

# D!RTY RUSSIAN

Everyday Slang from  
“What’s Up?” to “F\*%# Off!”



ERIN COYNE & IGOR FISUN

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*To Myroslava. Someday this book is gonna embarrass the hell out of you.*

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank coffee. Without you, none of our efforts would ever reach fruition. We are eternally grateful. And eternally wired.

# USING THIS BOOK

Russian is just about the coolest language in the world. But you already know that because you've been studying the language for a while now, right? At least I hope you have, because I didn't write this book with the novice in mind. I designed the book to bring your Russian to the next level, a level usually reserved for natives and longtime expats. With that in mind, I've tried to give you all the dirty words and insider terms that your college Russian professor would never teach you. So you're not gonna find any basic vocabulary or grammar lessons, or ways to ask somebody where the library is. It's assumed that you know all that crap already. But if you're looking to tell somebody to fuck off or that they've got a nice ass, then you're in the right place, my friend.

All of this is to say that I hope you already more or less know your way around the language before jumping into this book. It is a complex language to master even at a fairly basic level. Learning the slang is even harder as it can be extremely difficult for the uninitiated to gauge when, where, and with whom slang is appropriate. As the old saying goes: when in doubt, leave it out. Using the wrong slang with the wrong person at the wrong time—especially with a strong foreign accent—will make you sound ridiculous. It really will. So err on the side of caution. Also be aware that it is far less socially acceptable for women to use foul language, so know your audience before letting it rip.

That being said, I did try to make the book as reader friendly as possible. Each phrase in the book is accompanied by its English equivalent and its Russian pronunciation. Often you'll find example sentences with key slang words bolded so you can break those words out and employ them on your own, whether you're just joking around with your friends at school or spending quality time on the streets of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, or some remote backwater village. Once you start to know your way around and find yourself with a group of sailor-mouthed friends with three days' worth of drinkin' on their breath, you should jump right in and start throwing the slang around. Even clumsy attempts will likely earn their amused affection.

Now take your *Dirty Russian* and get dirty with it.

## Some Basics

Russian, much like Russia itself, is not for the faint of heart. So here are a few notes to keep in mind as you're reading:

**Ty and Vy:** Like many languages, Russian has two pronouns for “you”: *ty* and *vy*. *Ty* is the informal and singular way of saying “you”; *vy* is formal and plural. We have used *ty* as the default in this book as slang is something inherently linked to informal social situations. Generally, you wouldn't say anything in this book to someone that you are on *vy* with. *Vy*, however, is also used for plurals, so this is the one you need when talking to more than one person.

**Cases:** Russian has six grammatical cases, which means that the endings of words change depending on their function in the sentence (direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition, etc.). When words are given in isolation, assume that they are in the nominative case. However, when they are given in phrases, they have whatever case ending is necessary for the grammatical context. As this is not a first-year Russian textbook, familiarity of basic Russian grammar is presumed. If none of this paragraph made sense to you, go look it up.

**Gender:** All Russian nouns have a gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter). This is important because it will affect the declensional patterns as well as the endings you use on the adjectives to describe nouns. In terms of people, gender means that both adjectives and the past tense of verbs take different endings depending on whether you are talking about a man or a woman. In most cases, we have used masculine endings as a sort of “default” gender. Feminine endings are used only when specified as such. If that seems sexist to anyone, well, what can I say? That's Russia—you might as well get used to it now.

**Pronunciation:** The most important thing when it comes to pronunciation in Russian is stress. Once you find the correct stressed syllable in a word, the rest of the pronunciation should fall into place. In this book, stress is indicated in the transliteration line by capital letters. There are some finer points of pronunciation that aren't as essential, such as voicing and devoicing. If you screw those up, you'll sound totally foreign, but you'll still be understood.

## Slang

*slyeng*

Сленг

Here are some relevant terms before we begin:

## Jargon

*zhar-GON*

Жаргон

Another term that basically means “slang,” but most often used when talking about criminal slang.

## Cussing

*ru-GA-tyel-stvo*

Ругательство

## Obscene language

*mat*

Мат

## To curse using obscene language

*ma-tye-RIT-sya*

Матерится

## To cuss

*ru-GAT-sya MA-tom*

Ругаться матом

## Curse words

*MA-tyer-ni-ye slo-VA*

Матерные слова

## Indecent language

*nye-nor-ma-TIV-na-ya LYEK-si-ka*

Ненормативная лексика

This is a phrase you’ll see, for example, on the warning label on CDs, etc.

# Pronouncing Russian

Here’s the Russian alphabet. Most of it isn’t too tricky, but there are few sounds that differ from English.

**Аа** sounds like “ah,” as in “open your mouth and say ‘ah.’”

**Бб** sounds like “b.” At the end of a word, it sounds like “p.”

**Вв** sounds like “v.” At the end of a word, it sounds like “f.”

**Гг** sounds like g. At the end of a word, it is pronounced “k.”

**Ее** sounds like “yeh.” If unstressed, it usually sounds more like “ee.”

**Ёё** sounds like “yo,” as in “Yo!” This letter can only appear in stressed positions, so if a word changes stress when put into a different case, this letter falls out and becomes a regular ol’ **е**.

**Жж** sounds like “zh,” like the *g* in “massage.” This consonant is always hard; at the end of a word, it sounds like “sh.”

**Зз** sounds like “z.” At the end of a word, it is pronounced “s.”

**Ии** sounds like “ee,” as in “Eeek!”



Йй sounds like “y,” sort of like the y in “day.”

Кк sounds like “k.”

Лл sounds like “l.”

Мм sounds like “m.”

Нн sounds like “n.”

Оо sounds like “o,” as in “folk.” If unstressed, it is pronounced like an “a.”

Пп sounds like “p.”

Рр sounds like “r.” This is trilled.

Сс sounds like “s.”

Тт sounds like “t.”

Уу sounds like “oo,” as in “boot.”

Фф sounds like “f.”

Хх sounds like “kh,” sort of like the ch in “achtung.”

Цц sounds like “ts.” This consonant is always hard.

Чч sounds like “ch.” This consonant is always soft.

Шш sounds like “sh.” This consonant is always hard.

Щщ sounds like “sch,” like “fresh chicken.” This consonant is always soft.

Ъ is a hard sign. This causes the preceding consonant to harden.

Ы is sounds like saying “it” and “eat” at the same time. If you can do that, then you’ll be pretty close. If you can’t do that, err on the side of i in “it.”

Ь is a soft sign. This softens the preceding consonant.

Ээ sounds like “eh.”

Юю sounds like “yu.”

Яя sounds like “ya.” If unstressed, it usually sounds closer to “ee.”

Some combined sounds:

ай sounds like “ay,” as in “ay, carumba!”

ой sounds like “oy,” as in “boy.” If unstressed, it’s “ay.”

ей sounds like “ei,” as in “weight.”

дж sounds like “j,” as in “Joe.”

# CHAPTER 1

## HOWDY RUSSIAN

PRI-VYET-LIVII RU-SSKII

Приветливый русский

Greetings in Russia are pretty much like everywhere else; there's some version of "Hello," "How are you?", etc. No real trick, except that you need to remember who you're talking to. If you're talking to someone you don't know very well who's over the age of, say, 30, stick with the formal *Vy*. With younger people, you can pretty safely use the informal *ty*, especially if you are in a chill social situation among friends. Keep in mind that using *ty* with the wrong person in Russia is a pretty serious insult that will piss some people off.

### Howdy!

*ZDRA-sstye!*

Здрассте!

Saying hello seems simple enough, right? Well, it is. But if you're guy and don't shake on it, you'll be considered a total asshole. If you're a chick and do the same, they'll think you're, well, foreign and a little weird. And if you're greeting someone you know fairly well, there'll be kissing involved, whether you like it or not. Russians in general have a much different concept of personal space than Americans, so just suck it up, say your hellos, and move on.

**Hi!**

*pri-VYET!*

Привет!

**Hiya!**

*pri-VYET-iki!*

Приветики!

Kinda cutesy.

**Sup guys!**

*zdo-RO-vo, re-BYA-ta!*

Здорово, ребята!

Remember to watch your stress with this word. The greeting is *zdo-RO-vo*. With the stress *ZDO-ro-vo*, it means something more like "awesome."

**Hey, buddy!**

*pri-VYET, dru-ZHI-sche!*

Привет, дружище!

**Shout out to all the cool peeps in the house!**

*khai vsyem nor-MAL-nim PI-plam!*

Хай всем нормальным пиплам!

**What's up?**

*kak de-LA?*

Как дела?

**How ya doin'?**

*kak ti?*

Как ты?

**What's new?**

*chto NO-vo-vo?*

Что нового?

**How’s life?**  
*kak zhi-VYOSH?*  
Как живёшь?

**What’s the word?**  
*chto SLISH-no?*  
Что слышно?

**What’s cookin’?**  
*kak zhizn mo-lo-DA-ya?*  
Как жизнь молодая?

**Hey, honey, wassuuup?**  
*pri-VYET, kra-SOT-ka, kak del-ISH-ki?*  
Привет, красотка, как **делишки**?

Kinda cutesy.

## Everything’s just hunky-dory

*vsyo i-DYOT kak po MA-slu*  
Всё идёт как по маслу

When I talk to Russians who have been to the U.S., the one thing that they all say annoys the crap out of them is the insincerity of the American “How are you?” greeting. It’s because that question is always answered with a big, stupid grin and an “I’m fine” no matter how obvious it is that the person is in a shitty, pissed-off mood. It doesn’t matter if the person just got herpes from their sister, they’ll still answer “I’m fine.” So when Russians ask you how you are, go ahead and tell them the truth. They asked for it.

**It’s all good!**  
*vsyo kho-ro-SHO!*  
Всё хорошо!

**Everything’s A-OK.**  
*vsyo o-KEI.*  
Всё о-кей.

**Fine.**  
*nor-MAL-no.*  
Нормально.

**Stylin’!**  
*ni-SHTYAK!*  
Ништяк!

**Fine ’n’ dandy.**  
*CHI-ki PI-ki.*  
Чики-пики.

**Peachy.**  
*CHU-denko.*  
Чудненько.

**Super duper!**  
*SU-per PU-per!*  
Супер пупер!

**Couldn’t be better!**  
*LU-chshe vsyekh!*  
Лучше всех!

**Pretty fuckin’ good!**

*pi-ZDA-to!*

Пиздато!

**Fucking awesome!**

*za-ye-BIS!*

Забись!

The word can either mean “really good” or “really fucking awful,” depending on how you use it.

**Everything’s all right.**

*u me-NYA vsyo v po-RYAD-kye.*

У меня всё в порядке.

**I’m fresh as a daisy.**

*ya SVYE-zhii kak o-GUR-chik.*

Я свежий как огурчик.

Literally, “fresh as a cucumber.” This is usually said by someone in denial about how shitfaced they are.

**No worries.**

*vsyo po ti-KHON-ku.*

Всё по тихоньку.

**Same old, same old.**

*vsyo po STA-romu.*

Всё по старому.

**What’s it to ya?**

*kak-O-ye te-BYE DYE-lo?*

Какое тебе дело?

**What do you care?**

*kak-A-ya te-BYE RA-zni-tsa?*

Какая тебе разница?

**Don’t even ask!**

*nye SPRA-shi-vai!*

Не спрашивай!

**Lousy as hell!**

*POL-nii ab-ZATS!*

Полный абзац!

**Pretty crappy.**

*khren-O-vo.*

Хреново.

**Really shitty.**

*khu-yO-vo.*

Хреново.

**I’m in a crappy mood.**

*ya v kher-O-vom na-stro-yE-ni-ye.*

Я в херовом настроении.

**I must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed today.**

*ya na-VYER-no se-VOD-nya vstal s LYE-voi no-GI.*  
Я наверное сегодня встал с левой ноги.

**My life has turned into a total nightmare.**  
*mo-YA zhizn pre-vra-TI-las v splosh-NOI kosh-MAR.*  
Моя жизнь превратилась в сплошной кошмар.

**Really sucky.**  
*POL-na-ya ZHO-pa.*  
Полная жопа.  
Literally, "total ass."

**Fucking awful!**  
*ya v piz-DYE!*  
Я в пизде!  
Literally, "I'm in the pussy."

**Totally fucked up!**  
*POL-nii piz-DYETS!*  
Полный пиздец!

If you want to soften this phrase up a bit, you can use the word **пипец** (pi-PYETZ), which is a sort of euphemistic form of the word **пиздец**.

**That's the dealio.**  
*vot ta-KI-ye pi-rozh-KI.*  
Вот такие пирожки.

Usually said after a detailed explanation of what has happened to you recently.

## Hell if I know

*chort ye-VO ZNA-yet*  
Чёрт его знает

There are only 24 hours in a day, so there's just no way that you can be expected to know everything about everything that's going on around you.

**I don't know.**  
*ya nye ZNA-yu.*  
Я не знаю.

**I'm out of the loop.**  
*ya nye v KUR-sye.*  
Я не в курсе.

**This is the first I've heard of it.**  
*PYER-vii raz SLI-shu.*  
Первый раз слышу.

**I have no idea.**  
*po-NYA-ti-ya ne I-me-yu.*  
Понятия не имею.

**Time will tell.**  
*po-zhi-VYOM, u-VI-dim.*  
Поживём, увидим.

**What's that thingamajig?**  
*chto E-to za khren-o-TYEN?*  
Что это за хренотень?

**God only knows.**  
*bog ye-VO ZNA-yet.*  
Бог его знает.

**Damned if I know.**  
*khryen ye-VO ZNA-yet.*  
Хрен его знает.

**Fuck if I know.**  
*khui ye-VO ZNA-yet.*  
Хуй его знает.

**How would I know?**  
*ot-KU-da ya ZNA-yu?*  
Откуда я знаю?



**How should I know?**  
*ot-KU-da mnye znat?*  
Откуда мне знать?

**There's just no understanding Russia.**  
*u-mOm ro-SS!-yu nye po-NYAT.*  
Умом Россию не понять.

You can usually score some cultural points with this famous line from a poem by Fyodor Tyutchev.

## Let's be friends!

*BU-dyem dru-ZYA-mi!*  
Будём друзьями!

In America, we tend to be polite to strangers but then turn around and treat our friends like shit because, hey, they'll forgive us. Russians are sort of the opposite: They tend to be total assholes to strangers but fiercely loyal and embarrassingly generous to those they consider part of their inner circle. So here are a few phrases to help you break the ice with your new Russian acquaintances and maybe make yourself an ally in the process.

**Let's use ty.**  
*da-VAI na ti.*  
Давай на ты.

Once you start getting to know someone better, this is the way that you suggest taking the next step and moving to the informal "you."

**Could you show me around the city?**  
*ti bi nye mog mnye GO-rod po-ka-ZAT?*  
Ты бы не мог мне город показать?

**You wanna come over to my place?**

*KHO-chesh ko mnye v GO-sti?*

Хочешь ко мне в гости?

**Let's shoot the breeze!**

*da-VAI po-bol-TA-yem!*

Давай поболтаем!

**Let's hang out a bit.**

*da-VAI po-ob-SCHA-yem-sya.*

Давай пообщаемся.

**I feel like shooting the shit with someone.**

*KHO-chet-sya s kyet-to po-piz-DYET.*

Хочется с кем-то попиздеть.

**I don't know anyone here, but I'd like to meet some cool guys.**

*ya ni-ko-VO ne ZNA-yu tut, no kho-TYEL-os bi po-zna-*

*KO-mit-sya s KLA-ssni-mi re-BYA-ta-mi.*

Я никого не знаю тут, но хотелось бы

познакомиться с классными ребятами.

**I hope I'll find some common ground with them.**

*na-DYE-yus, nai-DU s NI-mi O-bschii ya-ZIK.*

Надеюсь, найду с ними общий язык.

**Long time no see!**

*SKOI-ko lyet SKOI-ko zim!*

Сколько лет сколько зим!

I don't get around as much as I used to, so when I do hit the town, it is always nice to run into an old pal. When a familiar face appears, go ahead and tell them how nice it is to see them.

**Who do I see there!**

*ko-VO ya VI-zhu!*

Кого я вижу!

**Where ya been keepin' yourself?**

*ku-DA ti pro-PAL?*

Куда ты пропал?

**What are you guys doing here!**

*kak-I-ye LYU-di!*

Какие люди!

**Speak of the devil!**

*LYO-gok na po-MI-nye!*

Лёгко на помине!

**Hey, old man, good to see you!**

*eh, sta-rRIK, rad te-BYA VI-dyet!*

Эй, старик, рад тебя видеть!

**I've missed you!**

*ya po te-BYE so-SKU-chil-sya!*



## Please and thank you

*po-ZHA-lui-sta i spa-SI-bo*

Пожалуйста и спасибо

If you've studied any Russian at all, then you know that one of the funny things about the language is that "please" and "you're welcome" are the same word: *пожалуйста*. This can start to sound a little lame after a while: *пожалуйста, спасибо, пожалуйста, спасибо, on and on and on and on*. So if you want to avoid sounding like a broken record, here a few phrases you can use to add a little variety into the mix.

**I have a request for you.**

*u me-NYA k te-BYE PRO-sba.*

У меня к тебе просьба.

**Be a pal!**

*bud DRU-gom!*

Будь другом!

## SURPRISE>>>

U-DI-VLE-NI-YE

Удивление

Life in Russia is full of surprises. Which might be why they have so many words and expressions that essentially all mean "wow."

<b>Wow!</b>	<i>vau!</i>	Вау!
<b>Wowzers!</b>	<i>ukh, ti!</i>	Ух, ты!
<b>Word.</b>	<i>ye-SCHO bi.</i>	Ещё бы.
<b>Well, howd ya like that!</b>	<i>nu, ti da-YOSH!</i>	Ну, ты давай!
<b>Well, dang!</b>	<i>o-bal-DYεT!</i>	Обалдеть!
<b>That's wild!</b>	<i>o-fi-GYεT!</i>	Офигеть!
<b>I'll be damned!</b>	<i>o-du-RYεT!</i>	Одуреть!
<b>Fuckin' A!</b>	<i>o-khu-YεT!</i>	Охуеть!
<b>Holy shit!</b>	<i>khu-YA-sye!</i>	Хуясе!
<b>Holy fuck!</b>	<i>za-ye-BIS</i>	Забись!
<b>That's fucked up!</b>	<i>ε-ta piz-DYεTZ!</i>	Это пиздец!
<b>Fuck!</b>	<i>yob!</i>	Ёб!
<b>Not bad!</b>	<i>ni-che-VO se-BYε!</i>	Ничего себе!
<b>Holy cow!</b>	<i>ni fig-A se-BYε!</i>	Ни фига себе!
<b>Hot damn!</b>	<i>ni khren-A se-BYε!</i>	Ни хрена себе!

**Fuck yeah!**

*ni khu-YA se-BYE!*

Ни хуя

себе!

**Help me out!**

*bud lyu-BYE-zen!*

Будь любезен!

**I'm really asking you!**

*ya te-BYA O-chen prosh-U!*

Я тебя очень прошу!

**I'm begging you!**

*ya te-BYA u-mo-LYA-yu!*

Я тебя умоляю!

**I'm very grateful.**

*ya O-chen bla-go-DA-ren.*

Я очень благодарен.

This is pretty formal and official sounding.

**I thank you.**

*bla-go-dar-IU.*

Благодарю.

This is also kind of formal but is sometimes used ironically by young people.

**Thanky!**

*spa-SI-boch-ki!*

Спасибочки!

Kind of a cutesy way of saying thanks.

**No problem!**

*byez pro-BLYEM!*

Без проблем!

If you're friends with a Russian, it's pretty much taken for granted that you'll be willing to lend a hand when needed without complaint and generally without too many questions. Here a few ways to tell your Russian pal that you're cool with that.

**Don't mention it.**

*NYE za chto*

Не за что.

Here is another place where you need to be careful with stress. To say "Don't mention it," you have to stress it *NYE* za chto. If you say *nye* za *CHTO*, it means something like "No way, no how."

**Don't worry about it!**

*da LAD-no!*

Да ладно!

**It's not worth (mentioning)!**

*nye STO-it!*

Не стоит!

Yet another place where stress is important. Here you need *nye STO-it*. If you say *nye sto-IT*, you'll be saying "It doesn't stand."

**Easy-peasy!**

*ZA-pro-sto!*

Запросто!

**No biggie!**

*da E-to fig-NYA!*  
Да это фигня!

**Nothin' to it!**  
*NYE fig DYE-lat!*  
Не фиг делать!

**Enjoy it (in health)!**  
*na zdo-RO-vye!*  
На здоровье!

## My bad!

*iz-vi-NYA-yus!*  
Извиняюсь!

Sooner or later you're going to make an ass of yourself. You just are. So here are few ways to say a quick apology and shake it off.

**Excuse me!**  
*iz-vi-NI!*  
Извини!

**Forgive me!**  
*pro-STI!*  
Прости!

**Sorry!**  
*SO-ri!*  
Сори!

Just like English, only with  
a Russian o and a rolled r.

**Whoops!**  
*O-pa!*  
Опа!

**Oops!**  
*ups!*  
Упс!



# GETTING TO KNOW YOU>>>

## ZNAKOMSTVO

ЗНАКОМСТВО

I'm John.  
*ya—dzhon.*  
Я—Джон.

I think I'm pretty cool, but my friends all say I'm a loser.  
*ya schi-TA-yu se-BYA kru-TIM, no vsye mo-I dru-ZYA go-vo-RYAT, chto ya LU-zer.*  
Я считаю себя крутым, но все мои друзья говорят, что я лузер.

I'm really **just misunderstood and very lonely.**  
*na SA-mom DYεL-ye, me-NYA nye po-ni-MA-yut i ya O-chen o-di-NOK.*  
На самом деле, меня не понимают и я очень одинок.

Will you be my friend?  
*BU-dye-te mo-IM DRU-gom?*  
Будете моим другом?

The honeys ain't bad here.  
*DYε-vki tut ni-che-VO.*  
Девки тут ничего.

I have a huge penis.  
*u men-YA o-GRO-mnii chlyen.*  
У меня огромный член.

My name is Mary.  
*Men-YA zo-VUT Mε-ri.*  
Меня зовут Мэри.

I've come to Russia **in search of love.**  
*ya pri-Yε-kha-la v ro-SSI-yu v POI-skakh lyu-BVI.*  
Я приехала в Россию в поисках любви.

I like candlelit dinners, long walks on the beach, and wild sex.  
*mnye NRA-vit-sya U-zhi-nat pri SVYε-chkakh, DOI-gi-ye pro-GUL-ki na PLYA-zhe, i bez-U-mnii seks.*  
Мне нравится ужинать при свечах, долгие прогулки на пляже, и безумный секс.

My vagina is cavernous.  
*Mo-YA va-GL-na kak pe-SCHε-ra.*  
Моя вагина как пещера.

**For God's sake, forgive me!**  
*pro-STI me-NYA, RA-di BO-ga!*  
Прости меня, ради Бога!

**Believe it or not, I really didn't mean to offend you.**  
*vyer nye VYER, ya nye kho-TYEL te-BYA o-BI-dyet.*  
Верь не верь, я не хотел тебя обидеть.

**I was just kidding.**  
*ya po-shu-TIL.*

**I don't know what's wrong with me.**

*ya nye ZNA-yu, chto so mnoi.*

Я не знаю, что со мной.

**I'm such an idiot.**

*ya tak-OI i-di-OT.*

Я такой идиот.

**It's all my fault.**

*ya vo vsyom vi-no-VAT.*

Я во всём виноват.

**Don't be upset with me!**

*nye o-bi-ZHAI-sya!*

Не обижайся!

**I frickin' swear I didn't do it on purpose!**

*BLYA BU-du, ya nye spyet-tsi-AL-no!*

Бля буду, я не специально!

**Let's roll!**

*AI-da!*

Айда!

Russians aren't known for being in a hurry, and parties, casual meetings, and even chance encounters can quickly become long, drawn out, and downright tiresome. Here a few verbal cues to let your friends know that you're ready to make a getaway.

**Bye!**

*ko-KA!*

Пока!

**See ya later!**

*do VSTRYE-chi!*

До встречи!

**See ya soon!**

*do SKO-ro-vo!*

До скорого!

**Kiss, kiss!**

*tsium, tsium!*

Цюм, цюм!

**Don't be a stranger!**

*ne pro-pa-DA!*

Не пропадай!

**Ciao!**

*chau!*

Чай!

**It's time for us (to go)!**

*nam po-RA!*

Нам пора!

**I'm off!**

*ya po-SHOL!*

Я пошёл!

**Let's fucking bail already!**

*po-PIZ-di-li u-ZHE!*

Полиздили уже!

It's time for me **to get the fuck outta here.**

*mnye po-RA sye-BAT-sya.*

Мне пора **съебаться**.

**It's getting kinda late.**

*u-ZHE ne-DYET-sko-ye VRYE-mya.*

Уже не детское время.

**I'll call you.**

*ya te-BYE po-zvo-NIU.*

Я тебе позвоню.

**Hey, you!**

*eh, ti!*

Эй, ты!

Sometimes you just want to give a shout out to someone you see on the street. Here are some quick ways to get their attention.

**Hey...!**

*eh...!*

Эй...!

**little girl**

*DYE-voch-ka*

девочка

This is generally used for a girl up to about age 12 or so.

**young man**

*mo-lo-DOI che-lo-VYEK*

молодой человек

This can be used for any guy up to about age 30.

**miss**

*DYE-vu-shka*

девушка

This is for females up to about age 30.

**ma'am**

*ZHEN-schi-na*

женщина

For women over 30 or so.

**lady**

*BA-rish-nya*

барышня

**grandma**

*BA-bu-shka*

бабушка

For old ladies; just try to resist the American urge to say ba-BU-shka. It's BA-bu-shka, dammit.

**granny**  
*ba-BU-lya*  
бабуля

Also for old ladies, but probably somewhat more common in small towns and villages.

**gramps**  
*dye-DU-lya*  
дедуля

**old man**  
*sta-RIK*  
старик

**pal**  
*pri-YA-tyel*  
приятель

**buddy**  
*dru-ZHOK*  
дружок

**comrade**  
*to-VA-risch*  
товарищ

Mainly used by old communists and ironic young people.

**citizen**  
*gra-zhda-NIN*  
гражданин

This is pretty Soviet sounding but still occasionally used.

**guys**  
*re-BYA-ta*  
ребята

**homey**  
*pa-TSAN*  
пацан

**bro**  
*bra-TAN*  
братан

**dude**  
*chu-VAK*  
чувак

Russian doesn't make very wide use of titles. When Russians want to address someone formally, they use the name and patronymic formula (you know, like Иван Иванович) instead of Mister, Ms., etc. When titles are used, it is mainly with foreigners who expect that sort of thing. Also, most foreign names don't lend themselves well to Russification and end up sounding pretty silly when you try. So for those occasions:

**Mister**  
*go-spo-DIN*  
Господин

**Ms.**  
*go-spo-ZHA*  
Госпожа

In formal public speeches, you may also sometimes hear:

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

*DA-mi i go-spo-DA!*  
Дамы и господа!



## CHAPTER 2

### FRIENDLY RUSSIAN

DRU-ZHE-SKII RU-SSKII

Дружеский русский

In the U.S., we tend to call just about everyone we know our “friends.” Russians are not nearly so casual about relationships, however. To them a friend is someone who has been through thick and thin with you, someone who would share his last beer with you and bail you out of jail. For all those other people that you just hang out with, there are different words to describe the more casual nature of your relationship.

### Friends

*dru-ZYA*

Друзья

**You're a good friend (male/female)**

*ti kho-RO-shii drug/kho-RO-sha-ya po-DRU-ga.*

Ты хороший друг/хорошая подруга.

**He is my very best friend in the world.**

*on moi SA-mii LU-chshii drug v MI-rye.*

Он мой самый лучший друг в мире.

**Me and my buddies usually go shoot the shit after work.**

*mi so svo-l-mi pri-YA-tel-ya-mi o-BI-chno KHO-dim po-pi-ZDYET PO-sle ra-BO-ti.*

Мы со своими **приятелями** обычно ходим попиздеть после работы.

This is a friend of a more casual nature, someone you just shoot the shit with.

**Hey, homies, let's party!**

*eh, pa-tsa-NI, da-VAi po-tu-SU-yem-sya!* Эй, **пацаны**, давай потусуемся!

**Dudes, let's go for a beer.**

*mu-zhi-KI, poi-DYOM za PI-vom.*

Мужики, пойдём за пивом.

**My (high school) classmate always uses a crib sheet.**

*moi od-no-KLA-ssnik vsye-GDA i-SPOL-zu-yet shpar-GAL-ku.*

Мой **одноклассник** всегда использует шпаргалку.

**He's my (college) classmate at the uni.**

*on moi od-no-KURS-nik v u-ni-VER-ye.*

Он мой **однокурсник** в универе.

**We're roommates in the dorm.**

*mi so-SYE-di po KO-mna-tye v ob-SCHA-gye.*

Мы **соседи по комнате** в общежитии.

I saw my boyfriend last night with some ho.

ya vch-RA VI-dye-la svo-ye-VO **boi-FREND-a** s ka-KOI-TO BLA-dyu.

Я вчера видела своего **бойфренда** с какой-то блядью.

**My girlfriend** is coming over tonight to hang out.

mo-YA **GYORL-frend** se-VOD-nya pri-DYOT po-ob-SCHAT-sya.

Моя **гёрлфренд** сегодня придёт пообщаться. Sometimes you might hear this shortened to **гёрла** (GYOR-la).

**You're the best lover (male) I've ever had.**

ti SA-mii LU-chshii **Iyu-BOV-nik**, ko-TO-rii u me-NYA kog-DA-LI-bo bil.

Ты самый лучший **любовник**, который у меня когда-либо был.

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT>>>

LA-SKO-VI-YE SLO-VA

ЛАСКОВЫЕ СЛОВА

Dear (male/female)

do-ro-GOI/do-ro-GA-ya

Дорогой/дорогая

Dearie

do-ro-GU-sha

Дорогуша

My honey (male/female)

moi MI-Ien-kii/mo-YA MI-Ien-ka-ya

Мой миленький/моя миленькая

My better half

mo-YA LUCH-sha-ya po-lo-VIN-ka

Моя лучшая половинка

My sweetie (male/female)

moi Iyu-BIM-chik/mo-YA Iyu-BIM-itsa

Мой любимчик/моя любимица

Sunshine

SOL-nish-ko

Солнышко

My love!

Iyu-BOV mo-YA!

Любовь моя!

Hunny bunny

ZAI-ka

Зайка

My sweetie pie

moi PUP-sik

Мой пупсик

My little cutie

mo-YA LA-poch-ka

Моя лапочка

The whole time they were married, he had a lover (female) on the side.

vsyo VRE-mya, kog-DA o-NI Bl-i zhen-A-ti, u nye-VO bil-A lyu-BOV-nitsa na sto-ro-NYE.

Всё время, когда они были женаты, у него была любовница на стороне.

**I just can't seem to forget my old flame.**

ya ni-KAK nye mo-GU za-BIT svo-YU bIV-shu-yu PASSI-YU .

Я никак не могу забыть свою бывшую пассию.

**I met my fiancée through the Internet.**

ya po-zna-KO-mil-sya so svo-YEI ne-VYE-stoi CHE-rez in-ter-NET.

Я познакомился со своей невестой через Интернет.

Russians use невеста for both “fiancée” and “bride” and жених for both “fiancé” and “groom.”

**My fiancé and I just registered at ZAGS.**

mi s mo-IM zhe-ni-KHOM TOL-ko chto za-re-gi-STRi-ro-va-lis v ZAG-sye.

Мы с моим женихом только что зарегистрировались в ЗАГСе.

Couples in Russia are officially engaged once they've registered at this Soviet-style marriage hall. This is also where the civil ceremony takes place.

## Acquaintances, coworkers, and enemies

zna-KO-mi-ye, so-TRUD-ni-ki, i vra-Gl

Знакомые, сотрудники, и враги

**Who is that guy?**

chto za CHE-lik?

Что за челик?

**What's that chick's name?**

kak E-tu dev-CHON-ku zo-VUT?

Как эту девчонку зовут?

**All broads are wenches.**

vsye BA-bi—STYER-vi.

Все бабы—стервы.

Hey, it's just a song.

**This acquaintance of mine once hitchhiked from Moscow to Irkutsk.**

o-DIN moi zna-KO-mii od-NA-zhdi YE-khal av-to-STOP-om ot mosk-VI do ir-KUTSK-a.

Один мой знакомый однажды ехал автостопом от Москвы до Иркутска.

**I never give my phone number to strangers.**

ya ni-kog-DA nye da-YU svoi NO-mer te-le-FO-na nezna-KOM-tsam .

Я никогда не даю свой номер телефона незнакомцам.

**My coworkers are a bunch of morons.**

vsye mo-I so-TRUD-ni-ki—pri-DUR-ki.

**My colleagues and I are here on a business trip.**

*mi so svo-l-mi ko-LLYE-ga-mi zdyes v ko-mman-dir-O-vkye.*

Мы со своими **коллегами** здесь в командировке.

**Their CEO was arrested last week for fraud.**

*ikh GYE-na bil a-rest-O-van na PRO-shloi nye-DYEL-ye za mo-SHE-ni-chest-vo.*

Их **гена** был арестован на прошлой неделе за мошенничество.

**My boss pays me under the table.**

*moi shef mnye PLA-tit pod stol-OM.*

Мой **шеф** мне платит под столом.

**My supervisor cussed me out for being late.**

*moi na-CHAL-nik me-NYA ot-ru-GAL za o-po-ZDA-ni-ye.*

Мой **начальник** меня отругал за опоздание.

