

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

BY: CAITLIN SWANSON

STARTING OUT

- NOW I KNOW WHEN YOU FIRST LOOK AT IT, RUSSIAN CAN BE REALLY INTIMIDATING. YOU SEE A BUNCH OF SYMBOLS THAT MEAN NOTHING TO YOU...YET.
- THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO DO IS TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND KNOW YOU WILL BE FINE. PROFESSOR TIKHONOVSKY IS THERE TO GUIDE YOU IN THIS JOURNEY, AND SHE IS HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU WILL HAVE—BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE MANY.
- THE NEXT THING YOU NEED TO DO IS ESTABLISH A STUDY SCHEDULE. THIS IS CRUCIAL TO YOUR SUCCESS IN THIS LANGUAGE.

EXAMPLE STUDY SCHEDULE

понеделник	вторник	Среда	Четверг	Пятница	Суббота	Воскресенье
<u>9 am:</u> Econ	<u>11 am:</u> Comp 1	<u>9 am:</u> Econ	<u>11 am:</u> Comp 1	<u>10 am:</u> 1 Hr for Russ	<u>9 am:</u> 1 HR Econ	<u>9 am:</u> 30 min for Comp
<u>12 pm:</u> Stat	<u>12:15 pm:</u> SCI 1101	<u>12 pm:</u> Stat	<u>12:15 pm:</u> SCI 1101	<u>12 pm:</u> 30 min for Comp	<u>10 am:</u> 1 HR Russ	<u>12-8:30:</u> Work
<u>2 pm:</u> 1 HR for Russ <u>3 pm:</u> 30 min for Comp 1 <u>4 pm:</u> 1 hr for SCI 1101	<u>3:30 pm:</u> Russ <u>4:15 pm:</u> 1 HR for Econ <u>5:30 pm:</u> 1 HR for Stat <u>7:00 pm:</u> 1 HR For Russ	<u>2 pm:</u> 1 Hr for Russ <u>3 pm:</u> 30 min for Comp 1 <u>4 pm:</u> 1 hr for SCI 1101	<u>3:30 pm:</u> Russ <u>4:15 pm:</u> 1 HR for Econ <u>5:30 pm:</u> 1 HR for Stat <u>7:00 pm:</u> 1 HR For Russ	<u>1 pm:</u> 1 HR for Russ <u>2:30 pm:</u> 45 min for SCI <u>3:30 pm:</u> 1 HR Stat	<u>1-9:30:</u> Work	<u>Rest:</u> You earned it!

WHY A STUDY SCHEDULE IS VITAL

- AS A RUSSIAN 2001 STUDENT, I HAVE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES. I HAVE HAD A FULL LOAD OF OTHER COURSES THAT ALSO NEED MY ATTENTION JUST AS MUCH AS RUSSIAN.
- BUT IT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO SPEND AT LEAST AN HOUR A DAY ON RUSSIAN.
- RUSSIAN IS A SKILL YOU CAN MASTER, AND IT HAS TO BE REGULARLY UTILIZED AND PRACTICED IF YOU WANT TO MAKE SENSE OF IT.
- HAVING AN ALLOTTED TIME A DAY TO ONLY WORK ON RUSSIAN (AND HAVING A LANGUAGE PARTNER) WILL NOT ONLY MAKE YOU MORE SECURE IN YOUR GRASP OF THE LANGUAGE, BUT ALSO *LEARNING* INSTEAD OF JUST MEMORIZING FOR THE TEST.

TIPS AND TRICKS
THAT I LEARNED THE
HARD WAY

TIP #1: DO YOUR ASSIGNMENTS EARLY

- NOW, I KNOW AS STUDENTS WE HEAR THIS ALL THE TIME. BUT IN RUSSIAN—AND AS SOMEONE WHO WENT THROUGH THIS—THE UCLA ASSIGNMENTS NEED TO BE DONE BEFORE THE DAY THEY ARE DUE.
- WHY YOU ASK?
- THIS IS WHY:
 - THESE ASSIGNMENTS ARE HOW YOU PUT INTO PRACTICE RUSSIAN OUTSIDE OF CLASS.
 - THEY ARE THERE TO HELP YOU LEARN ENDINGS, PRACTICE PRONUNCIATION, EXPAND YOUR LISTENING SKILLS, AND INCREASE YOUR VOCABULARY.
 - ALL OF THE THINGS MENTIONED ABOVE WILL INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE IN THE COURSE AND PREPARE YOU BETTER FOR CLASS.

