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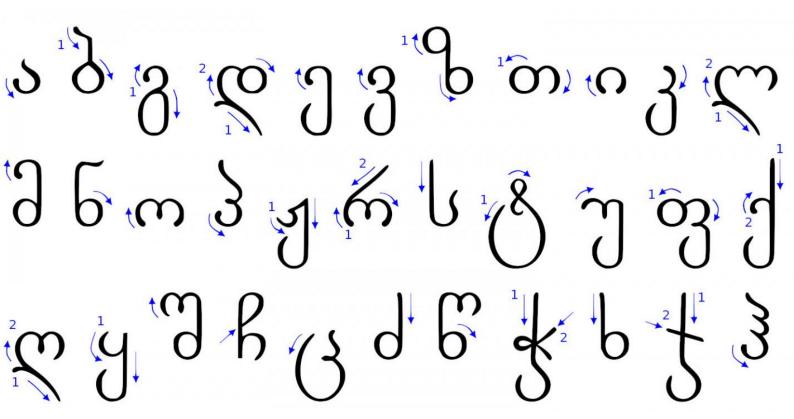


# **LESSON #01:** THE GEORGIAN ALPHABET

In this unit, you'll learn all 33 Mkhedruli letters—pronunciation and clear examples—so you can start to read and write in Georgian.

- A Georgian is 100% phonetic
- It uses 33 letters, and each letter maps to a single, specific sound
- Unlike English, once you learn the sounds, you can pronounce any word just by reading it — there are no exceptions or silent vowels

Here is whole alphabet, in this unit we will go one by one



Georgian **Mkhedruli** alphabet has no uppercase or lowercase letters; it's unicase

**Exercise #1:** Take paper and Write the letter several times and listen to the audio.

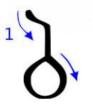
(We will bold and underline the sound in English)

1.



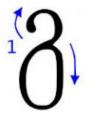
English sound - A Like: father

2.



Ascenders (extend above the midline)
 English sound – B like: **B**en

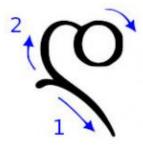
3.



Descenders (extend below the baseline)

English sound – G like: **G**o

4.



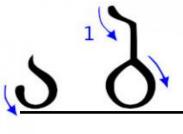
Descenders (extend below the baseline)

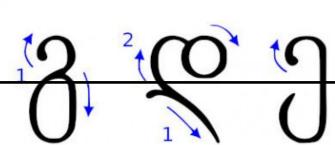
English sound - D like: **D**avid

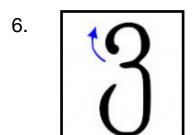
5.



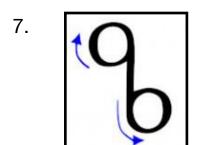
Descenders (extend below the baseline) English sound – E like: Ben



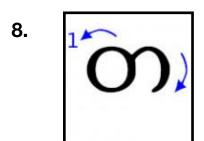




Descenders (extend below the baseline) English sound – V like: **V**owel

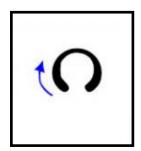


Ascenders (extend above the midline) English sound – Z like: **Z**ebra



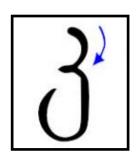
it sounds as T, T like: **T**ower





English sound – I like: **E**asy





Descenders (extend below the baseline) English sound – K. Like **K**ing. But stronger It's not soft like the English "k" — it's pronounced with more pressure from the throat.

- Try to pronounce it without any air coming out of your mouth (unaspirated).
- You can try this trick:

Put your hand in front of your mouth and say the English word "key" — you will feel air.

Now say the Georgian 3 — no air should come out.

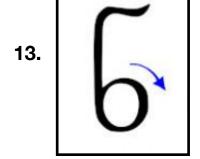
• How to write: It looks like a small loop with a tail. Practice writing it several times.

11.

