

Russian Language Analysis Project

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April 29, 2011

Abstract

This paper is the result of a language analysis research project focused on the Russian Language. The study included a diverse literature review that included published materials as well as online sources in addition to an interview with a native Russian speaker residing in the United States. Areas of study include the origin and history of the language use, phonology, and orthography. Also included is a brief discussion of potential cultural difficulties and a sort list of challenges for Russian English language learners, in addition to a diverse listing of Russian language resources. While this paper is not exhaustive, it touches on many areas of import.

Russian Language Analysis Project

Origin and History of Use

Russian is the official language of the Russian Federation (Russia), as well as a co-official language of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Gagauzia, Transnistria and Kyrgyzstan; all part of the former Soviet Union. Russian's international prominence is confirmed by its ranking as the 4th most influential language in the world (Weber, 1999) and its status as one of the six official languages of the United Nations (United Nations, n.d.). While Russian is primarily spoken in countries that were once part of the former Soviet Union, its use is global. There are approximately 851,000 native Russian speakers (Kominsky & Shin, 2010) in the United States who are a part of the estimated 455 million people worldwide for whom Russian is a first or second language (Crystal 1997).

Russian is an Eastern Slavic (Slavonic) language, designated as such by the geographical area (Eastern Europe) where it is spoken. Its roots can be traced back to the family of Indo-European languages where it can be identified as a part of the Balto-Slavic language group (Brown & Ogilvie, 2009). Russian was the sole official language of the Russian Empire until 1917. During the Soviet years many republics maintained their own language, but the unifying language continued to be Russian. After the break up of the Soviet Union into fourteen independent republics, Russian remained as the sole official language in the Republic of Russia and as a co-language of the other independent republics at the time of their formation.

Eastern Slavonic birthed three modern languages: Ukrainian, Belorussian and Russian. These Slavonic languages had many commonalities, especially grammatical structure. As a result, the three oral languages were able to use a common written language known as Old Slavonic or Old Church Slavonic. Old Slavonic was used only as a written language. In the

ninth century Constantine (also known as Cyril), invented a new Slavonic alphabet now known as Cyrillic. The new alphabet was tied closely to the educated spoken norm. Today modern Russian is written in this same Cyrillic alphabet and is one of ten Slavic and sixteen Non-Slavic languages that use the Cyrillic alphabet (Cubberley, 1996).

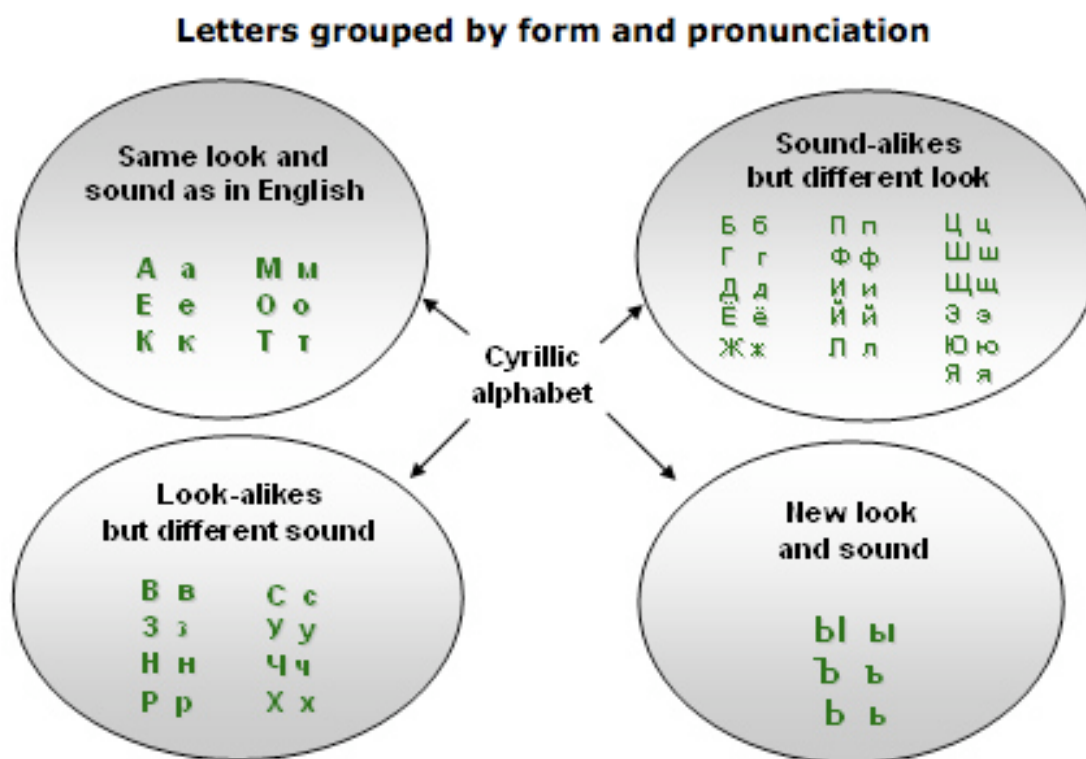
There seems to be conflicting information about the number and classification of Russian dialects. A variety of online sources (e.g. Translation Services, n.d., Russian Lessons, n.d., Lycos, n.d.) report that *Dialectological Atlas of the Russian Language* (*Диалектологический атлас русского языка* [dʲɪɐlʲɛktɔləpʲɪtɕɪskʲɪj 'atləs 'ruskəvə jɪzɪ'ka], is the most comprehensive effort to date to categorize and map Russian dialects. Non-standard forms of Russian include dialects, pidgins, and creoles. Historically there are dozens of these non-standard forms that were birthed and then died out as the peoples were dispersed and usage waned. Today, Russian dialects are primarily categorized as Northern, Central or Southern. Standard Russian is in the group of Central Russian dialects. Some remaining dialects and pidgins include: Balachka a dialect used by Cossacks; Quelia a pidgin of German and Russian; Surzhyk a variety of Ukrainian; and Trasianka a blend of Russian and Belarusian; which is not an exhaustive list but simply a sampling for illustration purposes.

