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Krātiņš, Ojārs
Latvian self-taught for
English speaking people

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LATVIAN
SELF-TAUGHT

FOR
ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE



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LATVIAN
SELF-TAUGHT

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The Alphabet, Pronunciation and Grammar by
OJĀRS KRĀTIŅŠ

Conversational phrases compiled by Zintis' staff

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LATVIAN SELF-TAUGHT

by Ojārs Krātiņš

The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Latvian Alphabet	Pronunciation	International Phonetic Alphabet
A a	close to a in eastern U.S. farm [fam] e.g., balts , white a mati , hair; labi , well (adv.)	[a]
B b	same as in English, e.g. bet , but b bikses , trousers; bez , without	[b]
C c	as ts in tsar , e.g. cik , how much c acs , eye; cept , to bake	[ts]
Č č	as ch in chin , e.g. četri , four č čeks , cheque; buča , kiss	[tʃ]
Ch ch	as ch in the Scottish loch , e.g. chaoss [xaos], chaos ch cholera , cholera; šachs , chess	[x]
D d	same as in English, e.g. dīvi , two d desmit , ten; durvis , door; daba , nature	[d]
Dz dz	as ds in birds , e.g. dzert , to drink dz redze , the sense of sight; dzert , to drink	[dz]
Dž dž	as j in joy , e.g. dadži , thistles dž bundža , tin can	[dʒ]

E e	as e in ten , e.g. nest , to carry; in certain positions as a in fat , e.g. sekot [sækuot], to follow e es, I; pele , mouse	[e] [æ]
F f	same as in English, e.g. foto , photo f filma , film; efekts , effect	[f]
G g	as g in good, e.g. uguns , fire g galva , head; deguns , nose	[g]
Ģ ģ	close to d(y) in education , pronounced by flattening the back of the tongue against the hard palate, but leaving the tongue-tip free; voiced, e.g. ģimene , family (a palatalized g). ģ ģenijs , genius	[ɲ]
H h	same as in English, e.g. horizonts , horizon	[h]
I i	as ee in seem , e.g. cits [tsits], another i viss , all; pils , castle	[i]
J j	as y in yet , e.g. jaka , jacket j jumts , roof; jeb , or	[j]
K k	as c in cool , e.g. kalns , mountain k kur , where; kad , when	[k]
Ķ ķ	a palatalized k, close to t(y) in Tuesday , pronounced by flattening the back of the tongue against the hard palate, but leaving the tongue-tip free; unvoiced, e.g. kaķis [kačis], cat ķ puķe , flower; ķermenis , body	[č]

Notes

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L l	as l in lily, e.g. ledus [lædus], ice l zils, blue, labs, good	[l]
Ļ ļ	a palatalized l, close to li in pavilion, pronounced by flattening little more than the tip of the tongue against the hard palate just back of the teeth, e.g. pļava, meadow ļ gaļa, meat; ļoti [l'uoti], very	[λ]
M m	same as in English, e.g. mans, mine m milzis, giant; zeme, earth, ground	[m]
N n	same as in English, e.g. nams, building n nulle, zero; nakts, night	[n]
Ņ ņ	a palatalized n, close to ni in onion, pronounced by flattening the entire front half of the tongue, including the tip, against the hard palate, e.g. ņemt, to take ņ nītrs, brisk, nimble; paziņa, an acquaintance	[ɲ]
O o	in loanwords as o in oration, e.g. policija [politsija], police	[o]
	in Latvian words as a diphthong close to ui in ruin, e.g. koks [kùoks], tree	[ù]
	o uo: oga, berry; ods, mosquito	
P p	same as in English, e.g. putns, bird p pilns, full; poga, [puoga], button	[p]
R r	as r in three, always trilled, e.g. roka [rùòka], hand r ritenis, wheel; krist, to fall	[r]

Ř ř	not distinguished from r in pronunciation except in dialects in which case the trilled r is followed by a faint y [j] sound, e.g. <i>kařš</i> , war	[ř]
S s	as s in <i>song</i> , e.g. <i>silts</i> , warm s <i>starp</i> , between; <i>sist</i> , to hit	[s]
Š š	as sh in <i>she</i> , e.g. <i>šis</i> , this š <i>dziļš</i> , deep; <i>šķelmis</i> , rascal	[ʃ]
T t	same as in English, e.g. <i>tad</i> , then t <i>putns</i> , bird, <i>tapt</i> , to become	[t]
Ū ū	as oo in <i>cool</i> , e.g. <i>uguns</i> , fire u <i>gulta</i> , bed; <i>upe</i> , river	[u]
V v	same as in English, e.g. <i>vakars</i> , evening v <i>vecs</i> , old; <i>vidus</i> , middle	[v]
Z z	as z in <i>buzz</i> , e.g. <i>ziņas</i> , news z <i>zivs</i> , fish, <i>zils</i> , blue	[z]
Ž ž	as s in <i>casual</i> , e.g. <i>žigls</i> , nimble ž <i>bažas</i> , anxiety; <i>žurka</i> , rat	[ʒ]

The letters **ch**, **f**, **h** are found only in foreign words, e.g. *forma*, form; *himna*, hymn; *chronika* [xronika], chronicle.

Notes

Notes

All vowels can be also long, that is, held longer in pronunciation, e.g.

ā [a:] in **māte** [ma:te], mother

ē [e:] in **mēle** [me:le], tongue; **tēvs** [tæ:vs], father

ī [i:] in **tīrs** [ti:rs], clean

ō [o:] in **prōza** [pro:za], prose

ū [u:] in **lūdzu** [lu:dzu], please

Latvian has the following diphthongs:

ai as in **laime**, luck

ai **bailes**, fear; **laiks**, time, weather

au as in **lauks**, field

au **bauda**, pleasure; **nauda**, money

ie as in **ielā**, street

ui as in **puika**, boy

ui **muita**, border customs

iu (very rare) as in **pliukšņēt** [pliuk(šē:t)], to crack (as whip)

oi as in **boikots**, boycott (this diphthong occurs only in foreign words)

The true Latvian **o**, although not written as such, is also a diphthong [uo], e.g. as in **cla** [uola], egg

The voiced consonants **b, d, g, z, ž** are pronounced unvoiced if they are followed by an unvoiced consonant, e.g. **labs, kāds, logs, gāzt, mežs** are pronounced [laps], good; [ka:ts], a certain [luoks], window; [ga:st], to topple; [meʃ], forest. On the other hand, the unvoiced consonants **p, t, k, s** are voiced when followed by a voiced consonant, e.g. **atbēgt, apgāzt, likdams, sestdiena** are pronounced [adbe:kt], to flee here; [abga:st], to topple over; [ligdams], putting; [sezdiena], Saturday.

As a rule, the stress in pronunciation falls on the first syllable, even in compounds, e.g. **neeju**, (I) don't go. The exceptions to the rule will be signalled by a stress symbol in the phonetic transcription, e.g. **vislabākais** [vislába:kais], the best.

CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES

Greetings and Polite Expressions

English	Latvian	Pronunciation (Internat. Phonet. Alph.)
Good morning	labrīt	labri:t
Good day	labdien	labdien
Good evening	labvakar	labvakar
Good night	ar labunakti	ar labunakti
Good bye	uz redzēšanas	uz redze:(anus
How do you do? how are you?	kā jums iet? (polite)	ka: jums iet?
Very well, thank you	labi, paldies	labi, paldies
I am very well	man iet labi	man iet labi

Notes

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How is your father?	kā iet jūsu tēvam	ka: iet ju:su tæ:vam
" mother?	kā iet jūsu mātei?	ka: iet ju:su ma:tei
" brother?	kā iet jūsu brālim	ka: iet ju:su bra:lim
" sister?	kā iet jūsu māšai	ka: iet ju:su ma:sai
Pretty well	diezgan labi	diezgan labi
He (she) is not well	viņš (viņa) nejūtas labi	viņš (viņa) neju:tas labi
Pleased to meet you	patīkami satikties	pati:kami satikties
Thank you	paldies	paldies
I am sorry	es atvainojos	es atvainuojuos
You are very kind	jūs esiet ļoti laipns (masc.)	ju:s esiet laipna (femin.)
I must go	man ir jāiet	man ir ja:iet
What a pity	ļoti žēl	ļuoti že:l
You are in a great hurry	jūs ļoti steidzaties	ju:s ļuoti steidzaties
I cannot stay	es nevaru palikt	es nevaru palikt
I am going now	es tagad eju	es tagad eju
It is time to go	laiks iet	laiks iet
I am glad to see you	patīkami jūs redzēt	pati:kami ju:s redze:t
I must apologize	man jāatvainojās	man ja:atvainuoja:s
Could you	vai jūs varētu	vai ju:s vare:tu
It is nothing	tas nekas	tas nekas
Don't apologize	neatvainojaties	neatvainojaties
Excuse me, pardon me	pieņemšanu	pieņemšanu
I apologize	es atvainojos	es atvainuojuos
Please	lūdzu	lu:dzu
May I ask?	vai varētu paprasīt	vai vare:tu paprasi:t
Allow me	atļaujiet man	atļaujiet man
Come in	nākiet iekšā	na:kiet iekša:
Yes, Mr. Ozols	jā, Ozola kungs	ja:, UOzuola kungs
No, Mrs. Ozols	nē, Ozola kundze	ne:, UOzuola kundze

Useful and Necessary Expressions

I love you	es tevi mīlu	es tevi mi:lu
You don't love me	tu mani nemīli	tu mani nemi:li
He (she) loves me	viņš (viņa) mani mīl	viņš (viņa) mani mīl
No, go away	nē, ej projām	ne:, ej pruoja:m
Send me a letter	atsūti man vēstuli	atsu:ti man ve:stuli
Bring me	atnesiet man	atnesiet man
Give me	iedodiet man	ieduodiet man
Tell me	pasakiet man	pasakiet man
Will you tell me?	vai jūs pateiksiet man	vai ju:s pateiksiet man
Tell him	pasakiet viņam	pasakiet viņam
Do you speak Latvian?	vai jūs runājat latviski	vai ju:s runa:jat latviski
I speak a little	es runāju mazliet	es runa:ju mazliet
Latvian	latviski	latviski
I don't speak Latvian	es nerunāju latviski	es neruna:ju latviski
I understand	es saprotu	es saprotu
Do you understand?	vai jūs saprotiet	vai ju:s saprotiet
Is there anyone here who speaks English	vai te ir kāds, kas saprot angļiski	vai te ir ka:ds, kas sapruot angļiski
I understand everything	es saprotu visu	es saprotu visu
You speak too fast	jūs runājiet par ātru	ju:s runa:jiet par a:tru
Do not speak so fast, please	lūdzu nerunājiet tik ātri	lu:dzu neruna:jiet tik a:tri
Speak slower	runājiet lēnāk	runa:jiet læ:nāk
I don't understand you	es jūs nesaprotu	es ju:s nesaprotu
He is not here	viņš te nav	viņš te nav
It is not true	tā nav patiesība	ta: nav patiesi:ba
It is so	tā ir	tā ir
It is not so	tā nav	ta: nav
Who was it?	kas tas bija	kas tas bija

Who is it?	kurš tur ir	kurš tur ir
What is it?	kas tas ir	kas tas ir
Where is it?	kur tas ir	kur tas ir
Where is she?	kur viņa ir	kur viņa ir
Where are you?	kur jūs esiet	kur ju:s esiet
Where were you?	kur jūs bijāt	kur ju:s bijāt
Let it be	lai paliek	lai paliek
What time is it?	cik pulkstens	cik pulkstens
I am an American	es esmu amerikānis	es esmu amerika:nis
I am not Latvian	es neesmu latvietis	es neesmu latvietis
Can it be?	vai tas var būt	vai tas var bu:t
That cannot be	tas nevar būt	tas nevar bu:t
I have nothing	man nekas nav	man nekas nav
I don't have it	man tas nav	man tas nav
He doesn't have it	viņam tas nav	viņam tas nav
What do you have?	kas jums ir	kas jums ir
Let me have it	iedodiet man to	ieduodiet man tuo
Have you heard	vai jūs esat dzirdējuši	vai ju:s esat dzirde:juši
I haven't heard it	to nedzirdēju	tuo nedzirde:ju
Hear!	paklausaties	paklausaties
Give me	iedodiet man	ieduodiet man
I will give it to you	es to jums iedošu	es tuo jums ieduošu
What did you say?	ko jūs teicāt	kuo ju:s teitsat
I said nothing	es neteicu neko	es neteitsu nekuo
You are wrong	jums nav taisnība	jums nav taisni:ba
I say no	es saku nē	es saku ne:
You are right	jums taisnība	jums taisni:ba
I am certain of it	es esmu drošs par to	es esmu druošs par to
What do you mean?	ko jūs domājiet	kuo ju:s duoma:jiet
Why do you ask?	kāpēc jūs prasiet	ka:pe:ts ju:s prasiet
Tell me	pasakiet man	pasakiet man
I know it	to es zinu	tuo es zinu
Did you say it?	vai jūs to teicāt	vai ju:s tuo teitsat
I will say nothing	es neko neteikšu	es nekuo neteikšu
I believe him	es ticu viņam	es titsu viņam

N o t e s

N o t e s

What is he doing?	ko viņš dara	kuo viņš dara
What for?	priekš kā	priekš ka:
Why are you silent?	kāpēc jūs klusējat	ka:pe:ts ju:s kluse:jat
Stop!	stāt	sta:t
Be quiet!	klusu	klusu
Come here!	atnākiet šeit	atna:kiet šeit
Go away!	ejiet prom	ejiet prucm
Come back!	nākiet atpakaļ	na:kiet atpakaļ
Sit down!	apsēžaties	apse:žaties
Wait for me!	pagaidiet mani	pagaidiet mani
Hurry up!	pasteidzaties	pasteidzaties
Call him!	pasauciet viņu	pasautsiet viņu
Continue!	turpiniet	turpiniet
Speak!	runājiet	runa:jiet
Look at me!	paskataties uz mani	paskataties uz mani
Speak to me!	parunājiet ar mani	paruna:jiet ar mani

