RUSSIAN · GRADE 7 · AGES 12–13

Grade 7 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 7 Russian is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student counts to 100 and gives ages and prices, puts nouns and pronouns in the accusative case for things and people, and tells about the past with -л, -ла, -ло, -ли, ending with the life of Alexander Pushkin.

Then the student talks about the future and makes plans with бу́ду and Е́сли Бог даст, and reads and retells Tolstoy's Филиппо́к and Ко́сточка. 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 7 (about ages 12–13) 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 30–40 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 (20 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 60 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: два́дцать, со́рок, пятьдеся́т, девяно́сто, сто, сосна́, год, лет, сто́ить, рубль, копе́йка, Ско́лько?. Unit 2: ви́деть, пусты́ня, ка́мень, хлеб, держа́ть, Би́блия, кого́, меня́, тебя́, его́, её, бли́жний. Unit 3: вчера́, был, шёл, сотвори́ть, ра́ньше, давно́, пое́т, стихи́, писа́ть, роди́ться, ня́ня, чуде́сный. Unit 4: бу́ду, бу́дет, за́втра, послеза́втра, бу́дущее, наде́жда, суббо́та, воскресе́нье, выходны́е, план, е́сли, уго́дно. Unit 5: писа́тель, ша́пка, боя́ться, снача́ла, вдруг, наконе́ц, сли́ва, ко́сточка, съесть, купи́ть, прости́ть, никто́.
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 е 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

Чи́сла до ста: Numbers to 100

The tens from два́дцать to сто and every number in between, ages with год, го́да and лет, and prices with рубль, рубля́ and рубле́й, with Ivan Shishkin's Ship Grove of tall pines.

1.1 Два́дцать, три́дцать, со́рок: Counting to 100

1.2 Ско́лько тебе́ лет? Ages and Prices

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Я ви́жу: The Accusative Case

The accusative case for the object of a verb: кни́гу, ка́мень, не́бо for things, бра́та, ма́му, Бо́га for people, and the object pronouns меня́, тебя́, его́, её, нас, вас, их, with Ivan Kramskoi's Christ in the Wilderness.

2.1 Я ви́жу кни́гу: Things as Objects

2.2 Я люблю́ бра́та: People as Objects

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Проше́дшее вре́мя: Pushkin and the Past

The past tense: -л, -ла, -ло, -ли matching the subject, был/была́/бы́ло/бы́ли, and the irregular шёл/шла/шли, then the life of Alexander Pushkin told in the past tense, with Orest Kiprensky's portrait of the poet and the first line of Winter Morning.

3.1 Я чита́л, она́ чита́ла: The Past Tense

3.2 Пу́шкин: The Poet's Life

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Бу́дущее: Plans and Hopes

The future tense with бу́ду + infinitive (я бу́ду чита́ть), бу́ду for will be (я бу́ду до́ма), time words like за́втра and ле́том, and talking about plans with the Russian phrase Е́сли Бог даст (God willing), with God's promise of a future and a hope.

4.1 Я бу́ду чита́ть: The Future

4.2 Е́сли Бог даст: Making Plans

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Толсто́й для дете́й: Tolstoy's Stories

Leo Tolstoy's short stories for children from his ABC book: Филиппо́к, the little boy who went to school on his own, and Ко́сточка, the plum stone that gave away a lie, retold in simple past-tense Russian, with Ivan Kramskoi's portrait of Tolstoy.

5.1 Филиппо́к: The Boy Who Went to School

5.2 Ко́сточка: The Plum Stone

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Два́дцать, три́дцать, со́рок: Counting to 100: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (hundred chart) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 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 Ско́лько тебе́ лет? Ages and Prices: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (family age chart) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (a russian market)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Я ви́жу кни́гу: Things as Objects: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (i spy in russian) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Я люблю́ бра́та: People as Objects: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (love map) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (what i see)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Я чита́л, она́ чита́ла: The Past Tense: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (yesterday comic) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Пу́шкин: The Poet's Life: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (pushkin timeline) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (my life so far)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Я бу́ду чита́ть: The Future: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (time machine) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Е́сли Бог даст: Making Plans: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (plan calendar) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (my summer plans)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Филиппо́к: The Boy Who Went to School: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (story strip)

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Ко́сточка: The Plum Stone: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 video, speaking practice, Russian notebook and activity (story theater) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (retell a story)

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

PART	%
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

Чи́сла до ста: Numbers to 100

Lesson 1.1 teaches the tens and the numbers 21–100, with Shishkin's last great painting, a grove of pines once kept for the masts of ships.

Lesson 1.2 teaches ages (Мне двена́дцать лет; год, го́да, лет) and prices (Ско́лько сто́ит? рубль, рубля́, рубле́й), and Psalm 90 on the years of our life.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 6 Russian: the student knows numbers to 20, час/часа́/часо́в, and reads Cyrillic with stress marks.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can count by tens to 100 and say any number from 1 to 100.
- ☐ I can say my age and ask someone else's.
- ☐ I can use го д, го́ да ле т and correctly.
- ☐ I can ask and say a price in rubles.

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	**Два́дцать, три́дцать, со́рок: Counting to 100**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**Ско́лько тебе́ лет? Ages and Prices**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 Review

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

1. **4 pts**
   Say 40, 50, 90 and 100.
2. **4 pts**
   Say 21, 37 and 64.
3. **4 pts**
   Say “I am twelve years old” and “Grandpa is seventy-one.”
4. **4 pts**
   Ask how much the book costs, and answer “fifty rubles”.
5. **4 pts**
   In Luke 15:4, how many sheep does the shepherd leave to find one?

ANSWER KEY

1. Со́рок, пятьдеся́т, девяно́сто, сто.
2. Два́дцать оди́н, три́дцать семь, шестьдеся́т четы́ре.
3. Мне двена́дцать лет. Де́душке се́мьдесят оди́н год.
4. Ско́лько сто́ит кни́га? — Пятьдеся́т рубле́й.
5. Ninety and nine (девяно́сто де́вять).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A RUSSIAN MARKET

Set up a pretend Russian market with ten items and price tags in rubles (all under 100). Play shopkeeper and customer with a family member in Russian, asking prices and paying, and record or perform the scene.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student carries on the market scene aloud.
Accuracy	Numbers and рубль/рубля́/рубле́й are correct.
Product	The market has ten items with Russian price tags.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 1 · ЧИ́СЛА ДО СТА: NUMBERS TO 100 · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 Два́дцать, три́дцать, со́рок: Counting to 100

OBJECTIVES

- Say the tens from 20 to 100.
- Say any number from 21 to 99.
- Look closely at Shishkin's Ship Grove.

Warm-up. Count to twenty in Russian as fast as you can. Now, how would you get to a hundred? Today you learn the rest of the numbers.

WATCH

Learn Russian - Russian in Three Minutes - Numbers 11-100

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 5:13

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write each number as you hear it.

Note: RussianPod101: Russian in three minutes, numbers 11–100.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Don't Shop in Russian Without These Words

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkhTE8AWW_o

RussianPod101: shopping words in Russian, with video.

KEY TERMS

два́дцать, три́дцать (DVAHD-tsuht TREED-tsuht)
Twenty, thirty.

со́рок (SOH-ruhk)
Forty.

пятьдеся́т, шестьдеся́т (peet-dee-SYAHT sheest-dee-SYAHT)
Fifty, sixty.

се́мьдесят, во́семьдесят (SYEHM-dee-suht VOH-seem-dee-suht)
Seventy, eighty.

девяно́сто (dee-vee-NOHS-tuh)
Ninety.

сто (stoh)
One hundred.

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.

два́дцать

dvadtsat

DVAHD-tsuht

number

twenty

со́рок

sorok

SOH-ruhk

number

forty

пятьдеся́т

pyatdesyat

peet-dee-SYAHT

number

fifty

девяно́сто

devyanosto

dee-vee-NOHS-tuh

number

ninety

сто

sto

stoh

number

one hundred

сосна́

sosna

sahs-NAH

noun · feminine

pine (review)

CORE IDEAS

The story. Ivan Shishkin spent his whole life painting the Russian forest. His last great painting, finished in 1898, shows a grove of huge, straight pine trees near the town where he grew up, with a clear stream winding over the sand at their feet. Such groves were called ship groves: in the days of Peter the Great, the tallest and straightest pines were kept for the masts of ships. Shishkin painted every trunk so carefully that you can almost count them.

