

Matchbook Foundation 36 Week Curriculum Russian101: An Introduction to Russian Language  
and Culture

**Term 1: Russian Alphabet and Basics**

**Week 1: Introduction to Russian and Introducing Yourself**

Concepts:

- Brief introduction to the Russian language
  - Who speaks Russian?
  - What kind of language is Russian?
  - Why is it important to learn Russian?
- Basic introductions
  - Привет, здравствуйте (hello/hi)
  - Как Дела? (How are you)
  - Меня зовут (My name is)

Resources: <https://linguistics.byu.edu/classes/Ling450ch/reports/russian.html>

- History of the Russian language (take excerpts)

Optional Homework: Practice the vocabulary from class and watch this video for extra practice:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjXXdLjnTFU> (focus on pronunciation)

**Week 2: The Cyrillic Alphabet and Russian Names**

Concepts:

- Begin learning and practicing the cyrillic alphabet letter by letter
  - Learn А-П
  - Learn how to pronounce than practice printing it out
  - Simple examples of letters in words: Мама, папа, вода
- Learn about Russian name structure
  - First name, paternal, last name
  - Have students choose a Russian name to go by if they want
- Learn Да and Нет (yes and no)

We would like to acknowledge and thank Ms. Archambault and their Russian class for inspiration in this curriculum.

Activity:

<b>А а</b>	<b>Б б</b>	<b>В в</b>	<b>Г г</b>	<b>Д д</b>	<b>Е е</b>	<b>Ё ё</b>
а	бэ	вэ	гэ	дэ	е	ё
[a]	[bɐ]	[vɐ]	[gɐ]	[dɐ]	[jɐ]	[jo]
<b>Ж ж</b>	<b>З з</b>	<b>И и</b>	<b>Й й</b>	<b>К к</b>	<b>Л л</b>	<b>М м</b>
жэ	зэ	и	и краткое	ка	эл(ь)	эм
[ʒɐ]	[zɐ]	[i]	[i 'kratkəɪ]	[ka]	[ɛlʲ]	[ɛm]
<b>Н н</b>	<b>О о</b>	<b>П п</b>	<b>Р р</b>	<b>С с</b>	<b>Т т</b>	<b>У у</b>
эн	о	пэ	эр	эс	тэ	у
[ɛn]	[o]	[pɐ]	[ɛr]	[ɛs]	[tɐ]	[u]
<b>Ф ф</b>	<b>Х х</b>	<b>Ц ц</b>	<b>Ч ч</b>	<b>Ш ш</b>	<b>Щ щ</b>	<b>Ъ ъ</b>
эф	ха	цэ	чэ	ша	ща	твёрдый знак
[ɛf]	[xa]	[tsɐ]	[tɕɐ]	[ʂa]	[ɕɕæ]	znak]
<b>Ы ы</b>	<b>Ь ь</b>	<b>Э э</b>	<b>Ю ю</b>	<b>Я я</b>		
ы	мягкий знак	э	ю	я		
[ɨ]	[ˈmʲæxʲkʲɨ]	[ɛ]	[ju]	[ja]		
	znak]					

- Start practicing alphabet
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGg9JfQUS40> Video on Russian names

Optional Homework: [http://www.russianlessons.net/lessons/lesson1\\_main.php](http://www.russianlessons.net/lessons/lesson1_main.php)

A resource for quick review of letters

- Assign each student 1 word using letters А-П and have students memorize how to write them

### Week 3: Continuing Russian alphabet and Basic Vocabulary

Concepts:

- Finish learning alphabet п-я
- Explain non sounded letters ь and ъ and й
- Practice Reading examples using letters
- Vocabulary: Спасибо, пожалуйста, до свидания/пока, хорошо, плохо, очень (thanks, please, goodbye, good, bad, very)

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Activity: Practice Reading [http://www.russianlessons.net/lessons/lesson1\\_exercises.php](http://www.russianlessons.net/lessons/lesson1_exercises.php)

- Then practice rewriting each word by hand in Russian three times
- Introduce yourself to a classmate

Optional Homework:

