

# Russian Made *EASY!*



## Podcast



### Episode #24

**\*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)



Привет! And welcome to episode 24 of Russian Made Easy. Today we'll be beefing up our greetings and small talk. So let's first start by repeating the word I opened this podcast with:

привет

If you've been watching the video clips in our new Media Center, then you've heard this word over ten times by now. But for those who haven't yet watched

those videos...Well, when you see someone you know, you greet them with “привет.” The key here is, **someone you know**. You really shouldn't use this word with a stranger. If you say Привет to a stranger, they're probably going to wonder, “This person knows me?”

Notice how I'm not saying what all those other courses and websites tell you, which is:Privet is the Russian word for “hi.”

Privet is simply a friendly greeting to people you know. And this leads me to an email I got recently from a Russian Accelerator member. She asks, “Is it ok to use previet with people you speak formally with?” That's a great question. And yes, it's fine. I speak formally, on BbI with my wife's parents, but I'll greet them with привет. To be honest, I mix it up. I'll greet her father with zdravstvuyte, but her mom with previet, for example.

Now, let's say your friend Tanya has just arrived. Listen to what she says **after** greeting me.

Привет, Марк. Как дела?

We know the word как. We worked with it in the last episode. Remember asking your friend:How are your pancakes?

Как твои блины?

So, how would you translate как дела?

Well, in English we'd say: Hi Mark, how're things?

Hopefully, you know by now what I'm going to tell you: The word “дела” does not **MEAN** “things”, as in, “I bought these things yesterday.” Or, “Whose things are these?” That's just how it translates in this context. Depending on context, it might translate as “business” or “things to do” and so on.

Anyway, greet your friend Polina by saying:Hi, Polina. How're things?

Привет Полина! Как дела?

So, how should we respond? Let's come back to that question in a moment, after reviewing the material from recent podcasts.

Imagine your friend's grandmother has brought over some of her homemade pig fat for you to enjoy. You love it, so tell her:

Your pig fat is very tasty!

Ваше сало очень вкусное!

Imagine your friend brews his own beer. Tell him: I really like your beer.  
Literally: To me very pleasing your beer.  
Мне очень нравится твоё пиво.

Tell grandma: Your cat is very pretty.  
Ваша кошка очень красивая.

Imagine this scenario: Both your friend and her grandmother each have a cat they want you to take. Your friend's cat is mean and hisses at you, whereas grandma's cat purrs and is nice. So tell your friend:  
I don't want your cat.  
Я не хочу твою кошку.

Then tell grandma: I want yours.  
Я хочу **вашу**.

Now why do we say “vashu” here? Is it to rhyme with the word “хочу”?  
No. That's just a coincidence.  
Instead, it's rhyming with the word “koshku” which – though we didn't actually say it – is nevertheless understood. We *know* that I'm saying, **I want your.....cat.**

Let's try a similar set up. Pretend you're in a Russian bazaar. There's a kid selling a pen, and an old man selling one. The kid's pen cost five cents and writes great. The old man's pen costs ten bucks and has no ink. So tell the old man...

I don't want your pen.  
Я не хочу вашу ручку.

Tell the kid: I want yours.  
Я хочу твою.

If you got these right...and more importantly, if you understand the patterns here...you're doing awesome.

Alright, let's get back to our greetings. Greet your friend Tolik and ask him how're things:  
Привет, Толик. Как дела?

Now listen to his response:  
Нормально. А у тебя?

Let's just take that first word. How would you translate it. After an uneventful trip, someone asks you how it was. You tell them:  
Нормально.

Or this example:

The lady at the deli counter is putting some salad into a container for you. She looks at you, wondering if she put enough in. Tell her...  
Нормально and reach for the container.

In that first situation, responding to, "How was your trip?", we might've said, "Fine."

In that 2<sup>nd</sup> example, when the deli lady wants to know if that's enough salad, we might've said: "That's good."

In Russian, they say: Нормально ...which to me, is essentially a cognate. It's their version of "normal," but again, it's used to mean "Fine, good, okay," and so on. Get used to saying this word a lot.

