

## Unit 2. Greetings

When meeting each other, Russian men always shake hands. When women meet, they never shake hands, but giving each other a hug or a symbolic kiss is not unusual among them. When men meet women, they behave in different ways, depending on the situation and on how well they know the woman.

If a man meets a lady for the first time, or if they are acquainted in connection with work, he simply nods his head a little, and says standard words of greetings.

### Standard words of greetings

Добрый день. Доброе утро. Добрый вечер. Здравствуйте.	Hello. (or Good Afternoon). Good morning. Good evening. Hello.	<b>Dobry den'</b> . <b>Dobrae utro.</b> <b>Dobry vecher.</b> <b>Zdrastvu(i)ti.</b>
Очень приятно. Рад познакомиться. Будем знакомы.	Very nice to meet you. I am glad to meet you. Glad to meet you (Literally: Let's be acquainted)	<b>Ochen' priyatna.</b> <b>Rad paznakomitsa.</b> <b>Budim znakomy.</b>

If a man knows a lady well enough, but they are only friends, he says-

Привет. Рад тебя видеть. Как дела? Как жизнь? Давно не виделись. Куда ты пропала? Я звонил. Ты, как всегда, вся в работе.	Hello. Nice to meet you. How are you doing? How's life? Haven't seen you for a while. Where were you? I called. You, as usually, are all in work.	<b>Privet.</b> <b>Rad tibya vidit'.</b> <b>Kak dila?</b> <b>Kak zhyzn'?</b> <b>Davno ni vidilis'</b> <b>Kuda ty prapala? Ya zvanil.</b> <b>Ty, kak vsigda, vsya v raboti.</b>
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If a man knows the woman and would like to have a chance to know her closer, he says-

Здравствуй. Привет, дорогая. Прекрасно выглядишь. Ты хорошо выглядишь. Ты, как всегда, прекрасна. У тебя есть время? Можно тебя проводить?	Hello. Hello, dear. You look great. You look so good. You are beautiful, as always. Do you have time? May I walk with you a little?	<b>Zdrastvuy.</b> <b>Privet, daragaya.</b> <b>Prikrasna vyglyadish.</b> <b>Ty harasho vyglyadish.</b> <b>Ty, kak vsigda, prikrasna.</b> <b>U tibya yest vremya?</b> <b>Mozhna tibya pravadit'?</b>
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If a man meets a woman he loves, he behaves differently. He looks directly into her eyes, he tries to keep longer looks on her face. He speaks in a calm, quiet manner. His phrases are short and he makes longer pauses between phrases.

Здравствуй. Я так рад тебя видеть. Я о тебе думал.	Hello. I am so glad to see you. I have been thinking about you.	<b>Zdrastvuy.</b> <b>Ya tak rad tibya vidit'.</b> <b>Ya a tibe dumal.</b>
Ты сегодня очень красивая. Я ждал этой встречи.	You are very beautiful today. I've been waiting for this meeting.	<b>Ty sivodnya ochin krasivaya.</b> <b>Ya zhdal etoi vstrechi.</b>
Я тебя не отпущу. Давай будем вместе весь день Ты сегодня – моя.	I won't let you go. Let's spend all day together. You are all mine today.	<b>Ya tibya ni atpuschu.</b> <b>Davai budim vmesti ves den'.</b> <b>Ty sivodnya – maya.</b>

The moment of greetings often takes place in disturbing environment of a terminal, or at a station, or being surrounded with numerous people or noises. Make sure that you pronounce

your words of greetings loudly and clearly, so your lady does not have to ask you to repeat them again and again.

## Sample Dialogs

A:Привет, дорогая. Прекрасно выглядишь.	Hello, dear. You look great.	Privet, daragaya. Prikrasna vyglyadish.
B:Привет. Давно не виделись.	Hello. Haven't seen you for a while.	Privet. Davno ni vidilis'.
A:Куда ты пропала? Я звонил.	Where were you? I called.	Kuda ty prapala? Ya zvanil.
B: Работа, дела...	Work, business, you know...	Rabota, dila...
A: Ты, как всегда, вся в работе.	You are beautiful, as always.	Ty, kak vsigda, prikrasna.
B: Да...	Right...	Da..
A: Можно тебя проводить?	May I walk with you a little?	Mozhna tibya pravadit?
B: Можно...	Yes, certainly, ...	Mozhna...
A: Здравствуй.	Hello.	Zdrastvuy.
B: Привет.	Hello.	Privet.
A: Прекрасно выглядишь.	You look great.	Prikrasna vyglyadish.
B: Спасибо.	Thank you.	Spasiba
A: У тебя есть время? Можно тебя проводить?	Do you have time? May I walk with you a little?	U tibya yest vremya? Mozhna tibya pravadit?
B: ОК.	OK.	O-kei.
A: Я ждал этой встречи.	I've been waiting for this meeting.	Ya zhdal etoi vstrechi.
B: Это - приятно.	Very nice to hear this.	Eta priyatna.
A: Привет, дорогая. Я так рад тебя видеть.	Hello, dear. I am so glad to see you.	Privet, daragaya. Ya tak rad tibya vidit'.
B: Здравствуй.	Hello.	Zdrastvuy.
A:Ты сегодня очень красивая.	You are very beautiful today.	Ty sivodnya ochin krasivaya.
B: Спасибо.	Thank you.	Spasiba
A: Сегодня я тебя не отпущу.	Today, I won't let you go.	Sivodnya ya tibya ni atpuschu.
B: О-оо!	Oh!	Ou-oo!
A: Ты сегодня – моя. Давай будем вместе весь день.	You are all mine today. Let's spend all day together.	Ty sivodnya – maya. Davai budim vmesti ves' den'.

## Language Notes

### Intonation

Intonation plays a very important role in Russian sentences – a slight change of your voice may lead to changing the meaning of the whole statement. The very general rule is simple – raise your voice in the end of the phrase when you are asking or requesting for something; and drop your voice down when you are making an affirmative statement.

When greeting people, you may raise your voice a little in the end of the greeting phrase, as if to let the people know that this is the beginning of a dialog, and you are expecting to hear their response greetings.

**Stress.** In Russian, every word has a stress. The more meaningful words – mainly nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, can be stressed a bit stronger than the others in a conversation. The number of syllables in a word corresponds to the number of vowels (these are the sounds identified by letters- а, о, э, у, ы, е, ё, и, ю, я).

If a word has only one syllable (eg.: *Ty*, or *den'*), it's only vowel is stressed. If a word is longer, one needs to remember which of the vowels is always stressed (eg: *sivodnya*).

In speech, the more meaningful elements are differentiated from the others by a stronger intonation and stress; unimportant are pronounced quieter, but cannot be omitted at all (eg.: **Ya tibya ni atpuschu.**)