Teenage conversation

Hi, howdy	hai, sveiks	hai, sveiks
Let's be merry and marry	priecāsimies un precēsīmies	prieca:simies un prece:simies
Do you love me?	vai tu mani mīli	vai tu mani mi:li
Do you have a car?	vai tev ir mašīna	vai tev ir ma(i:na
No, I have money	nē, man ir nauda	ne:, man ir nauda
O.K., kiss me!	okei, dod buču	okei, duod but(u
No, buddy boy, scoot!	nē, čalīt, vācies	ne:, t(ali:t, va:tsies
Tough, I'm cutting out	žēl, es laižos lapās	že:l, es laižuos
	(lit.: I'm heading for the bushes)	lapa:s
Don't be nuts,	nepūr pīlītes,	nepu:t pi:li:tes,
	(lit.: don't blow little ducks)	
let's go dance	iesim dejot	iesim dejuot
To be or not to be	būt vai nebūt	bu:t vai nebu:t

Substitute other nouns in these questions. Learn the names of objects by pointing:

- Q. Kā Jūs sauc? — What is your name (lit.: what are you
A. Mans vārds ir ... — My name is ... called?)
- Q. Kur Jūs dzīvojiet? — Where do you live?
A. Es dzīvoju ... — I live in ...
- Q. Vai Jums patīk kīno? — Do you like the movies?
A. Jā, bet man teātris patīk labāk.
Yes, but I like live theatre better.
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Q. Kas tas ir?
What is that? | Q. Kur ir ...
Where is ... |
| A. Tas ir galds.
That is a table. | mans mētelis?
my coat? |
| Q. Un kas tas ir?
And what is that? | mana cepure?
my hat? |
| A. Tas ir krēsls.
That is a chair, etc. | izeja?
the exit? etc. |



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VOCABULARY

Note: all adjectives are given with the masculine ending -s. If an adjective refers to a feminine noun, its ending becomes -a (in the nominative).

A

acs—eye
amerikānis—an American
angliski—in English
apgāzt—to topple over (trans.)
apsveikumi—greetings
atbēgt—to flee here
atļaut—to allow
atnest—to bring here
atpakaļ—backwards
atvainoties—to apologize

Ā

ātrs—fast, quick

B

bailes—fear
balts—white
bauda—pleasure
bažas—anxiety
bet—but
bez—without
bikses—pants, trousers
boikots—boycott
brālis—brother
buča—kiss
bundža—tin can
būt—to be
 bija—was (3rd person)
 būs—will be (3rd person)

C

cept—to bake
cepure—hat
chaoss—chaos
cholera—cholera
cik—how much
cits—another

Č

čalīts—guy (inferior connotation)

čeks—cheque
četri—four

D

daba—nature
dadži—thistles
darīt—to do
deguns—nose
dejot—to dance
derīgs—useful
desmit—ten
diena—day
divi—two
domāt—to think, mean
dot—to give
drošs—certain, sure
durvis—door
dzert—to drink
dziļš—deep
dzirdēt—to hear
dzīvot—to live

E

efekts—an effect
es—I; es esmu—I am; es biju—
 I was; es būšu — I will be

F

filma—film, movie
forma—form
foto—photo
frāzes—phrases

G

gaidīt—to wait
gaļa—meat
galva—head
gāzt—to topple
gramatika—grammar
gulta—bed

Ģ

ģimene—family
ģenijs—genius

H

himna—hymn
horizonts—horizon

I

iela—street
 iet — to go
 ir—is; also shows possession, i.e.:
 man ir—I have; tev ir—you
 have; viņam (viņai) ir—he, she
 has; mums, jums, viņiem ir--
 we, you, they have
 izeja—exit
 izruna—pronunciation
 izteicieni—spoken expressions

J

jā—yes
 jaka—jacket
 jaunkundze—Miss
 jauki—pretty, nice
 jautājums—question
 jeb—or
 jumts—roof
 jūs—you (plural, or polite sing.)

K

kā—how
 kad—when
 kāds—a certain
 kaķis—cat
 kalns—mountain, hill
 kaŗš—war
 kino—movies
 klejot—to wander
 klusēt—to keep silent
 koks—tree
 krēsls—chair
 krist—to fall
 kundze—Mrs.
 kungs—Mr.
 kur—where
 kuŗš—who

Ķ

ķermenis—body

L

labi—well
 labs—good
 lai—let
 laiks—time, weather

14

laime—luck
 laipns—kind
 laisties—to flee
 lapa—leaf
 latviski—in Latvian
 lauks—field
 ledus—ice
 lēnāk—slower
 lēns—slow
 liels—great, big
 lietvārdi—nouns
 likdams—putting
 locījums—grammatical case
 logs—window
 lūdzu—please

Ļ

ļoti—very
 ļoti labi—very well

M

māja—house
 man—to me; also used in posses-
 sive, i.e.: man bija—I had
 mans—mine
 māsa—sister
 maŗina—automobile, machine
 māte—mother
 mati—hair
 mēle—tongue
 mēs—we
 mētelis—coat
 meŗšs—forest
 mīla—love
 mīlēt—to love
 milzis—giant
 muita—customs office or duty

N

nākt—to come
 nakts—night
 nams—a building
 nauda—money
 nē—no
 ne—(prefix) not, don't
 neeju—I don't, won't go
 nekas—nothing

Notes

N o t e s

nepareizs—wrong
nepūt—don't blow
nest—to carry
nevaru—I cannot
nulle—zero

N

nemt—to take
ņiprs—brisk, vigorous

O

ods—mosquito
oga—berry
okei—O.K.
ozols—oak

P

paldies—thank you
par—about
pareizs—right
patikami—pleasant
paziņa—an acquaintance
pele—mouse
pieklājīgs—polite
pīle—duck
pilīte—a little duck
pilns—full
pils—castle
pļava—meadow
pliušķēt—to make a cracking
noise

poga—button
policija—police
prasīt—to ask
precēties—to get married
priecāties—to enjoy (reflex.)
projām—away
proza—prose
puika—boy
puķe—flower
pulkstens—watch, clock; also: cik
pulkstens—what time is it?
pūst—to blow
putns—bird

R

redze—the sense of sight
redzēt—to see
ritenis—wheel, bicycle
rits—morning
roka—hand
runāt—to speak

S

sacīt—to say
saprast—to understand
saruna—conversation
satikt—to meet
saukt—to call
sestdiena—Saturday
sēsties—to sit
silts—warm
sist—to hit
skatīties—to look
starp—between
stāt—to stop
stāvēt—to stand
steigties—to hurry
sūtīt—to send

Š

šachs—chess
šis—this
šķelmis—rascal

T

tā—so
tad—then
tagad—now
tapt—to become
te—here
teātris—theater
teikt—to say
tēvs—father
ticēt—to believe
tīrs—clean
tu—you (sing. informal)
tur—there
turpināt—to continue

U

uguns—fire
 un—and
 upe—river
 uz—on, to
 uz redzēšanos—good-bye (with
 the idea of meeting again)

V

vai—or; indicates a question, i.e.:
 vai es drikstētu?—may I?
 vakars—evening
 vajadzīgs—necessary
 vārds—name
 vecs—old

vēstule—letter
 vidus—middle
 vislabākais—the best
 viss—all, everything

Z

zeme—earth, ground
 zils—blue
 zināt—to know
 ziņas—news
 zivs—fish

Ž

žēl—sorry
 žigls—nimble
 žurka—rat

Some examples of grammar

VERBS (1st person only)

