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Survival Phrases - Russian (Part 1)

Lessons 1-30

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- ★ Ordering the food you want at restaurants
- ★ Table manners that will impress!
- ★ Basic Counting

- ★ Internet Cafe, not as easy as you think!
- ★ Finding your way in the local market and SHOPPING
- ★ Money exchange and tips on money usage
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Be sure to read the lesson notes for additional tips and information that will make learning basic Russian and Russian culture even easier.

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- ★ Taking a taxi without being taken advantage of
- ★ Getting around and asking directions and actually understanding the answer!
- ★ Learning Russian using Russian, and making lots of friends in the process
- ★ Making the most of a hotel stay, and exploring alternatives to the beaten path
- ★ Visiting the Post office and mailing thing home
- ★ Phone rentals and phone cards, don't travel without one!
- ★ Critical phrases for vegetarians and allergy sufferers!
- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly
- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will "wow" hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn



Lesson 1: Thank You!

Blagadaryu vas.

LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination maybe, manners are a must! And in this respect, Russia is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase there is no excuse not to bring with you to Russia. Again, I'll stress this over and over, a little bit of the language can go such a long way!

In Russian "Thank you" is spasiba.

You can emphasize spasiba by adding balshoye which means "big". Balshoye spasiba literally means "Big thank you" and is the equivalent of "Thank you very much" in English.

Now in Russian there are other ways to express one's gratitude. There are more formal and more casual ways to do this.

For very special occasions when someone goes above and beyond the call of being kind, when someone is extremely generous, or for any other time you're extremely grateful, we have the following phrase to express extreme gratitude: Blagadaryu vas. The first word blagadaryu means "(I am) thankful." To reproduce the Russian consonant "r" in blagadaryu you should roll your "r"s. The Russian "r" resembles the Italian or Spanish ones, but even if you don't roll it properly you will be easily understood anyway.

It is followed by the polite "you" which in Russian is vy but in this sentence we use vas. So in English it would be something like "I am grateful (thankful) to you".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Благодарю вас.	Blagadaryu vas.	I am grateful to you.
Спасибо.	Spasiba.	Thank you.
Большое спасибо.	Balshoye spasiba.	Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
Большое	balshoye	big
Вы	vy	you (formal)

QUICK TIP

Please do know that in Russian there are two ways of referring to people:

formal and informal. So let's start first with the polite form. The polite equivalent of the English "you" is vy in Russian. This polite word contains a sound that does not exist in English and is transcribed by the english letter "y" but please don't worry; I will teach you how to produce this sound.

Open your mouth as if you were preparing to pronounce the sound "a" in the word "able" and holding the same open position of your mouth try to reproduce the sound "ee" like in the word "if". Doing it this way you will achieve the desired sound "y" which is present in vy. Please note the same letter "y" will be also used to show the short "ee" sound and after some consonants in order to soften them.

We use vy when we want to show respect to the other person or when the context requires formality. For instance, when meeting someone for the first time, at a shop, at work, with a professor, or with an older person. However, vy is not always required when you meet someone for the first time if the setting is casual, say at a party with people of your own age.

Younger people, especially, are using vy less and less. They often speak directly in ty with each other and even their grandparents. So ty is the informal equivalent of "you". The sound "y" here is the same as vy.

We use ty in contexts where we know the person personally and the environment is casual. People of one's own age, classmates, family, and friends are such people. At home, at school, friendly social settings are such contexts. Ty is the most common form of "you" that you will hear, so don't feel nervous about using it.

QUICK TIP 2

Not many Russians know that the origin of the word spasiba came from two words, spasi which means "save" and Bog which means "God". So the meaning of it is "May God keep you safe!" which was an old way of expressing gratitude. So surprise your Russian friends by asking them the origin of the word spasiba!



Lesson 2: You're Welcome!

pazhalusta

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. The Russians are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Russia, while you may not get the chance to use Russian phrase for "You're welcome." there is a very good chance you'll hear it.

In Russian "You're welcome." is pazhalusta. Pazhalusta literally means "please".

Another way of responding to a phrase of gratitude is Ne za shto, which means "It's nothing". The first word ne means "not". It is followed by za which is "for". The third word, shto means "what". It corresponds to the English "it's nothing".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Не за что	Ne za shto.	It's nothing.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
Пожалуйста	pazhalusta	please
Не	ne	not
за	za	for
что	shto	what

QUICK TIP

So next time when you hear the word spasiba which is "thank you" in English and you want to say "You're welcome" you can use both expressions of this lesson!



Lesson 3: Please (This Please)

Eta pazhalusta.

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson we'll take a look at "please", as in asking for something.

In Russian "please" is pazhalusta.

The most rudimentary way of using "please" is pointing at something while saying pazhalusta, but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This please." which in Russian is Eta pazhalusta. In English, "this" comes before "please". In Russian the word order is the same. In Russian the word for "this", eta, precedes pazhalusta. Let's take a look at the word for "this". "This" in Russian is eta.

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is to. The phrase "That please." is To pazhalusta.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	Eta pazhalusta.	This please.
	To pazhalusta.	That please.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
	pazhalusta	please
	eta	this
	to	that



Lesson 4: Basic Greetings

Zdrastvuyte.

LESSON NOTES

In Russian the phrase zdrastvuyte can be used as a universal greeting. The morning greeting is Dobraye utra. The first word dobraye literally means "kind". It is followed by utra, which in English is "morning". So Dobraye utra literally means "kind morning" but we can take it to mean "good morning".

In Russian "good afternoon" is Dobryy dyen.

And finally we have the evening greeting which in Russian is Dobryy vechir. The first word dobryy means "kind". It is followed by vechir which in English is "evening". so together we have dobryy vechir which literally means "kind evening" but we can understand its meaning as "good evening".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Здравствуйте	Zdrastvuyte.	Hello.
Доброе утро	Dobraye utra.	Good morning.
Добрый вечер	Dobryy vechir.	Good evening.
Добрый день	Dobryy dyen.	Good afternoon.
Как дела?	Kak dila?	How are you doing?
Спасибо, хорошо.	Spasiba harasho.	Thank you, I am doing well.

QUICK TIP

There is also an informal way of greeting which is used among friends. Once you you get to know someone fairly well you can greet them with Privet! which is "Hello!" in English. You can also add Kak dila? which is the English equivalent of "How do you do?" or "How are you doing?"

