HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

By: Caitlin Swanson
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>понедельник</th>
<th>вторник</th>
<th>Среда</th>
<th>Четверг</th>
<th>Пятница</th>
<th>Суббота</th>
<th>Воскресенье</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 am: Econ</td>
<td>11 am: Comp 1</td>
<td>9 am: Econ</td>
<td>11 am: Comp 1</td>
<td>10 am: 1 Hr for Russ</td>
<td>9 am: 1 HR Econ</td>
<td>9 am: 30 min for Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 pm: Stat</td>
<td>12:15 pm: SCI 1101</td>
<td>12 pm: Stat</td>
<td>12:15 pm: SCI 1101</td>
<td>12 pm: 30 min for Comp</td>
<td>10 am: 1 HR Russ</td>
<td>12-8:30: Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pm: 1 HR for Russ</td>
<td>3:30 pm: Russ 4:15 pm: 1 HR for Econ 5:30 pm: 1 HR for Stat 7:00 pm: 1 HR For Russ</td>
<td>2 pm: 1 Hr for Russ 3 pm: 30 min for Comp 1 4 pm: 1 hr for SCI 1101</td>
<td>3:30 pm: Russ 4:15 pm: 1 HR for Econ 5:30 pm: 1 HR for Stat 7:00 pm: 1 HR For Russ</td>
<td>1 pm: 1 HR for Russ 2:30 pm: 45 min for SCI 3:30 pm: 1 HR Stat</td>
<td>1-9:30: Work</td>
<td>Rest: You earned it!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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 in 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 Cyrillic 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
Chapter 8

Смотреть по русски. Окончание глаголов

Dative case

Не было что-то в моем доме есть…

В этом коридоре

Новые слова

Что далеко от неё far from

Окружающее - near

Полагаю - теград

Что вблизи что far in the vicinity of

Что далеко от чего far from

Use genitive case.

Английское far away

Stop Sing Endings For AdJet and the Demonstratives Это (эта, эти)
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Я работа-ю</td>
<td>Мы работа-ем</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ты работа-ешь</td>
<td>Вы работа-ете</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Он/Она работа-ет</td>
<td>Они работа-ют</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>Plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Я жив-́у</td>
<td>Мы жив-́ём</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ты жив-́ешь</td>
<td>Вы жив-́ёте</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Он/Она жив-́ёт</td>
<td>Они жив-́ут</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Я хо-жу</td>
<td>Мы ход-им</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ты ход-ишь</td>
<td>Вы ход-ите</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Он/Она ход-ит</td>
<td>Они ход-ят</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Я смотр-ю</td>
<td>Мы смотр-им</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ты смотр-ишь</td>
<td>Вы смотр-ите</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Он/Она смотр-ит</td>
<td>Они смотр-ят</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you can see, there are a few main patterns to recognize when it comes to verb conjugations. Charting them out and studying them is the only way to memorize all these changes that occur.
• 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.
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!