

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Meet the Russian Bi-Lingual Fabio

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1

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Здравствуйте, извините, можно с Вами познакомиться?
2. NIKA: Да, конечно. Меня зовут Вероника. А как Вас зовут?
3. BEN: Бенджамин. Можно просто Бен.
4. NIKA: Очень приятно, Бен!
5. BEN: Мне тоже очень приятно!

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Zdrastvuyte, izvinite, mozhna s Vami paznakomitsa?
2. NIKA: Da, kaneshna. Menya zavut Veranika. A kak Vas zavut?
3. BEN: Benjamin. Mozhna prosta Ben.
4. NIKA: Ochen' priyatna, Ben!
5. BEN: Mne tozhe ochen' priyatna!

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Hello, excuse me, may I get to know you?
2. NIKA: Yes, sure. My name is Veronika. What's your name?

CONT'D OVER

3. BEN: Benjamin. You can call me Ben.
4. NIKA: Nice to meet you, Ben!
5. BEN: Nice to meet you, too!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
здравствуйте	zdrastvuyte	hello	interjection
приятно	priyatna	nice, pleasant	adverb
очень	ochen'	very, very much, really	adverb
просто	prosta	simply, just	adverb
меня зовут	menya zavut	my name (is)	phrase
познакомиться	paznakomitsa	to meet, to get acquainted, to get to know (someone)	verb
с	с	with	preposition
конечно	kaneshna	of course, certainly	adverb
можно	mozhna	it's allowed to, can, may, it's possible to	adverb
как	kak	how	pronoun
извините	izvinite	excuse me, I am sorry, pardon	interjection
тоже	tozhe	too, also	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Здравствуйте, давно не виделись. <i>Zdrastvuyte, davno ne videlis'.</i></p> <p>"Hello, haven't seen you for a while."</p>	<p>Здравствуйте, Вы - Марина? <i>Zdrastvuyte, vy Marina?</i></p> <p>"Hello, are you Marina?"</p>
<p>Здравствуйте, Марина. <i>Zdrastvuyte, Marina.</i></p> <p>"Hello, Marina."</p>	<p>Очень приятно вас снова видеть. <i>Ochen' priyatna vas snova videt'.</i></p> <p>"It's a pleasure to see you again."</p>
<p>Так приятно отдыхать в парке! <i>Tak priyatna addykhat' f parke!</i></p> <p>"It's so nice to rest in the park!"</p>	<p>Вы очень хорошо говорите по-русски. <i>Vy ochen' kharasho gavarite pa-russki.</i></p> <p>"You speak Russian very well." (formal)</p>
<p>Он очень любит слушать музыку. <i>On ochen' lyubit slushat' muzyku.</i></p> <p>"He really likes listening to music."</p>	<p>Она очень красивая. <i>Ana ochen' krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"She's very beautiful."</p>
<p>Концерт был просто восхитительным! <i>Kantsert byl prosta vaskhititel'nym!</i></p> <p>"The concert was just delightful!"</p>	<p>Я не заболел, я просто устал. <i>Ya ne zabalel, ya prosta ustal.</i></p> <p>"I'm not sick, I'm just tired."</p>
<p>Его зовут Эрик. <i>Evo zavut Erik.</i></p> <p>"His name is Erik."</p>	<p>Вас зовут Эрик? <i>Vas zavut Erik?</i></p> <p>"Is your name Erik?"</p>
<p>Как Вас зовут? <i>Kak vas zavut?</i></p> <p>"What is your name?"</p>	<p>Приятно познакомиться. <i>Priyatna paznakomitsa.</i></p> <p>"Nice to meet you."</p>
<p>Рад с Вами познакомиться, наконец! <i>Rat s Vami paznakomitsa, nakanets!</i></p> <p>"I'm glad to finally meet you!"</p>	<p>Познакомься, это моя сестра, Катя. <i>Paznakom'sya, eta maya sestra, Katya.</i></p> <p>"Meet my sister, Katya."</p>

<p>Я с ним не знаком. <i>Ya s nim ne znakom.</i></p> <p>"I'm not acquainted with him."</p>	<p>Встреча с директором назначена на 8 утра. <i>Vstrecha s direktoram naznachena na 8 utra.</i></p> <p>"The meeting with the director is scheduled for eight A.M."</p>
<p>Я приехал с подругой. <i>Ya priyekhal s padrugay.</i></p> <p>"I came with my (female) friend."</p>	<p>Конечно, приходи! <i>Kaneshna, prikhadi!</i></p> <p>"Of course you should come!"</p>
<p>Они, конечно, правы. <i>Ani, kaneshna, pravyy.</i></p> <p>"They are certainly right."</p>	<p>Вы пойдете на дискотеку? - Конечно. <i>Vy paydyote na diskateku? - Kaneshna.</i></p> <p>"Are you going to the disco? - Sure."</p>
<p>Можно войти? <i>Mozhna vayti?</i></p> <p>"May I come in?"</p>	<p>Здесь можно курить? <i>Zdes' mozhna kurit'?</i></p> <p>"Is it okay (allowed) to smoke here?"</p>
<p>Как вы себя чувствуете? <i>Kak vy sebya chustvuyete?</i></p> <p>"How do you feel?" (asking condition)</p>	<p>Как у тебя дела? <i>Kak u tebya dela?</i></p> <p>"How are you?"</p>
<p>Ой, извините! <i>Oy, izvinite!</i></p> <p>"Oh, I'm sorry!"</p>	<p>Извините, я опоздал. <i>Izvinite, ya opozdal.</i></p> <p>"I'm sorry, I'm late."</p>
<p>Извините, который час? <i>Izvinite, katoryy chas?</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, what time is it?"</p>	<p>Я тоже устал. <i>Ya tozhye ustal.</i></p> <p>"I'm tired, too."</p>
<p>Мы тоже там работаем. <i>My tozhye tam rabotayem.</i></p> <p>"We also work there."</p>	<p>Вам тоже нравится музыка? <i>Vam tozhe nravitsa muzyka?</i></p> <p>"Do you like music, too?"</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking Permission and Self-Introductions

Меня зовут Вероника. А как Вас зовут ?

"My name is Veronika. What's your name?"

Можно(*mozhna*) - "Can I"

Можно (*mozhna*) is a universal word for asking or giving permission. The best thing about this word is that you can use it without any pronouns. For example, the phrases "Can I..." and "Is it okay to..." both need the pronouns "I" or "it" to go with them. Moreover, in English, you also need the auxiliary verb "is" to form a question like "is it okay to...." In Russian, we don't need either. We form all questions like "Can I...?" / "May I...?" / "Is it okay to...?" / "Is it allowed to...?" and "Is it possible to...?" with only one word in the beginning of a sentence: можно.

For Example:

1. Можно войти?
Mozhna vayti?
"Can I come in?"
2. Можно курить?
Mozhna kurit'
"Is it okay to smoke?"

Познакомиться (*paznakomitsa*) - "to get acquainted"

We can translate Познакомиться (*paznakomitsa*) as "to get acquainted" or "to get to know each other"; therefore, we can use it with or without the preposition "with" (*s*). In our case, it's "to get acquainted with you" (познакомиться с Вами, *paznakomitsa s Vami*). The word order is very flexible in Russian; you can put с Вами (*s Vami* - "with you") before or after познакомиться.

Меня зовут (*menya zavut*) - "I am called"

Меня зовут (*menya zavut*) literally means "I am called" but we translate it into English as "my name is". The simpler and more informal way to introduce yourself would be Я (*ya*) + name.

For Example:

1. Меня зовут Вероника.
Menya zavut Veranika.
"My name is Veronika."

We translate "Как Вас зовут?" (*kak Vas zavut*), literally, "How are you called?" as "What's your name?" The more informal way to ask a name would be using a different word for "you", the informal "you," which is тебя (*tebya*).

For Example:

1. Как тебя зовут?
Kak tebya zavut?
"What's your name?"

Можно просто (*mozhna prosta*) - "It's okay simply"

Можно просто (*mozhna prosta*) literally means "it's okay simply", and we use it in the context of the English "you can call me". Almost all Russian names have short forms, for example, a guy named Alexander is usually called Sasha by his parents and friends. A girl named Elena is usually called Lena.

Очень приятно (*ochen' priyatna*) - "Very nice"

Очень приятно (*ochen' priyatna*) literally means "very nice", and we can translate it as "nice to meet you". There are several versions of answers to this phrase. The most informal one is мне тоже (*mne tozhe* - "me too").

One that is also informal but sounds more enthusiastic and intimate is *мне тоже очень приятно* (*mne tozhe ochen' priyatna* - "it's nice to meet you, too.").

Basically, the more words you say at your first meeting, the more enthusiastic about it you sound. So if you want your acquaintance to feel your enthusiasm and disposition, you can put all the words you learned in today's dialogue together and get the following phrase:

1. Мне тоже очень приятно познакомиться, Ника!
Mne tozhe ochen' priyatna paznakomitsa, Nika!
"It was very nice meeting you too, Nika!"

And lastly, if you want to sound formal, polite, and well-mannered in your answer to "nice to meet you", you can say just one word.

For Example:

1. Взаимно.
Vzaimna.
"Likewise."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Meeting People in Russia

Getting to know people in random places like public transportation or parks used to be very popular in Russia before, as there were very few opportunities to meet people outside of work places or universities. There were no nightclubs and very few coffee shops or restaurants in the country, most of which were quite unaffordable for common people. Nowadays, people are much more skeptical about making "street friends," although if you approach a person you liked in a gallant and intelligent way (i.e., don't scare him/her away or freak him/her out), then chances for success are still high. Asking for permission to get to know a person, just like in our dialogue, is the most common conversation starter in Russia.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2

From America to Russia

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RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Ника, Вы русская?
2. NIKA: Нет, я украинка, но живу в России. А Вы откуда? Вы американец?
3. BEN: Да, я из Америки.
4. NIKA: А из какого штата?
5. BEN: Я родился в Орегоне, но живу в Нью-Йорке.

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Nika, Vy ruskaya?
2. NIKA: Net, ya ukrainka, no zhyvu v Rasii. A Vy atkuda? Vy amerikanets?
3. BEN: Da, ya iz Ameriki.
4. NIKA: A iz kakova shtata?
5. BEN: Ya radilsya v Aregone, no zhyvu v New-Yorke.

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Nika, are you Russian?

CONT'D OVER

2. NIKA: No, I'm Ukrainian, but I live in Russia. Where are you from? Are you American?
3. BEN: Yes, I am from America.
4. NIKA: What State are you from?
5. BEN: I was born in Oregon, but I live in New York.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
русская	ruskaya	Russian (nationality, feminine)	noun, adjective	feminine
украинка	ukrainka	Ukrainian (nationality, feminine)	noun	
ЖИТЬ	zhyt'	to live, to stay	verb	
В	v	in	preposition	
откуда	atkuda	where.. from	adverb	
из	iz	from	preposition	
какой	kakoy	what, what kind, which	adjective	
штат	shtat	state	noun	
НО	no	but	conjunction	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Она не русская, она англичанка. <i>Ana ne russkaya, ona anglichanka.</i></p> <p>"She isn't Russian, she's English."</p>	<p>Я украинка, а он американец. <i>Ya ukrainka, a on amerikanets.</i></p> <p>"I'm Ukrainian, and he's American."</p>
<p>Где ты живёшь? <i>Gde ty zhyvyosh'?</i></p> <p>"Where do you live?"</p>	<p>Она хотела бы здесь жить. <i>Ana khatela by zdes' zhyt'.</i></p> <p>"She'd like to live here."</p>
<p>В баре было много людей. <i>V bare byla mnoga lyudey.</i></p> <p>"There were lots of people in the bar."</p>	<p>Откуда он приехал? <i>Atkuda on priyekhal?</i></p> <p>"Where did he come from?"</p>
<p>Он из Киева. <i>On iz Kiyeva.</i></p> <p>"He is from Kiev."</p>	<p>Мы едем из Санкт-Петербурга в Москву. <i>My yedem iz Sankt-Peterburga v Maskvu.</i></p> <p>"We are going from Saint Petersburg to Moscow."</p>
<p>Вы из какой страны? <i>Vy is kakoy strany?</i></p> <p>"What country are you from?"</p>	<p>Какую музыку Вы слушаете? <i>Kakuyu muzyku Vy slushayete?</i></p> <p>"What kind of music do you listen to?"</p>
<p>Какая это улица? <i>Kakaya eta ulitsa?</i></p> <p>"What street is this?"</p>	<p>Аляска – самый большой штат в Америке. <i>Alyaska – samyy bal'shoy shtat v Amerike.</i></p> <p>"Alaska is the biggest state in America."</p>
<p>Я не была в Штатах. <i>Ya ne byla f Shtatakh.</i></p> <p>"I haven't been to the States."</p>	<p>Я из штата Орегон. <i>Ya is shtata Aregon.</i></p> <p>"I'm from Oregon state."</p>
<p>Я знаю, что вы заняты, но не могли бы вы приехать? <i>Ya znayu, shto vy zanyaty, no ne magli by vy priyekhat'?</i></p> <p>"I know you're busy, but could you come?"</p>	<p>Я хочу пойти, но у меня нет времени. <i>Ya khachu payti, no u menya net vremeni.</i></p> <p>"I want to go, but I don't have time."</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Gender and Nationality

я украинка, но живу в России. А Вы откуда? Вы американец?

"I'm Ukrainian, but I live in Russia. Where are you from? Are you American?"

In Russian, we assign each noun a gender: masculine, feminine, or neuter. It is almost always possible to tell the gender of a noun by its spelling.

*Nouns that end in consonants are usually masculine. For example, the nouns *shtat* ("state") and "Oregon" are definitely masculine because they end in consonants. When it comes to Russian male names, they almost always end in consonants in their full form. Although, when shortened, they have the feminine endings *-a* and *-ya*.

For Example:

1. Alexander – *Sasha*
2. Dmitry – *Dima*

*Nouns that end with the vowels *-a* or *-ya* are almost always feminine. That's why almost all Russian female names end in *-a* or *-ya*.

For Example:

1. Lena
2. Katya

*Neuter nouns usually end in vowels *-o* or *-e*. For example, the words *piva* ("beer") and *more* ("sea") are neuter in Russian.

Nationalities

We also divide nationalities in Russian into genders, but luckily only two: feminine and masculine.

For Example:

1. Русская (*russkaya*)
"Russian" (female)
Русский (*ruskii*)
"Russian" (male)
2. Украинка (*ukrainka*)
"Ukrainian" (female)
Украинец (*ukrainets*)
"Ukrainian" (male)
3. Американка (*amerikanka*)
"American" (female)
Американец (*amerikanets*)
"American" (male)
4. Англичанка (*anglichanka*)
"English" (female)
Англичанин (*anglichanin*)
"English" (male)

Вы откуда? ("You are from where?")

Вы откуда?

Literally, it means "you from where?" Yes, we can translate the English phrase "where from" as one Russian word, *atkuda*. And *Vy* is a simple pronoun for a polite "you."

For Example:

1. Я живу в России
2. Я из Америки
3. Я родился в Орегоне

As you can see, the first parts of these sentences have the same word for word translation into English and are pretty easy; all you have to remember is them as they are.

For Example:

1. Я живу в (*ya zhyvu v*)
"I live in"
2. Я из (*ya iz*)
"I am from"
3. Я родился в (*ya radilsya*)
"I was born in" (masculine)
4. Я родилась (*ya radilas'*)
"I was born" (feminine)

But, you might have noticed that the country, the city, or any other place that goes after those phrases modifies its ending a little bit. That has to do with genders and the thing called cases, which we are going to learn later. For now, learn to introduce yourself by memorizing these patterns:

1. **Я живу в... / я родился в...**
1. России (*Rassii*)
2. Америке (*Amerike*)
3. Англии (*Anglii*)
4. Мичигане (*Michigane*)
5. Орегоне (*Aregone*)
6. Калифорнии (*Kalifornii*)
7. **Я из...**

1. России (*Rassii*)
2. Америки (*Ameriki*)
3. Англии (*Anglii*)
4. Мичигана (*Michigana*)
5. Орегона (*Aregona*)
6. Калифорнии (*Kalifornii*)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Martians in Russia!

Before the Soviet Union collapsed, meeting a foreigner, let alone speaking to one, was similar to meeting a Martian for common Russians: the "Iron Curtain" carefully protected the USSR from anything foreign and potentially dangerous. Even the legendary band "The Beatles" was claimed to be the "mind-corrupting leftovers of rotten capitalism" and was forbidden even to think of; therefore, the music was secretly passed from hands to hands and recorded on thin medical X-ray sheets in house basements. Luckily, the times have changed; the international inflow in Russia is huge. Meeting foreigners is still interesting and intriguing, like in any other country, but not shocking or intimidating like in the USSR.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3

Speaking Russian Behind Your Back

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3

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Привет, Ника! Как дела?
2. NIKA: Нормально. Познакомься, это мой папа.
3. BEN: Здравствуйте, я Бен. Как поживаете?
4. NIKA'S DAD: Хорошо, спасибо, Бен! Ну, удачного вам дня!
5. BEN: Спасибо, Вам тоже!

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Privet, Nika! Kak dela?
2. NIKA: Narmal'na. Paznakom'sya, eta moy papa.
3. BEN: Zdrastvuyte, ya Ben. Kak pazhyvaete?
4. NIKA'S DAD: Kharasho, spasiba, Ben! Nu, udachnava vam dnya!
5. BEN: Spasiba, Vam tozhe!

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Hi, Nika! How are you?
2. NIKA: I'm okay. Let me introduce you to my dad.

CONT'D OVER

3. BEN: Hello, I'm Ben. How do you do?
4. NIKA'S DAD: I'm fine, thank you Ben. Well, have a good day you two!
5. BEN: Thanks, you too!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
как	kak	how	pronoun	
удачный	udachnyy	successful, lucky	adjective	masculine
спасибо	spasiba	thank you	interjection	
хорошо	kharasho	okay, good, well, fine	particle; adverb	
Как поживаете?	Kak pazhyvaete?	How do you do?	phrase	
папа	papa	dad	noun	masculine
мой	moy	my	pronoun	masculine
это	eta	this, this is, it	pronoun	
познакомься	paznakom'sya	get to know; let me introduce you to...	verb	
нормально	narmal'na	all right, okay, fine, not bad	adverb	
дела	dela	things, goings- on, affairs	noun, plural	
день	den'	day	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Как вы себя чувствуете? <i>Kak vy sebya chustvuyete?</i></p> <p>"How do you feel?" (asking condition)</p>	<p>Как у тебя дела? <i>Kak u tebya dela?</i></p> <p>"How are you?"</p>
<p>Сегодня был не очень удачный день. <i>Sevodnya byl ne ochen' udachnyy den'.</i></p> <p>"It wasn't a very successful day today."</p>	<p>Спасибо за приглашение. <i>Spasiba za priglasheniye.</i></p> <p>"Thanks for the invitation."</p>
<p>Вы хорошо себя чувствуете? <i>Vy kharasho sebya chustvuyete?</i></p> <p>"Do you feel okay?"</p>	<p>Он хорошо говорит по-русски. <i>On kharasho gavarit pa-russki.</i></p> <p>"He speaks Russian well."</p>
<p>Здравствуйтесь, как поживаете? <i>Zdrastvuyte, kak pazhyvaete?</i></p> <p>"Hello, how do you do?"</p>	<p>Папа купил мне книгу. <i>Papa kupil mne knigu.</i></p> <p>"My dad bought me a book."</p>
<p>Кем работает твой папа? <i>Kem rabotayet tvoy papa?</i></p> <p>"What does your dad do?"</p>	<p>Мой сосед - испанец. <i>Moy saset - ispanets.</i></p> <p>"My neighbor is Spanish."</p>
<p>Вот мой билет. <i>Vot moy bilet.</i></p> <p>"Here's my ticket."</p>	<p>Как это читается? <i>Kak eta chitayetsa?</i></p> <p>"How do you read this?"</p>
<p>Алло? Кто это? <i>Allo? Kto eta?</i></p> <p>"Hello? Who is this?"</p>	<p>Познакомьтесь, это Лера, моя коллега. <i>Paznakom'sya, eta Lera, maya kallega.</i></p> <p>"Let me introduce you. This is Lera, my co-worker."</p>
<p>Всё нормально. <i>Vsyo normal'na.</i></p> <p>"I'm doing all right."</p>	<p>Как дела у дяди Васи? <i>Kak dela u dyadi Vasi?</i></p> <p>"How is uncle Vasya doing?"</p>

<p>В течение дня я работаю в аптеке. <i>F techeniye dnya ya rabotayu v apteke.</i></p> <p>"During the day, I work at a pharmacy."</p>	<p>Я убираю в своей комнате каждый день. <i>Ya ubirayu f svayey komnate kazhdyy den'.</i></p> <p>"I clean my room every day."</p>
<p>Он весь день сидит дома. <i>On ves' den' sidit doma.</i></p> <p>"He's been sitting at home all day."</p>	<p>Какой странный день! <i>Kakoy stranny den'!</i></p> <p>"What a strange day!"</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Russian Greetings and Formal and Informal Verbs

Здравствуй те, я Бен. Как поживает е?

"Hello, I'm Ben. How do you do?"

Как дела (*kak dela*) and Как поживает е (*kak pazhyvaete*)

These two expressions are informal and formal ways to ask "How are you?" We use *kak dela* much more often in everyday life. *Kak pazhyvaete* is a formal version of this inquiry, but it's not very common in Russia. Nevertheless, it's a good icebreaker and pause-filler, so we can't call it useless. The question "How are you" itself is not as popular in Russia as it is in the English speaking world.

Нормально (*normal'na*) and хорошо (*kharasho*)

These two words are the most common answers to the "How are you" question.

Normal'na obviously derived from the word "normal," but in Russian, it has a meaning of "okay, fine, uneventfully good." It's a rather casual answer. If you want to sound more polite or formal, we suggest you use *kharasho* instead.

Познакомься (*raznakom'sya*)

This is the word we learned in the first lesson with the only difference that here we use it in the command form. So here we can translate it as "let me introduce you to...," or "get to know..." It always goes in the same pattern: *Paznakom'sya, eta...* (literally, "let me introduce you," "this is...")

Удачного дня (*udachnava dnya*)

Удачного дня (*udachnava dnya*) literally means "Have a successful day," which is a Russian version of "have a good day." The word Вам is a polite pronoun for "to you," which we see in the following phrase: "to you, too" – Вам тоже (*Vam tozhe*). Вам can also mean "you" in plural, like in the phrase from our dialogue *udachnava vam dnya*; therefore, we translate it as "Have a good day you two."

Formal / Informal Verbs

When talking to people, you choose the way and the manner to communicate with them. The language you are using reflects the style you choose. All verbs that you use in reference to your companion are a little modified according to the form of speech you put them in. For example, the phrase "let's go" would sound different in formal and informal forms. Informally, it would sound as пойдём (*paydyom*). But if you want to sound more polite, you should say пойдёмте (*paydyomte*).

As you can see, the difference between formal and informal forms lies in the endings of the verbs. What distinguishes them is the ending *-те (te)*. Most of the time, to change a verb from informal to formal, all you have to do is add *te* to the end, and vice versa: to sound informal, drop the ending *te* from your verbs. But sometimes you will have to modify the ending completely.

For Example:

1. ПОЗНАКОМЬСЯ
paznakom'sya
"get to know, let me introduce you to" (informal)
2. здравствуйте
zdrastvuyte
"hello" (literally, "be healthy") (formal)
3. поживаете
pazhyvaete
"living" (formal)

The opposite forms of these verbs would look like the following examples.

For Example:

1. ПОЗНАКОМЬТЕСЬ
paznakom'tes' (formal)
2. здравствуй
zdrastvuy (informal)
3. поживаешь
pazhyvaesh (informal)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Burning Ears

"Meeting the parents" is not a big deal in Russia nowadays, whether they are your friend's or your partner's. Usually it happens in a very casual atmosphere with no awkward smiles or questions. Everyone behaves as if they are just meeting a new neighbor. It's after you leave when your ears might start burning from being actively discussed by the parents and siblings. But don't worry, if you are polite and behave naturally, you'll be very much liked and invited to

visit again and again.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4

The Younger Russian Generation

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- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
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- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

4

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Ника, ты говоришь по-английски?
2. NIKA: Немного. Нет, очень плохо. Но я говорю по-немецки.
3. BEN: Правда? Я тоже немного говорю. Совсем немного.
4. NIKA: Но ты хорошо говоришь по-русски!
5. BEN: Нет-нет, я только учу...

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Nika, ty govorish po-angliski?
2. NIKA: Nemnogo. Net, ochen' ploho. No ya govoryu po-nemetski.
3. BEN: Pravda? Ya tozhe nemnogo govoryu. Sovsem nemnogo.
4. NIKA: No ty horosho govorish po-ruski!
5. BEN: Net-net, ya tol'ko uchu...

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Nika, can you speak English?
2. NIKA: A little. No, very badly. But I can speak German.

CONT'D OVER

3. BEN: Really? I can speak a little German. Very little.
4. NIKA: But you are fluent in Russian!
5. BEN: No, no, I'm just learning...