The tens. Два́дцать, три́дцать (twenty, thirty) follow the pattern of два and три + дцать. Forty is special: со́рок. Then five to eight + -десят: пятьдеся́т, шестьдеся́т, се́мьдесят, во́семьдесят. Ninety is special again: девяно́сто. And one hundred is сто.

In between. Just put the ten first and the one after it, as in English: два́дцать оди́н (21), три́дцать пять (35), девяно́сто де́вять (99). There is no word for and. Watch the soft sign in the middle of пятьдеся́т and the end of два́дцать.

PICTURE STUDY



Ship Grove, Ivan Shishkin, 1898 · Oil on canvas · State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This was Shishkin's last large painting. It is almost as wide as a small room, and standing in front of it feels like standing at the edge of the forest.

Look closely

- What kind of trees are these?
- Why were they good for ships' masts?
- Find the stream. Is the water deep or shallow?
- Where is the light coming from?

Talk about it

1. Have you ever stood among very tall trees? How did it feel?
2. Why do you think Shishkin loved painting forests all his life?

ACTIVITY

Hundred chart

Make a hundred chart and practice saying every number in Russian.

You will need

- Large paper or poster board
- Ruler
- Markers

Steps

1. Draw a 10 × 10 grid and write the numbers 1–100.
2. Write the Russian word for every ten along the side: де́сять, два́дцать….
3. Color the special numbers (со́рок, девяно́сто, сто).
4. Have a family member point to numbers at random while you say them.

Tips

- Count by fives to 100 in Russian.

Check your work

☐ My chart is complete.

☐ I can say any number a family member points to.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the tens from 20 to 100 in Russian, and ten numbers in between (like 47 and 83).

> **From history.** Peter the Great built the first Russian navy in the 1690s and 1700s. Tall pines for masts were so valuable that the best forests were protected by law, and cutting a mast pine without permission was a serious crime.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, go past 100 (две́сти, три́ста, ты́сяча) and read some years aloud: ты́сяча девятьсо́т…

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say 48 in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Forty is special: со́рок.
2. Then eight: во́семь.

Answer: Со́рок во́семь.

Example 2. Say 99 in Russian.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ninety is special: девяно́сто.
2. Then nine: де́вять.

Answer: Девяно́сто де́вять.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Count by tens from 10 to 50.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Де́сять, два́дцать, три́дцать, со́рок, пятьдеся́т.

2. Easy Say 100.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Сто.

3. Medium Count by tens from 60 to 100.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Шестьдеся́т, се́мьдесят, во́семьдесят, девяно́сто, сто.

4. Medium Say 23 and 56.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Два́дцать три, пятьдеся́т шесть.

5. Medium Say 71 and 88.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Се́мьдесят оди́н, во́семьдесят во́семь.

6. Hard Solve aloud in Russian: 45 + 45.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Со́рок пять плюс со́рок пять — девяно́сто.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying четы́редцать for 40. It is со́рок.
- Saying де́вятьдесят for 90. It is девяно́сто.

> **Make it a game · Buzz.** Count around the circle in Russian from 1 to 100. On every number with a 7 or a multiple of 7, say Бзз! instead. A mistake starts the count over.

> **Scripture.** “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” (Luke 15:4, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *имея сто овец и потеряв одну из них, не оставит девяноста девяти в пустыне* The shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to look for the one that is lost. God counts every one of His people.

UNIT 1 · ЧИ́СЛА ДО СТА: NUMBERS TO 100 · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 Ско́лько тебе́ лет? Ages and Prices

OBJECTIVES

- Say and ask ages.
- Use год, го́да and лет.
- Ask and say prices in rubles.

> **Warm-up.** How old are you? How old are your parents and grandparents? How much does an ice cream cost? Today you learn to say ages and prices in Russian.

WATCH

Russian Beginner Reading Practice - Receiving the Bill

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i-u9l00K_k

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

Note: RussianPod101 reading practice: receiving the bill, with prices.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian | Listening Practice - Shopping for an Outfit in Russia

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:39

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

RussianPod101: a short listening practice about shopping for clothes.

KEY TERMS

Ско́лько тебе́ лет? (SKOHL-kuh tee-BYEH lyeht)
How old are you?

год, го́да, лет (goht GOH-duh lyeht)
Year, years (1; 2–4; 5 and up).

рубль, рубля́, рубле́й (roobl roob-LYAH roob-LYEHY)
Ruble, rubles (1; 2–4; 5 and up).

Мне двена́дцать лет. (mnyeh dvee-NAHD-tsuht lyeht)
I am twelve years old.

Ско́лько сто́ит? (SKOHL-kuh STOH-eet)
How much does it cost?

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.

год

god

goht

noun · masculine

year (го́да, лет)

лет

let

lyeht

noun · plural form

years (after 5 and up)

сто́ить

stoit

STOH-eet

verb

to cost (сто́ит, сто́ят)

рубль

rubl

roobl

noun · masculine

ruble

копе́йка

kopeyka

kah-PYEHY-kuh

noun · feminine

kopeck

Ско́лько?

Skolko?

SKOHL-kuh

question word

how many, how much

CORE IDEAS

The story. Moses prayed in Psalm 90: The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years… So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Seventy or eighty years seems long to a young person, but Moses reminds us that life passes quickly, and every year is a gift to use wisely.

Ages. Russian says “to me twelve years”: Мне двена́дцать лет. Ask a friend Ско́лько тебе́ лет? and a grown-up Ско́лько вам лет? The word for years follows the number pattern you learned with часы́: оди́н год, два го́да, пять лет. The last number decides: два́дцать оди́н год, три́дцать два го́да, со́рок пять лет. But 11–14 always take лет: оди́ннадцать лет.

Prices. Russian money is the рубль, with the same pattern: оди́н рубль, два рубля́, пять рубле́й. Ask Ско́лько сто́ит? (How much does it cost?) and answer Сто́ит

со́рок рубле́й. For several things: Ско́лько сто́ят я́блоки? A ruble has a hundred kopecks, копе́йки.

ACTIVITY

Family age chart

Make a chart of the ages of your family in Russian.

You will need

- Paper and ruler
- Photos or drawings

Steps

1. List everyone in your family, including grandparents.
2. Write each age in Russian words with год, го́да or лет.
3. Write a sentence for each: Ба́бушке се́мьдесят два го́да.
4. Present the chart, oldest to youngest.

Tips

- Add how old each person will be next year.

Check your work

☐ My chart lists every family member.

☐ Each age uses го д, го́ да correctly.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the ages of five people and the prices of five things in Russian words.

> **From history.** In Russia the birthday child often brings candy to school to share with the whole class, and everyone says С днём рожде́ния! (Happy birthday!). Grandparents are honored on their big birthdays, like seventy or eighty, with a family feast.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, look at prices in a Russian online store and read them aloud, including numbers over 100.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "My brother is fourteen."

▼ **Show solution**

1. To my brother: моему́ бра́ту (learn as a phrase).
2. 11–14 take лет.

Answer: Моему́ бра́ту четы́рнадцать лет.

Example 2. Say "The book costs thirty-two rubles."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ends in 2: рубля́.
2. Три́дцать два рубля́.

Answer: Кни́га сто́ит три́дцать два рубля́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Ask a friend how old he is.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ско́лько тебе́ лет?

2. Easy Say I am eleven.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мне оди́ннадцать лет.

3. Medium Say 21 years, 23 years, 25 years.

▼ **Show answer**

Два́дцать оди́н год, два́дцать три го́да, два́дцать пять лет.

4. Medium Ask how much it costs.

▼ **Show answer**

Ско́лько сто́ит?

5. Medium Say 1 ruble, 3 rubles, 10 rubles.

▼ **Show answer**

Оди́н рубль, три рубля́, де́сять рубле́й.

6. Hard Ask a grown-up how old she is, politely, and answer for her: forty-four.

▼ **Show answer**

Ско́лько вам лет? — Мне со́рок четы́ре го́да.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Я двена́дцать лет. Russian says Мне двена́дцать лет.
- Saying два́дцать оди́н лет. The last number is 1: два́дцать оди́н год.

> **Make it a game · Guess the price.** A parent holds up an item and says a price in Russian. The student says До́рого! (expensive) or Дёшево! (cheap), then guesses the real price in rubles. Closest guess wins.

> **Scripture.** “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” (Psalm 90:10, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *Дней лет наших — семьдесят лет, а при большей крепости — восемьдесят лет* (Psalm 89:10 in the Russian numbering) Our years pass quickly. Moses asks God to teach us to number our days and use them wisely.

