

Ж ж * *
[zh] like in treasure.

З з * *
[z] like in zoo.

Ш ш * * * *
[sh] like in shake.



Listen and repeat:

Где зоопарк? *Where is a zoo?* Вот - жаба. *Here is a toad.* Это – шмель? *Is this a bumblebee?*

У меня есть шар и шарф. *I have a balloon and a scarf.* Это - жук и змея. *These are a beetle and a snake.*

The letter **Ш ш** makes the sound [sh] as in *shake* or *share*. Remember learning about voiced and voiceless consonant pairs? When you say the sound [sh], your vocal cords do not vibrate, which means that this sound is voiceless. Which letter would be a voiced friend of the letter **Ш ш**? That would be the letter **Ж ж**. It makes the [zh] sound which is close to the way we pronounce [s] in *treasure* or *measure*. The interesting thing about the letters **Ж** and **Ш** is that they always sound hard, they can't be palatalized by soft sign or any of the palatalizing vowels. For example, when you see **ш** and **ь** together (-шь), you will still read it as [sh]. When you see **ж** and **ь** together (-жь), you will still read it as [zh]. We will learn more about it later in this course.

The letter **З з** makes the sound [z] as in *zoo* or *zebra*. Try to read these two words: **за́мок** – a castle, **замóк** – a lock. Isn't it interesting how simply changing the stress changes the words' meanings?