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Lifetime deal: 40% OFF your 1-on-1 subscription Ask us a question! Hide Chat Thank you very much! I'm away right now, so I will get back to you by email as soon as possible Without good Russian books, I would never have become fluent in Russian. But I also read lots of crappy books... that's why I made this list of my 11 best books to learn Russian. So you won't waste time going through unhelpful books. They're for beginners. But I've found that even intermediate students can get much benefit from repeating the basics. There are 100s of learn Russian books out there. That's good. And bad. Good because you can pick one that suits your preferred way of learning. Bad because if you make the wrong choice in the beginning..... you're going to waste a lot of time learning unhelpful things. And lack of progress in the beginning is the #1 factor that causes people to quit learning Russian altogether. Here's a summary of all the books: Best for the alphabet: Master the Russian AlphabetBest traditional language book: New Penguin Russian CourseBest book for visual learners: My First Russian BookBest lower beginner short stories: Russian Short Stories For BeginnersBest upper beginner short stories: Short Stories in Russian for BeginnersBest book + audio: Living Language Complete Edition RussianBest for Russian vocabulary: 2000 Most Common Russian Words in ContextBest for Russian verbs: 501 Russian VerbsBest for grammar: A Comprehensive Russian GrammarBest first "real book": Harry PotterBest Russian fiction: Metro 2033Or continue reading to learn more about each book and what it can help you with:Below you'll find my top 11 helpful books for learning Russian. You don't need to get all of them. Just read through their descriptions and pick 1 or 2 that sound good. My readers support this site. If you buy through a link on this page, I may earn an affiliate commission. The price for you stays the same, but it allows me to write more articles and videos :)By the way, if you want to learn Russian quickly, I've got a course that teaches you how to use strategic habit-building to make learning Russian fun, easy, and automatic. It's not free, but it's helpful if you're currently struggling with learning Russian. You can find more information here.Anyone who learns Russian should learn the Russian alphabet (or officially the Cyrillic alphabet) soon after you start your Russian language journey.Unfortunately, many people think that learning the Russian alphabet is difficult. I mean, it looks completely different from the Latin alphabet, right?But to be honest, it's easier than it looks. Of the 33 letters, several are the same as in the Latin alphabet. Others look the same but are pronounced differently. And some are completely new. The book Master the Russian Alphabet is a good start if you want to learn Russian. It's a workbook that teaches you every letter, how to pronounce it, and its different forms (capital, cursiv). It also gives you exercises that will help you better remember and learn them. Read Master the Russian Alphabet if you want a simple but effective guide to learn the Russian alphabet + pronunciation want to see all the letters in different fonts and cursiv script want to learn to read and write the Russian alphabet want to learn how to write in Russian cursivThe New Penguin Russian course is for complete beginners. It has 30 lessons and focuses on teaching you the most common 1500 Russian words, and basic grammar. The only downside is that this book was published in 1996. So it teaches you some outdated Russian vocabulary. On the other hand, some people prefer a more traditional Russian textbook, and in that case, this is a great book for you. Read the New Penguin Russian Course if you want to learn beginner vocabulary and grammarMy First Russian book was originally an illustrated book for bilingual children. It teaches the 200 common Russian words and illustrates them. Each word is also written including its English translation. And that makes it an easy book for bilingual children to learn Russian. Or at least, that's the target audience. If you're an adult and want to learn Russian words with more illustrations, then I also recommend this book. Because it's a lot easier to remember new words in a foreign language if you see a visual illustration of the word. Just seeing a Russian word and its English translation, might not be enough for the word to stick out in your mind. 200 words may seem like not a lot, but since they teach common words, you'll come across these words often. So they're useful for beginners. Read my first Russian book if you do not like traditional ways of remembering new vocabulary learn best by visually seeing an illustration of a wordThis is not one of the common Russian textbooks that teach you grammar and vocabulary. It's rather a combination of short stories. After each story, there's a section of vocabulary, so you can use that to learn new words. After that, you will get a short quiz, to see if you understood the story well enough. Even though the title states "for beginners", it's not good for complete beginners. I do recommend that you already know approximately 200+ words in Russian before getting this book. Otherwise, you will need to constantly look up basic words, and that can get you out of the flow of trying to