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
говорить	govorit'	to speak	verb
совсем	sovsem	completely, totally; at all	adverb
учить	uchit'	to learn, to study	verb
хорошо	horosho	okay, good, well, fine	particle; adverb
правда	pravda	the truth, true; really?	noun
по-немецки	po-nemetski	in German (language)	adverb
плохо	ploho	badly, bad	adverb
очень	ochen'	very, very much, really	adverb
немного	nemnogo	a little, not much	adverb
по-английски	po-angliski	in English (language)	adverb
только	tol'ko	only, just	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Мы не говорим по-английски. <i>My nye govorim po-angliyski.</i></p> <p>"We don't speak English."</p>	<p>Сергей говорит по телефону. <i>Syergyey govorit po tyelyefonu.</i></p> <p>"Sergey is speaking on the phone."</p>
<p>Что они говорят? <i>Chto oni govoryat?</i></p> <p>"What are they saying?"</p>	<p>Это совсем не трудно! <i>Èto sovsem ne trudno!</i></p> <p>"This isn't difficult at all!"</p>
<p>Я совсем без денег. <i>Ya savsem bez deneg.</i></p> <p>"I'm totally broke." / "I'm totally without money."</p>	<p>Мне нужно учить английский. <i>Mne nuzhno učit' angliiskij.</i></p> <p>"I have to study English."</p>
<p>Вы хорошо себя чувствуете? <i>Vy horosho syebya chuvstvuyete?</i></p> <p>"Do you feel okay?"</p>	<p>Он хорошо говорит по-русски. <i>On horosho govorit po-russki.</i></p> <p>"He speaks Russian well."</p>
<p>Это правда? <i>Eto pravda?</i></p> <p>"Is it true?"</p>	<p>Правда? <i>Pravda?</i></p> <p>"Really?"</p>
<p>Он говорит правду. <i>On govorit pravdu.</i></p> <p>"He's telling the truth."</p>	<p>Я совсем не говорю по-немецки. <i>Ya sovsem ne govoryu po-nemetski.</i></p> <p>"I don't speak German at all."</p>
<p>Ты что, не понимаешь, как это плохо? <i>Ty shto, ne ponimaesh, kak eto ploho?</i></p> <p>"Don't you understand how bad it is?"</p>	<p>Мне плохо. <i>Mne ploho.</i></p> <p>"I feel bad."</p>
<p>Вы очень хорошо говорите по-русски. <i>Vy ochen horosho govorite po-russki.</i></p> <p>"You speak Russian very well." (formal)</p>	<p>Он очень любит слушать музыку. <i>On ochen lyubit slushat' muzyku.</i></p> <p>"He really likes listening to music."</p>

<p>Она очень красивая. <i>Ona ochen' krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"She's very beautiful."</p>	<p>Я немного устал. <i>Ya nyemnogo ustal.</i></p> <p>"I'm a little tired."</p>
<p>Он немного говорит по-русски. <i>On nyemnogo govorit po-russki.</i></p> <p>"He speaks a little Russian."</p>	<p>Я хочу немного сыра. <i>Ya hochu nyemnogo syra.</i></p> <p>"I'd like a little cheese."</p>
<p>Мы не говорим по-английски. <i>My nye govorim po-angliyski.</i></p> <p>"We don't speak English."</p>	<p>Я только проснулся. <i>Ya tol'ko prosnulsya.</i></p> <p>"I've just woken up."</p>
<p>Я только утром ему звонил. <i>Ya tol'ko utrom yemu zvonil.</i></p> <p>"I just called him this morning."</p>	<p>У меня есть только один компьютер. <i>U myenya yest' tol'ko odin komp'yutyer.</i></p> <p>"I have only one computer."</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Russian Verbs

Я тоже немного говорю.

"I can speak a little German."

Verbs are the words that describe actions. They are also the words that we modify according to tenses, for example: "I work," "I'm working," "I worked," "I will work," and so on.

Here's good news for you--the Russian language has only three tenses! It means that in the present tense, for example, phrases like "I work," "I'm working," and "I do work," sound the same in Russian. In the past tense, "I worked," "I have been working" and "I did work," also have only one way of translating into Russian. Same works for the future tense.

BUT, this simplicity has its tricks. Russian verbs change their endings depending on the person. This happens a little in English, but not as much.

For Example:

1. "I work" - "he works"

It's called verb conjugation.

Although the verb conjugations have very logically structured rules and patterns, we won't go through them in this lesson. Instead, we will give you the general idea of what changes the verbs can go through.

Examples of Verbs from the dialogue:

1. **говорить** (*govorit'*)
"to speak"
2. **учить** (*uchit'*)
"to learn," "to study"

As you can see, the above examples all end in *-ts*, which indicates that these verbs are infinitive (i.e., used in the dictionary form).

Now, let's try our first conjugations:

1. Я говорю
ya govoryu
"I speak"
2. Ты говоришь
ty govorish
"you speak"
3. Я учу
ya uchu
"I learn"
4. Ты учишь
ty uchish
"you learn"

The endings have patterns that are applicable to all the other verbs!

For Example:

1. Я говорю по-немецки

As you can see from the translation, we put the word "can" into parentheses because unlike in English, we don't need this word in Russian when saying things like "I can speak," "I can see," "I can hear," and so on. In Russian, they sound simply like "I speak," "I see," "I hear."

Languages

When talking or asking about the languages you can speak, the language itself starts with *po-*, which we can translate as "in," in this case. Here are some languages:

1. по-немецки
po-nemetski
"(in) German"
2. по-русски
po-ruski
"(in) Russian"
3. по-английски
po-angliski
"(in) English"
4. по-французски
po-frantsuski
"(in) French"
5. по-испански
po-ispanski
"(in) Spanish"

We use these patterns only when talking about languages you can speak or can say words

in. When you want to name a language itself, like in the sentence "I study Russian," these words lose the prefix *po-* in the beginning and add short *-i* in the end.

For Example:

Я учу..., (*Ya uchu...*) - "I study..."

1. немецкий
nemetskiy
"German"
2. русский
ruskiy
"Russian"
3. английский
angliskiy
"English"
4. французский
frantsuskiy
"French"
5. испанский
ispanskiy
"Spanish"

To say that you are fluent or bad in a language, all you have to do is insert the word *хорошо*, (*horosho* - "good"), or *плохо*, (*ploho* - "bad") into the sentence.

For Example:

1. Я хорошо говорю по-английски
ya horosho govoryu po-angliski
"I am fluent in English."
2. Я плохо говорю по-немецки
ya ploho govoryu po-nemetski
"I'm bad in German."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding English in Russia

Nowadays, you can meet a lot of people in big cities who'd be able to explain more than just street directions to you in English. Although, we'd still recommend you to target people under thirty years old. The older generation won't be much of a help. And don't expect the staff in the stores or restaurants to speak foreign languages either. That segment of the population is still English-free.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5

Russia's Five-Year Plan

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 6 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

5

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Бен, кем ты работаешь?
2. BEN: Я экономист, работаю в банке. А ты?
3. NIKA: А я ещё студентка, учусь на журналиста и подрабатываю в кафе.
4. BEN: А ты на каком курсе?
5. NIKA: На пятом, в этом году заканчиваю.
6. BEN: Здорово, удачи!

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Ben, kem ty rabotaesh?
2. BEN: Ya ekonomist, rabotayu v banke. A ty?
3. NIKA: A ya escho studentka, uchus' na zhurnalista i podrabatyvayu v kafe.
4. BEN: A ty na kakom kurse?
5. NIKA: Na pyatom, v etom godu zakanchivayu.
6. BEN: Zdorovo, udachi!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: Ben, what do you do for living?
2. BEN: I'm an economist; I work in a bank. And you?
3. NIKA: I'm still a student; I'm studying to be a journalist. I also work part-time in a cafe.
4. BEN: What year are you?
5. NIKA: Fifth year, I'm graduating this year.
6. BEN: Cool! Good luck!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
работать	rabotat'	to work	verb	
здорово	zdorovo	cool, great (informal)	adverb	
заканчивать	zakanchivat'	to finish	verb	
в этом году	v etom godu	this year	phrase	
пятый	pyatiy	fifth	numeral	masculine
курс	kurs	course; university year	noun	masculine
кафе	kafe	cafe	noun	neutral

подрабатывать	podrabatyvat'	to work part-time, to make money on the side	verb	
журналист	zhurnalist	journalist	noun	
учиться	uchit'sa	learn, study, educate yourself	verb	
студент	student	student	noun	masculine
Ещё	yescho	yet, still, else, also, more	adverb	
банк	bank	bank	noun	masculine
экономист	ekonomist	economist, financeer	noun	
удачи	udachi	good luck	interjection	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Банки работают в воскресенье? <i>Banki rabotayut v voskryesyen'ye?</i> "Are banks open on Sunday?"</p>	<p>Магазин сегодня не работает. <i>Magazin syegodnya nye rabotayet.</i> "The store is closed today."</p>
<p>Где она работает? <i>Gdye ona rabotayet?</i> "Where does she work?"</p>	<p>Он здорово играет на пианино. <i>On zdorovo igrayet na pianino.</i> "He plays the piano very well."</p>
<p>Я сдал экзамен! - Здорово! <i>Ya sdal ekzamyen! - Zdorovo!</i> "I have passed the exam!" - "Well done!"</p>	<p>Я заканчиваю работу в 7 часов каждый день. <i>Ya zakanchivayu rabotu v sem' chasov kazhdyi den'.</i> "I finish work at seven every day."</p>

<p>Он женился в этом году. <i>On zhenilsya v etom godu.</i></p> <p>"He got married this year."</p>	<p>Он купил пятый дом. <i>On kupil pyatyi dom.</i></p> <p>"He bought his fifth house."</p>
<p>Какой сегодня курс валют? <i>Kakoy segodnya kurs valyut?</i></p> <p>"What is the currency exchange rate today?"</p>	<p>Какой сегодня курс доллара? <i>Kakoy segodnya kurs dollara?</i></p> <p>"What is the dollar rate today?"</p>
<p>Она на втором курсе университета. <i>Ona na vtorom kurse universiteta.</i></p> <p>"She's a sophomore in a university."</p>	<p>Я хожу на курсы вождения. <i>Ya hozhu na kursy vozhdeniya.</i></p> <p>"I go to driving courses." / "I take driving courses."</p>
<p>Пойдем в кафе! <i>Paydyem v kafye!</i></p> <p>"Let's go to a café!"</p>	<p>Она подрабатывает официанткой. <i>Ona podrabatyvaet oficiantkoi.</i></p> <p>"She works part-time as a waitress."</p>
<p>Майкл - журналист из Австралии. <i>Maikl - zhurnalist iz Avstralii.</i></p> <p>"Michael is a journalist from Australia."</p>	<p>Он совсем не хочет учиться. <i>On savsem ne hochet uchit'sa.</i></p> <p>"He doesn't want to study at all."</p>
<p>Я - студент. <i>Ya - student.</i></p> <p>"I'm a student."</p>	<p>Вы студент? <i>Vy student?</i></p> <p>"Are you a student?"</p>
<p>Я хочу ещё чая. <i>Ya hochu yescho chaya.</i></p> <p>"I want some more tea."</p>	<p>Она ещё не приехала. <i>Ona yescho ne priyehala.</i></p> <p>"She hasn't come yet."</p>
<p>Я ещё не знаю. <i>Ya yescho ne znayu.</i></p> <p>"I don't know yet."</p>	<p>Банк не работает в воскресенье. <i>Bank ne rabotayet v voskresenie.</i></p> <p>"The bank isn't open on Sunday."</p>

Он компетентный экономист.

On kompetentnyi ekonomist.

"He's a competent economist."

Удачи на экзамене, пока!

Udachi na examene, пока!

"Good luck at your exam, bye!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Work Related Phrases

Я экономист, работаю в банке.

"I'm an economist, I work in a bank."

кем ты работаешь? (*kem ty rabotaesh?*)

кем ты работаешь? (*kem ty rabotaesh?*) literally means "as who do you work?" The word *kem* is just a modification of the word *kto* ("who"), which gave us the phrase "as who."

Я экономист (*ya economist*)

Я экономист (*ya economist*) - "I'm an economist."

This is the easiest way to say your profession. Here are some more examples:

The good thing is that except for the word "student," we do not differentiate other occupations by gender. Basically, it's always masculine.

For Example:

1. Я работаю в...
"I work in..."

If you want to specify the place you work in, you should modify the name of this place according to the same pattern you modified the countries and cities in phrases like "I live in," "I was born in." (except for one – "home").

Here are some places of work in the phrase "I work in...":

учусь на... (*uchus' na...*) - "studying to be a..."

In the previous lesson, we learned the word *uchu* without the ending -s. That's because we had a subject of studying Russian. When we have something in specific we learn, we say *uchu*. But when by "learning" we mean the general process, like studying for the exams or studying in the university, we have to add -s in the end. The phrase "studying to be a..." also implies the general process of studying, which involves more than one subject; therefore, we say *uchus. Na* literally means "on" and we use it in a context of "to be a..." in Russian. Note, that the professions that go after this phrase have -a added to the end.

For Example:

1. Я учусь на врача
ya uchus' na vracha
"I'm studying to be a doctor."

(врач – *vrach* – "doctor")

1. Я учусь на бухгалтера
ya uchus' na bugaltera
"I'm studying to be an accountant."

(бухгалтер – *bugalter* – "accountant")

Работаю – подрабатываю

In Russian, we don't use words like "full-time" or "part-time." Instead, we just say "I work" (*ya rabotayu*), or "I make some money on the side" (*ya podrabatyvayu*), which is basically, "working part-time."

На каком курсе? (*Na kakom kurse?*) - "On what course?"

На каком курсе? (*Na kakom kurse?*)

Literally, we can translate this phrase as "on what course?" but it means "what year of university." To practice the conjugation of the verbs, we can add the word "to study" to this sentence.

For Example:

1. На каком курсе ты учишься?

na kakom kurse ty uchishsya?

Literally, "on what course are you studying?" ("What year are you?")

There are only five possible answers to this question because there are only five years that people study in the universities to get a Specialist's Degree, after which they start counting years from the beginning but mentioning the degree they are studying for, like "It's my second year of Doctor's," for example. Recently the universities are switching to the four-year Bachelor's program and a two-year Master's to fit into the Western standards. So, the five years of studies will sound like this:

Я учусь на пятом курсе.

Ya uchus' na pyatom kurse.

Заканчиват ь ("to finish")

Заканчиват ь literally means "to finish," but it's also the most common way to say that you are graduating. If you want to say that you graduated from this and this university, it will sound like this:

1. Я закончил NN университет

ya zakonchil NN universitet

"I graduated from NN university." (male)

2. Я закончила NN университет
ya zakonchila universitet
"I graduated from NN university." (female)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Five-Year Russian Degree

Russia provides a high-quality education for all citizens of the country. It was considered to be one of the best mass-education systems in the world, and although lately it has lost some of its prestige due to the drastic changes in the country in the 90s, it's still producing a literacy rate of ninety-eight percent, exceeding most Western European countries.

Traditionally, there were five years of education in Russia. A fifth year graduate would get a specialist degree, but it was incompatible with existing Western academic degrees.

Therefore, in October 2007, Russia enacted a law that standardized a Russian educational model according to the European system. The five-year model of education was replaced with a two-tiered approach: a four-year bachelor degree followed by a two-year master degree. But the universities with a five-year course still exist.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6

A Full House in Russia

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6

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Бен, у тебя есть брат или сестра?
2. BEN: Да, у меня есть старшая сестра и младший брат.
3. NIKA: Они живут в Нью-Йорке?
4. BEN: Нет, сестра живёт в Калифорнии, а брат – в Мичигане.
5. NIKA: А где твои родители?
6. BEN: Они живут в Орегоне. А где твоя семья?
7. NIKA: Моя семья живёт в Москве.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Ben, u tebya yest' brat ili sestra?
2. BEN: Da, u menya yest' starshaya sestra i mladshiy brat.
3. NIKA: Oni zhivut v Nyu-Yorke?
4. BEN: Net, sestra zhivyot v Kalifornii, a brat - v Michigane.
5. NIKA: A gde tvoi roditeli?
6. BEN: Oni zhivut v Oregone. A gde tvoya sem'ya?
7. NIKA: Moya sem'ya zhivyot v Moskve.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: Ben, do you have a brother or a sister?
2. BEN: Yes, I have an older sister and a younger brother.
3. NIKA: Do they live in New York?
4. BEN: No, my sister lives in California and my brother lives in Michigan.
5. NIKA: Where are your parents?
6. BEN: They live in Oregon. Where is your family?
7. NIKA: My family lives in Moscow.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
есть	yest'	have	verb	
брат	brat	brother	noun	
или	ili	or	conjunction	
сестра	sestra	sister	noun	
старший	starshiy	older, elder	adjective	masculine
младший	mladshiy	younger	adjective	
родители	roditeli	parents	noun	
семья	sem'ya	family	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Что у вас есть? <i>Chto u vas yest'?</i></p> <p>"What do you have?" (formal)</p>	<p>У тебя есть машина? <i>U tebya yest' mashina?</i></p> <p>"Do you have a car?"</p>
<p>У меня есть брат. <i>U menya yest' brat.</i></p> <p>"I have a brother."</p>	<p>У меня есть старший брат. <i>U menya yest' starshiy brat.</i></p> <p>"I have an older brother ."</p>
<p>Я приехал в Москву с братом. <i>Ya priyekhal v Moskvu s bratom.</i></p> <p>"I came to Moscow with my brother."</p>	<p>Он приедет в пятницу или субботу. <i>On priyedet v pyatnitsu ili subbotu.</i></p> <p>"He'll come on Friday or Saturday."</p>
<p>Кофе или чай? <i>Kofe ili chay?</i></p> <p>"Coffee or tea?"</p>	<p>Познакомься, это моя сестра, Катя. <i>Poznakom'sya, eto moya sestra, Katya.</i></p> <p>"Meet my sister, Katya."</p>
<p>У меня есть фотография сестры. <i>U menya yest' fotografiya sestry.</i></p> <p>"I have a picture of my sister."</p>	<p>У него очень красивая сестра. <i>U nego ochen' krasivaya sestra.</i></p> <p>"He has a very beautiful sister."</p>
<p>У меня есть 2 старших брата, и одна старшая сестра. <i>U menya yest' 2 starshih brata, i odna starshaya sestra.</i></p> <p>"I have two older brothers and one older sister."</p>	<p>Это мой младший сын, Петя. <i>Eto moi mladshiy syn, Petya.</i></p> <p>"This is my younger son, Petya."</p>
<p>Мои родители уже на пенсии. <i>Moi roditeli uzhye na pyensii.</i></p> <p>"My parents have already retired."</p>	<p>У тебя такие молодые родители. <i>U tyebya takiye molodyye roditeli.</i></p> <p>"You have such young parents."</p>
<p>Где твоя семья? <i>Gde tvoya semja?</i></p> <p>Where's your family?</p>	<p>У меня маленькая семья. <i>U menya malen'kaya semja.</i></p> <p>"I have a small family."</p>

У меня большая семья.

U menya bol'shaya sem'ya.

"I have a big family."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Saying "I have....," "Do you have....," "older sister," "younger brother," Conjugating "to live," and Pronouns

Да, у меня есть старшая сестра и младший брат.

"Yes, I have an older sister and a younger brother."

у тебя есть (*u tebya yest'*) is the informal way of asking "do you have?" To make it sound more formal or polite, all we have to do is replace the informal "you" with the formal one: **у Вас есть?** (*U Vas yest'?*)

For Example:

1. **у тебя есть деньги?**
u tebya yest' den'gi?
"Do you have money?" (informal)
2. **у Вас есть время?**
u Vas yest' vremya
"Do you have time?" (formal or plural)

у меня есть ("I have")

у меня есть (*u menya yest'*) is an ultimate way of saying "I have," not divided into formal or informal forms.

For Example:

1. у меня есть деньги
"I have money."
2. у меня есть время
"I have time."

старшая сестра and младший брат ("an older sister,") and ("a younger brother")

старшая сестра (*starshaya sestra* - "an older sister") and младший брат (*mladshiy brat* - "a younger brother")

The words "sister" and "brother" have feminine and masculine genders respectively. The adjectives in Russian language have to correspond to the genders of the nouns; therefore, we also place the words "older" and "younger" into the feminine and masculine genders.

If the age difference between you and your siblings is opposite to Ben's (i.e., you have an older brother and a younger sister), the endings of the adjectives will alter a little according to the genders.

For Example:

1. старший брат and младшая сестра
starshiy brat, mladshaya sestra
"An older brother and a younger sister"

As you can see, we have a pattern here. The adjectives that go together with masculine nouns have the endings *ий*, and with feminine – *ая*.

Conjugation of the verb жить (*zhit'*) - "to live"

We already know that nouns in Russian have genders and number. Adjectives have to correspond with nouns in both categories. Now, to the verbs. We modify present tense verbs in Russian according to person. Let's take the verb from our dialogue and see some of the conjugation patterns they form.

жить (*zhit'* - "to live," infinitive form)

Russian	Romanized	"English"
я живу	<i>ya zhivu</i>	"I live"
ты живёшь	<i>ty zhivyosh</i>	"you live" (informal)
он, она живёт	<i>on, ona zhivot</i>	"he, she lives"
они живут	<i>oni zhivot</i>	"they live"

Семья (*sem'ya*) - "family" has feminine gender in Russian; therefore, it conjugates as "she."

Pronouns

Russian pronouns may seem quite complicated at first, as they take many different forms according to their function in a sentence. Let's take a general look at them.

In this lesson, we came across personal pronouns ("I," "you," "he," etc.), and possessive pronouns ("my," "your," etc.). Here are the personal pronouns in Russian language:

Personal Pronouns

Russian	Romanized	"English"
Я	<i>ya</i>	"I"
Ты	<i>ty</i>	"you" (informal, singular)
Вы	<i>vy</i>	"you" (formal, plural)
Он	<i>on</i>	"he"
Она	<i>ona</i>	"she"
Оно	<i>ono</i>	"it"
Мы	<i>my</i>	"we"

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns will be paid much closer attention in the following lessons, and here we'll just take a look at the pronouns "my" and "your." In Russian, we have to take into consideration the gender of the object that goes after a pronoun. For example, in the phrases "my bag," "my phone," and "my keys," the pronoun "my" will sound different in each case, as "bag" is feminine, "phone" is masculine, and "keys" is plural.

Let's take a look at the examples. The possessive pronouns "my" and "your" with masculine, feminine, and plural nouns:

Masculine

1. мой брат
moi brat
"my brother"
2. твой телефон
tvoi telefon
"your phone"

Feminine

1. моя сестра
moya sestra
"my sister"
2. твоя семья
tvoya sem'ya
"your sister"

Plural

1. **МОИ РОДИТЕЛИ**
 moi roditeli
 "my parents"

2. **ТВОИ ДЕНЬГИ**
 tvoi den'gi
 "your money"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Housing Hard to Come By

Russians are very attached to their families. It's not common for a typical Russian family to be scattered around the country, let alone around the world.

During the USSR era, one couldn't buy an apartment, he/she could only "receive" it from the state. The apartments were given to people for free, according to the time they worked on the enterprise. Sometimes people would wait for their private flat for ten to twenty years, living in communal apartments with a shared kitchen and bathroom. Living together with parents and/or children was also very common, which created lots of conflicts, but also made Russians considerate and ready to compromise.

Nowadays, buying or renting apartments has become legally possible, but not very affordable. Therefore, a lot of people still live with their parents even when they are already married.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

Bad Blind Date in Russia

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- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

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RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Ника, куда ты хочешь сегодня пойти?
2. NIKA: Я не знаю, а ты?
3. BEN: Я хочу пойти в парк, а потом в кино. Пойдём вместе?
4. NIKA: С удовольствием! Может, сначала пообедаем? Я голодная.
5. BEN: Конечно, пойдём!

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Nika, kuda ty hochesh sevodnya poiti?
2. NIKA: Ya ne znayu, a ty?
3. BEN: Ya hochu poiti v park, a potom v kino. Poidyom vmeste?
4. NIKA: S udovol'stvиеm! Mozhet, snachala poobedaem? Ya golodnaya.
5. BEN: Koneshno, poidyom!

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Nika, where do you want to go today?
2. NIKA: I don't know. What about you?

CONT'D OVER

3. BEN: I want to go to a park, and then to the movies. Let's go together.
4. NIKA: With pleasure! How about a lunch first? I'm hungry.
5. BEN: Sure, let's go!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
куда	kuda	where (to)	pronoun	
с удовольствием	s udovol'stviyem	with pleasure, gladly, happily	phrase	
вместе	vmeste	together	adverb	
кино	kino	a movie theater, the cinema, a movie	noun	neutral
потом	potom	then, later, after that	adverb	
парк	park	park	noun	masculine
знать	znat'	to know	verb	
пойти	poyti	to go (on foot)	verb (perfective)	
сегодня	segodnya	today	adverb	
хотеть	hotet'	to want	verb	
голодный	golodniy	hungry	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Куда вы ездили вчера? <i>Kuda vy yezdili vchiera?</i></p> <p>"Where did you go yesterday? (by car, etc.)"</p>	<p>Куда ты идёшь? <i>Kuda ty idyosh'?</i></p> <p>"Where are you going?"</p>
<p>Я с удовольствием с Вами пообедаю. <i>Ya s udovol'stviyem s Vami poobyedayu.</i></p> <p>"I'd love to have lunch with you."</p>	<p>Я с удовольствием к тебе приеду следующим летом. <i>Ya s udovol'stviyem k tyebye priyedu slyeduyuschim lyetom.</i></p> <p>"I will be happy to visit you next summer."</p>
<p>Мы работаем вместе. <i>My rabotayem vmeste.</i></p> <p>"We work together."</p>	<p>У меня есть два билета в кино. <i>U menya est' dva bileta v kino.</i></p> <p>"I have two tickets to the movie theater."</p>
<p>В субботу мы идём в кино. <i>V subbotu my idyom v kino.</i></p> <p>"On Saturday, we're going to the cinema."</p>	<p>Я потом тебе напишу, хорошо? <i>Ya potom tyebye napishu, horosho?</i></p> <p>"I'll write to you later, okay?"</p>
<p>Он пригласил меня, а потом сказал, что занят. <i>On priglasil myenya, a potom skazal, chto zanyat.</i></p> <p>"He invited me and then said he was busy."</p>	<p>Что мне потом следует сделать? <i>Chto mne potom sleduyet sdelat'?</i></p> <p>"What should I do after that?"</p>
<p>Так приятно отдыхать в парке! <i>Tak priyatno otdyhat' v parkye!</i></p> <p>"It's so nice to rest in the park!"</p>	<p>Он знает куда идти? <i>On znayet kuda iditi?</i></p> <p>"Does he know where to go?"</p>
<p>Я не знаю этот район. <i>Ya nye znayu etot rayon.</i></p> <p>"I don't know this area."</p>	<p>Ты его знаешь? <i>Ty yego znayesh'?</i></p> <p>"Do you know him?"</p>

<p>Ты пойдёшь с нами? <i>Ty poydyosh' s nami?</i></p> <p>"Will you come with us?"</p>	<p>Я не пошёл в кино, потому что плохо себя чувствовал. <i>Ya nye poshyol v kino, potomu chto ploho syebya chuvstvoval.</i></p> <p>"I didn't go to the movies, because I didn't feel well."</p>
<p>Ты хочешь пойти туда? <i>Ty khochesh' poyti tuda?</i></p> <p>"Would you like to go there?"</p>	<p>Сегодня плохой курс валют. <i>Syegodnya plohoj kurs valyut.</i></p> <p>"The exchange rate is bad today."</p>
<p>Мне нужно в город сегодня. <i>Mnye nuzhno v gorod syegodnya.</i></p> <p>"I need to go to downtown today."</p>	<p>Сегодня суббота. <i>Syegodnya subbota.</i></p> <p>"Today is Saturday."</p>
<p>Я хочу отдохнуть. <i>Ya hochu otдохnut'.</i></p> <p>"I want to take a rest."</p>	<p>Он не хочет пить, не заставляй его. <i>On nye hochyet pit', nye zastavlyay yego.</i></p> <p>"He doesn't want to drink; don't force him to."</p>

Он не голодный.

On nye golodniy.

"He's not hungry."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is "where to," "want," "to go," "to know," "not," "maybe," and "hungry" in Russian

Ника, куда ты хочешь сегодня пойти?

"Nika, where do you want to go today?"

куда (*kuda*)

куда (*kuda*) is the question word for "where to." In the previous lessons, we learned the words "where" and "where from." It will be easier to remember if you have them all in one list.

