



Russian



- 100 all-inclusive and progressive lessons
- 226 exercises with key
- dual-language lexicon
- grammar summary

WITH EASE SERIES



Russian With Ease Series

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1 Before you start on the lessons, please read the introduction carefully, even if you have some basic knowledge of Russian or have studied Russian before. The introduction provides important information about pronunciation and how to make the most of your learning.

The first set of lessons aims mainly to familiarize you with Russian pronunciation rules and the sounds of the language. Once you have assimilated these, you will be able to pronounce every word you read. We recommend you read the pronunciation notes carefully.

1 Первый урок [pyervweey oorawk]

Как дела?

kag-dyila

1 – Добрый день ①, Надя!

dawbreey dyen^{yi} nadya

2 – Привет, Саша ②!

privyet sasha

Pronunciation Notes

(The numbers refer to the sentences in the dialogue.)

Lesson number: • The sound **ы** is halfway between **y** [oo] and **и** [i]. The tongue is drawn back, as for **y**, but the lips are spread, as for **и**. In this course, **ы** is transcribed as [ee] after most letters, but [wee] after **б**, **в** and **м**.

• **р** is a rolled [r].

1 **нь** (**день** [dyen^{yi}]) is pronounced [n] followed by a very short [yi] sound, like the [ny] in *new* (British pronunciation) or the [gr] in *gnocchi*. The soft sign **ь** (like the hard sign **ъ** which you will see later) is silent, but alters the pronunciation of the preceding consonant. **ь** softens the preceding consonant.

2 Stressed **е** (**Привёт**) is pronounced like the [ye] in *yes*.

Stressed **а** is pronounced like the [a] in *hard*. Unstressed **а** is pronounced like the first [a] in *karate*.

Note: In the dialogues, the stressed syllable in each word is shown in bold (in the notes, it is indicated by an acute accent on the stressed vowel). In the English translation of the dialogues, the Italicised words in brackets () are a word-for-word translation of the Russian. The words between square brackets [] are words that are not in the Russian phrase but that are needed in English.

First Lesson 1

How are you?

1 – Hello (Good day) Nadya!

2 – Hi, Sasha!



Notes

- ① The expression **добрый день** [dawbreey dyen^{yi}] is used as a greeting until about 6 pm.
- ② **Саша** [sasha] is a diminutive of **Александр** [alyiksandr]. **Надя** [nadya] is a diminutive of **Надежда** [nadyezhda]. Even if the two forms of the same name do not look much like each other, you'll have to get used to it, because Russians love diminutives!

3 Как дела? ③

kag-dyila

4 – Хорошо, спасибо.

kharashaw spasiba

5 А ④ у ⑤ вас ⑥?

аоо вас

6 – Спасибо, всё хорошо.

spasiba fsyaw kharashaw3 How are you (*How matters?*)?4 – Well, thank you (*thank-you*).5 And you (*And in-possession of-you?*)?6 – Everything's fine, thank you (*Thank-you, all well*).

3 Before the voiced *д* [d] in *делá* [dyila], the final unvoiced *к* [k] in *как* becomes voiced and is pronounced like the [g] in *give*: [kag-dyila]. The two words are hyphenated in the pronunciation to show that the second word alters the pronunciation of the first word.

Unstressed *е* (*делá*) is pronounced [yi]. However, when it is in the final position, unstressed *е* is pronounced [ye] but with slightly less emphasis e.g. *упражнѐние* [ooprazhnyen'ye].

4 *х* is a guttural *h* sound indicated by [kh]. It is like the [ch] in *Loch Ness* or German *Bach*.

Stressed *о* is pronounced like the [aw] in *thaw*. Unstressed *о* is pronounced like the first [a] in *karate*: *хорошó* [kharashaw].

5 *а у* [a-oo] is pronounced as a single word.

6 • The final *о* in *Спасибо* [spasiba] is unstressed, so is pronounced like the first [a] in *karate*.

• Before the unvoiced *с* [s] in *всѐ*, the voiced *в* [v] becomes unvoiced and is pronounced [f]: *всѐ* [fsyaw].

