

Russian Made *EASY!*



Podcast



Episode #11

***You are listening to the updated in 2021 version of the podcast**

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RussianMadeEasy.com



Welcome to episode 11 of Russian Made Easy. If you're new to this podcast, it's best to start with episode number 1 because each new installment assumes you've mastered all the vocabulary and grammar patterns explained in all prior podcasts. Anyway, no review needed today since we reviewed virtually all our vocab in that last podcast. So let's jump right to our first new phrase. Listen and repeat...

мне нравится

That's a tough pair of consonants at the start of that 2nd word...You have an N and a rolled R. Very hard to say slowly. Listen again, and also note how the emphasis is on the first syllable.

мне....нравится

Now let's see if you can get the meaning from context: Imagine I've just gotten home from a trip to the rock 'n' roll hall of fame. My roommate looks at the merchandise I bought and he says.. "Hmm, you bought just one small AC/DC poster, but you got two huge Led Zeppelin posters, three Led Zeppelin T-shirts and the entire Zeppelin box set?"

So I tell him, "That's because мне нравится AC/DC but I **love** Led Zeppelin."

Try making your own contextual phrase with this. For example, to me, vanilla is an okay flavor. So I'd say, **мне нравится vanilla but I love chocolate.**

Hit pause and make your own...

So, how would you translate mne nraivitsa? This is a classic example of where we need to be very clear about the super literal meaning. Because, although mne nraivita translates as "I like", what you're literally saying is, **to me is pleasing.**

Let's try it in a few sentences. Say: I like borscht.

Literally: To me is pleasing borscht.

Мне нравится борщ.

Try saying: I like pizza.

Literally: To me is pleasing pizza.

Мне нравится пицца.

Now you might be thinking...wait! Why isn't it **pizzU**, with an "uu" sound at the end? Doesn't *liking* something count as doing something to it?

Nope. And here's why:

We're not taking any action in the sentence at all. Grammar-wise, the **pizza** is the one doing the action. The pizza is pleasing us. After all, we're not saying "Я"...that's the Russian word for "I". Again, we're saying MHE....to me.

Try saying: To me is pleasing caviar.

Мне нравится икра.

Now say: I **want** caviar.
Я хочу икру.

See how we're taking action in that last sentence? **I want...**
Hence the change to икру

Alright, let's move on. How would you say: This is my tea.
Это мой чай.

And now -- to a friend: This is your tea.
Это твой чай.

So, MY started with an M -- MOI.
And YOUR started with a T -- TVOI.

Bearing that in mind, here's our new word:

тебе

Here's the meaning: Imagine you're a big fan of rock music, whereas your roommate prefers jazz. He suggests you both head to a club to listen to live music, but you remind him:
Мне нравится рок а тебе нравится джаз.

As we see there, "rock" and "jazz" are cognates. But how would you translate that phrase?
Мне нравится рок а тебе нравится джаз.

Literally: To me is pleasing rock, whereas to you is pleasing jazz.

So, тебе is the Russian word meaning "to you."

That's why I brought up MY and YOUR...мой и твой
...to compare that with...
мне, тебе

As always, notice the beautiful rhyming here:
My your = мой твой
to me, to you = мне тебе

One more time:

Мой...Твой...мне...тебе

A minute ago we learned those two music cognates: rock and jazz. Listen one more time and repeat:

рок
джаз

Well, *blues* is another cognate. Listen...
блюз

So ask a friend: Do you like blues?
Тебе нравится блюз?

How will she answer: No. I like rock.
Нет. Мне нравится рок.

To all my listeners who are also going through our Russian Accelerator course, I wanted to point something out. In Unit 4 lesson 5, we first learn about this construction: мне нравится

What I wanted to add was that нравится is the form we use with *singular* nouns. Things like pizza, or rock music, or "this car", and so on. But if we want to say, for example, that: To me ARE pleasing crepes....plural...we need to slightly change the word. Listen:

Мне нравятся блины.

