

We are meeting a few foreigners who took up the challenge to study the Bulgarian language. How hard is Bulgarian?

Sophia is from Russia. Three years ago she graduated from the American University in Bulgaria and stayed to work there. Then, she did not know a single Bulgarian word. Today, she reads Slaveikov with pleasure.

**SV:** I like Bulgarian very much because it is very close to my first language. I would not say I've put that much effort in learning it but I found Bulgarian friends at the university and we just talked together.

Sophia loves our language because of the people and the culture here. Yet she still cannot get used to some sounds. Her favorite Bulgarian word is ъглошлайф [angle grinder].

**SV:** It sounds as if a sailor pronounces it in a dark, dim bar. It sounds very sad but is actually some sort of a tool.

Sophia dreams of learning our language perfectly. Prof. Sabina Wien, instructor of Bulgarian at the American University in Bulgaria helps her with the pleasant task. Sabina has been teaching our language to foreigners for ten years.

**SW:** I am telling them that if they would like to know the Bulgarians and Bulgaria they must learn at least a little bit of the language. It unravels a great part of how people think. Take the proverbs, adages and verses as an example.

To learn Bulgarian, yet through songs, strives Lynnette from the USA, a professor at the university and a friend of Sabina. The love towards the Bulgarian song is what gathers them together.

**LL:** I love the Bulgarian songs. I like the rhythm and the sounds. Those songs really excite me. Every word in the Bulgarian language has its place, for example when it is snowing, the word сняг [snow] makes me feel cold.