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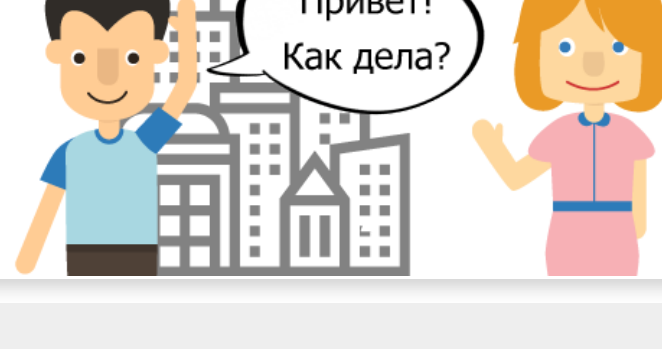
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Russian course

Basic Russian for beginners

Lesson 1:

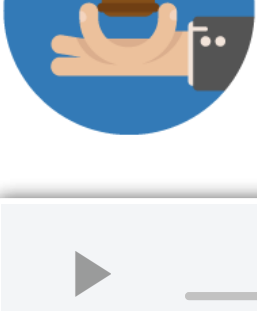
Hello, how are you?



In this lesson you will learn:

- How to say hello to a friend.
- Basic rules of the verb "to be" in the Present tense.
- Basic rules about the gender of nouns.

Welcome to our online course on the Russian language. We have created 14 lessons for you to discover this wonderful language so you can have a basic first contact. In other words, you won't find long lessons with never-ending grammar sections here. We touch on a variety of aspects of the Russian language, which gives you a general understanding in a short period. Russian has grammatical concepts which might be non-existent in your native language. We'll introduce them briefly, so you get to know them without having to read long explanations.



Useful phrase in Russian

Listen and repeat the following sentence:



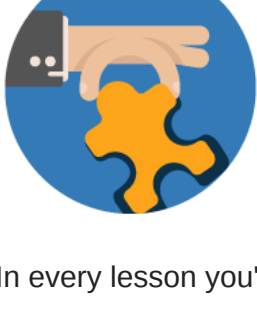
Привет, как дела?

pri-vyét, kak dye-Lá?

Hi, how are you?

Привет is an informal greeting equivalent of our "hi". It is used when meeting friends.

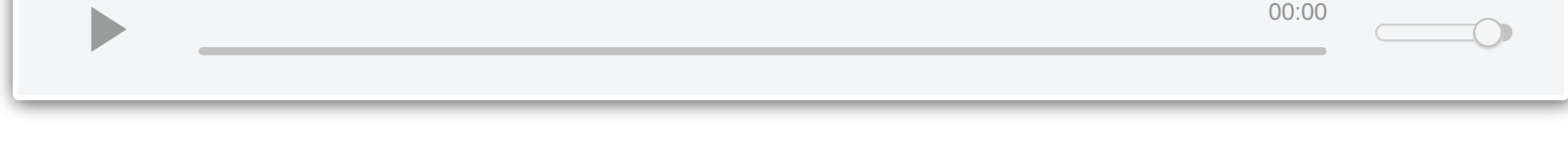
Как дела? is the short form of "как твои дела?" (literally "how (are) your things?"). It's an informal question used with friends.



Russian vocabulary

Read, listen and repeat the basic vocabulary of this lesson:

In every lesson you'll find a short list with new words. You don't need to memorize them now, because later in the lesson you are going to listen to dialogues which contain this new vocabulary. At the end of the this course you'll have learnt more than 200 Russian words, which is enough to have a basic conversation. Listen carefully to the pronunciation and repeat each word.



