

## 83

### «Москвá слезám не вéрит» - 1: Describing the Characters

*This is the first of several lessons on the movie «Москвá слезám не вéрит». Each lesson will include a small grammar point or two as well as new vocabulary related to the film. In this lesson we'll describe the physical appearance of each of the main characters. In the following lessons we'll cover the actual plot.*



Note that all vocabulary items as well as all examples are available on recording.

#### 83.A The Adjectival/Adverbial Suffix: -овát- somewhat; slightly; -ish

You can attach the suffix **-овát-** (the **á** is *always stressed*, regardless of where the stress is in the regular adjective) to some *adjectives* or *adverbs* to give the meaning *somewhat; slightly; -ish; possessing a trait to a certain degree*. Often the **short-form** of the adjective is used, especially in predicate position. (It can get complicated.) Some examples:

Людá грубовátá.

*Ljuda is somewhat rude.*

Кóля стал толстовát.

*Kolya got a bit heavy.*

Фильм, нáдо сказáть, длинновát.

*The movie, one must admit, is a bit long.*

Э́то для нас дороговátо.

*That's a bit expensive for us.*

Unfortunately, you cannot attach this suffix to *every* adjective and adverb. For example, **\*хорошевát** does not exist, but **плоховát** does. (The \* is a symbol linguists use to indicate that a word or phrase is ungrammatical.) There doesn't appear to be any particular rhyme or reason to this.



Переведите на русский

1. He's somewhat poor.
2. She's somewhat stupid.
3. That's a bit early for me.
4. It's a bit boring here.
5. The exam was somewhat long and difficult.
6. He spoke somewhat fast.

#### 83.Б Describing People: Hair, Eyes, Build

##### 83.Б.1 Hair: Вóлосы

The word for *hair* is **вóлосы** (normally in plural). All the oblique case forms (i.e. everything except nominative and accusative) have end-stress: **волóс, волосáм, волосáх, волосáми**. To ask about someone's hair color (or eye color) use the *genitive* phrase **Какóго цвéта у (кóго) вóлосы / глазá?**, which is literally *Of what color are (person's) hair / eyes*.

Here are some common adjectives used to describe hair:

### Hair Color: Цвет волóс

*свѐтлые	<i>light</i>
*тѐмные	<i>dark</i>
чѐрные	<i>black</i>
каштáновые	<i>chestnut</i>
рѳжие	<i>red</i>
седѳые	<i>grey</i>

\*These two adjectives are used much more often in Russian to describe someone's hair color than we use *light* and *dark* in English.

You *cannot* say **корѳичневые, бѳлые** or **крáсные вóлосы** – unless you're talking about Bozo the Clown.

### Вóлосы – Length and Texture

длѳнные	<i>long</i>
корóткие	<i>short</i>
прямѳые	<i>straight</i>
вьѳющиеся	<i>curly</i>

To be honest, there are several other ways to say *curly*, but you're safe with **вьѳющиеся** (which is actually a present active participle from the verb {вьѳ+...ся / ви+...ся} *twist; wind*).

Just use the regular possessive construction **У когó...** to describe what kind of hair a person has:

У Кáти прямѳые, чѐрные вóлосы.

*Kayta has straight, black hair.*

В концѳ фильма у Лѳды свѐтлые, вьѳющиеся вóлосы.

*In the end of the film, Lyuda has light, curly hair.*

У Гóши корóткие, тѐмные вóлосы.

*Gosha has short, dark hair.*



### Переведѳте на рѳсский:

1. What color is her hair?
2. My sister has long, curly red hair.
3. Her grandmother has short gray hair.
4. In Japan, practically everyone has straight black hair.
5. No one here has curly hair. (*Think!*)
6. Kolya's girlfriend has long light hair.
7. Tonya has straight chestnut hair.
8. What color is your hair?

2) You can also use a noun to describe a person's hair, similar to English: *She's a blond; He's a brunette*:

блонди́н / -ка	<i>blond</i>
шатён / -ка	<i>lightish brown</i>
*брюне́т / -ка	<i>dark brown; black</i>

\*Unlike English *brunette*, Russian **брюне́т/ка** can refer to someone with *jet-black* hair.

For *red* and *gray* hair only an adjective is used (often without the word **во́лосы**), i.e., there's no special noun for *redhead* or "grayhead".

ры́жий / -ая	<i>red-head</i>
седо́й / -ая	"gray-head"

Рудо́льф - брюне́т.

*Rudolf is a brunette.*

Неужели он уже седо́й?

*Can it be that he is already gray?*

Ему́ нра́вятся то́лько шате́нки.

