

Color-n-Learn

to read in

RUSSIAN!



Illustrated by Anna Burnett

И и И и

[ee] like in eel.

Я я Я я

[ya] like in yard



И and **Я** are fun letters! They look like the English capital letters *N* and *R* reflected in a mirror. Would you ever guess how they sound before learning about them? There are 10 vowels in Russian alphabet and now you can recognize these two amazing letters! Good job!

When you color this picture and trace over the printed letters, try to think of good answers to these questions:

- Who is in it? Where do you think they are? What are they saying and why?

Remember: **Я** is the last letter in the Russian alphabet, and it can also be translated as the words *I* or *me*. **И** can be translated into English as the word *and*.

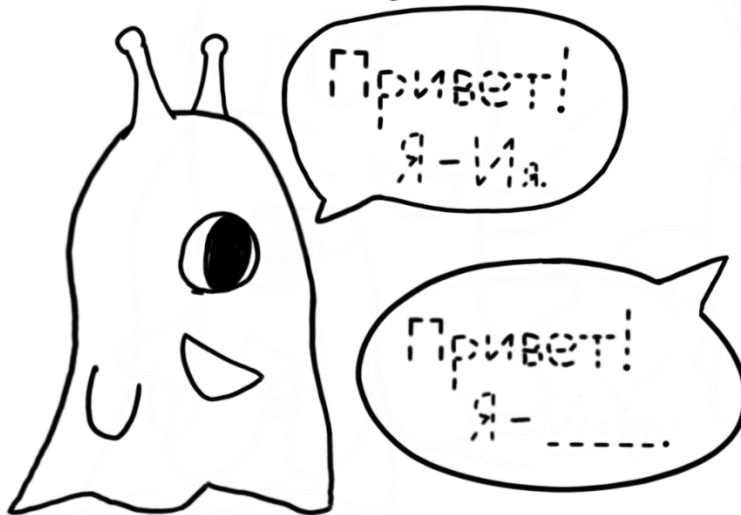
Привет!

Hi!

Я - _____.

I am (write your name in English).

Draw yourself greeting the alien. His name is Eeya.



Привет means *hi* or *hello*. This is an informal greeting in Russian. When can you use this greeting? You can use it to greet your friends, family members, and classmates. Your parents can say it to you, any child, their friends and colleagues at work (but usually not to their boss). You can say “Привет!” to another student or kid even if you don’t know each other.

Now, would you say “Привет!” to a teacher, a principal, or an adult who is not part of your family? Definitely not: because these situations are considered formal in Russian language. We will learn formal greetings later in the course.

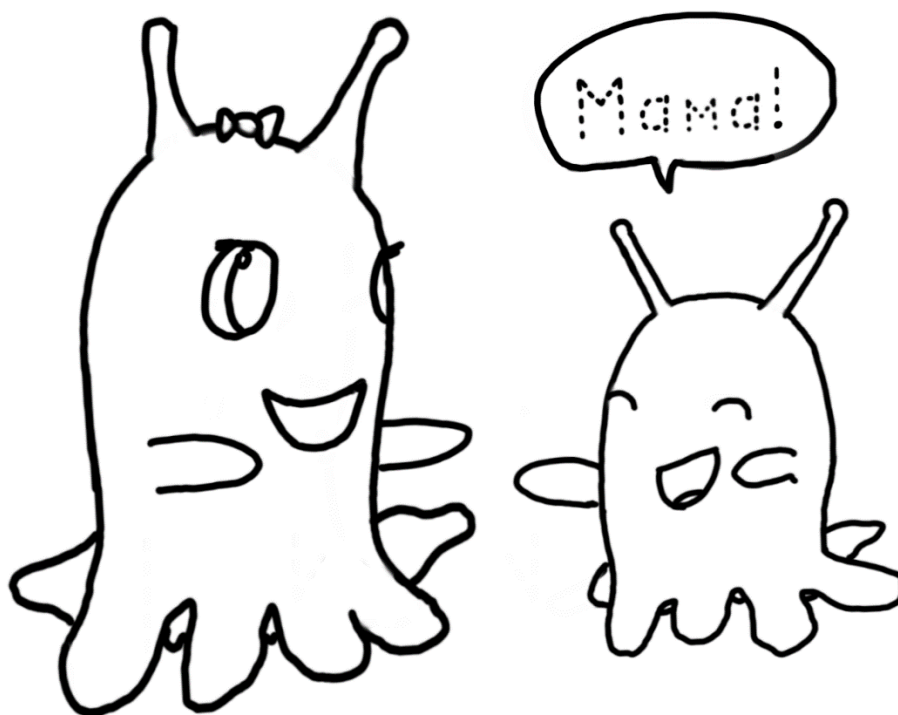
Do you hear the sound with which this word begins? Try to guess which sound the Russian letter **П** makes. Now, how about the last sound in **Привет**? Which English letter does the last letter in this word look like to you?