**My manager is sleeping with his secretary.**

*moi MA-na-ger spit so svo-YEI se-kre-TAR-shei.*

Мой **менеджер** спит со своей секретаршей.

This is the slangy pronunciation of **менеджер** (ME-ne-dzher).

**Boris is my mortal enemy.**

*bo-RIS—moi za-KLYA-tii vrag.*

Борис—мой **заклятый враг**.

**The barista at the coffee shop is my arch nemesis.**

*E-ta ba-RI-sta v KOFYE KHAU-sye moi ko-VAR-nii vrag.*

Эта бариста в кофе хаусе мой коварный враг.



## Russian names

*RU-sski-ye i-me-NA*

Русские имена

Russian is a very expressive language, especially when it comes to names. There are several ways to address people by name depending on the degree of formality and the range of feelings you want to show to that person. In formal situations (where you would use vy), you generally address the person by name and patronymic. The patronymic is formed by the person's father's first name plus—ovich for a guy and—ovna for a chick.

In very official situations, Russians will often be asked to give their Ф.И.О. (FIO), which stands for фамилия-имя-отчество (fa-MI-liya-I-mya-OT-che-stvo): last name, first name, patronymic.

In more casual situations (one where you would use ty), usually the short version of the first name is used, and with close friends and loved ones, various diminutives will be used expressing a range of emotions.

For example, my daughter’s full first name is Мирослава (Miroslava). In formal situations, she would be called Мирослава Игоревна (Miroslava Igorevna), her patronymic derived from her father’s first name, Igor. Informally, she could be called either Мира (Mira) or Слава (Slava).

There are numerous diminutives that can be used affectionately:

Мирочка (Mirochka), Мируся (Mirusia), Мируня (Mirusnya), Мирунчик (Mirunchik), Мирусик (Mirusik), Мирусичка (Mirusichka), Мирусинка (Mirusinka)

Or, when she’s screwing around, she’s known pejoratively as:

Мирка  
Mirka

If I’m addressing her directly, I will call:

Эй, Мир!  
Hey, Mir!

This is something of a new vocative whereby the short form of a name ending in a loses its ending when you are directly addressing the person.

For a guy, it’s basically the same story. For example, my husband’s name is Игорь (Igor). Formally, he would be Игорь Леонидович (Igor Leonidovich), and affectionately he could be called Игорёня (Igoryonia), or Игорёк (Igoryok).

All Russian names can do this, although there are some variations on endings depending on the name. But once you get the hang of it, you can really be as creative as you want—Russians certainly are!

## Compliments

kom-pli-MYEN-ti  
Комплименты

Even the gruffest of Russians can often be won over with a few kind words; however, they tend to be very sensitive to insincerity. So if you want to compliment a Russian, you better keep it real. Or better yet, follow it up with alcohol and chocolate.

You rock!  
ti PRO-sto mo-lo-DYETS!  
Ты просто молодец!

Molodyets is sort of an all-purpose compliment that can mean anything from “Good job” to “You’re a swell guy.”

Smartypants!  
ti UM-nich-ka!  
Ты умничка!

That’s a helluva idea!  
E-to SU-per-ska-ya i-DYE-ya!  
Это суперская идея!

That’s genius!  
E-to ge-ni-AL-na-ya misl!  
Это гениальная мысль!

**Cool threads!**

*KLASS-ni-ye SHMOT-ki!*

Классные шмотки!

**I really dig...**

*ya PRO-sto bal-DYE-yu ot...*

Я просто балдею от...

Note that this phrase is followed by the genitive case.

**your groovy style.**

*tvo-ye-VO KLYO-vo-vo STIL-ya.*

твоего клёвого стиля.

**your rad hairstyle.**

*tvo-YEI o-bal-DYE-nnoi pri-CHO-ski.*

твоей обалденной причёски.

**your trendy jeans.**

*tvo-IKH MOD-nikh JINS-ov.*

твоих модных джинсов

**your slick new murse.**

*tvo-YEI shi-KAR-noi NO-voi bar-SYET-ki.*

твоей шикарной новой барсетки.

In other words, a man purse.

**your amusing (eye)glasses.**

*tvo-IKH pri-KOL-nikh och-KOV.*

твоих прикольных очков.

**You have awesome taste.**

*u te-BYA o-fig-YE-nnii vkus.*

У тебя офигенный вкус.

**You look really cool.**

*ti KLASS-no VI-glyad-ish.*

Ты классно выглядишь.

**You're dressed real snazzy.**

*ti a-TAS-no o-DYET.*

Ты атасно одет.

**You look fly in that dress.**

*ti KRU-to VI-glyad-ish v E-tom PLA-tye.*

Ты круто выглядишь в этом платье.

**She's a really cool chick.**

*on-A KLASS-na-ya dyev-CHON-ka.*

Она классная девчонка.

**He's an awesome guy.**

*on SLAV-nii PAR-en.*

Он славный парень.

**I envy you.**

*ya te-BYE za-VID-u-yu.*

Я тебе завидую.

In Russian, there are two kinds of envy: белая зависть (BYELA-YA ZA-vist), or "white envy," and чёрная зависть (CHORNA-YA ZA-vist), or "black envy." White envy is the good kind of envy where ultimately you are genuinely happy for the person and their good fortune. Black envy, on the other hand, is the kind where you secretly wish the person would spontaneously combust right in front of you so that you could witness their suffering and death and then confiscate the object of your envy so that it can be yours, all yours.

# Cool!

*KLASS-no!*

Классно!

Klassno is still the most common, basic way of saying “Cool!” It is also often shortened to класс (*klass*). Here a few others:

**Rad!**

*a-TAS-no!*

Атасно!

**Groovy!**

*KL YO-vo!*

Клэво!

**That rules!**

*RUL-no!*

Рульно!

**Tight!**

*KRU-to!*

Круто!

**Fuckin’ sweet!**

*piz-DA-to!*

Пиздато!

**Phat!**

*o-fi-GYEN-no!*

Офигенно!

**That’s a hoot!**

*pri-LOL-no!*

Прикольнo!

**Super!**

*SU-per!*

Супер!

**Awesome!**

*ZDO-ro-vo*

Здорово!

As already mentioned, remember this is stressed ZDO-ro-vo, distinguishing it from the greeting zdo-RO-vo.

**Now you’re talkin’!**

*vot E-to da!*

Вот это да!

**It doesn’t suck.**

*nye khren-O-ven-ko.*

Не хреновенько.

## Time for a little romance

*po-RA dlya ro-MAN-ti-ki*

## Пора для романтики

Those long Russian nights can get a little lonely, so why not find someone who'll make the time fly by. Keep in mind that dating in Russia is a bit like dating during the Eisenhower years, but with more sex. Guys generally make all the moves and are expected to foot the bill. They're also expected to hold open doors, help put on coats, and offer a hand to assist their female companions out of cars—so be prepared to work if you're looking for a payoff. Oh, and if you decide to bring your girl flowers, make sure you buy an odd number—even-numbered bouquets are only for funerals, and that's probably not quite the message you want to send before an evening of romance.

### To flirt

*flirt-o-VAT*

Флиртовать

**I am really sick of guys always hitting on me** at parties.

*mnye na-do-YELO, kak PAR-ni po-sto-YA-nno pri-sta-YUT ko mnye na vecher-IN-kakh.* Мне надоело, как парни постоянно пристают ко мне на вечеринках.



**Where can I pick up a chick/guy** around here?

*gdye tut MO-zhno snyat TYOL-ku/PAR-nya?*

Где тут можно снять тёлку/парня?

**Could I get your number?**

*MO-zhno tvoi te-le-FON-chik?*

Можно твой телефончик?

**What's your sign?**

*kto ti po zo-di-A-ku?*

Кто ты по зодиаку?

**Do you believe in love at first sight?**

*ti VYER-ish v lyu-BOV s PYER-vo-vo VZGLYA-da?*

Ты веришь в любовь с первого взгляда?

**I think we've met somewhere before.**

*po-MO-ye-mu, mi GDYE-to u-ZHE vstre-CHAL-is.*

По-моему, мы где-то уже встречались.

**My friend thinks you're really cute.**

*moi drug schi-TA-yet te-BYA O-chen sim-pa-TICH-noi.*

Мой друг считает тебя очень симпатичной.



Can I buy you a drink?

MO-zhno te-BYA u-go-STIT chem-ni-BUD VI-pit?

Можно тебя угостить чем-нибудь выпить?

Hey, pretty lady, wanna get to know each other better?

pri-VYET, kra-SA-vi-tsa, KHO-chesh po-zna-KOM-it-sya po-BLI-zhe?

Привет, красавица, хочешь познакомиться поближе?

Are you free tonight?

ti svo-BOD-na se-VOD-nya VE-che-rom?

Ты свободна сегодня вечером?

Could you set me up on a blind date?

yi bi nye mo-GLI mnye u-STRO-it svi-DAN-i-ye vslyep-U-yu ?

Вы бы не могли мне устроить свидание вслепую?

Let's make a plan, Fran (or Stan).

da-VAI za-BYOM STRYEL-ku.

Давай забьем стрелку.

Hey, honey, wanna go...?

eh, kra-SOT-ka, nye KHO-chesh po-i-TI...?

Эй, красотка, не хочешь пойти...?

on a date

na svi-DAN-i-ye

на свидание

back to my place

ko mnye do-MOI

ко мне домой

to the movies tonight

se-VOD-nya v ki-NO

сегодня в кино

to a dance club

na dis-KACH

на дискотеку

to a new club with me

so mnoi v NO-vii klub

со мной в новый клуб

## Characters

per-so-NA-zhi

Персонажи

It takes all kinds, and Russia is full of 'em! Here are some of the many people you run the risk of meeting on the wild streets of Moscow.

He thinks he's a total badass because he rides a motorcycle.

on schi-TA-yet se-BYA kru-TIM PAR-nyem, po-to-MU chto YEZ-dit na mo-to-TSI-klye.

Он считает себя крутым парнем, потому что ездит на мотоцикле.

That moocher always shows up around dinnertime.

*E-tot **kha-LYAV-schik** vseg-DA pri-KHO-dit k U-zhin-u.*

Этот **халявщик** всегда приходит к ужину.

I know that gigolo is just using her for her money.

*ya ZNA-yu, chto E-tot **ai-FONS** ye-YO i-SPOL-zu-yet PRO-sto RA-di DYEN-yeg.*

Я знаю, что этот **альфонс** её использует просто ради денег.

That jezebel ruined his life.

*E-ta **di-na-MIST-i-ka** is-POR-ti-la ye-MU zhizn.*

Эта **динамистка** испортила ему жизнь.

That old geezer spends his pension on vodka.

*E-tot **sta-ri-CHOK** TRA-tit svo-YU PYEN-si-yu na VOD-KU.*

Этот **старичок** тратит свою пенсию на водку.

Because of these old farts, there’s nowhere to sit on the tram.

*IZ-za E-tikh **star-PYOR-ov** v tram-VA-ye NYE-gdye syest.*

Из-за этих **старпёров** в трамвае негде сесть.

Those old biddies are always gossiping about me in the stairwell.

*E-ti **sta-RU-khi** po-sto-YA-nno SPLYET-ni-cha-yut obo MNYE v pod-YEZ-dye.*

Эти **старухи** постоянно сплетничают обо мне в подъезде.

I’m looking for a sugar daddy.

*ya i-SCHU se-BYE **SPON-so-ra**.*

Я ищу себе **спонсора**.

Even though he’s married, he’s still an incurable skirt chaser.

*nye-smo-TRYA na TO, chto zhe-NAT, on **BAB-nik** nye-izle-CHI-mii.*

Несмотря на то, что женат, он **бабник** неизлечимый.

That old maid still lives with her mother.

*E-ta **STAR-a-ya DYE-va** do sikh POR zhi-VYOT so svo-YEI MA-ter-yu.*

Эта **старая дева** до сих пор живёт со своей матерью.

In Russia, an old maid is basically any woman who’s over 25 and still single.

Thirtysomething woman

*ZHEN-schi-na bal-ZA-kov-sko-vo VO-zrast-a*

Женщина бальзаковского возраста

If you want to know more about what this is, there’s actually a popular Russian TV show of the same name. It’s basically a takeoff of “Sex and the City,” only Muscofied.

I would never marry a mama’s boy.

*ya bi ni-kog-DA nye VI-shla ZA-muzh za **MA-min-kin-a si-NOCH-ka**.*

Я бы никогда не вышла замуж за **маминкина сыночка**.

That daddy’s girl always wears Gucci.

*E-ta **PA-pin-kin-a DOCH-ka** vseg-DA NO-sit GU-chi.*

Эта **папинкина дочка** всегда носит Гуччи.

My little brother is such a snotty kid.

*moi **MLAD-shii brat—MA-lyen-kii chpok.***

Мой младший брат—**маленький чпок**.

I almost shat myself when I found out that she’s jailbait.

*ya chut ne ob-o-SRAL-sya kog-DA uz-NAL, chto on-A **ma-lo-L YET-ka.***

Я чуть не обосрался когда узнал, что она **малолетка**.

My teenage friends are always slacking off after school.

*mo-I dru-ZYA-ti-**NEi-je-ri** vseg-DA byez-DYEL-ni-cha-yut PO-sle SHKOL-i.*

Мои друзья-**тинэйджеры** всегда бездельничают после школы.

This energizer bunny goes jogging every morning. *E-tot **e-ner-JAi-zer** KAZH-do-ye U-tro na pro-BYEZHKEYE.*

Этот **энерджайзер** каждое утро на пробежке.

That computer geek is always wrapped up in his programs.

*tot **kom-PYU-ter-schik** po-sto-YA-nno za-vi-SA-yet za pro-GRA-mma-mi.*

Тот **компьютерщик** постоянно зависит за программами.

That gamer never leaves his comp.

*E-tot **GEI-mer** ot komp-A nye ot-KHO-dit.*

Этот **геймер** от компа не отходит.

There were a bunch of drunk rockers at the concert last night.

*BI-lo SBOR-i-sche PYAN-ikh **RO-ker-ov** vche-RA na kon-TSER-tye.*

Было сборище пьяных **рокеров** вчера на концерте.

Do you know where I can meet some local punks?

*ti nye ZNA-yesh, gdye MO-zhno po-zna-KOM-it-sya s MYEST-ni-mi **PANK-a-mi?***

Ты не знаешь, где можно познакомиться с местными **панками**?

That hippie walks around barefoot all day.

*E-tot **KHI-ppi** KHO-dit TSE-lii dyen bo-si-KOM.*

Этот **хиппи** ходит целый день босиком.

I think that skin is a follower of Barkashov.

*po-MO-ye-mu E-tot **skin** DRU-zhit s bar-ka-SHOV-im.*

По-моему этот **скин** сторонник Баркашова.

Alexander Barkashov is the former leader of the radical nationalist political group RNE (Russian National Unity), which attracted a lot of skinhead followers based on its agenda of ridding Russia of “foreigners and Jews.”

Those damned bikers are causing problems again.

*E-ti pro-KLYA-ti-ye **BAI-ke-ri** o-PYAT pro-BLYE-mi sozda-YUT.*

Эти проклятые **байкеры** опять проблемы создают.

**That hick has never seen nothin' but dung.**

*E-tot kol-KHOZ-nik KRO-mye na-VO-za ni-che-VO v ZHIZ-ni nye VI-dyel.*

Этот колхозник кроме навоза ничего в жизни не видел.

Literally, this means “collective farmer” but can describe any country-bumpkin type.

**Posers really annoy me.**

*PO-ze-ri me-NYA O-chen raz-dra-ZHA-yut.*

Позеры меня очень раздражают.

Another variant of this word is **поэёр** (po-ZYOR).

**That slacker just goofs off all day.**

*E-tot byez-DYEL-nik TSE-lii dyen za-ni-MA-ye-tsya ye-run-DOI.*

Этот бездельник целый день занимается ерундой.

**I can't believe how many bums there are in Moscow!**

*nye mo-GU VYER-it, STOL-ko yest bom-ZHEI v mosk-VYE!*

Не могу поверить, столько есть бомжей в Москве!

**He's a three-time loser.**

*on TRIZH-di nye-u-DACH-nik.*

Он трижды неудачник. Although the English word “loser” (лузер) has also arisen in recent years.

**That hooligan jacked my wallet!**

*E-tot khu-li-GAN SPIZ-dil moi ko-shel-OK!*

Этот хулиган спиздил мой кошелек!

This is the general Russian term describing anyone from a loudmouthed drunk to a gangbanger.

**No one respects the cops in Russia.**

*ni-KTO nye u-va-ZHA-yet myent-OV v ro-SSII.*

Никто не уважает ментов в России.

## Only in Russia

*TOL-ko v ro-SSII*

Только в России

**New Russian**

*NO-vii RU-sskii*

Новый русский

These are the guys who made a whole lotta dough on dubious business ventures and now drive around in expensive *inomarki*, own sweet dachas in *podmoskovie*, vacation in Ibiza, and yet still talk like the Russian version of Rocky Balboa. Their offspring are sometimes referred to as the *Золотая молодёжь* (zo-lo-TA-ya mo-lo-DYOZH), or “Golden youth.”

**That New Russian has a bitchin' black Beemer.** *u E-to-vo NO-vo-vo RU-ssko-vo kru-TOI CHOR-nii BU-mer.*

У этого нового русского крутой чёрный бумер.

**Bandit**

*ban-DIT*

Бандит

Bandits are pretty much the same as New Russians, just less successful and with fewer pretenses of respectability.

**Odessa used to be known as a bandit's city.** *o-DYE-ssa RAN-she bi-LA iz-VYEST-na kak ban-DITskii GOR-od.*

Одесса раньше была известна как бандитский город.

**Russian intellectual**

## *in-tye-Ili-GYENT*

Интеллигент

There's really no exact English equivalent for this word. It's similar to an intellectual, but one with particular interest in moral and social issues, often devoted to defending against the degradation of high culture and placing great importance on behaving in a proper manner. They are the polar opposite of the *noviye russkiye* and tend to feel a smug sense of moral superiority that is heightened by the abject poverty in which they often live. Nevertheless, *интеллигентный* (*in-tye-Ili-GYENT-nii*) is just about the highest compliment you can give to a Russian over the age of 25.

**That intellectual likes to sit in the kitchen all night and discuss philosophy.**

*E-tot in-tye-Ili-GYENT LYU-bit si-DYET vsyu NOCH na KUKH-nye i ra-ssu-ZHDAT o fi-lo-SO-fii.*

Этот **интеллигент** любит сидеть всю ночь на кухне и рассуждать о философии.

There's this whole thing in Russian culture, sometimes called "kitchen talk," where people (most often *intelligenty*) sit in the kitchen all night and pontificate on the ills of society.

## **Sovok**

*so-VOK*

Совок

This term refers to someone with a Soviet mentality, and generally not in a complimentary way. These folks tend to spend most of their time complaining about capitalism and waxing nostalgic about Russia's former glory as a superpower. You can usually find them eating *shproty* under a portrait of Lenin in some rundown *kommunalka*, or complaining about the price of bread at any Soviet-style *produkty* store.

**That sovok thinks that all foreigners are CIA secret agents.**

*E-tot so-VOK DU-ma-yet, chto VSYE i-no-STRANTSI—TAI-NI-YE a-GYEN-ti tse-er-U.*

Этот **совок** думает, что все иностранцы—тайные агенты ЦРУ.

## **Mazhor**

*Ma-ZHOR*

Мажор

The spoiled son of an influential and/or wealthy man. They pretty much get a free pass in life since *papochka* can always use his connections down at the ministry to get them out of any jam.

**He's just a fucking mazhor whose daddy always pays his way.**

*on YO-ba-nnii ma-ZHOR, ko-TO-rii zhi-VYOT za PA-PIN schot.*

Он ебаный **мажор**, который живёт за папин счёт.

## **Pofigist**

*po-fig-IST*

Пофигист

Someone who just doesn't give a shit about anything.

**That pofigist sleeps all day because he doesn't see the point of getting up.**

*E-tot po-fig-IST TSE-li-mi DNYA-mi spit, po-to-MU chto ne VI-dit SMI-sla vsta-VAT.*

Этот **пофигист** целыми днями спит, потому что не видит смысла вставать.

## **Thug**

*GOP-nik*

Гопник

A *gopnik* is the Russian version of a thug. He usually spends his time drinking vodka out of plastic cups and spitting sunflower seed shells all over the sidewalk on which he tends to squat. There seem to be fewer of them these days in Moscow, but believe me, there is no shortage out in the provinces.

**Only thugs party at that club.**

*v E-tom KLU-bye tu-SU-yu-tsya TOL-ko GOP-ni-ki.*

В этом клубе тусуются только **гопники**.

## **Ex-con**

*zek*

Зек

This is the former inmate of a prison camp, and the term comes from the abbreviation for *заключённый каналоармеец*. Probably the easiest way to spot a *zek* is by his tattoos: Although tats have become popular in recent years among young people, they were traditionally a part of prison culture in Russia. Prison tats, however, usually involve coded symbols that, if correctly interpreted, can tell you which crimes the person has committed and what kind of time he served, among other interesting biographical facts.

**Judging by his tattoos, he's an ex-con.**

*SU-dya po ye-VO ta-tu-ir-OV-kam, on—zek.*

Судя по его татуировкам, он—**зек**.

*stu-DYEN-ches-ka-ya zhizn*

Студенческая жизнь

The Russian academic year is divided into two parts, called *сессия (sEssiya)*: *зимняя сессия (ZIM-nya-ya SYE-ssi-ya)* and *весенняя сессия (vye-SYE-nya-ya SYE-SSI-YA)*. Each sessiya is followed by an exam period called *экзаменационная сессия (ek-za-men-a-tsi-ONN-ay-a SYE-ssi-ya)*. Russian doesn't really have words for freshman, sophomore, etc.; instead, they just say *на первом курсе (na PYER-vom KUR-sye)*, *на втором курсе (na vto-ROM KUR-sye)*, and so on.

**High school education through 9th grade**  
*nye-POL-no-ye SRYED-ne-ye o-bra-zo-VA-ni-ye*  
Неполное среднее образование

After 9th grade you have the option of leaving school and learning a trade. Or just smoking pot all day.

**High school education through 11th grade**  
*POL-no-ye SRYED-ne-ye o-bra-zo-VA-ni-ye*  
Полное среднее образование

Russian secondary schools go through 11 grades, so this is someone who has completed his secondary education and actually harbors some ambition in life.

**Any educational institute beyond high school**  
*VUZ*  
ВУЗ

This is the abbreviation for *высшее учебное заведение (VISSHE-YE u-CHEB-no-ye za-ve-DYE-ni-ye)*, which means something like institute of higher learning and refers to anything post-high school.

**Vo-tech**  
*peh-teh-U*  
ПТУ

This stands for *Профессионально-техническое училище (pro-fye-ssi-o-NAL-no-tyekh-NI-che-sko-ye u-CHI-li-sche)* and is usually for the kids not really cut out for schoolin'.

**Those vo-tech students just drink beer all day.**  
*E-ti pe-te-U-shni-ki TOL-ko PI-vo pyut TSEL-ii dyen.*  
Эти пэтэушники только пиво пьют целый день.

**College**  
*KO-Ilej*  
Колледж

A college is considered less prestigious than a *университет (u-ni-vyer-si-TYET)*, or university.

**Uni**  
*u-ni-VYER*  
Универ

This abbreviated form is often used informally.

**Grad school**  
*a-spi-ran-TU-ra*  
Аспирантура

**You'll never get into grad school with those grades!**  
*ti ni-kog-DA nye po-STU-pish v a-spi-ran-TU-ru s ta-KI-mi o-TSEN-ka-mi!*  
Ты никогда не поступишь в **аспирантуру** с такими оценками!

**Getting a grade for a class without needing to take a final exam**  
*av-to-MAT*  
Автомат

**I got an A without taking the final.** *ya po-lu-CHIL pya-TYOR-ku av-to-MAT-om.* Я получил пятёрку **автоматом**.

By the way, the Russian grading system is a five-point scale. A 5 is called a **пятёрка** (*pya-TYOR-ka*) and is the equivalent of an A. It goes down from there. A 4 is a **четвёрка** (*chet-VYOR-ka*); a 3 is a **тройка** (*TROI-ka*) and is the lowest grade you can get and still pass. A 2 is a **двойка** (*DVOI-ka*) and is a failing grade. A 1 is essentially never given unless a teacher has a real personal grudge against a student.

### Study nerd

*bo-TAN*

Ботан

Short for **ботаник** (*bo-TAN-ik*).

### Total slacker student

*stye-RIL-nii*

Стерильный

This is the opposite of the **ботан**. He just always comes unprepared and has, on some level, accepted his fate as a failure.

### The very first semester of one's college career

*bo-ye-VO-ye kre-SCHE-ni-ye*

Боевое крещение

The more standard meaning of this funny, slangy term is “baptism by fire.”

### The halfway mark in your college degree program

*ek-VA-tor*

Экватор

### Cheat sheet

*SHPOR-a*

Шпора

Short for **шпаргалка** (shpar-GAL-ka).

### Cheat sheet

*BOM-ba*

Бомба

This kind of cheat sheet has answers to the exact questions on the test.

### Student ticket

*stu-DAK*

Студак

Short for **студенческий билет** (*stu-DYEN-ches-kii bi-LYET*). When Russian students take exams, they must randomly draw a “ticket.” Whatever question is written on the ticket is what they must answer for their final exam grade. Unless their parents have a lot of money.

## The Russian army

*ro-SSII-ska-ya AR-mi-ya*

Российская армия

Russia still has a mandatory draft that just about everyone tries to avoid by any means possible, including bribing a doctor to write a medical exemption, checking into a mental institute, going to college and/or grad school, or just plain running away. It's hard to blame them: Aside from the numerous and deadly military adventures currently going on in the Caucasus, Russian soldiers live in deplorable conditions and face a kind of military hazing that is beyond cruel and unusual. But if you don't have the brains or the connections to get yourself out of service, then once you turn 18, you're pretty much stuck waiting for your number to come up. Not surprisingly, the suicide rate is quite high.

### He signed himself into the nuthouse to dodge the draft.

*on za-pi-SAL-sya v dur-DOM, CHTO-bi u-klon-YAT-sya ot pri-ZI-va.*

Он записался в дурдом, чтобы **уклоняться от** **призыва**.

### The recruit started playing the crazy card as soon as they tried to send him to Chechnya.

*no-vo-BRA-nyets NA-chal ko-SIT pod du-ra-KA, kak TOL-ko ye-VO sta-RA-lis po-SLAT v chech-NYU.*

Новобранец **начал** **косить под дурака**, как только его старались **послать** в Чечню.



**The soldier snuck out to get some booze.**

*sol-DAT u-SHOL v sa-mo-VOL-ku za VI-piv-koi.*

Солдат ушёл в

самоволку за выпивкой.

*Samovolka* is essentially going AWOL but usually only for a brief period of time, such as to make a quick vodka run.



GI

*o-bye-ZYA-na*

Обезьяна

Literally, a monkey

**A fellow soldier from your hometown**

*ZYO-ma*

Зёма

**A recruit in his first year of service**

*dukh*

Дух

**A recruit in his second and final year**

*dyed*

Дед

Hence the following word for “hazing.”

**There's crazy hazing in the Russian army. *v ro-SSII-skoi AR-mii po-VAL-na-ya dye-dov-SCHI-na.*** В российской армии повальная дедовщина.

**Combat boots**

*BYER-tsi*

Берцы

**His puttees really reek!**

*ye-VO por-TYAN-ki U-zhas kak vo-NYA-yut!*

Его портянки ужас как воняют!

In case you don't know, puttees are those nasty foot cloths soldiers wear instead of socks.

**Chow**

*bol-TI*

Болты

Specifically, this is pearl barley kasha, which is pretty much all Russian soldiers are ever given to eat.

**MIA**

*vpro-YO-bye*



Not so much in the literal sense of disappearing in combat; more like just “whereabouts unknown.”

### KIA (killed in action)

*dvukh-SO-tii*

Двухсотый

### WIA (wounded in action)

*tryokh-SO-tii*

Трёхсотый

### Military prison

*gaupt-VAKH-ta*

Гауптвахта

### The brig

*gu-BA*

Губа

### Don't screw around with the Special Forces.

*nad spyets-NA-zom nye iz-dye-VAI-sya.*

Над спецназом не издевайся.

These guys are the real badasses of the Russian military.

### He who serves in the army doesn't laugh at the circus. *kto v AR-mii slu-ZHIL, tot v TSIR-kye nye sme-YO-tsya.*

Кто в армии служил, тот в цирке не смеётся.

A famous army proverb about the absurdities of army life.

### A lot Afghan vets live in fucking awful conditions.

*MNO-gi-ye af-GAN-tsi zhi-VUT v khu-YO-vikh u-SLO-vi- yakh.*

Многие Афганцы живут в хуёвых условиях.

In many ways, Afghanistan was for the Soviet Union what Vietnam was for America, and there are a whole lotta vets in Russia missing eyes and limbs, sometimes homeless, and often of questionable mental stability. They are now being joined by the new generation of Chechen war veterans who are in pretty much the same condition upon their return to the Motherland. Aside from old people selling off all of their possessions for a few kopecks to buy bread, this is probably one of the saddest things you'll ever see in Russia.

Also, an abbreviation you will often see is BOB (VOV), which stands for Великая отечественная война (*ve-LI-ka-ya o-TYE-chyest-vye-nna-ya voi-NA*), the Great Patriotic War. This is what Russians call World War II, and if you know anything about the astronomical losses the Soviet Union suffered, you'll understand why it holds a sacred place in Russia's historical memory. However, unless you are willing to admit that Russia won the war single-handedly, this is probably a topic best avoided.

## CHAPTER 3

### PARTY RUSSIAN

TU-SO-VOCH-NII RU-SKII

Тусовочный русский

The legends of Russian drinking are not exaggerated: Russians are hard-core drinkers, and bacchanalian revelry pervades all aspects of life from the quick beer on the way to work to liquid lunches and vodka-drenched business meetings to all-night parties that rapidly degenerate into a marathon of reckless bingeing, blurring all lines between Friday night and Monday morning into a foggy haze of excess and regret. Let's face it: If you hang with Russians, you will drink. A lot. And in all likelihood at the most inappropriate times and in the most inappropriate places.

### Tying one on

*o-pya-NYE-ni-ye*

Опьянение

**Let's go...**

*poi-DYOM...*

Пойдём...

**for a drink.**

*VI-pit.*

выпить.

**drinkin'.**

*po-DRINK-at.*

подринкать.

From the English word “drink.” There is also a noun form, *дри́нк* (drink).

**boozing.**

*DYOR-nem.*

дёрнем.

**really tie one on.**

*po-bu-KHAT.*

побухать.

**drink some booze.**

*bu-KHAT bu-KHASH-ku.* бухать бухашку.

**party.**

*za-zhi-GAT.*

зажигать.

**do some drinkin'.**

*BAKH-nut.*

бахнуть.

**wet our whistles.**

*na-ka-TIT.*

накатить.

**get hammered.**  
*bukh-NYOM.*  
бухнѐм.

**get smashed.**  
*na-ZHRYOM-sya.*  
нажрѐмся.

**I need a drink.**  
*kho-CHU VI-pit.*  
Хочу выпить.

**I want to get drunk.**  
*kho-CHU na-PIT-sya.*  
Хочу напиться.

**I'm jonesing for a drink.**  
*TRU-bi gor-YAT.*  
Трубы горят.

**Pour 'em!**  
*na-li-VAI!*  
Наливай!

**Let me get this round.**  
*da-VAI ya za-bosh-LYA-yu.*  
Давай я забошляю.

**I demand that the banquet continue!**  
*ya TRYE-bu-yu pro-dol-ZHE-ni-ya ban-KYE-ta!*  
Я требую продолжения банкета!

Score some cultural points with this famous line from the classic Soviet comedy *Иван Васильевич меняет профессию* (Ivan Vasilievich Changes Professions).

## Where Russians get drunk

*gdye RU-sski-ye na-pi-VA-yu-tsya*  
Где русские напиваются

Russians drink everywhere. Bars and clubs are all around, from dives hidden away in piss-soaked basements to upscale establishments full of flat-headed thugs in leather jackets and bouncers checking weapons at the door. When in Russia, choose your watering hole wisely!

**Let's go...**  
*poi-DYOM...*  
Пойдѐм...

Remember when talking about direction, you need to use the accusative case.

**to a bar.**  
*v bar.*  
в бар.

**to a club.**  
*v klub.*  
в клуб.

**to a dance club.**  
*na dis-ko-TYE-ku.*  
на дискотеку.

**to a disco.**  
*na dis-KACH.*

на дисканч.

**to a strip joint.**

*na strip-TIZ.*

на стриптиз.

**to a drinking party.**

*na PYAN-ku.*

на пьянку.

**to a booze bash.**

*na bu-KHA-lo-vo.*

на бухалово.

**to my place.**

*ko MNYE.*

ко мне.

**Let's drink...**

*da-VAi VI-pyem...*

Давай выпьем...

**on the street.**

*na U-li-tse.*

на улице.

**in a park.**

*v PAR-kye.*

в парке.

**in a stairwell.**

*v pod-YEZ-dye.*

в подъезде.

**with some hos I know.**

*u zna-KOM-ikh BLYA-dyei.*

у знакомых блядей.

**There's going to be a rockin' party tonight.** se-VOD-nya BU-dyet KLASS-na-ya **tu-SOV-ka.** Сегодня будет классная тусовка.

**Me and my buds are going for a guys' night out.** *mi so svo-l-mi re-BYA-ta-mi i-DYOM na mal-CHISH-nik.*

Мы со своими ребятами идём на мальчишник.

