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052154761X - Using Russian: A Guide to Contemporary Usage, Second Edition

Derek Offord and Natalia Gogolitsyna

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Using Russian

Using Russian is a guide to Russian usage for those who have already acquired the basics of the language and wish to extend their knowledge. Unlike conventional grammars, it gives special attention to those areas of vocabulary and grammar which cause most difficulty to English speakers, and focuses on questions of style and register which are all too often ignored. Clear, readable and easy to consult, it will prove invaluable to students seeking to improve their fluency and confidence in Russian.

This second edition has been substantially revised and expanded to incorporate fresh material and up-to-date information. Many of the original sections have been rewritten, the passages illustrating register are all fresh and one brand new chapter has been added, providing a clear picture of Russian usage in the twenty-first century.

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A guide to contemporary usage

Second edition, revised and augmented

DEREK OFFORD
University of Bristol

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Preface to the first edition

This book, like the volumes already published in the series on contemporary usage in French, German and Spanish, is aimed at the advanced learner who has studied the basic grammar of the language and is now striving for a more comprehensive and sophisticated knowledge. To this end the book includes much material on register, vocabulary, verbal etiquette and word-formation, as well as material on the subjects of morphology, prepositions and syntax with which the post-A-level student should already have some familiarity. The book is not conceived as a comprehensive grammar, although the main grammatical topics that trouble the English-speaking student are quite fully covered in the later chapters. The approach adopted is not prescriptive. That is to say an attempt is made to show the range of linguistic phenomena that might be encountered in modern Russian and to define the limits within which they are used rather than to lay down rules for usage.

While offering, it is hoped, a multi-faceted view of the modern language, two purposes are kept in mind throughout the book.

Firstly, it is intended to demonstrate that Russian, like any other modern language with which the student may be familiar, is not a stable, uniform abstraction that is applied inflexibly in all situations. As a living language spoken by millions of individuals of different ages from different backgrounds and in different situations, Russian exists in many varieties. Words, forms and constructions which are appropriate in one context may be quite out of place in another. Even apparently hard-and-fast grammatical rules may be relaxed, to the frustration of the foreign student who has laboriously mastered them. Chapter 1 therefore aims to make the student aware of the existence of variety in the Russian language, and this variety is borne in mind and examples of it indicated in all the chapters that follow.

Secondly, the book attempts to address problems that the English-speaking student of Russian may find especially taxing. Russian operates, of course, according to quite different grammatical principles from those to which the English-speaker is accustomed. (One thinks in particular of its system of declension of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, numerals and participles and of the aspectual distinction that runs through the Russian verbal system.) Moreover, in the field of vocabulary correspondences between Russian and English words are often limited or inexact and similarities can be misleading. Again, in certain situations Russians simply do not express themselves in the same way as English-speakers in a similar situation, or at least a direct translation of what an English-speaker would say in that situation would seem to a Russian to some degree unnatural. Much attention is

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therefore devoted in this book to problems of non-equivalence in the two languages in vocabulary, phraseology and verbal etiquette as well as grammar.

Beyond these purposes it is also hoped that the book, through its broad approach, will increase the student's general awareness of the structure and resources of the Russian language, and that his or her understanding and appreciation of the immense vitality and depth of experience of the Russian people may thus in some small way be enhanced.

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Preface to the second edition

This new edition of *Using Russian: a Guide to Contemporary Usage* represents an extensively revised and augmented version of the first edition, which was published in 1996. Whereas the first edition consisted of ten chapters the current edition has twelve and is some ninety pages longer than the first. Our thanks are due to Cambridge University Press for allowing this enlargement.

Some material in the first edition that is now out-of-date or that is for some other reason of less interest than it was in 1996 (for example, neologisms associated with the period of *glásnost'* and *perestroika*) has been excised or reduced. On the other hand, much fresh material has been incorporated, especially in the first five chapters and the last chapter. The main changes that have been made are as follows.