What It Sounds Like - Phonetics/Phonology

Russian is a non-tonal language which means that intonation does not change the meaning of its words (Celce-Murcia & Olshtain, 2000). The modern Russian language consists of 33 letters, 21 consonants (б, в, г, д, ж, з, к, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф, х, ц, ч, ш, щ, ъ), 10 vowels (а, э, ы, у, о, я, е, ё, ю, и) and two letters that have no sound (ь-the soft sign, and ъ-the hard sign). Most consonants can be pronounced either “hard” or “soft” thus extending to 37 the number of sounds that the 21 consonants represent (Master Russian, n.d.). Spelling in the Russian

language is basically phonemic although there are a number of rigid spelling rules and inconsistencies (not unlike English) that complicate language mastery.

The Russian language has one letter to one sound correspondence, there are no blends like we find in English. The letters in dictionary order are as follows: А, Б, В, Г, Д, Е, Ё, Ж, З, И, Й, К, Л, М, Н, О, П, Р, С, Т, У, Ф, Х, Ц, Ч, Ш, Щ, Ъ, Ы, Ь, Э, Ю, Я. The letters can be grouped by form and pronunciation. The chart and information is from masterrussian.com, a website designed to assist those learning Russian.



Russian letters that look and sound the same as English

А а - Pronounced like the "a" in the word "father" or "car". It is not the 'flat' "a" sound you sometimes hear in words like "cat" or "flat".

К к - Pronounced like the "k" in "kitten" or "kangaroo". This letter replaces the english "c" sound

in words like "cat".

М м - Pronounced like the "m" in man. (Note: Unlike English, the hand-written "М" should always start from the bottom.)

О о - When stressed, it is pronounced like the "o" in "bore". When unstressed it is pronounced more like the letter "a".

Т т - Pronounced like the "t" in "tap". (Note: The hand-written form for "т" should always start from the top, as it looks quite similar to the letter "М")

Russian letters that look like English but sound different

В в - Pronounced like the "v" in "vet". (Equivalent to the English letter "v").

Е е - Pronounced like the "ye" in "yes".

Н н - Pronounced like the "n" in "no". (Equivalent to the English letter "n").

Р р - Pronounced like the "r" in "run", but it is rolled. (Equivalent to the English letter "r").

С с - Pronounced like the "s" in "see". (Equivalent to the English letter "s"). (It might help to remember that it's used like the "s" sound in the English words "centre" and "cent".)

