

Russian for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

Tobias Hartmann

January 2, 2026

Copyright

© 2026 Innov-AI-tive GmbH. All rights reserved.

Author: Tobias Hartmann

Contributor: Synapse Lingo AI Tools (human-supervised)

ISBN Print: 978-3-69263-130-1

ISBN eBook: 978-3-69263-129-5

ISBN Audiobook: 978-3-69263-131-8

This book is for informational purposes only and does not replace professional advice.

AI Development Notice: This e-book was developed with AI-assisted tools and subsequently editorially reviewed to ensure the highest learning quality.

Additional Training Materials

Enhance your learning experience with our interactive on-line training materials and audio resources.

Access your interactive language trainer:

http://app.synapse-lingo.de/language-trainer/en_ru/index.html



Scan the QR code or click the link to go directly to your interactive trainer.

This interactive trainer includes:

- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises

-
- Additional vocabulary practice
 - Progress tracking

Simply click the link or enter the URL in your web browser to access these supplementary materials.

Contents

Additional Training Materials	3
1 Lesson 1: English – Russian: Master “have” with иметь (imet’)	8
2 Lesson 2: English – Russian: to be = быть (byt’) – Fun Pronouns Lesson	13
3 Lesson 3: English to Russian: Learn go = идти (idti) (fun, fast, and easy)	18
4 Lesson 4: English – Russian: can = мочь (moch’)	23
5 Lesson 5: Make vs Do in Russian: Master делать (delat’) Fast	29
6 Lesson 6: English to Russian Past Tense: I had – у меня было (u menya bylo)	34
7 Lesson 7: Learn Russian Past Tense: I was = я был (ya byl)	39
8 Lesson 8: Learn Russian Past: I went – я пошёл (ya poshyol)	44

9 Lesson 9: I made in Russian: я сделал(а) (ya sdela(a))	49
10 Lesson 10: Learn Russian Future: I will have – я буду иметь (ya budu imet')	55
11 Lesson 11: Learn Russian Future “To Be”: I will be = я буду (ya budu)	60
12 Lesson 12: Learn Russian Future Tense: I will go – я пойду (ya poydu)	66
13 Lesson 13: English – Russian Future Verbs: I will do – я сделаю (ya sdelayu)	71
14 Lesson 14: English → Russian Essentials: Is there ...? – Есть ...? (Yest' ...?)	77
15 Lesson 15: Learn Russian Fast: Is there ...? → Есть ...? (Yest' ...?)	83
16 Lesson 16: May I ...? in Russian: Можно ...? (Mozhno ...?) – Fun, Fast Permission Phrase	88
17 Lesson 17: English to Russian: I need ... = Мне нужно ... (Mne nuzhno ...)	93
18 Lesson 18: English to Russian: Where is ...? = Где ...? (Gde ...?)	98
19 Lesson 19: What is ...? = Что такое ...? (Chto takoye ...?) – Learn Russian Fast	103
20 Lesson 20: How much is ...? Learn Russian with Сколько стоит ...? (Skol'ko stoit ...?)	108

21 Lesson 21: I would like ... in Russian: Я бы хотел ... (Ya by khotel ...)	114
22 Lesson 22: English – Russian: Can you ... ? Say Можешь ... ? (Mozhesh ... ?)	120
23 Lesson 23: English to Russian: Can you ... ? = Вы можете ... ? (Vy mozhete ... ?)	125
About the Author	130
Stay in Touch	131

Lesson 1

Lesson 1: English – Russian: Master “have” with иметь (imet’)

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this funny English – Russian mini-lesson helps you master the verb “have” – иметь (imet’) – and the everyday pattern у меня есть (u menya yest’). Learn and practice: have, I have, you have, he has, she has, it has, we have, you (formal) have, they have with clear examples. Perfect for English speakers learning Russian: dialogues, rhythm drills, culture tips, and a quick quiz.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, great to have you here! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more goodies at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today you’ll nail “have” in Russian: the base verb is иметь (imet’), but in real life you’ll say patterns like у меня есть (u menya yest’). Let’s make it fun, fast, and friendly!