UNIT 2

Я ви́жу: The Accusative Case

Lesson 2.1 teaches the accusative for things (feminine -а → -у, -я → -ю; masculine and neuter things unchanged), with Kramskoi's painting of Jesus in the desert.

Lesson 2.2 teaches the accusative for people and animals (masculine -а/-я: бра́та, учи́теля, Бо́га) and the pronouns меня́, тебя́, его́, её, нас, вас, их, with the great commandment.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1. Я люблю́ му́зыку and Я люблю́ Бо́га (Grade 4) are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can put a feminine noun in the accusative.
- ☐ I can tell when a masculine noun changes (people and animals) and when it does not (things).
- ☐ I can use the object pronouns.
- ☐ I can describe what someone sees, reads, loves or has.

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	**Я ви́жу кни́гу: Things as Objects**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**Я люблю́ бра́та: People as Objects**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

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

1. **4 pts**
   Finish: Я ви́жу … (кни́га, стол, окно́).

2. **4 pts**
   Finish: Я люблю́ … (ма́ма, па́па, брат).

3. **4 pts**
   Say “He loves me” and “I see her.”

4. **4 pts**
   Why does брат change to бра́та but стол stays стол?

5. **4 pts**
   What is the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:37)?

ANSWER KEY

1. Я ви́жу кни́гу, стол, окно́.
2. Я люблю́ ма́му, па́пу, бра́та.
3. Он лю́бит меня́. Я ви́жу её.
4. Masculine nouns for people and animals take -a in the accusative; things do not change.
5. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: WHAT I SEE

Choose a painting from this course and write ten Russian sentences about what you see in it, using the accusative (Я ви́жу…, Он де́ржит…, Она́ чита́ет…) with both things and people. Present it.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents ten sentences aloud.
Accuracy	Accusative endings are correct for things and people.
Product	The sentences describe the painting accurately.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 2 · Я ВИ́ЖУ: THE ACCUSATIVE CASE · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 Я ви́жу кни́гу: Things as Objects

OBJECTIVES

- Put feminine nouns in the accusative.
- Know that masculine and neuter things do not change.
- Look closely at Christ in the Wilderness.

> **Warm-up.** In English, I see her but she sees me: the word changes when it is the object. Russian nouns change too. Today you learn how.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Top 20 Russian Verbs 1

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOr3cGq-oXI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; make a sentence with an object for each verb.

Note: RussianPod101: the top 20 Russian verbs, part 1, with video.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Top 20 Russian Verbs 2

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oB8cAeoDNuE

RussianPod101: the top 20 Russian verbs, part 2, with video.

KEY TERMS

вини́тельный паде́ж (vee-NEE-teel-nihy pah-DYEHSH)
The accusative case.

пусты́ня (poos-TIH-nuh)
Desert, wilderness.

хлеб (khlyehp)
Bread.

Что ты ви́дишь? (shtoh tih VEE-deesh)
What do you see?

ка́мень, ка́мни (KAH-meen KAHM-nee)
Stone, stones.

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.

ви́деть

VEE-deet

verb

to see (я ви́жу)

пусты́ня

poos-TIH-nuh

noun · feminine

desert, wilderness

ка́мень

KAH-meen

noun · masculine

stone

хлеб

khlyehp

noun · masculine

bread

держа́ть

deer-ZHAHT

verb

to hold (я держу́)

Би́блия

BEEB-lee-yuh

noun · feminine

the Bible

CORE IDEAS

The story. After His baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted forty days. In 1872 Ivan Kramskoi painted Him there at dawn, sitting alone on a grey rock in a desert of stones that stretches to the horizon. His hands are clasped tightly, His face is tired and thoughtful, and His feet are bare and sore from the stones. Soon the tempter will come and say: Command that these stones be made bread. And Jesus will answer: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

How Russian works: the accusative. The object of a verb (what you see, read, love, have, eat) goes into the accusative case. Feminine nouns change: -а → -у, -я → -ю. Я ви́жу пусты́ню. Он чита́ет кни́гу. Мы лю́бим зе́млю. Feminine nouns in -ь do not change: Я ви́жу тетра́дь..

Things that do not change. Masculine and neuter nouns for things stay the same: Я ви́жу ка́мень. Он ест хлеб. Мы ви́дим не́бо. Adjectives follow: Я ви́жу большу́ю пусты́ню (feminine -ую), but большо́й ка́мень (no change).

PICTURE STUDY



Christ in the Wilderness, Ivan Kramskoi, 1872 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Kramskoi worked on this painting for years. He wanted to show Jesus as truly human, tired and hungry, and at the same time faithful to His Father in the hardest moment.

Look closely

- What time of day is it? How can you tell?
- Look at His hands. What do they tell you?
- What is the ground like?
- Why is He alone?

Talk about it

1. When have you had to choose what was right even though it was hard?
2. What does Jesus' answer about bread and God's word mean for you?

ACTIVITY

I spy in Russian

Make an I-spy picture and play it in Russian.

You will need

- A busy picture from a book or magazine, or your own drawing
- Paper

Steps

1. Choose or draw a busy scene with at least fifteen things.
2. List ten things in it in Russian, with the accusative: Я ви́жу ла́мпу, кни́гу, стол….
3. Play with a family member: Я ви́жу… (a hint), and they find it.
4. Switch roles.

Tips

- Add adjectives: Я ви́жу кра́сную ла́мпу.

Check your work

- ☐ My list has ten things in the accusative.
- ☐ I played the game in Russian.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write ten sentences with an object: five feminine (changed) and five masculine or neuter (unchanged).

> **From history.** Ivan Kramskoi was the leader of a group of young artists who left the Imperial Academy of Arts in 1863 because they wanted to choose their own subjects. Later he helped found the Wanderers, who brought their exhibitions to towns all over Russia.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read Matthew 4:1–11 in the Synodal Bible and find every noun in the accusative.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “I am reading a book and eating bread.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Кни́га → кни́гу.
2. Хлеб is masculine, a thing: no change.

Answer: Я чита́ю кни́гу и ем хлеб.

Example 2. Say “We see a big desert.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Пусты́ня → пусты́ню.
2. Больша́я → большу́ю.

Answer: Мы ви́дим большу́ю пусты́ню.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I see a book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я ви́жу кни́гу.

2. Easy Say I see a table.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я ви́жу стол.

3. Medium Say She loves music.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Она́ лю́бит му́зыку.

4. Medium Say We read the Bible.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мы чита́ем Би́блию.

5. Medium Say He sees the sky and the sun.

▼ **Show answer**

Он ви́дит не́бо и со́лнце.

6. Hard Say three things you see in Kramskoi's painting.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Я ви́жу Иису́са, ка́мни и пусты́ню. (Иису́са: a person, see Lesson 2.2.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Я чита́ю кни́га. The object changes: кни́гу.
- Changing masculine things: Я ви́жу ка́мня. Things stay the same: ка́мень.

> **Make it a game · Pass the object.** Pass around real objects. Each player says what they are giving or holding with the accusative: Я держу́ ру́чку. Я даю́ кни́гу. A wrong ending means you hold the object until the next round.

> **Scripture.** "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *не хлебом одним будет жить человек, но всяким словом, исходящим из уст Божиих* Jesus would not turn stones into bread at the tempter's word. We live by God's word even more than by food.

UNIT 2 · Я ВИ́ЖУ: THE ACCUSATIVE CASE · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 Я люблю́ бра́та: People as Objects

OBJECTIVES

- Put masculine nouns for people and animals in the accusative.
- Use the object pronouns меня́, тебя́, его́, её, нас, вас, их.
- Know the great commandment.

> **Warm-up.** Who do you love? Who loves you? Today you learn to say it in Russian, with the endings for people.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Top 20 Russian Verbs 3

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UJ6RS8YmQo

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; for each verb, make a sentence about a person: Я ви́жу бра́та.

Note: RussianPod101: the top 20 Russian verbs, part 3, with video.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian with Video - Top 20 Russian Verbs 4

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSWoHbHgA6U

RussianPod101: the top 20 Russian verbs, part 4, with video.

KEY TERMS

Кого́ ты ви́дишь? (kah-GOH tih VEE-deesh)
Whom do you see?

бра́та, отца́ (BRAH-tuh aht-TSAH)
Brother, father (accusative).

меня́, тебя́ (mee-NYAH tee-BYAH)
Me, you.

его́, её (yee-GOH yee-YOH)
Him, her.

нас, вас, их (nahs vahs ihkh)
Us, you, them.