Mm Mm

[m] like in mom.

Aa Aa

[a:] like in arm.



M and **A** are easy to remember: they look like the English capital letters *M* and *A* and even sound similarly. No wonder it is not hard to read the Russian word **мама**. It is translated into English as *mama* or *mom*, too. When words from two different languages sound alike and have the same meanings, they are called *cognates*. Is the Russian word **мама** a cognate? Absolutely!

Try to read these phrases in Russian and translate them into English:

Ия и мама. Мама и Ия.

Я – Ия. Я – мама.

Kk Kk

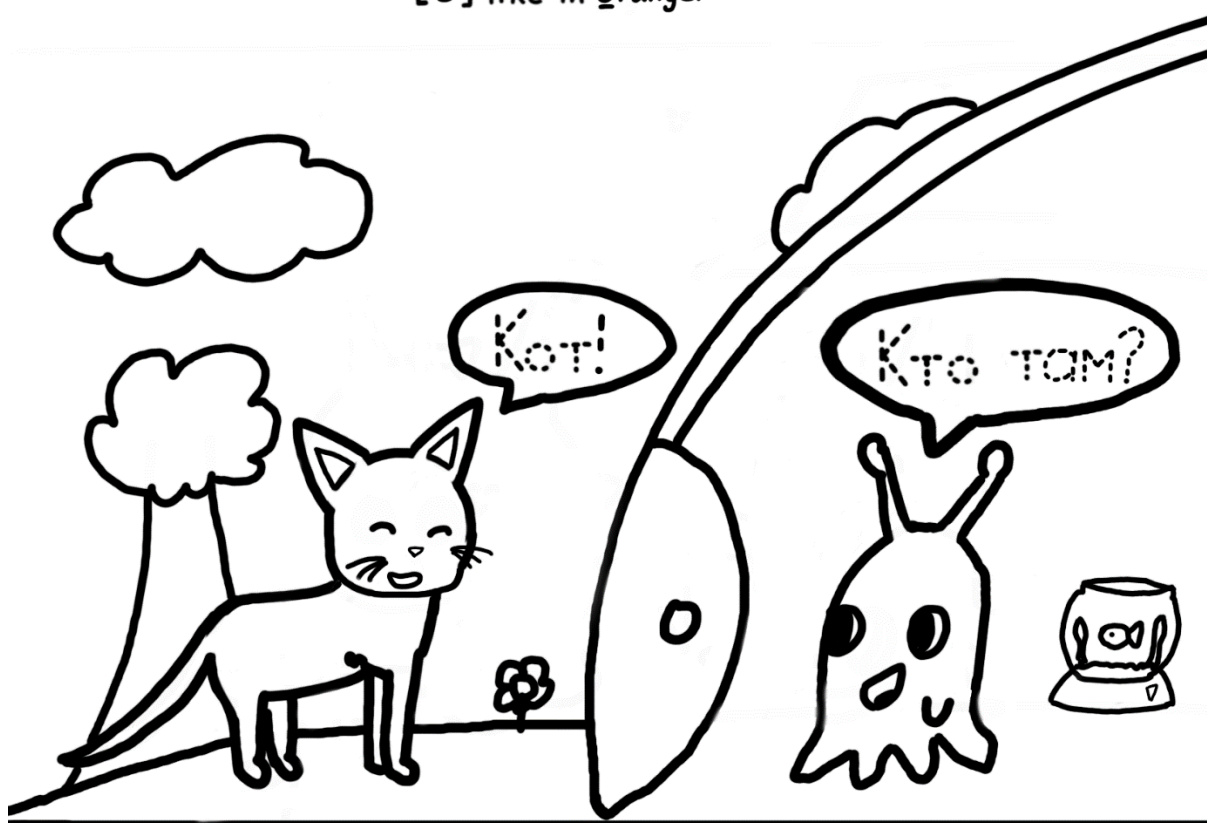
[k] like in kite.

Tt Tt

[t] like in tiger.

Oo Oo

[O] like in orange.



These three letters look and sound like their English counterparts. The only exception is that the Russian letter **T** makes a bit dryer sound than the English *T*. How can you make it sound dryer? Look at your tongue in the mirror and say the English sound [t]. Did you see or feel the position of the tip of your tongue? To sound like a Russian when you say [t], relax your lips and move the tip of your tongue a bit lower, so that it touches the upper front teeth from inside. Try to say [t] with your tongue in this position. You should sound like a native Russian speaker now!

So, how do you say *a cat* in Russian? **кот** means *a cat*; **кто** means *who*; **там** means *there*. Have you noticed that in the Russian language there are no articles like *a*, *an*, or *the*? That's right, Russian doesn't use articles. Did you notice anything else that is different from English?