

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #1

## First Encounters in Bulgarian

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# 1

## BULGARIAN

1. A: Добър ден.
2. B: Добър ден.
3. A: Как сте?
4. B: Добре съм, благодаря.

## ROMANIZATION

1. A: Dobyr den.
2. B: Dobyr den.
3. A: Kak ste?
4. B: Dobre sym, blagodarya.

## ENGLISH

1. A: Hello.
2. B: Hello.
3. A: How are you?
4. B: Fine, thanks.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
добре съм	dobre sym	I'm fine.
благодаря	blagodarya	Thank you.
съм	sym	I am
как сте	kak ste	How are you?
добър ден	dobyr den	Hello.
добре	dobre	fine
как	kak	how
ден	den	day

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Добре съм, след тази разходка.</b> Dobre sym, sled тази razhodka.</p> <p>I feel better after walking.</p>	<p><b>Благодаря за Новогодишните пожелания.</b> Blagodarya za novogodishnite pojelaniya!</p> <p>Thank you for the New Year's wishes!</p>
<p><b>Аз съм ученик.</b> Az sym uchenik.</p> <p>I am a student.</p>	<p><b>Как сте днес?</b> Kak ste dnes?</p> <p>How are you today?</p>
<p><b>Добър ден на всички зрители.</b> Dobyr den na vsichki zriteli.</p> <p>Hello to all the viewers.</p>	<p><b>Добре ли си?</b> Dobre li si?</p> <p>Are you OK?</p>
<p><b>Как се казваш?</b> Kak se kazvash?</p> <p>What is your name?</p>	<p><b>Днес е Международен ден на жената.</b> Dnes e Mejdunaroden den na jenata.</p> <p>Today is International women's day.</p>

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**Хубав ден е.**

It's a nice day.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Добър ден**

We can use **Добър ден** both with people you know or people you meet for the first time. It literally means "Good day," and we use it in the daytime. We compose the phrase with the adjective **добър**, which means "good," and the noun **ден**, which means "day." But in this case, we put the stress on the first syllable of the word **добър**. In all other cases, it is on the second one.

### **Добре съм**

**Добре съм** means "I am fine" or "I am well." The adverb **добре** means "fine," "well," or "OK" and sometimes can be the only answer to the question "How are you?" In the same way, we can use it in conversation as an affirmative "OK."

### **Благодаря**

**Благодаря** means "thank you," and we mostly use it in formal speech but we can also use it in informal speech too. Its informal substitute is **Мерси**. It is composed of two words with different meanings, **благо** and **даря**, but we pronounce it as one word.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Bulgarian Greetings.**

**Как сте?**

**"How are you?"**

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**Как сте** is a polite way to ask someone how he or she has been. It is a phrase that you can also readily use just to greet people you have not seen for a while. This form of the phrase is



formal, so the verb in it is in the second-person plural form.

It is a very popular expression, and people say Как сте not only as a learned phrase after a greeting but also to check the other person's condition, feelings, and so forth and expect an answer. The answer is usually constructed with an adverb plus the corresponding verb form. Quite often, the answer is Добре съм, which you can use in the same way as the English "I'm fine"/"I'm OK." Still, when the partner in the conversation is not feeling well, other expressions come to replace the otherwise typical answer Добре съм. For example, they might be Горе-долу, meaning "so-so." In this case, you can omit the verb съм.

## Verb Form in Как сте?

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The verb in the expression is in the second-person plural. That is the most common way of conjugating the verb when using formal speech. The same verb in the second-person plural is си, and the expression Как си? becomes the informal version.

### For Example:

1. Как сте днес?  
*Kak ste dnes?*  
"How are you today?" (plural)
2. Как си, мило?  
*Kak si milo?*  
"How are you, dear?" (singular)

## Examples from This Dialogue

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1. Как сте?  
*Kak ste?*  
"How are you?"

## Sample Sentences

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1. Как си след злополуката?  
*Kak si sled zlopolukata?*  
"How are you after the accident?"
2. Как сте, господин Петров?  
*Kak ste, gospodin Petrov?*  
"How are you, Mr. Petrov?"

### Language Tip

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The pronunciation of Как сте/Как си has one important point: the stress goes on the first word, как, and we pronounce it very distinctly. You want to put the emphasis on asking "how" the other person is feeling.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Greeting Elders and People in the Countryside

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Bulgarians like to greet each other on the street when they are close acquaintances or friends. It is a very typical thing to see in the countryside. People would stop by to talk to their friends and ask them how they feel or just to say politely hello and have a short conversation in which they usually use the expression Как сте?/Как си?

When talking to elderly people, it is considered polite to use the second-person plural form of the phrase and other phrases like Добър ден and благодаря instead of their more informal versions, Здравей/Здрасти and мерси. In this formal situation, the speakers use the second-person plural to mark their respectful feelings toward each other.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #2

## Introducing Yourself in Bulgarian

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# 2

## BULGARIAN

1. A: Здравей, аз се казвам Петьо.
2. B: Здравсти, аз съм Таня.
3. A: Приятно ми е да се запознаем.
4. B: И на мен също.

## ROMANIZATION

1. A: Zdravei, az se kazvam Petio.
2. B: Zdrasti, az sym Tanya.
3. A: Priyatno mi e da se zapoznaem.
4. B: I na men syshto.

## ENGLISH

1. A: Hello. My name is Petio.
2. B: Hi. I'm Tanya.
3. A: It's a pleasure to meet you.
4. B: It's a pleasure to meet you too.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
казвам се	kazvam se	My name is
здрaсти	zdrasti	hi
Приятно ми е	Priyatno mi e	Pleasure to meet you.
запознавам се	zapoznavam se	Introduce myself
И на мен също	I na men syshto	For me too
съм	sym	(I) am; (the verb to be)
аз	az	I
здравей	zdravei	Hello

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Казвам се Мария Илиева.</b> Kazvam se Mariya Ilieva.</p> <p>My name is Maria Ilieva.</p>	<p><b>Здрaсти, как си?</b> Zdrasti, kak si?</p> <p>Hi, how are you?</p>
<p><b>Приятно ми е, аз съм новия ви учител.</b> Priyatno mi e, az sym noviyat vi uchitel.</p> <p>Nice to meet you, I am your new teacher.</p>	<p><b>Запознахте ли се вече?</b> Zapoznahte li se veche?</p> <p>Did you meet each other already?</p>
<p><b>И на мен също ми е студено.</b> I na men syshto mi e studeno.</p> <p>Me too, I'm cold.</p>	<p><b>На гарата съм.</b> Na garata sym.</p> <p>I am at the station.</p>
<p><b>Аз съм служител в голяма компания.</b> Az sym slujitel v golyama kompaniya.</p> <p>I am an employee of a big company.</p>	<p><b>Аз съм зъболекар.</b> Az sym zybolekar.</p> <p>I am a dentist.</p>

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**Аз му казах, че го обичам.**

I told him that I love him.

**Здравей от мен.**

Zdravei ot men.

Hello from me.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Приятно ми е да се запознаем**

**Приятно ми е да се запознаем** is usually followed by the short **И на мен също**, which sounds more natural than repeating the same phrase again. Another short variation of the phrase is **Много ми е приятно**.

### **Здравей**

**Здравей** means something like "be healthy" and is the most neutral way to greet someone with "hello." It is more formal than **Здрасти**, but the most formal phrase is **Здравейте**, which is in second-person plural.

**И на мен също** literally means "for me too" or "me too," and we use it in the same way as we do in English. Sometimes Bulgarians say **И на мене също**, where the pronoun **мене** has the same meaning, "for me" or "to me," but we consider the form incorrect (official). For short, people only say **И на мен**.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying Your Name.**

**Казвам се (...).**

**"My name is (...)."**

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**Казвам се (...)** is the most typical way to introduce yourself in Bulgarian. We use it as a phrase when people meet for the first time, but this form is the most formal one. We can reduce it to the simpler version, **Аз съм (...)**. Also, if it is in a sentence starting with "Hello," it has this form: **Казвам се (...)**. If the sentence is formed only by this phrase though, we include the auxiliary verb, and the phrase changes to **Аз се казвам (...)**.

Since we use it when people meet and are introduced to each other, it is a relatively formal expression. Some informal or slang versions may be reduced to only saying your name plus the auxiliary verb: [Name] съм. Sometimes, in very brief and formal situations, people would say only their family names without any verb in the phrase. A full formal version of the expression that you can use when introducing yourself is Моето име е (...) or Името ми е (...), but it sounds unnatural and people do not use it often in spoken Bulgarian.

### The Pronoun Се in Казвам се (...)

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In this expression, Bulgarians use a special pronoun, *се*, which means something like "myself" or "oneself" and creates the meaning of passive voice. Its direct meaning is something along the lines of "I call myself."

#### For Example:

1. *Казвам се Миро.*  
Kazvam se Miro.  
"My name is Miro."
2. *Аз се казвам Миро.*  
Az se kazvam Miro.  
"My name is Miro." (same translation as above)

### Sample Sentences

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1. Здравей, аз се казвам Питър.  
*Zdrasti, az sym Peter.*  
"Hello, My name is Peter."
2. Здравсти, аз съм Ирина.  
*Zdrasti, az sym Irina.*  
"Hi. I'm Irina."
3. Как се казва баща ти?  
*Kak se kazva bashta ti?*  
"What's your father's name?"

4. Как се казваш?  
*Kak se kazvash?*  
"What is your name?"

### Language Tip

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It is important to separately pronounce the different parts of the phrase **Казвам се (...)**. Although Bulgarians tend to say it very fast, when introducing your foreign name, make sure to say each word in a distinct way and emphasize your name. When using the phrase **Аз се казвам (...)**, please note that although the pronoun for "I" has a Romanization of -z (-az), the Bulgarian speaker usually changes the sound to something more similar to [-s] (-ac).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Why Names Are Important in Bulgaria

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When in a formal situation, Bulgarians usually introduce themselves with both their given name and their family name (in this order). In a business environment, people will usually address each other with their family names. But when you meet Bulgarian friends, it is considerate to talk while using the first name of your partner in the conversation and accordingly to use the second-person singular verb form. Very often, people will introduce themselves in the formal version of the self-introduction in the plural and after a while, when they feel they know you more, to switch to second-person singular and addressing you by your first name.

Bulgarians cherish personal names very much and have celebrations of the so-called Name Day, which usually covers most of the popular names throughout the year. Actually, these dates are holidays corresponding to the Orthodox Christian Church calendar and match the names of different Christian saints like St. Nicolas, for example.



## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #3

## Showing Gratitude in Bulgarian

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# 3

## BULGARIAN

1. A: Добре дошъл, заповядай!
2. B: Благодаря. Това е малък подарък от мен, заповядай!
3. A: О, много благодаря!
4. B: Няма защо.

## ROMANIZATION

1. A: Dobre doshyl, zapovyadai!
2. B: Blagodarya. Tova e malyk podaryk ot men, zapovyadai!
3. A: O, mnogo blagodarya!
4. B: Nyama zashto.

## ENGLISH

1. A: Welcome. Please come in!
2. B: Thanks. This is a small gift from me; please take it!
3. A: Oh, thank you very much!
4. B: You're welcome.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English	Class
заповядай	zapovyadai	come in	verb
добре дошъл	dobre doshyl	welcome	phrase, expression
Няма защо.	Nyama zashto.	You're welcome.	phrase
Много благодаря.	Mnogo blagodarya.	Thank you very much.	phrase
много	mnogo	many; much	adverb
подарък	podaryk	gift; present	noun
благодаря	blagodaria	thank you	expression
малък	malyk	small	adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Заповядай, влез!</b> Zapovyadai, vlez!</p> <p>Please, come in!</p>	<p><b>Добре дошъл в България.</b> Dobre doshyl v Bylgariya.</p> <p>Welcome to Bulgaria.</p>
<p><b>Няма защо, приятелю!</b> Nyama zashto, priyatelyu!</p> <p>You are welcome, my friend!</p>	<p><b>Много благодаря за вниманието.</b> Mnogo blagodarya za vnimaniето.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your attention.</p>
<p><b>Много благодаря за помощта ви.</b> Mnogo blagodarya za pomoshhta vi.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your help.</p>	<p><b>Получих много шоколадови бонбони.</b> Poluchih mnogo shokoladovi bonboni.</p> <p>I received many (boxes of) chocolates.</p>
<p><b>Къде е подаръка ми за Коледа?</b> Kyde e podaryka mi za Koleda?</p> <p>Where is my Christmas present?</p>	<p><b>Наядох се, благодаря.</b> Nayadoh se, blagodarya.</p> <p>I am full, thank you.</p>

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**Благодаря ти за помощта.**

Thank you for the help.

**Твърде голям е по-добре, отколкото  
твърде малък.**

Tvarde golyam e po-dobre, otkolkoto tvarde malak.

Too big is better than too small.

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**Получих малък колет.**

Poluchih malyk kolet.

I received a small package.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Добре дошъл**

We usually use **добре дошъл** when people welcome guests in their house or to an event and generally when welcoming foreigners to Bulgaria. Since it is composed of the adverb **добре** and the past participle **дошъл**, it changes its form in the different genders and in the plural.

### **Заповядай**

**Заповядай** means both something like "help yourself", regarding food, for example, and "please have it" when giving a present. We also use it when inviting people to enter a house, etc. Its formal version is **Заповядайте**.

### **Няма защо**

**Няма защо** basically means "You are welcome", and it therefore usually follows words of thanks. Its more literal meaning is something like "It is nothing (special)" or "Don't mention it". It is considered polite to use it, but sometimes people will skip saying it in more informal situations.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying "Thank You."**

## Благодаря. -Няма защо.

"Thank you. You are welcome."

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Благодаря is the most neutral way to express your appreciation in Bulgarian. Its literal meaning is something like "I present a good/sweet thing", but it has lost this meaning and is now a usual way to say "Thank you". It might sound more formal or express deeper gratitude when accompanied by the adverb много as it becomes Много благодаря. Sometimes people insert the formal or informal version of the pronoun "you" to show their special direction of appreciation. Then the expression becomes Благодаря Ви много in the formal case and Благодаря ти (много) in the informal case. You can use the simple Благодаря in all the cases, especially when you are not sure how formal the situation is. Bulgarians also use a word that was borrowed from French some time ago, but they pronounce it in a different way. This is the French word *Merci*, and its Bulgarian version with the specific hard Slavic *-r* is Мерси.

Young people use it much more often than the elderly, and even sometimes in the countryside the usage of Мерси might sound inappropriate. Still, many people use it because it is considered as more convenient than Благодаря. In formal situations, or when expressing deep gratitude, the phrase Благодаря or Много благодаря might be followed by Моля or Няма защо. They both mean something like "You are welcome", but in any case Няма защо is a more adequate response since Моля has several meanings and its usage might be misunderstood.

## The Pronoun Ви in Благодаря Ви много/Много Ви благодаря

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Bulgarians use the plural form of the pronoun "you" when using formal speech. It is considered correct to write it with a capital letter "-В," which is typical for the formal phrases. Yet there are many recent cases where people do not care about that rule and write it in lowercase letters. The important thing is to remember when to use the singular or plural, respectively, in informal or formal occasions.

### For Example:

1. *Много ти благодаря за цветята.*  
*Mnogo ti blagodarya za cvetyata.*  
"Thank you very much for the flowers." (informal)

2. *Чудесно представяне, благодаря Ви много.*  
*Chudesno predstavяne, blagodarq Vi mnogo.*  
"Wonderful presentation, thank you very much." (formal)

### Examples from This Dialogue

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1. *Благодаря. Това е малък подарък от мен, заповядай!*  
*Blagodarya. Tova e malyk podaryk ot men, zapovyadai!*  
"Thanks. This is a small gift from me, please have it!"

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Запомни да кажеш „Благодаря!“*  
*Zapomni da kajesh "Blagodarya!"*  
"Remember to say 'thank you!'"
2. *Наистина много ти благодаря!*  
*Naistina mnogo ti blagodarya!*  
"Thank you very much indeed!"

### Pronunciation Tip

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It is easier to pronounce the relatively long word *Благодаря* by keeping in mind that it is composed of two words with separate meanings, *благо* and *даря*, which in English mean "good"/"sweet" and "to give"/"to present." Note that Bulgarians will pronounce it very fast, though, and more often, they will use the short *Мерси*. Remember to say it in the Bulgarian style, with the specific hard *-r*, as in "refrigerator" or "restaurant."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Bulgarian Manners

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Bulgarians consider saying "thank you" as one very important part of manners. You can understand this, given the complexity of the meaning that underlies the two words composing Благодаря. Some analyses view благо as having more philosophical meanings, such as "prosperity", "well-being", and "(common) good", instead of the direct and more ancient translation of it as "sweet" that is sometimes used as a substitute for the contemporary word for "sweet", or сладко. Make sure to use Благодаря often and when necessary, and you will notice how Bulgarians accept you as one of them. Saying "I present you with prosperity/sweetness" is already a very favorable way to show your appreciation. When invited for a dinner or when receiving small gift, sometimes it is just necessary to say Благодаря so that your hosts will be very amazed and pleased to have you. So, Благодаря is one of the most important words to start with when you're learning Bulgarian!

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #4

## Don't Get off on the Wrong Foot in Bulgaria!

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# 4



## BULGARIAN

1. A: Ох!  
Ааа...извинете.
2. B: Да?
3. A: Кракът ми...
4. B: О, съжалявам!

## ROMANIZATION

1. A: Oh!  
Aaa...izvinete.
2. B: Da?
3. A: Krakyt mi...
4. B: O, syjalyavam!

## ENGLISH

1. A: Ouch!  
Umm...excuse me.
2. B: Yes?
3. A: My foot...

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4. B:

Oh, I'm sorry!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
крак	krak	foot
ми	mi	mine
съжалявам	syjalyavam	I'm sorry.
О	О	Ah, Oh
извинете	izvinete	Excuse me
да	da	yes
Ааа... Ааа	Aaa	Umm...
Ох!	Oh!	Ouch!

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Обувката не става на крака ми.</b> Obuvkata ne stava na kraka mi.</p> <p>The shoe does not fit my foot.</p>	<p><b>Това е приятелят ми.</b> Tova e priyatelyat mi.</p> <p>This is my friend.</p>
<p><b>Съжалявам, че закъснях.</b> Sujalyavam, che zakysnyah.</p> <p>I am</p> <p>I'm sorry I'm late.</p>	<p><b>О,боже, ще закъснеем!</b> O, boje, shte zakysneem!</p> <p>Oh my god, we are going to be late!</p>

<p><b>Извинете, това Ваше ли е?</b> Izvinete, tova Vashe li e?</p> <p>Excuse me, is this yours?</p>	<p><b>Да, вкъщи съм си.</b> Da, vkyshti sym si.</p> <p>Yes, I'm home.</p>
<p><b>Да, защо?</b> Da, zashto?</p> <p>Yes, why?</p>	<p><b>Да, говоря малко.</b> Da, govorya malko.</p> <p>Yes, I speak a little.</p>
<p><b>Ааа... как се казваш?</b> Aaa... kak se kazvash?</p> <p>Umm... what's your name?</p>	<p><b>Ох, ударих си лакътя!</b> Oh, udarih si lakytya!</p> <p>Ouch, I hit my elbow!</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ох

We usually use *ох* when people experience pain. Sometimes the *-h* sound is almost silent, and sometimes people pronounce it. There are some other similar interjections that express pain, but this one is the most useful out of them.

### Ааа...

*Aaa...* is an interjection that means something like the English "Umm...", and we use it in the same way when beginning a sentence. Sometimes Bulgarians use another vowel to express the same sound and sentence meaning - *Ъъъ...* Still, *Aaa...* is more common and sounds more official.

### Да

*Да* in Bulgarian can be both an interjection meaning "yes," "yep," etc., and a conjunction meaning "that," "as to," "and," "shall," "let," etc. Its position will help you understand the meaning correctly.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying "Excuse Me."