бли́жний (BLEEZH-neey)
Neighbor (in the Bible).

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.

кого́

kah-GOH

question word

whom

меня́

mee-NYAH

pronoun

me

тебя́

tee-BYAH

pronoun

you

его́

yee-GOH

pronoun

him, it

её

yee-YOH

pronoun

her

бли́жний

BLEEZH-neey

noun · masculine

neighbor

CORE IDEAS

The story. A lawyer asked Jesus which is the great commandment. Jesus answered: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. In the Russian Bible, Lord God is in the accusative: возлю́би Го́спода Бо́га твоего́.

How Russian works: people and animals. Masculine nouns for living beings take -а (or -я after a soft letter) in the accusative: брат → Я люблю́ бра́та. учи́тель → Я ви́жу учи́теля. кот → Я ви́жу кота́. Бог → Мы лю́бим Бо́га. Feminine people change just like things: ма́ма → ма́му, сестра́ → сестру́. Ask Кого́? (whom?) for people and Что? for things.

Object pronouns. меня́ (me), тебя́ (you), его́ (him, it), её (her), нас (us), вас (you), их (them). Ма́ма лю́бит меня́. Я ви́жу его́. Бог лю́бит нас. (In его́, the г sounds like в.)

ACTIVITY

Love map

Make a web of the people you love and who love you, with Russian sentences.

You will need

- Paper
- Markers
- Photos (optional)

Steps

1. Write Я in the middle.
2. Around it, write the people you love with the accusative: ма́му, па́пу, бра́та, ба́бушку, Бо́га.
3. Draw arrows back to you and write sentences with меня́: Ма́ма лю́бит меня́.
4. Present your map.

Tips

- Add Matthew 22:37 in Russian at the top.

Check your work

- ☐ My map has at least six people.
- ☐ All endings and pronouns are correct.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write eight sentences with people as objects, and six with object pronouns.

> **From history.** Russian has one word for both brother and fellow believer, as the apostles did: Christians call each other бра́тья и сёстры. The word бли́жний, neighbor, means literally the one near you.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, look at animate plural accusatives (Я люблю́ бра́тьев и сестёр) and compare with inanimate ones (Я ви́жу столы́).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "I see Dad and my brother."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Па́па changes like a feminine noun: па́пу.
2. Брат is a person: бра́та.

Answer: Я ви́жу па́пу и бра́та.

Example 2. Say "God loves us, and we love Him."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Us: нас.
2. Him: его́.

Answer: Бог лю́бит нас, и мы лю́бим Его́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I love Mom.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я люблю́ ма́му.

2. Easy Say I love my brother.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я люблю́ бра́та.

3. Medium Say I see the teacher (man).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я ви́жу учи́теля.

4. Medium Say She sees me.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Она́ ви́дит меня́.

5. Medium Say We know them.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мы зна́ем их.

6. Hard Say “Love God and love your neighbor.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Люби́ Бо́га и люби́ бли́жнего.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Я люблю́ брат. People take -а: бра́та.
- Saying его́ with a г sound. It sounds like yeh-VOH.

> **Make it a game · Who do you see?.** One player describes someone in the room or family in Russian without naming them. The others guess with full sentences: Ты ви́дишь па́пу! Ты ви́дишь бра́та!

> **Scripture.** “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” (Matthew 22:37, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *возлюби Господа Бога твоего всем сердцем твоим* The first commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind; the second is to love our neighbor.

UNIT 3

Проше́дшее вре́мя: Pushkin and the Past

Lesson 3.1 teaches how to form the past tense from the infinitive and how it matches masculine, feminine, neuter and plural subjects, with In the beginning God created.

Lesson 3.2 tells Pushkin’s life in simple past-tense sentences, looks at Kiprensky’s portrait, and reads the first line of Зи́мнее у́тро.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2. Verbs in the present tense (Grades 5–6) are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can form the past tense of verbs I know.
- ☐ I can match the past tense to he, she, it and they.
- ☐ I can use бы л, бы ла́, бы́ ло, бы́ ли.
- ☐ I can tell five facts about Pushkin in the past tense.

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	**Я чита́л, она́ чита́ла: The Past Tense**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**Пу́шкин: The Poet's Life**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

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

1. **4 pts**
   Put чита́ть in the past for он, она́ and они́.

2. **4 pts**
   Say “Yesterday I was at home” (a boy, then a girl).

3. **4 pts**
   Say “Mom went to the store” (on foot).

4. **4 pts**
   Give two facts about Pushkin in Russian.

5. **4 pts**
   What does Genesis 1:1 say God did?

ANSWER KEY

1. Он чита́л, она́ чита́ла, они́ чита́ли.
2. Вчера́ я был до́ма. Вчера́ я была́ до́ма.
3. Ма́ма шла в магази́н. (or Ма́ма ходи́ла в магази́н.)
4. For example: Пу́шкин жил в Росси́и. Он писа́л стихи́ и ска́зки.
5. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY LIFE SO FAR

Write a short autobiography of ten Russian sentences in the past tense: where you were born, where you lived, what you learned and loved, and one thing God has done for you. Read it aloud.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student reads ten sentences aloud clearly.
Accuracy	Past-tense forms match the subject.
Product	The autobiography is complete and in order.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 3 · ПРОШЕ́ДШЕЕ ВРЕ́МЯ: PUSHKIN AND THE PAST · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 Я чита́л, она́ чита́ла: The Past Tense

OBJECTIVES

- Form the past tense from the infinitive.
- Match it to masculine, feminine, neuter and plural subjects.
- Use был, была́, бы́ло, бы́ли.

> **Warm-up.** What did you do yesterday? Make a list in English. Today you learn to say it in Russian, and Russian past tense is easier than you think.

WATCH

Using Plural Verbs in the Past Tense in Russian | Daily Russian Conversations #13

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn8HanEOL34

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; say each past form with he, she and they.

Note: RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations: plural verbs in the past tense.

BACKUP VIDEO

Russian Verbs and How Many Tenses They Have | Daily Russian Conversations #04

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zcbyw3fCzzg

RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations: Russian verbs and how many tenses they have.

KEY TERMS

вчера́ (vchee-RAH)
Yesterday.

чита́ли (chee-TAH-lee)
Read (they: past).

бы́ло, бы́ли (BIH-luh BIH-lee)
Was (it), were (they).

чита́л, чита́ла (chee-TAHL chee-TAH-luh)
Read (he, she: past).

был, была́ (bihl bih-LAH)
Was (he, she).

сотвори́л (suht-vah-REEL)
Created (he: past).

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.

вчера́

vchee-RAH

adverb

yesterday

был

bihl

verb · past

was (была́, бы́ло, бы́ли)

шёл

shohl

verb · past

went, was going (шла, шли)

сотвори́ть

suht-vah-REET

verb

to create

ра́ньше

RAHN-shee

adverb

before, earlier

давно́

dahv-NOH

adverb

long ago

CORE IDEAS

The story. The Bible begins with the past tense: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In Russian: В нача́ле сотвори́л Бог не́бо и зе́млю. Everything we have, and every story we tell about the past, begins with what God did.

How Russian works: the past. Take the infinitive, drop -ть, and add -л, -ла, -ло or -ли to match the subject: чита́ть → он чита́л, она́ чита́ла, оно́ чита́ло, они́ чита́ли. There is no change for I, you or we, only for gender and number: a boy says я чита́л, a girl says я чита́ла, and we all say мы чита́ли. Most verbs work this way: говори́ть → говори́л, жить → жил, люби́ть → люби́л.

Was and went. To be in the past: был, была́, бы́ло, бы́ли. Вчера́ я был в це́ркви. Notice the stress jumps in была́. A few verbs are irregular: идти́ → шёл, шла, шли, есть → ел, е́ла, е́ли. Russian has only one past form for each gender, so the past is often easier than the present!

ACTIVITY

Yesterday comic

Draw a comic strip of what your family did yesterday, with past-tense captions.

You will need

- Paper folded into six boxes
- Pencils and markers

Steps

1. Draw six things that happened yesterday, in order.
2. Write a past-tense sentence under each: Па́па рабо́тал. Ма́ма пекла́ хлеб. Мы чита́ли.
3. Make sure each verb matches the person.
4. Read the comic aloud.

Tips

- Add one sentence with был or была́.

Check your work

- ☐ My comic has six past-tense captions.
- ☐ Each verb matches the subject.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the past tense of ten verbs you know in all four forms, and five sentences about yesterday.