У у - Pronounced like the "oo" in "boot" or "root".

Х х - Pronounced like the "h" in "hello". However, this is often pronounced more like the "ch" in the Scottish "Loch" or German "Bach", or the Spanish "x" in "Mexico".

Russian letters that sound like English but look different

Б б - Pronounced like the "b" in "bat". (Equivalent to the English letter "b").

Г г - Pronounced like the "g" in "go". (Equivalent to the English letter "g").

Д д - Pronounced like the "d" in "dog". (Equivalent to the English letter "d").

З з - Pronounced like the "z" in "zoo". (Equivalent to the English letter "z").

И и - Pronounced like the "i" in "taxi". (Sometimes equivalent to the English letter "i", the short

'ee' sound.). (Note: The hand-written form for "и" looks a little like the english "u").

Л л - Pronounced like the "l" in "love". (Equivalent to the english letter "l").

П п - Pronounced like the "p" in "pot". (Equivalent to the english letter "p").

Ф ф - Pronounced like the "f" in "fat". (Equivalent to the english letter "f").

Э э - Pronounced like the "e" in "fed".

Russian letters with a new look and sound (although sounds may be familiar)

Ю ю- Pronounced like the "u" in "universe". (Pronounced much like the english word "you").

Я я - Pronounced like the "ya" in "yard".

Ё ё - Pronounced like "yo" in "yonder".

Ж ж- Like "s" in "measure", "pleasure" or "fusion" or like "g" in color "beige". (As there is no English symbol for this sound, it is usually represented as "zh")

Ц ц - Similar to the "ts" sound in "sits" or "its".

Ч ч - Pronounced like the "ch" in "chips" or "church".

Ш ш- Pronounced like the "sh" in shut.

Щ щ- Pronounced like "sh" but with your tongue on the roof of your mouth. Try putting your tongue in the same position as you would to say "ch" but say "sh" instead. English speakers may find it hard to define the difference between "ш" and "щ".

Ы ы- Pronounced like the "i" in "bit" or "ill". (Said with your tongue slightly back in your mouth.)

Й й - This letter is used to form diphthongs. So "ой" is like the "oy" sound in "boy" or "ай" is like the "igh" in "sigh."

The table below shows the upper case letters, along with the IPA values for each letter's typical sound (Wikipedia, n.d.):

А	Б	В	Г	Д	Е	Ё	Ж	З	И	Й
/a/	/b/	/v/	/g/	/d/	/je/	/jo/	/z/	/z/	/i/	/j/
К	Л	М	Н	О	П	Р	С	Т	У	Ф
/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/o/	/p/	/r/	/s/	/t/	/u/	/f/
Х	Ц	Ч	Ш	Щ	Ъ	Ы	Ь	Э	Ю	Я
/x/	/ts/	/tɕ/	/ʂ/	/ɕɕ/	/-/	[ɨ]	/ʲ/	/e/	/ju/	/ja/

What It Looks Like (Orthography)

The earliest known Russian writings date back to the 10th century and were found at Novgorod. “The main languages written on them an early version of the Cyrillic alphabet were Old Russian and Old Church Slavonic. There were also some texts in Finnish, Latin, and Greek.” (Omniglot, n.d.)

It was really during the reign of Peter the Great, (Peter I) (1672 – 1725) when Russian started appearing regularly in writing. He introduced a revised alphabet, which was a literary style closer to their spoken language, and encouraged authors to use it. “The dialect of Moscow was used as the basis for written Russian.” (Omniglot, n.d.)

Today, Russian is written using a modified version of the Cyrillic alphabet. The Russian alphabet consists of 33 letters, both upper and lower case, and is written from left to right. There is also a print/cursive distinction to this language as well as basic capitalization rules. (see Cursive Russian Alphabet table below and basic Capitalization Rules).

Cursive Russian alphabet

This is a version of the cursive handwritten Russian alphabet. A number of letters have

quite different shapes when written in this way (Omniglot, n.d.).