**My girlfriend went to a hen party tonight while I sat at home like an idiot.** *po-KA ya TU-po si-DYEL DO-ma, mo-YA DYEYV-ush-ka po-SHLA*

*na dyev-ICH-nik.* Пока я тупо сидел дома, моя девушка пошла на девичник.

**The night is young.**

*VRE-mya DYET-sko-ye.*

Время детсков.

## Booze

*bu-KHLO*

Бухло

Not surprisingly, the Russian drink of choice is vodka, most often shot straight up. Beer is becoming increasingly popular with the younger crowd, however, and many bars now offer both local and imported brews on tap.

Since Russia is all in love with the stupid metric system, you order vodka in measurements of 50 grams, which is just about two ounces (a typical American shot is an ounce and a half). So you can order as little as one small 50-gram drink **пятьдесят грамм** or—more likely—a 500-gram bottle (

пол-литра). The standard shot, however, is 100 grams (сто грамм), sometimes just called a стопка (STOP-ka). For beer, you order by the parts of a liter—most commonly a third (called ноль три) or a half (called ноль пять, and you can actually buy up to 2.5 liters of beer in big plastic bottles as if it were soda. This is called a базука (ba-ZU-ka).

### What are we having?

*chto BU-dyem?*

Что будем?

### I'll have...

*ya BU-du...*

Я буду...

Notice that all of these words are in the accusative case.

### vodka.

*VOD-ku.*

водку.

### voddy.

*VO-doch-ku.*



водочку.

An affectionate term for vodka. You may also hear the term водяра (vo-DYAR-a).

## CHASERS>>>

ZA-KU-SO-NI

ЗАКУСОНЫ

The Russian idea of a chaser is a lot more liberal than the American version. Although chasing vodka with fruit juice is possible, pounding down *sto gramm* will be followed more often by a swig of beer, by a bite of a pickle, or by sniffing a piece of black bread. It'll burn at first, but much to your own undoing, it'll get easier with each passing shot.

What can I **chase** with?

*chem za-ku-SIT?*

Чем закусить?

What can I **take a whiff of** (to kill the burn)?

*chem za-NYU-khat?*

Чем занюхать?

Let's **chase this vodka with some beer.**

*da-VAI shli-fo-NYOM-sya.*

Давай шлифонёмся.

### moonshine.

*sa-mo-GON.*

самогон.

Although the real sots just call this Russian homebrew сэм (sem).

### pure grain alcohol.

*chi-sto-GAN.*

чистоган.

**cognac.**  
*ko-NYAK.*  
КОНЬЯК.

The more slangy word is конина (ko-NI-na). This is, of course, more often brandy than actual cognac.

**some brew.**  
*piv-KO.*  
ПИВКО.

**yorsh.**  
*yorsh.*  
ёрш.

A mixed drink consisting of vodka and beer.

## SOME FINER POINTS OF RUSSIAN IMBIBING>>>

Russians like to get the party started as quickly as possible, which means they waste no time pounding down the drinks. By tradition, the first shot is quickly followed by the second. A popular Russian saying goes:

You don't take a break between the first and the second shots. *MYεZH-du PYεR-voiivto-ROI pye-rye-RIV-chik nye-bol-SHOI.*  
Между первой и второй перерывчик небольшой.

Keep in mind that Russian parties are a bit different from Americans parties. There is no mingling—hey, they didn't come to stand around making awkward small talk with a bunch of losers, they came to get shitfaced. When you go a Russian party, you sit, you eat, and you drink. *I vsyo.*

Down the hatch!  
*do DNA!*  
До дна!

This is generally how you'll be cheered on when pounding down shots.

A penalty drink  
*shtraf-NOI*  
Штрафной

So that any latecomers don't stay sober long enough to gather compromising information on their already shitfaced and loose-lipped companions.

Brudershaft  
Брудершафт

This is a toast honoring the brotherhood of men in which you will be expected to link arms with guy next to you as you gaze deeply into each other's increasingly dilated pupils and pound down another shot. Bottoms up!

One for the road  
*na po-so-SHOK*  
На пошок

This is traditionally the last toast of the evening. Drink it down and get out while you still can!

And on a final note, there is a Russian custom of immediately removing empty bottles from the table. This often means placing them on the floor, under or beside the table. I'm not entirely sure why they do this: It may be superstition related, or it might just be a not-so-subtle hint that they are ready for another bottle to be opened.

**beer and sour cream.**  
*PI-vo so smye-TA-noi.*  
пиво со сметаной.

Before there was Viagra, there was beer and sour cream.

**a little vino.**  
*vin-TSO.*  
винцо.

**mulled wine.**  
*glint-VYEIN.*  
глинтвейн.

**port.**

*port-VEIN.*

портвейн.

It's cheap, it's potent, and it's also sometimes called *портвешок* (*port-ve-SHOK*).

**home-brewed fruit wine.**

*GRU-shki-YA-bloch-ki.*

грушки-яблочки.

**bubbly.**

*sham-PUN.*

шампунь.

Although it literally means “shampoo,” so it's all about the context here.

**a cocktail.**

*kok-TYEIL.*

коктейль.

**a screwdriver.**

*ot-VYOR-ku.*

отвёртку.

**a bloody Mary.**

*kro-VA-vu-yu ME-ri.*

кروавую Мэри.

**a gin and tonic.**

*dzhin TO-nik.*

джин тоник.

**a rum and Coke.**

*rom KO-lu.*

ром колу.

**Do you have (dark, light) beer on tap?**

YEST u vas (TYOM-no-ye, SVYET-lo-ye) Pl-vo *na roz-LI-vye* ?

Есть у вас (тёмное, светлое) пиво на розливе?

**It's time to move on to something stronger.**

*po-RA pod-NYAT GRA-dus.*

Пора **поднять градус.**

**That bartender mixes a mean drink.**

*E-tot bar-MEN ba-DYA-zhit KLASS-ni-ye kok-TYEI-li*

Этот бармен **бадяжит** классные коктейли.

**Do you have anything stronger?**

*YEST u vas chto-ni-BUD po-KRYEP-che?*

Есть у вас что-нибудь **покрепче**?

**We'll drink anything that burns.**

*mi pyom VSYO, chto go-RIT.*

Мы пьём всё, что горит.

**They pour crap here.**

*tut na-li-VA-yut ta-KU-yu dryan.*

Тут наливают такую **дрянь.**

**I'm not going to drink this shitty beer.**

*ya nye BU-du pit E-to pi-zdo-VA-to-ye Pl-vo.*  
Я не буду пить это пиздоватое пиво.

**This is crappy vodka.**  
*E-ta VOD-ka khre-NO-va-ya.*  
Эта водка хреновая.

**After drinking that voddy, we were zonked.**  
*PO-sle E-toi vo-DYA-ri mi Bl-li v A-u-tye.*  
После этой водяры мы были в ауте.

**This home brew really packs a punch.**  
*E-tot sem da-YOT ZHA-ru.*  
Этот сэм даёт жару.

**That's a chick drink.**  
*E-to BAB-skii na-Pl-tok.*  
Это бабский напиток.

**Let's each have a brew.**  
*da-VAI po piv-KU.*  
Давай по пивку.

**Let's have another round.**  
*da-VAI e-SCHO po od-NOI.*  
Давай ещё по одной.

**What, have you lost your fucking mind?!?! We've already drunk half a barrel!**  
*ti CHTO, o-khu-YEL?!?! mi u-ZHE pol-BOCH-ki VI-pi-li!*  
Ты что, охуел?!?! Мы уже полбочки выпили!

**Gimme some coin for beer.**  
*go-NI mnye BAB-ki na Pl-vo.*  
Гони мне бабки на пиво.

**Give me some scratch.**  
*dai ba-BLO.*  
Дай бабло.

## Toasts

*TOS-ti*

Тосты

The more drunk Russians get, the longer and more tear-filled their toasts seem to be. But don't sweat it: It's not so much what you say, but the heart you put into it that will win over your drinking buddies. Most Russian toasts begin with variations of the following words:

**Let's drink to...!**  
*da-VAI VI-pyem za...!*  
Давай выпьем за...!

**Here's to...!**  
*da-VAI za...!jj*  
Давай за...!

**meeting under the table.**  
*VSTRYE-chu pod sto-LOM.*  
встречу под столом.



**women. We don't care what we drink to anyway, and it makes them happy.**  
*ZHEN-schin. NAM-to vsyo rav-NO, za CHTO pit, a IM-pri-YAT-no.*  
женщин. Нам-то всё равно, за что пить, а им-приятно.

**a light heart and heavy pockets.**  
*LYO-gko-ye SYERD-tse i tya-ZHO-li-ye kar-MA-ni.*  
лёгкое сердце и тяжёлые карманы.

**honest and humble people. There are so few of us left!**  
*CHYES-nikh i SKROM-nikh Iyu-DYEI. nas o-STA-los tak MA-lo!*  
честных и скромных людей. Нас осталось так мало!

**wives and lovers, and to them never meeting.**  
*zhon i Iyu-BOV-nits, CHTO-bi on-i ni-kog-DA nye VSTRYE-ti-lis.* жён и любовниц, чтобы они никогда не встретились.

## Wasted

*bu-KHOI*

Бухой

There will inevitably come a point where you're too drunk to slur out the words demanding another round. Not to worry: just do as the Russian do and flick your middle finger against the side of your neck. You'll have your *sto gramm* in no time!

**He's/She's...**

*on/o-NA...*

Он/она...

**drunk.**

*PYA-nii/PYA-na-ya.*

пьяный/пьяная.

**a little tipsy.**

*slye-GKA pyan/pya-NA.*

слегка пьян/пьяна.

**shitfaced drunk.**

*v SRA-ku pyan/pya-NA.*

в сраку пьян/пьяна.

**drunk off his/her ass.**

*v ZHO-pu pyan/pyan-A.*

в жопу пьян/пьяна.

**completely wasted.**

*pyan/pya-nA v dro-VA.*

пьян/пьяна в дрова.

**wrecked.**

*pyan/pya-NA v khlam.*

пьян/пьяна в хлам.

**wasted.**

*bu-KHOI/bu-KHA-ya.*

бухой/бухая.

**already three sheets to the wind.**

*u-zZHE le-TA-yet.*

уже летает.

**feeling no pain.**

*kho-ROSH/kho-ro-SHA.*  
хорош/хороша.

**on a bender.**

*v za-PO-ye.*  
в запов.

**drinking like a Hussar.**

*pyot kak gu-SAR.*  
пьёт как гусар.

Which is apparently very fast.

**I'm fucked up beyond all recognition.**

*mnye POL-nii piz-DYETS.*  
Мне полный пиздец.

This doesn't just refer to being drunk but can mean "I'm totally fucked" in just about any sense.

## Drinkers

*PYU-schi-ye*

Пьющие

One thing it ain't hard to find in Russia is someone to drink with.

**Drinking buddy**

*so-bu-TIL-nik*  
Собутыльник

**A drunkard**

*PYA-ni-tsa*  
Пьяница

**A total sot**

*A-lek*  
Алек

**An alcoholic**

*al-ko-GO-lik*  
Алкоголик

**A lousy, stinkin' lush**

*BU-khar*  
Бухарь

**A boozer**

*si-NYAK*  
Синяк

This is also the word for "bruise"; it comes from синий (SI-nii), or "blue."

**An alkie**

*al-KASH*  
Алкаш

**That fucking alkie always wants to mooch drinks.**

*E-tot YO-ba-nnii al-KASH vsyeg-DA KHO-chet na SHA-ru pit.*  
Этот ёбаный алкаш всегда хочет на шару пить.

# The cops

*men-TI*

Менты

Although public drunkenness is common in Russia, attracting too much attention to yourself could run you the risk of an unpleasant encounter with some of Russia's finest out trolling for a little supplementary income. Have your passport on hand, carry some spare cash, and practice saying these words so that you can express your righteous indignation the next day among your comrades.

**Cops**

*men-TI*

Менты

**Pigs**

*MU-sor*

Мусор

This what the real badasses call the po-po.

**Po-po**

*Iye-GA-vii*

Легавый

**The Fuzz**

*myen-TYA-ra*

Ментяра

**The pigs picked me up. Those bitches!**

*mu-so-RA me-NYA za-gre-BLI. SU-ki!*

Мусора меня загребли. Суки!

**That new guy totally narc'ed me out to the 5-0.**

*E-tot gni-LOI me-NYA za-svye-TIL dush-MA-nu.*

Этот гнилой меня засветил душману.

This term is mainly used by druggies.

**The cops made me pay a fine for being a public nuisance.**

*men-TI za-STA-vi-li za-pla-TIT shtraf za khu-li-GAN-stvo.*

Менты заставили заплатить штраф за хулиганство.

“Fine” being a euphemism for what it really is:

**A bribe**

*VZYAT-ka*

Взятка

**If you get caught with that shit, they'll send you up the river.**

*YES-li ob-na-RU-zhit te-BYA s E-toi DRYA-nyu, to te-BYA po-SA-dyat na kich-MAN.*

Если обнаружат тебя с этой дрянью, то тебя

посадят на кичман.

**He did five years for possession.**

*on si-DYEL pyat lyet za khra-NYE-ni-ye.*

Он сидел пять лет за хранение.

**Russia is just completely whack.**

*v ro-SSII POL-nii byes-prye-DYEL.*

В России полный беспредел.

Byespryedyl is a slang word right out of the big house now used to describe the chaotic lawlessness and corruption pervading Russian society.

# The morning after

*s u-tri-TSA*

If you don't find the following phrases useful after a night of gettin' your Russian groove on, then you ain't doin' it right.

**I drank like a pig yesterday.**

*ya vche-RA na-PIL-sya kak svi-NYA.*

Я вчера напился как свинья.

**I made a real ass of myself.**

*ya o-po-ZO-ril-sya.*

Я опозорился.

**I'm ashamed of myself.**

*mnye STID-no.*

Мне стыдно.

**I'm shocked.**

*ya v SHOK-ye.*

Я в шоке.

**I disgust myself.**

*ya se-BYE pro-TI-ven.*

Я себе противен.

**I got so drunk, I went cruising for some tail.**

*ya tak na-PIL-sya, chto po-YE-khal za TYOL-ka-mi.*

Я так напился, что поехал за тёлками.

**I got so smashed, I woke up in the stairwell of some strange building.**

*ya tak bu-KHAL, chto pro-SNUL-sya v pod-YEZ-dye chu-ZHO-vo DO-ma.*

Я так бухал, что проснулся в подъезде чужого

дома.

**I woke up in a train station outside Moscow without my pants.**

*ya och-NUL-sya na vok-ZAL-ye v pod-mos-KOV-ye byez svo-IKH shta-NOV.*

Я очнулся на вокзале в Подмоскowie без своих

штанов.

**I don't know how I ended up here.**

*ya nye ZNA-yu, kak ya syu-DA po-PAL.*

Я не знаю, как я сюда попал.

**I fell asleep at the table.**

*ya za-SNUL za sto-LOM.*

Я заснул за столом.

**I got thrown out of the bar.**

*me-NYA VI-per-li iz BAR-a.*

Меня выперли из бара.

**I pissed myself.**

*ya us-TSAL-sya.*

Я усцался.

**I got into a fight.**

*ya po-RAL-sya.*

Я подрался.

**I told him off and that asshole cold-cocked me.**

*ya ye-VO po-SLAL i E-tot u-ROD dal mnye po MOR-dye.*

Я его послал и этот урод дал мне по морде.

**A hallucination-fueled rage brought on by heavy**

drinking

*BYE-la-ya go-RYACH-ka*

Белая горячка

Also affectionately referred to as <sup>белочка</sup> (*BYE-loch-ka*).

**Forgive me, for I have sinned.**

*pro-STI me-NYA, ya so-grye-SHIL.*

Прости меня, я согрешил.

## The hangover

*pokh-MYE-Iye*

Похмелье

If you're hanging with Russians, this is gonna be a familiar state to you. My advice? Do as the Russians do: Suck it up and drink it off. And then promise yourself that you will never drink that much again. At least not until the weekend.

**I'm hungover.**

*ya z **bo-du-NA**.*

Я с бодуна.

**I feel like shit.**

*me-NYA kol-BA-sit.*

Меня колбасит.

**My liver hurts.**

*PYE-chen bo-LIT.*

Печень болит.

**The room is spinning.**

*u me-NYA **ver-to-LYO-ti**.*

У меня вертолёт.

Literally, "I have helicopters".

**I have dry mouth.**

*u me-NYA **sush-NYAK**.*

У меня сушняк.

I don't remember a **damn thing**.

*ya **ni fi-GA** nye POM-nyu.*

Я ни фига не помню.

**I don't remember a fucking thing.**

*ya ni khu-YA nye POM-nyu.*

Я ни хуя не помню.

**Foul breath after a night of hard drinking**

*pe-re-GAR*

Перегар

**The hair of the dog**

*klin KLIN-om*

Клин клином

**I need to drink off this hangover ASAP.** *mnye NA-do SRO-chno o-pokh-mye-LIT-sya.* Мне надо срочно опохмелиться.

**It's OK, I'll sleep it off.** *ni-che-VO, ya o-to-SPL YUS.* Ничего, я отосплюсь.

If you can't handle a morning eye-opener, another tried-and-true Russian method of curing a hangover is drinking pickle brine, or *рассол* (ra-SSOL).



## Alcoholics Anonymous

**klub a-no-NIM-nikh al-ko-GO-li-kov**

Клуб анонимных алкоголиков

**Alcoholism**

*al-ko-go-LIZM*

Алкоголизм

**I gotta cut down on my drinking.**

*pit NA-do MYEN-she.*

Пить надо меньше.

**It's time to go on the wagon.**

*po-RA za-vya-ZAT.*

Пора завязать.

**I'm gonna quit tomorrow.**

*ya ZAV-tra BRO-shu pit.*

Я завтра брошу пить.

**To get treatment for a drinking problem**

*lye-CHIT-sya ot za-PO-ya*

Лечиться от запоя

**She's already a lost cause.**

*o-NA u-ZHE pro-PA-la.*

Она уже пропала.

**She's drinking her life away.**

*o-NA sbu-KHA-las.*

Она сбухалась.

**He drank himself to death.**

*on SPIL-sya.*

Он спился.

**I drank everything the fuck away.**

*ya pro-PIL vsyo NA khui.*

Я пропил всё на хуй.

## Refusing a drink

*ot-KAZ*

Отказ

If you're a guy, you can't refuse a drink. Sober people are not to be trusted, and if you're not drinking like everyone else, you're probably up to no good. But you can try the following feeble protests:

**I'm not a drinker.**

*ya nye-PYU-shii.*

Я непьющий.

**I'm a teetotaler.**

*ya TRYEZ-vye-nnik.*

Я трезвенник.

**I've got an ulcer.**

*ya YAZ-vye-nnik.*

Я язвенник.

**I've had enough.**

*s me-NYA KHVA-tit.*

С меня хватит.

**I'm good for now.**

*mnye po-KA vsyo.*

Мне пока всё.

**I'm gonna sit this round out.**

*ya pas.*

Я пас.

**I'm too damn drunk to drink anymore.**

*po-mu-TI-Ios v moz-GU.*

Помутилось в мозгу.

**What, are you dissin' me?!?!**

*ti me-NYA nye u-va-ZHA-yesh?!?!*

Ты меня не уважаешь?!?!

Expect this as the standard Russian response to someone who has tried to sit out a round.

## Drugs

*nar-KO-ti-ki*

Наркотики

While drinking alcohol is still the great Russian national pastime, drugs can be scored in just about any Russian city large or small. They have become a big part of the Moscow club scene in recent years, and ecstasy-fueled raves are some of the hottest tickets in town. But get caught with dope in Russia and you will be royally screwed. So if you don't have the balls for spending a few years sharing a shower with TBRAVAGED serial killers and rapists, you might want to stick to the bottle. But, hey, no one's judging here. And so...

**Dope**

*nar-ko-TA*

Наркота

**I've got the goods today.**

*u me-NYA se-VOD-nya pro-DUKT.*

У меня сегодня продукт.

**Shit! I can't find my stash!**  
*blyad, nye mo-GU na-i-TI mo-YU za-GA-shu dur-NU-yu!*  
Блядь, не могу найти мою **загашу дурную!**

**Let's get high.**  
*da-VAI po-kai-FU-yem.*  
Давай покайфуем.

**I'm jonesing hard.**  
*ya go-LOD-nii.*  
Я голодный.

**How much for a bag?**  
*po-CHOM ba-LLON?*  
Почём **баллон?**

**I don't know why he's looking to score when he's already holding.** *mnye nye po-NYAT-no, za-CHEM on v raz-VYED-kye kog-DA on u-ZHE za-TA-re-nnii.*  
Мне не понятно, зачем он **в разведке**, когда он уже **затаренный**.

**I'm sick of vodka—let's get high for a change.** *mnye na-do-YE-Ia VOD-ka—da-VAI LU-chshe bakh-NYOM-sya.*  
Мне надоела водка—давай лучше **бахнёмся**.

**Every time he's high he gets the ganoobies.**  
*KAZH-dii raz, kog-DA on v TOR-bye, on na khi-KHI pod-SA-zhi-va-yet-sya.*  
Каждый раз, когда он **в торбе**, он **на хи-хи** подсаживается.

**I'm, like, totally stoned.**  
*ya, TI-pa, po KAI-fu.*  
Я, типа, **по кайфу**.

**He gets baked every chance he gets.**  
*on LO-vit kaif pri lyu-BOI voz-MOZH-nosti.*  
Он **ловит кайф** при любой возможности.

**He gets bombed out every fucking day.**  
*on vye-RYOV-ku glo-TA-yet KAZH-dii YO-ba-nnii dyen.*  
Он **верёвку** глотает каждый ёбаный день.

**Man, I hate coming down.**  
*blin, ya nye-na-VI-zhu ot-kho-DYAK.*  
Блин, я ненавижу **отходняк**.

Where to score

*gdye do-STAT*  
Где достать

**Connection**  
*go-NYETS*  
Гонец

**Dealer**  
*DI-ler*  
Дилер



In Russia, often someone from central Asia or the Caucasus, also sometimes called a **Бабай** (*ba-BAI*), or **Басурман** (*ba-sur-MAN*), among other things.

**I need to find me a new candy man, mine doesn't know jack about dope.**

*mnye NA-do na-i-TI NO-vo-vo DOK-to-ra, moi—dva po KU-shu.*

Мне надо найти нового **доктора**, мой—два по кушу.

**I'm a total newbie; could you find me a guide?**

*ya vo-ob-SHYE pi-o-NYER—ti MOZH-esh mnye na-i-TI*

**a-ri-sto-KRAT-a?**

Я вообще **пионер**—ты можешь мне найти аристократа?

**He didn't have any cheese, so he had to pull a buy and fly.**

*u ne-VO NYE bi-lo BA-shlej, tak pri-SHLIOS ot-VA-li-va-tsya ot kup-TSA.*

У него не было башлей, так пришлось отваливаться от купца.

**D.L. Spot**

*TOCH-ka*

Точка

**Do you know where I can score around here?**

*ti nye ZNA-yesh gdye tut MOZH-no VI-ru-bat?*

Ты не знаешь где тут можно **вырубать**?

**Their hot spot is in an old communal apartment.**

*ikh kon-TOR-a na-KHO-dit-sya v STA-roi ko-mmu-NAL-kye.*

Их **контора** находится в старой коммуналке.

**They found a new shooting gallery near the**

university.

*o-NI na-SHLI NO-vo-ye BLYUD-tse VO-zle uni-vyer-si-TYET-a.*

Они нашли новое **блюдец** возле университета.

## Weed

*trav-A*

Трава

The funny thing about weed in Russia is where you'll find it growing. I once went to the Ryazan region dacha of a 60-year-old woman and saw a five-foot-tall plant, and there used to be a few smaller hemp shrubs not far from one of the embassy buildings in Ukraine. Honestly, most people don't even know what it is, and those who do know generally don't bother because the quality is such crap. If you want the good stuff, go for something from Central Asia or the Caucasus—native is total swag.

**Let's smoke some...**

*da-VAI po-KU-rim...*

Давай покурим...

Notice these words are all in the accusative.

**marijuana.**

*ma-ri-khu-A-nu*

марихуану.

**pot.**

*a-na-shU.*

анашу.

**grass.**

*ZYE-lyen.*

зелень.

**bud.**  
*pye-TRUSH-ku.*  
петрушку.

**Mary Jane.**  
*MAR-yu i-VA-nov-nu.*  
Марью Ивановну.

Also sometimes called **Леди Джейн** (Lady Jane).

**cannabis.**  
*gan-dzhu-BAS.*  
ганджубас.

**Russian golden leaf.**  
*A-tom*  
атом

Usually imported weed from places south such as Central Asia.

**Hemp**  
*ko-no-PL YA*  
Конопля

**Man, I'm not gonna tokе that nasty-ass ditch weed.**  
*blin, ya nye BU-du za-bi-vAt E-tu dyer-MO-vu-yu byespon-TOV-ku*  
Блин, я не буду забивать эту дерьмовую  
**беспонтовку**.

**This schwag ain't good, but at least it's cheap.**  
*E-tot ko-chi-BEI khrye-NO-vii, no khot dye-SHO-vii.*  
Этот **кочубей** хреновый, но хоть дешёвый.

**These Russian potheads only smoke dirt grass.** *E-ti RU-sski-ye PLA-ne-ri KUR-yat TOL-ko KLYE-ver.* Эти русские **планеры** курят только клевер.

**Aren't there any stoners in Moscow?**  
*nye-u-ZHE-li NYET-u u-PIKH-ti-shei v mosk-VYE?*  
Неужели нету **упыхтышей** в Москве?

**Wanna buy a dime bag?**  
*KHO-chesh ku-PIT GA-lich-ku?*  
Хочешь купить **галичку**?

**Where can I get some rolling papers?**  
*gdye MOZH-no do-STAT PO-pik?*  
Где можно достать **попик**?

**Anybody got a joint?**  
*u ko-VO-ni-BUD YEST ko-SYAK?*  
У кого-нибудь есть **косяк**?

**He took a hit off the joint.**  
*on po-lu-CHIL doz-NYAK ot ko-sya-KA.*  
Он поучил **дозняк** от косяка.

**Let's roll a fatty and spark it up.**  
*da-VAI po-KRU-tim u-go-L YOK i po-pikh-TIM.*  
Давай покрутим **уголёк** и **попыхтим**.

Hey, G, let's take the trip.  
*ei, pa-TSAN, da-VAI po-ku-MA-rim E-tot pye-GAS.*  
Эй, пацан, давай покумарим этот пегас.

Where did you put my feedbag?  
*gdye ti po-lo-ZHIL moi pa-KYET?*  
Где ты положил мой пакет?

Let's go buy some logs.  
*poi-DYOM KU-pim BYE-li-ki.*  
Пойдём купим Белики.

These are papirosy that can be hollowed out and filled with pot. The full name is Беломорканал (bye-lo-mor-ka-NAL).

Let's kill this one.  
*da-VAI PYAT-ku smi-NAT.*  
Давай пятку сминать.

I think I have a matchbox (of pot) in the glove compartment.  
*po-MO-ye-mu u me-NYA yest ko-RABL v bar-dach-KYE.*  
По-моему у меня есть корабль в бардачке.

He brought over a B, and we fired it up it together.  
*on pri-NYOS ko-ro-BAR i mi VMYE-stye po-du-DYE-li.*  
Он принёс коробарь и мы вместе подудели.  
Another word for this is карабас (ka-ra-BAS).

Careful with my bong, dude.  
*chu-VAK, a-kku-RAT-no s mo-IM bul-bu-L YA-tor-om.*  
Чувак, аккуратно с моим бульбулятором.  
Also sometimes just called a бонг.

Have you ever smoked pot through a hookah?  
*ti kog-DA-ni-BUD ku-RIL tra-VU CHE-rez ka-LYAN?*  
Ты когда-нибудь курил траву через кальян?

I've never seen anyone smoke from a steamroller before.  
*ni-kog-DA nye VI-dyel, kak KUR-yat iz CHIL-la.*  
Никогда не видел, как курят из чила.

If you shotgun weed with my girlfriend one more time,  
I'm gonna punch you in the mouth.  
*YES-li e-SCHO raz SDYE-la-yesh pa-ro-VOZ-ik s mo-YEI DYE-vush-koi, to ya te-BYE dam v ROT.*  
Если ещё раз сделаешь паровозик с моей девушкой, то я тебе дам в рот.

After smoking some ganny, he started buggin' out. PO-sle to-VO kak VI-ku-ril af-GAN-ku, on SYEL na iz-MYE-nu.  
После того как выкурил афганку, он сел на измену.

I blew a stick and now I've got wicked munchies.  
*ya do-ku-ril dol-BAN i tye-PYER MU-cha-yus ZHO-rom.*  
Я докурил Долбан и теперь мучаюсь жором.

Smack

BYE-lji

Белый

The hard-core addicts in Russia are generally smackheads, so heroin has something of the reputation of being the drug of lowlife user scum. There’s no dib and dab in Russia: If you use, you’re likely already hooked or well on your way. But everyone chooses their poison, and if you need the Number 8, that’s your business. However, keep in mind that smack has also played a huge role in Russia’s AIDS epidemic. So if you do decide to shoot up in Russia, use your own needles.

Heroin

*gye-ro-IN*  
Г ероин

I don’t shoot up H.

*ya nye VZHA-ri-va-yus GYE-ru.*  
Я не **вжариваю**сь геру.

He spends all his time mainlining.

*on vsyo VRYE-mya VMA-za-yet v BUL-ku.*  
Он всё время **вмазает** в булку.

I’ve never seen so many track marks on one person before.

*PYER-vii raz VI-zhu STOL-ko svyer-SCHEI na od-NOM chye-lo-VYE-kye.*  
Первый раз вижу столько **сверщей** на одном человеке.

He has so many tracks, he looks like a train station.

*u nye-VO STOL-ko do-ROG, chto po-KHOZH na sho-SSE.*  
У него столько **дорог**, что похож на шоссе.

She’s a junkie.

*o-NA si-DIT na i-GLYE.*  
Она сидит на игле.

Needle

*shprits*  
Шприц

If you’re gonna do up some brother, you better get a clean spike.

*YES-li BU-dyesh GRI-shu gnat po VYE-nye, to LU-chshe vzyat CHI-stu-yu pya-TYEL-ku.*  
Если будешь **гришу гнать по вене**, то лучше взять чистую **пятелку**.

Blow

*nyu-KHA-ra*

Нюхара

Cocaine

*ko-ka-IN*  
Кокаин

Do you know where I can score some snow around here?

*ti nye ZNA-yesh, gdye MOZH-no VI-ru-bat tut snye-ZHOK?*  
Ты не знаешь, где можно вырубать тут **снежок**?

Angie is too rich for my blood.

*myel mnye nye po kar-MA-nu.*  
**Мел** мне не по карману.

Let’s blow a line after the concert.

*da-VAI po-nyukh-TA-rim po-NYUSH-ku PO-sle kon-TSER-ta.*  
Давай **понюхтарим понюшку** после концерта.

I saw that cokehead in the bathroom snorting flake.  
ya VI-dyel, kak E-tot **nyu-KHACH** v tua-LYE-tye **ma-ra-FYET ot-ri-VAL**.  
Я видел, как этот **нюхач** в туалете **марафет**  
**отрывал**.

## Trippy drugs

vol-SHEB-ni-ki  
Волшебники

If you're more into the club scene, ecstasy and LSD are available as well, PCP somewhat less so. While often referred to by the name on their stamp—of which there are dozens—here are the most common, general terms for LSD and XTC.

**LSD**  
*el-es-DE*  
ЛСД

**Acid**  
*ki-slo-TA*  
Кислота

**Let's drop some Lucy and go clubbing.**  
*da-VAI pro-glo-TIM LYU-syu i po-klu-BIM-sya.*  
Давай проглотим **Люсю** и поklubимся.

**I scored some blotter.**  
*ya VI-ru-bal bu-MA-gu.*  
Я вырубал **бумагу**.

**He's been in transit all night.**  
*on vsyu noch GLIU-ki LO-vit.*  
Он всю ночь **глюки ловит**.

**That acidhead is always talking nonsense.**  
*E-tot gliu-ko-LOV vseg-DA bryed bol-TA-yet.*  
Этот **глюколов** всегда бред болтает.

**Ecstasy**  
*Ek-sta-zi*  
Экстази

**If we're going to go clubbing tonight, I'll bring some vitamin E.**  
*YES-li se-VOD-nya BU-dyem klu-BIT-sya, to voz-MU s so-BOI vi-ta-MIN E.*  
Если сегодня будем клубиться, то возьму с собой **Витамин Е**.

**How much does Adam usually cost in Moscow?**  
*po-CHOM o-BICH-no v mosk-VYE go-Ili-VUD?*  
Почём обычно в Москве **Голливуд**?

**Rave**  
Рейв

**Have you ever been to a rave?**  
*ti kog-DA-ni-BUD bil na REI-vye?*  
Ты когда-нибудь был **на рейве**?

**PCP**  
Well, it's just called PCP, although sometimes you'll hear the term **ангельская пыль** (AN-gyel-ska-ya pil), or angel dust, just like back home.

## Kiddie dope

ko-LYO-sa  
Колёса

For those who can’t stomach the idea of a shake down by the heat, the safest route to la-la land is through pharmaceuticals. There’s an apteka on every corner in Russia, and it’s not too hard to find a script writer if you’re willing to pay. Heck, most of the time you won’t even need a prescription. There are really way too many meds to name, so here are just a few of the common ones available in Russia that can get you high, low, or somewhere in between.