Notes

- ③ **Как делá?** [kag-dyila], literally “How matters?”, is a very common expression, the equivalent of *How are you?* The verb *to be* is omitted in the present tense in Russian (in both statements and questions). Russian word order is much more flexible than English word order. Instead of saying just **Как делá?**, you can insert **у вас?** [oo vas] “with you”: **Как у вас делá?**, *how are you?* (literally: “How with you matters?”).
- ④ **А** [a], introduces a contrast with the previous statement or question. In this sentence, it introduces a change of person. Depending on the context, it can be translated as *and* or *but* or *How/What about you/him, etc.?* or not translated.
- ⑤ The preposition **у** [oo] has no exact equivalent in English. In English, depending on the context, it can be translated by *in* ▶

- ▶ *my/your/his etc. possession, at my/your/his etc. place, or by another appropriate preposition.* In this case, the expression **А у вас делá,** could be translated as *How are things with you?*
- ⑥ **вас.** Russian has two forms of the second person pronoun (*you*): the informal **ты** [tee] for close friends, family, children and animals, and the formal **вы** [vwee] for people you do not know well or who are your seniors. **вы** is also the plural form of *you*. These distinctions are the same as French *tu* and *vous*. Here **вас** is the genitive case of **вы** after the preposition *у*.

1 Упражнение 1 – Читайте и переводите

Exercise 1 – Read and translate

- 1 Саша, добрый день! – Привет!
- 2 Как дела?
- 3 Спасибо, Надя!
- 4 Всё хорошо.
- 5 Как у вас дела?

Упражнение 2 – Восстановите текст

Exercise 2 – Fill in the missing words

(Each dot stands for a letter or a sign.)

- 1 How are you?
... дела?
- 2 Well, thank you.
Хорошо,
- 3 Hi!
.....!

Read:

Саша, да, газ, спасибо, вы, жираф, опера.
Саша, да, газ, спасибо, вы, жираф, опера.

Answer Key (pronunciation and translation):

[sasha] Sasha, [da] yes, [gas] gas, [spasiba] thank you, [vwee] you (plural or formal), [zheeraf] giraffe, [awpyira] opera.

Write and decipher:

как, это, Надя, театр, стоп.

Answer Key:

как [kak] how, это [etʰ] that, Надя [nadya] Nadya, театр [tyatr] theater, стоп [stawp] stop.

5 • пять [pyatʰ]

Answer Key to Exercise 1 (Translation)

- 1 Hello, Sasha! – Hi!
- 2 How are you?
- 3 Thank you, Nadya!
- 4 Everything's fine.
- 5 How are you?

- 4 Hello!
Добрый !
- 5 Everything's fine.
. . . хорошо.

Answer Key to Exercise 2 (Cloze)

- 1 Как –
- 2 – спасибо
- 3 Привет
- 4 – день
- 5 Всё –

There are two extra exercises at the end of each lesson – a reading exercise and a writing exercise. In these exercises, you will come across words you have encountered in the previous lessons as well as new words. You will find that the letters that seemed incomprehensible at first will start to make sense as you manage to decipher them.

In the reading exercise, the first line is in typed script. The second line is in cursive script and shows you how a Russian would handwrite the same words. Sometimes the two scripts can look quite different. Read each word aloud and enjoy saying and hearing the sounds of Russian!

The second exercise is designed to help you practice handwriting Russian words. We recommend you use a separate exercise book to practice and write out each word several times.

шесть [chestʰ] • 6

From now on, the dialogues will not be transcribed in full. You don't need the transcription anymore! It has even started to get in the way, now that you have no trouble reading Cyrillic. We will still help you with difficult or irregular words, of course: you can check

their pronunciation in the Pronunciation Notes. And we will still indicate stress. Review the pronunciation rules in the introduction if you are in doubt.

50 Пятидесятый урок

Хитрость

- 1 – Дай мне, пожалуйста, ① твою ручку!
- 2 – Почему ты хочешь именно ② мою ручку?
- 3 – Подумай сам ③ : папа пишет карандашом ④,
- 4 мама печатает ⑤ на компьютере,
- 5 а мне нужна ручка!

