RUSSIAN · GRADE 4 · AGES 9–10

Grade 4 Russian

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 4 Russian is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 20–30 minutes a week.

The student learns to say where things are with в and на and the prepositional ending -е, uses он, она́ and оно́ for things, says what he or she has with у меня́ есть, and names school subjects and the school week.

Then the student names the seasons and months and describes the weather, conjugates люби́ть and talks about hobbies, and learns the great rivers, lakes and cities of Russia with са́мый and the four directions. Every Russian word is printed in Cyrillic with a stress mark; the vocabulary cards in Unit 1 also show it in Latin letters.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: RussianPod101 (short lessons by native Russian teachers: the alphabet, vocabulary, grammar and conversations), Rock 'N Learn (Learn Russian for Kids, used one section at a time), and a few videos from museums and other official institutions, each one logged. The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. RussianPod101 videos usually begin or end with an invitation to visit its website; you can skip that part. 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 4 (about ages 9–10) who read independently. No earlier Russian is needed: the course reviews the letters and sounds and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the speaking practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things. Families who speak Russian at home use the same lessons with the *At home in Russian* notes.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 20–30 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Russian notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice and a recitation: the student says the week's Russian out loud to the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Say it every day.** Russian is learned out loud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by saying the sentences and endings learned so far, with the stress in the right place. Five minutes of cheerful speaking beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Russian works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Russian works* explains the pattern; *Say it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Handwriting.** Russians write by hand in a joined cursive whose letters can look quite different from print (the cursive т looks like an m, and the cursive д like a g). This course asks for neat printed Cyrillic; the cursive is shown for recognition only, and a student who wants to learn it can copy it from a Russian copybook (про́пись).
5. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new words. Make a flashcard for each one: the Russian word with its stress mark on the front, the meaning (and, for nouns, the

gender) on the back. Many families color-code nouns: blue for masculine, red for feminine, green for neuter.

6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **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.
8. **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 Unit 1 only; after that, each card keeps its English sound guide.
9. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 63 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: где, в, на, в до́ме, на столе́, сад, шкаф, дива́н, ла́мпа, кре́сло, он, она́, оно́. Unit 2: у меня́ есть, у тебя́ есть?, у нас есть, рюкза́к, ла́стик, лине́йка, матема́тика, чте́ние, исто́рия, му́зыка, рисова́ние, уро́к. Unit 3: весна́, о́сень, весно́й, ле́том, о́сенью, зимо́й, когда́, пого́да, дождь, ве́тер, идёт, све́тит, жа́рко, прохла́дно. Unit 4: люби́ть, я люблю́, ты лю́бишь, он лю́бит, мы лю́бим, они́ лю́бят, чита́ть, рисова́ть, пла́вать, петь, игра́ть в футбо́л, де́лать. Unit 5: Росси́я, река́, о́зеро, страна́, Сиби́рь, са́мый, Москва́, столи́ца, се́вер, юг, за́пад, восто́к.
10. **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.
11. **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.

12. **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

Мой дом: Where Is It?

Talking about home: Где? (where?), в and на with the prepositional ending -е (в ко́мнате, на столе́), and он, она́, оно́ for things, with Vasily Polenov's Grandmother's Garden.

1.1 Где? В до́ме, на столе́

1.2 Он, она́, оно́: Where Is the Lamp?

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

У меня́ есть: What I Have

Saying what you have with у меня́ есть, у тебя́ есть? and у нас есть, with school things and family, and the school subjects, with the reminder that everything we have is received from God.

2.1 У меня́ есть…: I Have

2.2 Сего́дня у нас матема́тика: School Subjects

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Календа́рь и пого́да: Seasons and Weather

The four seasons and the twelve months, Когда́? with весно́й, ле́том, о́сенью and зимо́й, and the weather (Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? Идёт снег. Све́тит со́лнце.), with Isaac Levitan's bright March day.

3.1 Весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́

3.2 Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? The Weather

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Я люблю́: What I Love to Do

The verb люби́ть (я люблю́, ты лю́бишь, он лю́бит…) with nouns and with other verbs (Я люблю́ чита́ть), hobbies and sports, and asking Что ты лю́бишь де́лать?, with Ilya Repin's Dragonfly.

4.1 Люби́ть: Я люблю́, ты лю́бишь

4.2 Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? Hobbies

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Росси́я: Rivers and Cities

The land of Russia: Москва́, Санкт-Петербу́рг, the Во́лга, Байка́л and Сиби́рь, the directions се́вер, юг, за́пад and восто́к, and the superlative са́мый, with Isaac Levitan's spring flood on the Volga.

5.1 Во́лга, Байка́л, Сиби́рь: The Biggest

5.2 Москва́ и Санкт-Петербу́рг: North, South, East, West

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Где? В до́ме, на столе́: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (where-is-it treasure hunt) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 20–30 minutes. On the other days, say the week's words and verse aloud for five minutes and copy two words in Cyrillic with their stress marks.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Он, она́, оно́: Where Is the Lamp?: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 1.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (dollhouse room) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (a tour of my room)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 У меня́ есть…: I Have: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (show-and-tell backpack) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Сего́дня у нас матема́тика: School Subjects: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (my timetable) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (my school week)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (seasons wheel) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? The Weather: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (weather station) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (weather report)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Люби́ть: Я люблю́, ты лю́бишь: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (love-it chart) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? Hobbies: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (hobby interview) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (all about what i love)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Во́лга, Байка́л, Сиби́рь: The Biggest: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (superlative cards) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Москва́ и Санкт-Петербу́рг: North, South, East, West: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (compass rose) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (my map of russia)

Materials

Russian notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: vocabulary, letter and ending charts, translations and copywork.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils (blue, red and green for the three genders) and a fine-tip marker

For charts, maps and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who speaks Russian out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily speaking, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	**30**
Russian notebook (dated pages, charts, copywork)	**25**
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the speaking drills and practice with help.

- A written answer is right when the letters and the ending are right. Stress marks are not required in the student's own writing, but the stress must be right when the answer is said aloud.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. The rolled р, the soft consonants and the deep ы get steadier with every week.

A note to parents

You do not need to know Russian to teach this course. Every Russian word has its stress mark and an English sound guide, every practice question has its answer in the key, and the videos do the explaining a specialist would. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your mistakes.

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.

Why Russian? Because it is the most widely spoken language of Europe and the key to the other Slavic languages; because it is the language of Pushkin, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff; and because millions of Russian-speaking Christians, Orthodox and Protestant, kept their faith through seventy years of persecution, and a Russian-speaking neighbor or church is never far away.

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

Мой дом: Where Is It?

Lesson 1.1 teaches Где? and how to say in and on with the ending -е: в до́ме, в ко́мнате, на столе́, with Polenov's painting of a grandmother and granddaughter walking by an old house.

Lesson 1.2 teaches furniture words and how to answer Где ла́мпа? with Она́ на столе́, using он, она́ and оно́ for things.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 3 Russian, or a first year of Russian: the student knows the Cyrillic letters and that nouns are masculine, feminine or neuter.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

☐ I can ask Гд е? and answer with в or на.

☐ I can put the ending -е on a noun after в and на.

☐ I can use он, он́, он́ and он́ for things.

☐ I can describe where things are in a room.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings 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	**Где? В до́ме, на столе́**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes
1.2	**Он, она́, оно́: Where Is the Lamp?**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

Unit 1 Review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Say “in the house”, “in the room” and “on the table”.

2. **4 pts**
   Где кни́га? Answer: it is on the chair.

3. **4 pts**
   Is it он, она́ or оно́: шкаф, ла́мпа, окно́?

4. **4 pts**
   Say “Mom is in the kitchen.”

5. **4 pts**
   What did Jesus say is in His Father’s house (John 14:2)?