Descenders (extend below the baseline) English L, like in the word: **L**emon

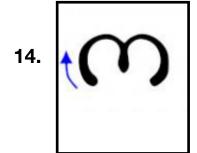
12.

Ascenders (extend above the midline) English sound M, like: Mama



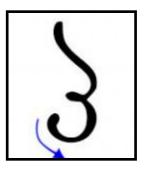
Ascenders (extend above the midline)

English sound N, like: Nairobi



O as the English words: Pot (British English)

or Slow



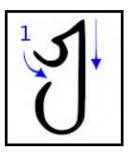
Ascenders (extend above the midline)

English word: Pen

#### **Pronunciation Tip**

- 1. Say the English word "spin" (the "p" in "spin" has almost no air).
- 2. Now tighten your throat/glottis and release a quick burst: that's the Georgian 3.
- 3. To feel the difference: put your hand before your lips. You'll feel air on English "pie," but **none** on Georgian 3.

16.

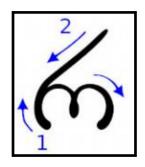


Descenders (extend below the baseline)

It's the voiced postalveolar fricative — the same sound as English "s" in "measure"

### **Pronunciation Tip**

- 1. Say the English word "measure" and hold the "zh" sound in the middle: 7 ms3.er/.
- 2. Practice isolating just that "zh": feel your vocal cords vibrating and your tongue just behind the ridge behind your teeth.
- 3. Compare with the English "sh" sound (as in "ship," which is unvoiced). With J, you do have voice/vibration.



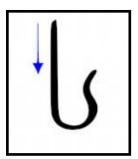
Ascenders (extend above the midline)

It's a rolled/ tapped "r"—very similar to the Spanish "r" in pero or the single flap in American "butter" (the quick "tt" sound)

## **Pronunciation Tip**

- 1. **Tongue placement**: Lightly touch the tip of your tongue to the ridge just behind your upper front teeth.
- 2. Roll or tap: Push a small burst of air so your tongue vibrates once (a tap) or several times (a roll).
- 3. **Compare**: Say English "dd" in "ladder" (American accent)—that flap is almost the same as Georgian რე.

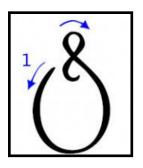
18.



Ascenders (extend above the midline)

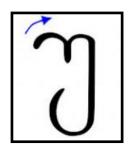
English sound is S, like the word: **S**uperman

19.



Descenders (extend below the baseline)

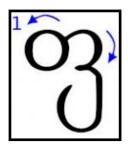
It's a strong, ejective "t" sound. Similar to English "t" (as in "top")



Descenders (extend below the baseline)

U as English OO, word: boot

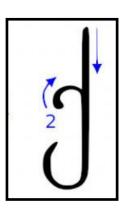
#### 21.



33 (extend below the baseline)

ფ like the letter p, word Pen

#### 23.

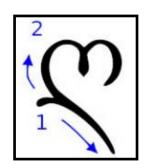


This is a strong "k" sound, called an aspirated voiceless velar stop.

It's similar to the English "k" in "key" or "kite", but with extra air (a strong puff when you say it)

## How to pronounce j:

- 1. Place the **back of your tongue** near your soft palate (like for English **k**).
- 2. Release it with a strong burst of air (aspiration).
- 3. It's more explosive than the Georgian letter 3, which has no air.



The Georgian letter  $\mathfrak{D}$  is pronounced like a voiced uvular fricative —  $/\mathfrak{B}/$  — which doesn't exist in English, but here's how to pronounce it step by step:

#### How to Pronounce φ:

1. Place your tongue far back

Move the back of your tongue close to the uvula (the dangly thing at the back of your throat).

2. Vibrate your throat

As you push air out, let it vibrate in your throat, like a soft gargling sound.

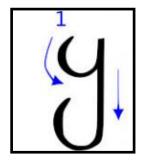
3. Keep it voiced

Your **vocal cords** should vibrate. It's not "kh" (f) or b), which is voiceless — it's **softer, deeper,** and **voiced**.

