

Peace Corps

*Russian language lessons
Kyrgyz Republic*





Basic Interactive Russian Language Lessons

This course is based on such communicative functions as “informal and formal greetings”, “telling about oneself”, “expressing understanding”, “expressing likes/dislikes”, “expressing one’s opinion”, “asking for permission”, and “stating whether something is right or wrong.”

While you are listening, the speaker is going to ask you to repeat the words, to reply to the questions, and to ask questions.

Let’s learn some **Russian** phrases. (Note: the **Alphabet** and other **phrases** are included in this document at the end of these lessons. They are not covered, however, in the audio tracks.)

The text accompanies the following four (4) audio tracks:

- KY_Russian_Lessons_1_2.mp3 (Time: 4:11) (File Size: 3.83 MB)
- KY_Russian_Lessons_3_4.mp3 (Time: 6:22) (File Size: 5.83 MB)
- KY_Russian_Lessons_5_6.mp3 (Time: 3:17) (File Size: 3.01 MB)
- KY_Russian_Lessons_7_8.mp3 (Time: 3:19) (File Size: 3.04 MB)

Lesson 1: Informal Greeting.

An informal way of greeting among young people is **Привет!** **Привет!**
Привет! Which means “Hi!” Try to say it after the speaker.

a) Speaker: - **Привет!**
-

b) Speaker: - **Привет!**
-

Listen to how two friends greet.

a) – **Привет!**
- **Привет!**

b) – **Привет Олег!**
- **Привет Наташа!**

You probably guessed the speakers’ names. **Олег** and **Наташа** are common Russian names. **Олег** is a boy’s name and **Наташа** is a girl’s name.

Let’s practice.

Олег and **Наташа** are going to greet you in turns. Listen and greet them.

a) **Олег:** - **Привет Джон!**
-

b) **Наташа:** - **Привет Джон!**
-

Now, you greet first.

a) Greet **Олег**
-

b) Greet **Наташа**.
-

Олег: - Привет Джон!

Наташа: - Привет Джон!

After **Привет** people usually say **Как дела?**
Which means "how are things?"

Как дела? Как дела? Как дела?

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: - **Как дела?** Speaker: - **Как дела?**
- -

The usual reply is: **Хорошо. Хорошо. Хорошо**
Which means "good"

Sometimes the reply is **Хорошо, спасибо** **Хорошо, спасибо**
Хорошо, спасибо.
which means "good, thank you."

Repeat these words after the speaker.

Speaker: - **Хорошо** Speaker: - **Хорошо, спасибо.**
- -

Listen to how **Олег**, and **Наташа** say the question and then answer.

Олег: - Как дела Наташа?
Наташа: - Хорошо.

Наташа: - Как дела Олег?
Олег: - Хорошо, спасибо.

Let's practice.

Олег and **Наташа** are going to ask you.

Reply to them.

Олег: - Как дела Джон?
-

Наташа: - Как дела Джон?
-

Now, you ask them.

Ask **Олег**.
-?
Олег: - Хорошо.

Ask **Наташа**.
-?
Наташа: - Хорошо, спасибо

Now, let's review the greeting from the beginning. Listen to how **Олег** and **Наташа** greet each other.

- **Привет Наташа!**
- **Привет Олег!**
- **Как дела?**
- **Хорошо, спасибо.**

Now greet with **Олег**. Reply to him. start.

Now, greet with **Наташа**. You start.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| - Привет Джон! |! |
| - | Привет Джон! |
| - Как дела? |? |
| - | Хорошо, спасибо |

Lesson 2: Formal Greeting.

The formal way of greeting is **Здравствуй!** **Здравствуй!**
Which means "How do you do?" It can be used any time of the day.

