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## B1 Dialog #61 Justin about living in Russia

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Hi everyone,

What is different in Russia in comparison with the USA and Canada for example?

Today we are going to share with you some notes about living in Russia from a Canadian guy named Justin. He's lived in Russia for a long time and it's really interesting to find out what kind of things surprised him a lot when he first came to our country!

As always you can read the text in the PDF provided in the description. Follow our podcasts on Yandex Music and Apple Podcasts. For more new episodes subscribe to our channel!

So here we go. Let's listen to Justin. He speaks Russian pretty well by the way!

**(1) Everyone reads books! - Все читают книги!**

Yeah it's true. Russians like reading. Now it's even more convenient, because people can use electronic books and it's not necessary to bring real books with you. It's really nice. Rinat, what kind of book do you read now?

**(2) If you walk the street without wearing a hat in the winter, any old Russian woman will say to you: "Hey, where's your hat! Are you crazy?" -**

**Если ты ходишь на улице зимой без шапки, любая русская бабушка тебе скажет: "Эй, что ты ходишь без шапки? Ты сошел с ума что-ли?"**

😊😊😊 I don't think that any babushka says that, but it might happen to you in Russia indeed. And not only in Russia I think. The point is that winters in Russia are much colder than in the US or Canada for example. So it's better to wear a hat of course.

**(3) Russian girls walk everywhere on high heels. Even in the icy winter! - Русские девушки ходят куда угодно на каблуках. Даже зимой по льду**

I wouldn't say that all Russian girls walk everywhere on high heels, especially in the winter! Maybe it was so several years ago, but today's fashion is different and everybody wears comfortable shoes.

**(4) Beer was not considered as an alcohol drink in Russia till 2011. - До 2011 года пиво не считалось алкогольным напитком в России.**

Yeah it's true! I think it was just some formal mistake in our regulations, but it's a fact. Only in 2011 a former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev changed that.

**(5) Don't whistle in the building, there will be no money! - Не свисти в здании, денег не будет.**

It's a Russian superstition. Our ancestors believed that evil spirits communicate with the help of whistles. This is the language of bad spirits. And, if someone in the house begins to whistle, he invites all these spirits inside. And they begin to manage the house.

**(6) In Russia, dogs say not RUFF but ГАФ! - В России собаки говорят не ruff a гаф!**

For a Russian it's not convenient to say RUFF, so we have adapted dogs' barking to our language. We say ГАФ!

**(7) When Russians ask you "How are you?" they really want to know about that - Когда русские спрашивают "Как дела?", они действительно хотят знать, как у вас дела.**

Yeah I think we take this question more seriously than Americans. But it's up to you whether you want to give a long answer or not. It's not necessary of course. And mostly we ask "Как дела?" only to start the conversation.

**(8) Men don't wear bright clothes in Russia - Мужчины не носят яркую одежду в России.**

It depends on people. But in general it's true. Men don't like wearing bright clothes in Russia. I don't know why.

**(9) Russian smiles don't have eyes! - Русские смайлики не имеют глаз!**

I never write smiles with eyes. I think it's more convenient and faster. What about you guys? Tell us in the comment section!

**(10) Russians don't go Dutch when celebrating someone's birthday. Usually a person whose birthday it is pays for everyone. - Русские не платят за себя, когда отмечают чей-то день рождения. Обычно за всех платит человек, чей день рождения.**

Yeah it's a very common thing in Russia. I don't know if it's good or not. But guests usually get the presents.

**Russian people prefer saying long toasts rather than short "Cheers!" -**

**Русские люди предпочитают говорить долгие тосты, а не короткие "Cheers!".**

I don't think it's always so. I don't like saying long toasts for example. But anyway we say more than just "Cheers!" when proposing a toast. It's true.