

Excuse me или Sorry?

Hello my friends! Today I'd like to talk about two similar phrases «excuse me» and «sorry». They seem to be very simple, but sometimes beginners don't quite understand when to use one or another. So I'll try to explain it to you right now!

In Russia we use «Простите» to attract someone's attention and ask about something. The same thing with «Excuse me» in English. For example:

Excuse me! How can I get to the nearest subway station?

Also, we should use «Excuse me!» when we haven't done anything we might feel sorry about. And on the contrary, we use «Sorry!» to apologise for something we've already done or said. For instance if you're in the bus and you want to get past someone you'd say «excuse me». If you accidentally pushed somebody you can say «sorry» to apologise. I hope it's clear for you.

Sometimes we can use «excuse me» in the meaning «what do you mean?». For example:

— How could you do that?!

— Excuse me?! What are you talking about?

Keep learning English and take care!