

# Russian Made *EASY!*



## Podcast



### Episode #14

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

NOTE: For the full episode audio, supplemental audio exercises, transcripts (and other great resources for learning Russian) head over to

[RussianMadeEasy.com](http://RussianMadeEasy.com)



This is episode number 14. Today we'll learn to talk about where we are at the moment. A very useful thing when someone calls and says, "Where are ya'?" Let's start by listening and repeating the following Russian word:

Где?

Hear that G-D combo at the beginning? Here it is again...

Где?

Can you figure out the meaning? Imagine a guy looking for his wallet. He's checking all the usual places...the table in the hall, his nightstand, his coat pocket. Still no wallet. Frustrated he asks himself...

"Man, ГДЕ did I leave my wallet?"

In Russian, if you want to know the location of something, you ask: Где?

So, где translates as "where" in the sense of "in what location." There is no movement associated with the word. After all, remember in the last podcast, we learned this exchange:

Let's go!

Пошли!

And we ask: Where to?

Куда?

To the park!

В парк!

The Russian word "куда" also translates as "where" but it's related to motion. Where to?

But our new word...do you remember it...

где

...means "where...in which location?"

Ask:Where's Dasha?

Где Даша?

Or...imagine you're at a cafe with friends. You head to the bathroom, and when you come back, you notice that your soup is gone. In three words, ask:

Where's my soup?

Где мой суп?

So, let's see if you can retain this new word while we review our recent podcasts.

Imagine you've put on your coat, grabbed your keys and wallet and are opening

the front door. Your Russian roommate asks you in just two words:  
Ты куда?

What did he literally ask?

You....to where?

That's his way of asking, "Where're you going?" And that's all you need to say in Russian. Try it. Ask...

Where're you headed?

Ты куда?

Say:To the center.

В центр.

Imagine your friend is showing you the little shoe store she just opened. Ask her...

Is this your store?

Это твой магазин?

And back to our new word for the day, imagine you've arrived to your friend's apartment. You thought her mom would be there, too, but she isn't, so ask:

Where's your mom?

Где твоя мама?

Alright, so far so good. Here's our next new word:

сейчас

How would you translate it, based on this conversation:

Your roommate tells you: "We're out of milk. Wanna come with me to the store?"

"Sure. Сейчас or later?"

"Let's go сейчас. I've got some things to do later."

"Alright. Lemme just grab my wallet..."

So, сейчас translates as "now" as in, "at this moment"

Imagine your friend calls your cell. How will she ask, in two words,

Where are you?

Ты где?

Listen to the native speaker say: I'm now in the store.

Я сейчас в магазине.

Did you hear that? At the end of the word магазин he added a "yeh" sound. в магазине

Listen again:

Я сейчас в магазине.

He also added the word "v" before the word...v-magazin-yeh

That's today's very important construction. Try saying:

I'm now in the park.

Я сейчас в парке.

We add "ff" before the word 'park' and add the "yeh" sound at the end.

That "yeh" sound is very important, and here's why. It tells the listener that you're \*in\* that location. Otherwise, as we learned last time, the "ff" or "v" sound means "to" and they'll think you're on your way to that place.

Compare these two phrases:

Я сейчас в магазин.

There was no "yeh" sound at the end, so the speaker means:

*I now to the store.* He means, *I'm now **going to** the store*, or am about to head off to the store.

Compare that to this...

Я сейчас в магазине.

That "yeh" sound tells us they are located inside the store at this moment. That little sound "yeh" has a big impact on the meaning.

There's one exception that we should be aware of. The word cafe...in Russian: кафе does not change. Ever. That's because it's not really a Russian word. It's borrowed, probably from French, and it doesn't work well with Russian grammar. So, we don't add that "yeh" sound at the end. Of course, the next question is...Well, how will I know if the speaker is headed to the cafe or actually there, when he says:

Я сейчас в кафе.

