

Table 6.2. Various modern names across languages

English	Foreign Language	Pronunciation of Foreign Language
Paris	Paris (French)	paree
Lincoln	לינקולן (Modern Hebrew)	linkolen
Moscow	Москва (Russian)	moskva
Harvard	Гарвард (Russian)	garvard
Ohio	Огайо (Russian)	ogayo

Names and Places

Table 6.2 looks at some modern names and places as they are written in various modern languages.

In the first example we see that even though the English word for the capital of France is spelled the same as the French word, the two are not pronounced identically. In English, the final *s* is pronounced, whereas in French it is not. It would be a mistake to use the English version of the word to understand how French is pronounced (or vice versa). Furthermore, the Russian for “Paris” (“Париж”) is also pronounced with a sound at the end, but that final sound is the same as the *s* in *leisure*. Even though Russian is generally more phonetic than English or French, this information tells us little about how the French pronounce their capital.

The second example is similar. The second *l* is pronounced in the Hebrew version of the common English name *Lincoln* (as in “Abraham Lincoln”), while it is not pronounced in English. Once again, it would be a mistake to use a foreign language’s version of the English name to understand how the English version is pronounced. Two possible conclusions based on the Hebrew and English for “Lincoln” are both wrong: The *l* is not pronounced in English, and Hebrew does not have silent *lamed*s.

These first two examples show that the letters that are silent in one language’s version of a name may be pronounced in another language’s version. We thus cannot use transliterated names to determine which letters are silent and which are not.

The third example shows that sounds can change from language to