Infinitive	Present	Past	Future
iet (to go)	eju	gāju	iešu
runāt (to talk)	runāju	runāju	runāšu
rakstīt (to write)	rakstu	rakstīju	rakstīšu

ADJECTIVES (masc. only)

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
balts (white)	baltāks	visbaltākais
labs (good)	labāks	vislabākais

NOUNS (examples of declination, sing. only)

Case	Masculine	Feminine
Nominative (what?)	tēvs	māja
Genitive (whose?)	tēva	mājas
Dative (to whom)	tēvam	mājai
Accusative (what?)	tēvu	māju
Instrumental (with what?)	ar tēvu	ar māju
Locative (where?)	tēvā	mājā
Vocative (form of address)	tēv	

Conversational phrases compiled by Zintis' staff

to be continued

Notes

LATVIAN
SELF-TAUGHT
II

FOR
ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE

LATVIAN SELF-TAUGHT

II PART

by Ojārs Krātiņš

The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Latvian Alphabet	Pronunciation	International Phonetic Alphabet
A a	close to a in eastern U.S. farm e.g., balts, white mati, hair; labi, well (adv.)	[a]
B b	same as in English, e.g. bet, but bikses, trousers; bez, without	[b]
C c	as ts in tsar, e.g. cik, how much acs, eye; cept, to bake	[ts]
Č č	as ch in chin, e.g. četri, four čeks, cheque; buča, kiss	[tʃ]
Ch ch	as ch in the Scottish loch, e.g. chaoss [xaos], chaos cholera, cholera; šachs, chess	[x]
D d	same as in English, e.g. divi, two desmit, ten; durvis, door; daba, nature	[d]
Dz dz	as ds in birds, e.g. dzert, to drink redze, the sense of sight; dzert, to drink	[dz]
Dž dž	as j in joy, e.g. dadži, thistles bundža, tin can [dʒ]	
E e	as e in ten, e.g. nest, to carry; in certain positions as a in fat, e.g. sekot [sækuot], to follow es, I; pele, mouse	[e] [æ]
F f	same as in English, e.g. foto, photo filma, film; efekts, effect	[f]
G g	as g in good, e.g. uguns, fire galva, head; deguns, nose	[g]

G g	close to d(y) in education , pronounced by flattening the back of the tongue against the hard palate, but leaving the tongue-tip free; voiced, e.g. ġimene , family (a palatalized g). ġenijs , genius	[ġ]
H h	same as in English, e.g. horizonts , horizon	[h]
I i	as ee in seem , e.g. cits [tsits], another viss , all; pils , castle	[i]
J j	as y in yet , e.g. jaka , jacket jumts , roof; jeb , or	[j]
K k	as c in cool , e.g. kalns , mountain kur , where; kad , when	[k]
Ķ ķ	a palatalized k, close to t(y) in Tuesday , pronounced by flattening the back of the tongue against the hard palate, but leaving the tongue-tip free; unvoiced, e.g. kaķis [kačis], cat puķe , flower; ķermenis , body	[č]
L l	as l in lily , e.g. ledus [lædus], ice zils , blue, labs , good	[l]
Ļ ļ	a palatalized l, close to li in pavilion , pronounced by flattening little more than the tip of the tongue against the hard palate just back of the teeth, e.g. pļava , meadow; gaļa , meat; ļoti [lʷoti], very	[lʷ]
M m	same as in English, e.g. mans , mine milzis , giant; zeme , earth, ground	[m]
N n	same as in English, e.g. nams , building nulle , zero; nakts , night	[n]
Ņ ņ	a palatalized n, close to ni in onion , pronounced by flattening the entire front half of the tongue, including the tip, against the hard palate, e.g. ņemt , to take ņiprs , brisk, nimble; paziņa , an acquaintance	[nʲ]

O o	in loanwords as o in oration, e.g. policija [politsija], police in Latvian words as a diphthong close to ui in ruin, e.g. koks [kuoks], tree oga, berry; ods, mosquito	[o] [uo]
P p	same as in English, e.g. putns, bird pilns, full; poga, [puoga], button	[p]
R r	as r in three, always trilled, e.g. roka [rùoka], hand ritenis, wheel; krist, to fall	[r]
Ņ ņ	not distinguished from r in pronunciation except in dialects in which case the trilled r is followed by a faint y [j] sound, e.g. karš, war	[r̄]
S s	as s in song, e.g. silts, warm starp, between; sist, to hit	[s]
Š š	as sh in she, e.g. šis, this dziļš, deep; šķelms, rascal	[ʃ]
T t	same as in English, e.g. tad, then putns, bird, tapt, to become	[t]
U u	as oo in cool, e.g. uguns, fire gulta, bed; upe, river	[u]
V v	same as in English, e.g. vakars, evening vecs, old; vidus, middle	[v]
Z z	as z in buzz, e.g. ziņas, news zivs, fish, zils, blue	[z]
Ž ž	as s in casual, e.g. žigls, nimble bažas, anxiety; žurka, rat	[ʒ]

The letters ch, f, h are found only in foreign words, e.g. forma, form; himna, hymn; chronika [xronika], chronicle.

All vowels can be also long, that is, held longer in pronunciation, e.g.

ā [a:] in *māte* [ma:te], mother

ē [e:] in *mēle* [me:le], tongue; *tēvs* [tæ:vs], father

ī [i:] in *tīrs* [ti:rs], clean

ō [o:] in *prōza* [pro:za], prose

ū [u:] in *lūdzu* [lu:dzu], please

Latvian has the following diphthongs:

ai as in *laime*, luck *bailes*, fear; *laiks*, time, weather

au as in *lauks*, field *bauda*, pleasure; *nauda*, money

ei as in *meita*, daughter

ie as in *ieļa*, street

iu (very rare) as in *pliušķēt* [pliušk(ĉe:t)], to crack (as whip)

oi as in *boikots*, boycott (this diphthong occurs only in foreign words)

ui as in *puika*, boy *muita*, border customs

The true Latvian *o*, although not written as such, is also a diphthong [uo], e.g. as in *ola* [uola], egg

The voiced consonants **b, d, g, z, ž** are pronounced unvoiced if they are followed by an unvoiced consonant, e.g. *labs, kāds, logs, gāzi, mežs* are pronounced [laps], good; [ka:ts], a certain [luoks], window; [ga:st], to topple; [meʃ], forest. On the other hand, the unvoiced consonants **p, t, k, s** are voiced when followed by a voiced consonant, e.g. *atbēgt, apgāzt, likdams, sestdiena* are pronounced [adbe:kt], to flee here; [abga:st], to topple over; [ligdams], putting; [sezdiena], Saturday.

As a rule, the stress in pronunciation falls on the first syllable, even in compounds, e.g. *neeju*, (I) don't go. The exceptions to the rule will be signalled by a stress symbol in the phonetic transcription, e.g. *vislabākais* [vislábɑ:kais], the best.

A Brief Outline of Latvian Grammar

NOUNS or SUBSTANTIVES

Every noun in Latvian is grammatically either masculine or feminine (there is consequently no neuter pronoun). The **nominal declension has SEVEN CASES:**

- 1) Nominative, answering the question who? what?—**kas?**
- 2) Genitive, answering the question whose? of what?—**kā?**
- 3) Dative, answering the question to, for whom, for what?
kam?
- 4) Accusative, answering the question whom? what?—**ko?**
- 5) Instrumental, answering the question with whom? with
what?—**ar ko?**
- 6) Locative, answering the question where? (sometimes also
whither?)—**kur?**
- 7) Vocative, used in addressing persons or things.

