

## A Gentle Introduction of Russian Grammar

### Hello Learner.

You may have heard some things about Russian grammar. Or, you may have not.

According to the US Defense language institute, Russian is a category 4 language in terms of difficulty. Category 5 is the hardest and it includes Japanese, Chinese and Korean.

(Category 5. Ooh, scary).

### What does that mean? According to that Institute...

- Russian requires an estimated 1,100 hours (44 weeks) of serious study.
- In comparison, Category 5 languages require double that - 2,200 hours or 88 weeks.

### Of course, difficulty is relative.

This is in the perspective of native English speakers.

Obviously, Chinese speakers will have an easier time with Japanese. Bulgarian speakers will have an easier time with Russian. Difficulty is relative. Also, be aware that there are millions of English speakers learning Korean, Chinese and Japanese and succeeding. They do it because they're interested in the culture, the music, the tv-shows and they're getting ahead.

### Again, difficulty is relative.

So, I hope the information above doesn't scare you. It was compiled by language scientists. And luckily for you, you don't need to study a language like a scientist or a translator.

You want to speak Russian like a normal human being, not know every intricate grammar rule and exception. (And to be perfectly honest, any regular native speaker will have trouble explaining their own language's grammar to you.)

### So, what makes Russian "difficult"?

Good question. Glad I asked.

In the case of Russian, there is 1 major headache that makes it so difficult.

It's not the pronunciation.

It's not the alphabet.

### It's grammar!

But wait, isn't this called "A Gentle Introduction of Russian Grammar?"

Indeed it is, my friend. And trust me, I'll be gentle.

**Here's a question for you:** Which of these is more practical and useful?

1. You learn how to introduce yourself in Russian with the 5 lines that I teach you.
2. You memorize the dative case so you can conjugate verbs and nouns. Then, you recite them back at me.

**I'll answer this for you. It's #1.**

#2 is great for tests and showing off your memorization skills. Memorizing and diving head first into grammar rules, in the case of Russian, is not practical.

Why would you want to dive head first into something that doesn't get you speaking Russian? Why would you want to dive head first into the 1 thing that makes Russian so hard to learn?

**Russian language has complex grammar and to master it all will take years.**

**Years! Years of not speaking the language but learning RULES.**

**But, if you want to start speaking Russian, you can do it in a matter of weeks.** Yes, you will be speaking in a few weeks, using simple daily expressions and getting them into simple sentences. That's what people do in daily conversations. They don't study grammar.

Professional linguists study grammar to understand how Russian works as a science.

Ordinary learners don't need it as a science. They need skills.

You can get these skills faster than you think. Focus on things you want to say and avoid the complicated grammar rules explanations. It will be your next step. The first step will be to start speaking. So, to summarize:

- Step 1: Focus on conversation and things you want to say.
- You'll realize you need a certain grammar point.
- Step 2: Look up the grammar point to make Step 1 possible.
- You'll be speaking Russian.

**So, here's my gentle advice to you.**

Avoid the hardest part of the language - the grammar. Yes, you need it. But tackling it head on is useless and counterproductive. It's like reading about "learning language" without actually "learning the language."

You want to read, speak, write and understand Russian. These come first. Grammar comes second - you'll use it to improve your speaking, writing, reading and listening skills.

Start speaking first and you will not find Russian hard to learn. Unless you start learning the most complicated part of it first.

- [linguajunkie.com](http://linguajunkie.com)

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