

Unit 13. Riding In A Taxi

Riding in a taxi can be very romantic. You have certainly seen it in movies many times, when a man and a woman are having the most romantic dialogs on the back seat of a taxi. The only difficult moment in doing this is to be able to communicate with your lady and with the driver at the same time... in Russian!

The first thing you'll need to do is to find the taxi and talk with the driver. The probability is big that your lady will assist you in this, as she represents this culture, so catching a taxi will be an ordinary, almost habitual thing to her. But anyway, if you want to be able to do this by yourself, here are some phrases that can help-

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Добрый день. Нам на улицу ... пожалуйста. Возьмёте? | Hello. We are going to ... street, please. | Dobryi den' . Nam na ulitsu ... pzhalsta . Vaz'myoti ? |
| Площадь ... пожалуйста. | To Square of, please. Will | Ploschad' ... pzhalsta . |
| Поедете? | you take us (there)? | Payediti ? |
| К оперному театру, пожалуйста. | To Opera House, please. | K Opirnamu tiatru , pzhalusta . |
| Сколько (это) будет стоить? | How much will it be? | Skol'ka (eta) budit stoit' ? |
| Это дорого. Поехали за ... (гривен / рублей). | This is too expensive. Let's go for (ghryvnas/ roubles). | Eta doraga . Payehali za... (grivin / rublei) |
| Поехали! | Off we go! | Payehali . |
| Можно открыть окно? | May I open the window? | Mozhna atkryt' akno ? |
| Можно – кондиционер? | May we have the air- conditioning on? | Mozhna kanditsianer ? |
| Пожалуйста, не курите. | Please, do not smoke. | Pazhalsta ni kuriti . |
| Нам далеко ехать? | Is it far to go? | Nam daliko yehat' ? |
| Ты знаешь, куда ехать? | Do you know where to go? | Ty znaish kuda yehat' ? |
| Как долго нам ехать? | How long is the ride. | Kak dolga nam yehat' ? |
| Попроси такси подождать. | Ask the taxi to wait. | Papراسi taksi padazhdat' . |
| Вы можете нас ждать? | Can you wait for us? | Vy mozhiti nas zhdat' ? |
| Сколько? | How much is it? | Skolka ? |
| Спасибо. Сдачи не надо. | Thank you. Keep the change, please. | Spasiba . Zdachi ni nada . |
| Удачи. | Good luck. | Udachi . |

Here are some words to say during a back-seat ride with her-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Тебе хорошо? | Do you feel good? | Tibe harasho ? |
| Дай мне руку. | Give me your hand. | Dai mne ruku . |
| Нежная. | You're tender. | Nezhnaya . |
| Мне хорошо с тобой. | I feel so good by your side. | Mne harasho s taboi . |
| Тебе удобно? | Are you comfortable? | Tibe udobna ? |
| Я так рад быть с тобой рядом. | I'm so glad to have you by my side. | Ya tak rat byt' s taboi ryadam . |
| Садись удобнее. | Make yourself comfortable. | Sadis' udobniye . |
| Клади голову мне на плечо. | Put your head on my shoulder. | Kladi golavu mne na plichu |
| Ты устала? | Are you tired? | Ty ustala ? |
| Мы скоро приедем. | We'll be there soon. | My skora priyedim . |

Do you want to make her a surprise and turn a simple ride in a taxi into a really unforgettable moment? Well, this is possible! Here is some idea for you: drill the phrases below, and try doing this when you are in Russia. You can ask the driver to stop at a flower store (market) and go out to buy her flowers – all of a sudden, when she is not expecting it.

In a more practical situation, you may want to make arrangements with the taxi driver to pick you up on your way back. Then you will need to ask the driver to leave you his cell phone number, so you can call him later. Here are some words to help you in such situations.

Мы можем остановиться?
Мне надо купить цветы.
Остановите здесь. Спасибо.
Одну минуту. Я быстро.

Can we stop here?
I need to buy flowers. Stop
here, please. Thank you.
One moment. I'll (do it)
quickly.

My mozhim astanavitsa?
Mne nada kupit' tsvity.
Astanaviti zdes'. Spasiba.
Adnu minutu. Ya bystra.

Остановите у светофора.
Я выйду на остановке.
Я выйду там, на углу.
Скажи, чтобы такси было
здесь в десять часов.
Мы поедem в (боулинг клуб).
Вы можете дать нам свой
мобильный номер?
Мы позвоним Вам после
обеда, и Вы приедете.

Stop at this traffic light.
I'll get out at this (bus) stop.
I'll get out there, on the corner.
Tell the taxi (driver) to be here
at ten.
We'll go to (bowling club).
Can you give us your mobile
phone number?
We'll call you after dinner and
you will come (to pick us up).

Astanaviti u svitafora.
Ya vyidu na astanofki.
Ya vyidu tam, na uglu.
Skazhi shtoby taksi byla zdes'
v desyat' chasof.
My payedim v (bouling klub).
Vy mozhiti dat' nam svoi
mabil'nyi nomir?
My pazvanim vam posli abeda
i vy priyediti.

Sample Dialogs:

A: Добрый день. Нам на
улицу Гоголя, пожалуйста.
Возьмёте?

Hello. We are going to Gogolya
street, please.

Dobryi den'. Nam na ulitsu
Gogalya, pzhalista. Vaz'myoti?

B: Сколько платить?

How much will it be?

Skol'ka platit'?

A: Двадцать.

Twenty.

Dvatsat'.

B: Это дорого. Поехали за
десять.

This is too expensive. Let's go
for 10.

