

CULTURAL COMPARISON

How do the situations below compare with what we typically see in the U.S.?

(Click on the links below to view the respective scenes again.)

1) Viktor gets a drink of carbonated water from a vending machine: In the 1970s and 1980s in the U.S.S.R., many vending machines contained drinking glasses which were rinsed and immediately reused.

2) Although Russians often sit in the front seat of a cab next to the driver, Olga decides to sit in the back seat instead.

3) Olga pays the exact amount for the fare and doesn't give the driver a tip.

4) Russians have a polite form of the word "you" (*Вы*) as well as a familiar version (*ты*). This is reflected in alternate forms of the same word for "Hello": *Здравствуйте!* (polite/formal) and *Здравствуй!* (familiar).

5) What else did you notice in Episode 1 that is similar or dissimilar to what we observe today in the U.S.?