

Some Simple Russian Words

Knowing even a handful of Russian words can transform your experience in Russia, and allow you to make a much more positive impression on people you meet. Here is a list of (in our opinion) the most essential words for simple social interactions, and then some more helpful words that you might also like to learn.

Every Russian word has one syllable that is strongly stressed. All the other syllables are not so strongly spoken. We show in capital letters which is the stressed syllable. Note that we are trying to convert the Russian letters and sounds into familiar English letters and sounds, so these are approximations of the actual Russian words, but if you speak them slowly and clearly, you'll be understood, and as you hear Russian people use the same common words, you can adjust and correct your own pronunciation as needs be.

The Six Most Important Words to Know

Здравствуйте	Hello	ZDRASTvuytye
До свидания	Goodbye	da sviDANIya
Пожалуйста	Please	paZHALusta
Спасибо	Thankyou	spaSIba
Да	Yes	Da
Нет	No	Nyet

Ten More Useful Words

Я хочу	I want	ya haCHOO
Это	This/that	eta
Сколько	How much?	SKOLka
Один	One	aDIN (you'll also hear "adna" used sometimes)
Два	Two	dva (you'll also hear "dve" used sometimes)
Три	Three	tri
Извините	Excuse Me	izviNItye
Хорошо	Fine/Good	haraSHO
Где	Where is	gdye
Где Туалет	(the toilet)	gdye tuaLYET

Words to Fill the Page With (not essential but maybe useful) ☺

Я (не) Понимаю	I do (not) understand	ya (nye) paniMAyu
Вода	Water	vaDA
Пиво	Beer	PIva
Сок	Fruit juice	sok
Счёт	Bill or total	schyot
Ничего	It doesn't matter	nichiVO
Больше	More	BOLshe
Помогите	Help	pamaGItye
Очень Приятно	Pleased to meet you	Ochin priYATna
Гостиница	Hotel	gaSTInitsa