ANSWER KEY

1. В до́ме, в ко́мнате, на столе́.
2. Она́ на сту́ле.
3. Шкаф — он, ла́мпа — она́, окно́ — оно́.
4. Ма́ма в ку́хне.
5. Many mansions; He goes to prepare a place for us.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A TOUR OF MY ROOM

Draw a plan of your room or house and label every room and the main furniture in Russian. Then give a tour in Russian, saying where things are: Крова́ть в ко́мнате. Ла́мпа на столе́.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student says at least eight sentences with в or на.
Accuracy	The prepositional endings and он/она́/оно́ are correct.
Product	The plan is clear and labeled in Russian.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 1 · МОЙ ДОМ: WHERE IS IT? · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

1.1 Где? В до́ме, на столе́

OBJECTIVES

- Ask Где? (where?).
- Say in and on with в and на and the ending -е.
- Look closely at Grandmother’s Garden.

> **Warm-up.** Where is your Bible right now? Where is your pencil? Today you learn to ask and answer where in Russian.

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Rooms

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:27

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-nxTTm7S1k

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; after each room, say “I am in the ...”: Я в ку́хне.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches the rooms of the house in Russian, for review.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian - Russian Room Vocabulary

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93raoNnOQL4

RussianPod101: room vocabulary in Russian with pictures.

KEY TERMS

Где? (gdyeh)
Where?

в (v)
In.

на (nah)
On; also at, for some places.

в ко́мнате (v KOHM-nuh-tee)
In the room.

на столе́ (nah stah-LYEH)
On the table.

сад (saht)
Garden.

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.

где
gde
gdyeh
question word
where

в
v
v
preposition
in

на
na
nah
preposition
on, at

в до́ме
v dome
v DOH-mee
phrase
in the house

на столе́
na stole
nah stah-LYEH
phrase
on the table

сад
sad
saht
noun · masculine
garden (в саду́)

CORE IDEAS

The story. Vasily Polenov painted a quiet summer afternoon in Moscow: an old grandmother dressed in black walks slowly down the garden path, leaning on the arm of her granddaughter in a pink dress. Behind them stands an old wooden house with white columns, and the garden has grown wild around it. The grandmother has lived here all her life. The granddaughter walks slowly so that her grandmother can keep up.

How Russian works: в and на. To say where something is, use в (in) or на (on), and change the ending of the noun to -е. This is called the prepositional case. Дом → в до́ме (in the house). Стол → на столе́ (on the table). Ко́мната → в ко́мнате (in the room). Ку́хня → в ку́хне (in the kitchen). Words ending in -ь usually take -и: тетра́дь → в тетра́ди.

Где? Ask Где ма́ма? (Where is Mom?) and answer Ма́ма в ку́хне. Russian does not use a word for is here. One word to learn as a whole: garden is сад, and in the garden

is в садý (a special ending).

PICTURE STUDY



Grandmother's Garden, Vasily Polenov, 1878 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Polenov painted this the same year as his Moscow Courtyard, from a house near his own. The garden is wild and the house is old, but the picture is full of warmth: the young one helps the old one.

Look closely

- Where are they walking?
- Who is helping whom?
- Describe the house.
- Is the garden neat or wild?

Talk about it

1. How can you help a grandparent or older neighbor?
2. Where in your home do you like to be most?

ACTIVITY

Where-is-it treasure hunt

Hide objects around the house and write Russian clues for a sibling or parent to find them.

You will need

- Five small objects
- Paper slips
- Pencil

Steps

1. Hide five objects: in the kitchen, on the table, in the room, on the chair, in the garden.
2. Write a clue for each in Russian: Кни́га в ку́хне. Мяч на сту́ле.
3. Give the clues to a family member and watch them hunt.
4. Switch: they hide, you read the clues.

Tips

- Make one clue tricky: в саду́.

Check your work

☐ I wrote five clues with

в or

на

.

☐ The endings are correct.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, make two columns: the noun and the noun after в or на (дом — в до́ме, стол — на столе́). Do six nouns.

> **From history.** Many Russian families have a small country house with a garden, called a да́ча. In summer, families go to the dacha on weekends to grow vegetables, pick berries and rest. Grandparents often spend the whole summer there with the grandchildren.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, look for the other special forms like в саду́: в лесу́, на полу́, в шкафу́, and say why they are unusual.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Где па́па? Answer: Dad is in the garden.

▼ **Show solution**

1. In the garden is a special form.
2. Сад → в саду́.

Answer: Па́па в саду́.

Example 2. Say “The book is on the chair.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Chair is стул.
2. On: на + -е → на сту́ле.

Answer: Кни́га на сту́ле.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Ask where Mom is.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Где ма́ма?

2. Easy Say “in the house”.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   В до́ме.

3. **Medium** Say “on the table”.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   На столе́.

4. **Medium** Say “in the room” and “in the kitchen”.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   В ко́мнате, в ку́хне.

5. **Medium** Say “The cat is on the bed (крова́ть).”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ко́шка на крова́ти. (Кот на крова́ти.)

6. **Hard** Write three sentences saying where three family members are right now.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Ма́ма в ку́хне. Па́па в саду́. Брат в ко́мнате.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Forgetting the ending: в ко́мната. After в or на, change it: в ко́мнате.
- Adding a word for is: Ма́ма есть в ку́хне. Just say Ма́ма в ку́хне.

> **Make it a game · Hot seat.** One player thinks of an object in the room. The others ask Где? questions with в and на (Оно́ на столе́? Она́ в шкафу́?). The answer is only да or нет. Whoever guesses picks the next object.

> **Scripture.** “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *В доме Отца Моего обителей много* Jesus promised that there is room in His Father’s house for everyone who trusts Him. He has gone to prepare a place.

1.2 Он, она́, оно́: Where Is the Lamp?

OBJECTIVES

- Name furniture in Russian.
- Use он, она́ and оно́ for things.
- Describe a room in several sentences.

> **Warm-up.** Say where three things are in your room in Russian (в or на). Now point to a lamp. Is it a he, a she or an it? In Russian, it might be a she!

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Furniture

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:57

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sSROQHwoKs

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; say он, она́ or оно́ after each piece of furniture.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches furniture words in Russian.

BACKUP VIDEO

Russian Listening Comprehension - Arranging Furniture in a Room

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqklfYp0fbE

RussianPod101: a short listening quiz about arranging furniture in a room.

KEY TERMS

шка́ф (shkahf)
Cupboard, wardrobe.

дива́н (dee-VAHN)
Sofa.

ла́мпа (LAHM-puh)
Lamp.

кре́сло (KRYEHS-luh)
Armchair.

он, она́, оно́ (ohn ah-NAH ah-NOH)

He, she, it, used for things too.

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.

шкаф

shkaf

shkahf

noun · masculine

cupboard, wardrobe (в шкафу́)

дива́н

divan

dee-VAHN

noun · masculine

sofa

ла́мпа

lampa

LAHM-puh

noun · feminine

lamp

кре́сло

kreslo

KRYEHS-luh

noun · neuter

armchair

он

on

ohn

pronoun

he, it (masculine)

она́

ona

ah-NAH

pronoun

she, it (feminine)

оно́

ono

ah-NOH

pronoun

it (neuter)

CORE IDEAS

The story. King Solomon wrote: Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it. A house is more than walls and furniture. A home is built by God's blessing, by love, by work and by prayer. Many Russian Christian homes keep a corner with icons and a Bible, called the beautiful corner, to remember that God is at the center of the home.

How Russian works: он, она́, оно́. In Russian, things are he, she or it depending on their gender, not on whether they are alive. Шкаф and дива́н are masculine, so they are он. Ла́мпа is feminine, so she is она́. Окно́ and кре́сло are neuter: оно́. Где ла́мпа? — Она́ на столе́. (Where is the lamp? It is on the table.)

Describing a room. Put it together: Э́то моя́ ко́мната. (Крова́ть у окна́, the bed is by the window, uses a pattern you will meet later.) For now, use в and на: Ла́мпа на столе́. Кни́ги в шкафу́. Кот на дива́не. (В шкафу́ is another special form, like в саду́.)

ACTIVITY

Dollhouse room

Build a room in a shoebox with paper furniture and describe it in Russian.

You will need

- A shoebox
- Paper, cardboard, glue
- Markers

Steps

1. Make paper furniture: a bed, a table, a sofa, a cupboard, a lamp, an armchair.
2. Arrange them in the box.
3. Put small things on and in the furniture: a book on the table, a cat on the sofa.
4. Describe your room in five Russian sentences using он, она́ and оно́.

