

75 Everyday Russian Slang Words

Small Talk

- **Hello, hi**
 - **Здорово /Zda-ro-va/** – This word is a reduced form of casual “zdravstvui” (hello)
- **Goodbye, bye**
 - **Пакеда /Pa-ke-da/** – A modification of the usual “paka” (bye)
 - **Давай /Da-vaj/** – The first meaning of this word is “give”, but it’s also frequently used instead of “bye”.
- **Goodnight**
 - **Споки /Spo-ki/** – This is a short form of “spokoinai nochi” (goodnight).
- **Good, fine**
 - **Ничё так /Ni-chje tak/** – This phrase reflects a neutral estimation of an object or an event. If you’re asked, “how’re you?” you can reply “Nichje tak”.
 - **Норм /Norm/** – This adjective comes from the word “normal” and also means something satisfactory: neither good nor bad.
 - **Зачёт /Za-chjet/** – This word comes from the students’ lexicon. In Russia, there are final exams that are assessed as “passed” or “not passed”. So, initially, “zachjet” means that you’ve passed the exam. In the modern lexicon, it’s used to show positivity about something.
- **How’re you?**
 - **Как оно? /Как а-но?/** – This question is literally translated as “how is it?” and means “how’s it going?”
- **Ok**
 - **Ок /ok/** – No comments ☐ ☐
 - **Лады /la-di/** – Another form of agreement, when you accept an offer.
- **Thank you, thanks**
 - **Спасибки /Spa-sib-ki/** – A reduced form of the usual “spasibo” (thank you).
- **Cigarette**
 - **Сига /Si-ga/** – A short form of “sigareta” (a cigarette)

Money

- **100**
 - **Сотка /Sot-ka/** – Comes from the word “sto” (one hundred)
- **500**

- **Пятихатка /Pi-ti-hat-ka/** – A modification of “pjat’sot” (five hundred)
- **1000**
 - **Штука /Shtu-ka/** – Initially means “a thing”, but when it comes to money, it’s also 1000.
- **1000 rubles**
 - **Косарь /ka-sar’/** – One of the older slang words which appeared in the XX century. Letters on old banknotes were written in slanted (in Russian: “kosije”) letters
 - **Кэс /kes/** – A short form of the previous word
- **Dollar**
 - **Бакс /baks/** – Comes from the English “buck”
 - **Зелёный /zje-lje-nij/** – Literally translated as “green” and means “grand”.
- **Ruble**
 - **Рубас /Ru-bas/** – A different version of “ruble”
- **Cash**
 - **Кэш /Kesh/** – Transliteration of the English “cash”
 - **Налик /Na-lik/** – A short form of long Russian “na-lich-ni-je” (cash)
- **Money**
 - **Бабки /Bab-ki/** – A long time ago, the 2 ruble banknote depicted Katherine II, who was jokingly called “babka” (or grandma).

Emotions & Estimations

- **Awesome**
 - **Ништяк /Nish-tjak/** – This word comes from Russian prison language. It meant small pleasant things. These days it’s a highly positive estimation of something.
 - **Офигенно /O-fi-gje-na/** – Another word that you can use when you really like something.
- **Awful**
 - **Жесть /Zhest’/** – Use this word when your friend tells you about some negative experience. For instance: Your friend: – I almost got hit by a car. You: – Zhest’!
 - **Отстой /Ats-toi/** – “Otsloi” is a very widely spread expression, used like the English “damn” or “it sucks”.
 - **Зашквар /Zash-kvar/** – This word means something unpopular, unfashionable, or stupid. A good example of “zashkvar” is wearing suit socks under flip-flops – it’s not trendy and not cool.
- **Cool, great**
 - **Круто /Kru-ta/** – It’s an extremely popular word, meaning “great”
 - **Клёво /Klje-va/** – Another synonym of “great”
- **Creep**
 - **Стрёмный /Strem-ni/** – Not good in many ways: ugly, stupid, unpleasant and so on. This adjective can be applied to many different things: to a person, to a movie, to a new t-shirt etc.
- **Awesome OR awful**
 - There is a couple of words in the Russian language that means either something really great or the opposite, depending on your intonation. You can use these to express joy or disappointment.
 - **Зашибись /Za-shi-bis’/**
 - **Офигеть /A-fi-get’/**
 - **Охренеть /A-hri-net’/**