**Closest Comparisons in Other Languages:** 

• French "r" in Paris (if pronounced in the throat, not with the tongue)

25.



It's a voiceless uvular ejective stop, which sounds hard, deep, and sharp. Closest Georgian sound – strong 3

# **Step-by-Step Pronunciation:** 1. Tongue position Pull your tongue far back — touching or near the uvula (back of the throat). 2. Build pressure Close your throat tightly. Do not let air pass through your vocal cords. 3. Pop it! Now, release the pressure suddenly — like a dry "k" sound made deep in your

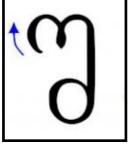
throat, without breath.

It's **not voiced** — there is **no vibration** in your vocal cords.

### Think of it like:

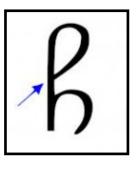
- A popping "k" from the throat
- Similar to Arabic ق (qaf), but more explosive and harder
- No English equivalent that's why it sounds powerful and rare!



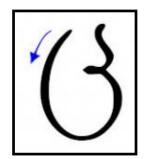


English equivalent "sh" like English "shoe





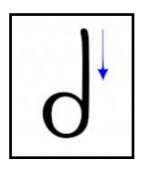
English equivalent "ch" Like in the word "Chair"



it is "Ts"

like English word: Bits

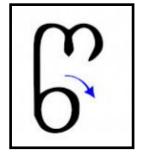
28.



"d" is pronounced like the "dz" sound — similar to the "ds" in the word "kids" or "adds."

It's a voiced affricate, meaning your vocal cords vibrate when you say it — it starts like a d and ends like a z.

29.

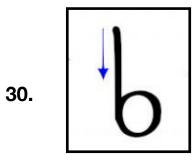


"6" is a hard "ts" sound — like "g" (ts), but pronounced with more pressure and without using your voice. It's called an ejective sound.

"6" is a hard "ts" sound, similar to "β", but pronounced with more tension and no vocal cord vibration. It's an ejective affricate, meaning the sound is produced with a burst of air from the throat.

There's no exact English equivalent, but you can think of it like the "ts" in "cats", said with more force and tightness.

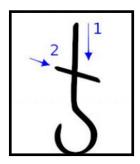
Imagine holding your breath slightly, building pressure, and then releasing it sharply.



It sounds like a strong, throaty "h", with air flowing through the back of the throat. It is not the same as the soft English "h" in "hello" — "b" is rougher and deeper.

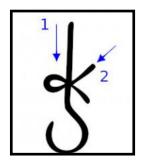
German "Ba<u>ch</u>"

31.



English equivalent J like: **J**am

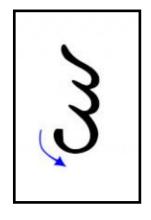
32.



"g" is a strong, ejective version of the Georgian letter β.

It's pronounced without using your voice, but with tight pressure and a sharp burst of air from the throat.

33.



like English Letter H English word: Hello

# Why Should You Learn the Georgian Alphabet?

Learning the Georgian alphabet isn't just about mastering a new script—it's about stepping into a world few dare to enter. To most people, the Georgian letters look mysterious, complex, even impossible. But once you begin, you'll quickly discover: it's not as difficult as it seems. In fact, it's logical, phonetic, and beautifully structured.

And once you do master it? You will feel like a king. Like nothing is impossible



Imagine reading signs in Tbilisi that no one else understands. Reading handwritten notes, sacred books, and ancient manuscripts — all in a script that's used by only one nation in the world. You'll feel special, unique, and proud. Most people won't even try to learn this alphabet. But you will. And that sets you apart.

You'll be surprised by how quickly you recognize the flow of the letters, how satisfying it is to write them, and how empowering it feels to read real Georgian words — letter by letter, syllable by syllable. It's not just learning. It's unlocking a secret.

If you've always wanted to stand out, if you've ever dreamed of mastering something rare and beautiful — this is it.

