RUSSIAN · GRADE 2 · AGES 7–8

Grade 2 Russian

Parent guides. A step-by-step script for every lesson, with materials, what to read aloud and a checklist.

First edition **5 units** **10 lessons · one quarter** **Cyrillic with stress marks**

A song or video for every lesson **Quick reference**

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 2 Russian is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 15–20 minutes a week. It follows Grade 1 Russian but can also be a first course.

The child meets the first twelve Cyrillic letters, six friendly and six tricky, and reads first words like кот, ма́ма, нос and сок; then learns school words and the polite Здра́вствуйте!, the winter months and С Рождество́м!, the trees and animals of the Russian forest, and the sky, ending with the first line of the Lord's Prayer in Russian. Every unit opens with a true story and a picture: Matejko's Saints Cyril and Methodius, Bogdanov-Belsky's boy at the school door, Shishkin's winter forest, Levitan's birch grove and Savrasov's rainbow.

A parent reads the lesson aloud; the child says, moves, makes and begins to read and trace Cyrillic. Every Russian word is printed with a stress mark and an English sound guide, and the vocabulary cards in the first two units also show the word in Latin letters.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: RussianPod101 (short lessons by native Russian teachers, with the words on screen) and Rock 'N Learn (Learn Russian for Kids, a long video used one short section at a time). There are fewer Russian children's songs on approved channels than in the other languages, so many lessons use a short picture-word video, and the lesson itself carries the song or rhyme for the parent to say or sing. The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. Please

> preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 2 (about ages 7–8), with a parent or teacher reading the lessons aloud and joining in. No Russian is needed by the child or the parent: every word comes with an English sound guide, and the videos and rhymes do the rest. Reading and writing are light: learning the letters a few at a time, tracing and copying short words, and reading picture labels aloud. Sessions are short, 15 to 20 minutes. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, crayons and household things.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 15–20 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the story, the video or rhyme and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the picture dictionary. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice questions (asked out loud), the game and a little show for the family.
2. **Say it every day.** Young children learn a language by hearing it and saying it, a few minutes every day, cheerfully. Say приве́т (pree-VYET, hi) at breakfast and споко́йной но́чи (spah-KOY-nuy NOH-chee, good night) at bedtime, count the stairs in Russian, and say the week's rhyme in the car.
3. **Clap the loud part.** Clap once on the stressed syllable as you say each word: ма-МА, мо-ло-КО́. Children love it, and it keeps the stress right from the start.
4. **The picture dictionary.** Keep one notebook for the quarter. Each lesson the child draws the new words, and a parent writes the Russian word beside each drawing for the child to trace.

5. **Cyrillic from the first day.** Russian is written in the Cyrillic alphabet, named for Saint Cyril, the Greek missionary who, with his brother Methodius, first wrote down the Slavic language so that the Slavs could read the Gospel. Some letters look and sound like ours (А, К, М, О, Т), some look like ours but sound different (В is v, Н is n, Р is r, С is s), and some are new (Б, Д, Ж, Ш, Я…). The course teaches the letters a few at a time and never asks the child to read Russian in Latin letters for long.
6. **Stress marks.** Every Russian word of more than one syllable is printed with a mark over its stressed vowel (ма́ма, молоко́). Say that syllable loudest. Russian books for adults leave the mark out, but readers for children and learners print it, and so does this course. Latin-letter transliteration is shown on the vocabulary cards in Units 1 and 2 only; after that, each card keeps its English sound guide.
7. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 45 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: кот, мак, ма́ма, бу́ква, нос, сок, рука́, у́хо. Unit 2: кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь, шко́ла, учи́тель, учи́тельница, здра́вствуйте!, до свида́ния!. Unit 3: дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль, ме́сяц, год, Рождество́, звезда́, ёлка, с Рождество́м!. Unit 4: лес, де́рево, берёза, лист, гриб, ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц, волк. Unit 5: не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды, ра́дуга, Бог, оте́ц, о́тче наш, моли́тва.
8. **Word games.** The crossword, word-find and hangman games used in other School Launch language courses are typed in Latin letters; Russian needs a Cyrillic keyboard mode, which the shared games do not have yet, so the games are turned off for Russian. Each lesson has a spoken game instead.
9. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
10. **The Russian Bible.** Russian verses are quoted from the Synodal translation (Синода́льный перево́д), the Russian Bible authorized in 1876 after more than fifty years of work begun by the Russian Bible Society in 1813; it is still the Bible of most Russian-speaking churches, Orthodox and Protestant alike, and it is in the public domain. Verses are printed as in the 1876 text (with e where modern print may use ё, and without stress marks), with a dash for the spaced hyphen. Where the King James prints the LORD, the Synodal has Госпо́дь. The Psalms are numbered as in the Greek Old Testament, usually one lower than in the King James (Psalm 23 is Psalm 22 in a Russian Bible), so the lesson always gives the

King James reference. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

Áзбука: First Letters

The first Cyrillic letters and the first words a child can read: the letters that look and sound like English (А, О, К, М, Т, Е) and the tricky ones that look like English but sound different (В, Н, Р, С, У, Х), with Jan Matejko's Saints Cyril and Methodius, who gave the Slavs their letters and the Gospel.

1.1 А, О, К, М, Т, Е: Friendly Letters

1.2 В, Н, Р, С, У, Х: Tricky Letters

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

В шко́ле: At School

School in Russian: кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь, шко́ла and учи́тель, the polite Здра́вствуйте! and До свида́ния!, with Nikolai Bogdanov-Belsky's poor boy standing at the school door.

2.1 Кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь

2.2 Здра́вствуйте! At School

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Зима́ и Рождество́: Winter and Christmas

The winter months, ме́сяц and год, and Christmas in Russian: Рождество́, звезда́, ёлка and С Рождество́м!, with Ivan Shishkin's snowy pine forest and the birth of the Savior.

3.1 Дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль

3.2 Рождество́: Christmas

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

В лесу́: In the Forest

The forest in Russian: лес, де́рево, берёза, лист and гриб, and the animals that live there: ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц and волк, with Isaac Levitan's sunny birch grove and Jesus' words about God's care.

4.1 Лес, де́рево, берёза

4.2 Ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц, волк

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Не́бо и «О́тче наш»: The Sky and the Lord's Prayer

The sky in Russian: не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды and ра́дуга, and the first words of the Lord's Prayer, О́тче наш, with Alexei Savrasov's rainbow over the fields and God's rainbow promise.

5.1 Не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды, ра́дуга

5.2 «О́тче наш»: Our Father

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 А, О, К, М, Т, Е: Friendly Letters: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (salt-tray letters) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet *Three short sessions a week: one to learn, one to make, one to play. On the other days, read the week's words from cards and say the verse aloud.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 В, Н, Р, С, У, Х: Tricky Letters: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (tricky-letter detective cards) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (my cyrillic letter book)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (my school box) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Здра́вствуйте! At School: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (polite-or-friendly puppets) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (play school)

WEEK	PLAN
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (snowy forest picture) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Рождество́: Christmas: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (bethlehem star) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (winter calendar page)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Лес, де́рево, берёза: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (leaf rubbings) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц, волк: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (paper-plate hedgehog) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (forest diorama)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды, ра́дуга: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (day and night sky) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 «О́тче наш»: Our Father: warm-up, story, video and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (prayer card) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (sky book and prayer card)

Materials

A notebook for the picture dictionary

One for the quarter, for drawings and traced words.

Crayons or markers, paper, scissors, glue and tape

For the activities. A parent helps with cutting.

Index cards
For letter cards, picture cards and games.

Grading

Grades at this age come from cheerful participation: saying the words, saying the rhymes, playing the games and making the picture dictionary. A child who joins in every day earns full credit.

