

CYRILLIC THAT LOOKS ROMAN

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The Cyrillic alphabet used in Russia has several letters that look like Roman letters. The ones that correspond closely to the Roman letters in sound as well as appearance are: A, E, K, M, O, T.

Thus, MAMA looks, sounds, and means the same in Russian and in English.

Six more letters look like Roman letters, but are pronounced differently. (The Cyrillic alphabet was based on the Greek rather than the Roman alphabet.) These, with their approximate sounds in parentheses, are:

B (V), C (S), H (N), P (R), X (Kh), Y (OO).

Here are some common Russian words, written in Cyrillic, that look like they are written in Roman letters.

CYRILLIC	ROMANIZATION	TRANSLATION
1. PECTOPAH	RESTORAN	Restaurant
2. CAMOBAP	SAMOVAR	Samovar
3. KOPOBA	KOROVA	Cow
4. CTAKAH	STAKAN	(Drinking) Glass
5. COBET	SOVYeT	Soviet
6. MOPE	MORYe	(the) Sea
7. HEBA	NEVA	Neva (River)
8. TAHK	TANK	Tank
9. XOP	KhOR	Chorus, Choir

In Cyrillic printing, most of the letters look basically the same whether capital or small.

(The three notable exceptions are familiar from their look-alikes in the Roman alphabet:

A,a E,e and P,p.) However, cursive Cyrillic differs drastically from the printed form,

and creates a new set of words that look Roman. The English word "sport" has been imported into almost every other language, including Russian, and in lower case cursive Cyrillic, English "sport" looks like our cursive version of "cnopm".

(The End)