In Russian, when a potential landlady shows you her apartment, she might ask simply: Well, how?  
...as in... Well, how is it to you?  
Ну как?

With our one new word, tell her it's fine:  
Нормально.

And when someone asks you: How're things?  
Как дела?

Tell them: Fine.  
Нормально.

And at you?  
А у тебя?

Or try this version. Ask: And how're things at you?  
А как у тебя дела?

This topic of greetings is also the subject of today's tip....

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

Pretend you're spending time with your Russian friend Andrei. A friend of his shows up and says to him:

Приветик, Андрюшка! Как дела?

And you're thinking? “Приветик?” I thought it was privet. And “Andryushka?” I thought his name was just “Andrei.” What's going on?

Well, what's going on is that Russians love to make certain words sound cute. They do this by – what else – changing the endings. The fancy linguistics term for this is “diminutives.” Which is a good name for it. Think of the word “diminish” in English, which means to make smaller, right?

Anyway, the two main ways Russians will make a word sound cute is by adding either “eek” or “ka.”

привет becomes приветик .

Андрей becomes Андрюшка

If grandma has served you just a tiny bowl of salad – in her mind, a small salad – she might ask you: How's your little-salad?

Как твой салатик.

From салат....we get....салатик

If she served you little pancakes, she might ask: How're your little pancakes?

Как твои блинчики?

You don't need to learn these, really. You'll pick them up once you're hanging out with native speakers. I just wanted to introduce you to them so it doesn't throw you off when you hear it.

Back again to our greetings, again greet your friend Anton and ask how're things:

Привет, Антон! Как дела?

Listen to Anton's response:

Всё хорошо. А у тебя как?

We know the word “horosho”, but that word “fsyo” is new to this podcast. (But if you've been watching the clips in our Media Center, then you've *heard* the word a minimum of 12 times.) Anyway, imagine you're packing a car for a long trip.

You look around, seeing if any other bags need to go in the car. You don't see anything, so you ask your friend, just to be sure:

Всё?

He says:

Да, это всё...

...and closes the trunk.

In English, we'd say, "Is that everything?" And in Russian, they can just say, "Всё?"

So, depending on the phrase, Всё translates as either "everything" or "all."

So say: Everything's good.

Всё хорошо.

But again, that word всё is used in a lot of situations. After you've given your order to your waiter, he'll make sure that's everything that you want by saying, "Everything, yes?"

Всё, да?

Tell him, Yes, that's all. Thanks.

Да, это всё. Спасибо.

Anyway, let's practice a typical encounter with some friends. You see a group of Russians you know. Tell them,

Hello!

Здравствуйте.

One of them says, Hi, Taylor. How're things?

Привет, Тэйлор. Как дела?

Say: Fine.

Нормально.

And ask...And with you?

А у тебя?

All good.

Всё хорошо.

He notices your friend and asks: Who is this?

Кто это?

This is my friend, Vika.  
Это моя подруга Вика.

He then says...  
Мы сейчас идём в парк. Хотите с нами?

Hmm...we haven't learned everything he said. But we did catch, “f park” which means, “To the park.” Plus we heard, “хотите” which means, “Do you guys want?” He's probably saying that they're going to the park...do you want to come with? So in two words, say:  
Okay. Let's go!  
Хорошо. Пошли!

Speaking off heading off somewhere, I hope you guys go check out my new course: **Russian Made Easy plus**. As cool as this podcast is, Russian Made Easy...our new one, **RME Plus**...it's all about getting you fluent with highly useful, everyday phrases from Russian conversations. And with the **RME Plus** Media Center, you can then watch modern Russian TV and see everything you've learned being used by native speakers. It's awesome reinforcement.

So be sure to visit Russian Made Easy.com to check it out in the sidebar of this lesson, or send me an email: [mark@russianmadeeasy.com](mailto:mark@russianmadeeasy.com) Subject: New course info

Meantime, see you in the next episode.