Pronunciation Notes

Lesson number: Пятидесятый [pitidyisyateey].

Notes

- ① Дай мне, пожалуйста (literally “give me please”) can often be translated as *Can I please have?*
- ② The word **именно**, *exactly*, is not always translated in English, because it can be rendered by emphasis on the key word. When **именно** is used with **и**, *and*, it means *that's exactly the one...* For example:
именно эту книгу я и хочу!, *That's exactly the book I want!*
именно это он мне и сказал, *That's exactly what he told me.* ▶

Fiftieth Lesson 50

Cunning

- 1 – Give me your pen, please!
- 2 – Why do you want *my* pen?
- 3 – Think for yourself: Dad writes with a pencil,
- 4 Mom types on the computer,
- 5 and I need a pen!

- ▶ ③ The pronoun **сам** means *oneself*. You will learn more about it in lesson 55.
- ④ The instrumental is the case that describes by what means, or “instrument” the action is accomplished, or what accompanies the action:
Ты пишешь ручкой или карандашом?, *Do you write with a pen or a pencil?*
To refresh your memory of how to form the instrumental singular, refer to lesson 42, section 1. An interesting derivation: the word **карандаш** was introduced into Russian in the 18th century. It is formed from two Turkish words: **kara**, *black*, and **taş**, *stone*. The Swiss brand of pencils Caran d'Ache would seem to have the same origin.
- ⑤ The imperfective verb **печатать** can be translated as *type, print or publish*.

- 50 6 Таня и Рома ⑥ вообще не умеют писать ⑦ :
 7 значит ⑧ у них нет ручки...
 8 – Так почему ты не пишешь ⑨ своей
 ручкой?
 9 – Мне надо делать ⑩ домашнее ⑪ задание,
 10 а моя ручка постоянно делает ошибки! □

10 To read Russian, remember that unstressed *e* is pronounced [yɪ] and unstressed *o* is pronounced [a]. Don't forget that voiced consonants at the end of a word or before an unvoiced consonant become unvoiced: **ошибки** [asheepki].

Notes

- ⑥ **Таня** and **Рома** are the diminutives of **Татьяна** and **Роман**.
 ⑦ **уметь** + infinitive means *can* in the sense of *to know how [to do something]*. It is a regular first-group verb (see endings in lesson 21, section 4). To a question like **Ты умеешь писать?**, *Can you write? / Do you know how to write?*, you can simply answer **Да, умею**, *Yes, I can*, without having to repeat the verb that comes after **уметь**.
 ⑧ **значит** is the third person singular of the verb **значить**, *to mean*. It can, of course, be translated as *it/that/which means* and also by *so* or *therefore* when it is used without a subject: **Что это значит?**, *What does this mean?*
Значит, это был ты..., *So it was you...*
 ⑨ In many Russian verbs that come from Old East Slavonic (the ▶

Упражнение 1 – Читайте и переводите

- ① Подумай сам: мне нужно новое платье.
 ② Они умеют печатать на компьютере? ③ Это моя ручка, а где твоя? ④ Вечером мне надо делать домашнее задание. ⑤ Так почему мама не пишет письмо?

- 6 Tanya and Roma don't even (*generally*) know how to write:
 7 so they don't have a pen...
 8 – So why don't you write with your pen?
 9 – I need to do my homework,
 10 but my pen is always (*constantly*) making mistakes!

50

▶ old Russian language), the last consonant of the root changes in the conjugation. The verb **писать**, *to write*, is a good example: **с** becomes **ш** in every person. You will find an example of this type of conjugation in the next review lesson.

- ⑩ **надо** + infinitive is an impersonal construction that can be translated as *it is necessary, must, have to*. To personalize this construction, add the person for whom the action is necessary in the dative case:

Мне надо идти домой, *I have to go home*.

Бабушке надо мыть посуду, *Grandma has to wash the dishes*.