PART	%
Saying and singing (daily greetings, rhymes, motions, games)	**40**
Picture dictionary and activities	**30**
Unit reviews (out loud)	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: Most families simply mark each review Got it, Getting there or Not yet. If you prefer letters: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79. Below that, say the rhymes and play the games again, then try once more.

- Every review is done out loud. The parent asks, the child answers or points, and the parent marks the answer key.
- A word counts when the child says it so a Russian speaker would understand. The rolled p and the deep ы come with time; praise every try.

A note to parents

You do not need to know Russian to teach this course. Every Russian word has an English sound guide (спаси́бо, thank you, is spah-SEE-buh), every answer is in the answer key, and every lesson has a short video with a native speaker. Learn right alongside your child.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and

checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Keep it short and happy. If your child is tired, say the rhyme and stop. Fifteen joyful minutes are better than thirty unhappy ones.

The stories in this course are true stories of Russian painters, writers, places and people, of the missionaries who brought the Gospel to the Slavs, and stories from the Bible. Each lesson ends with a verse in English (King James Version) and the same verse in the Russian Synodal Bible, so your child can hear that God's Word speaks in every language. This is a course in the Russian language and in the history, art and faith of the Russian people, not in modern politics: it does not take up the governments of Russia, Ukraine or any other country today. Russian holidays are taught as facts about Russian life; where a custom comes from folk belief, the lesson says so plainly. The Christian story is told from Scripture, and the history of the Russian Church is told factually and respectfully.

UNIT 1

Áзбука: First Letters

Lesson 1.1 teaches the friendly letters А, О, К, М, Т and Е and reads ма́ма, кот and мак, with Matejko's painting of the brothers Cyril and Methodius holding the Gospel book.

Lesson 1.2 teaches the tricky letters В, Н, Р, С, У and Х and reads нос, сок, рука́ and у́хо.

PREREQUISITES

- Kindergarten or Grade 1 Russian is helpful (the child knows some spoken words), but not required.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

☐ I can name and sound out

А, and
О,
К,
М,
Т
Е.

☐ I know that

В says v,

Н says n,

Р says r,

С says s,

У says oo and

Х says kh.

☐ I can read

ко and
т,
ма́
ма
,
но
с
со
к.

☐ I can tell who Cyril and Methodius were.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online, for the parent: every Russian word with its stress, meaning and often a recording by a native speaker.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any Russian word said by native speakers (link only).

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**А, О, К, М, Т, Е: Friendly Letters**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
1.2	**В, Н, Р, С, У, Х: Tricky Letters**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 1 Review

Write the words on cards and ask the child to read them. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Read the letters: А, О, К, М, Т.
2. **5 pts**
   What sound does each letter make: В, Н, Р, С?
3. **5 pts**
   Read the words: кот, ма́ма, нос, сок.
4. **5 pts**
   Who were Cyril and Methodius?

ANSWER KEY

1. ah, oh, k, m, t.
2. v, n, r, s.
3. kot (cat), MAH-muh (mom), nohs (nose), sohk (juice).
4. Two brothers, missionaries, who made letters for the Slavic people so they could read the Bible in their own language.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY CYRILLIC LETTER BOOK

Make a little book with one page for each letter learned in this unit. On each page write the big letter, a word that has it, and a picture. Read your book to the family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Saying	The child sounds out each letter correctly.
Using it	The child reads at least four words.
Making	The book has twelve letter pages and a cover.
Joy	The child joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 1 · ÁЗБУКА: FIRST LETTERS · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.1 А, О, К, М, Т, Е: Friendly Letters

OBJECTIVES

- Name and sound out А, О, К, М, Т and Е.
- Read кот, мак and ма́ма.
- Tell who gave the Slavs their alphabet.

Warm-up. Write your name in big letters. Russian children use different letters, called Cyrillic. Some of them look just like ours! Today you meet the friendly ones.

WATCH

What's the Russian Alphabet Called and Where Does It Come From?

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n89GKM2F3ic

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; for the backup video, stop after the first few letters and find A, К, M, O and T.

Note: RussianPod101: what the Russian alphabet is called and where it comes from, Saints Cyril and Methodius (about two and a half minutes; a parent may watch first).

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn ALL Russian Alphabet in 2 Minutes - How to Read and Write Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsLVdZBHFVI

RussianPod101: the whole Russian alphabet in two minutes, letter by letter.

KEY TERMS

A a (ah)
Says ah, as in father.

O o (oh)
Says oh when it is loud.

К к, М м, Т т (k, m, t)
Say the same as in English.

Е е (yeh)
Looks like E but says yeh, as in yes.

кот (koht)
Cat. The first word to read!

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

кот

kot

koht

noun · masculine

cat

мак

mak

mahk

noun · masculine

poppy

ма́ма

mama

MAH-muh

noun · feminine

mom

бу́ква

bukva

BOOK-vuh

noun · feminine

letter (of the alphabet)

CORE IDEAS

The story. More than eleven hundred years ago, two brothers named Cyril and Methodius lived in the Greek city of Thessalonica. They loved God and they knew the language of the Slavic people. A Slavic prince asked for teachers who could tell his people about Jesus in their own language, but the Slavs had no letters to write with. So Cyril made an alphabet for them, and the brothers translated the Gospels. Their students later made the alphabet Russians use today, and they named it Cyrillic after Cyril.

How Russian letters work. Some Cyrillic letters are friendly: they look and sound like ours. A says ah, O says oh, and К, М and Т say k, m and t. Put them together: К-О-Т says кот (cat)! М-А-К says мак (a poppy flower). Е is almost friendly: it looks like Е, but it says yeh.

Say it and move. Make an A with your arms over your head. Make an O with your hands. Make a T with your arms straight out. Then read the cat word and meow: **кот! Мя́у!**

PICTURE STUDY



Saints Cyril and Methodius, Jan Matejko, 1885 · Oil on canvas · Basilica of the Assumption and Saints Cyril and Methodius, Velehrad, Czech Republic

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Jan Matejko was a Polish painter who painted the great stories of the Slavic peoples. Here he shows the two brothers with the book they worked so hard to give: the Gospels in a language the Slavs could read.

Look closely

- Find the book. What book do you think it is?
- Which brother is wearing blue?
- What is he doing with his hand?
- What do you see behind them?

Talk about it

1. Why did the brothers want the Slavs to have letters?
2. What book would you most like to be able to read?

ACTIVITY

Salt-tray letters

Write Cyrillic letters with your finger in a tray of salt or sand.

You will need

- A baking tray
- Salt, sugar or sand
- Letter cards (a parent writes А, О, К, М, Т, Е)

Steps

1. Pour a thin layer of salt in the tray.
2. Look at a letter card, say its sound, and write it in the salt with your finger.
3. Shake the tray to erase and try the next one.
4. Now write the whole word кот and read it out loud.

Tips

- Try мак and ма́ма too.

Check your work

☐ I wrote six letters.

☐ I can read

ко

т.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. Start a Russian letter page in your notebook: write А, О, К, М, Т and Е big, and draw a cat next to кот.

> **From history.** Russians celebrate the Day of Slavic Writing and Culture every year on May 24, the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Statues of the two brothers stand in Moscow and in many other Slavic cities.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, let your child find these letters in a Russian picture book and read short words aloud to you.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read this word: К-О-Т.

▼ **Show solution**

1. К says k, О says oh, Т says t.
2. Put them together: kot.

Answer: Кот: cat.

Example 2. Read this word: М-А-М-А.

▼ **Show solution**

1. М says m and А says ah.
2. Two times: ma-ma.

Answer: Ма́ма: mom.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What sound does А make?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ah

2. Easy What sound does М make?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   m

3. Easy Read: кот.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   kot (cat)

4. Medium What sound does Е make? Is it the same as English E?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   yeh, not the same as English.

5. Medium Read: мак.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   mahk (poppy)

6. Hard Who made the first alphabet for the Slavs, and why?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Saint Cyril (with his brother Methodius), so the Slavs could read the Bible in their own language.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading Е as ee, the way English E sounds in me. Russian Е says yeh.
- Thinking the letters are hard. Six of them are already friends!

