

Ukrainian is part of the East Slavic subgroup of the Slavic language family, along with Russian and Belorussian. It is the descendant of the colloquial language used in the Kievan Rus (10 - 13th century). It was not until 1905 that Ukrainian was permitted as a distinct language within the Russian Empire.

It is spoken in Ukraine and in Ukrainian communities in neighbouring Belarus, Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia and also in North America. 1979 Soviet census indicated that Ukrainian was spoken by over 35 million people in USSR (of which 32,5 million were in Ukrainian SSR); the 1981 Canadian census counted 754 980 Ukrainians (of which 225 365 were of multicultural origin). Standard Ukrainian is based on southeastern dialects of Ukraine, whose territory includes the capital city of Kiev. Ukrainian uses the Cyrillic alphabet.

There are three main dialects distinguished: northern, south-western, and south-eastern. The speaker recorded is a female in her mid-forties from West Ukraine—Chernovtscy, a city in the Bukovina region.

Consonants

Stops:	p	t	tʲ		k	
	b	d	dʲ		g	
Fricatives:	f	s	sʲ	ʃ	x	ɦ
	v	z	zʲ	ʒ		
Affricates:		ts	tsʲ	tʃ	ʃtʃ	
		dz	dzʲ	dʒ		
Nasals:	m	n	nʲ			
Liquids:		l	lʲ			
		r	rʲ			
Glides:	w			j		

- Notes: 1) In Standard Ukrainian, labials and velars do not have a palatalized counterpart. Phonetically, they may become semi-palatalized preceding /j/. People from Eastern Ukraine who have a heavy Russian influence on their Ukrainian may palatalize these consonants.
- 2) Palatalization is indicated in the spelling either by the soft sign "Ь" or by the "palatalizing" counterpart of a vowel. Non-labial and non-velar consonants also palatalize preceding /j/. "Palatalizing"

vowels have two purposes: ① indicate that the preceding consonant is palatalized comsonants, or ② on their own, indicate Glide-Vowel sequence.

Vowels

i	u
ɪ	
ɛ	o
a	

Notes: 1) All vowels but /o/ have a "palatalizing" counterpart:

Non-palatalizing vowels:

ɪ → И	u → y
ɛ → e	o → O
a → a	

Palatalizing vowels:

i → і, ї	u → ю
ɛ → є	---
a → я	

2) An apostrophe placed between a consonant and an iotated vowel serves as a depalatalizer. The yod portion of the vowel will not be absorbed by the consonant; it will realized independently. For example: Т'ЯМА is realized as [tʲama] while П'ЯТ is realized as [pjat].

3) Ukrainian has vocalic neutralization in unstressed position, though not as much as in English. Unstressed /ɪ/ and /ɛ/ tend to merge to [ʔ] and unstressed /o/ and /u/ tend to merge to [ʔ].

Diphthongs:

ij	uj	iw	uw
ɪj		ɪw	
ɛj	oj	ɛw	ow
aj		aw	

Stress in Ukrainian is lexical.

I Spontaneous Speech:II Consonants:

[p]	1.	[p..]	пóзик	pózik	'loan'
	2.	[p]	пів	piw	'half'
	3.	[pj]	п'єса	pjéca	'play'
	4.	[a]	апатія	apátia	'apathy'
	5.	[d]	дóступ	dóstu/yp	'access, approach'
[b]	6.	[b]	бóрошно	bórošno	'meal, flour'
	7.	[b]	бідний	bídnij	'poor, needy'
	8.	[b]	бю́рко	bjúrko	'desk'
	9.	[ʒ]	жа́ба	žába	'frog'
	10.	[ʒ]	жа́лоб	žalób	'mourning'
[t] vs [t']	11.	[]	ти́н		'fence, hedge'
	12.	[]	ти́нь		'shade; shadow'
	13.	[]	ві́тер		'wind'
	14.	[]	тре́те		'third'
	15.	[]	ту́пання		'stamping'
	16.	[]	тю́пання		'tripping, tittuping'
	17.	[]	то́що		'and so on'
	18.	[]	тьо́хкання		'palpitation'
	19.	[]	та́м		'there'
	20.	[]	тя́ма		'consciousness, soundness of mind'
	21.	[]	п'я́ть		'five'
[d] vs [d']	23.	[]	ди́во		'wonder, marvel'
	24.	[]	ди́ва		'virgin; maid'
	25.	[]	де́ка		'thrasher, concave'
	26.	[]	ду́же		'very'
	27.	[]	дю́жина		'dozen'
	28.	[]	до́говір		'contract, agreement'
	29.	[]	дьо́готь		'tar, pitch'
	30.	[]	да́та		'date'
	31.	[]	дя́тел		'woodpecker'