You don't. You'd have to ask a clarifying question, but that's off topic at this point.

So, your phone rings...your friend asks...  
Ты где сейчас?

Tell her:I'm now at Starbucks.  
Я сейчас в Старбаксе.

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

Here's a universal fact worth noting about languages:Short words tend to have many meanings. Long words tend to have just one.The reason is simple: Languages only have so many short words to go around, so they have to use them for lots of situations.

Take the word "on" in English. As in, "Is the TV on?"  
So, "on" means "currently operating"  
Are the lights on? Are the lights currently operating?  
Yet if I say, The book is on the table...

.."on" has a very different meaning. The book is *currently operating* the table?  
No. The book is **located upon** the table.

Yet, when we say, "I'm on the train to Boston right now."  
Do you really mean you're located upon -- that is, on the upper surface of -- the train?  
Nope.  
You actually mean that you're **riding inside of** the train.

I could go **on** and **on** about the different meanings of on.

The takeaway here is that little words have lots of meanings, so don't fix just one in your head. Instead, learn a whole construction which features each particular meaning.

Okay, here are our last two words of today's podcast. Listen and repeat:

на работе

Let's get the meaning from context.My friend АНТОН has a standard, 9-to-5 job. So, it's no surprise that when I called his house on Tuesday at 11 in the morning, his wife answered and said...

АНТОН сейчас на работе.  
Anton is now....na rabotyeh.

That first word, na, is forcing the next word to take on that "yeh" ending. Hear it?  
Na rabotyeh.

But by itself, the word is just работа

работа

So here's that version in context. In English we have a saying:  
All работа and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

So, rabota is the Russian word for "work."

And на работе translates as "at work."

Remember what I explained, though, in today's tip. Small words have lots of uses, so please don't fix the word "at" to the Russian word "на." Just learn the phrase:

I'm now at work.

Я сейчас на работе.

Let's work with it some more. You call your friend Sergei's apartment. A guy answers...

Алло?

Сергей?

Нет. Здравствуйте Марк. Это Владимир. Сергей сейчас на работе.

Did you catch what he said? Here it is again:

Нет. Здравствуйте Марк.

No. Hello Mark.

Это Владимир.

This is Vladimir.

Сергей сейчас на работе.

Sergei is now at work.

Ask, "And where's Tanya?"

А где Таня?

Say: She's now at the store.  
Она сейчас в магазине.

And then Vladimir asks you: And where're you?  
А ты где?

Say: I'm now downtown. Or...I'm in the center.  
Я сейчас в центре.

You overhear your coworker on the phone as she calls her sister...  
How will she say: So where are Mom and Dad?  
А где мама и папа?

Mom is now at work, whereas Dad is in a store, in the center.  
Мама сейчас на работе, а папа в магазине в центре.

Maybe her parents are traveling. How would she say:  
My mom is now in Moscow.  
Моя мама сейчас в Москве.

My dad is now in Kiev.  
Моя папа сейчас в Киеве.

My friend is now in St. Petersburg.  
Мой друг сейчас в Санкт Петербурге.

My female friend is now in Odessa.  
Моя подруга сейчас в Одессе.

And let's do a little translating from Russian. What does this mean?  
Твой друг сейчас в Казахстане?  
Your friend is now in Kazakhstan?

Твоя подруга сейчас в Беларуси?  
Your friend is now in Belarus?

Your friend catches you on Skype and asks...  
А ты где сейчас?  
So where're you now?

Tell her:  
I'm now in New York.

Я сейчас в Нью Йорке.

Add...

I'm now at work.

Я сейчас на работе.

If you got all these you're doing so well. And all I can say is keep up the great work because if you do, you're going to become a conversational Russian speaker. In the next episode we'll learn to talk about where we live, and ask our Russian friends the same question.

Meanwhile, head over to [RussianMadeEasy.com](https://RussianMadeEasy.com) for today's transcript and audio downloads and I'll see you in the next episode.