So if you say Privet, kak dila? it would correspond to the English "Hello, how are you doing?" And if somebody asks you Privet, kak dila? you can reply with Spasiba harasho! which literally means "Thank you well!" or "Thank you, I am doing well".

QUICK TIP 2

The word Zdrastvuyte from today's lesson can be used anytime of the day.

It can be used as formal greeting and also to greet several people at the same time.



Lesson 5: Parting Greetings (Goodbye)

Da svidaniya.

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll introduce parting greetings.

A parting expression that can be used for all occasions is Da svidaniya which literally means "Until next date/meeting".

Let's take a look at the components. The first word da means "until". It is followed by svidaniya, which in Russian is "date" or "meeting".

In Russian a more casual way of saying goodbye is Paka.

This phrase is used among friends, or in other casual situations.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
До свидания	Da svidaniya.	Until next time.
Пока	Paka.	'Bye.
До скорого	Da skorava.	See you soon.
До завтра	Da zavtra.	See you tomorrow.
До встречи	Da vstrechi.	See you later.



Lesson 6: Where Is The Bathroom?

Izvinite gde tualet?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover an extremely important phrase, "Where is the bathroom?"

In Russian "Where is the bathroom?" is Izvinite gde tualet?

Let's take a look at the components. The first word izvinite means "Excuse me". This is followed by gde, which in Russian is "where". And tualet - "bathroom".

So all together we have Izvinite gde tualet?. Literally this means "Excuse me where is the bathroom?"

Now when you finally get to the bathroom there may be one last hurdle. In some instances, only the Russian words, are written on the doors! What to do, what to do? The word "men" is muzhshina . The word for "women" zhenshina .

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	izvinite gde tualet?	Where is the toilet?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
	muzhshina	men
	zhenshina	women



Lesson 7: Can You Speak English?

Vy gavairite pa angliyski?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover another extremely important phrase, "Can you speak English?" Using this phrase as opposed to speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one if the party you're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot respect to show that you took the effort to learn even a little bit of the language, and for these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this phrase.

"Do you speak English?" is Vy gavairite pa angliyski?. The first word vy means "you". This is follow by gavarite, which in English is "speak", or "talk". Pa means "on". Angliyski means "English".

So all together we have Vy gavarite pa-angliyski?. Literally this means "You speak English?".

Now let's try a different language. How about French. Can you speak French?. Vy gavarite pa frantsuski?. The word for "French" is frantsuskiy. Here just the word for the language changes. The rest is the same.

Nowadays in Russia English is studied at schools, so the number of speakers is increasing; however, there are still many people who don't speak English.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	Vy gavairite pa angliyski?	Do you speak English?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
	angliyski	English
	frantsuskiy	French
	ruski	Russian

QUICK TIP

Nowadays in Russia English is studied at schools, so the number of speakers is increasing; however, there are still many people who don't speak English. As a foreigner you might be asked whether you speak Russian with "Vy gavarite pa-ruski? " - "Do you speak Russian?" You can give a short answer "nyet" which means "no", "da" which is "yes" or you might want to say "Ochen ploho" which means "very bad".

QUICK TIP 2

Even though you do not speak any Russian, you certainly heard of some famous writers like Tolstoy, Dostoyevskiy, Chekhov etc. Russians are very proud of their literature. That's why you should let them know that you know some of their writers. They would be very pleased to talk about it and share some of their knowledge!



Lesson 8: I Don't Understand

Ya ni panimayu.

LESSON NOTES

"I don't understand" is going to be a very useful phrase because most of the time, maybe even almost 100% of the time, you won't understand.

Russian sounds very different from English and in the beginning there will likely be an adjustment period during which your ears get used to Russian.

In Russian "I don't understand" is "Ya ni panimayu". The first word "ya" means "I". It is followed by "ni", which in English is "not". Followed by "panimayu" which means "understand". So to recap here, we have "ya ni panimayu". Literally this means "I don't understand".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	Ya ni panimayu.	I don't understand.

QUICK TIP

So now if you want to say that "unfortunately" you do not understand to you highlight this "unfortunately" you can use the following phrase: "K sazhaleniyu ya ni panimayu" which means "Unfortunately I don't understand".

QUICK TIP 2

In a situation where you are caught by surprise and someone is talking to you in Russian not knowing that you do not understand a word of Russian you can just shrug your shoulders. This is a widely used sign in Russia to show that you do not understand or that you just don't know.



Lesson 9: Can You Say It Again?

Ishcho ras pazhalusta.

LESSON NOTES

There will be many times when the Russian around you, or coming at you, is fast and furious, and you may not catch all, or any of it. In instances like this asking the speaker to say it again can prove the difference between understanding a crucial piece of information or spending the rest of the day trying to figure out just what was said. So that you can get a feel for the language and tune your ear, you should use the following phrase over and over!

In Russian "Once again please." is "Ishcho ras pazhalusta". The first word "ishcho" means "again". It is followed by "ras", which in English is "once". Let's take a look at the next "pazhalusta". So altogether we have "Ishcho raz pazhalusta".

At times, even repetition of what is said isn't enough to understand the speaker, as the words are still too fast. For instances like this, you can use the phrase "Slowly please." In Russian "Slowly please." is "Pazhalusta gavarite medlinna". The second word is "gavarite" which means "speak". The third word "medlinna" means "slowly".

Another option is "Can You Say It Again?" which in Russian is "Pavtarite pazhalusta!". The first word "pavtarite" means "repeat". This is followed by "pazhalusta", which in English is "please". So to recap here, we have "pavtarite pazhalusta!". Literally this means "Repeat please!"

This can be used together with "Slowly please." "Can You Say It Again slowly please?" which is "Vy mozhete pavtarit' eta medlenna?" Literally it means "Can you repeat it slowly please?"

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	Ishcho ras pazhalusta	Once again please.
	Pazhalusta gavarite medlinna.	Please speak slowly.
	Pavtarite pazhalusta!	Can you say it again?
	Ni mogli-by Vy pavtarit vashe imya?	Could you please repeat your name?

QUICK TIP

You can use the phrase from the previous lesson "Ya ni panimayu" - "I don't understand" and add today's phrase "Pavtarite pazhalusta" - "Repeat please!". So altogether it will be "Ya ni panimayu, pavtarite pazhalusta".

