

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #1

## Meet the Russian Bi-Lingual Fabio

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# 1

## RUSSIAN

1. BEN: Здравствуйте, извините, можно с Вами познакомиться?
2. NIKA: Да, конечно. Меня зовут Вероника. А как Вас зовут?
3. BEN: Бенджамин. Можно просто Бен.
4. NIKA: Очень приятно, Бен!
5. BEN: Мне тоже очень приятно!

## ROMANIZATION

1. BEN: Zdrastvuyte, izvinite, mozhna s Vami paznakomitsa?
2. NIKA: Da, kaneshna. Menya zavut Veranika. A kak Vas zavut?
3. BEN: Benjamin. Mozhna prosta Ben.
4. NIKA: Ochen' priyatna, Ben!
5. BEN: Mne tozhe ochen' priyatna!

## ENGLISH

1. BEN: Hello, excuse me, may I get to know you?
2. NIKA: Yes, sure. My name is Veronika. What's your name?
3. BEN: Benjamin. You can call me Ben.

CONT'D OVER

4. NIKA: Nice to meet you, Ben!
5. BEN: Nice to meet you, too!

## VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class
здравствуйте	zdrastvuyte	hello	interjection
приятно	priyatna	nice, pleasant	adverb
очень	ochen'	very, very much, really	adverb
просто	prosta	simply, just	adverb
как	kak, kaka	how	adverb
меня зовут	menya zavut	my name (is)	phrase
конечно	konechno	of course, certainly	adverb
познакомиться	paznakomitsa	to meet, to get acquainted, to get to know (someone)	verb
с	s	with	preposition
можно	mozhna	it's allowed to, can, may, it's possible to	adverb
извините	izvinite	excuse me, I am sorry, pardon	interjection
тоже	tozhe	too, also	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Здравствуйте, давно не виделись.</b> <i>Zdrastvuyte, davno ne videlis'.</i></p> <p>"Hello, haven't seen you for a while."</p>	<p><b>Здравствуйте, Вы - Марина?</b> <i>Zdrastvuyte, vy Marina?</i></p> <p>"Hello, are you Marina?"</p>
<p><b>Здравствуйте, Марина.</b> <i>Zdrastvuyte, Marina.</i></p> <p>"Hello, Marina."</p>	<p><b>Очень приятно вас снова видеть.</b> <i>Ochen' priyatna vas snova videt'.</i></p> <p>"It's a pleasure to see you again."</p>
<p><b>Так приятно отдыхать в парке!</b> <i>Tak priyatno otdyhat' v parke.</i></p> <p>"It's so nice to rest in the park!"</p>	<p><b>Вы очень хорошо говорите по-русски.</b> <i>Vy ochen' kharasho gavarite pa-russki.</i></p> <p>"You speak Russian very well." (formal)</p>
<p><b>Он очень любит слушать музыку.</b> <i>On ochen' lyubit slushat' muzyku.</i></p> <p>"He really likes listening to music."</p>	<p><b>Она очень красивая.</b> <i>Ana ochen' krasivaya.</i></p> <p>"She's very beautiful."</p>
<p><b>Концерт был просто восхитительным!</b> <i>Kantsert byl prosta vaskhititel'nym!</i></p> <p>"The concert was just delightful!"</p>	<p><b>Я не заболел, я просто устал.</b> <i>Ya ne zabalel, ya prosta ustal.</i></p> <p>"I'm not sick, I'm just tired."</p>
<p><b>Как вы себя чувствуете?</b> <i>Kak vy sebya chustvuyete?</i></p> <p>"How do you feel?" (asking condition)</p>	<p><b>Как у тебя дела?</b> <i>Kak u tebya dela?</i></p> <p>"How are you?"</p>
<p><b>Его зовут Эрик.</b> <i>Evo zavut Erik.</i></p> <p>"His name is Erik."</p>	<p><b>Вас зовут Эрик?</b> <i>Vas zavut Erik?</i></p> <p>"Is your name Erik?"</p>
<p><b>Как Вас зовут?</b> <i>Kak vas zavut?</i></p> <p>"What is your name?"</p>	<p><b>Вы пойдете на дискотеку? - Конечно.</b> <i>Vy poydyote na disckoteku? -Konechno.</i></p> <p>"Are you going to the disco? -Of course."</p>