read a story. So if that is you, better to use an app or other book to learn the most common 200 words. And then get started with the short stories here. Read Russian short stories for beginners if you like to read stories want a contextual approach to learning new Russian words already know at least 200 wordsThis is a collection of eight stories to learn Russian. Each story has the new vocabulary at the end of it, which is useful to improve your Russian vocabulary. Be warned though: the name says it's for beginners. But in reality, this book is best for upper beginner learners. Read short stories in Russian for beginners if you want intermediate reading practice want a fun way to learn new vocabularyWhat I liked about this book is that it has an audio companion. The great thing about that is that you learn the correct pronunciation as you go through the course. Another benefit is that you can for example listen to the audio while commuting to work. And then after work at night go through the regular textbook part. The complete edition has 3 textbooks with increasing difficulty. Read Living Language if you like the combination of audio and regular textbook want a simple explanation of Russian grammar and vocabularyThis is a great book + audiobook if you want to learn more Russian words. Especially in the upper beginner stage, you should focus specifically on learning more Russian words and phrases. This book does a good job of that. As you would expect from the name, it's a collection of the most common 2000 words. You can also listen to the correct Russian pronunciation, as that's included in the audio book. Each word also has a couple of example phrases, which is helpful to see the word used in "the wild". The only downside is that this (audio)book is nothing more than a large list of Russian words. They are not grouped by theme or anything like that. So it's best for students who already know some of the basic grammar, and want to systematically improve their vocabulary. Read the 2000 most common Russian words in context if you want to take a systematic approach to learning Russian vocabulary want to hear and see words at the same time to remember them betterIf you've been learning Russian for a while, you know that Russian verb conjugation is one of the frustrating parts of Russian grammar. Each verb has 6 different conjugations in the present tense. And you also need to remember which perfective verb pairs with the imperfective verbs. And don't forget the irregular verbs.... (While I recommend you learn Russian grammar and verbs mainly through immersion and audio courses, like the course Russian Conversations Unlocked. But special verb drills do have their place, if you find verbs are one of your weak points while speaking. And this book is a great drill. It takes the most commonly used 501 Russian verbs and explains in detail all the conjugations, different tenses, perfective/imperfective pairs, and how to use the verb. This can be valuable if you already have experience speaking, and want to improve your verb conjugation skills. Read 501 Russian verbs if you can already have conversations, but struggle to get the verbs right or forget which perfective verb is paired with which imperfective verb want to systematically improve your knowledge of the Russian verbsSome people overvalue the importance of Russian grammar. If your main focus is to speak Russian, then it's a good idea to focus first on speaking Russian and add a little bit of grammar exercises to understand the cases and verb conjugation. But once you have started to practice speaking, and can have conversations with native Russian speakers, it's a good idea to supplement Comprehensive Russian grammar. If you already have experience speaking and want to improve your grammar skills you are looking for a systematic approach to Russian grammarHarry Potter is the first "real" book I read in Russian. It's easier than regular adult books, but it's still a great challenge. And most people have already read the book in English before. Reading a book completely in the Cyrillic alphabet is difficult. Especially if you've never done it before. Now, you may have read some short stories completely in Russian before, but if you want to try to read a full normal book in Russian, you can start with Harry Potter. The vocabulary used is not difficult. The book is meant for kids to read. Now, some people may argue that it's not a native Russian book, and that's true. But the Russian translation is good, as it's a popular book. And it gives you an extra benefit: Most have already read this book before in their native language, so you already know the plot. This helps when you're reading. Because you don't need to understand every single thing that's going on. After all, you already know where the story is going. So if you struggle with a specific page, don't worry. You can just continue reading. Read Harry Potter in Russian if you want to try reading a full book completely in Russianlike fantasy bookshave been reading short stories completely in Russian and want to challenge yourselfThis is the most popular modern Russian fiction book from the last 20 years. The book details the story of Artyom, who grew up living in the Moscow metro. When he was just a child, there was a nuclear war that covered the world in dangerous radiation. The only place where people survived was in the deep Moscow metro. It's a fascinating fiction story, and it will take you on a dark adventure throughout the underground of Moscow. It's especially interesting to read if you have been to Moscow before. Because you'll recognize many metro stations, where you have been yourself. This book is for upper beginner to intermediate, as it's difficult. I read this book 1.5 years into my Russian language learning. And I think I understood about 70% of what was going on. 