

# Russian Made *EASY!*



## Podcast



### Episode #7

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

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[RussianMadeEasy.com](http://RussianMadeEasy.com)



Welcome to episode number 7. Let's practice saying two new Russian words. These are two of the most common words in the language. So, repeat after the speaker:

есть

If I were to sound that out using English letters, I'd spell it y-a-y-s-t....есть  
Listen one more time:

есть

And try this one:

хорошо

It's long overdue, but let me finally talk a moment about the rolled R in Russian. If you're having trouble, try saying "udder"....udder...See how your tongue bounces off the roof of your mouth? That's how a rolled R feels. So this new word...

хорошо

...in super-slow motion would be: хо-UDDER-шо

We also have that very Russian X sound. It's almost like you're clearing your throat, I mean, as if to spit. I know...a little gross. But you do need a touch of that in there. Xuh

One more time, slowly: хо-UDDER-show

And quickly:

хорошо

All three vowels there are the letter "o" by the way, but only the final one is stressed. This reduces the others to more of an "uh" sound.

хо-ро-шо

Try our two new words again:

есть....хорошо

Alright. As those seep into your subconscious, let's review the material from podcast 6. You've just been seated in a cafe and the waiter is ready for your order. Greet him, and say: I'll have coffee, please.

Здравствуйте, я буду кофе, пожалуйста.

How should you thank him when he brings it?

Спасибо.

To which he will reply:

Пожалуйста

Wait...did he just say, *Please*? Well, remember that this is the proper response

when someone has thanked you. You're basically telling them,  
***PLEASE...there's no need to thank me.***

Now, looking at the menu, you notice a photo of some food item that looks like pasta. And, like so many foreign foods, the word is a cognate in Russian. Listen:

Паста

So point to the picture and with just two words, ask:

Is this pasta?

Это паста?

How will he say: Yes, this is pasta.

Да, это паста.

So tell him:

I'll have the pasta, please.

Я буду пасту пожалуйста.

Did you remember to say "pastu"...with an "uu" sound at the end? Remember, by ordering pasta we're ***doing something*** to the word. And so its "ah" ending has to change to "uu." If you're still shaky on that, it might be worth reviewing the previous podcast, number 6. But if you got it right and said pastu, honestly, you're doing great!

So, do you recall those two words we started the podcast with?

есть

хорошо

Let's see if you can figure out what they mean. Pretend I'm at my Russian friend's apartment. As he heads into the kitchen, he asks me if I want a beer. I know he usually has a big selection of beers in his fridge, so listen to our conversation:

Есть Хейнекен?

Да, есть.

Хорошо. Я буду Хейнекен, пожалуйста.

Let's try a similar example, but with soft-drinks. My co-worker is standing by the fridge and asks if I want a soda. So I ask...

Есть Спрайт?

Да, есть.

Хорошо. Я буду Спрайт, пожалуйста.

Do you kind of have a feel for how those two words might translate? Here's that first conversation in English:

Is there Heineken?

Yes, there is.

Okay, I'll have a Heineken, please.

So, есть translates as "is there" or "there is" depending on if you're using it to ask a question or make a statement. But super-literally, it translates as "there exists". As in:

There exists Heineken?

Yes, there exists.

Awkward sounding, for sure, but important to know. And what about that other word, хорошо? Well, that can translate a number of ways, but in these examples it's a way of agreeing. Some more examples: Imagine I tell my boss, "I just uploaded some new clips to the Media Center. Can I show you?" And she says...

Хорошо.

Hey Jim, wanna go to the movies?

Хорошо.

Again, the word has other uses and meanings that we'll pick up as we go along...хорошо?

Хорошо.

Anyway, let's step back into the cafe and put these words to work for us. So, you're sitting at the table. You've already exchanged greetings with your server.

So ask: Is there soup?

Есть суп?

Listen to his response:

Да. Есть борщ и есть солянка.

So, he said: Yes, there is borscht and there is solyanka. Let's play it safe and

order the borscht.

Я буду борщ, пожалуйста.

But if you were feeling adventurous and wanted to try a new soup, how would you say:

I'll have the solyanka.

Я буду солянку.

Did you remember to change the "a" at the end of solyanka to an "uu" sound?  
solyanku.

солянку

You're having trouble finding coffee on the menu, so ask: Is there coffee?

Есть кофе?

Again, listen to her answer:

Да, есть. И есть капучино.

Say: Okay, I'll have the cappuccino, please.

Хорошо. Я буду капучино, пожалуйста.

Now, here are two more easy cognates in Russian. Again, they're foods. Listen and repeat...

йогурт

маффин

So, we say yogurt, and in Russian it's йогурт with that deep "uu" sound...and of course the rolled R.

