

**Introduction**

This document gives the contents of the beginner course in Russian “Ruslan Russian 1” and demonstrates that the course reaches the level A1 as described by the Council of Europe in their assessment levels for Modern Foreign Languages.

At this level the learner ... “Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help”.

At the same time, learners completing “Ruslan 1” will have acquired a basic understanding of certain aspects of life in Russia today, and of a number of cultural and historical issues.

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**The Council of Europe A1 level in more detail in the form of “can do” statements (from the Council of Europe website)****Understanding:****Listening**

“I can recognise familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family and my immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly”.

**Reading**

“I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues”.

**Speaking:****Spoken Interaction**

“I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics”.

**Spoken Production**

“I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know”.

**Writing:**

“I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form”.



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## THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET

- the letters of the Russian alphabet and their sounds
- the pronunciation of the Russian letters in international words
- recognition of international words and easy street signs

## LESSON 1

## АЭРОПОРТ

## THE AIRPORT

Ivan and Lyudmila meet on the plane and then arrive at Moscow Sheremetyevo airport

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- airport vocabulary: masculine and feminine nouns
- the pronouns **он** and **она́**, meaning “he” and “she” respectively, and both meaning “it”
- possessive adjectives: **мой / моя́** - “my” and **ваш / ваша́** - “your”
- the Russians have no word for “the” or “a”
- the verb “to be” is not used in the present tense
- the intonation rises when you ask a question
- the names of English-speaking nationalities

### Communication

- greeting someone
- getting attention
- thanking someone
- asking for information (Is that ...? / Where is ...? / Are you ...?)
- answering “yes” or “no” to a question
- understanding place names and messages at an airport
- reading notices at the Russian airport, and understanding several place names
- writing some more Russian letters, and your name

### Background information

- Moscow

## LESSON 2

## УЛИЦА

## THE STREET

Ivan finds his way from Sheremetyevo airport to Arbat, a street in the centre of old Moscow.

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- how to use the prepositions **в** and **на** meaning “to” a place
- how to say “I know” and “you know” - **я знаю́ / вы знаете́**
- imperatives: **Скажи́те!** - **Иди́те!** - **Извини́те!** - **Чита́йте!**
- the negative pronoun **оно́** and some neuter nouns
- есть** meaning “there is”
- the numbers 0 - 10.

### Communication

- asking for directions
- understanding and giving simple directions
- saying that you do not understand something
- reading the names of towns, addresses, street signs
- writing some more Russian letters

### Background information

- Arbat Street
- Bulat Okudzhava

Ivan arrives at Zoya Petrovna's flat and meets Lyudmila again. He needs somewhere to stay.

#### Grammar and Vocabulary

- the genitive singular of masculine and feminine nouns
- the genitive of personal pronouns - **я, вы (меня, вас)**
- the prepositions **из, от, до, для, у** with the genitive
- the spelling rule for the use of the letters **ы** and **и**
- expressing absence or non-possession with **нет** and the genitive
- the genitive after the numbers 2,3,4
- some common words of foreign origin that never change their ending
- how to use **можно** and **нельзя** with **мне** and **вам** to mean "I can", "you may not", etc.
- vocabulary for family members

#### Communication

- introducing yourself, introducing someone else
- expressing surprise
- asking for something
- saying that something can or cannot be done

#### Background information

- the Russian name system

Still at Zoya Petrovna's flat, Ivan meets Vadim.

#### Grammar and Vocabulary

- the prepositional case used with **в** and **на** meaning "at" a place
- verb infinitives ending in **-ать, -ить** and **-еть**
- the basic rules of the past tense
- the genitive singular ending of feminine nouns in **-ия**
- the full present tense of the verb **знать** - "to know"
- the personal pronoun **ты** for the familiar form of "you"
- the familiar form of the imperative - **Смотри!**
- numbers 10-100
- months of the year
- the names of countries and languages

#### Communication

- saying what you were doing
- saying where you were
- expressing joy
- expressing an opinion
- saying how well you can speak a foreign language

#### Background information

Russian National Holidays  
the New Year and Christmas in Russia

Ivan checks in to the Hotel Mars, finds his room, and telephones Lyudmila to invite her out.

