The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TRAVELER SHOULD SAY IN RUSSIAN

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 49 of 49. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word is a casual 'Hi' for friends?

A Привет (privet)

B Извините (izvinite)

C Пожалуйста (pozhaluysta)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Извините (izvinite)

WHY Извините is the polite form to use with strangers, on the metro, or to get someone's attention. Приятного аппетита is what you say to someone who is eating, and спокойной ночи means good night.

STRAIGHT FACE
In a crowded метро, izvinite is the most useful word after 'stop'.

SESK.INFO #5401

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Excuse me' or 'Sorry' politely in Russian?

A Приятного аппетита (priyatnogo appetita)

B Извините (izvinite)

C Спокойной ночи (spokoynoy nochi)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Привет (privet)

WHY Привет is informal, like 'hi' or 'hey'. Use it with people you call ты (ty). With strangers, say здравствуйте instead.

STRAIGHT FACE
Privet is the shortest way to make a new friend, and it doesn't even need a suitcase.

SESK.INFO #5399

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Hello' politely to a stranger in Russian?

A Здравствуйте (zdravstvuyte)

B Спокойной ночи (spokoynoy nochi)

C До свидания (do svidaniya)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Здравствуйте (zdravstvuyte)

WHY Здравствуйте works for strangers, older people and groups. The first в is silent, so it sounds like 'ZDRAST-vuy-tye'. Спокойной ночи means good night and До свидания means goodbye.

STRAIGHT FACE
Zdravstvuyte is the only hello that makes you stretch your tongue first.

SESK.INFO #5398

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Thank you very much' in Russian?

A Не за что (ne za chto)

B Очень приятно (ochen priyatno)

C Большое спасибо (bolshoye spasibo)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Большое спасибо (bolshoye spasibo)

WHY Спасибо is thanks, and большое means big. Не за что is the reply 'don't mention it', and очень приятно means pleased to meet you.

STRAIGHT FACE
Bolshoye spasibo literally says 'big thanks', and the word big is right there.

SESK.INFO #5400

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Goodbye' in Russian?

- **A** Доброе утро (dobroye utro)
- **B** До свидания (do svidaniya)
- **C** Добрый вечер (dobry vecher)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B До свидания (do svidaniya)

WHY До свидания is the standard goodbye and is fine with anyone. Доброе утро is good morning and добрый вечер is good evening.

STRAIGHT FACE
Money talks... but all mine ever says is goodbye.

SESK.INFO #5402

LANGUAGES

Which Russian phrase means 'Good morning'?

- **A** Доброе утро (dobroye utro)
- **B** Добрый вечер (dobry vecher)
- **C** Спокойной ночи (spokoynoy nochi)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Доброе утро (dobroye utro)

WHY Доброе утро literally means 'good morning'. Use добрый вечер after about 6 p.m. and спокойной ночи only when saying good night.

STRAIGHT FACE
Dobroye utro is good morning, and good luck saying it before coffee.

SESK.INFO #5403

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Good night' when saying farewell in Russian?

- **A** Спокойной ночи (spokoynoy nochi)
- **B** Добрый вечер (dobry vecher)
- **C** Доброе утро (dobroye utro)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Спокойной ночи (spokoynoy nochi)

WHY Спокойной ночи literally wishes someone a calm night, so it is a farewell at bedtime. Добрый вечер is a hello in the evening, and доброе утро is a morning hello.

STRAIGHT FACE
Spokoynoy nochi wishes you a quiet night, so the hotel lobby pianist is out of luck.

SESK.INFO #5404

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Pleased to meet you' in Russian?

- **A** Большое спасибо (bolshoye spasibo)
- **B** Как дела? (kak dela)
- **C** Очень приятно (ochen priyatno)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Очень приятно (ochen priyatno)

WHY Очень means very and приятно means pleasant, so it says 'very pleasant'. Use it right after someone tells you their name.

STRAIGHT FACE
Ochen priyatno: the only phrase you can say with a handshake and a smile.

SESK.INFO #5405

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word is the polite 'you' for a single stranger?

A Ты (ty)

B Вы (vy)

C Мы (my)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Вы (vy)

WHY Russians use вы for strangers, older people and groups. Ты (ty) is for close friends, family and children. Мы means 'we'.