Tips

- Add an icon or Bible corner, as in many Russian homes.

Check your work

- ☐ My room has six pieces of furniture.
- ☐ I described it in five Russian sentences.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, sort ten furniture and house words into three columns: он, она́, оно́.

> **From history.** The krasny ugol (кра́сный у́гол), the beautiful corner, was the most honored place in an old Russian peasant home. It held the family icons, and guests were seated near it. Кра́сный meant beautiful in old Russian, which is also where Red Square got its name.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, add у окна́ (by the window), под столо́м (under the table) and ря́дом с (next to), and describe the whole house.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Где дива́н? Answer: it is in the room.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Дива́н is masculine: он.
2. In the room: в ко́мнате.

Answer: Он в ко́мнате.

Example 2. Где кре́сло? Answer: it is in the kitchen.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Кре́сло ends in -о: оно́.
2. In the kitchen: в ку́хне.

Answer: Оно́ в ку́хне.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say sofa and lamp in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Дива́н, ла́мпа.

2. Easy Is шкаф он, она́ or оно́?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Он.

3. Medium Is кре́сло он, она́ or оно́?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Оно́.

4. Medium Где ла́мпа? Answer: it is on the table.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Она́ на столе́.

5. Medium Say “The cat is on the sofa.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Кот на дива́не.

6. Hard Describe your bedroom in four Russian sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Э́то моя́ ко́мната. Крова́ть в ко́мнате. Ла́мпа на столе́. Кни́ги в шкафу́.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Calling a lamp оно́ because it is a thing. Ла́мпа is feminine: она́.
- Saying в шка́фе. The special form is в шкафу́.

> **Make it a game · Furniture memory.** Look at a picture of a room for 30 seconds, then cover it. Say as many sentences as you can about where things are (Ла́мпа на столе́…). One point for each correct sentence.

> **Scripture.** “A Song of degrees for Solomon. Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” (Psalm 127:1, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Если Господь не созиждет дома, напрасно трудятся строящие его* (Psalm 126:1 in the Russian numbering) A home needs God’s blessing more than anything else. He is the true builder.

UNIT 2

У меня́ есть: What I Have

Lesson 2.1 teaches У меня́ есть… (I have…), У тебя́ есть…? (do you have…?) and the answers Да, есть, with school things and family members.

Lesson 2.2 teaches school subjects and У нас сего́дня матема́тика (today we have math).

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say what I have with у ме ня́ ес ть.
- ☐ I can ask a friend у ? те бя́ ес ть ...
- ☐ I can name six school subjects.
- ☐ I can say what subjects we have today.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings 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	**У меня́ есть...: I Have**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes
2.2	**Сего́дня у нас матема́тика: School Subjects**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

Unit 2 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Say “I have a brother and a dog.”

2. **4 pts**
   Ask a friend if she has a pencil. Answer “yes, I do”.

3. **4 pts**
   Name four school subjects in Russian.

4. **4 pts**
   Say “Today we have history.”

5. **4 pts**
   What does 1 Corinthians 4:7 ask?

ANSWER KEY

1. У меня́ есть брат и соба́ка.
2. У тебя́ есть каранда́ш? — Да, есть.
3. Матема́тика, чте́ние, исто́рия, му́зыка (or others).
4. Сего́дня у нас исто́рия.
5. What do you have that you did not receive?

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY SCHOOL WEEK

Make a timetable for your school week in Russian, with the days and the subjects. Then present it: В понеде́льник у нас матема́тика и чте́ние…

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student describes at least four days aloud.
Accuracy	Days, subjects and у нас are correct.
Product	The timetable is complete and in Russian.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 2 · У МЕНЯ́ ЕСТЬ: WHAT I HAVE · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

2.1 У меня́ есть…: I Have

OBJECTIVES

- Say what you have with у меня́ есть.
- Ask У тебя́ есть…? and answer Да, есть.
- Know that all we have comes from God.

> **Warm-up.** Empty your pencil case or backpack on the table. What do you have? Today you learn to say it 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 core ideas; after each item, say У меня́ есть ... if you have one.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches school supplies in Russian.

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

У меня́ есть... (oo mee-NYAH yehst)
I have... (literally “by me there is”).

У тебя́ есть...? (oo tee-BYAH yehst)
Do you have...? (to a friend).

Да, есть. (dah yehst)
Yes, I do (there is).

рюкза́к (ryook-ZAHK)
Backpack.

ла́стик (LAHS-teek)
Eraser.

лине́йка (lee-NYEHY-kuh)
Ruler.

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.

у меня́ есть

oo mee-NYAH yehst

phrase

I have

у тебя́ есть?

oo tee-BYAH yehst

phrase

do you have?

у нас есть

oo nahs yehst

phrase

we have

рюкза́к

ryook-ZAHK

noun · masculine

backpack

ла́стик

LAHS-teek

noun · masculine

eraser

лине́йка

lee-NYEHY-kuh

noun · feminine

ruler

CORE IDEAS

The story. The apostle Paul asked the church in Corinth a hard question: What hast thou that thou didst not receive? Your family, your home, your mind, your food, even your breath are gifts from God. When we say what we have, we can remember to thank the Giver.

How Russian works: у меня́ есть. Russian does not have a common verb for have. Instead it says “by me there is”: У меня́ есть кни́га. (I have a book.) The thing you have stays in its plain form. To ask a friend, say У тебя́ есть ру́чка? and answer Да, есть. To a grown-up, У вас есть…? For we have, say У нас есть….

New school words. Рюкза́к (backpack), ла́стик (eraser), лине́йка (ruler), пена́л (pencil case). Review: кни́га, ру́чка, каранда́ш, тетра́дь. And family: У меня́ есть брат и сестра́.

ACTIVITY

Show-and-tell backpack

Pack a backpack and present everything in it in Russian.

You will need

- A backpack
- School things and one favorite item

Steps

1. Pack at least six things.
2. Take them out one at a time: У меня́ есть ру́чка. У меня́ есть лине́йка.
3. Ask a family member about one thing: У тебя́ есть ла́стик?
4. End with your favorite item and say why you like it (in English is fine).

Tips

- Add one thing you received as a gift, and say спаси́бо to the giver.

Check your work

☐ I presented six things with

у
ме
ня́
ес
ть
.

☐ I asked and answered one question.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write five sentences with У меня́ есть… and two questions with У тебя́ есть…?

> **From history.** Russian schoolchildren carry a дневни́к, a school diary where they write their homework and the teacher writes their grades. Russian grades go from 1 to 5, and 5 (пятёрка) is the best.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, add у него́ есть (he has) and у неё есть (she has), and describe what each family member has.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask your friend if he has an eraser. He says yes.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Do you have (friend): у тебя́ есть.
2. Yes: да, есть.

Answer: У тебя́ есть ла́стик? — Да, есть.

Example 2. Say you have a sister and a cat.

▼ **Show solution**

1. I have: у меня́ есть.
2. The nouns stay plain.

Answer: У меня́ есть сестра́ и ко́шка.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I have a book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   У меня́ есть кни́га.

2. Easy Say backpack and ruler in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Рюкза́к, лине́йка.

3. Medium Ask a friend: Do you have a pen?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   У тебя́ есть ру́чка?

4. Medium Answer: Yes, I do.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Да, есть.

5. Medium Ask a teacher: Do you have a ruler?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   У вас есть лине́йка?

6. Hard Say three things your family has, using у нас есть.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: У нас есть дом, соба́ка и маши́на.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Я име́ю кни́гу. It is grammatical but not how Russians talk; say У меня́ есть кни́га.
- Changing the ending of the thing: у меня́ есть кни́гу. It stays кни́га.

> **Make it a game · Go Fish.** Make pairs of cards with school things and family words. Ask У тебя́ есть…? If the other player has it, they answer Да, есть and hand it over; if not, Нет! and you draw.

> **Scripture.** “For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Что ты имеешь, чего бы не получил?* Everything we have is a gift. Saying “I have” reminds us to thank God, who gave it.

