



Essential Russian

2nd Edition

Internet Activities

2nd Edition text and internet
activities by Valery Kaminski

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Essential Russian, 2nd Edition

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Lesson 1

Russian is the most widely spoken of the Slavic languages. Go to

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language and answer the following questions:

1. In which countries is Russian spoken?
2. In which countries is Russian an official language?

Lesson 2

Russia is by far the largest country in the world. If you visit

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia> you will be able to find out the answers to the following questions:

1. Which countries does Russia border on?
2. Which oceans does it have access to?

Lesson 3

The State Tretyakov Gallery is the national treasury of Russian fine art, and is one of the greatest museums in the world. Go to

<http://www.tretyakovgallery.ru/english/about.shtml> and find out which of the paintings on that page belong to **Саврасов** (Savrasov, Alexey), **Шагал** (Chagal, Marc), **Малевич** (Malevich, Kazimir), **Рублёв** (Rublev, Andrey) and **Репин** (Repin, Ilya).

Lesson 4

Paul's friend, Helen, is coming to Moscow by train and she has asked Paul to meet her at the station. But Paul has forgotten which station her train is arriving at! He only remembers that Helen called him from Minsk. Go to <http://www.moscow-city.ru/sitemap/> and try to find out which station trains from Minsk come to.

Tip 1: **Транспорт** *transportation* is a useful word to know!

Tip 2: Minsk is the capital of Belarus.

Lesson 5

We'd bet very few of you have a Russian keyboard. Still, there is a way to practice typing Russian. Go to <http://www.mail.ru/kb/> and practice typing some of the words you've learned in Lessons 1-4. If you want to surprise your Russian friend, you can type a message there. Then just copy/paste it.

Lesson 6

When you travel abroad, souvenirs are a must. Go to Google image search (<http://images.google.com>) and find out what the following Russian souvenirs look like: **матрешка, самовар, хохлома, палех, балалайка, расписные ложки**. Use the Russian keyboard from the previous lesson for help when typing the Russian words.

Lesson 7

Paul and Helen are planning to spend next weekend in St. Petersburg. Help them decide what kind of clothes they should pack – go to <http://www.gismeteo.ru/> and see what the weather is going to be like in St. Petersburg on Saturday and Sunday.

Lesson 8

Paul and Helen were not lucky with the weather forecast – it is much colder in St. Petersburg than they expected! Go to <http://www.bgd.ru/boutique/> and see where they can buy some warm clothes.

Lesson 9

Natasha's stay in St. Petersburg is over. She would like to come to Moscow between 8 and 9 AM. Go to http://aditec.ru/tur/transport/booking_train.php and help her choose the right train.

Lesson 10

Use your internet search skills and find out what is behind these addresses:

121099, г. Москва, Новинский бульвар, д. 17/23

191028, Санкт-Петербург, Фурштатская ул., 15

Россия, г. Санкт-Петербург, Невский пр., д.35

Lesson 11

Paul would like to send his mother a present. Go to

<http://www.russianpost.ru/portal/ru/home/postal/autotarif>, choose 'Автоматический тарификатор международных отправлений' (International Mail AutoRater) and calculate how much he will have to pay to send a value parcel (ценная посылка) to the USA if its weight (вес) is 1000g and the value (ценность) is 500 rubles.

Lesson 12

There are different ways to get to Sheremetyevo-2 airport. Go to

<http://www.sheremetyevo-airport.ru/?act=part&pid=2> and find out how much you will have to pay to get there from Savyolovsky Station (Савеловский вокзал).

Lesson 13

A friend has heard a lot about the Maxima hotel network in Moscow. Go to

<http://www.maximahotels.ru/faq.htm> and help her find answers to the following questions:

1. Which credit cards do they accept?
2. How much will she have to pay for her 4-year-old son?

Lesson 14

Natasha is going to take Mike to the Novodevichy convent. Go to <http://www.intomoscow.ru/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=59> and see how much she will have to pay. She is planning to go there on Tuesday. What are the opening/closing times on Tuesday?

Lesson 15

Russia stretches over Europe and Asia. The bigger part is in Asia, behind the Urals. Байкал, Енисей, тайга, амурский тигр – what are those? Go to Google image search and you will see!

Lesson 16

Mike is very busy in Moscow. Still, he would like to do some sightseeing. Go to <http://www.moscow-hotels-russia.com/rus/sights.htm> and look for information on at least two places of interest you may recommend. Use the images and your previous knowledge to navigate the site without resorting to the English button! You will be surprised at how much you are able to understand.

Lesson 17

There are lots of new restaurants and cafes in Moscow. Go to <http://www.resto.ru>, and find a Russian restaurant within your price range. Then, go to the restaurant's website and find out its address and hours of operation.

Lesson 18

Bolshoi is by far the most popular theater in Russia. Go to <http://www.bolshoi.ru> and find out when the next ballet premiere will be (текущий сезон *current season* – балет – премьеры). Also, see if you can order tickets by phone.

Lesson 19

Many people like to read horoscopes to try to guess what the future will bring. Go to <http://www.goroskop.ru> and check your zodiac sign. Then, write down at least three of the predictions for your sign. You can check later on and see if they came true!

Mike Rogers and Natalya Petrovna Ivanova are saying goodbye to each other. But they seem to be eager to meet again soon. Go to http://www.goroskop.ru/publish/open_class/72 and check the compatibility (совместимость) of their names. Full names should be used.

Lesson 20

They say Ernest Hemingway learned Italian by reading a newspaper in English and then in Italian. It was much easier for him to understand what was written as the news items were more or less the same. This site - <http://www.americaru.com> – is devoted to American news. Have a look: do some headlines look familiar?