

INTRODUCTION TO UZBEK

A. *Pronunciation*

Uzbek is currently written in the Cyrillic script, which has been in use since 1940, and the Latin script, which has been introduced in the last couple of years and is now being used more and more, though most people only know the Cyrillic script and most signs and written materials are still only in Cyrillic. In general, words are pronounced as they sound in the Latin script, but some explanation is necessary for a few of the sounds represented by certain Latin letters. Below are those sounds which are not found in English or which require some explanation. Note that stress in Uzbek is generally on the last syllable, except for a few suffixes, which are never stressed. In the wordlist below, stressed syllables are underlined. Note also that two adjacent vowels are pronounced separately (e.g. coar “soat” is pronounced like English “saw at”), but a vowel followed by “y” becomes a diphthong (e.g. бой “boy” is pronounced the same as English “boy”).

Cyrillic	Latin	Pronunciation
А а	A a	"a" as in "cat"
Е е	Ye ye, E e	"ye" as in "yet" at the beginning of a word, "e" as in "let" elsewhere
Ё ё	Yo yo	"ya" as in "yawn"
И и	I i	"i" as in "pin"
О о	O o	"o" as in "pot"
Р р	R r	a "trilled r" (like in Scottish), or, between vowels, a "flapped r" (like "dd" in "ladder" in normal speech)
У у	U u	"oo" as in "cool"
Х х	X x	"ch" as in German "Bach" or Scottish "loch"
Э э	E e	"e" as in "let"
Ю ю	Yu yu	"yu" as in "you"
Я я	Ya ya	"ya" as in "yak"
Ў ў	O' o'	"u" as in "put" (also represents a second vowel in some dialects, similar to "au" as in "caught"
Қ қ	Q q	like a "k" but further back in the mouth
Ғ ғ	G' g'	like a French "r" (voiced version of "x")

B. *Wordlist*

Below are 250 of the most common Uzbek words, in both Cyrillic and Latin script, along with their definitions, arranged according to the different parts of speech (categories of words). Note that some of these words could be listed in two different categories (e.g. ҳозир “now” is both a noun and an adverb, тез “quick, quickly” is both an adjective and an adverb).

1. **Pronouns**

мен	men	I
сен	sen	you (singular, informal)
у	u	he/she/it, that
бу	bu	this
сиз	siz	you (plural, formal)
биз	biz	we
улар	ular	they

2. Adjectives

яхши	yaxshi	good
зўр	zo'r	excellent
ёмон	yomon	bad
ўртача	o'rtacha	in the middle
катта	katta	big
кичкина	kichkina	small
янги	yangi	new
эски	eski	old (thing)
ёш	yosh	young
қари	qari	old (person)
касал	kasal	sick
соғ	sog'	healthy
қиммат	qimmat	expensive
арзон	arzon	cheap
иссиқ	issiq	hot
совуқ	sovuq	cold
секин	sekin	slow
тез	tez	fast
яқин	yaqin	close
узоқ	uzoq	far
тўғри	to'g'ri	correct, straight
бой	boy	rich
хурсанд	xursand	happy
чиroyли	chiroyli	beautiful, good-looking
тоза	toza	clean
тайёр	tayyor	ready
ширин	shirin	sweet
кам	kam	small, few, little
озгина	ozgina	a little
кўп	ko'p	much, many
ҳар	har	each
ҳамма	hamma	all
бутун	butun	whole
ҳеч	hech	none
кўпроқ	ko'proq	more
керак	kerak	necessary
мумкин	mumkin	possible
ўнг	o'ng	right
чап	chap	left
бошқа	boshqa	other
энг	eng	most
қора	qora	black
оқ	oq	white
сарик	sariq	yellow
қизил	qizil	red
кўк	ko'k	blue

3. Numbers

бир	bir	one
икки	ikki	two

уч	uch	three
тўрт	to'rt	four
беш	besh	five
олти	olti	six
етти	yetti	seven
саккиз	sakkiz	eight
тўккиз	to'qqiz	nine
ўн	o'n	ten
йигирма	yigirma	twenty
ўттиз	o'ttiz	thirty
қирқ	qirq	forty
эллиқ	ellik	fifty
олтмиш	oltmish	sixty
етмиш	yetmish	seventy
саксон	sakson	eighty
тўқсон	to'qson	ninety
юз	yuz	hundred
минг	ming	thousand
ярим	yarim	half

4. Adverbs

бу ерда	bu yer <u>da</u>	here
у ерда	u yer <u>da</u>	there
ҳозир	hozir	now, wait a minute
эрта	er <u>ta</u>	early
кеч	kech	late
кеча	ke <u>cha</u>	yesterday
бугун	bu <u>gun</u>	today
эртага	er <u>taga</u>	tomorrow
бирга	bir <u>ga</u>	together
жуда	ju <u>da</u>	very
фақат	fa <u>qat</u>	only
яна	ya <u>na</u>	again
ҳали	ha <u>li</u>	still, yet