2.2 Сего́дня у нас матема́тика: SCHOOL SUBJECTS

OBJECTIVES

- Name six school subjects in Russian.
- Say what subjects you have today.
- Know that wisdom is worth getting.

> **Warm-up.** What subjects do you study? Which is your favorite? Today you learn to name them in Russian.

WATCH

Russian Listening Comprehension – Talking About School Subjects in Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w180tHLscuI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write down each subject you hear in Russian.

Note: RussianPod101: a short Russian listening quiz about school subjects.

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

матема́тика (muh-tee-MAH-tee-kuh)
Math.

чте́ние (CHTYEH-nee-yee)
Reading.

исто́рия (ihs-TOH-ree-yuh)
History.

му́зыка (MOO-zih-kuh)
Music.

рисова́ние (ree-sah-VAH-nee-yee)

Art, drawing.

Сего́дня у нас… (see-VOHD-nyuh oo nahs)

Today we have…

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.

матема́тика

muh-tee-MAH-tee-kuh

noun · feminine

math

чте́ние

CHTYEH-nee-yee

noun · neuter

reading

исто́рия

ihs-TOH-ree-yuh

noun · feminine

history

му́зыка

MOO-zih-kuh

noun · feminine

music

рисова́ние

ree-sah-VAH-nee-yee

noun · neuter

art, drawing

уро́к

oo-ROHK

noun · masculine

lesson

CORE IDEAS

The story. King Solomon told his son: Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Math, reading, history and music are all ways to understand the world God made. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and every subject can help us grow in it.

School subjects. Many subjects sound like English: матема́тика, исто́рия, му́зыка, геогра́фия. Others are Russian words: чте́ние (reading, from чита́ть, to read) and рисова́ние (drawing, from рисова́ть). Russian is ру́сский язы́к and English is англи́йский язы́к.

Today we have… To say what is on the schedule, use у нас: Сего́дня у нас матема́тика и исто́рия. With a day: В понеде́льник у нас му́зыка. (On Monday we have music.) Notice: в понеде́льник means on Monday.

ACTIVITY

My timetable

Make a school timetable in Russian like the ones in Russian classrooms.

You will need

- Paper
- Ruler
- Colored pencils

Steps

1. Draw a grid with the five school days down the side.
2. Write each day in Russian: понеде́льник, вто́рник, среда́, четве́рг, пя́тница.
3. Fill in your subjects for each day in Russian.
4. Present it: В понеде́льник у нас матема́тика, чте́ние и исто́рия.

Tips

- Color each subject differently.

Check your work

☐ My timetable is in Russian.

☐ I can say what we have each day.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the subjects you study in Russian, and one sentence: Сего́дня у нас ….

> **From history.** In Russian schools, pupils stand up when the teacher enters and when they answer a question. A lesson is called уро́к, and between lessons there is a short break, a переме́на.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, ask about your student's favorite subject in Russian and explain the Russian grading system with пятёрка and четвёрка.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say that today you have math and reading.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Today we have: сего́дня у нас.
2. Math: матема́тика, reading: чте́ние.

Answer: Сего́дня у нас матема́тика и чте́ние.

Example 2. Say that on Friday you have music.

▼ **Show solution**

1. On Friday: в пя́тницу (пя́тница changes to -у).
2. Music: му́зыка.

Answer: В пя́тницу у нас му́зыка.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say math and history in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Матема́тика, исто́рия.

2. Easy Say reading in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Чте́ние.

3. Medium Say art and music in Russian.

▼ **Show answer**

Рисова́ние, му́зыка.

4. Medium Say Russian (the subject) in Russian.

▼ **Show answer**

Ру́сский язы́к.

5. Medium Say “Today we have history.”

▼ **Show answer**

Сего́дня у нас исто́рия.

6. Hard Describe your school day in two sentences.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Сего́дня у нас матема́тика, чте́ние и исто́рия. В пя́тницу у нас му́зыка.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Сего́дня я име́ю матема́тику. Russians say Сего́дня у нас матема́тика.
- Saying CHTE-nee without the т. Say both: CHTYEH-nee-yeh.

> **Make it a game · Guess the subject.** One player describes a subject in English or acts it out (counting on fingers, playing a pretend piano). The others name it in Russian first.

> **Scripture.** “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” (Proverbs 4:7, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Главное — мудрость: приобретай мудрость* Wisdom is worth more than anything else we can get. Every subject can help us grow in understanding.

UNIT 3

Календа́рь и пого́да: SEASONS AND WEATHER

Lesson 3.1 teaches the four seasons, all twelve months, and how to say in spring, in summer and so on, with Levitan's painting March.

Lesson 3.2 teaches the weather: Кака́я сего́дня пого́да?, идёт дождь, идёт снег, све́тит со́лнце, ду́ет ве́тер, жа́рко and хо́лодно.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1 and 2. The winter months and зима́ and ле́то from earlier grades are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name the four seasons and twelve months in Russian.
- ☐ I can say in which season something happens.
- ☐ I can ask and describe the weather.
- ☐ I can say what Ecclesiastes 3:1 teaches.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- Wiktionary (Russian entries): Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings 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

3.1	**Весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes
3.2	**Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? The Weather**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

Unit 3 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Name the four seasons in Russian.

2. **4 pts**
   Name the three spring months in Russian.

3. **4 pts**
   Say “In summer it is hot.”

4. **4 pts**
   It is raining and windy. Describe the weather.

5. **4 pts**
   What does Ecclesiastes 3:1 say?

ANSWER KEY

1. Весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́.
2. Март, апре́ль, май.
3. Ле́том жа́рко.
4. Идёт дождь. Ду́ет ве́тер.
5. To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: WEATHER REPORT

Give a one-minute weather report in Russian for a week, like a TV forecaster: the day, the season, the weather and what to wear. Record it or perform it, with a weather map you draw.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student speaks for about a minute in Russian.
Accuracy	Seasons, days and weather phrases are correct.
Product	The weather map is clear and labeled in Russian.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 3 · КАЛЕНДА́РЬ И ПОГО́ДА: SEASONS AND WEATHER · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

3.1 Весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́

OBJECTIVES

- Name the four seasons and twelve months in Russian.
- Say in spring, in summer, in autumn, in winter.
- Look closely at Levitan’s March.

> **Warm-up.** What is your favorite season? Which month is your birthday? Today you learn all the seasons and 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 core ideas; say each month with Katya and hold up fingers for its number.

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.

KEY TERMS

весна́, ле́то (vees-NAH LYEH-tuh)
Spring, summer.

весно́й, ле́том (vees-NOHY LYEH-tuhm)
In spring, in summer.

Когда́? (kahg-DAH)
When?

о́сень, зима́ (OH-seen zee-MAH)
Autumn, winter.

о́сенью, зимо́й (OH-seen-yoo zee-MOHY)
In autumn, in winter.

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.

весна́

vees-NAH

noun · feminine

spring

о́сень

OH-seen

noun · feminine

autumn

весно́й

vees-NOHY

adverb

in spring

ле́том

LYEH-tuhm

adverb

in summer

о́сенью

OH-seen-yoo

adverb

in autumn

зимо́й

zee-MOHY

adverb

in winter

когда́

kahg-DAH

question word

when

CORE IDEAS

The story. In March 1895 Isaac Levitan stayed at a country estate and painted the end of winter. The snow is still deep, but the sun is warm and bright. The snow on the roof is melting, the sky is clear blue, and a patient horse with a sledge stands by the porch of a yellow wooden house. Levitan made the snow look blue in the shadows and gold in the sun. You can feel that spring is coming.

Months. The months sound like English: янва́рь, февра́ль, март, апре́ль, май, ию́нь, ию́ль, а́вгуст, сентя́брь, октя́брь, ноя́брь, дека́брь. In Russian they are written with a small letter. Spring months are март, апре́ль, май; summer months ию́нь, ию́ль, а́вгуст; autumn months сентя́брь, октя́брь, ноя́брь; winter months дека́брь, янва́рь, февра́ль.

When? Each season has a form that means in that season: весно́й (in spring), ле́том (in summer), о́сенью (in autumn), зимо́й (in winter). Когда́ твой день рожде́ния? — Весно́й, в апре́ле. (When is your birthday? In spring, in April.) In a month uses в and -е: в ма́рте, в апре́ле, в ма́е.

