

Warm Up

embarrassing / embarrassed

In today's scene, Ivan's mother says, "*And your Russian is embarrassing.*" When we use 'ing' adjectives like embarrassing, boring, exciting, etc. we are describing a noun (in this case, Ani's Russian language skills).

When we use 'ed' adjectives like embarrassed, bored, excited, etc. we are talking about how people feel. For example, Ivan's mother could have said, "I am embarrassed by your Russian." In this case, Ivan's mother would have meant that she feels embarrassed because Ani's Russian language skills are poor.

For today's warm up, talk with a partner about things that you think are embarrassing. Or, talk about a time when you felt embarrassed.

Examples

- I think that **dancing in public** is embarrassing.
- For me, **being seen without makeup** is embarrassing.
- I always **feel embarrassed when** I arrive somewhere late.
- When I was young, I **was embarrassed by** my name because every time I met a new person, he/she would say, "E.T. phone home."

1. Gerund phrase + is embarrassing.
2. ... feel embarrassed when ...
3. ... 'be' verb + embarrassed by ...

Useful Expression

In today's scene, Ivan says, *And thank you for making my last trip to America so fun.*

A very useful way to thank people for a number of things is by saying "Thank you for" followed by a gerund phrase.

Examples

- Thank you for coming to my party.
- Thank you for bringing a dish.
- Thank you for helping me move into my apartment.
- Thank you for responding to my email so quickly.

Activity

With a partner, read the following scenarios and make thank you statements for each one.

1. You just went on a tour of Europe, and you had an incredible time. The travel agency that you used set everything up for you and made traveling completely stress-free and fun. This travel agency was recommended to you by a friend. **Write a thank you message to either your friend or the travel agency.**

2. You are an elderly person, and you can't figure out how to use your new smartphone. One day, your granddaughter stops by to say hello. While she is visiting, she helps you install useful apps like Line, and she adjusts all the phone settings for you so that it is easy to read the messages and type on the phone's keyboard. **Write a thank you message to her.**

3. You are a successful entrepreneur in your mid-fifties. When reflecting on your life, you realize that you owe it all to one of your college professors. That one professor always encouraged you to take chances and follow your passion. Without that professor, you probably never would have had the courage to start your first business. **Write a thank you message to that professor.**

4. It is a cold, grey day. Your next-door neighbor suddenly pays you a visit. He has a large pot of freshly cooked chili for you, which he knows is something you like. He explains that he has been cooking all morning and has more chili than he knows what to do with. That night, you are very happy because the chili is really good and also because you didn't feel like cooking. **Write your neighbor a thank you message.**

5. **Write an original thank you message to someone in your life for something that he/she did for you.**

Today's Scene

In today's scene, Ivan and Ani are brought to an airport where Ivan's parents have just arrived via a private jet. Ivan's mother is very powerful and demanding. It is easy to see that she is used to getting her way. That means that she expects to get everything she wants.



When you watch today's scene, pay attention to how all the characters respond to Ivan's mother. Do the other characters become stronger or weaker in her presence? What do you think?

Dialogue

Today's dialogue gives us a chance to practice being strong and angry. Like in our last lesson, give yourself up to these emotions and try to deliver your lines passionately. One person can play Ani, and the other person can play the other three characters (Ivan's mother, father, and Ivan).

Ad Lib

Like in our last lesson, let's reimagine today's scene.

In pairs, take turns being Ivan's mother. Imagine that you are kind and polite, and that you are worried about Ani. Rather than forcing Ani to divorce your son, you are trying to convince her that divorcing Ivan is best for her because you know that your son is not a good person to marry. In addition, you know how difficult it is to be the wife of a wealthy oligarch, all the pressures and responsibilities that are associated with it, and you don't want a sweet girl like Ani to have to live the way that you have.

If you are Ani, be kind and sweet. Continue emphasizing how much you love Ivan and how much you are looking forward to becoming a part of his wonderful family.