

Russian Made *EASY!*



Podcast



Episode #6

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

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RussianMadeEasy.com



Alright, welcome to episode number six. Let me just toss out a reminder that these podcasts are cumulative, so if this is your first time joining us it's best to start with episode number 1. Now, before getting to our review session, I'd like you to listen to and repeat this two-word phrase.

Я буду

You know that first word, Я....it's the буду part that's new for us. Say the phrase one more time:

Я буду

Ok....let that sink in for a bit and now let's do our review:

How would you ask:

What is this?

Что это?

Say: This is caviar.

Это икра.

Ask: Who is this? Your lawyer?

Кто это? Твой адвокат?

Say: No. This is my dad.

Нет. Это мой папа.

Now, what was that two word phrase we learned at the start?

Я буду

Let's see if we can figure out a good translation for it. So, imagine you're in a cafe. The server comes over to take your order and you say:

Здравствуйте, я буду борщ.

And then your business partner adds...

А я буду пиццу.

Listen to the two lines again, and think of what the translation might be, given the situation. Remember, we saying this to our server who's writing down what we say:

Здравствуйте, я буду борщ.

Hello, I _____ borscht.

And then your cousin says:

А я буду пиццу.

And I _____ pizza.

In English, there's a variety of ways we'd give our orders. We might say:
I'll have the borscht.

...or...

I'll **take** the borscht.

...or...

I'd **like** the borscht.

....and so on. Any of these translations is fine. But of course, we need to know what we're **literally** saying. And as it turns out "Я буду" means, "I will".

So all you're actually telling the cafe employee is: "I will borscht."

That might sound strange to you at first -- like there's a word missing -- but this is one of the main ways Russians will order. And of course, we do the same in English. When someone says, "Man, that was a hard day. I feel like a beer." ...they're leaving off the verb. Right? What they mean is, "I feel like **having** a beer." or, "I feel like **drinking** a beer." The verb is implied. Try it again. Say...

I'll have the borscht.

Я буду борщ.

Now there's one other really important thing I'd like you to pick up on. Listen to how your cousin orders pizza.

Я буду пиццу.

Did you hear how she said pizzU -- with an "uu" sound at the end, instead of pizzA?

пиццу

That is an absolutely fundamental part of Russian grammar, and the real topic of today's podcast.

Now, just based on that *one* example, how do you think she might say:

I'll have vodka.

Я буду водку.

So we heard vod-KU with an "uu" sound at the end. Or how about this: I'll have cola.

Я буду колу.

And yet if my co-worker orders soup, listen...

Я буду суп.

We just hear "soup". No "uu" sound at the end. So what's going on here? I know I made a big point about Russian being a rhyming language -- and believe me, it

is -- but that's not what's going on here. Yes, budu does rhyme with vodku, but that's coincidence only. What's going on is that words that normally end in an "ah" sound -- what we called **feminine** words in an earlier podcast -- change their "ah" sound to an "uu" sound when we **do something to them.**

Here is just a small list of what constitutes "doing something" to something.

ordering
wanting
buying
knowing
loving
eating
taking
holding
touching

These all count, linguistically, as doing something to the noun. To really drive this point home, let me show you how English would sound if it had this same rule. Listen to how the word "bandana" changes in these two phrases.

This is my bandana.
Who took my bandanu?

Do you see how we're not doing anything to the bandana in that first phrase? We're just stating a fact: *This is my bandana*. But in the second one, someone has done something to the bandana. They took it.
Here's another example.

There is pasta in the cupboard.
I cooked pastu yesterday.

Again, in that first example, we're just stating a fact about the pasta's location. But in the second phrase, we've done something to the pasta. We cooked it.

Even people's names need to change in this same way:

This is my sister Tina.
I saw Tinu yesterday.

"Seeing" Tina counts as doing something to her.

Now you try it. Based on this pattern, insert the correct form of the word

"sofa"...ready?
Is this your new _____ ?

Yes. I bought this _____ at Ikea yesterday.

So...Is this your new **sofa**?

We say just sofa because we haven't *done* anything to the sofa.

But: I bought this **sofu** at Sears.

Now we say sofu because we've done something to it. We bought it.