**Извинете./Съжалявам.**

**"Excuse me."/ "I am sorry."**

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When you want to express that you are sorry and you want to apologize, Bulgarians use two phrases that have different meanings, although sometimes you can use both to say "I am sorry." These are Съжалявам and Извинете. Basically, while both are formal enough to express your feeling of being sorry in various instances, there are nuances in the usage. For example, when you are apologizing to a friend, you can use the informal version of Извинете, which is Извинявай. Note that it is a very personal expression, so you cannot use it outside of friendship or another close relationship. On the other hand, you can use Извинявам се or Извинявам се много in formal cases, as the verb in these phrases is in the first person singular, and the meaning is something like "I excuse myself (very much)."

But, before you ask to be excused, you probably want to say you are sorry for something you did wrong. You can do that by saying Съжалявам; the good news is that this form is universal for formal and informal occasions, so you can use it any time. It is very useful, as Bulgarians are impressed by a proper excuse.

The usual sequence of these expressions in a case when something is wrong and you need to apologize is, for example, Съжалявам, обърках се. Извинявайте. The meaning is, "I am sorry, I got confused. Excuse me." As you can see, there is another form of the phrase Извинете, which marks the imperfect tense of the verb "to excuse."

### The Usage of Извинете and Съжалявам

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Since the two phrases Извинете and Съжалявам have many forms, as shown, it is very useful to remember their basic neutral ones, which are Извинявам се and Съжалявам.

#### For Example:

1. Извинявам се, това автобус номер 84 ли е?  
Izvinyavam se, tova avtobus nomer 84 li e?  
"Excuse me, is this bus number eighty-four?"

2. Съжалявам, но не мога да дойда.  
Syjalyavam, no ne moga da doida.  
"I am sorry, but I cannot come."
3. Моля, извинете ме.  
Molya, izvinete me.  
"Please excuse me."
4. Съжалявам, но трябва да вървя.  
Syjalyavam, no tryabva da vyrvya.  
"I am sorry, but I have to go."

### Examples from This Dialogue

---

1. Ааа...извинете.-Да? -Кракът ми...-О, съжалявам!  
Ааа... izvinete. -Da? -Krazyt mi... -O, syjalyavam!  
"Umm...excuse me. -Yes? -My foot... -Oh, I'm sorry!"

### Language Tip

---

Both Извинете and Съжалявам are stressed on the third syllable, which is a very common way to put the stress in the Bulgarian words. Since these are important words when expressing regret or apologizing, they are pronounced in a quite distinctive way.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Bulgarian Celebration of Apology

---

Bulgarians apologize very often and try to accept apologies in reply. As a matter of fact, there is a special holiday, connected with the Christian tradition, when people apologize to their family and close friends for the things of the past twelve months. This special day is called *Proshka* or "Forgiveness" and is celebrated on a day that is one week before the start of the Great Easter Fast. According to the Orthodox Christian religion, to begin the whole process of

cleansing your spirit, you should first ask for forgiveness and forgive the ones you love.

On a daily basis, Bulgarians try to be careful about their manners, and if you are unintentionally pushed or stepped on in the bus, expect to hear an apology, at least in the most usual way. In the same way, be careful to preserve good manners so that your stay in Bulgaria will be accompanied with the warmest of feelings.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #5 Ordering Some Delicious Bulgarian Food

---

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- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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# 5

# BULGARIAN

1. Сервитьорка: Добър вечер.
2. Клиент: Извинете, меню, ако обичате
3. Сервитьорка: Разбира се.
4. Клиент: Извинете, и вода, ако обичате.
5. Сервитьорка: Веднага.
6. Клиент: Извинете, искам да поръчам.
7. Сервитьорка: Да?

# ROMANIZATION

1. Servitiorka: Dobyr vecher.
2. Klient: Izvinete, menyu, ako obichate.
3. Servitiorka: Razbira se.
4. Klient: Izvinete, i voda, ako obichate.
5. Servitiorka: Vednaga.
6. Klient: Izvinete, iskam da porycham.
7. Servitiorka: Da?

# ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER



1. Waitress: Good evening.
2. Customer: Excuse me; can I get a menu?
3. Waitress: Sure.
4. Customer: Excuse me; can I also get some water?
5. Waitress: Right away.
6. Customer: Excuse me, can you take my order?
7. Waitress: Yes?

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
поръчка	porychka	order
разбира се	razbira se	of course
веднага	vednaga	Right away; immediately
клиент	klient	customer
ако обичате	ako obichate	If you please
сервитьорка	servitiorka	waitress
вода	voda	water
меню	menu	menu
добър вечер	dobyr vecher	Good evening

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Това ли е поръчката Ви?</b> Tova li e porychkata Vi?</p> <p>Is this your order?</p>	<p><b>Разбира се, че си добре дошъл!</b> Razbira se, che si dobre doshyl!</p> <p>Of course you are welcome!</p>
<p><b>Отправете се към изхода веднага!</b> Opravete se kym izhoda vednaga!</p> <p>Immediately proceed to the exit!</p>	<p><b>Има клиент в магазин за дрехи.</b> Ima klient v magazin za drekhi.</p> <p>There is a customer in the clothing store.</p>
<p><b>Тя работи като сервитьорка.</b> Tya raboti kato servitiorka.</p> <p>She works as a waitress.</p>	<p><b>Бързо, донесете чаша вода!</b> Byrzo, donesete chasha voda!</p> <p>Hurry up, bring a glass of water!</p>
<p><b>Жената пие вода.</b> Jenata pie voda.</p> <p>The woman drinks water.</p>	<p><b>Само вода, моля.</b> Just a water, please.</p>
<p><b>Имате ли меню на английски?</b> Imate li menyu na angliiski?</p> <p>Do you have an English menu?</p>	<p><b>Добър вечер, скъпи приятели!</b> Dobyr vecher, skypi priyateli!</p> <p>Good evening, dear friends!</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**Добър вечер** is the most common way to say "Good evening" in Bulgaria. We use it usually after six o'clock in the afternoon, and it is appropriate for both formal and informal situations.

**Разбира се** has its English equivalent in "of course" or "certainly," and we use it in the same way: to confirm a request or action. We can translate the verb form in Bulgarian in English as something more similar to "It is understood."

**Веднага** has both the meaning of "immediately" and "right away," so when we use it as an adverb, it expresses an immediate action, while as a phrase, it means something like "Yes, it will be done right away," as in this lesson's dialogue.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking for Something.

~ моля/~ ако обичате

"~ please"/"~ if you please"

---

When you want to ask for an item or service in Bulgarian, you should use this structure: [item] ~ моля or [item] ~ ако обичате. The first version is plainer way to ask for something or just to add polite note to your speech, which in English is equal to "please." For example, if you want to ask "Where is the exit, please?" you can say Къде е изходът, моля? Моля is a very universal word in Bulgarian, and you should be careful because sometimes people use it as a substitute for "you are welcome" (which we reviewed in our previous lesson). Still, моля is a safer and more natural way to ask for something among friends or people you do not know. The formal version of this part of the speech is ако обичате, where the verb's form, second-person plural, indicates the polite expression that in English sounds like "if you please." You can use it with people you do not know well but not with close friends.

### The Verb Form in ако обичате

---

As explained, the verb here is in its polite form, but one of the interesting points is that the verb itself is the verb we use to say "I love you" in Bulgarian: обичам, meaning "to love." Still, the meaning is very formal, so the initial association with feelings of love is lost. We use the same verb when Bulgarians express preference "to like" or обичам, as in Обичам ягоди, meaning "I like strawberries."

### Sample Sentences

---

1. Една диня, моля.  
*Edna dinya, molya.*  
"One watermelon, please."
2. Бихте ли подали солта, ако обичате?  
*Bihte li podali solta, ako obichate?*  
"Could you pass the salt, please?"

### Examples from This

## Dialogue

---

1. Извинете, меню, ако обичате.  
*Izvinete, menyu, ako obichate.*  
"Excuse me; a menu, please."
2. Извинете, и вода, ако обичате.  
*Izvinete, I voda, ako obichate.*  
"Excuse me; water too, please."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Моля те, почакай!*  
*Moly ate, pochakai!*  
"Please wait!"
2. Бихте ли се преместили, ако обичате?  
*Bihte li se premestili, ako obichate?*  
"Could you please move?"

## Language Tip

---

Make sure to pause briefly before saying either *моля* or *ако обичате* as it is a natural way to pronounce it both in English and in Bulgarian. Bulgarians also use commas before these words, so mind your punctuation.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Minding Your Manners in Bulgaria

---

The Bulgarian word *моля* is a very specific one. As we explained earlier, it means both "please" and "you are welcome," but it also means "pardon" or "I beg your pardon" when

addressing someone and "help yourself" when inviting someone to take something. The meaning of the verb моля varies in English: we can translate it as "to beg," "to request," and "to pray." It is a very useful word because once you use it, you can get served with special care. Be sure to use it in restaurants and in formal cases since requesting something requires its usage in Bulgaria and forgetting to use it will make a bad impression. On the other hand, if you want to make a good impression in front of your Bulgarian hosts, make sure to use it at the table and the similar places where manners matter.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #6 A Bulgarian Reunion

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# 6

# BULGARIAN

1. Мартин: О, Питър?
2. Питър: Мартин! Откога не сме се виждали!
3. Мартин: Наистина отдавна не сме се виждали!

# ROMANIZATION

1. Martin: O, Pityr!
2. Pityr: Martin! Otkoga ne sme se vijdali!
3. Martin: Naistina otdavna ne sme se vijdali!

# ENGLISH

1. Martin: Oh, Peter? (Is that you?)
2. Peter: Martin! It's been a while!
3. Martin: Really, long time no see!

# VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
Откога не сме се виждали!	Otkoga ne sme se vijdali!	It's been a while!

откога	otkoga	since when
наистина	naistina	really; indeed
отдавна	otdavna	long ago
Отдавна не сме се виждали!	Otdavna ne sme se vijдали!	Long time no see!
виждам	vijdam	to see
не	ne	no; not
се	se	myself

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Откога не сме се виждали, приятелю!</b> Otkoga ne sme se vijдали, priyatelyu!</p> <p>It's been a while, my friend!</p>	<p><b>Наистина ли е толкова студено?</b> Naistina li e tolkova studeno?</p> <p>Is it really that cold?</p>
<p><b>Наистина ли ти харесва?</b> Naistina li ti haresva?</p> <p>Do you really like it?</p>	<p><b>Наистина ли е толкова студено?</b> Naistina li e tolkova studeno?</p> <p>Is it really that cold?</p>
<p><b>Отдавна не сме били на кино.</b> Otdavna ne sme bili na kino.</p> <p>It's been a long time since we went to the cinema.</p>	<p><b>Отдавна не сме се виждали с теб!</b> Otdavna ne sme se vijдали s teb!</p> <p>Long time no see!</p>
<p><b>Виждам кораб на хоризонта.</b> Vijdam korab na horizonta.</p> <p>I see a ship on the horizon.</p>	<p><b>Не знам защо.</b> Ne znam zashto.</p> <p>I don't know why.</p>



---

## Приготвям се за училище.

Prigotvyam se za uchilishte.

I am preparing (myself) for school.

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### O!

O! is a Bulgarian interjection that means "Oh!" and we use it to express surprise for both happy and not pleasant occasions. Bulgarians also use *A!* to express greater surprise, but the most common one for occasions like reuniting with friends will be the *O!*

### He

He can mean several things according to its usage as adverb or an interjection. Its English equivalents are "not," "no," and "nope." When used with a verb, it forms the negative verb form meaning "do not (verb)" in Bulgarian не [verb].

### Наистина

Наистина has the meaning of "really" and also other adverbs in English like "truly," "actually," "surely," and "indeed." That is why we use it to show some assertion about a claim. We can use it at almost any place in Bulgarian sentences.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying "Long Time No See!"**

**Откога не сме се виждали!/Отдавна не сме се виждали!**

***Otkoga ne sme se vijdali! Otdavna ne sme se vijdali!***

**"It's been a while!"/"Long time no see!"**

When reuniting with an old friend or someone you have not met for a while in Bulgaria, you can use these two expressions to show you have missed the person. Although *Откога не сме се виждали!* and *Отдавна не сме се виждали!* sound very natural in Bulgarian, we don't use them as often as in English and other languages. This is maybe because first of all, if two friends have not seen each other for a while, they will just ask "How are you?" or "How have you been?" instead, which of course are different expressions in Bulgarian, namely *Как си?* and *Как я караш?* These are quite informal expressions you can freely use with friends, but if it goes to formal situations, they are not acceptable.

Second, if you want to express the feeling behind the English "long time no see," you would probably use other informal phrases sounding like "Where have you been?" or "What's up with you?" which in Bulgarian are *Къде се губиш?* and *Какво става с теб?* which are very informal and even can be considered slang.

But mainly because some strong English influence more and more people in Bulgaria, now people use the expressions *Откога не сме се виждали!* and *Отдавна не сме се виждали!* especially in the formal cases. They are becoming a set phrase as in English, and you can be sure that by using them you will not make a mistake. So, if you want to express this "long time no see" feeling, you can use the two expressions from this grammar point.

### **The Usage of *Откога не сме се виждали!* and *Отдавна не сме се виждали!***

---

Although these two phrases are set as presented in this lesson, there are many slight variances in their structure, like for example *Не съм те виждал от много време*, *Мина много време*, and others. You will learn those with time. Just focus on recognizing first these two basic ones.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Не сме се виждали от много време!*  
*Ne sme se vjdali ot mnogo vreme!*  
"We haven't seen each other for a long time!"
2. *Много отдавна не съм те виждал тук.*  
*Mnogo otdavna ne sym te vjdal tuk.*  
"I haven't seen you here for a long time."

### **Examples from This**

## Dialogue

---

1. Мартин! От кога не сме се виждали!  
*Martin! Ot koga ne sme se vjdali!*

"Martin! It's been a while!"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Откога не сме се виждали на тази сбирка.  
*Otkoga ne sme se vjdali na тази sbirka.*  
"It's been a while since we have met at this meeting."
2. Отдавна не сме се виждали на по питие.  
*Otdavna ne sme se vjdali na po pitie.*  
"Long time no see to have a drink."

## Language Tip

---

Both expressions in this lesson's grammar point are composed of long words, so make sure you pronounce them distinctively and you separate the words correctly. We usually put emphasis on the first word, which in both cases is an adverb that expresses the feeling of time passing.

In this lesson, there also is the name of one of the people in the dialogue, Martin, who is Bulgarian. The Bulgarians pronounce the name with the hard Slavic *-r* as it was in the informal word for "thank you" borrowed from French, *мерси*. Remember, hard *-r*!

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Be Prepared: Bulgarian Greetings Can Be Very Enthusiastic!

---

Bulgarians are warm-hearted people, so when they have not seen a friend for a long time,

they will hug, hold hands, tap each other on the shoulders, and even kiss in the first moments of the encounter. Be sure that this is a real expression of joy when seeing someone special or just a close friend after some time, so doing this in reply will not be wrong. Make sure, however, that you know the level of your close relationship because all of these gestures of missing and enthusiasm may vary according to each case. So, the best way is to wait for your Bulgarian friend to express first how he or she feels and see what kind of words he or she uses in the specific situation. Also, Bulgarians will stop and talk to you on the street if they know you and have not seen you for some time, just because they really appreciate acquaintances, friendship, and also foreign guests. This is another part of the typical Bulgarian hospitality.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #7

## What is this? in Bulgarian

---

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# 7

## BULGARIAN

1. Мартин: Питър, това е съпругата ми Ирина.
2. Питър: Ирина? Здравейте, аз съм Питър.
3. Ирина: Здравейте, Питър. Вие сте колега и приятел на Мартин, нали? Много ми е приятно.
4. Питър: И на мен ми е много приятно най-после да се запознаем.

## ROMANIZATION

1. Martin: Pityr, tova e syprugata mi Irina.
2. Pityr: Irina? Zdraveite, az sym Pityr.
3. Irina: Zdraveite, Pityr. Vie ste kolega I priyatel na Martin, nail? Mnogo mi e priyatno.
4. Pityr: I na men mi e mnogo priyatno nai-posle da se zapoznaem.

## ENGLISH

1. Martin: Peter, this is my wife Irina.
2. Peter: Irina? Hello, I'm Peter.
3. Irina: Hello, Peter. You are Martin's colleague and friend, right? Nice to meet you.

CONT'D OVER

4. Peter: Nice to finally meet you too!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
приятно	priyatno	pleasantly
аз	az	I
съм	sym	(I) am; (the verb to be)
нали	nali	Right?
много ми е приятно	Mnogo mi e priyatno	Nice to meet you
здравейте	zdraveite	Hello (formal)
съпруга	sypruga	wife
приятел	priyatel	friend
колега	kolega	colleague

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Пожелаваме Ви приятен полет!</b> Pojelavame Vi priyaten polet!</p> <p>We wish you a pleasant flight!</p>	<p><b>Аз съм зъболекар.</b> Az sym zybolekar.</p> <p>I am a dentist.</p>
<p><b>Аз му казах, че го обичам.</b> I told him that I love him.</p>	<p><b>На гарата съм.</b> Na garata sym.</p> <p>I am at the station.</p>
<p><b>Аз съм служител в голяма компания.</b> Az sym slujitel v golyama kompaniya.</p> <p>I am an employee of a big company.</p>	<p><b>Днес няма да вали, нали?</b> Dnes nyama da vali, nali?</p> <p>It's not going to rain today, right?</p>

<p><b>Много ми е приятно да се запозная с Вас!</b></p> <p>Mного mi e priyatno da se zapoznaya s Vas!</p> <p>It is a pleasure to meet you!</p>	<p><b>Здравейте, идвате точно навреме!</b></p> <p>Zdraveite, idvate tochno navreme!</p> <p>Hello, you are coming just in time!</p>
<p><b>Аз съм съпруга на дипломат.</b></p> <p>Az sym sypruga na diplomat.</p> <p>I am a wife of a diplomat.</p>	<p><b>Имам много приятели.</b></p> <p>Imam mnogo priyateli.</p> <p>I have many friends.</p>
<p><b>Приятели играят тенис на тенис корта.</b></p> <p>Priyatelite igrayat tenis na tenis korta.</p> <p>The friends play tennis on the tennis court.</p>	<p><b>Обядвам с колегата ми.</b></p> <p>Obyadvam s kolegata mi.</p> <p>I am having lunch with my colleague.</p>
<p><b>Представителят на компанията излиза с колега.</b></p> <p>Predstavatelyat na kompaniyata izliza s kolega.</p> <p>The company executive leaves with a colleague.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Здравейте

Здравейте is the formal version of the informal greeting Здравей and Здравсти (which is the most informal), and you use it when you meet someone for the first time. Its form as a verb is in the second-person plural.

### Нали

Нали means something like "right?" when you use it to end a question that needs confirmation although not necessary. You can also use it to confirm some kind of information in question, as the English "~ is ~, isn't it?" or "~isn't ~, is it?"

### Най-после



Най-после has the meaning of "at last" or "finally," and you can use it to express that you have expected something with great anticipation and positive feelings. It is a superlative of the adverb после, which means "then" or "after."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying Someone/Something Is Something in Bulgarian.**

**Вие сте колега и приятел на Мартин, нали?**

**"You are Martin's colleague and friend, right?"**

---

When saying something/someone is something in Bulgarian, you use this structure:

[A] съм/си/е; сме/сте/са [B]

Or in English:

[A] am/are/is; are [B]

This applies to animate and inanimate objects and to nouns and adjectives. For example, you can say "I am a student," which in Bulgarian is *Аз съм ученик* in the masculine form of the noun for "student" or *Аз съм ученичка* in the feminine form.