Eta doraga. Payehali za
desyat'.

A: Пятнадцать. В центре -
пробки.

Fifteen. (There are) jams in
central city.

Pyatnatsat'. F tsentri propki.

B: Окей. Поехали.

OK. Let's go.

Okei. Payehali.

A: Садитесь.

Welcome in.

Saditis'.

A: Можно – кондиционер? И,
пожалуйста, не курите.

May we have the conditioner
on? And, please, do not smoke.

Mozhna kanditsianer? I
pazhalsta, ni kuriti.

B: Нет проблем. Сделаем.

No problem. One moment.

Net prablem. Sdelaim.

A: Нам далеко ехать?

Is it far to go?

Nam daliko yehat'?

B: Нет, это за мостом. На
углу.

No. This is right after the
bridge. On the corner.

Net. Eta za mastom. Na uglu.

A: Как долго нам ехать?

How long is the ride.

Kak dolga nam yehat'?

B: Минут пять-семь.

5-7 minutes.

Papراسi taksi padazhdat'.

A: Мне нужно выйти у того
светофора. Вы можете нас
подождать?

I need to get out at that traffic
light, please. Can you wait?

Vy mozhiti nas zhdat'?

B: Любой каприз за Ваши
деньги.

Any wish for client's money!

Lyuboi kapriz za vashi den'gi.

A: Мне надо купить цветы. Я
быстро.

I need to buy flowers. I'll (be
back) quickly.

Mne nada kupit' tsvity. Ya
bystra.

B: Да. Конечно. Вам помочь?
Нет, я сам. Спасибо.

Certainly. Shall I help you?
No, I'll do it. Thank you.

Da. Kaneshna. Vam pamoch'?
Net, ya sam. Spasiba.

A: Приехали. Вам сюда.

Here we are. Your address
here.

Priyehali. Vam suda.

B: Это улица Пушкина?

Is this Pushkin's street?

Eta ulitsa Pushkina?

A: Да, вот дом десять.

Yes. Number ten.

Da, vot dom desyat'.

B: Отлично. Спасибо. Сколько
я должен?

Great. Thank you. How much is
it?

Atlichna. Spasiba. Skolka ya
dolzhin?

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| A: Двадцать. B: Вот. Спасибо. Сдачи не надо. | Twenty. Here you are. Thank you. Keep the change, please. | Dvatsat'. Vot. Spasiba. Zdachi ni nada. |
| A: Тебе хорошо? Дай мне руку. B: Да. В машине хорошо. Очень тепло. A: Нежная. Я так рад быть с тобой рядом. B: Мне тоже хорошо с тобой. | Do you feel good? Give me your hand. Yes. It feels nice in the car. Very warm. You're tender. I'm so glad to have you by my side. I feel so good by your side, too. | Tibe harasho? Dai mne ruku. Da. V mashini harasho. Ochin' tiplo. Nezhnaya. Ya tak rat byt' s taboi ryadam. Mne tozhi harasho s taboi. |
| A: Тебе удобно? B: Да. Хорошо. A: Садись удобнее. Клади голову мне на плечо. B: Спасибо. Теперь очень хорошо. | Are you comfortable? Yes. I'm OK Make yourself comfortable. Put your head on my shoulder. Thank you. Now, It's perfect. | Tibe udobna? Da. Harasho. Sadis' udobniye. Kladi golavu mne na plicho. Spasiba. Tiper' ochin' harasho. |

Language notes

The Adjective Declensions (Hard Stem)

Russian adjective declensions are based on the same set of cases but the endings are different and, rather than corresponding to declension classes as do the nouns, the adjective declensions vary according to agreement. That is, there is a masculine-neuter, a feminine, and a plural adjective declension, which identify with noun gender and declension categories according to an **agreement algorithm**.

| Masculine-Neuter Adjective Agreement | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| Case | Masculine | | Neuter | |
| Nominative | нов-ый | [дом] | нов-ое | [дерево] |
| Accusative | Nom or Gen | | Nom or Gen | |
| Genitive | нов-ого | [дома] | нов-ого | [дерева] |
| Dative | нов-ому | [дому] | нов-ому | [дереву] |
| Prepositional | нов-ом | [доме] | нов-ом | [дереве] |
| Instrumental | нов-ым | [домом] | нов-ым | [деревом] |

Notice that the masculine and neuter agreement patterns are identical except for the nominative and accusative cases. Even here, however, the neuter nominative and accusative endings are identical, as are the masculine ones, if the noun they modify is inanimate. Next, let's look at the feminine agreement endings.

| Feminine Adjective Agreement | | |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Case | Endings | |
| Nominative | нов-ая | [книга] |
| Accusative | нов-ую | [книгу] |
| Genitive | нов-ой | [книги] |
| Dative | нов-ой | [книге] |
| Prepositional | нов-ой | [книге] |
| Instrumental | нов-ой | [книгой] |

With the exception of the nominative and accusative cases, all the feminine adjective agreement endings are the same!

The plural paradigm looks very much like the plural noun declension in the oblique cases (all except nominative and accusative). In fact, the endings of the plural adjective and noun declensions are identical except that the vowel in the noun endings is **a** and the vowel in the adjective endings is **ы**.

| Plural Adjective Agreement | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Case | Endings | |
| Nominative | нов-ые | [книги] |
| Accusative | Nom or Gen | |
| Genitive | нов-ых | [книг] |
| Dative | нов-ым | [книгам] |
| Prepositional | нов-ых | [книгах] |
| Instrumental | нов-ыми | [книгами] |