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Learn Russian - Parallel Text - Easy Stories (English - Russian)



Synopsis

Learning Russian with parallel text is the most rewarding and effective method to learn a language. Existing vocabulary is refreshed, while new vocabulary is instantly put into practice. Recommended for beginners-, intermediate level learners of Russian and as a refreshers course. It is so easy and enjoyable even absolute beginners with no prior knowledge can start learning. While we feel anyone at any level can work with these stories, a basic understanding of Russian would be recommended to achieve the maximum learning effect and pleasure. Our entertaining stories contain European culture and characters. Our books are fun to read so you maintain concentration and learn from motivation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a huge fan of parallel texts as a learning aid. Usually you don't learn much new but they are helpful to refresh and embed current knowledge. There are a lot of parallel texts for the standard European languages but not so many for Russian so when I found this on I bought it immediately

and was curious to see how well it might be written. The answer: some good, some bad. On the good side the Russian (according to my native Russian-speaking friends) is accurate but of course stilted as befits such a text (you can't really handle vernacular and slang until you're pretty accomplished in a language - it's too easy to get wrong). On the down side the English translation is more along the sense of the Russian sentence rather than a transliteration. Which means you really do need to know already enough Russian to see where the English translation diverges (sometimes quite significantly). There's no way you could learn much Russian just from this book because the translation just isn't close enough. In addition, as far as pronunciation goes, there are no helpful guides (the double-dot over the "e" where the sound is "yo" for example) so again you'll need to know enough Russian to spot where pronunciation changes according to sense, as in "BCE" (vsyeh - everyone) and "BCE" (vsyoh - everything). You'll also need to be apprised of the Russian habit of using the plural first person (Mbi - "we") when talking about oneself, as in "We (I) talked to Lena for half an hour." And oddly on p18 the Russian text, which hitherto has been in capital letters, suddenly drops into lower-case per "written" script which could be confusing for someone just learning Russian orthography. Fortunately the text jumps back to capitals again in the next sentence. So if you are looking for a helpful refresh/reinforcement aid and you already speak some Russian this book can definitely be useful, though I prefer the European style of parallel text where you get the first language on one page and the other language on the facing page - it makes it easy to read on in the first language without interruption but lets you jump to the translation whenever you want to check something. This book, instead, runs Russian and English together with first a sentence in Russian and then a sentence in English just underneath. So you're always jumping between languages, which is known to slow down language acquisition and is therefore bad practice. So all in all, this is a mixed bag and could easily have been made much better with just a little more care and attention to detail and just a little more use of already well-understood approaches. It's better than nothing but nowhere near as useful as it could have been.

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