

# Russian Made *EASY!*



## Podcast

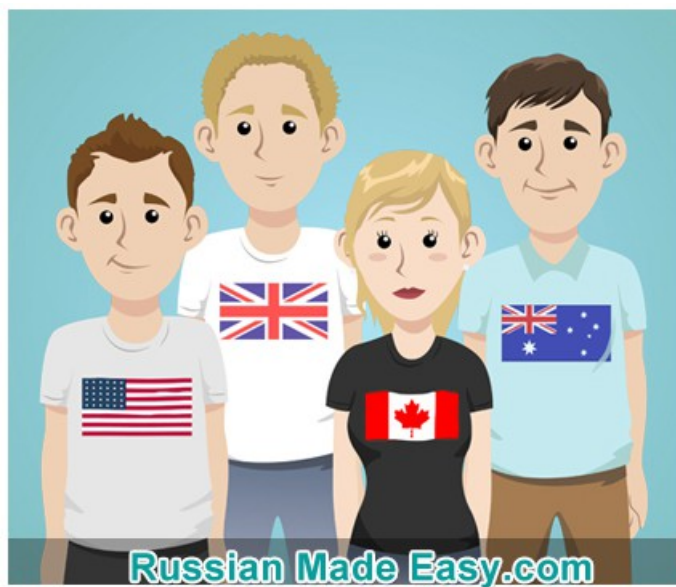


### Episode #3

**\*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)



Welcome to Episode #3 of Russian Made Easy. In this episode, we're going to talk about nationalities. We'll also learn to introduce our friends, and we'll dispel a common myth about Russian pronunciation. Let's start, though, by reviewing what we learned in the previous podcast.

Imagine you're at a cafe with your Russian friend. She comes back from the bathroom and sees that the food you both ordered has been served. Say each of the following phrases in Russian...out loud.

Is this my pizza?

Это моя пицца?

Yes, this is your pizza.  
Да, это твоя пицца.

Is this my soup?  
Это мой суп?

Yes, this is your soup.  
Да, это твой суп.

Is this your borscht?  
Это твой борщ?

This is my cola.  
Это моя кола.

So, how did you do? Did you remember to use the feminine version of my and your -- that is, моя and твоя to rhyme with the feminine words like pizza and vodka? If so, you've already mastered a fundamental aspect of Russian grammar.

Alright...on to today's main topic. Because I live in a Russian speaking country, whenever I meet new people they inevitably ask where I'm from. Here's one way that I often respond...

Я – американец.  
Listen again and repeat.

That means literally: I'm an American male. Even if it doesn't apply to your situation, it's a good idea to say them anyway just to get a feel for the pronunciation. So how do I tell someone, "I'm an American."  
Я – американец

Given that there are over 200 nationalities in the world, it is beyond the scope of a twenty minute podcast to teach anything but a fraction of those. So please...if we don't cover your nationality here, I *beg* you, don't take offense. Just leave a comment on the Russian Made Easy website and I'll be glad to teach you your nationality there. For now, we're going to cover the U.S., England, Canada and Australia.

Quick review. How do you say...

I'm an American.  
Я - американец.

Now here's the thing. Do you remember from the first podcast, the two versions for "student"? We had...  
студент

That was the masculine form. And...  
студентка

...the feminine form. Well, Russian is kinda wishy-washy on this idea of having a male and female version for occupations. What I mean is, some occupations **do** have a male and female form - like student, teacher, dancer and singer. But many others have only one form, like doctor, engineer and author. But when it comes to nationalities, Russian is much more consistent and basically has a male and female version for each. So, this phrase:

Я — американец.

...is only the way a **man** would say it. An American woman should say:

Я - американка.

Listen again, and repeat:  
Я - американка.

Say: This is Tony. He is an American.  
Это Тони. Он - американец.

This is Jane. She is an American.  
Это Джейн. Она - американка.

Let's try two more. Imagine you're at the Moscow Movie Festival, and the MC is introducing the stars as they come in. As Russell Crowe enters, the MC says...

Это Рассел Кроу. Он - австралиец.

Then Nicole Kidman enters and the MC announces...  
Это Николь Кидман. Она - австралийка.

So we heard: австралиец  
...that's an Australian man. And...

австралийка  
...that's an Australian woman.

Try saying: He is an Australian.  
Он - австралиец.

How about: She is an Australian.  
Она - австралийка.

Good job! Alright, a quick review before going on. Say..

This is Leyton. He is an Australian.  
Это Лэйтон. Он - австралиец.

This is Sally. She is an American.  
Это Салли. Она - американка.

This is Clara. She is an Australian.  
Это Клара. Она — австралийка.

This is Steve. He is an American.  
Это Стив. Он - американец.

A quick side note: Bear in mind that -- just as in English -- there are other ways to say these things in Russian. For example, in English I can say, "I'm American." but I can also say, "I'm an American." In the first, 'American' is an adjective. In the second, it's a noun. I can also convey the same idea by saying, "I'm from America."

