

# Russian Made *EASY!*



## Podcast



### Episode #20

**\*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)



Welcome to the second mid-term of these Russian Made Easy podcasts. If you remember our first mid-term, back in podcast number 10, you played the role of interpreter, translating the Russian you heard into English. Today we'll take it a step further, having you translate back and forth between the languages. So, imagine you're in a sports bar in Kiev with your friend Jason. There's a Russian couple sitting nearby and so you decide to introduce yourself.

So, let's start by saying:

Hello, my name is Anton. And what's your name?

Здравствуйте. Меня зовут Антон. А как Вас зовут?

The Russian guy replies:

Меня зовут Влад. Но...давай на ты, хорошо?

He said, "Me they call Vlad. In other words, my name is Vlad. But then he said something we haven't encountered in these podcasts. It was a three-word phrase:

давай на ты.

Но...давай на ты, хорошо?

We'll officially learn that phrase in a future podcast, but for, just know that it's an invite to speak informally. Remember, здравствуйте is a formal greeting, but this guy wants to speak casually. So tell him:

Informally? Ok.

На ты? Хорошо.

Vlad asks:

Ты англичанин?

He asked: Are you an Englishman?

Tell him: Yes, I'm an Englishman.

Да. Я англичанин.

Add: I live in Liverpool but I work in Odessa.

Я живу в Ливерпуле но я работаю в Одессе.

Ask Vlad: And where do you work?

А где ты работаешь?

Vlad replies:

Здесь в Киеве. В центре. Я работаю в компании Райфайзен.

Vlad's response started with a word that's new to this podcast, though those of you who are also in Russian Accelerator certainly know it. The word was здесь. Here's a quick contextual phrase to help you get the meaning:

Ever see one of those maps in a shopping mall. It has an arrow pointing to a dot and it says, "You are здесь." So, здесь translates as "here, in this location." So when you asked Vlad where he works, he said:

Здесь в Киеве. В центре. Я работаю в компании Райфайзен.  
Here in Kiev. In the center. I work in the company Raifaisen.

Not having heard of the company, you ask him:  
Райфайзен?

And Vlad says:  
Да. Это банк. Кстати, ты хорошо говоришь по-русски, Антон.

So he said: Yes. This is a bank. Kstati, you speak Russian well, Anton.  
Kstati is a word that Russians use to change the subject. In English we'd say,  
"By the way..."

Tell him: Thanks. And do you speak English?  
Спасибо. А ты говоришь по-английски?

He shakes his head:  
Нет.

Vlad gestures to your friend Jason, who's watching the game and asks you:  
Кто это?

He asked...Who is this?

Tell him: This is my friend Jason. He's a lawyer.  
Это мой друг Джейсон. Он - адвокат.

He's an American but now he lives in Kiev.  
Он - американец но сейчас он живёт в Киеве.

He works for Apple.  
Literally: He works in the company Apple.  
Он работает в компании Эппл.

Now you point to the girl next to Vlad who's talking on her cell and ask Vlad:  
And who's this?  
А кто это?

He says:  
Это Наташа.

Ask him: Is she your female friend?  
Она твоя подруга?

Vlad says:  
Нет, не подруга. Она моя девушка.  
No, not a female friend. She is my devushka.

You saw them holding hands earlier, so he must be saying, *She's my girlfriend*. And he is. Though it's interesting to note that девушка literally translates as "young woman." So he's basically saying, "She is my girl."

Vlad then asks:  
А у тебя есть девушка?  
And at you there is a girlfriend?  
Of course, in normal English we'd say: Do you have a girlfriend?

Tell him: Yes. She's now in Odessa.  
Да. Она сейчас в Одессе.

Let's switch things around. Listen as Natasha says: He's my boyfriend.  
Он мой парень.  
Literally: He's my guy.

I realize these literal versions sound outdated to us, but this is normal, modern Russian. A quick visit to our Media Center and you can watch plenty of clips of Russian speakers using these words. So let's practice them one more time. A friend is showing you some photos. Point and ask:  
Your girlfriend?  
Твоя девушка?

Your boyfriend?  
Твой парень?

We've encountered five new words in this mid-term so far. Let's see if we remember them. When we met Vlad, we greeted him formally by saying:  
Здравствуйте.

And he said  
...давай на ты, хорошо?

Do you remember what that means? It's an invitation to speak informally. You

don't have to worry about learning to say it just yet, because it's better if the native speaker makes the suggestion to speak informally. So we just want to recognize it for now.

Then we heard:

здесь

Imagine your Russian friend is giving you a walking tour of her city. Ask:

Where do you work?

Где ты работаешь?

Stopping in front of a bank she points to it and says:

Я работаю здесь.

She's saying: I work here.

In a hotel, ask someone at the front desk: Is there Wi-Fi here?

Note the word order: Here there is Wi-Fi

Здесь есть Wi-Fi?

Then we heard:

кстати

Imagine you're talking with some coworkers when you remember the extra ticket your boss gave you to the basketball game. You take it out, "Kstati, anyone want to go to the game tonight?"

So, кстати is a word Russians use to introduce a new topic. Imagine you're at a friend's house. It suddenly occurs to you that his mom isn't there. So you ask...

By the way, where is your mom?

Кстати, где твоя мама?

Finally we learned the words for guy and girl: парень девушка

Those are the dictionary definitions, and are what Russians use to refer to their boyfriend and girlfriend. For example:

Это мой парень

This is my boyfriend.

Она моя девушка.

She is my girlfriend.