Latvian has no articles, but occasionally the demonstrative pronoun (that) *tas* (masc.), *tā* (fem.) is incorrectly used as if it were an article.

Latvian has SEVEN DECLENSIONS of nouns

I To this declension belong nouns in the nom. sg. ending with **-a** (the historical *ā* stem). As a rule, these nouns are feminine; exceptions are only nouns denoting male persons (*puika*, boy; *Janka*, Johnny). As examples will serve *sieva* (wife or woman), *māsa* (sister), *māja* (house), and *lieta* (thing).

Singular	Plural
N. <i>sieva, māsa</i>	<i>sievas, māsas</i>
G. <i>sievas, māsas</i>	<i>sievu, māsu</i>
D. <i>sievai, māsai</i>	<i>sievām, māsām</i>
A. <i>sievu, māsu</i>	<i>sievas, māsas</i>
I. <i>ar sievu, māsu</i>	<i>ar sievām, māsām</i>
L. <i>sievā, māsā</i>	<i>sievās, māsās</i>
V. <i>siev(a)! mās(a)!</i>	<i>sievas! māsas!</i>

Singular

N. māja, lieta
 G. mājas, lietas
 D. mājai, lietai
 A. māju, lietu
 I. ar māju, lietu
 L. mājā, lietā

Plural

mājas, lietas
 māju, lietu
 mājām, lietām
 mājas, lietas
 ar mājām, lietām
 mājās, lietās

Notes: 1) the dat. sg. ending for the masc. nouns belonging to this declension is **-am**, e.g., **puikam**. Other cases are identical with the paradigm above.

2) The vocative may occur with or without the ending **-a**.

II To this declension belong nouns in the nom. sg. ending with **-c** (the hist. **ē** stem). As a rule these nouns are feminine; a few masculine nouns of occupations (e.g., **bende**, executioner) and surnames of male persons (**Zāle**, **Straume**), which as common nouns are fem., belong to this declension. As examples will serve **māte** (mother), **meitene** (girl or maiden), **mēle** (tongue), and **kurpe** (shoe).

Singular

N. māte, meitene
 G. mātes, meitenes
 D. mātei, meitei
 A. māti, meiteni
 I. ar māti, meiteni
 L. mātē, meitenē
 V. māt(e) ! meiten(e) !

Plural

mātes, meitenes
 māqu, meiteņu
 mātēm, meitenēm
 mātes, meitenes
 ar mātēm, meitenēm
 mātēs, meitenēs
 mātes ! meitenes !

N. mēle, kurpe
 G. mēles, kurpes
 D. mēlei, kurpei
 A. mēli, kurpi
 I. ar mēli, kurpi
 L. mēlē, korpē

mēles, kurpes
 mēļu, korpju
 mēlēm, korpēm
 mēles, kurpes
 ar mēlēm, korpēm
 mēlēs, korpēs

Notes: 1) the dat. sg. ending for masc. nouns belonging to this declension is **-em**, e.g., **bendem**, **Zālem**. Other cases are identical with the paradigm above.

2) the palatalization of the final stem consonant in the gen. pl. happens according to the following pattern: **t** becomes **š**, **d**—**ž**, **l**—**ļ**, **n**—**ņ**, **r**—**ŗ**, e.g. *egle*—*egļu*, *meitene*—*meiteņu*, *kaudze*—*kaudžu*, *kuce*—*kuču*. (In Protobaltic they were **tj**, **dj**, **lj**, **nj**, **ŗj**.) A **j** is added to other consonants, e.g., *v*—*vj*; *upe*—*upju*, *burve*—*burvju*, etc.

3) the vocative may occur with or without the ending **-e**.

III To this declension belong nouns in both nom. and gen. sg. ending with **-s** (the hist. **i** stems with an admixture of consonantal stems). With the exception of the plural noun *ļaudis* (people), this declension is made **ap** of feminine nouns. The following more commonly occurring nouns belong to it: *asins* (blood), *ass* (axle), *auss* (ear), *avs* (ewe), *balss* (voice), *birzs* (birch copse), *cilts* (clan), *debess* (sky), *dzelzs* (iron), *durvis* (door), *govs* (cow), *izkaptis* (scythe), *klēts* (granary), *kūts* (cow barn), *maksts* (sheath), *nāss* (nostril), *nakts* (night), *pils* (castle), *pirts* (bath house), *sāls* (salt), *sirds* (heart), *smilts* (sand), *telts* (tent), *uguns* (fire), *zivs* (fish), *zoss* (goose). As examples will serve *acs*, *nakts*, *uguns*, *zivs*.

Singular	Plural
N. <i>acs</i> , <i>nakts</i>	<i>acis</i> , <i>naktis</i>
G. <i>acs</i> , <i>nakts</i>	<i>acu</i> , <i>nakšu</i>
D. <i>acij</i> , <i>naktij</i>	<i>acīm</i> , <i>naktīm</i>
A. <i>aci</i> , <i>nakti</i>	<i>acis</i> , <i>naktis</i>
I. ar <i>aci</i> , <i>nakti</i>	ar <i>acīm</i> , <i>naktīm</i>
L. <i>aci</i> , <i>naktī</i>	<i>acīs</i> , <i>naktīs</i>
V. —	—
N. <i>uguns</i> , <i>zivs</i>	<i>ugunis</i> , <i>zivis</i>
G. <i>uguns</i> , <i>zivs</i>	<i>ugunu</i> , <i>zivju</i>
D. <i>ugunij</i> , <i>zivij</i>	<i>ugunīm</i> , <i>zivīm</i>
A. <i>uguni</i> , <i>zivi</i>	<i>ugunis</i> , <i>zivis</i>
I. ar <i>uguni</i> , <i>zivi</i>	ar <i>ugunīm</i> , <i>zivīm</i>
L. <i>ugunī</i> , <i>zivī</i>	<i>ugunīs</i> , <i>zivīs</i>
V. — <i>zivs!</i>	— <i>zivis!</i>

Notes: 1) the nouns belonging to this declension should be memorized in order to distinguish them from masc. nouns ending in -s in the nom. sg. but not in gen. sg., e.g., N. zirgs, G. zirga (horse), but N. govš, G. govš (cow).

2) The final stem consonant of gen. pl. is palatalized (see deci. II, note 2). The gen. pl. of the following nouns is not palatalized: ass—asu, auss—ausu, balss—balsu, debess—debesu, dzelzs—dzelzu, zoss—zosu.

IV To this declension belong only masculine nouns ending in the nom. sg. with -s, -š and in the gen. sg. with -a (the hist. a stem). If the final stem consonant is -s-, -z-, -š-, or -ž-, the nom. sg. ending -s is not pronounced, e.g., kumoss [kumuos], a mouthful; mežs [meʃ], forest. As examples will serve tēvs (father), cilvēks (human being), zirgs (horse), zvans (bell).