Here, you can also find the auxiliary verb "to be." Since it is an irregular verb, you should memorize the forms for it, which are as follows:

---

Person	Verb
First-person singular	съм
Second-person singular	си
Third-person singular	е
First-person plural	сме
Second-person plural	сте
Third-person plural	са

---

Note that in many cases, we omit the pronoun and just the auxiliary verb expresses who is the performing the action. For example, if you want to say "I am hungry," you will just use the adjective for "hungry," which in Bulgarian is гладен (for the masculine) and add the first-person singular form of the auxiliary verb, which is съм. Altogether, you have Гладен съм. Of course, you can say the full expression, especially when you are a beginner and you remember the forms of the verb together with the pronoun. In this case, the sentence will look like this: Аз съм гладен. As you can see, the word order changes when you use the pronoun. First comes the pronoun, then the auxiliary verb, and then the adjective or the noun, according to the sentence you want to compose. We will give you examples so that you can remember this particular sequence.

## The Usage of the Pronoun and the Auxiliary Verb in Second-Person Plural

---

As was mentioned before, when you compose a sentence in the second-person plural, you might address two persons, or you might want to use polite or formal speech in Bulgarian. For example, if you want to say "You are~" to someone in a formal situation, you will have to form it like this: Вие сте~. Remember that Bulgarians write the pronoun in this case with a capital letter.

### For Example:

1. Тя е красива.  
*Tya e krasiva.*  
"She is beautiful."
2. Учител ли сте?  
*Uchitel li ste?*  
"Are you a teacher?"

## Examples from This Lesson

---

**Питър, това е съпругата ми Ирина. Здравейте, аз съм Питър. Вие сте колега и приятел на Мартин, нали?**

## Examples from This Dialogue

---

1. Здравейте, аз съм Питър.  
*Zdraveite, az sym Pityr.*

2. "Hello, I am Peter."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Ние сме българските еколози.  
*Nie sme bylgarskite ekoloji.*  
"We are the Bulgarian environmentalists."

2. Уморен съм.  
*Umoren sym.*  
"(I) am tired."

## Language Tip

---

The pronunciation of the auxiliary verb can be difficult sometimes, especially its first-person singular form. Although we write it with the Bulgarian vowel -ъ, which in the Romanization we express as -y, make sure to pronounce it like [sɤm] or even [sam].

# CULTURAL INSIGHT

## How to Get Taken Care of in Bulgaria

---

Bulgarians will often take care of you and ensure your satisfaction during your trip or stay in Bulgaria. They will ask you whether you are hot, cold, hungry, or sleepy. All the time they will use the auxiliary verb plus adjectives and adverbs. Although these change in gender, and you might have difficulty remembering their forms from the beginning, do not worry. The best way to learn is to show your condition or emotion so just show you are shivering when you are cold or make a tired face when you are sleepy. But do not stop challenging yourself and also ask about those adjectives and adverbs again by demonstrating them with your bodily movements. As we have said many times already, Bulgarians are famous for their hospitality,

and they won't leave you lacking some of the commodities they can offer.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #8

## Receiving a Bulgarian Souvenir

---

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# 8

## BULGARIAN

1. Ирина: Питър, това е сувенир от България, заповядай.
2. Питър: Много благодаря.
3. Ирина: Не е нищо особено.

## ROMANIZATION

1. Irina: Pityr, tova e souvenir ot Bylgariya, zapovyadai.
2. Pityr: Mnogo blagodarya.
3. Irina: Ne e nishto osobeno.

## ENGLISH

1. Irina: Peter, this is a souvenir from Bulgaria for you.
2. Peter: Thank you very much!
3. Irina: Don't mention it.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
България	Bylgariya	Bulgaria
заповядай	zapovyadai	Please take it!

Много благодаря	mного blagodarya	Thank you very much
сувенир	suvenir	souvenir
това	tova	this (formal)
нищо особено	Nishto osobeno	Nothing special
не	ne	Not; no
От	ot	from

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Роден съм в България.</b> Roden sym v Bylgariya.</p> <p>I was born in Bulgaria.</p>	<p><b>Опекот сладки, заповядай.</b> Opekoh sladki, zapovyadaï.</p> <p>I've baked some cookies, please have some.</p>
<p><b>Много благодаря за вниманието.</b> Mного blagodarya za vnimanieto.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your attention.</p>	<p><b>Много благодаря за помощта ви.</b> Mного blagodarya za pomoshhta vi.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your help.</p>
<p><b>Нося ти сувенири.</b> Nosya ti suvenirï.</p> <p>I have brought you souvenirs.</p>	<p><b>Това е домът ми.</b> Tova e domyt mi.</p> <p>This is my house.</p>
<p><b>Не е нищо особено, забрави!</b> Ne e nishto osobeno, zabravi!</p> <p>It is nothing special, forget it!</p>	<p><b>Не ми се излиза.</b> Ne mi se izliza.</p> <p>I don't feel like going out.</p>
<p><b>От къде си?</b> Ot kyde si?</p> <p>Where are you from?</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

## България

България is the name of the country originating the Bulgarian language. The word is feminine, as most of the other countries' names are. The word comes from the name of the ancient tribe of "Bulgars" who used to live on its land.

## Сувенир

Сувенир is a word of foreign origin in Bulgarian. Still, as with other words like мерси, Bulgarians pronounce it with a hard Slavic [-r] and basically without prolonging any of the vowels.

## Нищо особено

Нищо особено means something along the lines of "It is nothing special" but we use it also to mean "Don't mention it," especially when giving a gift. Other versions are Нищо съвсем дребно е and Не е нищо специално.

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Giving Names and Pointing at Something.

Това е...

"This is..."

---

When you want to introduce something or someone, to point at something, or to explain what something is in Bulgarian, you use the set phrase Това е... It is a very useful phrase since you can say it in cases when addressing people or pointing at inanimate objects. When we pronounce this phrase with changed intonation, as in the case when asking a question (the raising of the voice at the end), you can use it as a simple way to confirm your understanding of new words or new objects in Bulgarian. For a more advanced version of this question, you can add the interrogative particle ли (*li*), which is very typical of the Bulgarian language, and in this case, it will form a completely grammatically correct sentence. It will look like this Това ~ ли е? where at the blank space you can put anything like, for example, a bus number or a name of a person.

As in our previous lesson, the forms of the verb in this phrase change according to the



meaning of the object in the sentence. You just need to remember them, and this phrase will work perfectly for confirming information about people and objects in Bulgarian.

## The Particle ли in Това е...

---

Try to remember this particle well because it will show up very often in question sentences in Bulgarian, and it will also have a variable position in the sentence. So basically, you need to recognize it and remember that its meaning is something like the English "whether." Sometimes we change it to дали in Bulgarian, but its meaning is the same.

### For Example:

1. Това е шопска салата.  
*Tova e shopska salata.*  
"This is Shopska salad."
2. Това новата ти кола ли е?  
*Tova novata ti kola li e?*  
"Is this your new car?"

## Examples from This Dialogue

---

1. Питър, това е сувенир от България, заповядай.  
*Pityr, tova e souvenir ot Bylgariya, zapovyadai.*  
"Peter, this is a souvenir from Bulgaria for you."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Това е куче?  
*Tova e kuche?*  
"Is this a dog?"
2. Това е за теб.  
*Tova e za teb.*  
"This is for you."

Remember to pronounce the questions with Това е... with rising intonation in the end when the particle ли is not included. When it is present in the sentence, the stress goes on the object about which we are asking the question. For example, Това котка ли е? where we stress the word котка, meaning "cat."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Should You Bring a Present in Bulgaria?

---

Bulgarians like to give and receive presents, and since there are many holidays in Bulgaria, including birthdays, name days (or saint days), Christianity-related holidays, etc. People very often bring presents when they visit someone's home. For example, even in a simple visit for dinner, it might be considered as a kind gesture if you bring chocolates or flowers for the housewife or anything else that can be a token of special attention from your country. Although many Bulgarians know and use the word "souvenir" in its Bulgarian pronunciation, most of the people will just use its more natural Bulgarian equivalent, подарък, or "gift." Also remember that if you search for souvenirs in the city, you will find such shops mainly in the tourist spots, and their prices might vary, so please explore many places before deciding on what precisely you want to bring as a Bulgarian souvenir.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #9

## Is This a Bulgarian Rose?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 9

## BULGARIAN

1. Питър: Това... сладко ли е?
2. Мартин: Да, точно така. Това е буркан с българско сладко.
3. Ирина: Да, това е сладко "от рози".
4. Питър: Сладко от ро-зи?

## ROMANIZATION

1. Pityr: Tova... sladko li e?
2. Martin: Da, tochno taka. Tova e burkan s bylgarsko sladko.
3. Irina: Da, tova e sladko ot rozi.
4. Pityr: Sladko ot ro-zi?

## ENGLISH

1. Peter: Is this a jam?
2. Martin: Yes, that's right. This is jar of Bulgarian jam.
3. Irina: Yes, this is "rose" jam.
4. Peter: Ro-se jam?

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
точно така	tochno taka	exactly
българско	bylgarsko	Bulgarian
сладко	sladko	jam
да	da	yes
това	tova	this (formal)
буркан	burkan	jar
роза	roza	rose
с	s	with

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Точно така, в другиден е.</b> Tochno taka, vdrugiden e.</p> <p>Exactly, it is on the day after tomorrow.</p>	<p><b>Обичам българско вино.</b> Obicham bylgarsko vino.</p> <p>I love Bulgarian wine.</p>
<p><b>Закусвам хляб и сладко.</b> Zakusvam hlyab i sladko.</p> <p>I have bread and jam for breakfast.</p>	<p><b>Да, вкъщи съм си.</b> Da, vkyshhti sym si.</p> <p>Yes, I'm home.</p>
<p><b>Да, защо?</b> Da, zashto?</p> <p>Yes, why?</p>	<p><b>Да, говоря малко.</b> Da, govorya malko.</p> <p>Yes, I speak a little.</p>
<p><b>Това е домът ми.</b> Tova e domyt mi.</p> <p>This is my house.</p>	<p><b>Това е буркан с кисели краставички.</b> Tova e burkan s kiseli krastavichki.</p> <p>This is a jar of pickles.</p>

---

**Подариха ми бяла роза.**

Podariha mi byala roza.

I was given a white rose.

**С кого ще дойдеш?**

S kogo shte doidesh?

With whom are you coming?

---

**С какво се занимаваш?**

What do you do?

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Това

Това is a pronoun in its neutral form. We use it to point at something. Its feminine and masculine forms are a bit different: тази and този.

### Точно така

Точно така means "exactly," "correct," and "right" in English, and we use it according to these meanings. Sometimes we shorten it to точно only.

### Българско

Българско is an adjective that indicates origin from Bulgarian. It is different from the word Български, which means Bulgarian language. Българско is neuter, and it has feminine and masculine forms: българска and български.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking Whether A Is B.**

**[A] [B] ли е?**

**"Is [A] [B]?"**

---

We use a phrase structure like [A] [B] ли е? when we want to confirm something that we

already have an impression of but we are not sure, so we ask this type of question. For example, you can use it when asking about new items in Bulgarian like this Това сирене ли е? ("Is this cheese?") The construction in Bulgarian is composed by a pronoun; a noun; then the interrogative particle ли, which you already know means something like "whether"; plus finally the auxiliary verb. It is a question you can use to ask about so many things. We can use a similar structure of the type ending in ли е? to ask about weather and people's subjective feelings, and the like, and you can add pronouns to make the meaning more precise.

## The Auxiliary Verb E

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It is important to remember that the auxiliary verb changes according to the noun in the question sentence, so if you have learned already its conjugation, it will be helpful to use this phrase for asking about not only objects but also people.

### For Example:

1. Това люти чушки ли са?  
*Tova lyuti chushki li sa?*  
"Are these chili peppers?"
2. Този мъж познат ли ти е?  
*Tozi myj poznat li ti e?*  
"Is this someone you know?"

## Examples from This Dialogue

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1. Питър: Това...сладко ли е?  
*Pityr: Tova...sladko li e?*  
Peter: "Is this a...jam?"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Тази вода моята ли е?  
*Tazi voda moyata li e?*  
"Is this water mine?"

2. Това Черно море ли е?  
*Tova Cherno more li e?*  
"Is this the Black Sea?"

### Pronunciation Tip

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Make sure to raise your intonation at the end of the sentence because this is a question for confirmation of some observation and you want to emphasize that you're seeking an answer. The last two words, ли е, are sometimes pronounced a way louder than the rest of the sentence.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Bulgarian Rose Oil

---

Bulgaria is famous for its rose plantations in the world-famous Bulgarian Rose Valley. Located between the Balkan range and Sredna Gora Mountains, the Bulgarian Rose Valley is the home of the exquisite Bulgarian rose oil. From it, many perfumes are created worldwide. The Bulgarian Rosa Damascena, cultivated for over 300 years, is considered to be the best oil-bearing rose renowned worldwide. Besides rose oil, perfume, and related cosmetic products, Bulgarians use the rose flowers to create food specialties including jam and juice (syrup). These can be prepared not only from the Rose Valley roses but also grown at home and used for your own production. Still, visiting the Rose Valley to see the whole production process of rose oil and the Festival of the Rose is one wonderful experience and a must for people who love beautiful flowers, exquisite aromas, and exciting festivities in the rural areas.



## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #10

## What Sound do Bulgarian Dogs Make?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 10

# BULGARIAN

1. Ирина: Питър, това твоята къща ли е?
2. Питър: Да, заповядайте.
3. Мартин и Ирина: Благодаря.
4. Куче: Баф, баф!
5. Ирина: А, а това кучето ти ли е, Питър?
6. Питър: Да, това е Шаро.
7. Куче: Бау, баф, баф!

# ROMANIZATION

1. Irina: Pityr, tova tvoyata kyshta li e?
2. Pityr: Da, zapovyadaite.
3. Martin i Irina: Blagodarya.
4. Kuche: Baf, baf!
5. Irina: A, a tova kucheto ti li e, Pityr?
6. Pityr: da, tova e Sharo.
7. Kuche: Bau, baf, baf!

# ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Irina: Is this your house, Peter?
2. Peter: Yes, come on in.
3. Martin and Irina: Thank you.
4. Dog: Woof! Woof!
5. Irina: Oh, and this is your dog, Peter?
6. Peter: Yes, this is Sharo.
7. Dog: Woof! Woof!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
куче	kuche	dog
бау, баф	bau, baf	bark (the sound a dog makes)
ТВОЯТ	tvoya	yours
заповядайте	zapovyadaite	Welcome; here you are; help yourself
къща	kyshta	house
а	a	and
ти	ti	Yours; you
това	tova	this (formal)

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>"Dog" на български означава куче.</b> "Dog" in Bulgarian is kuche.</p>	<p><b>Кръстих си кучето „Баф“.</b> Krystih si kucheto "Baf". I named my dog "Bark".</p>
<p><b>Кръстих си кучето „Баф“.</b> Krystih si kucheto "Baf". I named my dog "Bark".</p>	<p><b>Твоят часовник не е верен.</b> Tvoyat chasovnik ne e veren. Your clock is not correct.</p>
<p><b>Заповядайте в новата ми вила.</b> Zapovyadaite v novata mi vila. Welcome to my new villa.</p>	<p><b>Къщата се намира на хълм.</b> Kyshtata se namira na hylm. The house is located on a hill.</p>
<p><b>Майка ми е учителка, а баща ми – инженер.</b> Maika mi e uchitelka, a bashta mi – injener. My mother is a teacher and my father is an engineer.</p>	<p><b>Колата ти нова ли е?</b> Kolata ti nova li e? Is your car new?</p>
<p><b>Това е домът ми.</b> Tova e domyt mi. This is my house.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Заповядайте

Заповядайте is a very useful phrase because that means "welcome," "here you are," and "help yourself." According to the context, you can understand which of them is correct. The informal version is Заповядай.

### Бау/Баф

**Бау/Баф** is how the Bulgarians represent the sound that the dogs make. You can use both, but Бау is somehow used more often. The Bulgarian cats say Мяу, which sounds almost like

the English "meow."

## A

**A** is a conjunction used very often in Bulgarian. Although in English it translates as "and," in Bulgarian it can have the meaning of "but" sometimes. There is always a comma before an **a** like this: Студено е, а ми се излиза. ("It is cold but I want to go out".)

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Possession: Saying That Something Belongs to Someone.**

**Това твоят/твоята/твоето//твоите ~ ли е//са?**

**"Is that your ~?"**

---

When we want to ask about possession of something in Bulgarian, we use the already known pronoun **това**, meaning "this," plus the adjective for possession in the correct form (masculine, feminine, neuter, or plural), then we put the word for the object we are asking about, then the already known particle for questions **ли**, and at the end we put the auxiliary verb again in the corresponding form (singular or plural). Although a seemingly heavy construction, we use it very often used, and it is easy to remember the different cases when the forms change according to the gender.

### **A Simpler Way to Ask About Things**

---

When it is not necessary to directly mention the object in the question (for example when holding it), we can just say **Това твое ли е?** In this case, the word **твое** is in neuter so we can apply it to any object. In English, it means "Is this yours?"

### **For Example:**

1. **Това твоята стая ли е?**  
*Tova tvoyata staya li e?*  
"Is this your room?"

2. Това на масата твое ли е?  
*Tova na masata tvoe li e?*  
"Is this thing on the table yours?"

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. Питър, това твоята къща ли е?  
*Pityr, tova tvoyata kyshta li e?*  
"Is this your house, Peter?"
2. А, а това кучето ти ли е, Питър?  
*A, a tova kucheto ti li e, Pityr?*  
"Oh, and this is your dog, Peter?"

### Sample Sentences

---

1. Това твоят мобилен номер ли е?  
*Tova tvoyat mobile nomer li e?*  
"Is this your mobile number?"
2. Това твоят син ли е?  
*Tova tvoyat sin li e?*  
"Is this your son?"

### Language Tip

---

We pronounce this phrase with stress on the adjective so that we can point out we are asking about the possession. As any question in Bulgarian, we pronounce the particle and the auxiliary verb at the end first by raising the voice and then by lowering it: up with **ли** and down with **е** in the above example.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Learning About Your Bulgarian Hosts' Possessions and Animals

---

Bulgarians are very open when they ask and answer about possession. They may ask you about your mobile phone, your house, or your car and their prices. In the same way, they are open to discussing their own possessions. Feel free to ask about things and use this phrase so that you can learn a lot about your hosts. As for asking about a mobile number or an e-mail address, there are no straight rules when you can do that, but Bulgarians are quite open-minded and will not mind giving someone their personal information if they consider that person a friend. And they do that very fast because they are a friendly nation.

Also, Bulgarians quite often have pets in their homes. If you are not pet friendly, make sure to say it before visiting so that your hosts can take care prepare a separate space where to keep their pet during your visit. If you are pet friendly in the typical Bulgarian house, you can experience meeting many kinds of pets, mainly dogs and cats, and others including hamsters, fishes, chameleons, etc. Do not be amazed that many households in the countryside have farm animals like chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, and others.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #11

## What is this Delicious Bulgarian Dish?

---

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- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 6 Cultural Insight

# 11



# BULGARIAN

1. (timer goes off)
2. Питър: Ето, заповядайте!
3. Ирина: О-о! Страхотно!
4. Ирина, Мартин и Питър: Да започваме!
5. Мартин: (munch munch) Ммм. Вкусно! Питър, какво е това?

# ROMANIZATION

1. (timer goes off)
2. Pityr: Eto, zapovyadaite!
3. Irina: O-o! Strahotno!
4. Irina, Martin I Pityr: Da zapochvame!
5. Martin: (munch munch) Mmm. Vkusno! Pityr, kakvo e tova?

# ENGLISH

1. (timer goes off)
2. Peter: Here, help yourself!

CONT'D OVER

3. Irina: Oh, great!
4. Irina, Martin, and Peter: Let's eat!
5. Martin: (munch munch) Mmm. Delicious! Peter, what is this?