Your learning goal today

By the end, you can say who has what – without thinking. Ready?

- have (base verb) = иметь (imet')
- I have = у меня есть (u menya yest')
- you have (sing., informal) = у тебя есть (u tebya yest')
- he has = у него есть (u nego yest')
- she has = у неё есть (u neyo yest')
- it has = у него есть (u nego yest')
- we have = у нас есть (u nas yest')
- you have (plural/formal) = у вас есть (u vas yest')
- they have = у них есть (u nikh yest')

Mini-dialogue: pens, snacks, and buttons

Listen in and repeat the punchlines out loud.

- A: Do you have a pen? У тебя есть ручка? (U tebya yest' ruchka?) B: Yes, I have. У меня есть. (U menya yest'.)
- Friend whispers: He has snacks. У него есть перекус. (U nego yest' perekus.) I respect this hero.
- She has a plan. У неё есть план. (U neyo yest' plan.) Spoiler: step one is coffee.

- About the gadget: It has two buttons. У него есть две кнопки. (U nego yest' dve knopki.) And neither is “make coffee.”
- We have tickets! У нас есть билеты! (U nas yest' bilyety!) Do you (plural) have water? У вас есть вода? (U vas yest' voda?)
- They have coffee. У них есть кофе. (U nikh yest' kofe.) We have envy.

Rhythm drill: clap the forms

Clap once and echo me. Keep it snappy!

- I have – у меня есть (u menya yest')
- you have (sing.) – у тебя есть (u tebya yest')
- he has – у него есть (u nego yest')
- she has – у неё есть (u neyo yest')
- it has – у него есть (u nego yest')
- we have – у нас есть (u nas yest')
- you have (pl./formal) – у вас есть (u vas yest')
- they have – у них есть (u nikh yest')

Story time: to have vs. to “have”

Quick tale with real-life lines to steal.

I want to have a plan: Я хочу иметь план. (Ya khochu imet' plan.) The contract says: Компания будет иметь право на бонус. (Kompaniya budet imet' pravo na bonus.) But daily speech prefers the possession pattern: “I have a plan” → У меня есть план. (U menya yest' plan.) Ta-da!

Culture tip: the natural Russian “have”

Speak like locals, not like a grammar robot.

In everyday Russian, use “у + person + есть.” Examples: “I have time” → У меня есть время. (U menya yest' vremya.) “Do you (sing.) have a ticket?” → У тебя есть билет? (U tebya yest' bilet?) “We have an idea” → У нас есть идея. (U nas yest' ideya.) Save иметь (imet') for formal phrases or set expressions.

Speed quiz

Answer out loud; I'll reveal it after a beat.

- Q: How do you say “he has”? A: у него есть (u nego yest')
- Q: “They have coffee.” Say it. A: У них есть кофе. (U nikh yest' kofe.)
- Q: “You have” to a group, formal. A: у вас есть (u vas yest')
- Q: Base verb for “to have.” A: иметь (imet')
- Q: “She has a plan.” A: У неё есть план. (U neyo yest' plan.)
- Q: “We have tickets.” A: У нас есть билеты. (U nas yest' bilety.)

Challenge round

Your turn – say it before I do!

- Say: I have a book. Answer: У меня есть книга. (U menya yest' kniga.)

- Ask a friend: Do you have time? (sing., informal) Answer: У тебя есть время? (U tebya yest' vremya?)
- Confirm about a device: It has two ports. Answer: У него есть два порта. (U nego yest' dva porta.)
- Ask politely: Do you (plural/formal) have water? Answer: У вас есть вода? (U vas yest' voda?)
- Brag a little: We have a plan. Answer: У нас есть план. (U nas yest' plan.)
- Gossip kindly: He has a car; she has a bike. Answer: У него есть машина; у неё есть велосипед. (U nego yest' mashina; u neyo yest' velosiped.)