**Ketamine**  
Кетамин

**Bump**  
*NAS-tya*  
Настя

**Codeine**  
Кодеин

**Schoolboy**  
*ka-TYU-kha*  
Капюха

**Morphine**  
*MOR-fii*  
Морфий

**White Stuff**  
*bye-LYAN-ka*  
Белянка

**Demerol**  
*DYE-mik*  
Демик

**Radedorm**  
*RA-li-ki*  
Ралики

**Phenobarbital**  
*FYE-ni-ki*  
Феники

**Noxiron**  
*prye-zi-DYENT*  
Президент

Or “president” as the case may be.

**Theophedrine**  
*VOZ-dukh*  
Воздух

Literally, “air.”

And two popular ephedrine-based poppers:

**“Jeff”**  
Джэф

**“Vint”**  
Винт

**I’m not really into kiddie doping.**  
*mnye nye O-chen NRA-vit-sya po ko-LYO-sam tor-CHAT.*  
Мне не очень нравится по колесам торчать.

**I think I can get that white coat to write me a script.**  
*po-MO-ye-mu ya smo-GU u-go-vo-RIT E-to lye-PI-lo*  
*mnye na-pi-SAT chye-KUSH-ku.*  
По-моему я смогу уговорить это лепило мне написать чекушку.

**He spends all his time popping pills.**  
on vsyo VRYE-mya *za-KI-di-va-yet.*

## Getting hooked

*pod-SAD-ka*

Подсадка

**He just got on and already he's getting hooked.**

*on nye-DAV-no NA-chal na ZHA-lo ki-DAT i u-ZHE sa-DIT-sya.*

Он недавно начал на жало кидать и уже садится.

**Druggie**

*nar-ko-MAN*

Наркоман

**Burnout**

*tor-CHOK*

Торчок

**He's permafried.**

*on v sis-TYE-mye.*

Он в системе.

**Overdose**

*pye-rye-do-zi-ROV-ka*

Передозировка

**His best friend ODeD last week after a drug binge.**

*ye-VO LUCH-shii drug v ZHMUR-ki si-GRAL na PRO-shloi nye-DYE-lye PO-sle ma-ra-FO-na.*

Его лучший друг в жмурки сыграл на прошлой неделе после марафона.

**They had to take him to the nuthouse after he had a freakout.**

*pri-SHLOS ye-VO u-vyes-TI v DU-roch-ku PO-sle to-VO, kak on gu-SEI gnal.*

Пришлось его увести в дурочку после того, как он гусей гнал.

**If she doesn't get clean, she'll end up in the boneyard.**

*YES-li o-NA nye SLYE-zet, to SKO-ro ot-PRA-vit-sya v*

*u-CHAS-tok NO-mer tri.*

Если она не слезет, то скоро отправится в участок номер три.

**I don't think I can just quit cold turkey.**

*ya VRYAD li smo-gU na su-KHU-yu slyezt.*

Я вряд ли смогу на сухую слезть.

**I'm on the straight.**

*ya na ku-MA-rakh.*

Я на кумарах.

## CHAPTER 4

### BODY RUSSIAN

TYE-LYE-SNII RU-SSKII

Телесный русский

Though fast food is becoming popular in the former Soviet Union, Russian bodies don't seem to have Supersized the way that Americans have. Most young Russians are in great shape and don't start to fatten up until 50 or so. I think the secret is that they walk ... a lot ... usually carrying ridiculously heavy bags. Most Russians—particularly women—take a lot of pride in their appearance. Even a quick trip to the *rynok* requires a dress, heels, and full makeup. It's pretty rare to catch a young Russian woman in public wearing sweats and sneakers. They like to look good for any occasion, and a big part of that is keeping their bodies tight and supple. Ain't nothing wrong with that!

### Body

TYE-Io

Тело

**He's got a nice six pack.**

*u nye-VO kho-RO-shii pryess.*

У него хороший пресс.

**He's got a big belly.**

*u nye-VO bol-SHO-ye PU-zo.*

У него большое пузо.

**She has amazing legs.**

*u nye-YO o-bal-DYE-nni-ye NO-zhki.*

У неё обалденные ножки.

**He's got a cute butt.**

*u nye-VO sim-pa-TICH-na-ya PO-pa.*

У него симпатичная попа.

**She's got a great chest.**

*u nye-YO KLASS-na-ya grud.*

У неё классная грудь.

**You've got beautiful eyes.**

*u te-BYA kra-SI-vi-ye gla-ZI-sche.*

У тебя красивые глазищи.

**She's got a pretty nice kisser.**

*u nye-YO nye-plo-KHA-ya mor-DASH-ka.*

У неё неплохая мордашка.

**He has a stupid mug.**

*u nye-VO tu-PA-ya MOR-da.*

У него тупая морда.

**She has big teeth like a beaver.**

*o-NA zu-BA-sta-ya kak bo-BYOR.*



Она **зубастая** как бобёр.

**He's bearded like a lumberjack.**

on **bo-ro-DA-tii** kak dro-vo-SYEK.

Он **бородатый** как дровосек.

**He's got a double chin.**

u nye-VO vto-ROI pod-bo-RO-dok.

У него **второй подбородок**.

**She's got nasty saddlebags.**

u nye-YO pro-TIV-ni-ye **U-shi na BYO-drakh.**

У неё **противные уши на бёдрах**.

**He has a big schnozz.**

u nye-VO nos kartOshkoi.

У него **нос картошкой**.

**Her ass is so wide it needs its own zip code.** ye-YO ZHO-pa na-STOL-ko shi-ro-KA, chto TRYE-bu-yet svo-ye-VO IN-dyek-sa.

Её **жопа** настолько широка, что требует своего **индекса**.

## Sexy

SYE-ksi

Секси

I don't know what it is about the Slavs, but overall they are a damn fine-looking people. High cheekbones, slightly Asian eyes, and those exotic rolled r's—all together, they make for one sexy package.

**He's in really good shape.**

on v O-chen kho-RO-shei

**FOR-mye.**

Он в очень хорошей **форме**.

**She's really built.**

o-NA O-chen **STROI-na-ya.**

Она очень **стройная**.

**He's such a stud.**

on **zhe-rye-BYETS.**

Он **жеребец**.

**You've got a fuckin' hot bod!**

u te-BYA o-khu-YE-nna-ya

**fi-GU-ra!**

У тебя **охуенная фигура!**

**He's a hottie (male).**

on **kra-SAV-chik.**

Он **красавчик**.

**That hottie (female) is gonna be with me tonight.**

E-ta **chik-SA BU-dyet so MNOI se-VOD-nya.**

Эта **чикса** будет со мной **сегодня**.

From the English word "chick" but with more of a sexy feel.



**She's real purty.**

*o-NA smaz-LI-vyen-ka-ya.*

Она смазливенькая.

**Damn, she's a nice piece of ass!**

*blin, o-NA ta-KA-ya pro-PYEZ-do-loch!*

Блин, она такая пропездолоч!

**He ain't bad!**

*da on ni-che-VO!*

Да он ничего!

**She is fucking hot!**

*o-NA ye-BLI-va-ya!*

Она ебливая!

**Damn, you...!**

*blin, nu ti i...!*

Блин, ну ты и...!

**fine**

*shi-KAR-nii/shi-KAR-na-ya*

шикарный/шикарная

**smokin'**

*po-TRYAS-nii/po-TRYAS-na-ya*

потрясний/потрясная

**real cute**

*kho-RO-shen-kii/kho-RO-shen-ka-ya*

хорошенький/хорошенькая

**gorgeous**

*o-fi-GYE-nnii/o-fi-GYE-nna-ya*

офигенный/офигенная

**sexy**

*syeks-a-PIL-nii/syeks-a-PIL-na-ya*

## Ugly

*u-ROD-li-vii*

Уродливый

Because we can't all be born beautiful.

He needs to go on a diet. *ye-MU po-RA syest na di-YE-tu.* Ему пора **сесть на диету**.

**She's a fucking skeleton.**

*o-NA khu-do-YO-bi-na.*

Она **художёбина**.

**She's anorexic.**

*o-NA stra-DA-yet a-no-ryek-SI-ye.*

Она страдает **анорексией**.

**Her fingers are all yellow from bulimia.**

*ye-YO PAL-tsi vsye zhel-TYE-yut ot bu-LI-mii.*

Её пальцы все желтеют от **булимии**.

**He's as hunchbacked as a camel.**

*on gor-BA-tii kak vyer-BLYUD.*

Он **горбатый** как верблюд.

She's a four-eyes.

*o-NA och-KAS-ta-ya.*

Она **очкастая**.

**He's as bug-eyed as a dragonfly.**

*u nye-VO gla-ZA na-VI-kat, kak u strye-koz-l.*

У него **глаза навывкат**, как у стрекозы.

**She's a bleached blonde.**

*o-NA KRA-she-nna-ya blon-DIN-ka.*

Она **крашенная блондинка**.

**She is butt ugly.**

*o-NA KLU-sha.*

Она **клуша**.

**She's a hairy mess.**

*o-NA do bye-zo-BRA-zi-ya vo-lo-SA-ta-ya.*

Она до безобразия **волосатая**.

**He's a fat ass.**

*on zho-PA-stii.*

Он **жопастый**.

**Damn, you...!**

*blin, nu ti i...!*

Блин, ну ты и...!

**hideous**

*bye-zo-BRAZ-nii/bye-zo-BRAZ-na-ya*

безобразный/безобразная

**nasty**

*PA-kost-nii/PA-kost-na-ya*

пакостный/пакостная

**gross**

*pro-TIV-nii/pro-TIV-na-ya*

противный/противная

**disgusting**

*ot-vra-TI-tyel-nii/ot-vra-TI-tyel-na-ya*

отвратительный/отвратительная

**fugly**

*u-YO-bisch-nii/u-YO-bisch-na-ya*

уёбищный/уёбищная

## Illness

*bo-LYEZN*

Болезнь

Another, more cynical, explanation for those slender Russian bods is that many Russians are prone to illness. It could be the harsh climate, exposure to radiation and pollution, unbalanced nutrition, limited access to competent health care, or all the drinking and smoking most people seem to do, but Russians seem to get sick. A lot.

**What's wrong with you?**

*CHTO s to-BOI?*

Что с тобой?

**I feel really shitty.**

*ya khrye-NO-vo se-BYA CHUST-vu-yu.*

Я **хреново** себя чувствую.

**I'd be better off dead.**

*zhi-VI-ye za-VI-du-yut MYORT-vim.*

Живые завидуют мёртвым.

Literally, "the living envy the dead."

**You look like crap.**

*ti khye-RO-vo VI-glya-dish.*

Ты херово выглядишь.

**My head is pounding.**

*bash-KA bo-LIT.*

Башка болит.

**I have high blood pressure.**

*u me-NYA vi-SO-ko-ye da-VL YE-ni-ye.*

У меня высокое **давление**.

This is a fairly common complaint among old and young alike.

**I've been down in the dumps all week.**

*u me-NYA TSE-lu-yu nye-DYE-liu dye-pryess-NYAK.*

У меня целую неделю **депрессняк**.

**I have angina.**

*u me-NYA an-GI-na.*

У меня **ангина**.

I don't think I had ever heard of angina until I went to Russia, but this is something that Russians seem to complain about a lot. It usually just seems to be something along the lines of a sore throat.

Do you have anything for heartburn?  
*u te-BYA YEST chto-ni-BUD ot iz-ZHO-gi?*  
У тебя есть что-нибудь от **изжоги**?

I have a fever.  
*u me-NYA tyem-pye-ra-TU-ra.*  
У меня **температура**.

I'm nauseous.  
*me-NYA tosh-NIT.*  
Меня тошнит.

I've got the shakes.  
me-NYA TRU-sit.  
Меня трясит.

I can't think straight.  
u me-NYA bash-KA nye VA-rit.  
У меня башка не варит.

Do you need a prescription for these antibiotics?  
*NU-zhen li rye-TSEPT dlya E-tikh an-ti-bi-O-ti-kov?*  
Нужен ли **рецепт** для этих антибиотиков?

In Russia, the answer more often than not is no.

Sleep

son  
Сон

If you ask me, the best thing to do for an illness is to sleep it off. Note that the word сон in Russian means both “sleep” and the kind of dream that you have when sleeping. There is also another word for dream in Russian—мечта (myech-TA) —but that’s more like the kind of dream that Martin Luther King Jr. had.

IF YOU SIT ON CONCRETE, YOUR OVARIES WILL FREEZE>>>

YES-LI PO-SI-DISH NA BE-TO-NYE, TO YA-ICH-NI-KI OT-MYOR-ZMUT  
ЕСЛИ ПОСИДИШЬ НА БЕТОНЕ, ТО ЯИЧНИКИ ОТМЁРЗНУТ

If you ask Russians why they’re sick, nine times out of ten they’ll blame the weather or a problem involving atmospheric pressure or the fact that they sat on concrete under a clear sky while not wearing a hat. Russians have some medical beliefs that will seem straight up bizarre to Westerners. But don’t even try to argue with them about health. No matter how outlandish their claims, they will be convinced that they are right, and it will be a waste of time trying to change their minds. Here are some of the weird reasons why Russians think they get sick and the weirder cures they use to heal themselves.

A lot of people feel ill today because of the **atmospheric pressure**.  
*MHO-gi-ye sye-VOD-nya bo-Lε-yut iz-za da-VL YE-ni-ya v at-mo-SFYεR-ye.*  
Многие сегодня болеют из-за давления в атмосфере.

If you **sit in the draft**, you’ll catch a cold.  
*YeS-li po-si-DISH v skvoz-nya-KYE, to pro-STU-dish-sya.*  
Если посидишь в сквозняке, то простудишься.

I had a drink with ice, and now my throat hurts.  
*ya VI-pil na-PI-tok so I-DOM i tye-PYεR u me-NYA GOR-Io bo-LIT.*  
Я выпил напиток со льдом и теперь у меня горло болит.

He got sick because he wasn’t wearing a hat.  
*on za-bo-L YεL, po-to-MU chto SHAP-ku nye no-SIL.*  
Он заболел, потому что шапку не носил.

Someone must have **given me the evil eye**, because I've been getting sick a lot lately.

*KTO-to na-VYεR-no **me-NYA SGLA-zil**, po-to-MU chto v po-SLYεD-nye-ye VRYε-mya ya CHAS-to bo-LYε-yu.*

Кто-то наверное меня сглазил, потому что в последнее время я часто болею.

One hundred grams of vodka with pepper **will cure** anything.

*sto GRAM VOD-ki s PYεR-tsem **VI-lye-chat te-BYA ot vsye-VO.***

Сто грамм водки с перцем вылечат тебя от всего.

After I got the flu, my granny healed me with **mustard plasters**.

*PO-sle to-VO, kak za-bo-LYεL GRI-ppom, mo-YA BAB-ka VI-lye-chi-la me-NYA **gor-CHICH-ni-ka-mi.***

После того как заболел гриппом, моя бабка вылечила меня горчичниками.

Mustard plasters are still a pretty popular way to treat respiratory illnesses in Russia.

I cured my stuffy nose by **inhaling potato vapors**.

*ya svoi NAS-mork VI-lye-chil CHε-ryez **vdi-KHA-ni-ye kar-TO-fyel-no-vo PA-ra.***

Я свой насморк вылечил через вдыхание картофельного пара.

I always treat a cold with **fire cupping**.

*ya vseg-DA LYε-chu pro-STU-du **BAN-ka-mi.***

Я всегда лечу простуду банками.

If you've never heard of fire cupping, it basically involves lighting a match in little glass jars to create suction and then sticking them onto a sick person's back.

My aunt cured her cancer with **special herbal tea**.

*mo-YA TYO-tya iz-lye-CHI-la se-BYA ot RA-ka **spye-tsi-AL-ni-mi***

***cha-YA-mi na TRAV-kakh.***

Моя тётя излечила себя от рака специальными чаями на травах.

I'm tired as a dog.

*ya u-STAL kak so-BA-ka.*

Я устал как собака.

I'm worn out.

*ya u-STAV-shii.*

Я уставший.

I'm sleepy.

*mnye KHO-chet-sya **spat.***

Мне хочется спать.

I want to take a nap.

*kho-CHU **po-drye-MAT.***

Хочу подремать.

I'm on bed rest.

*ya v SPAL-nom rye-ZHI-mye.*

Я в спальном режиме.

It's time for me to go beddy-bye.

*mnye po-RA **SPAT-ki.***

Мне пора спатки.

**I just feel like lying around in bed today.**  
*sye-VOD-nya KHO-chet-sya PRO-sto po-va-L YAT-sya v po-STYE-li.*  
Сегодня хочется просто **повалиться в постели.**

**I overslept today.**  
*ya sye-VOD-nya pro-SPAL.*  
Я сегодня **проспал.**

**I'm gonna read a few more pages and then get some shut-eye.**  
*ya pro-CHTU ye-SCHO PA-ru stra-NITS, a po-TOM MA-ssu po-da-VLYU.*  
Я прочту ещё пару страниц, а потом **массу**  
**подавлю.**

**I usually watch some telly before bed.**  
*PYE-red snom ya o-BICH-no smo-TRYU TYE-lik.*  
Перед сном я обычно смотрю **телик.**

**He snores like a pig.**  
*on khra-PIT kak svi-NYA.*  
Он храпит как **свинья.**

**I suffer from insomnia.**  
*ya stra-DA-yu ot byes-SON-ni-tsi.*  
Я страдаю от **бессонницы.**

## The Russian bathhouse

*RU-sska-ya BA-nya*  
Русская баня

One of things I love most about Russia is the banya. Hey, it's fun to hang out naked with your friends. And if you believe the Russians, steamin' it up in the bathhouse is one of the keys to good health, and being beaten with birch branches is a surefire way to release all of those toxins you've built up swilling vodka. Now who am I to argue with that?

**Let's go for a steam!**  
*da-VAI po-PA-rim-sya!*  
Давай **попаримся!**

**Have a good steam!**  
*s LYO-gkim PA-rom!*  
С лёгким **паром!**

This is what you say to someone on his way to the banya. If you've ever spent New Year's in Russia, you probably know this phrase from the classic Soviet film of the same name.

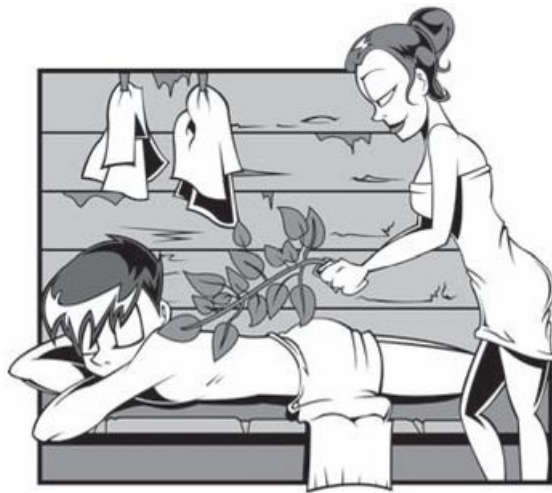
**Where can I buy a felt *banya* hat around here?**  
*gdye tut MOZH-no ku-PIT CHAP-ku?*  
Где тут можно купить **чапку?**

**Let's leave our clothes in the changing area.**  
*da-VAI o-DYEZH-du o-STA-vim v pryed-BA-nni-kye.*  
Давай одежду оставим в **предбаннике.**

**Let's hit the steam room.**  
*poi-DYOM v pa-RIL-ku.*  
Пойдём в **парилку.**

**Hey, Vasya, could you beat me with that branch a little more?**  
*eh, VA-sya, ti MO-zhesh me-NYA ye-SCHO chut po-PA-rit VYE-nich-kom?*  
Эй, Вася, ты можешь меня ещё чуть **попарить**  
**веничком?**

Vasya is a common Russian guy's name, but it is also sometimes used with random people in a sort of cheeky way.



**Now that we've steamed up, let's go jump in the snow!**

*tye-PYER, kak kho-ro-SHO po-PA-ri-lis, poi-DYOM po-PRI-ga-yem v snyeg!*

Теперь, как хорошо попарились, пойдём  
попрыгаем в снег!

Steamin' it up is usually followed by a cold shower, a jump in a cold lake, or, in wintertime, a naked roll in the snow. It's all about the hot and cold contrasts.

**I prefer white banyas.**

ya pryed-po-chi-TA-yu **BA-nyu po-BYEL-omu.**

Я предпочитаю баню по-белому.

There are two basic types of banya: white banya (по-белому) and black banya (по-чёрному). White banyas are usually a bit better as the smoke is vented through pipes. In black banyas, the smoke just goes through a hole in the ceiling.

**He drank too much vodka and steamed himself to death.**

on pye-rye-BRAL VOD-ku i za-PA-ril-sya.

Он перебрал водки и запарился.

Which does happen apparently.

## The crapper

*sor-TIR*

Сортир

Public restrooms are in short supply in Russia, and the ones that do exist are pretty rank. The most unfortunate type consists of a hole in the ground covered up by some rotting pieces of wood and covered with piss, shit, and those little squares of newspaper that people use for toilet paper. The better ones actually have a toilet, even if it just some metal-porcelain contraption that you squat over. So if you need to answer nature's call while out and about in Russia, your best bet is probably to find a Mickey D's where you can sit your ass down in relative luxury.

**Yesterday I spent all day sitting on the potty.**

ya vchye-RA TSE-lii dyen si-DYEL na gor-SHKYE.

Я вчера целый день сидел на горшке.

**I gotta go to the toilet.**

mnye NA-do v uni-TAZ.

Мне надо в унитаз.

**Where's the nearest crapper?**

gdye SA-mii bli-ZHA-ishii sor-TIR?

Где самый ближайший сортир?

**Let's go to the john.**



poi-DYOM v *u-BOR-nu-yu*.  
Пойдём в уборную.

**That shithole is really nasty.**

E-ta *pa-RA-sha* SIL-no pro-TIV-na-ya.  
Эта параша сильно противная.

This is usually the word used for the holes in the ground that prisoners crap in.

## Urine

*mo-CHA*

Моча

If you're a woman, the upside to the prevalence of the Turkish toilet in Russia is that after a few months of squatting over the piss hole, you'll have thighs you can crack coconuts with.

**When I drink beer, I have to urinate every five minutes.**

*kog-DA ya PI-vo pyu, mnye NA-do mo-CHIT-sya KAZH-di-ye pyat mi-NUT.*  
Когда я пиво пью, мне надо **мочиться** каждые пять минут.

**I want to go pee-pee.**

*ya kho-CHU pi PI.*  
Я хочу пи пи.

**I gotta pee bad.**

*mnye SROCH-no NA-do po-PI-sat.*  
Мне срочно надо **пописать**.

Watch your stress here. To pee is PI-sat. With the accent on the second syllable (pi-SAT), it just means "to write."

**I gotta go number one.**

*mnye NA-do po DYET-sko-mu/po MA-Iyen-ko-my.*  
Мне надо по **детскому/по маленькому**.

**I think I need to tinkle.**

*po-MO-ye-mu mnye NA-do BRIZ-nut.*  
По-моему мне надо **брызнуть**.

**I really gotta piss.**

*mnye O-chen NA-do pos-SAT.*  
Мне очень надо **поссать**.

**I laughed so hard I wet myself.**

*ya tak sme-YAL-sya, chto o-bos-SAL-sya.*  
Я так смеялся, что **обоссался**.

**Even in school he was still a bedwetter.**

*DA-zhe v SHKOL-ye on ye-SCHO bil ssi-ku-NOM.*  
Даже в школе он ещё был **ссыкуном**.

## Shit

*gav-NO*

Гавно

I think the most promising sign of Russia's economic upturn is the availability of white toilet paper. Don't get me wrong, you still likely won't find anything as squeezable as Charmin, but it sure beats the hell out of that stretchy brown crepe paper that used to pass for toilet paper back in the old days. Although keep in mind that if you think you'll need to wipe your ass out in public, you might want to carry some with you, as most public

restrooms lack this basic supply.

**I wanna poop.**

kho-CHU **po-KA-kat.**

Хочу покакать.

**Where can I take a dump?**

gdye tut MOZH-no **po-SRAT?**

Где тут можно пострять?

**I gotta go number two.**

mnye NA-do **po VZRO-slo-mu/po bol-SHO-mu.**

Мне надо по взрослому/по большому.

**There's some doodie on the floor.**

na po-LU yest chut **ka-KA-shek.**

На полу есть чуть какашек.

**That shit really stinks.**

E-to gov-**NO FU** kak vo-NYA-yet.

Это говно фу как воняет.

**It smells like crap here.**

tut PAKH-nyet **dye-MOM.**

Тут пахнет дерьмом.

**I have nasty diarrhea.**

u me-NYA SIL-nii **po-NOS.**

У меня сильный понос.

**After I ate at that shitty restaurant, I got the runs.**

PO-sle to-VO, kak po-KU-shal v E-tom khrye-NO-vom resto-RA-nye, u me-NYA po-ya-VI-las **DRIS-nya.**

После того, как покушал в этом хреновом ресторане, у меня появилась дрисня.

**I'm feeling a bit constipated.**

u me-NYA chut za-**POR.**

У меня чуть запор.

## Farting

PU-kan-i-ye

Пукание

Farting is no more publicly acceptable in Russia than it is in the U.S. Fortunately, however, there is usually some stinking drunk bum around that you can blame it on.

**I'm a little gassy.**

u me-NYA **GA-zi-ki.**

У меня газики.

**He's a nasty farter.**

on pro-TIV-nii **VI-pyer-dish.**

Он противный выпердыш.

**He let out a loud fart.**

on GROM-ko **PUK-nul.**

Он громко пукнул.

**Hey, who cut the cheese?**

*eh, kto PYORD-nul?*  
Эй, кто пёрднул?

**That one was silent but deadly.**

*E-to bil vo-NYU-chii bzdyekh.*

Это был вонючий бздох.

## Puke

*blye-VO-ti-na*

Блевотина

Puking sucks. Unfortunately, it is often a part of international travel since undercooked meat and heavy drinking can take its toll on the gut pretty quickly.

**I gotta hurl.**

*mnye NA-do po-ri-GAT.*

Мне надо порыгать.

Рыгать can also mean to blech.

**I'm gonna toss chunk.**

*mnye NA-do po-stru-GAT.*

Мне надо постругать.

**Every time I see him I wanna barf.**

*KAZH-dii raz, kog-DA ya ye-VO VI-zhu, KHO-chet-sya*

**blye-VAT.**

Каждый раз, когда я его вижу, хочется блевать.

**That moonshine made me loose my lunch.**

*ya po-ka-ZAL za-KUS-ku ot E-to-vo sa-mo-GO-na.*

Я показал закуску от этого самогона.

## Other bodily excretions

*dru-GI-ye tye-LYES-ni-ye vi-dye-LYE-ni-ya*

Другие телесные выделения

One of the things that has always disgusted me about the provinces is the number of old men perfectly willing to use the old farmer's blow while hobbling along the street. I mean, I guess it's better than using your hand, but still, that's pretty nasty.

**Spit**

*SLYU-ni*

Слюни

**Snot**

*SOP-li*

Сопли

**Yuck! Don't blow your nose on your hand!**

*fuuu! Ne NA-do smor-KAT-sya v RU-ku!*

Фууу! Не надо сморкаться в руку!

**Stop picking your nose!**

*KHVA-tit ko-vi-RYAT v no-SU!*

Хватит ковырять в носу!

**Gross! You got boogers hanging out of your nose!**

*FU pro-TIV-no! u te-BYA iz NOs-a tor-CHAT ko-ZYAV-ki!*

Фу противно! У тебя из носа торчат козявки!

**Menstruation**

*myen-stru-A-tsi-ya*

Менструация

**I've got my period.**

*u me-NYA **MYE-syach-ni-ye.***

У меня **месячные**.

**It's her time of the month.**

*u nye-YO kri-TI-ches-ki-ye dni.*

У неё критические дни.

**I'm on the rag.**

*u me-NYA **bo-L O-to.***

У меня **болото**.

**Where can I buy some pads?**

*gdye MOZH-no ku-PIT **pro-KLAD-ki?***

Где можно купить **прокладки**?

**Do you have an extra tampon?**

*YEST u te-BYA LISH-nii tam-PON?*

Есть у тебя лишний тампон?

## CHAPTER 5

### HORNY RUSSIAN

VOZ-BUZH-DYO-NII RU-SSKII

Возбуждённый русский

There used to be a saying that there was no sex in the Soviet Union. Well, Russians have come a long way since then and, like many European cultures, now make Americans look like the puritanical prudes who founded our country.

### Screwing

*TRA-kha-nie*

Траханье

**Let's...**

*da-VAI...*

Давай...

**do it.**

*SDYE-la-yem E-to.*

сделаем это.

With emphasis on the eto.

**have sex.**

*po-za-ni-MA-yem-sya SYEKS-som.*

позанимаемся сексом.

**make love.**

*po-za-ni-MA-yem-sya liu-BO-viu.*

позанимаемся любовью.

**screw.**

*po-TRA-kha-yem-sya.*

потрахаемся.

**fuck.**

*po-ye-BYOM-sya.*

поебёмся.

**bang.**

*po-FAK-a-yem-sya.*

пофакаемся.

From the English verb “to fuck.”

**get sweaty.**

*BA-nya po-PA-rit-sa.*

баня попариться.

**We screwed all night.**

*mi TRA-kha-lis vsyu noch.*

Мы трахались всю ночь.

**Fuck me!**

*ye-BI me-NYA!*

Еби меня!

**I usually have sex about three times a week.**

*ya o-BICH-no za-ni-MA-yus SEKS-om RA-za tri v nye-DYE-lyu.*

Я обычно занимаюсь сексом раза три в неделю.

**I really need a good screw.**

*mnye O-chen NA-do kho-RO-shu-yu SHVOR-ku.*

Мне очень надо хорошую шворку.

**From the moment we met, I've wanted to nail her.**

*c mo-MYEN-ta zna-KOM-stva, ya tak kho-CHU yei PAL-ku KI-nut.*

С момента знакомства, я так хочу ей палку кинуть.

**After dinner we bumped fuzzies.**

*PO-sle U-zhi-na mi i-**GRA-li** na vo-lo-SYAN-kye.*  
После ужина мы **играли** на волосянке.

**He gave me a really good lay.**  
*on me-NYA **na-YA-ri-val** na vo-lo-SYAN-kye.*  
Он меня **наяривал** на волосянке.

**I'm really turned on by chicks wearing ass floss.** *me-NYA tak **voz-buzh-DA-yut** DYEY-ki v zho-po-RYE-zakh.* Меня так **возбуждают** девки в жопорезах.

**Let's have a quickie.**  
*da-VAI po BIS-tro-mu.*  
Давай по быстрому.

**More! More!**  
*ye-SCHO! ye-SCHO!*  
Ещё! Ещё!

**Oh, that tickles!**  
*oy, E-to sche-KOT-no!*  
Ой, это щекотно!

**Ouch! Watch out for my pubes!**  
*oy! Ak-ku-RAT-no s vo-lo-SYAN-koi!*  
Ой! Аккуратно с волосянкой!



## Virginity

*DYEV-stvyen-nost*  
Девственность

If you're one of those guys who's come to Russia thinking you'll find some hot young virgin to marry, you will probably be disappointed. While she may be hot and she may be young, chances are if she tells you she's a virgin, she is either lying or under 14.

**Please be gentle, I'm a...**  
*NYEZH-no, po-ZHA-lui-sta, ya...*  
Нежно, пожалуйста, я...

**virgin (male).**  
*DYEV-stvyen-nik.*  
девственник.

**virgin (female).**  
*DYEV-stvyen-ni-tsa.*  
девственница.

**SUCK MY...>>>**

OT-SO-SI MOI...

ОТГОСИ МОЙ...

All of these requests—with the exception of “spank”—will be followed by a noun in the accusative case.

Lick my  
*b-LI-zi-vai moi/mo-YUE*  
Облизывай мой/мою

Kiss my  
*po-tse-LUI moi/mo-YU*  
Поцелуй мой/мою

Smooch my  
*ECHMO-kai-sya moi/mo-YU*  
Чмокайся мой/мою

Tickle my  
*Epo-sche-ko-CHI moi/mo-YUE*  
Пощекочи мой/мою

Touch my  
*ETRO-gai moi/mo-YUE*  
Трогай мой/мою

Feel my  
*Epo-SHU-pai moi/mo-YUE*  
Пощупай мой/мою

Feel up my  
*ELA-pai moi/mo-YUE*  
Лапай мой/мою

Grope my  
*EMA-tsai moi/mo-YUE*  
Мащай мой/мою

Bite my  
*y-ku-SI moi/mo-YUE*  
Укуси мой/мою

Spank my  
*Epo-KHLO-pai mnye poE*  
Похлопай мне по (plus dative)

Massage my  
*Emas-sa-ZHI-rui moi/mo-YUE*  
Массажируй мой/мою

**I can't believe she told you that she's an iron box.**  
*mnye nye VYER-i-tsa, chto o-NA te-BYE ska-ZA-la, chto*  
**TSEL-ka.**  
Мне не верится, что она тебе сказала, что **целка**.

**Friday night I'm gonna make her a woman.**  
*v PYAT-ni-tsu VYE-che-rom, ya ye-YO o-BA-bliu.*  
В пятницу вечером, я её **обаблю**.

**I popped her cherry and now she won't stop calling me.**  
*ya yei TSEL-ku pro-lo-MAL i o-NA tye-PYER ne pye-rye-sta-YOT mnye zvo-NIT.*  
Я ей **целку проломал** и она теперь не перестаёт мне звонить.

## Ass

*ZHO-pa*  
Жопá

Cuz there's nothing like a big ol' butt.