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
да започваме	Da zapochvame	Let's start, Let's eat
започвам	zapochvam	to start, to begin
какво	kakvo	what
страхотно	strahotno	great
ето	eto	here
това	tova	this (formal)
заповядай	zapovyadai	Here you are; Help yourself
вкусно	vkusno	tasty, delicious

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Да започваме преди да е изстинало.</b> Da zapochvame predi da e izstinalo.</p> <p>Let's start eating while it's hot.</p>	<p><b>Започвам свой собствен бизнес.</b> Zapochvam svoi sobstven biznes.</p> <p>I am starting my own business.</p>
<p><b>Какво правиш?</b> Kakvo pravish?</p> <p>What are you doing?</p>	<p><b>Какво има за вечеря?</b></p> <p>What are we having for dinner?</p>

<p><b>Улучихме страхотно време.</b> Uluchihme strahotno vreme.</p> <p>We were lucky to have great weather.</p>	<p><b>Ето документите.</b> Eto dokumentite.</p> <p>Here are the documents.</p>
<p><b>Това е домът ми.</b> Tova e domyt mi.</p> <p>This is my house.</p>	<p><b>Заповядай, вземи си.</b> Zapovyadai, vzemi si.</p> <p>Here you are, take some.</p>

**Това е толкова вкусно!**

Tova e tolkova vkusno!

This is so tasty!

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**Страхотно** is a Bulgarian expression that is very close to the English "Terrific!" because it is composed of the word страх, which means "fear." But we use it in the same way: to express exclamation about something "great."

### Вкусно

Вкусно is the most common way that the Bulgarians say a food is "delicious." There are not as many synonyms as the English "tasty," "yummy," and "delicious." Bulgarians sometimes say апетитно, but they use it more often as an adjective attached to the noun (which is, of course, some kind of food).

**Да започваме** is a phrase that many Bulgarians use to mark the beginning of having a meal together. It is not a necessary expression that the meal cannot start without, but I people usually use it to encourage starting to eat while the dish is hot.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking What Something Is

**Какво е [A]?**

"What is [A]?"

---

When we want to ask about an unknown or new object in our surroundings, we ask the question **Какво е това?** in Bulgarian. You must already know the word **това**, which means "this." You can use this phrase to ask about anything you do not know but you can see and point at. When you are faced with a new object or experience in Bulgarian and you know its name (or what it is called in Bulgarian), you can use this structure: **Какво е [A]?** where [A] can be anything, from food to special terms in business to slang words. Just form this sentence using the interrogative pronoun in the neutral **какво**, then the auxiliary verb, and then the thing you are asking about.

Note that if the object is not near you and you do not know its name, you can simply use the demonstrative pronoun for faraway objects, **онова**, as in **Какво е онова?**

### The Interrogative Pronoun in the Phrase

---

Usually, the phrase that helps you ask about new things should apply to anything unknown, so we compose it in the most neutral way. That is why the interrogative pronoun in it is in its singular third person neutral form to indicate you are asking something like "What is [this (thing)]?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. **Какво е кухня?**  
*Kakvo e "kuhnya"?*  
"What is "kuhnya" (cuisine)?"
2. **Какво е онова зеленото нещо?**  
*Kakvo e onova zelenoto neshto?*  
"Is this green thing out there?"

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Ммм. Вкусно! Питър, какво е това?  
*Mmm. Vkusno! Pityr, kakvo e tova?*  
"Mmm. Delicious! Peter, what is this?"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Какво е туршия?  
*Kakva e "turshiya"?*  
"What is "turshiya" (pickles)?"
2. Какво е това в чинията?  
*Kakvo e tova v chiniyata?*  
"What is this on the plate?"

## Language Tip

---

Sometimes Bulgarians can use the expression Какво е това? in a very different sense- something like "What's this?" when you are amazed or surprised (in an unpleasant way) by something. In this case though, the intonation is very different from the simple asking of the questions, so you will definitely know the difference.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### What to Do at the Bulgarian Dinner Table

---

Bulgarian dishes are very colorful, healthy, tasty, and filling. Do not be ashamed to ask about ingredients or preparation because sometimes the dish may include some surprising foods you have never tried. If you are an adventurous spirit, trying new things in Bulgaria is safe and fun, so go for it! But if there are some certain unpleasant things you will never dare to try, it is not a problem! Just say Не, благодаря, meaning "no thanks," and you will be understood. Still, if you like the dish, try to eat all of it. Some more traditional families consider leaving your plate half-uneaten a sign of disrespect for the host and the person who prepared the food. On the other hand, eating and drinking too much will make your hosts pour and refill until you

confirm you are full, so make sure to show this. It is all about manners and moderation. But definitely asking what is on your plate will not be a problem, and you can learn some cooking secrets and delicious meal recipes if you use what you learned in this lesson. And yes, making sounds like "Mmm!" while eating is more than welcome in Bulgaria.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #12

## A Bulgarian Feast

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- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 12

## BULGARIAN

1. Мартин: Това какво е?
2. Питър: Това е кюфте.
3. Ирина: Кюфте..?
4. Питър: Да. Направено е от месо. Ядете ли месо?
5. Ирина: Да! (munch, munch) Ммм, вкусно!

## ROMANIZATION

1. Martin: Tova kakvo e?
2. Pityr: Tova e kyufte.
3. Irina: Kyufte..?
4. Pityr: Da, napraveno e ot meso. Yadete li meso?
5. Irina: Da! (munch, munch) Mmm, vkusno!

## ENGLISH

1. Martin: What's this?
2. Peter: That's "kyufte" (meatball).

CONT'D OVER



3. Irina: Kyufte...?
4. Peter: Yes. It's (made of) meat. Do you eat meat?
5. Irina: Yes! (munch munch) Mmm, it's tasty!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
правя	pravya	do, make
ям	yam	to eat
направено	napraveno	made
от	ot	from, of
е	e	is
Ммм!	Mmm!	Mmm!
месо	meso	meat
кюфте	kyufte	meatball

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Правя палачинки.</b> Pravya palachinki.</p> <p>I am making pancakes.</p>	<p><b>Не ям след 8 часа вечерта.</b> Ne yam sled osem chasa vecherta.</p> <p>I don't eat after 8 in the evening.</p>
<p><b>От какво е направено ястието?</b> Ot kakvo e napraveno yastieto?</p> <p>What is this dish made of?</p>	<p><b>Люлката е направена от дърво.</b> Lyulkata e napravena ot dyrvo.</p> <p>The cradle is made of wood.</p>

<p><b>Брат ми е по-голям от мен.</b> Brat mi e po-golyam ot men.</p> <p>My brother is older than me.</p>	<p><b>Ммм! Мирише на нещо вкусно!</b> Mmm! Mirishe na neshto vkusno!</p> <p>Mmm! It smells like something tasty!</p>
<p><b>Не обичам месо.</b> Ne obicham meso.</p> <p>I don't like meat.</p>	<p><b>Не ям свинско месо.</b></p> <p>I don't eat pork.</p>

**Искаш ли още едно кюфте?**

Iskash li oshte edno kyufte?

Do you want one more meatball?

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**Направено от** is a Bulgarian expression used to explain what something is made of. Generally, the form of the participle is in the neutral, but if the target word is in feminine or masculine it changes to направена and направен.

**Ядете ли (...)?** is the most common way to ask for a food preference. You just add the type of food or ingredient in this set phrase. Note that this is the formal version. The informal one is **Ядеш ли (...)?**

**Кюфте** and **кебарче** are popular meat products in Bulgaria made of minced pork and veal meat with spices. Both words are from Turkish origin as well like many other Bulgarian words for food.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking Whether Something or Someone Is Okay or Able to Do Something.**

**~те ли?**

**"~ (do) you do something?"**

We use this construction in Bulgarian to ask whether something is okay or whether someone is okay with something or able to do something. Note that in this particular form this is a formal expression because of the plural form of the verb.

The actual structure is a verb in second-person plural form; plus, *ли*, the particle we use to form questions; and the subject we are asking about.

### For Example:

1. Обичате ли българска храна?"  
"Do you like Bulgarian food?"

In the example, the verb *обичам* is in the second-person plural, and the subject we are asking about is *българска храна*, meaning "Bulgarian food."

### The Informal Case of the Phrase

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We compose the more casual version of this phrase like this: *~ш ли ...?*

### For Example:

1. Ядеш ли ягоди със сметана?  
"Do you eat strawberries with cream?"

The verb form ending on *-ш* ("-sh") in Bulgarian is typical of the verbs in the second-person singular.

### For Example:

1. Караш ли колело?  
*Karash li kolelo?*  
"Do you ride a bike?"
2. Имате ли обедна почивка?  
*Imate li obedna pochivka?*  
"Do you have a lunch break?"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Да. Направено е от месо. Ядете ли месо?  
*Da. Napraveno e ot meso. Yadete li meso?*  
"Yes. It is made of meat. Do you eat meat?"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Играеш ли на шах?  
*Igraesh li na shah?*  
"Do you play chess?"
2. Имате ли дребни?  
*Imate li drebni?*  
"Do you have change?"

## Language Tip

---

In this dialogue, Peter asks both Martin and Irina whether they eat meat. That is why the form is in the second-person plural. Otherwise, as we have pointed out, they know each other already, so there is no need to use a form that sounds formal.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Breaking the Fast in Bulgaria

---

Bulgarians do eat meat a lot, but they also have traditional periods of fasting connected with the Orthodox Christian tradition. They are mainly a few weeks before Easter and Christmas. Nowadays, mainly women, elderly people, and people in the countryside keep that tradition preserved and prepare non-meat and non-animal ingredient dishes. Although this might sound difficult, the Bulgarian "fasting" dishes are amazingly plentiful, delicious, and filling. If you would like to follow the tradition, it will be very healthy because once the fast is over, many dishes rich in meat are prepared: for example, roasted lamb or pork, homemade

sausages, and salami, etc.

On the Bulgarian menu, you can find many kinds of meat, but the main one is pork, followed by beef. Bulgarians eat lamb on Easter, again in connection with the tradition of Christianity, which sees Christ as the "Lamb of God."

If you are ready to try any of the non-fasting foods, a must is the world-famous Bulgarian yogurt. It is a unique tradition of preserved *Lactobacillus Bulgaricus*, which gives the yogurt a great taste and special nutrition. As with many other things, often the best yogurt is the homemade one.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #13

## Finding a Bulgarian Bathroom

---

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- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 13

## BULGARIAN

1. Мартин и Ирина: Беше много вкусно!
2. Мартин: (stomach rumbling) Аа... Извинявам се, къде е тоалетната?
3. Питър: Тоалетната е там.
4. Мартин: Там? благодаря. (runs off)

## ROMANIZATION

1. Martin i Irina: Beshe mnogo vkusno!
2. Martin: (stomach rumbling) Aa... Izvinyavam se, kyde e toaletnata?
3. Pityr: Toaletnata e tam.
4. Martin: Tam? Blagodarya. (runs off)

## ENGLISH

1. Martin and Irina: It was very delicious!
2. Martin: (stomach rumbling) Umm, excuse me. Where's the bathroom?
3. Peter: The bathroom is over there.
4. Martin: Over there? Thanks. (runs off)

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
извинявам се	izvinyavam se	Excuse me
бях	byah	was
благодаря	blagodarya	Thanks
тоалетна	toaletna	toilet; restroom
къде	kyde	where
там	tam	there
вкусно	vkusno	tasty, delicious
много	mного	very much

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Извинявам се, колко Ви е часът?</b> Izvinyavam se, kolko Vi e chasyt?</p> <p>Excuse me, what is the time?</p>	<p><b>Аз бях пилот.</b> Az byah pilot.</p> <p>I was a pilot.</p>
<p><b>Благодаря и до скоро.</b> Thanks and goodbye.</p>	<p><b>Тоалетната е на първия етаж.</b> Toaletnata e na pyrviya etaj.</p> <p>The bathroom is on the first floor.</p>
<p><b>Къде е болницата?</b> Where is the hospital?</p>	<p><b>Ето там е.</b> Eto tam e.</p> <p>It is right there.</p>
<p><b>Това е толкова вкусно!</b> Tova e tolkova vkusno!</p> <p>This is so tasty!</p>	<p><b>Имам много приятели.</b> Imam mnogo priyateli.</p> <p>I have many friends.</p>



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**Харесва ми много.**

I like it very much.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Тоалетна

Тоалетна is the typical Bulgarian word that we use for the English "restroom." Although in English and other languages there are more indirect ways to denote "restroom," in Bulgarian this is the only one. Note that we pronounce it in a different way from the English word "toilet."

### Къде

Къде is "where" in Bulgarian. Note that the Bulgarian question words start with the letter -к as the English ones, which usually start with "wh-." So кога, кой, какво, and колко mean "when," "who," "what," and "how much."

### Там

Там is a demonstrative adverb meaning "there" or "over there." The one meaning "here" is тук. Again, some of the most common adverbs start with the same letter -т. For example, толкова, тогава; meaning "this much" and "then."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking about Something (with "Where," "When," etc.).**

**[question word] е ~?**

**"[question word] is ~?"**

---

To ask questions in Bulgarian, you must use the question words like "where," "when," "how," etc. plus the auxiliary verb in its correct form. It is a very simple construction once you remember the question words in Bulgarian. Let us see some examples. If you want to ask "What is the time?" in Bulgarian, this will be Колко е часът? where колко literally means

"how much." As we have noted, most of the Bulgarian question words start with the letter -к. So "who," "where," "when," "how," "what," and "how much" are respectively кой, къде, кога, как, какво, and колко, and only "why" is защо.

When we ask such questions in Bulgarian, we usually put the question word first, then the auxiliary verb follows in its appropriate form and then the noun we are asking about. For example, Къде е изходът? means "Where is the exit?" Remember to practice the question words in Bulgarian because basically the structure does not change, and once you know them, you can ask any kind of question in Bulgarian.

## Asking Questions in Formal Situations

---

When you are a foreigner in Bulgaria and you need information, it is OK to ask as many questions as you can. Still, sometimes it is better to use some words that make the asking a polite one. You can use words that we have already discussed in the ABS series. For example, Извинете, кога ще пристигне влака? means "Excuse me, when will the train arrive?" So you use "excuse me" or "please," or моля, to make your question sound more polite.

### For Example:

1. Извинявай, колко ти е часа?  
*Izvinyavai, kolko ti e chasa?*  
"Excuse me, what's the time?" (informal; second person singular)
2. Колко струва пицата, моля?  
*Kolko struva picata, molya?*  
"How much is the pizza, please?"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Аа... Извинявам се, къде е тоалетната?  
*Aa... Izvinyavam se, kyde e toaletnata?*  
"Umm, excuse me. Where's the bathroom?"

## Sample

## Sentences

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1. Кога е партито?  
*Koga e partito?*  
"When is the party?"
2. Кой е този мъж?  
*Koi e tozi myj?*  
"Who is that man?"

## Language Tip

---

When asking questions, Bulgarian people use peaking intonation, which rises and then falls. So when pronouncing the question word and the auxiliary verb, we raise our voice and then it falls down when we pronounce the noun we are asking about. In this way, you can put clear emphasis on the question.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How to Figure Out Which Room Is the Restroom

---

In this lesson, we have learned how to ask about the restroom in Bulgarian. Asking about it is something very crucial because sometimes the way to depict the restroom varies in restaurants and other facilities. There are the usual red and blue colors for women and men, silhouettes of women and men, the sign "WC," and even sometimes the sign "00." There are special restrooms for the handicapped or physically challenged and for mothers with babies. In the typical Bulgarian house, the restroom and the bathroom are placed in one room.

Another important cultural tip you can take from this lesson is how to ask about and gather important information. Asking direct questions like the ones starting with "wh-" question words in English is very common in Bulgarian and is not considered rude or too straightforward. You can ask about the things you do not understand well, and you will be politely answered. Do not forget to use the "golden" words like "thank you" or "please," *благодаря* and *моля*, and you can gather all the information you need in Bulgarian.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #14 It's No Problem in Bulgaria

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- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
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- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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# 14

## BULGARIAN

1. (washing dishes)
2. Питър: Ирина, наистина много благодаря.
3. Ирина: Няма защо. А! (sound of glass breaking) Съжалявам!
4. Питър: Добре ли си?
5. Ирина: Аз съм добре. Но... чашата....
6. Питър: Няма проблем.
7. Ирина: Наистина съжалявам.

## ROMANIZATION

1. (washing dishes)
2. Pityr: Irina, naistina mnogo blagodarya.
3. Irina: Nyama zashto. A! (sound of glass breaking) Syjalyavam!
4. Pityr: Dobre li si?
5. Irina: Az sym dobre. No... chashata....
6. Pityr: Nyama problem.
7. Irina: Naistina syjalyavam.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (washing dishes)
2. Peter: Irina, thank you very much!
3. Irina: It's nothing. Oh! (sound of glass breaking) I'm sorry!
4. Peter: Are you okay?
5. Irina: I'm fine! But...the glass...
6. Peter: It's okay.
7. Irina: I'm really sorry.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
наистина	naistina	really; indeed
няма	nyama	(there is) no
проблем	problem	problem
чаша	chasha	glass; cup
но	no	but
Добре ли си	Dobre li si	Are you OK?
Няма защо	Nyama zashto	It's nothing; There is no reason
аз	az	I

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Наистина ли ти харесва?</b> Naistina li ti haresva?</p> <p>Do you really like it?</p>	<p><b>Наистина ли е толкова студено?</b> Naistina li e tolkova studeno?</p> <p>Is it really that cold?</p>
<p><b>Няма свободни места.</b> Nyama svobodni mesta.</p> <p>There are no vacancies.</p>	<p><b>Има ли някакъв проблем?</b> Ima li nyakakyv problem?</p> <p>Is there a problem?</p>
<p><b>Чаша с горещо кафе, моля.</b> Chasha s goreshto kafe, molya.</p> <p>A cup of hot coffee, please.</p>	<p><b>Това е красив, но скъп автомобил.</b> Tova e krasiv, no skyp avtomobil.</p> <p>This is a beautiful but expensive automobile.</p>
<p><b>Имаше земетресение, добре ли си?</b> Imashe zemetresenie, dobre li si?</p> <p>There was an earthquake, are you OK?</p>	<p><b>Няма защо да се притесняваш.</b> Nyama zashto da se pritesnyavash.</p> <p>There is no reason to worry.</p>
<p><b>Аз съм зъболекар.</b> Az sym zybolekar.</p> <p>I am a dentist.</p>	<p><b>Аз му казах, че го обичам.</b> I told him that I love him.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Няма проблем

Няма проблем is the Bulgarian equivalent of the English "No problem." We use it in the same situations as in English and the other languages that have the same phrase. Note that the Bulgarian pronunciation of "problem" is different from the English.

### Няма защо

Няма защо means something like "There is no reason" or "It's nothing" and we use it in the same way: to answer an apology or to confirm that some event is not causing trouble.

Bulgarian people also use it often as a reply to "thank you."

## Наистина съжалявам

Наистина съжалявам is the most sincere way to express you are sorry in Bulgarian. It literally means "I am really sorry," and it is the best way to express regret. It is composed of the adverb **наистина** and the verb **съжалявам**, which you already know.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Apologizing and Confirming Whether There Is No Problem by Asking Whether Something Is OK, etc.).**

**[adverb] ~ ли си/сте?**

**"Are you ~ [adverb]?"**

---

To ask a question about condition such as "Are you OK?" or "Is there a problem?" in Bulgarian, you must use an adverb that indicates what are you asking about, then the particle used to form questions **ли**, and the corresponding form of the auxiliary verb. Note that in Bulgarian, unlike English, the verb form for the second-person singular and plural is not the same. Also in this construction, the Bulgarian version does not include the pronoun. For example, "Are you OK?" in Bulgarian sounds like "Are OK?" because from the verb form, we can guess whether the phrase is in the singular or the plural and which person it is referring to.