Wrap-up

You crushed it! One last boost.

Thanks for listening – brought to you by SynapseLingo. Keep practicing “have”: иметь (imet'), у меня есть (u menya yest'), у тебя есть (u tebya yest'), у него есть (u nego yest'), у неё есть (u neyo yest'), у нас есть (u nas yest'), у вас есть (u vas yest'), у них есть (u nikh yest'). Share this episode with a study buddy, and visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more lessons, drills, and laughs. See you next time!

Lesson 2

Lesson 2: English – Russian: to be = **быть** (byt') – Fun Pronouns Lesson

*Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this engaging episode helps English speakers learn Russian basics of the verb to be – **быть** (byt'). Master everyday forms like I am, you are, he is, she is, it is, we are, you (plural/polite) are, and they are with clear examples: я (ya), ты (ty), он (on), она (ona), это (eto), мы (my), вы (vy), они (oni). Get quick context, funny mnemonics, and a quiz so you can confidently use Russian in real life. Learn Russian fast from English with bite-size drills and culture tips.*

Welcome to SynapseLingo

This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – your fun path to language superpowers! Visit www.synapse-

lingo.com for extra practice and freebies.

Today you'll nail English – Russian basics of to be, from I am to they are, with simple patterns and laughs. Stay to the end for a speedy quiz and a mini-challenge!

Your goal today

By the end, you'll recognize and say all core forms of to be in Russian. Let's make it painless – and funny.

- Main idea: Russian usually drops “am/is/are” in the present. You just use the pronoun plus a word like an adjective or noun.
- Core infinitive: to be = быть (byt').
- I am = я (ya) (example: я дома (ya doma) = I am at home).
- You are (informal, one person) = ты (ty) (example: ты молодец (ty molodets) = you are great).
- He is = он (on) (example: он здесь (on zdes') = he is here).
- She is = она (ona) (example: она врач (ona vrach) = she is a doctor).
- It is/This is = это (eto) (example: это правда (eto pravda) = it is true).
- We are = мы (my) (example: мы готовы (my gotovy) = we are ready).
- You are (plural/polite) = вы (vy) (example: вы молодцы (vy molodtsy) = you are awesome).
- They are = они (oni) (example: они дома (oni doma) = they are at home).

Mini-dialogues

Listen and repeat – short, punchy, and useful. Point to things, point to people, sound smart.

- A: Who's that? B: It is my book → это моя книга (eto moya kniga).
- A: Where is he? B: He is in the park → он в парке (on v parke).
- A: Is she a doctor? B: She is a doctor → она врач (ona vrach).
- A: Are we ready? B: We are ready → мы готовы (my gotovy).
- Coach: You are a team! → вы команда (vy komanda).
- Guess who's here – They are here! → они здесь (oni zdes').
- Self-intro: I am Alex → я Алекс (ya Aleks).

Beat drill: say it with rhythm

Clap, speak, smile. Your brain loves a beat.

- To be → быть (byt'). Clap!
- I am at home → я дома (ya doma). Clap!
- You are kind (sing.) → ты добрый (ty dobryy) (or to a woman: ты добрая (ty dobraya)).
- He is ready → он готов (on gotov).

- She is happy → она счастлива (ona schastliva).
- It is tasty → это вкусно (eto vkusno).
- We are friends → мы друзья (my друз'ya).
- You are right (plural/polite) → вы правы (vy pravyy).
- They are students → они студенты (oni studenty).

Culture tip: Hamlet, but make it Russian

Even Shakespeare gets a Slavic makeover. Flex your drama voice!

- The iconic line: To be or not to be → Быть или не быть (Byt' ili ne byt').
- Mnemonic: BYT = Be Your Truth → быть (byt'). Hold your hand like an equals sign while you say it.

Lightning quiz

Answer out loud. Your lamp of genius is already ON.

