

# RUSSIAN — In One Easy Lesson

"Learn Russian," was Vice President John Dyer's advice last month to the engineer who wants to keep apace with future technological progress. The RECORD, alert to its responsibilities, herewith answers Mr. Dyer's challenge with a simplified one-lesson course in the tongue of the tsars and the commissars. By following the instructions below virtually anyone can learn to read Russian in a matter of minutes.

Most important asset in approach-

УНИСОН  
 \\\ \\\ \\\ \\\ \\\  
 UNISON

РАДИО  
 \\\ \\\ \\\ \\\ \\\  
 RADIO

FIGURE 1.

- A.) Телевидение
- B.) Фаза
- C.) Омическое Сопротивление

FIGURE 2

А а	А	ing this study is a proper attitude. Russian is not a difficult language; more than 200,000,000 people speak it fluently today. The language only seems difficult to us because of its unfamiliar alphabet, many of whose characters are inversions or mirror images of our English characters. A comparison of the two letter systems is in the left margin.
Б б	В	Once the difference in alphabets is recognized, Russian and English (especially in their technical terminology) are practically identical. Even without reference to the paired alphabets it is easy to recognize "ANTENNA" in the Russian word "АНТЕННА."
В в	У	Figure 1 illustrates how other Russian words can be rendered intelligible simply by substituting English equivalents for the Russian characters. In both these examples a letter-by-letter substitution gives us the exact English translation.
Г г	Г	Even in less closely related words, but little imagination is required to convert the substituted letters into their proper English analogue. Figure 2, which presents three Russian words selected at painstaking random, illustrates this point.
Д д	Д	Here the characters of word A, changed into the English alphabet, become "televidenie"—obviously "television."
Е е	YE, E	Similarly with B—how readily do the substituted letters "faza" suggest the sound, at least, of the English "phase."
Ё ё	Ё	And only an unimaginative clod could fail to see "low-frequency resistance" in the "omicheskoe soprotivlenie" of C.
Ж ж	ZH	Understanding technical Russian, it can be seen, is comparative child's play, requiring only the dual alphabet at the left and a modicum of imagination and perseverance.
З з	Z	An old Russian adage is offered below as a final test of the reader's new-found skill at translation. It is recommended that everyone render this friendly counsel into English before dashing down to the library to read the latest report of the Popov Society.
И и	И	
Й й	У	
К к	К	
Л л	Л	
М м	М	
Н н	Н	
О о	О	
Р р	Р	
С с	С	
Т т	Т	
У у	У	
Ф ф	Ф	
Х х	KH	
Ц ц	TS	
Ч ч	CH	
П п	P	
Ш ш	SH	
Щ щ	SHCH	
Ы ы	У	
Э э	E	
Ю ю	YU	
Я я	YA	

БЕТТЕР ВАИТ ФОР ДЕ ЕНГЛИШ ТРАНСЛАТИОН  
*Seriously though, we must face the fact that a very large amount of technical information in the future will be published in a language of which we are ignorant. This problem will bear serious consideration by all engineers and scientists.*