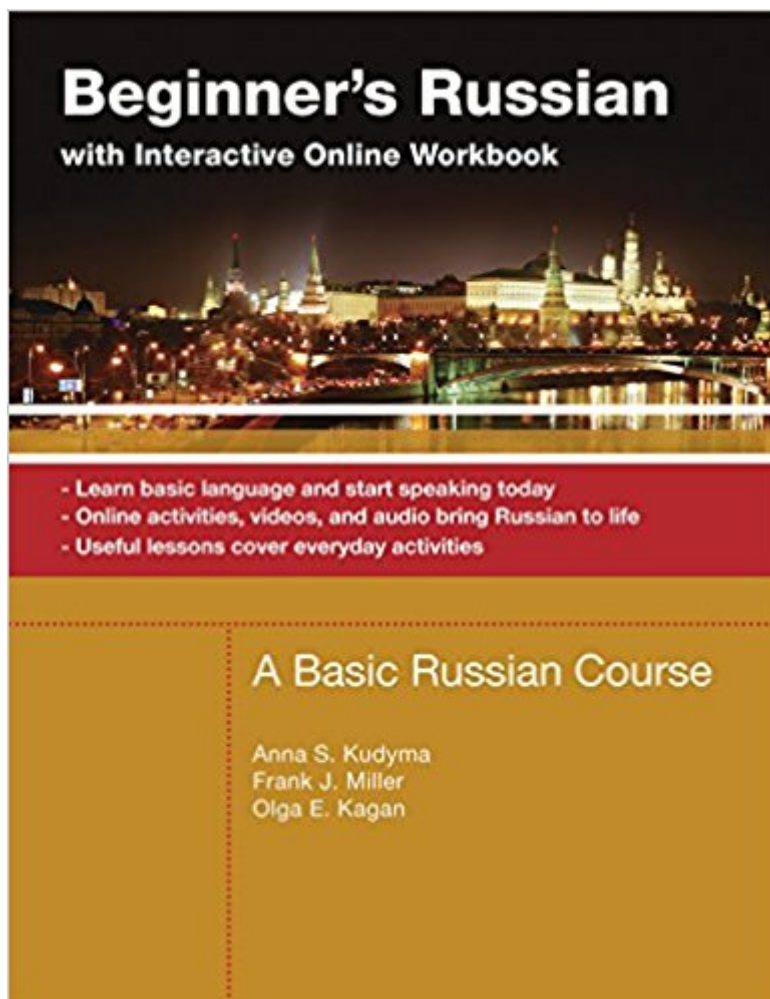


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# Beginner's Russian With Interactive Online Workbook



## Synopsis

This is the most accessible and carefully-paced Russian course on the market. Aimed at beginners with little or no previous knowledge of the language, this book offers a gradual introduction to the language, Cyrillic alphabet, and grammar with useful lessons and thorough explanations. Along with the book, readers have access to an interactive website full of videos, audio, and self-correcting exercises. For classroom use in first year Russian classes or for self-study.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anna Kudyma holds a Ph.D. in Russian language pedagogy and is TA Supervisor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of California, Los Angeles. Frank Miller was Professor of Slavic Languages and has been the Director of the Russian Language Program at Columbia University and Barnard College since 1985. He served as president of AATSEEL in 1999-2000, and was the recipient of the Hettelman Award for Distinguished Teaching and Service at Columbia University in 1988 and the AATSEEL Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996. He passed away in January 2016 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Olga Kagan is Professor of Russian and Director of the National Heritage Language Resource Center, University of California, Los Angeles. The authors have also published other widely used Russian language textbooks.

I have been studying Russian on my own using Rosetta Stone software and was about halfway through the first of three levels and enjoying the lessons, but felt that I was having trouble

understanding the grammar aspect of the language (Especially the use of personal pronouns and masc, fem, neut nouns). My first couple tutor lessons (you get one for every 2 chapters you complete) went very well. In my third I wasn't terrible, but felt kind of lost as the teacher was talking way over my head at times. Most of my replies to her questions were correct, but my answers were in the wrong forms. If you are studying Russian you know what I mean. I decided to try another Russian language book to try and get some answers that I had not figured out on Rosetta Stone yet. I wanted a Russian book that was part textbook part workbook and Beginners Russian seemed to be the answer. There are also online lessons to accompany the Beginners Russian workbook and this appeared to be exactly what I wanted. The first online lesson seemed almost amateurish as you have to follow the speaker as she goes through different Russian pronunciations while you click on what you think you hear from her. Do, Da, De and so on. Even though I knew these, I still could not keep up as she went so fast. However, as I unenthusiastically slogged through the first couple practice lessons I began to learn some things that I did not know in the 3 months of using Rosetta Stone. This text explains the use of masc, fem, and neuter nouns a lot better than Rosetta Stone. Some of the lessons are kind of cheesy, but I am getting it. There is an online section that involves flash cards, spelling and self testing. Every time you take a test it is set up differently so you are not taking the same test over and over. There are even a couple games that really have helped with the vocabulary. On top of that there are a lot of cursive writing practices that help the words stick in your head. When it comes to speaking, there is a site they send you to that records as you speak the phrases and words you learned. Not really sure how effective this is as you are the only one who will hear it, unless you have a girlfriend who lives in Vladivostok that you can send the online tapes to. As I mentioned above, I bought Beginners Russian while knowing a little Russian. This text has helped with using different verb forms, nouns and pronouns. Not sure how effective it would be as a stand alone book, but it is helping me for sure. Giving it 4 stars. Like any thing else, you get out what you put into it.