- ⑪ Look at some of the ways the adjective **домашний**, *-яя, -ее, home*, from **дом**, *house/home*, is used:

У него есть домашняя библиотека, *He has a home library / a library at home*.

Она делает домашнее задание, *She is doing her homework*.

Вот мой домашний адрес, *Here's my home address*.

Это их домашние животные, *Those are their pets* (literally “home animals”).

Answer Key to Exercise 1

- ① Think [about it] (*yourself*): I need a new dress. ② Do they know how to type on the computer? ③ That's my pen, (*but*) where's yours? ④ In the evening I need to do my homework. ⑤ So why isn't Mom writing the letter?

50 Упражнение 2 – Восстановите текст

- 1 I write with a pencil, but you [write] with a pen.
Я пишу , а ты
- 2 So, he needs to go to the shop.
. , ему надо в магазин.
- 3 He is always making mistakes.
Он делает
- 4 – Do you know how to write? – Not yet.
– Ты писать? – Ещё нет.
- 5 Think which pen exactly you want.
. , какую ручку ты хочешь.



Answer Key to Exercise 2

- 1 – карандашом – ручкой
- 2 Значит –
- 3 – постоянно – ошибки
- 4 – умешь –
- 5 Подумай – именно –



The second wave: how it works

Today you start the active phase of your learning. How does it work? It's very simple. After you finish studying the day's lesson as usual, you go back over a previous lesson, starting from the beginning of the course (we will tell you which lesson to revise). Once you have revised that lesson briefly, translate the English dialogue back into Russian out loud. Don't be shy! Speak loudly and clearly. Go back over the pronunciation several times if you need to. The "second wave" review isn't tedious at all. It enables you to go over what you have already learned and consolidate your knowledge without even noticing.

Second wave: 1st Lesson

До новых встреч!

- 1 Вот мы и подошли ① к последнему уроку нашего учебника.
- 2 Путь был нелёгким ②, вам понадобилось много терпения и трудолюбия ③.
- 3 Но, как говорится, без труда не вынешь ④ и рыбку ⑤ из пруда!
- 4 У вас всё получилось, и если вам захотелось поехать в Россию,
- 5 мы только можем пожелать вам «Счастливого пути!».
- 6 Язык – это наилучший ⑥ способ познания стран и народов,
- 7 с их культурой и традициями.

Pronunciation

2 ... nyilyawkhkim ... 3 ... byistrooda ... 5 ... shislivava ...
6 ... nailoochsheey ...

Notes

- ① подошли: the prefix под(о) contains the idea of *approaching* or *coming up to something*: подойти, to approach on foot takes the preposition к + dative:
Он подошёл к столу и что-то взял, He came up to the table and took something.
- ② You already know that after some verbs, the noun and/or adjective is in the instrumental (to revise the rule, see lesson 77, section 6). For example, after the verb быть, to be, in the past tense, the adjective goes into the instrumental: упражнение было нелёгким, the exercise was not easy; ▶

Until we next meet (Until new meetings)!

- 1 Now we've reached (Here we and came-up to) the last lesson of our book.
 - 2 The road (path) was not easy, you needed a lot of patience and dedication.
 - 3 But, as they say, no gain without pain (without labor not you-will-pull-out and fish from pond)!
 - 4 Everything has worked out well for you (with you everything received-self), and if that has made you want to go (you felt-like to-go) to Russia,
 - 5 we can only wish you "Bon voyage!".
 - 6 The language is the best way to [get to] know a country and its people (best way of-knowledge of-countries and peoples),
 - 7 (with) their culture and traditions.
- ▶ ты был грустным, you were sad; девочка была странной, the girl was strange.
- ③ Don't forget that after много the noun and/or adjective is in the genitive.
много терпения и трудолюбия, much patience and dedication.
 - ④ Here the second-person singular is used in a general, impersonal sense: не вынешь, you won't pull out as in no one can pull out (whether they want to or not).
 - ⑤ рыбка is the diminutive of рыба, fish, formed with the feminine suffix -ка. It is also a term of endearment used for a child or a romantic partner.
 - ⑥ The prefix наи- reinforces the sense of a superlative. It is used frequently with some superlatives and rarely with others. наилучший is the reinforced superlative of лучший, the best.

