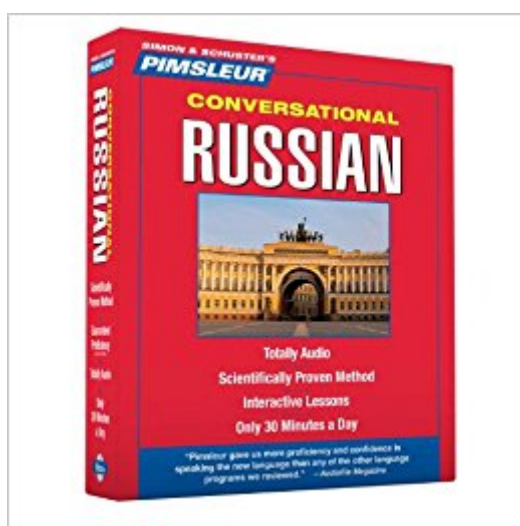


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# Pimsleur Russian Conversational Course - Level 1 Lessons 1-16 CD: Learn To Speak And Understand Russian With Pimsleur Language Programs



## Synopsis

Pimsleur's® equals success. Just one 30-minute lesson a day gets you speaking and understanding like no other program. This course includes Lessons 1-16 from the Russian Level 1 program - 8 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. Each lesson provides 30 minutes of spoken language practice, with an introductory conversation, and new vocabulary and structures. Detailed instructions enable you to understand and participate in the conversation. Practice for vocabulary introduced in previous lessons is included in each lesson. Topics include: greetings, numbers, meals, shopping, telling time, scheduling activities, and asking and giving directions. The emphasis is on pronunciation and comprehension, and on learning to speak Russian. The Russian Language Russian, one of the six official languages of the United Nations, is the official language in Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Krygystan, with an estimated 150 million native speakers around the world. Pimsleur's Russian uses speakers from Moscow and St. Petersburg, which accounts for slight pronunciation differences between speakers, but accurately depicts contemporary spoken Russian. Tech Talk - CDs are formatted for playing in all CD players, including car players, and users can copy files for use in iTunes or Windows Media Player.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Pimsleur programs provide plenty of positive reinforcement that will keep learners on track, and we found that Pimsleur gave us more proficiency and confidence in speaking the new language than

any of the other language programs we reviewed." -- AudioFile Magazine"EXTREMELY ACCESSIBLE...each section within the lessons is short enough to hold our attention, and there is enough repetition to teach even those who consider themselves slow learners...Pimsleur [programs] are extremely thorough and easy to use -- quite lively!" -- Boston Herald"Learn French while commuting, German while jogging, Spanish (or Russian, Italian, and Japanese) while cooking all with NO WRITTEN MATERIALS!" -- New York Daily News"Designed for the ear and not the eye...the lessons provide PERFECT 30-minute bites of work." -- St Louis Post-Dispatch"Learn to habla espaÃol or parlez franÃ§ais before your next trip aboard. The interactive LESSONS CHALLENGE STUDENTS to use new words in conversation instead of memorize them." -- American Way (American Airlines inflight magazine)"I tried other language programs with little success...This is the best by far!" -- Pamela A. Mitchell, Pilot, International Society of Women Airline Pilots

Dr. Paul Pimsleur devoted his life to language teaching and testing and was one of the world's leading experts in applied linguistics. After years of experience and research, Dr. Pimsleur developed The Pimsleur Method based on two key principles: the Principle of Anticipation and a scientific principle of memory training that he called "Graduated Interval Recall." This Method has been applied to the many levels and languages of the Pimsleur Programs.

I bought this Pimsleur Course after beginning the Pimsleur Quick & Simple Russian 4 CD course. I realized that I needed a longer course to take because I had a girlfriend in Russian, who I spoke with, and hoped someday to see and or marry. Russian is not an easy language. I speak English and some French after taking four years in high school and college. I find that to try to learn Russian with a new alphabet and different ways of pronouncing words quite challenging. I tend to be impatient. The Pimsleur course is entirely audio, bypasses grammar and alphabet and stresses conversational understanding. One must still use this more complete 8 disc, 16 lesson course, over and over to gain a grasp of the language. Of all the ways I have tried, books, internet, etc., I find this approach the most productive and helpful. One must realize that even with this course you will never sound like a native Russian, but you will come close. Supplement it with memorizing words or phrases from the internet or phrase books, but use the Pimsleur course as your main approach and you will do well.

