

The RUSSIAN Fast Course

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Preface

The Russian FAST course first appeared at FSI more than 15 years ago, and it has been growing and changing ever since. The current edition owes its existence to many individuals, all of whom we would like to thank. While time and space do not permit us to thank them all individually, we would like to bring special attention to the efforts of the following:

Without the computer skills and language teaching expertise of Language and Culture Instructor Garegin Petrosian, this book would not exist today. Thanks are also owed to Linda Coble and the staff in OMIS who responded, generously and promptly, to every request for software, as well as hardware.

Tatiana Hassan, Natasha Lord, Olga Shishkevish and many other Language and Culture instructors in the Russian Section make up the team which brought the first, and then later versions of the FAST course to our students. We are grateful to them all for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks are due Tatiana Hassan who has been the driving force behind the current FAST course and this latest version of the book.

Without the efforts of Lawrence Williams and David Coy in Multi-Media Operations we could not have produced the tapes which accompany this book. Thanks also go to those instructors in the Russian Section who lent their voices.

Thanks are also owed to all the Language and Culture Instructors in the Russian Section who gave so freely of their time to proofread, correct and suggest improvements to this book.

Our work on the FAST course has always enjoyed the support of our administration. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Dr. James Snow, Chair of NEE, Dr. David Argoff and Gary Crawford, Associate Deans of the School of Language Studies at FSI.

Finally, and most importantly, we are grateful to our students, who have so patiently helped us test these materials and who have so generously shared their comments. We have benefited greatly by their experiences, and we hope that our future students will do so as well.

Maureen Riley

Language Training Supervisor

Russian Language Section

September, 1995



Note

This course was formatted by Eric Streit (eric@yojik.eu) using the docbook format from the pdf scanned documents found on:

<http://fsi-language-courses.org/Content.php> .

The Russian part was checked by Gulnara Streit (my wife). You can find the pdf version on <http://www.yojik.eu/> .

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Introduction

ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ В РУССКИЙ ОТДЕЛ!

WELCOME TO THE RUSSIAN F.A.S.T. COURSE!

Welcome to the Russian F.A.S.T. course! We're glad you're going to be with us for the next 8 weeks, and we'd like to do everything we can to make this time both enjoyable and profitable for you. You may be wondering just what we have in store for you, and what you may expect to accomplish in the time you have. So, without further ado...

F.A.S.T. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The F.A.S.T (Familiarization And Short Term) course is designed to prepare students for life in Russia (and the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union) by giving them the necessary basic skills in the language. We want you to leave here with the ability to face, without hesitation, any number of situations you will encounter in day-to-day life in those cities where you will live, work and visit. Some of the skills we will help you to acquire include the following:

1. The ability to ask simple questions pertaining to your daily practical needs. You will need to know HOW to get something done, HOW to elicit necessary information.
2. The ability to understand key words in the answers to your questions. You will learn to use those key words in your own speech.
3. The ability to work with numbers (as used in prices, phone numbers, addresses, etc.), especially the larger numbers which are in use today: 1,000 and above. Most importantly, you will learn to recognize and understand these numbers when you encounter them, either in written or in spoken form. You will also be able to produce simple number combinations of your own (your address, your telephone number, etc.)
4. The ability to read and understand street signs, signs in the metro and other forms of transportation, in stores, hotels, etc. You will be able to read and decipher such things as concert/theater programs, menus, instructions for guests in hotels, rules for using public transport, hours of operation of various establishments, etc.
5. You will become familiar with the telephone and be able to handle many types of different calls.
6. The ability to introduce yourself, and others when necessary; to appropriately greet people and to distinguish between different levels of formality and informality in the language. You will be able to speak about yourself, your family, your interests and work and be able to ask your friends and colleagues the same.
7. Finally, you will become familiar with Russia (and other NIS countries, whenever possible), its geography, history, politics, art and literature.

The F.A.S.T. course, and this textbook, have been designed to familiarize you with the Russian language and Russian culture in their broadest contexts. You should not expect to receive a formal presentation of the grammar and structure of the language. You WILL learn some grammar, but only that which it is necessary for you to know in order to perform a given task. There are simple grammar notes contained in each lesson, but if you are a student who wishes to learn more about

the theoretical aspect of Russian grammar, you may find the purchase of Brian Kemple's Essential Russian Grammar helpful.

The course will emphasize more the development of good, oral skills and aural comprehension and less so the development of an ability to read and write in Russian. However, skills such as being able to read signs and to write down names, addresses and/or phone numbers will be essential for you to acquire. With the help of the book and your instructors, you will accomplish that.

All that remains to be said is that, while we are here to teach you the basics of Russian, you must realize that only you can learn them. No single textbook or instructor will be sufficient without a certain effort on your part. You will rarely be asked to do homework assignments, but you should plan on doing work outside the classroom. We have audio tapes to accompany each lesson, and the Multi-Media Center has some computer-assisted Russian language materials. All this together can combine to make your F.A.S.T. course experience the best one possible.

УДАЧИ ВАМ!

GOOD LUCK!

Fast tapes

Table 1. TAPE 1-2 Contains Lessons 1 - 4

<i>Side A:</i>	Lesson 1: Alphabet (pg. 37) Russian Phonetics (pg. 40) Spelling and Pronunciation
<i>Side B:</i>	Lesson 2 Lesson 3 Table of Intonation Constructions Lesson 4

Table 2. TAPE 3-4 Contains Lessons 5-7

<i>Side A:</i>	Lesson 5 Lesson 6
<i>Side B:</i>	Lesson 7

Table 3. TAPE 5-6 Contains Lessons 8-10

<i>Side A:</i>	Lesson 8 Lesson 9
<i>Side B:</i>	Lesson 10 (to pg. 27)

Table 4. TAPE 7 - 8 Contains Lessons 10-11

<i>Side A:</i>	Lesson 10 (continued from pg. 28) Lesson 11
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