**Stick it in my...**  
*vstav mnye v...*  
Вставь мне в...

**Let's do it in the...**  
*da-VAI v...*  
Давай в...

The following are all in the accusative.

**butt.**

*PO-pu.*  
попу.

**booty.**  
*an-ti-FEIS.*  
антифейс.

Get it? Anti-face.

**backdoor.**  
*och-KO.*  
очко.

**bum.**  
*GUZ-no.*  
гузно.

**heinie.**  
*PO-poch-ku.*  
попочку.

**bung hole.**  
*vyer-ZO-khu.*  
верзоху.

**buttapest.**  
*po-pyen-GA-gyen.*  
попенгаген.

A play on the word for “butt” (popa) and the city name  
Copenhagen.

**bumper.**  
*BAM-per.*  
бампер.

**buns.**  
*ba-TO-ni.*  
батоны.

**bottom.**  
*ZAD-ni-tsu.*  
задницу.

Dick

*khui*  
Хуй

Most Russian men are uncut, the way nature made them. And like men all around the world, they have a large range of pet names for their little friend in their pants.

**Suck my...**  
*ot-so-SI moi...*  
Отсоси мой...

**Jerk off my...**  
*dro-CHI moi...*  
Дрочи мой...

Also, all in the accusative.

**penis.**  
*PYE-nis.*  
пенис.

**member.**  
*chlyen.*  
член.

**cock.**  
*khryen.*  
хрен.

**johnson.**  
*kher.*  
хер.

**rod.**  
*PAL-ku.*  
палку.



pee pee (the body part, not the liquid that comes out of it).

*PIS-ku.*

письку.

This can refer to both male and female genitalia.

**sausage.**

*kol-BA-si-nu.*

колбасину.

**weiner.**

*sar-DYEL-ku.*

сардельку.

**teeny wienie.**

*sche-ko-TUN.*

щекотун.

**little prick.**

*khu-ISH-ko.*

хуишко.

**bone.**

*KOS-toch-ku.*

косточку.

**I've never blown an uncut dick before!**

*ya ni-kog-DA nye ot-so-SA-la nye-ob-RYE-zan-nii khui!*

Я никогда не отсосала необрезанный хуй!

**I'm gonna put my gag in her mouth.**

*ya VSTA-vlyu moi klyap v ye-YO rot.*

Я вставляю мой **кляп** в её рот.

**Man, did it hurt when she bit my piece.**

*blin, kak BI-lo BOL-no kog-DA o-NA u-ku-SI-la moi shish.*

Блин, как было больно когда она укусила мой **шиш**.

## BLOW JOBS>>>

MI-NYE-TI

МИНЕТЫ

I could really use a **blow job**.

*mnye bi NA-do mi-NYET.*

Мне бы надо минет.

Blow me!

*ot-so-SI u me-NYA!*

Отсоси у меня!

Gimme some head!

*SDYe-lai mnye ot-SOS!*

Сделай мне отсос!

Come on, **smoke my pipe**.

*da-VAI ku-RI mo-YU TRUB-ku.*

Давай кури мою трубку.

She's really a pro at playing the skin flute.

*o-NA MAS-ter po i-GRYE na KO-zha-noi FLelT-ye.*

Она мастер по игре на кожаной флейте.

Wanna suck my lollipop?

*khoch po-so-SAT mo-YU kon-FYET-ku?*

Хочь пососать мою конфетку?

I wanna cum in your mouth.

*ya kho-CHU KON-chit v rot.*

Я хочу кончить в рот.

**Here comes my little baldy!**

*vot i-DYOT moi MA-Iyen-kii plyesh!*

Вот идёт мой **маленький** плешь!

**Have you ever seen a schlong this big?**

*ti kog-DA-ni-BUD VI-dye-la ta-KOI bol-SHOI SHMAI-ser?*

Ты когда-нибудь видела такой большой **шмайсер**?

**Hope you got a fire, 'cause I brought the skewer.**

*na-DYE-yus, chto u te-BYA yest o-GON, po-to-MU chto*

*ya pri-NYOS SHAM-pur.*

Сдается, что у тебя есть огонь, потому что я  
принёс шампур.

**Open your mouth and get ready for my thermometer.**

*ot-KROI rot i go-TOV-sya k mo-ye-MU GRA-dus-ni-ku.*

Открой рот и готовься к моему градуснику.

## Balls

*YAI-tsa*

Яйца

**She fucked me so hard my nuts hurt.**

*o-NA tak SIL-no me-NYA ye-BLA, chto bo-LYE-li mo-l*

**YO-bal-di.**

Она так сильно меня ебла, что болели мои ёбалды.

**Do my marbles seem too big to you?**

*mo-l ko-lo-KOL-chi-ki te-BYE nye KA-zhut-sa SLISH-kom bol-SHI-ye?*

Мои колокольчики тебе не кажутся слишком  
большие?

**I pissed her off, and she kicked me in the nads.**

*ya ye-YO ra-zo-ZLIL, i o-NA da-LA mnye v ak-ku-mu-LYA-to-ri.*

Я её разозлил, и она дала мне в аккумуляторы.

**I love when she licks my junk.**

*ya liu-BLYU kog-DA o-NA ob-LI-zi-va-yet moi pri-BOR.*

Я люблю когда она облизывает мой прибор.

## Tits

*SI-ski*

Сиськи

If you're a guy, I suppose one of the perks of Russia is the number of tits you will likely see. There seems to be no short supply of young braless women in skimpy shirts who turn all of Russia into one big wet T-shirt contest with the first rains of spring.

**Squeeze my...**

*TIS-kai mnye...*

Тискай мне...

**Pinch my...**

*po-shi-PAI mnye...*

Пощипай мне...

**breasts.**

*GRU-di.*

грудь.

**boobs.**

*DO-ki.*

доки.

**tatas.**

*SAI-zi.*

сайзы.

**tits.**

*SI-ski.*

сиськи.

**titties.**

*TIT-ki.*

титьки.

**nipples.**

*sos-KI.*

соски.

**I prefer tiny titties.**

*ya pyed-po-chi-TA-yu ma-LYU-syen-ki-ye TIT-ki.*

Я предпочитаю малюсенькие титьки.

**When I took off her bra, the twins just about hit me in**

**the face.**  
*kog-DA ya snyal ye-YO LIF-chik, ye-YO bu-fe-rA chut ne*  
*u-DA-ri-li mnye v li-TSO.*  
Когда я снял её лифчик, её **буфера** чуть не  
ударили мне в лицо.

**She wears the biggest boulder holder I've ever seen.**  
*o-NA NO-sit SA-mye bol-SHI-ye SHA-poch-ki bliz-nyet-SOV, ko-TOR-i-ye ya kog-DA-ni-BUD VI-dyel.*  
Она носит самые большие **шапочки близнецов**,  
которые я когда-нибудь видел.

**Man, she has some nasty flapjacks.**  
*blin, u nye-YO pro-TIV-ni-ye U-shi shpa-ni-YEI-ya.*  
Блин, у неё противные **уши спаниеля**.

## Pussy

*piz-DA*  
Пизда

**Lick my...**  
*po-li-ZHI mnye...*  
Полижи мне...

**Shave my...**  
*po-BRYEi mnye*  
Побрей мне...

The following are all in the accusative.

**vagina.**  
*vla-GA-li-sche.*  
влагалище.

**muff.**  
*MAN-du.*  
манду.

**cunt.**  
*schyel.*  
щель.

**hole.**  
*DIR-ku.*  
дырку.

**beaver.**  
*loch-MA-tii seif.*  
лохматый сейф.

**snatch.**  
*piz-DYON-ku.*  
пиздёнку.

**shaved pussy.**  
*pye-LOT-ku BRI-ta-ya.*  
пелотку бритая.

**unshaved pussy.**  
*pye-LOT-ku nye-BRI-ta-ya.*  
пелотку небритая.

**clitoris.**  
*KLI-tor.*  
клитор.

**clit.**  
*SI-kyel.*  
сикель.

**toris.**  
*PO-khot-nik.*  
похотник.

**fun button.**  
*ga-SHET-ku.*  
гашетку.

**The inner thigh cream pie**

*myezh-du-NOZH-no-ye pi-RO-zhe-no-ye*  
Междуножное пирожное

**Damn, she has a forest down there!**  
*blin, u nye-YO lyes tam ras-TYOT!*  
Блин, у неё лес там растёт!

**I'm completely shaved.**  
*ya POL-nost-yu BRI-ta-ya.*  
Я полностью бритая.

## Sex positions and perversions

*syek-su-AL-ni-ye po-ZI-tsii i iz-vra-SCHE-ni-ya*  
Сексуальные позиции и извращения

Sex in Russia is rapidly becoming more adventurous than the standard missionary position of days gone by. There is little taboo attached to watching the occasional skin flick, and women often seem to enjoy them even more than the guys. So make some popcorn, pop in some porn, and get your groove on.

**Missionary**  
*mis-si-o-NYER-ska-ya*  
Миссионерская

**Guy on top**  
*muzh-CHI-na SVYER-khu*  
Мужчина сверху

**Girl on top**  
*ZHEN-shi-na SVYER-khu*  
Женщина сверху

**Legs in the air**  
*GU-sar-ska-ya*  
Гусарская

**Spoon position**  
*PO-za SBO-ku*  
Поза сбоку

Also called *ложечка* (LO-zhech-ka).

**69**  
*shest-dye-SYAT DYE-vyat*  
Шестьдесят девять

**Backdoor**  
*PO-za po-ko-RI-tel-ya*  
Поза покорителя

**I like to take it doggy-style.**  
*ya lyu-BLYU sto-YAT RAK-om.*  
Я люблю стоять раком.

Sometimes also just called догги (DOG-gi).

**Give me a golden shower.**  
*SDYE-lai mnye zo-lo-TOI dozhd.*  
Сделай мне золотой дождь.

**I'm into anal sex.**  
*ya ta-SCHUS ot a-NAL-no-vo SYEK-sa.*  
Я тащусь от анального секса.

**Let's do it in the butt.**  
*da-VAI v PO-pu.*  
Давай в попу.

**Let's take a trip from Istan-blow to Butt-apest.**  
*da-VAI po-pu-tye-SHEST-vu-yem iz rot-ter-DA-ma v po-pyen-GA-gyen.*  
Давай попутешествуем из Роттердама в  
Попенгаген.

This means oral sex followed by anal sex; it is based on a pun on the words for “mouth” (рот) and “butt” (попа) and the city names Rotterdam and Copenhagen. This is kinda prison slangy-ish—normal people don't really say it—but I think it's hilarious.

**Ménage à trois**

SHVYED-ska-ya sye-MYA

Шведская семья

Literally, a "Swedish family," which kinda makes me wonder what the hell is going on in Sweden.

**I wanna have a threesome with you and your sister.**

*ya kho-CHU syeks vtro-YOM s to-BOI i s tvo-YEI syes-TROI.*

Я хочу секс втроём с тобой и с твоей сестрой.

**Let's have an orgy.**

*da-VAI u-STRO-im OR-gi-yu.*

Давай устроим оргию.

**Group sex**

*Ggup-po-VU-kha*

Групповуха

Other words you might hear meaning group sex include цирк (tsirk), эстафета (es-ta-FYE-ta), and карусель (ka-ru-SYEL)

**We went to the sex shop, but didn't find any Spanish**

**Fly.**

*mi kho-DI-i v syeks SHOP, no nye na-SHLI SHPAN-sku-yu MUSH-ku.*

Мы ходили в секс шоп, но не нашли шпанскую

мушку.

**Let's watch some porn.**

*da-VAI po-SMO-trim por-NU-khu.*

Давай посмотрим порнуху.

**My turn-ons include big tits, midgets, and whipped cream.**

*me-NYA voz-bu-ZHDA-yut bol-SHI-ye SIS-ki, KAR-li-ki, i*

*VZBI-ti-ye SLIV-ki.*

Меня возбуждают большие сиськи, карлики, и

взбитые сливки.

**I'm into sadomasochism.**

*ya u-vlye-KA-yus sa-do-ma-zo-KHIZ-mom.*

Я увлекаюсь садомазохизмом.

**Got any handcuffs?**

*YEST u te-BYA na-RUCH-ni-ki?*

Есть у тебя наручники?

## Orgasm

*or-GAZM*

Оргазм

**I'm cumming!**

*ya kon-CHA-yu!*

Я кончаю!

**You got cum all over my leg!**

*ti pro-LIL kon-CHI-nu na mo-YU NO-gu!*

Ты пролил кончину на мою ногу!

**Cum on my face!**

*KON-chi na mo-YO li-TSO!*

Кончи на моё лицо!

**He jizzed all over my bed!**

*on za-va-FLIL mnye vsyu pos-TYEL!*

Он завафлил мне всю постель!

**I've never seen so much semen in all my life!**

*ya ni-kog-DA v ZHIZ-ni nye VI-dye-la STOL-ko*

**SPYER-mi!**

Я никогда в жизни не видела столько спермы!

**Wow, I've never seen female ejaculation before!**

*UKH ti, ya ni-kog-DA RAN-she nye VI-dyel ZHEN-sku-yu*

**e-YA-ku-lya-tsi-yu!**

Ух ты, я никогда раньше не видел женскую

эякуляцию!

Holy shit, multiple orgasms!  
YOB, E-to **MNO-zhest-vye-nnii or-GAZM!**  
Ёб, это множественный оргазм!

## Sluts and fuck buddies

*BLYA-di i ye-bu-NI*

Бляди и ебуны

Sometimes you're just looking for a good time. No shame in that.

**You are such a temptress!**

*ti ta-KA-ya so-blaz-NI-tyel-nitsa!*

Ты такая соблазнительница!

**I'm only looking for a fuck buddy.**

*ya i-SCHU lish ye-bu-NA.*

Я ищу лишь ебуна.

**She's such a ho.**

*o-NA ta-KA-ya blyad.*

Она такая блядь.

**He cheated on me with some slut.**

*on mnye iz-mye-NIL s ka-KOI-to SHLU-khoi.*

Он мне изменил с какой-то шлюхой.

**She's an easy lay.**

*o-NA lye-GKA na pye-rye-DOK.*

Она легка на передок.

**I heard she's a total slut.**

*ya SLI-shal, chto o-NA voob-SCHE GRYEL-ka.*

Я слышал, что она вообще грелка.

**That ho is only into one-night stands.**

*E-to pod-STIL-ka TOL-ko LYU-bit syeks na od-NU noch.*

Эта подстилка только любит секс на одну ночь.

**She smacked me in the face when I called her a sleazy cunt.**

*o-NA da-LA mnye po-SCHO-chi-nu, kog-DA ya ye-YO naz-VAL piz-DOI s u-SHA-mi.*

Она дала мне пощёчину, когда я её назвал пиздой с ушами.

**My neighbor is a disgusting Peeping Tom.**

*moi so-SYED pro-TIV-nii so-blya-da-TAI.*

Мой сосед противный соблядатай.

**He's a male slut.**

*on blya-DUN.*

Он блядун.

**He's a total horn dog.**

*u nye-VO piz-do-ma-NI-ya.*

У него пиздомания.

**Man, that old guy in my building is such a pervert.**

*blin, E-tot sta-RIK v mo-YOM DO-mye ta-KOI iz-vra-SCHE-nyets.*

Блин, этот старик в моём доме такой извращенец.

She found herself a new boy toy at the disco.

*o-NA na-SHLA se-BYE NO-vo-vo KHA-kha-lya na disko-TYE-kye.*

Она нашла себе нового хахаля на дискотеке.

**He's just some pickup I met at a club last night.**

*on PRO-sto ka-KOI-to bik-so-SYOM s ko-TO-rim ya pozna-KO-mi-las vche-RA v KLU-bye.*

Он просто какой-то биксосьём с которым я познакомилась вчера в клубе.

**I went to a night club looking for some cheap meat.**

*ya po-SHOL v noch-NOI klub v POI-skakh ras-kla-DU-shki.*

Я пошёл в ночной клуб в поисках раскладушки.

**Are all Russian jokes about women who whore around while their husbands are on business trips?**

*nye-u-ZHELl vsye RU-sski-ye a-nek-DO-ti o TOM, kak ZHEN-schi-ni blya-DU-yut kog-DA svo-l MU-zhya v koman-di-ROV-kye?*  
Неужели все русские анекдоты о том, как женщины **блядуют** когда свои мужья в командировке?

## Sexual problems

*syek-su-AL-ni-ye pro-BLYE-mi*  
Сексуальные проблемы

**I bought her dinner and she wouldn't even sleep with me.**  
*ya ye-YO u-go-STIL U-zhi-nom a so MNOI DA-zhe nye pye-rye-spa-LA.*  
Я её угостил ужином, а она со мной даже не переспала.

**She's really cold in bed.**  
*o-NA O-chen kho-L OD-na-ya v po-STYE-li.*  
Она очень **холодная** в постели.

**She may look all purty, but I heard she's frigid.**  
*o-NA MO-zhet i VI-gla-dit kra-Sl-ven-ko, no ya SLL-shal, chto o-NA fri-GID-na-ya.*  
Она может и выглядит красивенько, но я слышал, что она **фригидная**.

**He dumped her because she doesn't put out.**  
*on ye-YO BRO-sil po-to-MU chto o-NA nye da-YOT.*  
Он её бросил потому что она **не даёт**.

**He's impotent.**  
*on im-po-TYENT.*  
Он **импотент**.

**She dumped him when he couldn't get it up.**  
*o-NA ye-VO BRO-si-la, kog-DA u nye-VO nye sto-YAL.*  
Она его бросила, когда **у него не стоял**.

**When he drinks he gets a softy.**  
*kog-DA on pyot, u nye-VO nye-sto-YAK.*  
Когда он пьёт, у него **нестояк**.

## Masturbation

*o-na-NIZM*  
Онанизм

And if all else fails, it may be time to spank the ol' monkey. It's safe, it's cheap, and it won't expect you to pay for dinner.

**I think I'm just going to sit home tonight and jack off.**  
*na-VYER-no ya se-VOD-nya PRO-sto po-si-ZHU DO-ma i po-dro-CHU.*  
Наверно я сегодня просто посижу дома и **подрочу**.

**When I can't find a girl, I just choke the chicken.**  
*YES-li nye mo-GU nai-TI dyev-CHON-ku, ya PRO-sto LI-so-vo v ku-la-KYE go-NYU.*  
Если не могу найти девочку, я просто **лысого в кулаке гоню**.

**Every night I like to watch some porn and tune the violin.**  
*KAZH-dii VYE-cher ya Iyu-BLYU smo-TRYET por-NU-khu i na-STRa-i-vat SKRIP-ku.*  
Каждый вечер я люблю смотреть порнуху и **настраивать скрипку**.

**What the hell do I need men for**

**when I can get off**

**with a vibrator?**

*ka-KO-vo KHRYE-na mnye NA-do  
muzh-CHI-nu, kog-DA ya kai-FU-yu ot*

**vi-BRA-to-ra?**

Какого хрена мне

надо мужчину,

когда я кайфую

от **вибратора?**



**That bean flipper just wants a new electric vibrator  
for her birthday.**

*E-ta ba-la-LAI-ka TOL-ko KHO-chet NO-vii e-lek-tro-SHTU-tser na svoi dyen rozh-DYE-ni-ya.*

Эта **балалайка** только хочет новый

**электроштуцер** на свой день рождения.

## Prostitution

*pro-sti-TU-tsi-ya*

Проституция

If you're striking out, don't lose hope. As long as the provinces remain poor and the Ukrainian border stays open, whores in Russia will be plentiful and cheap. So where does one find a good whore in Russia? I'm glad you asked! There are tons of cruising strips (called *tochki*), brothels (*bordeli*), classified ads in expat newspapers, and high-end nightclubs and strip joints that can hook you up. And likely, your own hotel will even have an in-house supply ready, willing, and able to fulfill your every sick and twisted fantasy for a few greenbacks. If all else fails, just ask a cab driver where you can find a girl, and for a few extra bucks he will take you to the place. Here are some words you'll need to know to be a satisfied John.

**Where can I find a...?**

*gdye MOZH-no na-i-TI...?*

Где можно найти...?

These are all in the accusative.

**prostitute**

*pro-sti-TUT-ku*

проститутку

**hooker**

*noch-NU-yu BA-boch-ku*

ночную бабочку

**whore**

*SHLYU-khu*

шлюху

**trick**

*shar-MU-tu*

шармуту

**tramp**

*sha-LA-vu*

шалаву



**slut**  
*po-tas-KU-khu*  
потаскуху

**streetwalker**  
*U-lich-nu-yu FYE-yu*  
уличную фею

**call girl**  
*DYE-voch-ku po VI-zo-vu*  
девочку по вызову

**lady of the night**  
*ko-ro-LYE-vu po-lu-TMI*  
королеву полутьмы

**young hooker**  
*ba-TON-chik*  
батончик

**underage hooker**  
*KRI-su*  
крысу

**Where’s the nearest cruising strip?**  
*gdye SA-ma-ya bli-ZHAI-sha-ya **TOCH-ka**?*  
Где самая ближайшая **точка**?  
Sometimes also called a <sup>панель</sup> (pa-NYEL).

**We got drunk and went whoring.**  
*mi na-Pl-is i po-YE-kha-li **kur-VYA-zhi-tsa**.*  
Мы напились и поехали **курвяжиться**.

**Pimp**  
*su-te-NYOR*  
Сутенёр

When it comes to street prostitution, most of the pimps are part of either Chechen or Dagestani mafia groups, and they are some serious mofos. Don’t fuck with them.

**She had a shiner cuz her pimp beat her up.**  
*u nye-YO bil si-NYAK po-to-MU, chto **BAN-der** ye-YO iz-BIL.*  
У неё был синяк потому, что **бандер** её избил.

**The Madam is a skanky old bitch.**  
*E-ta **BAN-der-sha**—BLYAS-ska-ya, STA-ra-ya SU-ka.*  
Эта **бандерша**—блядская старая сука.

**John**  
*cha-sov-SCHIK*  
Specifically one who pays by the hour.

Specifically one who pays by the hour.

**Brothel**  
*bor-DYEL*  
Бордель

**Do you know a good whorehouse in Moscow?**  
*ti nye ZNA-yesh kho-RO-shii **tra-kho-DROM** v mosk-VYE?*  
Ты не знаешь хороший **траходром** в Москве?

**Hey, I ordered a blonde!**  
*eh, a za-ka-ZAL blon-DIN-ku!*  
Ей, я заказал блондинку!

Negotiating a price

*tor-GOV-Iya po tse-NYE*  
Торговля по цене

If you’re short on cash, stick to street prostitutes or, in real desperation, train stations, but set your expectations low. The whores at nightclubs might be a lot easier on the eyes, but they will cost you a pretty penny. Nevertheless, it is always worth negotiating a fair rate.

How much for an hour?

SKOL-ko za CHAS?

Сколько за час?

What can I get for a tenner?

chto ya po-lu-CHU za **cher-VO-nyets**?

Что я получу за червонец?

I'll give ya a fifty for a blowjob.

DAM tye **pol-TI-nnik** za mi-NYET.

Дам те полтинник за минёт.

How about some anal for cash?

KHO-chesh a-NAL za **NAL**?

Хочешь анал за нал?

How much are you willing to shell out for her?

SKOL-ko ti za nye-YO go-TOV **ba-SHLYAT**?

Сколько ты за неё готов башлять?

How about a C for a threesome?

da-VAI **STOL-nik** za syeks vtro-YOM?

Давай стольник за секс втроём?

Could you lower the price if I became a regular customer?

ti nye **u-STU-pish** YES-li ya STA-nu po-sto-YA-nnim kli-YEN-tom?

Ты не уступишь если я стану постоянным

клиентом?

I can't afford that—could you go a little lower?

mnye nye po kar-MA-nu—ti bi mo-GLA **po-dye-SHEV-le**?

Мне не по карману—ты бы могла подешевле?

How about a small discount for a poor, lonely foreigner?

kak na-SCHOT **MA-lyen-koi** SKID-ki dlya BYED-no-vo,

o-di-NO-ko-vo i-no-STRAN-tsa?

Как насчёт маленькой скидки для бедного,

одинокого иностранца?

I'm outta dough, could you give me a freebee?

u me-NYA la-VE za-KON-chi-los—ti bi nye mo-GLA dat

mnye **na SHA-ru**?

У меня лавэ закончилось—ты бы не могла дать мне

на шару?

The answer will almost certainly be no, unless you are in the smallest of villages where foreigners are still considered somewhat exotic.

## Contraceptives

pro-ti-vo-za-CHA-toch-ni-ye SRYED-stva

Противозачаточные средства

There is a Russian saying that states, “having sex with a condom is like smelling flowers through a gas mask.” While not all Russian men are that categorical—or poetic—when it comes to birth control, there can still be a lot of resistance. Nevertheless, condoms of varied quality, color, and expiration date are widely available throughout Russia, as are various spermicidal suppositories (called **свечи**, , svechi) and other nasty things you would probably never want to touch with your hands, much less any other part of your anatomy. Abortion, however, is still the main form of birth control, especially in the provinces.

Have you got a...?

YEST u te-BYA...?

Есть у тебя...?

condom

prye-zyer-va-TIV

презерватив

johnny

gon-DON

гондон

However, when this word refers to a person, it's something more along the lines of a total douche bag.

rubber

ga-LO-sha

галюша

love glove  
noch-NOI no-SOK  
ночной носок

Trojan  
bu-DYO-nov-ka  
будёновка

raincoat  
pa-ra-SHUT  
парашют

jimmy hat  
fran-TSUZ-ska-ya SHA-poch-ka  
французская шапочка

dick shield  
na-KHUI-nik  
нахуйник

Don't worry, I'm on the pill.  
nye pye-rye-zhi-VAI, ya ta-BLYET-ki pyu.  
Не переживай, я таблетки пью.

## Pregnancy

bye-RYE-mye-nnost  
Беременность

I'm late.  
u me-NYA za-DYER-zhka.  
У меня задержка.

She's in the family way.  
o-NA v po-lo-ZHE-nii.  
Она в положении.

Honey, I'm pregnant with another man's baby.  
do-ro-GOI, ya bye-RYE-mye-nna ot dru-GO-vo muzh-CHI-ni.  
Дорогой, я **беременна** от другого мужчины.

He dumped her as soon as she got knocked up. on ye-YO BRO-sil, kak TOL-ko o-NA za-lye-TYE-la. Он её бросил, как только она **залетела**.

She's had five abortions already and is probably  
sterile now.  
o-NA u-ZHE SDYE-la-la pyat a-BOR-tov i na-VYER-no  
tye-PYER byes-**PLOD-na-ya**.  
Она уже сделала пять **абортов** и наверно теперь  
**бесплодная**.

## STDs

be-pe-pe-PE  
БППП  
БППП stands for Болезни, передаваемые половым путем (bo-LYEZ-ni, pye-rye-da-VA-ye-mi-ye po-lo-VIM pu-TYOM), or sexually transmitted diseases. There are a lot of STDs floating around Russia, but that's not the scary part. The scary part is the astronomical rate at which HIV has spread over the past 10 years. It used to be restricted almost entirely to IV drug users and prostitutes, but in recent years it has started to seep into the general population. The thing is, testing isn't very common and many Russians are turned off by condoms, so there are a lot of people walking around who have no idea that they are infected. As for treatment, don't even ask. Even if good treatment were available, most Russians can't afford it. All in all, it is a tragedy still unfolding, and one that many Russians continue to deny even exists. Just something to think about.

I caught an STD from that bitch I was dating.  
ya poi-MAL na KON-chik ot E-toi SU-ki, s ko-TO-roi ya  
vstrye-CHAL-sya.  
Я **поймал на кончик** от этой суки, с которой я  
встречался.

That bastard gave me crabs!  
E-ta SVO-loch pye-rye-DAL mnye man-da-VOSH-ku!  
Эта сволочь передал мне **мандавошку**!

It hurts when I piss—I think I have the clap again.

bo-LIT, kog-DA ya Pl-sa-yu—po-MO-ye-mu u me-NYA  
o-PYAT **gu-SAR-skii NAS-mork.**

Болят, когда я писаю—по-моему у меня опять  
гусарский насморк.

**I got a strange rash on my dick—I hope it's not  
herpes.**

u me-NYA STRA-nna-ya sip na khu-YE—na-DYE-yus, E-to  
nye **GYER-pyes.**

У меня странная сыпь на хуе—надеюсь, это не  
герпес.

**Do you need a prescription for penicillin in Russia?**

NU-zhen li rye-TSEPT dlya **pye-ni-tsi-LLI-na** v ro-SSII?

Нужен ли рецепт для **пенициллина** в России?

**Where can I find a doctor who treats venereal  
disease?**

gdye MOZH-no na-i-TI vra-CHA, ko-TO-rii LYE-chit **vye-nye-RI-ches-ki-ye-bo-LYEZ-ni?**

Где можно найти врача, который лечит  
**венерические болезни?**

**I heard he's HIV infected.**

ya SLI-shal, chto on **vich-in-fi-TSI-ro-van.**

Я слышал, что он **ВИЧ – инфицирован.**

**He was sick for a long time, and they finally  
discovered he had AIDS.**

on DOL-go bo-LYEL i na-ko-NYETS ob-na-RU-zhi-li, chto

u nye-VO **spid.**

Он долго болел и наконец обнаружили, что у него  
**СПИД.**

## Gays

go-lu-BI-ye

Голубые

Despite the appearance in recent years of gay clubs and even a gay pride parade in Moscow, being out is not “in” in Russia. There is still a lot of discrimination against homosexuals, especially in smaller towns, and unfortunately hate crimes are still a reality. In other words, this is probably one of those places where it's better to keep a low profile unless you're around people you really know are cool with it.

There's actually a very elaborate system of gay slang in Russia, so here we're just going to give you some of the most basic, common words you might encounter while livin' la vida homo in Russia.

### Homosexual

go-mo-syeks-u-a-LIST

Гомосексуалист

This is a neutral term.

### Gay

go-lu-BOI

Голубой

Also a fairly neutral term which, in most other contexts, means “light blue.” It is also common to hear the English word “gay” (**гей**) being used these days.

### Pederast

pye-de-RAST

Педераст

The retort to this is **гетераст** (gye-te-RAST), gay slang for a breeder.

### Homo

GO-mik

Гомик

### Fag

PYE-dik

Педик

This is a pretty offensive term.

## Faggot

*PI-dor*

Пидор

Also an offensive term

## Queen

*ar-MYAN-ska-ya ko-ro-LYE-va*

Армянская королева

Literally, “Armenian queen,” but it is used to refer to queens of all ethnicities

## Quaggot

*pe-DRI-lo*

Педрило

## Cruiser

*shtri-kho-VA-ya DYEY-ka*

Штриховая девка

## Fairy

*bak-TYE-ri-ya*

Бактерия

## Twinkie

*bar-KHOT-ka*

Бархотка

Cuz he’s so soft and velvety.

## Chicken

*PYER-sik*

Персик

Literally, a “little peach.”

## Chickenhawk

*ko-SHOL-ka s va-zye-LI-nom*

Кошёлка с вазелином

Literally, a “bag of Vaseline.”



## Rentboy

*BYEL-ka*

Белка

Literally, a “squirrel.”

**Black queer**

*man-DYE-Ila*  
Манделла

**Fat queer**

*BA-dya*  
Бадья

**Closet case**

*pod-POL-schik*  
Подпольщик

**Pitcher**

*DYA-tel*  
Дятел

Literally, a “woodpecker.”

**Receiver**

*pye-TUKH*  
Петух

Literally, a “rooster.” Or perhaps “cock” is more apt.

**Manwich**

*bu-ter-BROD*  
Бутерброд

In other words, a gay threesome.

**Transvestite**

*trans-vyes-TIT*  
Трансвестит

**Drag queen**

*trans-FOR-mer*  
Трансформер

**Outter**

*kha-BAL-ka*  
Хабалка

**Gay basher**

*rye-MONT-nik*  
Ремонтник

**I’d really like to go to a gay club.**

*mnye bi O-chen kho-TYE-los po-i-TI v gei KLUB.*  
Мне бы очень хотелось пойти в **гей клуб**.

**Moscow has a pretty active gay scene.**

*v mosk-VYE do-STA-toch-no ak-TIV-na-ya go-lu-BYAT-nya.*  
В Москве достаточно активная **голубятня**.

**Where is the best cruising street in this city?**

*gdye SA-ma-ya LU-chsha-ya **PLYE-shka** v E-tom GO-ro-dye?*  
Где самая лучшая **плешка** в этом городе?

Also sometimes called **панель** (pa-NYEL)

Every big city has a queer quarter.

*v KAZH-dom bol-SHOM GO-ro-dye yest go-mo-DROM.*  
В каждом большом городе есть **гомодром**.

**Lesbian**

*Iyes-bi-YAN-ka*  
Лесбиянка

**Dyke**

*RO-zo-va-ya*  
Розовая

Literally, “pink.”

**Lesbo**

*LYES-ba*  
Лесба

**Carpet muncher**

*Ll-za*

Лиза

**A newbie vagitarian**

*nu-lye-VA-ya GYOR-la*

Нулевая гёрла

Literally, a “zero girl.”

**Could you tell me the way to the nearest taco stand?**

*ti mnye nye pod-SKA-zhesh, kak do-BRAT-sya do bli-ZHAI-shevo **LYES-bi-scha**?*

Ты мне не подскажешь, как добраться до

ближайшего **лесбища**?

## CHAPTER 6

### ANGRY RUSSIAN

ZLOI RU-SSKII

Злой русский

Or, How to Get Your Ass Kicked in Russia.