PICTURE STUDY



March, Isaac Levitan, 1895 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph, CC BY-SA 2.0 (credit: Wikimedia Commons contributor; see the file page)

There are no people in this painting, only the horse. But we can tell someone is inside and will come out soon. Levitan painted the feeling of the first warm sun after a long winter.

Look closely

- What season is it? Which month?
- Find the horse. What is it waiting for?
- Where is the snow melting?
- What colors are the shadows?

Talk about it

1. What is the first sign of spring where you live?
2. Which month do you look forward to most, and why?

ACTIVITY

Seasons wheel

Make a wheel with the four seasons and twelve months.

You will need

- Two paper plates
- A brass fastener
- Markers

Steps

1. Divide one plate into four parts and draw each season. Label весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́.
2. Write the three months for each season around the edge.
3. Cut a window in the second plate and fasten it on top.
4. Turn the wheel and say: Сейча́с весна́. Весно́й март, апре́ль и май.

Tips

- Mark your birthday and Christmas on the wheel.

Check your work

- ☐ My wheel shows four seasons and twelve months.
- ☐ I can say what months are in each season.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the twelve months in four groups by season, and two sentences: Мой день рожде́ния в …. Я люблю́ … (a season).

> **From history.** Russia is so large that it has very different weather at the same time. In March, Moscow may still have snow while the south near the Black Sea already has blossoms. In Yakutia in Siberia, winter temperatures can fall below minus fifty degrees Celsius.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, ask about the seasons where your family comes from, and compare them with where you live now.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. When is Christmas? Answer with the season and the month.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Christmas (December 25) is in winter.
2. In winter: зимо́й; in December: в декабре́.

Answer: Зимо́й, в декабре́.

Example 2. Say that in autumn it is cold.

▼ **Show solution**

1. In autumn: о́сенью.
2. It is cold: хо́лодно.

Answer: О́сенью хо́лодно.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Name the four seasons in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Весна́, ле́то, о́сень, зима́.

2. Easy Name the summer months in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ию́нь, ию́ль, а́вгуст.

3. Medium Name the autumn months in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Сентя́брь, октя́брь, ноя́брь.

4. Medium Say in spring, in summer, in autumn, in winter.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Весно́й, ле́том, о́сенью, зимо́й.

5. Medium Say “in March” and “in May”.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   В ма́рте, в ма́е.

6. Hard When is your birthday? Answer with the season and the month.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Ле́том, в ию́ле.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing months with a capital letter. In Russian they are lowercase: март, апре́ль.
- Saying в весне́. In spring is one word: весно́й.

> **Make it a game · Season charades.** Act out something you do in one season (skiing, swimming, raking leaves, planting seeds). The others say the season with its “when” form: Зимо́й! Ле́том!

> **Scripture.** “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Всему свое время, и время всякой вещи под небом* God made the seasons and the times. Every season of the year, and of life, has its purpose.

UNIT 3 · КАЛЕНДА́РЬ И ПОГО́ДА: SEASONS AND WEATHER · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

3.2 Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? The Weather

OBJECTIVES

- Ask about the weather in Russian.
- Describe rain, snow, sun, wind, heat and cold.
- Know that God sends the rain.

> **Warm-up.** Look out the window. What is the weather like? Today you learn to describe it in Russian.

WATCH

Learn Russian - Russian Weather Vocabulary

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:41

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; for the forecast, write down the weather words you catch.

Note: RussianPod101: weather vocabulary in Russian with pictures.

BACKUP VIDEO

Russian Listening Comprehension – Listening to a Russian Weather Forecast

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:30

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24owtC1VI_Q

RussianPod101: listening to a Russian weather forecast.

KEY TERMS

Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? (kah-KAH-yuh see-VOHD-nyuh pah-GOH-duh)
What is the weather like today?

Идёт дождь. (ih-DYOHT dohsht)
It is raining (literally “rain is going”).

Идёт снег. (ih-DYOHT snyehk)
It is snowing.

Све́тит со́лнце. (SVYEH-teet SOHN-tseh)
The sun is shining.

Ду́ет ве́тер. (DOO-yeet VYEH-teer)
The wind is blowing.

жа́рко, тепло́, хо́лодно (ZHAHR-kuh teep-LOH KHOH-luhd-nuh)
Hot, warm, cold.

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.

пого́да

pah-GOH-duh

noun · feminine

weather

дождь

dohsht

noun · masculine

rain

ве́тер

VYEH-teer

noun · masculine

wind

идёт

ih-DYOHT

verb · it form

goes (идёт дождь: it is raining)

све́тит

SVYEH-teet

verb · it form

shines

жа́рко

ZHAHR-kuh

adverb

it’s hot

прохла́дно

prahkh-LAHD-nuh

adverb

it’s cool

CORE IDEAS

The story. The psalmist praised God who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. The weather is not an accident. God sends the rain and the sunshine, and He feeds the animals and gives us bread through them.

How Russian works: rain and snow “go”. In Russian, rain and snow walk: Идёт дождь. (Rain goes: it is raining.) Идёт снег. (It is snowing.) The sun shines: Све́тит

со́лнце. The wind blows: Ду́ет ве́тер. For temperature use one word: Жа́рко. (It's hot.) Тепло́. (It's warm.) Прохла́дно. (It's cool.) Хо́лодно. (It's cold.)

Asking and answering. Кака́я сего́дня пого́да? — Сего́дня тепло́. Све́тит со́лнце. You can add the temperature: Сего́дня де́сять гра́дусов. (Today it is ten degrees.) Russians use Celsius, so ten degrees is cool, not freezing!

ACTIVITY

Weather station

Keep a weather chart for a week and report it in Russian each day.

You will need

- A chart with seven days
- A thermometer (if you have one)
- Weather symbols to draw

Steps

1. Each morning, look outside and check the temperature.
2. Draw the weather symbol and write the Russian phrase: Идёт дождь, Све́тит со́лнце…
3. Write жа́рко, тепло́, прохла́дно or хо́лодно.
4. Report to the family at breakfast in Russian.

Tips

- Convert the temperature to Celsius and say it: два́дцать гра́дусов.

Check your work

- ☐ My chart has seven days of weather in Russian.
- ☐ I gave a short report each day.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, draw six weather symbols and write the Russian phrase for each.

> **From history.** Russians have a saying: У приро́ды нет плохо́й пого́ды, nature has no bad weather. Russian children play outside in almost any weather, bundled up in warm clothes.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, watch a short Russian weather forecast together and retell it.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Describe a summer day: the sun is shining and it is hot.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The sun shines: све́тит со́лнце.
2. Hot: жа́рко.

Answer: Све́тит со́лнце. Жа́рко.

Example 2. Describe a winter storm: it is snowing, the wind is blowing, it is cold.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Snow goes: идёт снег.
2. Wind blows: ду́ет ве́тер. Cold: хо́лодно.

Answer: Идёт снег. Ду́ет ве́тер. Хо́лодно.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Ask what the weather is like today.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Кака́я сего́дня пого́да?

2. Easy Say it is raining.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Идёт дождь.

3. Medium Say it is snowing.

▼ **Show answer**

Идёт снег.

4. Medium Say the sun is shining and it is warm.

▼ **Show answer**

Све́тит со́лнце. Тепло́.

5. Medium Say the wind is blowing and it is cool.

▼ **Show answer**

Ду́ет ве́тер. Прохла́дно.

6. Hard Describe today's weather in three sentences.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Сего́дня хо́лодно. Идёт дождь. Ду́ет ве́тер.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Э́то дождь for it is raining. Say Идёт дождь.
- Saying Я хо́лодно. To say I am cold, use Мне хо́лодно (a pattern you will learn later).

> **Make it a game · Weather forecaster.** Take turns standing in front of a map (drawn or real) and giving the weather for a city in Russian: В Москве́ идёт снег. В Со́чи тепло́. The others draw what they hear.

