

Unit 16. Some Conversation Starters

We studied a few forms of greetings and how to attract attention to yourself in the Unit 1. Now, we are going to learn how to attract attention to your words in the middle of conversation. You need to do this politely, but with some degree of decisiveness. In many cultures, you need to wait till two people stop talking and look into your eyes, to be able to break into their talk. In Russian (Ukrainian) culture it may be necessary to break into their talk with a general phrase, simply to attract attention to yourself. Then, when they pause their talk, start talking right away.

Breaking Into a Dialog

Кстати, я хотел спросить вас... ?	By the way, I wanted to ask you...	Kstati, ya hatel sprasit' vas...
Простите что помешал...	Sorry for breaking in...	Prastiti shto pamishal...
Простите, я хочу сказать, что...	Sorry, I'd like to say that...	Prastiti, ya hachu skazat' shto...
Скажите пожалуйста, ... ?	Tell me please...	Skazhiti pazhalusta...
Расскажите мне о ...	Tell me about...	Rasskazhiti mne a...
Что вы можете мне посоветовать... ?	What can you advise me..	Shto vy mozhiti pasavetavat'..
Видите ли, мне кажется, что...	You see, it seems to me...	Viditi li, mne kazhitsa shto...
По-моему	In my mind...	Pa moimu...
Я бы сделал это не так. Я думаю ...	I'd so this in a different way. I think...	Ya by zdelal eta ni tak. Ya dumayu.
Подскажите мне, пожалуйста, ... ?	Tell me please,	Patskazhiti mne pazhalusta,...

When Leaving People:

Уже поздно. Я должен идти.	It's late. I have to go.	Uzhe pozna. Ya dolzhin itti.
Ну что ж. Нам пора.	Well, It's time...	Nu shtozh. Nam para.
Пора идти.	Time to go.	Para itti.
Останьтесь ещё немного.	Please, stay a bit more.	Astan'tis' ischo nimnoga.
Я должен проститься и идти.	I must say goodbye and go.	Ya dolzhin prastit'sa i itti.
Извините, мне надо идти.	Excuse me, but I need to go.	Izviniti, mne nada itti.
Мне пора.	It's time for me (to leave).	Mne para.
Я пойду. Пора.	I'll go. It's time.	Ya paidu.
У вас хорошо, но я спешу.	It's great here, but I'm in a hurry.	U vas harasho, no ya spishu.

Sample Dialogs:

A: Простите что помешал. Можно мне сказать?	Sorry for breaking in... May I say something?	Prastiti shto pamishal. Mozhna mne skazat'?
B: Да, конечно.	Yes, certainly.	Da. Kaneshna.
A: Я хочу сказать, что Вам надо сначала принять решение.	I'd like to say that you need to take a decision first.	Ya hachu skazat' shto vam nada snachala prinyat' risheniye.
B: Какое? Что вы можете мне посоветовать?	Which one? What can you advise me (to do)?	Kakoye? Shto vy mozhiti pasavetavat'..
A: Мне кажется, что нужно получить всю информацию в фирме.	It seems to me that you need to obtain all information (you need) in the company.	Mne kazhitsa shto nuzhna paluchit' fsyu infarmatsiyu v firmi.
B: Видите ли, я уже это сделал(а). И получил(а)	You see, I have done this. (But) I got very little (result).	Viditi li, ya uzhe eta zdelal(a). I paluchil(a) ochin' mala.

очень мало.

А: Понятно. Я бы сделал это не так. Я думаю, надо купить их продукцию.	I see. I'd do this in a different way. I think we need to buy their products.	Panyatna. Ya by sdelal eta ni tak. Ya dumayu nada kupit' ih praduksyyu.
В: Интересно. А дальше? ...	Sounds interesting. And what's next? ...	Intiresna. A dal'shi?

