

Vowels

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Russian possesses five vowel phonemes which are subject to considerable allophony. Some linguists consider [i] to be a separate phoneme but the general consensus (and that taken by this article) is that it is an allophone of /i/:

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i	(i)	u
Mid	e	(ə)	o
Open		a	

Vowel allophony is largely dependent on stress and the palatalization of neighboring consonants:

Consonants

⟨j⟩ denotes **palatalization**, meaning the center of the tongue is raised during and after the articulation of the consonant.

		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental & Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	hard	/m/		/n/			
	soft	/m ^j /		/n ^j /			
Plosive	hard	/p/ /b/		/t/ /d/			/k/ /g/
	soft	/p ^j / /b ^j /		/t ^j / /d ^j /			/k ^j /* /g ^j /
Affricate	hard			/tʃ/			
	soft				/tʃ ^j /		
Fricative	hard		/f/ /v/	/s/ /z/	/ʃ/ /ʒ/		/x/
	soft		/f ^j / /v ^j /	/s ^j / /z ^j /	/ʃ ^j /* /ʒ ^j /*		[x ^j]
Trill	hard			/r/			
	soft			/r ^j /			
Approximant	hard			/l/			
	soft			/l ^j /		/j/	