5. Question words

нима	ni <u>ma</u>	what
ким	ki <u>m</u>	who
қаерда	qa <u>yerda</u>	where
қаерга	qa <u>yerga</u>	where to
қани	qa <u>ni</u>	where (exactly)
қачон	qa <u>chon</u>	when
нимага	ni <u>maga</u>	why
қандай	qa <u>nday</u>	how, what kind of
қанча	qa <u>ncha</u>	how much, how many
неча	ne <u>cha</u>	how much, how many
қайси	qa <u>ysi</u>	which

6. Conjunctions

агар	aga <u>r</u>	if
ва	va	and

ёки	<u>y</u> oki	or
лекин	le <u>k</u> in	but
чунки	chun <u>k</u> i	because
хам	ham	also

7. Postpositions

билан	<u>bi</u> lan	with
ёнида	yon <u>i</u> da	beside
ичида	ich <u>i</u> da	inside
кейин	key <u>i</u> n	after
олдин	old <u>i</u> n	before
устида	ust <u>i</u> da	on top of
учун	uch <u>u</u> n	for
хақида	haq <u>i</u> da	about

8. Verb stems

айт-	ayt-	say
бер-	ber-	give
бил-	bil-	know (something)
бор-	bor-	go
бўл-	bo'l-	be, become
гапир-	gapir-	speak
дам ол-	dam ol-	rest
дарс бер-	dars ber-	teach (give lessons)
е-	ye-	eat
ёз-	yoz-	write
ёп-	yop-	close
ёт-	yot-	lie down
ич-	ich-	drink
ишон-	ishon-	believe
кел-	kel-	come
кет-	ket-	go, leave
кир-	kir-	enter
кут-	kut-	wait
кўр-	ko'r-	see
ол-	ol-	take
олиб бор-	olib bor-	take (to someone)
олиб кел-	olib kel-	bring
оч-	och-	open
сол-	sol-	put in
сот-	sot-	sell
сотиб ол-	sotib ol-	buy
тур-	tur-	stand, live
тушун-	tushun-	understand
чиқ-	chiq-	exit, go out
эшит-	eshit-	listen
юв-	yuv-	wash
юр-	yur-	walk
ўрган-	o'rgan-	learn, study
ўт-	o't-	pass
ўтир-	o'tir-	sit down
қайт-	qayt-	return

қил-
қўй-

qil-
qo'y-

do, make
put

9. Nouns

аёл	ayol	woman
бахт	baxt	happiness
бола	<u>bola</u>	child
бозор	<u>bozor</u>	outdoor market
вақт	vaqt	time
гўшт	go'sht	meat
дарс	dars	lesson
дераза	<u>deraza</u>	window
девор	<u>devor</u>	wall
дўкон	do' <u>kon</u>	shop, store
дўст	do'st	friend
ер	yer	ground
ёрдам	<u>yordam</u>	help
ёғ	yog'	butter, oil
жавоб	<u>javob</u>	answer
исм	ism	name
ишчи	<u>ishchi</u>	worker
йил	yil	year
калит	<u>kalit</u>	key
кечқурун	<u>kechqurun</u>	evening
кийим	<u>kiyim</u>	clothing
китоб	<u>kitob</u>	book
киши	<u>kishi</u>	person
кун	kun	day
кўча	ko' <u>cha</u>	street
мактаб	<u>maktab</u>	school
машина	<u>mashina</u>	car
мева	<u>meva</u>	fruit
меҳмон	<u>mehmon</u>	guest
нарса	<u>narsa</u>	thing
нон	non	bread
овқат	<u>ovqat</u>	food
оила	<u>oila</u>	family
ой	oy	moon, month
она	<u>ona</u>	mother
ота	<u>ota</u>	father
ош	osh	food, rice pilaf
пиёла	<u>piyola</u>	cup
пул	pul	money
ручка	<u>ruchka</u>	pen
савол	<u>savol</u>	question
сабзавот	<u>sabzavot</u>	vegetable
соат	<u>soat</u>	hour, watch, clock
стол	stol	table
стул	stul	chair
сув	suv	water
сумка	<u>sumka</u>	bag
сут	sut	milk
сўз	so'z	word

талаба	talaba	student
туалет	tualet	toilet
туз	tuz	salt
уй	uy	house
хона	xona	room
хотин	xotin	wife
Худо	Xudo	God
чай	choy	tea
шакар	shakar	sugar
шаҳар	shahar	city
эр	er	husband
эркак	erkak	man
эрталаб	ertalab	morning
эшик	eshik	door
юрак	yurak	heart
ўқитувчи	o'qituvchi	teacher
ўғил	o'g'il	son
қиз	qiz	daughter
қишлоқ	qishloq	village
қошиқ	qoshiq	spoon
қоғоз	qog'oz	paper
қўшни	qo'shni	neighbour
ҳафта	hafta	week
ҳовли	hovli	courtyard