TIP #1: CONTINUED

- BUT WHAT IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I AM GETTING SOMETHING WRONG?
 - FIRST, I WOULD GO INTO YOUR BOOK AND USE YOUR NOTES TO SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT YOURSELF.
 - THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN.
 - NEXT, ASK YOUR LANGUAGE PARTNER.
 - THEY ARE THERE TO HELP YOU AS MUCH AS YOU ARE HELPING THEM.
 - MOST LIKELY THEY MIGHT BE JUST AS CONFUSED AS YOU.
 - LASTLY, IF NEITHER OF THOSE WORK, TAKE A PICTURE OF THE QUESTION AND EMAIL PROFESSOR TIKHONOVSKY.
 - SHE TYPICALLY RESPONDS QUICKLY WITH A HELPFUL ANSWER THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND!
- THERE IS NO SHAME IS NOT UNDERSTANDING BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE BEEN THERE.

TIP #2: NOTE TAKING

- SINCE THIS A LANGUAGE COURSE, YOU WILL BE TAKING NOTES.
- THERE WILL BE A LOT OF INFORMATION ON THE SCREEN AND ALSO VERBALLY GIVEN TO YOU.
- TRY NOT TO BE OVERWHELMED WITH THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION YOU WILL RECEIVE IN ONE CLASS.
- THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO AT FIRST, IS LEARN THE CYRILIC ALPHABET AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO IT WILL MAKE TAKING NOTES FASTER.
- ALSO WRITE DOWN ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION:
 - SHIFTS IN ENDINGS
 - STRESS MARKS & CHANGE IN STRESS
 - SPECIAL VERB ENDINGS

EXAMPLE FROM MY NOTES

Chpt. 8 1/29/2020

СТОИТ-stands по-русски что-то тебе лет?
СТОИТ-stands по-русски мне

Мне это что есть в твоём доме
в моём доме есть...

СЛОВА 8. Это хороший район

НОВЫЕ СЛОВА

- Недалёко от - not far from
- около - near
- Платитю - today "челю"
- около чего? - close to, near, in the vicinity of
- Недалёко от чего? - not far from

→ use genitive case.

Адалёко от - far away

Prep. Sing. Endings for Adj. & the Demonstratives ЭТО (Эта, Это)

М.Н. -ом-ем ЭТОМ НОВ-ом
Г. -ой-ей ЭТОЙ НОВ-ой - НОВ-ой

- unstressed o is written as e
- В каком городе вы живёте?
- what city (town) do you live in?
- В какой квартире вы живёте?
- what apart. do you live in?
- На какой улице вы живёте?
- what street do you live on?
- На каком этаже вы живёте?
- камин → fireplace

TIP #3: CREATE CHARTS FOR MEMORIZATION

- THIS TIP IS MOST IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING THE ENDINGS FOR VERBS.
- CREATING A CHART WILL HELP YOU WITH PATTERN RECOGNITION WHICH, IN TURN, WILL HELP YOU WITH LEARNING THE LANGUAGE.

FIRST PATTERN TO LOOK FOR:

- IS WHEN THERE IS A 'T' ADDED TO THE END OF THE FIRST-PERSON SINGULAR CONJUGATION TO CHANGE IT TO THE THIRD-PERSON PLURAL CONJUGATION.

РАБОТАТЬ- TO WORK

Singular	Plural
Я работа- <u>ю</u>	Мы работа-ем
Ты работа-ешь	Вы работа-ете
Он/Она работа-ет	Они работа- <u>ют</u>

ЖИТЬ- TO LIVE

Singular	Plural
Я жив- <u>у</u>	Мы жив-ём
Ты жив-ёшь	Вы жив-ёте
Он/Она жив- ёт	Они жив- <u>ут</u>

THIS PATTERN IS THE MOST COMMON

- THERE ARE SOME WEIRD CONJUGATIONS OUT THERE, BUT THE ADDING OF THE 'T' AT THE END IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON AND HAPPENS REGULARLY.
 - WHAT YOU NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR IS THE CHANGING OF THE VOWEL BEFORE THE 'T' BECAUSE THAT WILL TRIP YOU UP IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.

SECOND PATTERN TO LOOK FOR:

- IS WHEN THE VOWEL IN THE ENDING SWITCHES AFTER FIRST-PERSON SINGULAR

ХОДИТЬ- TO GO

Singular	Plural
Я хо-жу	Мы ход- <u>и</u> м
Ты ход- <u>и</u> шь	Вы ход- <u>и</u> те
Он/Она ход- <u>и</u> т	Они ход-ят

*Bonus: There is a change in consonants before the endings as well!