STRAIGHT FACE
Teacher: Where is the English Channel? Student I don't know, my TV doesn't pick it up!

SESK.INFO #5407

LANGUAGES

Which Russian phrase is the formal way to ask 'How are you?'

A Как поживаешь? (kak pozhivayesh)

B Как поживаете? (kak pozhivayete)

C Как дела? (kak dela)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Как поживаете? (kak pozhivayete)

WHY The ending -ете goes with вы (formal or plural) and -ешь goes with ты (informal). Как дела is the familiar, everyday version for friends.

STRAIGHT FACE
Kak pozhivayete: the longer you stretch it, the more polite you sound.

SESK.INFO #5406

LANGUAGES

What does the number word десять (desyat) mean?

A Hundred

B Ten

C Thousand

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Ten

WHY Десять is 10. A hundred is сто (sto) and a thousand is тысяча (tysyacha).

STRAIGHT FACE
Ten fingers make the best Russian phrasebook for counting.

SESK.INFO #5409

LANGUAGES

What number is пять (pyat)?

A Fifteen

B Fifty

C Five

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Five

WHY Пять is the number 5. Fifteen is пятнадцать and fifty is пятьдесят, which look alike because they are built on пять.

STRAIGHT FACE
How many months have 28 days? All of them!

SESK.INFO #5408

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'tomorrow' in Russian?

A Завтра (zavtra)

B Сегодня (segodnya)

C Вчера (vchera)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Где туалет? (gde tualet)

WHY Где is where and туалет is toilet or restroom. Вокзал is a train station and аптека is a pharmacy.

STRAIGHT FACE
Gde tualet is the first full sentence every traveler learns, after hello.

SESK.INFO #5413

LANGUAGES

On a price tag, what does тысяча (tysyacha) mean?

A Hundred

B Thousand

C Million

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Thousand

WHY Тысяча is 1,000. In casual speech it can also mean a 1,000-ruble banknote. A hundred is сто.

STRAIGHT FACE
Which weighs more, a ton of feathers or a ton of bricks? Neither, they both weigh a ton!

SESK.INFO #5410

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the toilet?' in Russian?

A Где вокзал? (gde vokzal)

B Где аптека? (gde apteka)

C Где туалет? (gde tualet)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Завтра (zavtra)

WHY Завтра is tomorrow, сегодня is today, and вчера is yesterday. The г in сегодня sounds like a v.

STRAIGHT FACE
Zavtra is what I say about packing on every trip.

SESK.INFO #5411

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word means 'yesterday'?

A Вчера (vchera)

B Сегодня (segodnya)

C Позавчера (pozavchera)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Вчера (vchera)

WHY Вчера is yesterday. Позавчера is the day before yesterday and сегодня is today.

STRAIGHT FACE
Vchera is the day I should have started learning Cyrillic.

SESK.INFO #5412

LANGUAGES

What does the sign «остановка» (ostanovka) mean at a street corner?

A Taxi rank

B Ticket office

C Bus stop

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Bus stop

WHY Остановка means a stop or a pause, and at a street corner it marks where buses and trams stop.

STRAIGHT FACE
Ostanovka means stop, and I stop for snacks at every one.

SESK.INFO #5417

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Is it far?' in Russian?

A Это близко? (eto blizko)

B Это далеко? (eto daleko)

C Это дорого? (eto dorogo)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Это далеко? (eto daleko)

WHY Далеко means far away. Близко means near, and дорого means expensive, so the last two ask something else.

STRAIGHT FACE
What is the fastest country in the world? Rush-a!

SESK.INFO #5415

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word means 'airport'?

A Аэропорт (aeroport)

B Вокзал (vokzal)

C Остановка (ostanovka)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Аэропорт (aeroport)

WHY Аэропорт looks like 'aeroport', so it is easy to read. Вокзал is a train station and остановка is a bus stop.

STRAIGHT FACE
Aeroport is easy to read, the only easy part of any airport.

SESK.INFO #5416

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word means 'to the left'?

