

Peace Corps

Survival Ukrainian Language lessons



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Lesson 1

Introduction

Welcome to the Peace Corps Ukraine language lessons!

Ukrainian is the national language of Ukraine, and these “Survival Ukrainian” files will help you get a head start in learning the language and using colloquial phrases that will help you get by your first weeks in Ukraine.

We recommend that you listen to the audio files and repeat while reading the language script. It will be useful if you use these files for 10-15 minute a day.

In the language script we use the transliteration system which will help you to pronounce Ukrainian, even without any background in Slavic languages.

The letters are transliterated from the Ukrainian alphabet in accordance to its sound in English. The letter Ъ (soft sign) has no sound and will be represented in the transliteration as an apostrophe ['].

Unlike English the Ukrainian alphabet is absolutely phonetic: each letter has a single pronunciation in every usage.

The lessons do not have to be in any particular order. After you complete the first lesson, you may choose any topic of interest or importance to you. We won't discuss grammatical topics in these lessons. You will learn grammar during the language classes in Pre-Service Training in Ukraine.

About the Ukrainian language in a nutshell.

It belongs to the Slavic group of the Indo-European language family.

The Ukrainians use the Cyrillic alphabet. There are differences between the Cyrillic and Latin sounds and letters, but they are small and you will learn to recognize them quickly.

The Ukrainian alphabet is comprised of 33 letters.

Stress in Ukrainian can fall on any syllable in a word. The stressed part of the word will be marked in bold in transliteration and the word itself. One word has only one stressed syllable which is no longer that others. Usually the stress is indicated in dictionaries.

We hope you will enjoy the Ukrainian language lessons and wish you good luck with your learning!

Lesson 2

Alphabet - Абетка

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian speaker the first time, then try to repeat the sounds with the speaker the second time.

Ukrainian letter	Approximate English sound equivalent	
	Like	
А а	a	in <u>bar</u>
Б б	b	in <u>book</u>
В в	v	in <u>voice</u>
Г г	h	in <u>how</u>
Ґ ґ	g	in <u>get</u>
Д д	d	in <u>dot</u>
Е е	e	in <u>ten</u>
Є є	ye	in <u>yes</u>
Ж ж	zh	in <u>pleasure</u>
З з	z	in <u>zone</u>
И и	y	in <u>byte</u>
І і	ee	in <u>meet</u>
Ї ї	yee	in <u>yeast</u>
Й й	y	in <u>boy</u>
К к	k	in <u>key</u>
Л л	l	in <u>lamp</u>
М м	m	in <u>man</u>
Н н	n	in <u>nose</u>
О о	o	in <u>port</u>
П п	p	in <u>spoon</u>
Р р	r	in <u>roof</u>
С с	s	in <u>small</u>
Т т	t	in <u>tart</u>
У у	oo	in <u>moon</u>
Ф ф	f	in <u>fine</u>
Х х	kh	in <u>Loch Ness</u>
Ц ц	ts	in <u>cats</u>
Ч ч	ch	in <u>chair</u>
Ш ш	sh	in <u>shine</u>
Щ щ	shch	in <u>rash choice</u>

ь	no sound apostrophe ' in transliteration	it softens the previous consonant
Ю ю	yoo	in <u>y</u>outh
Я я	ya	in <u>y</u>ard

As you can see and hear, some Ukrainian letters have equivalent sound in English but look quite different:

Ukrainian letter	Corresponding sound in both languages	English letter
Б	[b]	B
Г	[h]	H
П	[p]	P
Ф	[f]	F
Д	[d]	D
З	[z]	Z
Л	[l]	L

Perhaps the most confusing are the letters that look like Latin but in Cyrillic represent different sounds.

Ukrainian letter- "false friend"	Corresponding sound in Ukrainian	English letter/sound
В	[v]	V
Р	[r]	R
С	[s]	S
Н	[n]	N
Х	[kh]	- [kh] as in <u>Loch</u> Ness
У	[oo]	- [oo] as in moon

Lesson 3

Greetings = Привітання

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Good morning.	dobryy ranok	Добрий ранок.
Good afternoon.	dobryy den'	Добрий день.
Good evening.	dobryy vecheer	Добрий вечір.
Hi.	pryveet	Привіт.
How are you?	yak spravy	Як справи?
I am good, thank you.	dobre dyakooyo	Добре, дякую.
And you?	a oo vas	А у вас?
Fine.	normal'no	Нормально.

Farewells = Прощання

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Good bye.	do pobachennya	До побачення.
Bye.	roka	Пока.
See you tomorrow.	do zavtra	До завтра.
Good luck.	shchaslyvo	Щасливо.

