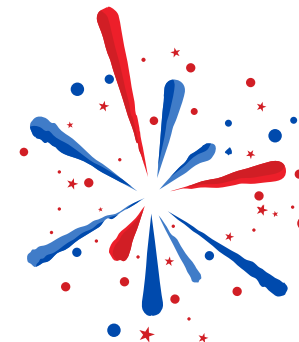
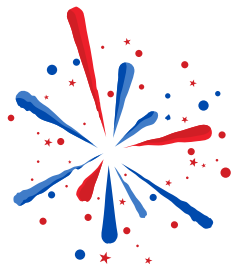
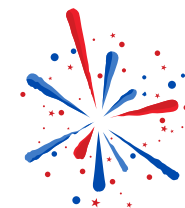
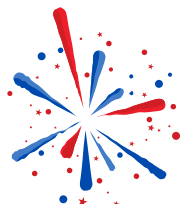


**HACK YOUR
RUSSIAN**



Essential Russian Words and Expressions to understand

SPOKEN RUSSIAN



with audio

www.hackyourrussian.com

Содержание | Table of contents

Introduction	2	To cheer up	49
Resources	3	Don't worry!	51
First acquaintance	4	To give a consent	52
Beginner phrases	9	To refuse	53
I don't understand	10	Interactions	54
Communication	12	Wishes	56
Greetings	18	Indifference	57
How are you?	23	Compliments	58
Goodbye	30	Let's do it!	61
Get someone's attention	33	Talking on the phone	65
Request	39	Talking about hobbies	66
Polite Phrases	42	Astonishment	68
Being a guest	46	I am bored!	69
Phrases to praise	47	Useful tips	70
To wish good luck	48	Final Words	73

Введение | Introduction

Thank you for reading this guide with essential Russian phrases and expressions to understand spoken Russian. My name is Mila and I am a founder of the learning platform Hack Your Russian. I've created this guide to help you get the most basics of the Russian language to be able to communicate easily and with confidence. You don't need to have a great volume of words and expressions to start speaking in Russian. Don't wait until you have an Intermediate level, start using simple phrases and words in your conversations.

This guide also contains audio files so that you can listen to these phrases on the go: while driving, walking, doing sport or brushing your teeth. Make sure that you repeat these phrases yourself and try to imitate my accent. Each word/phrase is repeated three times: very slowly, slowly and at a normal speed. Please, note that I include the transcription of words and expressions only in Cyrillic. In my experience, transcription in Latin is useless as it cannot show the correct pronunciation and can only confuse you. If you have already learned Russian alphabet - you will have no problems reading Cyrillic transcription.

Feel free to write me at hack.your.russian@gmail.com if you have any additional questions.

Enjoy learning Russian language and don't forget to have some fun!

Ресурсы | Resources

If you are a complete beginner, then you will need to start by discovering Russian alphabet.

Here are some free video lessons to help you learn Cyrillic letters fast:

[Learn Russian letters that are almost the same as in English](#)

[Learn Russian Letters that Look like English but Sound Differently](#)

[Learn Russian Letters that look Strange but Have Familiar Sounds](#)

[Learn Russian Letters and Sounds that don't exist in English](#)

What to do next? You will be surprised but you already know at least 800 Russian words.

Would you like me to prove it? Sure! Just watch this video - [Russian words similar to English](#)

So, you are starting to get a grasp of Russian language but there is one little problem - Russian pronunciation. There are some sounds that are so hard to pronounce and some Russian words are not pronounced the same way as they are written ?! Don't worry! It's much easier than it seems. Watch this video - [How to improve your pronunciation in Russian](#). And here are some easy tips to help you learn to pronounce [Russian soft sign](#) and [Russian hard sign](#).

Or you can get the [whole course on Russian pronunciation](#). Be quick, you can get the free access to the platform for 1 month or 2 weeks!

And what about learning to understand and to write in a scary Russian cursive?

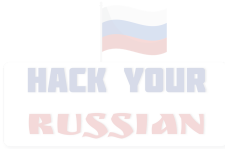
Here is the [full course](#) and some [great and fun worksheets to use](#).

Scared of Russian cases? Let's learn them the most efficient and fun way with [these useful guides](#)!

You will find fun free podcasts for beginners, [free worksheets](#) and a [guide with fun resources](#) on my [website](#) !

Have fun!

Пёрвое знакóмство | First acquaintance



Let's start with the first phrases you need to know to get acquainted with someone in Russian.

- **Знакóмся** [знакОм'с'а] - [Get acquainted](#)

An informal imperative form of the verb "Знакомиться" (to get acquainted).

It is a like a call to action to let somebody get acquainted with another person.

Its formal / plural imperative form is **знакóмьтесь**.

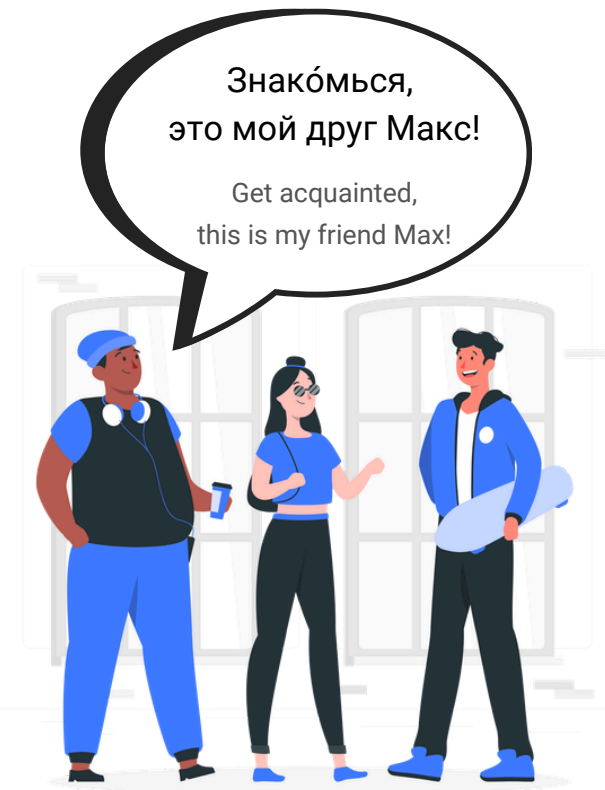
As a plural (both formal and informal) form you can use

знакóмьтесь [знакОм'т'эс'] with:

- Friends, family members and good acquaintances;
- Colleagues;
- Other types of acquaintances.

As a singular formal way you can use **знакóмьтесь** with:

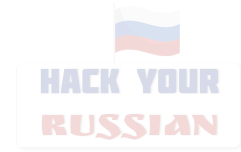
- People in authorities (boss, professor, etc.)
- People older than you (colleagues, acquaintances);
- People you don't know well.



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

All audio files are available [here](#)

Пёрвое знакóмство | First acquaintance



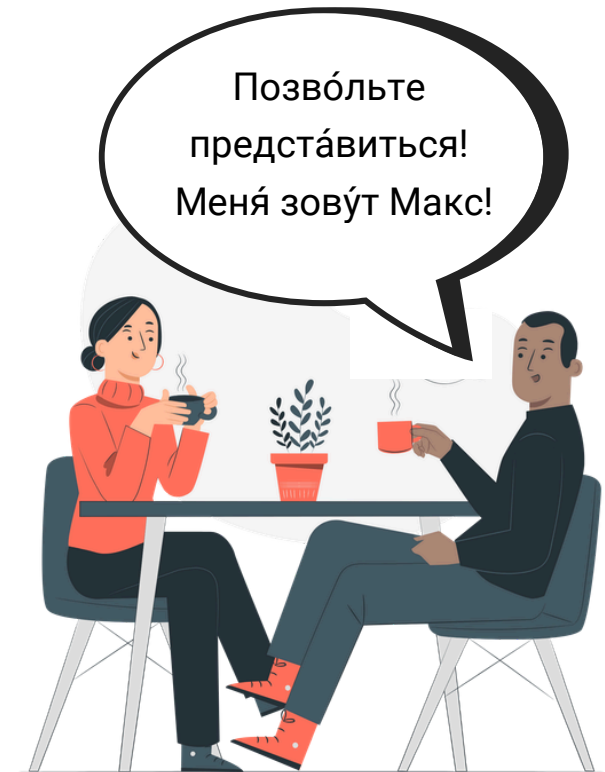
- **Позвóльте предстáвиться**

[пазвОл'тэ пр'итстАв'ит'с'а] - [Let me introduce myself](#). It is a very formal and official way to introduce yourself.

- You can use a word **разрешíte** [разр'ишыт'э] = "[allow me](#)" instead of **позвóльте** to sound even more official.

Here are some key words you need to know:

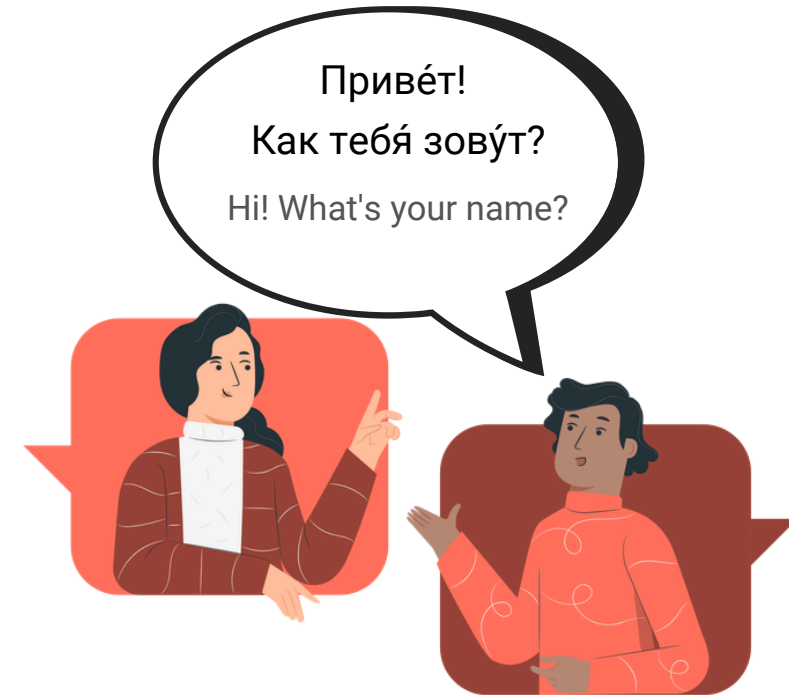
- **Отчество** [Отчества] - [middle name / patronymic](#)
- **Имя** [Им'а] - [first name](#)
- **Назывáй(те) меня по имени** [назывАйт'э м'ин'А паИм'ин'и] - [Call me by my first name](#).
- **Назывáй(те) меня по имени-óтчеству**
[назывАйт'э м'ин'А паИм'ин'и Отчеству] - [Call me by my first and middle names](#)



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Free video lesson
on this topic. [Click here](#)

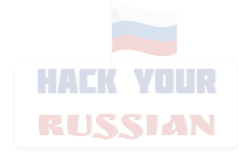
- **Как вас зову́т?** (как вас заву́т) **What is your name?** It is the most common way to ask somebody's name. It is formal and it is better to use it with any groups of people you meet for the first time (except for children).
- **Как тебя́ зову́т?** (как тиб'А заву́т) **What is your name?** It is an informal way to enquire somebody's name.
- **Меня́ зову́т...** (м'ин'А заву́т...) **My name is...** Use this construction to present yourself. You can also just say your name in reply without using this phrase.



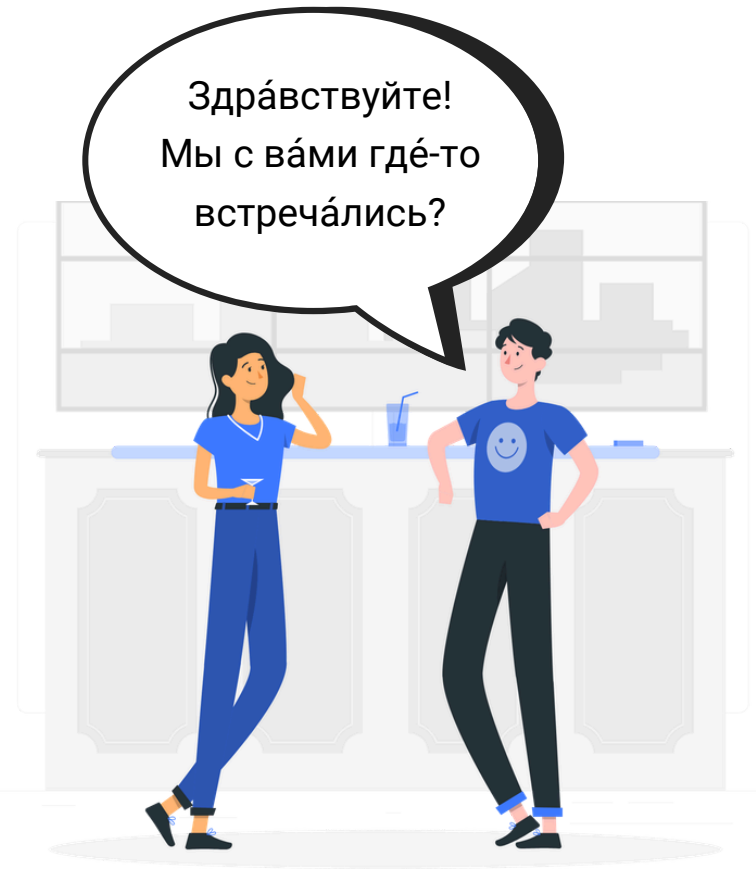
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Find more examples [here](#)

