

# 1

## ДОБРИДЕНЬ! ЯК ВАШЕ ІМ'Я?

*Hello! What's your name?*

### In this unit you will learn:

- how to introduce yourself
- how to introduce members of your family
- how to greet people
- how to identify objects (e.g. 'this is my house')
- how to ask simple questions using question words
- how to ask someone what their name is



### Діалог 1 (Dialogue 1)

Taras has invited Stephen to his home.

**Тарас** Добрий день, Стівене!\* Прощу заходити.

**Стівен** Добридень, Тарасе!\* Як справи?

**Тарас** Дякую, добре. А як ти?

**Стівен** Дякую, непогано.

**Тарас** Сідай, будь ласка.

**Стівен** Дуже дякую.



добрий день  
добридень  
прошу заходити

як справи?  
дякую  
добре

*hello/how do you do? (lit. good day)*  
*hello/how do you do?*  
*please come in (lit. [I] ask [you] to come in)*  
*how are things? (lit. how things?)*  
*thank you (lit. [I] thank)*  
*fine*

а як ти?  
непогано  
сідай  
будь ласка  
дуже дякую

and you? (lit. and how [are] you?)  
not bad  
sit down  
please  
thank you very much (lit. very [much]  
[I] thank)

\*Special forms of the names **Стівен** and **Тарас**, used when addressing people: see unit 11.

Later that evening Taras shows Stephen a photograph of his family in Ukraine. **Мико́ла** is a Ukrainian male name; **Марія** and **Оксана́** are female ones.

Here is a picture of Taras' family with a friend.



## Діалог 2 (Dialogue 2)

**Тарас** Це - мій брат. Його звать Мико́ла. Він актёр.  
**Стівен** А хто це?  
**Тарас** Це - моя сестра. Її ім'я Оксана́.  
**Стівен** Яка її професія?

**Тарас** Вона́ музикант.  
**Стівен** А це твоя ма́ма?  
**Тарас** Так. Її звать Мари́я. Вона́ математик.  
**Стівен** А то також твій брат?  
**Тарас** Ні. То мій друг Е́ндрю.  
**Стівен** Він українець?  
**Тарас** Ні. Він не українець. Він америка́нець.  
**Стівен** А його́ професія?  
**Тарас** Він журналіст. А це - я.

це	this
мій	my
його́ звать	his name is (lit. him [they] call)
він	he
актёр	actor
а	and, but
хто	who
моя́	my
сестра́	sister
її	her
яка́	what
вона́	she
музикант	musician
твоя́	your
так	yes
її звать	her name is (lit. her [they] call)
математик	mathematician
то	that
тако́ж	also, too, as well
ні	no
не	not
Е́ндрю	Andrew
українець	(lit.) a Ukrainian man
він українець?	is he Ukrainian?/a Ukrainian?
америка́нець	(lit.) an American
професія	profession

(а) Пра́вда чи непра́вда? (True or false?)  
Answer in Ukrainian.

- 1 Це моя сестра́ Оксана́. Вона́ журналіст.
- 2 Це мій брат Мико́ла. Він актёр.

- 3 Це моя ма́ма. Ї́ї ім'я́ Марі́я.
- 4 Це мій дру́г Е́ндрю. Він украї́нець.

**(b) Answer the following questions in English.**

- 1 How does Stephen answer the question 'How are you?'
- 2 Who are the people on the photo?
- 3 What is the name of Taras' brother?
- 4 What is his mother's profession?

**Як функціонує мо́ва  
How the language works**

**1 'The' and 'a' in Ukrainian**

There are no definite ('the') or indefinite ('a') articles in Ukrainian.

**2 'Is' in Ukrainian**

As you can see from the sentences in the dialogue, you do not need a word for 'is' in sentences like 'This is my brother. He is an actor.' There will be more about this in the next unit.

**3 Asking simple questions**

In Ukrainian the words for the statement **він украї́нець** (*he is Ukrainian*) and the question **він украї́нець?** (*is he Ukrainian?*) occur in the same order. In print the question is obviously marked by the question mark. In speech the intonation makes all the difference. In a question the voice rises and falls on the word that is important for the question:

**Він украї́нець?**

*Is he Ukrainian?*

Ukrainian makes frequent use of the little word **а** to introduce questions, e.g. from the dialogues **а ти?** (*and you?*) **а хто це?** (*and who's this?*) **а це тво́я ма́ма?** (*is that your mother?*) **а то та́кож твій б́рат?** (*and is that also your brother?*) **а його́ професі́я?** (*and [what is] his profession?*).