- 100 8 Открытие ⑦ многовековой русской культуры, великой литературы,
9 всё это ждёт вас, если вы пойдёте дальше.
10 Говорите по-русски! Читайте! Откройте для себя русский кинематограф!
11 А мы не прощаемся с вами, а говорим вам «До свидания!»
12 Всего доброго и успехов во всём! □

8 ... mnawgavyikavoy ...

Note

⑦ **открытие** has two meanings: *opening* and *discovery*. For example: **открытие магазина**: *the opening of a store*; **открытие новых стран**, *the discovery of new countries*.

Упражнение 1 – Читайте и переводите

① Без труда не вынешь и рыбку из пруда! ② Не ходите туда: вы не знаете, что вас там ждёт...
③ Они учат русский язык, чтобы говорить по-русски и читать русскую литературу. ④ Ура! У нас всё получилось! ⑤ – Опять в Россию захотелось... – Вы там уже были? – Нет, но вчера тоже хотелось!

513 • пятьсот тринадцать

- 8 The discovery of centuries-old (*many-century*) Russian culture [and] great literature,
9 all that awaits (*waits*) you, if you go further.
10 Speak Russian! Read! Discover Russian cinema for yourself!
11 We are not saying goodbye but “See you again!”
12 [We wish you] all the best and success in everything!



Answer Key to Exercise 1

① No pain, no gain! ② Don't go there: you don't know what is waiting for you there... ③ They're learning Russian, to be able to speak Russian and read Russian literature. ④ Hurray! Everything has worked out well for us! ⑤ – I feel like going to Russia again... – Have you been there before (*already*)? – No, but I felt like going yesterday too!

пятьсот четырнадцать • 514

100 Упражнение 2 – Восстановите текст

- ① – We wish you all the best! – Thank you.
– вам всего ! – Спасибо.
- ② Language is the best way to get to know a culture and [its] traditions.
Язык – наилучший познания
. и
- ③ – Right, let's not say goodbye! – Of course, until we next meet!
– Ну, не ! – Конечно, до новой
. !

Russians have a fine sense of humor. Jokes undoubtedly help them cope with a stressful existence in a society in transition. Russians readily make fun of themselves, their favorite heroes, various aspects of society, human failings, etc. Here are some examples to end the last lesson with a smile.

- Товарищ милиционер, скажите, по этой улице ходить не опасно?
– Было бы опасно, я бы здесь не ходил!
– Officer (“Comrade Policeman”), [tell me] is it dangerous to walk down this street?
– If it were dangerous, I wouldn't be walking here!
- Папа, угадай, какой поезд больше всех опаздывает?
– Какой, сыночек?
– Тот, который ты обещал мне подарить ещё на прошлый Новый год...
– Dad, guess which train comes later than all [the others].
– Which one, son?
– The one you promised to give me last New Year...



- ④ That people has very interesting centuries-old traditions.
У этого очень интересные
. традиции.
- ⑤ Bon voyage! Don't forget to call us when you arrive home.
Счастливого ! Не позвонить
нам, как домой.

Answer Key to Exercise 2

- ① Желаем – наилучшего – ② – способ – культуры – традиций
③ – прощаемся – встречи ④ – народа – многовековые – ⑤ –
пути – забудьте – приедете –

На рынке:

- Скажите, пожалуйста, сколько стоит эта лошадь?
– Но это не лошадь! Это курица.
– А... простите: я смотрел на цену.

At the market:

- Can you please tell me how much this horse costs?
– But that's not a horse! It's a chicken.
– Oh, sorry, I was looking at the price.

- Доктор, у меня грипп. Что вы мне посоветуете?
– Встаньте от меня подальше!
– Doctor, I have the flu. What do you advise me [to do]?
– Stand a bit further away from me!

The last lesson is over, but you don't have to stop here! How about continuing the second wave right up to lesson 100!

Second wave: 51st Lesson

