

A wide-angle photograph of Saint Isaac's Cathedral in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The cathedral is a massive neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome and two smaller side domes, all covered in gold leaf. The facade features a portico with six tall columns. The building is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with some people sitting on benches and a few cars parked. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Saint Petersburg, Russia

Very, Very Brief History:

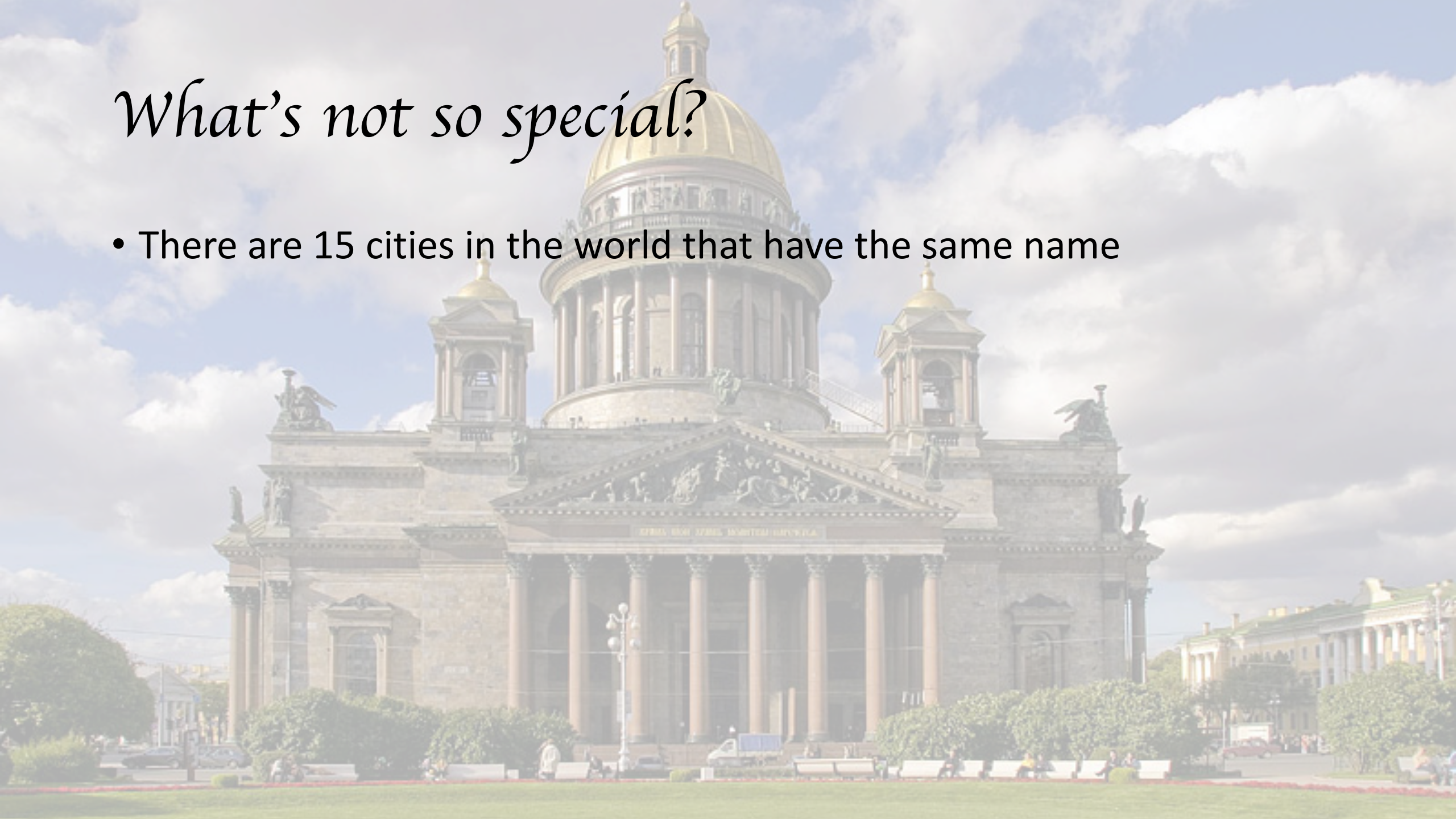
- Founded on May 27th, 1703 by Peter the Great
- Named after St. Peter
- Built on a swamp
- Peter the Great wanted it to make it as “European” as possible
- Quickly became the capital of Russia and one of the main cities in Europe
- Neva River is the main river of Saint Petersburg
- Name was changed three times in the history (Petrograd and Leningrad were the two other names)

What's so special?

- White nights: high-latitude position of the city
- 342 main bridges + 800 smaller bridges + 100 even smaller bridges
- 13 of them are drawbridges – raised each night in the summer to let ships enter Russia along the Neva River
- “Capital of Culture” – lots of museums, theatres, beautiful architecture
- Literature is a huge part of the city’s spirit
- Rain seasons... All year long

What's not so special?