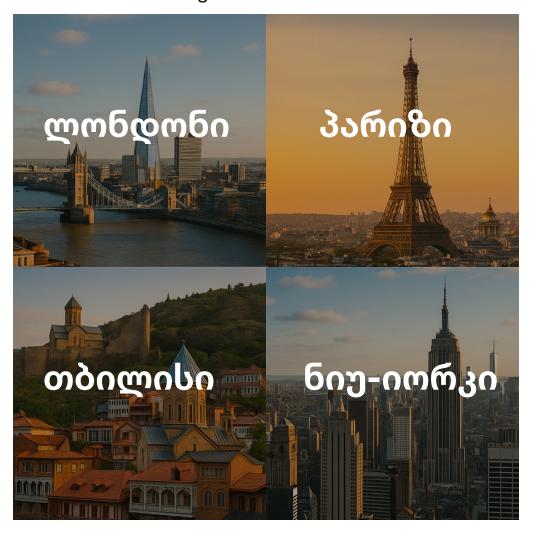
Welcome to the Georgian alphabet. Welcome to greatness.



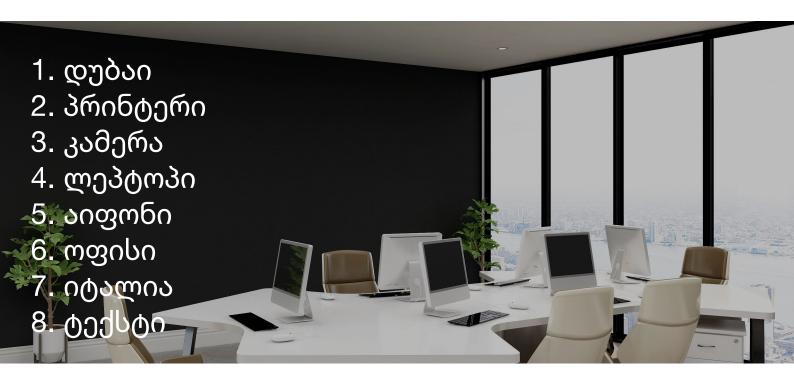
# **LESSON #02: PRACTICE GEORGIAN ALPHABET**

In this unit, we will practice the Georgian alphabet through fun and simple exercises. You will learn to recognize, pronounce, and write each letter correctly. By repeating the letters in different ways, your reading and writing skills will become stronger and more confident. Let's get started!