10. Useful Words and Expressions

Арзимаиди.	Arzimaydi.	You're welcome.
бор	bor	existent, there is/are
Бу нима?	Bu nima?	What is this?
Бўпти.	Bo'пти.	Okay, well.
илтимос	iltimos	please (request)
йўқ	yo'q	no, not, there is/are not
Кечирасиз.	Kechirasiz.	Excuse me.
Майли.	Mayli.	Well, all right
Мана.	Mana.	Look, here.
марҳамат	marhamat	please (offering)
Менга ёқди.	Menga yoqdi.	I like it.
Неча ёшдасиз?	Necha yoshdasiz?	How old are you?
Оилангиз борми?	Oilangiz bormi?	Do you have a family?
раҳмат	rahmat	thank you
Салом.	Salom.	Hello (literally, peace).
Сизга ёқдими?	Sizga yoqdimi?	Do you like it?
Соат неча?	Soat necha?	What time is it?
Хайр.	Xayr.	Goodbye.
Хуш келибсиз.	Xush kelibsiz.	Welcome.
Хўп.	Xo'p.	Okay, very well.
эмас	emas	not
Яхшимисиз?	Yaxshimisiz?	Are you well?
Қаерда ишлайсиз?	Qayerda ishlaysiz?	Where do you work?
Қаердансиз?	Qayerdansiz?	Where are you from?
Қалайсиз?	Qalaysiz?	How are you?
Қачон келидингиз?	Qachon keldingiz?	When did you come?
ҳа	ha	yes

C. **Grammar**

1. **Word order is Subject-Object-Verb:**

Men kitab yozdim (I book wrote): I wrote a book.

2. **Adjectives come before nouns:**

U yosh bola (He young child): He is a young child.

3. **Adverbs come before verbs:**

U tez gapirdi (He quickly spoke): He spoke quickly.

4. **Question words are placed in the sentence where the answer will go:**

Bu kim? Bu Aziz (This who? This Aziz): Who is this? This is Aziz.

5. **Postpositions work like prepositions in English, except they come after the noun:**

Biz non haqida gapirdik (We bread about talked): We talked about bread.

6. **Endings to add to the verbstem to speak in the Present-Future Tense:**

-aman come/will come.	I	Kel <u>aman</u>	I
-asan come/will come.	you (singular/informal)	Kel <u>asan</u>	You
-adi comes/will come.	he/she/it	Kel <u>adi</u>	He
-amiz come/will come.	we	Kel <u>amiz</u>	We
-asiz come/will come.	you (plural/formal)	Kel <u>asiz</u>	You
-adilar They come/will come.	they	Kel <u>adilar</u>	

7. **Endings to add to the verbstem to speak in the Past Tense:**

-dim came.	I	Kel <u>dim</u>	I
-ding came.	you (singular/informal)	Kel <u>ding</u>	You
-di came.	he/she/it	Kel <u>di</u>	He
-dik came.	we	Kel <u>dik</u>	We
-dingiz came.	you (plural/formal)	Kel <u>dingiz</u>	You
-dilar They came.	they	Kel <u>dilar</u>	

8. **To make a verb into a command:**

Kel!	Come! (no suffix on verbstem)
Kel <u>ing</u> !	Come! (more polite)
Kel <u>inglar</u> !	Come! (even more polite)

9. **To make a verb negative:**

Kel- came.	to come	Kel <u>dim</u>	I
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Kelma- didn't come.	to not come	Kelmadim	I
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10. **To make a verb into a “yes/no” question:**

Keladi he come?	He will come.	Keladimi?	Will
Keldi he come?	He came.	Keldimi?	Did

11. **To ask a “yes/no” question with the verb “to be”:**

Men yaxshimanmi?	Am I well?	Biz yaxshimizmi?
	Are we well?	
Sen yaxshimisan?	Are you well?	Siz yaxshimisiz?
	Are you well?	
U yaxshimi?	Is he well?	Ular yaxshimi?
	Are they well?	

12. **To make a noun plural:**

kitob	book
kitoblar	books

13. **To express location at, movement towards or away from an object:**

uy	house	uyda	at
the house			
uyga	to the house	uydan	
	from the house		
Maktabdan uyga bordim.	I went from the school to the house.		

14. **Endings to add to express possession:**

-im book	my	kitobim	my
-ing book	your (singular/informal)	kitobing	your
-i	his/her/its	kitobi	
	his/her book		
-imiz book	our	kitobimiz	our
-ingiz book	your (plural/formal)	kitobingiz	your
-ilar book	their	kitobilar	their