<i>Аа</i>	<i>Бб</i>	<i>Вв</i>	<i>Гг</i>	<i>Дд</i>	<i>Ее</i>	<i>Ёё</i>	<i>Жж</i>	<i>Зз</i>	<i>Ии</i>	<i>Йй</i>
Аа	Бб	Вв	Гг	Дд	Ее	Ёё	Жж	Зз	Ии	Йй
<i>Кк</i>	<i>Лл</i>	<i>Мм</i>	<i>Нн</i>	<i>Оо</i>	<i>Пп</i>	<i>Рр</i>	<i>Сс</i>	<i>Тт</i>	<i>Уу</i>	<i>Фф</i>
Кк	Лл	Мм	Нн	Оо	Пп	Рр	Сс	Тт	Уу	Фф
<i>Хх</i>	<i>Цц</i>	<i>Чч</i>	<i>Шш</i>	<i>Щщ</i>	<i>Ъъ</i>	<i>Ыы</i>	<i>Ьь</i>	<i>Ээ</i>	<i>Юю</i>	<i>Яя</i>
Хх	Цц	Чч	Шш	Щщ	Ъъ	Ыы	Ьь	Ээ	Юю	Яя

Sample of Russian Text (Omniglot, n.d.)

Manuscript

Все люди рождаются свободными и равными в своем достоинстве и правах. Они наделены разумом и совестью и должны поступать в отношении друг друга в духе братства.

Cursive

Все люди рождаются свободными и равными в своем достоинстве и правах. Они наделены разумом и совестью и должны поступать в отношении друг друга в духе братства.

Transliteration

Vse ljudi roždajutsya svobodnymi i ravnymi v svoem dostoinstve i pravakh. Oni nadeleny razumom i sovest'ju i dolžny postupat' v otnošenii drug druga v dukhe bratstva.

Translation

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Russian has often been transliterated using the Latin alphabet due to the technical restrictions of computing and the general unavailability of Cyrillic keyboards overseas.

Examples include, мороз (“frost”) which is transliterated *moroz*, and мышь (“mouse”) which is

transliterated *mysh* or *mysʹ*. However, Unicode character encoding and the availability of free programs online that use Unicode extensions allow users to type Russian characters even on western ‘QWERTY’ keyboards is contributing to a decline in use of the transliterated form of the language (Caloni, 2007).

Capitalization Rules

- 1) Only capitalize the first word in a sentence and the first word in a title.
- 2) Nationalities, the names of the months and days of the week are NOT capitalized in Russian unless they occur at the beginning of a sentence.
- 3) The pronoun 'I' (я) is only capitalized at the beginning of a sentence.
- 4) The pronoun 'you' [formal, plural] (вы) may be capitalized as a sign of respect (Ы) in official documents and correspondence (Duke University, n.d.).

Words and Interesting Grammatical Features

When studying the different resources on the Russian language, it was interesting to note some helpful tips about the language. Many of them address specific grammatical features of the language.

1. Once a person has learned the alphabet, almost all words in Russian can be pronounced accurately. With Russian the pronunciation is normally quite clear from the written form of the word. Russian has one letter to one sound correspondence unlike English that often uses a blend of two letters to make a sound like in “sh” or “ch” (Russian Lessons, n.d.).
2. Unlike complicated English structured sentences, in Russia few words can be used to say exactly what you want. “For example, in English to be polite we would say something

like ‘can you please pass me the salt’, however in Russian they would say something simpler like ‘give salt please’. Speaking so directly may even feel unusual for an English speaker, however it is perfectly normal, just add the word ‘please’ to be polite. This makes it easy to say what you want in Russian, and it will probably be correct. Less words also makes listening to people easier, as you can just pick out the important words” (Russian Lessons, n.d.).

3. As far as sentence structure, Russian uses the case system. Instead of having a strict sentence word order like in English, you just need to change the ends of the nouns. This makes Russian a very expressive language, because you can emphasize a point by changing the order of the words in a sentence. It also helps you understand what people are trying to say. In many cases like above “give salt please” – the order would be VO with the subject being understood.
4. Russian does not use articles – “a”, “the”
5. Russian has fewer tenses than English and would not recognize differences between sentences like “I was running” or “I had been running.”
6. Gender – in Russian, each noun is assigned a gender; masculine, feminine, or neutral. In words like mother or father these relate to physical gender. Other words, though, like “pen,” “cup,” or “house,” where there is no physical meaning attached to the gender, you still know the gender because it affects how words are formed in this language. Fortunately, in Russian, the gender is usually easy to distinguish based on the spelling of the word. When a noun is used as the subject of the sentence, it will be in what is known as the “dictionary form.” In this case, it is easy to distinguish the gender of the noun. If,

however, the noun is used in another part of the sentence, the ending is changed to match the case.