> **From history.** Russian verbs come in pairs: one for an action in progress (чита́ть, to be reading) and one for a finished action (прочита́ть, to read through). You will learn these pairs, called aspects, in high school Russian. For now, use the forms you know.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, introduce the aspect pairs (де́лать/сде́лать, чита́ть/прочита́ть) and talk about the difference in the past tense.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. A girl says “Yesterday I read and played.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. A girl: -ла.
2. Чита́ть → чита́ла, игра́ть → игра́ла.

Answer: Вчера́ я чита́ла и игра́ла.

Example 2. Say “My parents were in Moscow.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. They: бы́ли.
2. In Moscow: в Москве́.

Answer: Мои́ роди́тели бы́ли в Москве́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say he read, she read.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Он чита́л, она́ чита́ла.

2. Easy Say they lived.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Они́ жи́ли.

3. Medium Say “I was at home” (as yourself).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я был до́ма. / Я была́ до́ма.

4. Medium Say “We spoke Russian.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Мы говори́ли по-ру́сски.

5. Medium Say he went, she went (on foot, at that moment).

▼ **Show answer**

Он шёл, она́ шла.

6. Hard Say three things you did yesterday.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Вчера́ я рабо́тал(а), чита́л(а) и гуля́л(а).

COMMON MISTAKES

- A girl saying я чита́л. Girls use -ла: я чита́ла.
- Saying он идёл. The past of идти́ is шёл.

> **Make it a game · Detective.** A parent makes a small change in the room while the student is out (moves a book, opens a window). The student returns and asks in the past tense: Ты взял кни́гу? Ты откры́л окно́? until finding the change.

> **Scripture.** “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *В начале сотворил Бог небо и землю.* The whole story of the world begins with what God did in the past: He created everything.

UNIT 3 · ПРОШЕ́ДШЕЕ ВРЕ́МЯ: PUSHKIN AND THE PAST · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 Пу́шкин: The Poet’s Life

OBJECTIVES

- Tell Pushkin’s life in the past tense.
- Read a line of Pushkin’s poetry.
- Look closely at Kiprensky’s portrait.

> **Warm-up.** Who is the most famous poet in English? Russians would answer for their language without a pause: Pushkin. Today you meet him.

WATCH

Read Russian Fast and Easy with the Extensive Reading Learning Strategy

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 8:11

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; then read a short Russian text and find the past-tense verbs.

Note: RussianPod101: reading Russian with the extensive-reading strategy.

BACKUP VIDEO

How to Expand Your Russian Vocabulary with Reading

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIGx23zRTIc

RussianPod101: how to grow your Russian vocabulary by reading.

KEY TERMS

по́эт (pah-EHT)
Poet.

стихи́ (stee-KHEE)
Poems, poetry.

писа́л, писа́ла (pee-SAHL pee-SAH-luh)
Wrote (he, she).

роди́лся (rah-DEEL-suh)
Was born (he).

ня́ня (NYAH-nuh)
Nanny.

моро́з (mah-ROHS)
Frost.

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.

поэ́т

pah-EHT

noun · masculine

poet

стихи́

stee-KHEE

noun · plural

poems, verse

писа́ть

pee-SAHT

verb

to write (писа́л)

роди́ться

rah-DEET-suh

verb · reflexive

to be born (роди́лся, родила́сь)

ня́ня

NYAH-nuh

noun · feminine

nanny

чуде́сный

choo-DYEHS-nihy

adjective

wonderful

CORE IDEAS

The story. Alexander Pushkin was born in Moscow in 1799. As a boy he loved books, and his nanny, Arina Rodionovna, told him the old Russian fairy tales and sang him folk songs. He went to a school for gifted boys near St. Petersburg and wrote poems there that amazed his teachers. He grew up to write poems, fairy tales in verse, stories and plays, and he died young, at thirty-seven. In 1827 Orest Kiprensky painted him with a plaid across his shoulder. Pushkin liked the portrait and wrote: Себя́ как в зе́ркале я ви́жу, / Но э́то зе́ркало мне льсти́т. (I see myself as in a mirror, but this mirror flatters me.)

Pushkin in the past tense. Пу́шкин роди́лся в Москве́. Ня́ня расска́зывала ему́ ска́зки. Он учи́лся в лице́е. (He studied at the lyceum.) Он писа́л стихи́ и ска́зки. Он жил в Санкт-Петербу́рге и в Москве́. Роди́лся and учи́лся end in -ся because they are reflexive verbs; a woman would say родила́сь.

A line of poetry. Pushkin's Winter Morning begins: Моро́з и со́лнце; день чуде́сный! (Frost and sun: a wonderful day!) Every Russian schoolchild knows this line. Read it aloud with the stress: ma-ROHS ee SOHN-tseh, dyen choo-DYES-nyi.

Russians also love his fairy tales in verse, like The Tale of Tsar Saltan and The Tale of the Fisherman and the Fish.

PICTURE STUDY



Portrait of Alexander Pushkin, Orest Kiprensky, 1827 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Kiprensky was the finest Russian portrait painter of his day. The small statue behind Pushkin is a muse, the old symbol of poetry, to show that he is a poet.

Look closely

- What is Pushkin wearing over his shoulder?
- Where is he looking? What might he be thinking?
- Find the statue in the background. Why is it there?
- How old does he look?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Pushkin said the mirror flatters him?
2. What poem or story would you want to learn by heart?

ACTIVITY

Pushkin timeline

Make an illustrated timeline of Pushkin's life with Russian captions.

You will need

- A long strip of paper
- Markers
- Pictures (drawn or printed)

Steps

1. Mark five events: born in Moscow, the nanny's tales, school at the lyceum, writing poems and tales, his portrait in 1827.
2. Write a past-tense sentence for each: Пу́шкин роди́лся в Москве́.
3. Illustrate each event.
4. Present the timeline in order.

Tips

- Copy the first line of Зи́мнее у́тро at the end in your best Cyrillic handwriting.

Check your work

- ☐ My timeline has five events.
- ☐ Each caption is in the past tense.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write six sentences about Pushkin in the past tense, and copy Моро́з и со́лнце; день чуде́сный!

> **From history.** Russians call Pushkin the sun of Russian poetry and the creator of the modern Russian literary language. His birthday, June 6, is celebrated as Russian Language Day, and children recite his poems in schools and parks.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read the whole first stanza of Зи́мнее у́тро together and learn it by heart.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “Pushkin wrote fairy tales.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Писа́ть → писа́л.
2. Fairy tales: ска́зки.

Answer: Пу́шкин писа́л ска́зки.

Example 2. Say “The nanny told him tales.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ня́ня is feminine: -ла.
2. Расска́зывать → расска́зывала.

Answer: Ня́ня расска́зывала ему́ ска́зки.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say poet in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Поэ́т.

2. Easy Where was Pushkin born? Answer in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   В Москве́.

3. Medium Say “He wrote poems.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Он писа́л стихи́.

4. Medium Say “He lived in St. Petersburg.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Он жил в Санкт-Петербу́рге.

5. Medium Read the first line of Winter Morning aloud.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Моро́з и со́лнце; день чуде́сный!

6. Hard Say three facts about Pushkin in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Пу́шкин роди́лся в Москве́. Он писа́л стихи́ и ска́зки. Ня́ня расска́зывала ему́ ска́зки.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Пу́шкин пи́сал. The stress is писа́л.
- Saying он роди́л for was born. Use the reflexive: роди́лся.

> **Make it a game · Poetry relay.** Learn the first line of Зи́мнее у́тро together. Each player says one word in turn, with correct stress, around the circle; then try the whole line alone, faster each round.

> **Scripture.** “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *что только истинно, что честно, что справедливо, что чисто, что любезно, что достославно* Paul tells us to think on whatever is true, honest, pure and lovely. Good books and poems can help us do that.

UNIT 4

Бу́дущее: Plans and Hopes

Lesson 4.1 teaches the forms of бу́ду, the future with an infinitive, and will be, with Jeremiah 29:11.

Lesson 4.2 teaches how to talk about plans for tomorrow, the weekend and the summer, and the humble words of James 4:15: If the Lord will.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3. Time words from Grade 6 are reviewed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can conjugate бу́ду.
- ☐ I can say what someone will do with бу́ду + infinitive.
- ☐ I can say where someone will be.
- ☐ I can describe my plans and say Е́сли Бог даст.

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

4.1	**Я бу́ду чита́ть: The Future**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**Е́сли Бог даст: Making Plans**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

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

1. **4 pts**
   Conjugate бу́ду: I, you, he, we, you (plural), they.

