

LESSON 8

SEPARATION SIGNS: Ъ AND Ь



Soft sign Ь

You are already familiar with the soft sign and its first function – softening of consonants. Today, you will learn what else it is capable of!

First, do you remember our conversation about the soft vowels Я, Е, Ё, Ю? They consist of Ъ and one of the hard vowels (ЙА, ЙЭ, ЙО, ЙУ). While softening of the consonants, the initial Й sound was lost (МЯТЬ, НЮД, ЛЮК). However, there is a way to save that Й sound. And this is when we need the soft sign again.

The second goal of the soft sign is “separation.” When Ь comes between a consonant and a vowel, you soften the consonant AND save the Й sound of the vowel.

Listen to the examples:

ПЮ – ПЬЮ;

КОНЬЯК;

ВЬЮН;

СУДЬЯ.

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Hard sign Ъ

What if you don't need to soften a consonant? What if you want to keep it hard even before a soft vowel? That's when you need a hard sign. It always stands between a consonant and a vowel, and you should keep the consonant hard and keep the initial Ъ sound of a soft vowel.

Listen to the examples:

СЪЁМ;

ОБЪЕКТ;

ИЗЪЯН.

It's easy to remember their functions from their names – the soft sign softens a consonant, the hard sign keeps it hard. That's how simple it is! Just kidding ;) I know how difficult it is, so don't rush forward, try to master pronunciation step by step.

Listen and repeat:

БЮ, БЮ, БЮ; СУДЬЯ, СУДЬЯ, СУДЬЯ; КОНЬЯК, КОНЬЯК, КОНЬЯК;
ВЬЮН, ВЬЮН, ВЬЮН; СТАТЬЯ, СТАТЬЯ, СТАТЬЯ; ЛЬЁТ, ЛЬЁТ, ЛЬЁТ;

ПЮ – ПЬЮ, ПЮ – ПЬЮ, ПЮ – ПЬЮ; БЯ – БЬЯ, БЯ – БЬЯ, БЯ – БЬЯ; МЕ –
МЬЕ, МЕ – МЬЕ, МЕ – МЬЕ; ТЁ – ТЬЁ, ТЁ – ТЬЁ, ТЁ – ТЬЁ;

СЪЁМ, СЪЁМ, СЪЁМ; ИЗЪЯН, ИЗЪЯН, ИЗЪЯН; ОБЪЕКТ, ОБЪЕКТ, ОБЪЕКТ;
ПОДЪЕЗД, ПОДЪЕЗД, ПОДЪЕЗД; ПОДЪЁМ, ПОДЪЁМ ПОДЪЁМ;

ПЬЮ – ПЬЮ, ПЬЮ – ПЬЮ, ПЬЮ – ПЬЮ; БЬЯ – БЬЯ, БЬЯ – БЬЯ, БЬЯ – БЬЯ;
МЬЕ – МЬЕ, МЬЕ – МЬЕ, МЬЕ – МЬЕ; ТЬЁ – ТЬЁ, ТЬЁ – ТЬЁ, ТЬЁ – ТЬЁ.