

# What Does Pektovah Mean?

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<b>Text</b>	“What Does Pektovah Mean?”
<b>Author</b>	Kevin McCaughey
<b>Audio</b>	Song

### “What Does Pektovah Mean?”

by Kevin McCaughey (2:20)

[Listen to this song](#): a true story about a couple of Americans in Russia.

I met an American in Yakutsk  
In Russian she didn't know much anything thing  
But apparently she thought she heard a word  
'Cause she asked, Kevin, What's *pektovah* mean?

What does pektovah mean?  
What does pektovah mean?  
I said, “I've got no idea. Maybe it's slang  
But it sounds about as Russian as the word *orangutan*,  
I really don't know what pektovah means”

She said, “I saw it bunch of times yesterday  
On signs when I was walking around.”  
“Well then,” I said, “one thing we can say:  
Pektovahs must be is popular in this town”

What does pektovah mean?  
What does pektovah mean?  
I had to admit that I'd never seen  
A word like that on any sign on any street  
I really don't know what pektovah means”

Then she nearly jumped out of her feet  
When she saw a pektovah sign on the street  
It became clear what was going on  
Her pektovah was just a PECTOVAH

Now we know what pektovah means  
We know pektovah means?  
It's easy to laugh, but what travel often brings  
Is a brand new meaning to the things you think you've already seen  
And that's precisely, indubitably, unquestioningly,  
Undeniably, incontrovertibly, incontestably, indisputably,  
What pektovah means.



A side street in Yakutsk. No pektovahs in sight.  
Photo: Kevin McCaughey

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## Post-Text Activities

### 1. Questions

1. Have you ever been to a place where it was difficult to read the signs? Explain when and where?
2. Do you have any funny anecdotes or stories about miscommunications with a foreigner or in a foreign city? Retell them.