If you want to ask someone to repeat their name, because you did not hear it well you can ask them using this phrase "Ni mogli-by Vy pavtarit vashe imya?"

which is "Could you please repeat your name?"



Lesson 10: Apologies (I'm sorry)

Izvinite.

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. Now, as you haven't quite mastered Russian it's probably very prudent to go over the phrases for apologizing as they just might come in handy.

We'll start with "Izvinite". which is "I'm sorry" or "Excuse me" in English.

This phrase is used to ask for someone's attention, like for example when you want to ask the name of the street, you can put "Izvinite" at the beginning of the phrase. You can also use "Izvinite" as an apologizing for bumping into people.

Now, what if someone says this to you? It depends on the context. If someone for example stepped on your foot and said "Izvinite" You may answer "Nichivo strashnava" which means "It's nothing".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	Izvinite.	I'm sorry.
	Nichivo strashnava.	It's nothing.
	Mnye ochen zhal.	I'm very sorry.

QUICK TIP

When sympathizing with someone the phrase "Mnye ochen zhal" - "I am very sorry" can be used. You can also use this phrase when you are not able to fulfill someone's request but rather on formal occasions.



Lesson 11: Restaurant 1

Mozhna nam tam sest?

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover getting a table in the section of the restaurant you want. . In Russia smoking in restaurants is still accepted, but there are occasions when you can ask for a non-smoking seat. Or, perhaps you would like a smoking seat. Either way let's cover that first.

Now remember when you enter a restaurant you'll hear "Dabro Pazhalavat!". This will likely be followed by one of the following.

"Non-smoking" in Russian is "Prosba ni kurit". The first word "Prosba" means "Request". This is followed by "ni kurit", which in English is "not to smoke".

"Smoking" is "kurit".

In Russia, in the places where smoking is not allowed you can often see the sign with " Курить запрещено!" Kurit zapreshcheno! - Smoking is not allowed or

"У нас не курят" U nas ne kuryat! - which literally is -Here we do not smoke.

Now, second-hand smoke may not be the only obstacle on your path towards the perfect meal, as you may not like the location of the table selected for you. Perhaps you want a table by the window, or one not next to the kitchen door! In Russian "May we sit there?" is "Mozhna nam tam sest?" The first word "mozhna" means "may". This is followed by "nam", which in English is "us".

"Tam" means "over there". "Sest" means "to sit down" in English.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
	Prosba ni kurit.	Non-smoking.
Курить запрещено!	Kurit zapreshcheno!	Smoking is prohibited
	Mozhna nam tam sest?	May we sit there?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
	kurit	smoking

QUICK TIP

If you want to ask someone's permission on whether or not you can smoke you can ask with: "Izvinite mne mozhna kurit?" - "Excuse me may I smoke?"

Or if someone asks you the same question and your answer is yes you should say "Da, pazhalusta!" - "Go ahead!"



Lesson 12: Restaurant 2

Izvinite pazhalusta.

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover getting by at the table. First you may have to get a hold of the staff. You can accomplish this by saying: "Izvinite pazhalusta" which means "Excuse me please". Once at the waiter or waitress comes to your table, you can go with the standard point and say "This please." In Russian "This please" will be "Eta pazhalusta". The first word "Eta" means "this". This is followed by "Pazhalusta", which in English is "Please". So to get the meal you can just point it in the menu and say "Eta pazhalusta".

Now if you're feeling ambitious, you could go for "What do you recommend?". In Russian "What do you recommend?" is "A shto vy pasavetuete?". The first part of the sentence "a shto" means "and what". The second part "vy pasavetuete" is "you will recommend". Say this phrase and you will hear about the most delicious dish they have at the moment. To follow the recommendation use "Eta pazhalusta" and enjoy your meal!

If you what to drink you may ask the waiter person to bring you some water. In Russian "Water please" will be "Vodu pazhalusta". The first word is "Vodu" which means "water". The second word is "pazhalusta" which means "please". Asking this you will get a bottled water totally safe to drink.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Это, пожалуйста	Eta pazhalusta.	This please.
А что Вы посоветуете?	A shto Vy pasavetuete?	What do you recommend?
Воду, пожалуйста	Vodu, pazhalusta.	Water please.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
извините	izvineetye	excuse me, pardon me



Lesson 13: Restaurant 3

Приятного аппетита!

LESSON NOTES

Table manner are a must wherever you go! In this lesson we'll cover some basic table etiquette when sitting down for a meal in Russia. Before beginning a meal is polite to say "Priyatnava apitita!" which roughly translates to "Have a good appetite!" The first word "priyatnava" means "pleasant". It is followed by "apitita", which in English is "appetite". And as Russia is known for its great food, you are bound to get some truly great food, and therefore need the word for delicious! In Russian "This is delicious" is "Eta ochen vkusna!" Eta means "this". Ochen, in English is "very". The word "vkusna" means "delicious". Now before the meal begins, and perhaps throughout, there may be a toast! In Russian "Cheers!" is "Za Vas!" The first word Za means "for". It is followed by "Vas", which in English is "you".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Приятного аппетита!	Priyatnava apitita!	Bon appetit!
За Вас!	Za Vas!	Cheers!
Это очень вкусно!	Eta ochen vkusna!	This is delicious!
На здоровье!	Na zdarov'e!	Cheers!

QUICK TIP

Russians also like to drink to someone's health so you will often hear the toast: Za vashe zdaroviye! To your Health! While you are in Russia please do not be surprised that the Russians might also drink some strong alcoholic beverages, like for example vodka during the meal!



Lesson 14: Restaurant 4

Ochen' vkusna!

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover getting out of the restaurant. First you may have to get a hold of the staff. Again you can accomplish this by saying "Izvinite" which means "Excuse me". Once at your table, you can ask for the check. In Russian "Check please" is "Schet pazhalusta". The first word "schet" means "check". This is followed by "pazhalusta", which in English is "please". Now if you'd like to tell someone how good the food is or if you're eating with someone and you want to let them know how good you feel the food is you can say "Ochen' vkusna!" which literally means "Very delicious!" The first word "ochen' " means "very". This is followed by "vkusna", which means "delicious". And don't forget to say "Thank you!" after the meal, which in Russian is "Spasiba!". One last useful phrase has to do with credit cards.