A Направо (napravo)

B Далеко (daleko)

C Налево (nalevo)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Налево (nalevo)

WHY Налево is to the left and направо is to the right. Далеко means far away.

STRAIGHT FACE
Nalevo: the direction I always pick when the map is upside down.

SESK.INFO #5414

LANGUAGES

How do you ask a waiter for the menu in Russian?

- **A** Счёт, пожалуйста (schyot, pozhaluysta)
- **B** Меню, пожалуйста (menyu, pozhaluysta)
- **C** Воду, пожалуйста (vodu, pozhaluysta)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Меню, пожалуйста (menyu, pozhaluysta)

WHY Меню is the menu and пожалуйста is please. Счёт is the bill and воду is 'water' as an object, so those ask for something else.

SESK.INFO #5419

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for one ticket in Russian?

- **A** Один номер, пожалуйста (odin nomer, pozhaluysta)
- **B** Одно меню, пожалуйста (odno menyu, pozhaluysta)
- **C** Один билет, пожалуйста (odin bilet, pozhaluysta)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Один билет, пожалуйста (odin bilet, pozhaluysta)

WHY Билет is ticket, один is one, and пожалуйста is please. Номер is a hotel room and меню is a menu.

STRAIGHT FACE
A ticket is permission to be confused in a new place.

SESK.INFO #5418

LANGUAGES

How do you tell a host 'This is very tasty!' in Russian?

- **A** Очень вкусно! (ochen vkusno)
- **B** Очень дорого! (ochen dorogo)
- **C** Очень далеко! (ochen daleko)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Очень вкусно! (ochen vkusno)

WHY Вкусно means tasty and очень means very. Дорого is expensive and далеко is far, so those would be odd things to say about dinner.

STRAIGHT FACE
Vkusno is the compliment that makes every grandma give you seconds.

SESK.INFO #5421

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for the bill in Russian?

- **A** Счёт, пожалуйста (schyot, pozhaluysta)
- **B** Меню, пожалуйста (menyu, pozhaluysta)
- **C** Хлеб, пожалуйста (khleb, pozhaluysta)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Счёт, пожалуйста (schyot, pozhaluysta)

WHY Счёт is the bill or invoice. Меню is the menu and хлеб is bread.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the woman put her money in her freezer? Because she wanted some cold hard cash.

SESK.INFO #5420

LANGUAGES

Which Russian phrase is a formal toast, 'To your health!'?

- **A** Приятного аппетита! (priyatnogo appetita)
- **B** Большое спасибо! (bolshoye spasibo)
- **C** За ваше здоровье! (za vashe zdorovye)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C За ваше здоровье! (za vashe zdorovye)

WHY За ваше здоровье means 'to your health'. You say it while raising a glass. Приятного аппетита is for food, and большое спасибо is thanks.

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of nuts always seems to have a cold?
Cashews!

SESK.INFO #5423

LANGUAGES

What do Russians say to someone who is about to eat?

- **A** За ваше здоровье (za vashe zdorovye)
- **B** Спокойной ночи (spokoynoy nochi)
- **C** Приятного аппетита (priyatnogo appetita)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Приятного аппетита (priyatnogo appetita)

WHY Приятного аппетита wishes someone a pleasant appetite. За ваше здоровье is a toast with drinks, and спокойной ночи is good night.

STRAIGHT FACE
Priyatnogo appetita is said so often it is almost part of the soup.

SESK.INFO #5422

LANGUAGES

At check-in a clerk asks for your «паспорт» (pasport). What do they want?

- **A** Your boarding pass
- **B** Your passport
- **C** Your credit card

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Your passport

WHY Паспорт is a passport, and hotels often ask to see it at check-in. It looks like the English word, so it is easy to remember.

STRAIGHT FACE
You've never felt true fear until your passport isn't where you think you left it.

SESK.INFO #5425

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word can mean a hotel room?

- **A** Ключ (klyuch)
- **B** Номер (nomer)
- **C** Завтрак (zavtrak)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Номер (nomer)

WHY Номер is a number, a hotel room and also a clothing size. Ключ is a key and завтрак is breakfast.

SESK.INFO #5424

LANGUAGES

What does «скорая помощь» (skoraya pomoshch) on a van mean?