2. **4 pts**
   Say “Tomorrow I will read.”

3. **4 pts**
   Say “In the summer we will be in Russia.”

4. **4 pts**
   Ask a friend what he will do on Saturday.

5. **4 pts**
   What does James 4:15 teach us to say about our plans?

ANSWER KEY

1. Бу́ду, бу́дешь, бу́дет, бу́дем, бу́дете, бу́дут.
2. За́втра я бу́ду чита́ть.
3. Ле́том мы бу́дем в Росси́и.
4. Что ты бу́дешь де́лать в суббо́ту?
5. If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY SUMMER PLANS

Write and present eight Russian sentences about your plans for next summer: where you will be, what you will do, whom you will see, and end with Е́сли Бог даст.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents eight sentences aloud.
Accuracy	бу́ду + infinitive and time words are correct.
Product	The plans are clear and complete.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 4 · БУ́ДУЩЕЕ: PLANS AND HOPES · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 Я бу́ду чита́ть: THE FUTURE

OBJECTIVES

- Conjugate бу́ду.
- Make the future with бу́ду + infinitive.
- Say where someone will be.

> **Warm-up.** You can now say what you do and what you did. What will you do tomorrow? Today you learn the future tense.

WATCH

Future Tense of Russian Verbs in Russian | Daily Russian Conversations #15

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:37

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjtjvB3OjK4

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; listen for бу́ду and the verbs after it.

Note: RussianPod101 Daily Russian Conversations: the future tense of Russian verbs.

BACKUP VIDEO

What are Your Top 10 Language Learning Goals for the Year in Russian?

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 5:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px5MD0u5xGM

RussianPod101: talking about your goals for the year in Russian.

KEY TERMS

бу́ду, бу́дешь (BOO-doo BOO-deesh)
I will, you will.

бу́дет (BOO-deet)
He, she, it will.

бу́дем, бу́дете, бу́дут (BOO-deem BOO-dee-tee BOO-doot)
We, you, they will.

за́втра (ZAHVT-ruh)
Tomorrow.

пото́м (pah-TOHM)
Later, then.

наде́жда (nah-DYEHZH-duh)
Hope.

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.

бу́ду

BOO-doo

verb · future

I will (be)

бу́дет

BOO-deet

verb · future

he, she, it will (be)

за́втра

ZAHVT-ruh

adverb

tomorrow

послеза́втра

puhs-lee-ZAHVT-ruh

adverb

the day after tomorrow

бу́дущее

BOO-doo-shchee-yee

noun · neuter

the future

наде́жда

nah-DYEHZH-duh

noun · feminine

hope

CORE IDEAS

The story. When the people of Judah had been carried away to Babylon, far from home, God sent them a letter through the prophet Jeremiah. He told them to build houses, plant gardens and pray for the city where they lived, and He promised: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. In the Russian Bible, God promises бу́дущность и наде́жду, a future and a hope.

How Russian works: бу́ду. The future of быть (to be) is я бу́ду, ты бу́дешь, он бу́дет, мы бу́дем, вы бу́дете, они́ бу́дут. Use it alone for will be: За́втра я бу́ду до́ма. (Tomorrow I will be at home.) Use it with an infinitive for will do: Я бу́ду чита́ть. Мы бу́дем рабо́тать. Они́ бу́дут игра́ть в футбо́л.

Three times. Now you can say all three: Вчера́ я чита́л. Сего́дня я чита́ю. За́втра я бу́ду чита́ть. (Yesterday I read. Today I read. Tomorrow I will read.) There is a second way to make the future, with finished-action verbs, which you will learn in high school.

ACTIVITY

Time machine

Make a three-part poster: past, present and future.

You will need

- Poster paper divided into three columns
- Markers

Steps

1. Label the columns вчера́, сего́дня, за́втра.
2. Choose five verbs and write a sentence for each in all three times: Вчера́ я гуля́л. Сего́дня я гуля́ю. За́втра я бу́ду гуля́ть.
3. Illustrate one row.
4. Read the poster aloud.

Tips

- Add a row about your family with мы.

Check your work

☐ My poster has five verbs in three times.

☐ All forms are correct.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the six forms of бу́ду and six sentences about what you and your family will do tomorrow.

> **From history.** Russians often add a humble phrase when they talk about the future: Е́сли Бог даст, or simply Бог даст (God willing). You will hear it from grandmothers and in everyday speech.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, introduce the perfective future (я прочита́ю, я сде́лаю) and compare it with я бу́ду чита́ть.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “Tomorrow we will work in the garden.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. We will: мы бу́дем.
2. Work: рабо́тать; in the garden: в саду́.

Answer: За́втра мы бу́дем рабо́тать в саду́.

Example 2. Say “Dad will be in Moscow.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. He will be: он бу́дет.
2. In Moscow: в Москве́.

Answer: Па́па бу́дет в Москве́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say I will read.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Я бу́ду чита́ть.

2. Easy Say tomorrow.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   За́втра.

3. Medium Say They will play.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Они́ бу́дут игра́ть.

4. Medium Say You will be at home (to a friend).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ты бу́дешь до́ма.

5. Medium Say We will speak Russian.

▼ **Show answer**

Мы бу́дем говори́ть по-ру́сски.

6. Hard Say one sentence about yesterday, today and tomorrow with the same verb.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Вчера́ я рисова́л(а). Сего́дня я рису́ю. За́втра я бу́ду рисова́ть.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying я бу́ду чита́ю. After бу́ду, use the infinitive: я бу́ду чита́ть.
- Forgetting бу́ду for will be: За́втра я до́ма means I am home tomorrow; say За́втра я бу́ду до́ма.

> **Make it a game · Plan cards.** Each player draws a card with a time (за́втра, в суббо́ту, ле́том) and a verb (чита́ть, гуля́ть, помога́ть) and makes a sentence about a real plan: В суббо́ту я бу́ду помога́ть па́пе.

> **Scripture.** “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *чтобы дать вам будущность и надежду* God promised His people in exile a future and a hope. He holds our future too.

UNIT 4 · БУ́ДУЩЕЕ: PLANS AND HOPES · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 Е́сли Бог даст: Making Plans

OBJECTIVES

- Talk about plans for the weekend and the summer.
- Use time words with the future.
- Know what James teaches about our plans.

> **Warm-up.** What are you planning for this weekend? This summer? When you grow up? Today you talk about plans in Russian.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Relaxing in the Evening

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; for each activity, say За́втра я бу́ду ... or Я не бу́ду ....

Note: RussianPod101: relaxing in the evening, with video.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn the Top 10 Ways to Prepare Your Travel in Russian

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 4:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J32fttQXFyY

RussianPod101: the top 10 ways to prepare for travel in Russian.

KEY TERMS

в суббо́ту (v soob-BOH-too)
On Saturday.

ле́том (LYEH-tuhm)
In the summer (review).

Е́сли Бог даст. (YEHS-lee bohk dahst)
God willing (if God grants).

на выходны́х (nah vih-khahd-NIHKH)
On the weekend.

Что ты бу́дешь де́лать? (shtoh tih BOO-deesh DYEH-luht)
What will you do?

пла́ны (PLAH-nih)
Plans.

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.

суббо́та

soob-BOH-tuh

noun · feminine

Saturday (в суббо́ту)

воскресе́нье

vuhsk-ree-SYEHN-yee

noun · neuter

Sunday

выходны́е

vih-khahd-NIH-yee

noun · plural

the weekend (на выходны́х)

план

plahn

noun · masculine

plan

е́сли

YEHS-lee

conjunction

if

уго́дно

oo-GOHD-nuh

adverb

pleasing (е́сли уго́дно Го́споду)

CORE IDEAS

The story. The apostle James warned people who said, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain. He reminded them that life is like a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead they ought to say: If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. Making plans is good; making them humbly, trusting God, is wise.

Talking about plans. Ask Что ты бу́дешь де́лать за́втра? or Что ты бу́дешь де́лать на выходны́х? (on the weekend). Days use в and -у for feminine: в суббо́ту, в пя́тницу, and stay the same otherwise: в воскресе́нье. Seasons: ле́том, зимо́й. Later in life: Когда́ я бу́ду большо́й (when I am grown).

Humble plans. Russians often add Е́сли Бог даст or Бог даст to their plans: Ле́том мы бу́дем в Москве́, е́сли Бог даст. In the Russian Bible, James says: е́сли уго́дно бу́дет Го́споду и жи́вы бу́дем, то сде́лаем то и́ли друго́е.