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

We could've written today's dialogue **without** including any new words, but we put them in there on purpose. Why? Because when you're speaking to people in Russian, you'll hear unfamiliar words all the time, and we don't want you to feel stressed. We want you to get used to it. Often you'll be able to figure out an unfamiliar word from context. And for the ones you can't figure out, well, in an upcoming podcast, I'll show you how to ask what a word means.

Notice, kstati, that I was using the word “we.” As in, “We wrote today's dialogue.” Russian Accelerator—the company that is producing this podcast—is just that: A company. Yes, it's me doing this presentation, but each episode was written by a minimum of three people from the team. Dasha, Tanya, Sergei, Katya, Yana...even the tech staff Gary, Greg, Megumi all have a hand in creating the instructional materials, the site, the graphics...So, I just needed to point that out. Like most other courses out there, we feature one instructor, but there are lots of people involved in creating each episode .

Anyway, let's get back to today's mid-term. When we left the conversation with Vlad, he had just introduced us to his devushka, Natasha. So let's skip ahead in time just a bit. Vlad and Natasha have stood up and are putting on their coats. He's gesturing for you and your friend Jason to follow them out. He says...

Пошли!

Ask him: Where to?  
Куда?

He says:  
В кафе. Я хочу кушать.

That means: To a cafe. I want to eat.

Tell him: To a cafe? Okay.  
В кафе? Хорошо.

In the cafe now, let's greet the waiter:  
Здравствуйте.

He replies:  
Добрый день. Вы уже решили?  
Good day, he said. Did you already decide? Can you catch her order? Listen...

Я буду чай ...и... блины с мёдом.

She said, "I'll have tea, and pancakes ...s-myodom." We'll have to pay attention to what the waiter brings her, to see what that means. Meanwhile, he repeats her order:

Чай, и блины с мёдом.

The waiter turns to Vlad.

А Вам?

And for you?

Vlad says:

Я буду омлет, и капучино, пожалуйста.

I'll have an omelet and cappuccino, please.

Now it's your turn. Greet the waiter, and then ask: Is there salad?

Здравствуйте. Есть салат?

Да. Есть винегрет и есть греческий салат.

Yes. There is vinaigrette and there's "grecheski" salad. Tell him:

Ok. I'll have the vinaigrette, please.

Хорошо. Я буду винегрет, пожалуйста.

The waiter turns towards your friend...

И Вам?

Explain to the waiter: He doesn't speak Russian.

Он не говорит по-русски.

Say: He'll have the borscht.

Он будет борщ.

Vlad turns towards you and asks....

Водку хочешь?

He asked: Want vodka?

Tell him: No thanks. I don't want.

Нет, спасибо. Не хочу.

Tell him: I don't like vodka.

Мне не нравится водка.

Vlad then asks:  
А пиво?

Say: "Pivo"? What is this?  
Пиво? Что это?

And Vlad explains....  
Ну, Хайнекен, Будвайзер, Корона...или Балтика.

Shake your head and tell him you don't like pivo.  
Мне не нравится пиво.

Что хочешь?

With just one word, tell him you want a cola.  
Колу.

Did you say "kolu" with an "uu" sound at the end? If so, please give yourself an A+ for the course so far. Meantime, let's keep going.

Скажите...здесь есть Wi-Fi?  
He said, ...something.....here there is Wi-Fi?

Try that: Is there Wi-Fi here?  
Здесь есть Wi-Fi?

The waiter tells him:  
Да, есть.

The waiter writes down the password for you. How do you thank him?  
Спасибо.  
Пожалуйста.

Natasha frowns and puts her phone on the table. Seems her battery died. Can you catch what she says?

Блин. Мне нужен интернет но мой телефон не работает.  
Hmm....She said, "Pancake! To me is necessary the internet but my telephone isn't working!"

The word Блин!, funny enough, is a Russian curse word. It's not a *bad* word, though. It's like saying "dang it." No one's going to be offended.

Anyway, try repeating her last phrase. Say...



I need the internet but my phone isn't working.  
Мне нужен интернет но мой телефон не работает.

She then asks you:  
У тебя есть телефон?  
Do you have a phone?

In three words say: I don't have.  
Literally: At me no.  
У меня нет.

Then add: But Jason has.  
Literally: But at Jason there exists.  
Но у Джейсона есть.

As dinner winds down at the cafe, Vlad suddenly asks you...  
Кстати....Тебе нравится джаз?

By the way, do you like jazz?

Say: Yes, I love jazz, blues and rock.  
Да. Я люблю джаз, блюз и рок.

Хорошо. Значит...пошли в джаз-клуб.  
Ok....Znacheet.....let's go to a jazz club.

But Natasha complains:  
В джаз-клуб? Но я хочу танцевать!  
To a jazz club? But I want to dance!

Vlad turns to you:  
Есть проблема.  
There's a problem.

Ask him: She wants to dance?  
Она хочет танцевать?

He nods:  
Да, она хочет танцевать.  
Say: Ok....Let's!  
Хорошо! Давай!

That's the end of the mid-term. How'd you do? I'd really love to hear, so please let me know. My email address is [mark@RussianMadeEasy.com](mailto:mark@RussianMadeEasy.com)

And no matter how you did in this mid-term, in my book you still get an A. Getting this far takes persistence, determination and motivation...and it deserves recognition. So consider yourself an A student in this class. I'll see you next time! P.S. Scroll down to see a picture of Natasha's order: Блины с мёдом

## БЛИНЫ С МЁДОМ Crepes with honey



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