

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

**Second year Russian aims to help students to attain a solid intermediate level of proficiency and considerably improve their fluency and accuracy in all aspects of linguistic activity.**

<b>Interpersonal Abilities</b>	<b>Russian 51</b>	<b>Russian 52</b>	<b>Russian 53</b>
<p>Upon completion of the second year, students should be able to interact in a wider range of contexts in the concrete realm, i.e. communication involving everyday situations and their personal world.</p> <p>Students are gradually able to adapt both memorized and new material from various sources to their particular needs and situation. Size of their lexicon will increase considerably (reaching approximately 1300-1500 words). Their ability of expression as well as repertoire of topics and themes will expand significantly. They will be able to initiate, sustain and conclude a range of uncomplicated transactional situations.</p> <p>Students will have better control of the Russian noun and adjective case system and verb declensions in both imperfective and perfective forms. Their spoken accuracy and fluency increase, as does their understanding of Russian culture and social behavior.</p>	<p>During the first quarter, students will review and reinforce the skills acquired in the first year.</p> <p>Students are able to personalize their language and act in basic predictable social situations by combining memorized or formulaic elements into short sentences and series of sentences.</p> <p>Their self-confidence increases. They will be understood (with some repetition and clarification) by native speakers accustomed to dealing with non-native speakers.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>	<p>During the second quarter, students expand the level and scope of communicative tasks on practical matters in predictable situations, and continue to review and reinforce their functional proficiency.</p> <p>Students are able to create with the language and produce statements and questions of their own making. They combine and recombine material from different sources (their reading materials, for example) in order to produce sense-filled utterances appropriate to the situation. They are able to convey more extensive information by linking short sentences and using more complicated syntax and vocabulary. There is enough grammatical accuracy to allow for simple communication and understanding by native speakers accustomed to dealing with non-native speakers.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>	<p>During the third quarter, students will continue to review and reinforce their skills, improve their accuracy and expand on the level and scope of communicative tasks. They are able to interact with more ease and confidence in straightforward situations.</p> <p>Students are able to create with the language and adapt it appropriately to uncomplicated cultural and social contexts. The quality and quantity of their language increase. They are able to link many of their utterances into more complex sentences (with some use of adverbial phrases and relative clauses) and occasionally connect their sentences into paragraph-length discourse when attempting to narrate in the past tense.</p> <p>Students improve their accuracy of speech, become more aware of errors, and begin correcting themselves. They are able to use reformulation and simple circumlocution, and will be generally understood by native speakers.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe family and friends in terms of physical attributes and character, with better control of Russian adjectives (emphasis on long vs. short forms).</li> <li>• Compare things and provide more linguistically complex comparisons by using Russian idiomatic patterns.</li> <li>• Describe and ask questions about climate, weather and weather forecasts.</li> <li>• Express location vs. direction when</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform the functions of the previous quarter with more confidence and on a higher level.</li> <li>• Express possession and/or absence when talking about housing, areas, and city vs. country living. Express quantity using Russian equivalent of “many” in the genitive case.</li> <li>• Compare cultural differences and table etiquette when talking about food. Give and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform the functions of the previous quarter with more confidence and on a higher level.</li> <li>• Describe professions, occupations and careers.</li> <li>• Use structures that indicate condition and obligation, as well as condition in the past.</li> <li>• Express multidirectional and unidirectional movement when</li> </ul>

