

Language Programme

The programmes offered by the Summer School are based on the requirements of the State Testing System in the Russian Language for Foreigners (TORFL) which is approved by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation.

The programme is devoted to those who want to learn and improve the fundamental knowledge of Russian as a foreign language. The aim of the courses is to help students acquire sufficient knowledge of the Russian language to communicate in different situations, express their thoughts on the basis of the studied grammar and vocabulary, read, retell and discuss simple texts and topics, read and translate rather difficult texts with a dictionary. The course gives students a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of Russian; promotes active communication; helps to master speaking skills; makes possible further independent study of the language.

The Structure of a Unit (as an example)

The units are arranged as follows:

1. Preparation (conversational formulas, set phrases, cliches, words and expressions occurring in text).
2. Text and dialogue, based on definite lexical and grammatical themes related to the unit concerned.
3. Notes on Russian history, geography and culture relevant to the text and the dialogue.
4. Grammatical notes, preceded by speech patterns (syntactical models) and grammatical tables.
5. Exercises of the following types: observation exercises, substitution exercises, situational exercises in translation and communicative exercises to be done either orally with a teacher or to be done independently (written or orally). The study of a unit should be concluded by doing the assignments on the text. This system of exercises is intended for gradual development of student's speaking skills and habits.

In addition each unit includes supplementary material for self-study: texts on Russian history, geography and culture, and thematically relevant proverbs, sayings, excerpts from poetry and songs. All these serve a dual purpose: while broadening the cognitive range of the course, it also provides material for the development of student's dialogical speech (conversation, discussion) and his or her monological (oral and written) speech as well.

Some components of the courses

- Introduction into Russian

Introductory reports on the Russian language, culture, history and traditions.

- Russian Phonetics and Graphics

Pronunciation of standard Russian. The Russian alphabet. Russian sounds and letters. Main types of intonational constructions. Russian orthography and punctuation.

- Russian Grammar

Fundamental themes: declension of nouns, adjectives and pronouns in singular and plural; verb conjugation; verb aspects, verbs of motion etc.

- Reading Russian Texts

Structure of Russian standard phrase (direct and indirect object, prepositional phrases); the main types of simple and complex sentences. It is supposed over 800 lexical phrase units are to be explored. Lexical units include active and passive vocabulary. The vocabulary of the course has been selected on the basis of a comprehensive statistical analysis of the Russian word stock and includes the most frequently used words and phrases.

- Preparation for Speaking

Speaking skills. Russian conversational speech cliches. Making thematic dialogues. Games-dialogues on speaking subjects (acquaintance, family, school, college, my day, shopping, holidays, travelling, places of interest).

- Russian for Everyday Use

Some Russian traditions and holidays. Russian etiquette. Reading texts and playing dialogues on some typical situations. Some Russian songs.