- There are 15 cities in the world that have the same name



Palace Square



Hermitage



Kazan Cathedral



Some Bridge...



Another Bridge...



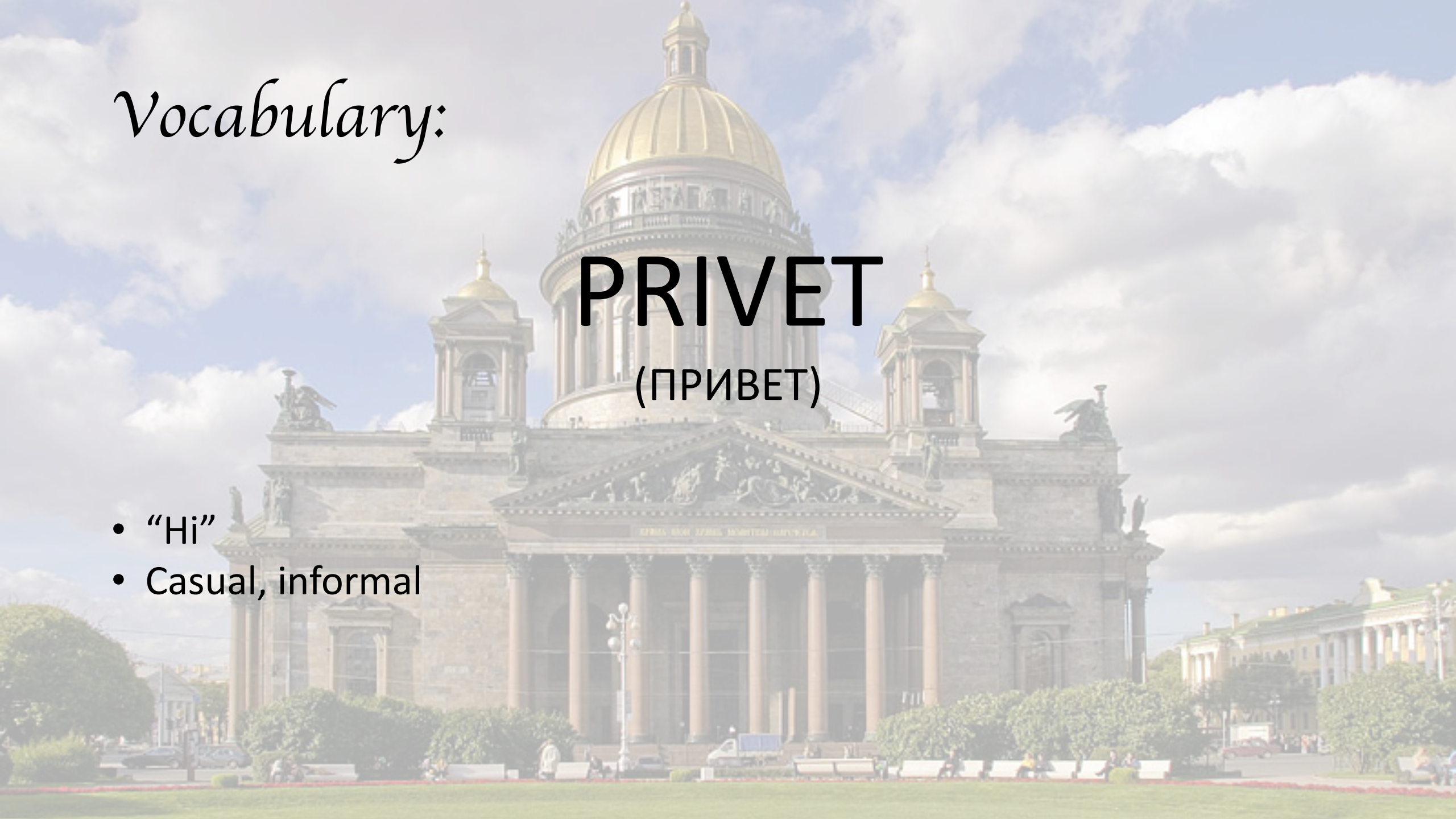
White Nights



Vocabulary:

PRIVET
(ПРИВЕТ)

- “Hi”
- Casual, informal



Vocabulary:

КАК ДЕЛА?

(КАК ДЕЛА?)

- “How are you doing?”
- Only ask if you actually want to know...

Vocabulary:

GDE MOJNO KUPIT' VODKU?

(ГДЕ МОЖНО КУПИТЬ ВОДКУ?)

- “Where can I buy vodka?”
- Useless question. Answer: everywhere.

Vocabulary:

ТЫ ВЫЙДЕШЬ ЗА МЕНЯ?

(ТЫ ВЫЙДЕШЬ ЗА МЕНЯ?)

- “Will you marry me?”
- Only ask if you actually want to know...

A large, ornate neoclassical cathedral with a prominent golden dome and a portico with columns. The sky is blue with white clouds. The text 'СПАСИБО!' is overlaid in the center, with '(СПАСИБО!)' below it.

СПАСИБО!
(СПАСИБО!)

- “Thanks!”