If you spend even a short amount of time in Russia, sooner or later someone is gonna piss you off. Choose your words carefully though, as alcohol + pissed-off Russian = a situation that could escalate unexpectedly fast. If you're ready to put your money where your mouth is and you're crazy enough to see it through to the bitter end, here you go. Udachi!

### You talkin' to me?

*ti MNYE go-vo-RISH?*

Ты мне говоришь?

**Hey buddy, what's the problem?**

*eh, dru-ZHOK, chto za pro-BLYE-ma?*

Эй, дружок, что за проблема?

**What's the deal?**

*v chom DYE-lo?*

В чём дело?

**What are you messing with me for?**

*cho ti pri-sta-YOSH?*

Чё ты пристаёшь?

**What the hell is going on here?**

*chto za BLYAD-stvo?*

Что за блядство?

**What is this mess?**

*chto za bar-DAK?*

Что за бардак?

**What is this nonsense?**

*cho E-to za bai-DA?*

Чё это за байда?

**Stop your frontin'!**

*nye vi-PYEN-dri-vaj-sya!*

Не выпендривайся!

**What, have you lost your mind?**

*u tebya CHTO, KRI-sha po-YE-kha-la?*

У тебя что, крыша поехала?

**What the hell do you want, you little shit?**

*CHO tye NA-do, gav-NYUK?*

Чё те надо, гавнюк?

### Get outta my face!

*s glaz do-LOI!*

С глаз долой!

**Piss off!**

*i-DI ti NA fig!*

Иди ты на фиг!



**Go to hell!**

*i-DI k CHOR-tu!*

Иди к чёрту!

**Shove off!**

*po-SHOL ti!*

Пошёл ты!

**I've had it up to here with you!**

*ya to-BOI sit po GOR-lo!*

Я тобой сыт по горло!

**I've fucking had it with you!**

*ti me-NYA za-ye-BAL!*

Ты меня заебал!

**I'm so damn fed up with you already!**

*ti me-NYA za-dol-BAL u-ZHE!*

Ты меня задолбал уже!

**I'm sick of your stupid mug!**

*mnye na-do-YE-la tvo-YA du-RATS-ka-ya RO-zha!*

Мне надоела твоя дурацкая рожа!

**Get outta here, bitch!**

*va-LI ot-SYU-da, SU-ka!*

Вали отсюда, сука!

**Get your sorry ass outta here!**

*che-SHI BUL-ka-mi ot-SYU-da!*

Чеши булками отсюда!

**Get the fuck away from me!**

*ot-ye-BIS ot me-NYA!*

Отъебись от меня!

**Get your hands**

**off me!**

*RU-ki PROCH ot*

*me-NYA!*

Руки прочь от

меня!

**Leave me alone!**

*o-STAV me-NYA*

*v po-KO-ye!*

Оставь меня в

покое!

**Move your ass!**

*PIZ-dui!*

Пиздуй!



**I ain't got time for you!**

*mnye nye do te-BYA sei-CHAS!*

Мне не до тебя сейчас!

**Don't even think you can dis me like that.**

*DA-zhe nye DU-mai, chto MO-zhesh me-NYA khui nye*

*STA-vit.*

Даже не думай, что можешь меня в хуй не

ставить.  
**Don't try to screw me over.**  
*nye sta-RAI-sya me-NYA vyer-TYET na ba-NA-nye.*  
Не старайся меня **вертеть на банане**.

**Stop trying to pull a fast one on me!**  
*KHVA-tit mo-RO-zi-tsya!*  
Хватит **морозиться!**

**Don't try to pull one over on me!**  
*nye PU-dri mnye moz-GI!*  
Не пудри мне мозги!

**Don't play me for an idiot!**  
*nye DYEL-ai iz me-NYA i-di-O-ta!*  
Не делай из меня идиота!

**What, are you trying to rip me off?**  
*ti CHO, KHO-chesh ob-o-DRAT me-NYA kak LI-pu?*  
Ты чё, хочешь **ободрать** меня как липу?

**If you touch me again, my husband's gonna kick your ass.**  
*YES-li ye-SCHO raz me-NYA TRO-nyesh, muzh te-BYE piz-dyu-LEI na-VYE-sha-yet.*  
Если ещё раз меня тронешь, муж **тебе пиздюлей навешает**.

**Stop giving me the third!**  
*KHVA-tit me-NYA mu-RI-zhit!*  
Хватит меня **муржигить!**

**Don't screw around!**  
*nye BA-lui-sya!*  
Не балуйся!

**Don't tell me a bunch of jive!**  
*nye ras-SKA-zi-vai mnye BAI-ki!*  
Не рассказывай мне байки!

Fuck off!

*po-SHOL ti NA khui!*  
Пошёл ты на хуй!

This is the most common way to tell someone to fuck off. Keep in mind that the form has to change if you're talking to a chick (пошла ты на хуй!) or to a group of people (пошли вы на хуй!). Although this one phrase will always take you where you wanna go, if you like a little variety in your cursing, here are some other phrases you can use with more or less the same general meaning.

DAMN!>>>

CHORT!  
ЧЁРТ

Darn!	blin!	Блин!
Damn!	blyad!	Блядь!
Dammit!	BLA-kha MU-kha!	Бляха муха!
Oh, snap!	YO mo-YO!	Ё моё!
Goddammit!	chort voz-MI!	Чёрт возьми!
Well, shoot!	YOL-ki PAL-ki!	Ёлки палки!
Fucking shit!	ye-BA-tsa-SRA-tsa!	Ебаться- сраться!
Fuck!	piz-DYεTZ!	Пиздец!

**Fuck you!**  
*YOB te-BYA!*  
Ёб тебя!

**Fuck your mother!**  
*YOB tvo-YU mat!*  
Ёб твою мать!

**Fuck no!**  
*khui v rot!*  
Хуй в рот!

**Go fuck yourself!**  
*i-DI v ZHO-pu!*  
Иди в жопу!

Literally, “go to ass.”

**What the fuck!**  
*na khu-YU VI-dyet!*  
На хую видеть!

**RACIAL SLURS>>>>**

RA-SIST-SKI-YE VI-RA-ZHE-NI-YA  
РАСИСТСКИЕ ВЫРАЖЕНИЯ

There ain’t nothin’ PC about Russian culture, and everything from nasty racial and ethnic slurs to the ubiquitous *Chukchi* jokes are fairly common. Chukchi are an indigenous people of the Russian Far Eastern District, and if you’ve never heard a *Chukcha* joke, they’re usually something along these lines.

**Why does the Chukcha open yogurt in the store?**  
**Because it says “Open here”!**  
*po-che-MU CHUK-cha ot-kri-VA-yet YO-gurt v ma-ga-ZI-nye?*  
*po-to-MU chto na nyom na-PI-sa-no: “Ot-KRIT zdyes”!*  
Почему чукча открывает йогурт в магазине?  
Потому что на нем написано: “Открыть здесь”!

In other words, like most racist humor, this ain’t real clever stuff.

**BLACKASS**  
*CHYεR-NO-ZHO-PII*  
ЧЕРНОЖОПЫЙ

This term describes not only people of African descent, but basically anyone darker skinned than your average Slav, such as Caucasians (i.e., people from the Caucasus region). Here’s a little irony for you: In the U.S., a “Caucasian” is a white person, but to a Russian a “Caucasian” is black. Go figure. You might also hear the term черномазый (*hyemo-MA-zii* ) referring to any dark-skinned person. Black people of African origin are usually called негры ( *NYε-grī* ), which is actually considered a fairly neutral term, unlike its English equivalent.

**LKN**  
*el-ka-εN*  
ЛКН

This stands for лицо кавказкой национальности ( *li-TSO kav-KAZ-koi na-sti-o-NAL-nos-ti* ), or a person of Caucasian nationality. There is in fact no such thing as a single “Caucasian nationality,” and this term can refer to anyone from Armenians, Georgians, and Azeris to Chechens, Ingush, and various ethnic groups of Dagestan.

**CAUCASIAN**  
*KHA-CHIK*  
ХАЧИК

Again, meaning someone from the Caucasus region. This term comes from an Armenian name.

**CENTRAL ASIAN**  
*U-RYUK*  
УРЮК

You might also hear чурбан (*chur-BAN*) or чурка (*CHUR-ka*)

**UKRAINIAN**  
*KHO-KHOL*  
ХОХОЛ

A female Ukrainian is a хохлушка (*kho-KHLUSH-ka*), and Ukraine itself is sometimes referred to as Хохландия (*khokh-LAN-di-ya*).

**BELARUSIAN**  
*BUL-BASH*  
БУЛЬБАШ

**YID**

ZHID  
ЖИД

Israel is also sometimes referred to as Жидовия (zhi-DO-vi-ya). You may also hear the words зяма (ZYA-ma) and Рабинович (ra-bi-NO-vich ) in reference to Jews.

SLIT EYE  
UZ-KO-GL A-ZII  
УЗКОГЛАЗЫЙ

FROG  
LYA-GU-SCHAT-NIK  
ЛЯГУШАТНИК

Funny how everyone seems to call them that.

YANK  
A-ME-RI-KOS  
АМЕРИКОС

You may also hear, юс (yus) from “U.S.”, and, of course Янки (YANKI ). There is also the word пиндос (pin-DOS) which used to apply to American military serving abroad, but is now often used for Americans in general.

RUSSKY  
MOS-KAL  
МОСКАЛЬ

This term is mainly used by Ukrainians to refer to their sometimes not-so-friendly neighbors. You might also hear русак (ru-SAK) and кацап (ka-TSAP).

Fuck you in the mouth!  
ye-BAT te-BYA v rot!  
Ебать тебя в рот!

F you!  
po-SHOL na tri BUK-vi!  
Пошёл на три буквы!

While most Russians do understand the gesture of giving the bird, they also have a gesture called the Фиг (fig), which is used in the same way but is formed by making a fist and putting your thumb between your index and middle finger. For example:

He gave me the fig.  
on dal mnye fig.  
Он дал мне фиг.

In other words, he flipped me off Russian style.

Talkin’ shit

ob-si-RA-ni-ye  
Обсирание

Don’t be a smart aleck!  
nye UM-ni-chai!  
He умничай!

Stop being such a wanker!  
KHVA-tit kha-MIT!  
дхвалит ххвалит  
ther words, he flipped m

Don’t ask me such stupid questions!  
nye za-da-VA! mnye du-RATS-ki-kh vo-PRO-sov!  
He задавай мне дурацких вопросов!

Shut your piehole!  
past za-KHLOP-ni!  
Пасть захлопни!

Shut up, you fucking moron!  
zat-KNIS, dol-bo-YOB!  
Заткнись, долбоёб!

Shut your fucking mouth already!  
zat-KNI ye-BA-lo u-ZHE!  
Заткни ебалю уже!

Drop dead!  
chtob ti SDOKH!  
Чтоб ты сдох!

**Eat shit and die!**

*zhri gov-NO i SDOKH-ni!*

Жри говно и сдохни!

**Shove it up your ass!**

*khui te-BYE v ZHO-pu!*

Хуй тебе в жопу!

**You stinking bastard!**

*u-BLYU-dok vo-NYU-chii!*

Ублюдок вонючий!

**Y'all are a bunch of fags!**

*vi VSYE pi-da-RA-si!*

Вы все пидарасы!

## Kickin' ass

*mor-do-BOI*

Мордобой

When it's time to really get your game on and make your ass-kicking intentions known, these phrases won't leave 'em guessing about how the night is gonna end. So get out your brass knuckles, update your insurance policy, and let's rumble Russian style!

**What, you cruisin' for a bruisein'?**

*ti CHTO, KHO-chesh MA-khach?*

Ты что, хочешь махач?

**I'm gonna kick your ass!**

*ya te-BYA vye-BYU!*

Я тебя вьебу!

**I'll crack your nuts wide open!**

*ya te-BYE SDYE-la-yu YICH-ni-tsu!*

Я тебе сделаю яичницу!

Literally, "I'll make you scrambled eggs." If you recall, in Russian, balls are called "eggs."

**I'm going to kill you!**

*ya te-BYA GROKH-nu!*

Я тебя грохну!

**I'm gonna ice you!**

*ya te-BYA za-mo-CHU!*

Я тебя замочу!

**If you come near me again, I'm gonna open up a can**

**of whoop ass on you!**

*YES-li ye-SCHO raz ko MNYE po-do-i-DYOSH, ya te-BYA*

*pye-rre-khu-YA-ryu!*

Если ещё раз ко мне подойдёшь, я тебя

перехуярю!

**If you don't shut your mouth, I'm gonna beat the shit**

**out of you!**

*YES-li nye za-KRO-yesh rot, ya te-BYA ot-PI-zhu!*

Если не закроешь рот, я тебя отпизжу!

**You want a piece of this?**

*ti CHO, KHO-chesh piz-DI po-lu-CHIT?*

Ты чё, хочешь пизды получить?

**On your knees, bitch!**

*na ko-LYE-ni, SU-ka!*

На колени, сука!

**I'm going to rearrange your face!**

*ya te-BYE na-CHI-schu RI-lo!*

Я тебе начищу рыло!

**I'm gonna fuck you up!**

*ya te-BYA iz-mu-DO-kha-yu!*

Я тебя измудохаю!

**I'm going to bash your fuckin' face in!**

*ya te-BYE VRYE-zhu po ye-BA-lu!*

Я тебе врежу по ебалу!

I'm gonna own you, bitch!  
ya te-BYA VI-ye-blyu, SU-ka!  
Я тебя выеблЮ, сука!

## NAME CALLIN'>>>

OB-ZI-VA-NI-YE

ОБЗЫВАНИЕ

Bitch!

SU-ka!

Сука!

(used for both  
males and females)

Son of a bitch!

SU-kin sin!

Сукин сын!

Bastard!

PAD-la!

Падла!

Dummy!

ba-RAN!

Баран

Wacko!

byez-BA-she-nnii!

Безбашенный!

Asshole!

mu-DAK!

Мудак

Jackass!

ko-ZYOI!

Козёл!

Freak!

u-ROD!

Урод!

Prick!

pod-L YeTS!

Подлец!

Retard!

dye-fyek-TIV-nii!

Дефективный!

Dirty ass prick!

khui nye-MI-tii

Хуй немьтый!

Scumbag!

po-DO-nok!

Подонок!

Dipshit!

lokh!

Лох!

Moron!

dye-BIL!

Дебил!

Psycho!

psikh!

Псих!

Cocksucker!

khu-ye-SOS!

Хуекок!

Fucking whore!

BL YAD-ska-ya piz-do-YO-bi-na!

Блядская

пиздобина!

Fuck brain!

moz-go-YOB!

Мозгоёб!

Trainstation whore!  
*SHLYU-kha vok-ZAL-na-ya!*  
Шлюха вокзальная!

Ass-eyed cunt!  
*piz-DA zho-po-GLA-za-ya!*  
Пизда жопоглазая!

Fucking bitch!  
*SU-ka zlo-ye-BU-cha-ya!*  
Сука злобучая!

Fucking piece of shit!  
*YO-ba-nnii za-SRA-nyets!*  
Ебанный засранец!

## Relax!

*ras-SLAB-sya!*  
Расслабься!

And if you wuss out at the last minute...

**Calm down!**  
*us-po-KOI-sya!*  
Успокойся!

**Get a grip!**  
*voz-MI se-BYA v RU-ki!*  
Возьми себя в руки!

**Come to your senses!**  
*o-POM-nis!*  
Опомнись!

**Everything's under control here.**  
*VSYO tut pod kon-TROL-yem.*  
Всё тут под контролем.

**No questions/I got it.**  
*ba-ZA-rov nyet.*  
Базаров нет.

**Whatever you say.**  
*kak SKA-zhesh.*  
Как скажешь.

## Indifference

*rav-no-DU-shi-ye*  
Равнодушие

They say the opposite of love isn't hate; it's indifference. So if you really wanna piss someone off, just tell them how little you care.

**I don't give a care.**  
*mnye PO fi-gu.*  
Мне по фигу.

**I couldn't care less.**  
*mnye po ba-ra-BA-nu.*  
Мне по барабану.

**I don't give a shit.**  
*mnye na-SRAT.*  
Мне насрать.

**I don't give a damn.**  
*mnye na-plye-VAT.*  
Мне наплевать.

**Makes no diff to me.**  
*da mnye ab-so-LYUT-no fi-o-LYE-to-vo.*  
Да мне абсолютно фиолетово.

**I don't give a rat's ass.**

*mnye PO-khui.*  
Мне похуй.

**I don't give a fuck.**  
*me-NYA E-to nye ye-BYOT.*  
Меня это не ебёт.

**What the hell do I need your problems for?**  
*na fi-GA mnye nuzh-NI tvo-I pro-BLYE-mi?*  
На фига мне нужны твои проблемы?

**What the hell do I care?**  
*nu, a mnye ka-KOI khryen?*  
Ну, а мне какой хрен?

**And what do I have to do with it?**  
*a ya tut pri-CHOM?*  
А я тут причём?

**That's all I need!**  
*TOL-ko E-to-vo mnye nye khva-TA-yet!*  
Только этого мне не хватает!

**To fuck with it all!**  
*ye-BIS vsyo ko-NYOM!*  
Ебись всё конём!

## Smack talk

*vsyAkaya gAdost*

Всякая гадость

I don't know what it is about talking shit about other people, but it just feels good. Mocking others is actually one of my favorite pastimes. From ridiculing friends and family members to total strangers, it's good, clean fun to grossly exaggerate—if not outright fabricate—various personal weaknesses for your own entertainment.

**He's a liar.**

*on vrun.*  
Он врун.

**He always talks nonsense.**

*on po-sto-YA-nno bryed nye-SYOT.*  
Он постоянно бред несёт.

**He thinks he's all that.**

*on schi-TA-yet se-BYA kru-TIM.*  
Он считает себя крутым.

**He's not only a moron, but he smells bad, too.**

*on nye TOL-ko dye-BIL, on ye-SCHO i von-YA-yet.*  
Он не только дебил, он ещё и воняет.

**His hot ride totally means that he has a tiny dick.**

*ye-VO KCLASS-na-ya TACH-ka od-no-ZNACH-no go-vo-RIT o tom, chto u nye-VO MA-lyen-kii chlyen.*  
Его классная тачка однозначно говорит о том, что у него маленький член.

**What, can't you see he just a screwball?**

*ti CHTO, nye VI-dish, chto E-to zhe KLO-un?*  
Ты что, не видишь, что это же клоун?

**He does everything half assed.**

*on vsyo DYEL-a-yet v pyen ko-L-O-du.*  
Он всё делает в пень колоду.

**Her tits gotta be fake.**

*ye-YO SIS-ki TOCH-no si-li-KO-no-vi-ye.*  
Её сиськи точно силиконовые.

**Her ass is way too fat for those jeans.**

*ye-YO ZHO-pa SLISH-kom TOL-sta-ya dlya ta-KIKH JIN-sov.*  
Её жопа слишком толстая для таких джинсов.

**He's the biggest dickhead I have ever seen.**

*ta-KO-vo VSHI-vo-vo piz-DYU-ka ya ye-SCHO nye vi-DAL.*  
Такого вшивого пиздюка я ещё не видал.



**Just look at that loser—what a freak!**  
*ti po-smo-TRI na E-to-vo LU-ze-ra—ta-KOI u-ROD!*  
Ты посмотри на этого **лузера**—такой урод!

**He’s a fucking zero.**  
*on vo-ob-SCHE piz-do-YOB.*  
Он **вообще пиздоёб**.

**He’s a total bastard and a real smart-ass to boot.**  
*on po-SLYED-nya-ya SVO-loch i k to-MU zhe ta-KOI khi-tro-ZHO-pii.*  
Он **последняя сволочь** и к тому же такой **хитрожопый**.

**He’s such a douche bag and I’m sick of all his frontin’.**  
*on ta-KOI gon-DON i mnye na-do-YE-li ye-VO pon-TI.*  
Он такой **гондон** и мне надоела его **понты**.

**She’s such an idiot.**  
*o-NA ta-KA-ya DU-ra.*  
Она такая **дура**.

**She’s such a wench.**  
*o-NA ta-KA-ya STYER-va.*  
Она такая **стерва**.

**I’m sick of her bitchiness.**  
*mnye na-do-YE-la ye-YO VRYED-nost.*  
мне надоела её **вредность**.

**She’s just a skanky blonde bimbo.**  
*o-NA PROS-to BLYAD-ska-ya bye-lo-KUR-va.*  
Она просто блядская **белокурва**.

**She’s so easy she changes lovers more often than she changes her underwear.**  
*o-NA ta-KA-ya da-VAL-ka, chto mye-NYA-yet lyu-BV-nikov CHA-sche, chem svo-I TRU-si-ki.*  
Она такая давалка, что меняет любовников чаще, чем свои трусики.

**He thinks he’s hot shit.**  
*on chi-TA-yet se-BYA khu-YOM VAZH-nim.*  
Он считает себя **хуём важным**.

**He’s kind of a weirdo.**  
*u nye-VO ta-ra-KA-ni v go-lo-VYE.*  
У него тараканы в голове.

Literally, “he’s got cockroaches in his head.”

**He throws his scratch away on schlock.**  
*on vi-BRA-si-va-yet svo-YO ba-BLO na ba-ra-KHLO.*  
Он выбрасывает своё бабло на барахло.

**He always takes the bus because he’s such a tightwad.**  
*on vseg-DA YEZ-dit na av-TO-bu-sye po-to-MU chto ye-VO ZHA-ba DU-shit.*  
Он всегда ездит на автобусе, потому что его **жаба душит**.

The image is literally of someone being strangled by a toad.

**She belongs in a psych ward.**  
*ye-YO MYE-sto—v psi-KHUSH-kye.*  
Её место—**в психушке**.

**I’m cheesed by...**  
*me-NYA BYE-sit (singular).. /me-NYA BYE-syat (plural)...*  
Меня бесит.../Меня бесят...

**your idiotic grin.**  
*tvo-YA i-di-OT-ska-ya u-LIB-ka.*  
твоя идиотская улыбка.

**your stanky armpits.**  
*tvo-I vo-NYU-chi-ye pod-MIH-ki.*  
твои вонючие подмышки.

**your slutty girlfriend.**

*tvo-YA BLYAD-ska-ya po-DRUZH-ka.*  
твоя блядская подружка.

**your stupid ideas.**

*tvo-I du-RAT-ski-ye i-dye-I.*  
твои дурацкие идеи.

**your endless jabber.**

*tvo-YA byes-ko-NYECH-na-ya bol-tov-NYA.*  
твоя бесконечная болтовня.

## Disbelief

*nye-do-VYER-i-ye*

Недоверие

Let's face it: Most people are full of crap. I say, call them out and tell them straight up that you ain't buyin' what they're sellin.'

**You gotta be kidding me!**

*da ti chto!*

Да ты что!

**That's hogwash!**

*in-tye-RYES-no-ye ki-NO!*

Интересное кино!

**What a load of crap!**

*chto za **che-pu-KHA!***

Что за чепуха!

**That's total BS!**

*E-to POL-nii bryed!*

Это полный бред!

**That's bull!**

*E-to **ga-LI-ma!***

Это галимо!

**That's doggy doo!**

*E-to chuzh so-BA-chya!*

Это чушь собачья!

**That's nonsense!**

*E-to NON-sens!*

Это нонсенс!

**Don't try to play me.**

*nye NA-do mnye lap-SHU na U-shi VYE-shat*

Не надо мне лапшу на уши вешать.

Literally, "don't hang noodles from my ears." Now just try to tell me that Russian isn't the coolest language ever.

**That's a total joke!**

*vot E-to pri-KOL!*

Вот это приколы!

**That's nuts!**

*s u-MA so-i-TI!*

С ума сойти!

**This is a madhouse!**

*E-to **dur-DOM!***

Это дурдом!

## Mafia speak

*BO-tat po FYE-nye*

Ботать по фене

When most people think of the Russian Mafia, they think of flat-headed thugs who drive black Beemers and throw money around on strippers and slot machines. But Russian organized crime wasn't always so flashy. The most respected figure of the Russian underworld has always been the вор в законе (vor v za-KO-nye), or "thief in law." These guys are serious badasses, but with a very strict code of behavior that has traditionally prevented them from running amuck as the rank-and-file Mafia thugs do today. They also have a language all their own—called блатной жаргон (blat-

NOI zhar-GON) or воровской жаргон (vo-ro-VSKOI zhar-GON)—which thrived in prisons and the camps of Siberia. Nowadays, though, this language has seeped out to the general population, particularly to those who want to send a clear don't-fuck-with-me message. Vladimir Putin himself is known for occasionally tossing out a little criminal slang, especially when talking about Chechen.

Sadly, this colorful language is not for you to use, dear foreigner: There are some places you just don't go unless you have the cultural cred of a native. Nonetheless, I've included some phrases you may come across at some point and some that I just think are cool.

**They say there's a new crime syndicate controlling the south side.**

*go-vo-RYAT, chto NO-va-ya gru-ppi-ROV-ka kon-tro-LI-ru-yet YUZH-nii rai-ON.*

Говорят, что новая группировка контролирует южный район.

**Any double-crosser better get ready to meet his maker.**

*Iyu-BOI krot DOL-zhen za-KA-zi-vat SA-van.*

Любой крот должен заказывать саван.

**If I find out who the sellout is, I'm gonna eliminate him.**

*YES-li ya uz-NA-yu kto tut SHKU-ra, ya ye-VO u-da-L YU.*

Если я узнаю кто тут шура, я его удалю.

**I'll head butt you in the teeth if you don't watch your mouth.**

*ya te-BYE pri-MU kal-GAN, YES-li nye slye-DISH za myet-LOI.*

Я тебе приму калган, если не следишь за метлой.

**I'll cut your throat if you show up on our turf again.**

*ya pye-rye-RYE-zhu te-BYE GOR-Io, YES-li ye-SCHO raz*

*na-ri-SU-yesh-sya na NA-shei TOCH-kye.*

Я перережу тебе горло, если ещё раз нарисуешься на нашей точке.

**I thought he was my paisano, but he turned out to be a rat.**

*ya DU-mal, chto on mnye kyent, no o-ka-ZAL-sya*

*KRI-soi.*

Я думал, что он мне кент, но оказался крысой.

**They put a contract out on that blabbermouth.**

*o-NI za-ka-ZA-li tran-DU.*

Они заказали транду.

**He got rubbed out in the john.**

*ye-VO val-NU-li v dal-nya-KYE.*

Его вальнули в дальняке.

**After he got sent up the river, the pickpocket decided to change his prof.**

*PO-sle to-VO, kak ye-VO po-SLA-li na ot-SID-ku,*

*schI-PACH rye-SHIL me-NYAT o-KRAS-ku.*

После того, как его послали на отсидку, щипач решил менять окраску.

**He croaked in the big house.**

*on KRYAK-nul v KI-che.*

Он крякнул в киче.

**Don't run your mouth around the boss.**

*ne NA-do bu-ro-VIT u av-to-ri-TYE-ta.*

Не надо буровить у авторитета.

**If you see a panda bear, hide your piece and scram! YES-li u-VI-dish vo-ro-NOK, pryach zhe-LYEZO , i ka-NAI ot-TU-da!** Если увидишь воронок, прячь железо, и канай оттуда!

**I heard that there was another gang rape last night.**

*ya SLI-shal, chto*

*vche-RA o-PYAT*



**Kl-nu-li na bri-GA-du.**

Я слышал, что вчера опять кинули на бригаду.

**Say your prayers before I put a cap in your gourd.**

*mazh lob zye-L YEN-koi, po-KA ya nye STA-vil*

**o-RYEKH v tvo-YU TIK-vu.**

Мажь лоб зеленкой, пока я не ставил орех в

твою тыкву.

**He got sprung from the pen by his connections.**

*on po-lu-CHIL cko-SCHU-khu po BLA-tu.*

Он получил скошуху по блату.

*Po blatu* is one of those phrases that has come to be commonly used, even by respectable folks, when talking about getting something through a network of influential connections.

**After they put the bracelets on him, they sent him up the river.**

*POS-le to-VO, kak ye-VO za-KO-tsa-li, ye-VO za-KRI-li.*

После того, как его закоцали, его закрыли.

**He sat out his term and then returned to back to his gang.**

*on ot-ru-BIL ot zvon-KA do zvon-KA i vyer-NUL-sya k*

*svo-YEI SHAI-kye.*

Он отрубил от звонка до звонка и вернулся к своей шайке.

**He was a real good guy, but he fucked up royally, and now he's a goner.**

*on bil or-LOM, no ko-so-RYE-zil i tye-PYER ye-MU*

**kran-TI.**

Он был орлом, но косорезил и теперь ему кранты.

**They sent him to Sochi for always being a dumbass.**

*ye-VO ot-PRA-vi-li v SO-chi za TO, chto po-sto-YA-nno bi-ko-VAL.*

Его отправили в Сочи за то, что постоянно

быковал.

In other words, they killed him.

**They didn't know what happened to him until they found the corpsicle.**

*o-NI nye ZNA-li, chto s nim slu-CHI-los po-KA nye na-SHLI*

**pod-SNYEZH-nik.**

Они не знали, что с ними случилось пока не нашли

подснежник.

*A podsnyezchnik* is literally a snowdrop—you know, that flower that begins to appear just as the winter snow is starting to melt. Therefore, this slang use refers to corpses that begin to appear with the first thaw of spring. Kinda pretty, ain't it?

The hitman didn't lose his cool when he saw the blue light special coming.

*myas-NIK nye shu-GAL-sya kog-DA u-VI-dyel si-nye-GLAZ-ku.*

Мясник не шугался когда увидел синеглазку.

You'll also frequently hear the word **киллер** (KI-ller) to refer to a hitman. Keep in mind that in Russian this means specifically someone hired to kill someone on contract, not just someone who kills in general, as it does in English.

One last phrase you should know is **в натуре** (*v na-TUR-ye*). This translates something like “really,” “totally,” or “in fact.” You know when you make fun of stoners and overuse the filler “like”? Well, when Russians make fun of goons, they toss around the phrase **в натуре**. *I eto, tipa, chisto v naturye, bratan.*

# CHAPTER 7

## POPPY RUSSIAN

POP-SO-VII RU-SSKII

Попсовый русский

There's no denying it: Russian pop music sucks. Fortunately, there are a number of decent alternative and hard-core bands to make up for it. In terms of language, you'll probably be happy to know that the vast majority of words related to music and pop culture in Russia are just English words pronounced with a Russified accent. So really the more English you speak when discussing topics of pop culture, the hipper you'll sound.

## Musical Genres

*mu-zi-KALni-ye ZHAN-ri*

Музыкальные жанры

**Let's listen to some...**

*Da-VAI po-SLUsha-yem...*

Давай слушаем...

**God I hate...**

*tyer-PYET nye mo-GU...*

Терпеть не могу...

**Rock 'n' roll**

*rok-n-roll*

Рок-н-ролл

There are some decent bands in Russia that play traditional rock. Two of the most famous are Чиж & Co (*Chizh & Co*) and Наутилус Помпилиус (*Nautilus Pompilius*), which wrote the hit song Гуд-бай Америка ("Good-bye, America"), among other rock classics.

**Pop**

*pop-SA*

Попса

Unfortunately, boy bands have been pretty popular in Russia, including such nauseating acts as Руки вверх (*Ruki vverkh*) and Иванушки Интернэшнл (*Ivanushki International*). And then there was the teen lesbo duo T.A.T.U. All in all, it's a pretty depressing scene. There are some halfway decent alternative pop groups, though, including Земфира (*Zemfira*), Ночные снайперы (*Nochnie sniperi*), Мумий Тролль (*Mummy Troll*), and Сплин (*Spleen*). There are also some good Ukrainian alterno-pop groups that have had some crossover success in Russia, such as Воплі Відоплясова (*Vopli Vidoplyasova*) and Океан Ельзи (*Okean Elzi*), whose music is featured on the soundtrack to *Brat 2*, truly one of the greatest compilation albums to come out of Russia in the last ten years. The Ukrainian drag act Верка Сердючка (*Verka Serdutchka*) is entertaining in small doses. And then there's the Ukrainian threesome Via Gra. I think the name says it all.

**Alternative**

*al-tyer-na-TI-va*

Альтернатива

Probably the best Russian rock-alternative groups around these days are Tequila Jazz, Аукцыон (*Auktsyon*), the Belarusian band Ляпис Трубецкой (*Lyapis Trubetskoi*), and Найк Борзов (*Naik Borzov*), who does something like acoustic-alternative.

**Heavy metal**

*KHE-vi-ME-tal*

Хэви-метал

Not really my thing, but there are a few well-known Russian metal bands out there, including Ария (*Aria*), Легион (*Legion*), Эпидемия (*Epidemia*), and Catharsis. Heavy metal is sometimes also called Мясо (*MYA-so*), which literally means "meat."

## CHASTUSHKI)))

CHAS-TUSH-KI

ЧАСТУШКИ

*Chastushki* are sort of like Russian limericks set to music, usually accompanied by an accordion and sung off key either by a drunken, sweaty

*muzhik* or a *baba* with a whiney voice trying to sound sexy. But on the upside, they're usually pretty funny, at least if you've had a few drinks. Here are a few examples. Note that these translations are more artistic than literal.

Я с милёнком целовалась,  
Целовалась горячо.  
Я ещё бы целовалась,  
Да болит влагалищцо.

*ya s mi-L YON-kom tse-lo-VA-las,*  
*tse-lo-VA-las go-rya-CHO.*  
*ya ye-SCHO bi tse-lo-VA-las,*  
*da bo-LIT vla-GA-li-scho.*

**I and my honey did some kissing,  
We are hot and heavy flirts.  
I would like to kiss him more,  
But my vagina already hurts.**

Отведу мою милашку  
К зелёному дубу.  
Пусть её ёбёт медведь,  
Я больше не буду.