If you understand this pattern, you have mastered one of the main aspects of Russian grammar. And speaking of Russian, let's apply it now in some all-Russian sentences. In a cafe, a server has approached the table, ready to take your order. Say:

I'll have the caviar.

Я буду икру.

I'll have a cola.

Я буду колу.

I'll have pizza.

Я буду пиццу.

But to say: I'll have borscht.

Я буду борщ.

...we notice that the word borscht doesn't change. So, imagine you're in Minsk, sitting with some co-workers in a cafe. As the server brings your order, one co-worker says...

Спасибо

...and the waiter responds with:

Пожалуйста

...and walks away. Listen again:

Спасибо

Пожалуйста

Your server is coming back again, this time with your pizza. Let's say the same thing your co-worker did...

Спасибо

Sure enough, the waiter responds with...
Пожалуйста

How would this exchange go in English? Like this...
Thank you.
You're welcome.

Let's listen to those words again more closely, and repeat them:
спасибо

Don't worry about trying to actively remember this word. You'll hear СПАСИБО so often, it'll sink in naturally. This is why it's so important to visit our new Media Center on Russian Made Easy. We have over a dozen clips from Russian TV where the characters are saying Спасибо. Different voices, different styles of delivery, different situations....that exposure to real life examples of speech are key to your success. Ok...back to it.

Now, what was that other word? The waiter's response to Спасибо...?

Пожалуйста

Spoken very slowly, you'll hear there's an "uu" sound in there...puh-zhal-oo-eesta

But at normal speed it essentially gets dropped. Listen...
Пожалуйста

Now, пожалуйста does not MEAN "you're welcome". In fact, it literally means "please", which is why we'll be adding it to our requests in a moment. So why would they tell you "Please" after you say Thank you? Well, it makes sense if you think of what words they're leaving out. You say...

Thank you.

And they say, "Please, **there's no need to thank me.**"

Say it one more time...
пожалуйста

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

There's something in linguistics known as a construction. That's the fancy term they give to the simple idea of a fill-in-the-blank phrase. And that's what we've been working with today. For example, the English phrase...

I'll have _____

...is a very common construction for ordering food. And you can fill in all sorts of things in the blank,
I'll have the soup.
I'll have the lobster.
I'll have pancakes
..and so on.

If you're a foreigner trying to learn English, you'd be smart to master such a common construction. And if you practice the right way, you'll quickly become fluent with that construction. Do this for all the major constructions, and you can quickly become fluent in the language. In short: Constructions are the most efficient tool for developing fluency in a language. So, let's practice again with our Russian construction, inserting various foods in there.

Я буду _____.

Order soup:

Я буду суп.

Order borscht.

Я буду борщ.

Order pizza.

Я буду пиццу.

Order caviar.

Я буду икру.

In the mood for some greens? The word for **salad** in Russian is a cognate.

Listen:

салат

Only, it ends in a "t" ...салаТ, and the stress is at the end...caЛAT

So, order a salad:

Я буду салат.

Coffee is also a cognate. Listen...

кофе....кофе

So, order coffee:

Я буду кофе.

Let's try to fill out the exchange a bit more. So, there you are, sitting in a Russian cafe with some friends. The waiter comes over and greets you...

Здравствуйте.

Greet him right back:

Здравствуйте.

Look up from your menu and tell him: I'll have the borscht, please.

Я буду борщ, пожалуйста.

Your friend then says: ..whereas, I'll have a salad.

А я буду салат, пожалуйста.

Listen to how the waiter reads back your orders:

Борщ и салат, да?

Tell him: Yes. Thank you.

Да. Спасибо.

He says: You're welcome.

Пожалуйста.

Did you catch the word for "and", as in borscht and a salad? It was
И

So let's try that. Say: I'll have the soup and salad, please.

Я буду суп и салат, пожалуйста.

Final exam here. Let's put this all together and say: Hello, I'll have a pizza and coffee, please.

Здравствуйте, я буду пиццу и кофе, пожалуйста.

Awesome! Alright, next time we'll learn two of the most common and useful words in Russian. So I hope you tune in for that. In the meantime, be sure to head over to RussianMadeEasy.com to watch all the clips featuring today's new words. See you next time.

