

Unit 6. Romantic Dinner For Two

Can you imagine a romantic meeting between two people who love, without a romantic dinner? Of course not! Once you have covered thousands of miles to visit her in her country, you absolutely must do this: find a nice, quiet, romantic restaurant and spend an evening together there. No doubt, you will remember this day again and again afterwards.

This evening can become a marked event for both of you, as you may want to discuss some important things about your relationship, and about your future together. Many men experience discomfort when they have to talk about very important personal plans in presence of a third person (interpreter), or in a disturbing environment. The environment becomes an important component of the whole event. Having the talk during a nice dinner in a quiet restaurant, and then spending the rest of the evening at home sipping wine and relaxing would be a good plan for such event.

Since the old times, most of the restaurants in Russia have been noisy, often overcrowded, and lacking romantic environment. Russians like to celebrate birthdays, weddings or anniversaries in restaurants, where they eat and drink a lot, dance to loud music, laugh, talk and sing very loudly. Recently, some Western-style restaurants started to appear in most of the cities, where business people can come and discuss business. Visiting such place would be a better idea for a romantic couple. Ask local people (hotel administrator or your interpreter) in advance to suggest you where to go in their city, and make sure you've found the right place to take your lady to.

You may call or come to the restaurant beforehand and ask them to reserve a table for two for a certain time. Making advance reservations is becoming a tradition in good restaurants these days.

If you are making an advance reservation, make sure that they put flowers (or a single rose) on your table before you arrive to the restaurant, for your lady. This would be a little, but a very pleasant surprise for her.

Making a Reservation at Restaurant

Я хочу заказать столик на двоих.	I want to reserve a table for two.	Ya hachu zakazat' stolik na dvaih
Нам нужен столик на двоих.	We need a table for two.	Nam nuzhyn stolik na dvaih.
Сегодня (завтра) вечером, в семь часов.	Today (Tomorrow), evening, at 7 o'clock.	Sivodnya (zavtra) vecheram , v sem' chasof .
В тихом месте, пожалуйста.	In a quiet place, please.	F tiham mesti , pazhalsta.
Нам надо поговорить.	We'll need to talk.	Nam nada pagavarit' .
Поставьте на стол цветы (свечи).	Put flowers (candles) on the table.	Pastav'ti na stol tsvity (svechi).
Мы будем пить шампанское.	We will have champagne.	My budim pit' shampanskae .
Приготовьте закуски сразу.	Serve beverages at once.	Prigatov'ti zakuski srazu .
Да, можно там, в углу.	Yes, maybe there, in the corner.	Da, mozhna tam , v uglu .
Хорошо, там, у стены.	OK, there, near the wall.	Harasho, tam , u stiny
Конечно, можно отдельный люкс.	Certainly, it may be a separate lux cabin.	Kaneshna, mozhna atdel'nyi l'uks .

When you are there, you may need to say some of these words to her:

In the Restaurant

Садись сюда, пожалуйста.	Take this chair, please.	Sadis' suda, pazhalsta.
Тебе удобно?	Are you comfortable?	Tibe udobna?
Не холодно (дует, душно, жарко)?	Is it cooling (draughty, stuffy, too warm)?	Ni holadna (duit , dushna , zharka)?

Эти цветы – для тебя. Сейчас мы будем пить шампанское. Давай попросим зажечь свечи. Давай закажем еду сразу. Что ты хочешь заказать? Ты любишь ... ? Я закажу к шампанскому фрукты. У меня есть для тебя сюрприз, но это – на десерт. Я попрошу сделать музыку тише. Где наш официант? Где я могу помыть руки?	These flowers are for you. Now, we will have champagne. Let's ask (them) to lit the candles. Let's order the food at once. What would you like to order? Do you like...? I'll order fruits to champagne. I have a surprise (for you), but this is for dessert. I'll ask (them) to turn the music down. Where is our waiter? Where can I wash my hands?	Eti tsvity dla tibia. Sichas my budim pit' shampanskaye. Davay paprosim zazhech svechi. Davay zakazhem yedu srazu. Shto ty hochish zakazat'? Ty lubish...? Ya zakazhu k shampanskamu frukty. U minya yest' dla tibia surpriz, no eta na disert. Ya paprashu zdelat' muzyku tishe. Gde nash afitsiant? Gde ya magu pamyt' ruki?
--	--	--

