

Bulgarian



Bulgarian is the national language of Bulgaria, where it is spoken by about 8,000,000 people. Since 2007 it has been among the official languages of the European Union.

In several other countries Bulgarian is native but a minority language. It is a recognised minority language in Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, Albania and Romania. Although not an officially recognised language it is also native to Greece, North Macedonia, and Turkey.

Bulgarian is a South Slavic language. It is written using Cyrillic.

First words

Welcome	Добре дошли Dobre doshli
Hello	Здравей Zdravei
Goodbye	Д
Yes	Да Da
No	Не Ne
Thank you	Благодаря Blagodarya
Please	Моля Molya
Sorry	Извинете Izvinete
Good Morning	Добро утро Dobro utro
Good afternoon	Добър ден Dobar den
Come here	Ела тук Ela tuk
Well done	Браво Bravo

Try and pronounce these words.

Compare the Cyrillic with the Latin alphabet version. What patterns do you see?

Numbers 1 to 10

1 - One	-	Едно	-	Edno
2 - Two	-	Две	-	Dve
3 - Three	-	Три	-	Tri
4 - Four	-	Четири	-	Chetiri
5 - Five	-	Пет	-	Pet
6 - Six	-	Шест	-	Shest
7 - Seven	-	Седем	-	Sedem
8 - Eight	-	Осем	-	Osem
9 - Nine	-	Девет	-	Devet
10 - Ten	-	Десет	-	Deset

Practice counting to 10.

Can you count backwards from 10 to 1

Questions and answers

What is your name?	Как се казваш? Kak se kazvash?
My name is ...	Казвам се ... Kazvam se ...
How old are you?	На колко години си? Na kolko godini si?
I am four years old.	Аз съм на четири години Az sam na chetiri godini
How are you?	Как си? Kak si?
Very well.	Много добре Mnogo dobre
What is this?	Какво е това? Kakvo e tova?
This is a pencil.	Това е молив Tova e moliv
Do you understand?	Разбираш ли? Razbirash li?
I do not understand.	Не разбирам Ne razbiram

Can you try to find how you might reply to these questions with different answers?

Alphabet

Аа Бб Вв Гг Дд Ее Жж Зз
Ии Йй Кк Лл Мм Нн Оо Пп
Рр Сс Тт Уу Фф Хх Цц Чч
Шш Щщ Ъъ Ьь Юю Яя

The Bulgarian alphabet uses Cyrillic script.

This is a different form of alphabet to the Latin

alphabet used in the English language.

The Cyrillic script is a writing system used for various languages across Eurasia. Cyrillic is derived from the Greek uncial script, augmented by letters from the older Glagolitic alphabet, including some ligatures.

This is how you would say those sounds using the English language:

THE BULGARIAN ALPHABET					
Аа	a (as in cat)	Кк	k (as in kick)	Фф	f (as in foot)
Бб	b (as in bus)	Лл	l (as in love)	Хх	h (like 'ch' in Bach)
Вв	v (as in very)	Мм	m (as in marry)	Цц	ch (as in check)
Гг	g (as in good)	Нн	n (as in no)	Чч	ts (as in puts)
Дд	d (as in dog)	Оо	o (as in hot)	Шш	sh (as in shut)
Ее	e (as in egg)	Пп	p (as in pot)	Щщ	sh (like 'shed' in pushed)
Жж	zh (like 's' in leisure)	Рр	r (as in red)	Ъъ	a (like 'u' in but)
Зз	z (as in zoo)	Сс	s (as in sit)	Ьь	(consonant softening sound)
Ии	i (as in instant)	Тт	t (as in tree)	Юю	yu (like you)
Йй	y (as in young)	Уу	u (as in yule)	Яя	ya (as in yank)

In Bulgarian words are usually spelt the way they are pronounced.

Use this pronunciation guide to try reading the following words:

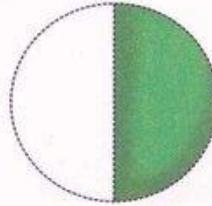
a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
i
j
k
l
m
n
o
p
q
r
s
t
u
v
w
x
y
z

hairdresser



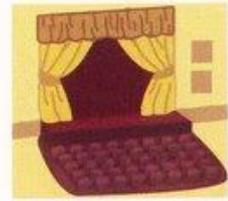
фризьор
frizyor

half



половина
polovina

hall



зала zala

ham



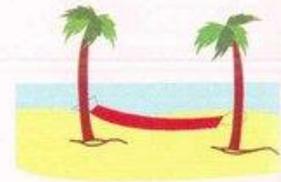
шунка shunka

hammer



чук tshuk

hammock



хамак hamak

hand



ръка raka

handbag



ръчна чанта
ruchna chanta

handicraft



занаят zanayat

handkerchief



носна кърпа
nosna karpa

handle



дръжка druzhka

hanger



закачалка
zakachalka

Fun Facts

The Bulgarian Alphabet has 30 Letters. Six of them are vowels, and the rest are consonants.

Letters that look like the Latin alphabet English uses might be pronounced differently in Bulgarian. For example, the Bulgarian "B" is pronounced like the Latin "V," and the "H" is actually pronounced as "N." If you see a P, pronounce it like an "R."

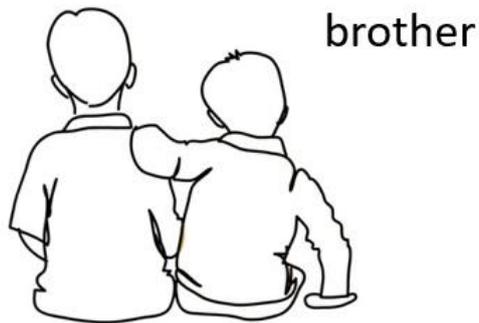
If you only have the letter ъ, you cannot pronounce it until you add an "o" next to it. Then it becomes a ъо [jo].

In the 9th century, Bulgarian brothers Cyril and Methodius created the Cyrillic script, which is still used today in Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian, and other Slavic languages.



The longest Bulgarian word has 39 letters. This is *непротивоконституционствувайте*—don't even try to pronounce it. It's more of a tongue twister for drunk people than a word Bulgarians use in the real world. It means "don't act against the Constitutions."

брат - brat



The Bulgarian word for brother is брат. If you look at the pronunciation guide you will find it is said as 'brat'.

Bulgarian

Although there are certain rules about word order, you can arrange the words in many ways, and it will still sound completely natural.

May 24 is the day when Bulgarians celebrate the Bulgarian language, script, and culture and the day the Bulgarian Orthodox Church celebrates the brothers who invented the Cyrillic script.