I think it is important to learn a few key phrases of any country I visit, and I find this program to be one of the best to help you have a conversation with someone. You do repeat a lot of the same phrases throughout the sessions, but I think it's useful and helps the new language "stick." Some words are easier to hear and understand than others, but this language also has sounds that you don't normally say in English. Sometimes I listen to a lesson at least two or three times before a new word or phrase finally kicks in. The key is to continue trying until you can understand and say it correctly. One thing to know is that you are learning the formal way of speaking the language, not the casual or informal way of speaking to friends. For example, you will learn to say, "Wouldn't you like to have something to eat with me?" Instead of "Want to grab dinner with me?" The only complaint I have is that the male voice is slightly harder to understand than the female's. I wish I had the option to just hear the female voice. I also have the beginner versions of Pimsleur for French, Mandarin and German. I thought they were all a great way to learn some basic phrases. The best thing is that local speakers actually understand you! I would highly recommend this program as a way to start learning the basics. I'm almost ready to order Russian level two.

I like the stories ... excellent selections ... and, the better I get reading in Russian, the more helpful this book becomes because it teaches Russian NUANCE .. a critical aspect of any language.

I knew when buying this that no written text was included, so I can't fault it for that, even though it would have been a great help if a script was included. My issue is that the man and woman speaking the phrases apparently have different dialects in addition to the male/female forms and endings of some words in Russian. Apparently one speaker is from St Petersburg and the other from Moscow. This caused a variance of pronunciation which left me wondering which I should focus on remembering. They also spoke very quickly, which made it even more difficult to pick up certain sounds and inflections. I would compare it to learning American English from CDs where one speaker is from Brooklyn and the other is from Tennessee. The repetitiveness of phrases can get a bit irritating, but does lead to improving your recall. I would like to see products like this in standard Moscow-dialect Russian, which is fully understood throughout all of Russia and Russian-speaking countries, and then the student could pick up dialect differences in advanced studies.

Fantastic learning resource! Pimsleur presents you with a short useful conversation and then breaks the conversation down into short learning words or phrases. Thirty minutes later you are able to speak some Russian. Later discs force you to recall what you learned on the earlier discs so no

words or phrases are lost. This collection of 15 conversations would be very useful to a person who is anticipating a vacation to any country that uses the Russian language.

I listened to the Pemsleur Level 1 Russian CDs for 20-30 minutes on the way to work 3-4 days per week for about 2 months prior to a business trip to St Petersburg. Between this, Google Translate and occasional consultation with a colleague who is native Russian speaker, I was able to communicate at a basic level and distinguish myself from the typical American visitor who speaks no Russian at all. There are a few words in the dialogs for which certain other words might be more appropriate. However, one of the characteristics of the Russian language is that there can be several ways to say the same thing, depending upon who and where you are, to whom you are speaking, and the subtleties you wish to convey. This is far beyond Level I language lessons. For basic survival this product served me well.

I've listened to all 16 lessons while in the car going to groceries, going for a run, etc. And I must say, it's pretty relaxed the way the speakers prompt you to repeat, etc. Sometimes it's hard to figure out how to pronounce a word exactly but mostly it's just great. I'm ready for the next 16 lessons. It's saying something when something as tedious as trying to learn a language can be done while driving around. I tried a few youtube vids to see what they had and they were just awful compared to the great diction of the speakers on this set.

Everyone has their own things that work for them when learning a foreign language but I found this program easy to use and it seems to be sticking with me. I found I did have to listen to each unit several times to really master them, but I think that's to be expected. I would recommend this program to others who are trying to get a good basic foundation in common, useful conversation. You will still be at a very beginners level after completing it, but it will give you good pronunciation and understanding that will help you in further learning. At least it did for me.

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