

Dialog 3—Чаепитие (Tea Party)

In Russian culture tea drinking is an important social activity enjoyed by both sexes. It is frequently done at the kitchen table. There will almost always be a light snack to go with the tea (к чаю). This might be sweets such as cookies or open-topped finger sandwiches.

See Also

- [Dialog 3 Audio](#)
- [Flashcards—Dinner Table](#)
- [Flashcards—Food Items](#)

Хозяин	Гость
Будете чай? Will you [have] tea?	Да, спасибо. Yes, thank you.
Хотите сахар? Do you want sugar?	Нет, спасибо. No, thank you.
Хотите молоко? Do you want milk?	Да, спасибо. Yes, thank you.
Ешьте печенье! Eat a cookie!	Спасибо. Thank you.
Будете ещё чай? Will you have more tea?	Нет, спасибо. Было очень вкусно. No thank you. It was very tasty.

Usage Notes

- In English it is assumed that if we say “thank you”, we accept the offer. But if we just say “спасибо” the hearer will not know whether we mean “yes, thank you” or “no, thank you”. That is why in the dialog we use “да, спасибо” to accept the offer and “нет, спасибо” to decline it.
- Instead of “да, спасибо” (yes, thank you) one may say “пожалуйста” (if you please).

Encouragement

If you decline tea, your new friends may ask “Если чай не пьёшь, откуда силу берёшь?” (If you don't drink tea, how do you keep up your strength?) They are teasing you to try to get you to change your mind.

Making Tea

While nowadays Russians may use tea bags, they still frequently make tea in the traditional way. They put several spoonfuls of tea leaves in the bottom of a teapot (заварочный чайник) and pour hot water on them. They choose the proportions so as to make a tea that is much too strong for drinking. This they call “заварка” (the brew). When serving the tea they pour about half an inch of the brew into the teacup (чашка) and fill the rest up with hot water. The hot water comes from a tea kettle heated on a gas stove, an electric tea kettle, or on formal occasions from a traditional самовар which is a self-fired tea kettle with a spigot in the side for dispensing hot water.



Чашка



Заварочный чайник



Электрочайник



Самовар