Пёрвое знакóмство | First acquaintance

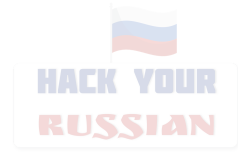


- **Простíte, мы знакóмы?** [п'раст'Ит'э мы знакóмы] - *Excuse me, do we know each other?*
- **Мы с вáми где-то встречáлись?** [мы с вАм'и гд'Эта фстр'ичАл'ис'] - *Have we already met?*
- **У вас знакóмое лицо** [увАс знакóмай'э л'ицО] - *You have a familiar face*
- **Я вас узнáл** (masculine form) [й'а вас узнАл] - *I have recognized you*
- **Я вас узнáла** (feminine form) [й'а вас узнАла] - *I have recognized you*
- **Мы ужé знакóмы** [мы ужЭ знакóмы] - *We already know each other*

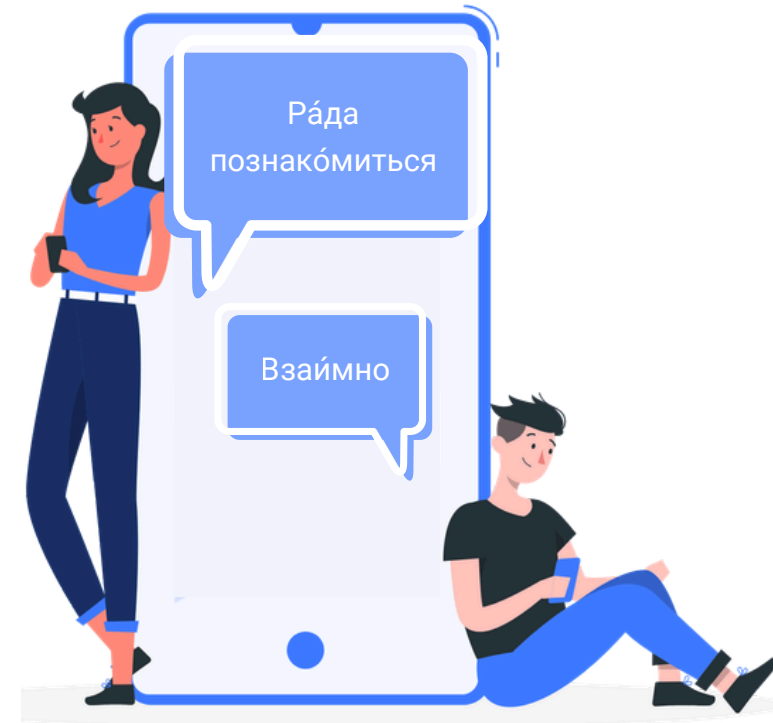


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Пёрвое знакóмство | First acquaintance



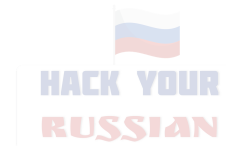
- **Рад** (m) / **ра́да** (f) **познакóмиться** [pAd(a) пазнакОм'ица] - **I am glad to get acquainted**. It is a very nice and polite way to say that you are happy to get acquainted with a person.
- Another version is **приятно познакóмиться** [пр'ий'Атна пазнакОм'ица]- **Pleased to get acquainted**. Often reduced to just **(óчень) приятно** [Оч'ин' пр'ий'Атна]
- As a follow-up reply you can use a short phrase **"и мне"** [имн'Э] - **me too** or **"вза́ймно"** [взаИмна] - **reciprocally**



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Click here to watch more examples and test yourself

Фразы для новичка | Beginner phrases



- **Я немного говорю по-русски** [й'а нимнога гавар'У парУски] - [I speak a little Russian](#)
- **Вы говорите по-английски?** [вы гаварит'э паанглиски] - [Do you speak English?](#)
- **Я учу русский язык** [й'а учу русский й'азык] - [I learn Russian language](#)

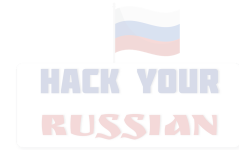
- **Откуда вы?** [аткуда вы] - [Where are you from?](#)
- **Я из ...** [й'а ис / из] - [I am from ...](#) + country / city name in the Genitive case (check [the most comprehensive guide to the Genitive case](#)).

- **Где находится ...?** [гдэ нахОдица...] - [Where is...situated?](#) (just name a place in its initial form)



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Я не понимаю | I don't understand



- **Я не понимаю** [й'а нипанимай'у] - I don't understand
- **Ты говоришь очень быстро** [ты гаварИш Очин' быстра] - You speak very fast (informal)
- **Вы говорите очень быстро** [вы гаварИт'э Очин' быстра] - You speak very fast (formal / plural)
- **Ты можешь говорить помедленнее?** [ты можыш гаварит' пам'Эдлин'эй'э] - Can you speak more slowly? (informal)
- **Вы можете говорить помедленнее?** [вы можытэ гаварит' пам'Эдлин'эй'э] - Can you speak more slowly? (formal / plural)

Tip: Don't be afraid to tell people that you don't understand smth they said. Russian natives are usually happy to explain.

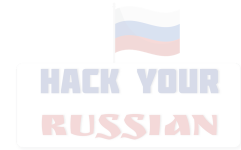


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Don't forget to add a polite word **Извини** (informal) | **Извините** (formal) = [excuse me](#)

[Click here](#)
[to watch more examples](#)

Я не понимаю | I don't understand



- **Что это значит?** [што Эта значит] - What does it mean?
- **Что значит слово ... ?** [што значит слова ...] - What does a word ... mean? (add a word in its initial form)
- **Как это слово будет по-английски?** [как Эта слова будит паанглиски] - What is this word in English?
- **Что ты имеешь в виду?** [што ты им'Эиш в:идУ] - What do you mean? (informal)
- **Что вы имеете в виду?** [што вы им'Эит'э в:идУ] - What do you mean? (formal / plural)
- **А можно поподробнее?** [амОжна пападрОбний'э] - Can I have more details on that?

Tip: There are also some slang ways to say that you don't get something



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[Click here](#)
to watch more examples

Did you know that there are two forms of a pronoun "you" in Russian language? These forms are **ТЫ** and **ВЫ**. A pronoun **ТЫ** can only be used in an informal singular form. And pronoun **ВЫ** can be used either as a formal singular or as informal plural. Formal singular is a polite form that is used to show respect and authority.

Two forms of the pronoun

YOU

ТЫ

ВЫ

Informal
Singular

Formal, singular
Informal, plural

ТЫ

VS

ВЫ

singular forms

Which one of these to use?

Depends on your relationship with a person
as well as his/her position/status/age

- So, when to use **ТЫ** and when to use **ВЫ**?
- It all depends on a situation, your relationship with a person as well as his/her position, status or age. **Click here to watch a full explanation with examples.**

You can use a singular informal pronoun **Ты** in order to address to:

- Friends, family members;
- Acquaintances younger than you / same age;
- Colleagues not older than you (depends);
- Children.

A Russian pronoun **Вы** has a dual function. It can be either singular polite or plural neutral.

Вы dual function

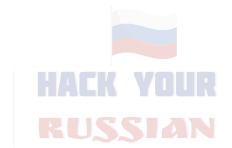
SINGULAR POLITE

- Strangers;
- People in authority;
- Service workers;
- Colleagues (depends);
- Elderly people

PLURAL NEUTRAL

- Several people;
- Group

Tip: if you use **ты** and you see that a person is uncomfortable with it, switch to **Вы**



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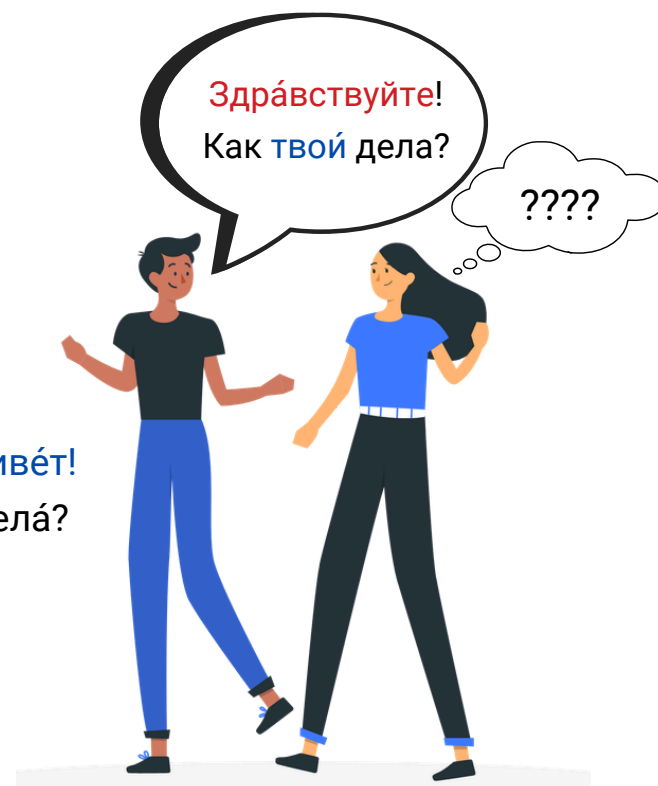
Please, note that is also important to use the correct forms of courtesy phrases depending on which form you use - **ТЫ** or **ВЫ**. You cannot address someone by using **ВЫ** and to say **привёт** (hi) to greet and **пока** (bye) to say goodbye. It would also sound weird if you say **здрáвствуйте** (hello) or **до свидáния** (goodbye) to your friends (when you use **ТЫ** to interact).

ТЫ VS **ВЫ**

accompanied by different
courtesy phrases

ПРИВЕТ **ЗДРАВСТВУЙТЕ**
ПОКА **ДО СВИДАНИЯ**

Tip: it's better to use **ТЫ** with people of your age once you got acquainted with them no matter whether you know them well or not.



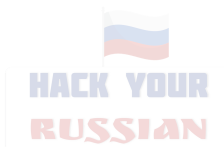
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It's also important to take into account that Russian pronouns change their forms depending on its case. So, while in English there is only one form "You", there are several forms for **ТЫ** and **ВЫ** in Russian.

ТЫ: тебя, без тебя (without you), для тебя (for you), у тебя (indicates possession), на тебя (at you), тебе (to you), тобой (by you), с тобой (with you), за тобой (after you), о тебе (about you), на тебе (on you), при тебе (also indicates possession).

ВЫ: вас, без вас (without you), для вас (for you), у вас (indicates possession), на вас (at you), вам (to you), вами (by you), с вами (with you), за вами (after you), о вас (about you), на вас (on you), при вас (also indicates possession).

Tip: don't simply memorize these forms of pronouns. It's better to learn some common sentences like: Как у тебя / вас дела?
Я по тебе / вам скучаю (I miss you), etc.
Тебя is in the **Genitive case**



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Also note that you will use different verb forms (in past, present and future tenses) with ты and вы due to the Russian system of verb conjugations. For example, ты говоришь (you speak) vs вы говорите (you speak). More information in the video lesson.

ТЫ

VS

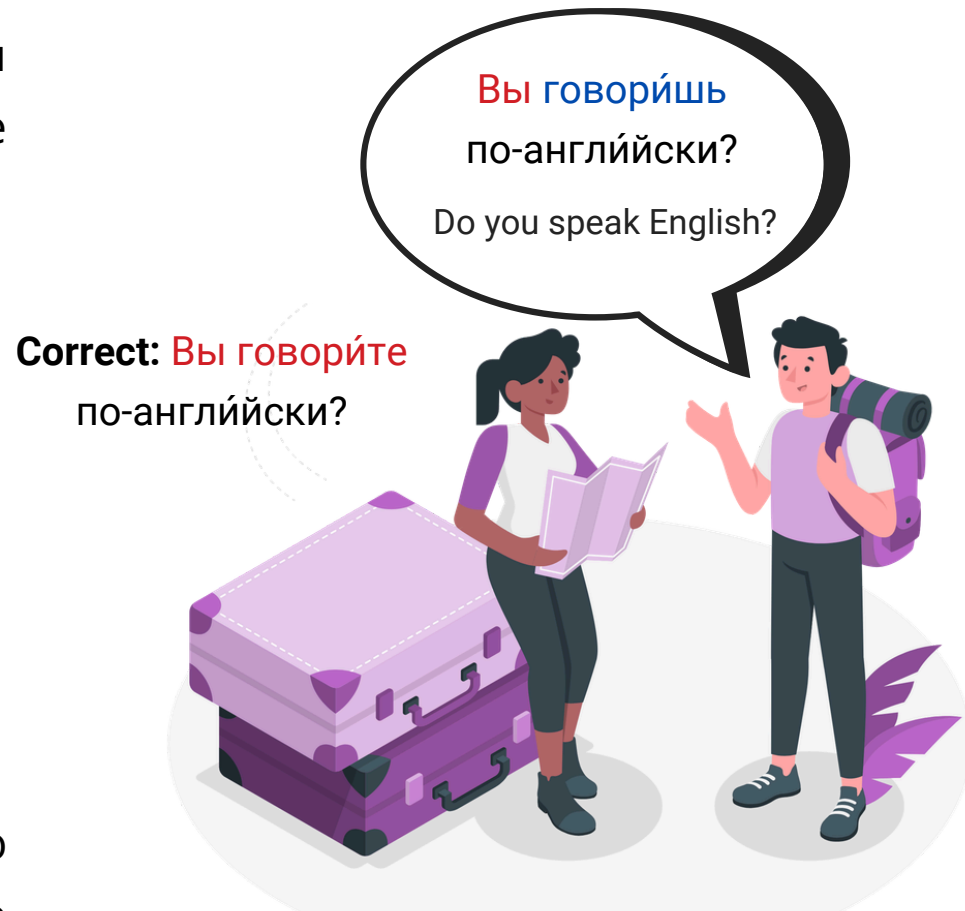
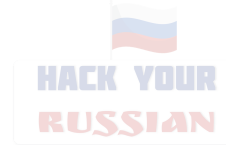
ВЫ

different verb forms

Past, present, future tenses

System of verb conjugation

You can use a Cooljugator to learn how to conjugate Russian verbs. But always try to learn new verbs in the context and create your own examples of sentences for better results.



