершаго.	Лѣта умершаго.		Отъ чего умеръ.
Мужскаго пола.	Женскаго пола.	Смерти.	Погрѣбе- нія.		Мужскаго пола.	Женскаго пола.	

часть третья о умершихъ. 167	
Кто исповѣдывалъ и пріобщалъ.	Кто совершалъ погребеніе и гдѣ погребены.