



Russian resources for prospective applicants

LinguaTute (www.linguatute.com)

- **Online Russian literature course** (summer 2024) – great opportunity to explore Russian poetry, prose and plays in depth with a Russian literature expert from Oxford. We offer a FREE TASTER SESSION on the 28th of May to help you decide whether the course is right for you (more details on the website).
- Private language and literature tutoring with tutors who have studied at Oxford or Cambridge.
- Oxbridge admissions support for language applicants – personal statement support, MLAT (admissions test) preparation, and mock interviews.
- Blog with language-themed articles.
- **FREE 30-minute trial lesson** with any one of our Oxbridge-educated language tutors!

Websites

- **Russian Enthusiast** – www.russianenthusiast.com
Excellent hub for learning about Russian language, literature, art and news; FREE Russian language course and resources. Provides literary works with dual Russian-English text.
- **Arzamas**
Website for learning about Russian literature, culture, art, history, and more. Only downside is that the resources are in Russian so it's not very accessible for beginners! '**Russian in 18 minutes**' is a great YouTube video by Arzamas, which provides an overview of the history of the Russian language with English subtitles.
- **The Village** – <https://www.the-village.ru>
Russian news and articles in Russian
- **The Calvert Journal** – <https://www.calvertjournal.com>
Lots of articles on art, culture, travel, photography, film and literature
- **Master Russian** – www.masterrussian.com
Very helpful online resource for beginners who are teaching themselves Russian
- www.mml.cam.ac.uk/slavonic/resources/online-resources/russian - list of online Russian resources

Podcasts

- **Давай по чесноку** – this is a podcast created by two expats living in Stockholm who catch up and talk about everyday life in Russian.
- **Пути принятия** – in conversation with queer Russians.
- **Что это было?** – provides summaries of recent news, political events and current affairs, explaining why they are significant and how they may affect the future.
- **Очень странные дела** – discusses strange events, stories, people, ideas, and more.
- **Орел и решка** – Ukrainian travel TV show
- **University of Oxford Podcasts:**
 - '[Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages](#)' – a series on various foreign literatures (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese)
 - '[Linguamania](#)' – general discussions of language
 - '[Was there a Russian Enlightenment?](#)'
 - '[Russian Literature and Culture](#)'

Radio

You can download any Russian radio app and listen to the radio on this. The stations listed below mostly discuss news, weather and current affairs. We recommend listening for at least 20-30 minutes every day, on top of additional language study, in order to really drive your language skills.

Коммерсант

Радио россии

Вести ФМ

Films

- *Leviathan* - Andrey Zvyagintsev
- *Prisoner of the Mountains* - Sergei Bodrov
- *Ivan's childhood, Stalker* - Andrei Tarkovskii



LinguaTute

- www.youtube.com/user/mosfilm - Russian films, many with English subtitles
- www.russianfilmhub.com – lots of Russian films to explore and links to watch them for free.

Additional useful language resources

- **The Queen's College Translation Exchange** – hosts a multitude of events about translation and languages, including the **Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators** (takes places in Spring).
- **Creative Multilingualism** – Oxford-founded resource for linguists (the project has now ended but there is still lots of good info on the website!)
- **Oxford MFL blog** – Adventures on the bookshelf – organises a virtual book club.
<https://bookshelf.mml.ox.ac.uk/>
- Reading group for Year 12 and 13 students
(<https://www.cai.cam.ac.uk/access-outreach/resources-and-events/year-1213-reading-groups>)
- **Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation** (<https://occt.web.ox.ac.uk/>) – hosts events and discussion groups on translation
- **Babel: The Language Magazine** – produces four issues annually on new linguistic research; the past, present and future of languages, and on the different uses of linguistics in the world.
- **UK Linguistics Olympiad** (UKLO.org) – competition for budding linguists to demonstrate their language skills (quite similar to the language aptitude test). The website has lots of useful language resources!

Suggested Reading - fiction

Short stories and novellas:

- Ivan Bunin - 'Dark Avenues', 'The Gentleman from San Francisco', 'The Village', 'Cold Autumn' ([short stories](#))
- Alexander Pushkin - 'Tales of Belkin' ([short stories](#))
- Gogol - 'The Overcoat' ([short story](#))
- Turgenev - 'Mumu', 'First Love' ([short stories](#))
- Novellas - *Notes from Underground* (Dostoevsky), *A Week Like Any Other* (Natalia Baranskaya)

Poetry:

- *The Heritage of Russian Verse* – Excellent anthology of Russian poems in chronological order with English translations. The introduction provides a useful overview of Russian verse forms and metre.
- Pushkin - *Eugene Onegin*
- Silver Age poets - Mayakovsky, Tsvetaeva, Akhmatova, Blok, Yesenin

Plays:

- Nikolai Gogol – *The Government Inspector* (very funny satire about corruption in provincial Russia).
- Alexander Ostrovsky - *The Storm*
- Chekhov - *Uncle Vanya*, *The Seagull*, and - of course - *The Cherry Orchard*

Novels:

- *Dead Souls* (Gogol), *Fathers and Sons* (Turgenev), *A Hero of Our Time* (Lermontov), *The Master and Margarita* (Bulgakov), *Invitation to a Beheading* (Nabokov), *Anna Karenina* (Tolstoy), *Brothers Karamazov* (Dostoevsky).

Female Russian writers worth exploring - Anna Akhmatova (poet), Zinaida Gippius (early feminist writer, bent gender norms), Marina Tsvetaeva (poet), Yevgenia Ginzburg (novelist, spent 18 years in a gulag).

Suggested Reading - non-fiction

- *What's in a Russian word?* – an excellent, but very advanced, introduction to Russian linguistics. Useful for those interested in Russian linguistics or considering studying Russian post A-Level)
- *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar* (the best and only grammar book you will need in Russian), and *A Russian Grammar Workbook* – Terence Wade (the workbook is helpful but definitely not essential).
- *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics* - Mikhail Bakhtin (we recommend this if you have read a few of Dostoevsky's works - it is advanced, but very useful for engaging with his works more critically/analytically).
- *Endurance and Endeavour: Russian history from 1812-1992* – great overview of modern Russian history.