

INTRODUCTION

PRONOUNCIATION COURSE



WHAT IS PHONETICS?

Dear friends, thank you so much for joining my Russian pronunciation course! I really hope that together we can improve your speaking skills dramatically:)

Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that studies the sounds of human speech. Easy, right? Not when it comes to Russian :D In this course, not only will you study the sounds themselves but also the rules of stress and intonation.

The major thing you need to understand from the very beginning is the **difference between letters and sounds**.

ДЕВЯТЬСОТ sounds like **ДИВИЦОТ** and **ОНА** all of a sudden is **АНА**, and some guy named **ИВАНОВ** turns out to be **ИВАНОФ** in reality.

You have probably heard that Russian spelling is essentially **phonetic** (each letter represents a certain sound). However, you still need to recognize some situations when things might deviate a little bit. Don't worry, by the end of this course, you'll nail all those things down.

Introduction

Pronunciation course



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

First of all, languages can't even exist without phonetics (let's leave the "dead" ones alone). I mean, normally, we study foreign languages to COMMUNICATE, to SPEAK with other people. And you can't speak until you understand how phonetics works in this particular language.

Second, you want native speakers to **understand** you, right? Unfortunately, it is a very common situation when foreigners say something (for example, try to buy a ticket or ask for help when they are lost), and Russians don't understand what they are being asked.

Also, don't forget that different people have a **different level of tolerance** for such things. Someone might be patient as an angel and look at you blinking while you repeat the same phrase again and again. Others will simply say "ugh whatever" and be on their way. Pretty discouraging. I want to make sure that it never happens to you!

INTRODUCTION

PRONUNCIATION COURSE



WHY DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH PRONUNCIATION?

First, it is very difficult to forget what you're used to. Our “**articulation base**” (the way our lips and tongue produce sounds) is something that was formed in early childhood and has been actively used every day since then. Each language requires its special “articulation base”.

Imagine that you have been brushing your teeth in the clockwise direction with your right hand for 40 years. Suddenly, you have to do it with your left hand and counterclockwise. That would feel really uncomfortable at the beginning. It is the same with sounds! For example, you've been pronouncing T one way for many years, now you need to learn to pronounce it differently. SO, be prepared to do some exercises in order to “reform” your articulation base.

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THIS COURSE?

PART 1 – Here we learn how to pronounce Russian sounds (especially the most difficult ones). This part consists of several theoretical videos and a lot of audio “listen and repeat” exercises.

PART 2 – Here we get from sounds to words and sentences. You will learn about stress and intonation in the Russian language. Prepare to speak a lot in this section!

INTRODUCTION

PRONOUNCIATION COURSE



PART 3 – This is a 100% practical section. I’ve made audio recordings of the most commonly used Russian phrases. You can listen and repeat until you master them all.

PART 4 – Imitation technique, also known as “shadowing”. Here, you’ll have 5 videos about 5 different emotions (excitement, sadness, curiosity, fatigue, anger). Your goal is to copy each and every phrase 100%. This exercise helps you to speak Russian as naturally as possible.

BONUS LESSONS – Some additional material that might help you.

Good luck! Let’s make your pronunciation amazing together!