Alright. Let's add two more nationalities. Repeat this first pair after the speaker:  
англичанин - англичанка

One more time...  
англичанин - англичанка

So what nationality is it? Well, in the movies, James Bond is perhaps the most well known англичанин.

Meanwhile, Queen Elizabeth is certainly the most well-known англичанка.

So, an англичанин is an Englishman. And an англичанка is a English woman.

And now our second pair. Again, repeat after the speaker:

канадец – канадка

We'll cut right to the chase on this one. A man born and raised in, say, Toronto, is a канадец. A woman born and raised there is a канадка.

So the word for a Canadian male is....канадец.

And for a Canadian female?

Канадка

For fun, let's do a celebrity quiz. I'll name a famous person, and you say his or her nationality. Ready?

Paul McCartney.

Англичанин

Beyonce.

Американка

Alannis Morrisette

Канадка

Crocodile Dundee

Австралиец

Queen Elizabeth

Англичанка

Nicole Kidman

Австралийка

Bruce Willis

Американец

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

I'd like to take a moment now to dispel a huge myth people seem to believe about pronunciation. I get emails and sound files from our members all the time, "I worry that my pronunciation isn't perfect." Or, "My native speaking teacher says my Russian accent isn't perfect yet. She keeps having me practice the same few words over and over. Help!"

Here's the fact of the matter: Your pronunciation needs to be just good enough so that native speakers understand you. That's it. End of story. You will never speak Russian without an accent. Never. And you'll never fool a Russian speaker into thinking you're a native speaker. Neither will I. But so what?! All that matters is that you speak well enough to be understood. I mean, what does it even MEAN to speak without an accent?

Think about English. What is the correct pronunciation? American? British? Australian? If American, then which American accent? New York? Boston? The Southern drawl? That dry, Chicago accent? If British is the correct accent, then which British version? North London? Cockney? Scottish? Irish? As long as we understand each other, that's what counts.

And it kills me when native Russian speakers give students of Russian a hard time, and criticize their pronunciation. I have never met a single Russian speaker in the US who doesn't speak without a brutally thick accent. I've met Russians in the U.S. who've been living there for thirty years and speak English well, but gimme a break...the instant they open their mouth -- with just a single word -- it's immediately obvious they're Russian. Хэлло Марк. Хай ар ю? But again I say: So what? We understand them. They can function in our society. They can communicate. End of story.

So please...do not obsess about trying to perfect your pronunciation. But do check with a native speaker from time to time to be certain they understand what you're saying. That's why we include access to our native speaking Success Coaches with Russian Accelerator. You just need to know that your speech is understandable. Anyway, that rant is over, let's learn two more words and then put it all together.

Repeat after the speaker...

друг - подруга

Can you figure out what they mean? Well, imagine you're in Moscow with your two friends, Randy and Christina. You're in a club and you're introducing them to a new Russian acquaintance. You gesture to Randy and say,  
Это мой друг Рэнди.

Then you gesture to Christina.

Это моя подруга Кристина.

So, Randy is your друг

And Christina is your подруга.

Both words translate as *friend*, but друг is for guys and подруга is for girls. Think of it this way. If I tell you that my friend Pat is coming over, you have no idea whether Pat is a man or a woman. But if I tell you in Russian, it's clear. Listen...

Это мой друг Пэт.

We know Pat is your друг...your male friend.

Это моя подруга Пэт.

In this case, we know Pat is a female friend.

On a side note, these words only denote friendship. They're not the words Russian speakers use when they're in a relationship with someone. What I mean is, we'll learn the words for "boyfriend," "girlfriend", and so on later in the series. Anyway, let's put all this together. Your friend Natasha is showing you some photos. One is of a woman you don't quite recognize, so ask her: Is this your friend?

Это твоя подруга?

Yes. This is my female friend Monica.

Да. Это моя подруга Моника.

She is an American.

Она - американка.

Now your buddy Vadim is showing you some pics. Ask:

Is this your friend?

Это твой друг?

This is my friend Leyton. He is an Australian.

Это мой друг Лэйтон. Он - австралиец.

My mom is a Canadian.

Моя мама - канадка.

My father is an Englishman.

Мой папа - англичанин.

This is my friend Charlie. He is a Canadian.

Это мой друг Чарли. Он - канадец.

This is my female friend Louisa. She is English.  
Это моя подруга Льюиса. Она - англичанка.

This is my friend John. He is an American.  
Да. Это мой друг Джон. Он - американец.

If you got all these, you really are making awesome progress in Russian.

In the next podcast we'll learn about greetings and introductions, plus I'll show you a great tip for maximizing your study time.

As always, I've put an "exercise-only" version of this on my site, [RussianMadeEasy.com](http://RussianMadeEasy.com), so be sure to head over there and download that. That's where you'll find the transcript as well. And in the meantime, keep on practicing. I'll see you in the next episode.

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