In Russian "Can I use a credit card?" is "Mozhna zaplatit' kreditnay kartachkay?". Literally it would be: "Can pay by credit card?". The first word "mozhna" means "can" or "may". This is followed by "zaplatit' " which is "to pay". This is followed by "kreditnay" which is "credit" and then "kartachkay" which is "card". In Russian "credit card" is "kreditnaya kartachka".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
извините	izvineetye	excuse me
Счет, пожалуйста	Schet pazhalusta	Check please.
Спасибо	Spasibo	Thank you.
Очень вкусно!	Ochen' vkusna!	Very delicious!

QUICK TIP

In Russia it is up to you to decide whether to tip or not. The common practice to tip in Russian restaurants is about 10% -15% from the order amount. If you pay by cash sometimes tips may be included. Tips are definitely not included if you pay by a credit card.



Lesson 15: Counting

adin mushchina

LESSON NOTES

Counting things in Russian is very straight forward as the number precedes the thing. For example: one person is “adin chelovek”. The number comes first followed by the thing – in this case “people”. In Russian nouns have singular and plural forms. Therefore, if there are two people, we say “dva cheloveka”. In Russian nouns also have gender: masculine, feminine and neuter. Some of the numbers change according to gender, as you may have noticed. The ends of nouns also change depending of number it is used with. For example:

“adin mushchina” – one man – is masculine.

“adna zhenshchina” – one woman – is feminine.

“adno akno” – one window – is neuter.

“dva mushchiny” – two men

“dve zhenshchiny” – two women

“dva akna” – two windows

Basically, you can use the same number starting from three in Russian regardless of gender. So you can say.

“tre mushchiny” – three men

“tre zhenshchiny” – three women

“tre akna” – three windows

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
один	odin	one
одна	adna	one (feminine)
одно	adno	one (masculine)
два	dva	two (masculine)
две	dve	two (feminine)
три	tri	three
четыре	chetyre	four

Russian	Romanization	English
пять	pyat'	five
шесть	shest'	six
семь	sem'	seven
восемь	vosem'	eight
девять	devyat'	nine
десять	desyat'	ten
ноль	nol'	zero

QUICK TIP

You'll notice that in Romanization the apostrophe is used to indicate the soft sign. This sign is used after the consonance to soften them. It does not exist in English. But it resembles to a very short "e" sound in the English word "easy?". This sign can be found in numbers from five to ten.



Lesson 16: Counting 2

adinadtsat'

LESSON NOTES

Today we're going to continue on with counting as we cover 11-100.

For a quickly review of numbers 1-10 take a look to the first ten lines in Vocabulary section.

In Russian counting from 11-20 is also very straightforward so let's jump right in:

11 - adinadtsat'

12 - dvenadtsat'

13 - trinadtsat'

14 - chityrnadsat'

15 - piatnadstat'

16 - shestnadsat'

17 - semnadsat'

18 - vasesmnadsat'

19 - deviatnadsat'

20 - d vadtsat'

Numbers from 21-99 are formed by combining numbers we have already covered.

For example, if you want to say 21 just add one which is "adin" to twenty which is "d vadtsat' ", altogether we have "D vadtsat' adin". So we have:

30 - tritsat'

40 - sorak

50 - piat'desiat

60 - shest'desiat

70 - sem'desiat

80 - vosiem'desiat

90 - devianosto

Finally we have the number for 100 which is sto.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
одиннадцать	adinadtsat'	eleven
двенадцать	dvenadtsat'	twelve
тринадцать	trinadtsat'	thirteen
четырнадцать	chityrnadsat'	fourteen
пятнадцать	piatnadstat'	fifteen
шестнадцать	shestnadsat'	sixteen
семнадцать	semnadsat'	seventeen
восемнадцать	vasemnadsat'	eighteen
девятнадцать	deviatnadsat'	nineteen
двадцать	dvadtsat'	twenty
тридцать	tritsat'	thirty
сорок	sorak	forty
пятьдесят	piat'desiat	fifty
шестьдесят	shest'desiat	sixty
семьдесят	sem'desiat	seventy
восемьдесят	vosiem'desiat	eighty
девяносто	devianosto	ninety
сто	sto	a hundred

QUICK TIP

Of course, while you are in Russia you might want to do some shopping. The currency in Russia is rouble. One rouble is in Russian is "adin rubl' " From 2 to 4 is "rublya" From 5 to 21 is "rubley". Then just apply the same pattern we gave for 1, then 2 to 4 etc. And so you have 22 rublya, 25 rubley etc.



Lesson 17: How Much?

Skolka stoit?

LESSON NOTES

This lesson covers a phrase for all of you shoppers out there, as we'll look at the phrase "How much?" Depending on your shopping habits, this just may be the most useful phrase we cover!

In Russian "How much is it?" is "Skol'ka stoit?". Shopping, at the market, at an eatery, depending on your spending habits this may be an extremely high frequency phrase!

The most rudimentary way of using "How much?" is pointing at something while saying "Skol'ka stoit?", but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression "How much is this?", which in Russian is "Skol'ka eta stoit?". The first word "skol'ka" means "How much?". This is followed by "eta", which in English is "this".

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is. So the phrase "How much is that? in Russian would be "A eta skol'ka stoit?"

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
СКОЛЬКО СТОИТ?	Skol'ka stoit?	How much?
СКОЛЬКО ЭТО СТОИТ?	Skol'ka eta stoit?	How much does it cost?
А ЭТО СКОЛЬКО СТОИТ?	A eta skol'ka stoit?	How much is that?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
СКОЛЬКО	skol'ko	how (much)

QUICK TIP

While you are in Russia you might want to buy some souvenirs. One of the most famous is Matrioshka. Matrioshka is the Russian name for the famous Russian painted wooden doll. Inside this doll there is another smaller one. Sometimes it goes up to 10 dolls inserted inside.



Lesson 18: Lower the Price Please

Дешевле можно?

LESSON NOTES

The phrase covered in this lesson is related to the phrase "How much?" which in Russian is "Skol'ka stoit?". We also introduced "How much is this?" which is "Skol'ka eta stoit?", and "How much is that?" – "A eta skol'ka stoit?". Now, when you come to country Russia one of the most interesting and fun things to do is haggle at the market! So when you're at the market and talking prices, there is another phrase that will come in very handy! That phrase is "Lower the price, please."