Try to say it after the speaker.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Speaker: | Здравствуй! |
| |? |
| Speaker: | Здравствуй! |
| |? |

The reply is the same **Здравствуй!**
Listen how people greet each other.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Speaker 1: | Здравствуй! |
| Speaker 2: | Здравствуй! |

Let's practice. **Асан** and **Айша** are going to formally greet you. Listen and greet them in turns.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Асан: | Здравствуй! | Айша: |
| | Здравствуй! | |
| | | |

Now, you greet first. A) Greet **Асан**:

b) Greet **Айша**:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
|? |? |
| Асан: | Айша: |
| Здравствуй! | |

You met a man on the street. Greet him and listen to the reply.

-?
Здравствуй!

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **-Как вас зовут?**
-.....?

Speaker: **-Как вас зовут?**
-.....?

Олег is going to ask your name. Respond to him.

Олег: **Как вас зовут?**
-.....

Наташа is going to ask your name. Respond to her.

Наташа: **Как вас зовут?**
-.....

You meet a man on the street. Greet and ask his name.

-?
Марат: **- Меня зовут Марат.**

You meet a girl. Ask her name.

-?
Наташа: **- Меня зовут Наташа.**

You meet another boy on the street. Ask his name and tell him yours.

-?
Boy. **- Меня зовут Акыл.**
-

To tell about yourself, for example "I am a Volunteer," you should say,

Я волонтер.

Я во-лон-тер.

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Я волонтер.**
.....

Speaker: **Я волонтер.**
.....

Listen to how Amy says the phrase.

Amy: **Я волонтер.**

Я волонтер.

To say, "I am from America" you should say. **Я из Америки.**

Я из Америки.

Я из Америки.

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Я из Америки.**
.....

Speaker: **Я из Америки.**
.....

Listen to how Amy says the phrase and try to repeat after her.

Amy: **Я из Америки.** **Я из Америки.**
.....

Amy is going to tell about herself. Listen.

Amy: **Привет! Меня зовут Эйми.**
Я волонтер.
Я из Америки.

Now tell about yourself.

.....
.....

To ask “Where do you come from?” say, **Откуда вы приехали? Откуда вы приехали?**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Откуда вы приехали?** Speaker: **Откуда вы приехали?**
.....?

Let’s practice. Listen to how PC Volunteer Amy replies to Asan’s question.

Олег: Откуда вы приехали?
Аму: Я приехала из Америки. Я волонтер.

Олег is going to ask you. Reply him

Олег: Откуда вы приехали?
.....

Наташа is going to ask you. Reply her.

Наташа: Откуда вы приехали?
.....

Let’s review everything we have learned so far. Listen to a talk between **Amy** and **Олег**.

Олег: Привет!
Аму: Привет!
Олег: Как дела?
Аму: Хорошо, спасибо.
Олег: Меня зовут Олег. Как вас зовут?
Аму: Меня зовут Аму
Олег: Откуда вы приехали?
Аму: Я приехала из Америки. Я волонтер.

Наташа is going to talk to you. Reply to her questions and ask her.

Наташа: Привет!
.....!
Наташа: Как дела?

Наташа:
Как вас зовут?

Наташа:
Меня зовут Наташа. Откуда вы приехала?

Lesson 4: Expressing Understanding/Misunderstanding.

When you have misheard someone or misunderstand something, you can say, **Извините, я не понял**(male) or **я не поняла**(female) **Извините, я не поняла**(male) or **я не поняла**(female). Which means, “excuse me, I didn’t understand.”

Try to say this phrase after the speakers.

Speaker 1: **Извините, я не понял.** Speaker 2 **Извините, я не поняла.**

Listen to how Amy uses this phrase in her speech talking to a person.

Аму: **привет!**
Акыл: **привет!**
Аму: **Меня зовут Эйми.**
Акыл: **Меня зовут Акыл**
Аму: **Откуда вы приехали?**
Акыл: **Я не местный. Я приехал из другого города.**
Аму: **Извините, я не поняла.**

Like Amy, you have not understood what **Акыл** has said. He said that he was not local, he came from another place.

