

RUSLAN RUSSIAN GRAMMAR

An interactive Russian grammar course
John Langran

General Editor
Ashot Vardanyan, University of Iowa



Ruslan Limited
www.ruslan.co.uk


Introduction

It is essential to study the grammar of any language that you want to learn seriously, and the Russian language has a denser grammatical structure than most. This “Ruslan Russian Grammar” gives the main grammatical points that serious learners will meet in their study of the language, with straightforward explanations, lots of examples from contemporary usage, relevant extracts from poems and songs as illustrations, pictures to liven things up, and structured exercises for the main points.

New items are introduced in a sequence as close as possible to the sequence of the main grammatical items in my Ruslan Russian course, especially in the first few sections, but it was not possible to maintain this throughout. You will need to use the contents and index pages to find particular items as you need them.

This is not a full reference of the grammar of the Russian language. For more detail I recommend “A Comprehensive Russian Grammar” by the late Terry Wade, on which I have relied heavily for the compilation of this book. I have also used “A Living Russian Grammar” by Natalia Bitekhtina, Larissa Grutchevskaya and Juila Sheina and the excellent website www.gramota.ru.

Every attempt has been made to give simple, up to date examples. Exercises for practice and consolidation have been placed immediately after explanations, and there are also exercises for conversation practice in the classroom.

The audio CD that accompanies the book contains recordings of the answers to those exercises marked  and of all the songs and poems used. The number is the number of the CD track. Many of these recordings may be used as language drills.

Recordings of the answers to most of the other exercises will be posted on the Ruslan website at www.ruslan.co.uk/grammar.htm. A key to all the exercises in the book will be available on the Ruslan teacher pages.

For those exercises that ask learners to find more examples of a particular usage it is recommended to use Internet searches in cyrillic, for example at www.google.com

Stress is marked with an acute accent (but is not marked on words like, for example, the name Анна in which a stressed vowel is printed in upper case). The two dots on the Russian letter ë are marked on lower case letters. These conventions will help you as a learner, but remember that you will not normally have them to help you in authentic Russian texts.

Where verbs are given in their aspect pairs, the imperfective is given first, for example: *дéлать / сдéлать* (or *дéлать / с-*).

Learners will need a dictionary when using this book.

John Langran
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