In Russian "Lower the price, please." is "Deshevle mozhna?". Don't forget to raise the intonation in the end, since it is a question. The first word "desheyle" means "cheaper". This is followed by "mozhna", which in English is "can". So if we translate in English literally this would be "cheaper can?".

Another phrase that can be used in combination with this is "Too expensive." which in Russian is "Slishkam doraga". So: "Slishkam" which is "too much" or "to many", and "doraga" which is "expensive".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Дешевле можно?	Deshevle mozhna?	Lower the price please.
Слишком дорого.	Slishkam doraga.	Too expensive.

QUICK TIP

Bargaining at the market is a very common practice in Russia. Since you are a foreigner, chances are that sellers might ask a slightly higher price to pay for their product. So do not hesitate to ask to lower the price. And be prepared that some big cities like Moscow or Saint-Petersburg are very expensive. And sometimes you will have to pay for example for the food as much as in your own country.



Lesson 19: Riding the Bus

Этот автобус едет до универмага?

LESSON NOTES

The bus is an important means of transportation. However, before you get on the bus you probably want to confirm if the bus is going to your destination. We can accomplish this by asking "Will this bus go to" and then add in a destination. In today's lesson we'll use the station Univermag, which is department store in English.. In Russian "station" is "stantsiya" but for the bus we use the word "astanovka". So our location is Astanovka Univermag (Department store).

So in Russian "Will this bus go to Department store" is "Etat avtobus yedet da Univermaga?". The first word "Etat" means "This". This is followed by "avtobus" which in English is "bus". So to recap here, we have "Etat avtobus". Literally this means "this bus". Let's take a look at the next: "yedet do", which means "goes to".

So all together we have "Etat avtobus yedet da Univermaga?". Literally this means "This bus goes to the Department Store?". The important thing about this phrase to know is that you should rise your intonation at the end of the sentence, since it's a question sentence.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Этот автобус едет до универмага?	Etat avtobus yedet da Univermaga?	Will this bus go to Department store?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
остановка	astanovka	bus stop
Универмаг	Univermag	department store
автобус	avtobus	bus

QUICK TIP

Once you have the right bus there are a few things you need to know about riding the bus: When do you pay? There is no one rule on how to pay a bus fee in Russia. All depends on where you are staying whether it is in a big city or a small town.

Sometimes you pay directly to the driver, while getting on the bus, and sometimes there is a person who is called "kontrolyor" (ticket collector) who sells the tickets inside the bus.

If the bus is a city/town bus, usually you pay the same fee wherever you go. You do not have to worry if you do not have the exact change in coins as the driver or the kontrolyor will give you the exact change.



Lesson 20: Riding the Train

LESSON NOTES

In Russia riding the rails is one of the best ways to get around. Not only locally, but also for long distance destinations. In fact, travelling by train is one of the best ways to see everything Russia has to offer. In Russia one can usually buy train tickets at the ticket gate window. When travelling long distances there are several types of tickets, which we'll take a look at in a minute. But first let's work on the first asking for the ticket. We can accomplish this by asking: "Ticket to a destination, please!". Now, of course we need a destination. So, let's use the city of Saint Petersburg, for example. In Russian it will be "Sankt Piterburg". The city is located in the North-West of Russia and is well-known for its beautiful and unique architecture. So, to ask for one ticket to "Sankt Piterburg" in Russian is "Adin bilet da Sankt Piterburga, pazhalusta" which means "One ticket to Saint Petersburg, please". The first two words "Adin bilet" mean "One ticket". This is followed by "da Sankt Piterburga", which in English is "to Saint Petersburg". This is followed by "pazhalusta", which in Russian is "please".

Now if you want to buy more than one ticket, for example if you wanted to buy 2 tickets, you can accomplish this by saying "Dva bileta da Sankt Piterburga, pazhalusta". Notice that we simply substitute "Adin bilet", which is "One ticket", with "Dva bileta", which is "Two tickets" in Russian.

However, just the destination may not be enough, as there are several types of seats on trains in Russia. Long distance trains within Russia and the former Soviet Republics have three main classes. All designed for both daytime and overnight travel given the distances covered by many trains. There are first class seats, second class seats, and third class seats.

Once we have established the destination, it is time to select the type of seat you want. In Russia "first class" is "spal'nyi vagon". The first word "spal'ny" means "for sleeping". This is followed by "vagon", which in Russian is "wagon". Literally this means "a wagon to sleep". The second class in Russian would be "kupe". And a third class seat is "platskartnyi".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Один билет	Adin bilet	one ticket
Два билета	Dva bileta	two tickets
Один билет до Санкт-Петербурга, пожалуйста.	Adin bilet da Sankt Piterburga, pazhalusta.	One ticket to Saint Petersburg please.
Два билета до Санкт-Петербурга, пожалуйста.	Dva bileta da Sankt Piterburga, pazhalusta.	Two tickets to Saint Petersburg please.
спальный вагон	spal'nyi vagon	first class
купе	kupe	second class

Russian	Romanization	English
плацкартный	platskartnyi	third class



Lesson 21: Riding a Taxi

До Красной Площади, пожалуйста.

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll cover a phrase used to get you to your destination when riding a taxi. We'll look at the most basic way to express this, which is the word "to" followed by a destination. In today's lesson we'll use "the Red Square", which in Russian is "Krasnaya Ploshchad' ". This location is known for the buildings around it. So now let's go over what to say to the taxi driver to get there.

The word for "to" in Russian is "do" and, when you put the name of the location just after "do", sometimes it becomes "da' ". So, for example, if you want to go to the Red Square, you should say: "Da Krasnay Ploshchadi, pazhalusta". Literally it would mean: "To the Red Square, please"

This is the most basic way of expressing where you would like to go. Well, actually just saying your desired destination should work, but speaking the local language is one of the most fun things you can do on your travels. So let's go over another option!

You can also say, "I would like to go to..." and then put the name of your destination. So in Russian it would be: "Ya by hatel dayehat' do...", for example, Red Square. All together it would be: "Ya by hatel dayehat' da Krasnay Ploshchadi, pazhalusta".

Let's take a look at the components. The first three words are: "Ya by hatel", which mean "I would like". Please, notice, that this is a masculine form of the phrase. The feminine form would be "Ya by hatela".

This is followed by "dayehat' da Krasnay Ploshchadi, pazhalusta" which in English is "to go to the Red Square, please".

One more helpful phrase when taking a taxi is "Here is fine." This phrase will allow you to get out of the taxi whenever and wherever you want.

