

## Russian Verbs of Motion

Russian Verbs of Motion are slightly different to other verbs. As you have seen in our overview of [Russian verbs](#), each verb comes in a pair. A pair that consists of an Imperfective and a Perfective verb, depending on the specific action taking place.

Verbs of motion also have Imperfective and Perfective aspect, as motion can be done to completion, or it can be ongoing. The difference with these verbs is that they come in pairs based on whether the motion is direct (ie. from *here* to *there* once) or indirect (eg. going for a walk/run or riding the bus to work *every day*.)

So, let's make this a little clearer. Verbs of motion come in an Imperfective Pair (one direct, and one indirect.) By adding a prefix to these verbs, you will create a new pair. By adding a prefix to the direct verb, you will create a Perfective verb, and by adding the same prefix to the indirect verb, you will create an Imperfective verb. Thus, the addition of a prefix will create a new verb pair (one Imperfective and one Perfective). The key to learning these verbs is this:

1. Memorise the Imperfective pairs
2. Memorise the prefixes
3. Apply the prefixes to create new verbs that come in Imperfective-Perfective Pairs.

In the following tables you will find a list of the most important verbs of motion, as well as the common prefixes and examples of the verbs they create.

## Russian Verbs of Motion

### Imperfective Pairs

*Direction of Motion*

*How Often?*

To Go (by foot)  
To Go (by vehicle)  
To Run  
To Swim / Sail  
To Fly  
To Climb  
To Roll (Ride)  
To Crawl  
To Carry / Take (by hand)  
To Carry / Take (by vehicle)  
To Lead / Drive  
To Drag / Carry on Back

### Indirect

*(Multidirectional)*

*Regular / Routine*

**Ходить**  
**Ездить**  
**Бегать**  
**Плавать**  
**Летать**  
**Лазить**  
**Катать (ся)**  
**Ползать**  
**Носить**  
**Возить**  
**Водить**  
**Таскать**

### Direct

*("Here" to "There")*

*Once / Non-routine*

**Идти**  
**Ехать**  
**Бежать**  
**Плыть**  
**Лететь**  
**Лезть**  
**Катить (ся)**  
**Ползти**  
**Нести**  
**Везти**  
**Вести**  
**Тащить**

### Prefixes

**По**

To begin

**В**

The moment of entry

**Вы**

The moment of exit

**При**

To arrive

**У**

To leave

**До**

The moment of arrival / To arrive at

**Под**

To approach (within view)

**От**

To depart (within view)

**Про**

To pass by

**Пере**

To pass through / To cross

**За**

To go to "x" on your way (eg. Stop in at the shop on your way home from work.)

**Об**

To go around

## Russian Verbs of Motion

<b>Examples</b> <i>Direction of Motion</i> <i>How Often?</i>	<b>Indirect</b> <i>(Multidirectional)</i> <i>Regular / Routine</i> <i>(Imperfective)</i>	<b>Direct</b> <i>("Here" to "There")</i> <i>Once / Non-routine</i> <i>(Perfective)</i>
To Begin To Go (by foot)	-	<b>Пойти</b>
To Begin To Go (by foot)	-	<b>Поехать</b>
To Begin to Swim	-	<b>Поплыть</b>
To Enter (by foot)	<b>Входить</b>	<b>Войти</b>
To Enter (by vehicle)	<b>Въезжать</b>	<b>Въехать</b>
To Exit (by foot)	<b>Выходить</b>	<b>Выйти</b>
To Exit (by vehicle)	<b>Выезжать</b>	<b>Выехать</b>
To Arrive (by foot)	<b>Приходить</b>	<b>Прийти</b>
To Arrive (by vehicle)	<b>Приезжать</b>	<b>Приехать</b>
To Arrive (by airplane)	<b>Прилетать</b>	<b>Прилететь</b>
To Leave (by foot)	<b>Уходить</b>	<b>Уйти</b>
To Leave (by vehicle)	<b>Уезжать</b>	<b>Уехать</b>
To Leave (by airplane)	<b>Улетать</b>	<b>Улететь</b>
Moment of arrival (by foot)	<b>Доходить</b>	<b>Дойти</b>
Moment of arrival (by vehicle)	<b>Доезжать</b>	<b>Доехать</b>
To Approach (by foot)	<b>Подходить</b>	<b>Подойти</b>
To Approach (by vehicle)	<b>Подезжать</b>	<b>Подехать</b>
To Depart (by foot)	<b>Отходить</b>	<b>Отойти</b>
To Depart (by vehicle)	<b>Отезжать</b>	<b>Отехать</b>
To Pass by (by foot)	<b>Проходить</b>	<b>Пройти</b>
To Pass by (by vehicle)	<b>Проезжать</b>	<b>Проехать</b>
To Go Through / Cross (foot)	<b>Переходить</b>	<b>Перейти</b>
To Go Through / Cross (vehicle)	<b>Перезезжать</b>	<b>Переехать</b>
To Go to "x" on way (by foot)	<b>Заходить</b>	<b>Зайти</b>
To Go to "x" on way (vehicle)	<b>Заезжать</b>	<b>Заехать</b>
To Go Around (by foot)	<b>Обходить</b>	<b>Обойти</b>
To Go Around (by vehicle)	<b>Обезжать</b>	<b>Обехать</b>