



LESSON 3

VOWELS И AND Ъ

И [ee] – Russian И is one of the so-called soft vowels (we will talk about them in the next lessons). It is shorter than the sound in the words ‘people’ and ‘feet’. Try to make a short and long И sound. It is important to understand the position of your tongue. This will help you later when we speak about the soft consonants.

Ь [ih] – Russian Ъ is unique. There is no such sound in English. I will teach how to pronounce it in several ways (watch the video).

1. Put a pencil between your teeth and push your tongue backwards. Then try to say ‘its’ several times. Now try it without the pencil.
2. Start with the long sound У. Then try to smile really wide until you hear Ъ.
3. Start with long И, then move your tongue back a little (you can use a spoon) until you hear Ъ.

In this lesson, you only need to understand the difference between your tongue positions. **И-position and Ъ-position.**



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EXERCISES

Listen and repeat (be prepared that your mouth will feel very uncomfortable)

Ы-Ы-Ы;

ПЫ-ПЫ-ПЫ, БЫ-БЫ-БЫ, МЫ-МЫ-МЫ, ВЫ-ВЫ-ВЫ, ФЫ-ФЫ-ФЫ,
ГЫ-ГЫ-ГЫ, ДЫ-ДЫ-ДЫ, НЫ-НЫ-НЫ, СЫ-СЫ-СЫ, ЗЫ-ЗЫ-ЗЫ, ТЫ-ТЫ-
ТЫ, КЫ-КЫ-КЫ;

ЫП-ЫП-ЫП, ЫБ-ЫБ-ЫБ, ЫМ-ЫМ-ЫМ, ЫВ-ЫВ-ЫВ, ЫФ-ЫФ-ЫФ,
ЫГ-ЫГ-ЫГ, ЫД-ЫД-ЫД, ЫН-ЫН-ЫН, ЫС-ЫС-ЫС, ЫЗ-ЫЗ-ЫЗ, ЫТ-ЫТ-
ЫТ, ЫК-ЫК-ЫК;

ЫПЫ-ЫПЫ-ЫПЫ, ЫБЫ-ЫБЫ-ЫБЫ, ЫМЫ-ЫМЫ-ЫМЫ, ЫВЫ-ЫВЫ-
ЫВЫ, ЫФЫ-ЫФЫ-ЫФЫ, ЫГЫ-ЫГЫ-ЫГЫ, ЫДЫ-ЫДЫ-ЫДЫ, ЫНЫ-
ЫНЫ-ЫНЫ, ЫСЫ-ЫСЫ-ЫСЫ, ЫЗЫ-ЫЗЫ-ЫЗЫ, ЫТЫ-ЫТЫ-ЫТЫ,
ЫКЫ-ЫКЫ-ЫКЫ;

ПЫПЫ-ПЫПЫ-ПЫПЫ, БЫБЫ-БЫБЫ-БЫБЫ, МЫМЫ-МЫМЫ-МЫМЫ,
ВЫВЫ-ВЫВЫ-ВЫВЫ, ФЫФЫ-ФЫФЫ-ФЫФЫ, ГЫГЫ-ГЫГЫ-ГЫГЫ,
ДЫДЫ-ДЫДЫ-ДЫДЫ, НЫНЫ-НЫНЫ-НЫНЫ, СЫСЫ-СЫСЫ-СЫСЫ,
ЗЫЗЫ-ЗЫЗЫ-ЗЫЗЫ, ТЫТЫ-ТЫТЫ-ТЫТЫ, КЫКЫ-КЫКЫ-КЫКЫ.