THIRD PATTERN TO LOOK FOR:

- IS WHEN THE VOWEL CHANGES ON THE THIRD-PERSON PLURAL CONJUGATION

СМОТРЕТЬ- TO LIVE

Singular	Plural
Я смотр- <u>ю</u>	Мы смотр-им
Ты смотр-ишь	Вы смотр-ите
Он/Она смотр-ит	Они смотр- <u>ят</u>

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE
A FEW MAIN PATTERNS TO
RECOGNIZE WHEN IT COMES
TO VERB CONJUGATIONS

CHARITING THEM OUT AND STUDYING THEM IS THE ONLY
WAY TO MEMORIZE ALL THESE CHANGES THAT OCCUR.

TIP #4: DO THE HANDWRITING HOMEWORK

- COPYING THE WORDS DOWN MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE IT IS AS IMPORTANT AS IT ACTUALLY IS IN THE BEGINNING.
- BUT THIS IS HOW YOU START MEMORIZING THE ALPHABET AND THE VOCABULARY.
- IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS PART OF THE ASSIGNED HOMEWORK, IT WILL TAKE YOU LONGER TO GRASP THE LANGUAGE.
- IT WILL TAKE YOU LONGER TO WRITE NOTES DOWN IN CLASS AND TAKE YOU LONGER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED IN CLASS.
- OVERALL, DO THE HANDWRITING BECAUSE IT IS WAY MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK.

EXAMPLE OF HANDWRITING

давно - a long time ago
 давно давно давно давно давно давно давно
 должен, должна, должны (pl.) + inf. - must, should (implies obligation)
 должен должна должны должен должна должны
 зеркало - mirror
 зеркало зеркало зеркало зеркало зеркало
 картина - picture, painting
 картина картина картина картина картина картина
 книжный - book (adj.)
 книжный книжный книжный книжный книжный книжный
 купить pfv. что? - to buy
 купить что? купить что? купить что? купить что?
 лампа - lamp, light (fixture)
 лампа лампа лампа лампа лампа лампа
 мебель (f.) - furniture
 мебель мебель мебель мебель мебель мебель
 москвич - Muscovite (male)
 москвич москвич москвич москвич москвич
 москвичка - Muscovite (female)
 москвичка москвичка москвичка москвичка москвичка
 недавно - recently
 недавно недавно недавно недавно недавно недавно
 нормально (adv.) - OK, fine
 нормально нормально нормально нормально нормально
 поздравляю (поздравлять) - congratulations! (to congratulate)
 поздравляю поздравляю поздравляю поздравляю поздравляю
 почти - almost
 почти почти почти почти почти почти почти
 сдать что? - to rent out
 сдать что? сдать что? сдать что? сдать что?
 Pres: я сдаю, ты сдаёшь, они сдают
 Я сдаю, ты сдаёшь, они сдают, я сдаю, ты сдаёшь, они сдают
 Past: сдавал, сдавала, сдавали
 сдавал, сдавала, сдавали, сдавал, сдавала, сдавали
 стоять где? - to stand
 стоять где? стоять где? стоять где? стоять где?
 Pres: я стою, ты стоишь, они стоят
 Я стою, ты стоишь, они стоят, я стою, ты стоишь, они стоят
 тысяча (Gen. sg. тысячи) - thousand
 тысяча тысяча тысяча тысяча тысяча тысяча

TIP #5: USE UCLA'S RESOURCES

- UCLA IS A GREAT TOOL THAT CAN REALLY BE BENEFICIAL IF YOU USE IT CORRECTLY.
- GOING TO THE WEBSITE AND JUST DOING THE HOMEWORK, WHILE STILL GREAT, IS NOT ALL THERE IS TO THE SITE.
- THERE ARE PREMADE FLASHCARDS, STUDY GUIDES, LISTENING EXERCISES, PODCASTS, AND SUPPLEMENTARY LEARNING.
- ALL OF THESE ARE TOOLS THAT WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR GRASP OF THE LANGUAGE.

“ВСЁ ЖЕ С ГОРКИ ДАЛЬШЕ ВИДНО,
ШИРЕ КРУГОЗОР...
КАК РАВНИНЕ НИ ОБИДНО,
ЭТО – СВОЙСТВО ГОР.” - VARLAM
SHALAMOV

Удачи!