Singular	Plural
N. tēvs, cilvēks	tēvi, cilvēki
G. tēva, cilvēka	tēvu, cilvēku
D. tēvam, cilvēkam	tēviem, cilvēkiem
A. tēvu, cilvēku	tēvus, cilvēkus
I. ar tēvu, cilvēku	ar tēviem, cilvēkiem
L. tēvā, cilvēkā	tēvos, cilvēkos
V. tēv! cilvēk!	tēvi! cilvēki!
N. zirgs, zvans	zirgi, zvani
G. zirga, zvana	zirgu, zvanu
D. zirgam, zvanam	zirgiem, zvaniem
A. zirgu, zvanu	zirgus, zvanus
I. ar zirgu, zvanu	ar zirgiem, zvaniem
L. zirgā, zvanā	zirgos, zvanos
V. zirgs! —	zirgi! —

V To this declension belong only masc. nouns ending in the nom. sg. with *-is* (the hist. *ja* stem). As examples will serve *brālis* (brother), *cirvis* (hatchet), *gailis* (rooster), and *kamzolis* (pullover).

Singular	Plural
N. <i>brālis, cirvis</i>	<i>brāli, cirvji</i>
G. <i>brāļa, cirvja</i>	<i>brāļu, cirvju</i>
D. <i>brālim, cirvim</i>	<i>brāļiem, cirvjiem</i>
A. <i>brāli, cirvi</i>	<i>brāļus, cirvjus</i>
I. <i>ar brāli, cirvi</i>	<i>ar brāļiem, cirvjiem</i>
L. <i>brāli, cirvi</i>	<i>brāļos, cirvjos</i>
V. <i>brāli! —</i>	<i>brāļi!</i>
N. <i>gailis, kamzolis</i>	<i>gaiļi, kamzoļi</i>
G. <i>gaiļa, kamzoļa</i>	<i>gaiļu, kamzoļu</i>
D. <i>gailim, kamzolim</i>	<i>gaiļiem, kamzoļiem</i>
A. <i>gaiļi, kamzoli</i>	<i>gaiļus, kamzoļus</i>
I. <i>ar gaiļi, kamzoli</i>	<i>ar gaiļiem, kamzoļiem</i>
L. <i>gaiļi, kamzoli</i>	<i>gaiļos, kamzoļos</i>
V. <i>gaiļi! —</i>	<i>gaiļi!</i>

Notes: 1) the final stem consonant is always palatalized in the gen. sg. and the whole pl. (see decl. II, note 2). This is one of the marked between decl. IV and V nouns.

2) *viesis* (guest) and surnames with the Slavic endings *-skis, -ckis*, are exceptions which in the gen. sg. and the whole pl. are declined like decl. IV and in the rest of the cases like decl. V nouns: sg. *viesis, viesā, viesim, viesi, ar viesi, viesi*; pl.: *viesi, viesu, viesiem* etc.

3) *suns* (dog), except for the nom. sg., is declined like a decl. V noun.

4) several old consonantal stems have gone over to decl. V, e.g. *akmens* (stone), *asmens* (knife blade), *mēness* (moon), *rudens* (autumn), *tesmens* (udder), *ūdens* (water), *zibens* (lightning). These nouns have the same endings in N. and G. sg. (*akmens, akmens* not *akmeņa*); other cases are those of decl. V.

VI To this declension belong masc. nouns in the nom. sg. ending with **-us** (the hist. **u** stem): **alus** (beer), **klepus** (cough), **krogus** (tavern), **ledus** (ice), **lietus** (rain), **medus** (honey), **tīrgus** (market), **vidus** (middle), **viltus** (deceit), and a few others. For the most part these nouns occur only in the sg. and in the pl., if it exists, are declined like decl. IV nouns, e.g. sg. **tīrgus**, pl. **tirgi**. As an example will serve **alus**.

	Singular	Plural
N.	alus	
G.	alus	
D.	alum	
A.	alu	
I.	ar alu	
L.	alū	
V.	—	

VII To this declension belong a few masc. nouns in the nom. sg. ending with **-ens** (the hist. **n** stem). They differ from decl. IV nouns only in the nom. and gen. sg., eg., sg.: **akmens**, **akmens**, **akmenim**, **akmeni**, etc.; pl.: **akmeņi**, **akmeņu**, etc.

Nouns ending in **-o** (e.g. **kino**, cinema; **foto**, photograph) are not declined.

CUSTOMS (Muita)

English	Latvian	Int. Phonet. Alphabet
Cigarettes, liquors and munitions are not allowed	cigaretetes, liķieri un municijas nav atļauti	tsigaretetes, ličieri un munitsijas nav atļauti
You can lock it	varat aizslēgt	varat aissle:gt
How much do I have to pay?	cik man jāmaksā	tsik man ja:maksa:
I'll go later	es braukšu vēlāk	es braukʃu ve:la:k
When will I arrive?	cikos es ieradišos	tsikuos es ieradi:ʃuos
Call a porter!	pasauciet nesēju	pasautsiet nese:ju

Notes

GRAMMATICAL EXERCISES

From Ed. Avots "Latviešu Valodas Mācība," Part II.

Write out which of these nouns is in the singular, and which in the plural (note: the translations are all in the singular): galds (table), krēsli (chair), grāmatas (book), koki (tree), iela (street), saule (sun), sniegs (snow), nazis (knife), krūmi (bush), ceļi (road), stabi (post).

Singular:

Plural:

Supply the plural to these nouns:

ābols (apple) —	koks —
zobs (tooth) —	delna (palm) —
pēda (foot) —	zaķis (rabbit) —
elkonis (elbow) —	celis (knee) —
ceļš (road) —	mežs (forest) —
automašīna (car) —	alus (beer) —
lidmašīna (airplane) —	viskijs (whiskey) —
deja (dance) —	cigarete (cigarette) —

Supply the singular of these nouns:

pleci (shoulders) —	soļi (steps)
pirksti (fingers) —	papēži (heels) —
mati (hair) —	plakstiņi (eyelashes) —
rozes (roses) —	dzērieni (drinks) —
meitenes (girls) —	sievietes (women) —
zēni (boys) —	vīrieši (men) —

Gender. Separate these nouns in two columns according to their gender.

Brālis (brother), māsa (sister), meita (daughter), dēls (son), zēns, meitene, skolotāja (teacher), pārdevēja (salesgirl), skolotājs, pircējs (buyer), apkalpotājs (waiter), saimnieks (head of the household), dziedātāja (singer), gailis (rooster), vista (hen), liepa (linden tree), ozols (oak), vanags (hawk), pūce (owl), priede (pine), egle (fir), galds, krēsls, grāmata (book).

Notes

Conjugation (see grammatical section). Write the proper form of the word *zīmulis* (pencil) in Latvian in the blank spaces.

..... is used for writing. point is sharp. I showed my to John. I fell and broke my I write (with) I cut my name (in)

Decline the words *krēsls* (chair), *gaiss* (air), *sala* (frost), and *egle* (fir) in the singular and plural.

Give the proper case and number of the following nouns, which can be found in the vocabulary of booklet no. 1. Where more than one case is possible, give only one.

Example: *acij* — D., sg.

