

Descriptions of Target Student Abilities: First-Year Russian
Russian Language Objectives, 2008

<p>Interpersonal Abilities and Skills</p> <p>Students in First-Year Russian are able to engage in simple conversation on the most common aspects of daily life using basic grammatical structures and appropriate, mostly memorized formulae and lexical forms. They can personalize and adapt memorized information to a limited degree in conversational contexts. Students demonstrate an awareness of socially appropriate behavior and Russian cultural norms and can operate in the most common informal settings. They will be understood by sympathetic native speakers accustomed to dealing with learners of Russian.</p>	<p>Russian 1</p> <p>During the first quarter, students will be able to interact with members of their class and their instructor. They participate in simple exchanges of personal information and conversation on their daily activities, using isolated words, list of words and phrases.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>	<p>Russian 2</p> <p>During the second quarter, students will be able to interact with classmates and their instructors. They further develop their communicative skills and expand the range of topics and interactions in Russian. Students are able to perform more complex tasks using new linguistic structures such as Genitive, Accusative and Dative Cases. Their communication consists principally of short formulaic utterances with occasional personalized recombinations of vocabulary and stock phrases.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>	<p>Russian 3</p> <p>During the third quarter, students will interact primarily with classmates and their instructors, as well as members of the Russian-speaking community in limited settings. Students will reinforce and further develop the quantity and quality of communicative skill acquired in the previous level. They will expand their repertoire of tasks and topics in Russian, using new structures such as Instrumental Case and Perfective verb forms. They will still operate mostly with rehearsed material, but begin to effectively recombine elements into sentences and create with the language in order to adapt it to their needs.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet, greet and introduce themselves using formal and informal greetings. • Identify and name various objects, places and entities of their surroundings and everyday life such as: cities, homes, school, people, pets, weather, food and clothing. • Give simple descriptions of the above items using gender- and number- appropriate adjectives in the Nominative Case. • Talk about places and identify locations by means of the Prepositional Case. • Express possession, existence and availability of things using Impersonal Constructions. • List their classroom and daily activities, including interests and hobbies, using imperfective verbs in the present and past forms. • Express gratitude, apology, agreement and disagreement, doubt and satisfaction. • Ask and answer simple questions, e.g. “yes – no”, “where”, and distinguish between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the functions of the previous quarter at a higher level. • Express quantity and talk about age and time using the Genitive case and forms of Numerals. • Express obligation in the present, past and future using the Russian equivalent of “must” and “have to”. • Express habitual and multidirectional motion using specifically Russian equivalents of the verb “to go”. • Express possession, availability and absence of things using the Russian equivalent of “to have”. • List in greater detail everyday and recreational activities in the present and past (e.g. vacations, trips, places of interest) with better control of Adjective forms and Cases. • Express likes, dislikes, and reactions in the present, past and future using the Russian equivalent of “to like”, as well as idiomatic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the functions of the previous quarter at a higher level and with more accuracy. • Describe their immediate world in greater detail and gradation and begin to make simple descriptions of abstract notions such as art, music, literature. • Make simple comparisons. • Exchange information about moving to some places and express the desire that a third party perform an action using Complex Object construction. • Describe in short sentences and in all time frames personal experiences such as daily routine, leisure activities and outings, being ill, etc. • Express regret, sympathy, condolences; extend and decline invitations; make and deny requests or permission. • State attitudes, preferences, and emotions by using the Russian equivalent of “I’d love to” and begin to

