

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

# Intermediate S1 #1

## A Bulgarian Job Interview, Part 1

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#1

## INTRODUCTION

Eric: Hi everyone, and welcome to BulgarianPod101.com. This is Intermediate Season 1 Lesson 1 - A Bulgarian Job Interview, Part 1. Eric here.

Tina: Здравейте. I'm Tina.

Eric: In this lesson you'll learn how to speak in a formal context. The conversation takes place in the office of a recruitment company.

Tina: It's between Gergana and Kalin.

Eric: The speakers are strangers, so they'll be using formal Bulgarian. Okay, let's listen to the conversation.

## DIALOGUE

Калин: Здравейте! Имам уговорено интервю за 10 ч, за позицията "Аниматор на круизен кораб".

Гергана: Заповядайте! Уговорката Ви е с мен.

Гергана: Така... Първо, бихте ли се представили накратко?

Калин: Казвам се Калин и съм студент по психология. Бих желал да започна работа през лятото.

Гергана: Разбирам... А защо проявявате интерес към тази позиция точно?

Калин: Иска ми се да правя нещо, което ми е интересно и е свързано с моята специалност.

Гергана: Какво имате предвид?

Калин: Лесно общувам с непознати и обичам да създавам добро настроение. Това изглежда като идеалната работа за мен.

Eric: Listen to the conversation with the English translation.

Kalin: Hello! I have an appointment for an interview at 10 am for the position of cruise ship host.

Gergana: Come in! Your appointment is with me.

Gergana: So... First, would you introduce yourself briefly?

Kalin: My name is Kalin and I study psychology. I would like to get a job during the summer.

Gergana: I see... And why are you interested in this job opening in particular?

Kalin: I'd like to do something that I'm interested in and is related to my major.

Gergana: What do you mean?

Kalin: I interact easily with strangers and I love to keep up the good mood. This sounds like the perfect job for me.

## POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Eric: Tina, in Bulgarian, formal language and informal language are separated. Could you tell us more about that?

Tina: Sure. When you talk to someone you should keep in mind that the formal "you" form is usually referred to as the Vie-form, and the informal as the Ti-form.

Eric: How can we decide which one to use?

Tina: You should use the Vie- form when you're talking to people you don't know, or when you want to demonstrate respect or to acknowledge power distance. When people address each other formally, they usually use their family names. On the other hand, when people use informal speech they use their given names. The Ti-form is used between friends or when people want to feel closer.

Eric: What about on the job?

Tina: In the last 20 years people have started using the informal form in the office, following the "western" idea of a friendly work environment.

Eric: And how about in job interviews?

Tina: During an interview, especially if it's conducted by a recruiter, or by the person who is going to be the interviewee's direct supervisor, do not be surprised if shortly after the introduction you hear the question Бихте ли имали нещо против да си говорим на "ти"?

Eric: Meaning "Would you mind if we talk to each other in the informal form?"

Tina: or also Може ли да си говорим на "ти"?

Eric: meaning "May we talk in an informal way?" Listeners, check out the lesson notes to get more details about these forms. Okay, now onto the vocab.

## VOCAB LIST

Eric: Let's take a look at the vocabulary from this lesson. The first word is..

Tina: интервю [natural native speed]

Eric: interview

Tina: интервю[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: интервю [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: уговорен [natural native speed]

Eric: agreed upon, stipulated

Tina: уговорен[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: уговорен [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: свързан [natural native speed]

Eric: connected, related

Tina: свързан[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: свързан [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: работа [natural native speed]

Eric: work, job

Tina: работа[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: работа [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: обявявам [natural native speed]

Eric: announce, advertise

Tina: обявявам[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: обявявам [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: накратко [natural native speed]

Eric: briefly

Tina: накратко[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: накратко [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: общувам [natural native speed]

Eric: to communicate, to interact

Tina: общувам[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: общувам [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Tina: непознат [natural native speed]

Eric: strange, unknown, unfamiliar

Tina: непознат[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: непознат [natural native speed]

Eric: And lastly..

Tina: идеален [natural native speed]

Eric: ideal, perfect

Tina: идеален [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Tina: идеален [natural native speed]

## KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Eric: Let's have a closer look at some of the words and phrases from this lesson. The first phrase is..

Tina: провеждам събитие

Eric: meaning "to conduct" or "to carry out an event."

Tina: провеждам is an imperfective transitive verb and means "to do something" or "to carry out something."

Eric: The verb is almost exclusively related to the organizing and carrying out of an event.

Tina: It can be used in phrases such as провеждам среща

Eric: "to hold a meeting"

Tina: or провеждам избори

Eric: "to carry out elections"

Eric: It is most often used in formal or reported speech, like in a business setting or news announcements.

Tina: In informal speech, the verb провеждам can sometimes be replaced by правя

Eric: which means "to do." Can you give us an example using the formal version?

Tina: Sure. For example, you can say.. Срещите на Световния икономически форум се провеждат в Давос.

Eric: ..which means "The meeting of the World Economic Forum takes place in Davos." Okay, what's the next phrase?

Tina: явявам се (на интервю)

Eric: meaning "to go to" in situations like an interview.

Tina: явявам се is a reflexive verb and literally means "to appear, to show up, to arrive," and the verb contains the notion of expectedness. It's very close in meaning to the verb появявам се, which means "to appear, to show up, to come into view," but that verb somehow contains the nuance of unexpectedness or surprise.

Eric: Let's explain this a little more with some examples.