A Police car

B Taxi

C Ambulance

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Ambulance

WHY Скорая помощь literally means quick help. It names the ambulance and the emergency medical service.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where does a boat go when it's sick? To the dock!

SESK.INFO #5429

LANGUAGES

Which word do you call out in Russian to ask for help?

A Подождите! (podozhdite)

B Простите! (prostite)

C Помогите! (pomogite)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Помогите! (pomogite)

WHY Помогите is the command 'help!' Подождите means wait, and простите means sorry or excuse me.

STRAIGHT FACE
Pomogite is a word you want to know and never need.

SESK.INFO #5428

LANGUAGES

What do you find at a shop marked «аптека» (apteka)?

A A pharmacy

B A bakery

C A hotel

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A A pharmacy

WHY Аптека is a drugstore where you can buy medicine. A bakery is пекарня and a hotel is гостиница.

STRAIGHT FACE
The apteka is where you go when your Cyrillic gives you a headache.

SESK.INFO #5427

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'It's expensive' in Russian?

A Это дорого (eto dorogo)

B Это недорого (eto nedorogo)

C Это далеко (eto daleko)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Это дорого (eto dorogo)

WHY Дорого means expensive and недорого means not expensive. Далеко means far, so the last choice is about distance.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call candy that was stolen? Hot chocolate!

SESK.INFO #5426

LANGUAGES

What does «полиция» (politsiya) mean?

- **A** Fire department
- **B** Police
- **C** Post office

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Police

WHY Полиция looks like the English word 'police'. Look for the word on signs and police cars.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the book join the police? He wanted to go undercover!

SESK.INFO #5430

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word means 'hospital'?

- **A** Аптека (apteka)
- **B** Больница (bolnitsa)
- **C** Гостиница (gostinitsa)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Больница (bolnitsa)

WHY Больница is a hospital. Аптека is a pharmacy and гостиница is a hotel.

STRAIGHT FACE
Were you long in the hospital? No, I was the same size I am now!

SESK.INFO #5431

LANGUAGES

What does the door sign «Вход» (vkhod) mean?

- **A** Entrance
- **B** Exit
- **C** Closed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Entrance

WHY Вход means entrance or entry. The opposite sign is выход, exit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Vkhod is the sign that starts every adventure.

SESK.INFO #5432

LANGUAGES

A shop door says «Открыто» (otkryto). What does that mean?

- **A** Closed
- **B** On sale
- **C** Open

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Open

WHY Открыто means it is open. Its opposite is закрыто, closed. Check the sign before you plan a visit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Otkryto is the happiest word on a bakery door.

SESK.INFO #5433

LANGUAGES

In ресторан (restoran), what sound does the first letter Р make?

- **A** P, as in pie
- **B** B, as in boy
- **C** R, as in red

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C R, as in red

WHY Cyrillic Р is a rolled R. The word ресторан is 'restoran', so the first letter says R. English P is the letter П.

STRAIGHT FACE
What starts with gas and has three letters? A car.

SESK.INFO #5434

LANGUAGES

In сто (sto), 'hundred', what sound does the first letter С make?

- **A** K, as in kite
- **B** S, as in sun
- **C** Ch, as in chair

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B S, as in sun

WHY Cyrillic С is always an S sound. Сто is pronounced 'sto'. The hard С sound in English comes from K.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why couldn't the bad sailor learn the alphabet? Because he always got lost at 'С.'

SESK.INFO #5435

LANGUAGES

In вода (voda), 'water', what sound does the letter В make?

- **A** V, as in van
- **B** B, as in boy
- **C** W, as in water

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A V, as in van

WHY Cyrillic В is a V sound. Вода is 'voda'. The B sound in Russian is written Б.

STRAIGHT FACE
What is the center of gravity? The letter Vi

SESK.INFO #5437

LANGUAGES

In нет (nyet), 'no', what sound does the letter Н make?

- **A** H, as in hat
- **B** N, as in no
- **C** P, as in pie

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B N, as in no

WHY Cyrillic Н is an N sound. The word нет is 'nyet', meaning no. The H sound belongs to a different letter.

STRAIGHT FACE
Can you spell rotted with two letters? DK (decay).