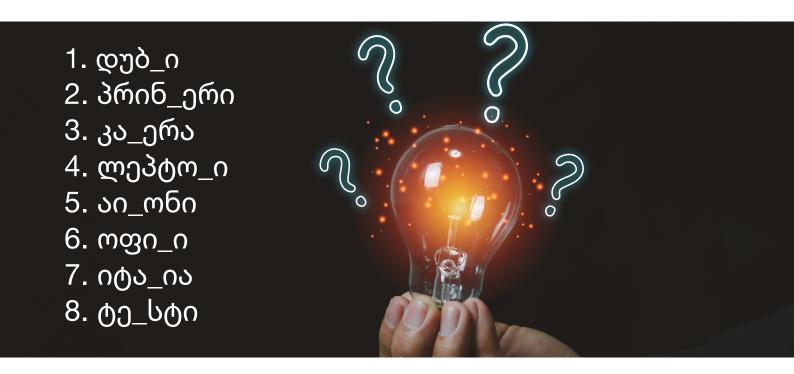
Exercise #1: Read following words



#### Exercise #2 write down translations



Exercise #3: fill in the missing letter



Exercise #4: Match the words with photos



კამერა



ტელეფონი

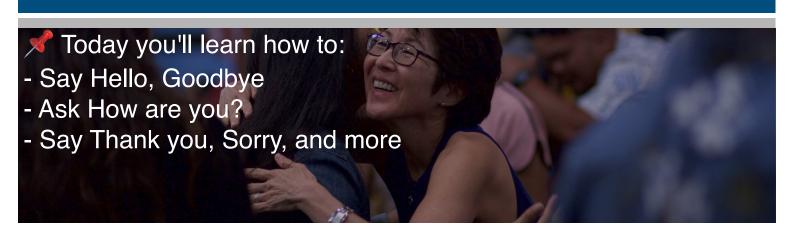


ლეპტოპი



ოფისი





**Exercise #1:** Learn Key Words and Listen to audio 1.1 Read the words below, listen to the audio

English	Georgian	Pronunciation
Hello (formal)	გამარჯობა	Gamarjoba
Hi	სალამი	Salami
Thank you	მადლობა	Madloba
You are welcome	გაიხარე (litt: be happy)	Gaikhare
Sorry	ბოდიში	Bodishi
Excuse me	უკაცრავად	Ukacravad
My name is	მე მქვია	Me mqvia
What is your name	რა გქვია	Ra gqvia
Nice to meet you (short version)	სასიამოვნოა	Sasiamovnoa
How are you?	როგორ ხარ?	Rogor khar?
Goodbye / bye	კარგად	Kargad
See you (goodbye)	ნახვამდის	Nakhvamdis

#### **Exercise #2:** Match the Phrases

1. გამარჯობა 2. როგორ ხარ? 3. მე მქვია 4. ბოდიში

A. How are you?

B. Sorry

C. Hello

D. My name is

#### Exercise #3: Read the dialogue

- გამარჯობა
- სალამი
- ბოდიში, რა გქვია?
- იპოლიტე
- მე მქვია ნინი
- სასიამოვნოა. კარგად ნინი
- **-** ნახვამდის.



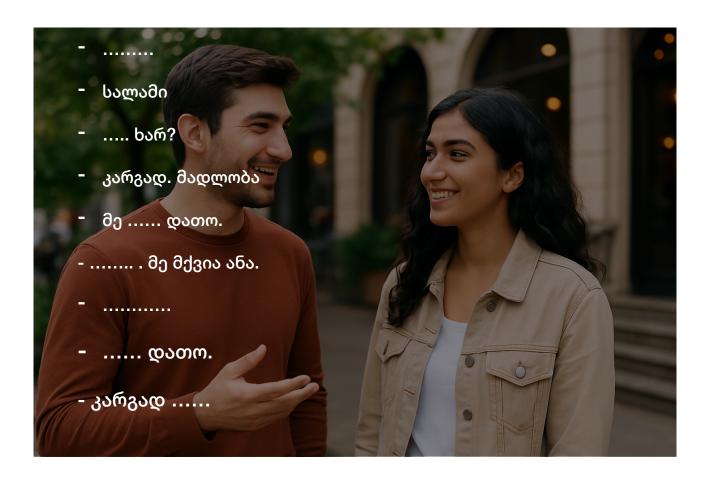
## Exercise #4: Answer the questions

(The questions are from the text. Answer in Georgian.)

- 1. Who is speaking? .....
- 2. What is the woman's name?
- 3. What is the mens name? .....
- 4. Who starts the dialogue? .....

### Exercise #5 Fill the gaps

Listen to the dialogue carefully and complete the sentences based on what you hear.



#### Exercise #6 unscramble sentences

put the words in the correct order

- **1.** ხარ / გამარჯობა / როგორ
- 2. მქვია / ანა / მე
- **3.** გქვია / რა? / სასიამოვნოა
- 4. ბოდიში / სალამი / გქვია / რა

## Exercise #7 write translations

English	Georgian	Pronunciation
	გამარჯობა	Gamarjoba
	სალამი	Salami
	მადლობა	Madloba
	გაიხარე	Gaikhare
	იწითობ	Bodishi
	მე მქვია	Me mqvia
	რა გქვია	Ra gqvia
	სასიამოვნოა	Sasiamovnoa
	როგორ ხარ?	Rogor khar?
	კარგად	Kargad
	ნახვამდის	Nakhvamdis



Congratulations!
Today you have learned first 11 phrases!