<p><b>Конечно, приходи!</b> <i>Kaneshna, prikhadi!</i></p> <p>"Of course you should come!"</p>	<p><b>Они, конечно, правы.</b> <i>Ani, kaneshna, pravu.</i></p> <p>"They are certainly right."</p>
<p><b>Вы пойдете на дискотеку? - Конечно.</b> <i>Vy paydyote na diskateku? - Kaneshna.</i></p> <p>"Are you going to the disco? - Sure."</p>	<p><b>Приятно познакомиться.</b> <i>Priyatna paznakomitsa.</i></p> <p>"Nice to meet you."</p>
<p><b>Рад с Вами познакомиться, наконец!</b> <i>Rat s Vami paznakomitsa, nakanets!</i></p> <p>"I'm glad to finally meet you!"</p>	<p><b>Познакомься, это моя сестра, Катя.</b> <i>Paznakom'sya, eta maya sestra, Katya.</i></p> <p>"Meet my sister, Katya."</p>
<p><b>Я с ним не знаком.</b> <i>Ya s nim ne znakom.</i></p> <p>"I'm not acquainted with him."</p>	<p><b>Встреча с директором назначена на 8 утра.</b> <i>Fstrecha s direktoram naznachena na 8 utra.</i></p> <p>"The meeting with the director is scheduled for eight A.M."</p>
<p><b>Я приехал с подругой.</b> <i>Ya priyekhal s padrugay.</i></p> <p>"I came with my (female) friend."</p>	<p><b>Здесь можно курить?</b> <i>Zdes' mozhna kurit'?</i></p> <p>"Is it okay (allowed) to smoke here?"</p>
<p><b>Извините, который час?</b> <i>Izvinite, kotoriy chas?</i></p> <p>"Excuse me, what time is it?"</p>	<p><b>Ой, извините!</b> <i>Oy, izvinite!</i></p> <p>"Oh, I'm sorry!"</p>
<p><b>Извините, я опоздал.</b> <i>Izvinite, ya apazdal.</i></p> <p>"I'm sorry, I'm late."</p>	<p><b>Я тоже устал.</b> <i>Ya tozhye ustal.</i></p> <p>"I'm tired, too."</p>
<p><b>Мы тоже там работаем.</b> <i>My tozhye tam rabotayem.</i></p> <p>"We also work there."</p>	<p><b>Вам тоже нравится музыка?</b> <i>Vam tozhe nravitsa muzyka?</i></p> <p>"Do you like music, too?"</p>

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Asking Permission and Self-Introductions

Меня зовут Вероника. А как Вас зовут?

"My name is Veronika. What's your name?"

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### Можно(*mozhna*) - "Can I"

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**Можно** (*mozhna*) is a universal word for asking or giving permission. The best thing about this word is that you can use it without any pronouns. For example, the phrases "Can I..." and "Is it okay to..." both need the pronouns "I" or "it" to go with them. Moreover, in English, you also need the auxiliary verb "is" to form a question like "is it okay to...." In Russian, we don't need either. We form all questions like "Can I...?" / "May I...?" / "Is it okay to...?" / "Is it allowed to...?" and "Is it possible to...?" with only one word in the beginning of a sentence: **МОЖНО**.

#### For Example:

1. Можно войти?  
*Mozhna vayti?*  
"Can I come in?"
2. Можно курить?  
*Mozhna kurit'*  
"Is it okay to smoke?"

### Познакомиться (*paznakomitsa*) - "to get acquainted"

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We can translate **Познакомиться** (*paznakomitsa*) as "to get acquainted" or "to get to know each other"; therefore, we can use it with or without the preposition "with" (*s*). In our case, it's "to get acquainted with you" (**познакомиться с Вами**, *paznakomitsa s Vami*). The word order is very flexible in Russian; you can put **с Вами** (*s Vami* - "with you") before or after **познакомиться**.

### Меня зовут (*menya zavut*) - "I am called"

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**Меня зовут** (*menya zavut*) literally means "I am called" but we translate it into English as

"my name is". The simpler and more informal way to introduce yourself would be Я (ya) + name.

### For Example:

1. Меня зовут Вероника.  
*Menya zavut Veranika.*  
"My name is Veronika."

We translate "Как Вас зовут?" (*kak Vas zavut*), literally, "How are you called?" as "What's your name?" The more informal way to ask a name would be using a different word for "you", the informal "you," which is тебя (*tebya*).

### For Example:

1. Как тебя зовут?  
*Kak tebya zavut?*  
"What's your name?"

## Можно просто (*mozhna prosta*) - "It's okay simply"

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**Можно просто (*mozhna prosta*)** literally means "it's okay simply", and we use it in the context of the English "you can call me". Almost all Russian names have short forms, for example, a guy named Alexander is usually called Sasha by his parents and friends. A girl named Elena is usually called Lena.

## Очень приятно (*ochen' priyatna*) - "Very nice"

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**Очень приятно (*ochen' priyatna*)** literally means "very nice", and we can translate it as "nice to meet you". There are several versions of answers to this phrase. The most informal one is мне тоже (*mne tozhe* - "me too").

One that is also informal but sounds more enthusiastic and intimate is мне тоже очень приятно (*mne tozhe ochen' priyatna* - "it's nice to meet you, too").

Basically, the more words you say at your first meeting, the more enthusiastic about it you sound. So if you want your acquaintance to feel your enthusiasm and disposition, you can put all the words you learned in today's dialogue together and get the following phrase:

1. Мне тоже очень приятно познакомиться, Ника!  
*Mne tozhe ochen' priyatna paznakomitsa, Nika!*  
"It was very nice meeting you too, Nika!"

And lastly, if you want to sound formal, polite, and well-mannered in your answer to "nice to meet you", you can say just one word.

### **For Example:**

1. Взаимно.  
*Vzaimna.*  
"Likewise."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **Meeting People in Russia**

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Getting to know people in random places like public transportation or parks used to be very popular in Russia before, as there were very few opportunities to meet people outside of work places or universities. There were no nightclubs and very few coffee shops or restaurants in the country, most of which were quite unaffordable for common people. Nowadays, people are much more skeptical about making "street friends," although if you approach a person you liked in a gallant and intelligent way (i.e., don't scare him/her away or freak him/her out), then chances for success are still high. Asking for permission to get to know a person, just like in our dialogue, is the most common conversation starter in Russia.