

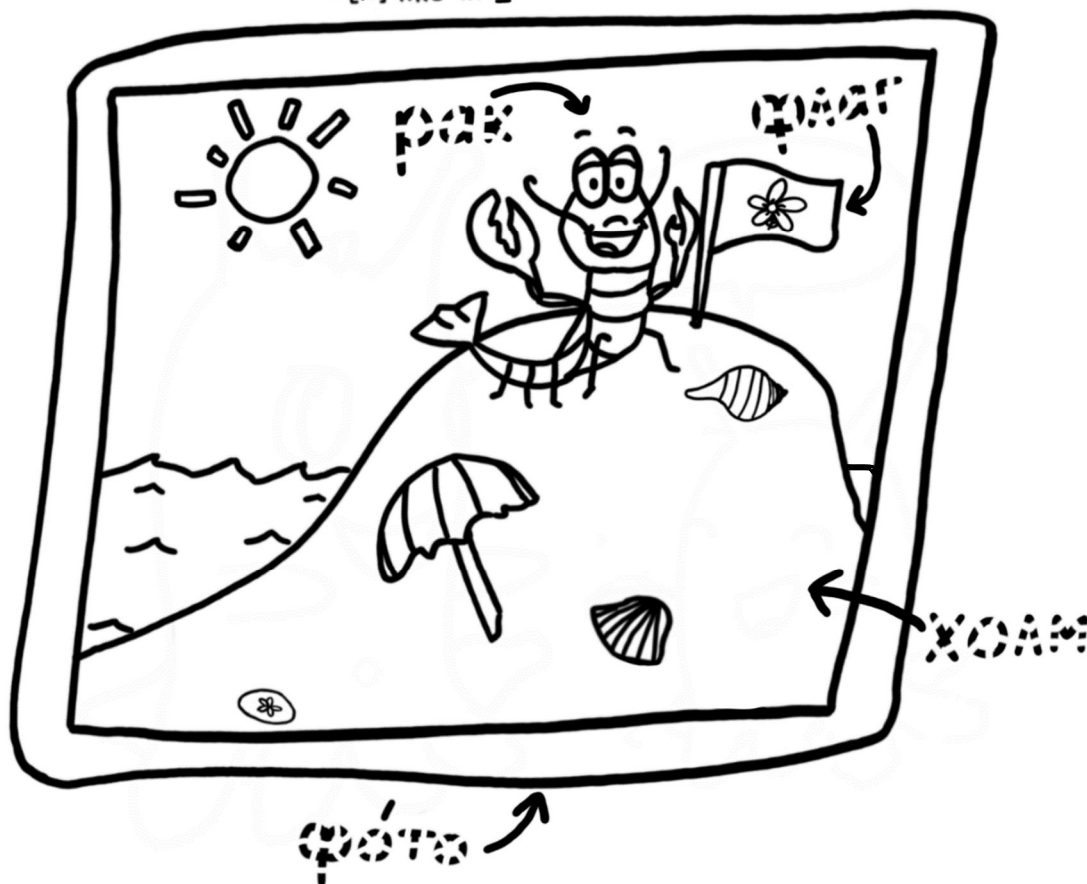
P p P p Ф ф Ф ф

≈[r] like in rock.

[f] like in flag.

X x X x

≈[h] like in hare.



Это – фото.

This is a photo.

Это – холм.

This is a hill.

Это – флаг.

This is a flag.

Это – рак.

This is a crawfish.

Here are three more Russian letters which are similar to Greek letters. The letter Ф ф looks like the Greek letter *phi*. Think of it as your fantastic funny friend. It's fun to write, too!

Watch out for the letter X x – it's a trickster! It looks like the English letter X x but don't be tricked by its appearance. It actually makes the sound similar to [h] in *hare* but much stronger and closer to [k] in *kite*. Another good example of this sound would be *ch* in *Bach*. (Do you like classical music?) So, how should you pronounce this sound? Trick yourself: prepare to say the sound [k], notice the position of your vocal cords. From this position, try to say [h] instead – you will get a perfect Russian x coming from your throat. **Хорошо!**

The letter P p is another trickster. It doesn't sound like [p] in *pup*! (Remember the word **папа**?) The letter P p makes a flap or trilled [r] sound similar to a Spanish or Scottish [r]. The position for P is similar to the position of your tongue when you say [tt] in "I need a better butter for a better batter."