For Example:

1. где
gde
"where"
2. откуда
otkuda
"where from"
3. куда
kuda
"where to"

хотеть (*hotet'*)

хотеть (*hotets*) is the verb for "want." Let's conjugate it according to the first and second person:

Russian	Romanized	"English"
я хочу	<i>ya hochu</i>	"I want"
ты хочешь	<i>ty hochesh</i>	"you want" (informal, singular)
Вы хотите	<i>vy hotite</i>	"you want" (formal, plural)
он/она хочет	<i>on/ona hochet</i>	"he/she wants"

пойти – пойдём (*poiti - poidyom*)

пойти is one of the numerous Russian verbs for "to go." But not everything is that complicated in Russian. For example, we can translate the verb пойдём, a modification of пойти, in different ways depending on the situation and the intonation.

For Example:

1. пойдём?
roidyom?
"Shall we go?"
2. пойдём!
roidyom!
"Let's go!"
3. мы пойдём
my roidyom
"We will go."
4. мы пойдём?
my roidyom?
"Will we go?"

знать (*znat'*)

знать (*znats*) means "to know." Nothing difficult about this word but the conjugations. Let's take a look at it with the pronouns "I" and "you."

Russian	Romanized	"English"
Я знаю	<i>ya znayu</i>	"I know"
Ты знаешь	<i>ty znaesh</i>	"you know" (informal, singular)
Вы знаете	<i>vy znaete</i>	"you know" (formal, plural)
Он/она знает	<i>on/ona znaet</i>	"he/she knows"

не (ne)

We can translate не (*nye*) into English either as "not" or "don't," depending on what part of speech it's followed by.

For Example:

1. Я не знаю
ya ne znayu
"I don't know."
2. Я не голодная
ya ne golodnaya
"I'm not hungry."

может (mozhet)

We can translate может (*mozhet*) as "maybe," but also as a modest "how about..." in the questions.

For Example:

1. может, перекусим?
mozhet, perekusim?
"How about we have a snack?"
2. может я это куплю
mozhet ya eto kuplyu
"Maybe I'll buy this."

голодная (golodnaya)

голодная (*golodnaya*) is a feminine form of the adjective "hungry," because the speaker was a girl. If it were Ben who said it, it would be **голодный** (*golodniy*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Manliness

Usually, women in Russia are not used to making decisions when it comes to choosing places and things to do with a man. Most men in Russia see it as taking initiative in their hands and being in control of the situation, which makes them feel good about themselves in a strong manly way. Don't be afraid that the woman you are with won't like your offer. If she doesn't, she'll tell you about that directly.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8

Yummy Russian Appetizer, Yucky Russian Mystery Meal

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- 7 Cultural Insight

8

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Бен, ты любишь пельмени?
2. BEN: Что такое "пельмени"? Скажи по-английски.
3. NIKA: Ммм... Я не знаю, как это сказать по-английски. Девушка, извините, как сказать по-английски "пельмени"?
4. WAITRESS: Meat dumplings.
5. BEN: Аа! Да, я очень люблю пельмени! Давай закажем.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Ben, ty lyubish pel'meni?
2. BEN: Shto takoe "pel'meni"? Skazhi po-angliski.
3. NIKA: Mmm... Ya ne znayu, kak eto skazat' po-angliski. Devushka, izvinite, kak skazat' po-angliski "pel'meni"?
4. WAITRESS: Meat dumplings.
5. BEN: Aa! Da, ya ochen' lyublyu pel'meni! Davai zakazhem.

ENGLISH

1. NIKA: Ben, do you like "pelmeni"?

CONT'D OVER

2. BEN: What is "pelmeni?" Say it in English.
3. NIKA: Hmm...I don't know how to say it in English. Excuse me, waitress, how do you say "pelmeni" in English?
4. WAITRESS: "Meat dumplings."
5. BEN: Oh! Yes, I love dumplings a lot. Let's order some.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
любить	lyubit'	to love, to like, to be fond of	verb
пельмени	pel'meni	meat dumplings	
что такое...	shto takoe...	what is...	phrase
сказать	skazat'	to say	verb
девушка	devushka	young lady; girlfriend; waitress	noun
очень	ochen'	very, very much, really	adverb
давай	davai	let's	particle
заказать	zakazat'	order; book, reserve	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Я люблю бегать. <i>Ya lyublyu begat'.</i></p> <p>"I love to run."</p>	<p>На второе у нас голубцы, шашлык из говядины, и пельмени.</p> <p>"For the main entree (second course), we have stuffed peppers, beef kabobs, and Pelmeni."</p>
<p>Что такое "table"? <i>Shto takoe "table"?</i></p> <p>"What does 'table' mean?"</p>	<p>Я не могу Вам этого сказать. <i>Ya nye mogu Vam etogo skazat'.</i></p> <p>"I can't tell you this."</p>
<p>Как Вам сказать... <i>Kak Vam skazat'...</i></p> <p>"How should I put it..."</p>	<p>Девушка, как Вас зовут? <i>Dyevushka, kak Vas zovut?</i></p> <p>"Excuse me (miss); what's your name?"</p>
<p>Девушка, счёт, пожалуйста! <i>Dyevushka, schyot, pozhaluysta!</i></p> <p>"Waitress, the bill please!"</p>	<p>Эта девушка красивая. <i>Eta dyevushka krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"This girl is beautiful."</p>
<p>Вы очень хорошо говорите по-русски. <i>Vy ochen horosho govorite po-russki.</i></p> <p>"You speak Russian very well." (formal)</p>	<p>Он очень любит слушать музыку. <i>On ochen lyubit slushat' muzyku.</i></p> <p>"He really likes listening to music."</p>
<p>Она очень красивая. <i>Ona ochen' krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"She's very beautiful."</p>	<p>Давай обедать! <i>Davay obyedat'!</i></p> <p>"Let's have lunch!" (informal)</p>
<p>Давай встретимся в одиннадцать часов. <i>Davaj vstretimsya v odinnatsat' chasov.</i></p> <p>"Let's meet at eleven o'clock."</p>	<p>Я хочу заказать столик на 8 вечера. <i>Ya hochu zakazat' stolik na 8 vyechera.</i></p> <p>"I want to reserve a table for eight p.m."</p>
<p>Ты заказал отель? <i>Ty zakazal otyel'?</i></p> <p>"Have you booked a hotel (room)?"</p>	<p>Ты уже заказал? <i>Ty uzhye zakazal?</i></p> <p>"Have you ordered yet?"</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Saying "to like/love," "what is...," "let's," and the Infinitive and Command Forms of the Verb "to say."

Девушка, извините, как сказать по-английски "пельмени"?

"Excuse me, waitress, how do you say "*pelmeni*" in English?"

любить (*lyubit*)

любить (*lyubits*) is the word that can mean both "to like" and "to love." When we use it in reference to a person, it will obviously mean "to love." But when you talk about food or different things other than people, we will most probably translate it as "like" in English.

The conjugation for the first and second person would look like the following:

Russian	Romanized	"English"
Я люблю	<i>ya lyublyu</i>	"I like/love"
Ты любишь	<i>ty lyubish</i>	"you like/love" (informal, singular)
Вы любите	<i>Vy lyubite</i>	"you like/love" (formal, plural)

Что такое (*shto takoe*) - "what is..."

When you don't understand the word in Russian, the first question to ask will be "what is..." and then that something that you didn't understand.

Knowing this simple structure, you can build another phrase on top of it: "what is it/this?" All you have to do is insert the word "this" in between.

For Example:

1. что это такое?
shto eto takoe?
"What is this?"

Сказать – скажи (*skazat' – skazhi*)

Skazats is the infinitive form of the verb "to say." To build the phrase, "How do you say this in Russian," this word is the one you need.

For Example:

1. как сказать по-русски...
kak skazat' po-ruski...
"How do you say in Russian..." (Literally, "how to say in Russian...")

Скажи (*skazhi*)

Скажи (*skazhi*) is a command form of the word "to say" and we can translate it as "say" or "tell." To make your command sound more polite, you should simply add *-te* to the end. We commonly use this word to inquire about things, similar to the English "excuse me."

For Example:

1. **скажите**, пожалуйста
skazhite, pozhalusta
"Excuse me" (Literally, "Tell me please.")

давай (*davai*)

давай (*davai*) means "let's." In the previous lesson, we learned how to say "let's go" using just one word, "to go," in the appropriate form. Unfortunately, it's the only verb that we can use

without the actual word "let's," and still imply the suggestion. In all other cases, we should use the verb *давай*.

For Example:

1. *давай сядем*
davai syadem
"Let's sit down."
2. *давай пообедаем*
davai poobedaem
"Let's have lunch."

To make your proposition sound more polite, add *-te* to the end of *davai*, just like what you did with *skazhi* ("say"). This little *-te* on the end of the command forms of the verbs (and *davai* is grammatically one of them) indicates that you are speaking to a person in plural number, which in Russian is the indicator of the politeness.

For Example:

1. *давайте смотреть фильм*
davaite smotret' film
"Let's watch a movie."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Dumplings

Pelmeni is a dish originating from Tatarstan and Siberia, now considered part of Russian and Ukrainian national cuisines. *Pelmeni* is a type of "dumpling" consisting of a filling that is wrapped in thin unleavened dough. The filling can be minced meat (pork, lamb, beef, or any other kind of meat), fish, and mushrooms. In modern Russian culture, store-bought *pelmeni* are considered a kind of a fast food and are associated with students' or bachelors' lifestyles, much like instant noodles. But homemade *pelmeni* are still one of the favorites on the table of any Russian family.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9

The Missing Russian Waitress

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RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Ника, помоги мне, пожалуйста. Я не могу найти пиво в меню.
2. NIKA: Ммм... Я тоже не вижу. Девушка, у Вас есть пиво?
3. WAITRESS: Да, Вам разливное или в бутылке?
4. BEN: А какое пиво у Вас есть?
5. WAITRESS: Балтика, Хайникен, Асахи...
6. BEN: Бутылку Хайникен, пожалуйста.

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Nika, pomogi mne, pozhalusta. Ya ne mogu naiti pivo v menyuu.
2. NIKA: Mmm... Ya tozhe nye vizhu. Devushka, u Vas yest' pivo?
3. WAITRESS: Da, Vam razlivnoe ili v butylke?
4. BEN: A kakoe pivo u Vas yest'?
5. WAITRESS: Baltika, Hainiken, Asahi...
6. BEN: Butylku Hainiken, pozhalusta.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BEN: Nika, help me out, please. I can't find beer in the menu.
2. NIKA: Hmm...I can't see it either. Waitress, do you have beer?
3. WAITRESS: Yes, would you prefer draft beer or bottle beer?
4. BEN: What kind of beer do you have?
5. WAITRESS: Baltika, Heineken, Asahi...
6. BEN: A bottle of Heineken, please.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
помогать	pomogat'	to help	verb	
бутылка	butylka	bottle	noun	
разливное (пиво)	razlivnoe (pivo)	draft (beer)	adjective	
видеть	vidyet'	to see	verb	
тоже	tozhe	too, also	adverb	
меню	menu	menu	noun	neutral
Пиво	Pivo	beer	noun	neutral
найти	nayti	to find	verb	
мочь	moch	to be able to, can	verb	

какой

kakoi

what, what kind,
which

pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Помогите! <i>Pomogite!</i></p> <p>"Help!"</p>	<p>Я часто помогаю отцу. <i>Ya chasto pomogayu ottsu.</i></p> <p>"I often help my father."</p>
<p>Она всегда мне помогает. <i>Ona vsyegda mne pomogayet.</i></p> <p>"She always helps me."</p>	<p>Дайте бутылку воды, пожалуйста <i>Daite butylku vody, pozhaluista</i></p> <p>"Give me a bottle of water please."</p>
<p>Мы купили пять бутылок пива. <i>My kupili pyat' butylok piva.</i></p> <p>"We bought five bottles of beer."</p>	<p>У Вас есть разливное пиво? <i>U Vas yest' razlivnoe pivo?</i></p> <p>"Do you have draft beer?"</p>
<p>Я так рад Вас снова видеть! <i>Ya tak rad Vas snova vidyet'!</i></p> <p>"I'm so glad to see you again!"</p>	<p>Я плохо вижу. <i>Ya ploho vizhu.</i></p> <p>"I can't see well."</p>
<p>Мы будем рады Вас видеть. <i>My budyem rady Vas vidyet'.</i></p> <p>"We'll be glad to see you."</p>	<p>Я тоже устал. <i>Ya tozhye ustal.</i></p> <p>"I'm tired, too."</p>
<p>Мы тоже там работаем. <i>My tozhye tam rabotayem.</i></p> <p>"We also work there."</p>	<p>Вам тоже нравится музыка? <i>Vam tozhe nraivit'sya muzyka?</i></p> <p>"Do you like music, too?"</p>
<p>У Вас есть меню на английском? <i>U Vas yest' menu na angliskom?</i></p> <p>"Do you have a menu in English?" (an English menu)</p>	<p>Русские любят живое пиво <i>Ruskiye lyubyat zhivoye pivo</i></p> <p>"Russians like freshly brewed beer."</p>

<p>Вам налить пива? <i>Vam nalit' piva?</i></p> <p>"Shall I pour you some beer?"</p>	<p>Почём пиво? <i>Pochyom pivo?</i></p> <p>"How much is the beer?"</p>
<p>Я нашла 100 рублей. <i>Ya nashla 100 rublyey.</i></p> <p>"I found a hundred rubles."</p>	<p>Ты нашёл свой кошелёк? <i>Ty nashyol svoy koshyelyok?</i></p> <p>"Have you found your wallet?"</p>
<p>Я не могу остановить машину! <i>Ya ne mogu ostanovit' mashinu!</i></p> <p>"I can't stop the car!"</p>	<p>Вы из какой страны? <i>Vy iz kakoy strany?</i></p> <p>"What country are you from?"</p>
<p>Какую музыку Вы слушаете? <i>Kakuyu muzyku Vy slushayetye?</i></p> <p>"What kind of music do you listen to?"</p>	<p>Какая это улица? <i>Kakaya eto ulitsa?</i></p> <p>"What street is this?"</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Saying "to help," "to me," "can," "to see," and "too," and Grammar Cases

Бутылку Хайникен, пожалуйста.

"A bottle of Heineken, please."

помогать – помоги (*potogat' – potogi*)

The word *potogat'* is the word for "to help" in Russian, and *potogi* is just the command form for it. As you might remember from the previous lesson, to make your command sound more polite, all you have to do is add *-te* to the end of it. So if you need help from a person you don't know or just someone you show respect to, you should say *помогите* (*potogite*).

мне (*mne*)

мне (*mne*) is just the modification of the pronoun Я ("I") and means "to me." Yes, this is what often happens to the pronouns in Russian. Unlike in English, Russian pronouns don't have too many prepositions to go with them. For example, there's no such thing as "to" in Russian when it comes to the phrases like "write to me." Instead, we modify the whole pronoun to express the concept of the direction "to." So, Russian "to me" and "to you" would be:

1. **мне**
mne
"to me"
2. **тебе**
tebe
"to you" (informal, singular)
3. **Вам**
Vam
"to you" (formal, plural)

МОЧЬ (*moch*)

МОЧЬ (*moch*) means "to be able to" or "can." Here's the conjugation of it for the first and second person.

Russian	Romanized	"English"
Я могу	<i>ya mogu</i>	"I can"
Ты можешь	<i>ty mozhesh</i>	"you can" (informal, singular)
Вы можете	<i>vy mozhete</i>	"you can" (formal, plural)

You cannot use this word when you talk about skills, like playing sports or instruments. You only use it to indicate whether you are able or unable to perform some specific action.

видеть (*videt'*)

видеть (*videt'*) means "to see." Just like with languages, you don't need the actual word "can" when you talk about being able or unable to see something. In Russian, "I can't see" simply sounds as Я не вижу, *Ya ne vizhu* ("I don't see").

Here are the conjugations for the word "to see."

Russian	Romanized	"English"
Я вижу	<i>ya vizhu</i>	"I see/I can see"
Ты видишь	<i>ty vidish</i>	"you see/you can see" (informal, singular)
Вы видите	<i>vy vidite</i>	"you see/you can see" (polite, plural)

тоже (*tozhe*)

тоже (*tozhe*). Unlike in English, we can translate this word as both "too" and "neither/either" in Russian. In other words, we can use it both in positive and negative sentences.

For Example:

1. Я знаю
ya znayu
"I know"
2. Я тоже
ya tozhe
"me too"

3. Я не знаю
ya ne znayu
"I don't know"

4. Я тоже
ya tozhe
"me neither"

Grammar Cases

As we already know, we modify verbs in Russian according to a person in the present tense, and according to gender in the past tense.

Nouns in Russian have genders and number, and adjectives and pronouns have to correspond to the nouns in a sentence.

Here's a new grammatical concept for you: Grammar cases.

Cases are the forms of nouns to represent their role in a sentence.

Nouns in Russian change their endings according to their grammatical function. There's a reason for that: word order. Unlike in English, word order is very flexible in Russian. Basically, you can put words wherever you want in a sentence, but if you only use them in their dictionary forms, your sentences won't make much sense. To show the relationship between words in a sentence and to make them sound connected, you should modify the endings of the nouns according to the grammar cases.

There are six grammar cases in Russian, which means there are six endings that one noun in singular number can take according to its function in a sentence.

The six cases are:

1. nominative

2. accusative

3. prepositional

4. genitive
5. dative
6. instrumental

The nominative case represents the dictionary forms of the nouns.

Let's take a look at the noun "bottle" from our lesson. In the nominative case, it would be бутылка (*butylka*). This is how you can find it in a dictionary. Later in the dialogue, we see this word changed into бутылке (*butylke*). That happened because we used it with the preposition *в, в* ("in"). And all nouns that we use with this preposition should be modified according to the prepositional case. *Butylka* in the prepositional case sounds like [*butylke*].

Next we see this word spelled as бутылку (*butylku*), used in the accusative case. If you said, бутылка Хайникен, пожалуйста, *butylka Hainiken, pozhalusta* ("A bottle of Heineken, please."), it would sound more like "This is a bottle of Heineken," or "Here's a bottle of Heineken, please." But changing *butylka* into *butylku* (i.e., putting it into accusative case) helped us turn a statement into a request.

There are a lot of different rules and nuances concerning the cases. We will learn them thoroughly throughout the following lessons of this series.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Beer

Russians have long lived with the stereotype of being heavy drinkers. Beer is the nation's number two alcoholic drink after vodka, but is seen by many as a healthier almost non-alcoholic alternative.

Baltika is one of the most popular beers in Russian. *Baltika* Brewery is the largest brewery in Eastern Europe. Some say it has become synonymous with Russian beer. It is one of Russia's best selling brands and is available in almost every Russian city.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10

Russian Dinner Gone Awry

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RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Ну, как тебе пельмени?
2. BEN: Очень вкусно! А почему ты не ешь?
3. NIKA: Потому что я вегетарианка, я не ем мясо. Но я заказала суп и салат.
4. BEN: Понятно. Жаль, что ты не ешь мясо. Я умею готовить классный стейк!
5. NIKA: Ну... О, вот мой суп! Приятного аппетита.
6. BEN: Спасибо, тебе тоже.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Nu, kak tebe pel'meni?
2. BEN: Ochen' vkusno! A pochemu ty ne yesh?
3. NIKA: Potomu shto ya vegetarianka, ya ne yem myaso. No ya zakazala sup i salat.
4. BEN: Ponyatno. Zhal', shto ty nye yesh myaso. Ya umeyu gotovits klasniy steik.
5. NIKA: Nu... Oh, vot moi sup. Priyatnova apetita.
6. BEN: Spasibo, tebe tozhe.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: So, what do you think of pelmeni?
2. BEN: Very tasty! Why aren't you eating?
3. NIKA: Because I am a vegetarian, I don't eat meat. But I ordered soup and salad.
4. BEN: I see. Too bad you don't eat meat. I can cook a cool steak!
5. NIKA: Well... Oh, here's my soup! Bon appétit.
6. BEN: Thanks, you too.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
как тебе	kak tebe	how do you find, what do you think of	phrase	
ВОТ	vot	here; here you go	particle/ interjection	
классный	klasniy	cool, awesome	adjective	
ГОТОВИТЬ	gotovit'	to cook	verb	
жаль	zhal'	it's a pity; sorry; unfortunately	adverb	
ПОНЯТНО	ponyatno	I got it, I see, understandable; it's understood, it's clear	adverb	

салат	salat	a salad	noun	masculine
суп	sup	soup		
мясо	myaso	meat	noun	neutral
вегетарианка	vegetarianka	vegetarian (female)	noun	
потому что	potomu chto	because	conjunction	
есть	yest'	to eat	verb	
почему	pochemu	why	pronoun	
вкусно	vkusno	delicious	adverb	
Приятного аппетита!	Priyatnogo appetita!	Bon appétit/ Enjoy your meal!	phrase	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Как тебе моё новое платье? <i>Kak tebe moyo novoe plat'ye?</i></p> <p>"What do you think of my new dress?"</p>	<p>Вот, я купил два билета, как ты просил. <i>Vot, ya kupil dva bilyeta, kak ty prosil.</i></p> <p>"Here, I bought two tickets as you asked me (as you requested)."</p>
<p>Вот мой паспорт и билет. <i>Vot moy pasport i bilyet.</i></p> <p>"Here's my passport and ticket."</p>	<p>Вот, пожалуйста. <i>Vot, pozhaluysta.</i></p> <p>"Here you are; here it is."</p>
<p>Какая классная музыка! <i>Kakaya klasnaya muzyka!</i></p> <p>"What cool music!"</p>	<p>Моя мама всегда готовит мою любимую еду, когда я приезжаю домой на праздники. <i>Moya mama vsegda gotovit moyu lyubimuyu yedu, kogda ya priyezzhayu domoy na prazdniki.</i></p> <p>"My mother always cooks my favorite meal when I come home for the holidays."</p>

<p>Сегодня не все девушки умеют готовить. <i>Segodnya ne vse devushki umeyut gotovit'.</i></p> <p>"Nowadays not all girls can cook."</p>	<p>Я не умею готовить. <i>Ya ne umeyu gotovit'.</i></p> <p>"I can't cook."</p>
<p>Моя мама хорошо готовит. <i>Moya mama khorosho gotovit'.</i></p> <p>"My mom cooks well."</p>	<p>Ему никого не жаль. <i>Yemu nikogo nye zhal'.</i></p> <p>"He is not sympathetic to anyone."</p>
<p>Мне жаль её. <i>Mnye zhal' yeyo.</i></p> <p>"I feel sorry for her."</p>	<p>Жаль, что мне уже нужно уезжать. <i>Zhal', chto mne uzhe nuzhno uyezhat'.</i></p> <p>"It's a pity I have to leave already."</p>
<p>Не понятно, кто это сделал. <i>Nye ponyatno, kto eto sdyelal.</i></p> <p>"It's not clear (I don't know) who did it."</p>	<p>Не звони мне больше, понятно? <i>Nye zvoni mnye bol'shye, ponyatno?</i></p> <p>"Don't call me anymore. Got it?"</p>
<p>Какой салат ты любишь больше всего? <i>Kakoy salat ty lyubish' bol'she vsego?</i></p> <p>"What salad do you like most of all?"</p>	<p>Я купила салат. <i>Ya kupila salat.</i></p> <p>"I bought some salad."</p>
<p>Ты хочешь салата? <i>Ty hochesh' salata?</i></p> <p>"Would you like some salad?"</p>	<p>Салат очень вкусный. <i>Salat ochyen' vkusniy.</i></p> <p>"The salad is delicious."</p>
<p>Этот суп слишком острый для меня. <i>Etat soop slishkam ostriy dlya menya.</i></p> <p>"This soup is too spicy for me."</p>	<p>Вы любите блинчики с мясом? <i>Vy lyubitye blinchiki s myasom?</i></p> <p>"Do you like pancakes with meat?"</p>
<p>Она не вегетарианка, она просто не любит мясо. <i>Ona ne vegetarianka, ona prosto nye lyubit myaso.</i></p> <p>"She's not vegetarian; she just doesn't like meat."</p>	<p>Я не ем мясо, потому что я вегетарианец. <i>Ya na yem myaso, potomu chto ya vegetaryanets.</i></p> <p>"I don't eat meat because I'm a vegetarian."</p>

<p>Я устал, потому что я много работал. <i>Ya ustal, potomu chto ya mnogo rabotal.</i></p> <p>"I'm tired because I've been working hard."</p>	<p>Эти йогурты старые. Не ешь их. <i>Eti yogurty staryye. Nye yesh' ih.</i></p> <p>"These yogurts are old. Don't eat them."</p>
<p>Что вы ели на обед? <i>Chto vy yeli na obed?</i></p> <p>"What did you eat for lunch?"</p>	<p>Я часто ем салат. <i>Ya chasto yem salat.</i></p> <p>"I often eat salad."</p>
<p>Почему ты ещё не дома? <i>Pochyemu ty yeschyo nye doma?</i></p> <p>"Why aren't you home yet?"</p>	<p>Почему у вас нет паспорта? <i>Pochyemu u vas nyet pasporta?</i></p> <p>"Why don't you have a passport?"</p>
<p>Почему вы так думаете? <i>Pochyemu vy tak dumayetye?</i></p> <p>"Why do you think so?"</p>	<p>Этот салат очень вкусный. <i>Etot salat ochen' vkusnyy.</i></p> <p>"This salad is delicious."</p>
<p>Вкусно. <i>Vkusno.</i></p> <p>"It's delicious."</p>	<p>Приятного аппетита! <i>Priyatnogo apetita!</i></p> <p>"Enjoy your meal!"</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking Someone's Opinion, Saying "to eat" and "can," and the Russian Past Tense

Ну, как тебе пельмени?

"So, what do you think of pelmeni?"

как тебе (*kak tebe*)

как тебе (*kak tebe*) is the simplest and most common way to ask someone's opinion. We

can translate it as "what do you think of" or "how do you find." The more polite version of this phrase will look like как Вам (*kak Vam*).

есть (*yests*)

есть (*yests*) means "to eat." The infinitive of the word "to eat" looks and sounds exactly as the word "to have." But you will never confuse them, as the context will always tell you the meaning. Besides, the verb "to eat" conjugates according to a person.

Russian	Romanized	"English"
Я ем	<i>ya yem</i>	"I eat"
Ты ешь	<i>ty yesh</i>	"you eat" (informal, singular)
Вы едите	<i>vy yedite</i>	"you eat" (formal, plural)

уметь (*umet'*)

уметь (*umet'*) means "can" (about skills). In the previous lesson, we learned the word *moch*, which we can also translate as "to be able to" or "can." But unlike *moch*, we use the word *umet'* to describe skills, not the ability to perform some specific action.