*ot-vye-DU mo-YU mi-LASH-ku*  
*k zye-LYO-no-mu DU-bu.*  
*pust ye-YO ye-BYOT myed-VYεD,*  
*ya BOL-she nye BU-du.*

**I'm gonna take my girl  
Away to the green oak woods.  
Let some bear fuck her there,  
I've had enough of her of goods.**

Шёл я лесом, видел беса,  
Бес картошечку варил.  
Котелок на хуй повесил,  
А из жопы дым валил.

*shol ya LYε-som, VI-dyel BYε-sa,*  
*byes kar-TO-shech-ku va-RIL.*  
*ko-tye-LOK na khui po-VYε-sil,*  
*a iz ZHO-pi dim va-LIL.*

**In the forest I saw a devil,  
He was boiling potatoes fast.  
He hung a kettle on his dick,  
And smoke came out his ass.**

Меня в армию призвали,  
Я пришёл в военкомат.  
Грудь широка, руки белые,  
Только хуй коротковат.

*me-NYA v AR-mi-yu priz-VA-li,*  
*ya pri-SHOL v vo-yen-ko-MAT.*  
*grad shi-ro-KA, RU-ki bye-LI,*  
*TOL-ko khui ko-rot-ko-VAT.*

**I was drafted to the army,  
So I went to the military hall.  
My chest is wide, my hands are white,  
Only my dick is a bit too small.**

В гости я пришёл к японке,  
Стан обнять пытался тонкий.  
-Нет! -кричит она. -Сперва  
Отдавайте острова.

*v GOS-ti ya pri-SHOL k ya-PON-kye*  
*. stan ob-NYAT pi-TAL-sya TON-kii*  
*—nyet!—kri-CHIT o-NA.—SPYεR-va*  
*ot-da-VAI-tye os-tro-VA.*

**I went to visit a Japanese dame  
I tried to hug her waist so lean.  
“No!” she began to me exclaim,  
“First give us back Sakhalin.”**

Пароход плывёт по Волге,



Небо голубеется.  
Девки едут без билета -  
На пизду надеются.

*pa-ro-KHOD pli-VYOT po VOL-gye*  
*NYε-bo go-lu-BYε-ye-tsa*  
*DYεV-ki Yε-dut byez bi-LYε-ta*  
*na piz-DU na-DYε-yu-tsa.*

**A steamer sails along the Volga**  
**As the sky is shining blue.**  
**Gals have boarded without tickets**  
**They plan on paying with a screw.**

## Punk rock

*pank-rok*  
Панк-рок

There are actually some pretty good punk bands in Russia. Probably the best known is Гражданская оборона (*Grazhdanskaya oborona*). Other fairly accomplished groups are Тараканы (*Tarakani*), Наив (*Naïve*), and perhaps Король и Шут (*Korol i Shut*).

## Ska

Ска

Me? I like ska. And if you're anything like me, you'll definitely want to check out the band Ленинград (*Leningrad*): They are best—and the most obscene—around. Hey, anyone who writes a song called Полный пиздец (*Polnii pidyetz*), or “Totally Fucked,” gets a thumbs up from me. Also worth checking out is their equally rockin’—if somewhat less raunchy—spinoff band, Spitfire.

## Reggae

Реггей/Регги

Russian reggae is pretty hit or miss. There are actually a surprisingly large number of reggae bands, but probably the most widely known are 5'nizza (*Pyatnitsa*), Республика Jah (*Respublika Jah*), К.О.Т., and Bro Sound.

## Rap/Hip-hop

*rep/khip-KHOP*  
Рэп/Хип-хоп

Wigga takes on a whole new meaning in Russia and something about it just ain't right. Some well-known rap/ hip-hop bands (and I use that term loosely) in Russia include Мальчишник (*Malchishnik*), Отпетые мошенники (*Otpetye moshenniki*), Кирпичи (*Kirpichi*), Дельфин (*Delfin*), and Серёга (*Seryoga*) whose ridiculous song Чёрный бумер (*Chornii Bumer*), or “Black Beemer,” got WAY too much airtime. For some reason, hip-hop is really popular in Ukraine with such notable, if absurdly white, acts as ТНМК (*TNMK*) and Грин грей (*Green Gray*).

## Indie

*IN-di-rok*  
Инди-рок

There are a few Indie groups around, including Vertigo.

## Lounge music

*launzh*  
Лаунж

Probably the best-known lounge act these days is Нож для Фрау Мюллер (*Nozh dlya Frau Muller*) which plays a kind of electro-lounge.

## Funk

*fank*  
Фанк

One of the best Russian contemporary bands around is the funkadelic Детский Панадол (*Dyetsky Panadol*). It's also one of the funniest names of a band I've heard in a while.

## Jazz

*jaz*  
Джаз

There are actually a number of good jazz clubs around Moscow, if the music doesn't bore you to death before you even have time to down your first round.

**“Author music”** *AV-tor-ska-ya MU-zi-ka* Авторская музыка

This term usually refers to the so-called барды (*BAR-di*) of the Russian musical tradition. It sometimes sounds something like folk rock, is often acoustic, and the main criterion is that the singer write his own lyrics. It's fairly popular in Russia, and two of the most famous examples are Владимир Высоцкий (*Vladimir Vysotsky*) and Булат Окуджава (*Bulat Okudzhava*). Both are dead but still listened to a lot more often than many living singers.

# TECHNO

TYEKH-NO

TEXHO



I don't know, other than maybe Thaivox, I just can't get into techno crap. But if trance beats are your thing, then here are some styles. Frankly, I can't even tell the difference between them.

<b>Trip Hop</b>	<i>trip-khop</i>	Трип-хоп
<b>Drum n Bass</b>	<i>dram-n-beis</i>	Драм-н-бейс
<b>Electro-House</b>	<i>e-LYεK-tro-khaus</i>	Электро-хау
<b>Hi-NRG</b>	<i>khai-ε-ner-ji</i>	Хай-Энерджи
<b>Industrial</b>	<i>in-dus-tri-AL-na-ya</i>	Индустриальная

## Shanson

Шансон

If you make a habit of taking cabs in Russia, likely you'll become well acquainted with *Shanson*. This was originally the music of criminals and wannabe thugs, but now it's all over the place. A good example of this genre is the late Михаил Круг (*Mikhail Krug*) and his strangely catchy ballad Владимирский централ (*Vladimirskii Tsentral*). This music is also sometimes referred to as Блатная музыка (*blat-NA-ya MU-zi-ka*), a term that betrays its prison camp origins.

## Russian stage music

*ro-SSII-ska-ya es-TRA-da*

Российская эстрада

Middle-aged Russians love this stuff, and you'll be lucky if you can escape a trip to Russia without being subjected to the musical stylings of pop diva Алла Борисовна Пугачёва (*Alla Borisovna Pugachova*), Russia's answer to Barbra Streisand, and her former husband, the freakishly flamboyant Филипп Киркоров (*Filipp Kirkorov*). On the other hand, the more hard-rockin' act Люба (*Lyube*) isn't half bad if you're into civilians dressing up in military uniform and singing the praises of the armed forces.

## R&B

*air-en-bi*

Айрэнби

## Country

*KAN-tri*

Кантри

## Blues

*blyuz*

Блюз

## Disco

*DIS-ko*

Диско

## Acoustic

*a-KUS-ti-ka*

Акустика



## Electronic music

*e-Iyek-TRO-na-ya MU-zi-ka*

Электронная музыка

# In the band

*v BEN-dye*

В бэнде

**That's really a cool band!**

*E-to KLASS nii bend!*

Это классный бэнд!

**They're an awesome group!**

*o-NI o-bal-DYE-nna-ya GRU-ppa!*

Они обалденная группа!

**I really like Leningrad's new album.**

*mnye O-chen NRA-vi-tsya NO-vii aI-BOM Iye-nin-GRA-da.*

Мне очень нравится новый альбом Ленинграда.

**I hear DDT is going on tour this summer.**

*ya SLI-shal, chto DDT LYE-tom YE-dut na ga-STRO-li.*

Я слышал, что ДДТ летом приедут на гастроли.

**Zemfira's new song is a real hit.**

*NO-va-ya PYES-nya zem-Fl-ri—na-sto-YA-schii khit.*

Новая песня Земфиры—настоящий хит.

**That stupid song is just pop crap.**

*E-ta du-RATS-ka-ya PYES-nya SLISH-kom pop-SO-va-ya.*

Эта дурацкая песня слишком попсовая.

**I dig the rhythm of reggae.**

*ya ta-SCHUS ot RIT-ma RE-ggi.*

Я тащусь от ритма регги.

**I went to an amazing concert last night.**

*ya vchye-RA kho-DIL na o-fi-GYE-nnii kon-TSERT.*

Я вчера ходил на офигенный концерт.

**My friend works as a DJ at radio station.**

*moi drug ra-BO-ta-yet di-je-yem na ra-di-o-STAN-tsii.*

Мой друг работает ди-джем на радиостанции.

**Do you know where I can buy some cheap compact disks?**

*ti nye ZNA-yesh gdye tut MOZH-no ku-PIT dye-SHO-vi-ye*

*kom-PAKT DIS-ki?*

Ты не знаешь где тут можно купить дешёвые

компакт диски? ?

**Are all disks in Russia really pirated?**

*nye-u-ZHE-li vsye DIS-ki v ro-SSII pi-RAT-ski-ye?*

Неужели все диски в России пиратские?

**The batteries died in my Walkman.**

*ba-ta-RYEI-ki SYE-li v mo-YOM PLYE-ye-rye.*

Батарейки сели в моём плеере.

**When I jog in the mornings, I usually bring my**

**Walkman.**

*kog-da ya BYE-ga-yu po u-TRAM, ya o-BICH-no bye-RU*

*svoi ego-I-stik.*

Когда я бегаю по утрам, я обычно беру свой

эгоистик.

**Do you know where I can see some good break dancing?**

*ti nye ZNA-yesh gdye MOZN-no po-smo-TRYET kho-RO-shii breik-dens?*

Ты не знаешь где можно посмотреть хороший

брейк-дэнс? ?

**I'm a big fan of Tsoi.**

*ya bol-ZHOI po-KLO-nnik TSO-ya.*

Я большой поклонник Цоя.

**That pop star always gives autographs to his fans.**

*E-ta pop-zvyez-DA vsyeg-DA da-YOT svo-IM fa-NAT-kam av-TO-gra-fi.*

Эта поп-звезда всегда даёт своим фанаткам

**I'm a total music freak!**

*ya vo-ob-SCHE mye-lo-MAN!*

Я вообще меломан! !

**Prerecorded music (for singers to essentially perform karaoke style on stage)**

*mi-nu-SOV-ka*

Минусовка

**Recorded song (used for pop stars to lip-synch on stage)**

*fa-NYE-ra*

Фанера

**Guitar amp**

*pri-MOCH-ka*

Примочка

**Rehearsal (slang)**

*RYE-pa*

Репэ

This is short for репетиция (rye-pye-Tl-tsi-ya)

## The Legends of Leningrad

*Iye-GYEN-di Iye-nin-GRA-da*

Легенды Ленинграда

The rock scene in Russia really took off in the late '70s/early '80s just before and during the glasnost era. Before that, there was only the "official" Soviet music scene, which was pretty awful, and a local underground that mainly comprised the aforementioned bards like Vysotsky and Okudzhava. There were the be-boppin' *стиляги* (*stilyagi*) in the '50s and various counterculture movements throughout the '60s and '70s, but they were listening mainly to Western records smuggled into the country and sold on the black market. When homegrown Russian rock finally took off, it was in the Leningrad Rock Club, and those early years spawned the original Russian Monsters of Rock.

**Akvarium**

Аквариум

This band really annoys the hell out of me. Some of their early stuff isn't half bad, but ultimately their legendary lead singer Борис Гребенщиков (*Boris Grebenshikov*), often referred to simply as БГ (*BG*), developed an obsessive interest in Buddhism and eastern mysticism and came to consider himself a deep intellectual type. The result was less rock and more esoteric, artsy themes accompanied by melodies influenced by reggae, jazz, and folk music. Not surprisingly, it sucks. But, hey, if you're an aging hippie who, despite falling victim to male-pattern baldness still sports a ponytail, you might just get into these guys.

**Alisa**

Алиса

Alisa used to rock hard, and they often performed their concerts clad in tight black denim and leather, black nail polish, and Kiss-like stage makeup. Unfortunately, they started getting old and flabby, and for a while turned to more jazz- and folk-inspired music. Their newer stuff is a little more hard rockin' and isn't really that bad despite the blatant nationalist themes, but it's just kind of depressing to watch punks get old. I feel the same sense of despair every time I see an interview with John Lydon.

**Kino**

Кино

The lead singer of Kino was Виктор Цой (*Viktor Tsoi*), whose angst-filled lyrics and untimely death in a car accident in 1990 has made him into a kind of Russian Kurt Cobain. His cult status in Russia has led to creation of the Tsoi memorial wall just off Arbat in Moscow where you can almost always catch a few local stoners drinking port wine and leaving behind cigarettes as sacrificial offerings to their god, and apparently there are current plans to erect some sort of monument in his honor in St. Petersburg. In fact, Tsoi is still so admired that in 2000 some of the hottest rock and pop artists in Russia released a rockin' tribute album called Кинопробы (*Kinoproby*) on which they covered some of Kino's greatest hits. In addition to his music, Tsoi is also sometimes remembered for his starring role in the cult classic Игла (*Igla*), or *The Needle*. I have to admit that I have a soft spot for him, but then I am prone to agonizing bouts of crippling depression.

**DDT**

ДДТ

Originally from the Uralic backwater of Ufa, DDT managed to skyrocket to international acclaim though hard work, gritty lyrics, and a whole lotta soul. Now, they may be considered totally old school by some, but I personally think that Юрий Шевчук (*Yuri Shevchuk*) is still one of the baddest mofos around. He's doing a lot of solo work these days, and most of his new stuff is both cynical and political without being clichéd. If you ask me, that just never goes out of style.

*PC sleng*

**PC** сленг

There's a good reason that every Russian living in the U.S. seems to work as a computer programmer. Russians kick ass at this shit, and they are known to be some of the most skilled hackers around. You know that last virus your computer caught? Likely it was created by some Russian teenager just goofing around after class. So why can't they come up with their own words for PC speak?

**My operating system fucking crashed again.**

*mo-YA o-pye-ra-TSON-ka o-PYAT piz-DOI na-KRI-las.*

Моя **операционка** опять пиздой накрылась.



**My computer is infected with a virus.** *moi kom-PYU-ter za-RA-zhen VI-ru-som.*

Мой компьютер заражен **вирусом**.

**I don't know how  
to use a Mac.**

*ya nye u-MYE-yu*

**YU-zat mak.**

Я не умею

**юзать** Мак.

From the English verb

“to use.”

**I'll photocopy it for you.**

*ya te-BYE ot-KSYER-yu.*

Я тебе отксерю.

From the brand name Xerox.

**I'll scan it for you.**

*ya te-BYE ot-ska-NI-ru-yu.*

Я тебе отсканирую.

From the English verb “to scan.”

**You can fax it to him.**

*Mo-zhesh ye-MU po-SLAT po FAK-su.*

Можешь ему **послать по факсу**.

**For some reason I can't attach this file.**

*CHTO-to nye mo-GU pri-a-TTA-chat E-tot fail.*

Что-то не могу **приаттачать** этот **файл**.

Both from English words: “attach” and “file.”

**If you download the program, I can install it for you.**

*YES-li ska-CHA-yesh E-tu pro-GRA-mmu, ya po-mo-GU*

*te-BYE u-sta-no-VIT.*

Если **скачаешь** эту программу, я помогу тебе

**установить**.

Also...

**Cell (phone)**

*mo-BIL-ka*

Мобилка

SMS

es-em-ES-ka

СМС-ка

To text

tyek-sto-VAT

Текстовать

## The World Wide Web

myezh-du-na-ROD-na-ya syet

Международная сеть

The Internet is becoming increasingly popular in Russia, and there has been an explosion in Russian-language websites offering everything from explicit sites to satisfy your porn addiction to online term papers you can download and plagiarize, to pirated films where for a small “membership fee” you can see the next Hollywood blockbuster even before Hollywood does, and all from the comfort of your lousy windowless cubicle. As with music, the vast majority of Internet terms are taken directly from English.

I met my fiancée online.

ya po-zna-KO-mil-sya so svo-YEI nye-VYES-toi v **on-IAiN-ye**.

Я познакомился со своей невестой в **онлайне**.

I really liked her profile.

mnye O-chen po-NYA-vil-sya ye-YO **PRO-fil**.

Мне очень понравился её **профиль**.

I posted on a forum.

ya za-po-STIL-sya na FO-ru-mye.

Я запостился на форуме.

We got to know each better in a chat room.

mi po-zna-KO-mi-lis po-BLI-zhe SI-dya v **CHA-tye**.

Мы познакомились поближе сидя в **чате**.

She sent me a PM.

o-NA na-pi-SA-la mnye v **LICH-ku**.

Она написала мне в **личку**.

My posts were so stupid that the moderator  
banned me.

o-l pos-TI BI-li na-STOL-ko du-TATS-ki-ye, chto mo-de-RA-tor me-NYA **za-ba-NIL**.

Мои посты были настолько дурацкие, что

модератор меня **забанил**.

I flamed some idiot and got banned.

ya SDYE-lal ka-KO-mu-to i-di-O-tu **fleim** i po-lu-CHIL

**ban**.

Я сделал какому-то идиоту **флейм** и получил **бан**.

Now the fucking site won't accept my log-in and  
password.

tye-PYER E-tot YO-ba-nnii **sait** nye pri-ni-MA-yet mo-YO

**I-mya POL-zo-va-tye-lya i pa-ROL**.

Теперь этот ёбанный **сайт** не принимает моё **имя**

**пользователя и пароль**.

So later, we chatted on ICQ.

TAK chto, po-TOM mi ob-SCHA-lis v **AS-kye**.

Так что, потом мы общались в **аське**.

We still haven't met IRL.

mi ye-SCHO nye VSTRYE-ti-lis v **re-A-lye**.

Мы ещё не встретились в **реале**.

She has sent me some pics by e-mail.

o-NA mnye FOT-ki SKI-nula po **MI-lu**.

Она мне фотки скинула **по мылу**.

If NE1 doubts our love, they should see all the  
emoticons we use.

YES-li **kto-nit** som-nye-VA-ye-tsya v NA-shei lyub-VI, o-NI

bi u-VI-dye-li ka-KI-ye mi is-POL-zu-yem **SMAI-li-ki**.

Если **кто-нить** сомневается в нашей любви, они бы

увидели какие мы используем **смайлики**.

**I just registered on [odnoklassniki.ru](http://odnoklassniki.ru)**

*ya TOL-ko chto za-rye-gi-STRi-ro-val-sya na od-no-KLASS-ni-kakh TOCH-ka ru.*

Я только что **зарегистрировался** на  
одноклассники.ру.

Odnoklassniki is one of the most popular Russian social networking sites

**You can read all about it on my blog.**

*MOZH-no o-bo VSYOM pro-chi-TAT na mo-YOM*

**BLO-gye.**

Можно обо всём прочитать на моём **блоге**.

And not surprisingly, a blogger is called a **блоггер** (BLO-gger).

**I spend a lot of time on the web.**

*ya MNO-go VRYE-mye-ni pro-vo-ZHU v sye-TI.*

Я много времени провожу в **сети**.

**My username is...**

*moi nik...*

Мой **ник**...

**I also have my own page on Live Journal.**

*u me-NYA TO-zhe yest svo-YA stra-NI-tsa na zhi-VOM*

**zhur-NA-lye.**

У меня тоже есть своя **страница** на **Живом**

**журнале**.

The blogging site Live Journal is pretty popular in Russia and is often referred to simply as **ЖЖ** (ZhZh).

**I'll send you the link to my web page.**

*ya te-BYE po-SHLU SSIL-ku na mo-YU veb-stra-NI-tsu.*

Я тебе пошлю ссылку на мою **веб-страницу**.

**Do you have an e-mail address?**

*u te-BYA YEST A-dryes e-lyek-TRO-nnoi POCH-ti?*

У тебя есть **адрес** **электронной почты**?

**My e-mail is...**

*moi e-meil...*

Мой **е-мэйл**...

Note that the symbol @ used in e-mail addresses is pronounced as **собачка** (so-BACH-ka).

**I am so sick of spam.**

*mnye tak na-do-YEL spam.*

Мне так надоел **спам**.

## Netspeak

*ya-ZIK pa-DON-kov*

Язык **падонков**

The Russian Internet has a language all its own, and it's called **язык падонков** (*yazik padonkov*), which literally translates to something along the lines of "scumbag language," and this name, like most of the language itself, is sometimes spelled in various creative ways, such as **йазыг падонкафф** (*iazig padonkaff*). There are two main sources for this slang: Russified English and phonetically spelled Russian. Because of this, it can be a little tricky to read at first, but you'll get used to it after a while. Some of the most common padonkov terms are:

**Hi!**

*prye-VYED!*

Превед!

From the Russian **привет**.

**Hey there, bear!**

*prye-VYED, myed-VYED!*

Превед, медвед!

This is actually a famous and widely quoted line from a comic strip.

**Sorry for the OT.**

*SO-mi za off-top.*

Сорри за **оффтоп**.

**Misc.**  
*flud*  
Флуд  
Some forums have a section dedicated to discussion of all kinds of miscellaneous crap. That section is called the флуд (flud), or the флудилка (flu-DIL-ka).

**Y'all have posted a lot of crap here!**  
*nu i na-flu-DI-li tut!*  
Ну и нафлудили тут!  
This is usually the criticism when people have posted a bunch of random stuff outside the designated area.

**Pet name for Google**  
*GO-sha*  
Гоша  
**Pet name for Yandex (the largest Russian Web portal and search engine)**  
*YA-sha*  
Яша

**ROFL!**  
*a-ba-SSA-ka!*  
Абассака!

**Fucking kewl!**  
*pyes-DA-to!*  
Песдато!  
From пиздато .

**A+**  
*pyat BA-Ilov*  
5 баллов  
This is a reference to the five-point Russian grading system.

**FO (Fuck off)**  
*u-BYEI se-BYA ap-STYE-nu*  
Убей себя апстену  
From убей себя об стену, or “kill yourself against a wall.”

**That’s so cool, I’ll take two**  
*a-khu-YET, DAI-tye dvye*  
Ахуеть, дайте две

**GR8**  
*ATS-tskii*  
Ащкий  
From адский .

**(You have my) respect! rye-SPYEKT!** Респект!

**Funny as Hell**  
*a-fi-GYEN-ski*  
Афигенски

**So Fucking Stupid**  
*f TOP-ku*  
Ф топку

**Die in a Fire**  
*VI-pyei IA-du*  
Выпей йаду  
From выпей яду, or “drink poison.”

**Beautiful Beyond Belief**  
*gla-MUR-nyen-ko*  
Гламурненько

**You the man!**  
*za-CHOT!*  
Зачот!

**Don’t Give a Fuck**  
*i nii-PYOT*  
И ниипёт



**2 Kewl**  
*ni-pa-DYE-tski*  
Нипадецки  
From не по детски.

**2 Drunk 2 Type**  
*fgav-NO*  
Фгавно  
From в гавно.

**LMAO**  
*pats-to-LOM*  
Пацтолом  
From под столом.

**Beyach**  
*STSU-ko*  
Сцуко  
From сука.

**OMFG!**  
*u-zho-SNAKH*  
Ужоснах

**Comments, please**  
*KO-mmyen-ti, pliz*  
Комменты, плиз

**First! (as in “First poster to comment on a thread”)**  
*PYER-vii-nakh!*  
Первыйнах!

**You crack me up**  
*rzhu-ni-ma-GU*  
Ржунимагу  
From ржу—не могу.

**Old Freaking News**  
*ba-YAN*  
Баян

**A post of some kind of creative value**  
*kri-a-TIFF*  
Криатифф  
From “creative.”

**Author**  
*aff-TAR*  
Аффтар

Refers to an Internet writer, either a poster on a forum or a blogger. From the Russian word автор.

**The author is on fire!**  
*aff-TAR zhzhot*  
Аффтар жжот  
From автор зажигает.

**The author rules!**  
*aff-TAR rulz!*  
Аффтар рулз!  
From the English word “rules.”

**We rule!**  
*mi RU-lim!*  
Мы рулим!  
Also from “to rule.”

**LOL**

*r-ZHA-ka*  
Ржака

Like English Internet language, yazik padonkov makes frequent use of abbreviations and acronyms.



## ZFB

ЗФБ

This stands for *Эи Факинг Бэст*, a transliteration of English “the fucking best.”

## ИМХО

This is a direct transliteration from the English “IMHO.”

## KG/AM

КГ/АМ

This stands for *креатиф гавно, афтар мудах*, translated as “the post is shit and the author is an ass.”

## Ы

Similar to LOL. It doesn’t really stand for anything, though. I guess it just looks like laughing in some way.

## АЖ/КЗ

*Azh/KZ*

This stands for *аффтар жокот, креатифф зачотный*, translated as something like “the author is on fire, and the post rocks.”

## PPKS

ППКС

Stands for *подпишусь под каждым словом*, the equivalent of the English ITA.

## ЗЫ

If you turn on the Russian keyboard and hit the keys that correspond to the Latin letters PS, this is what you get. Hence, it means “PS.”

## CHAPTER 8

### SPORTY RUSSIAN

SPOR-TIV-NII RU-SSKII

Спортивный русский

Ah, sports. The Soviet Union was legendary for them and for all the gold medals Soviet athletes won in the Olympics. Although those glory days may be fading into the past, sports are still a pretty big deal in Russia, especially soccer and hockey, even though the best of the players have fled abroad for greater fame, more lucrative endorsements, and far better training facilities. Sports in Russia are reputed to be very closely connected to organized crime—no surprise, really: Where there is money to be made, there are always people looking for their cut.

### I'm into sports

*ya u-vlye-KA-yus SPOR-tom*

Я увлекаюсь спортом

**Who do you root for—Dinamo or Spartak?**

*za ko-VO ti bo-LYE-yesh—za di-NA-mo ili spar-TAK?*

За кого ты **болеешь**—за Динамо или Спартак?

**I'm rooting for Russia.**

*ya bo-LYE-yu za ro-SSI-yu.*

Я болею за Россию.

**Who's the favorite?**

*kto fa-vo-RIT?*

Кто **фаворит**? ?

**I always pull for the underdog.**

*ya vsyeg-DA bo-LYE-yu za an-dyer-DOG.*

Я всегда болею за **андердог**.

**Let's grab a beer at halftime.**

*da-VAI za PI-vom vo VRYE-mya PA-uzi.*

Давай за пивом во время **паузы**.

**What half is it now?**

*ka-KOI sei-CHAS taim?*

Какой сейчас **тайм**?

**The opposing team sucks balls. so-PYER-ni-ki—pi-de-RA-si!** Соперники—\_\_пидарасы!

**We got beat in overtime.**

*nas ob-i-GRA-li v do-pol-NI-tyel-no-ye VRYE-mya.*

Нас обыграли в **дополнительное время**.

**Real fans don't like glory hunters.**

*na-sto-YA-shi-ye bo-LYEL-schi-ki nye LYU-byat kuz-mi-CHO-va.*

Настоящие **болельщики** не любят Кузьмичёва.

**Do you think he dopes?**

*kak ti DU-ma-yesh, on pri-ni-MA-yet DO-ping?*

Как ты думаешь, он **принимает допинг**?

**He's open!**

*on ot-KRIT!*

Он открыт!

**The Olympic Games**

*o-lim-PIIS-ki-ye I-gri*

Олимпийские игры

**What are Russia's chances at the Olympics this year?**

*ka-KI-ye u ro-SSII SHAN-si na o-lim-pi-A-dye v E-tom*

*go-DU?*

Какие у России шансы на **Олимпиаде** в этом году?

**Do you think Russia will win any gold medals?**  
*kak ti DU-ma-yesh, vi-i-GRA-yet li ro-SSI-ya zo-lo-TI-ye*  
**mye-DA-li?**  
Как ты думаешь, выиграет ли Россия **золотые медали**?

**Honored Master of Sports**  
*za-SLU-zhe-nii MAS-ter SPOR-ta ro-SSI*  
Заслуженный мастер спорта России

This is the title given to Russian most accomplished athletes, similar to a Hall of Famer.

# The major sports

*GLAV-ni-ye VI-di SPOR-ta*  
Главные виды спорта

**Soccer**  
*fut-BOL*  
Футбол

Like most of the world, Russians call soccer “football.” If you want talk about what Americans call football, it is **американский футбол** (*a-me-ri-KAN-skii fut-BOL*), or American football.

**Goalie**  
*vra-TAR*  
Вратарь

**Fullback**  
*za-SCHIT-nik*  
Защитник

**Halfback**  
*po-lu-za-SCHIT-nik*  
Полузащитник

**Uh-oh, the ref is pulling out the yellow card.**  
*O-pa! KA-zhe-tsya RYE-fe-ri pryе-dya-VLYA-yet gor-CHICH-nik.*  
Опа! Кажется рефери предъявляет **горчичник**.

**That dipshit just kicked the ball into his own post!**  
*E-tot loch TOL-ko chto za-BRO-sil myach v svo-l vo-RO-ta!*  
Этот лох только что забросил мяч в свои **ворота**!

**Holy shit! He totally scored a hat trick!**  
*yob! On vo-ob-SCHE o-FOR-mil khet-trik!*  
Ёб! Он вообще оформил **хет-трик**!

**Gooooooooaaaaaaal!**  
*gooooooooool!*  
Гooooooooол!

**Please, oh lord, let us win the penalty shootout.**  
*GOS-po-di, dai nam VI-i-grat SYE-ri-yu pye-NAL-ti.*  
Господи, дай нам выиграть **серию пенальти**.

**Fuck! Another draw!**  
*blyad, o-PYAT ni-CHYA!*  
Блядь, опять **ничья**!

**World Championship of Soccer**  
*chem-pi-o-NAT MI-ra po fut-BOL-u*  
Чемпионат мира по футболу

Usually abbreviated as **ЧМ** (*ChM*).

**The 4 B’s**  
*che-TI-re be*  
4Б

This stands for the four B’s of Russian soccer: Бил, Бью, Буду Бить (“I’ve scored, I score, I will score”). This was the motto of the famous Russian footballer Aleksandr Kerzhakov.

**Who do you think will win the UEFA Cup this year?**  
*kak ti DU-ma-yesh, kto vi-i-GRA-yet KU-bok u-ef-a v*  
**E-tom go-DU?**  
Как ты думаешь, кто выиграет **Кубок УЕФА** в этом году?

Hockey  
kho-KKYEI  
Хоккей

Stanley Cup  
KU-bok STYE-nli  
Кубок Стэнли

Did you see how he slammed that puck in the net?  
ti VI-dyel, kak on za-BRO-sil SHAI-bu v SYET-ku?  
Ты видел, как он забросил шайбу в сетку?

Hey, he should get a penalty shot for that!  
ei, on DOL-zhen za E-to po-lu-CHIT BU-Ilit!  
Эй, он должен за это получить буллит!

What’s the penalty for boarding?  
ka-KOI shtraf na tol-CHOK na bort?  
Какой штраф на толчок на борт?

MARTIAL ARTS>>>		
BO-YE-VI-YE IS-KU-SSTVA		
БОЕВЫЕ ИСКУССТВА		
	Judo	jyu-DO Даюдо
	Karate	ka-ra-TE Каратэ
	Aikido	ai-ki-DO Айкидо
	Jujitsu	ji-u-JIT-su Джиу-джитсу
	Tai kwon do	tae-kvon-DO Таэквон-до

Tennis  
TYE-nnis  
Теннис

Wimbledon Championships  
u-im-bl-DON-skii tur-NIR  
Уимблдонский турнир

Nice backhand!  
KLASS-nii u-DAR SLYE-va!  
Классный удар слева!

Anna Kournikova looks smokin’ in her tennis whites.  
A-nna KUR-ni-ko-va o-fi-GYE-nno VI-glya-dit v svo-YOM TYE-nnis-nom ko-STYU-mye.  
Анна Курникова офигенно выглядит в своём теннисном костюме.

Figure skating  
fi-GUR-no-ye ka-TA-ni-ye  
Фигурное катание

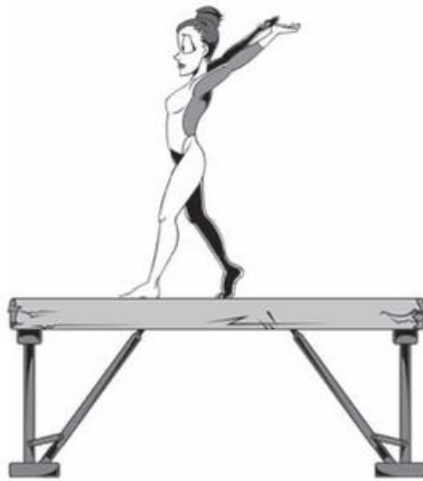
That was an amazing double axel!  
E-to bil o-bal-DYE-nii dvoi-NOI AK-syel!  
Это был обалденный двойной аксель!

The Russian judges always cheat.  
RU-sski-ye SU-dyi vsyeg-DA much-LYU-yut.  
Русские судьи всегда мухлюют.

Are all male figure skaters gay?  
RAZ-vye vsye muzh-SKI-ye fi-gu-RIS-ti go-lu-BI-ye?  
Разве все мужские фигуристы голубые?