It is used to change the flow of the conversation, and to seek new information. It can sometimes be translated into English as 'and' or 'so' at the beginning of the sentence.

It can also occur at the beginning of a statement, e.g. **а це я** (*and that's me*).

**4 Nouns**

A noun is a word that refers to a person, e.g. *boy* – **хло́пчик**, *sister* – **сестра́**, *journalist* – **журналі́ст**, an object e.g. *car* – **автомо́біль**, *church* – **це́рква**, *photograph* – **фо́то**, or abstract concept, e.g. *day* – **де́нь**, *love* – **любо́в**, *health* – **здо́ров'я**.

**5 Gender**

Look at the final letters of the words in these columns:

він	вона́	вони́
син	до́нька	не́бо
брат	сестра́	мо́ре
цирк	ла́мпа	вікно́

син	son
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The words **він**, **син**, **брат** are masculine in gender; **вона́**, **до́нька**, **сестра́** are feminine. The nouns denote either male (**син**, **брат**) or female (**до́нька**, **сестра́**) human beings; the gender of the Ukrainian nouns therefore depends upon the sex of the person. **Не́бо**, **мо́ре** and **вікно́** all denote objects and are therefore neuter in gender. So what about **цирк** and **ла́мпа**? After all they both denote objects, but have not been included in the list of neuter nouns.

The issue here is that in Ukrainian gender is a grammatical principle that is not restricted to the sex distinctions of the natural world. Gender is assigned largely on the basis of the final letter of the noun in question. If you look again at the list above, you will see that masculine nouns end in a consonant, feminine nouns end in **-а**, neuter nouns end in **-о** or **-е**. 'Ending in a consonant' also covers those nouns that end in a consonant

followed by the 'soft sign', e.g. олівець. Feminine nouns can also end in -я, e.g. кіця.

The personal pronoun він can replace any noun of masculine gender, and вона any noun of feminine gender; воно refers only to nouns of neuter gender.

Note: Some nouns ending in a soft consonant or ч, ж, ш are in fact feminine. Some nouns ending in -я are neuter. You have already seen one such neuter noun in this unit – ім'я (name). When such problem nouns occur in the dialogues the gender will be given in the word-lists: (m), (f), or (n).

## 6 Adjectives

An adjective is a word used to describe a noun. Adjectives can denote the quality of an object (good, bad, beautiful, small, blue) or what the object is made of (wooden, woollen).

Adjectives change their form according to the gender of the noun they accompany. Look at the following examples:

Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
який	яка?	яке?
гарний будинок	гарна дівчина	гарне небо
зелений олівець	зелена лампа	зелене поле
синій олівець	синя лампа	синє небо



поле	field
синій	dark blue, navy

You can see that masculine adjectives end in a vowel and a consonant (ий or ій), feminine adjectives in а or я, neuter adjectives in е or є. The adjective endings ий (m), а (f), and е (n) are called hard; the adjective endings ій (m), я (f), and є (n) are called soft. Two examples:

hard endings: добрий, добра, добре  
soft endings: синій, синя, синє

As a rule adjectives stand before the nouns which they accompany, as in the sentence:

Це гарна дівчина.

This is a beautiful girl.

The words гарна дівчина (a/the beautiful girl) by themselves are only part of a sentence. See what happens when the adjective comes after the noun, e.g.

Дівчина гарна.

The girl is beautiful.

## 7 Pronouns

### Personal pronouns

A personal pronoun is a word that replaces a noun, for example:

This is my son. He is an actor.

Це мій син. Він актор.

This is my daughter. She is a musician.

Це моя донька. Вона музикант.

Here are all the personal pronouns of Ukrainian. The first person pronouns refer to the speaker(s), the second person refers to the person(s) being spoken to, the third person refers to the person(s) or thing(s) being spoken about.

	Singular		Plural	
First person:	я	і	ми	we
Second person:	ти	you	ви	you
Third person:	він	he	вона	she
	вона	she	вони	they
	воно	it		

There is no distinction for gender in the third-person plural personal pronoun вони.

