

Бриллиантовая рука

In honor of the anniversary of the film «Бриллиантовая рука» (“Diamond Arm”), this edition of Учитель looks at some of the famous крылатые фразы (“winged phrases”), or idiomatic expressions that the film gave to the Russian language.

Read through the quotes below, then watch the film (links below), and pay attention to when the quotes are used. Then search for the correct meaning in the paragraphs that follow, writing the paragraph’s letter before the quote.

- _____ Цигель, цигель, ай-лю-лю!
- _____ А у вас нет такого же, но с перламутровыми пуговицами? <...> Будем искать...
- _____ Руссо туристо! Облико морале!
- _____ Будете у нас на Кольмэ <...>
Нет, уж лучше вы к нам...
- _____ Шампанское по утрам пьют или аристократы, или дегенераты.
- _____ Улыбайтесь! Шеф любит идиотов!
- _____ Скромненько, но со вкусом.
- _____ Детям — мороженое, его бабе — цветы.
- _____ Семён Семёныч...
- _____ Наши люди в булочную на такси не ездят!
- _____ Лёгким движением руки брички превращаются...
- _____ Не виноватая я! Он сам пришёл!
- _____ На его месте должен был быть я...
- _____ Кто возьмёт билетов пачку, тот получит водочку.

Explanations

A. Said in order to reproach a person in a friendly way, when they are doing /saying something naive or stupid, or don’t quite get what you’re talking about.

B. Spoken to hurry someone along. (The expression means nothing in Russian, but supposedly has a meaning in another language.)

B. Said when showing someone something new or special that has an interesting trick to it. Or, as you are doing something impressive.

Г. Used when buying a lottery or raffle ticket. (Soviet lottery tickets were not popular, but citizens were strongly

encouraged to buy them from low level municipal officials, with a promise of an often useless prize.)

Д. Said when referring to Russian-speakers abroad, or Russian tourists... (its first half or in its entirety)

Е. Used when you assess something and find it modest, yet tasteful... a piece of new furniture, a dress, etc.

Ё. Said as a joke when someone is trying find a specific piece of clothing. If they ask and get a “no,” they add that they’ll “keep looking.” This might also be said by someone waiting for a person who is taking too long to pick out an outfit at a store.

Ж. Spoken when someone invites you somewhere you really don’t want to go to. You’d rather host them where you are.

З. A good use case is when someone takes your parking spot as you were about to park there.

И. Said when you are about to receive a scolding. You could do it as a “self-talk” or as an offbeat way to get another person to smile.

Й. Spoken when you are planning to or are consuming champagne before noon.

К. Uttered when you don’t want someone to get confused when doing a simple task, or when you are referring to buying basic gifts for a certain occasion and a certain person.

Л. Said as a way of judging someone’s uncharacteristic actions or behavior, particularly if they are overspending or splurging.

М. Used on various occasions when you are mildly guilty and are trying to get out of a certain responsibility, or don’t consider yourself guilty, or are not guilty at all, but someone else is at fault.

Film with Russian subtitles: bit.ly/diamond-arm-rus
with English subtitles bit.ly/diamond-arm-english