

## *Common Russian Mistakes*

### *1. Word Choice*

#### **Word Buzz**

##### Word Choice Mistakes-The Biggies

- I was **MAKING** a photograph.

*Incorrect: I made a photo yesterday*

*Correct: I took a photo yesterday*

- **I feel myself**

*Incorrect: I feel myself fine today.*

*Correct: I feel fine today.*

*(sidenote: this sounds like you are feeling yourself, not a good idea at work).*

- **Using Step By instead of Stop by**

*Incorrect: I'll step by the cocktail party later, so leave some booze for me!*

*Correct: I'll stop by your house later to collect my money!*

- **Normal**

*Incorrect: "How are you?"*

*"I'm normal, thanks."*

*Correct: "How are you?"*

*"I'm fine, thanks."*

- **Advices and Researches**

*Incorrect: The professor gave us several useful advices for our researches.*

*Correct: The professor gave us several useful words of advice for our research projects.*

- **Thanks God, No Problems!**

*Correct: Thank God, we have each other.*

*Incorrect: Thanks Gods*

*Correct: No problem!*

*Incorrect: No problems!*

*Correct: We have no comment about the case.*

*Incorrect: no comments*

- **It's your birthday? Congratulations!**

*You don't congratulate someone on a birthday.*

*You congratulate someone on something they endured or survived or were honored at.*

*A graduation, a marathon, a promotion.*

*They had to DO something to get a Congrats, not just EXIST!!!*

Correct: It's your birthday! Happy Birthday, Dude! Let's celebrate!

- **It's your 30th Birthday? Happy Anniversary!**

Comes from Russian word юбилей

Americans have no special birthday for Big Round Numbers 30, 40, etc...

- **Impressions**

Incorrect: I just came back from Italy and I have many impressions!

Comes from mistranslating впечатления

- **Adequate**

This word was borrowed from English

meaning into Russian to mean "he's a cool guy from our circle".

but in English the word means "barely passable". "almost not good enough".

- **Native American**

Incorrect: My colleague speaks native American

Correct: \_\_\_\_\_

Weird Word Choice Resulting from Translating Directly from Russian Grammar:

- Using plural, "We" plus "with someone", when you mean, I.

Incorrect: We were celebrating our anniversary with Sveta. (sounds like three or more people)

Correct: Sveta and I celebrated our anniversary" (only two people in the sentence)

Not finishing your thought

You want? better to say \_\_\_\_\_

They go? \_\_\_\_\_

Glad to hear? \_\_\_\_\_

Pleased to meet! \_\_\_\_\_

Prepositions

- in v. on

"The cat is ON the tree" (Russian mistake)

"The cat is IN the tree" (Correct usage)

"There are flowers ON the picture" (Russian mistake)

"There are flowers IN the picture" (Correct usage)

"I went IN England last summer." (Russian mistake)

"I went TO England last summer." (Correct usage)

(Sidenote: "going in England" sounds like you peed and so have a lot of other famous people, including the Beatles and the Queen. So stop bragging.)

- to

Leaving to \_\_\_\_\_ (someplace) \_\_\_\_\_ (in the catchy Brainstorm song, "Leaving to LA))

- *Handy Preposition Chart*

<i>English Target</i>	<i>Russian</i>	<i>Mistaken Russian Result</i>
<i>depend on</i>	<i>зависеть от</i>	<i>depend from</i>
<i>refuse ____</i>	<i>отказаться от</i>	<i>refuse from</i>
<i>prepare for</i>	<i>готовиться к</i>	<i>prepare to*</i>
<i>tired of</i>	<i>устал от</i>	<i>tired from**</i>
<i>graduate from</i>	<i>закончить ____</i>	<i>graduate ____ university</i>
<i>divide into</i>	<i>разделить на</i>	<i>divide on</i>
<i>wait for</i>	<i>ждать (+ acc)</i>	<i>wait ____ someone</i>
<i>listen to</i>	<i>слушать (+ acc)</i>	<i>listen ____ music</i>