

Russian Made *EASY!*



Podcast



Episode #21

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

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RussianMadeEasy.com



Welcome to episode 21 of Russian Made Easy. If you're just joining us, please know that the episodes are cumulative. Each one builds on the material learned in all the previous episodes. Speaking of which, in that last episode, in that midterm exam, we picked up quite a few new words and phrases, so I'd like to start by reviewing those. Do you remember what it means when a native speaker tells you...

давай на ты

It's an invitation to speak informally with them. But remember, unless you're a very high level speaker, it's usually best to let the native speaker extend such an invitation to speak casually. Of course, virtually all of our vocabulary thus far has been confined to the casual forms anyway, but that will change today.

Anyway, then we heard: *здесь*

Remember the situation we encountered it in? We asked our new friend Vlad where he works by saying...

А где ты работаешь?

And Vlad replied:
Здесь в Киеве. В центре.

So *здесь* is the Russian word meaning "here in this location." Imagine you're standing outside the building you work in. Tell your friend:

I work here.
Я работаю здесь.

Ask the waiter:
Is there Wi-Fi here?
Здесь есть Wi-Fi?

Then we heard: *кстати*

The set-up there was you were at dinner with Vlad and his friends. You're talking and eating and then suddenly Vlad says...

Кстати, Антон....Тебе нравится джаз?

So, *кстати* is a word they use to introduce a new topic. It's the equivalent of us saying, "Oh, by the way..."

Imagine your Russian friend is giving you a tour of her town. She's talking about a nearby park when something occurs to her. How will she say...

By the way, my female friend lives here.
Кстати, моя подруга живёт здесь.

Then we heard the word *девушка*. The context was that you noticed the woman

sitting next to Vlad, so you asked him:

Is she your female friend?

Она твоя подруга?

And Vlad said:

Нет, не подруга. Она моя девушка.

No, not a friend. She's my devushka.

Try to say...

Vadim has a girlfriend.

У Вадима есть девушка.

As a side note, девушка is also the way Russians call out to a waitress. This is in no way rude or demeaning. This is standard, proper Russian. You're basically saying, "Miss!"

And we also learned the word for "guy". So when Tanya shows you a photo of a guy, ask:

Is he your boyfriend?

Он твой парень?

Another word we encountered that was new to these podcasts was пиво. Vlad asked you about пиво and you responded:

"Pivo"? What is this?

Пиво? Что это?

So Vlad explained....

Ну, Хайнекен, Будвайзер, Корона...или Балтика.

So, пиво is the Russian word for beer. It's also the Ukrainian word for beer, the Czech word, the Polish word, the Croatian word, and so on. In Eastern Europe, пиво is пиво wherever you go. Anyway, ask your friend:

Want a beer?

Хочешь пиво?

Say, "No, I don't like beer."

Нет. Мне не нравится пиво.

Do you remember when Natasha was trying to log on to the WiFi but her battery was dead? Do you recall the very mild curse word she used?

Блин. Мне нужен интернет но мой телефон не работает.
Pancake! I need the internet but my phone doesn't work.

Let's run through all those one more time.

Your friend asks if you have tea..
У тебя есть чай?

Say: No. But I have beer.
Нет. Но у меня есть пиво.

Let's say you're outside the building where your girlfriend works. Tell your friend..
By the way, my girlfriend works here.
Кстати, моя девушка работает здесь.

My boyfriend works in Moscow.
Мой парень работает в Москве.

Imagine you've misplaced your cell phone. Say...
Darn! Where's my phone?
Блин! Где мой телефон?

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

With the exception of English, most languages -- including Russian -- have two ways of talking to people. There's casual speech that we use with friends or with children, and there's formal speech that we use with adults we don't know, or other people we need to show respect towards. In other words, whether we're talking to our best friend, or to our boss, in English we'd use the same words to ask, for example: Do you speak Russian?

But in Russian, we'd use different words for "You" and for "speak", depending on who we're talking to. If you're asking your friend, you'd say:
Ты говоришь по-русски?

But if asking your boss, you'd say:
Вы говорите по-русски?