Acu, *amerikānis*, *apsveikumiem*, *ar bailēm*, *baudā*, *bažas*, *bikšu*, *boikotam*, *brāli*, *ar buču*, *bundžās*, *cepure*, *chaosa*, *ar choleru*, *cirvju*, *čališus*, *čekiem*, *dabā*, *ar dadžiem*, *deguna*, *dienai*, *durvju*, *Edgar*, *filmas*, *formās*, *foto*, *frāzi*, *gaļā*, *galvām*, *ar gramatiku*, *gultā*, *ar ģimenēm*, *ģeniji*, *Harald*, *himnu*, *horizonta*, *ielām*, *izejas*, *izrunu*, *izteicienos*, *jakas*, *ar jaunkundzēm*, *jautājumiem*, *jumta*, *kaķos*, *kalnā*, *kaŗa*, *kino*, *koku*, *krēslam*, *kundžu*, *ar kungu*, *kuču*, *ar ķermeniem*, *laiks*, *laimei*, *lapām*, *lauka*, *ledū*, *ar lietvārdiem*, *locījumu*, *mājas*, *māsa*, *ar*

Notes

mašīnu, mātēm, matuš, mēlēs, mēteļu,
 mežā, mīla, milža, muitai, naktīm,
 namos, naudu, nulles, odus, ar ogu

Write out the nom. sg. and pl. of all the nouns above.

Decline the noun in the plural.

- N. braucējs (driver) —
 G. braucēja —
 D. braucējam —
 A. braucēju —
 I. ar braucēju —
 L. braucējā —
 V. braucēj! —

VERBS (1st person)

Infinitive	Present	Past	Future
iet (to go)	eju	gāju	iešu
skriet (to run)	skrienu	skrēju	skriešu
klausīties (to listen)	klausos	klausījos	klausīšos
spīdēt (to shine)	spīdu	spīdēju	spīdēšu
mīlēt (to love)	mīlu	mīlēju	mīlēšu
precēt (to marry)	precu	precēju	precēšu
sildīt (to warm)	sildu	sildīju	sildīšu

ADJECTIVES (masc. - balts and fem. - balta)

Almost all the adjectives could be negated with the addition of *ne* before the word. For example:

labs - good;	nelabs - bad	liels - big;	neliels - small
tīrs - clean;	netīrs - dirty	dzīvs - alive;	nedzīvs - dead
dziļš - deep;	nedziļš - shallow	mīļš - dear;	nemīļš - hated

Notes

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
dziļš (a) - deep	dziļāks (a)	visdziļākais (ā)
sekls (a) - shallow	seklāks (a)	visseklākais (ā)
liels (a) - big, tall	lielāks (a)	vislielākais (ā)
mazs (a) - small	mazāks (a)	vismazākais (ā)
augsts (a) - high	augstāks (a)	visaugstākais (ā)
zems (a) - low	zemāks (a)	viszemākais (ā)
auksts (a) - cold	aukstāks (a)	visaukstākais (a)
karsts (a) - hot	karstāks (a)	viskarstākais (ā)
gaišs (a) - light	gaišāks (a)	visgaišākais (ā)
tīrs (a) - clean	tīrāks (a)	vistīrākais (ā)
netīrs (a) - dirty	netīrākais (a)	visnetīrākais (ā)
labs (a) - good	labāks (a)	vislabākais (ā)
slikts (a) - bad	sliktāks (a)	vissliktākais (ā)
skaļš (a) - loud	skaļāks (a)	visskaļākais (ā)
kluss (a) - quiet	klusāks (a)	visklusākais (ā)
straujš (a) - fast	straujāks (a)	visstraujākais (ā)
lēns (a) - slow	lēnāks (a)	vislēnākais (ā)
mīļš (a) - dear	mīļāks (a)	vismīļākais (ā)
smuks (a) - beautiful	smukāks (a)	vissmukākais (ā)
stiprs (a) - strong	stiprāks (a)	visstiprākais (ā)
vājš (a) - weak	vājāks (a)	visvājākais (ā)
šaurš (a) - narrow	šaurāks (a)	visšaurākais (ā)
plats (a) - broad	platāks (a)	visplatākais (ā)
biezs (a) - thick	biezāks (a)	visbiezākais (ā)
plāns (a) - thin	plānāks (a)	visplānākais (ā)
gudrs (a) - wise	gudrāks (a)	visgudrākais (ā)
dumjš (a) - foolish	dumjāks (a)	visdumjākais (ā)
svēts (a) - holy	svētāks (a)	vissvētākais (ā)
grēcīgs (a) - sinful	grēcīgāks (a)	visgrēcīgākais (ā)
vecs (a) - old	vecāks (a)	visvecākais (ā)
jauns (a) - young	jaunāks (a)	visjaunākais (ā)

to be continued

VERBS (1st person)

Infinitive	Present	Past	Future
mācīties (to learn)	mācos	mācījos	mācišos
gulēt (to sleep)	guļū	gulēju	gulēšu
pirkt (to buy)	pērku	pirku	pirkšu
pārdot (to sell)	pārdodu	pārdevu	pārdošu
skatīties (to look)	skatos	skatījos	skatišos
rakstīt (to write)	rakstu	rakstīju	rakstišu
lasīt (to read)	lasu	lasīju	lasīšu
strādāt (to work)	strādāju	strādāju	strādāšu
ņemt (to take)	ņemu	ņēmu	ņemšu
vārīt (to cook)	vāru	vārīju	vārišu
braukt (to drive)	braucu	braucu	braukšu
ēst (to eat)	ēdu	ēdu	ēdišu
dzīvot (to live)	dzīvoju	dzīvoju	dzīvošu
kliegt (to shout)	kliedzu	kliedzu	kliegšu
runāt (to speak)	runāju	runāju	runāšu
saldēt (to freeze)	saldēju	saldēju	saldēšu
lūgt (to pray)	lūdzu	lūdzu	lūgšu
cept (to bake)	cepu	cepu	cepšu
dzert (to drink)	dzeru	dzēru	dzeršu
ģērbties (to dress)	ģērbos	ģērbos	ģērbšos
vilkt (to drag)	velku	vilku	vilkšu
lidot (to fly)	lidoju	lidoju	lidošu
karot (to battle)	karoju	karoju	karošu

ADJECTIVES (masc. - balts and fem. - balta)

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
balts (a) - white	baltāks (a)	visbaltākais (ā)
melns (a) - black	melnāks (a)	vismelnākais (ā)
zaļš (a) - green	zaļāks (a)	viszaļākais (ā)
zils (a) - blue	zilāks (a)	viszilākais (ā)
sarkans (a) - red	sarkanāks (a)	vissarkanākais (ā)
dzeltens (a) - yellow	dzeltenāks (a)	visdzeltenākais (ā)
brūns (a) - brown	brūnāks (a)	visbrūnākais (ā)

VOCABULARY

Note: all adjectives are given with the masculine ending -s. If an adjective refers to a feminine noun, its ending becomes -a (in the nominative).

