

## Representation of Russian Sounds and Letters with the Letters of the Roman Alphabet

There are various systems for representing Russian sounds and letters with symbols other than Cyrillic letters. The choice of system depends upon the purpose a particular transcription must serve. Throughout this text letters of the Roman alphabet are used in two ways: (1) Italicized Roman letters designate basic sounds of Russian (phonemic transcription) as part of the analysis of the sound system and the structure of Russian words. (See Analysis, Unit I, 1.1.) (2) Non-italicized Roman letters are used to spell out Russian titles, names, etc. as a substitute for Cyrillic letters. The latter use is called transliteration and is necessary whenever one expresses words of a language with an alphabet different than one's own (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Greek, etc.).

Practice among scholars, librarians, journalists, translators and other specialists who must regularly transliterate Russian words with Roman letters varies considerably. Slavic specialists in Europe and America generally employ a system of transliteration which offers unambiguous one-to-one equivalents for Cyrillic symbols, using Roman letters and the diacritic (hacek). This system is labeled "Type I" below. Type I transliteration has little currency outside the community of Slavists; for that reason, an alternative transliterative system has been adopted for this text, which corresponds essentially to that encountered in standard translations of the Russian classics and in the modern press (Type II). In the course of studying Russian the student is likely to encounter both types of transliteration. It is hoped that students and teachers will themselves select the system best suited for their needs. (See Examples below.)

### Cyrillic Type I    Type II

А	a	a
Б	b	b
В	v	v
Г	g	g
Д	d	d
Е	e	e (ye)
Ё	e	yo
Ж	ž	zh
З	z	z
И	i	i
Й	j	y (i)
К	k	k
Л	l	l
М	m	m
Н	n	n
О	o	o
П	p	p

### Cyrillic Type I    Type II

Р	r	r
С	s	s
Т	t	t
У	u	u
Ф	f	f
Х	x	kh
Ц	c	ts
Ч	č	ch
Ш	š	sh
Щ	šč (š:)	shch
Ъ	—	—
Ы	y	y
Ь	'	y (before vowel)
Э	e	e
Ю	ju	ju
Я	ja	ya

Examples:

Cyrillic	Type I	Type II
Пётр Ильич Чайковский	Petr Il'ič Čajkovskij	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Николай Васильевич	Nikolaj Vasil'evič	Nikolai Vasilyevich
Гоголь	Gogol'	Gogol
Фёдор Михайлович Достоевский	Fyodor Mikhailovič Dostoevskij	Dosto(y)evsky Sergei Vasilyevich
Сергей Васильевич Рахманинов	Sergej i Vasilyevič Raxmaninov	Sergei Vasilyevich Rakhmaninov