### Demonstrative pronouns

The words 'this', 'that' are called demonstrative pronouns. There will be more about these words in a later unit. For the time being simply note: це – 'this is', то – 'that is'.

### Possessive pronouns

The possessive pronouns are:

мій my, mine

твій your, yours

чий *whose*  
який *what kind of?*

You saw two examples involving the word **мій** in the dialogue:

мій брат *my brother*  
мій друг *my friend*

You have already seen that the word for 'my' changes its form with feminine nouns:

моя сестра *my sister*  
моя мама *my mother*

The word will also change its form with neuter nouns:

моє ім'я *my name*  
моє село *my village*

The word for 'your' changes in the same way: **твій, твоя, твоє**. The question word 'whose?' also changes like this: **чий?, чия?, чіє?**.

<b>чий?</b> мій брат	<b>чия?</b> моя сестра	<b>чіє?</b> моє ім'я
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Чий це автомобіль? *Whose car [is] this?*      Це мій [т]s] mine.  
Чия то книга? *Whose book [is] that?*      Не моя [It's] not mine.

Now look at the following examples:

   мій автомобіль *my car*  
Це мій автомобіль.                      Автомобіль мій. *The car is mine.*  
*This is my car.*                              *is mine.*

As you can see, Ukrainian uses the same word **мій** for 'my' and 'mine'. The same applies to **твій**.

   твоє яблуко *your apple*  
Це твоє яблуко. *This is your apple.*                      Яблуко твоє. *The apple is yours.*

### Cultural note: 'you' – Ви or ти?

Use the personal pronoun **ти** when addressing one person whom you know well, e.g. a relative or a close friend (like the French *tu*). **Ви** is used when talking to several people or as a polite form of address to one person whom you do not know very well, e.g. in official situations, in talking to older persons, those who occupy a senior position, etc. In writing the pronoun **ви**, when used as a polite form of address to one person, has a capital letter: **Ви**. The corresponding possessive pronouns are **твій (твоя, твоє)** and **Ваш (Ваша, Ваше)**.

When meeting a Ukrainian for the first time it is always advisable to use **Ви** and **Ваш**.

## 8 Case

Nouns, pronouns and adjectives change their endings for number and case. The case of a noun is determined by its function in the sentence. Nouns and pronouns are listed in wordlists and dictionaries in the nominative or 'naming' case. It most frequently occurs as the subject of a sentence, or as the description of the subject, e.g. **Я – англієць, Оксана – музикант**, where the personal pronoun and all the nouns are in the nominative case. Adjectives are listed in the form of the masculine nominative singular.

## 9 Asking questions with question words

хто? *who?*  
що? *what?*

We can make simple questions by adding question words:

Хто це? *Who is this?*  
Що то? *What is that?*

## 10 How to say what your name is

Моє ім'я Тарас. *My (first) name is Taras.*  
Моє прізвище Коваль. *My surname is Koval.*

It is possible to say the same thing in the following way:

Менé звать Тарас Кóваль. *My name is Taras Koval.*

**звать – [they] call**

The words **Менé звать** literally mean 'me [they] call'. Both Ukrainian phrases, **Моé ім'я** and **Менé звать**, are the equivalent of the English 'my name is'.

Моé ім'я ...      Моé прізвище ...      Менé звать ...

**11 How to ask what someone's name is**

(a) informal

Як твоé ім'я? *What is your (first) name? (lit. how [is] your name?)*  
 Як твоé прізвище? *What is your surname?*  
 Як тебе звать? *What is your name (and surname)?*

(b) formal/polite

Як Ваше ім'я?      Як Ваше прізвище?      Як Вас звать?

тебе (from ти)	you
вас (from ви)	you

**ВПРАВИ (exercises)**

1 Read the dialogue again. Complete the table below by putting a cross (+) in the right box.

	журналіст	музикант	актор	математик
Марія				
Ендрю				
Микóла				
Оксána				

2 Now answer a few questions following the examples:

Хто це?	Це брат.
Хто то?	То сестра.
Що це?	Це квітка.
Що то?	То вікно.