SESK.INFO #5436

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I don't understand' in Russian?

A Я не понимаю (ya ne ponimayu)

B Я не знаю (ya ne znayu)

C Я не хочу (ya ne khochu)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Я не понимаю (ya ne ponimayu)

WHY Я is I, не is not, and понимаю is 'understand'. Я не знаю means 'I don't know' and я не хочу means 'I don't want to'.

STRAIGHT FACE
How many letters are in The Alphabet? There are 11 letters in The Alphabet.

SESK.INFO #6310

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'My name is Anna' in Russian?

A Как вас зовут? (kak vas zovut)

B Я не понимаю (ya ne ponimayu)

C Меня зовут Анна (menya zovut Anna)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Меня зовут Анна (menya zovut Anna)

WHY Say меня зовут, then your name. Как вас зовут asks 'What is your name?' and я не понимаю means 'I don't understand'.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a boy named Lee that no one talks to? Lonely.

SESK.INFO #6309

LANGUAGES

Which single Russian word means both 'please' and 'you're welcome'?

A Спасибо (spasibo)

B Извините (izvinite)

C Пожалуйста (pozhaluysta)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Пожалуйста (pozhaluysta)

WHY Пожалуйста is a hard-working word. You use it to ask politely, to answer a thank-you, and when you hand something over. Спасибо is thanks, and извините is excuse me.

STRAIGHT FACE
Pozhaluysta is the Swiss army knife of Russian manners.

SESK.INFO #6308

LANGUAGES

In хлеб (khleb), 'bread', what sound does the letter Х make?

A A breathy kh, like ch in Scottish loch

B X, as in box

C Ch, as in chair

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A A breathy kh, like ch in Scottish loch

WHY Cyrillic Х is not 'ks'. It is a throaty kh, like ch in loch. Хлеб is 'khleb'. The ch of chair is written Ч.

STRAIGHT FACE
What starts with a P and ends with an E and has a million letters in it? Post Office!

SESK.INFO #5438

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'How much does this cost?' in Russian?

- **A** Сколько это стоит? (skolko eto stoit)
- **B** Сколько времени? (skolko vremeni)
- **C** Где это находится? (gde eto nakhoditsya)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Сколько это стоит? (skolko eto stoit)

WHY Сколько means how much or how many, это is 'this', and стоит is 'costs'. Сколько времени asks the time, and где это находится asks where something is.

STRAIGHT FACE
Skolko stoit is the question; the answer is always less than a train ticket home.

SESK.INFO #6311

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'What time is it?' in Russian?

- **A** Сколько это стоит? (skolko eto stoit)
- **B** Как дела? (kak dela)
- **C** Сколько времени? (skolko vremeni)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Сколько времени? (skolko vremeni)

WHY Сколько времени literally asks 'how much time?' Another common way is который час (kotoryy chas).

STRAIGHT FACE
Skolko vremeni is the question that starts and ends every train trip.

SESK.INFO #6312

LANGUAGES

Which Russian word means 'to the right'?

- **A** Налево (nalevo)
- **B** Направо (napravo)
- **C** Прямо (pryamo)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Направо (napravo)

WHY Направо is right and налево is left. Прямо means straight ahead, so 'straight, then right' is прямо, потом направо.

STRAIGHT FACE
Napravo: if you can read the sign, you are going the right way.

SESK.INFO #6313

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the train station?' in Russian?

- **A** Где вокзал? (gde vokzal)
- **B** Где аэропорт? (gde aeroport)
- **C** Где остановка? (gde ostanovka)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Где вокзал? (gde vokzal)

WHY Вокзал is a railway station. Аэропорт is an airport and остановка is a bus or tram stop.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked for the vokzal and got a guided tour of the whole city.

SESK.INFO #6314

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the metro?' in Russian?

- **A** Где магазин? (gde magazin)
- **B** Где метро? (gde metro)
- **C** Где больница? (gde bolnitsa)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Где метро? (gde metro)**

WHY Метро is the subway. Магазин is a shop and больница is a hospital.

STRAIGHT FACE
Метро is the same word in Russian and English, a rare travel win.

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AhaBulb POINT

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