- a. To distinguish gender from the dictionary form, you simply follow these steps:
 1. Look at the last letter of the word
 2. If it is a consonant, or “й”, the word is masculine
 3. If it is “а” or “я” it is feminine
 4. If it is “о” or “е” it is neuter
 5. If it is a soft sign “ь” then it could be either masculine or feminine

 - b. Five exceptions to the rule occur mainly because of physical gender:
 1. Папа - (Daddy, Papa) - Is masculine
 2. Дядя - (Uncle) - Is masculine
 3. Дедушка - (Grandfather) - Is masculine
 4. Мужчина - (Man) - Is masculine
 5. Кофе - (Coffee) - Is masculine

 - c. Examples might include:
 1. Masculine : паспорт (passport), документ (document), брат (brother), Хлеб (bread)
 2. Feminine : газета (newspaper), Россия (Russia), Дочь (daughter)
 3. Neuter : здание (building), радио (radio), письмо (letter)
7. Verbs and Conjugation – Russian has only one PRESENT tense. In Russian, verbs change their endings depending on the subject. Much like in English when we say, “I

work”/”He works”. These two different patterns are known as the first and second conjugation.

- a. The first conjugation is used for verbs ending in "ть" but not "ить". It is the most common.
- b. To form the verb for each *person* you need to drop the last two letters of the infinitive (normally "ть"), and add the appropriate ending ("ю", "ешь", "ет", "ем", "ете" or "ют"). Examples of words in first conjugation:

1. работать - To work. (infinitive, dictionary form)

- a. Я работаю - I work
- b. ты работаешь - You work
- c. Он, Она, Оно работает - He, She, It works.
- d. Мы работаем - We work
- e. Вы работаете - You work.
- f. Они работают - They work.

2. Знать - To know. (infinitive, dictionary form)

- a. Я знаю - I know.
- b. Ты знаешь - You know.
- c. Он, Она, Оно знает - He, She, It knows.
- d. Мы знаем - We know.
- e. Вы знаете - You know.

3. Verbs where the infinitive ends in "ить" use the second conjugation.

4. The second conjugation uses the endings "ю" (or "у") "ишь" "ит" "им" "ите" "ят" (or "ат"), which replace "ить".

- c. Irregular Verbs – “There are a number of irregular verbs in Russian. (Irregular verbs don't exactly follow the above rules). However, often once you know the stem of the verb, you can often predict the endings. Even irregular verbs normally follow a similar pattern to those above” (Russian Lessons, n.d.).

8. Negative Statements and Questions

- a. Negative Statements - you can make a statement negative by using the word

"не" (not). For example:

1. Я не знаю - I don't know.
2. Я не понимаю - I don't understand.
3. Он не понимает - He doesn't understand.

- b. Forming Questions – you can also form questions:

1. Ты знаешь? - Do you know?
2. Ты понимаешь? - Do you understand?

Based on this limited study, it appears that understanding the grammatical rules of the Russian language helps with understanding. Certainly there are similarities between English and Russian, but many differences as well. A popular online translation website references the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, classification of the Russian language as a level III language in terms of learning difficulty for native English speakers. They estimate that it requires some 780 hours of immersion instruction to achieve an intermediate level of fluency. Russian is also regarded by the United States Intelligence Community as a "hard target"

language, because of its difficulty to master for English speakers along with its critical role in American world policy (Translation Services USA, n.d.).

Potential Sources of Cultural Difficulty

With a worldview that is totally American...capitalistic, democratic and all about personal freedoms, it is nearly impossible to think like a Russian who has grown up with none of these things. While our cultures may have some surface similarities, the heart of our cultural differences invariably give unique meanings to our words. In the Calico Journal (December 1984), Dr. C.J. Norkeliunas writes a powerful passage regarding freedom, one of many deep-seated issues that continue to complicate our mutual understanding of each other's language.

