

Russian

Русский

Spoken in: Russia and many other countries

Region: Eastern Europe and Asia

Total speakers: 285 million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Slavic East Slavic Russian

Official language of: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, United Nations

Russian is one of the main languages of the world. Used officially by the United Nations, it is important in scientific writing as well. The great literary works written in Russian also have made the language culturally significant.

It is difficult to master Russian pronunciation because the accent is free; that is, it can be placed on any syllable. Thus, there being no set rules for stress, the accent of each word has to be learned separately. Grammatically, Russian is highly inflected. The noun has six cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, and locative), with an occasional seventh case, the vocative. There are three declensional schemes and three genders, masculine, feminine, and neuter. Although the verb has only three tenses (past, present, and future), it is enabled by a feature called aspect to express numerous subtle shades of meaning, some of which cannot be rendered even in English. In addition the Russian verb has five moods and four voices.

Russian alphabet

Russian is written using a modern version of the Cyrillic alphabet, consisting of 33 letters.

А	Б	В	Г	Д	Е	Ё	Ж	З	И	Й
/a/	/b/	/v/	/g/	/d/	/je/	/jo/	/□/	/z/	/i/	/j/
К	Л	М	Н	О	П	Р	С	Т	У	Ф
/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/o/	/p/	/r/	/s/	/t/	/u/	/f/
Х	Ц	Ч	Ш	Щ	Ъ	Ы	Ь	Э	Ю	Я
/x/	/□/	/t□□/	/□/	/□/	//	/□/	/□/	/□/	/ju/	/ja/

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 0.6 FTE Russian interpreters and 5 sessional interpreters.