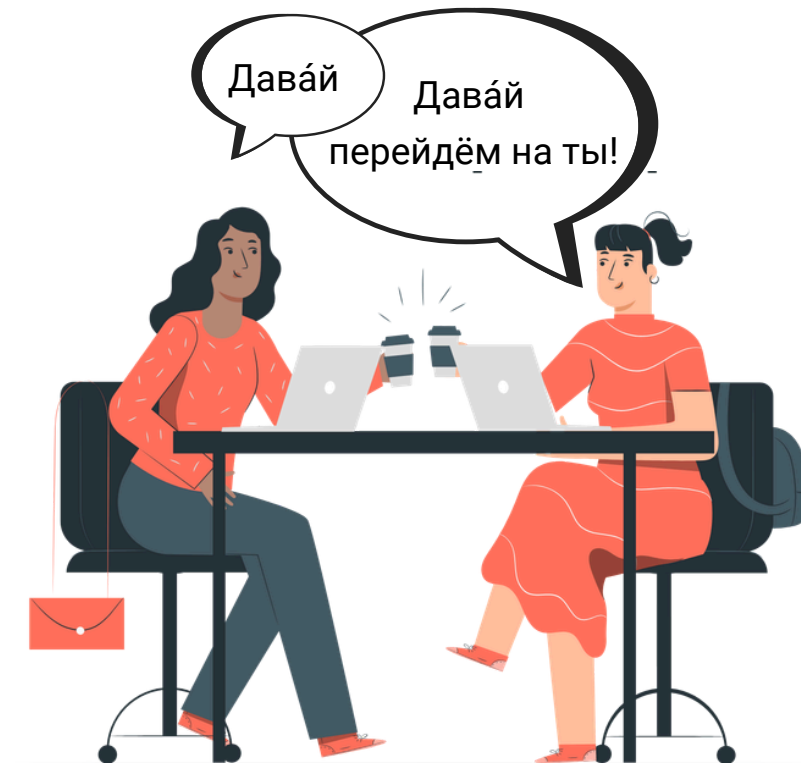
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Normally, you can switch to **ТЫ** if another person has done so and he/she is not: 1) your boss; 2) person in authority (professor, President); 3) elderly person.

To avoid any confusion, it is better to ask a permission of another person to switch from **ВЫ** to **ТЫ**. Here are the main Russian phrases you can use:

- **Мы могли бы перейти на ты** [мы магл'Ибы п'ир'ийт'И наты] - *Why wouldn't we switch to "ты"?*
- **Может перейдём на ты?** [МОЖЭТ п'ир'ийд'Ом наты] - *Maybe we should switch to "ты"?*
- **Перейдём на ты?** [п'ир'ийд'Ом наты] - *Can we switch to "ты"?*
- **Давай перейдём на ты** [давАй п'ир'ийд'Ом наты] - *Let's switch to "ты" (informal)*
- **Давайте перейдём на ты** [давАйт'э п'ир'ийд'Ом наты] - *Let's switch to "ты"*

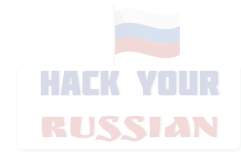
Tip: don't hesitate be the first to propose a person to switch to **ТЫ**. That will set a more friendly environment.



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click here](#) to test yourself

Привѣтствие | Greetings



- **Здрáвствуйте** [здрáствуйт'э] - **Hello**. It's a formal way to greet a person or several people.

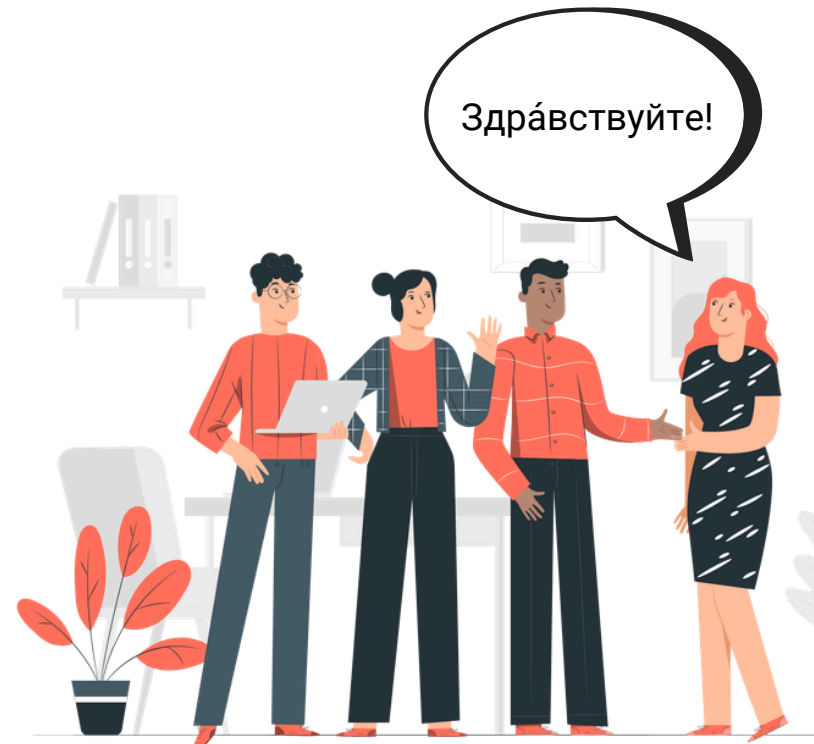
Can be used with:

- Officials (police, social workers);
- Other types of service workers (cafe, shops);
- Elderly people (respect);
- Colleagues, boss (depends on organization).

- **Дóброе ўтро** [дóбрай'э Утра] - **Good morning**.
Used in the mornings until 12 pm

- **Дóбрый день** [дóбрый д'Эн'] - **Good afternoon**.
Used starting from 12 pm

- **Дóбрый вѣчер** [дóбрый в'Эч'ир] - **Good evening**. Used in the evenings starting from 6 pm



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Привѐтствие | Greetings

- **Здра́сьте** [здрАс'т'э] - Hello

Used a lot in oral speech as it sounds less formal than **Здра́вствуйте**. Don't use it in written speech.

Can be used with:

- Colleagues;
- Strangers (officials, workers, etc.)

Try to avoid using this greeting for official meetings and presentations

- **Здра́вствуй** [здрАствуй] - Hello / Hi

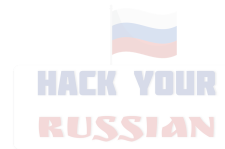
It is rather an informal Russian greeting and one of the forms of **Здра́вствуйте**. It is rarely used in speech nowadays. Can be used to address acquaintances and persons you don't know well. Instead of **Здра́вствуй**, it is better to use a word **Привѐт** with young people and people you know well.

Tip: Natives prefer to use 'здрасьте' instead of 'здравствуйте', so feel free to use it as well, you will sound more natural.



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Привѐтствие | Greetings



- **Привѐт** [пр'ив'Эт] - Hi.

It is the most popular informal greeting.

Can be used with:

- Friends, family members, groupmates;
- Good acquaintances;
- Neighbours of your age or younger;
- Colleagues of your age or younger;
- Children

In a group of people of your age it is more natural to use informal greetings like привет.

- **Здорóво / здарóва** [здарОва] - Hey

It's a slang greeting usually used by men. English equivalent = Hey man! Used mostly by men. Women can use it as well but it sounds rude.

Don't address it to women, officials and elderly people.



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- **Какіе люди!** [как'Ий'э л'Уд'и] - [That's you!](#)

Used when one unexpectedly meets a friend, a family member or a close acquaintance. Can also be used as a sarcastic way to show that you are surprised to see somebody.

- **Когó я вїжу!** [каво й'а в'Ижу] - [Look who is here!](#)

Used when one is surprised to see a person (can be ironic). Can be addressed to a friend, a family member, a close acquaintance, colleague.

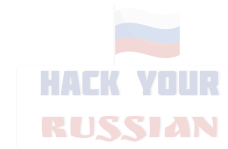
- **Скóлько лет, скóлько зим** [скОл'ка л'эт скОл'ка з'им] - [Long time no see.](#)

Used when one hasn't seen a person for a really long time. Can be addressed to a friend, a family member, a close acquaintance, colleague.



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Привѣтствие | Greetings



- **Какáя встрѣча!** [какАй'а фстр'Эча]

What a lucky meeting!

Used when one is surprised to see a person (unexpected meeting).

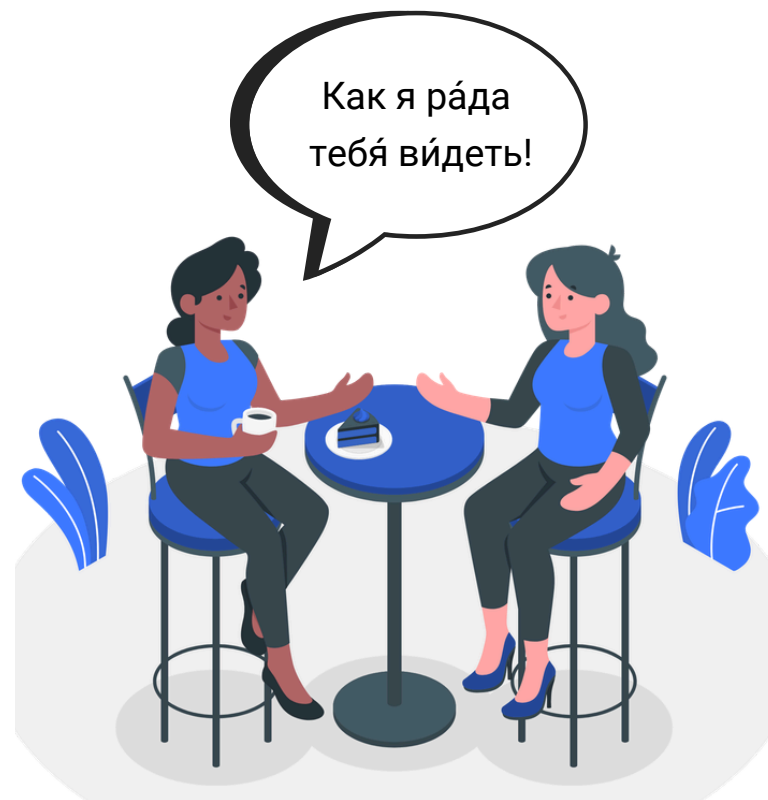
- **Как я рад (m) / рада (f) тебѣ видѣть**

[как й'а рад т'иб'А в'Ид'ит']

How happy I am to see you!

To show how happy you are to see somebody (can be said with sarcasm).

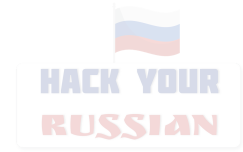
Formal version is "**Как я рад(а) вас видѣть**"



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Click here to test how well you remember these different ways to greet in Russian.

Как дела́? | How are you?



- **Как дела́?** [как д'илА] - [How are you?](#)

It is the most popular way to ask "How are you?" in Russian. It is rather informal than formal and you should avoid using this form with: strangers (Ex. social workers); elderly people (if you don't know them well); people in authority (your boss, professors. etc.)

- **Как тво́й дела́?** [как тваИ д'илА] - [How are you doing?](#)

It is another informal and more personal variation of "Как дела?"

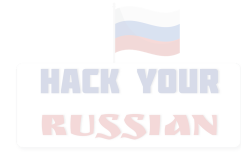
You can use this expression with: friends, family members and good acquaintances; colleagues; children

- **Как ва́ши де́ла?** [как ваШы д'илА] - [How are you doing?](#)

It is a formal and very polite variation of "Как дела?"

You can use this expression with: strangers (Ex. social workers, officials, etc.); colleagues older than you; people in authority (your boss, professors, etc.); elderly people

Как дела? | How are you?



- **Как ты?** - [What's up?](#)

It is a casual and short variation of "Как дела?"

You can use this expression with:

- Friends, family members and good acquaintances;
- Colleagues not older than you;
- Children

- **Как вы?** is a formal variation of "Как ты?"

It can also be addressed to a group of people.

This expression is less formal than "Как ваши дела?"

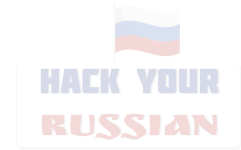
You can use this expression with:

- People you don't know well;
- Colleagues older than you;
- People in authorities (your boss, professors, etc.)



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Как дела? | How are you?



- **Как сам (m) / самá (f)** [каксам(а)]

And you?

It is a common casual follow-up question after responding to somebody's question "Как дела?" or its other version.

You can use this expression with:

- Friends, family members and good acquaintances;
- Colleagues not older than you;

Other version of a follow-up question

- **У тебя как?** - [у т'иб'А как] - *And you?*

Ex. - Привёт! Как дела?