It is a very basic Bulgarian phrase, so learning the auxiliary verb forms plus many adjectives can help you build many kinds of sentences that ask about condition. Remember to add the particle for forming questions, **ли**, since it is an essential part of this phrase. Without it and without the proper intonation (rising of the voice when forming a question), the sentence will sound like a statement, as in "You are OK" instead of "Are you OK?"

In this construction, you can use adverbs, adjectives, or pronouns to ask similar questions.

### Asking the Same Questions in Formal Situations

---

It is a good advice to add "excuse me" when asking people you do not know whether they are feeling OK, so the sentence from this lesson will look like this: **Извинете, добре ли сте?**



meaning "Excuse me, are you OK?" Of course, the example is in the polite form, so the verb is in second-person plural.

### For Example:

1. Извинявай, уморен ли си?  
*Izvinyavai, umoren li si?*  
"Sorry, are you tired?" (informal; second-person singular)
2. Жадна ли си?  
*Jadna li si?*  
"Are you thirsty?" (feminine)

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Добре ли си?  
*Dobre li si?*  
"Are you OK?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. Проблем ли е?  
*Problem li e?*  
"Is it a problem?"
2. Добре ли сте?  
*Dobre li ste?*  
"Are you OK?" (polite form; second-person plural)

### Language Tip

---

Again, when asking such questions, Bulgarian people use peaking intonation, which rises and then falls. So we raise our voice when we say the adverb in Bulgarian and then it falls down when we pronounce the particle for forming of questions and the auxiliary verb form. In

this way, we emphasize the question (the adverb) or the condition of the person we are talking to.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **What to Do in Bulgaria If You're a Klutz**

---

In this lesson, we had a dialogue about breaking a glass. In Bulgaria, as well as in other countries, the broken glass brings luck. So if it happens that you break something in Bulgaria, do not worry; people won't get mad at you. Of course, it is a matter of good manners to say "Excuse me" or "I am sorry," but basically this accident won't be accompanied by any bad feelings. This applies to broken porcelain too. As a matter of fact, the neighbor country of Greece has the tradition of breaking plates as a form of a celebration, and a similar style of partying can be seen in some traditional Bulgarian restaurants too.

When eating at a table in a restaurant, breaking the glass might cost you some additional cash to the bill, though. Make sure to use the typical polite ways to say you are sorry in Bulgarian, and this will not be a problem either. On the contrary, if a waiter or waitress breaks a glass, he or she will probably bring you a new one and even a whole bottle of what you have ordered. It is a matter of good manners, as it is everywhere!

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #15

## Talking About the Weather in Bulgarian

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- 2 Romanization
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# 15

## BULGARIAN

1. Мартин: Добро утро! А-а, горещо е. Калифорнийското лято е горещо, нали?
2. Питър: В България лятото горещо ли е?
3. Мартин: Да.
4. Ирина: Лятото в България е горещо и сухо.
5. Питър: И сухо?

## ROMANIZATION

1. Martin: Dobro utro! A-a, goreshto e. Kaliforniiskoto lyato e goreshto, nail?
2. Pityr: V Bylgariya lyatoto goreshto li e?
3. Martin: Da.
4. Irina: Lyatotot v Bylgariya e goreshto i suho.
5. Pityr: I suho?

## ENGLISH

1. Martin: Good morning! Ah, it's so hot! Summer in California is really hot, isn't it?

CONT'D OVER

2. Peter: Is summer in Bulgaria hot too?
3. Martin: Yeah.
4. Irina: Summers in Bulgaria are hot and dry.
5. Peter: And dry?

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
лято	lyato	summer
горещо	goreshto	hot
сухо	suho	dry
утро	utro	morning
добро	dobro	good; nice; right
България	Bulgariya	Bulgaria
нали	nali	right
в	v	in

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Лятото е любимият ми сезон.</b> Lyatoto e lyubimiyat mi sezon.</p> <p>The summer is my favorite season.</p>	<p><b>Навън е много горещо.</b> Navyn e mnogo goreshto.</p> <p>It is very hot outside.</p>
---	--

<p><b>Тази година лятото е много сухо.</b> Tazi godina lyatoto e mnogo suho.</p> <p>This year the summer is very dry.</p>	<p><b>Утрото е свежо.</b> The morning is fresh.</p>
<p><b>Виното е много добро.</b> Vinoto e mnogo dobro.</p> <p>This wine is very good.</p>	<p><b>Роден съм в България.</b> Roden sym v Bylgariya.</p> <p>I was born in Bulgaria.</p>
<p><b>Морето е спокойно, нали?</b> Moreto e spokojno, nail?</p> <p>The sea is calm, isn't it?</p>	<p><b>Живея в Ню Йорк.</b> Jiveya v Nyu York.</p> <p>I live in New York.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Добро утро

Добро утро is the Bulgarian way to say "Good morning." Actually, it literally means "good morning." Although утро means "morning," it has a little bit of poetic meaning; the more common word for "morning" is сутрин.

### Нали

Нали is a very common word in Bulgarian, together with the particle for questions, ли. We use it to confirm what someone said, and its meaning is something like "right?" or "isn't it?" so we usually place it at the end of the sentence.

### Лято

Лято is one of the four seasons in Bulgaria. The other three are есен, зима, and пролет, respectively "autumn," "winter," and "spring." Although the climate might vary in different areas in Bulgaria, the four seasons remain.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Describing Something Using Adjectives.

~ e [adjective].

"~is [adjective]."

---

When we form simple sentences with adjectives in Bulgarian, we use the same structure of the sentence as in English. For example, if we want to say "The weather is nice," in Bulgarian it will have the same structure: Времето е хубаво.

So to form such simple kinds of sentences, we use a noun, then the auxiliary verb in its correct form, and then the corresponding adjective. Please note that in Bulgarian, the adjectives change according to the gender and their singular or plural form. The dictionary form of the adjectives usually is masculine, but the feminine and neutral forms often end in the vowel -а for the feminine and the vowel -о for the neutral. Also, the plural usually ends in the vowel -и. There might be some exceptions, but as a start, learning this basic rule can help you recognize the correct form of the adjective.

Of course, the plural form of the adjective requires the plural form of the auxiliary verb, but since we have discussed its forms, it will not be a problem to use the correct one in this type of sentences with adjectives.

Although the basic structure of this type of sentence is noun - auxiliary verb - adjective, sometimes, in a more poetic style of sentence, the adjective might come first and the noun can go at the end. For example, "Tender is the night" in Bulgarian will be Нежна е нощта, where all the forms of the words remain the same, but the noun and the adjective switch their places. These are not so common cases, so learning the basic format of the sentence is enough for composing correct and natural sentences in Bulgarian.

### Minding the Definite Article Especially in the Reverse Form of the Sentences (Adjective and Noun Switching Places)

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Remember that the definite article is always necessary, regardless of the noun's position at the beginning or at the end of the sentence. Even Bulgarians make this common mistake and forget to use the correct definite article in the masculine form when the noun is at the end of the sentence. So, for example, the incorrect form of the noun мъж in a sentence will be Тъжен е мъжа ("Sad is the man."). The correct one is Тъжен е мъжът, or if the sentence has the usual word order, Мъжът е тъжен.

## For Example:

1. Градът е мъглив.  
*Gradyt e mygliv.*  
"The city is foggy."
2. Децата са жадни.  
*Decata sa jadni.*  
"The kids are thirsty."

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Калифорнийското лято е горещо, нали?  
*Kaliforniiskoto lyato e goreshto, nali?*  
"Summer in California is really hot, isn't it?"
2. Лятото в България е горещо и сухо.  
*Lyatoto v Bylgariya e goreshto i suho.*  
"Summer in Bulgaria is hot and dry."

## Sample Sentences

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1. Водата е студена!  
*Vodata e studena!*  
"The water is cold!"
2. Храната е вкусна.  
*Hranata e vkusna.*  
"The food is delicious."

## Language Tip

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As in it is shown in this dialogue, we can expand a sentence including an adjective by adding more adjectives when we want to describe something in more detail. Remember to keep the



correct form (gender, singular/plural form) of the adjective in this case.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Can You Enjoy All Four Seasons in Bulgaria?

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In Bulgaria, there are four seasons, but they may vary according to the place and the recent climate changes and effects on the surrounding areas. The continental zone is predominant and is stronger during the winter as it produces abundant snowfalls; the Mediterranean influence, which is mostly in the southern part of Bulgaria, increases during the second half of the summer and produces hot and dry weather. The Balkan Mountains serve as a barrier, so the northern part of Bulgaria is relatively colder than the southern part. The Black Sea does not influence much of the country's weather; it only affects the immediate area along its coastline. Temperatures in the capital, Sofia, average  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $26.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in January and about  $28^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $82.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in August. The city's rainfall is near the country average, and the overall climate is pleasant. The highest mountain, Rila, (2,953 meters, or 3,281 feet above sea level) has an alpine climate. The Danube River also has an effect on the nearby area and usually brings cold winters. The southernmost parts have a climate similar to their neighboring countries of Greece and Turkey.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #16

## This is, umm, a Bulgarian Lesson about Interjections!

---

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- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **16**

## BULGARIAN

1. Питър: Това е семейният ми албум.
2. Ирина: Иха...(turns pages). Това кой е?
3. Питър: Това е по-малката ми сестра.
4. Ирина: Еее, много е симпатична. А това?
5. Питър: А, ами... това съм аз.
6. Ирина: Я, толкова си млад!

## ROMANIZATION

1. Pityr: Tova e semeiniyat mi album.
2. Irina: Iha...(turns pages). Tova koi e?
3. Pityr: Tova e po-malkata mi sestra.
4. Irina: Eee, mnogo e simpatichna. A tova?
5. Pityr: A, ami... tova sym az.
6. Irina: Ya, tolkova si mlad!

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Peter: This is my family's photo album.
2. Irina: Neat~ (turns pages) Who's this?
3. Peter: This is my younger sister.
4. Irina: Hmm, she's cute! Who's this?
5. Peter: Oh, uhh...that's me.
6. Irina: What? You're so young!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
по-малък	po-malyk	younger
симпатичен	simpatichen	cute, handsome
ами	ami	well
млад	mlad	young
кой	koi	who
сестра	sestra	sister
албум	album	album
семеен	semeen	family (adjective)

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Брат ми е по-малък от мен.</b> Brat mi e po-malyk ot men.</p> <p>My brother is younger than me.</p>	<p><b>Това е много симпатичен молив.</b> Tova e mnogo simpatischen moliv.</p> <p>This is a very cute pencil.</p>
<p><b>Ами добре, да вървим!</b> Ami dobre, da vryvim!</p> <p>Well, OK, let's go!</p>	<p><b>Когато бях млад спортувах много.</b> Kogato byah mlad sportuvah mnogo.</p> <p>When I was young I exercised a lot.</p>
<p><b>Кой е този човек?</b> Koi e tozi chovek?</p> <p>Who is that man?</p>	<p><b>Аз имам две сестри.</b> Az imam dve sestri.</p> <p>I have two sisters.</p>
<p><b>Това е албума ми от гимназията.</b> Tova e albuma mi ot gimnaziyata.</p> <p>This is my high-school album.</p>	<p><b>Отседнали сме в семеен хотел.</b> Otsednali sme v semeen hotel.</p> <p>We are staying in a family hotel.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Кой

Кой is a Bulgarian pronoun that we use as the English equivalent of "who." Note that in Bulgarian, the pronoun has masculine, feminine, and neutral forms, as well as different singular and plural forms. These are as follows: кой, коя, кое, and кои.

### Сестра, брат

Сестра means "sister" in Bulgarian. "Brother" in Bulgarian is брат. These are very easy to remember since they sound somewhat similar to the English words. In Bulgarian, сестра might also mean "nurse," so be careful to look for the context.

### Симпатичен

Симпатичен is one common way to say that something is "cute," "nice," or "neat," but it also

means "handsome" for male persons. Bulgarians rarely say "beautiful man," so it is better to use the adjective симпатичен to say it.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Responding to Someone in a Natural Way in Conversation.**

**иха; ами; я; о; а; ее; страхотно; наистина (ли); вярно; така ли  
"Wow," "Well," "What," "Oh," "Eh," "Great," "Really," "Sure," "Yeah"**

---

The Bulgarian interjections are as many as they are in English and any other languages. Learning how to use them and responding in a more natural way to a friend in conversation is crucial for your improvement in Bulgarian. Note that we usually do not use interjections in formal speech though. It is not a mistake if you say an "umm," but basically, Bulgarians will try to avoid them when speaking politely or in front of many people.

But if you have a friend to teach you or just show you the great variety of the Bulgarian interjections, you will be amazed at them and your Bulgarian will sound natural. One basic note about them is that we usually use interjections when we make a pause in our speech, before answering a question, or when expressing surprise, agreement, joy, discontent, doubt, and any other more emotional reactions you can imagine.

As a matter of fact, the Bulgarian word for interjection means the same as the English word "interjection": междуметие. That is why we can put it almost anywhere in the sentence, but we usually start a sentence with an interjection. For example, "Yeah, I agree on..." in Bulgarian will be the same: Мхм, съгласен съм за...

Sometimes one interjection in Bulgarian can mean several things, for example А, depending on the length, the intonation and the position in the sentence. Sometimes one English interjection might be expressed by several Bulgarian interjections. You can learn this with lots of practice and listening to informal speech of native Bulgarians. By using interjections only, it is possible to give a very precise and natural response to a question or a comment to something that provokes your interest and opinion.

### **The Typical Bulgarian Interjections**

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There are some typical Bulgarian interjections that we might translate in English with some level of accuracy. For example, Е... in the beginning of a sentence might sound like "Well..." or

"OK...," but it has a more negative meaning like impatience or annoyance. Some other interjections have a more impolite or slangy version and official ones like the one for "but," ама (plain) or но (polite) in Bulgarian.

### For Example:

1. Е, уморих се да чакам!  
*E, umorh se da chakam!*  
"Well, I am tired of waiting!"
2. А, какво е това?  
*A, kakvo e tova?*  
"Oh, what is this?"

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. Иха... (turns pages).  
*Iha... (turns pages).*  
"Neat... (turns pages)."
2. Еее, много е симпатична!  
*Eee, mnogo e simpaticzna!*  
"Hmm, she's cute!"
3. А, ами... това съм аз.  
*A, ami... tova sym az.*  
"Oh, uhh...that's me."
4. Я, толкова си млад!  
*Ya, tolkova si mlad!*  
"What! You're so young!"

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Хмм, не знам.*  
*Hmm, ne znam.*  
"Hmm, I don't know."
2. *Олеле, ще закъснея!*  
*Olele, shte zakysneya!*  
"Oh, I am going to be late!"

## Language Tip

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Remember that some of the interjections are quite slangy, and if you do not use them properly, they might sound childish or rude. But if you remember the basic ones and use them properly in Bulgarian, your speech might sound very fun and attractive. Of course, it is even fashionable to use many interjections to sound "cool." Note that we do not pronounce some of them exactly as we write them, and there are variations in the intonation too.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Spicing Up Your Bulgarian Conversations

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One of the most common interjections in Bulgarian is the simple *A*. It might express surprise, a change in subject, hesitance, and much more. There are others that express direct emotions, such as *Ax* ("Oh"), *Ура* ("Hooray"), *О, боже* ("Oh my God"), or *Ау* ("Wow"), or a desire or command, such as *Хей* ("Hey"), *Хайде* ("Come on"), *Шшт* ("Shh"), *Не* ("No"), and many others. It is very important to remember the intonation because the same interjection might mean two different things, such as *Аха*, which can mean "Yeah?" and "I see!" Very often the interjections are not only sounds (vowels or vowels plus consonants) but whole words like nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Quite often, the nouns are in the vocative case form, like "Oh my God" or "mother," in Bulgarian *Боже мой* and *майчице*. There are also the interjections that are known as onomatopoeia, such as "bang" and "plop," which are in Bulgarian *бам* and *цоп*. Note also that Bulgarians are quite emotional people, and they will use a lot of interjections. Learning how to use them might be great fun because their usage makes the conversation more vivid and enjoyable.



## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #17

## Asking About Ages in Bulgarian

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- 2 Romanization
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- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 17

## BULGARIAN

1. Ирина: Хей, Питър, къде е малката Сара?
2. Питър: Тук е.
3. Ирина: (in a soft voice) О, колко е сладка...
4. Мартин: Мъничка е, нали. На колко години е?
5. Питър: На една година е. (Sarah starts to cry).
6. Ирина: Извинявай, извинявай. Шумни ли сме? Съжалявам!

## ROMANIZATION

1. Irina: Hei, Pityr, kyde e malkata Sara?
2. Pityr: Tuk e.
3. Irina: (in a soft voice) O, kolko e sladka...
4. Martin: Mynichka e, nali. Na kolko godinki e?
5. Pityr: Na edna godinka e. (Sarah starts to cry).
6. Irina: Izvinyavai, izvinyavai. Shumni li sme? Syjalyavam!

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Irina: Hey, Peter, where's the little Sarah?
2. Peter: She's over here.
3. Irina: (in a soft voice) Ah, how cute!
4. Martin: She's so small, isn't she. How old is she?
5. Peter: One year old. (Sarah starts to cry)
6. Irina: Oh, I'm sorry, so sorry! Are we loud? I'm sorry!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
шумен	shumen	noisy; loud
сладък	sladyk	cute; sweet
мъничък	mynichyk	tiny; small
колко	kolko	how many, how much
на	na	of
години	godini	years
тук	tuk	here
къде	kyde	where

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Това е един доста шумен ресторант.</b> Tova e edin dosta shumen restoran.</p> <p>This is quite a noisy restaurant.</p>	<p><b>Много е сладък!</b> Mnogo e sladyk!</p> <p>He is very cute!</p>
<p><b>Гущерът е съвсем мъничък.</b> Gushteryt e syvsem mynichyk.</p> <p>The lizard is really tiny.</p>	<p><b>Колко струва?</b> Kolko struva?</p> <p>How much is it?</p>
<p><b>Колко ябълки искате?</b> How many apples do you want?</p>	<p><b>На колко години си?</b> Na kolko godini si?</p> <p>How old are you?</p>
<p><b>Изминаха много години.</b> Izminaha mnogo godini.</p> <p>Many years have passed.</p>	<p><b>Тук не се пуши.</b> Tuk ne se pushi.</p> <p>No smoking here.</p>

**Къде е болницата?**

Where is the hospital?

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### На

На is a Bulgarian preposition with many meanings. The most common include "of" (as in this lesson), "to," "on," "in," "for," "at," "by," and others. According to the nouns it is attached to, you can guess that difference in its meaning.

### Сладък

Сладък has its first meaning in Bulgarian as "sweet," but we also use it very often as "cute." It can also have a diminutive form, which is сладичък. It changes in the different genders: сладичка, сладичко, and сладички in the plural.

### Мъничък

Мъничък means "tiny," and because it is already a diminutive form of the adjective for "small," малък in Bulgarian, we use it to describe things that are very small and somehow attractive or cute.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Numbers and Asking/Saying One's Age.

**На колко години/годинки**

**(for babies) е?**

**"How old are you/is he/she?"**

---

На колко години/годинки си/е? (in English, "How old are you/is he/she?") is how you can ask about someone's age in Bulgarian.

We form the question with the following words: first comes the preposition на, which in this case means "of." Then we add the adverb колко, meaning "how much/how many." After that comes the noun for "years," години (and годинки for babies) in the plural. Note that the singular form of the noun is година, so when you say "one year old," you will say На една година if referring to inanimate objects or most probably На една годинка is referring to babies or animals. In the end, we add the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb. If we are asking a person directly, we will say На колко години си? "How old are you?" where си means something like "(you) are." If we are asking about someone else, we will say На колко години е? which can refer to a man or a woman, a kid or an animal, and of course, to inanimate objects. If we need to ask a question about things or two or more people, we will use the plural form of the auxiliary verb, so the whole sentence looks like this: На колко години са?