Tina: For example, you can say both явявам се на интервю and появявам се на интервю,

Eric: both are translated in English as "to go to an interview."

Tina: появявам се на интервю would imply that you do it unexpectedly or uninvitedly, whereas явявам се на интервю would imply that you went through a required procedure.

Eric: Can you give us an example?

Tina: Sure. For example, you can say.. Бебето се яви на бял свят в 2 часа през нощта.

Eric: .. which literally means "The baby saw the light of day at 2 am," meaning that's when the baby was born. Okay, what's the next phrase?

Tina: подготвям (се за интервю)

Eric: meaning "to prepare."

Tina: подготвям is an imperfective verb meaning "to prepare, to get ready," and it contains the notion that something is in the process of preparation; the perfective form of the verb is подготвя. It can also be a reflexive verb - подготвям се, подготвя се, implying that the action is performed by oneself.

Eric: It can be used both in formal and informal situations.

Tina: Right. For example, Подготвяш ли се за сватбата?

Eric: .. which means "Are you getting ready for the wedding?"

Tina: You might also hear Самолетът се подготвяше за излитане, когато неочаквано затвориха летището.

Eric: meaning "The airplane had been preparing for take off when they closed the airport unexpectedly." Okay, now onto the lesson focus.

## LESSON FOCUS

Eric: In this lesson, you'll learn how to speak in a formal context while mastering personal pronouns.

Tina: There are a total of 9 categories of pronouns in Bulgarian. Although nowadays no case forms are used by Bulgarians when they speak, three case forms have remained in the personal and interrogative pronouns forms.

Eric: It takes some time and practice to learn them all. We'll start with the nominative form of the personal pronouns. The nominative form of pronouns, which is also the dictionary form, is divided into two main groups according to number, and three sub-groups according to whether it is in first, second, or third-person. Let's see the singular ones first.

Tina: For the first person we have аз

Eric: Which means "I."

Tina: The second person is ти

Eric: which is "you," singular informal.

Tina: For the third person there are three forms, masculine, той, feminine, тя, and neuter то

Eric: Which respectively translate as "he," "she," and "it." Let's list the plural ones now.

Tina: They are ние, вие and те

Eric: Respectively meaning “we,” or “you” in the plural and polite form, and “they.” Let’s give an example.

Tina: For example Кой е това? - Това съм аз.

Eric: meaning "Who is this? - This is me." The plural “you” is also used as the polite form of “you” right?

Tina: Right, when speaking in a formal setting, no matter whether they are addressing one person or a group of people, Bulgarians use the second person plural form of the personal pronoun, which is вие.

Eric: Listeners, remember that the accepted rule is that in written speech, when Bulgarians want to be polite, they write the respective form of the personal pronoun with a capital letter. Let’s give the same examples in both the formal and informal version. For example, what’s the formal version of “I was looking for you”?

Tina: Търсих Ви. The informal is Търсих те.

Eric: Both are translated as “I was looking for you” in English, but they are two different sentences in Bulgarian. Now which are the other two cases that you mentioned before?

Tina: The dative and the accusative.

Eric: The dative is a "giving-taking" concept where we point out the "receiver" in the dative.

Tina: Here’s an example -Той ми даде подарък.

Eric: “He gave me a present.”

Tina: Notice that Той or “he” is a personal pronoun in nominative and ми or “to me” is the “I” short personal pronoun form in dative.

Eric: The accusative designates a person or thing to whom or which an action is being done.

Tina: Here is an example - Те ме взеха от летището.

Eric: “They picked me up from the airport.”

Tina: Те or “they” is a personal pronoun in nominative and ме or “me” is the “I” short personal pronoun form in accusative.

Eric: We have talked about the pronouns, but if we take a closer look back at the conversation, we can see that the interviewer and the interviewee hardly used any personal pronouns.

Tina: That’s right, for example, Gergana says Първо, бихте ли се представили накратко?

Eric: meaning “First, would you introduce yourself briefly?”

Tina: Kalin says Казвам се Калин и съм студент по психология. Бих желал да започна работа през лятото.

Eric: meaning “My name is Kalin, and I study psychology. I would like to get a job during the summer.” As you already know, the verbs in Bulgarian change according to person and number, so even if you omit the personal pronoun, you’ll still be able to understand who the subject of the conversation is.

Tina: Omitting the personal pronoun in nominative is actually very common in spoken language, both in formal and informal situations.

Eric: Are there any cases when the personal pronoun cannot be omitted?

Tina: Yes, for example, when the verb is in the third person singular, because it's the same for all three genders.

Eric: Let's give some examples.

Tina: For example, we can say *Отидох на кино*.

Eric: Meaning "I went to the cinema"

Tina: but we can't just say *Отиде на кино*.

Eric: meaning just "went to the cinema". The subject might be either she or he. We need to add the pronoun.

Tina: Right, for example *Тя отиде на кино*.

Eric: "She went to the cinema."

Tina: Also in written speech, we always need to add the personal pronoun. This is not only the case for textbooks or articles, but for formal emails as well.

Eric: So, suppose that Kalin wants to introduce himself in an email to the company he applied for, what should he write?

Tina: *Аз се казвам Калин и съм студент по Психология...*

Eric: Which means "My name is Kalin, and I study psychology..."

Tina: While in the dialogue, he just said *Казвам се Калин*, without *Аз* at the beginning.

## OUTRO

Eric: Okay, that's all for this lesson. Thank you for listening, everyone, and we'll see you next time! Bye!

Tina: *До скоро!*