



Listen and repeat:

Вот – ворона. Here is a crow. **Вот – ёлка.** Here is a fir-tree. **Это – йети?** Is this a Yeti?

Ой! Oh! **Там – вулкан.** The volcano is there. **Ой-ой-ой! Oh, no!**

Don't confuse the Russian letter **В в** with the English letter **B b**. The Russian letter **В в** sounds like [v] in *volcano* or *victory*. Try to read this word now: **лава**. It's a cognate. Can you guess its translation? That's right, **лава** means *lava* in English.

Another letter that looks like an English letter but doesn't sound like it is the letter **У у**. In Russian, this letter is the symbol for the sound similar to [oo] as in *look* or *book*. When Russians say this sound, they round their lips much more than English speakers, almost as if they are about to start whistling. Try to read this interjection: **Ух-ты!** It's equivalent to the English interjection *Wow!*

The fun looking letter **Ё ё** also represents two sounds together: [yo] as in *yolk* or *yogurt*. If you see this letter in a word, remember that it will always be stressed. Finally, the letter **Й й** is always a consonant in Russian and it makes the short sound [y] as in *toy* or *boy*. Russians call it "the short и" – "и краткое".