> **Make it a game · Letter hunt.** A parent hides letter cards (А, О, К, М, Т, Е) around the room. The child finds each one and says its sound. Can you make кот from the cards you found?

> **Scripture.** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *В начале было Слово* Jesus is called the Word. Cyril and Methodius made letters so that people could read God’s Word and know Jesus.

UNIT 1 · ÁЗБУКА: FIRST LETTERS · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.2 В, Н, Р, С, У, Х: Tricky Letters

OBJECTIVES

- Know the sounds of В, Н, Р, С, У and Х.
- Read нос, сок, рука́ and у́хо.
- Know that God’s Word is a lamp.

> **Warm-up.** Read кот and ма́ма. Now look: В. It looks like English B. But in Russian it says v! Today you meet the tricky letters.

WATCH

Learn ALL Russian Alphabet in 2 Minutes - How to Read and Write Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsLVdZBHFVI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; pause on each tricky letter and say its sound.

Note: RussianPod101: the whole Russian alphabet in two minutes. Listen for В, Н, Р, С, У and Х.

BACKUP VIDEO

Review Russian Alphabet (print) in 20 minutes - Write and Read Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 11:59

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEKPp3o5LsA

RussianPod101: the printed Russian alphabet, letter by letter. It is long; watch only the letters from this lesson.

KEY TERMS

В в (v)
Looks like B, says v.

Н н (n)
Looks like H, says n.

Р р (r)
Looks like P, says a rolled r.

С с (s)
Looks like C, says s.

У у (oo)
Looks like y, says oo.

Х х (kh)
Looks like X, says a breathy kh.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

НОС

nos

nohs

noun · masculine

nose

СОК

sok

sohk

noun · masculine

juice

рука́

ruka

roo-KAH

noun · feminine

hand, arm

у́хо

ukho

OO-khuh

noun · neuter

ear

CORE IDEAS

The story. King David wrote: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Long ago there were no streetlights. If you walked at night, you carried a little lamp to see the path in front of you. God's Word shows us the way to go, like a lamp in the dark. Learning to read means you can read God's Word for yourself.

How Russian letters work. These letters are tricky: they look like English letters but say something else. В says v. Н says n. Р says r (roll it!). С says s. У says oo. Х says kh. Now read: Н-О-С is нос (nose). С-О-К is сок (juice).

Say it and move. Touch your nose: **нос!** Pretend to drink: **сок!** Wave your hand: **рука́!** Pull your ear: **у́хо!**

ACTIVITY

Tricky-letter detective cards

Make cards that show what each tricky letter looks like and what it really says.

You will need

- Six index cards
- Markers

Steps

1. On the front of each card, a parent writes a tricky letter big: В, Н, Р, С, У, Х.
2. On the back, write the English letter it sounds like: v, n, r, s, oo, kh, and draw a picture (v for violin, n for nest…).
3. Quiz yourself: look at the front, say the sound, flip to check.
4. Then read нос, сок, рука́ and у́хо from cards.

Tips

- Draw a little detective magnifying glass on each card.

Check your work

☐ I made six cards.

☐ I can say each tricky sound.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. Add В, Н, Р, С, У and Х to your letter page. Draw a nose next to нос and a glass of juice next to сок.

> **From history.** The Russian alphabet has 33 letters. Some came from Greek letters, like Р (the Greek rho) and Х (the Greek chi, the first letter of Christ in Greek).

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, write short words with these twelve letters (ко́мната, мост, у́тро) and let your child read them.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read this word: H-O-C.

▼ **Show solution**

1. H is tricky: it says n.
2. O says oh, C says s.

Answer: Hoc: nose.

Example 2. Read this word: P-У-К-Á.

▼ **Show solution**

1. P says r, У says oo.
2. К says k, A says ah, and the mark shows the loud part.

Answer: Руká: hand (roo-KAH).

PRACTICE

1. Easy What sound does B make?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   v

2. Easy What sound does H make?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   n

3. Easy Read: нос.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   nohs (nose)

4. Medium What sound does C make? And P?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   s; r

5. Medium Read: сок.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   sohk (juice)

6. Hard Read: у́хо and рука́. What do they mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   OO-khuh (ear); roo-KAH (hand).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading H as h. It says n: нос is nohs.
- Reading C as k, like English cat. Russian C always says s.

> **Make it a game · Tricky or friendly?.** Show a letter card. The child shouts “Friendly!” if it says the same as English (A, K, M, O, T) or “Tricky!” if it does not (B, H, P, C, У, X), and then says its sound.

> **Scripture.** “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *Слово Твое — светильник ноге моей и свет стезе моей* (Psalm 118:105 in the Russian numbering) God’s Word is like a lamp that shows us the next step. When you learn to read, you can read it yourself.

UNIT 2

В шко́ле: At School

Lesson 2.1 teaches кни́га (book), ру́чка (pen), каранда́ш (pencil) and тетра́дь (notebook), with Bogdanov-Belsky’s painting of a poor boy looking in at the school door.

Lesson 2.2 teaches шко́ла (school), учи́тель and учи́тельница (teacher), and the polite greetings Здра́вствуйте! and До свида́ния! for grown-ups.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name book, pen, pencil and notebook in Russian.
- ☐ I can say school and teacher in Russian.
- ☐ I can greet a grown-up politely with

Здра́вствуйте! and say

До свида́ния!

- ☐ I can tell how Jesus grew in wisdom.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online, for the parent: every Russian word with its stress, meaning and often a recording by a native speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**Кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
2.2	**Здра́вствуйте! At School**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 2 review

Use real school things and ask out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Hold up a book, a pen and a pencil and name them in Russian.

2. **5 pts**
   Name a notebook and a school in Russian.

3. **5 pts**
   The teacher comes in. How do you greet her? How do you say goodbye?

4. **5 pts**
   How did Jesus grow as a boy (Luke 2:52)?

ANSWER KEY

1. Кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш.
2. Тетра́дь, шко́ла.
3. Здра́вствуйте! … До свида́ния!
4. In wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PLAY SCHOOL

Set up a little school at home with a desk, a book, a pencil and a notebook. The child plays the teacher: greets the class (stuffed animals or siblings) with Здра́вствуйте!, names the school things, and ends with До свида́ния!

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Saying	The child names at least five school words in Russian.
Using it	The child uses Здра́вствуйте! and До свида́ния! correctly.
Making	The school is set up with real things.
Joy	The child joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 2 · В ШКО́ЛЕ: AT SCHOOL · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.1 Кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь

OBJECTIVES

- Name book, pen, pencil and notebook in Russian.
- Read the letters you know in these words.
- Look closely at a painting of a boy who wanted to learn.

> **Warm-up.** Put a book, a pen, a pencil and a notebook on the table. Which one do you use most? Today you learn their names in Russian.

WATCH

Russian Words of the Week with Katya - School Supplies

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:08

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=515W5lAzE9E

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; hold up each school thing as Katya names it.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches school supplies in Russian, with pictures.

BACKUP VIDEO

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - In the Classroom

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:34

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyLQnkiFTb4

RussianPod101: Katya teaches classroom words in Russian.

KEY TERMS

кни́га (KNEE-guh)
Book.

ру́чка (ROOCH-kuh)
Pen.

каранда́ш (kuh-rahn-DAHSH)
Pencil.

тетра́дь (teet-RAHT)
Notebook.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

кни́га
kniga
KNEE-guh
noun · feminine
book

ру́чка
ruchka
ROOCH-kuh
noun · feminine
pen

каранда́ш

karandash

kuh-rahn-DAHSH

noun · masculine

pencil

тетра́дь

tetrad

teet-RAHT

noun · feminine

notebook

CORE IDEAS

The story. Nikolai Bogdanov-Belsky was born in a poor village family and worked as a little shepherd boy. A kind teacher named Sergei Rachinsky saw how much he loved to draw and took him into his village school, where he learned to read, to write and to paint. When he grew up he painted this picture of a poor boy in ragged clothes, with a stick and a beggar's bag, standing at the school door. He never forgot what it was like to want to learn.