ACTIVITY

Plan calendar

Make a Russian calendar of next week's plans for your family.

You will need

- A weekly calendar page
- Markers

Steps

1. Write the days in Russian across the top.
2. Write plans for each day with the future: В понеде́льник мы бу́дем учи́ться. В воскресе́нье мы бу́дем в це́ркви.
3. Add Е́сли Бог даст at the bottom.
4. Read the plan aloud at the start of the week, and check it at the end.

Tips

- Add one plan to help someone.

Check your work

- ☐ My calendar covers seven days.
- ☐ Each plan uses the future correctly.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write plans for Saturday, Sunday and next summer, three sentences each.

> **From history.** Many Russian families spend summer weekends at the да́ча, their country cottage, growing vegetables and berries. Summer plans in Russia often start with: На выходны́х мы бу́дем на да́че.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, talk about what your student wants to be when grown (Кем ты бу́дешь?) using the instrumental: Я бу́ду врачо́м.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask a friend what she will do on Saturday; she will read and walk.

▼ **Show solution**

1. On Saturday: в суббо́ту.
2. She: я бу́ду чита́ть и гуля́ть.

Answer: Что ты бу́дешь де́лать в суббо́ту? — Я бу́ду чита́ть и гуля́ть.

Example 2. Say “On Sunday we will be in church, God willing.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. On Sunday: в воскресе́нье.
2. We will be: мы бу́дем.

Answer: В воскресе́нье мы бу́дем в це́ркви, е́сли Бог даст.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say on Saturday.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   В суббо́ту.

2. Easy Say God willing.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Е́сли Бог даст.

3. Medium Ask What will you do tomorrow?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Что ты бу́дешь де́лать за́втра?

4. Medium Say “In summer I will swim.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ле́том я бу́ду пла́вать.

5. Medium Say “On the weekend we will play chess.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   На выходны́х мы бу́дем игра́ть в ша́хматы.

6. Hard Describe your plans for next summer in three sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Ле́том я бу́ду пла́вать. Я бу́ду чита́ть кни́ги. Мы бу́дем у ба́бушки, е́сли Бог даст.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying в суббо́та. Days take -у after в: в суббо́ту.
- Saying на выходны́е for on the weekend. Say на выходны́х.

> **Make it a game · Plan interview.** Interview each family member: Что ты бу́дешь де́лать за́втра? в суббо́ту? ле́том? Write the answers in Russian, then read them back: Ма́ма бу́дет….

> **Scripture.** “For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” (James 4:15, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *если угодно будет Господу и живы будем, то сделаем то или другое* James teaches us to make our plans humbly, saying If the Lord will.

UNIT 5

Толсто́й для дете́й: Tolstoy’s Stories

Lesson 5.1 introduces Tolstoy, his school for village children and his ABC book, and retells Филиппо́к with past-tense sentences, with Kramskoi’s portrait.

Lesson 5.2 retells Ко́сточка, a story about a boy who ate a plum and lied, and connects it with Numbers 32:23: be sure your sin will find you out.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4. The past tense (Unit 3) is used throughout.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can retell Ф ил ип пó к in simple Russian.
- ☐ I can retell Кó ст оч ка in simple Russian.
- ☐ I can use the past tense to tell a story in order.
- ☐ I can explain the lesson of each story.

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

5.1	**Филиппóк: The Boy Who Went to School**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Кóсточка: The Plum Stone**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

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

1. **4 pts**
   Who was Leo Tolstoy, and what did he write for children?

2. **4 pts**
   Why did the children laugh at Filipok?

3. **4 pts**
   Retell the start of Ко́сточка in two Russian sentences.

4. **4 pts**
   How was Vanya's lie found out?

5. **4 pts**
   What does Numbers 32:23 warn?

ANSWER KEY

1. A great Russian writer; he wrote an ABC book (А́збука) with short stories for children.
2. Because he spelled his name in a funny way, syllable by syllable.
3. For example: Ма́ма купи́ла сли́вы. Ва́ня съел одну́ сли́ву.
4. He said he had thrown the stone out of the window, so everyone knew he had eaten the plum.
5. Be sure your sin will find you out.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: RETELL A STORY

Retell Филиппо́к or Ко́сточка in ten Russian sentences in the past tense, with pictures, as a small book or a recorded reading. End with one sentence in English on the lesson of the story.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student reads or tells all ten sentences aloud.
Accuracy	Past-tense forms and endings are correct.
Product	The story is complete, in order and illustrated.
Effort	The student works carefully and joins in cheerfully.

UNIT 5 · ТОЛСТО́Й ДЛЯ ДЕТЕ́Й: TOLSTOY'S STORIES · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 Филиппо́к: The Boy Who Went to School

OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Tolstoy and his school.
- Retell Филиппо́к in the past tense.
- Look closely at Kramskoi's portrait.

> **Warm-up.** Do you remember learning to read? Imagine wanting to go to school so much that you went all by yourself. Today you meet a boy who did.

WATCH

Learn Russian with Video - Russian Expressions and Words for the Classroom 2

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGiz3M1kS8Q

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; listen for school words from Filipok's story.

Note: RussianPod101: Russian expressions and words for the classroom, with video.

BACKUP VIDEO

Weekly Russian Words with Katya - Study Subjects

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 1:37

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krM2sV7i638

RussianPod101: Katya teaches school subjects in Russian.

KEY TERMS

писа́тель (pee-SAH-teel)
Writer.

у́чи́тель (oo-CHEE-teel)
Teacher (review).

боя́лся (bah-YAHL-suh)
Was afraid (he).

а́збука (AHZ-boo-kuh)
ABC book (review).

шко́ла (SHKOH-luh)
School (review).

засмея́лись (zuhs-mee-YAH-lees)
Burst out laughing (they).

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.

писа́тель

pee-SAH-teel

noun · masculine

writer

ша́пка

SHAHP-kuh

noun · feminine

hat, cap

боя́ться

bah-YAHT-suh

verb · reflexive

to be afraid (боя́лся)

снача́ла

snah-CHAH-luh

adverb

first, at first

вдруг

vdrook

adverb

suddenly

наконе́ц

nuh-kah-NYEHTS

adverb

finally

CORE IDEAS

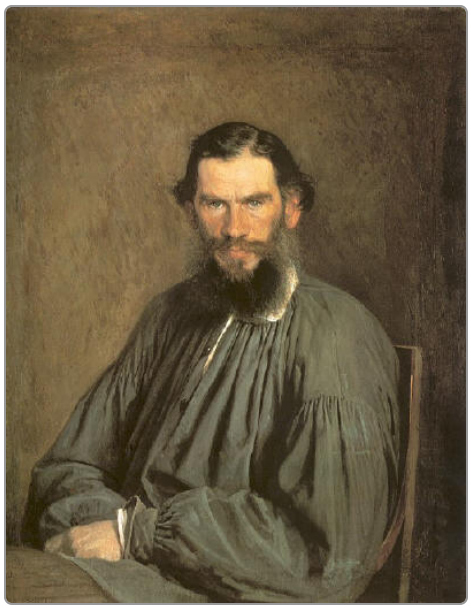
The story. Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest writers in the world, lived on his estate, Yasnaya Polyana. He opened a school there for the village children and wrote an ABC book for them, full of short stories. In one of them, a little boy named Filipok wanted to go to school with the older children, but his mother said he was too small. One day, when everyone was busy, he put on his father's big hat and walked to school alone. Dogs barked at him on the way, and he was afraid. At the school door he was afraid again, but he went in. The teacher asked his name. Filipok spelled it the way he had heard the others spell, syllable by syllable, and all the children laughed. The teacher smiled and said he could come to school every day.

Filipok in Russian. Ма́льчик хоте́л идти́ в шко́лу. (The boy wanted to go to school.) Ма́ма сказа́ла: ты ещё мал. (Mom said: you are still little.) Он взял ша́пку отца́ и пошёл в шко́лу. (He took his father's hat and set off to school.) Соба́ки ла́яли, и он боя́лся. (The dogs barked, and he was afraid.) Де́ти засмея́лись. (The children laughed.) Учи́тель сказа́л: ходи́ в шко́лу. (The teacher said: come to school.)

Telling a story in order. Use time words to connect the sentences: снача́ла (first), пото́м (then), вдруг (suddenly), наконе́ц (finally). Снача́ла ма́ма не пусти́ла его́.

Пото́м он пошёл оди́н. Наконе́ц учи́тель разреши́л ему́ ходи́ть в шко́лу.