(друг, учитель, ма́ма, хлопчик, ля́лька, чоловік, ла́мпа, дере́во, дівчинка, га́нок, мо́ре)

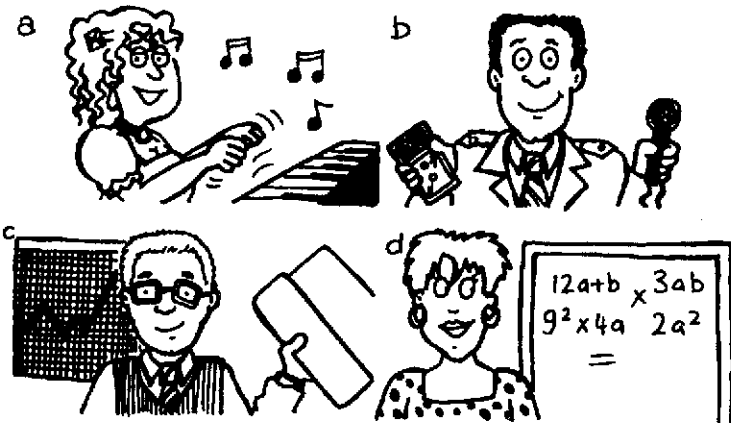
3 Now some questions, saying 'yes' or 'no' in Ukrainian.

Example: Це автомобіль? – Ні, це дерево. (*No, it's a tree.*)

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (a) Це чоловік? | (Yes, it's a ...)    |
| (b) Це кни́га?  | (Yes, it's a ...)    |
| (c) То квітка?  | (No, it's a doll.)   |
| (d) То ру́чка?  | (No, it's a bush.)   |
| (e) Це хлопчик? | (Yes, it's a ...)    |
| (f) То це́рква? | (Yes, it's a ...)    |
| (e) Це я́блуко? | (No, it's a pencil.) |

4 (a) Name these people (choose their names from the list below).

(b) Imagine that you are meeting these people. How would you ask each of them what their names and professions are, and how might they reply?



- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (i) Оксána Величко | (iii) Ендрю Крoсби |
| (ii) Марія Кóваль  | (iv) Стівен Тейлор |

- 5 Write out the following nouns in three columns, according to their gender. At the same time check that you know what they mean.

<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>
чоловік	жінка	сонце

сонце, чоловік, жінка, дерево, ганок, вікно, квітка, кіт, небо, хлопчик, куш, автомобіль, будинок, дівчинка, яблуко, юнак, їжа, друг, книга, море, олівець, папір, ручка, фото, церква, шапка, лялька, цирк, лампа, журналіст, сестра

- 6 Choose the right form of the adjective to go with the nouns in the list below.

Example: Брат високій

Брат	(високій, висока, високе)
Квітка	(гарний, гарна, гарне)
Ручка	(мій, моя, моє)
Яблуко	(зелений, зелена, зелене)
Село	(красивий, красива, красиве)

великий	<i>big, great, large</i>
красивий	<i>beautiful, handsome</i>
цікавий	<i>interesting</i>
теплий	<i>warm</i>
високій	<i>tall, high</i>
маленький	<i>little, small</i>
стілець (m)	<i>chair</i>

- 7 Answer the following questions, using adjectives from the list above:

Example: Який це будинок? Це великий будинок.

Яке це яблуко?	Це (small)
Яка це квітка?	Це (beautiful)
Яка це шапка?	Це (warm)
Яке це дерево?	Це (tall, high)
Яка це книга?	Це (interesting)

- 8 Now do the reverse! Form simple questions from the sentences below:

Example: Чий це стілець?	Це мій стілець.
(a) _____?	Це моя лялька.
(b) _____?	Це мій олівець.
(c) _____?	Це моє яблуко.
(d) _____?	Це моя книга.
(e) _____?	Це моє фото.
(f) _____?	Це мій кіт.

- 9 Find the correct answer from the list on the right.

Це високе дерево?	Так, це гарна дівчина.
Це гарна дівчина?	Так, це тепле море.
Це тепле море?	Ні, це зелений папір.
Це великий будинок?	Ні, це низький куш.
Це чорний папір?	Ні, це маленький будинок.
Це високій куш?	Так, це високе дерево.

(a) You are in Kyiv. At a reception you are asked what your name is. What are the words that you are likely to hear? How will you respond?

(b) You are showing some photographs to a Ukrainian friend. Your friend asks if one of the people on the photo is your brother. What does s/he actually say? You reply that it is not your brother – it is a friend. How will you phrase your reply in Ukrainian?