This book is a good starting point for someone with more than phrase book Russian in mind. It is geared towards university study rather than tourism. The interactive online workbook is not optional, it is necessary. If you don't have easy access to the internet don't buy this book. If you do, this book is a good value for the price. The online portion includes listening practice and several activities to help you learn vocabulary, including spelling. If you are ambitious, install a Cyrillic keyboard and learn to type Russian too. I purchased this book for self-study so I am unable to practice the many conversation portions for lack of anyone to converse with. But if you do have someone to practice

with then this is a very well rounded curriculum.

Russian has not been an intuitive language for me to pick up. Regardless of any materials you select, you will need a good bit of patience to sort thru it and get comfortable with it. Even the online workbook, while useful and a very welcome addition, took a bit of playing with to get comfortable with. For some reason, nearly every Russian text book presents the material in a manner that is counter to the way that I am easily comfortable with. Perhaps I am an old school learner. The online site will guide you how to set up your keyboard for a foreign language, if that is something that interests you. There are videos on youtube and itunes materials for you to use as well. All very helpful to have. What I liked about this text is that in the beginning it lists the alphabet in order with both printed and written forms and with their sounds. Not sure why, but other books would break them up differently which was not what I wanted. This is how my brain works. So, if your brain is wired like mine, the alphabet is listed right in the beginning, and then they are grouped when you get into the chapter. The book is set up with 24 chapters and a Russian to English and English to Russian vocabulary section at the end of the book. Here is an idea for you how the chapters are set up: As you can see, internet connection is very important to get the most out of this text. This is a quick outline of the parts of the first chapter. As you can see, there is a lot there for one chapter: You will get plenty of practice. Chapter 1 Listening and Video available online Two interviews for you to listen to and follow along with the words in your text. Russian letters: Group 1 Listen and repeat after the speaker Read out loud and give the English equivalents Look at the picture and answer the question Russian bingo. Listen to speaker and cross off words you hear. Match the printed words with their hand-written counterparts. Crossword puzzle Unscramble the following words Listen and write the dictation. Russian letters group 2 Listen and repeat after the speaker Learn the following pronouns. Read out loud and give the english equivalents. Listen and repeat after the speaker. Read and give English equivalents. Ask and answer questions. Read the sentences and ask the questions: Read each word and cross out the word in each group that doesn't belong Look at the pictures and answer the questions Look at the pictures and make up your own questions and answer them. Listen. Russian Bingo. Match the printed words with their hand-written counterparts. Crossword puzzle. Listen. Write the dictation. Russian letters group three. Listen and repeat after the speaker. Greetings and taking leave. What would you say. Read out loud and give English equivalent. Ask and answer questions. Read and write down gender of the nouns. Read each word and cross out the word in each group that doesn't belong according to the gender. Read questions and answer. Tonya's blog, read and give English equivalents Listen. Russian Bingo. Match printed

words with hand-written words. Crossword puzzle. Unscramble words. Listen. Write the dictation. Review vocabulary list and select a particular group of words. Vocabulary list for the chapter. For what it is worth, I have combined this material with Transparent Language online subscription, Russian vocabulary cards from Vis-Ed (purchased on ), and some Russian alphabet ipad apps. Be patient and have fun!!!

This is the book required by my "Introduction to Russian" teacher. It should be noted that, along with this book, I'm using Duolingo to learn Russian, which, might I add, is very helpful if one is trying to learn on the go! This book, as far as I've read (currently on Chapter 2 in my class) is very nicely paced, and doesn't bombard the reader with difficult things. It starts out nice and easy. So far, no complaints!

It's a great book. The best book I have seen on the market so far in my 30 years of teaching practice. It is progressing at a slow pace, not confusing, has tons of exercises and online activities. All of my private students both kids and adults use it.

I purchased this book in part because of the online audio lessons that accompany it. The audio is awkward to listen to. I've learned a lot more about pronunciation by listening to youtube videos than from the audio files that go with this book. As a textbook it is good. Don't buy it if you want audio comfortable to listen to for pronunciation.

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