In Russian "Here is fine." is "Astanavite zdes', pazhalusta", which literally means "Pull over here, please". The first word "astanavite" means "pull". The second word "zdes' " means "here". And "pazhalusta" means "please".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
До Красной Площади, пожалуйста.	Da Krasnay Ploshchadi, pazhalusta.	To the Red Square, please.

Russian	Romanization	English
Я бы хотел доехать до Красной Площади, пожалуйста.	Ya by hatel dayehat' da Krasnay Ploshchadi, pazhalusta.	I would like to go to the Red Square please. (masculine)
Я бы хотела доехать до Красной Площади, пожалуйста.	Ya by hatela dayehat' da Krasnay Ploshchadi, pazhalusta.	I would like to go to the Red Square, please. (feminine)
Остановите здесь, пожалуйста.	Astnavite zdes', pazhalusta.	Here is fine / Pull over here.

QUICK TIP

In Russian you may tip the driver or may not. If you caught a private taxi driver, you may pay just the cost you have agreed. If you use a taxi service again you may not tip and pay by the taximeter.

If you do tip 10-20% of the trip cost is the standard amount expected by the driver.



Lesson 22: Where Can I Buy (Something)?

Где я могу купить открытки?

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce you a phrase that will help you track down that specific something you're looking for. Today's phrase is "Where can I get/buy something." First we need something, so let's use, for example, the word "atkrytki", which means "post cards".

In Russian "Where can I get/buy...?" is "Gdye ya magu kupit' ...?" And if you want to say "Where can I buy postcards?" you should say: "Gdye ya magu kupit' atkrytki?" .

The first three words "Gdye ya magu" mean "Where can I". This is followed by "kupit' atkrytki", which in English is "to buy postcards".

Now to ask for a different item, we can just replace the word "atkrytki" with any other word and the phrase works just fine. Let's try, for example, the word "suvenir", which is "souvenir" in English. When you are looking for something in particular, you might wanna ask the person in front of you: "Do you have...?", which in Russian is "U Vas yest' ...?". Please, notice that this phrase should be pronounced with a raising intonation. The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for.

For example, let's use the word "chocolate", which is "chekalad" in Russian: "U Vas yest' chekalad?"

This phrase will come in handy before leaving the hotel, talking with taxi drivers, or other people trying to help you locate a desired item. Now that you're able to ask, you're going to get an answer...as we're running out of time, we're going to have cover that in a later lesson.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Где я могу купить открытки?	Gdye ya magu kupit' atkrytki?	Where can I buy postcards?
У Вас есть шоколад?	U Vas yest' chekalad?	Do you have chocolate?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
открытки	atkrytki	postcards
сувенир	suvenir	souvenir
шоколад	chekalad	chocolate

QUICK TIP

If you are searching for authentic Russian souvenirs you might be interested to buy “matryoshki” (Russian dolls), “samovar” (traditional metal container to heat and boil water), “hohlomu” (hand painted wooden tableware and boxes), ceramics etc. The variety of souvenirs is wide, you are sure to find something you like!



Lesson 23: Is There A... Near Here?

Zdes' pablizasti yest' bank?

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce you to another useful phrase to find the specific place you are looking for. Today's phrase is "Is there a (place) near here?". First we need a place, so let's use the word "bank", for example, which means "bank" in English.

In Russian "Is there a bank near here?" is "Zdes' pablizasti yest' bank?". The first word "Zdes'" means "here". This is followed by "pablizasti", which in English is "near by". So to recap here, we have "Zdes' pablizasti". Literally this means "here near by". Let's take a look at the next "yest'", which means "is" or "have" in English.

So all together we have "Zdes' pablizasti yest' bank?". Literally this would mean "Here near by is a bank?".

Now to ask for a different place, we can just replace the word for "bank" with any other word and the phrase works just fine. Let's try with "24-hour convenience store", which in Russian is "kruglasutachnyi magazin".

Once you are inside and you are looking for something particular, you can ask "Do you have ...?" and then put the item you are looking for: "U Vas yest' ...?". For example if you are looking for caviar, you can ask "U Vas yest' chornaya ikra?"

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Здесь поблизости есть банк?	Zdes' pablizasti yest' bank?	Is there a bank near here?
Здесь поблизости есть круглосуточный магазин?	Zdes' pablizasti yest' kruglasutachnyi magazine?	Is there a 24-hour convenience store near here?
У Вас есть черная икра?	U Vas yest' chornaya ikra?	Do you have caviar?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
банк	bank	bank
круглосуточный магазин	kruglasutachnyi magazin	24-hour convenience store



Lesson 24: Directions

idite pryama

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce you to directions that will help you find the place you are looking for. Previously we introduced "Is there a place near here?" and "Where is there a something?". But while we can now ask, we haven't addressed understanding the answer. Today we're going to work on understanding what is said. So today we'll go over basic directions.

First, we have "go straight". In Russian "go straight" is "идите прямо". The first word "идите" means "go". This is followed by "прямо", which in English is "straight". So to recap here, we have "идите прямо", which literally means "go straight".

Now we're going to work on turning. Let's try "turn right"; in Russian "turn right" is "поверните направо". The first word "поверните" means "turn". The second part is "направо", which in Russian is "to the right".

Now let's say "turn left"; in Russian it would be "поверните налево". The first word "поверните" means "turn" and the second part "налево" means "to the left".

If you want to say "At the crossroad turn right" in Russian it would be "На перекрёстке поверните направо".

In Russian "It's on the right" is "Это по правой стороне". The first word "Это" means "This". "по правой стороне" means "on the right-hand side".

In Russian "It's on the left" is "Это по левой стороне". The first word "Это" means "This". This is followed by "по левой стороне", which in English is "left-hand side".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
идите прямо	idite pryama	go straight
поверните направо	pavernite naprava	turn right
поверните налево	pavernite naleva	turn left
Это по правой стороне	Eta pa pravay starane	It's on the right.
Это по левой стороне	Eta pa levay starane	It's on the left.

QUICK TIP

Asking for the direction is a very good chance to experience yourself in communication. If you feel nervous or irresolute speaking to unknown people, put your question to an elderly lady. Old ladies usually are pretty friendly.

If you feel confidence, you may try to speak to younger people. In this case there is even the chance that they speak English!



Lesson 25: Can You Take My Picture?

