

# Breaking Up Is So Easy to Do

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*Развод: divorce*

With all this talk of divorce in the air, it seems that I've written a lot about the language of love but not much about the language of love's end. Breaking up may be hard to do but describing it in Russian isn't.

First, you can take the high road and use the verb *расстаться* (to part), which can refer to a marriage or any relationship, from a high school romance to a long-term, live-in union. The Russian Internet gives lots of advice and encouragement on this score: *Как расстаться по-хорошему?* (How can you break up nicely?) *Расстаться и влюбиться вновь!* (Break up and fall in love again!)

Or you can simply go your separate ways: *разойтись*. *Мы с Вовой разошлись* (Vova and I separated). Depending on the context, this can mean a breakup, a trial separation or a divorce. *Мы с Вовой разошлись, но я всё-таки надеюсь, что мы вновь будем вместе* (Vova and I

separated, but I still hope we'll get back together again).

But if it's not a temporary lovers' spat, it's развод (divorce). Мы с Вовой подали на развод (Vova and I put in our papers for a divorce). Мы с Вовой оформили развод (Vova and I registered our divorce). Мы уже три месяца в разводе (We've been divorced for three months now).

If things are complicated, one spouse might ask for a divorce and the other might agree to it. После долгих раздумий я решила дать ему развод (After much thought, I decided to give him a divorce). If a friend insists the marriage can be saved, you can say: Нет, мы уже подали заявление на развод в ЗАГСе (No, we already filed for divorce in the registry office, which in full is отдел записи актов гражданского состояния — registry office of acts of civil status, aka "the bureau of vital statistics").

The main verb for divorcing is развестись: Мы с мужем развелись (My husband and I divorced). The verb развести can be used to describe some third party or circumstance that ended your marriage. Нас развели наши долгие разлуки (Our long separations broke us up). В ЗАГСе нас быстро развели (They quickly divorced us in the registry office).

If you want to get all formal about it, you might use the phrase расторгнуть брак (to dissolve a marriage). Мы расторгли наш брак (We ended our marriage). Sometimes the spouses aren't the ones to finalize the divorce. Наш брак расторгли решением суда (Our marriage was dissolved by court decision). If a friend tells you that, pull out the Kleenex and settle in for a long, teary story.

This is also called прекращение брака (termination of a marriage). Какие основы существуют для прекращения брака? (On what bases can a marriage be terminated?)

If the marriage is over de facto but not yet de jure, you can say: Наш брак завершён (Or marriage is over). Or: В тот момент я поняла, что наш брак закончен (At that moment, I realized that our marriage was over).

Of course, sometimes a marriage ends when one spouse flies the coop. Вова сказал мне прощай (Vova said goodbye). Вова простился со мной навсегда (Vova said goodbye forever). Вова ушёл от меня (Vova left me). Вова меня бросил (Vova dumped me). Вова меня покинул (Vova ditched me).

I guess there really are 50 ways to leave your lover.

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*The views expressed in opinion pieces do not necessarily reflect the position of The Moscow Times.*

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