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<p>Interpersonal Abilities and Skills (cont.)</p>	<p>interrogatives “who” and “what”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate effectively in highly structured simulated conversations in situations such as: asking for directions, speaking about their family, home, city and university. 	<p>phrases (e.g. what a surprise, oh really, how nice).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange information about future activities, duration of actions, and intentions. Participate effectively in structured simulated conversations in a wider range of situations, e.g. asking and giving directions, shopping for food/clothing, ordering a meal, buying gifts, making a simple toast, discussing the weather, etc. 	<p>use conditional phrases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate effectively in simulated conversations and role plays such as: renting an apartment, inviting someone to a party, making arrangements for a trip, planning the weekend, going to the movies, etc.
<p>Interpretive Abilities and Skills</p> <p>By the end of the first year of study, students will be able to understand syntactically and lexically unsophisticated spoken Russian on familiar topics of the kind they encounter in course materials.</p> <p>They will fully control the Russian alphabet and be able to read short texts (of 300-400 words) created specifically for language learners on a range of linguistically and culturally familiar topics. In simple authentic texts (e.g. newspaper ads, schedules, posters and signs; select poems and songs) and some abridged short stories by modern writers like Dovlatov and Petrushevskaya), they will be able to identify general meaning and pick out concrete information.</p>	<p>Russian 1</p> <p>During the first quarter, students will demonstrate comprehension of simple Russian conversations (consisting of short utterances), drawn from familiar material and with visual support.</p> <p>Students will have a full control of the Russian alphabet and be able to read short simplified texts (100-150 words) based on cognates such as “student”, “kampus”, “viza”, “turist”, confirming their understanding in English.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate understanding of Russian intonation and distinguish between statements and questions in conversation. Understand simplified passages on lexically and linguistically familiar material. In short texts (100-150 words), read for general meaning and pick out specific information based on cognates Read for general meaning and pick out information in simple authentic materials such as: maps, signs, schedules, theater listings, etc. 	<p>Russian 2</p> <p>During the second quarter, students will demonstrate comprehension, using visual support, of lengthier but linguistically simple Russian conversations drawn from familiar material.</p> <p>Students will be able to read simplified texts (200-300 words) and selected authentic materials, and confirm basic understanding in Russian using English for a more detailed account.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain a better control and understanding of phonetic conventions such as consonant devoicing and assimilation of prepositions. Understand more structurally and linguistically complex passages related to course material, e.g. recognize cognates sharing the same root, identify parts of speech, etc. Read and discuss simplified short (150- 250 words) texts on lexically and linguistically familiar material Better develop their analytical reading skills of longer authentic materials: identify main ideas and some details of newspaper ads, schedules, posters and signs, as well as half-page abridged stories by modern writers. State their opinion on selected readings using mainly Russian but some English to convey more complicated ideas. 	<p>Russian 3</p> <p>During the third quarter, students will demonstrate comprehension of more extended conversation and narration on familiar material. They will also be able to understand the gist of short oral presentations (2 minutes) on less familiar topics, built on known grammatical structures.</p> <p>Students will be able to read longer simplified texts (300-400 words) and confirm understanding primarily in Russian. They will be able to read for general meaning a variety of authentic materials up to 1 page in length and use Russian to confirm basic understanding, with English for a more detailed account.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain increasing comprehension of intonational nuances in speech such as irony, sarcasm, anger or irritation, humor. Summarize and retell information in their own words using synonymous expressions in Russian. Identify text structure and demonstrate general understanding of content in a wider variety of readings, including selected poems and songs and abridged literary texts by modern writers.

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<p>Interpretive Abilities and Skills (cont.)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize textual features (e.g. indications of emotion, irony, humor) and genre differences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform the functions of the previous quarter at a higher level.
<p>Presentational Abilities and Skills</p> <p>By the end of First-Year Russian, students will be able to make a short (2-3 minute) oral presentation or write a structured composition (of 12-15 short sentences) related to course material</p>	<p>Russian 1</p> <p>During the first quarter, students will be able to present memorized and rehearsed information orally or in writing about themselves, their families and activities.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a short, structured, rehearsed presentation talking about family, friends, university, city etc. Answer mostly “yes – no” questions about the prepared presentation topic. Ask their classmates basic questions to gather more information on the presentation topics. Write 4-5 short sentences (totaling approximately 12-15 words) on the above mentioned topics. 	<p>Russian 2</p> <p>During the second quarter, students will be able to present memorized and rehearsed information orally or in writing on a wider range of topics (e.g. university activities, places of interests, family events, etc.). Their presentations will be lengthier in scope and about actions in the past as well as present.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present more formal, prepared and rehearsed oral reports (1-2 minutes) on topics related to course material and personal interest. Answer various types of questions related to the topic of their presentations, including “why” questions. Ask longer and more questions (including follow-up questions) for more information on class presentation topics. Express opinion and provide reactions in Russian using formulaic phrases and idiomatic expressions. Write a short structured composition (8-10 sentences) on one of the topics related to personal information such as: family events, vacations, etc. 	<p>Russian 3</p> <p>During the third quarter, students demonstrate the ability to create and reformulate material in rehearsed presentations. Their oral presentations will be 2-3 minutes in length, and they will be able to write a 10-15 sentence composition in all time frames.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present rehearsed oral reports (2-3 minutes) related to their own experience on most common everyday topics, by recombining structures and vocabulary learned throughout the first year. Answer and ask a wider variety of questions about their presentation topics, as well as expand on comments and opinions expressed in Russian. Write a short composition (10-15 sentences) on one of the topics related to personal information and/or class material (e.g. past or future event or celebration; cultural outing; profession choice; past or future trip to Russia, etc.)