The difference is very subtle. Listen to the two different words side by side:

нравится
нравятся

Can you hear the difference? This is why I didn't bring it up in Unit 4, because it's so subtle. And even if you use the wrong one, a native speaker's brain will still "hear" the right one. It will hear the one that it grammatically expects. But let me emphasize the difference, just so you're aware.

nraaaaa-veeeeet-suh
nrAAA-viiiht-suh

An "ee" sound in the first, an "ih" sound for that second, plural version. So, from now on, I'll point out whether we're using the singular version of the plural version. But honestly, at conversational speed, the difference is almost

non-existent except among speakers who (over-articulating) really articulate everything they say.

So, ask your friend: Do you like sushi? (We need the plural form here)
Тебе нравятся суши?

Do you like yogurt? (Singular form)
Тебе нравится йогурт?

Ask your friend Sergei: Hey, Sergei...do you like my friend Linda?
Эй Сергей...Тебе нравится моя подруга Линда?

Linda being just one person, he of course used the singular form there:
нравится

Now, for him to say: Yes, I like her...

...listen to how he literally phrases it:

Yes, she to me is pleasing.
Да, она мне нравится.

Let's continue to play matchmaker, and this time ask *Linda* if she likes Sergei.
Like this...

Hey Linda, do you like my friend Sergei?
Эй Линда...Тебе нравится мой друг Сергей?

So, how will she literally phrase this: Yes, I like him.
Yes, he to me is pleasing.
Да, он мне нравится.

And now, here's your Tip of the Day from Russian Made Easy...

Today's tip is a kind of flashback to the one I gave in episode four of this series, where I mentioned the importance of flashcards. But now I want to add two things:

First, you recall how I mentioned you need to put an X on a card every time you get it wrong. The more X's any card has, the more often you should test yourself on it. Well, at some point, you'll have a small group of cards with lots of X's, and a whole bunch of other cards you always get right. So, the tip here is to re-write those most difficult ones onto a new card or two. I could usually fit six phrases on one side. Put that card of your toughest phrases in your wallet and test

yourself a lot. In the morning as your coffee is brewing, in line at the bank, filling up your tank, etc.

The other follow-up tip here is to remember to go through your cards **Russian side first** from time to time. Read the Russian word or phrase out loud and then translate into English.

Alright, let's learn another new word. Listen and repeat:
танцевать

It doesn't sound like a cognate, but it actually is...the first syllable of it, anyway. See if you can get the meaning: I like to go to bars and have drinks with my buddies. My girlfriend, though, prefers to go to clubs and танцевать with her girlfriends.

To move your body rhythmically to music is to танцевать.

Do you hear the "cognate-ness" of the word?
We say "to dance" they say "танц....евать"

Ask your friend: Do you like to dance?
Literally: To you is pleasing to dance?
Тебе нравится танцевать?

Say: No. I don't like to dance.
Нет, мне не нравится танцевать.

How will your friend ask, in just two words: Wanna dance?
Хочешь танцевать?

Say, Yes, I want to dance.
Да. Я хочу танцевать.

Let's try just a few more phrases. Ask a friend: Want coffee?
Хочешь кофе?

No thanks.
Нет спасибо.

I don't like coffee.
Мне не нравится кофе.

Is there tea?
Есть чай?

And one more time, ask your friend: Do you like to dance?
Тебе нравится танцевать?

Of course, please go to RussianMadeEasy.com to get the transcript of this podcast, and the audio downloads. And for homework, be sure to use this very important construction with as much of your vocab as you can fit in there. Practice saying and asking...

Do you like yogurt? I like yogurt. I don't like caviar. Do you like caviar? and so on. Put in all your [Russian Accelerator](#) vocabulary too, of course. Next time we'll take it a step further by learning to talk about the things we **love**. I'll see you there!

PS: That dance song is called "Zachem" by 5sta Family. Search Youtube...it's a great video!