> **Scripture.** "Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains." (Psalm 147:8, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Он покрывает небо облаками, приготовляет для земли дождь* (Psalm 146:8 in the Russian numbering) God covers the sky with clouds and sends the rain that makes the grass grow. Every kind of weather is in His hands.

UNIT 4

Я люблю́: What I Love to Do

Lesson 4.1 teaches all the present forms of люби́ть and how to say what you love (Я люблю́ му́зыку), with Repin's portrait of his daughter Vera sitting on a pole in the sunshine.

Lesson 4.2 teaches hobbies with infinitives: Я люблю́ чита́ть, рисова́ть, пла́вать, игра́ть в футбо́л, and the question Что ты лю́бишь де́лать?

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3. The ending -у for feminine nouns (from Grade 3: я ем ка́шу) is reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say all six present forms of л ю би́ ть.
- ☐ I can say what I love with a noun in the right form.
- ☐ I can say what I love to do with an infinitive.
- ☐ I can ask a friend what he or she likes to do.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings 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

4.1	**Люби́ть: Я люблю́, ты лю́бишь**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

Unit 4 review

Ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Say I love, you love, he loves.

2. **4 pts**
   Say “I love music.”

3. **4 pts**
   Say “We love to read.”

4. **4 pts**
   Ask a friend what he likes to do, and answer “I like to swim.”

5. **4 pts**
   Why do we love God, according to 1 John 4:19?

ANSWER KEY

1. Я люблю́, ты лю́бишь, он лю́бит.
2. Я люблю́ му́зыку.
3. Мы лю́бим чита́ть.
4. Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? — Я люблю́ пла́вать.
5. Because He first loved us.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: ALL ABOUT WHAT I LOVE

Make a poster about yourself and your family: what each person loves and loves to do, with pictures and Russian sentences using all the forms of люби́ть. Present it.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents at least six sentences.
Accuracy	The forms of люби́ть and the noun endings are correct.
Product	The poster has pictures and Russian sentences for each person.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 4 · Я ЛЮБЛЮ́: WHAT I LOVE TO DO · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

4.1 Люби́ть: Я люблю́, ты лю́бишь

OBJECTIVES

- Say all the present forms of люби́ть.
- Say what you love with a noun.
- Look closely at Repin's Dragonfly.

> **Warm-up.** Name three things you love. Who loves you? Today you learn to say love in Russian, in all its forms.

WATCH

ЛЮБИТЬ in the Present Tense - Mastering Russian Verbs

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:39

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; say each form of люби́ть with the teacher.

Note: RussianPod101 Mastering Russian Verbs: люби́ть in the present tense.

BACKUP VIDEO

Speaking of Your Hobbies in Russian | Daily Russian Conversations #21

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:52

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

RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations: speaking of your hobbies.

KEY TERMS

я люблю́, ты лю́бишь (yah lyoob-LYOO tih LYOO-beesh)
I love, you love.

мы лю́бим, вы лю́бите (mih LYOO-beem vih LYOO-bee-tee)
We love, you (polite or plural) love.

Я люблю́ му́зыку. (yah lyoob-LYOO MOO-zih-koo)
I love music.

он/она́ лю́бит (ohn ah-NAH LYOO-beet)
He/she loves.

они́ лю́бят (ah-NEE LYOO-buht)
They love.

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.

люби́ть

lyoo-BEET

verb

to love, to like

я люблю́

yah lyoob-LYOO

verb · I form

I love

ты лю́бишь

tih LYOO-beesh

verb · you form

you love

он лю́бит

ohn LYOO-beet

verb · he/she form

he/she loves

мы лю́бим

mih LYOO-beem

verb · we form

we love

они́ лю́бят

ah-NEE LYOO-buht

verb · they form

they love

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 1884 Ilya Repin, one of the greatest Russian painters, painted his twelve-year-old daughter Vera at the family's summer home. She is sitting on a wooden pole high against the bright sky, in a checkered dress and a hat, squinting into the sun and swinging her feet. The family called her Dragonfly, because she darted about like one all summer. Repin loved his children and painted them often.

How Russian works: люби́ть. Verbs change their endings for each person. Я люблю́ (I love), ты лю́бишь (you love), он, она́ лю́бит (he, she loves), мы лю́бим (we love), вы лю́бите (you love), они́ лю́бят (they love). Notice the extra л in люблю́ and the stress that jumps back after the first form.

What we love. After люби́ть, feminine nouns change -а to -у and -я to -ю: Я люблю́ му́зыку. Па́па лю́бит исто́рию. Masculine and neuter nouns for things stay the same: Я люблю́ чай. Мы лю́бим ле́то. And the most important sentence: Я люблю́ Бо́га. (I love God; Бог changes to Бо́га because God is a person.)

PICTURE STUDY



Dragonfly (Portrait of Vera Repina), Ilya Repin, 1884 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Repin painted Vera from below, so we see her against the sky, as if she were flying. The light is so bright that she has to squint. It is a picture of a happy summer day.

Look closely

- Where is Vera sitting?
- Why is she squinting?
- What is she wearing?
- Why do you think her family called her Dragonfly?

Talk about it

1. What do you love to do on a summer day?
2. What nickname might your family give you?

ACTIVITY

Love-it chart

Survey your family about what they love and make a chart in Russian.

You will need

- Paper and ruler
- Colored pencils

Steps

1. Make a chart with family members down the side and categories across the top: food, season, subject, music.
2. Ask each person in English or Russian and write the answers in Russian.
3. Write a sentence for each person: Ма́ма лю́бит чай. Па́па лю́бит зи́му.
4. Present the chart, using each form of люби́ть at least once.

Tips

- Ask a grandparent on the phone using вы: Что вы лю́бите?

Check your work

- ☐ My chart covers my family.
- ☐ I wrote a sentence for each person with the right form.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the six forms of люби́ть, and one sentence for each form.

> **From history.** Ilya Repin painted many of Russia's most famous pictures, including the Volga Barge Haulers and portraits of Leo Tolstoy. He lived to be eighty-six and painted almost every day of his life, even learning to paint with his left hand when his right hand grew weak.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, talk about the difference between люби́ть and нра́виться (to like), and which is stronger.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “My sister loves music.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. She loves: она́ лю́бит.
2. Му́зыка becomes му́зыку.

Answer: Моя́ сестра́ лю́бит му́зыку.

Example 2. Ask a grown-up what he loves, politely.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Polite you: вы лю́бите.
2. What: что.

Answer: Что вы лю́бите?

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I love tea.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я люблю́ чай.

2. Easy Say you love (to a friend).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ты лю́бишь.

3. Medium Say we love summer.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мы лю́бим ле́то.

4. Medium Say Dad loves history.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Па́па лю́бит исто́рию.

5. Medium Say they love winter.

▼ **Show answer**

Они́ лю́бят зи́му.

6. Hard Say I love God, and explain why Бог changes.

▼ **Show answer**

Я люблю́ Бо́га. Бог is a person (animate), so it takes -a after люби́ть.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying я лю́блю. The first form is stressed at the end: люблю́.
- Forgetting the -у: Я люблю́ му́зыка. Change it: му́зыку.

> **Make it a game · Love it or not?.** A parent names something in Russian (зима́, ка́ша, футбо́л, му́зыка). The student answers Я люблю́ ...! or Я не люблю́ ..., with the right ending. Then switch.

> **Scripture.** “We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Будем любить Его, потому что Он прежде возлюбил нас* God loved us first, before we ever loved Him. Our love is an answer to His.

UNIT 4 · Я ЛЮБЛЮ́: WHAT I LOVE TO DO · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

4.2 Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? Hobbies

OBJECTIVES

- Say what you love to do with an infinitive.
- Name hobbies and sports in Russian.
- Ask Что ты лю́бишь де́лать?

> **Warm-up.** Say Я люблю́ ... about three things. Now: what do you love to do? Read, draw, swim, play? Today you learn to say it.

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Hobbies

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:16

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ex_f9wt5s6I

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; after each hobby, say Я люблю́ ... or Я не люблю́ ....

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches hobby words in Russian.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Talk About Hobbies in Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erX-9bkfah0

RussianPod101: talking about hobbies in Russian, with video.