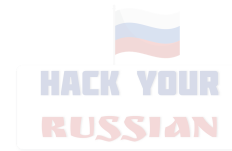
- Спасúбо, хорошó. У тебя как?



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click here](#) to watch more examples

Как дела? | How are you?



- **Что новóго?** [што нОвава] - *What's new?*

It is a casual expression that is usually used when you haven't seen a person for some time and you enquire about his/her news

You can use this expression with:

- Friends, family members and good acquaintances;
- Colleagues and other types of acquaintances

- **Ничегó новóго** [н'ич'иво нОвава] - *No news*

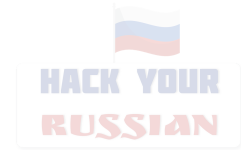
It is a common answer to the question "Что новóго?" if a person doesn't have any news (or doesn't want to share)

Short, super casual versions of "Ничегó новóго" are **ничегó, ничё новóго, ничё**



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Как дела? | How are you?



- **Как жизнь?** [как жыз'н'] - [How is life?](#)

It is a casual way to ask "Как дела?" More popular among men. It may sound a little dramatic and outdated. You can use this expression with:

- Friends, family members and good acquaintances;
- Colleagues not older than you;
- Elderly people.

- **Как поживаешь?** [как пажывАй'иш] - [How is life?](#)

It is a less casual and more polite version of "Как жизнь?" You can use this expression with:

- Good acquaintances;
- Friends (may sound a little outdated);
- Colleagues.

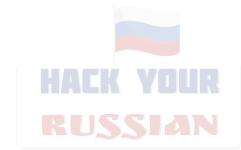
A formal version of "Как поживаЕШЬ?" is

"Как поживаЕТЕ?" [как пажывАит'э]



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Как дела? | How are you?



There are many different ways to Как дела? in Russian. The most common ones are **хорошо** and **нормально**.

However, if a Russian person replies to you one of these without any other details, most likely that they just feel that you are not really interested and they don't want to bother you.

Note that some words can be reduced in speech. **Нормально** is usually pronounced as just **норм**, **нормик** or even **нормуль**, **ничего** as **ничё**

WAYS TO RESPOND TO “КАК ДЕЛА?”



POSITIVE

Лучше всех!
Couldn't be better

Отлично!
Excellent

Замечательно!
Great

Прекрасно!
Perfect

Хорошо
Fine

Ничего
Ok / so-so

Нормально
Ok



NEGATIVE

Пойдёт
So-so

Неплохо
Not bad

Так себе
No great things

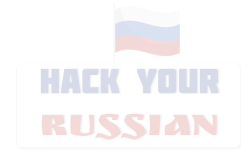
Могло быть и лучше
Could be better

Плохо
Bad

Ужасно
Terrible



Как дела? | How are you?



There are also lots of slang ways to respond to Как дела? in Russian. But be careful as some of them are really rude. The most common negative words are **капéц**, **пипéц** and **пиздéц**.

Капéц or пипéц

Meaning - it is **a disaster, the end**

It is not a swear word and young people use it a lot in different contexts.

Пиздéц

Meaning - **a complete disaster**.

Be careful, it is a strong swear word.

WAYS TO RESPOND TO “КАК ДЕЛА?”



POSITIVE

Офигенно
Awesome

Супер
Super

Зашибись
Super cool (can also be negative)

Круто
Cool

Все пучком
Everything is great

SLANG



NEGATIVE

Фигово
It sucks

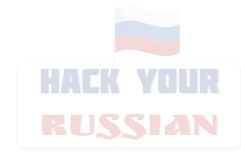
Хреново
Really shitty

Паршиво
Really shitty

Пиздец
F***ed up!
This is a rude word, but Russian people use it quite often



Прощание | Goodbye



- **До свидания** [дасв'идАн'йа] - Goodbye

Meaning: [Until we meet again](#)

Can be used both in formal and informal situations.

Sounds a little too formal if used with:

- Close friends;
- Family members, except for elderly people;
- Colleagues of your age.

- **Всего́ дóброго** [фс'ивО дОбрава] - All the best

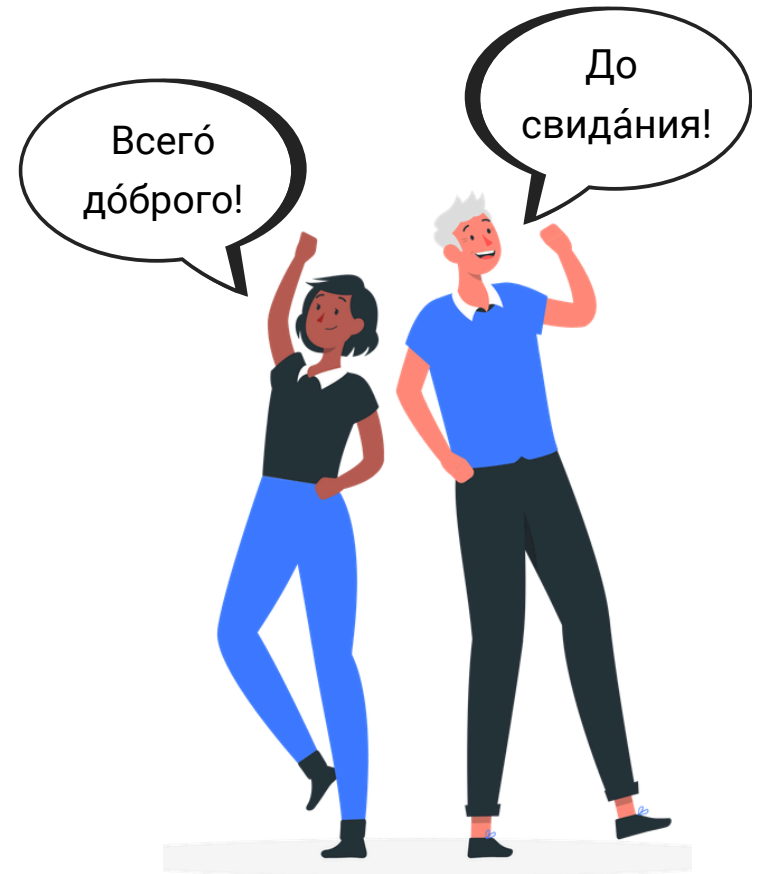
Meaning: [All the best, God bless you, have a nice day](#)

A formal and very polite way to end a phone call, a meeting and any other social interactions.

Can be used with:

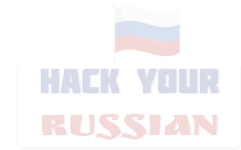
- Strangers, service workers;
- Acquaintances;
- Customers, audience.

Another form : **всего́ хорóшего** [фс'ивО харОшыва]



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Прощание | Goodbye



- **Прощай** [пращАй] - Farewell

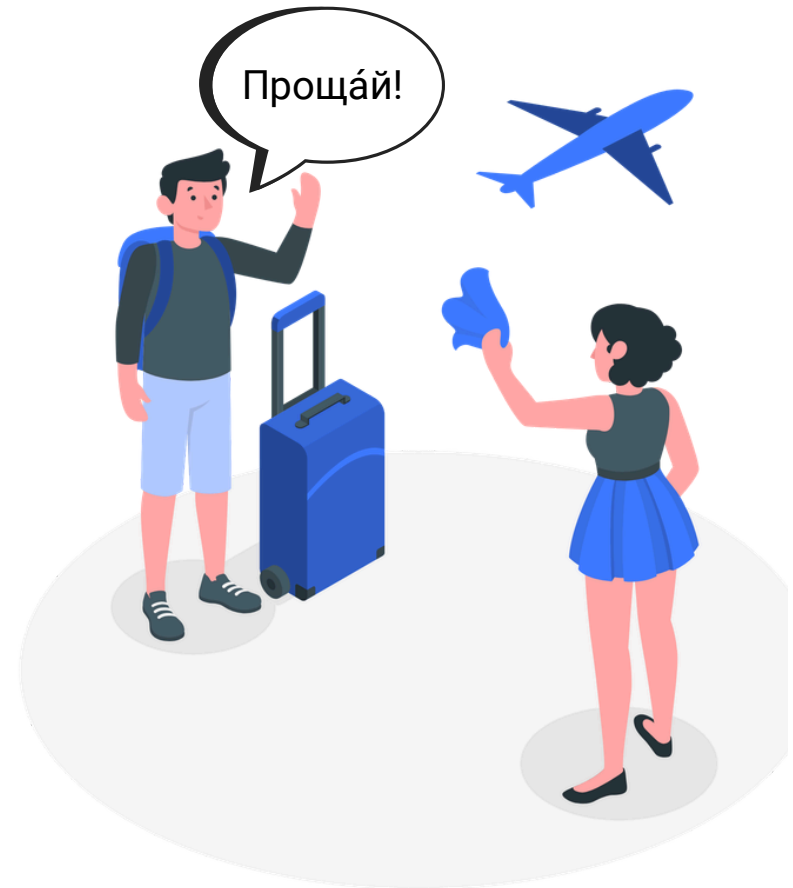
Meaning: Farewell, goodbye forever

Mostly formal, emotional and dramatic way to show that one is leaving for a long time (or forever). It is not used in daily conversations but you can hear/see it in movies, books and songs.

- **До скорой встречи!** [даскОрай фстр'Эч'и]
See you soon

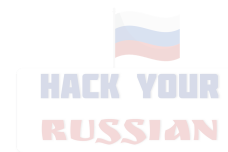
Meaning: see you soon, see you later. Can be used both in formal and informal situations. Use it when you know that you will see a person again soon.

- A short form of "До скорой встречи" -
До скорого [даскОрава] - **See you soon**



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Прощание | Goodbye



- **Пока́** [пакА] - Bye

This is the most popular informal way to say goodbye. Can be used with:

- Friends, good acquaintances;
- Family members, except for elderly people (depends) and children.

"Пока́" is often accompanied with a word "Дава́й" [davái]. Давай = *let's*

Ex.: Ну ладно, дава́й пока́! (Ok then, bye!)

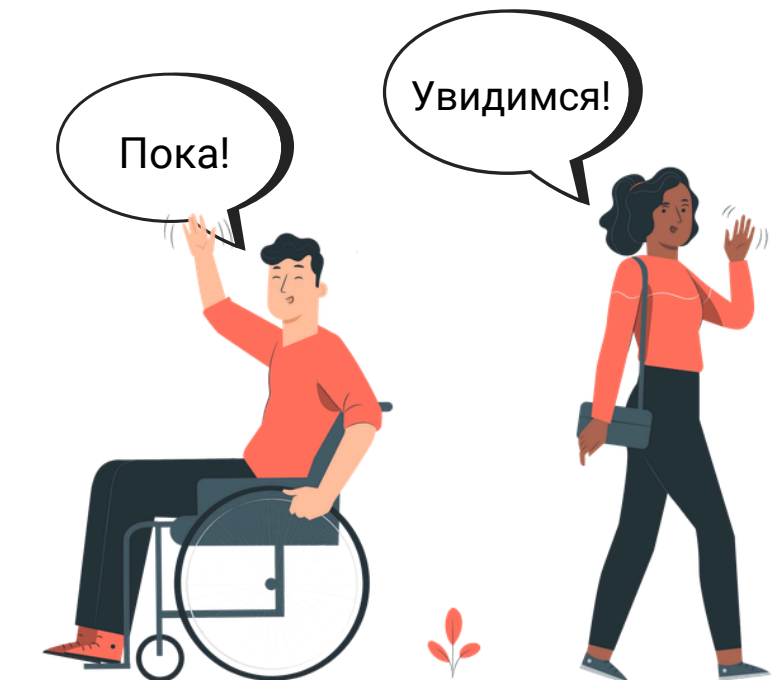
Russian people also often use just a word ДАВАЙ to say goodbye (very informal)

Ex.: - До скóрого! (See you soon)

- Ага, дава́й! (Sure, bye)

- **Уви́димся** [ув'Ид'имс'а] - See you

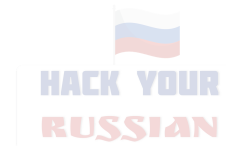
Meaning: *see you, hope to see you again*. It shows your intention to see a person again next time.



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click here](#) to check yourself

Привлечь внимание | Get someone's attention



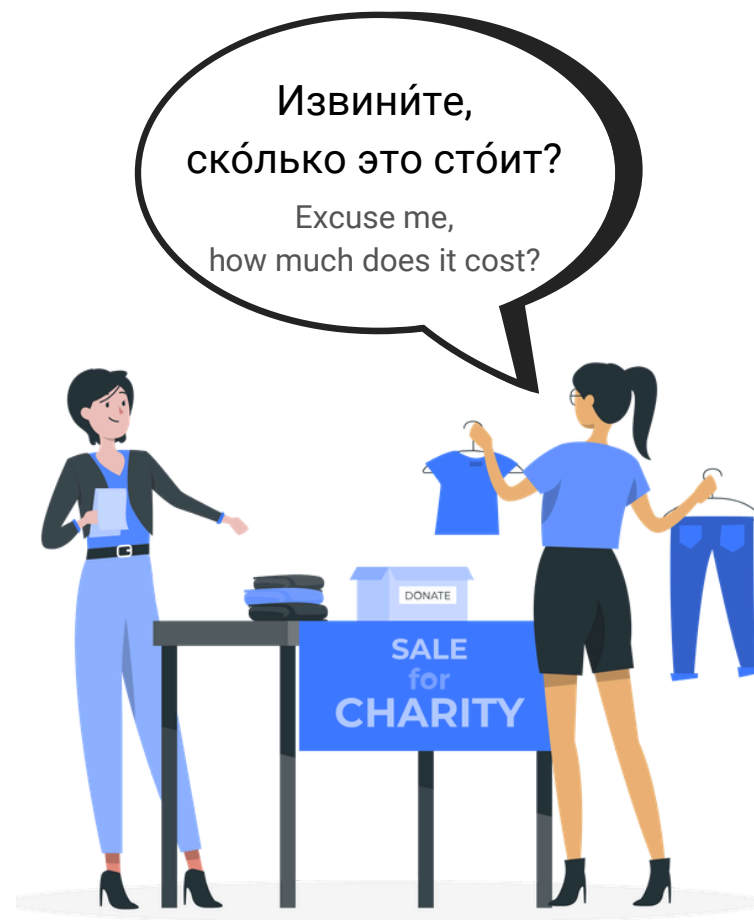
- **Извините** [изв'ин'ит'э] - **Excuse me**

It is a polite and formal way to get someone's attention. It is impersonal and can be used to get attention of any person or people whose names you don't know. It is usually followed by a request or a question.