If there is a case when we ask someone in a polite way about age, we will use the second-person plural form of the auxiliary verb and our sentence will look like this: На колко години сте?

There are also informal cases when people will omit the noun for "years" and will just ask the question like that: На колко си/е?, which in English means "How old are you/is he/she?"

### The Age Matters When Asking the Question

---

Note that when asking about a baby's age, the noun for "years" changes its form to the

diminutive one, *годинки*. As with many other nouns and adjectives that refer to small and cute things, this question also changes accordingly.

### For Example:

1. Извинете, ще ми кажете ли на колко години сте?  
*Izvinete, shte mi kajete li na kolko godini ste?*  
"Excuse me, could you tell me how old you are?"
2. На колко годинки става?  
*Na kolko godinki stava?*  
"How old is he/she turning?" (in this case we cannot guess the gender)

### Examples from This Dialogue

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1. На колко годинки е?  
*Na kolko godinki e?*  
"How old is she?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. На колко става синът ти?  
*Na kolko stava sinyt ti?*  
"How old is your son turning?"
2. Не мога да позная на колко години си!  
*Ne moga da poznaya na kolko godini si!*  
"I cannot guess how old you are!"

### Language Tip

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When Bulgarians ask this question, they emphasize the word for "how much/many": *колко*. The answer, of course, includes numbers, so memorizing Bulgarian numbers is crucial for mastering this type of conversation.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## If You Want to Live to 100, Go to Bulgaria

---

In Bulgarian etiquette, asking about people's age is basically the same as it is in the other countries: it is OK to ask young people and the elderly, but when asking about the age of women, you should be careful. Some women will not find it offensive and reply to you directly, but others might get offended, so it is recommended to be careful in such cases.

In Bulgaria, the legal age is the age of eighteen, so people of this age are considered to be fully responsible adults. Still, when buying alcohol and cigarettes, some shops do not sell those to people below twenty, and at most of the places some kind of ID will be requested anyway. In Bulgaria, you can start car driving lessons by the age of sixteen and receive a driver's license for a motorbike by the age of seventeen. After you turn eighteen, you can drive a car in Bulgaria.

The statistics show that centenarians in Bulgarian are quite numerous. Some explain this by the fact that Bulgarian nature is preserved and Bulgarian food is very healthy. Some even relate this fact to only one dietary tradition in Bulgaria: the famous Bulgarian yogurt.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #18

## Talking Likes and Dislikes in Bulgarian

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- 2 Romanization
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- 3 Vocabulary
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# **18**



## BULGARIAN

1. Ирина: Няма ме, няма ме... Паа! Няма ме, няма ме... Паа!
2. Сара: (Laughs).
3. Питър: Сара много обича играта на ку-ку.
4. Мартин: Аа, така ли. Добре, няма ме, няма ме... Паа!
5. Сара: (Cries).
6. Мартин: Оооо! Извинявай, извинявай!
7. Питър: Сара не обича мъже. (Laughs)
8. (Everyone laughs).

## ROMANIZATION

1. Irina: Nyama me, nyama me... Paa! Nyama me, nyama me... Paa!
2. Sara: (Laughs).
3. Pityr: Sara mnogo obicha igrata na ku-ku.
4. Martin: Aa, taka li. Dobre, nyama me, nyama me... Paa!
5. Sara: (Cries).
6. Martin: Oooo! Izvinyavai, izvinyavai!

CONT'D OVER

7. Pityr: Sara ne obicha myje. (Laughs)
8. (Everyone laughs).

## ENGLISH

1. Irina: Peek-a-boo! Peek-a-boo!
2. Sarah: (Laughs)
3. Peter: Sarah loves "Peek-a-boo."
4. Martin: Oh, really! Okay then...peek-a-boo!
5. Sarah: (cries)
6. Martin: Ahhh! I'm sorry, I'm sorry!
7. Peter: Sarah doesn't like men. (laughs)
8. (Everyone laughs)

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
добре	dobre	good, OK, well
обичам	obicham	like; love
МЪЖ	myj	man
не обичам	ne obicham	don't like; don't love

Паа!	Паа!	Вoo!
няма	nyama	(there is) no
игра	igra	game; play
ме	me	me

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Добре, да започваме!</b> Dobre, da zapochvame!</p> <p>OK, let's start!</p>	<p><b>Обичам да снимам.</b> Obicham da snimam.</p> <p>I like to take photos.</p>
<p><b>В стаята имаше трима мъже.</b> V stayata imashe trima myje.</p> <p>There were three men in the room.</p>	<p><b>Не обичам да ставам рано.</b> Ne obicham da stavam rano.</p> <p>I don't like waking up early.</p>
<p><b>Паа! Уплаших ли те?</b> Паа! Uplashih li te?</p> <p>Вoo! Did I scare you?</p>	<p><b>Няма свободни места.</b> Nyama svobodni mesta.</p> <p>There are no vacancies.</p>
<p><b>Това е само игра!</b> Tova e samo igra!</p> <p>This is just a game!</p>	<p><b>Ще ме изчакаш ли?</b> Shte me izchakash li?</p> <p>Will you wait for me?</p>
<p><b>Моля почакайте ме!</b> Please wait for me too!</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Няма

Няма is a word that Bulgarian people use very often. Besides its direct meaning of "(there is) no," we also use it as a rejection of some suggestion, etc. In this case, it is accompanied by the word ставам ("to become") and means "it is not possible" but sounds quite informal: няма да стане.

## Мъж

Мъж is the Bulgarian word for "man." Its plural form is мъже, and the form with the definite article is мъжът if the word is a subject in the sentence or мъжа if it is a direct object.

## Добре

Добре can be the neutral form of the adjective "good" or добър in Bulgarian, but in this lesson, we used it as an adverb that means something like "OK" or "well." We usually put it in at the beginning of a sentence.

# GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying That You Like/Don't Like Something.

**Сара не обича мъже.**

**"Sarah doesn't like men."**

---

### Обичам А ; Не обичам А

**"I like/love [A]; I don't like/love [A]."**

When you want to express that you like or don't like something in Bulgarian, you use one verb which originally is translated as "to love," the verb обичам. But in the case of preference (liking or not liking something), Bulgarians also use this verb, but in English, its translation is "to like." So to say that you "like [something]" in Bulgarian, you should use this construction Обичам [A], where [A] is the thing that you like. When you want to say you "dislike [something]," you just add a negative particle, не, meaning "no," before the verb. So the whole sentence will look like this: Не обичам [A], meaning "I don't like [A]."

Of course, the verb conjugates, so this is the form for first person singular. As you can see, we can omit the Bulgarian pronoun "I" and just say "(I) like [A]" or "(I) don't like [A]," where the form of the verb will indicate that this is said from the first person singular viewpoint. The same applies when saying this to someone who is present. For example, you may say "Do you like

[A]," but in Bulgarian, we will omit the "you." The whole sentence will sound like this: Обичаш ли [A]? Still, when you speak about a third person, you will include the pronoun or the name of the person.

Note that [A] can be an object, a person, an activity, or a whole new sentence added to this construction. For example, we may say: "Do you like going out in the middle of the night to buy some ice cream?" which in Bulgarian will sound like Обичаш ли да излизаш посред нощ, за да си купуваш сладолед?

When asking this type of question, we will reply in Bulgarian with "Yes, I like [A]" or "No, I don't like [A]." That sounds like this: Да, обичам [A] or Не, не обичам [A]. Finally, when we want to express degrees in liking/disliking, we can use the word много, which you already know means "much" or "very much."

## The Difference Between Liking and Loving in Bulgarian

---

We said that we use the verb обичам to show liking or preference about things such as favorite food, sports, etc. But when we ask whether you like a person in Bulgarian, we will use another verb, харесвам, meaning "like." So asking "Do you like him?" will be Харесваш ли го? in Bulgarian.

### For Example:

1. Много обичам да играя на слънце.  
*Mnogo obicham da igraya na slynce.*  
"I like playing in the sun very much."
2. Не обичаш ли броколи?  
*Ne obichash li brokoli?*  
"Don't you like broccoli?"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Сара много обича играта на ку-ку.  
*Sara mnogo obicha igrata na ku-ku.*  
"Sarah loves 'Peek-a-boo.'"

2. Сара не обича мъже  
*Sara ne obicha myje.*  
"Sarah doesn't like men."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. Той не обича да говори пред публика.  
*Toi ne obicha da govori pred publika.*  
"He doesn't like to speak in public."
2. Обичатели да се разхождате?  
*Obichate li da se razhojdate?*  
"Do you like taking a walk?" (according to the context, this might be a polite form because the verb is in the second person plural form)

## Language Tip

---

When Bulgarians ask this question, they emphasize the word обичам/не обичам ("like"/"don't like"). Wherever it is in the sentence, try to put the stress on it. Note that when forming a question with this construction, we again use the particle ли.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### You'll Feel Right at Home in Bulgaria

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Bulgarians consider taking care of their guests (especially if they are foreign ones) as one very important part of their traditional culture. They will want to know what you like and don't like regarding food, housing, prices, or just places for sightseeing. Remember to use the construction we are introducing in this lesson together with the different degrees of preference, adding много ("much") or firmly saying "I don't like it," which might be very useful for you if you find something disturbing or not easy to get used to. This phrase in Bulgarian is Не ми харесва, and if you are asked about liking something, you can say Не, не ми харесва. Note also that Bulgarians use the double negative form quite often, so be careful to

say this correctly. In order to be understood, just pay attention to the negative form of the verb "like," не ми харесва, so that there won't be any mistakes. We hope that in your stay in Bulgaria, you won't find anything to dislike, but just in case, remember this lesson's advice.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #19

## Being a Serial Latecomer in Bulgaria

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 19



## BULGARIAN

1. Ирина: (from the bathroom) Мартине, в колко точно беше срещата с Питър?
2. Мартин: В 1030 е.
3. Ирина: А сега колко е часът?
4. Мартин: 905. Побързай, за да не закъснеем!
5. Ирина: Да-а! Още минутка!
6. Мартин: (walking nervously) Винаги казваш така... а после...

## ROMANIZATION

1. Irina: (from the bathroom) Martine, v kolko tochno beshe sreshtata s Pityr?
2. Martin: V 1030 e.
3. Irina: A sega kolko e chasyt?
4. Martin: 905. Pobyrzai, za da ne zakysneem!
5. Irina: Da-a! Oshte minutka!
6. Martin: (walking nervously) Vinagi kazvash taka... a posle...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Irina: Martin, what time exactly was the meeting with Peter?
2. Martin: It's at ten-thirty.
3. Irina: And what's the time now?
4. Martin: Five after nine. Hurry up so that we won't be late.
5. Irina: Yee-s! Just one more minute!
6. Martin: (walking nervously) You always say so...and then...

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
побързай	pobyrzai	Hurry up!
още	oshte	more, yet, still
минута	minuta	minute
винаги	vinagi	always
после	posle	then; afterwards
закъснявам	zakysnyavam	to be late
часът	chasyt	hour
среща	sreshta	meeting, date

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Побързай, няма време!</b> Pobyrzai, nyama vreme! Hurry up, there is no time!</p>	<p><b>Повторете още веднъж, моля.</b> Povtorete oshte vednyj, molya. Say it one more time, please. (formal)</p>
<p><b>Той ще пристигне до една минута.</b> Toi shte pristigne do edna minuta. He will arrive in a minute.</p>	<p><b>Винаги си усмихната!</b> Vinagi si usmihnata! You are always smiling!</p>
<p><b>Какво ще правим после?</b> Kakvo shte pravim posle? What are we going to do afterwards?</p>	<p><b>Закъснявам, а няма таксита!</b> Zakysnyavam, a nyama taksita! I am late but there are no taxis!</p>
<p><b>Влакът ще потегли след един час.</b> Vlakyt shte potegli sled edin chas. The train will depart in one hour.</p>	<p><b>Тази вечер имам среща.</b> Tazi vecher imam sreshta. Tonight I have a date.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Минутка

Минутка is another diminutive word in Bulgarian that we use to show that the original word минута or "minute" is a very short time. People use it when they want to say that they "won't be long" or that only a short time will pass.

### Среща

Среща is the Bulgarian word for "meeting" but also "date." Its general meaning is "meeting," so to avoid mistakes, people add the Bulgarian words "business" or "official" to the word to distinguish it from the meaning of "date."

### Побързай

Побързай is an imperative form of the verb бързам, or "to hurry." Note that there is a prefix

that shows impatience and a desire to push the person to act. We use this prefix with many other verbs, so it will be useful for you to remember it.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking and Answering What Time It Is.

**А сега колко е часът?**

**"And what's the time now?"**

---

**В колко часа е ~ [event]? ; В ~ [hour] е.**

**"(At) What time is ~ [event]? ; At [hour]."**

When you ask about the time in Bulgarian, you will usually use the following construction: first, the preposition for asking the time "at," which in Bulgarian is **в**; then the adverb for asking about amounts, "how much," or **колко** in Bulgarian; then the word for "hour," **часа**; then the auxiliary verb in its appropriate form; and at the end the event you are asking about. So altogether, it sounds like this in English: "What time is the dinner?" And it sounds like this in Bulgarian: **В колко часа е вечерята?**

Sometimes we can use other verbs instead of the auxiliary verb; let us say the verb "start." So a sentence like "What time does the test start?" in Bulgarian will be **В колко часа започва теста?**

A typical answer is just like in English "at [hour]." In Bulgarian, that will be **"В [hour]."** Note that as in English, you can reply to this only with numbers designating the hours in more casual conversation. In formal conversation, you would use the preposition and the auxiliary verb, so your sentence will sound like this in English: "It is at [hour] o'clock." In Bulgarian, this sentence will be **В [hour] часа е.**

When asking what time it is, we use a slightly different sentence. We start with the adverb for asking about amounts, "how much," or **колко** in Bulgarian; then the auxiliary verb in third person singular, in Bulgarian, **е**; and then the noun for "hour" in its form with the definite article, **часът**. So altogether, we have **Колко е часът?** which in English literally means "What time is it?"

### How to Tell the Time in Bulgarian

---

When pronouncing the number for hours, Bulgarians usually say "nine and fifteen" if the time

is "9:15." But when the time is "9:45," you may hear a phrase similar to the English phrase, which means "a quarter to ten," in Bulgarian: 10 без петнадесет (literally, "10 without fifteen").

### For Example:

1. В колко часа изгрява слънцето?  
*V kolko chasa izgryava slynceto?*  
"What time does the sun rise?"
2. Срещата е в пет и половина.  
*Sreshtata e v pet i polovina.*  
"The meeting is at half past five." (Literally "five and a half")

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Мартине, в колко точно беше срещата с Питър?  
*Martine, v kolko tochno beshe sreshtata s Pityr?*  
"Irina: Martin, what time exactly was the meeting with Peter?"
2. В 10:30 е.  
*V 10:30 e.*  
"Martin: It's at ten-thirty."
3. А сега колко е часът?  
*A sega kolko e chasyt?*  
"Irina: And what's the time now?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. В колко часа свършваш работа?  
*V kolko chasa svyrshvash rabota?*  
"What time do you finish work?"

2. Ще дойда в шест.  
*Shte doida v shest.*  
"I will come at six."

### Language Tip

---

When asking about the time, Bulgarians emphasize the adverb "how much," or колко. The easiest way to answer this question is just learning the numbers and the way Bulgarians pronounce the hours so that you can reply only with the number in the beginning. Note that when saying в ("at") about the time, Bulgarians actually pronounce it more like ["-f"] because it is in the beginning of the sentence. That is very common when a word consisting of a single consonant begins a sentence.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Do You Have to Watch the Clock in Bulgaria?

---

Bulgarians are quite flexible when it comes to time, meetings, and etiquette about time. Being late is considered not to be a good sign if you are negotiating business affairs or if you want to make a good first impression. Note that still, between friends, being late by five to ten minutes is not an exceptional case, and usually the reason for this will be a traffic jam or something similar, which all the Bulgarians know very well. They will not become angry over such a delay. Exceeding this will be not so welcome, and Bulgarians might consider this as a lack of respect or interest. Of course, letting the other person know that you will be late through the various ways of communication nowadays is crucial. Sometimes, this is one of the reasons Bulgarians are late: they count too much on the possibility of informing someone in advance about a small delay. Remember that you should be punctual when having an official meeting, a departure, an exam, and so on. And do not get discouraged: even if you are late, a nice apology, as shown in our lessons, can help you a lot, and everything will be OK in no time.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #20

## Telling People About your Allergies in Bulgarian

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 20

# BULGARIAN

1. (On a drive) (Stomach rumbling)
2. Мартин: Огладнях. (Laughs.)
3. Питър: А, тук има крайпътно заведение. Обичате ли печено пиле?
4. Ирина: Печено пиле...
5. Питър: Не обичаш ли?
6. Ирина: Алергична съм...
7. Питър: Алергична към пиле?
8. Ирина: Да, за съжаление.
9. Мартин: Питър, внимавай - има куче на пътя!
10. Питър: О, наистина! Благодаря.

# ROMANIZATION

1. (On a drive) (Stomach rumbling)
2. Martin: Ogladnyah. (Laughs.)
3. Pityr: A, tuk ima kraipytno zavedenie. Obichate li pecheno pile?
4. Irina: Pecheno pile...

CONT'D OVER



5. Pityr: Ne obichash li?
6. Irina: Alergichna sym...
7. Pityr: Alergichna kym pile?
8. Irina: Da, za syjalenie.
9. Martin: Pityr, vnimavai – ima kuche na pytya!
10. Pityr: O, naistina! Blagodarya.

## ENGLISH

1. (On a drive) (Stomach rumbling)
2. Martin: I'm hungry. (laughs)
3. Peter: Oh, there's a drive-thru over there... Do you like fried chicken?
4. Irina: Fried...chicken...
5. Peter: You don't like it?
6. Irina: I'm allergic...
7. Peter: Allergic to chicken?
8. Irina: Yes, unfortunately.

CONT'D OVER

9. Martin: Peter, be careful; there is a dog in the road!
10. Peter: Oh, yes! Thanks.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
печено пиле	pecheno pile	fried chicken
алергия	alergiya	allergy
внимавай	vnimavai	Watch out! Be careful
заведение	zavedenie	establishment; shop
крайпътен	kraipyten	roadside
куче	kuche	dog
към	kym	to; towards

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>За обяд има печено пиле.</b> Za obyad ima pecheno pile.</p> <p>Lunch is fried chicken.</p>	<p><b>Мисля, че имам алергия.</b> Mislya, che imam alergiya.</p> <p>I think I have an allergy.</p>
<p><b>Внимавай, чашата ще падне!</b> Vnimavai, chashata shte padne!</p> <p>Watch out, the glass will fall!</p>	<p><b>Заведението отваря в 6.</b> Zavedenieto otvarya v 6.</p> <p>The shop opens at 6.</p>
<p><b>Това е крайпътен ресторант.</b> Tova e kraipyten restorant.</p> <p>This is a roadside restaurant.</p>	<p><b>"Dog" на български означава куче.</b> "Dog" in Bulgarian is kuche.</p>

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**Кръстих си кучето „Баф“.**

Krystih si kucheto "Baf".

I named my dog "Bark".

**Той се обръща към хората.**

Toi se obryshta kym horata.

He appeals to the people.

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Крайпътно заведение**

Крайпътно заведение is a typical Bulgarian phrase for any kind of establishment that offers food and other services on the roadside. From bars and drive-thrus to restaurants that serve traditional Bulgarian food and motels, you can find these places everywhere on Bulgarian roads.

### **Алергия**

Алергия is the Bulgarian word for "allergy." Although it is easy to remember as it is similar to the English one, note that the stress on the Bulgarian word is on the second syllable. Bulgarians suffer from different types of allergies, but compared to other countries, the number of allergic people is relatively small.