For Example:

1. Я умею готовить
ya umeyu gotovit'
"I can cook."
2. Ты умеешь плавать?
ty umeyesh plavat'?
"Can you swim?" (informal, singular)

3. Вы умеете водить?
Vy umeyete vedit'?
"Can you drive?" (formal, plural)

Past Tense

In the dialogue, we came across the verb "ordered" in the past tense: *zakazala*. Let's take a look at the rules of how to form the past tense in Russian.

As you already know, ninety-nine percent of Russian verbs end with *-ть (ts)*. You also know that Russian verbs conjugate according to a person in the present tense, just like the English "I eat," "he eats," and so on. We've also mentioned that the verbs in the past tense conjugate according to gender and number.

This is not as difficult as it seems the verbs can only take four possible forms in the past: three according to genders, and one in plural number. Today we'll take a look at the verbs in the past only for masculine and feminine genders.

To form the verbs in the past tense, all you have to do is:

1. Take a verb in the infinitive form
2. Drop the ending *ть (ts)*
3. Add the ending *-л (-l)* for masculine, and *-ла (-la)* for feminine gender.

For Example:

сказать, *skazat'* ("to say")

1. *Сказал (skazal)* - "said"
Masculine:
он сказал (on skazal) - "he said"

2. **сказала** (*skazala*) - "said"

Feminine:

она сказала (*ona skazala*) - "she said"

ГОТОВИТЬ, *gotovit'* ("to cook")

1. **ГОТОВИЛ** (*gotovil*) - "cooked"

Masculine:

он готовил (*on gotovil*) - "he cooked"

2. **ГОТОВИЛА** (*gotovila*) - "cooked"

Feminine:

она готовила (*ona gotovila*) - "she cooked"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Scarce Russian Vegetarian Dishes

It's a little bit difficult to be a vegetarian in Russia if you like to dine out or are just forced to eat outside of your house most of the time. Of course, you can find many vegetarian dishes in any restaurant, but some people say they don't feel comfortable eating in places where meat is also cooked.

There are a lot of vegetarian restaurants in the West, but in Moscow for example, there are only a couple of them. The prices might also be a little bit of a problem, especially in winter.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11

A Russian Gentleman

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RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Девушка, счёт, пожалуйста! Замечательный обед.
2. NIKA: Да, я так наелась... Сколько с меня?
3. BEN: Нисколько, я заплачу.
4. NIKA: Нет, Бен, давай поделим!
5. BEN: Ника, перестань. Мне приятно тебя угостить.
6. NIKA: Спасибо...

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Devushka, schyot, pozhalusta! Zamechatel'niy obed.
2. NIKA: Da, ya tak nayelas'... Skol'ko s menya?
3. BEN: Niskol'ko, ya zaplachu.
4. NIKA: Net, Ben, davai podelim!
5. BEN: Nika, perestan'. Mne priyatno tebya ugostit'.
6. NIKA: Spasibo...

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BEN: Waitress, a bill, please. It was a great lunch.
2. NIKA: Yeah, I'm so full...How much do I owe you?
3. BEN: Nothing, I'll pay.
4. NIKA: No, Ben, let's split it.
5. BEN: Nika, stop it. It's my pleasure to treat you to a lunch.
6. NIKA: Thank you...

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
перестань	perestan'	stop it	verb	
заплатить	zaplatit'	to pay	verb	
нисколько	niskol'ko	nothing, nothing at all; not at all	adverb	
Сколько	skol'ko	how much, how many, how long	numeral pronoun	
обед	obed	lunch	noun	masculine
наесться	nayest'sya	to be full	verb	
счёт	shyot	bill, check; account	noun	masculine
замечательный	zamechatel'niy	great, wonderful	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Перестань мне звонить! <i>Perestan' mne zvonit'!</i></p> <p>"Stop calling me!"</p>	<p>Я бы хотел заплатить за телефон. <i>Ya by hotel zaplatit' za telefon.</i></p> <p>"I would like to pay for my phone."</p>
<p>Он нисколько не испугался. <i>On niskol'ko nye isrugalsya.</i></p> <p>"He didn't get scared at all."</p>	<p>Сколько вам лет? <i>Skol'ko vam let?</i></p> <p>"How old are you?"</p>
<p>Сколько у тебя осталось денег? <i>Skol'ko u tebya ostalos' deneg?</i></p> <p>"How much money do you have left?"</p>	<p>Сколько сувениров ты купил? <i>Skol'ko сувениров ты купил?</i></p> <p>"How many souvenirs did you buy?"</p>
<p>Что вы ели на обед? <i>Chto vy yeli na obed?</i></p> <p>"What did you eat for lunch?"</p>	<p>Она сама приготовила обед. <i>Ona sama prigotovila obed.</i></p> <p>"She cooked the lunch herself."</p>
<p>Я так наелась, что не могу дышать. <i>Ya tak nayelas', chto nye mogu dyshat'.</i></p> <p>"I'm so full that I can't breathe."</p>	<p>Ты наелся? Может, ещё супа? <i>Ty nayelsya? Mozhyet, yeschyо супа?</i></p> <p>"Are you full? Some more soup maybe?"</p>
<p>Я ещё не наелся. <i>Ya yeschyо nye nayelsya.</i></p> <p>"I'm not full yet/still hungry."</p>	<p>Ваш счёт, пожалуйста. <i>Vash schyot, pozhaluysta.</i></p> <p>"Here's your bill."</p>
<p>У него на счету - сто тысяч евро. <i>U nyego na schyetu - sto tysyach yevro.</i></p> <p>"He's got one hundred thousand euros in his account."</p>	<p>Сегодня замечательная погода. <i>Sevodnya zamechatel'naya pogoda.</i></p> <p>"The weather today is wonderful."</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is наесться, Сколько - Нисколько, С меня, давай поделим, перестань, and Pronouns
Сколько с меня?

"How much do I owe you?"

наестся (*naestet'sa*)

наестся (*naestet'sa*) literally means, "to eat enough," but should be translated as "to be full" in English. Usually this verb is used in the past tense, as logically it's a completed action - "ate enough."

As we know, when we put a verb in the past tense, we should take into consideration the gender of a person or an object it is referred to. So, when a woman is full, she says, Я наелась, *ya nayełas'* ("I'm full").

You can also put the word *spasibo* before or after it, which would make the whole phrase sound as, "No, thank you, I'm full." Here's how you should say it if you are a man: Я наелся, спасибо, *ya nayełsya, spasibo* ("I'm full, thank you.")

Сколько - Нисколько (*skol'ko - niskol'ko*)

Skol'ko literally means, "how much" or "how many." It can be used in the following examples:

1. Сколько это стоит?
skol'ko eto stoit
"How much is this?"
2. Сколько тебе лет?
skol'ko tebe let?
"How old are you?" (literally, "How many years are you?")
3. Сколько тебе кофе?
skol'ko tebe kofe?
"How much coffee do you want?" (Literally, "How much coffee to you?")

Niskol'ko is the word that doesn't have an equivalent in English. It can be translated as "nothing" but only as an answer to *skol'ko* when you are talking about quantities or amounts.

С меня - С Вас (*s menya - s*

vas)

Literally, these phrases mean, "from me" and "from you."

S menya is a conversational way to say "I owe." The question *skol'ko s menya?* is a casual but polite way to ask "How much do I owe you?" or "How much should I give?"

If a person did something good to you and you want to say that you owe him one, you can say, с меня причитается, *s menya prichitaetsa* ("I owe you one").

Note, that it's a very casual and friendly way to say that.

S Vas can be heard in the stores and restaurants, which is the short way to say that "you should give..." a certain amount of money when you purchase something.

For Example:

1. С Вас 5 долларов
s Vas pyat' dollarov
"Five dollars, please." (Literally, "From you five dollars.")

давай поделим (*davai podelim*)

давай поделим (*davai podelim*) means, "Let's split it."

You can use this phrase to offer splitting the bill, as well as sharing a meal or something else. Literally, it just means, "let's split," or "let's share."

перестань (*perestan'*)

перестань (*perestan'*) literally means, "stop it."

It can also be translated as "come on," in the meaning of, "stop it," "don't be silly," or "don't behave/think like this."

Pronouns

Just like the nouns, the pronouns in the Russian language have to agree with the grammar

cases. Depending on the context, the pronouns take different forms. For now just read through these forms so you don't get surprised if you see them in the future dialogs.

Here are the most common forms the Russian pronouns take:

1. **Я** - мне - меня (*Ya - mne - menya*)

For Example:

1. Мне нравится
mne nraivitsa
"I like"
2. Обними меня
obnimi menya
"hug me"

2. **Ты** - тебе - тебя (*Ty - tebe - tebya*)

For Example:

1. Тебе идёт
tebe idyot
"(it) suits you"
2. У тебя есть машина?
U tebya yest' mashina?
"Do you have a car?"

3. **Вы** - вам - вас (*Vy - vam - vas*)

For Example:

1. Вам кто-то звонил
vam kto-to zvonil
"Someone called you."

2. Можно Вас спросить
mozhno vas sprosit'...
"Can I ask you..."

4. **Мы** - нам - нас (*My - nam - nas*)

For Example:

1. Нам весело
nam veselo
"We are having fun." (Literally, "It's fun to us.")
2. Нас много
nas mnogo
"There are a lot of us."

5. **Он** - ему - его (*On - yemu - yego*)

For Example:

1. Ему плохо
Yemu ploho
"He feels bad."
2. Его нет дома
Yego net doma.
"He is not home."

6. **Она** - ей - её (*Ona - yey - yeyo*)

For Example:

1. Он ей не ответил
on yey ne otvetil
"He didn't answer her."

2. Я её не знаю
ya yeyo ne znayu
"I don't know her."

7. Они - им - их (*Oni - im - ih*)

For Example:

1. Им нужна машина?
Im nuzhna mashina?
"Do they need a car?"
2. Кто их пригласил?
Kto ih priglasil?
"Who invited them?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chivalry in Russia

Don't be afraid to offend a woman with extra attention in Russia. Compliments, opening a car door for a woman, letting her in the building before yourself, carrying her heavy bags, and paying for her—everything will give you extra points as a man. And don't worry, these signs of attention won't make a woman think that you are hitting on her; she'll take it for granted. Of course following the example of the Western independent women, a Russian girl might offer you to split the bill. Although it'll take you only a second to convince her not to do so.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

Tell Me What You Think in Russian

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 6 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

12

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Этот парк очень красивый!
2. NIKA: Это мой любимый парк. Здесь всегда тихо и спокойно.
3. BEN: Да. Тебе не холодно?
4. NIKA: Нет, мне жарко! И я немного устала. Ты не устал?
5. BEN: Нет, я в порядке, но мы можем пойти в кино и отдохнуть там.
6. NIKA: Да, было бы неплохо.

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Etot park ochen' krasiviy.
2. NIKA: Eto moi lyubimiy park. Zdes' vseгда tiho i spokojno.
3. BEN: Da. Tebe ne holodno?
4. NIKA: Net, mne zharko! I ya nemnogo ustala. Ty ne ustal?
5. BEN: Net, ya v poryadke, no my mozhem poiti v kino i otdohnut' tam.
6. NIKA: Da, bylo by neploho.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BEN: This park is very beautiful!
2. NIKA: Yes, it's my favorite park. It's always quiet and peaceful here.
3. BEN: Yes. Are you cold?
4. NIKA: No, I'm hot! And I'm a bit tired. Aren't you tired?
5. BEN: No, I'm okay, but we can go to a movie and rest there.
6. NIKA: Yeah, that would be good.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
ЭТОТ	etot	this (masculine)	demonstrative pronoun	
было бы	bylo by	would be	phrase	
в порядке	v poryadke	ok, fine; in order	adverb	
устать	ustat'	be tired, to get tired	verb	
жарко	zharko	hot	adverb	
холодно	holodno	cold	adverb	
спокойно	spokoino	peaceful, calm; peacefully, calmly	adverb	
тихо	tiho	quiet; quietly	adverb	

всегда	vsegda	always	adverb
здесь	zdes'	here	adverb
любимый	lyubimiy	favorite; my love	adjective
красивый	krasiviy	beautiful	adjective masculine
неплохо	neploho	not bad	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Это двухместный номер? <i>Eto dvuhmyestnyy nomer?</i></p> <p>"Is this a twin room?"</p>	<p>Ты видел этот фильм? <i>Ty vidyel etot fil'm?</i></p> <p>"Have you seen this film?" (informal)</p>
<p>Ты можешь дать мне этот фильм? <i>Ty mozhyesh' dat' mnye etot fil'm?</i></p> <p>"Can you give me this film?"</p>	<p>Было бы здорово поехать в Мексику! <i>Bylo by zdorovo poyehat' v Myeksiku!</i></p> <p>"It would be great to go to Mexico!"</p>
<p>Ты в порядке? <i>Ty v porjadke?</i></p> <p>"Are you OK?"</p>	<p>У меня интересная работа, но я очень устаю к вечеру. <i>U myenya intyeryesnaya rabota, no ya ochyen' ustayu k vyechyeru.</i></p> <p>"I have an interesting job, but I get really tired by the evening."</p>
<p>Если ты устала, пойдём домой. <i>Yesli ty ustala, poydyom domoy.</i></p> <p>"If you are tired, let's go home."</p>	<p>Я очень устал сегодня. <i>Ya ochyen' ustal syegodnya.</i></p> <p>"I am very tired today."</p>
<p>Разденься, жарко. <i>Razden'sya, zharko.</i></p> <p>"Take off your clothes, it's hot."</p>	<p>Сейчас жарко. <i>Syeychas zharko.</i></p> <p>"It's hot now."</p>

<p>Не бойся, нам не будет холодно. <i>Nye boysya, nam nye budyet holodno.</i></p> <p>"Don't worry, we won't be cold."</p>	<p>Мне холодно. <i>Mnye holodno.</i></p> <p>"I'm cold."</p>
<p>Вам не холодно? <i>Vam nye holodno?</i></p> <p>"Are you cold (formal)?"</p>	<p>Мне спокойно только дома. <i>Mnye spokojno tol'ko doma.</i></p> <p>"It's only at home where I feel calm (peaceful)."</p>
<p>Спокойно, я всё улажу. <i>Spokoino, ya vsyo ulazhu.</i></p> <p>"Calm down, I'll work it out."</p>	<p>Здесь очень тихо. <i>Zdyes' ochen' tiho.</i></p> <p>"It's very quiet here."</p>
<p>Здесь всегда так шумно? <i>Zdes' vsegda tak shumno?</i></p> <p>"Is it always so noisy here?"</p>	<p>Он всегда приходит вовремя. <i>On vsegda prihodit vovremya.</i></p> <p>"He always comes on time."</p>
<p>Не садитесь, здесь мокро. <i>Nye sadites', zdyes' mokro.</i></p> <p>"Don't sit down: it's wet here."</p>	<p>Здесь можно курить? <i>Zdyes' mozhno kurit'?</i></p> <p>"Is it okay (allowed) to smoke here?"</p>
<p>Любимый, позвони мне! <i>Lyubimiy, pozvoni mne!</i></p> <p>"My love, call me!"</p>	<p>Новый Год - мой любимый праздник. <i>Novyy God - moy lyubimiy praznik.</i></p> <p>"New Year's is my favorite holiday."</p>
<p>Питер – красивый город. <i>Pityer – krasiviy gorod.</i></p> <p>"St. Petersburg is a beautiful city."</p>	<p>Наташа очень красивая. <i>Natasha ochyen' krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"Natasha is very beautiful."</p>
<p>Это платье красивое. <i>Eto plat'ye krasivoye.</i></p> <p>"This dress is beautiful."</p>	<p>Мы неплохо поработали. <i>My nyeploho porabotali.</i></p> <p>"We did quite a good job."</p>

Вообще, она неплохой человек.

Voobsche, ona neplohoi chelovek.

"All in all, she's not a bad person."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is *etot* and Adjectives versus Adverbs

Этот парк очень красивый!

"This park is very beautiful!"

Этот-это (*etot-eto*)

etot is equivalent to the English "this" as in the phrases, "this house," or "this dog." In Russian, this pronoun has to be modified according to genders.

For Example:

1. Этот (*etot*) - goes with masculine nouns
этот парк (*etot park*)
"this park"
2. Эта (*eta*) -is for feminine nouns
эта машина (*eta mashina*)
"this car"
3. Это (*eto*) - works for neuter nouns
это пиво (*eto pivo*)
"this beer"
4. Эти (*eti*) - is for plural nouns
эти люди (*eti lyudi*)
"these people"

это can be translated in English as "this is" or "these are" and is never modified.

For Example:

1. ЭТО СТОЛ
eto stol
"this is a table"
2. Это - Книги
eto knigi
"these are books"

Adjectives versus Adverbs

As we've mentioned before, adjectives in Russian must agree in gender with nouns. Let's see what pairs of nouns and adjectives we have in the dialogue:

1. парк **красивый**
park krasiviy
"beautiful park"
2. **любимый** парк
lyubimiy park
"favorite park"

Both adjectives come with the masculine noun "park," therefore they end in -ый.

We also came across some words that sound like adjectives in English (cold, hot, not bad), but they don't have the endings that the typical Russian adjectives have: neither **ый** if it's masculine, nor **ая** if it's feminine. Let's take a look at them.

For Example

1. **холодно**
holodno
"cold"

2. **жарко**
zharko
"hot"
3. **немного**
nemnogo
"a little"
4. **неплохо**
neploho
"not bad"

These words are adverbs. In English, the most obvious adverbs end in "-ly," such as sadly and quickly, although very often they can be identical to adjectives.

For Example:

1. "He is fast."
2. "He runs fast."

Both phrases have the same word "fast" in them, although in the first case it's an adjective and in the second case it's an adverb. In Russian, this difference would be very obvious.

Most Russian adverbs end in "-o."

Most Russian adjectives can be turned into adverbs by replacing the ending with "-o."

For Example:

1. **холодный - холодно** ("cold")

Usage:

One of the functions of adverbs in Russian is to express conditions, personal or general. For example, "I'm cold," or "It's cold here."

For Example:

1. Мне холодно
mne holodno
"I'm cold."
2. Мне жарко
mne zharko
"I'm hot."
3. Тебе грустно?
tebe grusno?
"Are you sad?"
4. Тебе весело?
tebe veselo?
"Are you having fun?"
5. Здесь тихо
zdes' tiho
"It's quiet here."
6. Здесь спокойно
zdes' spokoino
"It's calm here."
7. Сегодня холодно
sevodnya holodno
"It's cold today."
8. Сегодня жарко
sevodnya zharko
"It's hot today."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Moscow's Many Attractions

Despite being the business heart of Russia, Moscow is a very green and beautiful city. It has over one hundred parks and gardens within its limits not to mention beautiful sights in the suburban areas. Everyone can find a park according to their taste in Moscow. Nature lovers will be fascinated with the Botanical Gardens, Elk Island National Nature Park, and if they travel with kids, the Moscow Zoo is a must to see. A big number of Historical Parks, like Izmailovsky and Kolomenskoe, will introduce you to the Russian cultural heritage—medieval churches and elegant old houses. In Moscow Leisure and Memorial parks, one can enjoy fresh air and exercise like rollerblading or dynamic walk. The best options for that would be Gorky Park or The All-Russian Exhibition Center.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13

What Kind of Russian Movie Would You Like To See?

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13

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: О, какая встреча! Бен, познакомься, это мои друзья, Катя и Дима.
2. BEN: Очень приятно, я - Бен. Вы тоже пришли на Аватар?
3. FRIENDS: Да, но мы ещё не купили билеты.
4. NIKA: А мы уже купили, места 6 и 7. Бен, мы забыли купить напитки.
5. BEN: Да, и закуски. Ты хочешь попкорн?
6. NIKA: Да, пожалуйста.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: O, kakaya vstrecha! Ben, poznamom'sya, eto moi druz'ya, Katya i Dima.
2. BEN: Ochen' priyatno, ya - Ben. Vy tozhe prishli na Avatar?
3. FRIENDS: Da, no my yescho ne kupili bilety.
4. NIKA: A my uzhe kupili, mesta shest' i sem'. Ben, my zabyli kupit' napitki.
5. BEN: Da, i zakuski. Ty hochesh popkorn?
6. NIKA: Da, pozhalusta.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: Oh, what a meeting! Ben, meet my friends, Katya and Dima.
2. BEN: Nice to meet you, I'm Ben. Are you here to see Avatar, too?
3. FRIENDS: Yes, but we haven't bought the tickets yet.
4. NIKA: And we have already bought them, seats six and seven. Ben, we forgot to buy drinks.
5. BEN: Yes, and snacks. Do you want popcorn?
6. NIKA: Yes, please.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
встреча	vstryecha	meeting	noun
закуски	zakuski	snacks; appetizers	noun
напитки	napitki	drinks	plural noun
забыть	zabyt'	to forget	verb
место	myesto	seat, place	noun
купить	kupit'	to buy	verb
уже	uzhe	already, yet	adverb
ещё не...	yescho ne...	haven't...yet	phrase
прийти	priyti	to come (on foot)	verb
друзья	druz'ya	friends	noun
пожалуйста	pozhaluysta	please; you are welcome	interjection

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Нашу встречу придётся перенести. <i>Nashu vstryechu pridyotsya pyeryenyesti.</i></p> <p>"We'll have to reschedule our meeting."</p>	<p>Какая встреча! <i>Kakaya vstryecha!</i></p> <p>"What a meeting!" ("What a pleasant surprise!")</p>
<p>У меня завтра деловая встреча. <i>U myenya zavtra dyelovaya vstryecha.</i></p> <p>"I have a business meeting tomorrow."</p>	<p>Встреча с директором назначена на 8 утра. <i>Vstryecha s diryektorom naznachyena na 8 utra.</i></p> <p>"The meeting with the director is scheduled for eight A.M."</p>
<p>Наша встреча не случайна. <i>Nasha vstryecha nye sluchayna.</i></p> <p>"Our meeting is not just an accident."</p>	<p>Какая встреча! <i>Kakaya vstryecha!</i></p> <p>"What a meeting!"</p>
<p>Эта встреча перевернула его жизнь. <i>Eta vstryecha pyeryevyemula yego zhizn'.</i></p> <p>"This meeting changed his life."</p>	<p>Что у вас есть из закусок? <i>Shto u vas yest' iz zakusok?</i></p> <p>"What appetizers do you have?"</p>
<p>Ты забыл напитки!</p> <p>"You forgot the drinks!"</p>	<p>Как ты мог забыть об этом! <i>Kak ty mog zabyt' ob etom!</i></p> <p>"How could you have forgotten about it!"</p>
<p>Положи мой блокнот на место. <i>Polozhi moy bloknot na myesto.</i></p> <p>"Put my notepad back where it belongs."</p>	<p>Это самое красивое место на земле. <i>Eto samoye krasivoye myesto na zhyemlye.</i></p> <p>"This is the most beautiful place on Earth."</p>
<p>Садитесь на моё место. <i>Sadityes' na moyo myesto.</i></p> <p>"Take my seat."</p>	<p>Прошу прощения, но это место занято. <i>Proshu proschyeniya, no eto myesto zanyato.</i></p> <p>"I'm sorry, but this seat is occupied."</p>
<p>О Боже, какое грязное место! <i>O Bozhye, kakoye gryaznoye myesto!</i></p> <p>"Oh God, what a dirty place!"</p>	<p>Мне надо купить кофе. <i>Mne nado kupit' kofe.</i></p> <p>"I need to buy some coffee."</p>

<p>Мы купили машину. <i>My kupili mashinu.</i></p> <p>"We bought a car."</p>	<p>Ты уже был в Париже? <i>Ty uzhye byl v Parizhye?</i></p> <p>"Have you already been to Paris?"</p>
<p>Ты уже была в Америке? <i>Ty uzhye byla v Amyerikye?</i></p> <p>"Have you already been to America?"</p>	<p>Я уже написал письмо. <i>Ya uzhye napisal pis'mo.</i></p> <p>"I've already written the letter."</p>
<p>Я ещё не наелся. <i>Ya yeschyо nye nayelsya.</i></p> <p>"I'm not full yet/still hungry."</p>	<p>Я ещё не готов. <i>Ya yeschyо nye gotov.</i></p> <p>"I'm not ready yet."</p>
<p>Аня ещё не вернулась из школы. <i>Anya yeschyо nye vyernulas' iz shkoly.</i></p> <p>"Anya hasn't returned from school yet."</p>	<p>Боюсь, я не смогу сегодня прийти. <i>Boyus', ya ne smogu sevodnya priyti.</i></p> <p>"I'm afraid I won't be able to come today."</p>
<p>В трудную минуту мои друзья всегда рядом. <i>V trudnyuyu minutu moi druz'ya vsegda ryadom.</i></p> <p>"My friends are always there (for me) during hard times. "</p>	<p>У Кати странные друзья. <i>U Kati strannyye druz'ya.</i></p> <p>"Katya has strange friends."</p>
<p>Посмотрите в камеру, пожалуйста. <i>Posmotrite v kameru, pozhaluysta.</i></p> <p>"Look at the camera, please."</p>	<p>Быстрее, пожалуйста. <i>Bystreye, pozhaluysta.</i></p> <p>"Faster (hurry up), please."</p>
<p>- Спасибо. - Пожалуйста. <i>- Spasibo. - Pozhaluysta.</i></p> <p>"Thank you." - "You are welcome."</p>	<p>Ваш билет, пожалуйста. <i>Vash bilet, pozhaluysta.</i></p> <p>"Your ticket, please." (formal)</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Какой, Уже - ещё не, Ещё не, and the Past Tense

О, какая встреча! "Oh, what a meeting!"

Какой (m), Какая (f), Какое (n), Какие (pl)

They all mean "what kind," "which," and "what," and only differ by gender depending on the noun they modify.

For Example:

- какой у тебя телефон?
kakoi u tebya telefon?
"What kind of telephone do you have?" (Can also mean, "What is your telephone number?")
телефон ("telephone") is masculine
- какая это станция?
kakaya eto stantsiya?
"What station is it?"
станция ("station") is feminine.
- какое сегодня число?
kakoe sevodnya chislo?
"What date is it today?"
число ("date") is neuter.
- я не знаю, какие это таблетки
ya ne znayu, kakie eto tabletki
"I don't know what kind of pills these are."
таблетки ("pills") are plural.

It can also serve as an exclamation word expressing surprise or astonishment but it also has to correspond to the gender of the noun it modifies.

For Example:

1. какой большой самолёт!
kakoi bol'shoi samolyot!
"What a big airplane!"
самолёт ("plane") is masculine, therefore какой ("what a...") should also be masculine.
2. какое совпадение!
kakoe sovpadenie!
"What a coincidence!"
совпадение ("coincidence") is neuter, therefore какое should also be neuter.

Уже - ещё не, *uzhe - escho ne* ("already, "(not) yet," "still")

Уже can be translated into English as "already" in a statement or as "yet" in a question.

