How Ukrainian sounds Ви́мова

The trick: Ukrainian is read as it's written, and every letter is said. This page is the short version: all 33 letters, one by one, are on the Ukrainian alphabet chart. **Under each word:** CAPITALS show the stressed syllable, y is the short i in bit, i is ee, kh is the ch in loch, zh is the s in pleasure, and ' is a soft sound.

Letters	Sounds like	Example
а е и і о у	every vowel clear and full, stressed or not: a, e, short i, ee, o, oo	молоко́ mo-lo-KO milk
Г г	a soft, breathy h with your voice in it, as in hello	голова́ ho-lo-VA head
Ґ ґ	a hard g, as in go; only a few words use it	ґа́нок GA-nok porch
И и · І і	и is short, the i in bit (y below); i is ee in see	лис / ліс lys / lis fox / forest
Ї ї	always yi, two sounds, as in yield	Украї́на u-kra-YI-na Ukraine
Є є	ye in yes; after a consonant it softens it	Євро́па ye-VRO-pa Europe
Я я · Ю ю	ya and yu; after a consonant they soften it	я́блуко / дя́кую YA-blu-ko / DYA-ku-yu apple / thank you
Щ щ	shch, one letter, as in fresh cheese	борщ borshch borshch
Х х	ch in Scottish loch	хліб khlib bread
Ч ч · Ш ш	ch in chat, sh in shop	чай / шко́ла chai / SHKO-la tea / school
Ж ж · Ц ц	ж is s in pleasure, ц is ts in cats	жі́нка / цу́кор ZHIN-ka / TSU-kor woman / sugar
Ь ь	the soft sign: no sound, it softens the letter before	день / сіль den' / sil' day / salt
’	the apostrophe: the letter before stays hard, then ya, yu, ye, yi	м’я́со / п’ять MYA-so / pyat' meat / five
в	v; at the end of a syllable, close to the w in now	вовк / любо́в vovk / lyu-BOV wolf / love
дж · дз	one sound each: j in jam, ds in words	джміль / дзвін dzhmil' / dzvin bumblebee / bell

Let every vowel ring: o stays o and e stays e, even without stress: молоко́ mo-lo-KO, three clear o's. That's what makes Ukrainian sound so melodic.

Stress moves: it can fall on any syllable, and it can move when the word changes: рука́ / ру́ки ru-KA / RU-ky, hand / hands. Sometimes it changes the meaning: за́мок / замо́к ZA-mok / za-MOK, castle / lock. Books and subtitles don't mark it, so this sheet does.

How words work Грама́тика

No a, no the: Ukrainian has no articles, so кіт kit is a cat or the cat. Context does the work.

Every noun is masculine, feminine or neuter

той

masculine: often ends in a consonant

той дім toi dim, house

той чай toi chai, tea

той хліб toi khlib, bread

та

feminine: often ends in -a or -я

та ка́ва ta KA-va, coffee

та

п

і

сня

ta PIS-nya, song

та вода́ ta vo-DA, water

те

neuter: often ends in -о or -е

те вікно́ te vik-NO, window

те мо́ре te MO-re, sea

те село́ te se-LO, village

Tendencies, not rules: та́то TA-to, dad, ends in -о but is masculine. Ніч nich, night, is feminine with no -а. And -я can be neuter: життя́ zhyt-TYA, life; ім'я́ i-MYA, name. On the next pages the noun itself wears its gender colour, so you don't have to guess.

Endings change with the job in the sentence

ка́ва
KA-va
coffee: the dictionary form

Я п'ю ка́ву.
ya pyu KA-vu.
I drink coffee.

без ка́ви
bez KA-vy
without coffee

з ка́вою
z KA-vo-yu
with coffee

That's the case system: usually only the end of the word changes. Learn the dictionary form first; listening brings the rest.

Ти or ви

Як тебе́ зва́ти? yak te-BE ZVA-ty?
ти: friends, family, kids, anyone your age

Як вас зва́ти? yak vas ZVA-ty?
ви: strangers, older people, at work, and more than one person

Not sure? Say ви vy and wait to be offered ти ty. Writing to one person, give it a capital: Дя́кую Вам! DYA-ku-yu vam!

To be: є for everyone, and mostly left out

Я студе́нт.
ya stu-DENT.
I'm a student.