	32.	[	ОДИН	'one'
	33.	[	жадібний	'greedy'
	34.	[	пóвiд	'rein'
	35.	[	пóвiдь	'flood'
[k]	36.	[	кúля	'ball'
	37.	[	кiнó	'cinema'
	38.	[	кювéтка	'small basin, bowl'
	39.	[	рукá	'hand, arm'
	40.	[	мак	'poppy'
[g]	41.	[	гúсто	'thickly, densely'
	42.	[	гiсть	'guest'
	43.	[	гюйс	'jack'
	44.	[	джiгати	'to whip, to lash'
	45.	[	джигiт	'brave, cowboy'
[f]	46.	[	фáрба	'paint'
	47.	[	фiльм	'film'
	48.	[	реферáт	'paper, essay'
	49.	[	граф	'count'
[v]	50.		вáжко	'heavily'
	51.		вiддiл	'department, section'
	52.		завóд	'winding mechanism'
[s] vs [sʲ]				
	53.		сiтець	'cotton (calico) print'
	54.		сiтка	'netting, network'
	55.		сéред	'among(st)'
	56.		сúмно	'sadly'
	57.		сюди	'here'
	58.		сом	'sheat-fish'
	59.		сьóмий	'seventh'
	60.		сак	'bag'
	61.		сяéво	'spender'
	62.		дóсить	'enough'
	63.		мiсяць	'moon'
	64.		тpу́с	'search'
	65.		тpусь	'small rabbit'

[z] vs [zʲ]			
	66.	зіркати	'to glance (at)'
	67.	зірка	'star'
	68.	з'їзд	'congress'
	69.	зелень	'verdure; vegetables'
	70.	з'єднання	'union, junction'
	71.	зуб	'tooth'
	72.	зюзя	'slang—small'
	73.	золото	'gold'
	74.	затишно	'cosily'
	75.	зять	'son-in-law'
	76.	з'являтися	'to appear'
	77.	назад	'back, backwards'
	78.	глазур	'varnish'
	79.	в'яз	'elm-tree'
	80.	в'язь	'set of letters interwoven in one design'
[ʃ]	81.	шафа	'closet, dresser'
	82.	шість	'six'
	83.	пошивка	'pillow-case'
	84.	пліш	'baldness'
[ʒ]	85.	жити	'to live, to be alive'
	86.	жінка	'woman'
	87.	заміжня	'married woman'
	88.	заміж	'to give in marriage'
[x]	89.	холод	'cold'
	90.	хімік	'chemist'
	91.	сухо	'dryly'
	92.	сміх	'laughter'
[ɦ]	93.	голод	'hunger'
	94.	гірше	'worse'
	95.	його	'his'
	96.	ворог	'enemy'
[ts] vs [tsʲ]			
	97.	цитрус	'citrus'
	98.	цільний	'whole, entire'

	99.	цех	'workshop, factory'
	100.	цўрка	'small stick'
	101.	цокотати	'to click, to rattle'
	102.	цього	'this, that'
	103.	цап	'goat'
	104.	цяцька	'toy'
	105.	кўций	'short'
	106.	жар-птиця	'fire-bird'
	107.	коц	'blanket'
	108.	мїсяць	'moon (month)'
[dz] vs [dz']			
	109.	дзїгати	'to spin'
	110.	дзєркало	'mirror'
	111.	дзюбати	'to peck'
	112.	дзьоб	'beak; woodpecker'
	113.	дзївкати	'to bark, to yelp'
	114.	вїдзиватися	'to answer'
	115.	гудз	'knot'
[t]	116.	часто	'often'
	117.	чи	'why'
	118.	чїткїсть	'clearness, exactness'
	119.	Сїчень	'January'
	120.	хоч	'although'
[dʒ]	121.	джўнгли	'jungle'
	122.	джерело	'source, fountain'
[ft]	123.	ще	'still, more'
	124.	хрещєння	'christening'
	125.	злєдащїти	'to grow lazy'
	126.	хрущ	'beetle'
[m]	127.	мєблї	'furniture'
	128.	мїсто	'city'
	129.	м'ясо	'flesh; meat'
	130.	нїмїй	'dumb'
	131.	костюм	'suit'

[n] vs [nʲ]