For Example:

1. Я уже дома
ya uzhe doma
"I am home already."
2. Ты уже пришёл?
Ty uzhe prishol?
"Have you come yet?"

Ещё не

Ещё не can be translated as "not yet" or "still" and is used in the negative sentences. Unlike English, forming negatives with this phrase doesn't require any auxiliary verbs like "didn't" or "haven't." All you need is the phrase ещё не plus a place or verb.

For Example:

1. Я ещё не дома
ya escho ne doma
"I am not home yet."
2. Они ещё не вернулись
oni yescho ne vernulis'
"They haven't returned yet."
3. Ты уже пришёл?
Ty uzhe prishol?
"Have you come yet?"
4. Ещё нет.
Yescho net.
"Not yet."

If you drop **не you can use **ещё** in the positive sentences in the meaning of "still."

For Example:

1. Она ещё на работе
ona escho na rabote
"She's still at work."

Past Tense

In lesson ten we went through some common rules of forming the past tense for the verbs of masculine and feminine genders.

Today we'll expand our "past" knowledge into the plural verbs.

Here's what we had in the dialogue:

1. купили, *kupili*
"(we) bought"

2. забыли, *zabyli*
"(we) forgot"
3. Пришли, *prishli*
"(we) came"

As you can see, all these verbs end in -ли, which is a standard ending for the verbs in plural number in the past tense.

Now, let's review how to form the past tense for both genders a plural number.

1. Take a verb in the infinitive form.
2. Drop the ending *ть* ("-ts").
3. Add the ending -л ("-l") for masculine, -ла ("-la") for feminine gender, -ли ("-li") for plural number.

For Example:

Russian	"English"	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
купить	"to buy"	купил (<i>купил</i>)	купила (<i>купила</i>)	купили (<i>купили</i>)
забыть	"to forget"	забыл (<i>zabyl</i>)	забыла (<i>zabyla</i>)	забыли (<i>zabyli</i>)
прийти	"to come" (except on)	пришёл (<i>prishol</i>)	пришла (<i>prishla</i>)	пришли (<i>prishli</i>)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Rise of Russian Movies

The Russian movie industry started in the end of the 19th century in the Russian Empire and fully developed during the Soviet Era. Although most Soviet movies (especially early ones) were full of communist propaganda and nationalistic ideas, there were also kind and heart-warming movies like "Moscow Doesn't Believe in Tears" and "Irony of Fate," which appeared on TV in the late 70s. In the 21st century the Russian cinema came out to the international arena with movies like "Brother" 1 and 2, "Night Watch," "Day Watch," and "House of Fools."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14

When Did That Russian Couple Get Together?

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 6 Grammar
- 10 Cultural Insight

14

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Дима и Катя - парень и девушка?
2. NIKA: Да, они встречаются уже 5 лет. Наверное, они поженятся.
3. BEN: Мои лучшие друзья уже 9 лет вместе. А... У тебя есть кто-нибудь?
4. NIKA: Нет. Я рассталась с парнем год назад. А у тебя есть девушка?
5. BEN: Нет...
6. NIKA: Понятно... Ладно, давай посмотреть фильм.

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Dima i Katya - paren' i devushka?
2. NIKA: Da, oni vstrechayutsa uzhe pyat' let. Navernoe, oni
3. pozhenyatsa.
4. BEN: Moi luchshie druz'ya uzhe devyat' lyet vmeste. A... U tebya yes't kto-nibud'?
5. NIKA: Net, ya rasstalas' s parnem god nazad. A u tebya yes't
6. devushka?
7. BEN: Net...

CONT'D OVER

8. NIKA: Ponyatno... Ladno, davai smotret' fil'm.

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Are Dima and Katya boyfriend and girlfriend?

2. NIKA: Yes, they've been going out for five years already. They'll probably get married.

3. BEN: My best friends have been together for nine years. Erm... Are you seeing anybody?

4. NIKA: No. I broke up with my boyfriend a year ago. Do you have a girlfriend?

5. BEN: No...

6. NIKA: I see... Okay, let's watch a movie.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
парень	paren'	a guy; boyfriend	noun
смотреть	smotret'	to look, to watch	verb
ладно	ladno	okay, well, fine	adverb
...назад	...nazag	...ago	adverb
расстаться	rastat'sa	to part, separate; to break up	verb

НИКТО	nikto	nobody	pronoun
кто-нибудь	kto-nibud'	somebody, someone	pronoun
вместе	vmeste	together	adverb
лучший	luchshiy	best	adjective
наверное	naverno	probably	adverb
жениться	zhenitsa	to get married (for a man or when speaking about a couple)	verb
встречаться	vstrechatsa	to meet with each other; to date, go out	verb
девушка	devushka	young lady; girlfriend; waitress	noun
фильм	fil'm	a film, a movie	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Он весёлый парень. <i>On vesyolyi paren'.</i></p> <p>"He's a fun guy."</p>	<p>Мой парень - француз. <i>Moi paren' - francuz.</i></p> <p>"My boyfriend is French."</p>
<p>Вечером я часто смотрю телевизор. <i>Vyechyerom ya chasto smotryu tyelyevizor.</i></p> <p>"I often watch TV in the evening."</p>	<p>Не смотри на меня. <i>Nye smotri na myenya.</i></p> <p>"Don't look at me."</p>
<p>Ну, ладно. <i>Nu, ladno.</i></p> <p>"Well, okay."</p>	<p>Мы приехали в Россию 5 лет назад. <i>My priyehali v Rossiyu pyat' lyet nazad.</i></p> <p>"We came to Russia 5 years ago."</p>

<p>Он говорит, что нам лучше расстаться. <i>On govorit, shto nam nuzhno rastatsa.</i></p> <p>"He says it would be better for us to break up."</p>	<p>Я звоню в банк весь день, но никто не отвечает. <i>Ya zvonyu v bank ves' den', no nikto ne otvechaet.</i></p> <p>"I've been calling the bank all day but no one is answering (picking up the phone)."</p>
<p>Никто не смеялся над его шутками. <i>Nikto ne smeyalsya nad evo shutkami.</i></p> <p>"No one laughed at his jokes."</p>	<p>Кто-нибудь есть дома? <i>Kto-nibud' yest' doma?</i></p> <p>"Is anybody home?"</p>
<p>Мы работаем вместе. <i>My robotayem vmeste.</i></p> <p>"We work together."</p>	<p>Это лучший университет в Москве. <i>Eto luchshiy universitet v Moskve.</i></p> <p>"It's the best university in Moscow."</p>
<p>Наверное, вечеринку придётся отменить. <i>Navyerное, vecherinku pridyotsa otmyenit'.</i></p> <p>"We'll probably have to call off the party."</p>	<p>Я не хочу жениться! <i>Ya nye hochu zhenitsa!</i></p> <p>"I don't want to get married!"</p>
<p>Я часто встречаюсь с друзьями. <i>Ya chasto vstrechayus' s druz'yami.</i></p> <p>"I often meet with my friends."</p>	<p>Он встречается с Лизой из нашего класса. <i>On vstrechaetsa s Lizoï iz nasheva klasa.</i></p> <p>"He is going out with Liza from our class."</p>
<p>Девушка, как Вас зовут? <i>Dyevushka, kak Vas zovut?</i></p> <p>"Excuse me (miss); what's your name?"</p>	<p>Девушка, счёт, пожалуйста! <i>Dyevushka, schyot, pozhaluysta!</i></p> <p>"Waitress, the bill please!"</p>
<p>Эта девушка красивая. <i>Eta dyevushka krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"This girl is beautiful."</p>	<p>Ты можешь дать мне этот фильм? <i>Ty mozhyesh' dat' mnye etot fil'm?</i></p> <p>"Can you give me this film?"</p>

Ты уже видел этот фильм?

Ty uzhe vidyel etot fil'm?

"Have you seen this film?" (informal)

Это очень интересный фильм.

Eto ochyen' intyeryesnyy fil'm.

"It's a very interesting film."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Reflexive Verbs

Наверное, они поженятся.

Naverno, oni pozhenyatsa.

"They'll probably get married."

встречаться (vstrechat'sa)

встречаться (vstrechat'sa) means "to meet/see each other," "to go out (with somebody)"

жениться (zhenit'sa)

жениться (zhenit'sa) means "to get married."

расстаться (rastat'sa)

расстаться (rastat'sa) means "to part;" "to separate;" "to break up"

Before, we learned that Russian infinitives usually end in -ть, like пить ("to drink"). But the verbs above being infinitives end in -ся. This category of verbs in Russian is called "reflexive verbs."

Reflexive verbs are used to illustrate the concept of "self" or "each other." They are formed simply by adding -ся to the verb.

Today we will focus on the reciprocal meaning of this ending, which can be translated as

"each other" into English.

встречать (*vstrechat'*) means "to meet" and requires an object, i.e. somebody or something.

For Example:

1. встречать друга (*vstrechat' druga*)
"to meet/see a friend"

By adding -ся to the word we will give it the reciprocal meaning.

For Example:

1. **встречаться** (*vstrechat'sa*)
"to meet each other/to go out with each other"

The same happens to the word жениться. Without the ending -ся, женить (*zhenit'*) means "to marry somebody" and requires an object.

For Example:

1. женить Колю на Кате (*zhenit' Kolyu na Kate*)
"to marry Kolya to Katya"

With the ending -ся the word expresses both concepts of "each other" and "self" depending on the context.

For Example:

1. они не хотят жениться (*oni ne hotyat zhenit'sa*)
"They don't want to marry each other."
2. я не хочу жениться (*ya nye hochu zhenit'sa*)
"I don't want to get married." (lit. to marry myself)

Note that when you talk about a couple, you can use the word жениться if talking about them both. But if you want to say a phrase like "I don't want to get married," you should consider your gender or the gender of the subject.

If you are a man or talking about a man, you say **ЖЕНИТЬСЯ** (*zhenit'sa*), but for females we use another expression, **ВЫЙТИ ЗАМУЖ** (*viyti zamuzh*).

For Example:

1. Он женился (*on zhenilsya*)
"He got married."
2. Она вышла замуж (*ona vyshla zamuzh*)
"She got married."

The word **РАССТАТЬСЯ** cannot be used without the ending -ся. Remember this word with the preposition с ("with") as they make a set phrase.

For Example:

1. расстаться с парнем (*rastat'sa s parnem*)
"to break up with a boyfriend"

Instrumental Case

Whenever you want to express togetherness in Russian, you need the instrumental case, which indicates the concept of "with," or whenever you see preposition с, s ("with") in a Russian sentence, know that the noun that follows it is put into the instrumental case.

How to Form the Instrumental Case

Masculine nouns usually end in -ом or -ем when put into the instrumental case.

For Example:

1. сахар (*sahar*)
"sugar"
*с сахаром (*s saharom*)
"with sugar"
Вы пьёте кофе с сахаром? (*Vy p'yote kofe s saharom?*)
"Do you drink coffee with sugar?"

2. парень (*paren*)
"a guy/boyfriend"
*с парнем (*s parnem*)
"with a guy/with (somebody's) boyfriend"
Я встречаюсь с парнем 2 года (*ya vstrechayus' s parnem dva goda*)
"I've been going out with (my) boyfriend for two years."

Feminine nouns usually end in -ой or -ей.

For Example:

1. девушка (*devushka*)
"a girl/girlfriend"
*с девушкой (*s devushkoi*)
"with a girl/with (somebody's) girlfriend"
Он пришёл с молодой девушкой (*on prishol s molodoi devushkoi*)
"He came with a young girl."
2. Катя (*Katya* - female name)
*с Катей (*s Katei*)
"with Katya"
Я иду в магазин с Катей (*ya idu v magazin s Katei*)
"I am going to the store with Katya."

Neuter nouns most often end in -м.

For Example:

1. молоко (*moloko*)
"milk"
*с молоком (*s molokom*)
"with milk"
Я люблю чайс молоком (*ya lyublyu chai s molokom*)
"I like tea with milk." (milk tea)

Nouns in plural usually end in -ами or -ями.

For Example:

1. коллеги (*kollegi*)
"colleagues, co-workers"
*с коллегами (*s kollegami*)
"with (somebody's) colleagues, co-w
2. друзья (*druz'ya*)
"friends"
*с друзьями (*s druz'yami*)
"with (somebody's) friends"
Завтра я встречаюсь с друзьями (*ya zavtra vstrechayus' s druz'yami*)
"Tomorrow I am meeting (my) friends." (lit. Tomorrow I am meeting with (my) friends)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Three Months Until "I Do"

There's no exact or "appropriate" period of time a girl and a guy should be together before they get married. However, the time between the proposal and the wedding is usually no longer than three months. This is how long the City Registry gives you "to think whether the decision you are making is right" after the wedding application. Somehow it's always been more than enough for couples to pull off a wedding ceremony in such short time.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15

It's Time to Learn More Russian!

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- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
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- 5 Grammar
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15

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Уже поздно, мне пора домой.
2. BEN: Я тебя провожу. Ночью в Москве опасно.
3. NIKA: Да, но я живу далеко...
4. BEN: Ничего. Мы возьмём такси.
5. NIKA: Но это будет очень дорого!
6. BEN: Это не проблема. Пойдём!

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Uzhe pozno, mne pora domoi.
2. BEN: Ya tebya provozhu. Noch'yu v Moskve opasno.
3. NIKA: Da, no ya zhivu dalyako...
4. BEN: Nichevo. My voz'myom taksi.
5. NIKA: No eto budet ochen' dorogo!
6. BEN: Eto ne problema. Poidyom!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: It's late, it's time for me to go home.
2. BEN: I'll walk you. It's dangerous in Moscow at night.
3. NIKA: Yeah, but I live far...
4. BEN: It's okay. We'll take a taxi.
5. NIKA: But it'll be very expensive!
6. BEN: It's not a problem. Let's go!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
поздно	pozdno	late	adjective	
дорого	dorogo	expensive	adverb	
быть	byt'	to be	verb	
взять такси	vzyat' taksi	to take a taxi	phrase	
ничего	nichyego	nothing; not bad, it's nothing, don't worry about it	noun/adverb	
далеко	daleko	far	adverb	
опасно	opasno	dangerous	adverb	
ночью	noch'yu	at night	adverb	

проводить	provodit'	see off	verb	
дом	dom	house, home	noun	masculine
пора	pora	it's time to	adverb	
проблема	problema	problem	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Уже поздно, пойдём домой. <i>Uzhe pozna, paidyom damoi.</i></p> <p>"It's late already; let's go home."</p>	<p>Это не дорого. "It isn't expensive."</p>
<p>Как дорого! "How expensive!"</p>	<p>Нам надо быть в аэропорту в два часа. <i>Nam nado byt' v aeroportu v dva chasa.</i></p> <p>"We have to be at the airport at two o'clock."</p>
<p>Я устала, давай возьмём такси. <i>Ya ustala, davai voz'myom taksi.</i></p> <p>"I'm tired, let's take a taxi."</p>	<p>Ничего не получается. <i>Nichyego nye poluchayetsya.</i></p> <p>"Nothing works out."/"Everything fails."</p>
<p>Ничего страшного. <i>Nichyego strashnogo.</i></p> <p>"Nothing to worry about."/"It's not a problem."</p>	<p>Я ничего не понимаю. <i>Ya nichyego nye ponimayu.</i></p> <p>"I don't understand anything."</p>
<p>Я никому ничего не должен. <i>Ya nikomu nichyego nye dolzhyen.</i></p> <p>"I don't owe anything to anyone."</p>	<p>Врач осмотрел меня и ничего не нашёл. <i>Vrach osmotryel myenya i nichyego nye nashyol.</i></p> <p>"The doctor examined me and didn't find anything wrong."</p>

<p>Моя школа находится очень далеко от дома. <i>Moya shkola nahoditsa ochen' dalyeko ot doma.</i></p> <p>"My school is situated very far from home."</p>	<p>Переедание опасно для здоровья. <i>Pereedanie opasno dlya zdorov'ya.</i></p> <p>"Overeating is dangerous for health."</p>
<p>Я не могу уснуть ночью. <i>Ya nye mogu usnut' noch'yu.</i></p> <p>"I can't fall asleep at night."</p>	<p>Он проводил меня до дома. <i>On provodil myenya do doma.</i></p> <p>"He walked me home."</p>
<p>Пошли домой. <i>Poshli domoy.</i></p> <p>"Let's go home."</p>	<p>Его дом больше, чем наш. <i>Ego dom bol'she, chem nash.</i></p> <p>"His house is bigger than ours is."</p>
<p>Пора ложиться, выключай телевизор. <i>Pora lozhitsa, vyklyuchai televizor.</i></p> <p>"It's bed time, turn off the TV."</p>	<p>У него проблемы в бизнесе в последнее время. <i>U nyego problyemy v biznese v poslyednyeye vryemya.</i></p> <p>"He has some business problems lately."</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is *пора...* and Future Tense

Уже поздно, мне пора домой,

Uzhe pozno, mne pora domoi.

"It's late, it's time for me to go home."

пора..., *pora...* ("It's time to...")

Usually this word is followed by a verb in the infinitive form.

For Example:

1. пора спать
pora spat'
"It's time to sleep." (to go to bed)
2. пора уходить
pora uhodit'
"It's time to leave."

When *пора* is used with the verb "to go" (*идти* or *ехать*) and the destination is mentioned, the verb "to go" itself can be omitted.

For Example:

1. пора (*идти/ехать*) домой
pora (itti/yehat') domoi
"It's time (to go) home."
2. пора (*идти/ехать*) на работу
pora (itti/yehat') na rabotu
"It's time (to go) to work."

Future Tense

In today's dialogue we heard the following words used in the future tense:

1. провожу
provozhu
"(I) will see (somebody) off, walk (somebody)"
2. возьмём
voz'myom
"(we) will take"

- будет дорого
budet dorogo
"(it) will be expensive."

There are two ways the future tense can be formed in Russian - simple and compound.

Simple Form

Simple future verbs are usually formed by prefixes and suffixes and are conjugated according to a person just like in the present tense.

For example, let's take the verb *знать* ("to know"). To put it into the future tense, you:

- Conjugate it according to the person you need.

For Example:

- Я **знаю**, *ya znayu* ("I know")
- Ты **знаешь**, *ty znaesh* ("you know") etc.

- Add prefix "-y" to the conjugated form of the verb.

For Example:

- Я **узнаю**, *ya uznayu* ("I will know")
- Ты **узнаешь**, *ty uznash* ("You will know")
- делать*, *delat'* ("to do")
- я **сделаю**, *ya zdelayu* ("I will do")
- ты **сделаешь**, *ty zdelash* ("you will do")

As you can see, the prefixes can be totally different. Most of the time they only need

memorization. Some words, like the two in our dialogue, don't follow any rules except for the rules of conjugation.

For Example:

1. проводить, *provodit'* ("to walk, to see off")
2. я провожу, *ya provozhu* ("I will see off, walk")
3. ты проводишь, *ty provodish* ("you will see off, walk")
4. взять, *vzjat'* ("to take")
5. я возьму, *ya voz'mu* ("I will take")
6. ты возьмёшь, *ty voz'myosh* ("you will take")

Compound Form

The compound form is built with the help of the word *быть*, *byt'* ("to be") in the future tense conjugated according to the person: *быть* + infinitive

Let's take the verb *делать* ("to do") as an example.

1. Я буду делать, *ya budu delat'* ("I will do/will be doing")
2. Ты будешь делать, *ty budesh delat'* ("you will do/ will be doing")
3. Он/она будет делать, *on/ona budet delat'* ("he/she will do/ will be doing")
4. Мы будем делать, *my budem delat'* ("we will do/ will be doing")
5. Вы будете делать, *vy budete delat'* ("you (pl) will do/ will be doing")
6. Они будут делать, *oni budut delat'* ("they will do/ will be doing")

As you can see, only the word "to be" is changed and unlike the English "will," has six different forms.

The difference between the two future forms lies in the purpose of the statement. The simple future tense stresses the result of the action and the compound form usually implies the ongoing future actions. You will understand it better when you learn the concept of perfective-imperfective verbs. For now it is easier for you to learn the conjugation of the verb "to be" in the future tense and just add infinitives.

The verb "to be" in the future tense conjugated according to the third person, *будет*, is also widely used with adverbs to express future conditions.

For Example:

1. *завтра будет холодно*
zavtra budet holodno
"It will be cold tomorrow."
2. *там будет весело*
tam budet veselo
"It'll be fun there."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Safety Tips

Unfortunately, we can't guarantee your total safety when you go to Russia. If you stereotyped Russia as a dangerous country, you are somewhat right. There's a reason for some extra safety precautions while you travel to Russia—you are a foreigner. Just like you have a stereotype about Russia being dangerous, Russians have a stereotype of foreigners being rich and naïve. If you wander around the city with your big Pentax, eyes and mouth wide open in amazement, there is ninety-nine percent chance some street hooligan has already spotted you as a potential source of income.

Be careful in Russia, especially in the cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg. Always hold your bag close to you, never put anything into your back pockets, carry your passport with you, don't go to bars and clubs alone, don't hitch-hike (call a taxi when you need one), and don't wander the streets alone at night.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

Master the Art of the Russian Phone Call!

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 7 Grammar
- 10 Cultural Insight

16

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Алло?
2. BEN: Алло, привет, узнала?
3. NIKA: Нет, кто это?
4. BEN: Это я, Бен!
5. NIKA: Ой, Бен, привет! Извини, я только что проснулась... Кстати, большое спасибо за вчера!
6. BEN: Тебе спасибо! Ты сегодня свободна?
7. NIKA: Дай подумать... Я буду занята до обеда, а после обеда я свободна.
8. BEN: Отлично! Я заеду за тобой!

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Alo?
2. BEN: Alo, privet, uznala?
3. NIKA: Net, kto eto?
4. BEN: Eto ya, Ben!

CONT'D OVER

5. NIKA: Oi, Ben, privet! Izvini, ya tol'ko shto prosnulas'... Kstati, bol'shoe spasibo za vchera!
6. BEN: Tebe spasibo! Ty sevodnya svobodna?
7. NIKA: Dai podumat'... Ya budu zanyata do obeda, a posle obeda ya svobodna.
8. BEN: Otlichno! Ya zayedu za toboi!

ENGLISH

1. NIKA: Hello?
2. BEN: Hi, did you recognize me?
3. NIKA: No, who is it?
4. BEN: It's me, Ben!
5. NIKA: Oh, Ben, hi, I'm sorry I just woke up...By the way, thank you very much for yesterday!
6. BEN: Thank you! Are you free today?
7. NIKA: Let me think... I'll be busy before noon and in the afternoon I am free.
8. BEN: Great! I'll come pick you up!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
узнать	uznat'	to recognize, to find out	verb	
до	do	before (about time); until	adverb	
занятый	zanyatiy	busy; occupied	Adverb	
думать	dumat'	to think	verb	
дать	dat'	to give	verb	
свободный	svobodniy	free, available, not busy	adjective	masculine
сегодня	segodnya	today	adverb	
за	za	behind (about place); for	preposition	
большой	bol'shoi	big, large	adjective	masculine
кстати	kstati	by the way	interjection	
проснуться	prosnutsa	to wake up	verb	
только что	tol'ko shto	just	adverb	
обед	obed	lunch	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Антон, ты узнал номер телефона Серёжи?

Anton, ty uznal nomer telefona Seryozhi?

"Anton, did you find out the phone number of Serge?"

Я узнала его голос.

Ya uznala ego golos.

"I recognized his voice."

<p>Я буду дома до трёх. <i>Ya budu doma do tryoh.</i></p> <p>"I'll be at home until 3."</p>	<p>До посадки еще два часа. <i>Do posadki esho dva chasa.</i></p> <p>"There are still two hours before the boarding."</p>
<p>Ты сегодня занят? <i>Ty syevodnya zanyat?</i></p> <p>"Are you busy today?"</p>	<p>А по-моему, очень симпатичные... <i>A po-moyemu, ochyen' simpatichnyye...</i></p> <p>"And I think they are quite cute..."</p>
<p>По-моему, никакие. <i>Po-moyemu, nikakiye.</i></p> <p>"I think they are nothing special."</p>	<p>Как тебе те парни? <i>Kak tyebye tye pami?</i></p> <p>"What do you think of those guys?"</p>
<p>Я никогда не думал, что в Москве столько иностранцев. <i>Ya nikogda nye dumal, chto v Moskvye stol'ko inostrantsyev.</i></p> <p>"I've never thought there were so many foreigners in Moscow."</p>	<p>Я думаю, нам нужно уходить. <i>Ya dumayu, nam nuzhno uhodit'.</i></p> <p>"I think we should leave."</p>
<p>Что ты об этом думаешь? <i>Chto ty ob etom dumayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What do you think about it?"</p>	<p>Думаю, ты прав. <i>Dumayu, ty prav.</i></p> <p>"I think you are right."</p>
<p>Ты думаешь, мы успеем? <i>Ty dumayesh', my uspyeyem?</i></p> <p>"Do you think we can make it on time?"</p>	<p>Я не думаю, что он придёт. <i>Ya nye dumayu, chto on pridyot.</i></p> <p>"I don't think he'll come."</p>
<p>О чём ты думаешь? <i>O chyom ty dumayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What are you thinking about?"</p>	<p>Как вы думаете, во сколько он придёт? <i>Kak vy dumayetye, vo skol'ko on pridyot?</i></p> <p>"What time do you think he will arrive?"</p>
<p>Вы забыли дать мне чек. <i>Vy zabyli dat' mnye chyek.</i></p> <p>"You forgot to give me the check (receipt)."</p>	<p>Это место свободно? <i>Eto myesto svobodno?</i></p> <p>"Is this seat (place) free?"</p>

<p>Если Вы свободны, давайте пообедаем вместе. <i>Yesli Vy svobodny, davayte poobyedayem vmyestyе.</i></p> <p>"If you are free, let's have lunch together."</p>	<p>Когда ты свободен? <i>Kogda ty svobodyen?</i></p> <p>"When are you free?"</p>
<p>Вы завтра свободны? <i>Vy zavtra svobodny?</i></p> <p>"Are you free tomorrow?"</p>	<p>Этот столик свободный? <i>Etot stolik svobodnyy?</i></p> <p>"Is this table available?"</p>
<p>Это свободная страна. <i>Eto svobodnaya strana.</i></p> <p>"It's a free country."</p>	<p>Сегодня плохой курс валют. <i>Syegodnya plohoу kurs valyut.</i></p> <p>"The exchange rate is bad today."</p>
<p>Мне нужно в город сегодня. <i>Mnye nuzhno v gorod syegodnya.</i></p> <p>"I need to go to downtown today."</p>	<p>Сегодня суббота. <i>Syegodnya subbota.</i></p> <p>"Today is Saturday."</p>
<p>Он сидел за компьютером и что-то читал. <i>On sidyel za komp'yutyerom i chto-to chital.</i></p> <p>"He was sitting at the computer and reading something."</p>	<p>У нас за домом есть маленький сад. <i>U nas za domom yest' malyen'kiy sad.</i></p> <p>"We have a small garden behind our house."</p>
<p>Аэропорт "Шереметьево" очень большой. <i>Aeroport "Sheremet'yevо" ochen' bol'shoу.</i></p> <p>"The Airport 'Sheremetyevo' is very big."</p>	<p>Это слишком большой размер для тебя. <i>Eto slishkom bol'shoу razmer dlya tebya.</i></p> <p>"This size is too big for you."</p>

<p>Аляска – самый большой штат в Америке. <i>Alyaska – samyy bol'shoj shtat v Amerike.</i></p> <p>"Alaska is the biggest state in America."</p>	<p>Кстати, где ты был вчера вечером? Я не могла тебе дозвониться. <i>Kstati, gde ty byl vchera vecherom? Ya ne mogla tebe dozvonit'sya.</i></p> <p>"By the way, where were you last night? I couldn't reach you on the phone (couldn't get through to you)."</p>
<p>Ты уже проснулся? <i>Ty uzhe prosnulsya?</i></p> <p>"Are you awake yet?"</p>	<p>Я только что встал. <i>Ya tol'ko chto vstal.</i></p> <p>"I've just got up."</p>
<p>Мы только что приехали. <i>My tol'ko chto priyehali.</i></p> <p>"We've just arrived."</p>	<p>Что вы ели на обед? <i>Chto vy yeli na obed?</i></p> <p>"What did you eat for lunch?"</p>

Она сама приготовила обед.