Вона́ вдо́ма.
vo-NA VDO-ma.
She's at home.

У ме́не є кіт.
u ME-ne ye kit.
I have a cat. (it means by me there is a cat)

Verbs change with the person: чита́ти, to read

я чита́ю
ya chy-TA-yu
I read

ти чита́єш
ty chy-TA-yesh
you read (casual)

він, вона́ чита́є
vin, vo-NA chy-TA-ye
he, she reads

ми чита́ємо
my chy-TA-ye-mo
we read

ви чита́єте
vy chy-TA-ye-te
you read (polite, or all of you)

вони́ чита́ють
vo-NY chy-TA-yut'
they read

No need for я: the ending already says who, so Чита́ю. chy-TA-yu. is I'm reading. To say no, put не ne before the verb: Я не зна́ю. ya ne ZNA-yu. I don't know.

The first 242 words Пе́рші слова́

How: learn five a day, then hunt for them in Kitsumi subtitles. *Pink italics* say how a word is used, not what it means.

Greetings and survival

Приві́т pry-VIT
hi *(casual)*

До́брий день DOB-ryi den'
hello, good afternoon *(polite, all day)*

До́брого ра́нку DOB-ro-ho RAN-ku
good morning

До́брий ве́чір DOB-ryi VE-chir
good evening

На добра́ніч na dob-RA-nich
good night

До поба́чення do po-BA-chen-nya
goodbye *(polite)*

Бува́й bu-VAI
bye *(casual)*

На все до́бре na vse DOB-re
all the best, take care *(a warm goodbye)*

Дя́кую DYA-ku-yu
thank you

Ду́же дя́кую DU-zhe DYA-ku-yu
thank you very much

Будь ла́ска bud' LAS-ka
please; you're welcome

Ви́бач / Ви́бачте VY-bach / VY-bach-te
sorry, excuse me *(casual / polite)*

Так tak
yes

Ні ni
no

Як спра́ви? yak SPRA-vy?
how are you? *(it means how are things?)*

Норма́льно nor-MAL'-no
fine, OK

Ду́же прие́мно DU-zhe pry-YEM-no
nice to meet you

Я не розумі́ю ya ne ro-zu-MI-yu
I don't understand

Ласка́во про́симо! las-KA-vo PRO-sy-mo!
welcome!

Смачно́го! smach-NO-ho!
enjoy your meal!

Бу́дьмо! BUD'-mo!
cheers! *(a toast)*

Question words

що shcho
what

хто khto
who

де de
where

куди́ ku-DY
where to

зві́дки ZVID-ky
where from

коли́ ko-LY
when

чому́ cho-MU
why

як yak
how

скі́льки SKIL'-ky
how much, how many

яки́й ya-KYI
which, what kind

Скі́льки це ко́штує? SKIL'-ky tse KOSH-tu-ye?
how much is it?

Me and you

я ya
I

ти ty
you *(casual)*

він vin
he

вона́ vo-NA
she

воно́ vo-NO
it

ми my
we

ви vy
you *(polite, or all of you)*

вони́ vo-NY
they

мій / моя́ / моє́ mii / mo-YA / mo-YE
my *(m / f / n word)*

твій / твоя́ / твоє́ tvii / tvo-YA / tvo-YE
your *(casual)*

ваш / ва́ша / ва́ше vash / VA-sha / VA-she
your *(polite, or all of you)*

цей / ця / це tsei / tsya / tse
this *(m / f / n)*; це is also this is, it's

Little words

і i
and

а a
and, but *(to contrast)*

але́ a-LE
but

або́ a-BO
or

чи chy
or; also starts a yes or no question

теж tezh
also, too

ду́же DU-zhe
very

тро́хи TRO-khy
a little

бага́то ba-HA-to
a lot, many

ті́льки TIL'-ky
only, just

вже vzhe
already

ще shche
still, yet, more

тут tut
here

там tam
there

з z
with

без bez
without

бо bo
because

мо́жливо MOZH-ly-vo
maybe

Будь ла́ска does a lot: it means please, and also you're welcome and here you are. Дя́кую! DYA-ku-yu! Будь ла́ска! bud' LAS-ka!
Thank you! You're welcome!

