

## Using the Ruslan Russian 1 Cartoons

These cartoons are intended as a supplement to the Ruslan Russian 1 course, not as a replacement for the course book. They will also obviously be useful for teachers and learners using other Beginner Russian courses.

Maximum exposure to understandable Russian is important when you are learning. An amusing and entertaining cartoon version will give the learner the incentive to work with the dialogues and listen to them more times and more intensively than with a conventional text book. There will also be more support for learners when they come to act out the dialogues themselves, or perhaps to sing the songs.

Then for revision, learners can watch the whole story of Ivan, Lyudmila and their friends from beginning to end, with and without the subtitles, as many times as they want to.

Teachers may want to use the cartoons in the classroom on a large screen or give learners the option of using them from the school's computer network.

The USB version is for schools and colleges and comes with permission to show the cartoons to groups and to use them freely on a single site computer network.

The DVD version is for individual learners to use on their DVD player or PC.

### Ideas for the classroom

#### Pre-watch activities

- Introduce / brainstorm vocabulary on a given topic (situation)
- Introduce keywords
- Revise grammar in use
- In poems and songs, try to fill in missing words that rhyme

#### While you watch activities

- Watch with sound but no subtitles
- Say/write down what words you heard. Check with your partner
- Watch again to reinforce this
- Check again
- Watch without the sound, no titles. Guess what characters are saying. (Phrases/ words that are correct can be put on the board).
- Then watch with the sound and check.
- Try to speak together with the characters.
- Watch again without the sound and try to reproduce the dialogue, keeping pace
- Try to sing along (can be done with the sound switched off/on a few times)

#### After-watch activities

- Reproduce the dialogue.
- Act the scene.
- Compose and perform a similar dialogue.
- Dictation. Ask students (if they don't have the books) to write out some of the conversations.

#### More advanced groups

- Retell a story (can be done in a circle taking turns)  
This will be useful when you are teaching clothes and colours, as the clothes that different characters are wearing change quite frequently!
- Retell the story from the point of view of one of the characters  
Людмила: Я увидела Ивана в самолёте ...

**Ideas for homework**

- Memorise the dialogue/ a poem
- Prepare to act the part of one of the characters
- Repeat the activities that were used in class, but on your own.
- Write out the dialogue or a text while you watch and/or listen (with the pause button) and then check your work using the subtitles or the student book.

**More advanced groups**

- When you are practising reported speech ask students to report some of the conversations, eg.  
«Иван сказал, что он не из Москвы...»
- Write a summary.

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