How Russian sounds. Кни́га is KNEE-guh: say the k! Ру́чка is ROOCH-kuh. Каранда́ш is kuh-rahn-DAHSH, loud at the end. Тетра́дь is tee-TRAHT'. Look at кни́га: you can already read К, А and Н!

Say it and move. Open your hands like a book: **кни́га!** Write in the air: **ру́чка!** Sharpen a pretend pencil: **каранда́ш!** Turn the pages of a notebook: **тетра́дь!**

PICTURE STUDY



At the School Door, Nikolai Bogdanov-Belsky, 1897 · Oil on canvas · State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

We see only the boy's back. We cannot see his face, but we can tell how much he wants to go in. Bogdanov-Belsky never forgot what it felt like to stand at that door.

Look closely

- What is the boy carrying?
- Are his clothes new or old?
- What does he see through the door?
- How do you think he feels?

Talk about it

1. Why is it a gift to be able to go to school or learn at home?
2. How could you help someone who wants to learn?

ACTIVITY

My school box

Decorate a box to hold your school things, with Russian labels.

You will need

- A shoebox or pencil box
- Paper, crayons, glue
- A book, a pen, a pencil and a notebook

Steps

1. Decorate the box.
2. A parent writes кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш and тетра́дь on little labels.
3. Glue a label on each thing (or on the box where it goes).
4. Pack the box, naming each thing in Russian.

Tips

- Copy one label yourself in big letters.

Check your work

☐ My box holds four school things.

☐ I can name each one in Russian.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, draw a book, a pen, a pencil and a notebook. A parent writes the Russian words; trace them.

> **From history.** In Russia, the first day of school is September 1. Children bring flowers to their teachers, and the youngest pupils ring a little bell to start the school year.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, add пена́л (pencil case), рюкза́к (backpack) and ла́стик (eraser), and read a Russian children's book together.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. You need to write a word. What do you pick up? Say two answers in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. You write with a pen or a pencil.
2. Pen is ру́чка, pencil is каранда́ш.

Answer: Ру́чка или каранда́ш.

Example 2. Which letters in кни́га can you already read?

▼ **Show solution**

1. You know К, Н and А.
2. И and Г are new.

Answer: К, Н, А.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say book in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Кни́га.

2. Easy Say pen in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ру́чка.

3. Medium Say pencil in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Каранда́ш.

4. Medium Say notebook in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Тетра́дь.

5. Hard What is the boy in the painting doing, and why?

▼ **Show answer**

He is standing at the school door looking in; he is poor and wants to learn.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying nee-ga without the k. In Russian you say the k: KNEE-guh.
- Saying ka-RAN-dash. The loud part is at the end: kuh-rahn-DAHSH.

> **Make it a game · Pack the backpack.** A parent says a school word in Russian. The child finds it and puts it in a backpack. Then the child unpacks, naming each thing.

> **Scripture.** "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:" (Proverbs 1:5, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *послушает мудрый — и умножит познания* A wise person keeps listening and keeps learning. Every school day is a chance to grow wiser.

UNIT 2 · В ШКО́ЛЕ: AT SCHOOL · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.2 Здра́вствуйте! AT SCHOOL

OBJECTIVES

- Say school and teacher in Russian.
- Greet a grown-up politely: Здра́вствуйте!
- Say goodbye politely: До свида́ния!

> **Warm-up.** Say кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь. How do you say hi to a friend in Russian? (Приве́т!) Grown-ups get a special, polite hello. Today you learn it.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Russian Expressions and Words for the Classroom 1

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y05zpiX4bVw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; stand up like a pupil and say Здра́вствуйте! when the teacher appears.

Note: RussianPod101: classroom words and expressions in Russian.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn the Top 10 Phrases for Surviving Back to School in Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7CHwFHLuXU

RussianPod101: ten phrases for going back to school in Russian.

KEY TERMS

шко́ла (SHKOH-luh)
School.

учи́тель (oo-CHEE-teel)
Teacher (a man).

учи́тельница (oo-CHEE-teel-nee-tsuh)
Teacher (a woman).

Здра́вствуйте! (ZDRAHST-vooy-tee)
Hello! (polite, to a grown-up or to a group).

До свида́ния! (dah svee-DAH-nee-yuh)
Goodbye! (polite).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

шко́ла

shkola

SHKOH-luh

noun · feminine

school

учи́тель

uchitel

oo-CHEE-teel

noun · masculine

teacher (man)

учи́тельница

uchitelnitsa

oo-CHEE-teel-nee-tsuh

noun · feminine

teacher (woman)

здра́вствуйте!

zdravstvuyte!

ZDRAHST-vooy-tee

greeting · polite

hello

до свида́ния!

do svidaniya!

dah svee-DAH-nee-yuh

greeting · polite

goodbye

CORE IDEAS

The story. When Jesus was twelve years old, His family went to the temple in Jerusalem. On the way home, Mary and Joseph could not find Him. They looked for three days, and at last they found Him in the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone was amazed at how well He understood. Then He went home and obeyed His parents, and He grew in wisdom.

How Russian sounds. Шко́ла is SHKOH-luh. Учи́тель is oo-CHEE-teel', and a woman teacher is учи́тельница (oo-CHEE-teel'-nee-tsuh). Russian children greet their teacher with Здра́вствуйте! (ZDRAHST-vooy-tee) and leave with До свида́ния! (duh svee-DAH-nee-yuh). Use приве́т and пока́ only with friends and family.

Say it and move. Stand up straight when the teacher comes in: **Здра́вствуйте!** Wave politely at the door: **До свида́ния!**

ACTIVITY

Polite-or-friendly puppets

Make two puppets, a teacher and a friend, and practice the right greeting for each.

You will need

- Two paper bags or socks
- Markers, yarn, glue

Steps

1. Make a teacher puppet (with glasses or a book) and a friend puppet.
2. The teacher puppet comes in: say Здра́вствуйте!
3. The friend puppet comes in: say Приве́т!
4. Each puppet leaves: До свида́ния! for the teacher, Пока́! for the friend.

Tips

- Let a sibling work one puppet and switch.

Check your work

- ☐ I made two puppets.
- ☐ I use the polite words with the teacher and the friendly words with the friend.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, draw your school or your homeschool table and your teacher. Write шко́ла and учи́тель or учи́тельница with a parent's help.

> **From history.** In Russia, children call their teacher by first name and father's name together, like Мари́я Ива́новна (Maria, daughter of Ivan). It is the polite way to speak to grown-ups.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, practice the full polite name: ask what your child would call a teacher named Anna, daughter of Peter (А́нна Петро́вна).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Your teacher walks into the room. What do you say?

▼ **Show solution**

1. A teacher is a grown-up, so use the polite hello.
2. Polite hello: Здра́вствуйте!

Answer: Здра́вствуйте!

Example 2. Your friend leaves. What do you say? And to the teacher?

▼ **Show solution**

1. To a friend: пока́.
2. To a grown-up: до свида́ния.

Answer: Пока́! … До свида́ния!

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say school in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Шко́ла.

2. Easy Say teacher (a woman) in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Учи́тельница.

3. Medium Greet a grown-up politely.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Здра́вствуйте!

4. Medium Say goodbye politely.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   До свида́ния!

5. Hard Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus when He was twelve, and what was He doing?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   In the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening and asking questions.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying every letter of Здра́вствуйте. The first в is silent: ZDRAHST-vooy-tee.
- Saying приве́т to a teacher. Use the polite Здра́вствуйте! with grown-ups.

> **Make it a game · Who is at the door?.** One person knocks and comes in as a teacher, a grandma, a friend or a little brother. The child answers with the right greeting: Здра́вствуйте! or Приве́т!