That second one, the VVVEE one, is also used when speaking to more than one person. English just doesn't have a good word to use when addressing a group of people. Where I grew up, in New York, we said, "You guys." Like, "You guys wanna go bowling?" In the South, meanwhile, they say "Y'all." "Y'all wanna go to

a party tonight?"

Anyway, the tip here is -- now that we'll be learning the formal way of speaking to people -- it's important to bear in mind who you're speaking with. Although it's great to be friendly with new people and speak casually, in Russia you could really offend someone that way.

So, let's learn these formal forms. First, note -- as always -- the rhyme. Remember how to say, for example, souvenirs:
сувениры

Or "pancakes"?
блины

In Russian, the basic plural form ends in that "ы" sound. And sure enough, the plural form of YOU rhymes with that:
Вы

Anyway, to get the verb ending for this formal version, it's easiest to go from the He/She form. For example. How do you say...

He'll have a cola.
Он будет колу.

Now listen as our speaker asks his boss: Will you have tea? ...or....
Вы будете чай? / Чай будете?

So the "t" sound at the end of the He/She form changes to "tyeh". Listen again...

He'll have....You'll have
Он будетВы будете

Again, when saying the ВЫ forms, you need to imagine that you're speaking with an elder, or your boss...someone you need to be respectful towards. It's also the plural form. So whenever you're talking to two or more people, whether they're kids or your good friends...you also need to use ВЫ. It's like saying, "You guys."

Anyway, let's look at another verb. How do you say:He speaks Russian.
Он говорит по-русски.

Now listen as the speaker asks a stranger on the street:Do you speak Russian?

Вы говорите по-русски?

Let's try those side by side:

He speaks....You speak.

Он говорит Вы говорите

Say: She lives in Moscow.

Она живёт в Москве.

Listen as our speaker asks the elderly woman standing near him:

Вы живёте в Москве?

Say: She lives.....You live

Она живёт.....Вы живёте

Let's try the verb "to work." Say...

Mom works here.

Мама работает здесь.

How do you think you'd ask an adult you don't know:Do you work here?

Вы работаете здесь?

Again: He works.....You work

Он работает Вы работаете

So far so good? Now this next one is a weird exception. Ask your friend:

What do you want?

Что ты хочешь?

But now ask your boss:What do you want?

Что Вы хотите?

Let's run through all those again. For all of these, imagine we're speaking with an adult we've just met, and so we're speaking respectfully to them.

You'd like to order for them, so ask:What will you have?

Что Вы будете?

Ask them: Do you speak English?

Вы говорите по-английски?

Ask: Where do you live?
Где Вы живёте?

Ask: Where do you work?
Где Вы работаете?

With just two words, ask if your friend's grandmother wants tea:
Хотите чай?

Next, imagine you're at the home of your Russian friend. You and her speak informally to each other because you're friends, but her little sister will speak formally to you, to be respectful. So listen to how she asks you:

Do you like Moscow?
Вам нравится Москва?

Вам is the Russian word meaning "to you". She's asking, of course, To you is pleasing Moscow?

Imagine a realtor is showing you an apartment you might rent in Kiev. How will he ask you: Do you like the apartment?
Literally: The apartment to you is pleasing?
Квартира Вам нравится?

It seems like your boss's battery is dead on his cellphone. Hold out your phone and ask him: Do you need a phone?
Вам нужен телефон?

Notice, by the way, that we still have that "v" sound: Вы and now Вам
And do you remember learning another form of you that also started with a V sound? Remember how to ask someone: What's your name?
Как Вас зовут?

Вас is another form of the word "you." And it's the one we use in the "Do you have" construction we learned in Podcast #19. Remember how to say:
I have a car.
У меня есть машина.

So ask your friend's father: Do you have a car?
У Вас есть машина?

Great job! So from now on, make sure you're clear about who you mean when

you say "you." Are you talking with a friend, or a stranger? A kid, or your boss? and so on. Next time we'll learn how to work with adjectives in Russian. This will really let you express yourself more fully. And we'll also learn what the heck *salon* is. Believe me, you'll want to know this. So tune in next time, and until then...keep practicing.