132.	НИШИТИ	'to destroy'
133.	НИМЧИТИ	'to Germanize'
134.	НЕБО	'sky'
135.	НУМЕР	'number'
136.	НЮХ	'sense of smell'
137.	НОСИК	'little nose'
138.	НАНОВО	'anew, like new'
139.	НЯНЬЧИТИ	'to nurse'
140.	ЦІНА	'price, charge'
141.	ЛІНІЯ	'line, rule'
142.	СТАН	'condition, state'
143.	КІН	'public place'
144.	КІНЬ	'horse'

[l] vs [lʲ]

145.	ЛИС	'dog-fox'
146.	ЛІС	'woods, forest'
147.	ЛЕБІДЬ	'swan'
148.	ЛУК	'bow, long-bow'
149.	ЛЮК	'hatchway, hatch; trapdoor'
150.	ЛОТОС	'Bot. lotus'
151.	ЛЬОТЧИК	'pilot'
152.	ЛАК	'varnish, lacquer'
153.	ЛЯК	'fright, fear, shock'
154.	ПОЛЯК	'Pole'
155.	СКАЛА	'scale'
156.	СКІЛЬКИ	'how much/many'
157.	ПРОКОЛ	'hole, puncture'
158.	КАШЕЛЬ	'cough'

[r] vs [rʲ]

159.	РІСКА	'short stroke, dash'
160.	РІСКА (він ріска/и в роті не мав)	'he has not had a morsel of food'
161.	РЕДЬКА	'radish'
162.	РУКАВ	'sleeve'
163.	РЮКЗАК	'rucksac, knapsack'
164.	РОЛИК	'roller, castor'
165.	РАСА	'race'
166.	РЯСА	'cassock, frock'

	167.	па́ра	'pair; steam'
	168.	по́рядок	'order, arrangement'
	169.	вечі́р	'evening'
[w]	170.	бра́тів	'brother's GEN.'
[j]	171.	іда́льня	'dining room'
	172.	Юрко́	'Yurko'
	173.	як	'how'
	174.	п'є́са	'play, piece'

Some Clusters

	1.	вбра́ння	'finery, clothes'
	2.	вже	'already'
	3.	взі́р	'model, sample'
	4.	вля́да	'authority'
	5.	мла	'mist, haze'
	6.	мно́жник	'multiplier, factor'
	7.	ржа	'rust'
	8.	све́кор	'father-in-law'
	9.	сква́р	'heat'
	10.	схі́д	'east'
	11.	ткну́ти	'to touch'
	12.	хто	'who?'
	13.	бобр	'beaver'
	14.	ве́рх	'summit, top'

Final voicing contrasts

	1.	рафіна́д	'refined sugar'
	2.	рефе́ра́т	'paper, essay'
	3.	плі́ш	'baldness'
	4.	за́між	'to give in marriage'

Vowels:

[i]	1.	лі́с	'woods, forest'
	2.	лісі́стий	'wooded, woody'

[ɪ]	3.	ЛИСТ	'letter'
	4.	ЛИСТІВКА	'postcard'
/e/	5.	ЗЕЛЕНЬ	'verdure; vegetables'
	6.	ЗЕЛЕНИЙ	'green'
merging of unstressed и and e?:			
	7.	ВИСТАВА	'play, performance'
	8.	ВЕСНА	'spring'
/u/	9.	ДУБЛЕНИЙ	'tanned'
	10.	ДУБЛЕР	'understudy'
/o/	11.	ЗЛОДІЙ	'thief, burglar'
	12.	ЗЛОДІЙСТВО	'stealing, theft'
merging of unstressed у and o?:			
	13.	ПУХОВІЙ	'downy'
	14.	ПОХАБНИК	'foul-mouthed man'
/a/	15.	А́НГЕЛ	'angel'
	16.	АНГІ́НА	'angina, tonsillitis'
	17.	ЗОНА́	'smut, brand'
	18.	ЗОНА	'zone'

Diphthongs:

ij	1.	БІЙ	'battle, fight'
iw	2.	СЛІВ	'word's GEN'
ɨj	3.	ЧИЙ	'whose, to whom'
ɨw	4.	ПОЗИТИВ	'positive'
ej	5.	ЦЕЙ	'this, that'
ew	6.	ЛЕВ	'lion'
ɥj	7.	ДУЙ	'blow IMP'
uw	8.	ДУВ	'blew'
oj	9.	ТОЙ	'that, those'

ow	10.	зНОВ	'anew, over again'
aj	11.	дай	'give'
aw	12.	дав	'gave'

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