Ona sama prigotovila obed.

"She cooked the lunch herself."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Short Adjectives

Ты сегодня свободна? *Ty sevodnya svobodna?*

"Are you free today?"

In the previous lessons we learned that Russian adjectives end in ая or яя if they are feminine gender and in ий or ый if they are masculine. But today we came across two adjectives that end in а.

For Example:

1. занята
 "busy"
2. Свободна
 "free"

What are they?

We call them short adjectives.

When and how are short adjectives used?

We use them to make statements about something. In English they normally follow the word "is" or "are," like in, "She is busy." Unlike normal adjectives, short adjectives are NOT followed by the noun. Let's compare.

For Example:

1. **занятая** женщина
 zanyataya zhenschina
 "busy woman"
2. **свободная** комната
 svobodnaya komnata
 "free room"

3. женщина **занята**
zhenschina zanyata
"The woman is busy."
4. комната **свободна**
komnata svobodna
"The room is empty."

As you can see, when the adjective is followed by noun it is used in its normal form, but when it proceeds the noun and the phrase sounds like a statement, we use the short form of it.

When using short adjectives, all you need is to modify them according to the gender of the noun.

How do you form short adjectives?

Let's take two normal adjectives and turn them into the short ones.

For Example:

1. занятый
zanyatiy
"busy"
2. красивый
krasiviy
"pretty, handsome, beautiful"

Nominative

Gender	Rule	Normal Adjective	Short Adjective
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Masculine	just use the stem of the adjective in the short form	<i>занят</i>	<i>красив</i>
Feminine	add "-а"	<i>занята</i>	<i>красива</i>
Neuter	add "-о"	<i>занято</i>	<i>красиво</i>
Plural	add "-ы" or "-и"	<i>заняты</i>	<i>красивы</i>

For Example:

1. Она так красива
ona tak krasiva
"She is so beautiful."
2. Я очень занят
ya ochen' zanyat
"I'm very busy."
3. Занято!
Zanyato!
"Occupied!" (- yelling from the toilet).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Emergency Numbers

You've probably figured out already how to make phone calls to and from Russia if you've been there already. (Just in case, the country code is 7). What's also important is to know the emergency numbers while travelling in a foreign country. And even though we hope you will never need them, you should always keep them handy.

01 Fire service

- 02 Police
- 03 Ambulance
- 04 Gas service

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17

An Overprotective Russian Father

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- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
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17

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA'S DAD: Ты опять идёшь гулять с Беном?
2. NIKA: Да, а что?
3. NIKA'S DAD: Ничего... Ммм... Что Бен делает в Москве?
4. NIKA: Путешествует.
5. NIKA'S DAD: А сколько он уже в Москве?
6. NIKA: Несколько дней.
7. NIKA'S DAD: А когда он уезжает?
8. NIKA: Через несколько дней. Пап, не волнуйся, всё будет хорошо!

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA'S DAD: Ty opyat' idyosh gulyat' s Benom?
2. NIKA: Da, a shto?
3. NIKA'S DAD: Nichevo... Hmm... Shto Ben delayet v Moskve?
4. NIKA: Puteshestvuet.
5. NIKA'S DAD: A skol'ko on uzhe v Moskve?
6. NIKA: Neskol'ko dnei.

CONT'D OVER

7. NIKA'S DAD: A kogda on uezzhaet?
8. NIKA: Cherez neskol'ko dnei. Pap, ne volnuisya, vsyo buduet
9. horosho!

ENGLISH

1. NIKA'S DAD: Are you going out with Ben again?
2. NIKA: Yeah, why?
3. NIKA'S DAD: Nothing...Erm...What's Ben doing in Moscow?
4. NIKA: Travelling.
5. NIKA'S DAD: How long has he been in Moscow already?
6. NIKA: Several days.
7. NIKA'S DAD: And when is he leaving?
8. NIKA: In a few days. Dad, don't worry, everything will be fine!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
опять	opyat'	again	adverb	

через	cherez	across; in (about time, distance), through	preposition, adverb	
когда	kogda	when	pronoun	
день	den'	day	noun	masculine
несколько	neskol'ko	a few, several	pronoun	
Сколько	skol'ko	how much, how many, how long	numeral pronoun	
путешествоват ь	puteshestvovat'	to travel	verb	
делать	delat'	to do, to make	verb	
гулять	gulyat'	to go for a walk; to go out	verb	
идти	idti	to go (on foot)	verb	
всё	vsyo	all, everything	pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Опять пошёл дождь. <i>Opyat' poshyol dozhd'.</i></p> <p>"It started raining again."</p>	<p>У нас опять нет денег. <i>U nas opyat' nyet dyenyeg.</i></p> <p>"We don't have any money again."</p>
<p>Давай встретимся через час. <i>Davay vstryetimsya cherez chas.</i></p> <p>"Let's meet in an hour."</p>	<p>Как нам пройти через эту толпу? <i>Kak nam proyti cherez etu tolpu?</i></p> <p>"How can we get through this crowd?"</p>

<p>Через год мне будет двадцать лет. <i>Cherez god mne budyet dvadtsat' lyet.</i></p> <p>"I'll be twenty in a year."</p>	<p>Когда твой день рождения? <i>Kogda tvoy den' rozhdeniya?</i></p> <p>"When is your birthday?"</p>
<p>Когда ты закончишь эту работу? - На следующей неделе. <i>Kogda ty zakonchish' etu rabotu? - Na sleduyushchey nedele.</i></p> <p>"When will you finish the job? - Next week."</p>	<p>Я убираю в своей комнате каждый день. <i>Ya ubirayu v svoey komnate kazhdyy den'.</i></p> <p>"I clean my room every day."</p>
<p>Он весь день сидит дома. <i>On ves' den' sidit doma.</i></p> <p>"He's been sitting at home all day."</p>	<p>Какой странный день! <i>Kakoy stranny den'!</i></p> <p>"What a strange day!"</p>
<p>В Москве есть несколько аэропортов. <i>V Moskvye est' nyeskol'ko aeroportov.</i></p> <p>"There are several airports in Moscow."</p>	<p>Сколько вам лет? <i>Skol'ko vam let?</i></p> <p>"How old are you?"</p>
<p>Сколько у тебя осталось денег? <i>Skol'ko u tebya ostalos' deneg?</i></p> <p>"How much money do you have left?"</p>	<p>Сколько сувениров ты купил? <i>Skol'ko сувениров ты купил?</i></p> <p>"How many souvenirs did you buy?"</p>
<p>Мы путешествовали по Европе 10 дней. <i>My putyeshyestvovali po Yevropye 10 dnyey.</i></p> <p>"We traveled around Europe for ten days."</p>	<p>Он много путешествует. <i>On mnogo putyeshyestvuyet.</i></p> <p>"He travels a lot."</p>
<p>Я люблю путешествовать. <i>Ya lyublyu putyeshyestvovat'.</i></p> <p>"I like to travel."</p>	<p>Вы любите путешествовать? <i>Vy lyubitye putyeshyestvovat'?</i></p> <p>"Do you like to travel?"</p>
<p>Что вы здесь делаете? <i>Chto vy zdyes' dyelayetye?</i></p> <p>"What are you doing here?"</p>	<p>Я делаю домашнюю работу. <i>Ya dyelayu domashnyuyu rabotu.</i></p> <p>"I'm doing my homework."</p>

<p>На этой фабрике делают машины. <i>Na etoy fabrikye dyelayut mashiny.</i></p> <p>"They make cars in this factory."</p>	<p>Собаке пора гулять. <i>Sobakye pora gulyat'.</i></p> <p>"It's time for the dog to go out (for a walk)."</p>
<p>Ну что, идём? <i>Nu chto, idyom?</i></p> <p>"Well, are we going?"</p>	<p>Идём в кино! <i>Idyom v kino!</i></p> <p>"Let's go to the movie theater!"</p>
<p>Вы пойдёте на дискотеку? - Конечно. <i>Vi poidete na diskoteku? - Konechno.</i></p> <p>"Are you going to the disco? - Sure."</p>	<p>Это всё. <i>Eto vsyo.</i></p> <p>"That's all."</p>
<p>Всё будет хорошо. <i>Vsyo budyet horsho.</i></p> <p>"Everything will be okay."</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Question Words and Expressions

Что Бен делает в Москве?

Shto Ben delayet v Moskve?

"What's Ben doing in Moscow?"

Что, *shto* ("what")

Что is the simplest question word in Russian, both phonetically and usage-wise.

Here are the sample sentences with this word.

For Example:

1. что это?
 shto eto?
 "What is it?"
2. что ты делаешь?
 shto ty delaesh?
 "What are you doing?"
3. что Вы хотите?
 shto vy hotite?
 "What do you want?"

It can also be used in statements, not only in questions.

For Example:

1. я знаю, что это
 ya znayu, shto eto
 "I know what it is."
2. я знаю, что это ты
 ya znayu, shto eto ty
 "I know that it's you."

а что, а *shto* ("why?") (Why are you asking?)

Don't confuse it with почему ("why"), the question word for inquiring the reason. The phrase а что can only be used in the meaning of "why" as in, "Why are you asking?"

For Example:

1. ты уходишь?
 ty uhodish?
 "Are you leaving?"

2. да, а что?
da, a shto?
"Yes, why?"

Сколько, *skol'ko* ("how many, how much, how long")

We learned this word in lesson 11, but apparently it has more meanings than we mentioned before. One of them is the conversational version for "how long."

For Example:

1. сколько ты будешь в России?
Skol'ko ty budesh v Rossii?
"How long will you be (stay) in Russia?"
2. сколько он пробыл в тюрьме?
Skol'ko on probyl v tyur'me?
"How long did he spend in prison?"

когда, *kogda* ("when")

Just like in English, this word can be used both in questions and statements.

For Example:

1. когда ты придёшь?
kogda ty pridyosh?
"When will you come?"
2. я не знаю, когда он придёт
ya ne znayu, kogda on pridyot
"I don't know when he'll come."

идти ("to go")

In lesson 7 we mentioned that there are a lot of motion verbs in Russian that correspond to the English "to go." You are already familiar with the word пойти (*poiti*). So what do the words идти and пойти have in common and how are they different?

Similarities:

1. They are interchangeably used in the imperative forms.

For Example:

1. идём!
idyom!
"Let's go!"
2. пойдём!
poidyom!
"Let's go!"

Differences:

1. Usually идти expresses continuous action and пойти indicates completed action.
2. пойти is not used in the present tense, only in the past or in the future.

For Example:

1. я пошла домой
ya poshla domoi
"I went home."
2. я пойду домой
ya poidu domoi
"I will go home."
But...

3. я иду домой
ya idu domoi
 "I go/am going home."

Set phrases:

идти is usually used with the phrase "have to," and пойти with "want to."

For Example:

1. мне нужно идти
mne nuzhno itti
 "I have to go."

2. ты хочешь пойти в парк?
ty hochesh poiti v park?
 "Do you want to go to a park?"

The table of conjugations for the verb идти in the present tense:

Person	Идти	Itti
Я	Иду	<i>idu</i>
Ты	Идёшь	<i>idyosh</i>
Он, она, оно	Идёт	<i>idyot</i>
Мы	Идём	<i>idyom</i>
Вы	Идёте	<i>idyote</i>
Они	Идут	<i>idut</i>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Usually parents in Russia are not too protective of their children. If dating and partying doesn't interfere with studies and doesn't go against common norms, parents let their children explore life in all its aspects at a fairly early age. Parents in Russia would not be concerned with such issues as an adult dating their child if the child is at least sixteen. Age difference is also not an issue. On the opposite hand, parents prefer their daughters to date and marry older, more mature, and financially stable men, and their sons to have tame, caring, domestic young girls. The attitude to foreigners can be very different depending on the country and personal points of view.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18

Russian for World Travelers

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- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
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18

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Бен, где ты был, кроме России?
2. BEN: Я много где был, в Европе и Азии... Я люблю путешествовать. А ты где была?
3. NIKA: Я почти нигде не была. Но я очень хочу поехать в Латинскую Америку.
4. BEN: Понятно. Кстати, тебе нравится мексиканская кухня?
5. NIKA: Очень. Я была в мексиканском ресторане на прошлой неделе.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Ben, gde ty byl, krome Rossii?
2. BEN: YYa mnogo gde byl, v Yevrope i Azii... Ya lyublyu
3. puteshestvovat'. A ty gde byla?
4. NIKA: Ya pochni nigde ne byla. No ya ochen' hochu poyehat' v
5. Latinskuyu Ameriku.
6. BEN: Ponyatno. Kstati, tebe nraivtsa meksikanskaya kuhnya?
7. NIKA: Ochen'. Ya byla v meksikanskom restorane na proshloi
8. nedele.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: Ben, where have you been besides Russia?
2. BEN: I've been to lots of places in Europe and Asia...I like travelling. Where have you been?
3. NIKA: I've hardly been anywhere. But I really want to go to South America.
4. BEN: I see. By the way, do you like Mexican food?
5. NIKA: Very much. I went to a Mexican restaurant last week.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
кроме	krome	except, besides	adverb	
ресторан	restoran	restaurant	noun	masculine
кухня	kuhnya	kitchen; cuisine, food	noun	
мексиканский	meksikanskiy	Mexican	adjective	
нравиться	nraivit'sya	like (literally, to be liked)	verb	
Латинская Америка	Latinskaya Amerika	Latin America	name	
поехать	poeyhat'	to go (by road transport)	verb	
нигде	nigde	nowhere	pronoun	
почти	pochti	almost	adverb	

Азия	Aziya	Asia	noun	feminine
Европа	Yevropa	Europe	proper noun	feminine
много где	mного gde	in a lot of places (colloquial)	phrase	
на прошлой неделе	na proshloi nedele	last week	phrase	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Я ем всё, кроме свинины. <i>Ya yem vsyo, kromye svininy.</i></p> <p>"I eat everything except pork."</p>	<p>Давай сходим в ресторан. <i>Davay shodim v restoran.</i></p> <p>"Let's go to the restaurant."</p>
<p>Это очень известный ресторан в Москве. <i>Eto ochen' izvyestnyy restoran v Moskvye.</i></p> <p>"This is a very famous restaurant in Moscow."</p>	<p>Пойдем в ресторан . <i>"Let's go to the restaurant."</i></p>
<p>Здесь поблизости есть недорогой ресторан. <i>Zdyes' poblizosti yest' nyedorogoy restoran.</i></p> <p>"There's a reasonably priced restaurant not far from here."</p>	<p>У меня такая маленькая кухня, даже стол некуда поставить. <i>U myenya takaya malyen'kaya kuhnya, dazhye stol nyekuda postavit'.</i></p> <p>"My kitchen is so small, there's even no space to put a table."</p>
<p>Мне не нравится китайская кухня, слишком жирная для меня. <i>Mnye nye nraivitsya kitayskaya kuhnya, slishkom zhimaya dlya myenya.</i></p> <p>"I don't like Chinese food - too oily for me."</p>	<p>Мне очень нравится мексиканская музыка. <i>Mnye ochen' nraivitsa meksicanskaya muzyka.</i></p> <p>"I like Mexican music very much."</p>

<p>Ему не нравится холодный Московский климат. <i>Yemu nye nraivitsya holodnyy Moskovskiy klimat.</i></p> <p>"He doesn't like the cold Moscow climate."</p>	<p>Он мне нравится. <i>On mnye nraivitsya.</i></p> <p>"I like him."</p>
<p>Вам нравится фильм "НН?" <i>Vam nraivitsya fil'm "NN?"</i></p> <p>"Do you like the movie 'NN?'"</p>	<p>Мне нравится в Москве. <i>Mnye nraivitsya v Moskvye.</i></p> <p>"I like it in Moscow."</p>
<p>Нам не нравится этот дом. <i>Nam nye nraivitsya etot dom.</i></p> <p>"We don't like this house."</p>	<p>Ему нравятся яблоки. <i>Yemu nraivatsya yabloki.</i></p> <p>"He likes apples."</p>
<p>Мне нравится кофе. <i>Mnye nraivitsya kofye.</i></p> <p>"I like coffee."</p>	<p>Мы едем в Латинскую Америку в октябре. <i>My yedyem v Latinskuyu Ameriku v oktyabrye.</i></p> <p>"We are going to Latin America in October."</p>
<p>Я хочу поехать в Калифорнию. <i>Ya hochu poyehat' v Kaliforniyu.</i></p> <p>"I want to go to California."</p>	<p>Мы хотим поехать в Европу. <i>My hotim poyehat' v Yevropu.</i></p> <p>"We want to go to Europe."</p>
<p>Я хотел бы поехать во Владивосток. <i>Ya hotyel by poyehat' vo Vladivostok.</i></p> <p>"I'd like to go to Vladivostok."</p>	<p>Было бы здорово поехать в Мексику! <i>Bylo by zdorovo poyehat' v Myeksiku!</i></p> <p>"It would be great to go to Mexico!"</p>
<p>Ему нигде не нравится. <i>Yemu nigdye nye nraivitsa.</i></p> <p>"He doesn't like it anywhere."</p>	<p>Мы почти в Москве. <i>My pochti v Moskvye.</i></p> <p>"We're almost in Moscow."</p>
<p>Я прожил в Москве почти 10 лет. <i>Ya prozhil v Moskvye pochti 10 lyet.</i></p> <p>"I lived in Moscow almost ten years."</p>	<p>Моему сыну почти 5 лет. <i>Moyemu synu pochti 5 lyet.</i></p> <p>"My son is almost five years old."</p>

<p>Уже почти полночь. <i>Uzhye pochti polnoch'.</i></p> <p>"It's almost midnight."</p>	<p>Я почти уснул в аэропорту. <i>Ya pochti usnul v aeroportu.</i></p> <p>"I almost fell asleep in the airport."</p>
<p>Уже почти 10, пора выходить. <i>Uzhye pochti 10, pora vyhodit'.</i></p> <p>"It's almost 10 o'clock, time to head off."</p>	<p>Я почти ничего не ел сегодня. <i>Ya pochti nichyego nye yel syegodnya.</i></p> <p>"I ate almost nothing today."</p>
<p>Москве почти девятьсот лет. <i>Moskvye pochti dveyat'sot lyet.</i></p> <p>"Moscow is almost nine hundred years old."</p>	<p>В Азии мне нравится только Япония. <i>V Azii mnye nnavitsa tol'ko Yaponiya.</i></p> <p>"In Asia I only like Japan."</p>
<p>Где в Европе ты был? <i>Gdye v Yevrope ty byl?</i></p> <p>"Where in Europe have you been?"</p>	<p>Он много где работал. <i>On mnogo gdye rabotal.</i></p> <p>"He worked in a lot of places."</p>

Где ты был на прошлой неделе?

Gdye ty byl na proshloi nyedyelye?

"Where were you last week?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Past Tense, "To Go," and the Preposition в

А ты где была?

A ty gde byla?

"Where have you been?"

Где ты был? gde ty byl? ("Where were you?/Where have you been?")

Unlike in English, there is only one form of the past tense in Russian, therefore the phrases

"where were you" (in some particular time) and "where have you been" (in general) sound the same.

For Example:

1. Я была в Германии
ya byla v Germanii
"I've been to Germany."
2. Вчера я был у друга
vchera ya byl u druga
"Yesterday I was at my friend's (place)."

Поехать, поехать' ("to go" - by transport)

Another verb of motion, **Поехать** means "to go" but implies "to go by transport." In the previous lessons we learned the verbs идти and пойти, which both meant "to go by foot," even though they are used in different situations. The word поехать also has its pair - ехать (*yehat*) with the same meaning "to go by transport."

So here we have two pairs.

For Example:

1. идти ("to go by foot") and ехать ("to go by transport")
2. пойти ("to go by foot") and поехать ("to go by transport")

The first pair of "to go" expresses continuous, unfinished action.

For Example:

1. Я еду в Москву
ya yedu v Moskvu
"I am going (by transport) to Moscow."

2. Я ехал в Москву
ya yehal v Moskvu
"I was going (by transport) to Moscow."

The second pair of "to go" indicates completed action or the action which implies the result.

For Example:

1. Я поеду в Москву
ya poyedu v Moskvu
"I will go (by transport) to Moscow."
2. Он поехал домой
on poyehal domoi
"He went (by transport) home."

в Европе ("in Europe") - в Америку ("to America")

As you can see, two feminine nouns (Европа and Америка) have different endings although they are used with the same preposition, в.

The thing is, the Russian preposition в means both "in" and "to." So how do you know whether we are speaking about the location or about the direction, whether we mean "in Europe" or "to Europe," "in America" or "to America"?

We know it by the grammar case you put the noun into, i.e. by the ending the noun has. When you are talking about a location you put the noun (the place you are talking about) into the prepositional case, and when you are talking about a direction (or your destination) you put the noun into the accusative case.

Forming these cases is easy.

For the **prepositional case**, which is used to express location, you simply add "-e" to the masculine nouns and change the last letter into "-e" or "-и" in the feminine nouns. So all of them end in "-e" or "-и."

For Example:

1. Где ты живёшь?
Gde ty zhivyosh?
"Where do you live?"
2. В Мичигане
v Michigane
"in Michigan"
3. Где он сейчас?
Gde on sechas?
"Where is he now?"
4. В Австралии
v Avstralii
"in Australia"

In the **accusative case**, which is used to indicate direction, only feminine nouns change their endings into "-у" or "-ю."

For Example:

1. Куда он едет?
Kuda on yedet?
"Where is he going?"
2. В Россию
v Rossiyu
"to Russia"
3. Куда ты идёшь?
kuda ty idyosh?
"Where are you going?"
4. Я иду в магазин
Ya idu v magazin
"I am going to the store."

Remember that the question words for "where" are also different in Russian. When you ask about the location you use где? ("where?"). When you mean the direction you use куда? ("where...to?").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Travel Interests

After the "Iron Curtain" fell down and the Soviet Union broke up, traveling was like a gulp of fresh air for Russian people. Starting with the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, Russians expanded their travel interests far into the east and west. For the past decade, Russians' favorite places of recreation (i.e. accessible visa- and finance-wise) have been Egypt, Turkey, and Thailand. Because of global political situations, Russian people are not immediately welcomed in all countries. Some require quite a hassle with a visa, while a lot of people get simply denied it with no explanation. Although the situation with traveling has improved dramatically in the past ten years, a lot of Russians still can't afford anything more "foreign" than two weeks a year in Bulgaria or the Black Sea in Crimea, Ukraine.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19

Make the Most of the Nightlife in Russia!

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

19

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Катя и Дима собираются пойти в боулинг вечером, пойдём с ними!
2. BEN: Хорошо. Но мне нужно вернуться домой непоздно сегодня.
3. NIKA: Без проблем. У тебя дела вечером?
4. BEN: Нет, я собираюсь на компьютерную выставку завтра утром, поэтому сегодня я хочу рано лечь спать.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Katya i Dima sobirayutsa poiti v bouling vecherom, poidyom s nimi!
2. BEN: Horosho. No mne nuzhno vernutsa domoi nepozno
3. sevodnya.
4. NIKA: Bes problem. U tebya dela vecherom?
5. BEN: Net, ya sobirayus' na komp'yuternuyu vystavku zavtra utrom,
6. poetomu sevodnya ya hochu rano lech spat'.

ENGLISH

1. NIKA: Katya and Dima are going to go bowling in the evening, let's go with them!

CONT'D OVER

2. BEN: Ok. But I have to come back home earlier tonight.
3. NIKA: No problem. Are you busy tonight? (literally, do you have any business to do tonight?)
4. BEN: No, I'm going to a computer exhibition tomorrow morning, that's why I want to go to bed early tonight.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
собираться	sobirat'sya	to get ready to smth, to be going to do smth.	verb
вечером	vecherom	in the evening	adverb
нужно	nuzhno	necessary, need; should	adverb
вернуться	vernut'sya	to come back, to return	verb
поздно	pozдно	late	adjective
дела	dela	things, goings-on, affairs	noun
выставка	vystavka	exhibition, exposition	noun
поэтому	poetomu	that's why	adverb
лечь спать	lech spat'	to go to bed (lit. to lay down to sleep)	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Я собираюсь в Питер на пару дней. <i>Ya sobirayus' v Pityer na paru dnyey.</i></p> <p>"I'm going to St. Petersburg for a couple of days."</p>	<p>Когда Вы собираетесь в Москву? <i>Kogda Vy sobirayetyes' v Moskvu?</i></p> <p>"When are you going (to go) to Moscow?"</p>
<p>Мы договорились встретиться вечером. <i>My dogovorilis' vstretitsa vecherom.</i></p> <p>"We agreed to meet in the evening."</p>	<p>Можно вам позвонить вечером? <i>Mozhno vam pozvonit' vyecherom?</i></p> <p>"May I call you tonight?"</p>
<p>Я уже такой пьяный, мне нужно ехать домой. <i>Ya uzhe takoi p'yanyi, mne nuzhno yehat' domoi.</i></p> <p>"I'm so drunk already, I should go home."</p>	<p>Мне нужно сдать отчёт в пятницу. <i>Mne nuzhno sdat' otchot v pyatnicu.</i></p> <p>"I have to hand in the report on Friday."</p>
<p>Когда мы вернулись, мы увидели, что случилось. <i>Kogda my vyernulis', my uvidyeli, chto sluchilos'.</i></p> <p>"When we came back, we saw what happened."</p>	<p>Аня ещё не вернулась из школы. <i>Anya yeschyo nye vyernulas' iz shkoly.</i></p> <p>"Anya hasn't returned from school yet."</p>
<p>Во сколько ты вернёшься? <i>Vo skol'ko ty vyemyosh'sya?</i></p> <p>"What time will you come back?"</p>	<p>Уже поздно, пойдём домой. <i>Uzhe pozna, paidyom damoi.</i></p> <p>"It's late already; let's go home."</p>
<p>Как дела у дяди Васи? <i>Kak dela udyadi Vasi?</i></p> <p>"How is uncle Vasya doing?"</p>	<p>Каждый год в Японии проходит выставка роботов. <i>Kazhdyy god v Yaponii prokhodit vystavka robotov.</i></p> <p>"The exhibition of robots takes place every year in Japan."</p>

<p>Ты была на выставке цветов в ботаническом саду? <i>Ty byla na vystavkye cvetov v botanicheskom sadu?</i></p> <p>"Have you been to the flower exhibition in the botanical garden?"</p>	<p>Он ушёл рано утром. <i>On ushol rano utrom.</i></p> <p>"He left early in the morning."</p>
<p>Я не люблю мыть посуду, поэтому это всегда делает мой муж. <i>Ya ne lyublyu myt' posudu, poetomu eto vsegda delaet moi muzh.</i></p> <p>"I don't like washing the dishes, so my husband always does it."</p>	<p>Сталин был очень маленького роста, поэтому всегда выступал с трибуны. <i>Stalin byl ochen' malen'kova rosta, poetomu vsegda vystupal s tribuny.</i></p> <p>"Stalin was very short; therefore, he always gave speeches from a platform."</p>

Во сколько ты обычно ложишься спать?
Vo skol'ko ty obychno lozhishsya spat'?