> **Scripture.** “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” (Luke 2:52, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *Иисус же преуспевал в премудрости и возрасте* Jesus grew up as a boy just as you are growing: in wisdom, in size, and in favour with God and people.

UNIT 3

Зима́ и Рождество́: Winter and Christmas

Lesson 3.1 teaches дека́брь, янва́рь and февра́ль (December, January, February) and ме́сяц (month) and год (year), with Shishkin’s painting of a deep winter forest.

Lesson 3.2 teaches Рождество́ (Christmas), звезда́ (star), ёлка (fir tree) and С Рождество́м! (Merry Christmas!), and why many Russians keep Christmas on January 7.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1 and 2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name the three winter months in Russian.
- ☐ I can say month and year in Russian.
- ☐ I can say Merry Christmas in Russian.
- ☐ I can tell why Christmas comes on January 7 in Russia.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online, for the parent: every Russian word with its stress, meaning and often a recording by a native speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**Дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
3.2	**Рождество́: Christmas**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 3 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Name the three winter months in Russian.
2. **5 pts**
   Say month and year in Russian.

3. 5 pts

   Say Merry Christmas in Russian.

4. 5 pts

   Why do many Russians keep Christmas on January 7?

ANSWER KEY

1. Дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль.
2. Ме́сяц, год.
3. С Рождество́м!
4. The Russian Orthodox Church follows the old Julian calendar, where December 25 falls on January 7.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: WINTER CALENDAR PAGE

Make a calendar page for one winter month with its Russian name at the top. Mark Christmas (December 25 and January 7) with a star, and label the star звезда́.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Saying	The child names the winter months and says С Рождество́м!
Using it	The calendar shows the right month and the Christmas dates.
Making	The page is neat and labeled in Russian.
Joy	The child joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 3 · ЗИМА́ И РОЖДЕСТВО́: WINTER AND CHRISTMAS · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.1 Дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль

OBJECTIVES

- Name December, January and February in Russian.
- Say ме́сяц (month) and год (year).

- Look closely at a winter forest painting.

> **Warm-up.** Which months are cold where you live? Today you learn the names of the winter months in Russian.

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Months of the Year

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98oIikyOPIw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; for the main video, listen for the three winter months and stop after February the second time around.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches the months of the year in Russian.

BACKUP VIDEO

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Weather

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5qwyeRseoU

RussianPod101: Katya teaches weather words in Russian (for snow and cold).

KEY TERMS

дека́брь (dee-KAHBR)
December.

февра́ль (feev-RAHL)
February.

год (goht)
Year.

янва́рь (yeen-VAHR)
January.

ме́сяц (MYEH-suhts)
Month.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

дека́брь

dee-KAHBR

noun · masculine

December

янва́рь

yeen-VAHR

noun · masculine

January

февра́ль

feev-RAHL

noun · masculine

February

ме́сяц

MYEH-suhts

noun · masculine

month

год

goht

noun · masculine

year

CORE IDEAS

The story. Ivan Shishkin loved the deep forests of Russia, especially the tall pines. He walked in them in every season, and he knew each kind of tree. In this painting it is the middle of winter. Fresh snow lies thick on the ground and on the branches, and everything is quiet. The sunlight comes through the trees and the shadows on the snow are blue. You can almost feel the cold, still air.

How Russian sounds. The winter months sound a lot like English: дека́брь (dee-KAHBR'), янва́рь (yeen-VAHR'), февра́ль (feev-RAHL'). All three are loud at the end. Ме́сяц means month, and год means year: goht.

Say it and move. Shiver: **дека́брь!** Shiver harder: **янва́рь!** Shiver and stamp your feet: **февра́ль!** Spin around once for a whole year: **год!**

PICTURE STUDY



Winter, Ivan Shishkin, 1890 · Oil on canvas · State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

There are no people and no animals in this picture, only the trees, the snow and the light. Shishkin wanted us to stand still and listen to the silence of the winter forest.

Look closely

- What color are the shadows on the snow?
- Where is the light coming from?
- Can you find a little tree under the snow?
- Is it windy or still?

Talk about it

1. What do you hear when you walk in the snow?
2. What is your favorite thing about winter?

ACTIVITY

Snowy forest picture

Make your own winter forest like Shishkin's.

You will need

- Dark blue or black paper
- White crayon, chalk or paint
- Brown crayon
- Cotton balls (optional)

Steps

1. Draw tall tree trunks with brown crayon.
2. Add snow on the branches and the ground with white.
3. Add blue shadows on the snow.
4. Write the three winter months at the bottom: дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль.

Tips

- Glue on cotton balls for extra snow.

Check your work

☐ My picture shows a winter forest.

☐ I wrote or traced the winter months.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, write the three winter months with a parent's help, and draw a snowflake next to each.

> **From history.** In much of Russia, January is the coldest month. In Siberia it can be colder than forty degrees below zero, so cold that your breath crackles in the air.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, learn all twelve months, and say your child's birthday month in Russian.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What month comes after December? Say it in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. After December comes January.
2. January is янва́рь.

Answer: Янва́рь.

Example 2. How many months are in a year? Say month and year in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. A year has twelve months.
2. Month is ме́сяц, year is год.

Answer: Twelve: ме́сяц, год.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say December in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Дека́брь.

2. Easy Say January in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Янва́рь.

3. Medium Say February in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Февра́ль.

4. Medium Say month and year in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ме́сяц, год.

5. Hard Say the three winter months in order.

▼ **Show answer**

Дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying DE-kabr. All three winter months are loud at the end: dee-KAHBR’.
- Saying a hard r and l at the end. The ь makes them soft.

> **Make it a game · Month line-up.** Write дека́брь, янва́рь and февра́ль on cards. Mix them up. The child puts them in order and reads them. Then add ме́сяц and год cards and act each one out.

> **Scripture.** “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:” (Genesis 1:14, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *для знамений, и времен, и дней, и годов* God made the sun and the moon to mark the days, the months and the years. The calendar is part of His good creation.

UNIT 3 · ЗИМА́ И РОЖДЕСТВО́: WINTER AND CHRISTMAS · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.2 Рождество́: Christmas

OBJECTIVES

- Say Christmas, star and fir tree in Russian.
- Say С Рождество́м! (Merry Christmas!).
- Know why many Russians keep Christmas on January 7.

> **Warm-up.** Say дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль. Which month has Christmas? In Russia, the answer can be January! Today you find out why.

WATCH

How do Russian People Celebrate Christmas?

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 5:09

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFuQMR_Zxe4

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; say С Рождество́м! back to the screen.

Note: RussianPod101: how Russians celebrate Christmas, with the greeting С Рождество́м! and why it is on January 7.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian Holidays - St. Nicholas' day

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=798Kmumfo_w

RussianPod101 (in Russian, for parents or older siblings): St. Nicholas, the real Christian bishop who gave his wealth to the poor, and how Russian children get small gifts on his day, December 19.

KEY TERMS

Рождество́ (ruhzh-deest-VOH)
Christmas (it means the Birth).

звезда́ (zveez-DAH)
Star.

ёлка (YOHL-kuh)
Fir tree, Christmas tree.

С Рождество́м! (s ruhzh-deest-VOHM)
Merry Christmas! (literally “with the Birth!”)

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

Рождество́

ruhzh-deest-VOH

noun · neuter

Christmas (the Birth)

звезда́

zveez-DAH

noun · feminine

star

ёлка

YOHL-kuh

noun · feminine

fir tree, Christmas tree

с Рождество́м!

s ruhzh-deest-VOHM

greeting

Merry Christmas!