PICTURE STUDY



Portrait of Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Kramskoi, 1873 · Oil on canvas · State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Kramskoi painted this at Yasnaya Polyana in 1873. Tolstoy wears a simple peasant shirt; people still call this style of shirt a толсто́вка. His eyes look straight at you.

Look closely

- What is Tolstoy wearing?
- What do his eyes tell you about him?
- Why is the background so plain?
- How old does he look?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think a famous writer wrote stories for small village children?
2. What would you like to ask Tolstoy about his stories?

ACTIVITY

Story strip

Draw Filipok's adventure as a six-picture story strip with Russian captions.

You will need

- Paper folded into six boxes
- Pencils and markers

Steps

1. Draw six scenes: Filipok at home, putting on the hat, the dogs, the school door, the children laughing, the kind teacher.
2. Write a past-tense caption under each, from the Russian in the lesson.
3. Use снача́ла, пото́м, вдруг, наконе́ц.
4. Tell the story to a younger child or a parent.

Tips

- Act it out, with a big hat.

Check your work

☐ My strip has six scenes with Russian captions.

☐ The story is told in order.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the story of Filipok in six Russian sentences, using снача́ла, пото́м and наконе́ц.

> **From history.** Tolstoy's ABC book of 1872 taught generations of Russian children to read. Besides his children's stories, Tolstoy wrote enormous novels like War and Peace, which you may read in high school.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read Tolstoy's original Филиппо́к together; it is only about a page long.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "The boy took his father's hat."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Took: взял.
2. Hat (object): ша́пку; father's: отца́.

Answer: Ма́льчик взял ша́пку отца́.

Example 2. Say "At first he was afraid, then he went in."

▼ **Show solution**

1. At first: снача́ла; was afraid: боя́лся.
2. Then: пото́м; went in: вошёл.

Answer: Снача́ла он боя́лся, пото́м вошёл.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say writer in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Писа́тель.

2. Easy What did Tolstoy write for children?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   An ABC book (а́збука) with short stories.

3. Medium Say "The dogs barked."

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Соба́ки ла́яли.

4. Medium Say "The children laughed."

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Де́ти засмея́лись.

5. Medium Say first, then, finally.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Снача́ла, пото́м, наконе́ц.

6. Hard Retell the end of the story in two Russian sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Учи́тель спроси́л, как его́ зову́т. Пото́м он сказа́л: ходи́ в шко́лу.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Де́ти засмея́л. Plural takes -ли: засмея́лись.
- Mixing up снача́ла (first) and пото́м (then). Snachala comes first.

> **Make it a game · Story order.** Write the six Russian sentences of Filipok on strips of paper and mix them up. Race to put them in the right order and read them aloud.

> **Scripture.** “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (Proverbs 9:9, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *дай наставление мудрому, и он будет еще мудрее* A wise person who is taught becomes wiser. Filipok wanted to learn so much that he went to school on his own.

UNIT 5 · ТОЛСТО́Й ДЛЯ ДЕТЕ́Й: TOLSTOY’S STORIES · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.2 Ко́сточка: The Plum Stone

OBJECTIVES

- Retell Ко́сточка in the past tense.
- Use fruit and eating words.
- Know that a lie will be found out.

> **Warm-up.** Have you ever done something wrong and tried to hide it? How did it turn out? Today you read a famous Tolstoy story about exactly that.

WATCH

Learn Russian - Russian Fruit Vocabulary

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6BjlclWfdw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; for the fruit video, say which fruit Vanya ate.

Note: RussianPod101: fruit vocabulary in Russian, for review.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Russian | Listening Practice - Finding a Book in Russia

Learn Russian with RussianPod101.com · 2:36

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6_HkdOEpMc

RussianPod101: a short listening practice, finding a book in a Russian bookstore.

KEY TERMS

сли́ва (SLEE-vuh)
Plum.

ко́сточка (KOHS-tuhch-kuh)
Stone, pit (of a fruit).

съел, съе́ла (syehl SYEH-luh)
Ate up (he, she).

никто́ не (neek-TOH nee)
Nobody (with a verb: Никто́ не ел).

покрасне́л (puhk-rahs-NYEHL)
Blushed, turned red (he).

пра́вда (PRAHV-duh)
Truth (review).

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.

сли́ва

SLEE-vuh

noun · feminine

plum

ко́сточка

KOHS-tuhch-kuh

noun · feminine

stone, pit

съе́сть

syehst

verb

to eat up (съел, съе́ла)

купи́ть

koo-PEET

verb

to buy (купи́л, купи́ла)

прости́ть

prahs-TEET

verb

to forgive (прости́те!)

никто́

neek-TOH

pronoun

nobody

CORE IDEAS

The story. A mother bought some plums to give the children after dinner. Little Vanya had never eaten a plum. He kept smelling them; they smelled so good. When no one was in the room, he took one plum and ate it. At dinner the mother counted the plums and saw that one was missing. The father asked: Did any of you eat a plum? Everyone said no. Vanya turned red as a lobster and also said: No, I didn't. Then the father said: If one of you ate it, that is bad. But the trouble is that plums have stones, and if someone swallowed the stone, he will be ill. Vanya turned pale and said: No, I threw the stone out the window. Everyone laughed, and Vanya began to cry.

Ко́сточка in Russian. Ма́ма купи́ла сли́вы. Ва́ня никогда́ не ел слив. Он съел одну́ сли́ву. Оте́ц спроси́л: кто съел сли́ву? Все сказа́ли: не я. Ва́ня покрасне́л и сказа́л: нет, я не ел. Пото́м он сказа́л: я ко́сточку бро́сил в окно́. Все засмея́лись, а Ва́ня запла́кал.

The lesson. Vanya's lie was found out by his own words. Moses told the tribes of Israel: Be sure your sin will find you out. A lie usually needs another lie to cover it, and the truth comes out in the end. The better way is to confess, as Vanya should

have done at the start: Э́то я съел сли́ву. Прости́те меня́. (It was I who ate the plum. Please forgive me.)

ACTIVITY

Story theater

Act out Ко́сточка with your family, using Russian lines.

You will need

- A bowl of plums or other fruit
- Simple costumes (optional)

Steps

1. Assign parts: mother, father, Vanya, brothers and sisters.
2. Use the Russian lines from the lesson for the key moments: Кто съел сли́ву? — Не я. — Я ко́сточку бро́сил в окно́.
3. Act out the story, then act out a second, better ending in which Vanya tells the truth: Э́то я съел сли́ву. Прости́те меня́.
4. Talk about which ending is better.

Tips

- Record both endings.

Check your work

- ☐ We acted out the story with Russian lines.
- ☐ We acted out the honest ending too.

RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your notebook, write the story of Ко́сточка in eight Russian sentences, and the honest ending in two sentences.

> **From history.** Tolstoy said that the story Ко́сточка really happened in his own family when he was a boy. Many of his children's stories are short enough to read in a minute, but Russian children remember them all their lives.

> **At home in Russian.** If your student already speaks Russian, read Tolstoy's original Ко́сточка together and compare it with the retelling in this lesson.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "Vanya ate one plum."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ate up: съел.
2. One plum (object): одну́ сли́ву.

Answer: Ва́ня съел одну́ сли́ву.

Example 2. Say "It was I who ate it. Forgive me."

▼ **Show solution**

1. It is I: э́то я.
2. Forgive (polite): прости́те.

Answer: Э́то я съел. Прости́те меня́.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say plum in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Сли́ва.

2. Easy Say truth in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Пра́вда.

3. Medium Say "Mom bought plums."

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ма́ма купи́ла сли́вы.

4. Medium Say “Everyone laughed.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Все засмея́лись.

5. Medium Why did Vanya turn red?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   He was ashamed because he had eaten the plum and lied.

6. Hard Give the better ending in Russian.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ва́ня сказа́л: Э́то я съел сли́ву. Прости́те меня́. Оте́ц прости́л его́.

COMMON MISTAKES

- A girl saying я съел. She says я съе́ла.
- Saying сли́ва is in the accusative after съел: он съел сли́ва. Change it: сли́ву.

> **Make it a game · Truth or tale.** Each player says three sentences in the past tense about yesterday; two are true and one is invented. The others guess which one is not true: Э́то непра́вда! Then talk about why telling the truth matters more than winning games.

> **Scripture.** “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.” (Numbers 32:23, KJV)
>
> Russian Synodal Bible (1876): *испытаете наказание за грех ваш, которое постигнет вас* Sin cannot stay hidden forever. It is better to confess and be forgiven than to lie.