- **Something funny**
 - **Прикол /Pri-kol/** – This word means a joke or a prank.
- **Something great**
 - **Бомба /Вom-ba/** – This word is used to talk about something fantastic, and yes, it literally means “a bomb”. So, when you hear “Eto bomba!” (It’s a bomb) think twice before calling for deminers. Maybe, it’s just two girls discussing a new outfit.
 - **Бомбический /Вom-bi-chis-kij/** – The previous noun is not enough, so the language created an adjective with similar meaning.
 - **Улёт /U-ljet/** – “Uljet” also means something awesome. It comes from the word “letat’ ” (to fly).
 -
- **Pleasure**
 - **Кайф /Kajf/** – The word “kaif” is used to describe pleasure, such as a glass of cold water on a hot day, taking a sauna in cold winter, or stretching your legs on a soft sofa after a crazy day.
- **Warning**
 - Here are two office slang words to warn your buddies that an angry boss is approaching.
 - **Ахтунг /Ah-tung/**
 - **Палево /Pa-li-va/**
- **I don’t care**
 - **Мне пофиг /Mnje po-fig/** – This phrase is used to show indifference.
- **Wow!**
 - **Нифига себе! /Ni-fi-ga si-be/** – This is how the Russians express surprise. It’s like the English “No way!”

People

- **The American**
 - **Америкос /A-me-ri-kos/** – This slang word means someone from the US. But keep in mind that it doesn’t mean any offense; it’s just a short and more convenient word-form.
- **Baby**
 - **Детка /Det-ka/** – This word also means child, but in adult relationships, it’s used to say “baby”
 - **Крошка /Krosh-ka/** – Nothing in common with bread crumbs, as you might think from the direct translation, just another way to call your babe
 - **Мальш /Ma-lish/** – Literally, this word means “a male baby”. In slang, it’s used to refer to your partner: both a male or a female.
- **Young female**
 - **Чика /Chi-ka/** – This is the word guys use to talk about cool and sexy girls who are not their significant other. It’s strange, but no one says “chika” about their own partners, even if they look like a model.
- **Bro**

- **Братан /Bra-tan/**
-
- **Dude**
 - **Чувак /Chu-vak/** – The best word for “dude”
 - **Кореш /Ko-resh/** – Friend
 - **Друган /Dru-gan/** – This is a modification of “drug” (friend)
- **Squat**
 - **Гопник /Gop-nik/** – A representative of a special street subculture who likes to spend time drinking beer, eating sunflower seeds and wear black Adidas sportswear with classic shoes.
- **Geek**
 - **Гик /Gik/** – Someone who’s crazy about a narrow topic, whether it’s gadgets, anime, or Star Trek.
- **Nerd**
 - **Нёрд /Njerd/** – Nerd is 100% English borrowing with the same meaning: a highly intellectual person with extremely low socialization skills.
 - **Ботан /Bo-tan/** – “Botan” is someone who puts a lot of effort into learning and, as a result, is good at school, Uni or college.

Actions

- **Get off**
 - If you want to get rid of someone, these are three words to say to do that:
 - **Отвали /At-va-li/**
 - **Отвянь /At-vjan’/**
 - **Иди лесом /I-di lje-sam/**
- **Shut up**
 - **Заткнись /Zatk-nis’/** – This is a casual way to say “shut up”
 - **Завали /Za-va-li/** – Zavali is a ruder form of “shut up”, so be careful
- **Goof up**
 - **Лажануться /La-zha-nu-tsa/** – This is a popular term for screw up, or to fail to complete a task
 - **Лохануться /La-ha-nu-tsa/** – It means to make a big mistake which causes problems
 - **Факап /Fak-ap/** – This noun is a transliteration of a well-known English phrase with the same meaning
 - **Эпик фэйл /Epik feil/** – Another twin-brother of an English term that means a colossal mistake
- **Don’t be thick**
 - **Не тупи /Ni tu-pi/** – When your friend is a bit slow, you can cheer him or her up with this phrase.
 - **Не тормози /Ni tar-ma-zi/** – Literally, “tormozit’ ” means to brake, or to slow down a car. The same word can be applied to the speed some people think with.
- **To bail on...**
 - **Забить на...** – This word means to bail on a task or idea, but rarely on a person.

Party

- **Happy Birthday**
 - **С днюхой /S dnju-hoj/** – A brief version of “S dnjem rozhdenia” (Happy Birthday)
 - **ДР /de re/** – A super-brief version of “Djen’ rozhdenia” (Birthday). You can’t congratulate someone with this phrase, but you can use it in conversations with other people. For instance: Have you bought a present for “ДР”?

Police

- **Policeman**
 - **Мент /Mjent/** – This word reflects a negative attitude to policemen
 - **Мусор /Mu-sar/** – This word means “trash” as well, but if it’s applied to a person, then he or she is a police officer.
- **Police station**
 - **Ментовка /Min-tof-ka/** – The place where “menti” (policemen) work.