CORE IDEAS

The story. In the little town of Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her baby, Jesus, and laid Him in a manger. That night an angel told the shepherds: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Far away, wise men saw His star, and they followed it until it stood over the place where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

How Russian sounds. Рождество́ is ruzh-deest-VOH, and it means the Birth. On Christmas Russians say С Рождество́м! (s ruzh-deest-VOHM). Звезда́ is zveez-DAH, and ёлка is YOHL-kuh.

Say it and move. Rock a baby in your arms: **Рождество́!** Point up to the sky: **звезда́!** Make a tree shape with your arms: **ёлка!** Hug someone: **С Рождество́м!**

ACTIVITY

Bethlehem star

Make a big star like the one the wise men followed, with the Russian greeting on it.

You will need

- Yellow or gold paper
- Glitter or foil (optional)
- String
- Markers

Steps

1. A parent helps cut out a big five- or eight-pointed star.
2. Decorate it with gold or glitter.
3. Write звезда́ on one side and С Рождество́м! on the other.
4. Hang it in a window and tell the story of the wise men.

Tips

- Russian Christmas stars often have eight points. Try one!

Check your work

☐ My star is made and hung.

☐ I can say

зв and

ез

да́

С

Ро

ж

де

ст

во́

м!

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. Draw the manger and the star in your notebook, and write Рождество́ and звезда́ with a parent's help.

> **From history.** Many Russian families keep Christmas on January 7, because the Russian Orthodox Church follows the old Julian calendar. On Christmas Eve some families wait to eat until the first star appears in the sky, to remember the star of Bethlehem.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, read the Christmas story in Luke 2 in Russian, and teach the Christmas hymn "Рождество́ Твое́, Христе́ Бо́же наш" (the Christmas troparion) if your family sings it.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. It is Christmas Day. What do you say to your family in Russian?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Christmas is Рождество́.
2. Merry Christmas is С Рождество́м!

Answer: С Рождество́м!

Example 2. What did the wise men follow? Say it in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. They followed a star.
2. Star is звезда́.

Answer: Звезда́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say star in Russian.

▼ **Show answer**

Звезда́.

2. Easy Say Christmas tree in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ёлка.

3. Medium Say Christmas in Russian. What does it mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Рождество́: the Birth.

4. Medium Say Merry Christmas in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   С Рождество́м!

5. Hard Why is Christmas on January 7 in many Russian homes?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The Russian Orthodox Church keeps the old Julian calendar, where December 25 falls on January 7.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying ROZH-dest-vo. The loud part is at the end: ruzh-deest-VOH.
- Forgetting the dots on ё. Ёлка starts with yo: YOHL-kuh.

> **Make it a game · Follow the star.** One person hides a paper star. The others search while the hider says тепло́ (warm) or хо́лодно (cold). Whoever finds it shouts Звезда́! С Рождество́м!

> **Scripture.** “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *ибо ныне родился вам в городе Давидовом Спаситель, Который есть Христос Господь* The angel told the shepherds the best news ever: a Savior was born, Christ the Lord. That is what Рождество́ is about.

UNIT 4

В лесу́: In the Forest

Lesson 4.1 teaches лес (forest), де́рево (tree), берёза (birch), лист (leaf) and гриб (mushroom), with Levitan's painting of a birch grove in summer sunlight.

Lesson 4.2 teaches the forest animals ёж (hedgehog), бе́лка (squirrel), лиса́ (fox), за́яц (hare) and волк (wolf).

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name forest, tree, birch, leaf and mushroom in Russian.
- ☐ I can name five forest animals in Russian.
- ☐ I can say what kind of tree is Russia's favorite.
- ☐ I can tell how God cares for living things.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online, for the parent: every Russian word with its stress, meaning and often a recording by a native speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Лес, де́рево, берёза**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
4.2	**Ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц, волк**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 4 review

Use pictures and ask out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**

   Name forest, tree and leaf in Russian.

2. **5 pts**

   What is a birch in Russian? What color is its bark?

3. **5 pts**

   Name four forest animals in Russian.

4. **5 pts**

   What did Jesus say about the birds and the lilies?

ANSWER KEY

1. Лес, де́рево, лист.
2. Берёза; white.
3. Ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц (or волк).
4. God feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, so He will take care of us too.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: FOREST DIORAMA

Make a little forest in a shoebox with trees (birches with white trunks), leaves, mushrooms and paper animals. Label everything in Russian and give a tour.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Saying	The child names at least eight forest words in Russian.
Using it	The labels are on the right things.
Making	The diorama has trees, mushrooms and at least three animals.
Joy	The child joins in cheerfully.

4.1 Лес, де́рево, берёза

OBJECTIVES

- Name forest, tree, birch, leaf and mushroom in Russian.
- Find birches in a Levitan painting.
- Thank God for the trees.

> **Warm-up.** Go outside or look out the window. How many trees can you see? Today you learn tree words in Russian.

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Plants

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:52

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsVhqb_aBSk

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; point to a tree or a leaf when you hear its word.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches plant words in Russian, with pictures.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian - Russian Plants Vocabulary

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lUjPgIFthI

RussianPod101: plant vocabulary in Russian with pictures.

KEY TERMS

лес (lyehs)
Forest, woods.

де́рево (DYEH-ree-vuh)
Tree.

берёза (bee-RYOH-zuh)
Birch tree.

лист (leest)
Leaf.

гриб (greep)

Mushroom.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

лес

lyehs

noun · masculine

forest

де́рево

DYEH-ree-vuh

noun · neuter

tree

берёза

bee-RYOH-zuh

noun · feminine

birch

лист

leest

noun · masculine

leaf

гриб

greep

noun · masculine

mushroom

CORE IDEAS

The story. Isaac Levitan loved to paint the Russian countryside. One summer he painted a grove of birch trees, the tree Russians love best. The white trunks with black marks stand in the green grass, and sunlight comes down through the leaves in bright spots. Levitan worked on this little painting for several summers to get the light just right.

How Russian sounds. Лес is lyes. Де́рево is DYEH-ree-vuh. Берёза is bee-RYOH-zuh: the dots on ё mean it is loud. Лист is leest, and гриб is greep.

Say it and move. Stand tall with your arms up: **де́рево!** Wave your fingers like leaves: **лист!** Crouch down small: **гриб!** Turn around slowly with your arms out: **лес!**

PICTURE STUDY



Birch Grove, Isaac Levitan, 1885–1889 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Look at the spots of sunlight. Levitan wanted us to feel what it is like to stand in a birch grove on a summer day, with the light flickering through the leaves.

Look closely

- What color are the birch trunks?
- Where do you see sunlight?
- Is it summer or winter? How do you know?
- How many trees can you count?

Talk about it

1. What would you do in this grove?
2. What is your favorite kind of tree?

ACTIVITY

Leaf rubbings

Collect leaves and make crayon rubbings, labeled in Russian.

You will need

- Leaves from outside
- Thin paper
- Crayons with the paper peeled off

Steps

1. Collect three or four different leaves.
2. Put a leaf under the paper and rub the side of a crayon over it until the leaf appears.
3. Label each rubbing лист.
4. Draw a tree and a mushroom too, and label them де́рево and гриб.

Tips

- If you find a birch leaf, label it берёза!

Check your work

☐ I made leaf rubbings.

☐ I can name leaf, tree and mushroom in Russian.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, draw a birch tree with its white bark and a mushroom under it. Write берёза and гриб with a parent's help.

> **From history.** Russians love to go mushroom picking in the forest in late summer and autumn. Whole families go out with baskets, and grandparents teach children which mushrooms are good to eat and which are poisonous. Never eat a wild mushroom unless a grown-up who knows them says it is safe!

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, add дуб (oak), ёлка (fir), цвето́к (flower) and я́года (berry), and go on a forest walk speaking only Russian.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Name the tree with white bark in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Birches have white bark.
2. Birch is берёза.

Answer: Берёза.

Example 2. Read this word: Л-Е-С.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Л says l, Е says yeh, С says s.
2. Together: lyes.

Answer: Лес: forest.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say forest in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Лес.