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	<p>talking about places (city, home, study, work) using prepositional and accusative cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange information about their studies and educational opportunities; express opinion, give advice and ask for more information.</li> <li>• React with surprise, admiration, approval, or doubt when discussing likes and dislikes, hobbies and interests.</li> <li>• Describe leisure activities in the past, using simple and perfective past verb forms to express habitual vs. completed action</li> <li>• Engage in role plays and simulated conversations with their partners and teacher on topics closely related to the above contexts.</li> </ul>	<p>follow simple instructions using the imperative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe celebrations (e.g. holidays, parties) and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ extend and accept invitations</li> <li>○ express wishes and congratulations</li> <li>○ make a toast</li> <li>○ convey sadness, regret, condolence</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Express time by applying Russian specifics of time expressions.</li> <li>• Ask/answer questions about health in the context of doctors' visits and emergencies. Give advice using the Russian equivalent of "should" and dative impersonal construction.</li> <li>• Express obligation and wish for a third party to perform an action, with better control of Russian modal verbs.</li> <li>• When talking about personal items, clothing, and shopping, express size and dimensions.</li> <li>• Engage in a wider range of topic-related interactions with their classmates and teacher (e.g. renting an apartment; going to <i>dacha</i>; visiting the doctor; shopping for gifts, etc.)</li> <li>• Participate in a simulated Russian event (party) or field trip with full language immersion.</li> </ul>	<p>discussing movement and transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe in detail--and begin to narrate--events, activities, and schedules (e.g. past vacations, vacation plans), supported by unidirectional/multidirectional motion verbs with prefixes.</li> <li>• Express completed action in all time frames.</li> <li>• Contrast and compare things with greater detail.</li> <li>• Give more elaborate descriptions of people (e.g. famous or interesting figures) and react by conveying strong feelings and opinions.</li> <li>• Engage in a wide range of topic-related interactions, and exchange information and opinions with their teachers and classmates.</li> <li>• Participate in a Russian event (party) or field trip and participate effectively in informal communication with Russian speakers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interpretive Abilities</b></p> <p>Students continue to develop their interpretive skills by reading and listening to a variety of oral and written materials.</p> <p>With regard to oral texts, students will be able to fully understand brief conversations in informal settings and presentations on matters of personal importance to them. They will also understand narrations and descriptions presented by their instructor, drawn on familiar material. They will be able to pick out general information in selected authentic materials such as</p>	<p><b>Russian 51</b></p> <p>After the completion of the first quarter, students will demonstrate comprehension of brief conversations and short straightforward oral presentations.</p> <p>Students understand simplified written texts (400-700 words) structurally and thematically connected with their study of Russian. They are able to pick up general meaning of selected (some abridged and adapted) authentic texts (~ 1 page in length) and confirm understanding mostly in Russian using English to clarify details and convey more complex information.</p>	<p><b>Russian 52</b></p> <p>During the second quarter, students will continue to practice their aural and reading comprehension and improve their interpretive abilities. They are able to understand lengthier informal conversations and oral presentations on familiar topics within a wider vocabulary range.</p> <p>Students understand lengthier and more complex written texts (700-1200 words) related to their topics of study and containing extensive new information. Students are able to read selected authentic texts (~1-2 pages in length) and confirm understanding mostly in Russian using English to clarify details and convey more complex information.</p>	<p><b>Russian 53</b></p> <p>During the third quarter, students improve their comprehension skills and interpretive abilities. They are able to understand informal and partly formal oral presentations on personal and socially relevant topics within a more extensive vocabulary range.</p> <p>Students understand lengthier and more complex written texts (1200-1500 words) on an array of conversational and cultural topics. They are able to read various types of authentic texts (~2-3 pages in length) and confirm understanding primarily in Russian. They gain better control of approaching texts with unfamiliar elements, in preparation for independent reading.</p>

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<p>modern songs, excerpts from movies and media.</p> <p>Students' reading comprehension will improve dramatically. They are eventually able to understand simplified written texts (based on vocabulary of approximately 1300-1500 words), answer fact-based questions and summarize the text in Russian. In authentic materials (1-2 pages in length, some abridged/adapted, some original), including poetry, and works by modern and classical writers (e.g. Dragunskiy, Zoschenko, Chekhov, Paustovskiy), they are able to give the gist of the text and follow the main ideas.</p> <p>Students will be able to draw upon information and linguistic organization of the texts for use in their own interactions. At the completion of the second year, they will have basic linguistic tools to begin pursuing independent work with Russian texts.</p>	<p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>	<p>At the end of the quarter, students will perform the functions of the previous level and be able to:</p>	<p>At the end of the quarter, students will perform the functions of the previous level and be able to:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand face-to-face syntactically and lexically uncomplicated conversations.</li> <li>• Identify explicit details and answer specific questions on live oral presentations (those of narration and description in paragraph discourse).</li> <li>• Get the gist of Russian language study films and excerpts of selected Russian cartoons.</li> <li>• Answer fact-based and some concept questions and provide comments.</li> <li>• In fiction and non-fiction instructional texts: analyze the information and summarize the main idea.</li> <li>• Get new information about familiar topics from reading.</li> <li>• In abridged and adapted fictive prose texts from Russian modern and classical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate comprehension and offer appropriate responses in informal face-to-face conversations.</li> <li>• Identify important details, answer specific and some concept questions on more sophisticated live oral presentations (e.g. short narratives, lectures, reports).</li> <li>• Identify and review new information and facts.</li> <li>• Show a better understanding of selected Russian cartoons and language study films.</li> <li>• Understand the general idea and recognize familiar elements and features in certain media and movie excerpts.</li> <li>• In fiction and non-fiction simplified texts: analyze the information and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate comprehension and offer appropriate responses in a many informal, and limited formal, social interactions.</li> <li>• Gain a better understanding of elements of tone, intonation and specifics of individual diction in the conversation.</li> <li>• Summarize a variety of oral descriptive and narrative presentations.</li> <li>• Show greater understanding of presentations with unfamiliar elements and structural complexity.</li> <li>• Increase understanding of Russian language study films and selected cartoons.</li> <li>• Understand general information in</li> </ul>

