

# RUSSIAN SLANG

by Daria Molchanova



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# What is slang?

What exactly is slang? Why is it so important to understand it? How to use it properly? This is what this ebook is all about. It's not that easy to identify slang, but here are a few of its characteristics:

- informal, non-standard language;
- euphemisms for uncomfortable topics (bodily functions, sex, etc.);
- jargon of a group of specialists (doctors, lawyers, etc.).

It is very important to understand that no one speaks Pushkin's and Dostoevsky's «proper» language in real, everyday life. It sounds rather weird and unnatural. Here we will focus on common slang – language of teenagers, friends, common people. This language is informal, less serious, more emotional, and what's important – we use it all the time!

Where to use slang? Use it when joking around with friends, but never use it when talking with a teacher, boss, and maybe even your grandparents! Keep in mind that some words can be very offensive! You certainly don't want to embarrass yourself and people around you.

Also you should remember that slang changes very quickly. Some words officially become a part of the language, some words go out of fashion and sound ridiculous and funny.

This ebook presents a selection of the most common modern Russian slang words and expressions, organized by topic, with examples to show you exactly how to use them.

Each word is also classified according to how offensive it is:

**Red** = Extremely offensive

**Yellow** = Somewhat offensive

**Green** = Non-offensive – but even these words are “informal” and should not be used in more formal situations.

Let's begin!

# General words for people

There are many slang words for people based on their gender, relations, character, and behavior.

## General words for MEN:

**мужик** (short for мужчина) – man, dude, guy

**тип** (literal. type) – dude, guy

**кент** – usually some young man

**хуй** (literal. dick) – very rude way to address a man

**хуй с горы** (literal. dick from a mountain) – someone unknown, «god knows who».



We also often use these words when we don't know who the person is. Let's have a look at some **examples**:

– Что это за **мужик** на фотке? – Who's this dude on the pic?

– Это наш босс. – It's our boss.

– Какой-то **мужик** звонил тебе. – Some guy called you.

– Чё за **тип**? – Это её новый парень. – Who's this dude? – It's her new boyfriend.

– Какой неприятный **тип**! – What an unpleasant guy!

– Что это ещё за **кент**? – Who the hell is it?

– Ну позови с собой какого-нибудь **кента**.

– Well, bring some dude with you.

– Она пришла на вечеринку со своим **хуем**.

– She came to the party with her fucker.

- Чё за **хуй**? – Who the fuck is this?
- И вот появляется этот Иван... – And here comes this Ivan...
- Что это ещё за **хуй с горы**? – Who the fuck is Ivan?
- Я не хочу, чтобы какой-то **хуй с горы** мне давал советы.
- I don't need the advice of god knows who.

Interesting situation with the word «товарищ» (comrade). In the Soviet period it was the MOST common way to address anyone (both men and women). Today it's very rare, and if you call someone «товарищ», it would sound funny and a little awkward, so don't use товарищ to address anyone.

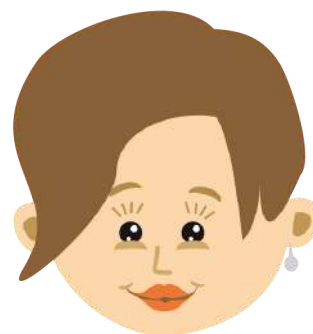
### General words for WOMEN:

**тётка** – usually an older woman

**дева́ха** – gal (about a young woman)

**ба́ба** – controversial word. «Common folk» use it to refer to all women, but in some circles it may sound very rude

**тёлка** – chick.



### Examples:

- Ненавижу эту **тётку**, она такая злая! – I hate this woman, she's so mean!
- Какая-то **тётка** из магазина сказала, что я хорошо выглядела.
- Some woman in the store said that I looked good.
- Кто эта **деваха** в углу? – Это моя подруга. – Who's this gal in the corner? – It's my friend.
- Она такая классная **деваха**! – She's such a cool girl!

- Все **бабы** дуры.
- All women are fools.
- Маша нормальная **баба**, хорошая.
- Masha is a normal woman, a good one.
- Давай снимем этих **тёлок**? – Let's pick up those chicks?
- В клубе будет много **тёлок**. – There'll be lots of chicks in the club.

For **FAMILY** we have these words:

**Прэдки** (literal. ancestors) – parents

**Бáтя** – dad

**Мáмка** – mom (used rarely)

**Братю́ня, брату́ха** – brother, bro

**Сестрю́ня, сестру́ха** – sister, sis.



Examples:

- Здорóво, друг! Как сам? – Hey pal! What's up?
- **Предки** достают. – My parents are stressing me out.
- Мои **предки** живут в Москве. – My folks live in Moscow.
- Мой **батя** – рабочий. – My dad is a worker.
- **Батя** у меня строгий. – My dad is strict.
- Я не могу пойти на вечеринку, **мамка** запретила.
- I can't go to the party, Mom said no.
- **Мамка** купила мне билет. – Mom bought me a ticket.
- Моя **сеструха** такая глупая. – My sister is so silly.