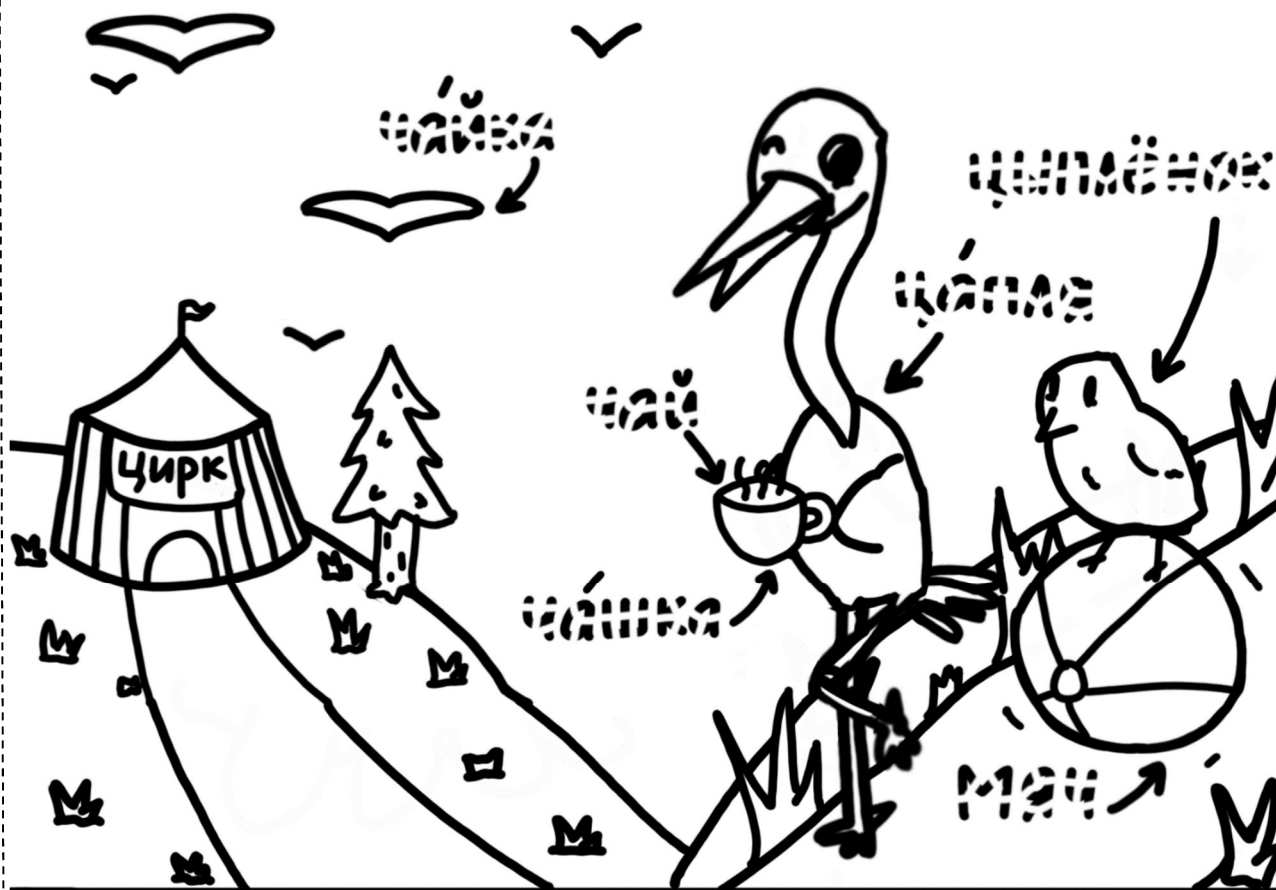


Ц ц Ц ц Ц ц

[ts] like in cats.

Ч ч Ч ч Ч ч

[ch] like in chalk.



Listen and repeat:

Это – цирк. *This is a circus.* Это – цапля. *This is a heron.* Вот – чашка и чай. *Here is a cup and tea.*

Это – цыплёнок и мяч. *This is a chicken and a ball.* А где чайка? *And where is the seagull?*

The letter **Ц ц** makes the sound [ts] as in cats or boots. Just like the letters **Ж** and **Ш**, it always sounds hard and can't be palatalized by any of the palatalizing vowels. For example, when you see **ц** and **и** together (-**ци**) or **ц** and **ы** together (-**цы**), you will read both of them as [**цы**]: цирк, цыплёнок.

The letter **Ч ч** makes the sound [ch] as in chalk or chat. On opposite from **Ж**, **Ш**, and **Ц**, the letter **Ч** always sounds soft, even when it precedes such non-palatalizing vowels like **а**, **о**, **ы**, **э**, or **у**. Have you noticed that there are a few letters in Russian which sounds in English are represented with more than one letter? This is one of the reasons why there are more letters in the Russian alphabet than in the English one. Now, think of the many Russian vowels you have learned by now. Can you think of another reason why there are twice as many vowels in Russian than in English? Can you figure out which sound the letter **Ю ю** makes? Try to read these syllables:

ва – вя
ав – яв

ло – лё
ол – ёл

ны – ни
ын – ин

зэ – зе
эз – ез

бу – бю
уб – юб