

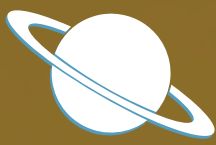
Why Learn Russian?



Prepare for a career on the world stage! Russian is one of the six official languages of the UN, and Russia is currently a member of the G20, the Council of Europe, the UN, UNESCO and the World Trade Organization, as well as a founding member of the Eurasian Economic Union. Want a job in security/diplomacy? Russian is for you!



Travel widely! Russian is spoken in all 15 countries of the former Soviet Union, so you can communicate in all of them with just one language. Russian is the eighth most spoken language on the planet with almost 300 million speakers, 150 million of whom speak it as their native language.



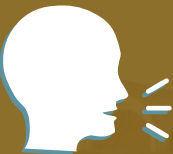
Talk like a cosmonaut! Russian is out of this world—literally! Astronauts travel to the space station on Russian Soyuz spacecraft and spend the entire six-hour journey communicating in Russian. Want to travel to space? NASA requires American astronauts to attain Intermediate High proficiency in Russian prior to starting their training.



Be part of history! Russia is the largest country in the world—it spans 11 time zones—and its historical and political importance is just as immense, from the Russian Empire's influence in the Great Game to victory in World War II, from the rise and fall of the Iron Curtain and communist bloc in the 20th century to the current day, Russia's role in the world has always been prominent and fascinating. Learn Russian and get in the know!



Enjoy great literature! Some of the world's greatest writers and poets have written in Russian, and translations just don't compare to the original works of Dostoevsky, Pushkin and Tolstoy.



Open the doors to other languages! The Cyrillic alphabet is currently used for more than 50 languages, notably Belarusian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Kabardian, among others. It's also surprisingly easy to learn, extremely phonetic and easy to read—and makes for an awesome secret code!



Prepare for a career in the arts! The performing arts in Russia are unparalleled, and knowing the language helps you gain access to educational programs with the Moscow Arts Theater, Bolshoi Ballet and Russian music conservatories in the U.S. and abroad.



Learn for free! Russian is designated a Critical Language by the U.S. government, key to national security, and there are federally funded, fully subsidized summer and academic-year overseas programs for American high school, undergraduate and graduate students to study Russian!



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