

BASHKIR

SOME USEFUL PHRASES IN BASHKIR

Рәхим итегеҙ.
[ræ'χim ite'geð]
/Rä-khēm ētēgēth/
Welcome.

Хәйерле иртә. Минең исемем ...
[χæjɛr'le ir'tæ mi'nɛŋ isɛ'mɛm....]
/Khä-yërlë ertä. Mënëŋ ēsēmēm .../
Good morning. My name is ...

Хәйерле кис. / Тыныс йоко.
[χæjɛr'le kis] / [ti'nis jo'qo]
/Khä-yërlë kēs./ /Tīnīs yōkō./
Good evening. / Good night.

Танышыуыбыҙға шатмын.
[tanɪʃi' u·ibið ɣa ʃat'min]
/Tanīshī-ū-ībīth-gha shatmīn./
Nice to meet you.

Эштәр нисек? Яҡшы.
[ɛʃ'tær ni'sek jaq'ʃi]
/ēsh-tār nēsék? Yak-shī./
How are you doing? I'm fine.

Һез инглизсә һөйләшәһеҙме?
[hɛð inlɪz'sæ hɔɪlæʃæ'hɛgɛð mɛ]
/Hëth ēnglēsä hoylāshä-hëgēthmë?/
Do you speak English?

Мин аңламайым.
[min aŋla'mai·jim]
/Mën anglama-yīm./
I don't understand.

Зинһар. / Рәхмәт.
[zin'hap] / [ræχ'mæt]
/Zēn-hap./ /Räkh-mät./
You have a beautiful home.

Һау булығыҙ.
[hay'buli ɣið]
/Haū būlī-ghīth./
Good bye.

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FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT BASHKIRS AND THEIR LANGUAGE

1. The Bashkir population is estimated to be about 2,000,000, and can be found throughout Eurasian and Central Asia. Bashkir is spoken natively in Kazakhstan and Russia, specifically in the Bashkortostan Republic of Russia, but you can also find small groups of Bashkir speakers in other Central Asian countries, such as Uzbekistan.
2. A member of the Turkic language family, Bashkir shares many structural similarities to languages such as Turkish (agglutinative, SOV structure, etc) and also uses many loanwords from Russian, Arabic, and Persian languages.
3. When the Bashkir republic was granted autonomy in February 1919, it became the first autonomous republic within the Russian Republic.
4. The Bashkirs still practice an ancient art of wild bee-keeping in remote villages in the Ural mountains.
5. The Bashkirs are skilled horsemen and even have a horse breed named for them. Bashkir horses are a breed formed in the steppes of the Ural mountains that are typically used as a draft and utility horse and as a producer of milk and meat.

ABOUT US

The Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region (CeLCAR) at Indiana University develops materials for learning and teaching a wide variety of Central Asian languages.

For more information, go to celcar.indiana.edu.



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WHO ARE THE BASHKIR PEOPLE AND WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

The Bashkir people are an ethnic group living throughout Eurasia and Central Asia, most prominently in the Bashkortostan Republic of Russia. Historically, Bashkirs come from Turkic descent and are indigenous to both sides of the Ural mountain region, commonly living near the Kama, Volga, Samara, and Tobol rivers in Western Russia. Today, the Bashkir population is estimated to be about 2,000,000 with approximately 1,500,000 million living in Russia, 17,000 living in Kazakhstan, 4,000 living in Uzbekistan, and 4,000 in Ukraine.



WHAT KIND OF LANGUAGE IS BASHKIR?

Bashkir belongs to the Altaic group of languages, which includes languages such as Turkish, Mongolian, and arguably Korean and Japanese. Altaic languages have historically been spoken across areas of Asia and Eastern Europe, and are named after the Altai Mountains in Central Asia. Bashkir belongs to the Kypchak branch of the Turkic language family, which includes other Central Asian languages such as Kazakh and Kyrgyz. But more specifically, Bashkir belongs to the Kipchak-Bolgar language group, along with its most closely related language, Tatar. Bashkir has three main dialects: Eastern, Southern, and North-western.



Similar to other Altaic languages, Bashkir uses a subject-object-verb word order and is an agglutinative language, where one root word has multiple suffixes added to indicate discrete grammatical functions. And like many other Central Asian languages, Bashkir features vowel harmony, wherein the vowel quality of a vowel in a word directly affects the vowel quality of the other vowels within the word. Another feature of Bashkir is the use of postpositions, so instead of saying “on the table” like in English, a Bashkir speaker would say the equivalent of *table on*.

WHAT ALPHABET DO THE BASHKIR USE?

Bashkir is written using the Bashkir alphabet (Башкорт әлифбаһы), which is a modified version of the Russian Cyrillic alphabet. Historically, Bashkirs wrote in the Chagatay language (a shared literary language in Central Asian until the twentieth century) which was written in an Arabic script, but in 1923, another Arabic-based writing system was developed specifically for the Bashkir language. This system was replaced by a Latin-based writing system in 1930, before eventually being replaced 8 years later by the Cyrillic-based Bashkir alphabet still used today.



WHAT IS BASHKIR CULTURE LIKE?

Traditionally, Bashkirs practiced agriculture; their staples being cattle-rearing and bee-keeping. Bashkirs typically herded their cattle in the Ural mountains and the surrounding steppes and have been known to erect both Turkic and

Mongolian style yurts. And their ancient method of wild-hive beekeeping is still being practiced today with a population of rare Burzyan honeybees near the caves of the Shulgan-Tash region in the Burzyansky District of the southern Ural mountains.



The majority of Bashkir people identify themselves as Sunni Muslim.

Bashkirs use a lot of honey, obviously as a result of their bee-keeping practices. Additionally, two of the most famous Bashkir dishes are öyrä, a kind of gruel, and qorot, a kind of cheese. And the national drink of Bashkir is a sort of mead called hitabalé, made from a fermented honey.

Bashkir communities tend to be very self-sufficient. In fact, the only grocery shops available in most villages store only those products which villagers cannot make themselves, such as flour, sugar, and some clothing, etc.

Additionally, like many Central Asian cultures, Bashkir has national epics, Ural-batyr and Akbuzat, that have been handed down from generation to generation and tell tales of heroic characters winning over evil forces.

