

RLC LEVEL GUIDE

RLC LEVEL	HOURS (approx.)	DESCRIPTION
Beginners (Term 1)	0	For absolute beginners; i.e. those with no knowledge of Russian or of the Cyrillic alphabet
False beginners (Term 2)	25–50	You will have studied some Russian previously – e.g. a term or two of evening classes in another institution, a year at school – but may have forgotten much of what you learnt. You will know the alphabet and some simple phrases, and should have a basic overall understanding of how Russian works (i.e. you should be familiar with the concept of the case system). You should know some basic grammar – perhaps present and past tense of verbs, prepositional case of nouns, gender of nouns.
Elementary 1–3 (Terms 3–5)	50–125	You will have completed 50 to 100 hours of Russian. You should be able to cope with most day-to-day tasks – e.g. introductions, buying things, directions, making appointments – using simple Russian, and should be able to overcome communication problems (i.e. able to ask people to say things in a different way, speak more slowly, etc.). You should be able to conduct very simple social conversations about yourself. <u>At the end of this level</u> you should be able to hold simple conversations on common topics other than about yourself (e.g. weather, likes and dislikes). You should be familiar with all noun cases in the singular; past, present and future tenses; you will have some idea of verb aspects and basic verbs of motion.
Pre-intermediate 1–4 (Terms 6–9)	150–225	You will have completed about 150 to 200 hours of Russian. You should be able to converse freely on everyday topics with a sympathetic native speaker. You will still find it difficult to follow Russian spoken at native-speaker speed. You will know all the cases of nouns, pronouns and adjectives in the singular and plural, though you may not always use them correctly in speech. You will be able to use both verb aspects, and should be familiar with basic verbs of motion.
Intermediate 1–4 (Terms 10–13)	250–325	You will have completed more than 250 hours of tuition. You should be able to cope in all day-to-day situations, and should be able to understand the gist of unadapted texts (e.g. newspaper articles). You may find it difficult to follow Russian on the radio or news. You will have a sound knowledge of all the basic grammar of Russian, although you may not always use the forms correctly in speech. You may also require additional work on more advanced areas (e.g. verbs of motion).
Upper intermediate	350–600	You will have reached at least ‘A’ Level and may well have studied Russian as a minor at university level. You may also have spent time in Russia studying the language. You will be able to discuss all non-specialist topics with native speakers, and should be able to discuss some familiar specialist subjects (e.g. discussing your job).
Advanced		You should understand Russian spoken at native-speaker speed as long as the topic is familiar. You should also be able to follow the main points of TV news, or watch and enjoy a Russian film. You will have read some literary texts, although may require frequent use of a dictionary.
Graduate advanced		You will have completed a degree in Russian as a major subject, and will probably have lived or worked in Russia for an extended period. Although you may require some refreshing in complex areas of grammar, you will mostly be interested in advanced conversation and reading skills. You should be able to read a newspaper article or a literary text with only occasional dictionary use.