

Ukrainian



Ukrainian is spoken by more than 30 million people in the republic of Ukraine, with many more speakers in Hungary, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Poland. It is related to Russian and Belarusian and is written in the Cyrillic alphabet. There was a time when Ukrainian as a written language was prohibited in the Eastern (or Russian) part of Ukraine. The Ukraine wasn't always accepted as a separate cultural area and the language was sometimes referred to as Little Russian and deemed to be a dialect of Russian.

Like the languages of its neighbours Ukrainian is a richly inflected language, which means that the ends of words change to show changes in their grammatical function. Nouns are feminine, masculine and neuter. Normally sentence order is subject-verb-object as in English.

Main verbs agree in person and number with their subjects. With this system of gender and agreement it means that often the same gender and number information may be repeated several times in a sentence.

Ukrainian is a phonetic language with each character representing just one sound. It has additional letters used to represent sounds like *h*, both hard and soft, that exist in Ukrainian but not Russian.

Ukrainian speakers don't usually find English pronunciation too difficult, but English has diphthongs and Ukrainian has none. The *j* sound is pronounced *dzh*, e.g. *John* would sound like *Dzhon*. The *er* sound as in *early* is hard for a Ukrainian speaker to master and *th* is probably the hardest English sound of all

for Ukrainian speakers to master. The close but different vowel sounds that occur in English are difficult for Ukrainian speakers to distinguish. *Neat* and *nit* would sound the same to a Ukrainian. The *a* sounds in *call*, *map* and *branch* are all different in English, but it's difficult for a Ukrainian speaker to hear and say the differences.

Word stress is a lot freer in Ukrainian but picking up English stress is not too difficult for Ukrainian speakers. When asked *How are you?* Ukrainians traditionally answer with *nichego* which means *not too bad*. They will usually learn correct English expressions quickly.

There is a verb *to be* in Ukrainian but it is not used in the present tense.

Ukrainians are traditionally a hospitable and friendly people. When greeting they will shake hands, kiss or embrace and as a sign of approval men might slap each other on the back. It's considered bad manners to come too close when having a conversation but maintaining eye contact is very important.



Ukrainian



GENERAL

ENGLISH	UKRAINIAN	PRONUNCIATION
Hi/Hello.....	Привіт.....	Pryveet
Bye/Goodbye.....	До побачення.....	Do pobahchennya
How are you?.....	Як справи?.....	Yahk sprahvy?
Fine/Well, and you?.....	Добре, а як ви?.....	Dobre, ah yahk vy?
Not so good.....	Так собі.....	Tuk sobee
What's your name?.....	Як ваше ім'я?.....	Yahk vushe im'yah
My name is.....	Мене звать.....	Mene zvoat.....
Pardon?.....	Прошу.....	Proshoo
Yes.....	Так.....	Tuk
No.....	Ні.....	Nee
I don't know.....	Я не знаю.....	Yah ne znahyu
Please.....	Будь ласка.....	Bood luskah
Thank you.....	Дякую.....	Dyahkooyu

DURING THE LESSON

Good!.....	Добре.....	Dobre
Do you understand?.....	Ви розумієте?.....	Vy rozooomeeyete?
Try again.....	Спробуйте ще раз.....	Sprobooite shche ruz
Do you want some help?.....	Вам потрібна допомога?.....	Vum potreebnah dopomogah?
Don't worry, learning takes time.....	Не хвилюйтеся, навчання потребує часу.....	Ne hvylyuyitesyah, nuvchunnyah potrebooye chahsoo
Shall we take a break now?.....	Чи не зробити нам перерву?.....	Chy ne zrobyty num perervoo?
Let's finish (the lesson) now.....	Давайте тепер закінчимо урок.....	Dahvahite teper zahkeenchimo oorok
You're doing well.....	Вам це вдається.....	Vum tse vdahyetsyah
Can you say it now?.....	Повторіть це будь ласка?.....	Povtoreet tse bood lahskah?
Can you answer (the question)?.....	Дайте мені відповідь (на запитання)?.....	Dahite menea veedpoveed (nah zahpytunnyah)?
Now you ask me.....	Тепер ваші запитання до мене.....	Taper vushee zahpytunnyah do mana
See you next week.....	Побачимось наступного тиждня.....	Pobuchymosyah nastoopnogo tyzhnyah