

# Russian Made *EASY!*



## Podcast



### Episode #5

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 Podcast #5. Before doing our review, let's add one new occupation which is kind of a cognate. Listen and repeat:

адвокат

One more time: адвокат

So what kind of occupation is an адвокат? Well, when the police arrest a suspect in the U.S., they must inform him that he has the right to remain silent,

and that he has the right to hire an адвокат.

To put it another way: The person you hire to represent you in court is called your адвокат.

So адвокат is the Russian word for lawyer. It sounds like **advocate**, which is what a lawyer is, right? He's an **advocate** for your rights and your side of the story. Just note how the emphasis is on the end of the word. адвоКАТ.

Say: My Dad is a lawyer.  
Моя папа - адвокат.

Alright, now let's do some review  
What Russian word do we use to greet people?  
Здравствуй!

Say: My name is George.  
Меня зовут Джордж.

Ask someone:  
And what's your name?  
А как Вас зовут?

Say: This is my dad. He's a lawyer.  
Это мой папа. Он - адвокат.

Try saying: My dad is an American, **whereas** my mom is an Englishwoman.  
Мой папа - американец, а моя мама - англичанка.

This is my friend. He's an Australian.  
Это мой друг. Он - австралиец.

This is my female friend. She is an American.  
Это моя подруга. Она - американка.

Alright, in this podcast we'll be learning two question words. Here's the first one.  
Repeat after the speaker:

Кто

Imagine I'm showing my Russian friend Natasha some photos of my friends and family on Facebook. Can you get the meaning of KTO from our short

conversation? I point to a family photo and say...Это Я.

Ммм-хмм. А кто это?

Это моя мама.

I then show her the next photo of me and some friends. Natasha asks...

Это твой друг Джэйсон, да?

Да, это Джэйсон.

А кто это?

Это моя подруга Нэнси.

So what is she asking when she says, "А кто это?"

She's asking, "And who is this?"

So, КТО is one of the Russian words for "who"?

So ask someone:

Who is this?

Кто это?

As we did in the last podcast, I want to show you how that little word "ah" works in Russian. Again, imagine Natasha is looking at my photos in Facebook. She points to someone and asks...

Кто это? Твой друг Стив, да?

Да. Это Стив.

Ммм-хम्म....(pointing to a girl) А кто это?

See how she used "ah" to set up a contrasting question? The actual literal meaning of "а" in this context is along the lines of: *Having processed what you just said, I'd now like to ask the following:*

I don't mean to make a big deal out of such a little word, but you'll hear it all the time, I just want you to really grasp it. So ask your friend:

Who is this? Your mom, yes?  
Кто это? Твоя мама, да?

She answers that yes, it's her mom. So now follow that up by asking:  
And who is this? Your dad?  
А кто это? Твой папа?

This is a good point to talk about word order, which is more flexible in Russian than in English.

For example, we might have phrased that last question this way:

And this is who?  
А это кто?

By putting KTO last, we're placing more importance on it. Again, word order is one of those things I'll be pointing out as we go. Let's try our other question word for this episode. Repeat after the speaker:

Что?

One more time...  
Что?

For this, imagine you're at a Russian friend's house for dinner. Now, you know darn well that the soup you've just been served is borscht, but you want practice asking questions, so you point to the soup and ask your friend Tanya...

Таня, что это?

Это борщ.

Then Uncle Tolik pours a clear liquid into your shot glass. Ask him..

Эй, Толик...что это?

Это водка.

So, ЧТО is one of the Russian words for "what"? Now you ask...

What is this?  
Что это?

She tells you it's borscht, and then -- pointing to the dish of red fish eggs she just gave you -- follow up with...

And what's this?  
А что **это**?

Did you add the "ah" at the beginning? By the way, you could have reversed the word order and said...

А это что?  
And this is what?

Anyway she points to the red fish eggs and tells you...

Это икра.

So, ИКРА is the Russian word for caviar.

And that's why our question phrase is so useful. We can use it to learn lots of new words. Let's repeat the word for caviar one more time:

икра

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

Now here's a cool way to **remember** the word. Imagine you don't like caviar, and yet someone just served you some. You kinda freak out and say..."**EEK, raw** fish eggs!"

Say that again: Eek, raw fish eggs!

Do you get it? That phrase has the sound of ИКРА hidden in it. eek raw...gives us икра

I call that kind of mnemonic device a PowerPhrase and they're a great tool for quickly memorizing a ton of words. When I was first learning Russian I made a PowerPhrase for just about every new word I learned. It's amazing how much you can remember that way. And I use those same ones in our Russian Accelerator videos, along with funny pictures to really drive home each phrase. The visual part is really important, and it's a limitation of an audio-only format. Because you really want to associate an image with each PowerPhrase....that helps to make it memorable. These kinds of mnemonic devices are used by all memory experts and advanced language students. Ask anyone who's learned a

2nd or 3rd language quickly, and they'll admit they used these kinds of memorable phrases to help them recall words.

Alright, let's get back to our lesson today. So...pretend your Russian friend is showing you a picture of himself sitting in a restaurant across from two men wearing suits. Point to the older man in the picture and ask...

Who is that?  
Кто это?

How will your friend reply:  
This is my lawyer.  
Это мой адвокат.

Then point to the other man and ask...  
And who is this?  
А кто это?

He answers:  
This is my friend Pavel. He is a businessman.  
Это мой друг Павел. Он - бизнесмен.

Then point to the bottle in the photo and ask...

What's this?  
Что это?

Listen to his answer:  
Это лимонад.

And so, with that "что это?" question, we learned another easy word. We say "lemonade" and Russian they pronounce it...

лимонад

Just one last new word to cover today, and you probably already know it. But I just need to make sure. Try saying:  
нет

If you know the meaning of this word say, ДА ...I know it.  
If you don't, then say НЕТ I don't know it.

Да and НЕТ are opposites.  
Да means YES and НЕТ means No.

Let's work with it a little. Imagine showing a picture of your friend Kevin to your Russian friend.  
She asks:

Это Джон?

Tell her: No, this is Kevin.  
Нет. Это Кэвин.

She asks: Is he a businessman?  
Он - бизнесмен?

Tell her: No, he's an engineer.  
Нет. Он - инженер.

Someone hands you a glass of yellow liquid. Let's be silly and ask:  
What is this? Borscht?  
Что это? Борщ?

No. This is lemonade.  
Нет. Это лимонад.

So, practice asking these questions as you go about your day.

In the next episode we'll learn how to order food and drinks....certainly a useful thing to know...and we'll learn how to develop fluency in Russian. Yes, even beginners should be working towards fluency right from the start. And I'll show you how, in the next episode. Meanwhile, head over to [RussianMadeEasy.com](http://RussianMadeEasy.com) for today's downloads.