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All you need to do is take a balanced approach: VocabularyGrammarListeningSpeakingWhile everyone else is struggling to learn Russian, your Russian will improve on a day-to-day basis. A student recently told me: "I have been studying Russian for a year. In my head I can prepare basic sentences, yet when it comes to actually speaking I 'chock.' "Imagine spending a year learning Russian and still stumbling for words having a conversation with a native speaker... That's why you must pay extra attention to the speaking subskill of learning Russian. Otherwise you will end up studying for hundreds of hours and still struggle to say a coherent phrase in Russian. It's much more fun to see your efforts result in actual conversational skills. How do I know? Because this is how I became fluent in Russian myself. Curious how I did it? Go here and get my systemized approach to speaking Russian well. Hurry up, every day you follow an ineffective approach is a day forever lost. 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The price for you stays the same, but it allows me to write more articles and videos :)By the way, if you want to learn Russian quickly, I've got a course that teaches you how to use strategic habit-building to make learning Russian fun, easy, and automatic. It's not free, but it's helpful if you're currently struggling with learning Russian. You can find more information here. Anyone who learns Russian should learn the Russian alphabet (or officially the Cyrillic alphabet) soon after you start your Russian language journey. Unfortunately, many people think that learning the Russian alphabet is difficult. I mean, it looks completely different from the Latin alphabet, right? But to be honest, it's easier than it looks. Of the 33 letters, several are the same as in the Latin alphabet. Others look the same but are pronounced differently. And some are completely new. The book Master the Russian Alphabet is a good start if you want to learn Russian. 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Read Harry Potter in Russian if you want to try reading a full book completely in Russianlike fantasy bookshave been reading short stories completely in Russian and want to challenge yourselfThis is the most popular modern Russian fiction book from the last 20 years. The book details the story of Artyom, who grew up living in the Moscow metro. When he was just a child, there was a nuclear war that covered the world in dangerous radiation. The only place where people survived was in the deep Moscow metro. It's a fascinating fiction story, and it will take you on a dark adventure throughout the underground of Moscow. It's especially interesting to read if you have been to Moscow before. Because you'll recognize many metro stations, where you have been yourself. This book is for upper beginner to intermediate, as it's difficult. I read this book 1.5 years into my Russian language learning. And I think I understood about 70% of what was going on. 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All you need to do is take a balanced approach: VocabularyGrammarListeningSpeakingWhile everyone else is struggling to learn Russian, your Russian will improve on a day-to-day basis. A student recently told me: "I have been studying Russian for a year. In my head I can prepare basic sentences, yet when it comes to actually speaking I 'chock.' "Imagine spending a year learning Russian and still stumbling for words having a conversation with a native speaker... That's why you must pay extra attention to the speaking subskill of learning Russian. Otherwise you will end up studying for hundreds of hours and still struggle to say a coherent phrase in Russian. It's much more fun to see your efforts result in actual conversational skills. How do I know? Because this is how I became fluent in Russian myself. Curious how I did it? Go here and get my systemized approach to speaking Russian well. Hurry up, every day you follow an ineffective approach is a day forever lost. Russian literature is known for its deep, complex, and often very long classic novels. Many actual-read Russian books are timeless, covering themes from romance to social change. Authors like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky are pivotal to understanding Russian cultural and literary heritage. Russian literature has long been one of the richest and most interesting branches of the literary tree. It has been supplying the world with incredible, fantastic novels for two centuries now—and continues to do so. The books on must-read lists tend to not only be deep, complex works of literature, but they also tend to be older works that have survived the test of time. Some of those books are also not simply complex and difficult, they're also very,

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