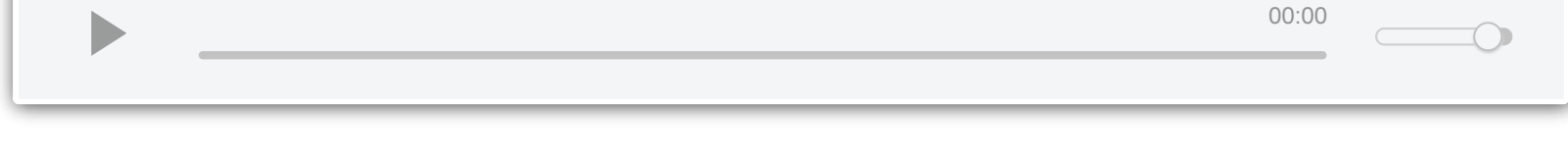
English	Russian	Pronunciation
Hi	Привет	<i>pri-vyét</i>
Russian (masculine)	Русский	<i>rús-kij</i>
Russian (feminine)	Русская	<i>rús-kaya</i>
Yes	Да	<i>da</i>
No	Нет	<i>nyet</i>
I	Я	<i>ya</i>
You	Ты	<i>ty</i>



Dialogues in Russian

These dialogues will help you memorise this lesson's vocabulary:

Dialogue 1



English	Russian	Pronunciation
- Hi!	- Привет!	- <i>pri-vyét.</i>
- Hi! How are you? I (am) Elena, and you?	- Привет! Как дела? Я - Елена, а ты?	- <i>pri-vyét. kak dye-Lá? Ya ye-lyé-na, a ty?</i>
- And I (am) Michael.	- А я Майкл.	- <i>a ya maj-kl.</i>
- (Are) you Russian?	- Ты русский?	- <i>ty rús-kij</i>
- No, and you?	- Нет, а ты?	- <i>nyet a ty?</i>
- Yes, I (am) Russian.	- Да, я русская.	- <i>da ya rus-ka-ya</i>

Dialogue 2



English	Russian	Pronunciation
- (Are) you Russian?	- Ты русская?	- <i>Ty rús-ka-ya?</i>
- Yes, I (am) Russian. And you? (Are) you Russian?	- Да, я русская. А ты? Ты русский?	- <i>Da, ya rús-ka-ya. A ty? Ty rús-kij?</i>
- No, I'm American.	- Нет, я американец.	- <i>Nyet, ya a-mye-ri-ká-nyets.</i>

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If you want to practice your Russian, here you can find [exercise books](#), with key and grammar tables.



Russian grammar

Read the following grammar explanations for this lesson:

The verb "to be" in present

The verb "to be" is expressed in Russian by the verb "быть" (pronunciation: [byt]). In the dialogues above you have seen that the verb "to be" only appears in the English translation (I am, you are, he is,...).

That is because in modern Russian, the verb "быть" is not written when used in present tense (but it is in the past and future). Look at the following examples:

Ivan is an actor. Иван - актёр.

You are Peter. Ты Пётр.

I am Helen. Я Елена.

In the first phrase (Иван - актёр) you can see that in the punctuation mark "-" is used instead of the verb to be.

You will see this mark often in books and it is useful to know how to use it. Just remember that the meaning of a sentence is the same with or without this mark

The three genders

Russian nouns, adjectives and pronouns have genders:

1. masculine
2. feminine
3. neuter

In English, nouns have no gender, so this can be confusing. It is difficult to say why table in Russian (стол) is masculine and a bed (кровать) is feminine.

There is no logic in determining the gender, so you must learn it by heart.

The ending of a word can help us to identify its gender. Look for example at the endings we have seen in the dialogues:

- "русский" (masculine)
- "русская" (feminine)

The word "Russian" is an adjective. In the dialogues we have seen that "м" is a masculine ending for adjectives and "а" is a feminine ending for adjectives. There are many other endings which you will be learning little by little during this course.



Test

Check how much you have learnt in this lesson:

The word русский is of ... gender?

☐ masculine

☐ feminine

The word русская is of ... gender.

☐ masculine

☐ feminine

How do you say "hi" in Russian?

☐ как дела

☐ привет

☐ хорошо

How many genders are there in Russian?

☐ one

☐ two

☐ three

In Russian the verb "быть" is always omitted.

☐ true

☐ false

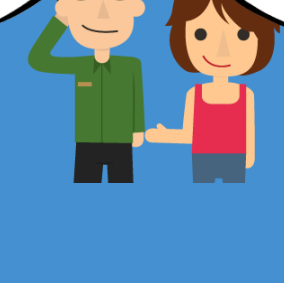
[Check answers](#)

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