А: Ещё чаю?	More tea..?	Ischo chayu?
В: Нет, сасибо. У вас хорошо, но я спешу.	No, thanks. It's great here, but I'm in a hurry.	Net, spasiba. U vas harasho, no ya spishu.
А: Оставайтесь ещё немного.	Please, stay a bit more.	Astan'tis' ischo nimnoga.
В: Нет. Я пойду. Пора.	I'll go. It's time.	Net. Ya paidu. Para.
А: Я вызову такси.	I'll call for a taxi.	Ya vyzavu taksi.
В: О, нет. Спасибо. Здесь рядом.	Oh, no, Thank you. It's not far from here.	O, net. Spasiba. Zdes' ryadam.

Language notes:

Measurements and Abbreviations

Measurements: Metric only.

A space is usually left between numbers and their measurement abbreviations:

e.g. 25 см (25 cm)

26 мм (26 mm)

76 кг (76 kg)

45 т (45 t)

Tonnes: the Russian abbreviation for 'tonnes' is 'т'. In some Cyrillic fonts (particularly italics), this 'т' may look like an English 'm', e.g., 12 т (12 tonnes).

kWh or (kilowatt/hour) looks like : кВт.ч (киловатт-час) in Russian.

% and °C usually follow immediately after a number - there is no space between them, e.g., 14,6%; 22°C.

Time:

8 am = 8 часов утра / 08.00

8 pm = 8 часов вечера / 20.00

2 am = 2 часа ночи / 02.00

12.00 = 12 часов дня / 12.00 / полдень (midday)

0.0 = 12 часов ночи / 24.00 / полночь (midnight)

Dates:

English - Russian

25/8/99 - 25/8/99

25.8.99 - 25.8.99 / 25/VIII 1999 (Roman for month only)

25.08.99 - 25.08.99

25 August 1999 - 25 августа 1999 года / 25 августа 1999 г.

25 August '99 - 25 августа '99

25 Aug. '99 - 25 авг. 1999 г.

Numerals:

Cardinal numerals from one to nine are usually spelt as words with the exception of their use with physical measurements. When used with physical measurements, words are used when the measurement unit is also represented by a word. Please note that use of Roman figures for representing ordinal numbers in Russian is limited to such nouns as 'century', 'Congress', 'Conference', etc.

Ordinal numbers, represented by non-Roman figures may have a gender/case/number

attachment: e.g. 2-е издание (2nd edition). If these numerals follow in a group, then the attachment is added to the last figure:

e.g. в 1, 2, 3-м параграфах (in 1st, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs).

Note that attachments are NEVER used with cardinal numbers, dates and roman figures:

e.g. из 25 участников (out of 25 participants)

24 мая (24th May)

VII съезд (VII Congress)

Russians use a decimal comma.

Large numbers: traditionally, large numbers have always been written as a whole: e.g. 1014; 1836603846. However, the current trend is to break them up using a space (especially in tables), e.g. 1 014; 1 836 603 846. Separation by a dot is also quite common these days, e.g. 1.014; 1.836.603.846. All of the described methods should be deemed acceptable.

Currency: if abbreviated, the currency unit generally precedes the figure, e.g. £23.50; GBP 3.50; £250 млн. (£250 million); \$65.80; USD 65.80, although it can also follow it e.g. 11 500\$.

These amounts can, however, also be deciphered in words:

23.50 английских фунтов стерлингов (£23.50); 23.50 фунтов стерлингов

23 фунта 50 пенсов, 65.80 долларов США (\$65.80); 65.80 долл. США; 65,8

тысяч долларов США (\$65,800)

Abbreviations

Equivalent abbreviations:

N/a = не применим (gender and number variations will affect ending)

No. = № [Alt key+185]

e.g. = напр. or Напр.

Q&A = Вопросы и ответы

W x L x H x D = Ш x Д x В x Г

etc. = и т.д. / и др.

Other abbreviations:

См. Рис. 6 = See Fig. 6

т.к. = Because

стр. 35 = p. 35

а/я 231 = P.O. Box 231

ВКЛ./ВЫКЛ. = ON/OFF

РФ = Russian Federation

С-Пб. = Saint Petersburg

т.е. = i.e.