Gymnastics  
gim-NAS-ti-ka  
Гимнастика

I bet that gymnast would be wild in bed!  
na-vyer-nya-KA E-ta gim-NAST-ka bye-ZUM-na v po-STYE-li!  
Наверняка эта гимнастка безумна в постели!



The chicks always blow  
it on the balance beam.

*DYEV-ki vsyeg-DA ob-LA-mi-va-yu-tsya na  
bryev-NYE.*

Девки всегда  
обламываются на  
бревне.

The uneven bars are  
the shit!

*raz-no-vi-SO-ki-ye*

*BRU-sya—SA-ma-ya kru-tiz-NA!*

Разновысокие  
брусья—самая  
крутизна!

**Boxing**

*boks*

Бокс

What a knockout! That hadda hurt!

*ka-KOI nok-A-ut! E-to na-VYER-no-ye BOL-no!*

Какой нокаут! Это наверное больно!

**Weightlifting**

*tya-ZHO-la-ya at-LYE-ti-ka*

Тяжёлая атлетика

**Weightlifter**

*shtan-GIST*

Штангист

Sure, steroids make you strong, but they also make  
you sterile.

*ko-NYECH-no stye-RO-i-di DYE-la-yut te-BYA SIL-nim, no ye-SCHO DYE-la-yut te-BYA byes-PLOD-nim.*

Конечно **стероиды** делают тебя сильным, но ещё  
делают тебя бесплодным.

**Skiing**

*ka-TA-ni-ye na LI-zhakh*

Катание на лыжах

I hate cross-country, but I love downhill skiing.

*ya nye-na-VI-zhu LIZH-ni-ye GON-ki, no lyu-BLYU*

**GOR-ni-ye LI-zhi.**

Я ненавижу **лыжные гонки**, но люблю **горные**  
**лыжи**.

Free-style skiing (фристайл) is pronounced like in the English (*fri-STAIL*).

## Other kinds of sports

*dru-GI-ye VI-di SPOR-ta*

Другие виды спорта

## Track and field

*L YOG-ka-ya at-L YE-ti-ka*

Лёгкая атлетика

**That runner is a doper.**

*E-tot **bye**-GUN—KHI-mik.*

Этот **бегун**—химик.

## Water sports

*VOD-ni-ye VI-di SPOR-ta*

Водные виды спорта

## Swimming

*PLA-va-ni-ye*

Плавание

Note that there are two basic verbs meaning “to swim”: *плавать* (*PLA-vat*) refers to something like swimming laps, whereas *купаться* (*ku-PA-tsya*) is more like going for a dip/goofing around in the water.

## Surfing

*SYOR-fing*

Сёрфинг

**Man, the waves are really weak here.**

*blin, VOL-ni tut khye-RO-vi-ye.*

Блин, волны тут херовые.

## Fishing

*ri-BAL-ka*

Рыбалка

**Do you know where I could do some fishing?**

*ti nye ZNA-yesh, gdye tut MOZH-no po-ri-BA-chit?*

Ты не знаешь, где тут можно порыбачить?

## Extreme sports

*ek-STRIM sport*

Экстрим спорт

## Skateboarding

*skei-BOR-ding*

Скейтбординг

Sometimes just called *скейт* (skeit).

**That was one awesome skate ramp!**

*E-tot **drop** bil SU-pyer-skii!*

Этот **дроп** был суперский!

## Snowboarding

*sno-u-BOR-ding*

Сноубординг

## Skydiving

*prizh-kl s pa-ra-SHU-tom*

Прыжки с парашютом

## Rock climbing

*ska-lo-LA-za-ni-ye*

Скалолазание

## Auto racing

*av-to-GON-ki*

Автогонки

## Drag racing

*drag REI-sing*

Драг рейсинг

## Exercise

*u-prazh-NYE-ni-ye*

Упражнение

**I do...**

*ya za-ni-MA-yus...*

Я занимаюсь...

Remember, this verb takes the instrumental case.

yoga.  
YO-goi.  
йогой.

DANCING>>>>			
TAN-TSI			
ТАНЦЫ			
	Ballroom dancing	BAL-ni-ye TAN-tsi	Бальные танцы
	Ballet	ba-LYεT	Балет
	Folk dancing	na-ROD-ni-ye TAN-tsi	Народные танцы
	Salsa	SAL-sa	Сальса
	Belly dancing	TA-nyets zh i-vo-TA	Танец живота
	Tango	TAN-go	Танго
	Hip-hop	khīp KHOP	Хип-хоп
	Swing	sving	Свинг

aerobics.  
ae-RO-bi-koi.  
аэробикой.

bodybuilding.  
bo-di-BIL-din-gom.  
бодибилдингом.

powerlifting.  
po-uer-LIF-tin-gom.  
пауэрлифтингом.

dance.  
TAN-tsa-mi.  
танцами.

Where can I do some pull-ups?  
gdye tut MOZH-no DYE-lat pod-TYA-gi-va-ni-ye?  
Где тут можно делать подтягивание?

Do you know a good gym?  
ti nye ZNA-yesh kho-RO-shii trye-ni-RO-voch-nii zal?  
Ты не знаешь хороший тренировочный зал?

Where can I work out?  
gdye MOZH-no po-trye-ni-ro-VA-tsya?  
Где можно потренироваться?

Do a lot of people jog in Russia?  
MNO-gi-ye LYU-di za-ni-MA-yu-tsya JO-ggin-gom v ro-SSII?  
Многие люди занимаются джоггингом в России?

The answer, by the way, is no.

I want to work my...  
ya kho-CHU ka-CHAT...  
Хочу качать...

muscles.  
MISH-tsi.  
мышцы.

abs.  
pryess.  
пресс.

guns (i.e., biceps).  
BAN-ki.  
банки.

**triceps.**  
*TRI-tseps.*  
трицепс.

**delts.**  
*DYEL-tu.*  
дельту.

**pecs.**  
*grud-NI-ye MISH-tsi.*  
грудные мышцы.

**thighs.**  
*BYO-dra.*  
бёдра.

**calves.**  
*I-kri.*  
икры.

**glutes.**  
*ya-go-DI-tsi.*  
ягодицы.

## Game time

*po-RA i-GRAT*  
Пора играть

**Let's play some...**  
*po-i-GRA-yem v...*  
Поиграем в...

**pool.**  
*bil-YARD.*  
бильярд.

**ping-pong.**  
*na-STOL-nii TYE-nnis.*  
настольный теннис.

**foosball.**  
*KI-kyer.*  
кикер.

**darts.**  
*darts.*  
дартс.

**paintball.**  
*peint-BOL.*  
пейнтбол.

**video games.**  
*vi-de-o-I-gri.*  
видеоигры.

**Let's play some Frisbee.**  
*da-VAI po-i-GRA-yem v FRIZ-bi.*  
Давай поиграем в фризби.

Frisbee is the name of the game, but if you're referring to the actual disk, you'd use the following:

**Let's toss around the frisbee.**  
*da-VAI po-bro-SA-yem le-TA-yu-schu-yu ta-RYEL-ku.*  
Давай побросаем летающую тарелку.

Which is also the word for flying saucer.

**Let's go bowling.**  
*poi-DYOM i-GRAT v BO-u-ling.*  
Пойдем играть в боулинг.

**I love games of chance.**  
*ya Iyu-BLYU a-ZART-ni-ye I-gri.*  
Я люблю азартные игры.

**I prefer games of skill.**  
*ya pryed-po-chi-TA-yu ko-MMYER-chis-ki-ye I-gri.*  
Я предпочитаю коммерческие игры.



If you try to cheat, I'll blow the whistle on you.  
YES-li po-pi-TA-yesh-sya **mukh-lye-VAT**, ya te-BYA vlo-ZHU.  
Если попытаешься **мухлевать**, я тебя вложу.

Let's play some cards.  
da-VAI po-i-GRA-yem v KAR-ti.  
Давай поиграем в карты.

Do you know how to play...?  
ti u-MYE-yesh i-GRAt v...?  
Ты умеешь играть в...?

**poker**  
PO-kyer  
покер

**Texas hold'em**  
tye-KHASS-kii KHOL-dyem  
Техасский холдем

**Omaha poker**  
PO-kyer o-MA-kha  
покер Омаха

**Durak**  
du-RAK  
дурак

This is without a doubt the most popular card game in Russia. The object of the game is to get rid of all your cards. The last person holding is the durak, or fool.

**Solitaire**  
pa-SYANS  
пасьянс

**Bridge**  
brij  
бридж

**Preference**  
prye-fe-RANS  
преферанс

This is a popular Russian variation of bridge simplified to be played without the two to six cards.

## Chess

SHAKH-ma-ti  
Шахматы

While chess may seem like a total geek “sport,” it’s huge in Russia and offers a powerful platform to its best competitors. Grandmaster Gary Kasparov, for instance, has organized numerous political opposition protests, even joining forces with legendary writer and all-around badass Eduard Limonov, the leader of the radical National Bolshevik Party. Now just try to tell me that only geeks play chess.

CARD SHARK>>>		
О-ПИТ-ПИИ КАР-ТУЕЗН-ПИК ОПЫТНЫЙ КАРТЕЖНИК		
Suit	mast	масть
Clubs	TRYε-fi	трефы
Spades	PI-ki	пики
Hearts	CHYεR-vi	черви
Diamonds	BUB-ni	бубны
Ace	tuz	туз

<b>King</b>	<i>ko-ROL</i>	король
<b>Queen</b>	<i>DA-ma</i>	дама
<b>Jack</b>	<i>va-LYεT</i>	валет

**Could you teach me to play chess?**  
*ti bi mog me-NYA na-u-CHIT i-GRAT v SHAKH-ma-ti?*  
 Ты бы мог меня научить играть в шахматы?

**How does this piece move?**  
*kak DVI-ga-ye-tsya E-ta fi-GU-ra?*  
 Как движается эта фигура?

**King**  
*ko-ROL*  
 Король

**Queen**  
*fyerz*  
 Ферзь

Also called королева (ko-ro-LYE-va).

**Bishop**  
*slon*  
 Слон

Also called офицер (o-fi-TSER).

**Knight**  
*kon*  
 Конь

**Rook**  
*la-DYA*  
 Ладья

Also called тур (tur).

**Pawn**  
*PYESH-ka*  
 Пешка

**Check**  
*shakh*  
 Шах

**Checkmate**  
*mat*  
 Мат

**Stalemate**  
*pat*  
 Пат



## Gambling

*GEM-bling*  
 Гэмблинг

But of course, the best thing about sports is the opportunity to make a little easy money off of someone else's hard work.

## Illegal gambling

*a-ZART-na-ya i-GRA, za-prye-SCHO-nna-ya za-KO-nom*

Азартная игра, запрещённая законом

## Legal gambling

*a-ZART-na-ya i-GRA, raze-rye-SHO-nna-ya za-KO-nom*

Азартная игра, разрешённая законом

## A bet

*STAV-ka*

Ставка

## Where's the nearest slots arcade?

*gdye SA-ma-ya bli-ZHAI-scha-ya bo-go-DYEL-nya?*

Где самая ближайшая **богодельня**?

## He's a serious gambler.

*on sye-RYOZ-nii i-GROK.*

Он серьёзный **игрок**.

## Do you happen to know an honest bookie?

*ti slu-CHAI-no nye ZNA-yesh CHES-no-vo buk-MYE-ke-ra?*

Ты случайно не знаешь честного **букмекера**?

## I usually bet on the dog.

*ya o-BICH-no STAV-lyu na dog.*

Я обычно ставлю на **дог**.

## Where can I place a bet on the game?

*gdye MOZH-no za-KL YU-chat pa-RI na match?*

Где можно **заключать пари** на матч?

## What are the odds on the Russian National Team?

*ka-KOI kyef na SBOR-nu-yu ro-SSII?*

Какой кеф на Сборную России?

## OddsMaker

*gan-di-KA-pper*

Гандикаппер

Also called a **каппер** (KA-pper) for short.

## When a bookie lengthens the odds to attract more bets

*za-ma-NU-kha*

Замануха

## Vigorish

*MAR-zha*

Маржа

That is, the bookie's commission on a bet.

## What's the over/under on this game?

*ka-KOI na E-tom MA-tchye niz/vyerkh?*

Какой на этом матче низ/верх?

Also called **больше/меньше** (BOL-she/MYEN-she).

## CHAPTER 9

### HUNGRY RUSSIAN

GO-LOD-NII RU-SSKII

Голодный русский

One of the great things about Russia is the food. Russians love homecookin' and are generally pretty skilled at preparing it (well, at least the women are). Precooked, prepackaged food called полуфабрикат (*po-lu-fa-bri-KAT*) is widely available, but most Russians won't eat preservative-filled crap. Which brings me to my next point. "Preservative" in Russian is консервант (*kon-ser-VANT*). The Russian cognate презерватив (*pre-zyer-va-TIV*) means condom. When enjoying a meal in Russia, try not to confuse the two.

### Let's eat!

*da-VAI po-KU-sha-yem!*

Давай покусшаем!

**I'm hungry (masculine).**

*ya GO-lo-dyen.*

Я голоден.

**I'm hungry (feminine).**

*ya go-lod-NA.*

Я голодна.

**I wanna chow down.**

*kho-CHU po-ZHRAT.*

Хочу пожрать.

**You'll feel hungry as soon as you start to eat.**

*a-ppye-TIT pri-KHO-dit vo VRYE-mya ye-DI.*

Аппетит приходит во время еды.

This is a common Russian saying.

**I'm as hungry as a wolf.**

*ya GO-lo-dyen kak volk.*

Я голоден как волк.

**I'm dying of starvation.**

*ya u-mi-RA-yu s GO-lo-du.*

Я умираю с голоду.

**I can't think on an empty stomach.**

*ya nye mo-GU DU-mat na-to-SCHAK.*

Я не могу думать натошак.

**After work I just want to stuff my fucking face.**

*PO-sle ra-BO-ti KHO-che-tsya PRO-sto na-yeb-NUT.*

После работы хочется просто наебнуть.

**Do you have anything to nosh on?**

*YEST u te-BYA CHTO-ni-BUD po-KHA-vat?*

Есть у тебя что-нибудь похавать?

**Let's grab a bite to eat!**  
*da-VAI pye-rye-KU-sim!*  
Давай перекусим!

**Let's stop by a cafeteria.**  
*da-VAi zai-DYOM v sto-LO-vu-yu.*  
Давай зайдём в столовую.

Usually Soviet style, very cheap, and reeking of kotlety, mashed potatoes, cabbage, and kompot.

**How much should we leave for a tip?**  
*SKOL-ko o-STA-vit cha-ye-VIKH?*  
Сколько оставить чаевых?

It has become pretty common for Russian wait staff to expect a tip, no matter how lousy the service is.

**Do they take plastic here?**  
*tut pri-ni-MA-yut krye-DIT-ki?*  
Тут принимают кредитки?

**Grub**  
*ZHRACH-ka*  
Жрачка

**Bon appétit!**  
*pri-YAT-no-vo a-ppye-TI-ta!*  
Приятного аппетита!

**Let's get the food on the table.**  
*da-VAI na-KRO-yem na stol.*  
Давай накроем на стол.

**Help yourself! Don't be shy!**  
*u-go-SCHAI-sya! nye styey-NYAI-sya!*  
Угощайся! Не стесняйся!

**We have more than enough!**  
*u nas vsye-VO KHVA-tit s go-lo-VOI!*  
У нас всего хватит с головой!

**I prefer home-cooked meals.**  
*ya pryed-po-chi-TA-yu do-MASH-nyu-yu KUKH-nyu.*  
Я предпочитаю домашнюю кухню.

**I never say no to a chance to chow for free.**  
*ya ni-kog-DA nye ot-KA-zi-va-yus ot SHAN-sa po-KU-shat na kha-L YA-vu.*  
Я никогда не отказываюсь от шанса покушать на халяву.

**My hotel offers a buffet-style breakfast.**  
*mo-YA gos-TI-ni-tsa pryed-la-GA-yet SHVED-skii stol na ZAV-trak.*  
Моя гостиница предлагает шведский стол на завтрак.

**That meat is crazy expensive!**  
*E-to MYA-so STO-it BYE-she-ni-ye DYEN-gi!*  
Это мясо стоит бешеные деньги!

**We've got a ton of munchies here.**  
*u nas tut KHAV-chi-ka na-VA-lom.*  
У нас тут хавчика навалом.

**I have a sweet tooth.**

*ya slad-ko-YEZH-ka.*  
Я сладкоёжка.

**I want a cheese sandwich.**

*ya kho-CHU bu-ter-BROD s SI-rom.*  
Я хочу **бутерброд** с сыром.

Keep in mind that buterbrody are generally open-faced sandwiches, so if you order a buterbrod s sirom, expect a slice of bread, a slab of butter, and a slice of cheese. Some places offer American-style sandwiches. These are generally called сэндвичи (SEND-vi-chi).

## Fast food

*fast fud*

Фаст фуд

Personally, I think it's pretty lame when foreigners go to Russia and eat at McDonald's. Why on earth would you spend the time, money, and energy to travel halfway around the world just to eat the same overcooked crap that you can get at the burger joint down the street? But whatever. If you have a Mac Attack in Moscow, you will not suffer for long. McDonald's plans for world domination are nearly complete, and you can hear those familiar golden arches calling your name from just about every part of town.

**Let's go to McDonald's!**

*poi-DYOM v Mak-DO-nalds!*  
Пойдём в Макдоналдс!

**I'll have a...**

*ya BU-du...*  
Я буду...

**Big Mac.**

*big MAC.*  
Биг Мак.

**Filet-O-Fish.**

*fi-LE-o-FISH*  
Филе-о-фиш.

**Cheeseburger.**

*CHIZ-bur-ger.*  
Чизбургер.

**Double Cheeseburger.**

*dvoi-NOI CHIZ-bur-ger.*  
Двойной Чизбургер.

**Chicken McNuggets.**

*CHI-ken mak-NA-ggets.*  
Чикен Макнаггетс.

**Quarter Pounder with Cheese.**

*RO-ya! CHIZ-bur-ger.*  
Роял Чизбургер.

Ah yes, the Royale cheeseburger. As John Travolta astutely observes in Pulp Fiction: "They got the metric system there, they wouldn't know what the fuck a quarter pounder is."

**Big N' Tasty.**

*big TEI-sti.*  
Биг Тейсти.

**That was one nasty hamburger!**

*E-to bil vo-ob-SCHE pro-TIV-nii GAM-bur-ger!*  
Это был вообще **противный** гамбургер!

**Man, I love fries!**

*blin, ya Iyu-BLYU fri!*  
Блин, я люблю фри!

Could I get some ketchup?  
*MOZH-no chut KE-tchu-pa?*  
Можно чуть **кетчупа**?

Can you get a decent pizza anywhere in Russia?  
*MOZH-no na-i-TI GDYE-ni-BUD v ro-SSII nor-MAL-nu-yu*  
**PITS-tsu?**  
Можно найти где-нибудь в России нормальную **пиццу**?

Do you know if that pizzeria delivers?  
*nye ZNA-yesh, YEST li u E-toi pits-tse-Rll do-STAV-ka*  
*na dom?*  
Не знаешь, есть ли у этой пиццерии на дом?

I think I got food poisoning from that hot dog.  
*po-MO-ye-mu ya o-tra-VIL-sya E-tim khot-DO-gom.*  
По-моему я отравился этим **хот-догом**.

I'm thirsty

*mnye KHO-che-tsya pit*  
Мне хочется пить

I want to drink...  
*kho-CHU po-PIT...*  
Хочу попить...

Note this phrase is followed by the accusative.

some water.  
*vo-DICH-ku.*  
водичку.

Be sure to stress this word right: *vo-DICH-ku*. If you stress it on the first syllable, it will sound like you are asking for some vodka.

soda pop.  
*ga-zi-ROV-ku.*  
газировку.

*Gazirovka* is short for газированная вода (*ga-zi-RO-va-nna-ya vo-DA*). Note that there is a Russian word сода (*SO-da*), but that refers to baking soda.

Tarkhun.  
*tar-KHUN.*  
Тархун.

This is a kind of green-colored soda made from tarragon and popular since Soviet times.

fruity soda.  
*li-mo-NAD.*  
лимонад.

The confusion here is that Russian limonad usually has little to do with what English speakers call lemonade.

birch juice.  
*bye-RYO-zo-vii sok.*  
берёзовый сок.

Who knew you could make juice from a tree?

compote.  
*kom-POT.*  
компот.

A kind of drink made from stewed fruit and sugar.

**orange juice, no ice.**

*a-pyel-SI-no-vii sok byez I-DA.*

апельсиновый сок без льда.

## VEGETARIANISM>>>

VYE-GYE-TA-RI-AN-STVO

ВЕГЕТАРИАНСТВО

Vegetarianism isn't as common in the former USSR as it is in the U.S., so if you go over to someone's house for dinner, likely they will just assume you eat meat. It's generally better to warn them in advance and to be very specific about it, as some people just don't get it. Same thing goes for eating out. For example, I once went to a restaurant in Kiev and asked if a certain dish had meat in it. The waitress assured me that it did not, but when I got my order, it was covered in a sauce that was clearly full of some kind of ground beef. When I complained to the waitress, she protested that in fact the dish did not contain any meat, only the sauce did. Uh, duh. So the lesson here is that if you have dietary restrictions of any nature, don't assume anything. Spell it out for them. And double-check.

I'm a vegetarian (male).

*ya vye-gye-ta-ri-AN-yets.*

Я вегетарианец.

I'm a vegetarian (female).

*ya vye-gye-ta-ri-AN-ka.*

Я вегетарианка.

I don't eat meat or fish.

*ya nye yem ni MYA-so, ni RI-bu.*

Я не ем ни мясо, ни рыбу.

Is this dish **vegetarian**?

*ε-to BLYU-do vye-gye-ta-ri-AN-sko-ye?*

Это блюдо вегетарианское?

Does this dish contain meat?

*v ε-tom BLYU-dye YeST MYA-so?*

В этом блюде есть мясо?

**mineral water on ice.**

*mi-nye-RAL-ku so I-DOM.*

минералку со льдом.

**sparkling mineral water.**

*mi-nye-RAL-ku s GA-zom.*

минералку с газом.

**Borzhomi.**

*bor-ZHO-mi.*

Боржоми.

A kind of salty-tasting mineral water produced in Georgia.

**Narzan.**

*nar-ZAN.*

Нарзан.

Another popular kind of mineral water.

**kefir.**

*kye-FIR.*

кефир.

Apparently, this is very good for your digestive system.

**sour milk.**

*pro-sto-KVA-shu.*

простоквашу.



**kvass.**

*kvass.*

квас.

Nonalcoholic, carbonated, usually a little bitter, and popular in summer.

## Yum yum

*nyam nyam*

Ням ням

**I smell something yummy.**

*ya SLI-shu O-chen VKUS-nii ZA-pakh.*

Я слышу очень **вкусный** запах.

**That's a great recipe!**

*E-to KCLASS-nii rye-TSEPT!*

Это классный **рецепт**!

**What scrumptious food!**

*ka-KA-ya vku-SNYA-ti-na!*

Какая **вкуснятина**!

**Finger-lickin' good!**

*PAL-chi-ki ob-LI-zhesh!*

Пальчики оближешь!

**At the party there was a lot of yummy food.**

*na vye-che-RIN-kye BI-lo MNO-go VKUS-nyen-ko-vo.*

На вечеринке было много **вкусненького**.

Russians love their food so, not surprisingly, they use a lot of diminutives when talking about it. While there is really no English equivalent that fully captures the meaning of most of these words, the diminutive endings convey a sense of affection, along the lines of saying “a nice, little something or other.” Here are few examples of the food that Russians love to show their love to:

**Pass me some nice, little bread.**

*pye-rye-DAI mnye KHLYE-bu-shek.*

Передай мне **хлебушек**.

**I adore pickled 'shrooms.**

*ya o-bo-ZHA-yu za-ma-ri-NO-va-nni-ye gri-BOCH-ki.*

Я обожаю замаринованные **грибочки**.

**I'll have wittle piece of that cakey.**

*BU-du ku-SO-chek E-tovo TOR-ti-ka.*

Буду **кусочек** этого **тортика**.

**These little salads are very yummy.**

*E-ti sa-LA-ti-ki O-chen VKUS-nyen-ki-ye.*

Эти **салатики** очень **вкусненькие**.

**I really liked that soupy.**

*mnye O-chen po-NRA-vil-sya E-tot SUP-chik.*

Мне очень понравился этот **супчик**.

**I love sweeties!**

*ya lyu-BLYU SLA-dyen-ko-ye!*

Я люблю **сладенькое**!

**Could you pass the taters?**

*pye-rye-DAI, po-ZHA-lui-sta, kar-TO-shech-ku.*  
Передай, пожалуйста, картошечку.

Yuck!

*fuuuu!*

Фуууу!

**This shit reminds me of prison swill!**

*Et-o gov-NO na-po-mi-NA-yet mnye o ba-LAN-dye!*  
Это говно напоминает мне о баланде!

**That's disgusting!**

*E-to pro-TIV-no!*  
Это противно!

**That looks really rank!**

*E-to VI-glya-dit sov-SYEM khrye-NO-vo!*  
Это выглядит совсем хреново!

**That yogurt is way past its expiration date.**

*E-tot YO-gurt dav-NO pro-SRO-che-nii.*  
Этот йогурт давно просроченный.

**This slop is inedible.**

*E-ta zhrat-VA nye-sye-DOB-na.*  
Эта жратва несъедобна.

**I can't eat this filth!**

*ya nye mo-GU yest E-tu GA-dost!*  
Я не могу есть эту гадость!

**This grub went bad a long time ago.**

*E-ta KHAV-ka dav-NO pro-PA-la.*  
Эта хавка давно пропала.

**This fruit is already spoiled.**

*E-ti FRUK-ti u-ZHE is-POR-che-ni.*  
Эти фрукты уже испорчены.

**I burned the chicken.**

*ya pye-rye-ZHA-ril KU-ri-tsu.*  
Я пережарил курицу.

**I'm afraid I oversalted the fish.**

*bo-YUS, chto pye-rye-so-LIL RI-bu.*  
Боюсь, что пересолил рыбу.

**I've lost my appetite.**

*u me-NYA pro-PAL a-ppye-TIT.*  
У меня пропал аппетит.

**I don't feel so well.**

*CHUST-vu-yu se-BYA nye O-chen.*  
Чувствую себя не очень.

**That fish isn't sitting right.**

*E-ta RI-ba bi-LA nye-KSTA-ti.*  
Эта рыба была некстати.

**I think I ate something bad.**

*po MO-ye-mu ya cyel CHTO-to nye TO.*

**That beef didn't go down right.**

*E-ta go-VYA-di-na po-PA-la nye v to GOR-lo.*

Эта говядина попала не в то горло.

**After trying Russian bread, I can never go back to that stale American crap.**

*PO-sle to-VO, kak PRO-bo-val RU-sskii khlyeb, BOL-she*

*nye smo-GU KU-shat E-to nye-SVYE-zhe-ye ame-ri-KAN-sko-ye dyer-MO.*

После того, как пробовал русский хлеб, больше не

смогу кушать это несвежее американское дерьмо.

## I'm full

*ya sit*

Я сыт

Refusing food in Russia is almost as hard as refusing a drink. In fact, most Russian hosts will force food on their guests with great passion and will take it as a personal insult if you don't go for seconds or thirds. Keep in mind that there is something of an unspoken rule in Russia when refusing food: The first time you refuse, no one will take you seriously. The second time, they still think you are being modest. Only after your third refusal will people start to get the hint that you've had enough.

**I'm stuffed (masculine).**

*ya na-YEL-sya.*

Я наелся.

**I'm stuffed (feminine).**

*ya na-YE-las.*

Я наелась.

**I'm gonna burst!**

*BOL-she nye mo-GU!*

Больше не могу!

**I've had enough.**

*ya u-ZHE VSYO.*

Я уже всё.

**I ate too much.**

*ya ob-YEL-sya.*

Я объелся.

**I overdid it.**

*ya pye-rye-bor-SCHIL.*

Я переборщил.

**It's time for a smoke break.**

*po-RA na pye-rye-KUR.*

Пора на перекур.

## Russian food

*RU-sska-ya KUKH-nya*

Русская кухня

The typical Russian meal usually comprises several courses, including soup, a main course, maybe a salad or two, and plenty of bread. After Russians finish eating, they often fire up the samovar and serve tea and coffee. Here are few traditional Russian foods you might encounter:

**Soups**

*su-PI*

Супы

**Borsht**

This is actually Ukrainian in origin but eaten widely in Russia as well. The main ingredient is beets, but it also usually has potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and sometimes meat. It's usually eaten *со сметаной* (so smye-*TA-noi*)—with sour cream.

## Ukha

*u-KHA*

Уха

A kind of fish stew.

## Schi

Щи

Cabbage soup.

## Solyanka

*so-LYAN-ka*

Солянка

A soup of vegetables and meat, usually a little spicy.

## Kharcho

*khar-CHO*

Харчо

A spicy Georgian soup.

## Okroshka

*o-KROSH-ka*

Окрошка

A cold soup usually served in summer made of kvass, sour cream, radishes, green onion, cucumber, and sometimes potatoes and/or meat.

## Salads

*sa-LA-ti*

Салаты

## Vinegret

*vi-nye-GRYET*

Винегрет

A beet and vegetable salad.

## Olivye

*o-Ii-VYE*

Оливье

Made of potatoes, egg, onion, mayonnaise, ham, and peas.

## Meat

*MYA-so*

Мясо

## Salo

*SA-Io*

Сало

Pig fat. Mmmmm! Perhaps more typical of Ukraine but eaten in Russia as well, particularly in villages.

## Pelmeni

*pyel-MYE-ni*

Пельмени

Sort of like meat ravioli.

## Cutlets

*kot-LYE-ti*

Котлеты

## Roast

*zhar-KO-ye*

Жаркое

## Congeaed meat (or fish)

**kho-lo-DYETS**  
Холодец

**Herring salad**  
*pod SHU-boi*  
Под шубой

This is like a big lump of fish salad covered with beets, eggs, potatoes, carrots, and mayonnaise.

**Shashlik**  
*shash-LIK*  
Шашлык

More than a food, this Caucasian version of shish kabob brings with it a whole tradition of going out to the forest, building a fire, cooking up the marinated meat, washing it down with vodka, playing guitar, and having good drunken fun.

**Vareniki...**  
*va-RYE-ni-ki...*  
Вареники...

These are sort of like *pelmeni* but with different kinds of fillings. In the U.S., they are usually called pierogies. The most common kinds are:



**with potato**  
*s kar-TOSH-koi*  
с картошкой

**with cabbage**  
*s ka-PUS-toi*  
с капустой

**with sweet farmers cheese**  
*s TVO-ro-gom*  
с творогом

**with mushrooms**  
*s gri-BA-mi*  
с грибами

**with cherries**  
*s VISH-nyi*  
с вишней

**Bread**  
*khlyeb*  
Хлеб

### **Black bread**

*CHOR-nii khlyeb*

Чёрный хлеб

### **Small dried circles of bread**

*SUSH-ki*

Сушки

Usually eaten with tea.

### **Gingerbread (sort of)**

*PRYA-ni-ki*

Пряники

### **Pirozhki**

*pi-rozh-KI*

Пирожки

Rolls filled with various things, most commonly potatoes, cabbage, or meat.

### **Dessert**

*dye-SYERT*

Десерт

### **Apple pie**

*YA-bloch-nii pi-ROG*

Яблочный пирог

This is different from American apple pie. Instead of a crust with apple filling, it is more like a cake with apple chunks baked into the batter.

### **Napoleon**

*na-po-lye-ON*

Наполеон

This is a pastry with layers of flaky phyllo dough slathered with rich cream.

### **Bird milk**

*PTI-chye mo-lo-KO*

Птичье молоко

This is sort of like little square pieces of marshmallow dipped in chocolate but not quite as sticky.

### **Bliny**

*bli-NI*

Блины

Also sometimes called блинчики (*BLIN-chi-ki*), these are basically crepes that can be served with such things as:

#### **with honey**

*s MYO-dom*

с мёдом

#### **with sweet farmers cheese**

*s TVO-ro-gom*

с творогом

#### **with sour cream**

*so smye-TA-noi*

со сметаной

#### **with caviar**

*s i-KROI*

с икрой

#### **with jam**

*s va-RYE-nyem*

с вареньем

### **Ice Cream**

*mo-RO-zhe-no-ye*

Мороженое

### **Creamy kind of ice cream**

*plom-BIR*

Пломбир



## About the Authors

**Erin Coyne** holds various degrees in Russian-related fields from Fordham University, Georgetown University, and UC Berkeley, where she is currently making depressingly slow progress on a PhD in Slavic Linguistics while teaching Russian classes on the side. In a former life, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer and later worked as an NGO program director which, for better or for worse, exiled her to nearly ten long years in the former Soviet Union. Her interests include yoga, long, alcohol-fueled train rides through Eastern Europe, and TV. Lots and lots of TV. In addition to English and Russian, Erin speaks six other languages with varying degrees of success.

**Igor Fisun** is a native of Kiev, Ukraine, which, in moments of nationalist pride, he prefers to spell Kyiv. He is a former student of Kiev PTU where he quickly abandoned all interest in ever holding down a real job and instead embarked upon a career in freelance engraving. His native languages are Russian and Ukrainian, and he hopes someday to learn English well enough to talk his way out of a traffic ticket. His interests include cooking, Japanese art, cheap wine, and pissing people off on internet forums. He is ridiculously proud of his orchid collection.

The authors are married and live in Albany, California, with their daughter, Myroslava, and their chihuahua, Chili.