

# Cyrillic Script

## Russia “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

October 2015

### GOAL

This guide will teach you to read and recognize the handwritten Cyrillic alphabet.

### INTRODUCTION

Cyrillic cursive is very different from the typed letters. You will need to be familiar with the written letters in addition to the typed letters in order to read Russian genealogical documents.

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [Russia-Cyrillic Alphabet](#)

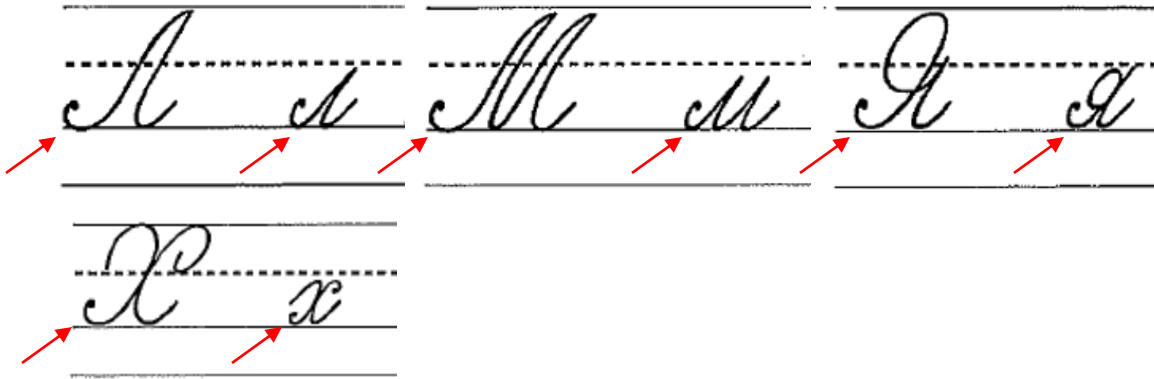
### HOW TO

- Here is a link to a document with the Cyrillic Alphabet along with examples of the letters in cursive. Use and refer to it as you go through the packet. It might be useful to print it out. [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Russian\\_Alphabet](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Russian_Alphabet)
- Video lesson on the Russian alphabet  
<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/reading-russian-handwritten-records-lesson-1-the-russian-alphabet/31>
- Another Russian Alphabet Chart  
<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/content/8/4/8/9/russian-alphabet-v2.pdf>
- Russian Alphabet Practice  
<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/content/9/e/a/5/Russianhandwritingpractice.pdf>

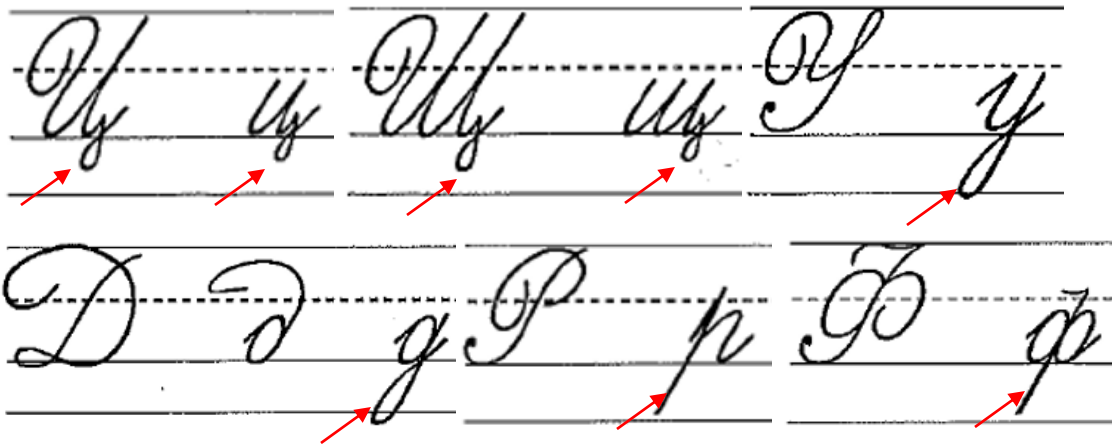
### Handwriting Tricks and Tips

Look for the following things in order to differentiate between letters:

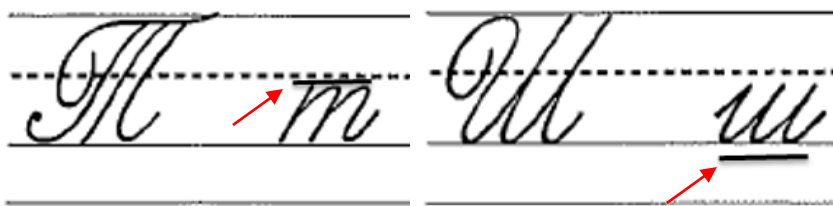
1. Front loops are used in the following letters when they are handwritten: л м я х



2. Tails or descenders are used in the following letters: ц щ у д р ф



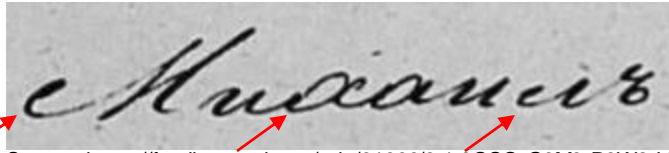
3. Sometimes lines are used above and below the letters “т” and “ш” respectively to differentiate between them.



## PRACTICE

With the help of the *Russian Alphabet* chart, handwriting practice sheet and training packet instruction, decipher the following written names. Write them first in Russian and then transliterate them into English.

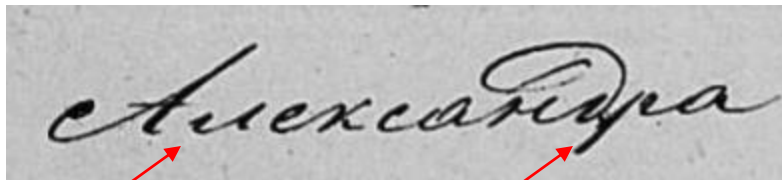
Here is a picture of the first name:



Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9M3-R9W8-V?i=64>

Notice the arrows pointing to the front loops in front of 3 of the letters. Using the information you learned from the Russian Alphabet packet and from the charts and alphabet practice above you can determine each individual letter in the name above. You should have identified this name in Russian to be “*Михаилъ*”, which is transliterated as Mikhail, the Russian form of Michael.

Here is another name for you to practice with:



Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9M3-R9W8-V?i=64>

Notice the arrows pointing to front loops and to tails on 2 different letters. By using the Russian Chart from above you, should have identified this name in Russian to be “*Александра*,” which is transliterated as Aleksandra, the Russian form of Alexandra. Notice that the Russian “д” that was written here looks more similar to the English “d” rather than the other common cursive form which looks similar to the English “g”.

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.