*He only likes women with light brown hair.*

Е́сли я не ошиба́юсь, Бо́рина сестра́ ры́жая.

*If I'm not mistaken, Borya's sister is a redhead.*

В э́том клубе́ одни́ брюне́ты.

*In this club everyone has black hair.*

### Other hair vocabulary: Facial Hair

усы́ (always Plural!) Genitive Plural: усóв	<i>mustache</i>
борода́ Accusative: бо́роду	<i>beard</i>

У Рудо́льфа бы́ли те́мные усы́.

*Rudolf had a dark mustache.*

У одно́го из Го́шиных друзе́й бы́ла дли́нная че́рная борода́.

*One of Gosha's friends had a long black beard.*

### Baldness ☹ (It could happen to you or a loved one.)

Finally, to express lack of hair (baldness) use the following:

лы́сый	<i>bald</i>
лы́сина	<i>bald spot</i>

Ко́ля ста́л лысовáт.

*Kolya became slightly bald.*

У Рудо́льфа бы́ла небольшо́яя лы́сина.

*Rudolf had a small bald spot.*



**Переведите на русский:**

1. She only likes blondes.
2. Vera is a redhead.
3. Do you like my mustache?
4. For some reason, she finds bald men attractive.
5. My sister is already gray.
6. He used to have a long, gray beard.
7. If I'm not mistaken, Vera is a brunette.
8. I think you already have a small bald spot.

### 83.Б.2 Eyes: Глаза́

Recall that the nominative plural of **глаз** is **глаза́**, while the genitive plural is **глаз**. All other plural forms are end-stressed: **глаза́м, глаза́х, глаза́ми**.

#### Eye Color: Цвет глаз

голубые	<i>(light)-blue</i>
ка́рие ( <i>soft!</i> )	<i>brown</i>
зелёные	<i>green</i>
се́рые	<i>grey</i>
че́рные	<i>black</i>

In addition to the construction **У кого...**, you can also use **с** with + instrumental plural. Normally this is used as part of a larger description (i.e., you also describe the person's hair or height, in addition to their eyes). You can also use **с** + instrumental plural with hair:

У То́ни голу́бые глаза́.

*Tonya has blue eyes.*

У Ка́ти ка́рие глаза́.

*Katya has brown eyes.*

Лю́да - ша́тёнка с зелёными глаза́ми.

*Lyuda has light brown hair and green eyes.*

У тебя́ краси́вые се́рые глаза́.

*You have beautiful grey eyes.*

Там бы́ла о́чень интере́сная де́вушка с че́рными глаза́ми и дли́нными, пря́мыми че́рными волоса́ми.

*There was an attractive woman there with black eyes and long, straight black hair.*

### 83.Б.3 Build: Телосложение (*this word is not for active vocabulary*)

*худой	<i>skinny (Negative)</i>
то́нкий	<i>thin</i>
по́лный	<i>heavy</i>
стро́йный	<i>fit; slender</i>
высо́кий / высоко́го роста́	<i>tall</i>
сре́днего роста́	<i>of average height</i>
невысо́кий / невысо́кого роста́	<i>short</i>

\*The comparative form **хуже** *worse* is derived from this word, which may say something about how Russians feel about skinny people.

Го́ша вы́сокий, стро́йный мужчи́на.

Лю́да полнова́та, невы́сокого ро́ста.

Са́ша то́нкая, да́же худа́я.

Ка́тя стро́йная, сре́днего ро́ста.

*Gosha is a tall, fit man.*

*Lyuda is slightly overweight and on the short side.*

*Sasha is thin, even skinny.*

*Katya is slender, of average height.*



**Переведите на русский:**

1. Nina is a slender (fit) and red-haired with blue eyes.
2. My sister is a bit on the heavy side.
3. I like tall men with green eyes.
4. What color are Vera's eyes?
5. I think he is too skinny.
6. She has large, beautiful brown eyes.
7. Practically everyone in Sweden is tall, slender with blue eyes and straight light hair.
8. My wife is a bit thin.
9. What color are his eyes?
10. My (male) cousin is a blond with gray eyes.



**Упражнение 1**

Describe 3 characters from the film and 2 other people. Use the suffix **овát** at least twice (Try to stick to the adjective/adverbs given in the examples; оват does not work with a lot of words.) (If you don't know eye color, make something up.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

 Упражнение 2

1. I like tall blondes with short curly hair and green eyes.
2. My uncle has a dark mustache and a long gray beard.
3. For some reason, Vera finds bald men attractive. To each his own.
4. What color are your eyes?