- **Простите** [прас'т'ит'э] - **I beg your pardon**

It is another polite and formal way to get someone's attention. It has a stronger meaning and shows that one is really sorry to bother another person.

Note that a word **простите** is also used when one feels sorry about something already done and he/she wants to apologize for that.



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Привлечь внимание | Get someone's attention

- **Можно вас?** [мОжна вас] - *May I have a word with you?*

It is a polite and formal way to get someone's attention. It can be used either separately or be followed after another expression like **извините** and **простите**.

Извините (пожалуйста)

Простите (пожалуйста)

Можно вас?

These expressions can be used with any strangers, service workers. They are impersonal and polite.

You can also add a verb infinitive in its perfective form after **можно вас**. *Ex.: Можно вас спросить?*

(Can I ask you a question?)



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Find constructions to use when you want to ask for something (to buy, to change, to order, to book, etc.) on the page № 39



Gender-specific ways to address a female stranger



- **Дéвушка** [д'Эвушка] - [Young lady](#)

It is the most common way to address a woman whose name you don't know: shop assistant, waitress, female bypasser and so on.

- **Жéнщина** [жЭн'щина] - [Woman](#)

Nobody knows when it is ok to call a woman **жéнщина**.

This word has rather a negative nature as it refers to the age and implies that a woman does not look young anymore.

- **Ба́бушка** [бАбушка] - [Old lady / grandmother](#)

It can be used to address an old lady (approximately starting from the age of 70). There are other different forms of this word to address to old ladies.

- **Дéвочка** [д'Эвачка] - [Girl \(child\)](#)

Some elderly Russian ladies can address young ladies as **дóчка** ([daughter](#)) in a friendly way.



Gender-specific ways to address a male stranger



- **Молодой человек** [маладОй ч'илав'Эк] - [Young man](#)

It is the most common way to address a man whose name you don't know: shop assistant, waiter, male bystander and so on.

- Other variations of МОЛОДОЙ ЧЕЛОВЕК (better not to use to address, slang):

Парень [пАр'ин'], **Паренёк** [пар'ин'Ок] - [a guy](#).

- **Мужчина** [мущИна] - [Man](#)

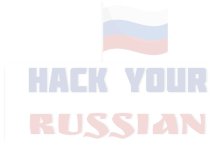
It can be addressed to a middle-aged man. However, any middle-aged man would take as a compliment to be addressed as МОЛОДОЙ ЧЕЛОВЕК instead of МУЖЧИНА

- **Дедушка** [д'Эдушка] - [Old man / grandfather](#)

It can be used to address an old man (approximately starting from the age of 70)

- **Мальчик** [мАл'ч'ик] - [Boy](#). As for kids, they can address middle-aged and old men as "**дядя**" [д'Ад'а] (literally - [uncle](#)) in a friendly way.

Привлечь внимание | Get someone's attention



- **Господи́н** [гаспад'Ин] - **Mister**.

It is mainly used in official correspondence.

Can also be used in speech to address:

- high officials (Господин президент);
- some people in authority;
- business communication.

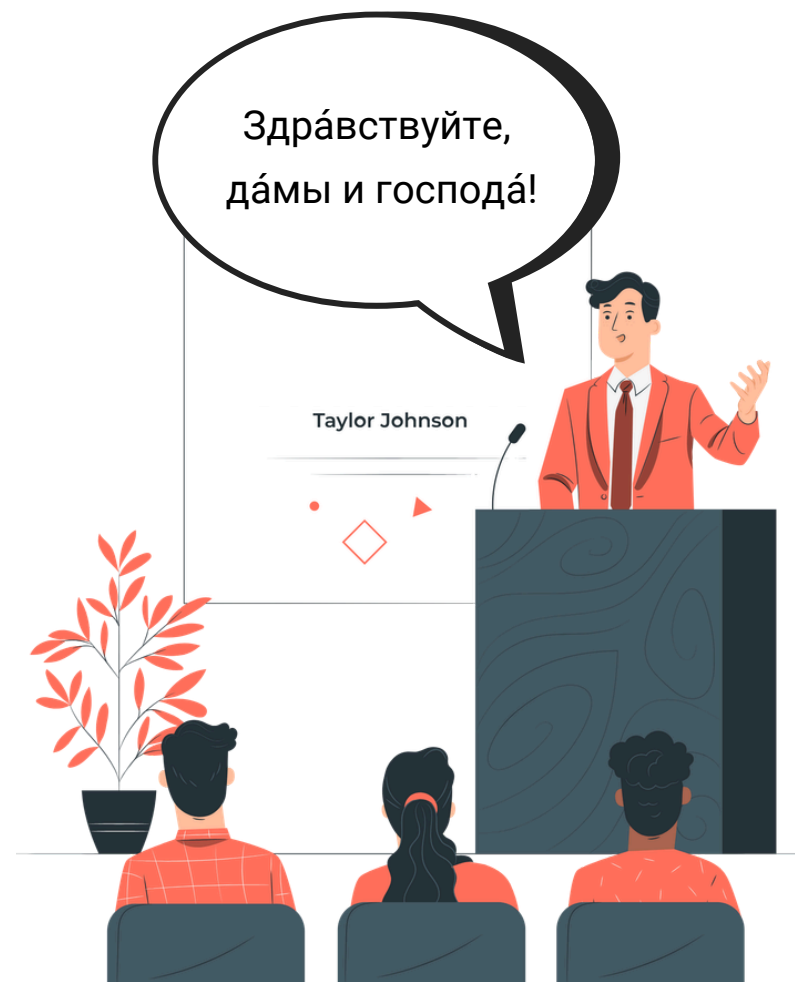
Female form of **Господи́н** is **Госпожа́** (Missus) mainly used in official correspondence.

- **Да́мы и господа́** [дАмы игаспадА] - **Ladies and Gentlemen**.

It is used to address an audience of people.

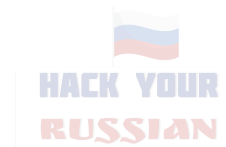
Да́мы и господа́ is usually used at concerts, official meetings, conferences, public events.

[Click here](#) to watch more examples



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Привлечь внимание | Get someone's attention



- **Ребята** [р'иб'Ата] - **guys**. Can be addressed to:

- A group of your friends or acquaintances;
- A group of children (whether you know them or not);
- Several young people you don't know

It is commonly used to address children at school or students at university

- **Молодые люди** [малады'э л'Уд'и] - **young people**.

It is a less common and more formal way to address to a group of young people you don't know (both women and men).

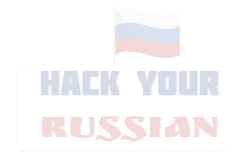
- **Товарищ** [тава'рищ] - **comrade**. This word was used in Soviet times as unisex and democratic way of addressing people in order to eliminate all social and gender differences. No longer used in everyday speech. Only used by military men (with ranks).



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click here](#) to check yourself

Просьба | Request



We use the Accusative case in different types of requests (in shops, restaurants, hotels, train stations, etc.). This page is taken from the [Guide to the Russian Accusative case](#).

Я бы хотёл I would like to (m.)	забронировать стóлик на book a table for	одногó человекá
Я бы хотела I would like to (f.)	зарезервировать стóлик на reserve a table for	двух человек
Мóжно (мне) May I ...		трёх человек
		пять человек

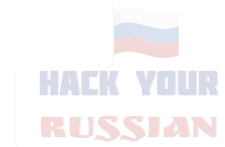
If you arrived to the restaurant but you haven't reserved a table in advance, you should use the same constructions without a verb.

Ех.: Я бы **хотёл** **стóлик на** **одногó** человекá
(I would like a table for one person)

In order to inform a waiter about your booking, use this phrase:

У меня / у нас **заказан** **стóлик на** **íмя** (+ your name)
(I / we have a reservation under the name of ...)

Просьба | Request



We use the Accusative case in different types of requests (in shops, restaurants, hotels, train stations, etc.). This page is taken from the [Guide to the Russian Accusative case](#).

Ok, you have your table. What to do next? To look at the menu and order some food for sure!

Я бы хотёл
I would like to (m.)

Я бы хотела
I would like to (f.)

Можно (мне)
May I ...

посмотреть **меню**
see the menu

заказать ... + **dish in the Accusative case**
order

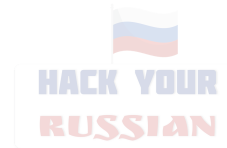
Instead of these constructions, you can also use a word 'взять' (to take) in the future tense.

Look at the construction:

Я возьмú + **dish in the Accusative case**

Ex.: Я **возьмú** Греческий салат и пиццу.
I will take a Greek salad and a pizza

Просьба | Request



We use the Accusative case in different types of requests (in shops, restaurants, hotels, train stations, etc.). This page is taken from the [Guide to the Russian Accusative case](#).

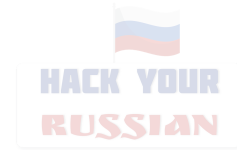
Here are the phrases that you can use **at shops**

Я бы хотёл I would like to (m.)	купить buy	эту юбку (f.) this skirt
Я бы хотела I would like to (f.)	померить try on	этот шарф (m.) this scarf
Можно (мне) May I ...	вернуть return back	это пальто (n.) this coat
	поменять change	эти туфли (pl.) these shoes

When you are ready to buy something, you can also use a word 'взять' (to take) in the future tense. Look at the construction:

Я возьмú / я берú + a thing in the Accusative case

Вежливые слова | Polite phrases



- **Спасибо** [спас'Иба] - Thank (you)

It is the most common way to thank someone in Russian (both formal/informal). The word **спасибо** comes from the saying "Спаси (тебя) Бог" which means "God save you". You can also add an adjective **больше** [бал'шОй'э] (big) to say that you are really grateful to someone.

- **Благодарю** (blagadaryú) - Thank you / I am grateful

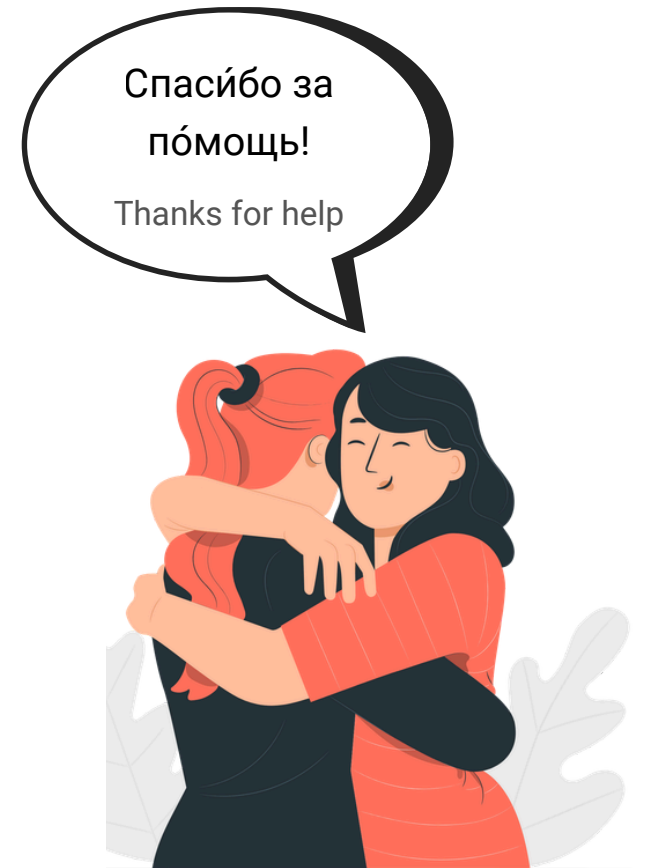
It is a very formal way to say "thank you". You can also add pronouns to make it sound more personal:

Благодарю тебя [благодар'У т'иб'А] (informal)

Благодарю вас [благодар'У вас] (formal/plural)

This word consists of two parts:

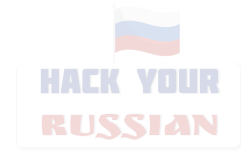
благо + **дарю** - I give you goodness



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Click here to watch a full explanation

Вежливые слова | Polite phrases



- **Не за что** [н'Эзашта] - *Not at all! / It's nothing*

It is a common but controversial way to respond to **спасибо**. Literal meaning: there is nothing to thank me for.

- **Пожалуйста** [пажАлста] - *You are welcome*

It is the most common and polite way to respond to **спасибо**. You don't need to respond anything after someone said to you a word **пожалуйста** (You are welcome).

