

Russian Vowels

In the Russian Alphabet there are 10 vowels, here they are:

Vowel	Sound Vowel Makes
А а	sounds like AH as car, tar, bar
Е е	sounds like YE as yes, mess, chess
Ё ё	sounds like YO as in yo-yo, bird, third, do you hear that yo sound?
И и	sounds like EE sea, me, bee
О о	sounds like O when stressed as in nose, pose, close, rose sounds like AH when unstressed just like cot, rod, toss, Tom.
У у	sounds like OO as in Goose, booth, took, cook
Ы ы	sounds like ewe or i as in bill, ill, mill
Э э	sounds like EH as in bell, shell, tell, sell
Ю ю	sounds like U as in U-boat, you, cute, puke, suit
Я я	sounds like YA as in yard, sad, cat, bad, fad

Please note that these vowels break down into soft and hard sounding vowels, see if you can hear the difference between:

А and Я	Keep saying А Я А Я А Я А Я А Я until you start hearing the difference
Э and Е	Keep saying Э Е Э Е Э Е Э Е Э Е until you start hearing the difference
О and Ё	Keep saying О Ё О Ё О Ё О Ё О Ё until you start hearing the difference
У and Ю	Keep saying У Ю У Ю У Ю У Ю У Ю until you start hearing the difference
Ы and И	Keep saying Ы И Ы И Ы И Ы И Ы И until you start hearing the difference

In the above the first column А, О, Э, У and Ы are all hard vowels, while Я, Е, Ё, Ю and И are all soft sounding, do you hear that difference in sounds?

OK that leaves only one vowel out Ъ (pronounced as и краткая), however the sound that it actually makes in a word is same as the English letter Y Example, in the English the word boy, toy, soy or the words bay, say, okay.

So, do you hear how the letter Y works in english?

Do you hear what Y does with the previous letter? (it puts a twang to it or softens it). The letter Ъ works the same way in russian, yes it puts a twang on a vowel.

Example, in russian БО is read like "boe" but БОЙ is read like "boy".

Can you read the following: АЙ, ЭЙ, ЕЙ, УЙ, ОЙ, ТОЙ, ТОЙКА, ТОПАЙ