“The notion of FREEDOM as we understand it in the context of American history, both past and present, is incomprehensible to a Russian. The yoke of semi- or total slavery has been borne by Russians since 1242...A Russian views life not in terms of freedom, but in the degree of servility and brutality imposed on him by his despotic governments. As a result of this, you have produced one of the salient and key features, both psychological and ethical, of a Russian's nature. And this is that man quietly resigns himself to suffering and passively accepts the imposed controls from above...The common people, the masses, do feel a mystical bond to their homeland, the spiritual attachment to the land and the love for Mother Russia, victimized and brutalized (the image of the historical rape of a land and a people) by foreign invaders such as Tartars, Poles, Swedes, Lithuanians, Frenchmen, Germans and native Russian despots. But the moral strength and spirit of Russia and

its people survives. And it is this *moral* spirit that sooner or later will change the political conditions in Russia and create freedom for all.” (p. 21)

“Top 5 Challenges” in English for ELLs who speak Russian

1. Word Order difficulties – English has a fairly set word order (SVO); Russian, on the other hand, expresses meaning by changes in the composition of words (e.g., by inflections or the addition of prefixes and suffixes). The word order in Russian is fairly fluid. This could present challenges for Russians trying to learn English.
2. Alphabet – while some of the letters of the Russian alphabet are similar, there are several that are not. Comprehending and being able to write the additional letters could also be a struggle.
3. The Russian language has five vowel sounds and there really is no differentiation between long and short vowels. English, on the other had, produces 12 vowel sounds (5 long, 7 short), plus 8 diphthongs. It could be difficult to acquire native-speaker-like standards of pronunciation and intonation.
4. Grammar – Verb/Tense – Russian and English convey meaning through the verb senses in different ways. In Russian, actions are either completed or not completed. In English, however, we have several different tenses: past, present, progressive and perfect tense forms. Understanding how to use each correctly could be challenging.
5. Articles – Russia has no articles. The concept of using articles could be confusing (and foreign) to Russian learners of English.
6. Gender – Masculine, Feminine, Neutral – Russian speakers don’t use pronouns. This could be difficult for English learners in sentences like, “Have you seen my pencil? I put it on the table.” They don’t use the word “it” – Pronouns could be confusing at best.

7. Russian is a phonetic language. You can predict most of the Russian words by the pronunciation. In English, that is not so. This could cause new English learners frustration and difficulty.

An Interview with Vadim

We had the privilege of interviewing Vadim, a Russian immigrant who brought his family to the U.S. to provide better opportunities for his children. Vadim is all about family. He lives in a multigenerational home with his wife, his son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Vadim places great value on hard work. He works to provide the money to see that his grandchildren have opportunities he did not have. In their leisure time, the family enjoys the outdoors. They understand the importance of diet and exercise and are committed to a healthy lifestyle. Vadim thinks we Americans are fat and lazy!

Vadim was a Geotechnical Engineer in Russia. He places great value on a good education. He has raised his children and grandchildren to love learning and pursue careers in science, math and technology. His pride in their accomplishments is evident as he talks about their academic achievements and awards. Vadim's values regarding education have been passed down two generations and will likely continue to influence the direction of the lives of his descendants.

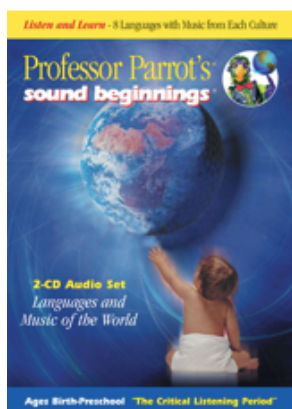
In the twelve years he has lived here, neither Vadim or his wife have made a serious attempt to learn the English language. Vadim uses primarily nouns and verbs as he speaks his hesitant English. He can follow a basic conversation in English if the speaker speaks slowly with little slang or jargon. At work little English is required. Vadim's boss gives simple directions and does a lot of pointing. At home the family speaks only Russian, and Vadim's wife

speaks no English at all. Vadim's children and grandchildren are tri-lingual speaking Russian, German, and English.

Resources Available

Professor Parrot Series

Nursery rhymes, alphabet, numbers and more accompanied by music and lullabies from each culture. Research has shown that children who are routinely exposed to sounds from foreign



languages during the early months develop tonal memories that enhance their ability to learn multiple languages. Simply by listening, neural pathways are activated and sound recognition skills are increased, making it easier for your child to acquire languages later in life.

Developed by a team of linguistic and musical specialists, this series contains the basic sounds from eight languages integrated with the folk music from each culture. This 2-CD set provides 15-minute segments of

Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Chinese, English, Russian and Hebrew.