- **На здоровье** [наздарОв'й'э] - *My pleasure*

If you heard from somewhere that we use this expression before drinking vodka, it's not true. We use this expression as one of the ways to respond to **спасибо**. Direct translation: *'for your health'* meaning that you hope that a person will benefit from that.



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Вежливые слова | Polite phrases

The word **пожáлуйста** has several meanings and serves different roles in speech:

- 1) A way to respond to **спаси́бо**. Equivalent to "You're welcome"
- 2) A way to politely ask for smth. Equivalent to an English "Please".
- 3) A polite way to give a permission. Equivalent to "Go ahead if you want", "Sure, go ahead"
- 4) A polite way to pass something. Equivalent to "Here you are", "Here you go". A long version - "Возьми́(те), пожáлуйста" - *Take it, please*



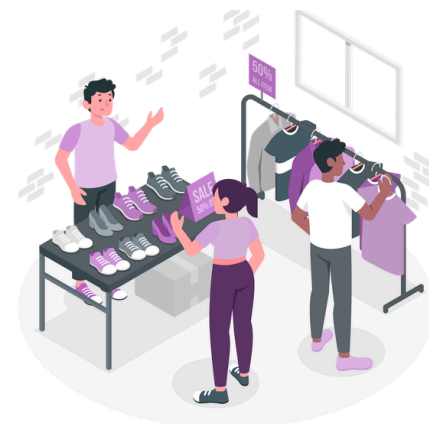
Вот, пожáлуйста,
ключи́ от кварти́ры

Here you are, the keys
from the flat



Пожáлуйста,
вас ожида́ют в гостини́це

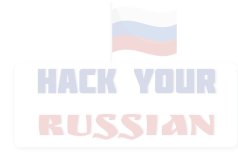
Go ahead,
you are awaited at the hotel



Пожáлуйста, подáйте мне
те бе́лые ке́ды

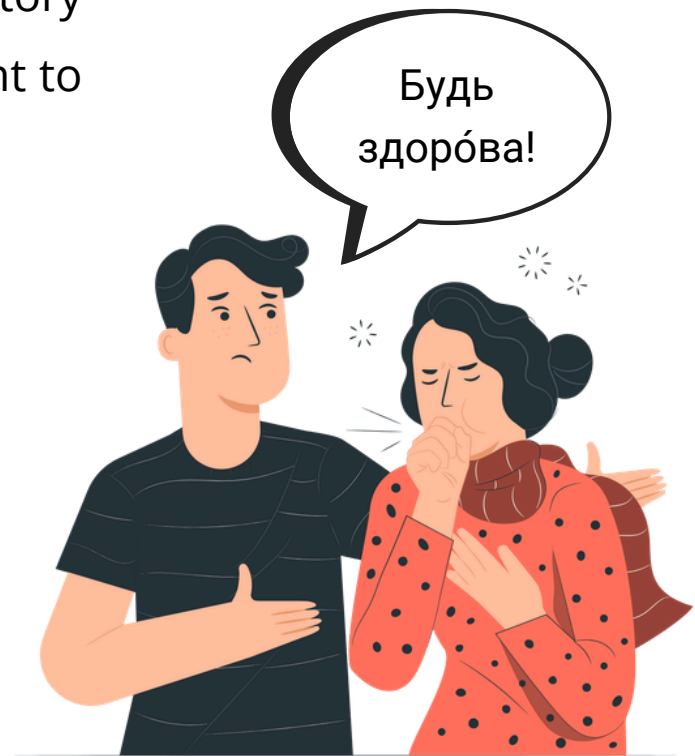
Please, giive me those
white gumshoes

Вежливые слова | Polite phrases



While in some cultures it is polite to pretend that you don't hear when someone sneezes or it is not obligatory to say anything, for Russian people, it is very important to wish a good health to a person who sneezed.

- **Будьте здоро́вы** [бУд'т'э здарОвы] -
Bless you (formal / plural)
- **Будь здоро́в** [буд' здарОв] -
Bless you (informal / address to a man)
- **Будь здоро́ва** [буд' здарОва] -
Bless you (informal / address to a woman)

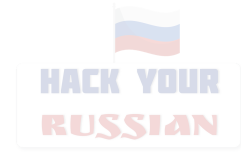


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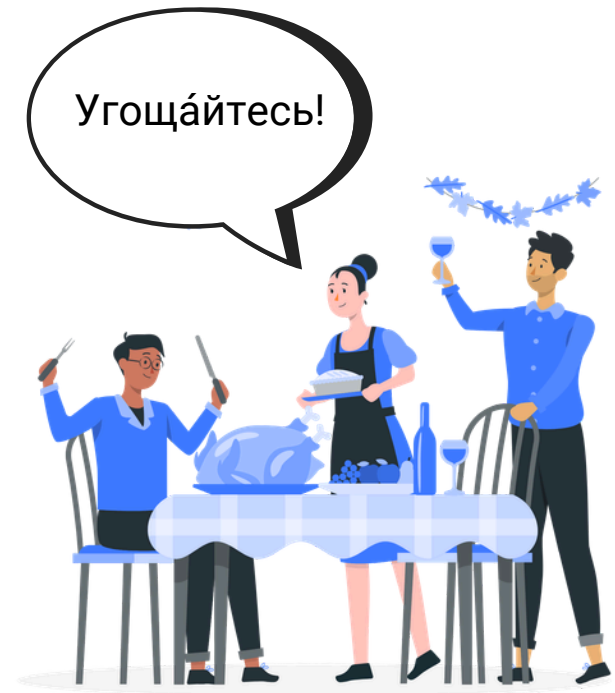
And the person who sneezed just need to reply

- **Спаси́бо!** [спасИба] - **Thank you**

В гостях | Being a guest

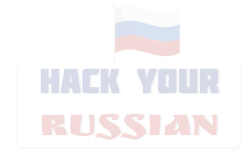


- **Добрó пожа́ловать** [дабрО пажАлават'] - Welcome
- **Чу́вствуй(те) себя́ как до́ма** - [чуСтвуй(т'э) сиб'А как доМа] - Make yourself at home
- **Угоща́йся** (informal) [угащАйс'а] - Help yourself / taste
- **Угоща́йтесь** (formal / plural) [угащАйт'эс'] - Help yourself / taste smth
- **Спаси́бо за тёплый приё́м** [спасИба за т'Опльй прий'Ом] - Thank you for your hospitality
- **Всё́ было́ о́чень вку́сно** [вс'о была́ Очин' вкусна] - Everything was delicious
- **Извини́те, мне пора́ уходи́ть** [извинИт'э мн'э парА ухадИт'] - Sorry, it's time for me to leave



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Хвалить | To praise



- **Молодѐц** [маладЭц] - [Well done](#)
- **Умница** [Умница] - [Good / smart girl](#)
- **Кру́то!** [крУто] - [Cool](#)
- **Ну ты даёшь!** [нуты дай'Ош] - [You rock!](#)

You might also notice that men can praise each other by using a word **красавчик** [красАфчик].

Direct meaning: [a handsome man](#).

Slang meaning (praise): [You rock man!](#)

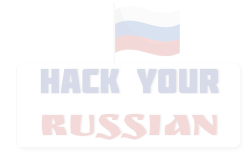
- **Ты мужи́к** [ты мужЫк] - [You are a real man](#) (only in informal situations)
- **Жжѐшь!** [жжОш] - [You rock](#) (this one is a pure slang). Direct translation - [Your burn it!](#)



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click to watch examples](#)

Желать удачи | To wish good luck



- **Уда́чи!** [удАчи] - **Good luck!**

It is the most common and short way to wish someone good luck. You can personalize it by adding a pronoun

Ex.: Удачи тебе! (informal)

Удачи вам! (formal / plural)

- **Ни пúха ни перá** [нипУха нипирА]

Break a leg / Fingers crossed

Direct translation: **neither fur nor feather**

It is an outdated wish of good luck to someone.

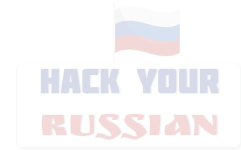
Has to be answered with “к чёрту!” (lit. – **to the devil**)



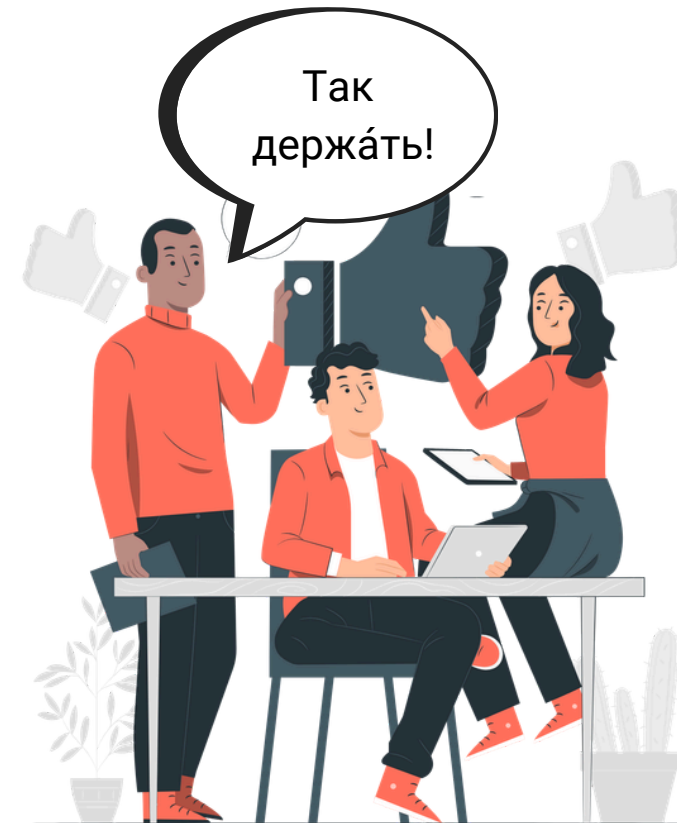
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Подбадривать | To cheer up



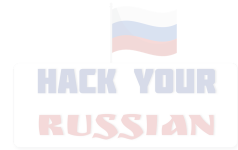
- **Всё б́удет хоро́шО** [фс'о бУдит харашО]
[Everything will be alright](#)
- **Ты смóжешь!** [ты смОжыш] [You can do it!](#)
"Ты смóжешь" implies that a person is capable of doing something physically and mentally.
- **У тебя́ всё полу́чится** [утиб'А фс'о палУчица]
- [You will do great!](#)
Formal / Plural form is "**У вас всё полу́чится**"
[увАс фс'о палУчица]
- **Держи́сь** [диржЫс'] - [Hang tight](#)
Formal / Plural form - **Держи́тесь** [диржЫтис']
- **Так держáть** [так диржАт'] - [Keep it up](#)



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click to watch examples](#)

Подбадривать | To cheer up



- **Продолжай в том же духе** [прадалжАй фТОмжэ дУх'э] - **Keep it going** (informal)
- **Продолжайте в том же духе** [прадалжАйт'э фТОмжэ дУх'э] - **Keep it going** (plural / formal)
- **Не сдавайся** [низдавАйса] - **Don't give up**
It is a way to boost someone's morale when you see that a person wants to give up.
Formal / Plural form - **Не сдавайтесь**
[низдавАйт'эс']
- **Не отчаивайся** [ниатчАивайс'а] - **Don't despair**. Formal / Plural form - **Не отчаивайтесь** [ниатчАивайт'эс'].



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

[Click to watch examples](#)

Не переживай! | Don't worry!

Here are different ways to calm someone down or to put someone's mind at ease:

Не пережива́й [нипирижывАй] - **Don't worry** (Singular, informal)

Не пережива́йте [нипирижывАйт'э] - **Don't worry** (Plural and / or formal)

Успоко́йся [успакОйс'а] - **Calm down** (Singular, informal)

Успоко́йтесь [успакОйт'эс'] - **Calm down** (Plural / formal)

Не беспоко́йся [нибиспакОйс'а] - **Take it easy** (Singular, informal)

Не беспоко́йтесь [нибиспакОйт'эс'] - **Take it easy** (Plural / formal)

Не волну́йся [нивалнУйс'а] - **Take it easy** (Singular, informal)

Не волну́йтесь [нивалнУйт'эс'] - **Take it easy** (Plural / formal)

Возьми́ себя́ в ру́ки [ваз'ми сиб'А врУки] - **Pull yourself together** (Singular, informal)

Возьмите́ себя́ в ру́ки [ваз'мит'э сиб'А врУки] - **Pull yourself together** (Plural / formal)

Не па́рься! [нипАр'с'а] - Literal translation: **Don't sweat it = Take it easy** (Slang, very informal)

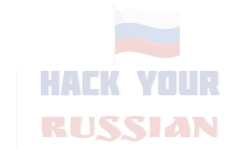
Забéй [заб'Эй] - Literal translation: **Beat dead = Forget about it** (Slang, very informal)

Наплю́й на э́то! [напл'Уй наЭта] - Literal translation: **spit on it = Forget about it** (Slang)

Осты́нь! [астын'] - Literal translation: **cool down = Chill out** (Slang, very informal)

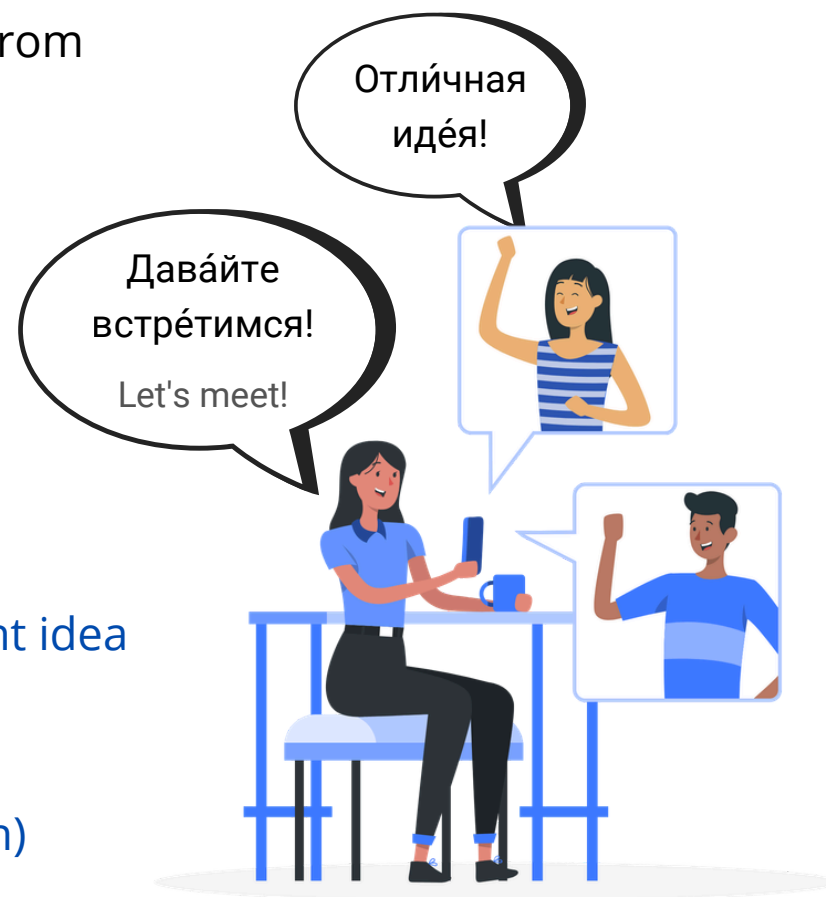
Find more expressions with examples **in this video**.