People and time Лю́ди і час

Family

ма́ти MA-ty
mother

ба́тько BAT'-ko
father *(masculine, despite the -o)*

ма́ма MA-ma
mum

та́то TA-to
dad *(masculine too)*

брат brat
brother

сестра́ ses-TRA
sister

син syn
son

до́нька DON'-ka
daughter

баб(у́)ся ba-BU-sya
grandma

ді́дусь DI-dus'
grandpa

дя́дько DYAD'-ko
uncle

тітка TIT-ka
aunt

батьки́ bat'-KY
parents *(plural)*

сім'я́ sim-YA
family

роди́на ro-DY-na
family; also relatives

People

люди́на lyu-DY-na
person *(feminine, for anyone)*

лю́ди LYU-dy
people *(plural)*

чоловік cho-lo-VIK
man; husband

жі́нка ZHIN-ka
woman; wife

дити́на dy-TY-na
child *(feminine, for any child)*

ді́ти DI-ty
children

хло́пець KHLO-pets'
boy, guy; boyfriend

дівчина DIV-chy-na
girl; girlfriend

друг druh
friend *(a man)*

подру́га pod-RU-ha
friend *(a woman)*

сусі́д su-SID
neighbour

лі́кар LI-kar
doctor

вчи́тель VCHY-tel'
teacher *(a man)*

Things

телефо́н te-le-FON
phone

кни́жка KNYZH-ka
book

гро́ші HRO-shi
money *(plural)*

ключ klyuch
key

маши́на ma-SHY-na
car

вікно́ vik-NO
window

When

сьогодні s'o-HOD-ni
today

за́втра ZAV-tra
tomorrow

вчо́ра VCHO-ra
yesterday

за́раз ZA-raz
now, right now

ча́сто CHAS-to
often

нікóли ni-KO-ly
never

ра́нок RA-nok
morning

день den'
day

ве́чір VE-chir
evening

ніч nich
night *(feminine, with no -a)*

годи́на ho-DY-na
hour; also o'clock

час chas
time

ти́ждень TYZH-den'
week

мі́сяць MI-syats'
month; also moon

рік rik
year

Days of the week

понеді́лок po-ne-DI-lok
Monday

вівто́рок viv-TO-rok
Tuesday

середа́ se-re-DA
Wednesday

четве́р chet-VER
Thursday

п'я́тниця PYAT-ny-tsya
Friday

суб(о́)та su-BO-ta
Saturday

неді́ля ne-DI-lya
Sunday

Numbers

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
нуль nul'	оди́н o-DYN	два dva	три try	чоти́ри cho-TY-ry	п'ять pyat'	шість shist'	сім sim	ві́сім VI-sim	де́в'ять DEV-yat'
10	**11**	**12**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**100**	**200**	**1,000**
де́сять DE-syat'	одина́дцять o-dy-NAD-tsyat'	двана́дцять dva-NAD-tsyat'	два́дцять DVAD-tsyat'	три́дцять TRYD-tsyat'	со́рок SO-rok	п'ятдеся́т pyat-de-SYAT	сто sto	дві́сті DVI-sti	ти́сяча TY-sya-cha

One changes with the gender: оди́н дім o-DYN dim, одна́ ка́ва od-NA KA-va, одне́ вікно́ od-NE vik-NO. 21 is два́дцять оди́н DVAD-tsyat' o-DYN.

Days are small: days and months take no capital letter: понеді́лок po-ne-DI-lok, сі́чень SI-chen', January. On Monday is у понеді́лок u po-ne-DI-lok.