Try to reply to **Наташа** while talking to her. If you misunderstand something, say the phrase **Извините, я не понял(а).**

Наташа: **Привет!**
!
Наташа: **Как дела?**

Наташа: **Как вас зовут?**

Наташа: **Меня зовут Наташа. Вы говорите по русски?**

By the use of voice fluctuation, you might have guessed that it was a question. She was asking, “Do you speak Russian?” **Вы говорите по русски? Вы говорите по русски?**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Мне нравятся горы.

Listen to the speaker and repeat.

Speaker: **Мне нравится баскетбол** **Мне нравится теннис** **Мне нравится футбол**

.....

You probably guessed the names of some sport games. Many of them became international words and sound almost the same.

Now, tell about yourself and your interests.

.....
.....

To say "I don't like" you should say, **Мне не нравится.** **Мне не нравится**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Мне не нравится.** **Мне не нравится.**

.....

Listen to how Michael says that he doesn't like meat, vodka and coffee, and try to say after him.

Michael: **Мне не нравится мясо.** **Мне не нравится водка. Мне не нравится кофе.**

.....
.....

To ask another person say, **Вам нравится?** **Вам нравится?**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Вам нравится?** **Вам нравится?**

.....?

Michael is going to ask you. Reply to him.

Michael **Вам нравятся горы?** Michael: **Вам нравится кофе?**

.....

Some more phrases to express likes and dislikes:

Try to say the phrases after the speaker.

Speaker: **очень хорошо** very good **отлично** wonderful

.....

плохо bad **не люблю** I don't like.

.....

Now, tell about yourself and your interests.

.....
.....

Lesson 6: Stating Whether Something is Right or Wrong.

To say “this is right” say, **Правильно!** **Правильно!**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Правильно!** **Правильно!** **Правильно!**

To ask “is this right?” say, **Это правильно?** **Это правильно?**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Это правильно?** **Это правильно?**
 ? ?

To say “this is not right” say, **Это не правильно!** **Это не правильно!**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Это не правильно!** **Это не правильно!**

All the three forms (statement, question and negation) can be used without **это**.

Now Jenna is going to ask you. Reply to her.

Jenna: **Это правильно?**

Ask Jenna.

Jenna: **Правильно!**

Lesson 7: Expressing One’s Opinion.

To express your opinion say, **Я думаю** which is “I think” or “I guess”

Я думаю **Я думаю**

Try to say it after the speaker.

Speaker: **Я думаю** **Я думаю**

Jenna is going to express her opinion. Listen and repeat.

Jenna: **Я думаю это правильно** **Я думаю это правильно**

.....
To ask a question like “what do you think?” say,
Как вы думаете? Как вы думаете? Как вы думаете?

Try to say it after the speaker.
Speaker: **Как вы думаете?** **Как вы думаете?**
.....?

Ask Jenna about her opinion and listen to her answer.
.....?

Jenna: **Я думаю это правильно**
Jenna is going to ask you. Reply to her.
Jenna: **Как вы думаете?**
.....

Lesson 8: Asking for Permission.

To ask for permission, for instance, “Can I ask?” say, **Можно спросить?**
Можно спросить? Можно спросить?

Try to say it after the speaker.
Speaker: **Можно спросить?** **Можно спросить?**
.....

The answer is **Да, можно.** **Да, можно**

Say it after the speaker.
Speaker: **Да, можно** **Да, можно**
.....

Асан is going to ask you. Reply to him.
Асан: **Можно спросить?**
.....

Ask **Асан** for permission and listen to his answer.
.....?

Асан: **Да, можно**

To ask “Can I take?” say, **Можно взять?** **Можно взять?**

Say it after the speaker.
Speaker: **Можно взять?** **Можно взять?**
.....

Try to ask **Айша** and listen to her reply.

Айша:?
Да, можно

Айша is going to ask you. Reply to her.

Айша: **Можно взять?**
.....

As you guessed, in this question the first word **можно** (in English, “can”) never changes. It is always **можно**. And the second word is the main verb. It takes the infinitive form. Here are some verbs with their literal English equivalents. Listen to the speaker and try to repeat after the speaker.