2. Easy Say tree in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Де́рево.

3. Medium Say leaf and mushroom in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Лист, гриб.

4. Medium Say birch in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Берёза.

5. Hard Why did Levitan paint this grove for several summers?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To get the summer light through the leaves just right.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying de-RE-vo. The loud part is first: DYEH-ree-vuh.
- Saying grib with a b sound at the end. At the end of a word б sounds like p: greep.

> **Make it a game · Forest walk.** Take a walk outside. Whoever spots a tree, a leaf or a mushroom first says its Russian name and gets a point.

> **Scripture.** “And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:” (Matthew 6:28, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *Посмотрите на полевые лилии, как они растут* Jesus told us to look at the flowers of the field. God makes them beautiful, and He cares for us even more.

UNIT 4 · В ЛЕСУ́: IN THE FOREST · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.2 Ёж, бе́лка, лиса́, за́яц, волк

OBJECTIVES

- Name five forest animals in Russian.
- Tell which animals are in Russian fairy tales.
- Know that God feeds the birds and the animals.

> **Warm-up.** Say лес, де́рево, берёза, лист, гриб. Who lives in the forest? Today you meet the forest animals in Russian.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Forest Animals

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_T46cuOMK_k

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; act out each animal as it is named.

Note: RussianPod101: forest animals in Russian, with pictures.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Wild Animals

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xj0sOs_qnhw

RussianPod101: wild animals in Russian, with pictures.

KEY TERMS

ёж (yohsh)
Hedgehog.

лиса́ (lee-SAH)
Fox.

волк (vohlk)
Wolf.

бе́лка (BYEHL-kuh)
Squirrel.

за́яц (ZAH-yuhts)
Hare (a wild rabbit).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

ёж

yohsh

noun · masculine

hedgehog

бе́лка

BYEHL-kuh

noun · feminine

squirrel

лиса́

lee-SAH

noun · feminine

fox

за́яц

ZAH-yuhts

noun · masculine

hare

ВОЛК

vohlk

noun · masculine

wolf

CORE IDEAS

The story. Jesus said: Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? God takes care of the squirrel with its nuts and the hare in the snowy woods. He takes care of you even more.

How Russian sounds. Ёж is yohsh, short and prickly. Бе́лка is BYEL-kuh. Лиса́ is lee-SAH. За́яц is ZAH-yeets. Волк is vohlk. In Russian fairy tales the fox is always clever, the hare is always nervous, and the wolf is always hungry!

Say it and move. Curl up in a ball: **ёж!** Nibble a nut: **бе́лка!** Tiptoe slyly: **лиса́!** Hop with long ears: **за́яц!** Howl: **волк! У-у-у!**

ACTIVITY

Paper-plate hedgehog

Make a hedgehog with a paper plate and brown paper spikes.

You will need

- A paper plate
- Brown paper or crayons
- Glue
- A black button or marker for the nose

Steps

1. Fold the plate in half: that is the hedgehog's body.
2. Glue brown paper spikes (or draw them) along the round edge.
3. Draw a face and a black nose at one end.
4. Name your hedgehog and say: Э́то ёж!

Tips

- Make a squirrel or a fox too.

Check your work

☐ My hedgehog has spikes and a face.

☐ I can name five forest animals in Russian.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, draw a hedgehog, a squirrel and a fox. Write ёж, бе́лка and лиса́ with a parent's help.

From history. The hare and the wolf are famous in Russian stories and songs. The hedgehog is a favorite too: in winter it sleeps all season long under a pile of leaves, and in Russian picture books it often carries apples and mushrooms on its spikes.

At home in Russian. If your child already speaks Russian, read a Russian folk tale with these animals together, such as Колобо́к, and let your child retell it.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which animal hops and has long ears? Say it in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. A hare hops and has long ears.
2. Hare is за́яц.

Answer: За́яц.

Example 2. Which animal is clever in Russian fairy tales?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The clever one is the fox.
2. Fox is лиса́.

Answer: Лиса́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say hedgehog in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ёж.

2. Easy Say squirrel in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Бе́лка.

3. Medium Say fox and wolf in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Лиса́, волк.

4. Medium Say hare in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   За́яц.

5. Hard What did Jesus say about the birds? What does it teach us?

▼ **Show answer**

God feeds them though they do not sow or reap; He will take care of us even more.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying LEE-sa. The loud part is at the end: lee-SAH.
- Saying yozh with a z sound. At the end of a word ж sounds like sh: yohsh.

> **Make it a game · Animal charades.** One person acts out a forest animal without speaking. The others guess in Russian. Whoever guesses first acts out the next one.

> **Scripture.** “Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” (Matthew 6:26, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *Взгляните на птиц небесных* God feeds the birds and the animals of the forest every day. You are worth even more to Him.

UNIT 5

Не́бо и «О́тче наш»: The Sky and the Lord’s Prayer

Lesson 5.1 teaches не́бо (sky), со́лнце (sun), луна́ (moon), звёзды (stars) and ра́дуга (rainbow), with Savrasov’s painting of a rainbow after a storm.

Lesson 5.2 teaches the first line of the Lord’s Prayer in Russian, О́тче наш, су́щий на небеса́х!, and the words Бог, Оте́ц and моли́тва (prayer).

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name sky, sun, moon, stars and rainbow in Russian.
- ☐ I can say the first line of the Lord's Prayer in Russian.
- ☐ I can say what the rainbow means.
- ☐ I can say God and Father in Russian.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online, for the parent: every Russian word with its stress, meaning and often a recording by a native speaker.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any Russian word said by native speakers (link only).

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды, ра́дуга**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
5.2	**«О́тче наш»: Our Father**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 5 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Name sky, sun and moon in Russian.
2. **5 pts**
   Name stars and rainbow in Russian.

3. 5 pts

   Say the first line of the Lord’s Prayer in Russian.

4. 5 pts

   What does the rainbow remind us of?

ANSWER KEY

1. Не́бо, со́лнце, луна́.
2. Звёзды, ра́дуга.
3. О́тче наш, су́щий на небеса́х!
4. God’s promise never again to destroy the earth with a flood.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: SKY BOOK AND PRAYER CARD

Make a small book about the sky with a page each for the sun, moon, stars and rainbow, labeled in Russian. On the last page, copy or trace О́тче наш, су́щий на небеса́х! and read it to the family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Saying	The child names five sky words in Russian.
Using it	The child says the first line of the Lord’s Prayer in Russian.
Making	The book has five pages and a cover.
Joy	The child joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 5 · НЕ́БО И «О́ТЧЕ НАШ»: THE SKY AND THE LORD’S PRAYER · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.1 Не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды, ра́дуга

OBJECTIVES

- Name sky, sun, moon, stars and rainbow in Russian.
- Find the rainbow in Savrasov’s painting.

- Tell what God promised with the rainbow.

> **Warm-up.** Look up at the sky. What do you see in the day? What do you see at night? Today you learn sky words in Russian.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Weather

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:59

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2r-Z9Y4MqUw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; point up when you hear the sun or the sky.

Note: RussianPod101: weather words in Russian with video (sun and rain).

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian - Russian Weather Vocabulary

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJOx630EGr4

RussianPod101: weather vocabulary in Russian with pictures.

KEY TERMS

не́бо (NYEH-buh)
Sky.

со́лнце (SOHN-tseh)
Sun. The л is silent!

луна́ (loo-NAH)
Moon.

звёзды (ZVYOHZ-dih)
Stars.