Lesson 4

Useful phrases - Корисні фрази

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Yes.	tak	Так.
No.	nee	Ні.
Thank you.	dyakooyoo	Дякую.
Please.	bood' laska	Будь ласка.
You are welcome.	proshoo	Прошу.
Excuse me/I'm sorry.	vybachte	Вибачте.
Never mind.	neechoho	Нічого.
What a shame!	shkoda	Шкода!
Just a minute.	khvylynkoo	Хвилинку!
May I?	mozhna	Можна?
It's important.	tse vazhlyvo	Це важливо.
I'm sorry, I don't understand.	vybachte ya ne rozoomeeyoo	Вибачте, я не розумію.
I study Ukrainian	ya oochoo ookrayeens'koo	Я учу українську.
Repeat, please.	povtoreet' bood' laska	Повторіть, будь ласка.
Translate, please.	perekladeet' bood' laska	Перекладіть, будь ласка.
What is the Ukrainian for bread?	yak ookrayeens'koyoo ...	Як українською <i>bread?</i>
What?	shcho	Що?

Lesson 5

Getting acquainted = Знайомство

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Who is it?	Khto tse	Хто це?
It is Oksana.	tse oksana	Це Оксана.
It is John.	tse dzhon	Це Джон.
What is your name?	yak vas zvaty	Як вас звати?
My name is Sasha.	mene zvaty sasha	Мене звати Саша.
Nice to meet you.	duzhe pryemno	Дуже приємно.
Nice to meet you too.	menee tezh	Мені теж.
How old are you?	skeel'ky vam rokeev	Скільки вам років?
I am 25.	menee dvadtsyat' pyat'	Мені 25.
Who are you?	khto vy	Хто ви?
I am an American (male).	ya amerykanets'	Я американець.
I am an American (female).	ya amerykanka	Я американка.
I am a Peace Corps Volunteer.	ya dobrovolets' korpoosoo myroo	Я доброволець Корпусу Миру.
Where are you from?	zveedky vy	Звідки ви?
I am from America, the state of California.	ya z ameryky shtat kaleeforneeya	Я з Америки, штат Каліфорнія.

Lesson 6

Family = Сім'я

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
father	tato	тато
mother	mama	мама
son	syn	син
daughter	dochka	дочка
brother	brat	брат
sister	sestra	сестра
grandfather	deedoos'	дідуць
grandmother	baboosya	бабуся
grandson	onook	онук
granddaughter	onooka	онука
children	deety	діти
husband	choloveek	чоловік
wife	droozhyna	дружина
friend	drooh	друг
girlfriend	podrooha	подруга
and	ee	і
I have	oo mene ye	У мене є ...
I have a brother and a sister.	u mene ye brat ee sestra	У мене є брат і сестра.
This is my family.	tse moya seem'ya	Це моя сім'я.
This is my mother.	tse mama	Це мама.
This is my brother.	tse brat	Це брат.

Lesson 7

About myself = Про себе

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
My name is Kelsey.	mene zvaty kelsee	Мене звати Келсі.
I am 27 years old.	menee dvadtsyat' seem.	Мені 27 років.
I am from America, the state of Minnesota.	ya z ameryky shtat meenesota	Я з Америки, штат Мінесота.
I am a teacher.	ya oochytel'	Я учитель.
I am a Peace Corps Volunteer.	ya dobrovolets' korpoosoo myroo	Я доброволець Корпусу Миру.
I have a family.	u mene ye seemya	У мене є сім'я.
I have a brother and a sister.	u mene ye brat ee sestra	У мене є брат і сестра.
I like to read.	ya lyooblyoo chytaty	Я люблю читати.
I study Ukrainian.	ya oochoo ookrayeens'koo	Я учу українську.

Lesson 8

Food = їжа

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
borshch	borshch	борщ
soup	soop	суп
salad	salat	салат
potato	kartoplya	картопля
meat	myaso	м'ясо
fish	ryba	риба
dumplings/varenyky	varenyky	вареники
macaroni	makarony	макарони
rice	rys	рис
vegetables	ovochee	овочі
fruit	frookty	фрукти
water	voda	вода
non-carbonated water	voda bez hazoo	вода без газу
tea	chay	чай
coffee	kava	кава
juice	seek	сік
milk	moloko	молоко
It is delicious!	smachno	Смачно!
I am a vegetarian (female).	ya vehetareeanka	Я вегетаріанка.
I am a vegetarian (male).	ya vehetareeanets'	Я вегетаріанець.
I am not allowed.	menee ne mozhna	Мені не можна.
I like fruits.	ya lyooblyoo frookty	Я люблю фрукти.
I don't like meat.	ya ne lyooblyoo myaso	Я не люблю м'ясо.