KEY TERMS

чита́ть, рисова́ть (chee-TAHT ree-sah-VAHT)
To read, to draw.

пе́ть (pyeht)
To sing.

Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? (shtoh tih LYOO-beesh DYEH-luht)
What do you like to do?

пла́вать, бе́гать (PLAH-vuht BYEH-guht)
To swim, to run.

игра́ть в футбо́л (ihg-RAHT v foot-BOHL)
To play soccer (football).

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.

чита́ть

chee-TAHT

verb

to read

рисова́ть

ree-sah-VAHT

verb

to draw

пла́вать

PLAH-vuht

verb

to swim

петь

pyeht

verb

to sing

игра́ть в футбо́л

ihg-RAHT v foot-BOHL

phrase

to play soccer

де́лать

DYEH-luht

verb

to do, to make

CORE IDEAS

The story. Paul wrote to the Colossians: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. Whether you are reading, drawing, swimming, playing a game or doing chores, you can do it with your whole heart, as a gift to God.

How Russian works: love + to do. After люби́ть you can put another verb in its dictionary form, the infinitive, which usually ends in -ть: Я люблю́ чита́ть. (I love to read.) Брат лю́бит рисова́ть. Мы лю́бим петь. To say you do not like it, put не in front: Я не люблю́ бе́гать..

Playing. To play a sport, say игра́ть в and the sport: игра́ть в футбо́л (soccer), игра́ть в ша́хматы (chess). To play an instrument, say игра́ть на: игра́ть на пиани́но (piano). Ask a friend: Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? Ask a grown-up: Что вы лю́бите де́лать?

ACTIVITY

Hobby interview

Interview three people about their hobbies in Russian and write up the results.

You will need

- Notebook
- Pencil

Steps

1. Prepare your questions: Что ты лю́бишь де́лать? (or Что вы лю́бите де́лать?) Ты лю́бишь пла́вать?
2. Interview three people. They may answer in English if they do not speak Russian; you write the answers in Russian.
3. Write one or two sentences about each: Ба́бушка лю́бит петь. Па́па лю́бит игра́ть в ша́хматы.
4. Read your results aloud.

Tips

- Add a drawing of each person doing the hobby.

Check your work

☐ I interviewed three people.

☐ I wrote correct Russian sentences about each.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write five things you love to do and two you do not: Я люблю́ … / Я не люблю́ ….

> **From history.** Chess is one of Russia's favorite games. Many of the world champions of the last hundred years were Russian, and chess is played in parks, schools and homes all over the country.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, add more hobbies (ката́ться на лы́жах, собира́ть ма́рки) and talk about the hobbies of relatives in Russia.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say that your brother loves to play soccer.

▼ **Show solution**

1. He loves: он лю́бит.
2. To play soccer: игра́ть в футбо́л.

Answer: Мой брат лю́бит игра́ть в футбо́л.

Example 2. Ask a friend if she likes to swim; she says yes.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Do you like: ты лю́бишь?
2. Yes, I like (to swim): да, люблю́.

Answer: Ты лю́бишь пла́вать? — Да, люблю́!

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I love to read.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я люблю́ чита́ть.

2. Easy Say to draw and to sing in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Рисова́ть, петь.

3. Medium Ask a friend what she likes to do.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Что ты лю́бишь де́лать?

4. Medium Say I do not like to run.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я не люблю́ бе́гать.

5. Medium Say we love to play chess.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мы лю́бим игра́ть в ша́хматы.

6. Hard Say what two family members love to do.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Ма́ма лю́бит петь. Па́па лю́бит игра́ть на пиани́но.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying игра́ть футбо́л without в. Say игра́ть в футбо́л.
- Saying игра́ть в пиани́но. For instruments use на: игра́ть на пиани́но.

> **Make it a game · Charades.** Act out a hobby without speaking. The others guess with a full sentence: Ты лю́бишь пла́вать! If right, they act out the next one.

> **Scripture.** “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” (Colossians 3:23, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *И все, что делаете, делайте от души, как для Господа*
> Whatever we do, we can do it with all our heart for the Lord. Even play and hobbies can honor Him.

UNIT 5

Росси́я: Rivers and Cities

Lesson 5.1 teaches the names of Russia’s great rivers, lakes and regions and са́мый (the most), with Levitan’s painting Spring. High Water.

Lesson 5.2 teaches the cities Москва́ and Санкт-Петербу́рг, the word столи́ца (capital), and the four directions with на се́вере, на ю́ге.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name Russia's capital, two great cities, a great river and a great lake.
- ☐ I can use

  сá
  м
  ы
  й

  to say the biggest or longest.
- ☐ I can name the four directions and say where a city is.
- ☐ I can describe a map of Russia in a few Russian sentences.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Wiktionary (Russian entries)**: Free online: every Russian word with its stress, meaning, endings 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

5.1	**Во́лга, Байка́л, Сиби́рь: The Biggest**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes
5.2	**Москва́ и Санкт-Петербу́рг: North, South, East, West**	3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

Unit 5 review

Use a map and ask out loud or on paper. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   What is the capital of Russia? Answer in Russian.

2. **4 pts**

   Name the longest river in Europe and the deepest lake in the world in Russian.

3. **4 pts**

   Say “Russia is the biggest country in the world.”

4. **4 pts**

   Name the four directions in Russian.

5. **4 pts**

   What does Psalm 98:8 tell the rivers and hills to do?

ANSWER KEY

1. Москва́ — столи́ца Росси́и.
2. Во́лга, Байка́л.
3. Росси́я — са́мая больша́я страна́ в ми́ре.
4. Се́вер, юг, за́пад, восто́к.
5. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY MAP OF RUSSIA

Draw a large map of Russia with Moscow, St. Petersburg, the Volga, Lake Baikal, Siberia and the four directions labeled in Russian. Present it with at least six sentences: Москва́ — столи́ца. Байка́л на восто́ке….

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents at least six sentences.
Accuracy	Places, directions and са́мый are used correctly.
Product	The map is accurate and labeled in Russian.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

5.1 Во́лга, Байка́л, Сиби́рь: THE BIGGEST

OBJECTIVES

- Name Russia's great river, lake and regions.
- Use са́мый to say the biggest, the longest, the deepest.
- Look closely at Levitan's spring flood.

> **Warm-up.** Find Russia on a globe. How does it compare with your country? Today you learn about its rivers and lands in Russian.

WATCH

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Geography

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xO1H42d_Phg

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; point to each feature on a map of Russia as Katya names it.

Note: RussianPod101: Katya teaches geography words in Russian (river, lake, mountain…).

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian - Russian City Buildings Vocabulary

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oku4laxtc8E

RussianPod101: city buildings vocabulary in Russian.

KEY TERMS

Росси́я (rahs-SEE-yuh)
Russia.

река́, о́зеро (ree-KAH OH-zee-ruh)
River, lake.

Во́лга (VOHL-guh)

The Volga, the longest river in Europe.

Байка́л (bahy-KAHL)

Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the world.

Сиби́рь (see-BEER)

Siberia.

са́мый (SAH-mihy)

The most (са́мый больш́ой: the biggest).

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.

Росси́я

rahs-SEE-yuh

noun · feminine

Russia

река́

ree-KAH

noun · feminine

river

о́зеро

OH-zee-ruh

noun · neuter

lake

страна́

strah-NAH

noun · feminine

country

Сиби́рь

see-BEER

noun · feminine

Siberia

са́мый

SAH-mihy

adjective

the most (forms superlatives)

CORE IDEAS

The story. Every spring, when the snow melts across the great Russian plain, the rivers overflow their banks and flood the fields and forests. In 1897 Isaac Levitan painted this flood near the Volga. Birch trees stand up to their knees in still, shining water, a little boat waits by the shore, and the whole world seems to be reflected in the flood. It is quiet and full of light.

Russia's land. Росси́я is the biggest country in the world. It stretches from Europe across all of northern Asia to the Pacific Ocean. The Во́лга is the longest river in Europe, and Russians call it Mother Volga. Far to the east in Сиби́рь (Siberia) lies Байка́л, the deepest lake in the world. It holds about one fifth of all the fresh lake and river water on earth.