Talking to the Waiter

Что вы посоветуете из салатов (рыбы, мяса, птицы)?	What can you suggest for salads (fish, meat, chicken courses)	Shto vy pasavetuiti iz salatav (ryby, myasa, ptitsy)?
Что у вас есть из рыбы (мяса, птицы...)?	What fish (meat, chicken) dishes do you have?	Shto u vas yest' is (ryby, myasa, ptitsy)?
Принесите мне (нам) ...	Bring me (us)... (please)	Prinisi mne (nam)...
Я буду...	I'll have...	Ya budu...
Мы будем	We'll have...	My budim...
Что такое (...)?	What's (name of a dish)?	Shto takoi (...)?
Из чего готовят (...)?	What do you cook (name of a dish) of?	Iz chivo gatovyat (...)?
Это долго готовят?	Does this take long to cook ...?	Eta dolga gatovyat?
Сколько нам ждать?	How long'll we have to wait?	Skolka nam zhdat'?
Я очень хочу есть.	I am very hungry	Ya ochin' hachu yest'
Я тоже голоден.	I am hungry, too.	Ya tozhi goladin.
Что ты будешь кушать?	What will you eat?	Shto ty budish kushat'?
Посоветуйте нам самое вкусное блюдо вашего повара.	Please, advise us of the most delicious kitchen speciality of your chef.	Pasavetuiti nam samaye vkusnaye bluda vashiva povara.
Спасибо. Мы всё заказали.	Thank you. Now, we have ordered everything we wanted.	Spasiba. My vsyo zakazali.

While you are waiting for your food, do not forget to say a few compliments to the way she looks, the way she is dressed, and to her particular qualities which you especially love about her (voice, manner of speaking, eyes expression, etc.) Please refer to Unit 4 and Unit 5 to refresh your knowledge of these phrases.

At the Table

Это очень вкусно. Хороший ресторан.	This is very tasty. Good restaurant.	Eta ochin' vkusna. Haroshiy ristaran.
Хочешь попробовать мой ...?	Would you like to try my ...?	Hochich paprobavat' moi ... ?
Отличное вино. Заказать ещё?	Excellent wine! Shall I order more?	Atlichnae vino. Zakazat' ischo?
Налить тебе вина (сока, воды)?	Shall I pour you some wine (juice, water)?	Nalit' tibe vina (soka, vady)?
Я хочу сказать тост. За нас с тобой. (За нашу любовь)	I want to say a toast. To us (To our love)	Ya hachu skazat' tost. Za nas s taboy. (Za nashu lubov').
Принесите, пожалуйста, соль, (перец, майонез, соус)	Bring us some salt (pepper, mayonaise, sauce) please.	Prinisi pazhalusta sol' (perits, maionez, sous)

In the end of the dinner, you may want to take a few moments to make a nice surprise (gift) to her or simply to talk about something that has been in your mind for a while. Tell her those special words in a relaxing, romantic environment. You may need the words like -

Я хочу сказать тебе важные слова.	I want to tell you some important words.	Ya hachu skazat' tibe vazhnyi slava.
Я должен сказать тебе, как ты мне дорога.	I must tell you how precious you are to me.	Ya dolzhin zakazat' tibe kak ty mne daraga.
Я хочу сделать тебе сюрприз. Вот мой маленький подарок. Запомни этот вечер.	I want to make you a surprise. Here is my little gift. Please, do not forget this evening.	Ya hachu zdelat' tibe surpris. Vot moi malin'kiy padarak. Zapomni etat vechir.
Это – тебе на память.	This is for you, to remember this moment.	Eta tibe na pamyat'.
Я так рад, что мы вместе. Хочу быть с тобой всегда.	I am so glad we are together. I want to be with you forever.	Ya tak rat shto my vmesti. Hachu byt' s taboi fsigda.

After the dinner, it's time to ask for a bill and to call for a taxi which will take you home.

When the Dinner is Over

Я сыт. Очень хороший ужин.	I am full. (it's) a very good dinner.	Ya syt. Ochin' haroshiy uzhin.
Я хочу вызвать такси. Можно позвонить?	I want to call a taxi. May I make a call?	Ya hachu zakazat' taksi. Mozhna pazvanit'?
Принесите счет, пожалуйста. Сдачи не надо.	Bring the bill, please. No change, thank you.	Prinisiti schot, pazhalsta. Zdachi ni nada.
Спасибо за отличный ужин.	Thank you for the excellent dinner.	Spasiba za atlichnyi uzhin.
Всё было очень хорошо.	Everything was great.	Vsyo byla ochin' harasho.