"What time do you usually go to bed?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Reflexive Verb, Собираться

Нет, я собираюсь на компьютерную выставку завтра утром

Net, ya sobirayus' na komp'yuternuyu vystavku zavtra utrom...

"No, I'm going to a computer exhibition tomorrow morning..."

Собираться (*sobirayus'*, "going") is a reflexive verb, which is conjugated according to the common rules in the present tense:

Я	собираюсь	<i>sobirayus'</i>	"I am going"
Ты	собираешься	<i>sobiraeshsya</i>	"You are going"
Он, она, оно	собирается	<i>sobiraetsa</i>	"He/She/It is going"
Мы	собираемся	<i>sobiraemsya</i>	"We are going to"

Вы	собираетесь	<i>sobiraetes'</i>	"You (plural) are going to"
Они	собираются	<i>sobirayutsa</i>	"They are going to"

Собираться + infinitive

Just like in English, the verb собираться is used with the infinitives.

For example:

- я собираюсь обедать
ya sobirayus' obedat'
"I am going to have lunch."
- он собирается ехать в Лондон
on sobiraetsa yehat' v London
"he is going to go to London."

Собираться + destination

Most of the time when you talk about a destination you are going to, the actual word "to go" (идти, ехать) can be omitted:

For example:

- он собирается в Лондон
on sobiraetsa v London
"he is going to London."
- мы собираемся в школу
my sobiraemsysya v shkolu
"we are going (to go) to school."

Нужно - *nuzhno* - "necessary," "have to"

The word **нужно** doesn't change no matter who you are talking about. All you have to do is pick the right pronoun in the Dative Case and follow the formula:

pronoun (person) + нужно + infinitive

Let's take the phrase "have to go" (**нужно идти**, *nuzhno itti*) and add pronouns to it.

мне	<i>mne</i>	нужно идти	"I have to go"
тебе	<i>tebe (sing)</i>	нужно идти	"you have to go"
ему, ей	<i>yemu, yey</i>	нужно идти	"he, she has to go"
нам	<i>nam</i>	нужно идти	"we have to go"
вам	<i>vam (pl)</i>	нужно идти	"you have to go"
им	<i>im</i>	нужно идти	"they have to go"

Time Indicators

1. утром
utrom
"in the morning" (4 A.M. - 11 A.M.)
2. днём
dnyom
"in the afternoon," "during the day" (12 P.M. - 4 P.M.)
3. вечером
vecherom
"in the evening" (5 P.M. - 11 P.M.)
4. ночью
noch'yu
"at night" (12 A.M. - 3 A.M.)

Pronouns in the Instrumental

Case

In lesson 14 we learned the principles of the Instrumental Case and its usage with the pronoun "с" ("with"). But having learned how to put the nouns into the Instrumental Case we didn't give you the pronouns in this Case. And as you might have figured out by now, Russian pronouns might be a bit of a challenge. So now we'll give you the pronouns in the Instrumental Case with the preposition "с" so you can express togetherness without repeating a person's name.

Со мной	<i>so mnoi</i>	"with me"
С тобой	<i>s toboi</i>	"with you"
С ним	<i>s nim</i>	"with him"
С ней	<i>s nei</i>	"with her"
С нами	<i>s nami</i>	"with us"
С Вами	<i>s Vami</i>	"with you" (plural)
С ними	<i>s nimi</i>	"with them"
Я хочу пойти с тобой в парк	<i>ya hochu poiti s toboi v park</i>	"I want to go to a park with you"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Get Your Party on in Russia

Russian night life is probably no different from most countries. Same bars, clubs, restaurants, game centers and special parties. Usually when Russians go to a club they stay there till the first subway train, which means till the morning. Those with cars are lucky because they get to go home whenever they want. The problem is, having a car doesn't stop people from enjoying their nights to the fullest, which leads to unfortunate accidents on the roads. Be careful while crossing the street at night in Russia. Bars, restaurants, liquor stores and supermarkets are

often open 24/7. So while being careful, try to enjoy Russian night life the way Russians do!

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20

Use Compliments to Get Ahead in Russia!

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- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

20

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Катя, у тебя новая причёска!
2. KATYA: Да, я вчера была в парикмахерской.
3. NIKA: Тебе очень идёт! Я тоже хочу постричься. И покраситься.
4. KATYA: В какой цвет?
5. NIKA: Я хочу сделать мелирование.
6. KATYA: Я могу посоветовать тебе хорошего мастера.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Katya, u tebya novaya prichoska!
2. KATYA: Da, ya vchera byla v prihmaherskoi.
3. NIKA: Tebe ochen' idyot! Ya tozhe hochu postrichsya. I pokrasitsa.
4. KATYA: V kakoi tsvet?
5. NIKA: Ya hochu sdelat' melirovanie.
6. KATYA: Ya mogu posovetovat' tebe horosheva mastera.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: Katya, you got a new hairstyle!
2. KATYA: Yeah, I went to a hair salon yesterday.
3. NIKA: It suits you a lot! I also want to cut my hair. And dye it.
4. KATYA: What color?
5. NIKA: I want to do highlights.
6. KATYA: I can recommend you a good hairdresser.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
НОВЫЙ	noviy	new	adjective	masculine
хороший	khoroshiy	good	adjective	masculine
посоветовать	posovetovat'	to advise, to give advice	verb (perfective)	
мочь	moch	to be able to, can	verb	
мелирование	melirovanie	highlights (hair)	noun	
цвет	tsvet	color	noun	masculine
покраситься	pokrasitsa	to dye one's hair	verb	
идти	idti	to go (on foot)	verb	
постричься	postrichsya	to get a haircut	verb	

парикмахерска я	prihmaherskaya	hairdresser's, barber's	noun
вчера	vchjera	yesterday	adverb
причёска	prichoska	hairstyle	noun
мастер	master	specialist	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Это новый фильм? <i>Eto noviy fil'm?</i></p> <p>"Is it a new movie?"</p>	<p>Это новая модель телефона. <i>Eto novaya modyel' tyelyefona.</i></p> <p>"This is a new telephone model."</p>
<p>Этот телефон недорогой и хороший. <i>Etot telefon nedorogoy i khoroshiy.</i></p> <p>"This phone is good quality and good value."</p>	<p>Это очень хороший фотоаппарат. <i>Eto ochen' khoroshiy fotoapparat.</i></p> <p>"It's a very good camera."</p>
<p>Я не советую Вам это пить. <i>Ya ne sovyetuyu Vam eto pit'.</i></p> <p>"I wouldn't recommend you to drink it."</p>	<p>Посоветуйте мне что-нибудь легкое и неострое. <i>Posovetuite mne chto-nibud' lyegkoe i neostroye.</i></p> <p>"Could you please recommend me something light and not spicy?"</p>
<p>Что они тебе посоветовали? <i>Chto oni tebe posovetovali?</i></p> <p>"What did they advise you?"</p>	<p>Пожалуйста посоветуйте мне, что делать. <i>Posovetuy mne, chto delat'.</i></p> <p>"Please, advise me on what to do."</p>
<p>Маша посоветовала мне идти к врачу. <i>Masha posovetovala mne poyti k vrachu.</i></p> <p>"Masha advised me to go to the doctor."</p>	<p>Я не могу остановить машину! <i>Ya ne mogu ostanovit' mashinu!</i></p> <p>"I can't stop the car!"</p>

<p>Я делаю мелирование каждые 2 месяца. <i>Ya dyelayu melirovanie kazhdye dva myesyaca.</i></p> <p>"I do highlights every two months."</p>	<p>У него здоровый цвет лица. <i>U nevo zdorovyi cvet lica.</i></p> <p>"He's got a healthy complexion."</p>
<p>В какой цвет Вы хотите покраситься? <i>V kakoi cvet Vy hotitye pokrasitsa?</i></p> <p>"What color do you want to dye your hair?"</p>	<p>Ну что, идём? <i>Nu chto, idyom?</i></p> <p>"Well, are we going?"</p>
<p>Идём в кино! <i>Idyom v kino!</i></p> <p>"Let's go to the movie theater!"</p>	<p>Вы пойдёте на дискотеку? - Конечно. <i>Vi poidete na diskoteku? - Konechno.</i></p> <p>"Are you going to the disco? - Sure."</p>
<p>Мне пора постричься. <i>Mnye pora postrichsya.</i></p> <p>"It's time for me to get a haircut."</p>	<p>Это довольно дешёвая, но хорошая парикмахерская. <i>Eto dovol'no dyeshovaya, no horoshaya prihmaherskaya.</i></p> <p>"It's a rather cheap but a good hairdresser."</p>
<p>Куда вы ездили вчера? <i>Kuda vy yezdili vchera?</i></p> <p>"Where did you go yesterday? (by car, etc.)"</p>	<p>Вчера мы ходили к врачу. <i>Vchera my hodili k vrachu.</i></p> <p>"Yesterday, we went to a doctor."</p>
<p>Как тебе моя новая причёска? <i>Kak tyebye moya novaya prichoska?</i></p> <p>"How do you find my new hairstyle?"</p>	<p>Он мастер своего дела. <i>On mastyer svoyevo dyela.</i></p> <p>"He's a specialist in what he's doing."</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Noun/Pronoun in the Dative Case + идёт + the Object

Тебе очень идёт!

Tebe ochen' idyot!

"It suits you a lot!"

The word *идёт* comes from the word *идти* ("to go"). Conjugated to the 3rd person and added to the noun or a pronoun in the dative case it takes on the meaning "to suit." So the pronoun is the key to the meaning here. Compare.

For Example:

1. он идёт
on idyot
"he goes"
2. ему идёт
emu idyot
"(It) suits him."
3. она идёт домой
ona idyot domoi
"She's going home."
4. ей идёт эта причёска
ey idyot eta prichoska
"This hairstyle suits her."

In the previous lesson we listed the pronouns in the dative case. Use them to make sentences like:

тебе идёт! *tebe idyot!* ("It suits you well!") and мне идёт это платье? *mne idyot eto plat'ye?* ("Does this dress suit me?"), etc.

We have mentioned **the dative case** in the past couple of lessons. Let's talk about it more seriously.

The dative case indicates the "*receiver*" of the action and usually corresponds to the English word "to." Look at the examples that represent this case the best.

For Example:

1. Я дала книгу другу
ya dala knigu drugu
"I gave a book to my friend."

2. Он помогает **отцу**
on pomogaet otsu
"He helps his father."
3. Она позвонила **Джону**
ona pozvonila Jonu
"She called John."
4. Мы написали **ему** письмо
my napisali yemu pis'mo
"We wrote him a letter."
5. Учитель сказал что-то **ученику**
uchitel' skazal shto-to ucheniku
"The teacher said something to the student."

In all four cases we have the "givers" of the action (I, he, she, we, teacher) and the "receivers" (friend, father, John, he, student). The "receivers" are those who are put into the dative case.

In our dialogue the dative case was presented in the sentence Я могу посоветовать **тебе, хорошего мастера** ("I can recommend a good hairdresser to you").

Here, the "giver" is Я ("I") and the receiver is "you" ("to you"), тебе, which is used in the dative case.

Forming the Dative Case

To create nouns in the dative case, we first start with the nominative (dictionary) form.

Masculine Nouns:

1. If the noun ends in a consonant, add -y: друг - другу ("friend" - "to a friend")
2. Replace -й, -ь with -ю: бой - бою ("combat" - "to a combat")

Feminine Nouns:

1. Replace -а, -я with -е: подруга - подруге ("friend" - "to a friend")
2. Replace -ия with -ии: Россия - России ("Russia" - "to Russia")

Neuter Nouns:

1. Replace -о with -у: пиво - пиву ("beer" - "to a beer")
2. Replace -е with -ю: море - морю ("sea" - "to the sea")

Plurals:

1. Replace -а, -о or a consonant with -ам, -ям: дома - домам ("houses" - "to the houses")

The dative case is also used with the verb нравиться ("to like").

For Example:

1. **мне** нравится Берлин
mnye nraivitsya Berlin
"I like Berlin."
2. **брату** нравится Лена
bratu nraivitsya Lena
"My brother likes Lena."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Compliments

If you are a man and you like a girl's hairstyle, say it. If you like her dress, say it. If you like the way she eats, rubs her ears or giggles, say it. Girls in Russia love compliments and never

take them wrong. You can not offend anyone with extra attention. And girls usually don't compliment guys because...well, because guys might think that girls take them for somebody they are not. And girls don't want guys to feel awkward.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21

Do you Enjoy any of these Russian Hobbies?

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

21

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Дима, я слышал, ты занимаешься боксом.
2. DIMA: Да. А ты чем-то занимаешься?
3. BEN: Я играю в теннис.
4. DIMA: А Катя играет на скрипке и не любит спорт, к сожалению.
5. BEN: Да? Интересно, чем занимается Ника...

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Dima, ya slyshal, ty zanimaeshsya boksom.
2. DIMA: Da. A ty chem-to zanimaeshsya?
3. BEN: Ya igrayu v tenis.
4. DIMA: A Katya igraet na skripke i ne lyubit sport, k sozhaleniyu.
5. BEN: Da? Interesno, chem zanimaetsa Nika...

ENGLISH

1. BEN: Dima, I've heard you do boxing.
2. DIMA: Yes. Do you do anything?

CONT'D OVER

3. BEN: I play tennis.
4. DIMA: Katya plays violin and doesn't like sports, unfortunately.
5. BEN: Really? I wonder what Nika does...

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
слышать	slyshat'	to hear	verb	
заниматься	zanimat'sya	to be occupied or engaged in doing something	verb	
бокс	boks	boxing	noun	masculine
играть	igrat'	to play	verb	
теннис	tennis	tennis	noun	masculine
скрипка	skripka	violin	noun	feminine
спорт	sport	sport	noun	
к сожалению	k sozhaleniyu	unfortunately, I'm afraid	adverb	
интересно	interesno	interesting; I wonder	adverb; interjection	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Я много о Вас слышал. <i>Ya mnogo o Vas slyshal.</i></p> <p>"I've heard a lot about you."</p>	<p>Приятно слышать. <i>Priyatno slyshat'.</i></p> <p>"Nice to hear." (e.g., a compliment)</p>
<p>Чем ты любишь заниматься?</p> <p>"What do you like to do?"</p>	<p>Мужчина упражняется в боксе.</p> <p>"The man is practicing his boxing skills."</p>
<p>Я хочу научиться играть в бильярд. <i>Ya hochu nauchitsa igrat' v billiard.</i></p> <p>"I want to learn to play pool."</p>	<p>Ещё я умею играть на гитаре. <i>Yeshcho ya umeyu igrat' na gitare.</i></p> <p>"I can also play the guitar."</p>
<p>Да, я играю в теннис.</p> <p>"Yes, I play tennis."</p>	<p>Он с детства играет на скрипке. <i>On s dyetstva igraet na skripke.</i></p> <p>"He's played violin since he was a child."</p>
<p>ты занимаешься спортом?</p> <p>"Do you play sports?"</p>	<p>К сожалению, автобус уже ушёл. <i>K sozhaleniyu, avtobus uzhe ushyol.</i></p> <p>"Unfortunately, the bus had gone already."</p>
<p>К сожалению, я не могу Вам помочь. <i>K sozhalyeniyu, ya nye mogu Vam pomoch'.</i></p> <p>"Unfortunately I can't help you."</p>	<p>Ты даже не представляешь, как это интересно! <i>Ty dazhe ne predstavlyaesh, kak eto interesno!</i></p> <p>"You can't even imagine how interesting it is!"</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Заниматься ("to be engaged in something") and играть ("to play")

А Катя играет на скрипке и не любит спорт, к сожалению,

A Katya igraet na skripkye i nye lyubit sport, k sozhalyeniyu.

"Katya plays violin and doesn't like sports, unfortunately."

Заниматься

Заниматься literally means, "to be engaged in something" or "to engage oneself into." Although when we speak about sports, arts, music, or different other activities and hobbies, we translate it into English as "to do."

For Example:

1. Я не занимаюсь спортом
ya ne zanimayus' sportom
"I don't do sports."
2. Он занимается танцами
on zanimaetsa tantsami
"He does dancing."
3. Она занимается музыкой
ona zanimaetsa muzykoi
"She does music."
4. Они занимаются живописью
oni zanimayutsa zhivopis'yu
"They do arts."

As you can see, we use this word to talk about activities in general, not specifying what kind of sport or music somebody does.

To talk about some specific type of sport, games, or instrument someone plays, we use the word **играть**.

играть

играть means "to play," with the only difference that when we talk about sports we say играть в ("to play in") and when we talk about musical instruments, we say играть на ("to play on").

For Example:

1. я играю в воллейбол
ya igrayu v voleibol
"I play volleyball."
2. ты играешь в теннис?
ty igraesh v tennis?
"Do you play tennis?"
3. мы играем в монополию
my igraem v monopoliyu
"We play monopoly."
4. вы играете на пианино?
vy igraete na pianino?
"Do you play piano?"
5. он играет на гитаре
on igraet na gitare
"He plays guitar."
6. они играют на саксофоне
oni igraut na saksofone
"They play saxophone."

When we talk about sports we put the nouns into the accusative case, i.e. we don't change masculine or neuter nouns but end feminine nouns in "-у" or "-ю" (монополия - монополию).

When we talk about instruments we put the nouns into the prepositional case, i.e. end them all in "-е" no matter what gender they are (скрипка - скрипке).

** There are some sports that we can't possibly play, but only do, just like in our dialogue. You can't "play" boxing, therefore you use it with the general word for sports, заниматься.

For Example:

1. заниматься боксом
zanimat'sa boksom
"to do boxing"

2. заниматься боевыми искусствами
zanimat'sa boevymi iskustvami
"to do martial arts"

Here's the conjugations for the verbs играть ("to play") and заниматься ("to do, to be engaged into").

Я	играю	<i>igrayu</i>	занимаюсь	<i>zanimayus'</i>
Ты	играешь	<i>igraesh</i>	занимаешься	<i>zanimaeshsya</i>
Он, она	играет	<i>igraet</i>	занимается	<i>zanimaetsa</i>
Мы	играем	<i>igraem</i>	занимаемся	<i>zanimaemsysya</i>
Вы	играете	<i>igraete</i>	занимаетесь	<i>zanimaetyes'</i>
Они	играют	<i>igrayut</i>	занимаются	<i>zanimayutsa</i>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russia's Love of Sports

Russia is quite a sporty country. The most played sports are soccer, ice hockey, and basketball, which also attract the biggest amount of spectators. Russia is also a very strong competitor in such sports as weightlifting, wrestling, boxing, gymnastics, and figure-skating. Very many people find relaxation in such things as chess and fishing, which are also considered "sports." Of course, after the collapse of the USSR (whose team brought home the biggest amount of medals fourteen times out of eighteen appearances in the Olympic Games), Russia lost its leading positions in a lot of spheres, but on the individual level Russian people are still very fond of sports and outdoor activities.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22

Can You Tell me the Time in Russian?

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 10 Cultural Insight

22

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Ника, который час?
2. NIKA: Десять сорок. Тебе уже нужно идти?
3. BEN: Да, к сожалению. Мне нужно завтра встать в шесть утра. Я должен попасть на открытие выставки.
4. NIKA: Может, останешься ещё на полчаса?
5. BEN: Нет-нет, извини, у меня нет времени.

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Nika, kotoriy chas?
2. NIKA: Desyat' sorok. Tebe uzhe nuzhno itti?
3. BEN: Da, k sozhaleniyu. Mne nuzhno zavtra vstat' v shest' utra. Ya
4. dolzhen popast' na otkrytie vystavki.
5. NIKA: Mozhet, ostaneshsya yescho na polchasa?
6. BEN: Net-net, izvini, u menya net vremeni.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BEN: Nika, what time is it now?
2. NIKA: It's ten-forty. Do you have to go already?
3. BEN: Yes, unfortunately. I have to get up at 6 A.M. tomorrow. I must make it to the opening of the exhibition.
4. NIKA: Maybe you could stay for another half an hour?
5. BEN: No no, I'm sorry, I don't have time.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
который час?	kotoriy chas?	what time is it?	expression	
полчаса	polchasa	half an hour	noun	
остаться	ostat'sa	to stay (not to leave)	verb	
может	mozhet	maybe	adverb; interjection	
открытие	otkrytie	opening	noun	
попасть	popast'	to make it to	verb	
должен	dolzhen	must, should	modal verb	here in masculine form
шесть	shest'	six (6)	numeral	
встать	vstat'	to get up	verb	

завтра	zavtra	tomorrow	adverb
сорок	sorak	forty	numeral
десять	desyat'	ten (10)	numeral
время	vremya	time	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Скажите, пожалуйста, который час? <i>Skazhitye, pozhaluysta, kotoryy chas?</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, what time is it?"</p>	<p>Извините, который час? <i>Izvinite, katoryy chas?</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, what time is it?"</p>
<p>Вам придётся подождать полчаса. <i>Vam pridyotsa podozhdat' polchasa.</i></p> <p>"You will have to wait for half an hour."</p>	<p>Она не захотела идти и осталась дома. <i>Ona nye zahotyela itti i ostalas' doma.</i></p> <p>"She didn't want to go and stayed home."</p>
<p>Проверь свои входящие звонки. Может, он звонил. <i>Praver' svai fkhadyashchiye zvanki. Mozhet, on zvanil.</i></p> <p>"Check your incoming calls. Maybe he's called."</p>	<p>Может быть, ты прав. <i>Mozhet byt', ty prav.</i></p> <p>"Maybe you're right."</p>
<p>Я очень люблю смотреть открытие олимпийских игр. <i>Ya ochen' lyublyu smotret' otkrytie olimpijskih igr.</i></p> <p>"I like watching the opening of the Olympic games very much."</p>	<p>Ты попал на презентацию? <i>Ty popal na prezentaciyu?</i></p> <p>"Did you make it to the presentation?"</p>
<p>Я никому ничего не должен. <i>Ya nikamu nichevo ne dolzhen.</i></p> <p>"I don't owe anything to anyone."</p>	<p>Осталось шесть минут до начала концерта. <i>Astalas' shest' minut da nachala kantserta.</i></p> <p>"There are six minutes left 'til the beginning of the concert."</p>

<p>Я только что встал.</p> <p><i>"I've just got up."</i></p>	<p>Во сколько ты встаёшь?</p> <p><i>Va skol'ka ty fstayosh?</i></p> <p>"What time do you get up?"</p>
<p>Что ты завтра делаешь?</p> <p><i>Chto ty zavtra delayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What are you doing tomorrow?"</p>	<p>Вы завтра свободны?</p> <p><i>Vy zavtra svobodny?</i></p> <p>"Are you free tomorrow?"</p>
<p>Я позвоню тебе завтра.</p> <p><i>Ya pozvonyu tebe zavtra.</i></p> <p>"I'll call you tomorrow."</p>	<p>Завтра мы идём в кино.</p> <p><i>Zavtra my idyom v kino.</i></p> <p>"Tomorrow I'm going to the cinema."</p>
<p>Завтра я буду работать.</p> <p><i>Zavtra ya budu rabotat'.</i></p> <p>"Tomorrow I'll be working."</p>	<p>Билет в театр стоит сорок долларов.</p> <p><i>Bilet f teatr stoit sorak dolaraf.</i></p> <p>"The ticket to the theater costs forty dollars."</p>
<p>Десять рублей.</p> <p><i>Desyat' rubley.</i></p> <p>"It's ten rubles."</p>	<p>Зачем ей десять ручек?</p> <p><i>Zachem yey desyat' ruchek?</i></p> <p>"Why does she need ten pens?"</p>
<p>В какое время твоя игра?</p> <p><i>V kakoye vremya tvoya igra?</i></p> <p>"What time is your play?"</p>	<p>Напиши, если у тебя будет время.</p> <p><i>Napishite, yesli u tyebya budyet vryemya.</i></p> <p>"Write if you have some time."</p>
<p>Время идёт слишком медленно.</p> <p><i>Vryemya idyot slishkom myedlyenno.</i></p> <p>"Time goes by too slowly."</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is должен ("must") and the Genitive Case

Я должен попасть на открытие выставки.

Ya dolzhen popast' na otkrytie vystavki.

"I must make it to the opening of the exhibition."

In the previous lessons we learned the word **нужно**, which is "need" or "should." We also learned all the pronouns in the dative case that go with this word.

For Example:

1. мне нужно
mne nuzhno
"I need"
2. тебе нужно
tebe nuzhno
"you need"

Today we'll introduce you to a stronger word of obligation: **должен**.

Должен can be literally translated as "must" The good thing is the pronouns that you use with **должен** are all nominative. All you have to do is modify **должен** according to the gender you need.

For Example:

Gender	должен	Romanization
Masculine	должен	<i>dolzhen</i>
Feminine	должна	<i>dolzhna</i>
Neuter	должно	<i>dolzhno</i>
Plural	должны	<i>dolzhny</i>

1. Я должна позвонить ему
ya dolzhna pozvonit' yemu
"I must call him."

2. Он должен это перевести
on dolzhen eto perevesti
"He must translate it."
3. Они должны уйти
oni dolzhny uiti
"They must leave."