Food, places, verbs Їжа і дієсло́ва

Food and drink

вода́ vo-DA
water

ка́ва KA-va
coffee

чай chai
tea

молоко́ mo-lo-KO
milk

пи́во PY-vo
beer

вино́ vy-NO
wine

хліб khlib
bread

сир syr
cheese; also soft white cheese

м'я́со MYA-so
meat

ри́ба RY-ba
fish

карто́пля kar-TOP-lya
potatoes *(one word for all)*

борщ borshch
borshch, beetroot soup, every family's own

варе́ники va-RE-ny-ky
varenyky, filled dumplings *(plural)*

са́ло SA-lo
salo, cured pork fat, on bread

смета́на sme-TA-na
sour cream

голубці́ ho-lub-TSI
cabbage rolls *(plural)*

сніда́нок sni-DA-nok
breakfast

обі́д o-BID
lunch, the main meal

вече́ря ve-CHE-rya
dinner, supper

Я хо́чу ї́сти ya KHO-chu YIS-ty
I'm hungry *(it means I want to eat)*

Раху́нок, будь ла́ска ra-KHU-nok, bud' LAS-ka
the bill, please

Places

дім dim
house, home

вдо́ма VDO-ma
at home

шко́ла SHKO-la
school

робо́та ro-BO-ta
work, job

рестора́н res-to-RAN
restaurant

ка́в'ярня KA-vyar-nya
café

лікарня li-KAR-nya
hospital

вокза́л vok-ZAL
train station

магази́н ma-ha-ZYN
shop

мі́сто MIS-to
town, city

село́ se-LO
village

ву́лиця VU-ly-tsya
street

майда́н mai-DAN
square, main square

туале́т tu-a-LET
toilet

Ки́їв KY-yiv
Kyiv

Україна u-kra-YI-na
Ukraine

Verbs: dictionary / я form

бу́ти / є BU-ty / ye
be *(see page 2)*

ма́ти / ма́ю MA-ty / MA-yu
have

іти́ / іду́ i-TY / i-DU
go *(on foot)*

їхати / їду́ YI-kha-ty / YI-du
go *(by car, bus, train)*

їсти / їм YIS-ty / yim
eat

пи́ти / п'ю PY-ty / pyu
drink

ба́чити / ба́чу BA-chy-ty / BA-chu
see

диви́тися / дивлю́ся dy-VY-ty-sya / dyv-LYU-sya
watch, look

роби́ти / роблю́ ro-BY-ty / rob-LYU
do, make

спа́ти / сплю SPA-ty / splyu
sleep

говори́ти / говорю́ ho-vo-RY-ty / ho-vo-RYU
speak, talk

розумі́ти / розумі́ю ro-zu-MI-ty / ro-zu-MI-yu
understand

зна́ти / зна́ю ZNA-ty / ZNA-yu
know

хоті́ти / хо́чу kho-TI-ty / KHO-chu
want

могти́ / мо́жу moh-TY / MO-zhu
can

люби́ти / люблю́ lyu-BY-ty / lyub-LYU
love; also like

жи́ти / живу́ ZHY-ty / zhy-VU
live

працюва́ти / працю́ю pra-tsyu-VA-ty / pra-TSYU-yu
work

вчи́тися / вчу́ся VCHY-ty-sya / VCHU-sya
learn, study

чека́ти / чека́ю che-KA-ty / che-KA-yu
wait

Describing words

до́брий / пога́ний DOB-ryi / po-HA-nyi
good, kind / bad

вели́кий / мали́й ve-LY-kyi / ma-LYI
big / small

те́плий / холо́дний TEP-lyi / kho-LOD-nyi
warm / cold

нови́й / стари́й no-VYI / sta-RYI
new / old

дорогий / деше́вий do-ro-HYI / de-SHE-vyi
expensive; also dear / cheap

га́рний HAR-nyi
beautiful, nice

смачни́й smach-NYI
tasty, delicious

ціка́вий tsi-KA-vyi
interesting

вто́млений VTOM-le-nyi
tired

Two forms: the dictionary form ends in -ти. For я, the ending is usually -ю or -у: зна́ти, зна́ю ZNA-ty, ZNA-yu; роби́ти, роблю́ ro-BY-ty, rob-LYU. Learn the odd ones by heart: хо́чу KHO-chu, мо́жу MO-zhu, їм yim.

Describing words agree: the list shows the masculine form. With a feminine noun it ends in -a, with a neuter one in -e: до́брий день DOB-ryi den', до́бра ка́ва DOB-ra KA-va, до́бре вино́ DOB-re vy-NO.

Show words Слова́ з серіа́лів

Reactions

Та ну! ta nu!
no way! come on!

Серйо́зно? ser-YOZ-no?
seriously? really?

Кла́со! KLA-so!
cool! *(casual)*

Супе́р! su-PER!
great!

Ого́! o-HO!
wow!

Ой! oi!
oh! oops! ouch!

Ой ле́ле! oi LE-le!
oh dear! oh my!

Звича́йно zvy-CHAI-no
of course

Аво́ж! a-VOZH!
sure! you bet!