<http://www.russianforeveryone.com/RufeA/Lessons/Introduction/Alphabet/Alphabet.htm>

Go through this worksheet (skip cursive, write in print)

- Memorize vocab
- (culture) <https://www.macalester.edu/russian/about/resources/miscellany/matryoshka/>
  - Article about Russian nesting doll origin

#### **Week 4: Practice reading Russian and special sounds**

Concepts:

- How to read more complex words
- How to pronounce o and a
- Тья
- Г pronounced as в
- Vocabulary: и and а

Activity: <https://www.russianforfree.com/text-russian-bear.php> russian reading practice

- Practice constructing basic sentences мама хорошо, мама не хорошо

Optional Homework: Practice worksheet

[https://crees.ku.edu/sites/crees.ku.edu/files/files/lesson-plans/Lesson%20Plan\\_Russian%20Alphabet%20Soup.pdf](https://crees.ku.edu/sites/crees.ku.edu/files/files/lesson-plans/Lesson%20Plan_Russian%20Alphabet%20Soup.pdf)

- Find the most difficult word to pronounce in Russian and record yourself trying to pronounce it
- Think of any pronunciation questions you have

#### **Week 5: Pronouns and 1st group Verb Conjugations**

Concepts:

- Russian subject pronouns
  - Я, ты, он/она/оно, Мы, Вы, Они

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- Это and этот
- Conjugating ать group verbs
  - Verbs: Читать, делать, and гулять (to read, to do, to walk)

Activity:

<http://www.study-languages-online.com/grammar/exercises/conjugation?verbs=in-at-two>

Exercise

- Practice constructing sentences

Optional Homework: Article about Russian holidays

<https://medium.com/@fetati/how-to-celebrate-new-years-holidays-like-a-russian-edbf7a7a2c2d>

- Memorize conjugations

## **Week 6: School vocabulary**

Concepts:

- Review conjugations
- New vocabulary: учитель, ученик, школа, клас, работа, книга, студент, урок (teacher, student, school, class, work, student, lesson)

Activity:

- Create a dialogue using the verbs and new vocab about the first day of school
- Kahoot to practice conjugating the verbs

Optional Homework:

- Memorize vocab
- Start learning vocab for next class: numbers
- <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/12851/12851-h/12851-h.htm> pick a Russian story to read

## **Week 7: Numbers and Accusative Case**

Concepts:

- Numbers 1-10 (Номер, один, два, три, четыре, пять, шесть, семь, восемь, девять, десять)
- Grammar-direct objects (ВП) pronouns
  - Меня
  - Тебя

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- Eë
- Ero
- Hac
- Bac
- Их
- Masculine vs. feminine vs. neutral nouns

Activity:

- Make 10 sentences using numbers and new grammar
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwYk3zHYVGQ>

Optional Homework: Start learning new vocab: Occupations

- Find a Russian song and see what you understand

## **Week 8: Review**

Concepts:

- Mini quiz on
  - ать conjugations
  - Pronouns (subject and object)
  - Vocab
  - Numbers

Activity:

- Comprehensive Kahoot review
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G\\_fYgW5Tys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G_fYgW5Tys) watch with subtitles

Optional Homework:

[https://open.spotify.com/show/3htdCvqR4TEwoN1oFtH0vt?go=1&utm\\_source=embed\\_v3&t=0&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/show/3htdCvqR4TEwoN1oFtH0vt?go=1&utm_source=embed_v3&t=0&nd=1) Listen to first episode of this Russian podcast

- <https://www.linguajunkie.com/russian/basic-russian-conversation> Memorize dialogue 2

## **Week 9: Occupations and Feminine and Masculine living direct object**

Concepts:

- Grammar: БИ (accusative case) for feminine nouns and masculine nouns

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- Ex: Я читаю книгу. Я знаю учителя.
- Vocab: Occupations
  - Строитель, врач, инженер, бизнесмен, журналист, директор, фабрика, стройка, учёный, мама, папа
- Verbs: работать, слушать

Activity:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IE8iLSaosQ> brief video
- Discuss your dream job in Russian
- <http://blogs.bu.edu/guidedhistory/historians-craft/katherine-ruiz-diaz/> explore this article