Genitive Case

In the dialogue we came across two phrases that require us to learn the next case in the Russian grammar. Here they are:

1. шесть **утра** ("six in the morning")
2. открытие **выставки** ("the opening of the exhibition")
3. у меня нет **времени** ("I don't have time")

***The primary use of the Russian genitive case is to show possession. In English it's often indicated this with an apostrophe ('s), or the word "of" (mom's book, a friend of dad's). The "owner" is the noun that is used in the genitive case.

You should use the genitive in most cases where you would use the word "of" in English.

In the phrase открытие **выставки**, the "possessor" is **выставка** ("exhibition"), therefore it is the one we should convert into the gcase. According to the rules of how to form the genitive, we simply change the ending "-a" into и and get **выставки**.

For Example:

1. собака *друга*
sobaka druga
"a dog of a friend" (a friend's dog)

2. город **мечты**

gorod mechty

"a city of (one's) dream". *Note:* Мечта, *mechta* ("dream") has feminine gender and the city "belongs" to her (it's her city, a dream-city) - **мечты**

3. цена *пива*

tsena piva

"the price of beer"

Пиво, *pivo* ("beer") is neutral and it always has a price - *пива*

***The second major function of the genitive case is to express negation.

For Example:

a) **У меня нет** + noun in genitive

b) I don't have + noun in genitive

1. У меня нет собаки

u menya net sobaki

"I don't have a dog."

Note! The word *нет* in Russian has two meanings: "no" (as a simple negative answer) and "there's no" (is not), as a verb.

In the case when it's used in its second meaning, a noun following it should ALWAYS be put into the genitive case.

Forming the Genitive Case

Masculine Nouns:

1. If the noun ends in a consonant, add -а друг - друга ("friend" - "of a friend")

2. Replace -й with -я чай - чая ("tea" - "of tea")

Feminine Nouns:

1. Replace -а with -ы (женщина - женщины ("woman" - "of a woman"))

2. Replace -я with -и (Мария - Марии ("Maria" - "of Maria"))

Neuter Nouns:

1. Replace -о with -а (пиво - пива ("beer" - "of beer"))

2. Replace -е with -я (море - моря ("sea" - "of the sea"))

Remember!

** *The noun-POSSESSOR changes its ending!*

** *Modified ending is the equivalent of the English "of!"*

REMEMBER that the phrase "I have..." requires simple dictionary form of the noun, when the phrase "I don't have" requires the genitive case nouns to go after it. BUT, both these phrases require the **pronouns** in the genitive case.

For Example:

Genitive	Pronoun	Example
Меня	"I"	У меня есть/нет...
Тебя	"You" (informal)	У тебя есть/нет...
Него (него)	"He"	У него есть/нет...
Неё	"She"	У неё есть/нет...
Нас	"We"	У нас есть/нет...
Вас	"You" (formal or plural)	У вас есть/нет...
Них	"They"	У них есть/нет...

1. У меня есть собака
u menya yest' sobaka
"I have a dog."
2. У меня нет **собаки**
u menya net sobaki
"I don't have a dog."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Time Zones

Speaking of time, did you know that Russia has eleven time zones? Sometimes people speak proudly of it emphasizing on the huge territory their country occupies. But in reality such time diversion creates a lot of problems. Most people who do business with different regions of Russia find it extremely difficult to conduct business when people on one side of the country are waking up, and on the other side, people are just going to bed. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev suggested to reduce the number of time zones in Russia and maybe even do away with them entirely at some point. The question is, how will he make sun shine for everyone at the same time?

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23

Win Big in Russia!

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

23

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Привет! Ну, как выставка?
2. BEN: Очень интересная. Интереснее, чем я думал. А как боулинг? Кто выиграл?
3. NIKA: Дима выиграл... А мы с Катей проиграли. Я играю ещё хуже, чем Катя.
4. BEN: Не расстраивайся, ты лучше всех играешь в бильярд!

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Privet, nu, kak vystavka?
2. BEN: Ochen' interesnaya. Interesneye, chem ya dumal. A kak bouling? Kto vyigral?
3. NIKA: Dima viygral... A my s Katey proigrali. Ya igrayu yescho huzhe,
4. chem Katya.
5. BEN: Ne rastraivaisya, ty luchshe vseh igraesh v biliard!

ENGLISH

1. NIKA: Hi! So, how was the exhibition?

CONT'D OVER

2. BEN: Very interesting. Even more interesting than I thought. How was bowling? Who won?
3. NIKA: Dima won... Katya and I lost. I play even worse than Katya.
4. BEN: Don't be upset, you play pool better than anyone else!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
бильярд	billiard	pool, billiard	noun	
выиграть	viygrat'	to win	verb	
проиграть	proigrat'	to lose	verb	
ещё...чем...	yescho...chem...	even more...than...	phrase	
хуже	huzhe	worse, inferior to	adverb	
расстраиватьс я	rastraivatsa	to get upset	verb	
лучше	luchshe	better	adverb	
лучше всех	luchshe vseh	better than anyone else, the best	phrase	
интересный	interesniy	interesting	adjective	masculine
думать	dumat'	to think	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Я хочу научиться играть в бильярд. <i>Ya hochu nauchitsa igrat' v billiard.</i></p> <p>"I want to learn to play pool."</p>	<p>Наша команда выиграла. <i>Nasha komanda vyigrala.</i></p> <p>"Our team won."</p>
<p>Он проиграл в карты своё имение. <i>On proigral v karty svoyo imenie.</i></p> <p>"He gambled away his estate."</p>	<p>Он ещё хитрее, чем я думал. <i>On yescho hitree, chem ya dumal.</i></p> <p>"He's even more cunning than I thought."</p>
<p>Ночью ему стало хуже. <i>Noch'yu yemu stalo huzhe.</i></p> <p>"He felt worse at night. / His condition got worse at night."</p>	<p>Не расстраивайся, всё будет хорошо. <i>Nye rastraivaysya, vsyo budyet horosho.</i></p> <p>"Don't be upset, everything will be fine."</p>
<p>Папе сегодня лучше. <i>Pape segodnya luchshe.</i></p> <p>"Dad is feeling better today."</p>	<p>Этот ресторан лучше, чем тот. <i>Etot restoran luchshe, chem tot.</i></p> <p>"This restaurant is better than that one."</p>
<p>Он лучше всех справился с заданием. <i>On luchshe vsyeh spravilsya s zadaniem.</i></p> <p>"He was the best to perform the task."</p>	<p>Это очень интересный фильм. <i>Eto ochyen' intyeryesnyy fil'm.</i></p> <p>"It's a very interesting film."</p>
<p>А по-моему, очень симпатичные... <i>A po-moyemu, ochyen' simpatichtnyye...</i></p> <p>"And I think they are quite cute..."</p>	<p>По-моему, никакие. <i>Po-moyemu, nikakiye.</i></p> <p>"I think they are nothing special."</p>
<p>Как тебе те парни? <i>Kak tyebye tye parni?</i></p> <p>"What do you think of those guys?"</p>	<p>Я никогда не думал, что в Москве столько иностранцев. <i>Ya nikogda nye dumal, chto v Moskvye stol'ko inostrantsyev.</i></p> <p>"I've never thought there were so many foreigners in Moscow."</p>
<p>Я думаю, нам нужно уходить. <i>Ya dumayu, nam nuzhno uhodit'.</i></p> <p>"I think we should leave."</p>	<p>Что ты об этом думаешь? <i>Chto ty ob etom dumayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What do you think about it?"</p>

<p>Думаю, ты прав. <i>Dumayu, ty prav.</i></p> <p>"I think you are right."</p>	<p>Ты думаешь, мы успеем? <i>Ty dumayesh', my uspyeyem?</i></p> <p>"Do you think we can make it on time?"</p>
<p>Я не думаю, что он придёт. <i>Ya nye dumayu, chto on pridyot.</i></p> <p>"I don't think he'll come."</p>	<p>О чём ты думаешь? <i>O chyom ty dumayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What are you thinking about?"</p>

Как вы думаете, во сколько он придёт?

Kak vy dumayetye, vo skol'ko on pridyot?

"What time do you think he will arrive?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Comparative Adjectives

Очень интересная. Интереснее, чем я думал.

Ochen' interesnaya. Interesneye, chem ya dumal

"Very interesting. Even more interesting than I thought."

In Russian, comparative adjectives are formed by adding "-ee" to the adjectives or changing their endings into "-ee."

For Example:

- Интересный**, *interesniy* ("interesting")
↓
Интереснее, *interesneye* ("more interesting")
- Красивый**, *krasiviy* ("beautiful, pretty")
↓
Красивее, *krasivee* ("more beautiful, prettier")

3. **Старый**, *stariy* ("old")

↓

Старее, *staree* ("older")

Just like in English, there are exceptions from the common rules. In our case there are two words: "better" and "worse."

For Example:

1. **Хороший**, *horoshiy* ("good")

↓

лучше, *luchshe* ("better")

2. **плохой**, *plohoi* ("bad")

↓

хуже, *huzhe* ("worse")

хуже, чем... - лучше, чем...

These phrases stand for "better than" and "worse than."

For Example:

1. **эта книга лучше, чем та**
eta kniga luchshe, chem ta
"This book is better than that one."

2. **всё хуже, чем я думал**
vsyo huzhe, chem ya dumal
"Everything is worse than I thought."

лучше всех - хуже всех

Literally, these phrases mean, "better than everyone else" and "worse than everyone else,"

but can be translated as "the best" and "the worst."

For Example:

1. ты лучше всех!
ty luchshe vseh!
"You are the best!"
2. я выступила хуже всех
ya vystupila huzhe vseh
"I was the worst to perform" (My performance was the worst.)

выиграть - проиграть ("to win" - "to lose")

You are already familiar with the word играть ("to play"). The words "to win" and "to lose" are created just by adding prefixes вы- and про-.

You will learn more about the prefixes in the future lessons. There are more than twenty different prefixes in the Russian language that can completely change the meaning of one word.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Russian Games

Games like bowling and pool are relatively new in Russia and although they've become very popular among youth, most people over fifty have never tried either of these games. Seniors are used to such games as chess, dominoes, and card games. Very often, in Russian parks you can see elderly men playing different table games, sometimes with money involved. When it gets dark you can also see wives of those men coming and trying to talk them into going home. Sometimes it takes hours.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24

Will you Enjoy your Last Days in Moscow?

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

24

RUSSIAN

1. NIKA: Ты скоро уедешь...
2. BEN: Да, я буду скучать по Москве.
3. NIKA: А я буду скучать по тебе.
4. BEN: Я буду тебе писать и звонить.
5. NIKA: Хорошо. Ты ещё приедешь?
6. BEN: Может, ты ко мне приедешь?
7. NIKA: Я подумаю.

ROMANIZATION

1. NIKA: Ty skoro uyedesh...
2. BEN: Da, ya budu skuchat' po Moskve.
3. NIKA: A ya budu skuchat' po tebe.
4. BEN: Ya budu tyebye pisat' i zvonit'.
5. NIKA: Horosho. Ty yescho priyedesh?
6. BEN: Mozhet, ty ko mne priyedesh?
7. NIKA: Ya podumayu.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. NIKA: You will leave soon.
2. BEN: Yes, I will miss Moscow.
3. NIKA: And I will miss you.
4. BEN: I will write and call you.
5. NIKA: Okay. Will you come again?
6. BEN: Maybe, you will come visit me?
7. NIKA: I'll think about it.

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
скучать	skuchat'	to miss	verb
писать	pisat'	to write	verb
звонить	zvonit'	to call, to phone, to ring	verb
приехать	priyehat'	to arrive, to come (by transport)	verb
уехать	uyehat'	to leave, go away (by transport)	verb
думать	dumat'	to think	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Он совсем не скучает по своей семье. <i>On sovseyem nye skuchayet po svoeyey syem'ye.</i></p> <p>"He doesn't miss his family at all."</p>	<p>Я так по тебе скучаю! <i>Ya tak po tyebye skuchayu!</i></p> <p>"I miss you so much!"</p>
<p>Я так скучаю по университетским годам! <i>Ya tak skuchayu po univyersityetskim godam!</i></p> <p>"I miss university years so much!"</p>	<p>Тебе надо написать письмо? <i>Tyebye nado napisat' pis'mo?</i></p> <p>"Do you need to write a letter?" (informal)</p>
<p>Телефон звонит. <i>Tyelyefon zvonit.</i></p> <p>"The phone is ringing."</p>	<p>Я ещё не звонил Ане. <i>Ya yeschyo nye zvonil Anye.</i></p> <p>"I haven't called Anya yet."</p>
<p>Он часто мне звонит. <i>On chasto mnye zvonit.</i></p> <p>"He often calls me."</p>	<p>Я приеду к тебе вечером. <i>Ya priyedu k tyebye vyechyerom.</i></p> <p>"I'll come to you in the evening."</p>
<p>Он приехал в Москву в пятницу. <i>On priyehal v Moskvu v pyatnitsu.</i></p> <p>"He came to Moscow on Friday."</p>	<p>Папа приехал вчера. <i>Papa priyehal vchjera.</i></p> <p>"Dad arrived yesterday."</p>
<p>Приехали! <i>Priyehali!</i></p> <p>"We have arrived!"</p>	<p>Ты серьёзно решила уехать в Европу? <i>Ty ser'yozno reshila uyehat' v Evropu?</i></p> <p>"Have you seriously decided to leave for Europe?"</p>
<p>А по-моему, очень симпатичные... <i>A po-moyemu, ochyen' simpatichnyye...</i></p> <p>"And I think they are quite cute..."</p>	<p>По-моему, никакие. <i>Po-moyemu, nikakiye.</i></p> <p>"I think they are nothing special."</p>
<p>Как тебе те парни? <i>Kak tyebye tye parni?</i></p> <p>"What do you think of those guys?"</p>	<p>Я никогда не думал, что в Москве столько иностранцев. <i>Ya nikogda nye dumal, chto v Moskvye stol'ko inostrantsyev.</i></p> <p>"I've never thought there were so many foreigners in Moscow."</p>

<p>Я думаю, нам нужно уходить. <i>Ya dumayu, nam nuzhno uhodit'.</i></p> <p>"I think we should leave."</p>	<p>Что ты об этом думаешь? <i>Chto ty ob etom dumayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What do you think about it?"</p>
<p>Думаю, ты прав. <i>Dumayu, ty prav.</i></p> <p>"I think you are right."</p>	<p>Ты думаешь, мы успеем? <i>Ty dumayesh', my uspyeyem?</i></p> <p>"Do you think we can make it on time?"</p>
<p>Я не думаю, что он придёт. <i>Ya nye dumayu, chto on pridyot.</i></p> <p>"I don't think he'll come."</p>	<p>О чём ты думаешь? <i>O chyom ty dumayesh'?</i></p> <p>"What are you thinking about?"</p>
<p>Как вы думаете, во сколько он придёт? <i>Kak vy dumayete, vo skol'ko on pridyot?</i></p> <p>"What time do you think he will arrive?"</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is **Скучать по + Dative Case**

я буду скучать по Москве.

ya budu skuchat' po Moskve.

"I will miss Moscow."

Скучать по

The phrase "to miss somebody/something" requires us to do the following:

1. Conjugate the verb *скучать* according to a person.

For Example:

скучать	Romanization	"English"
Я скучаю	<i>ya skuchayu</i>	"I miss"
Ты скучаешь	<i>ty skuchaesh</i>	"You miss"
Он, она скучает	<i>on, ona skuchaet</i>	"He, she misses"
Мы скучаем	<i>my skuchaem</i>	"We miss"
Вы скучаете	<i>vy skuchaete</i>	"You miss" (plural, polite)
Они скучают	<i>oni skuchayut</i>	"They miss"

2. Put the object that is "missed" into the dative case.

For Example:

Gender	Object into Dative Case	Romanization	"English"
Masculine	город - городу	<i>gorodu</i>	"city"
Feminine	Москва - Москве	<i>Moskve</i>	"Moscow"
Neuter	море - морю	<i>moryu</i>	"sea"
Plural	родители - родителям	<i>roditelyam</i>	"parents"

You can find the pronouns for the dative case in lesson 19 and the rules for forming it in lesson 20.

3. Put the preposition *no* between the missing subject and the missed object.

For Example:

1. Я скучаю по университету
ya skuchayu po universitetu
"I miss (my) university."
2. Ты скучаешь по Лене?
Ty skuchaesh po Lene?
"Do you miss Lena?"
3. Он не скучает по селу
on ne skuchayet po selu
"He doesn't miss the country."
4. Они скучают по детям
oni skuchayut po detyam
"They miss (their) kids."

уехать - приехать

In the previous lesson we learned that one prefix can completely change the meaning of the word. By adding the prefixes **вы-** and **про-** to the word **играть** ("to play") we turned it first into "win" and then into "lose."

The same happens with the verb **ехать** ("to go by transport").

For Example:

1. **У** + ехать = уехать, *uyehat'* ("to leave")
2. **При** + ехать = приехать, *priyehat'* ("to come")

Let's do the same with the word **идти** ("to go on foot"). This word will have minor changes to make the pronunciation easier.

For Example:

1. **У** + идти = уйти, *uiti* ("to leave, walk away")

2. **При** + идти = прийти, *priiti* ("to come")

Future Tense

In today's dialogue we came across the words and phrases in the future tense both in simple and complex forms.

The first group of verbs...

1. Уедешь, *uyedesh* ("you) will leave")
2. Приедешь, *priyedesh* ("you) will come"
3. Подумаю, *podumayu* ("I) will think"

...are conjugated according to a person in the present tense, but put into the future tense by adding prefixed to the words: у-, при-, and по-.

The verbs in the future tense that are formed by means of prefixes and conjugated according to the person in the present tense express completed actions in the future.

The second group of verbal expressions...

1. буду скучать ("I) will miss/will be missing")
2. буду писать и звонить ("I) will write and call/will be writing and calling")

...are formed with the help of the verb **быть** ("to be") in the future tense conjugated according to the person + infinitive. These expressions indicate an incomplete, ongoing action in the future. The conjugations of the word **быть** were given in lesson 15.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Reasons for Russian Women to Marry Foreigners

Russian girls dating/marrying foreign guys is not a novelty. The stereotype has it that Russian women are insanely crazy about foreign men and would go abroad with them despite cultural differences and families left in Russia. Well, that's not entirely true. A lot of girls are very skeptical about international marriages and prefer to be with a man of the same mentality and cultural background. But those who do want to leave Russia with Western men have objective reasons for that. First, financial reason. Economical instability in the country makes Russian women seek better lives abroad. Second, the democratic situation in Russia doesn't favor women. There are ten million more men than women in the country. And third, some women just try to escape the patriarchal structure of the society. In Russia, it's quite difficult to combine family and career, and one always comes with the sacrifice of another. Marrying a foreigner, a woman wishes for some equality in the family.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25

Send me a Letter from Russia!

CONTENTS

- 2 Russian
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

25

RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Передавай привет родителям, Кате и Диме.
2. NIKA: Обязательно. Пиши и звони мне!
3. BEN: Конечно. Я так рад, что мы познакомились! Благодаря тебе, эта поездка стала незабываемой.
4. NIKA: Спасибо, я рада.
5. BEN: Ну, до встречи в Америке?
6. NIKA: Без проблем, до скорого!

ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Peredavai privet roditelyam, Kate i Dime.
2. NIKA: Obyazatel'no. Pishi i zvoni mne!
3. BEN: Koneshno. Ya tak rad, shto my poznamilis' !Blagodarya tebe, eta poyezdka stala nezabyvaemoi.
4. NIKA: Spasibo, ya rada.
5. BEN: Nu, do vstrechi v Amerike?
6. NIKA: Bez problem, do skorovo!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BEN: Say hello to your parents, Katya and Dima for me.
2. NIKA: Sure. Write me and call me!
3. BEN: Of course. I'm so glad we got to know each other. Thanks to you, this trip was unforgettable.
4. NIKA: Thank you, I'm glad.
5. BEN: So, see you in America?
6. NIKA: No problem, see you soon!

VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
До скорого	do skorova	see you soon	parting greeting
стать	stat'	to become; start doing	verb
передавать привет	peredavat' privet	to say "Hello" to somebody from somebody	phrase
обязательно	obyazatel'no	sure(ly), definitely, certainly	adverb
конечно	konechno	of course, certainly	adverb
рад (рада, рады)	rad (rada, rady)	glad, happy	adjective
поездка	poezdka	journey, trip	noun
незабываемый	nezabyvaemiy	unforgettable	adjective
До встречи.	Da vstrechi.	See you later.	parting greeting

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>До скорого, не пропадай! <i>Do skorova, nye propadai!</i></p> <p>"See you later, keep in touch!"</p>	<p>Он стал много пить после развода. <i>On stal mnogo pit' posle razvoda.</i></p> <p>"After he got divorced, he started drinking a lot."</p>
<p>Кем ты хочешь стать, когда вырастишь? <i>Kem ty hochesh stat', kogda vyrastish?</i></p> <p>"What do you want to be when you grow up?"</p>	<p>Передавай привет сестре! <i>Peredavai privyet sestrye!</i></p> <p>"Say 'hi' to your sister!"</p>
<p>Обязательно надень свитер, на улице холодно. <i>Obyazatel'no naden' sviter, na ulitse holodno.</i></p> <p>"You should definitely put a sweater on: it's cold outside."</p>	<p>Я обязательно приду, сто процентов! <i>Ya obyazatel'no pridu, sto protsentov!</i></p> <p>"I will definitely come, one hundred percent."</p>
<p>Конечно, приходи! <i>Konechno, prihodi!</i></p> <p>"Of course you should come!"</p>	<p>Они, конечно, правы. <i>Oni, konechno, pravyy.</i></p> <p>"They are certainly right."</p>
<p>Вы пойдете на дискотеку? - Конечно. <i>Vi poidete na diskoteku? - Konechno.</i></p> <p>"Are you going to the disco? - Sure."</p>	<p>Мы будем рады Вас видеть. <i>My budyem rady Vas vidyet'.</i></p> <p>"We'll be glad to see you."</p>
<p>Марина была очень рада. <i>Marina byla ochyen' rada.</i></p> <p>"Marina was very glad."</p>	<p>Как я рад! <i>Kak ya rad!</i></p> <p>"I'm so glad!"</p>
<p>Поездка в Москву стоила 3000 долларов. <i>Paoezdka v Moskvu stoila tri tysyachi dollarov.</i></p> <p>"The trip to Moscow cost me three thousand dollars."</p>	<p>Это был незабываемый вечер. <i>Eto byl nyezabyvaemyi vecher.</i></p> <p>"It was an unforgettable evening."</p>

До встречи в Москве!

Da vstrechi v Moskve!

"See you in Moscow!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Reflexive Verbs in the Past Tense

Пиши и звони мне!

Pishi i zvoni mne!

"Write me and call me!"

To remind you, reflexive verbs are mainly used to show that the subject **performs an action on oneself**, and not on someone else. They are also used to express the concept of "**each other**" (reciprocal meaning). Reflexive verbs are more common in Russian than in English, so you won't always have "-self" in the English translation.

The word from today's dialogue is *познакомиться, poznaomitsa* ("to get acquainted, to meet (each other), to get to know each other").

As we learned before, the reflexive verbs are conjugated just like normal verbs but always have the ending *-ся* in the end in any tense.

In the present and future tenses all verbs are conjugated according to a *person*, but in the past tense they are conjugated according to *gender and number*.

To conjugate a reflexive verb in the past tense, we do the following:

1. Take a word in its infinitive form...

For Example:

1. **ЗНАКОМИТЬСЯ**
 znakomit'sa
 "to get acquainted, to meet"

2. ...Дроп -тъся,

For Example:

1. **знакоми-**

3. ...put the verb into the past tense by adding an ending according to gender and number

Gender	Verb	Ending
Masculine	знакоми	+л
Feminine	знакоми	+ла
Neuter	знакоми	+ло
Plural	знакоми	+ли

4...Add -ся or -сь

Gender	Verb + -ся or -сь
Masculine	знакомился
Feminine	знакомилась
Neuter	знакомилось
Plural	знакомились

The Aspects of the Russian Verbs

As you already know, the Russian language has only three basic tenses - present, past, and future. But this simplicity in tenses is compensated by such concept as aspects.

Aspects of the Russian Verbs are **perfective and imperfective**.

Aspects are only used in the past and future tenses (almost never in the present tense), and in the dictionary forms of the verbs (infinitives).

Aspects are used to indicate if an action was (will be) completed successfully or was (will be) ongoing.

To do this in English you can use the verbs like "had" and "have." For example, in the phrase "I did," the action is completed. However, in a phrase like "I have been doing," it is implied that action is not yet completed. Aspects are used to illustrate this difference.

The imperfective aspect indicates incomplete, ongoing, habitual, reversed, or repeated actions.

The perfective aspect indicates actions that have been or will be completed successfully, or one-time actions.

Almost every Russian verb has both aspects. There are normally two words for each verb indicating each aspect.

Often these two words are closely related (and only differ in prefixes or suffixes), but sometimes they are completely different.

Let's take a look at the verbs from today's lesson:

1. писать
 pisat'
 "to write"

2. звонить
 zvonit'
 "to call, to ring"

3. познакомиться
 poznaomitsa
 "to get acquainted, to meet with"

We got lucky, because all three verbs change their aspect by means of adding or dropping a *prefix*.

Let's go through them one by one.

1. **писать** is an imperfective verb, which indicates ongoing or habitual action.

For Example:

1. Я писала письмо
ya pisala pis'mo
"I was writing a letter."

на + писать = **написать** (*napisat'*) - is a perfective form of the verb, which indicates a completed action. Let's try using it in both future and past tenses.

For Example:

1. Я написал письмо
ya napisala pis'mo
"I wrote a letter."
2. Я напишу письмо
ya napishu pis'mo
"I will write/will have written a letter."

2. **звонить** is imperfective (incomplete).

For Example:

1. Я звонила тебе весь день
ya zvonila tebe ves' den'
"I was calling you all day."

по + звонить = **позвонить** - is perfective (completed).

For Example:

1. Я позвонил другу
ya pozvonil drugu
"I called my friend."
2. Я тебе позвоню
ya tebe pozvonuyu
"I will call/will have called you."

3. познакомиться - is perfective (completed).

For Example:

1. познакомиться - **по** = **знакомиться** - imperfective (incomplete).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Rules for Parting with Russians

Russians are very sensitive to parting and everything that has to do with it. As one of the Russian proverbs says, "Parting is little death" (Расставание - маленькая смерть). A lot of people can't hold back tears when saying good-bye, even for a week. There are also a number of endearing "rituals" that people perform before and after parting. For example, before leaving the house for a trip, everyone has to sit down and spend a minute in silence—for safe way. After a person leaves, those who stay are not allowed to take out the trash or to clean the apartment until the person reaches the destination. Cleaning the apartment right after a person leaves is associated with getting rid of all the traces of his existence just like after a person's death. Also, if you are saying good-bye to a Russian person, make sure to call him/her first thing when you arrive, otherwise you will make them worried and keep them in that condition until you finally get in touch.