Children's Books

Enderlein, C. L. (1998). *Celebrating birthdays in Russia*. Mankato, Minn: Bridgestone Books.

Harvey, M. (1999). *Look what came from Russia*. New York: Franklin Watts.

Hintz, M. (2004). *Russia*. New York: Children's Press.

Rogers, S. (2002). *Russia*. New York: Children's Press.

Describes the geography, plants and animals, history, economy, language, religion, culture, sports and arts, and people of Russia.

Schemenauer, E. (1999). *Russia*. Chanhassen, MN: Child's World.

Thoennes, K. K. (1999). *Russia*. Mankato, Minn: Bridgestone Books.



DVD's

1 - Way, C., Bensley, G., Schwarz, Y., Edwards, D., Dave Edwards Studios., Children's Television Trust International, & Schlessinger Media. (2007). *Animated tales of the world: Russia, the two brothers*. Wynnewood, PA: Schlessinger Media, division of Library Video Comp. A video series of multicultural collection of folk tales, which are told through

storytelling and

woods in wintertime, two

over their home while

One night, Elder pushes

into the snow, claiming

"peace". The younger

Grandfather Frost's, and it is up to Elder to bring him back home. Find out what happens at Great Grandfather Frost's castle when Elder arrives to rescue his brother in this classic folk tale from Russiaany.

2 - Souhaité, M., Kirkland, M., Marathon Film Productions., Pixcom Productions., Storm Entertainment (Firm), & Schlessinger Media.

(2007). *Countries around the world: Russia*.

Wynnewood, PA: Schlessinger Media. Students

will learn about Russia's unique contribution to

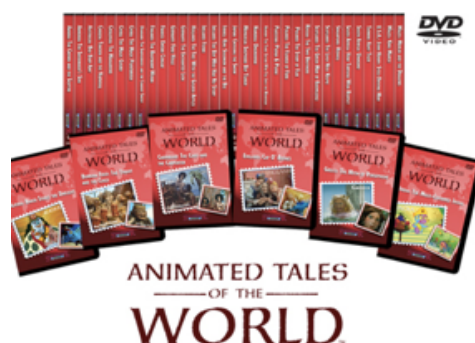
our global village called Earth. The program

includes information on the geography, history,

political system, currency, language, religion and climate. A young tour guide will also show

a few of the most famous sites and sample the delicious food.

Adult Books



animation. Set deep in the young brothers watch their parents are away. his younger brother out that all he wants is sibling is stolen by Great



- 1 - Stein, R. J. (2010). *Russia*. New York: H.W. Wilson Co. History of Russian culture and art.
- 2 - Murrell, K. B., & Crawford, A. (1998). *Russia*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. An overview of the land, people, history, and culture of Russia from its earliest days to the present.
- 3 - Torchinskiĭ, O., & Black, A. (2005). *Russia*. New York: Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish. "Explores the geography, history, government, economy, people, and culture of Russia"--Provided by publisher.
- 4 - Whyte, H. (1997). *Russia*. Milwaukee: Gareth Stevens Pub. Describes how the culture of Russia is reflected in its many festivals, including International Women's Day, Reindeer Breeders' Day, and the Russian Winter Arts Festival.

Adult DVDS

Campbell, D., Kronick, W., Fuchs, T., Zhigalov, A., Schnall, P., Herrmann, E., Perkins, J., ... New Video Group. (2003). *Russia land of the tsars*. New York, NY: A & E Home Video.

From the first settlement of Russe Vikings to the brutal murder of Tsar Nicholas II and his family, this epic program encompasses nearly a thousand years of despair and rebellion, innovation and conflict. The video explores the tumultuous lives of figures like Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, and Catherine the Great. Events include the December Revolution and Napoleon's ill-fated invasion and how they changed history.

Magazines/JOURNALS/NEWSPAPERS

Russia (2009). Oakland, CA: Lonely Planet Publications

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This website offers information on the history, government, sports, arts & entertainment, health & science, facts and figures, maps, etc. to acquaint you with Russia.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3183.htm>

This website is made by the US Dept. of State and contains a profile of Russia, the people, history, government, political conditions, economy, defense, foreign relations, U.S. relations, travel/business, and background notes. Basically it has anything you need or may want to know about Russia before traveling there.

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