### **Съжаление**

Съжаление is the Bulgarian word for the English words "sorry," "pity," or "regret." That is why its usage has some nuances that we can remember by repeating the different examples. One expression we commonly use is за съжаление, which means "regretfully" or just "unfortunately."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about Inanimate Objects With the Verb има; Talking About Animate Objects With the Verb има.**

**А, тук има крайпътно заведение.**

**"Oh, there's a drive-thru over there..."**

---

**[place]~ има ~[inanimate object]; [place]~ има ~[animate object]**

**"[place]~ is ~[inanimate object]; [place]~ is ~[animate object]"**

In Bulgarian, talking about animate and inanimate objects is done usually with the verb **има**, which we can translate in English as "there is" or "there are." In this sense, the verb form **има** is in the third person singular or plural (note that in Bulgarian, the word is the same). So using **има**, we can say "There is a bus," which in Bulgarian is **Там има автобус**; and "There are kinds," which in Bulgarian is **Там има деца**. The verb **има** has its first person singular form **имам**, which actually means "(I) have," and we use it mainly with this meaning. But when the form is in the third person, it changes its meaning to "there is/are."

Basically, we form this type of sentence that gives information about animate or inanimate objects and their location like this: first, we use a preposition and a noun to specify the place: for example, "on the platform." Then we add the verb meaning "there is/are," which in Bulgarian is **има**. After that, we add the object: animate or inanimate. So, for example, this sentence will be "On the platform there is a train" for inanimate objects and "On the platform there is a girl" for animate objects. Those sentences sound like this in Bulgarian: **На платформата има влак** and **На платформата има момиче**.

Although this is a very basic format of the sentence in Bulgarian, we can have variations that sound more natural in English, such as "There is a girl on the platform." In Bulgarian, this sentence will be **Има момиче на платформата**.

## **How to Tell the Difference Between the Meanings in the Forms of the Verb **има** in Bulgarian**

---

When the verb **има** has the meaning of "he/she/it has" and not the meaning "there is/are," we can tell this by the usage of nouns or pronouns in the sentence. We will have a sentence of the type "He has a dog" and not the type "There is a dog," which in Bulgarian will be **Той има куче** and **Има куче**.

### **For Example:**

1. **Там има някой.**  
*Там има някой.*  
"There is someone."

2. Има човек на спирката.  
*Ima chovek na spirkata.*  
"There is a man at the stop."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. А, тук има крайпътно заведение.  
*A, tuk ima kraipytno zavedenie.*  
"Oh, there's a drive-thru over there."
2. Питър, внимавай - има куче на пътя!  
*Pityr, vnimavai - ima kuche na pytya!*  
"Peter, be careful; there is a dog on the road!"

### Sample Sentences

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1. Има ли някой вкъщи?  
*Ima li nyakoi vkyshti?*  
"Anybody home?"
2. Има вода на пътя.  
*Ima voda na pytya.*  
"There is water on the road."

### Language Tip

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When pronouncing a sentence that starts with the Bulgarian verb "there is," or има, we usually put the stress on this part of the sentence to emphasize that there is something or someone present. In the same way, when we use the opposite verb няма, it usually holds the intonation emphasis.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## "Is There" a Question You Have in Bulgarian?

---

Bulgarians use the expression **Има ли~** very often. It means "Is there~" in English, and we use it in situations where you want to check the availability of something: for example, "Are there free seats?" or in Bulgarian **Има ли свободни места?** You can hear people asking about certain products in the supermarkets in the big cities or the markets in the small villages with the same expression: for example, **Има ли пресни яйца?** which literally means "Are there fresh eggs?"

This question is also very useful when you ask about the condition of something or someone. You can ask **Има ли нещо?** and **Има ли проблем?** which mean "Is there something (wrong)?" and "Is there a problem?" and we use them quite often to check the other person's opinion or condition in certain situations.

The negative form of the verb is **няма**, and we can use it as a reply to the above questions. You can say **Няма нищо** and **Няма проблем**, which are very basic expressions to say that it is OK to do something in Bulgarian.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #21

## A Banana-Loving Bulgarian Baby

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- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 21

# BULGARIAN

1. (Sarah cries.)
2. Ирина: О, Сара, гладна ли си? Питър, Сара яде ли банани?
3. Питър: Да, яде. Сара много обича банани.
4. Ирина: Така ли? Ето, Сара, заповядай.
5. (Sarah laughs.)
6. (Dog whines.)
7. Мартин (far away): Питър, Шаро яде ли банани?

# ROMANIZATION

1. (Sarah cries.)
2. Irina: O, Sara, gladna li si? Pityr, Sara yade li banani?
3. Pityr: Da, yade. Sara mnogo obicha banani.
4. Irina: Taka li? Eto, Sara, zapovyadai.
5. (Sarah laughs.)
6. (Dog whines.)

CONT'D OVER



7. Martin (far away): Pityr, Sharo yade li banani?

## ENGLISH

1. (Sarah cries)

2. Irina: Oh, Sarah, are you hungry~? Peter, does Sarah eat bananas?

3. Peter: Yes, she does. Sarah loves bananas!

4. Irina: Oh, really? Okay, Sarah. Here you go.

5. (Sarah laughs)

6. (Dog whines)

7. Martin (far away): Peter, does Sharo eat bananas?

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
така ли?	Taka li?	Is that so?
банан		banana
много	mnogo	very, much, a lot
обичам	obicham	like; love
ям	yam	to eat
гладен	gladen	hungry
ето	eto	here

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Така ли, не знаех?</b> Taka li, ne znaeh!</p> <p>Is that so? I didn't know.</p>	<p><b>Закусвам с един банан.</b> Zakusvam s edin banan.</p> <p>I have a banana for breakfast.</p>
<p><b>Искам много свободно време.</b> Iskam mnogo svobodno vreme.</p> <p>I want a lot of free time.</p>	<p><b>Обичам да снимам.</b> Obicham da snimam.</p> <p>I like to take photos.</p>
<p><b>Не ям след 8 часа вечерта.</b> Ne yam sled osem chasa vecherta.</p> <p>I don't eat after 8 in the evening.</p>	<p><b>Гладен ли си?</b> Gladen li si?</p> <p>Are you hungry?</p>
<p><b>Жената е гладна. Гладният мъж търси храна в хладилника.</b> Jenata e gladna. Gladniyat myj tyrsi hrana v hladilnika.</p> <p>The woman is hungry. The hungry man is looking for food in the refrigerator.</p>	<p><b>Ето документите.</b> Eto dokumentite.</p> <p>Here are the documents.</p>
<p><b>Заповядай, вземи си.</b> Zapovyadai, vzemi si.</p> <p>Here you are, take some.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Гладен

Гладен is the Bulgarian adjective for the English word "hungry." Like all the other Bulgarian

adjectives, it has masculine, feminine, and neuter forms as well as a plural form. These are гладен, гладна, гладно, and гладни, respectively. Note that we can use the neuter form when talking about babies or pets/animals.

## Ям

Ям is the Bulgarian verb for the English verb "to eat." As with many Bulgarian verbs, its form changes when we conjugate the verb, so here is how it sounds: ям, ядеш, яде, ядем, ядете, ядат. The word for "meal" originated from the verb ядене, and it literally means "eating."

## Банан

Банан is the Bulgarian word for the English noun "banana." It is easy to remember, so here are some other similar words for fruits: лимон ("lemon"), череша ("cherry"), грейпфрут ("grapefruit"), киви ("kiwi"), and касис ("cassis").

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking About Doing a Habitual Action.**

**Питър, Сара яде ли банани?**

**"Peter, does Sarah eat bananas?"**

---

~ [Verb] ли ~

"~ does he/she ~"

In Bulgarian, when we are talking about actions that are often done, we ask these typical questions about habitual actions. The way we compose these questions is as follows: first, we put the subject (noun or pronoun); then we put the verb in its appropriate form (third person singular or plural); after that, we use the particle for asking questions in Bulgarian, ли; and at the end, we put the direct object.

For example, we may ask the question "Does he play golf?" in English. In Bulgarian, this will sound like this: Той играе ли голф? This is a sentence using the third person singular of the verb "to play," or играя in Bulgarian. The same sentence, when asked about two or more persons, will sound like this in Bulgarian: Те играят ли голф? ("Do they play golf?")

As you can see, this is a question about preference, activity that is performed often, habitual actions, etc. If we want to ask a question like this in English: "Are they playing golf?" the Bulgarian translation will be the same as the one for the sentence that uses the grammatical point for this lesson, or the sentence from above Те играят ли голф? So in order to be able to tell the difference between these two in Bulgarian, we should be careful of the context when this kind of question is asked. We can tell this easily if we notice whether it is about habitual action and not an action done in the present. Still, in Bulgarian, these statements sound the same, so with some practice, you can master this feature of the Bulgarian language (knowing what type of action is being discussed).

## Formal and Informal Versions of the Dialogue

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Basically, when we ask about people's habitual actions, we must be careful how we are asking. We showed how to ask the question about two or more people, so the same form applies to the polite expression. We may add a word to make this question sound even more polite: извинете ("excuse me").

### For Example:

1. Извинете, обичате ли класическа музика?  
*Izvinete, obichate li klasicheska muzika?*  
"Excuse me, do you like classical music?" (formal)
2. Имаш ли домашен любимец?  
*Imash li domashen lyubimec?*  
"Do you have a pet?"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Питър, Сара яде ли банани?  
*Pityr, Sara yade li banani?*  
"Peter, does Sarah eat bananas?"
2. Питър, Шаро яде ли банани?  
*Pityr, Sharo yade li banana?*  
"Peter, does Sharo eat bananas?"

## Sample Sentences

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1. Играеш ли на компютърни игри?  
*Igraesh li na kompyutyrni igri?*  
"Do you play computer games?"
2. Ядеш ли люти чушки?  
*Yadesh li lyuti chushki?*  
"Do you eat chili peppers?"

## Language Tip

---

This way of telling information about habitual actions usually includes the Bulgarian verb *обичам*, which as you should already know means "to like" or "to love." We can express any type of favorite activity, hobby, or ability in Bulgarian with it. For example, *Обичам да пътувам*, which means "I love traveling."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Do You Want Some Yogurt With That?

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Bulgarian eating habits can be a nice start when you want to practice the grammar point we introduced in this lesson. So asking and answering what Bulgarians like and what you like can be a perfect practice of the learned grammar here. So what do Bulgarians like to eat most often? Bulgarians love very much *lyutenitsa*, yogurt, and hot peppers. These three things are almost always present at their table. *Lyutenitsa* is something like ketchup but with more vegetable ingredients and sometimes prepared at home. Also, Bulgarians will have bread on their table, so be prepared to eat bread with almost every dish. Of course, using what you learned from the previous lessons, you can say that you do not like it, if that is so.

One important point about the yogurt: actually Bulgarians eat yogurt almost (if not really) every day, and again, sometimes it is prepared at home because of the *Lactobacillus Bulgaricus*, which is the typical feature of the region. Also note that yogurt is not considered as a dessert or a light meal; actually, it is included quite often in main dishes as a topping or as the main ingredient of soups, salads, and sandwiches.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #22

## What's Your Favorite Bulgarian Drink?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

# 22

# BULGARIAN

1. (At the supermarket)
2. Питър: Мартине, какво пиеш? Вино или бира?
3. Мартин: Аз пия бира.
4. Питър: Добре, ще взема бира. А ти, Ирина? И ти ли ще пиеш бира?
5. Ирина: Да, само малко.

# ROMANIZATION

1. (At the supermarket)
2. Pityr: Martine, kakvo piesz? Vino ili bira?
3. Martin: Az piya bira.
4. Pityr: Dobre, shte vzema bira. A ti, Irina? I ti li shte piesz bira?
5. Irina: Da, samo malko.

# ENGLISH

1. (At the supermarket)
2. Peter: Martin, what will you have to drink? Wine? Beer?

CONT'D OVER

3. Martin: I'll have beer.
4. Peter: I'll buy some beer then. What about you, Irina? Will you drink beer too?
5. Irina: Yes, a little.

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
само	samo	just; only
малко	malko	some; a little
ти	ti	you
взимам	vzimam	to take, to buy
вино	vino	wine
пия	piya	to drink
какво	kakvo	what
бира		beer

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Ще взема само една.</b> Shte vzema samo edna.</p> <p>I will take only one.</p>	<p><b>Налей ми малко вода, моля те.</b> Nalei mi malko voda, molya te.</p> <p>Could you please pour me some water?</p>
<p><b>Ти си тук!</b> Ti si tuk!</p> <p>You're here!</p>	<p><b>Взимам всичко, което искам.</b> Vzimam vsichko, koeto iskam.</p> <p>I take everything I want.</p>



<p><b>Една чаша червено вино, моля.</b> Edna chasha cherveno vino, molya.</p> <p>A glass of red wine, please.</p>	<p><b>Тук не се продава вино.</b> They don't sell wine here.</p>
<p><b>Пия мляко преди лягане.</b> Piya mlyako predi lyagane.</p> <p>I drink milk before going to bed.</p>	<p><b>Какво правиш?</b> Kakvo pravish?</p> <p>What are you doing?</p>
<p><b>Какво има за вечеря?</b> What are we having for dinner?</p>	<p><b>Бирата върви с пържени картофки.</b> Birata vyrvi s pyrjeni kartofki.</p> <p>Beer is good with French fries.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Взимам

Взимам is the Bulgarian verb that initially means the same as the English "to take," but because of that meaning, one of its main uses is as the English "to buy." So when Bulgarians say "I bought a TV," they might say Взех си телевизор, which is more informal than the official verb for "to buy": купувам.

### Пия

Пия is the Bulgarian verb for the English "to drink." Like many Bulgarian verbs, its form changes when we conjugate the verb, so here is how it sounds: пия, пиеш, пие, пием, пиете, пият. The words for "drink" have originated from this verb. There are two main ones: питие and напитка.

### Само

Само is a Bulgarian adverb that means "just" or "only" in English. We use it very often together with the adverb for "little," малко, to form the expression "just a little," which we use for measuring quantity, time, and similar items.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking About Having the Intent to Act.

И ти ли ще пиеш бира?

"Will you drink beer too?"

---

Ще ~ [Verb] ли ~

"Will he/she ~ [Verb] ~"

In Bulgarian, when we are talking about actions that are going to happen, and we want to check whether the other person is intending to do something, we ask the following type of question.

First, we put the particle *ще*, which we use for forming of the future tense of the verbs in Bulgarian. In this case, it means something like the English "will..." Then we add the verb, which we use for the question in its corresponding form (person, singular/plural). Then we add the particle for forming questions in Bulgarian, *ли*, which as you should know by now, we use very often in the question form of the Bulgarian sentences. At the end, we put the direct object we are asking about. So the whole sentence becomes this: *Ще ходим ли на кино?* which in English sounds like this: "Are we going to go to the cinema?" Note that the English translation clearly shows the intentionality by using "going to." The Bulgarian expressions do not have these specific words, so you should be careful when trying to tell the difference between the simple future tense in Bulgarian and the expressions that show intention. Sometimes the more formal sentences will have the verbs *смятам* and *възнамерявам*, which we can roughly translate in English as "consider" and "intend," but they basically mean the English "going to."

Of course, we can ask this type of question about one or more persons and not only about one direct object but also about whole phrases and entire sentences. For example, one more formal sentence in Bulgarian is *Ще бъдеш ли така добър да ми помогнеш?* which in English translates as "Will you be so kind to help me?" There are many variations of this type of phrase about intention, but for now, learning this grammar's basic point is enough to be able to express what you want to do in the future.

### Future Tense

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Basically, we form the Bulgarian future tense (future time of the verb) with the help of that particle *ще*. It can mean "will," "shall," or "should." You can easily remember it because the Bulgarian word for "future" is *бъдеще*, and it contains in itself the particle *ще*.

## For Example:

1. Ти ще ходиш ли?  
*Ti shte hodish li?*  
"Are you going (to go)?" (informal)
2. Ще хапнеш ли с нас?  
*Shte hapnesh li s nas?*  
"Are you going to eat with us?" (informal)

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. И ти ли ще пиеш бира?  
*I ti li shte piesh bira?*  
"Will you drink beer too?"

## Sample Sentences

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1. Ще напуснете ли дома ми?  
*Shte napusnete li doma mi?*  
"Will you leave my house?"
2. Ще си лягаш ли да спиш?  
*Shte si lyagash li da spish?*  
"Are you going to go to bed?"

## Language Tip

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Note that in this grammatical construction, the English translation is sometimes more appropriate to be "~going to~?" and sometimes "will ~ ~?" This is the difference between a future action and an action ahead in time or between planned action/intention and making a decision in this moment for the near future. In Bulgarian, they have the same grammatical forms, but the context can show you the meaning.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## The National Beverage of Bulgaria

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Bulgaria has a flourishing wine industry and beer is also a growing one, but *rakia* is considered the national drink. *Rakia*, also spelled *rakiya* or *rakija*, is a clear alcohol similar to brandy made by the distillation of fermented fruits (grapes, plums, apricots, pears, apples, cherries, figs, quinces). It has high alcohol content, and home concoctions sometimes exceed sixty percent, making it a potent drink. In Bulgaria, *rakia* made from grapes (like Italian grappa) is the most popular, but *slivovitza* (*rakia* made from plums) is also popular.

*Rakia* is usually drunk with appetizers known as *meze* and salads. Then wine or beer is consumed with the rest of the meal. If a drop of *rakia* happens to be spilled while pouring, it is said "that's for the deceased." Indeed, after a funeral, a toast of *rakia* is made, and a little is spilled on the ground for the soul of the departed. At weddings, the bride's father goes from table to table offering *rakia* and encouraging good wishes for the newly married couple. In general, *rakia* is considered a sign of hospitality, and every guest is offered a tiny glassful as a symbolic gesture.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #23

## Visiting a Bulgarian Bar

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 23

# BULGARIAN

1. Мартин: Питър, онова какво е?
2. Питър: Аа, това е бар. Обичаш ли да посещаваш барове?
3. Мартин: Да, обичам.
4. Питър: Тогава тази вечер да ходим на бар?
5. Мартин: Звучи добре.
6. Питър: Ирина, тази вечер Мартин и аз ще ходим на бар. Ти ще дойдеш ли с нас?
7. Ирина: Вървете и се забавлявайте!

# ROMANIZATION

1. Martin: Pityr, onova kakvo e?
2. Pityr: Aa, tova e bar. Obichash li da poseshtavash barove?
3. Martin: Da, obicham.
4. Pityr: Togava тази vecher da hodim na bar?
5. Martin: Zvuchi dobre.
6. Pityr: Irina, тази vecher Martin i az shte hodim na bar. Ti shte doidesh li s nas?

CONT'D OVER

7. Irina: Vyrvete i se zabavlyavaite!

## ENGLISH

1. Martin: Peter, what is that?

2. Peter: Oh, that's a bar. Do you like going to bars?

3. Martin: Yes, I do!

4. Peter: Well then, shall we go to the bar tonight?

5. Martin: That sounds good!

6. Peter: Irina, tonight Martin and I are going to the bar. Will you come with us?

7. Irina: Go and have fun!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
ходя	hodya	go, walk
дойда	doida	to come
вървя	vyrvya	to go; to move; to pass
посещавам	poseshtavam	to visit
бар	bar	bar
Забавлявам се	Zabavlyavam se	have fun, enjoy

звуча	zvucha	sound
ОНОВА	onova	that

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Ходя пеша до училище.</b> Hodya peshha do uchilishte.</p> <p>I walk to school.</p>	<p><b>Ще дойдеш ли на партито?</b> Shte doidesh li na partito?</p> <p>Are you going to come to the party?</p>
<p><b>Вървя през парка.</b> Vyrvya prez parka.</p> <p>I am passing through the park.</p>	<p><b>Посещавам зъболекар веднъж месечно.</b> Poseshtavam zybolekar vednyj mesechno.</p> <p>I visit the dentist once a month.</p>
<p><b>Това е бар с много приятна атмосфера!</b> Tova e bar s mnogo priyatna atmosfera!</p> <p>This bar has a very pleasant atmosphere!</p>	<p><b>Забавлявам се с приятели.</b> Zabavlyavam se s priyateli.</p> <p>I am having fun with friends.</p>
<p><b>Звучиш уморено.</b> Zvuchish umoreno.</p> <p>You sound tired.</p>	<p><b>Подай ми онова нещо, моля.</b> Podai mi onova neshto, molya.</p> <p>Pass me that thing, please.</p>
<p><b>Онова парче сирене не е твое.</b> That piece of cheese is not yours.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Бар

Бар is the Bulgarian word for any kind of establishment that operates in the late hours and offers alcoholic drinks. Although Bulgarian bars are no different from those in other countries,



there is a more traditional type of local bar where regular customers meet. They are called кръчми, which means "pubs."