Optional Homework:

- Memorize vocab
- <https://www.russianforfree.com/exercise-nouns-a01003032.php> Grammar Practice

**Week 10:** Colors, ить verbs

Concepts:

- Review accusative case grammar and occupation vocabulary
- New grammar:
  - Conjugating ить verbs
  - New verbs: говорить, смотреть, хотеть (to speak, to watch, to want)
- Vocabulary: Colors
  - Цвет, Красный, жёлтый, оранжевый, зелёный, синий, голубой, чёрный, белый

Activity:

- Brief article <http://masterrussian.com/htconjugation.shtml>
- <http://www.study-languages-online.com/verbs-present-exercises.html> conjugation practice
- Explain your favorite color in Russian

Optional Homework: - - -

- <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn11759-russian-speakers-get-the-blues/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmjrj\\_TrOEI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmjrj_TrOEI) Practice conversation with subtitles

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## **Week 11: Russian geography and Cities**

### Concepts:

- Russian geography
- Regions of Russia
- Memorize cities in Russia: Москва, Санкт-Петербург, Новосибирск, Екатеринбург, Казань, Нижний Новгород, Омск, Пермь, Волгоград
- Moscow and St. Petersburg history, geography, and importance
- New vocab: Россия, русский, по-русски, люди (Russia, Russian, in Russian, people)

Activity: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/russia/>

- <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/10/russia-geography-ukraine-syria/413248/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTvh2fwkvVw> excerpts of video

### Optional Homework:

- <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3114> cities quiz
- Pick a Russian city and research it then write a short paragraph about it in Russian (you can look up words)

## **Week 12: Review**

### Concepts:

- Review Game:
  - Given prompt, write down the answer on a piece of paper then hold it up as quickly as possible (if several students, winner is student who writes it down first)
- Concepts to review:
  - How to spell words given the audio
  - Introductions
  - АТЬ and ИТЬ verb conjugations
  - Subject and object pronouns
  - Accusative case
  - Colors, numbers, school, occupation vocabulary
  - Russian cities from list

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- Russian song Kalinka

Activity:

- Review game
- Learn Russian song Kalinka <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8m2BYv02Nw>

No Homework-practice Russian if you can

Resources:

- <https://linguistics.byu.edu/classes/Ling450ch/reports/russian.html>
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- <http://www.russianforeveryone.com/RufeA/Lessons/Introduction/Alphabet/Alphabet.htm>
- <http://www.study-languages-online.com/grammar/exercises/conjugation?verbs=in-at-two>
- <https://www.maclester.edu/russian/about/resources/miscellany/matryoshka/>
- <https://www.russianforfree.com/text-russian-bear.php>
- [https://crees.ku.edu/sites/crees.ku.edu/files/files/lesson-plans/Lesson%20Plan\\_Russian%20Alphabet%20Soup.pdf](https://crees.ku.edu/sites/crees.ku.edu/files/files/lesson-plans/Lesson%20Plan_Russian%20Alphabet%20Soup.pdf)
- <https://medium.com/@fetati/how-to-celebrate-new-years-holidays-like-a-russian-edbf7a7a2c2d>
- <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/12851/12851-h/12851-h.htm>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwYk3zHYVGQ>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G\\_fYgW5Tys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G_fYgW5Tys)
- [https://open.spotify.com/show/3htdCvqR4TEwoN1oFtH0vt?go=1&utm\\_source=embed\\_v3&t=0&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/show/3htdCvqR4TEwoN1oFtH0vt?go=1&utm_source=embed_v3&t=0&nd=1)
- <https://www.linguajunkie.com/russian/basic-russian-conversation>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IE8iLSaosQ>
- <http://blogs.bu.edu/guidedhistory/historians-craft/katherine-ruiz-diaz/>
- <https://www.russianforfree.com/exercise-nouns-a01003032.php>
- <http://masterrussian.com/htconjugation.shtml>

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- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/russia/>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/10/russia-geography-ukraine-syria/413248/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTvh2fwkvVw>
- <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3114>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8m2BYv02Nw>

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