



2-32 Радионяня


The children's radio program **Радионяня** was very popular in the 1960s and 1970s. **Радионяня** taught everything from proper spelling and speech habits to the rules of etiquette. The format was always the same: An overly pedantic teacher, Nikolai Vladimirovich, challenged two childlike adults, Sasha and Alik, to make a proper invitation, accept a gift politely, or use words correctly. Sasha and Alik would bumble through each assignment, trying again and again, until they finally got it all right. In this episode, Nikolai Vladimirovich asks Sasha and Alik to make a telephone call. In the course of the lesson, the two stooges show children how **not** to ask for someone on the phone or excuse themselves for an incorrectly dialed number; they are also demonstratively oblivious to the importance of limiting oneself to short, essential conversations on what are often shared party lines.

You will need these expressions:

уметь (уме́-ю, -ешь, -ют) + *infinitive* — *to know how*
(не)вежливо — *(im)politely*

-  1. Nikolai Vladimirovich tells Sasha to show how to use the telephone. Sasha makes six telephone calls and does something wrong in every call except the last one. Listen to the recording and determine what sorts of mistakes he makes.
-  2. Listen to the episode again. Use context to determine the meanings of these words. They are given in the order in which you hear them.

брать трубку
 набирать номер
 телефон занят
 Подождём минутку ...

-  3. Listen once again and determine the most likely meaning for the following words and phrases.

а. назва́ть себя́

- i. answer the phone
- ii. hang up the phone
- iii. give one's number
- iv. give one's name

в. Тем бо́лее!

- i. All the more reason!
- ii. Not at all!
- iii. Never mind!
- iv. That's a good question!

б. угада́ть

- i. to make a guess
- ii. to take a message
- iii. to dial the operator
- iv. to call back

г. пы́таются дозвони́ться

- i. are unable to get to sleep at night
- ii. are trying to get through on the phone
- iii. are getting more and more worried
- iv. are beginning to feel put upon

4. At the end of the recording Nikolai Vladimirovich gives some general advice about tying up the phone lines. Summarize what he has to say. Be as specific as you can.

Answers to the listening part:

1.

2.

3.

4.

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