Так-так tak-tak
yes, yes; right, right

Нічо́го собі́! ni-CHO-ho so-BI!
wow! would you look at that!

До́бре DOB-re
OK, fine, good

Ма́буть MA-but'
probably, I guess

Шко́да SHKO-da
what a pity

Ти́хо! TY-kho!
quiet!

Ура́! u-RA!
hooray!

Фу! fu!
yuck!

The big scenes

Я тебе́ кохáю ya te-BE ko-KHA-yu
I love you

Я сумую́ за тобо́ю ya su-MU-yu za to-BO-yu
I miss you

Все бу́де до́бре vse BU-de DOB-re
everything will be all right

Обере́жно! o-be-REZH-no!
watch out! careful!

Допоможі́ть! do-po-mo-ZHIT'!
help!

Відчепи́ся! vid-che-PY-sya!
leave me alone! *(casual)*

Що ста́лося? shcho STA-lo-sya?
what happened?

Не хвилю́йся ne khvy-LYUI-sya
don't worry

Проба́ч мені́ pro-BACH me-NI
forgive me

What to call people

рі́дний / рі́дна RID-nyi / RID-na
dear, darling *(it means my own; to a man / a woman)*

соне́чко so-NECH-ko
sunshine, sweetie *(it means little sun)*

ко́тику KO-ty-ku
kitty, honey *(when you call someone)*

коха́ний / коха́на ko-KHA-nyi / ko-KHA-na
my love, beloved *(a man / a woman)*

дру́же DRU-zhe
buddy, my friend *(when you call him)*

па́не / па́ні PA-ne / PA-ni
sir / madam; Mr / Mrs before a name

ма́мо, та́ту MA-mo, TA-tu
mum, dad *(when you call them)*

Ta, the little word everywhere: in speech it adds feeling to what follows. Та ну! ta nu! no way! Та ні! ta ni! oh no, not at all! Та до́бре ta DOB-re, oh, all right.

Calling someone changes the word: Окса́на ok-SA-na becomes Окса́но! ok-SA-no!, Тара́с ta-RAS becomes Тара́се! ta-RA-se!, друг druh becomes дру́же DRU-zhe. It sounds warm and close, and you'll hear it in every scene.

Strong words: Ukrainian has strong swear words too, and you'll hear them on screen, even between friends. They hit harder than the subtitles show: recognise them, but don't say them. Ой ле́ле! oi LE-le! is the one you can say in front of anyone.

Practice Пра́ктика

How: cover the orange and grey lines with a strip of paper. Read the Ukrainian out loud, using the stress marks, then slide the paper down to check. Can you read every line without peeking? You've got it.

Questions: keep the same words and raise your voice at the end: Ти вдо́ма? ty VDO-ma? Are you at home?

Read these sentences

1. Приві́т, мене́ зва́ти Окса́на.
   pry-VIT, me-NE ZVA-ty ok-SA-na.
   Hi, my name is Oksana.

2. Зві́дки ти?
   ZVID-ky ty?
   Where are you from?

3. Ви́бачте, де тут туале́т?
   VY-bach-te, de tut tu-a-LET?
   Excuse me, where's the toilet?

4. Одну́ ка́ву, будь ла́ска.
   od-NU KA-vu, bud' LAS-ka.
   One coffee, please.

5. Я тро́хи розмовля́ю украї́нською.
   ya TRO-khy roz-mov-LYA-yu u-kra-YIN-s'ko-yu.
   I speak a little Ukrainian.

6. Сьогó́дні ду́же хо́лодно.
   s'o-HOD-ni DU-zhe KHO-lod-no.
   It's very cold today.

7. За́втра я ї́ду до Ки́єва.
   ZAV-tra ya YI-du do KY-ye-va.
   Tomorrow I'm going to Kyiv.

8. Варе́ники ду́же смачні́!
   va-RE-ny-ky DU-zhe smach-NI!
   The varenyky are delicious!

9. Дава́й, ході́мо!
   da-VAI, kho-DI-mo!
   Come on, let's go!

10. Дя́кую за все!
    DYA-ku-yu za vse!
    Thank you for everything!

Meet a word you don't know? In Kitsumi, hover any word in Ukrainian subtitles to see what it means.