

Asia Dziuba

Let's study the Georgian

ALPHABET

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Jezyki Kaukazu
Languages of the Caucasus

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You already know that there are no capital and small letters which I believe makes the alphabet study much easier. There is, however, a form of writing the Georgian letters as if they were in a capital form. These are exactly the same shapes as usually you can see in print but just written with the same height. This is how the Georgian words may be written on police cars or shop signs.

One should mention as well that **the way of writing taught in schools looks a bit differently to how adults write**. These are still the same letters but written much faster and less round. Similarly to your mother tongue, now you probably write a bit differently than you did in the first years of school. This is why, if you see the handwriting of Georgians and aren't able to decipher it, don't worry. It'll come with time and practice so you'll write similarly.

How to write the Georgian letters?

The Georgian letters are written on three levels, similarly to the Latin alphabet. The only difference is that the Georgian levels aren't of equal heights. The middle one is much smaller than the upper and the lower ones. Each letter can be written at minimum one level:

- upper and middle, e.g. ზ, ბ, ზ, similar to Latin k, l, b;
- middle, e.g. ა, ი, ო, similar to Latin a, i, o;
- middle and lower, e.g. გ, ჟ, ზ, similar to Latin g, j, p;
- upper and middle + lower, e.g. ჟ, ჟ, ჟ, similar to Latin capital J.

Secondly, similarly to the Latin alphabet, one writes all letters from left to right. Writing a letter the aim is to end on the right side of the letter so you can start writing the next one.

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Today's portion of the Georgian alphabet:

ა a ა

ზ z ზ

ბ b ბ

თ t თ

გ g გ

ო i ი

დ d დ

კ k' კ

ე e ე

ლ l ლ

ვ v ვ

1. Match the printed letters to the ones in handwriting and read them out loud.

ა

კ

ბ

გ

გ

თ

დ

ი

ე

ო

ვ

ზ

ზ

ა

თ

ბ

ო

გ

კ

დ

ლ

ე

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2. Read each column of letters out loud.

ბ, ნ, ო, პ,

კ, ს, ე, ნ, ვ,

ბ, მ, ნ, უ, პ

ჟ, რ, ს, ტ,

ბ, ტ, უ, მ,

ე, პ, ვ, კ,

უ, ფ, ქ, ა,

გ, ნ, თ, ტ,

ლ, დ, ქ, კ,

კ, უ, ი, რ,

დ, რ, ლ, ფ,

ა, ე, ი, ზ,

ზ, მ, ა, ტ

კ, ჟ, თ, ქ, ი,

დ, ს, ფ, თ, გ

3. Match the printed letters to the ones in handwriting and their transliterations in the Latin alphabet.

ტ

ბ

b

ბ

ფ

a

უ

ი

d

ფ

უ

t

ა

მ

t'

ო

ა

p'

პ

თ

m

ჟ

პ

u

ღ

ჟ

i

მ

ღ

zh

თ

ტ

p



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3. Match the Georgian letters put in various fonts and read them out loud.

ა

ბ

გ

დ

ე

ვ

ზ

თ

ი

კ

ლ

მ

ნ

ო

პ

ჟ

რ

ს

ტ

უ

ფ

ყ

შ

ჩ

ც

ძ

წ

ჭ

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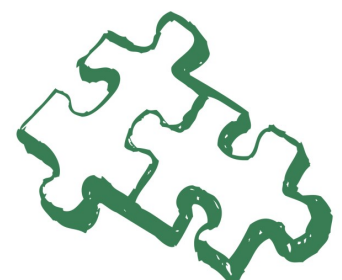
ცხ

ძვ

წკ

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Book author. Founder and owner of Języki Kaukazu – Languages of the Caucasus Publishing House. For over 10 years has been teaching Georgian on group, individual and self-paced courses, as well creating study materials.

Working as a Georgian teacher uses her experience as trainer, business coach and mentor. Asia spent over 1000 hours conducting workshops and trainings, as well as group and individual sessions. All the Georgian study materials of her authorship incorporate modern teaching methods.

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