Speaker: **Можно войти?** Can I come in?
.....
Можно использовать? Can I use?
.....
Можно посмотреть? Can I take a look?
.....

Try to ask for permission with the verb **войти** and listen to the answer.

.....?
Да, можно.

Now ask with the verb **использовать** and listen to the answer.

.....?
Да, можно.

Now ask with the verb **посмотреть** and listen to the answer.

.....?
Да, можно.

Айша is going to ask permission using those verbs. Reply to her.

Айша: **Можно войти?**
.....

Айша: **Можно использовать?**
.....

Айша: **Можно посмотреть?**
.....

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Peace Corps staff in the Kyrgyz Republic, I congratulate you for your decision to join us as Volunteers. I am sure you would like to know more about this country before coming. With this purpose, we are providing you with basic interactive Kyrgyz and Russian audio language courses. We hope you will find them helpful.

I would like to express my special acknowledgments to the staff and currently serving Volunteers for their help in creating these courses.

Listen and enjoy!

The Russian Alphabet

N	Typed	Cursive	Phonetic scripts	Examples
1	А а	<i>А а</i>	[a]	Like English “a” in “last”
2	Б б	<i>Б б</i>	[b]	Like English “b” in “best”
3	В в	<i>В в</i>	[v]	Like English “v” in “vase”
4	Г г	<i>Г г</i>	[g]	Like English “g” in “gate”
5	Д д	<i>Д д</i>	[d]	Like English “d” in “door”
6	Е е	<i>Е е</i>	[e]	Like English “e” in “end”
7	Ё ё	<i>Ё ё</i>	[yo]	Like English “yo” in “yours”
8	Ж ж	<i>Ж ж</i>	[j]	Like English “j” in “journal”
9	З з	<i>З з</i>	[z]	Like English “z” in “zipper”
10	И и	<i>И и</i>	[i]	Like English “ee” in “tree”
11	Й й	<i>Й й</i>	[y]	Like English “y” in “toy”
12	К к	<i>К к</i>	[k]	Like English “k” in “kitten”
13	Л л	<i>Л л</i>	[l]	Like English “l” in “lemon”
14	М м	<i>М м</i>	[m]	Like English “m” in “mother”
15	Н н	<i>Н н</i>	[n]	Like English “n” in “no”
16	О о	<i>О о</i>	[o]	Like English “o” in “on” Like English
17	П п	<i>П п</i>	[p]	Like English “p” in “past”
18	Р р	<i>Р р</i>	[r]	Like Spanish rolled “r”
19	С с	<i>С с</i>	[s]	Like English “s” in “summer”
20	Т т	<i>Т т</i>	[t]	Like English “t” in “button”

21	У у	У у	[u]	Like English “u” in “cruel”
22	Ф ф	Ф ф	[f]	Like English “f” in “father”
23	Х х	Х х	[h]	Like English “h” in “hard”
24	Ц ц	Ц ц	[ts]	Like English “ts” in “its”
25	Ч ч	Ч ч	[ch]	Like English “ch” in “church”
26	Ш ш	Ш ш	[sh]	Like English “sh” in “ship”
27	Щ щ	Щ щ	[sts]	Like English “shck” in “fish chunks”
28	Ъ	Ъ		Hardens previous letter
29	Ь	Ь		Softens previous letter
30	Ы ы	Ы ы	[i]	Like English “i” in “bit”
31	Э э	Э э	[e]	Like English “e” in “let”
32	Ю ю	Ю ю	[yu]	Like English “yu” in “you”
33	Я я	Я я	[ya]	Like English “ya” in “yard”

More Basic Russian Phrases

Greetings

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Привет!	Privet!	Hi!
Здравствуй(те)!	Zdravstvui(te)!	Good morning!
Добрый день! Доброе утро! Добрый вечер!.	Dobryi den! Dobroe utro! Dobryi vecher!	Good day! Good morning! Good evening!
Как дела? Как жизнь? Хорошо! Нормально! Прекрасно!	Kak dela? Kak zhizn? Horosho! Normalno! Prekrasno!	How are things? How is life going? Good! Fine! Great!