How Russian works: са́мый. To say the biggest, put са́мый before the adjective, and make both match the noun. Росси́я — са́мая больша́я страна́. (Russia is the biggest country.) Байка́л — са́мое глубо́кое о́зеро. (Baikal is the deepest lake.) Во́лга — са́мая дли́нная река́ в Евро́пе. The dash — stands for is.

PICTURE STUDY



Spring. High Water, Isaac Levitan, 1897 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Levitan loved the Volga and painted it many times. In this painting nothing moves. The water is a mirror, and the trees seem to stand on their own reflections.

Look closely

- What season is it? How can you tell?
- Find the boat.
- What do you see in the water?
- What kind of trees are standing in the flood?

Talk about it

1. Have you ever seen a river flood or a very still lake?
2. Why do you think Levitan made the picture so quiet?

ACTIVITY

Superlative cards

Make fact cards about Russia using са́мый.

You will need

- Index cards
- A map or atlas
- Markers

Steps

1. Make four cards: Росси́я, Во́лга, Байка́л, Сиби́рь.
2. On each, write a fact with са́мый: Росси́я — са́мая больша́я страна́ в ми́ре.
3. Draw a little picture or map on each.
4. Read your cards aloud, then make one more card about your own state or country.

Tips

- Look up Russia's highest mountain, Эльбру́с, and write a card.

Check your work

☐ I made five cards with

са́

м

ы

й.

☐ I read them aloud correctly.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, draw a simple outline of Russia and mark the Volga, Baikal and Siberia. Write three sentences with са́мый.

> **From history.** Lake Baikal is so deep (more than a mile) and so old that it is home to animals found nowhere else, including the nerpa, the only seal in the world that lives in fresh water. In winter its ice is so thick and clear that you can see fish swimming beneath your feet.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, find where your family's relatives live on a map of Russia and describe it in Russian.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "Baikal is the deepest lake in the world."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Óзеро is neuter: са́мое глубо́кое.
2. In the world: в ми́ре.

Answer: Байка́л — са́мое глубо́кое о́зеро в ми́ре.

Example 2. Say "The Volga is a big river."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Река́ is feminine.
2. Big: больша́я.

Answer: Во́лга — больша́я река́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say river and lake in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Река́, о́зеро.

2. Easy Say Siberia in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Сиби́рь.

3. Medium What is Russia's great river? Its great lake?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Во́лга, Байка́л.

4. Medium Say "the biggest country".

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Са́мая больша́я страна́.

5. Medium Say "Russia is a big country."

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Росси́я — больша́я страна́.

6. Hard Write two true sentences with са́мый about Russia.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Росси́я — са́мая больша́я страна́ в ми́ре. Байка́л — са́мое глубо́кое о́зеро в ми́ре.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using the wrong ending on са́мый: са́мый больша́я страна́. Both words match: са́мая больша́я.
- Saying VOL-ga with a light English l. The л in Во́лга is a dark, deep l.

> **Make it a game · True or false?.** A parent says a sentence with са́мый in Russian (Байка́л — са́мое большо́е о́зеро в Аме́рике.). The student says Пра́вда! (true) or Непра́вда! (false) and corrects the false ones.

> **Scripture.** "Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together" (Psalm 98:8, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *да рукоплещут реки, да ликуют вместе горы* (Psalm 97:8 in the Russian numbering) The psalmist calls the rivers and hills to praise God for His goodness. All creation, from the Volga to the mountains, belongs to Him.

5.2 Москва́ и Санкт-Петербу́рг: NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST

OBJECTIVES

- Name Russia's capital and its second city.
- Name the four directions in Russian.
- Say where a place is with на се́вере, на ю́ге….

> **Warm-up.** Which direction does the sun rise in? Which way is north from your house? Today you learn directions and Russia's great cities in Russian.

WATCH

Russian Listening Comprehension - Getting Russian Directions

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:01

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqUq4zQ1SPk

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; stand up and turn to face each direction as you say it.

Note: RussianPod101: a short listening quiz about getting directions in Russian — напра́во, нале́во, пря́мо.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian | Listening Practice - Giving Russian Directions to a Taxi Driver

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:56

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oW7G0u7IWY

RussianPod101: a short listening practice, a woman gives directions to a taxi driver.

KEY TERMS

Москва́ (mahsk-VAH)
Moscow.

Санкт-Петербу́рг (suhnkt-pee-teer-BOORK)
St. Petersburg.

столи́ца (stah-LEE-tsuh)

Capital city.

се́вер, юг (SYEH-veer yook)

North, south.

за́пад, восто́к (ZAH-puht vahs-TOHK)

West, east.

на се́вере (nah SYEH-vee-ree)

In the north.

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.

Москва́

mahsk-VAH

noun · feminine

Moscow

столи́ца

stah-LEE-tsuh

noun · feminine

capital

се́вер

SYEH-veer

noun · masculine

north

юг

yook

noun · masculine

south

за́пад

ZAH-puht

noun · masculine

west

восто́к

vahs-TOHK

noun · masculine

east

CORE IDEAS

The story. Before Jesus went up to heaven, He told His disciples: Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. The Gospel went north, south, east and west. It reached the Slavic lands more than a thousand years ago, and today there are Christians in every direction from Jerusalem.

Russia's cities. Москва́ is the capital: Москва́ — столи́ца Росси́и. It is famous for the Kremlin, Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral with its colorful onion domes. Санкт-Петербу́рг, in the north-west on the Baltic Sea, was built by Peter the Great in 1703 and was the capital for two hundred years. It has so many canals and bridges that it is called the Venice of the North.

Directions. Се́вер (north), юг (south), за́пад (west), восто́к (east). To say in the north, use на and the -е ending: на се́вере, на ю́ге, на за́паде, на восто́ке. Санкт-Петербу́рг на се́вере. Байка́л на восто́ке.

ACTIVITY

Compass rose

Make a compass rose for your room and label it in Russian.

You will need

- Paper or cardstock
- Ruler
- Markers
- A real compass or a phone compass

Steps

1. Draw a large compass rose with four points.
2. Label се́вер, юг, за́пад, восто́к.
3. Use a compass to find north and tape it up the right way in your room.
4. Say what is in each direction from your house: На се́вере па́рк. На восто́ке це́рковь.

Tips

- Add the in-between directions: се́веро-за́пад (north-west) and others.

Check your work

☐ My compass rose is labeled in Russian and faces the right way.

☐ I said what is in each direction.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the four directions and four sentences about where places in Russia are.

> **From history.** St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square in Moscow was built in the 1550s. Its nine chapels have onion domes painted in stripes, spirals and diamonds of red, green, gold and blue. It is one of the most famous buildings in the world.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, plan an imaginary trip from Moscow to Lake Baikal on the Trans-Siberian Railway and describe it in Russian.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Where is St. Petersburg? Answer in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. It is in the north (north-west).
2. In the north: на се́вере.

Answer: Санкт-Петербу́рг на се́вере.

Example 2. Say "Moscow is the capital of Russia."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Capital: столи́ца.
2. Of Russia: Росси́и.

Answer: Москва́ — столи́ца Росси́и.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say north and south in Russian.

▼ **Show answer**

Се́вер, юг.

2. Easy Say west and east in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   За́пад, восто́к.

3. Medium Say capital in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Столи́ца.

4. Medium Say “in the east” and “in the south”.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   На восто́ке, на ю́ге.

5. Medium Who built St. Petersburg, and when?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Peter the Great, in 1703.

6. Hard Describe where three places in Russia are, in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Москва́ на за́паде Росси́и. Санкт-Петербу́рг на се́вере. Байка́л на восто́ке.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying в се́вере. With directions use на: на се́вере.
- Saying yug with a g. At the end of a word г sounds like k: yook.

> **Make it a game · Map captain.** Lay a map of Russia (or the world) on the floor. One player calls a direction and a place in Russian (Се́вер! Санкт-Петербу́рг!), and the other jumps to it. Then switch.

> **Scripture.** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *и будете Мне свидетелями в Иерусалиме, и во всей Иудее, и Самарии, и даже до края земли* Jesus sent His followers to tell the good news in every direction, to the ends of the earth.