

## Unit 4. How To Say A Compliment To Her In Russian

Russian women like to receive compliments from men. They are always ready to receive them. Local men often say nice things to ladies everywhere – at home and in the street, in city transport and at work. It is not unusual to hear a boss say to his secretary *Oh, you look so nice in this new red skirt today!* The woman will never regard this as an offence – this will only be a confirmation that she did a good work of dressing up this morning.

It is not the words that you say, but rather the way *how* you say them that can help your lady recognize the hidden meaning of your compliment. Her boss may be saying the same things to her every morning, and she will only take it as a sign of politeness. But if you want her to pay attention to your words, be ready to use some extralinguistic means of communication, which are universal.

- Your look at her must be longer than a usual look.
- You should look directly into her eyes and keep your eyes on her for a while after you have said your compliment.
- Try to approach her an inch closer than you would if you were just talking to a woman-stranger.
- If you want her to note that you are interested in developing of your relationship into something deeper and stronger, do not step back after you made the compliment. Move a little closer. And - depending on the situation – either say another compliment, or kiss her hand, or just move your lips as if sending her a little kiss.

As Russians socialize very much, one can see a scene when a complete stranger comes up to a young woman in the street (in a store, in a bus, etc.) and asks her something like *Hello, Miss Beautiful-Long-Legs, may I treat you with a cup of coffee?* Though many women will say that they prefer not to make acquaintances in the street, most of them know their powers, and would be pleased to hear these words, anyway. This will not be regarded as a sexual harrassment – she will only smile to herself praising her femininity.

Every Russian woman anticipates to hear nice words all the time. So, there can't be too many compliments. Do not forget this!

In a long-term relationship, little compliments lose their importance, and the man should become more careful about saying pleasing things to his lady; for it is easy to sound plain or indifferent. To avoid this, you need to learn *how* to pronounce the words of compliments. Depending on the intonation (and the choice of words, of course), you may either sound boring or make your lady flush in excitement, pleasure and appreciation.

These following phrases are easy to pronounce and can be drilled quite quickly. They are very powerful, when used appropriately!

Ты – прекрасная!	You are wonderful!	<b>Ты</b> prikrasnaya.
Ты – красивая.	You are beautiful.	<b>Ты</b> krasivaya.
Ты (сегодня) очень красивая.	You are (today) very beautiful.	<b>Ты</b> (sivodnya) ochin krasivaya.
Ты – самая добрая.	You are the kindest.	<b>Ты</b> samaya dobraya.
Ты - самая умная.	You are the most clever.	<b>Ты</b> samaya umnaya.
Ты – самая хорошая.	You are the best.	<b>Ты</b> samaya haroshaya.
Ты – самая нежная.	You are the most tender.	<b>Ты</b> samaya nezhnaya.
Ты – самая сладкая.	You are the sweetest.	<b>Ты</b> samaya sladkaya.
Ты такая добрая (умная, хорошая, нежная, сладкая) .	You are so kind (clever, good, tender, sweet)!	<b>Ты</b> takaya dobraya (umnaya, haroshaya, nezhnaya, sladkaya).

Russians make many comparisons in their speech. They would compare their dearest women with the most beautiful flowers, or the sun, or with love itself-

Ты – как цветок.	You're like a flower.	<b>Ты</b> kak tsvitok.
Ты – как роза.	You are like a rose.	<b>Ты</b> kak roza.

Ты – моё солнце.	You are my sun.	<b>Ty mayo sontse.</b>
Ты – мой ангел.	You are my angel.	<b>Ty moi angel.</b>
Ты – моя любовь.	You are my love.	<b>Ty maya lubov'.</b>

Some encouraging words to praise a person, which are good for both sexes, but more often are used by men as a sign of support to his woman, when she succeeds in doing things.

Ты – умница!	You are wonderful!	<b>Ty umnitsa!</b>
Молодец!	Good girl!	<b>Maladets!</b>
Здорово!	Great!	<b>Zdorava!</b>
Отлично!	Perfect!	<b>Atlichna!</b>

Surprise, appreciation and admiration about something that she can do better than others, is usually expressed by short, emotional exclamations – pronounced clearly, with humor and excitement-

Ух ты!	Wow!	<b>Uh ty!</b>
Ну ты даёшь!	You are great!	<b>Nu ty dayosh!</b>
Вот это да!	This is great!	<b>Vot eta da!</b>

Compliment statements or exclamations may not cause any dialog. You may only receive a smile or a long look in return. But isn't this the response you've been anticipating, eh?...

You can find more ways how to say compliments to Russian ladies in Unit 6.

### Sample Dialogs

A: Ты (сегодня) очень красивая.	You are (today) very beautiful.	<b>Ty (sivodnya) ochin krasivaya.</b>
B: ... !	(She smiles silently)	
A: Ты – моё солнце.	You are my sun.	<b>Ty mayo sontse.</b>
B: Спасибо.	Thank you.	<b>Spasiba</b>

A: Ты очень красивая.	You are very beautiful.	<b>Ty ochin krasivaya.</b>
B: Спасибо.	Thank you.	<b>Spasiba</b>
A: Ты – как цветок.	You're like a flower.	<b>Ty kak tsvitok.</b>
B: ... !	(She smiles silently)	

### Language Notes

#### Exclamations

They are a very powerful tool in romantic communication. Because they bear a strong emotional component. In Russian, they are pronounced with intonation and expressiveness, which is similar to other European languages. Sometimes, it is worth to prolong the last stressed vowel in an exclamation- this will enforce the emotional component even stronger. For example:

Вот это да-а-а!	This is great!	<b>Vot eta da-a-a!</b>
Ну и ну!	Wow! (surprise)	<b>Nu i nu-u!</b>
Здорово!	What a news!	<b>Zdorava!</b>

*Letter ё.* The letter ё sounds as **yo**, and is always stressed. Eg.: ёлка (**yo**lka) fir tree, надёжный (**na**dyozhniy) reliable, бельё (**bi**l'yo) bed linen