A

abi—both
 ābols—apple
 acs—eye
 akmens—stone
 alus—beer
 amerikānis—an American
 angliski—in English
 apgāzt—to topple over (trans.)
 apkalpotājs—waiter
 apsveikumi—greetings
 asins—blood
 asmens—knife blade
 ass—axle
 atbēgt—to flee here
 atļaut—to allow
 ātrs—fast, quick
 atnest—to bring here
 atpakaļ—backwards
 atvainoties—to apologize
 auss—ear
 auto (automašina)—car (auto)
 avs—awe

B

bailes—fear
 balss—voice
 balts—white
 bauda—pleasure
 bažas—anxiety
 bende—executive
 bērzs—birch
 bet—but
 bez—without
 bikses—pants, trousers
 boikots—boycott
 brālis—brother

36

braucējs (važonis)—driver
 braukt—to go
 buča—kiss
 bundža—tin can
 būt—to be
 bija—was (3rd person)
 būs—will be (3rd person)

C

celis—knee
 ceļš—road
 cept—to bake
 cepure—hat
 chaoss—chaos
 cholera—cholera
 cigarete—cigarette
 cik—how much
 cilts—clan
 cilvēks—human being
 cirvis—hatchet
 cits—another

Č

čalīts—guy (inferior connotation)
 čeks—cheque
 četri—four

D

daba—nature
 dadži—thistles
 darīt—to do
 daudzskaitlis—plural
 debess—sky
 deguns—nose
 deja—dance
 dejot—to dance
 delna—palm
 dēls—son
 derīgs—useful
 desmit—ten
 diena—day
 divi—two

domāt—to think, mean
dot—to give
drošs—certain, sure
durvis—door
dzelzs—iron
dzēriens—drink
dzert—to drink
dziedātājs(a)—singer
dziļš—deep
dzirdēt—to hear
dzīvot—to live

E

efekts—an effect
egle—fir
elkons—elbow
es—I; es esmu—I am; es biju—
I was; es būšu — I will be

F

filma—film, movie
forma—form
foto—photo
frāzes—phrases

G

gaidīt—to wait
gaiss—air
gailis—rooster
gaļa—meat
galds—table
galva—head
gāzt—to topple
govs—cow
grāmata—book
gramatika—grammar
gulta—bed

Ģ

ģimene—family
ģenijs—genius

H

himna—hymn
horizonts—horizon

I

icla—street
ierasties—to arrive
iet—to go
ir—is; also shows possession, i.e.:
man ir—I have; tev ir—you
have; viņam (viņai) ir—he, she
has; mums, jums, viņiem ir—
we, you, they have
izeja—exit
izruna—pronunciation
izteicieni—spoken expressions
izkaps—sickle

J

jā—yes
jaka—jacket
jaunkundze—Miss
jauki—pretty, nice
jautājums—question
jeb—or
jums—roof
jūs—you (plural, or polite sing.)

K

kā—how
kad—when
kāds—a certain
kaķis—cat
kalns—mountain, hill
kamzolis—sweater
kaņš—war
kino—movies
klejot—to wander
klepus—cough
klēts—grainery
klusēt—to keep silent
koks—tree
krēsls—chair
krist—to fall
krogus—tavern
krūms—bush
kumoss—mouthfull (bite)
kundze—Mrs.

kungs—Mr.
kur—where
kurpe—shoe
kuŗš—who
kūts—cow barn

K

ķermenis—body

L

labi—well
labs—good
lai—let
laiks—time, weather
laimē—luck
laipns—kind
laisties—to flee
lapa—leaf
latviski—in Latvian
lauks—field
ledus—ice
lēnāk—slower
lēns—slow
lidmaŗina—airplane
liels—great, big
liepa—linden tree
lieta—thing
lietus—rain
lietvārdi—nouns
likdams—putting
liķiers—liquor
locījums—grammatical case
logs—window
lūdzu—please

L

ļaudis—people
ļoti—very
ļoti labi—very well

M

māja—house
maksāt—to pay
maksts—sheath

man—to me; also used in possessive, i.e.: man bija—I had
mans—mine
māsa—sister
maŗina—automobile, machine
māte—mother
mati—hair
mats—hair
medus—honey
meita—daughter
meitene—girl
mēle—tongue
mēness—moon
mēs—we
mētelis—coat
meŗš—forest
mīla—love
mīlēt—to love
milzis—giant
muita—customs office or duty
municija—ammunition

N

nākt—to come
nakts—night
nams—a building
nāss—nostril
nauda—money
nazis—knife
nē—no
ne—(prefix) not, don't
neeju—I don't, won't go
nekas—nothing
nepareizs—wrong
nepūt—don't blow
nesējs—porter
nest—to carry
nevaru—I cannot
nulle—zero

N

ņemt—to take
ņiprs—brisk, vigorous

O

ods—mosquito
oga—berry
okei—O.K.
ozols—oak

P

paldies—thank you
papēdis—heel
par—about
pārdevēja—salesgirl
pareizs—right
patikami—pleasant
paziņa—an acquaintance
pēda—foot
pele—mouse
pieklājīgs—polite
pile—duck
pīlīte—a little duck
pils—full
pils—castle
pircējs—buyer
pirts—bathhouse
plakstinš—eyelash
pļava—meadow
plecs—shoulder
plukšķēt—to make a cracking
noise
poga—button
policija—police
prasīt—to ask
precēties—to get married
priede—pine
priečāties—to enjoy (reflex.)
projām—away
proza—prose
pūce—owl
puika—boy
puķe—flower
pulkstens—watch, clock; also: cik
pulkstens—what time is it?
pūst—to blow
putns—bird

R

redze—the sense of sight
redzēt—to see
ritenis—wheel, bicycle
rīts—morning
roka—hand
roze—rose
rudens—autumn
runāt—to speak

S

sacīt—to say
sals—frost
sāls—salt
saprast—to understand
saruna—conversation
satikt—to meet
saukt—to call
saule—sun
sieva—wife
sieviete—woman
sievšķīgs—feminine
skolotājs (ja)—teacher
slēgt—to lock
smiltis—sand
sniegs—snow
sestdiena—Saturday
sēsties—to sit
silts—warm
sirds—heart
sist—to hit
skatīties—to look
solis—step
stabs—post
starp—between
stāt—to stop
stāvēt—to stand
steigties—to hurry
suns—dog
sūtīt—to send

Š

šahs—chess
šis—this
šķelmis—rascal

T

tā—so
 tad—then
 tagad—now
 tapt—to become
 tas, tā—that
 te—here
 teātris—theater
 teikt—to say
 telts—tent
 tesmens—udder
 tēvs—father
 ticēt—to believe
 tirgus—market
 tīrs—clean
 tu—you (sing. informal)
 tur—there
 turpināt—to continue

U

ūdens—water
 uguns—fire
 un—and
 upe—river
 uz—on, to
 uz redzēšanos—good-bye (with
 the idea of meeting again)

V

vai—or; indicates a question, i.e.:
 vai es drikstētu?—may I?
 vakars—evening

vajadzīgs—necessary
 vārds—name
 vecs—old
 vēlāk—later
 vēstule—letter
 vidus—middle
 vienskaitlī—singular
 viesis—guest
 vīrietis—man
 viskijs—whiskey
 viltus—deceit
 vislabākais—the best
 viss—all, everything

Z

zaķis—rabbit
 zeme—earth, ground
 zēns—boy
 zibens—lightning
 zils—blue
 zināt—to know
 ziņas—news
 zirgs—horse
 zivs—fish
 zobs—tooth
 zoss—goose
 zvans—bell

Ž

žēl—sorry
 žigls—nimble
 žurka—rat


zintis

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