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- the short adjectives **открыт** - "open" and **закрыт** - "shut"
- the present tense of the verb **говорить** - "to speak" or "to say"
- the use of **у меня** and **у вас** to convey "I have" and "you have"
- the use of **с** with the genitive meaning "from"
- a note on imperfective and perfective verb aspects
- the days of the week
- some professions and places of work

### Communication

- booking a hotel room
- making inquiries (Is there ...?)
- booking tickets for an event
- asking whether a place is open / closed
- expressing regret
- apologising
- inviting and accepting an invitation
- filling in a hotel registration form

### Background information

Hotels in Russia

The Department Store GUM

The Kremlin

Ivan and Lyudmila are in the restaurant of the hotel "Mars". Just as they are starting their meal, who should arrive but Vadim with a new companion!

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- present tense forms of the verbs **хотеть** - "to want" and **идти** - "to go by foot"
- the imperative forms **Дайте ... !** - "Give (me) ...!" and **Принесите ... !** - "Bring (me) ...!"
- neuter noun endings
- the neuter forms of the possessive adjectives **мой** and **ваш**: **моё, ваше**
- the accusative singular of nouns
- adjectives in the nominative case
- the question word **какой** - "which"
- vocabulary for food and drink

### Communication

- ordering a meal in restaurant
- expressing surprise / astonishment
- refusing an invitation and saying goodbye
- asking for an explanation

### Background information

- Russian food
- The Russian poet A.S. Pushkin
- "Ruslan and Lyudmila" by Pushkin

### Song

«**Степь да степь кругом**» - "The Steppe all around"

Ivan and Lyudmila are still in the restaurant, and start talking about their lives and interests. Lyudmila has to leave when things get serious, and Ivan hurries to pay the bill.

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- neuter forms of verbs
- the preposition **о** - “about” with the prepositional case
- nouns that end with a soft sign **-ь**
- neuter nouns ending in **-мя**
- impersonal expressions and adverbs formed from adjectives: **интересно** - “it is interesting”
- numbers above 100
- professions

### Communication

- making a compliment
- talking about yourself (home, work, hobbies, daily routine)
- describing a town
- asking for the bill in a restaurant
- saying where you are going
- suggesting where you can go together

### Background information

- the river Volga

Peter arrives in Moscow and makes contact with Vadim and Lyudmila. Ivan invites Lyudmila out to the opera.

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- telling the time in whole hours
- the nominative plural of nouns and adjectives
- the genitive plural of masculine nouns.
- the short adjective **нужен** - “necessary”
- short adjectives in the plural
- the irregular verb **мочь** - “to be able to”

### Communication

- making a phone call
- arranging to meet (place, time, exchanging phone numbers)
- saying that you need something
- inquiring after someone’s health
- inviting someone out
- reading Russian family names

### Background information

- Information about the telephone in Russia
- Russian time zones

Ivan and Lyudmila are at the opera. Lyudmila doesn't like the seats, but she does enjoy the performance.

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- reflexive verbs in the present tense, for example **начинаться** - "to begin"
- the dative singular of nouns
- the prepositions **по** - "along", and **к** - "towards", used with the dative
- the verbs **любить** - "to love", and **нравиться** - "to please", used indirectly for "to like"
- the verb **играть** with **в** and the accusative - "to play a sport"
- the verb **видеть** - "to see"
- the use of **раз** - "a time"
- the names of sports

### Communication

- expressing pleasure and displeasure
- reading a theatre programme
- saying which sports you play or played

### Background information

- Snegurochka

Lyudmila has a meal with her friend Tamara and talks about her trip to England. Tamara is interested in Lyudmila's male friends and would like to meet them. Lyudmila gets back to Zoya Petrovna's flat very late.

### Grammar and Vocabulary

- the instrumental singular of nouns.
- the spelling rule for the unstressed letter **о**
- the genitive plural of feminine nouns, of masculine and feminine nouns that end in a soft sign, and of masculine nouns in **-ж, -ч, -ш** and **-щ**
- the verb **играть** with **на** and the prepositional - "to play an instrument"
- the verbs **спать** - "to sleep", **петь** - "to sing" and **пить** - "to drink"
- the declension of personal pronouns
- the names of musical instruments

### Communication

- thanking someone for something
- describing a flat or a house, and the garden
- talking about which musical instruments you and others can play

### Background information

- housing in Russia
- a typical Russian flat

## GRAMMAR REFERENCE

A summary of the main grammar points in Ruslan Russian 1

## RUSSIAN - ENGLISH DICTIONARY

850 words