Ni magli by Vy nas sfatagrafiravat'?

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce a phrase that is certain to come in handy for capturing your memories on film. Russia is full of beautiful scenery, and there are times when you'll want to be in the picture or have everyone in your party in the picture. Therefore, there are times when the question, "Can you take our/my picture?" will be invaluable!

In Russian "Can you take my picture?" is "Ni magli by Vy minya sfatagrafiravat' ?".

The first part of the sentence "Ni magli by Vy..." means "Couldn't you...". This is followed by "menya sfatagrafiravat' ", which in English is "take my picture".

And if you want to have a group picture, you should substitute "minya" with "nas".

It would be: "Ni magli by Vy nas sfatagrafiravat' ?", which in English is "Can you take our picture, please?"

In English, before someone takes a picture, the person taking the picture may say, "1, 2, 3. Cheese." In Russian before a picture is taken, the person taking the picture may say "Syr", which means "Cheese" in English.

So if you're taking the picture, you'll say this. And if you having your picture taken, you'll probably hear this!

QUICK TIP

It is good form to ask permission before taking a picture of people or inside a building, especially if it is a church or a museum.



Lesson 26: How Do You Say This In Russian?

Как будет "milk" по-русски?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce you to a phrase that will provide you with the tools to learn from the people around you. Now, a dictionary is a great idea, but don't forget that you can use Russian to learn in a more fun and interactive way. For today's, we're going to cover "How do you say "something" in Russian?" For today's lesson, let's use "milk" for that something.

The phrase "How do you say "milk" in Russian?" in Russian is "Kak budet "milk" pa-ruski?".

The first word "Kak" means "How". This is followed by "budet", which in English is "will be". So to recap here, we have "Kak budet". Literally this means "How will be". The last part of the phrase is "pa-ruski", which in English is "in Russian".

So all together we have "Kak budet "milk" pa-ruski?". Literally this means "How will be "milk" in Russian?".

You can also use this expression without using any English. To accomplish this you can use the expression "How do you say this in Russian?". In Russian it is "Kak eta budet pa-ruski?". The first word "Kak" means "How". This is followed by "eta", which in English is "this".

So to recap here, we have "Kak eta". Literally this means "How this". Let's take a look at the next "budet", which means "will be". The last phrase is "pa-ruski", which in English is "in Russian".

So all together we have "Kak eta budet pa-ruski?". Literally this means "How this will be in Russian?".

To ask how to say "How do you say that in Russian" simply substitute the word "that" – "eta" for "this" – "to".

There are many words in Russian with difficult pronunciation. And you may not clearly understand the answer to a question. Then, to ask a person to repeat the word or phrase you should use "Pavtarite, pazhalusta", which in English literally means "Repeat it, please". If you talk to your friend you can say "yeshcho ras", which means "once again". Yet in case of the latter phrase don't forget about friendly intonation and a smile, otherwise it can sound a bit rude.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Как будет "milk" по-русски?	Kak eta "milk" pa-ruski?	How do you say "milk" in Russian?

Russian	Romanization	English
Как это будет по-русски?	Kak eta budet pa-ruski?	How do you say this in Russian?
Повторите, пожалуйста еще раз	Pavtarite pazhalusta yeshcho raz	Repeat, please. one more time



Lesson 27: How Do You Read This?

Как это читается по-русски?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce you to a phrase that will provide you with the tools to learn from the people around you. Now, a dictionary is a great idea, but don't forget that you can use Russian to learn in a more fun and interactive way. In today's lesson we are going to cover "How do you read this in Russian?"

In Russian "How do you read this in Russian?" will be "Kak eta chitayetsa pa-ruski?". The first word "Kak" means "How". This is followed by "eta", which in English is "this". So to recap here, we have "Kak eta". Literally this means "How this". Let's take a look at the next "chitayetsa", which means "is read". The last part of the sentence is "pa-ruski", which in English is "in Russian". We learned this phrase in our previous lesson. So all together we have "Kak eta chitayetsa pa-ruski?". Literally this means "How this is read in Russian?".

To ask how to say "How do you read that in Russian?" simply substitute the word "eta" for "that" with "to".

Today's phrases are very useful when you go shopping to old-fashion big department stores or small shops working 24-hours, where price cards of goods are written in Cyrillic letters, not printed on goods themselves. In other words you can't take what you need yourself and have to name every item.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Как это читается по-русски?	Kak eta chitayetsa pa-ruski?	How do you read this in Russian?
А как то читается по-русски?	A kak to chitayetsa pa-ruski?	And how do you read that in Russian?

QUICK TIP

If there is no queue behind it is fine to confirm names of the good from shop assistant as there always glad to spend few minutes on talking on unrelated topics.



Lesson 28: Hotel 1

Зарегистрируйте меня, пожалуйста.

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll help you check-in! In Russia there are numerous hotels, cottages and apartments varying from one to five stars. Three and more star hotels, cottages and most of the apartments oriented for foreign customers employ workers at least with some basic knowledge of English. But the rest of the owners and managers of other accommodations do not speak foreign languages. So, if you stop there, you would be the one to teach "Check-in" to the staff. But today we're going to learn "Check-in, please." in Russian.

In Russian "Check-in, please." is "Zaregistriруйте меня, пожалуйста".

The first word "Zaregistriруйте" means "Register". This is followed by "меня", which in English is "me". So to recap here, we have "Zaregistriруйте меня". Literally this means "Register me". Let's take a look at the next "pazhalusta". It means "please".

So all together we have "Zaregistriруйте меня, пожалуйста". Literally this means "Register me, please".

Upon stating the phrase "Check-in, please." you will most likely be asked "Your name, please.", which in Russian is "Nazavite Vashe imya, pazhalusta". The first word "Nazavite" means "Call".

This is followed by "Vashe", which in English is "your" or "yours". So to recap here, we have "Nazavite Vashe". Literally this means "Call your". The next "imya" means "name". And we end this phrase with

"pazhalusta", which in English is "please".

So, all together we have "Nazavite Vashe imya, pazhalusta". Literally this means "Call your name, please".

You may also be asked how to spell your name, which in Russian is "Nazavite Vashe imya pa bukvam". The first word "Nazavite" means "Call". This is followed by "Vashe", which in English is "your". So, to recap here, we have "Nazavite Vashe". Literally this means "Call your". The next "imya" means "Name" in English. This time we end the phrase with "pa bukvam", which in English is "by letters".