Lesson 9

Apartment = Квартира

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
my room	moya keemnata	моя кімната
kitchen	kookhnya	кухня
bathroom	vana	ванна
toilet	tooalet	туалет
corridor	korydor	коридор
balcony	balkon	балкон
door	dveree	двері
key	klyooch	ключ
window	veekno	вікно
table	steel	стіл
chair	steelets'	стілець
wardrobe	shafa	шафа
sofa	dyvan	диван
lamp	lampa	лампа
telephone	telefon	телефон
to smoke	palyty	палити
Where is my room?	de moya keemnata	Де моя кімната?
Here it is.	os'	Ось.
Where can I smoke?	de mozhna palyty	Де можна палити?
Here.	toot	Тут.
There.	tam	Там.

Lesson 10

Numerals = Числівники

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
one	odyn	1 – один
two	dva	2 – два
three	try	3 – три
four	chotyry	4 – чотири
five	pyat'	5 – п'ять
six	sheest'	6 – шість
seven	seem	7 – сім
eight	veeseem	8 – вісім
nine	devyat'	9 – дев'ять
ten	desyat'	10 – десять
eleven	odynadtsyat'	11 – одинадцять
twelve	dvanadtsyat'	12 – дванадцять
thirteen	trynadtsyat'	13 – тринадцять
fourteen	chotyrynadtsyat'	14 – чотирнадцять
fifteen	pyatnadtsyat'	15 – п'ятнадцять
sixteen	sheestnadtsyat'	16 – шістнадцять
seventeen	seemnadtsyat'	17 – сімнадцять
eighteen	veeseemnadtsyat'	18 – вісімнадцять
nineteen	devyatnadtsyat'	19 – дев'ятнадцять
twenty	dvadtsyat'	20 – двадцять
twenty-one	dvadtsyat' odyn	21 – двадцять один
twenty-two	dvadtsyat' dva	22 – двадцять два
twenty-three	dvadtsyat' try	23 – двадцять три
twenty-four	dvadtsyat' chotyry	24 – двадцять чотири
twenty-five	dvadtsyat' pyat'	25 – двадцять п'ять
twenty-six	dvadtsyat' sheest'	26 – двадцять шість
twenty-seven	dvadtsyat' seem	27 – двадцять сім
twenty-eight	dvadtsyat' veeseem	28 – двадцять вісім
twenty-nine	dvadtsyat' devyat'	29 – двадцять дев'ять
thirty	trydtsyat'	30 – тридцять

forty	sorok	40 – сорок
fifty	pyatdesyat	50 – п'ятдесят
sixty	sheestdesyat	60 – шістдесят
seventy	seemdesyat	70 – сімдесят
eighty	veeseemdesyat	80 – вісімдесят
ninety	devyanosto	90 – дев'яносто
one hundred	sto	100 – сто

Lesson 11

At the store = У магазині

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
costume	kostyoom	КОСТЮМ
sweater	svetr	СВЕТР
coat	pal'to	ПАЛЬТО
jeans	dzhynsy	ДЖИНСИ
shampoo	shampooon'	ШАМПУНЬ
cream (lotion)	krem	КРЕМ
soap	mylo	МИЛО
tooth paste	zoobna pasta	ЗУБНА ПАСТА
tooth brush	zoobna shcheetka	ЗУБНА ЩІТКА
hryvnia/hryvnias	hryvnya/hryvnee	ГРИВНЯ/ГРИВНІ
kopeck/kopecks	kopeeyka/kopeeyky	КОПІЙКА/КОПІЙКИ
dollar/dollars	dolar/dolary	ДОЛАР/ДОЛАРИ
How much does it cost?	skeel'ky tse koshtooye	Скільки це коштує?
3 hryvnias.	try hryvnee	Три гривні.
It is expensive.	tse doroho	Це дорого.
It is not expensive.	tse nedoroho	Це недорого.
Can you give me ...	dayte bood' laska	Дайте, будь ласка.

Lesson 12

Transportation = Транспорт

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
bus	avtoboos	автобус
trolley-bus	trolleyboos	тролейбус
tram	tramvay	трамвай
taxi	taksee	таксі
car	masheena	машина
metro	metro	метро
bus stop	zoopynka	зупинка
passenger	pasazhyr	пасажир
ticket	kvytok	квиток
How much does the ticket cost?	skeel'ky koshtooye kvytok	Скільки коштує квиток?
50 kopecks.	p'yatdesyat kopeeyok	50 копійок.
Can you stop here, please.	zoopyneet' toot bood' laska	Зупиніть тут, будь ласка.

Lesson 13

City = Місто

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
center	tsentr	центр
street	voolytsya	вулиця
building	boodynok	будинок
post office	poshta	пошта
bank	bank	банк
hotel	hotel'	готель
store	mahazyn	магазин
pharmacy	apteka	аптека
hospital	leekarnya	лікарня
school	shkola	школа
institute	eenstytoot	інститут
university	ooneeversytet	університет
theater	teatr	театр
movie theater	keenoteatr	кінотеатр
museum	moozey	музей
stadium	stadeeon	стадіон
park	park	парк
straight	pryamo	прямо
to the right	napravo	направо
to the left	naleevo	наліво
backwards	nazad	назад
far away	daleko	далеко
not far away.	nedaleko	недалеко
Where is the park?	de park	Де парк?
The park is over there.	park tam	Парк там.
I got lost (male)	ya zablookav	Я заблукав.
I got lost (female)	ya zablookala	Я заблукала.