Sample Dialogs

A: Вот наш столик.	This is our table.	A vot nash stolik.
B: Здесь хорошо. Мне нравится.	It's nice here. I like it.	Zdes' harasho. Mne n ravit sa.
A: Садись сюда, пожалуйста. Тебе удобно?	Take your sit. Here, please. Are you comfortable?	Sadis' suda, pazhalsta. Tibe udobna?
B: Спасибо.	Thank you.	Spasiba.
A: Сейчас мы будем пить шампанское.	Now, we'll have some champagne.	Sichas my budim pit' shampanskaye.
B: О-о, я люблю шампанское!	Oh, I love champagne!	Oh, Ya lublu shampanskaye.
A: Я закажу к шампанскому фрукты.	I'll order fruits to champagne.	Ya zakazhu k shampanskamu frukty.
B: Да, пожалуйста.	Yes. Please.	Da, pazhalsta.
A: Что ты хочешь заказать?	What would you like to order?	Shto ty hochish zakazat'?
B: Не знаю. Надо попросить меню.	I don't know. (We) need to ask for the menu.	Ni znayu. Nada paprasit' minyu.
A: Вот оно.	Here it is.	Vot ano.
B: Спасибо. Я буду салат и шашлык.	Thank you. I'll have salad and a shashlyk (shishkobab).	Spasiba. Ya budu salat i shashlyk.
A: Что ты будешь пить?	What will you drink?	Shto ty budish pit'?
B: Красное вино. А ты?	(Some) red wine. And you?	Krasnaya vino. A ty?
A: Я буду пить белое вино. Я	I will have white wine. I want	Ya budu pit' belai vino. Ya

хочу заказать рыбу. В: Отлично. Я позову официанта.	to order (some) fish. Perfect. I'll call the waiter.	hachu zakazat' rybu. Atlichna. Ya pazavu afitsianta.
--	---	---

А: Я сыт. Очень хороший ужин. В: Я - тоже. Хороший ресторан. А: Куда ты? В: Я хочу вызвать такси. А: А, да. Конечно. Телефон в холле. В: Спасибо. Я сейчас. А: Ну вот. Такси будет здесь через 5 минут. В: Хорошо. Давай выйдем на воздух.	I am full. (it's) a very good dinner. Me, too. Good restaurant. Where are you (going)? I want to call a taxi. Ah, yes, of course. The phone is in the hall. Thank you. Just a miute. Ok. The taxi will be here in 5 minutes. Good. Let us go outside into the (fresh) air.	Ya syt. Ochin' haroshiyi uzhin. Ya tozhi. Haroshiyi ristanan. Kuda ty? Ya hachu zakazat' taksi. Ah, da, kaneshna. Tilifon v holi. Spasiba. Ya sichas. Nu vot. Taksi budit zdes' cheriz pyat' minut. Harasho. Davai vydim na vozduh.
---	---	---

Language notes

Complex verb structure

Some of the grammar structures in Russian are similar to those of the English language. The complex verb structure is a good example to this. The English verb phrases starting with *want* or *need* in combination with other *w*verbs form complex verb structures like-

want to call (a taxi) = **хочу вызвать** (такси)
want to say (a toast) = **хочу сказать** (тост)
want to try (the sauce) = **хочу попробовать** (соус)

When you make up such phrases in English, you put the first verb into a form of a particular tense (depending on what you want to express), and the second verb in the phrase remains unchanged. You should do exactly the same with similar Russian constructions: the second verb is always used as an infinitive.

English verb phrases starting with *like*, *dislike*, *hate*, etc. require an *-ing* ending from the verb following them. If you are trying to make up a similar sentence in Russian, you can keep to the same rule as above – just put your second verb into infinitive form, that's all!

(I) love watching (waves) = **люблю смотре**ть (на волны)
(I) like walking = **люблю ходи**ть
(I) dislike eating (late) = **не люблю ку**шать (поздно)
(I) hate eating (mayonaise) = **не люблю ку**шать (майоне**з**)

There are a few other ways of expressing meanings of action in Russian. But if you know the principle described here, you will have the sufficient means of communication for the beginning.