So, all together we have "Nazavite Vashe imya pa bukvam". Literally this means "Call your name by letters".

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Зарегистрируйте меня, пожалуйста.	Zaregistriruite menya, pazhalusta.	Check-in, please.
Назовите Ваше имя, пожалуйста.	Nazavite Vashe imya, pazhalusta.	Your name, please.
Назовите Ваше имя по буквам.	Nazavite Vashe imya po bukvam.	Call your name by letters.

QUICK TIP

Despite the tradition to give tips to porters in hotels in many countries, in Russia it is up to the customer whether he or she wants to grant some amount of money or not. Yet in distant regions hotels do not provide porter services. So, if you go somewhere far, you'd better get ready for some physical exercises on your way to your room. Cottages and private apartments do not provide service as well. So, you should be very careful, when choose an apartment to stop. Distant regions with small towns entertain visitors with electricity breaks, sometimes providing a long and exiting trip up to the apartment by stairs.



Lesson 29: Hotel 2

Во сколько выписка из номера?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce some more useful phrases for hotels and the like. The first phrase is "What time is checkout?" which in Russian is "Va skol'ka vypiska iz nomera?". The first word "Va skol'ka" means "At what time". This is followed by "vypiska", which in English is "checkout". So to recap here, we have "Va skol'ka vypiska". Literally this means "At what time checkout". Let's take a look at the next word "iz". It means "from". Then comes "nomera", which means "room".

So all together we have "Va skol'ka vypiska iz nomera?". Literally this means "At what time checkout from room?".

And there will be times when you need more of certain things.

Let's try "towels", for example. In Russian "Can I have some more towels?" is "Mozhna mnye eshcho palatenets?". The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for. In this case it's "palatenets". In this sentence the word for towels is "palatenets".

There are a few more words that might come in handy:

Toothbrush - "Zubnaya shchetka".

Toothpaste - "Zubnaya pasta".

Shampoo - "Shampun'".

Soap - "Myla".

In Russia the electrical system is 220 V. Therefore, we'll introduce you to crucial phrase for all of you travelers out there who like to bring electrical appliances thousands of miles to die a fiery death in on foreign soil.

In Russia "Do you have a power converter?" is "U vas yest' transformatar?"

The first word "U vas" means "You". This is followed by "yest' ", which in English is "have". So to recap here, we have "U vas yest' ". Literally this means "You have". The next word "transformatar" means "power converter". So all together we have "U vas yest' transformatar?". Literally this means "You have converter?"

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Во сколько выписка из номера?	Va skol'ka vypiska iz nomera?	What time is checkout?
Можно мне еще полотенце?	Mozhna mnye eshcho palatenets?	Can I have some more towels?
У вас есть трансформатор?	U vas yest' transfarmatar?	Do you have a power converter?

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
Зубная щетка	Zubnaya shchetka	toothbrush
Зубная паста	Zubnaya pasta	toothpaste
Шампунь	Shampun'	shampoo
Мыло	myla	soap



Lesson 30: Post Office

Я хотел бы отправить это в Нью-Йорк.

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we're going to take a trip to the post office. Now the post office in Russian is "pochta"

And today we're going to work on getting your postcards, letters and packages home. The expression to accomplish this is "I'd like to send this to" and then the desired country. For today's lesson we'll use New York, USA.

In Russian "I'd like to send this to New York." is "Ya hatel by atpravit' eta v Nyu York.". The first word "Ya" means "I". This is followed by "hatel by", which in English is "would like". So to recap here, we have "Ya hatel by". Literally this means "I would like". The next word "atpravit' " means "send". We have already learned the word "eta" in our previous lessons, which in English means "this". The last part of the phrase is "v Nyu York", which in English is "to New York".

So all together we have "Ya hatel by atpravit' eta v Nyu York.". Literally this means "I would like to send this to New York.".

Now we can build this up a bit by adding in the words for what we would like to send. For example, above we mentioned postcards, letters, and packages, so let's start there. The word for "postcard" in Russian is "atkrytka". So the expression would now sound like this: "Ya hatel by atpravit' atkrytku v Nyu York". Now let's try "letter". In Russian "letter" is "pis'mo".

And finally we have the word for "package", which in Russian is "pasylka".

You should remember that verb forms in Russian differ in gender. Verbs for males usually end with consonance. While verbs for females end with vocalic. And above mentioned examples verbs have male form of the word "hatet' ", which in English is "want" or "would like to". So, for male it would be "Ya hatel". To give it a female form you need to add "a" at the end. So, we are going to have "hatela". The same happens with other words. For instance, "I'm going to the post office" for male is "Ya pashol na pochtu". And for female is "Ya pashla na pochtu". Yet you should be careful with experiments with verb forms according to gender, as there are cases, when the verb does not change its form. For example, in the phrase "Ya hachu eta atpravit' ", which in English is "I want to send this", the word "hachu" is the same for both genders.

Now the package requires a closer look, which we'll do in the next lesson.

PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Я хотел бы отправить это в Нью-Йорк.	Ya hatel by atpravit' eta v Nyu York.	I'd like to send this to New York.
Я хотел бы отправить открытку в Нью-Йорк	Ya hatel by atpravit' atkrytku v Nyu York	I'd like to send the postcard to New York.
Я пошел на почту	Ya pashol na pochtu	I'm going to the post office (masculine)
Я пошла на почту	Ya pashla na pochtu	I'm going to the post office (feminine)

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English
почта	pochta	post office
открытка	atkrytka	postcard
письмо	pis'mo	letter
посылка	pasylka	package
хотел	hatel	want (masculine)
хотела	hatela	want (feminine)

QUICK TIP

Sending postcards and letters is a universal practice in Russia. Most common occasions to send each other a postcard are birthdays, weddings, New Year and Christmas, St. Valentine Day (for young people), 23 of February (for males), 8 of March (for females), East.



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- ★ Visiting the Post office and mailing thing home
- ★ Phone rentals and phone cards, don't travel without one!

- ★ Critical phrases for vegetarians and allergy sufferers!
- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly
- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will "wow" hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn

Finally, thank you again!

If you have a story to share about how Survival Phrases - Russian helped you with your travels, business, or personal relationships, we would love to hear about it!

Please e-mail us contactus@survivalphrases.com