

Russian Made *EASY!*



Podcast



Episode #16

***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



Welcome to episode 16. Remember, these podcasts are cumulative. If you're just joining us, please start at Podcast #1. Anyway, today we'll be talking about where we work. I'd like to start by going back to a phrase we learned in podcast #14. Do you remember how to say:

I'm now at work.

Я сейчас на работе.

But we also learned that the word for "work", on its own, was just:
работа

...with an "ah" ending.

Listen again and repeat:
работа

So how would you say: I like my work.
Мне нравится моя работа.

Try saying: I *love* my work.
Я люблю мою работу.
Я люблю свою работу.

To the nitpickers out there, **Yes**, there is another way to say this, using the reflexive possessive pronoun свой , as in: Я люблю свою работу -- but if you don't mind, we'll be using this more intuitive version for now.

So, here's our first new phrase for today. Listen and repeat:
Я работаю

One more time:
Я работаю

My friend is a barista in Starbucks. Now, if a Russian person asks my friend what he does, my friend would say:
Я работаю в Старбаксе.

My other friend is a manager in a cafe. If a Russian person asked her where she works, she'd say:
Я работаю в кафе.

Я работаю
...translates as: I work

Try saying: I work in New York.
Я работаю в Нью Йорке.

How about: I work in Moscow.
Я работаю в Москве.

Ok, now here's our next new word. It's a cognate. Repeat after the speaker:
компания

Here it is in context: As defined by their market capitalization, Exxon Mobil is the world's largest компания.

Or this example: I'm a programmer, so if I could work in any компания it would be either Google or Facebook.

In English we say "company" and in Russian they say компания.

So here's the main construction we want to master today. In standard English we'd say:

I work for Microsoft. We might also use the word "at" as in: ***I work at Intel.***

Now the literal way Russians usually express this idea is:
I work in the company _____.

For example: I work in the company Microsoft.
Я работаю в компании Майкрософт.

Notice how the word "ff" changes the end of компания to a long ee sound. F
kompanee. Listen...
в компании

Try saying: I work in the company Intel.
Я работаю в компании Интэл.

I work in the company Exxon.
Я работаю в компании Эксон.

How would you say: This is my company.
Это моя компания.

Did you use "моя" to rhyme with "компания"?

Ask your friend: Is this your company?
Это твоя компания?

Ask: Do you like your work?
Тебе нравится твоя работа?

Imagine someone calls you while you happen to be working. How would you tell them:

I'm working at the moment. Or: I'm working now.

Я работаю сейчас.

So here's a question for you...How might you ask your friend:You're working right now?

Hit pause and think about it for a second...

Remember our two verb patterns so far?

Ya....something....uu

...and...

Tee....something....ish.

So to ask: "You're working now?" we need to say...

Ты работаешь сейчас?

работаешь

But we remember that word order in Russian is more flexible. And a native speaker is probably more likely to phrase that:

Ты сейчас работаешь?

By putting the word "работаешь" at the end, he's putting more emphasis on it. It's like asking...

"You**working** now?"

Whereas, if he says it this way:

Ты работаешь сейчас?

The emphasis is on "сейчас" so it's like he's asking, "You're working **now??**"

But again, the difference is subtle, and they can also emphasize words with their tone, instead of just word order.

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

In my experience, one of the hardest parts for most people who are learning a language is simply staying motivated. As soon as things get tough, their resolve seems to weaken. The doubts creep in, like, "I'll never be able to speak Russian like that." And then come the excuses, "I can't study this week. I've got too much

going on." Pretty soon, they stop altogether, satisfied with having learned a few words and phrases. What most people are missing is a powerful, underlying motivation to learn Russian. And that's what I'd like to talk about for a moment.

For me, the motivation was to be able to travel through St. Petersburg and Moscow on my own, completely independently. I didn't want some tour guide telling me how long I could spend in the DaVinci room of the Hermitage museum. I wanted to be able to rent an apartment, buy my own food, catch taxis and all that...all by myself. My need for independence when traveling to Russia was my powerful motivation.

Many people are in a relationship with a Russian speaker, and want to communicate with them and their family members in their native Russian language.

Another big motivation is the job market. Russia is the largest country on earth and is a major force in international commerce. Meanwhile, countries like Ukraine and Belarus have a large and highly skilled workforce of computer engineers and programmers. Knowing Russian gives a huge edge if your company is outsourcing. I mean, imagine being able to add the line, "Fluent in Russian" to your resume. It's a great way to add value to yourself as an employee.

So take a little time now and again to think of all the benefits you'll get by being able to speak Russian. Whether it's for travel, your personal life, your job, knowing Russian will benefit you for a lifetime.

Alright, back to it. How would you ask a new friend: Where do you work?
Где ты работаешь?

How will he say: I work in the company Dell.
Я работаю в компании Делл.

Try saying: I work downtown. Or I work in the city center.
Я работаю в центре.

I'm a Canadian woman. I live in Toronto.
Я — канадка. Я живу в Торонто.

I'm an American. I live in California. I work in the company Google.
Я американец. Я живу в Калифорнии. Я работаю в компании Гугл.

With just two words, ask your friend: You working?
Ты работаешь?

How will he say: No. I'm not working now.
Нет. Я не работаю сейчас.

Let's learn two easy cognates now. Repeat this first one after the speaker:

банк

I sure you understand it, but here it is in context, just to be sure:
To open a checking account, you need to go down to the банк.

So in English we say 'bank' and in Russian it's банк.

And here's our 2nd cognate:
офис

When we first started this company, my business partner and I worked out of my mom's basement. Now, of course, we have our own офис. So, in English we say office, and in Russian they deepen the "oh" sound...офис

The word refers to an office in the sense of the communal workspace of a company. Often there are lots of people working there. But in English an office can also be a single room allocated to one employee....like, *This is the boss's office*. And in Russian, that's a different word.

Say: I work in a bank.
Я работаю в банке.

Did you remember to add that "yeh" sound at the end of "bank"?

Ask your friend: Do you work in a store or in an office?
Ты работаешь в магазине или в офисе?

Again, we need that "yeh" ending both times: в магазине в офисе

Imagine you've called your friend's cell phone. He answers and you ask him: Where are you now?
Где ты сейчас?

How will he say: I'm in the office.

Я сейчас в офисе.

How do you say: I'm now in the bank.
Я сейчас в банке.

A friend asks you: Where is your office?
Где твой офис?

In two words, say: In the center.
В центре.

Let's end with some general review today. In the previous podcast, we worked with the verb patterns for YA and TEE. For example, how do you say:

I'll have coffee. Whereas what will you have?
Я буду кофе, а что ты будешь?

Я буду. Ты будешь.

How do you say: I live in Maryland. Where do you live?
Я живу в Мэриленде. Где ты живёшь?

Я живу. Ты живёшь.

I want pizza. And what do you want?
Я хочу пиццу. А что ты хочешь?

Я хочу. Ты хочешь.

And of course, today we learned how to say:
I work in the company Sony.
Я работаю в компании Сони.

Ask your friend: Where do you work?
Где ты работаешь?

I work in the company Gazprom.
Я работаю в компании Газпром.

Я работаю. Ты работаешь.

That wraps up today's podcast. In the next one, we'll add a new verb pattern

that'll let us say things like, "She lives in Minsk," or, "He works downtown," and so on. That'll really come in handy and expand your vocabulary. And we'll also talk...about talking.I'll see you then!

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