ра́дуга (RAH-doo-guh)
Rainbow.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

не́бо

NYEH-buh

noun · neuter

sky

со́лнце

SOHN-tseh

noun · neuter

sun

луна́

loo-NAH

noun · feminine

moon

звёзды

ZVYOHZ-dih

noun · plural

stars

ра́дуга

RAH-doo-guh

noun · feminine

rainbow

CORE IDEAS

The story. Alexei Savrasov painted the Russian countryside in every kind of weather. In this painting a storm has just passed. The sky is still dark on one side, but the sun has come out, and a bright rainbow stands over the wet fields and the little stream. Whenever we see a rainbow, we remember what God told Noah: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

How Russian sounds. Не́бо is NYEH-buh. Со́лнце is SOHN-tseh: the л is written but not said! Луна́ is loo-NAH. Звёзды is ZVYOHZ-duy (one star is звезда́). Ра́дуга is RAH-doo-guh.

Say it and move. Make a big circle over your head: **со́лнце!** Make a crescent with your arm: **луна́!** Twinkle your fingers: **звёзды!** Draw a big arch in the air: **ра́дуга!**

PICTURE STUDY



Landscape with a Rainbow, Alexei Savrasov, 1881 · Oil on canvas · Latvian National Museum of Art, Riga

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Savrasov was famous for painting the sky. Here the storm clouds are still dark, but the rainbow shines through them. Look how the water on the ground reflects the light.

Look closely

- Find the rainbow. Say ра́дуга.
- Is the sky light or dark?
- Find the water on the ground.
- Has the storm just started or just ended?

Talk about it

1. How do you feel when you see a rainbow?
2. What does the rainbow remind you of?

ACTIVITY

Day and night sky

Make a picture with the day sky on one half and the night sky on the other.

You will need

- Paper
- Crayons or paint
- Star stickers (optional)

Steps

1. Fold the paper in half.
2. On one side, draw a blue sky, a yellow sun and a rainbow.
3. On the other side, color the sky dark and add the moon and stars.
4. Label everything in Russian: не́бо, со́лнце, ра́дуга, луна́, звёзды.

Tips

- Copy one label yourself.

Check your work

- ☐ My picture shows the day and the night sky.
- ☐ I can name five sky words in Russian.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, draw the sun, the moon and a rainbow. Write со́лнце, луна́ and ра́дуга with a parent's help.

> **From history.** Russian children love the Russian space story: the first person to fly into space, in 1961, was a Russian named Yuri Gagarin. He circled the whole earth in less than two hours.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, add о́блако (cloud), дождь (rain) and ве́тер (wind), and describe the sky in Russian each morning.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What shines at night and changes shape? Say it in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The moon shines at night.
2. Moon is луна́.

Answer: Луна́.

Example 2. Which letter in со́лнце is silent?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Со́лнце is said SOHN-tseh.
2. The л is not said.

Answer: Л.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say sky in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Не́бо.

2. Easy Say sun in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Со́лнце.

3. Medium Say moon and stars in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Луна́, звёзды.

4. Medium Say rainbow in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ра́дуга.

5. Hard What did God promise with the rainbow?

▼ **Show answer**

Never again to destroy the earth with a flood.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying the л in со́лнце. It is silent: SOHN-tseh.
- Saying ra-DOO-ga. The loud part is first: RAH-doo-guh.

> **Make it a game · Day or night?.** A parent says a sky word in Russian. If it belongs to the day (со́лнце, ра́дуга), the child jumps up high. If it belongs to the night (луна́, звёзды), the child curls up and pretends to sleep.

> **Scripture.** “And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.” (Genesis 9:16, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *И будет радуга Моя в облаке* God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of His promise. He always remembers His promises.

UNIT 5 · НЕ́БО И «О́ТЧЕ НАШ»: THE SKY AND THE LORD’S PRAYER · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.2 «Отче наш»: Our Father

OBJECTIVES

- Say the first line of the Lord’s Prayer in Russian.
- Say God, Father and prayer in Russian.
- Know that Jesus taught us to pray.

> **Warm-up.** Say не́бо, со́лнце, луна́, звёзды, ра́дуга. Who made the sky? Today you learn to pray to Him in Russian, the way Russian children do.

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Birds

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kxitk9uHXE

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the prayer; watch the birds and remember that our Father in heaven feeds them.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches bird words in Russian. In the same sermon where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer, He told us to look at the birds.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Birds

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjO5qmdqVME

RussianPod101: birds in Russian with video.

KEY TERMS

Бог (bohk)
God.

Оте́ц (ah-TYEHTS)
Father.

О́тче наш (OHT-chee nahsh)
Our Father (the old way to call to a father).

на небеса́х (nah nee-bee-SAHKH)
in heaven, in the heavens.

моли́тва (mah-LEET-vuh)
Prayer.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Russian is written in Cyrillic. The mark over a vowel (молоко́) shows the stressed syllable, the one said loudest; it is a teaching mark, not part of normal spelling. In the sound guides the stressed syllable is in capitals: mah-lah-KOH.

Бог

bohk

noun · masculine

God

оте́ц

ah-TYEHTS

noun · masculine

father

о́тче наш

OHT-chee nahsh

phrase

Our Father

моли́тва

mah-LEET-vuh

noun · feminine

prayer

CORE IDEAS

The story. One day Jesus' disciples asked Him, Lord, teach us to pray. Jesus taught them a prayer that begins: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Christians all over the world have prayed it ever since, in every language. Russian Christians have prayed it in Slavonic and in Russian for more than a thousand years.

How Russian sounds. The Lord's Prayer in Russian begins О́тче наш, су́щий на небеса́х! (OHT-cheh nahsh, SOO-shchee nuh nee-bee-SAHKH). О́тче is the old way to call to a father; the everyday word for father is оте́ц. Бог is God, said bohk. A prayer is a моли́тва.

Say it and pray. Fold your hands. Say slowly, one word at a time: **О́тче … наш, … су́щий … на небеса́х!** Then say the whole prayer in English together.

ACTIVITY

Prayer card

Make a card with the first line of the Lord's Prayer in Russian to keep by your bed.

You will need

- Cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or a ribbon

Steps

1. A parent writes Óтче наш, су́щий на небеса́х! on the card in big letters.
2. Trace the letters slowly. Find the letters you know: О, Т, Е, Н, А, С, У.
3. Decorate the border with a sky: the sun, stars and a rainbow.
4. Keep it by your bed and say the line before you sleep.

Tips

- Add the English line on the back: Our Father, which art in heaven.

Check your work

☐ My prayer card is made.

☐ I can say

Óт
че
на
ш,
су́
щ
и
й
на
не
бе

cá
x!

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your notebook, copy Óтче наш with a parent's help, and draw yourself praying.

> **From history.** Russian churches are full of icons and candles, and the Lord's Prayer is sung by the whole congregation at every Sunday service. Many Russian children learn it from their grandmothers before they can read.

> **At home in Russian.** If your child already speaks Russian, learn the whole Lord's Prayer in Russian (Matthew 6:9–13 in the Synodal Bible) and pray it together at bedtime.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say the first line of the Lord's Prayer in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. It starts with Óтче наш (Our Father).
2. Then сýщий на небесáх (which art in heaven).

Answer: Óтче наш, сýщий на небесáх!

Example 2. How do you say God in Russian?

▼ **Show solution**

1. God is Бог.
2. At the end the г sounds like k.

Answer: Бог (bohk).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say God in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Бог.

2. Easy Say father in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Оте́ц.

3. Medium Say prayer in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Моли́тва.

4. Medium What does О́тче наш mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Our Father.

5. Hard Say the first line of the Lord's Prayer in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   О́тче наш, су́щий на небеса́х!

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying bog with a g. At the end of a word г sounds like k: bohk.
- Rushing the prayer. Say it slowly, one word at a time, and mean it.

> **Make it a game · Word by word.** Write О́тче, наш, су́щий, на, небеса́х on five cards and mix them up. The child puts them in order and says the line. Then turn one card over and say it from memory, then two, until all are hidden.

> **Scripture.** "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." (Matthew 6:9, KJV)
>
> In the Russian Bible (Synodal translation), this verse reads: *Отче наш, сущий на небесах! да святится имя Твое* Jesus taught us to call God our Father and to honor His name. We can talk to Him anytime, in any language.