Expressing one’s opinion

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Мне нравится.	Mne nraivitsya.	I like.
Я интересуюсь.	Ya interesuyus.	I am interested in.
Я думаю.	Ya dumayu.	I think.

Expressing gratitude

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Спасибо!	Spasibo!	Thank you!
Большое спасибо!	Bolshoe spasibo!	Thank you very much!

Food related expressions

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Приятного аппетита!	Priyatnogo appetita!	Bon appetit!
Я сыт.	Ya syt.	I am full.
Я не ем мясо.	Ya ne yem myaso.	I don't eat meat.
Я не пью алкоголь.	Ya ne pyu alkogol.	I don't drink alcohol.
Было очень вкусно.	Bylo ochen vkusno.	Delicious.
Рыба	Ryba	Fish
Яйцо	Yaitso	Egg
Фрукты	Frukty	Fruits
Овощи	Ovoshi	Vegetables

Introducing someone to somebody

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Это мой друг. Это моя подруга.	Eto moi drug. Eto moya podrugа.	This is my friend.
Познакомьтесь, это Майкл	Poznakomtes, eto Michael.	Meet, this is Michael.
Очень приятно!	Ochen priyatno!	Nice to meet you!

Asking someone

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Вам нужна помощь?	Vam nuzhna pomosh?	Do you need help?

Что вам нужно?	Shto vam nuzhno?	What do you need?
Где туалет?	Gde tualet?	Where is toilet?
Где баня?	Gde banya?	Where is Banyya?
Что это?	Shto eto?	What is this?
Кто это?	Kto eto?	Who is this?
Где могу стирать?	Gde mogu stirat?	Where can I do laundry?

Expressing feelings

Russian phrases in Cyrillic	Russian phrases in phonetic transcripts	English versions
Я устал.	Ya ustal.	I am tired.
Я болею.	Ya boleyu.	I am sick.
Я хочу пить.	Ya hochu pit.	I am thirsty.

Numerals

Numbers	Phonetic transcripts	English numbers
1 один	Odin	One
2 два	Dva	Two
3 три	Tri	Three
4 четыре	Chetyre	Four
5 пять	Pyat	Five
6 шесть	Shest	Six
7 семь	Sem	Seven
8 восемь	Vosem	Eight
9 девять	Devyat	Nine
10 десять	Desyat	Ten
11 одиннадцать	Odinadsat	Eleven
12 двенадцать	Dvenadsat	Twelve
13 тринадцать	Trinadsat	Thirteen
14 четырнадцать	Chetyrnadsat	Fourteen
15 пятнадцать	Pyatnadsat	Fifteen
16 шестнадцать	Shestnadsat	Sixteen
17 семнадцать	Semnadsat	Seventeen
18 восемнадцать	Vosemnadsat	Eighteen
19 девятнадцать	Devyatnadsat	Nineteen
20 двадцать	Dvadsat	Twenty
30 тридцать	Tridsat	Thirty

40 сорок	Sorok	Forty
50 пятьдесят	Pyatdesyat	Fifty
60 шестьдесят	Shestdesyat	Sixty
70 семьдесят	Semdesyat	Seventy
80 восемьдесят	Vosemdesyat	Eighty
90 девяносто	Devyanosto	Ninety
100 сто	Sto	One hundred
200 двести	Dvesti	Two hundred
300 триста	Tristo	Three hundred
400 четыреста	Chetyrosto	Four hundred
500 пятьсот	Pyatsot	Five hundred
600 шестьсот	Shestsot	Six hundred
700 семьсот	Semsot	Seven hundred
800 восемьсот	Vosemsot	Eight hundred
900 девятьсот	Devyatsot	Nine hundred
1000 тысяча	tysyacha	One thousand