Согласие | Consent



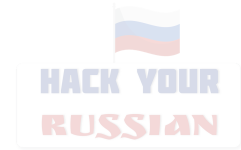
There are several ways to say 'Yes' in Russian apart from a well-known **Да**. Here are some good alternatives:

- **Ла́дно** [лАдна] - *Fine*
- **Хорошо́** [харашо] - *Good*
- **Конечно́** [кан'Эшна] - *Of course*
- **Идёт** [ид'От] - *alright, deal*
- **Отличная идея́** [атличнай'а ид'Эй'а] - *Excellent idea*
- **Я согла́сен** [й'а саглАсин] - *I agree (for a man)*
- **Я согла́сна** [й'а саглАсна] - *I agree (for a woman)*
- **Договори́лись** [дагаварилис'] - *It's a deal, we agreed*
- **С удово́льствием** [судавОл'ствий'эм] - *With pleasure*
- **Почему́ бы и нет?** [пачимУбы ин'Эт] - *Why not?*



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Отказ | Refusal



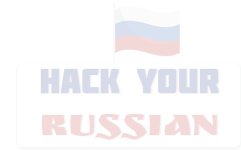
There are several ways say 'No' in Russian apart from a well-known **Нет**. Here are some good alternatives:

- **Меня́ это́ не интересу́ет** [мина́ Э́та ниинтирисУйт] - I am not into this stuff
- **Ни за что́** [низаштО] - Not in a million years.
- **Ни в ко́ем слúчае** [нифкОйим слУчии] - By no means
- **Не́тушки** [нЭтушки] - No way!
- **Плоха́я идéя** [плахАйа ид'Эй'а] - Bad idea
- **Я не уве́рен** [й'а ниувЭрин] - I am not sure (for a man)
- **Я не уве́рена** [й'а ниувЭрина] - I am not sure (for a woman)
- **Нет желáния** [нэт жылАнийа] - I have no desire
- **Я не хочú** [йа нихачУ] - I don't want to
- **Неохóта** [ниахОта] - I don't feel like



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Общение | Interactions



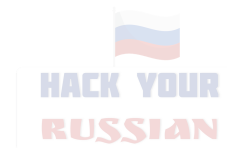
There are some common words and phrases we use when interact in informal situations (friends, family):

- **Дай подумать** [дай паДУмат'] - [Let me think](#)
- **Представляешь?** [притставл'Ай'иш] - [Can you imagine?](#)
- **Прикинь!** [прикиН'] - [Guess what!](#)
- **Прикол** [прикОл] - [dope \(funny thing\)](#)
- **Такие вот дела** [такИЙ'эвот дилА] - [That's what it is](#)
- **Без проблем** [б'эспрабл'Эм] - [No problem](#)
- **Блин** - [Damn](#) (This is a euphemism of a strong Russian curse word. But this word itself is not a bad word, it means a pancake. We usually use it when smth goes wrong)
- **Пипец** [пип'Эц] - [This sucks](#) (it is supposed to be a stronger swear word but it is not, people use it a lot). You can learn more on these words [here](#).
- **Короче, ...** [карОчэ] - [In brief](#)
- **Это ужасно!** [этА ужАсна] - [That's awful!](#)



- **Что случи́лось?** [штО случИлас'] - *What's happened?*
- **В чём де́ло?** [фчОм д'Эла] - *What's the matter?*
- **Что происхо́дит?** [штО праисхОдит] - *What's going on? / What's happening?*
- **Как всё прошлó?** [как фс'О прашлО] - *How was it?*
- **Да уж** [дАуш] - *Oh dear / well* (can express vexation or irony)
- **Вот оно́ что!** [вот аНО штО] - *oh, I see! / that's how it is*
- **Всякое быва́ет** [всАкайэ бывАйэт] - *Things happen*
- **Кто бы мог подúмать!** [ктобымОк падУмат'] - *What do you know! / Go figure*
- **Так вот в чём де́ло!** [таквОт фчОм д'Эла] - *So that's where the trouble lies!*
- **Извини́, я прослу́шал(а)** [извинИ йа праслушал(а)] - *Sorry, I wasn't listening.*
- **На чём мы остано́вились?** [начОм мы астанавИлис'] - *Where were we?*
- **Мóжно зада́ть вам вопро́с?** [мОжна задАт' вапрОс] - *May I ask you a question?*
- **Как ты дúмаешь?** [кАкты дУмайиш] - *What do you think?*

Пожелания | Wishes



When you wish something to a person, you need to use a Genitive case even when the verb 'желать' (to wish) is not used as it is just omitted. Here are some of the most common wishes in Russian where the verb 'желать' is usually omitted (see [the Guide to the Genitive case](#)).

Приятно**го** аппетита! - Bon Appetit! / Enjoy your meal!

Счастливо**го** пути! - Have a good / happy trip! / Счастливо**й** доро**ги**! - Wish you a safe trip

Счастливо**го** полёта! - Have a good flight!

Добро**го** / Отлично**го** дня! - Have a good / great day! / Отлично**й** неде**ли**! - Have a great week!

Хоро**ших** / замечательных выходных! - Have a great / wonderful weekend!

Отлично**го** отдыха! - Have a great rest!

Прекрасно**го** вечера! - Have a wonderful evening!

Спокойно**й** но**чи**! - Have a good night! / Приятных снов! - Have pleasant dreams!

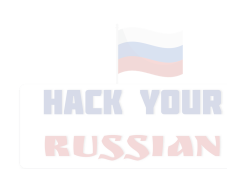
Всего хоро**шего** / добро**го**! - Wish you all the good things!

Всего наилуч**шего**! - Wish you all the best! / Всех благ! - All the best / Take care

Уда**чи**! - Good luck! / Ни пуха ни пера! - Good luck! (idiomatic)

Скорей**шего** выздоровления! - Wish you a quick recovery!

Безразличие | Indifference



Here are different ways to show your indifference in regards to something or someone:

Мне всё равно [мн'э фс'о равнО] - *It's all equal to me, I don't care* (Both formal and informal)

Мне безразлично [мн'э бизразлична] - *It makes no difference to me* (Rather formal)

Мне без разницы [мн'э бизрАзницы] - *There is no difference to me* (Both formal and informal)

Мне неважно [мн'э нивАжна] - *I don't care, it's not important to me* (Both formal and informal)

Меня не волнует [мин'А нивалнУй'эт] - *I couldn't care less* (Both formal and informal)

И что? [и што] - *So what?* - (Both formal and informal)

А мне-то что? [а мн'Эта што] - *Why should I care?* (Quite rude (depends on the context))

Мне фиолётово [мн'э фиал'Этава] - *I don't care at all* (Idiomatic)

Мне параллельно [мн'э парал'Эл'на] - *I don't care at all* (Idiomatic)

Мне по барабану [мн'э пабарабАну] - *I couldn't care less* (Idiomatic. Quite rude)

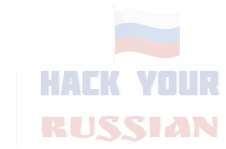
Мне до лампочки [мн'э далАмпачки] - *I couldn't care less* (Idiomatic)

Мне плевать [мн'э пливАт'] - *I don't give a f**** (Very rude)

Мне пофиг [мн'э пОфик] or **Мне пофигу** [мн'э пОфигу] - *I don't give a damn* (Slang)

Find examples of using these expressions in [this video](#)

Комплименты | Compliments



Compliments on someone's look

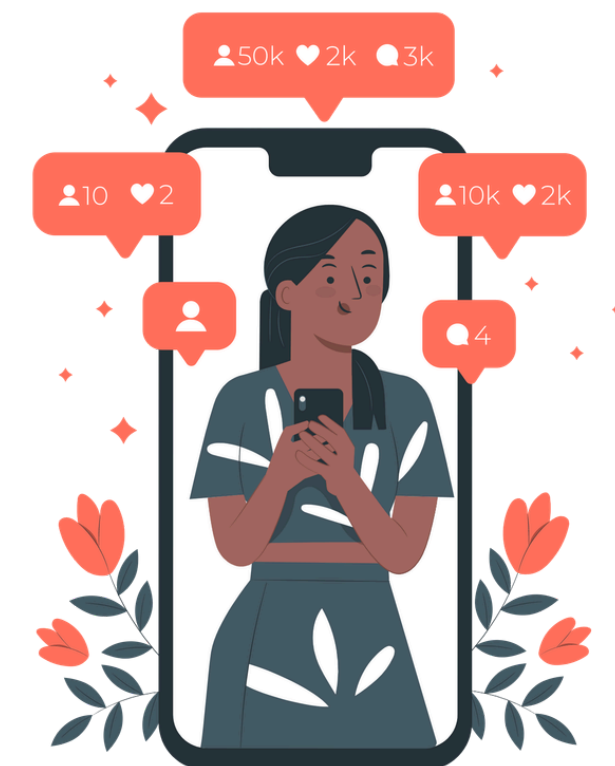
Let's first learn some useful constructions to compliment someone on their look:

Ты вы́глядишь... or Вы вы́глядите... (You look ...) - and then you need to add an adverb that can describe the look of a person.

Ты вы́глядишь

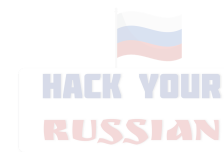
Вы вы́глядите

хорошо́ (well)
прекрасно́ (nice, very well)
отлично́ (perfect)
превосхо́дно (superb)
шика́рно (gorgeous)
замеча́тельно (excellent)
чудесно́ (wonderful)
изуми́тельно (amazing)
великолéпно (splendid)
сногшиба́тельно (fantastically)
потря́сно (stunning)
кла́сно, кру́то (cool, awesome)



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Комплименты | Compliments



Compliments on style, fashion and different belongings

To compliment anything from clothing to looks, use the “I like” (Мне нравится...) construction.

“Мне нравится” + possessive pronoun + noun that denotes what you like.

Мне нра́вится	твой / ваш (m.)	стиль (style), пиджа́к (a jacket)
	твоя́ / ва́ша (f.)	су́мка (a bag), причёска (a hairstyle)
Мне нра́вятся (pl.)	твоё / ва́ше (n.)	и́мя (a name), пла́тье (a dress)
	твой / ва́ши (pl.)	ту́фли (shoes), брю́ки (trousers)

*You need to choose the possessive pronoun depending on the gender of a word:

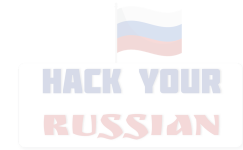
m. - masculine, f. - feminine, n. - neuter, pl. - plural.

Твой, твоя, твоё, твои (= your) are for people you know well.

Ваш, ваша, ваше, ваши (= your) are for strangers, authorities and formal situations.

Find more information on informal / formal ways of talking to people on the page № 33

Комплименты | Compliments



Another way to compliment a person on something he/she has is to use the construction:

Тебе / вам идёт + demonstrative pronoun + noun (= that suits you) **OR**

Demonstrative pronoun + noun + тебе / вам идёт

Тебе идёт you suits	this этот (m.)	цвет (colour), костюм (a suit)
Вам идёт	эта (f.)	помада (a lipstick), стрижка (a haircut)
Тебе идут (pl.) you suit	это (n.)	пальто (a coat), платье (a dress)
Вам идут (pl.)	эти (pl.)	очки (glasses), серьжки (earings)

*You need to choose the demonstrative pronoun depending on the gender of a word:

m. - masculine, f. - feminine, n. - neuter, pl. - plural.

Тебе (= to you) are for people you know well.

Вам (= to you) are for strangers, authorities and formal situations.