And that 2nd one is muffin

For that, envision a blueberry muffin, or some other sweet muffin. Think cakey, not bready.

Say them one more time. Yogurt is...

йогурт

And a muffin is...

маффин

So, your friends have come over for breakfast, but sadly you don't have much to offer. Tell them: "There's coffee, there's yogurt, and there's a muffin."

Есть кофе, есть йогурт, и есть маффин.

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

Today's tip is quick 'n' easy: When you're in Russia or Ukraine and you're using your Russian, ***try asking questions you already know the answer to.*** That might sound like a dumb thing to do, or a waste of the person's time, but it's not. Because -- since you already know the information -- you can relax and focus all your attention on listening to the native speaker. When I was in Moscow, for example, I'd stop people on the street from time to time and ask how to get to Red Square....again, even though I knew exactly how to get there -- because I wanted to analyze their answers, their word choice, and so on, without that stress of, "Man, I gotta make sure I remember all this."

Alright, let's put it all together now: You're in a cafe. Let's greet our server...  
Здравствуйте.

...and he says:  
Добрый день. Что Вы хотите?

Gulp! Well, don't panic. He used a different greeting: Добрый день.  
And followed with: Что Вы хотите?  
***...as he pulled out a pad and pen.***

We haven't learned all those words, but we have encountered ЧТО, remember?  
In Podcast number 5 we learned to point at something and ask, Что это?  
What is this?  
Therefore, ЧТО is the Russian word for "what".  
So when our server pulls out his pad and pen and asks Что Вы хотите?  
...he's asking, ***WHAT....something something***. It's a safe bet he's asking *What do you want?* or *What would you like?* He obviously wants to know your order.  
So let's ask:

Is there soup?  
Есть суп?

Say: Yes, there is. There is borscht and solyanka.  
Да, есть. Есть борщ и солянка.

Tell him: Okay, I'll have the borscht, please. And coffee.  
Хорошо. Я буду борщ, пожалуйста. И кофе.

Change your mind and say: No, I'll have the solyanka.

Нет, я буду солянку.

He says: Solyanka? Ok.  
Солянку? Хорошо.

Tell him: Thanks.  
Спасибо.

And he says: You're welcome.  
Пожалуйста.

That was fun. Let's try another one. The waiter comes over, so greet him:  
Здравствуйте.

He, too, uses that other greeting:  
Добрый день.

..and then asks you:  
Что Вы хотите?

We know he's asking, **WHAT....something something**. I don't want to officially learn this phrase yet. We'll cover it in a future episode. For now we're just going to assume he's asking: *What do you want?*

Now, imagine that -- although it's 11am -- you haven't had breakfast yet. Let's ask him:

Is there yogurt?  
Есть йогурт?

And here's his reply:  
А...завтрак хотите? Ну...есть йогурт, есть маффин, есть блины...и есть кофе и капучино.

You'll notice this happens a lot with any foreign language you learn. Native speakers never seem to use the exact phrases you've studied. Of course, why would they? The assumption by native speakers is essentially: *Well, he knows those words, he must know these words, too.*

But don't worry. We can deal with this. Let's first listen one more time to his response:

А...завтрак хотите? Ну...есть йогурт, есть маффин, есть блины...и есть

кофе и капучино.

The first four words are new to us. But then he gets to stuff we have learned:

есть йогурт, есть маффин, есть блины...и есть кофе и капучино.

He's saying: There is yogurt, there is a muffin, there are blini -- blini are those are thin Russian pancakes, basically crepes -- and there is coffee and cappuccino.

So tell him:

Okay, I'll have the yogurt, please. And cappuccino.

Хорошо. Я буду йогурт, пожалуйста. И капучино.

He reads back your order:

Ok...Yogurt and cappuccino.

Хорошо. Йогурт и капучино

Tell him: Thanks.

Спасибо.

And he says: You're welcome.

Пожалуйста.

If you're comfortable with this kind of exchange, you'll do great when you visit the former Soviet Union..the FSU, as people call it. Sure, there are tons of foods that we haven't covered, but there are also so many cognates when you're dealing with food, it's easy to get by. Just before recording this today, I asked Natasha to name six food cognates that we haven't talked about yet. Can you recognize each one?

Омлет, грейпфрут, банан, гамбургер, хот-дог, спагетти, брокколи

I'm sure she could've kept going. So don't worry. When it comes to ordering in a restaurant, you'll do great. As always, be sure to drop by the site, [RussianMadeEasy.com](http://RussianMadeEasy.com) and check out the video clips for this lesson. See these words in action! You do that, and I'll see you next time.