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	<p>literature: follow main ideas, identify key words and some important details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In short (one-page length) authentic texts: scan for specific information.</li> <li>• Get general understanding of selected Russian poems.</li> <li>• Become aware of flexibility of Russian word order and sentence structure.</li> <li>• Recognize root words and successfully use a dictionary.</li> <li>• Interpret and process information gained from reading and use it in communicative exchanges</li> </ul>	<p>summarize the main idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate understanding of abridged and slightly adapted literary texts from Russian modern and classical literature: follow the main idea and identify detailed factual information.</li> <li>• In selected (1-2 page length) authentic texts of different styles and genres: scan for specific information.</li> <li>• Increase understanding of flexibility of Russian word order and other structural and semantic variations of Russian texts.</li> <li>• Show greater recognition of root words and word formation and successfully use a dictionary.</li> <li>• Better understand form/tone and recognize common Russian specifics in written texts such as humor, irony and sarcasm.</li> <li>• Interpret and process the information gained from reading and use the linguistic material of the texts in meaningful communication.</li> </ul>	<p>certain media and movie excerpts and give the gist of the presented material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate understanding of abridged literary and selected authentic Russian materials of different styles and genres: answer detail-oriented questions, primarily in Russian and by participating in text discussions.</li> <li>• Increase observation and understanding of Russian specifics in written texts, e.g. inverted word order, Passive Voice constructions, participles, structural/semantic variations.</li> <li>• Gain better control of the form and tone of Russian materials, different stylistic coloring, idioms and figurative language.</li> <li>• Analyze details and use the linguistic material of the texts in meaningful communication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentational Abilities</b></p> <p>Students will continue practicing their presentational skills and abilities. At the completion of the second year they will be able to convey in oral or written form simple ideas and information about their personal experiences within predictable contexts of everyday needs and closely connected with course material. Students will be able to give primarily rehearsed oral presentations and produce connected monologue speech of 4-7 minutes in length.</p> <p>They will be able to write a straightforward description and narration (a composition of 12-17 sentences or 100-150 words) about friends and family, personal surroundings and interests, holidays and events, culture and way of life,</p>	<p><b>Russian 51</b></p> <p>During the first quarter, students make brief (3-4 minute) rehearsed oral presentations and write short (10-12 simple sentences) structured compositions on topics related to their immediate world and everyday life.</p>	<p><b>Russian 52</b></p> <p>During the second quarter, students present longer (4-6 minutes), mostly rehearsed, oral reports using a wider range of vocabulary. They can present on topics of personal interest as well as themes related to Russian culture and traditions. Their written presentations (12- 15 sentences) are more complex in structure. They will start to use subordinate clauses and cohesive devices like Russian equivalents of “<i>that</i>”, “<i>in order</i>” and etc.</p>	<p><b>Russian 53</b></p> <p>During the third quarter, students present mostly prepared and less rehearsed information orally or in writing on a variety of topics. They can produce a 5-7 minute oral presentation in connected discourse, and successfully convey ideas, opinions or feelings when writing a 12-17 sentence composition. Their presentations reflect more syntactic complexity as well as more extensive vocabulary. Students will produce reports in all time frames and increase in accuracy and fluency of expression (e.g. verb governing, cases, use of subordinate clauses and some conditional sentences).</p>

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**Russian Language Objectives, 2008**

<p>among other highly familiar topics. Students in the second year begin to write in connected discourse, with increasingly complex syntax and vocabulary. They will be able to express ideas in major time frames and show an increased level of accuracy</p>	<p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p>	<p>At the end of the quarter, students will perform the functions of the previous level and will be able to:</p>	<p>At the end of the quarter, students will perform the functions of the previous level and will be able to:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give a 3-4 minute structured presentation talking about their immediate world, university, place of living, weather and climate etc.</li> <li>• Answer questions about the prepared presentation topic.</li> <li>• Ask questions for more information.</li> <li>• Express opinion.</li> <li>• Write short uncomplicated compositions on the above topics, as well as stories about themselves in the present, past and future, using mostly simple linguistic means and structures.</li> <li>• Write short function-based messages and letters to pen pals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give a 4-6 minute presentation on topics of personal interest, such as hobbies and favorite activities.</li> <li>• Present more formal rehearsed reports with information on elements of culture, traditions and way of life.</li> <li>• Ask and answer questions about the prepared presentation topic, express opinion, agreement and disagreement, and provide comments.</li> <li>• Write a 12-15 sentence composition on one of the topics related to personal information (e.g. family event: wedding, vacation etc.) in all time frames using increased vocabulary, and including Russian idioms and some proverbs and sayings</li> <li>• Begin using internet resources in preparation for their formal presentations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a 5-7 minute less rehearsed presentation on topics of personal interest, their world and activities.</li> <li>• Present more formal rehearsed reports with information on elements of culture, traditions, people, society and way of life.</li> <li>• Ask and answer questions about the prepared presentation topic, exchange opinions and provide comments.</li> <li>• Write a 12-17 sentence composition on one of the topics related to personal and/or cultural information</li> <li>• Use internet resources in preparation for their formal presentations.</li> </ul>