- Q1: Say "I am a tourist" in Russian. A: я турист (ya turist).
- Q2: Say "You are here" to a friend (sing.). A: ты здесь (ty zdes').
- Q3: Say "You are here" to a group/politely. A: вы здесь (vy zdes').
- Q4: Point and say "It is my ticket." A: это мой билет (eto moy bilet).

-
- Q5: Say “They are at home.” A: они дома (oni doma).
 - Bonus: What’s the infinitive “to be” in Russian? A: быть (byt’).

Your challenge

Try these out loud – short and sweet. You’ve got this!

- Make your intro: “I am - - - - .” → я - - - - (ya - - - -).
- Hype a friend: “You are awesome!” (sing.) → ты молодец (ty molodets).
- Point to an object: “It is my phone.” → это мой телефон (eto moy telefon).
- Group power: “We are ready.” → мы готовы (my gotovy).
- Polite address: “You are kind.” (polite/plural) → вы добры (vy dobry).
- Spot the squad: “They are students.” → они студенты (oni studenty).

Thanks from SynapseLingo

Awesome job – your Russian to be toolkit is ready for action.

Thanks for listening! Keep practicing быть (byt’) with real phrases like я дома (ya doma), ты здесь (ty zdes’), мы готовы (my gotovy), and они рядом (oni ryadom). For more lessons, games, and transcripts, visit www.synapse-lingo.com. See you next time!

Lesson 3

Lesson 3: English to Russian: Learn go = идти (idti) (fun, fast, and easy)

Breeze through the Russian motion verb for going on foot – идти (idti) – with clear, real-life examples like I go – я иду (ya idu) and you go – ты идёшь (ty idyosh'). Practice all key forms (he, she, we, you-plural, they) and learn to answer "How's it going?" with so-so – так себе (tak sebe). A short, fun session for English – Russian learners you can use immediately.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, great to have you here! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more goodies at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today we unlock the Russian verb go on foot – идти

(idti). You'll speak it in all the must-have forms, and answer How's it going with a smooth so-so – так себе (tak sebe). Ready to step out? Let's go... literally!

Your goal today

Say each form out loud with me – confidence first, speed later.

- to go (on foot): идти (idti)
- I go: я иду (ya idu)
- you go (singular, friendly): ты идёшь (ty idyosh')
- he goes: он идёт (on idyot)
- she goes: она идёт (ona idyot)
- we go: мы идём (my idyom)
- you go (plural/formal): вы идёте (vy idyote)
- they go: они идут (oni idut)
- How's it going? So-so: так себе (tak sebe)

Tiny, funny dialogue

Act it out with me – yes, you're the star of this micro-movie.

- A: Are you going now? – Ты идёшь сейчас? (Ty idyosh' seychas?)
- B: Yeah, I go to the cafe – я иду в кафе (ya idu v kafe).
- A: She goes too – она идёт тоже (ona idyot tozhe).

- B: Great, we go together – мы идём вместе (my idyom vmeste).
- A: And them? Are they going? – А они идут? (A oni idut?)
- B: So-so... their motivation is так себе (tak sebe)!

Culture tip: on foot vs by vehicle

Level up with a super-quick but powerful distinction.

Russian separates going on foot and going by vehicle. Use on foot – идти (idti) – like мы идём в парк (my idyom v park), and by vehicle – ехать (yekhat') – like 'we ride to the park'. If a friend says ты идёшь (ty idyosh'), they expect footsteps, not a bus ticket.

Call-and-response drill

You speak fast and fearless – repeat after the beep and beat!

- I go... я иду (ya idu)
- you go (singular)... ты идёшь (ty idyosh')
- he goes... он идёт (on idyot)
- she goes... она идёт (ona idyot)
- we go... мы идём (my idyom)
- you go (plural)... вы идёте (vy idyote)
- they go... они идут (oni idut)
- to go (infinitive)... идти (idti)
- How's it going? So-so... так себе (tak sebe)