Lesson 14

Post Office = **Пошта**

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
envelope	konvert	конверт
letter	lyst	лист
post card	lysteevka	листівка
postage stamp	marka	марка
address	adresa	адреса
envelope to America	konvert v amerykoo	конверт в Америку
Where is the post office?	de poshta	Де пошта?
The post office is in the center.	poshta oo tsentree	Пошта у центрі.
How much does the envelope to America cost?	skeel'ky koshtooye konvert v amerykoo	Скільки коштує конверт в Америку?
How much does the post card cost?	skeel'ky koshtooye lysteevka	Скільки коштує листівка?

Lesson 15

Signs = Вивіски

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Closed	zachyneno	Зачинено
Open	veedchyneno	Відчинено
Entrance	vheed	Вхід
Exit	vyheed	Вихід
No smoking!	ne kooryty/ne palyty	Не курити!/Не палити!
Lunch	obeed	Обід
Crosswalk	perekheed	Перехід
Pull	do sebe	До себе
Push	veed sebe	Від себе
Break	pererva	Перерва
Toilet for men	choloveechyy tooalet	М (чоловічий туалет)
Toilet for women	zheenochy tooalet	Ж (жіночий туалет)
Be careful!	oberezhno	Обережно!
Attention!	oovaha	Увага!

Lesson 16

Emergencies = Критичні ситуації

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Fire!	pozhezha	Пожежа!
Help!	dopomozheet'	Допоможіть!
I am not feeling well!	menee pohano	Мені погано!
Stop it!	perestan'te	Перестаньте!
Militia! (Police!)	meeleetseeya	Міліція!
Hold your dog!	zabereet' sobakoo	Заберіть собаку!

Lesson 17

Personal pronouns = Займенники

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
I	ya	Я
you (informal singular form)	ty	ТИ
he	veen	ВІН
she	vona	ВОНА
it	vono	ВОНО
we	my	МИ
you (formal singular and plural form)	vy	ВИ
they	vony	ВОНИ

Lesson 18

Professions = Професії

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
teacher	oochytel'	учитель
businessman	beeznesmen	бізнесмен
businesswoman	beeznes ledee	бізнес-леді
doctor	leekar	лікар
engineer	eenzhener	інженер
journalist	zhoornaleest	журналіст
director	dyrektor	директор
secretary	sekretar	секретар
student (male)	stooudent	студент
student (female)	stooudentka	студентка
athlete (male)	sportsmen	спортсмен
athlete (female)	sportsmenka	спортсменка
manager	menedzher	менеджер
banker	bankeer	банкiр
police officer	meeleetseeoner	міліціонер
pensioner (male)	penseeoner	пенсіонер
pensioner (female)	penseeonerka	пенсіонерка
farmer	fermer	фермер
economist	ekonomeest	економіст
lawyer	yooryst	юрист
Who is she? (her profession)	khto vona	Хто вона?
She is an economist.	vona ekonomeest	Вона – економіст.
What is your profession?	yaka vasha profeseeya	Яка ваша професія?
I am a teacher.	ya oochytel'	Я – учитель.

Lesson 19

Days of the week/Months = Дні тижня / Місяці

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Monday	ponedeelok	понеділок
Tuesday	veevtorok	вівторок
Wednesday	sereda	середа
Thursday	chetver	четвер
Friday	pyatnytsya	п'ятниця
Saturday	soobota	субота
Sunday	nedeelya	неділя
today	s'ohodnee	сьогодні
yesterday	oochora	учора
tomorrow	zavtra	завтра

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
December	hrooden'	грудень
January	seechen'	січень
February	lyootyy	лютий
March	berezen'	березень
April	kveeten'	квітень
May	traven'	травень
June	cherven'	червень
July	lypen'	липень
August	serpen'	серпень
September	veresen'	вересень
October	zhovten'	жовтень
November	lystopad	листопад

Lesson 20

Question words = Питання

In the following audio file you will hear a word or phrase in English one time, then twice in Ukrainian.

Listen carefully to the Ukrainian the first time, then try to repeat the word or phrase with the speaker the second time.

English	Transliteration	Ukrainian
Who?	khto	Хто?
What?	shcho	Що?
Where?	de	Де?
Where to? (with directions)	koody	Куди?
When?	koly	Коли?
How?	yak	Як?
Why?	chomoо	Чому?
How much?	skeel'ky	Скільки?