Find more ways to compliment people [in this video](#)

In Russian language we have one word that can mean lot's of things and we use it a lot in everyday life. This word is '**Дава́й**'. Here are the key meanings of this word:

1) Дава́й (singular / informal) and **Дава́йте** (plural / formal) are imperative forms of the verb 'дава́ть' (to give - general meaning). These imperative forms are mostly used in a negative form. *Ex.: Не дава́й ему телефо́н (Don't give him a phone);*

2) Call to action | Encourage

The most common way to use these imperative forms Дава́й / Дава́йте is to motivate or encourage someone to do something (in sport, competitions, battles, work, studies and various life situations). The equivalent of this in English would be "**Come on!**" In this case, these forms 'Дава́й / Дава́йте' can be used separately or together with some verbs ([watch the video](#) to find more examples).

[Click to watch examples.](#)

3) Call to action | Hurry up

Давай can also be used in order to hurry up a person. **Come on, hurry up!** = Дава́й, торопи́сь!

Examples:

- Дава́й бы́стрее! (*Come on, quickly!*)
- Дава́й уже́! (*Come on now!*)
- Дава́й, дава́й, дава́й! (*Come on, come on, come on!*)

4) Call to action | Let's do something together

And the last example of call to action is the way to encourage someone to do something together with you = **Let's do something together**. Find a full explication with constructions [here](#).

Ex.: Дава́й сходи́м в кино́! (*Let's go to the cinema*)

Дава́йте знако́миться! (*Let's get acquainted*)

5) Asking a permission / Offering help

A very common way to use **Дава́й / Дава́йте** in Russian is to ask for a permission or offer some help. In this case, it is equivalent to English versions of 'Let me/us' and 'What if I / What if we'. *Ex.: Дава́й я помогу́ тебе́ (Let me help you)*

6) Agreement / Giving permission

One can use **Дава́й** not only to offer help and ask for a permission, but also to agree and to give a permission. Equivalent in English: *agree, OK, it works for me.*

Examples:

- *Дава́й (я) помогу́ (Let me help you)* - *Дава́й (Ok, go ahead)*

7) Proposing a toast / Предлагать тост

Russian people use a word 'Дава́й' to propose a toast.

Дава́й за ... = Let's drink for... (+ noun in the Accusative case)

8) Conversational goodbye

The last common way to use **Дава́й** in Russian is to say goodbye. This is a conversational goodbye that can only be used with people you know very well (family, friends, close acquaintances). In this case, the word **Дава́й** is equivalent to a Russian Пока (bye). However, these two words can actually be used together

Ex.: Всё, дава́й, пока́! (Ok then bye)

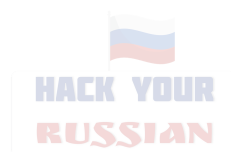


Споко́йной но́чи!

Дава́й, пока́!

Have nice dreams!

Ok, bye!



- Дава́йте сходи́м за́втра в кино́!

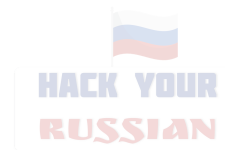
- Дава́йте!

- Let's go to the cinema tomorrow!

- Ok, deal!

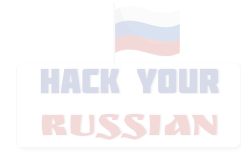


Разговор по телефону | Talking on the phone



- **Алло́** [áлО] - Hello
- **Это ...** [Эта ...] - **This is ...** (if it's a business call, you can add some details like your company.
Ex.: Это Джек из компáнии Воробéй (**This is Jack from the Company Sparrow**)
- **С кем я разговáриваю?** [ск'эм й'а разгавАривай'у] - **Who am I talking to?**
- **Могу́ я погово́рить с ...** [ма́гу й'а пагаварит' с] - **Can I talk to...?** + Instrumental case
- **Я не могу́ дозвони́ться до ...** [й'а нимагу́ дазвани́ца до] - **I cannot reach...** (on the phone) + noun / pronoun in the Genitive case
- **Я тебе́ перезвоню́** [й'а тиб'Э пиризван'У] - **I will call you back**
- **Ты мо́жешь мне перезвони́ть?** [ты мОжыш мн'Э пиризванит'] - **Can you call me back?**
Formal - **Вы мо́жете мне перезвони́ть?** [вы мОжыт'э мн'Э пиризванит']
Позвони́ мне [пазвани́ мн'э] - Call me (informal) / **Позвони́те мне** (formal)

Хобби | Hobby



- **Моё хобби** - [май'О хоби] - *My hobby is...*

Ex.: *Моё хобби - это изучение языков (My hobby is learning languages).*

- **Я люблю ...** [й'а л'убл'У] - *I love* + smth you love doing (verb in infinitive form / or a noun in its initial form)

Ex.: *Я люблю читать (I love to read). Я люблю чтение (I love reading)*

- **Мне нравится ...** [мн'э нрАвица] - *I like* + smth you like doing (infinitive / noun in its initial form). For plural nouns - **Мне нравятся ...**

Ex.: *Мне нравится петь (I like to sing). Мне нравятся русские песни (I like Russian songs)*

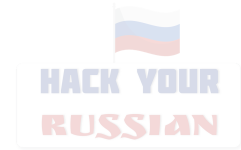
- **Я увлекаюсь ...** [й'а увликАй'ус'] - *I am fond of...* + a noun in the Instrumental case

Ex.: *Я увлекаюсь музыкой (I am fond of music). Чем ты увлекаешься? (And what are you fond of?)*

- **Я интересуюсь** [й'а интирисУй'ус'] - *I am interested in* + a noun in the Instrumental case

Ex.: *Я интересуюсь программированием (I am interested in computer programming)*

Хобби | Hobby



Другие хобби | Other hobbies

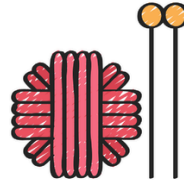
- Ша́хматы | Chess
- Языки́ | Languages
- Та́нцы | Dances
- Каллигра́фия | Calligraphy
- Компью́терные и́гры |
Computer games
- Лы́жи | Skies
- Охо́та | Hunting
- Рыба́лка | Fishing
- Пла́вание | Swimming
- путеше́ствия | Travelling
- Психоло́гия | Psychology
- Автомоби́ли | Cars
- Шитьё | Sewing

-КАКОЕ У ТЕБЯ ХОББИ?

What is your hobby?



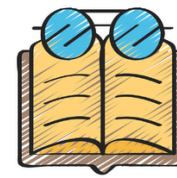
рисование
drawing



вязание
knitting



стрельба
archery



чтение
reading



фотографии
photos



садоводство
gardening

-МОЁ ХОББИ - ЭТО ...

My hobby is...



спорт
sport

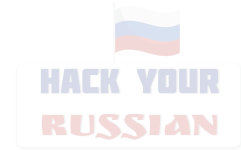


кулинария
cooking



блогерство
blogging

Удивление | Astonishment

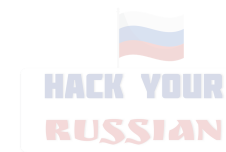


- **Да ну?!** [данУ] - **Seriously?**
- **Ух ты!** [ухты] - **Wow!**
- **Ну и делá!** [нуИдилА] - **What a go!**
- **Ну и ну!** [нуИнуУ] - **Oh my! Oh boy!**
- **Вот это да!** [вотЭтада] - **Holy cow!**
- **Ну náдо же!** [нунаДаждэ] - **My goodness! Dear me!**
- **Ого́!** [огО] - **Oh wow!**
- **Ничего́ себе́!** [ничивОсиб'Э] - **OMG! Holy shit!**
- **Ничесе** [ничОс'э] it is a slang version of "ничего́ себе́" that is commonly used by young people. You can see it on Internet written like "ничосе", "ничоси" as it's not a real Russian word, so everyone writes it as it is pronounced.
- **Ни фíга себе́!** [нифигАсиб'э] - **Holy crap!** - it is another slang word. You may also hear its short version "нифигасе" in speech, usually from young people.



images are taken from [Storyset](#)

Мне скучно | I am bored



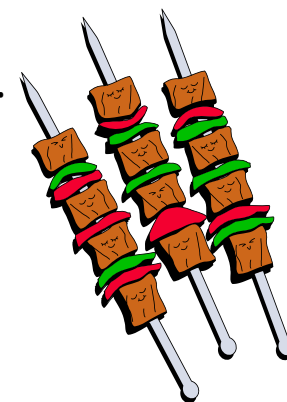
- **Мне скучно** [мн'э скушна] - I feel bored. Please, note that we don't really pronounce this word as it's written letter "ч" is pronounced as "ш", while an unstressed vowel "о" is pronounced as "а".
- **Скукота́** [сукота́] - it's a noun and a conversational form from a word "ску́ка" (boredom).
- **Скучновáто** [сучнава́та] - it's a little tedious.
- **Скучняк** [сучн'ак] - a slang word, a noun that is used to say that it is boring somewhere or that one feels bored (note that both "ч" and "ш" are fine to pronounce, depend on the region).☺
- **Мне не́чего де́лать** [мн'э н'эчива д'элат'] - I have nothing to do.
- **Умира́ю от ску́ки** [умира́ю атску́ки] - I am dying of boredom.



Полезные советы | Useful Tips

Learning words and different phrases is important. But if you just memorize different phrases without understanding the logic behind them - it's a waste of time. The key is to learn different constructions that make up phrases. The system is rather simple and looks like 'shashlyk' (brochettes, kebab).

The skewer is the main construction that is based on a particular grammar rule. The pieces of meat are words. You can change these words, replace them. The pieces of vegetables are prepositions (if any) which play an important role in forming Russian cases.



So, for example, you have just learned a new sentence *'Мне нѹжно позвонѹть маме'* (I need to call my mom). Instead of simply memorizing this phrase, let's analyze it. 'Мне' is a pronoun form from 'Я' in the Dative case. If you look up on the Internet, you can easily find other pronouns in the Dative case. This way you can replace 'мне' by 'тебе' or 'вам' and make up a question - *'Тебѣ / вам нѹжно позвонѹть маме?'* (Do you need to call your mother?) But what if you want to call someone else? 'Маме' is a Dative form of the noun 'мама', and you can easily replace it with other nouns in the Dative case. You can play endlessly with this construction by replacing a verb and other parts of the sentence. This way you learn how Russian language really works.

Полезные советы | Useful Tips

I am applying this method in my Guides to Russian cases. There are five guides available in paper format: Genitive Case, Accusative Case, Prepositional case, Dative case, Instrumental case.



These guides are not simple books with grammar explanations. These are whole courses that will help you master the Russian cases in a fun, engaging and easy way. Learning Russian cases can be a really daunting task if you use wrong materials with boring grammar explanations and complicated tables of endings. But these guide will show you that you can rather hack this system and understand how it works instead of merely memorizing tons of information.

Other guides will also be ready soon. You can check [this link](#) to find them all.

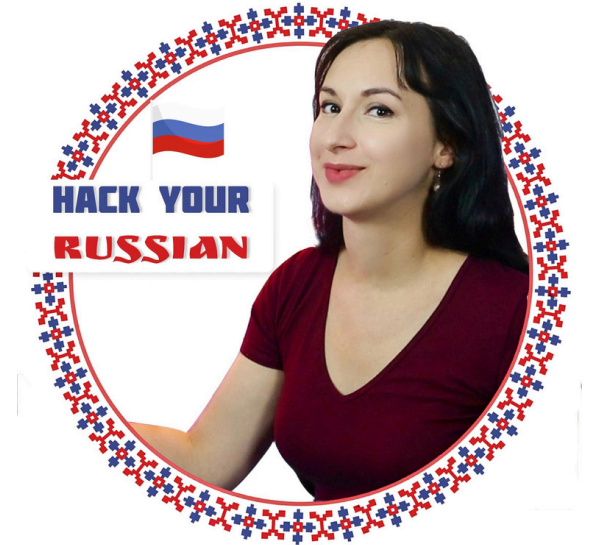
Полезные советы | Useful Tips

Another important thing to know if you wish to understand fast spoken speech easily is that Russian natives often use various reductions. Therefore, if you are learning Russian only with grammar books and educational audio courses or specialized dialogues, you will be lost when you hear real everyday conversations. Don't worry! It does not necessarily mean that your Russian is bad. And the problem lies not only in the speed of Russian natives' speech, but also in the fact that we often reduce some words in Russian. Believe me, if you learn these Russian reductions, it will help you better understand fast spoken Russian. You can watch [this video](#) with the most common Russian reductions.

Did you know that a simple act of writing by your hand can help you [more efficiently learn a new language](#)? That is the reason why mobile applications like Duolingo are not very useful for learning new words for a long term. You should make sure that you always write new words by your hand. That is why it is very useful to learn Russian handwriting which is very different from printed letters. And therefore you need to learn it if you want to understand not only printed Russian materials, but also Russian handwriting. Moreover, you will really find it enjoyable to learn and write in Russian cursive rather than writing with printed letters. You can check out [this guide on Russian Handwriting](#) with fun and engaging practical exercises. You will not only practice writing Russian letters, but you will have some really interesting and creative tasks. In addition to these worksheets, you will also get a file with animation and videos that you can watch by scanning the QR codes.

Final Words

If you have read this guide till the end, congratulations! I hope that it helped you to better understand and speak Russian. As you can imagine, writing this guide took me a lot of work. I'm happy to offer it to people willing to learn Russian language. You can share it with your friends and people who are also learning or are planning to learn Russian. Thank you very much for your support! If you have any questions, please write to me at hack.your.russian@gmail.com.



***Привет!
Меня зовут Мила***

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