## **Забавлявам се**

Забавлявам се is the Bulgarian verb for the English "to enjoy" or "to have fun." In the same way as other Bulgarian nouns, one of the words for "fun" originates from this verb. This is the word забавление or забава, meaning "fun."

## **Звуча**

Звуча is a Bulgarian verb that means "to sound" or "to sound like" in English. We use it very often in expressions like "sounds good" (as above) and "doesn't sound good," which in Bulgarian is Не звучи добре, and we use it when we comment on something problematic.

# GRAMMAR

## **The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking About Going Places.**

**Ирина, тази вечер Мартин и аз ще ходим на бар.**

**"Irina, tonight Martin and I are going to the bar."**

---

## **Отивам на [Place].**

**"I am going to [Place]."**

In Bulgarian, when we are talking about actions connected with visiting places, we use specific verbs, the most common of which is the verb отивам, meaning "to go."

We compose the sentences that include this verb like this: first we put the verb, in this case, отивам; then we put the preposition на, which can mean "of," "on," "in," "for," "at," "to," or "by," and in this case, it means "to"; and then we add the place (or sometimes the activity we do, for example, sports). So, in an example, this looks like the following: "I am going to the cinema": in Bulgarian, Отивам на кино. If we are talking about more than one person, the verb changes (according to the conjugation rules), and we may or may not add the pronoun. So for example, "We are going to the zoo" will be Отиваме на зоопарк, or when we add the pronoun for "we": Ние отиваме на зоопарк in Bulgarian. In this case, we change the pronoun and we change the verb because it is conjugated in the first person plural form, but

the rest remains the same. Note that this is a very common structure, but sometimes, specific actions and places require a different preposition, which usually is the preposition **в** in Bulgarian. It translates in English as "in," "at," "to," and others. The same type of sentence will be **Ние отиваме в парка**, which in English is "We are going to the park" but in Bulgarian, we use it with the preposition **в**, not **на**.

Some of these examples might be different in the case when we have formal and informal speech. For example, **отивам на йога** and **ходя на йога** both mean "I go to yoga," but the verb **ходя** indicates a more informal everyday language. When using formal speech, we will use another verb, **посещавам**, which means "to visit" in English. For example, "Visit a museum" will be **Посещавам музей** in Bulgarian.

## The Other Verbs Indicating Movement

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Bulgarian has many verbs that indicate movement, and as we noted here, we can use some of them in this expression about visiting places. Such verbs are **посещавам**, **ходя**, **вървя**, **идвам**, and **отивам**. In English, basically they are "to visit," "to walk," "to move," "to come," and "to go," but they can have multiple additional meanings.

### For Example:

1. **Отиваме на почивка.**  
*Otivame na pochivka.*  
"We are going on a vacation."
2. **Отиваш ли на училище?**  
*Otivash li na uchilishte?*  
"Are you going to school?" (informal)

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. **Обичаш ли да посещаваш барове?**  
*Obichash li da poseshtavash barove?*  
"Do you like going to bars?"

2. Тогава тази вечер да ходим на бар?  
*Togava тази vecher da hodim na bar?*  
"Well then, shall we go to the bar tonight?"
  
3. Ирина, тази вечер Мартин и аз ще ходим на бар.  
*Irina, тази vecher Martin i az shte hodim na bar.*  
"Irina, tonight Martin and I are going to the bar."

## Sample Sentences

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1. Ще ходим ли на море?  
*Shte hodim li na more?*  
"Are we going to go to the sea?"
  
2. Той отива в командировка.  
*Toi otiva v komandirovka.*  
"He goes on a business trip."

## Language Tip

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If you want to easily remember the correct preposition that we use in this type of sentence, you can remember a simple rule: abstract notions like "sea," "vacation," and "school" will usually have the preposition **на**, but when we imagine the concrete action we are going to do (for example, we will walk in the park), we use the preposition **в**.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Top Bulgarian Tourist Destinations

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When talking about visiting places in Bulgaria, we must mention the best ones you should go to. Here are some suggestions: The Rila Monastery, a beautiful monastery in the highest mountain of Bulgaria, Rila. It is situated 117 kilometers away from Sofia to the south and is no doubt the most popular tourist site among all monasteries in Bulgaria equally for its size,

natural surroundings, architecture, wall paintings, and ancient history. Of course, there are many more monasteries to visit in Bulgaria if you are interested in ancient history and religion.

The second-best options are the travel resorts in Bulgaria, which include in the winter Samokov, Borovets, Bansko, and Pamporovo as very popular ski resorts. There are summer resorts on the Black Sea coast at Sozopol, Nessebur, Golden Sands, Sunny Beach, Sveti Vlas, Albena, St. Constantine and Helena, and many others. Spa resorts, such as Bankya, Hisarya, Sandanski, Velingrad, Varshets and many others, are popular all throughout the year. There are also traditional villages in the countryside where you can enjoy crafts, wine production, and lots of healthy Bulgarian cuisine. Among the recommendations are Melnik, Koprivshtica, Etara, and many others.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #24

## Tabasco is Always Spicy, Even in Bulgaria

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Bulgarian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 24

# BULGARIAN

1. (The sound of eating)
2. Ирина: Ммм, вкусно. (Cough cough cough!) Люти!
3. Питър: (laughing) Това е с табаско.
4. Мартин: Табаско? Как е табаско на български?
5. Питър: Почакайте малко (beeping). Окей, табаско на български е също табаско. Означава лютив сос.
6. Ирина: (Cough cough cough.) Аа... Лютив сос.

# ROMANIZATION

1. (The sound of eating)
2. Irina: Mmm, vkusno. (Cough cough cough!) Lyuti!
3. Pityr: (laughing) Tova e s tabasko.
4. Martin: Tabasko? Kak e tabasko na bylgarski?
5. Pityr: Pochakaite malko (beeping). Okei, tabsako na bylgarski e syshto tabasko. Oznachava lyutiv sos.
6. Irina: (Cough cough cough.) Aa... Lyutiv sos.

# ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (The sound of eating)
2. Irina: Mm. This is tasty. (Cough cough cough!) It's spicy!
3. Peter: (laughing) That's the Tabasco.
4. Martin: Tabasco? What's "tabasco" in Bulgarian?
5. Peter: Please wait a moment. (beeping) Oh, "tabasco" in Bulgarian is also called "tabasco." It means a spicy sauce.
6. Irina: (Cough cough cough.) Ohh, a spicy sauce...

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
ЛЮТИ	lyuti	to be hot (as in spicy)
ЛЮТИВ	lyutiv	hot (as in spicy)
СОС	sos	sauce
български	bylgarski	Bulgarian (language)
чакам	chakam	to wait
Почакайте малко	Pochakaite malko	Wait a minute
също	syshto	also; too
вкусно	vkusno	tasty, delicious

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Яденето люти ли?</b> Yadeneto lyuti li?</p> <p>Is the meal spicy?</p>	<p><b>Аз не искам лютив сос.</b> Az ne iskam lyutiv sos.</p> <p>I don't want hot sauce.</p>
<p><b>Какъв сос ще желаете?</b> Kakv sos shte jelaete?</p> <p>What kind of sauce would you like to have?</p>	<p><b>Аз уча български език.</b> Az ucha bylgarski ezik.</p> <p>I am studying the Bulgarian language.</p>
<p><b>Чакам повече от час.</b> Chakam poveche ot chas.</p> <p>I've been waiting more than an hour.</p>	<p><b>Почакайте малко, какво е това?</b> Pochakaite malko, kakvo e tova?</p> <p>Wait a minute, what is this?</p>
<p><b>Аз също живея там.</b> Az syshto jiveya tam.</p> <p>I also live there.</p>	<p><b>Това е толкова вкусно!</b> Tova e tolkova vkusno!</p> <p>This is so tasty!</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Лютив

Лютив is the Bulgarian word for the adjective "hot" or "spicy" in English. Note that in Bulgarian, the definition of hot things might differ from that in other countries and very hot food may be served. You can ask "Is this hot?" by saying Лютиво ли е?

### Почакайте малко

Почакайте малко is the Bulgarian expression that we can translate as "Wait for a second" or "Wait a minute" or just "Wait," and we use it in the same situations as in English. The informal version is Чакай малко.

### Също

Също is a Bulgarian adverb that can mean "also," "too," and "as well" in English. It also



means "the same thing" in the neuter. For example, you can say in a restaurant Искам същото, which will mean "I want the same thing (meal)."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking How to Say Something in Another Language.**

**Как е табаско на български?**

**"What's 'tabasco' in Bulgarian?"**

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**Как е ~ на български (на английски)?**

**"How is ~ in Bulgarian (in English)?"**

When we want to ask what a certain word or expression is in Bulgarian, we will use the phrase from this lesson's grammar point: Как е ~ на български? This question might regard the pronunciation or the meaning of the word, as well as its translation from English (as that is the main language we ask about) to Bulgarian.

Because it is so universal, you can use it for many cases, and remembering it can be very helpful in the study of Bulgarian. We can change the target language with any language we want, and the structure remains the same: Как е ~ на английски? Here английски means "English." You can use any language you want: руски ("Russian"), немски ("German"), италиански ("Italian"), испански ("Spanish"), френски ("French"), and so on. Note that we write the different languages in lowercase in Bulgarian: for example, the Bulgarian language will be български език.

So how do we compose a sentence that asks about certain words in Bulgarian? We put first the adverb "how," which is как in Bulgarian; then we add the auxiliary verb in the third person singular form, е in Bulgarian; then put the word we want to ask about; and at the end, we add the phrase на български, where the preposition на in this case means "in" and български is "Bulgarian," but as we said, we can change this to any other language.

A more formal way to ask this question is Как ще кажете ~ на български? or Как ще кажете на български ~? which means "How would you say ~ in Bulgarian?"

### **The Other Verbs Indicating Movement**

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**We can modify** the expression we are focusing on in this lesson a bit to the following

meanings: "How do you say ~ in Bulgarian" (as above) and "What is ~ in Bulgarian?" which will be Какво е ~ на български? There are small nuances in their meaning and usage, so for now it is OK to remember the basics we introduce in the grammar point here.

### For Example:

1. Как е vacation на български?  
*Kak e vacation na bylgarski?*  
"What is 'vacation' in Bulgarian?"
2. Какво е soccer на английски?  
*Kakvo e soccer na angliiski?*  
"What is 'soccer' in English?" (Note: In Bulgarian, we call soccer "football.")

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Как е табаско на български?  
*Kak e tabasko na bylgarski?*  
"What's 'tabasco' in Bulgarian?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. Как ще кажете I am sorry на български?  
*Kak shte kajete I am sorry na bylgarski?*  
"How do you say I am sorry in Bulgarian?" (formal)
2. Как е лютеница на английски?  
*Kak e lyutenica na angliiski?*  
"How is lyutenica in English?"

### Language Tip

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Of course, when you are asking about unknown words or you want to ask about the meaning of a word, you would emphasize this specific word when you form the sentence. So in this

type of question, we usually stress these words in Bulgarian, especially if they are of foreign origin.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Bulgarian Slang

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There are many loan words in Bulgarian. Some of the most common are just describing something foreign like баскетбол, волейбол, джаз, рок, футбол, компютър. Others are taken from other languages like мерси from French and чао from Italian. A lot come from ancient languages like Greek or Latin. But all of them have a specific Bulgarian pronunciation that makes them a little bit different from the original. Recently, many new words have come from computer-related jargon, and they also have some Bulgarian influence. For example, the word "to download" in Bulgarian sounds a little bit slangy when younger people pronounce it with a suffix typical of Bulgarian verbs: *вам*. So the word changes like this: *download-вам*. The same happens with "to attach": *attach-вам*. Some people regard this as a mistake and insist on keeping the original English word or creating a Bulgarian equivalent. Our suggestion is to listen to the modern slang and just enjoy the freedom to create new words, but just in case, use the phrases we introduced in this lesson so that when you are not sure, you will be able to ask about the meaning of the word.

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #25

## A Summer Holiday in Bulgaria

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# 25

# BULGARIAN

1. Питър: Догодина ще ходя в Мексико.
2. Ирина: Защо?
3. Питър: По-малката ми сестра ще има сватба.
4. Мартин: Честито! Много хубаво! Кога ще ходиш?
5. Питър: През юни.
6. Ирина: Еха! Мария също ли ще ходи?
7. Питър: Да, ще вземем и Сара. И Шаро също.
8. Ирина: И Шаро ли? Леле!
9. Питър: След това ще отидем в България.
10. Мартин: Наистина ли? Уау!

# ROMANIZATION

1. Pityr: Dogodina shte hodya v Meksiko.
2. Irina: Zashto?
3. Pityr: Po-malkata mi sestra shte ima svatba.
4. Martin: Chestito! Mnogo hubavo! Koga shte hodish?

CONT'D OVER

5. Pityr: Prez iuni.
6. Irina: Eha! Mariya syshto li shte hodi?
7. Pityr: Da, shte vzemem I Sara. I Sharo syshto.
8. Irina: I Sharo li? Lele!
9. Pityr: Sled tova shte otidem v Bylgariya.
10. Martin: Naistina li? Uau!

## ENGLISH

1. Peter: I'm going to Mexico next year.
2. Irina: Why?
3. Peter: My little sister is getting married.
4. Martin: Congratulations. That's nice. When are you going?
5. Peter: In June.
6. Irina: Neat! Is Maria going too?
7. Peter: Yes! Sarah will also go. Sharo will go too.
8. Irina: Sharo too? Wow.

CONT'D OVER

9. Peter: After that, we'll go to Bulgaria.

10. Martin: Really? Cool!

## VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanization	English
сватба	svatba	Marriage; wedding
юни	iuni	June
хубаво	hubavo	nice, good
Мексико	Meksiko	Mexico
сестра	sestra	sister
честито	chestito	congratulations
догодина	dogodina	Next year
по-малък	po-malyk	younger

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Приготвям се за сватбата.</b> Prigotvyam se za svatbata. I am getting ready for the wedding.</p>	<p><b>Родена съм през юни.</b> Rodena sym prez iuni. I am born in June. (feminine)</p>
<p><b>Хубаво е, че си тук.</b> Hubavo e, che si tuk. It's nice that you are here.</p>	<p><b>Заминавам за Мексико.</b> Zaminavam za Meksiko. I am going to Mexico.</p>

<p><b>Аз имам две сестри.</b> Az imam dve sestri.</p> <p>I have two sisters.</p>	<p><b>Честито на младоженците!</b> Chestito na mladojencite!</p> <p>Congratulations to the newlyweds!</p>
<p><b>Догодина ще завърша.</b> Dogodina shte zavyrsha.</p> <p>Next year I will graduate.</p>	<p><b>Брат ми е по-малък от мен.</b> Brat mi e po-malyk ot men.</p> <p>My brother is younger than me.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### Честито

Честито is a Bulgarian expression used to say "congratulations." We also use another one, поздравления, quite often, and it means "congratulations" and "compliments" too. At weddings, Bulgarians also say Наздраве, which literally means "for (your) health," but we use it as "cheers" and also "bless you" when sneezing.

### Хубаво

Хубаво is the Bulgarian expression that we can translate as "good" or "nice" or just "OK," and we use it in the same situations as in English. Actually, it is an adverb similar to the adjective хубав, which means "nice" but also "pretty."

### Юни

Юни is a Bulgarian word for the month "June." We write Bulgarian months in lowercase. They are януари, февруари, март, април, май, юни, юли, август, септември, октомври, ноември, and декември.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Reviewing Grammar Points From Previous Lessons.**

**Мария също ли ще ходи?**

**"Is Maria going**



## Ще ~ [Verb] ли; [Person]~ ли ще ~[Verb]

"Will ~ [Verb]; Will ~ [Person] ~[Verb]?"

In this lesson series, we were introducing different ways to ask or say about doing actions in the future. The subjects of these actions can be different, so here we will go through some expressions that we use to indicate this kind of meaning for the speaker or for the other persons we are talking about.

So asking "Will you do this?" in Bulgarian is **Ще направиш ли това?** where **ще** means "will," **направиш** means "do" and is in the second person singular finite form of the verb, **ли** is the particle we use for forming questions, and finally, **това** means "this." Instead of "do this," we can use many other combinations like "go to the supermarket" or "marry me." These sentences sound like this in Bulgarian: **Ще отидеш ли до супермаркета?** which in English is "Will you go to the supermarket?" and **Ще се ожениш/омъжиш ли за мен,** which means "Will you marry me?" but this sentence has different verb forms for the two genders. Men ask women with the verb **омъжиш** (second person singular form), and women ask men with the verb **ожениш** (second person singular form).

When we ask using the "Will someone do something" type of form, for example "Will your son graduate this year?" we can say **Синът ти ще завърши ли тази година?** which emphasizes the year of graduation, or we can say **Синът ти ли ще завърши тази година?** which emphasizes who is doing the action, which in this case is the son.

## Other Verbs Indicating Movement

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Note that in this kind of expression, the particle **ли** is always present but changes its position, and therefore influences the meaning of the sentence. To put it simply, the particle is where the emphasis of the question is or it is next to the word we are asking about: in the above case, first this is the year, and then it is the person doing the action.

### For Example:

1. **Ще отидеш ли на интервю?**  
*Shte otidesh li na interviu?*  
"Are you going to the interview?"(informal)

2. Приятелят ти ще дойде ли с нас?  
*Priyatelyat ti shte diode li s nas?*  
"Will your friend come with us?" (masculine)

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. Мария също ли ще ходи?
2. *Mariya systo li shte hodi?*
3. "Is Maria going too?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. Ще ми подадеш ли солта?  
*Shte mi podadesh li solta?*  
"Will you pass me the salt?" (formal)
2. Петър ще се върне ли скоро?  
*Petyr shte se vyrne li skoro?*  
"Is Petar coming back soon?" (note that Petar is the Bulgarian name for Peter)

### Language Tip

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This type of sentence has many variations and they are not always translated in English with "will." Still, in Bulgarian, the word *ще*, which we translate as "will," is always present because it notifies us about an action that is still not finished. Noticing it can help you recognize not only the tense of the sentence but also the overall meaning about intentions and actions to be performed in the future (plans).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Going to the Chapel in Bulgaria

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Nowadays Bulgarian weddings can have various ceremonies, from very traditional to very modern. It depends on the young couple's wishes and sometimes their parents' wishes, because in most cases they pay the expenses for the wedding party. Today, a lot of traditions from the past are forgotten, while others are changed and updated. Still, there are some traditions that are typical for most of the wedding rituals. Most weddings in Bulgaria take place on Saturday or Sunday, and there are almost no weddings in the period of fasting before big Christian church holidays. In Bulgaria, the guests of the party bring gifts. Usually, there is a church ritual, where all of the guests go to the church after the civil procedure. After this, there is a wedding party that is usually held in a restaurant, where some rituals for the newlywed couple are done by the time of their entering. During the party, the new family goes around to the tables of the guests to say cheers, and then guests give them their presents. The typical party has a lot of food, drinks, and dances. The guests whoop very often Горчиво! (meaning "bitter"), and then the young couple kisses.