Chapter 1 is based on sections 1–5 inclusive of the first chapter of the first edition but the material has been substantially rewritten and considerably expanded. Section 1.1, on the distribution of the Russian language, has been revised in the light of information in the most recent Russian census (2002). Section 1.2, on varieties of language, has been slightly expanded to include material on the distinction drawn, for example by David Crystal, between written and spoken language. Section 1.3, on registers in contemporary Russian, contains some fresh examples of usage and a new section (1.3.6) on the language of the internet (a subject to which this new edition as a whole pays much attention). Section 1.4, which is also new, briefly illustrates differences in register as reflected in vocabulary by taking about two dozen common words and identifying some of their equivalents in low and high registers. A further new section (1.6), on current debate about standard Russian, deals with concerns about the lowering of the standard that have arisen as a result of the perceived linguistic permissiveness that has accompanied the political, economic and social transformation of Russia over the last ten years.

The seven passages that were used to illustrate register in the first edition (located at 1.6 in that edition) have all been excised as now somewhat stale and have been replaced by thirteen fresh passages. Colloquial speech, the neutral register, the scientific/academic style, the official/business style, the style of journalism and political debate, and the language of imaginative literature are all illustrated in the new edition by two passages each. There is also a passage that illustrates and explicitly discusses the style of email. This latter passage, taken together with one of the passages exemplifying colloquial language on the basis of conversation in an internet chatroom, gives insight into the new register of Netspeak. The thirteen passages illustrating register, and the translations of and commentaries on them, now take up the whole of

Preface to the second edition

Chapter 2, from which it is hoped a broad view of the range of register available in contemporary Russian will emerge.

Additions have also been made to the two chapters (Chapters 3 and 4 of the new edition) that deal with problems of meaning and translation (one on Russian words and one on English words). In Chapter 3, for example, a few new entries have been inserted in each of the sections on homonyms (3.1), paronyms (3.4) and *faux amis* (3.5) and a new section (3.7) has been included on Russian words that are difficult to render in English because of their cultural specificity. In 4.1 some new entries have been added and some further possible translations have been provided in entries that were already included in this section in the first edition.

In the chapter on vocabulary and idiom (now Chapter 5) the first section, on neologisms, has been rewritten in order to take account of the recent expansion of Russian lexis by means of the adoption of loanwords, the extension of the use of colloquial words and the elevation of demotic words to the level of everyday colloquial speech. This section now includes sub-sections on slang (5.1.4) and on the new vocabulary associated with computing (5.1.5). The last three sections of Chapter 5 (5.7–5.9) have also been slightly expanded and contain more extensive literal translation of, and fuller comment on, the idioms, proverbs and similes that they present than the equivalent sections in the first edition.

In what is now Chapter 6, section 6.8, on the language of public notices, and section 6.10, on acronyms and alphabetisms, have been slightly expanded to reflect contemporary practice. We have also appended a short section on the popular Russian conversational genre of the joke, or ‘anecdote’, to the end of this chapter (6.13).

The last four chapters of the first edition (Chapters 8–11 inclusive in this second edition) have required much less substantial revision than the earlier chapters, because they concern morphology and syntax, which have been relatively little affected by innovation over the eight years that have elapsed since the publication of the first edition. No significant cuts have been made to these chapters, because we feel that it remains useful for advanced learners to have at hand a fairly exhaustive compendium of information on grammar alongside the material on those aspects of language (register and vocabulary) that are subject to greater and more rapid change.

Finally, a new chapter has been included on stress (Chapter 12), on the grounds that it is important for the advanced learner to master Russian stress patterns, which are complex, and that study of them has been relatively neglected in English-language books on Russian. In keeping with the spirit of the series this new chapter devotes some attention to variation in usage.

All the material from the first edition which remains substantially unchanged in this second edition has been reviewed. Mistakes and flaws identified in the first edition have been corrected and further

minor alterations have been made with respect to both content and presentation.

Our revision of the first edition has been informed by recent literature on debate about the standard in English and on the impact of the internet on the English language as well as by new work on the Russian language. We have also been able to make use of online resources on the Russian language that were not available when the first edition was being prepared. The new sources that we have consulted are included in the revised list of sources that appears on pp. xix–xxi.

Cross-referencing and the two indexes (a list of the Russian words and affixes to which the book refers and an index of topics covered) have of course been revised to take account of all the changes made.

DO, NG
Bristol, July 2004

Acknowledgements

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DO, NG,
Bristol, August 2004

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In addition we have made use of some of the many online resources to which students of the Russian language may now turn, e.g. <www.gazeta.ru>, <www.smi.ru>, <www.nns.ru>, <www.grammar.ru> and various sites that have been set up under the auspices of the Government of the Russian Federation’s Council for the Russian Language (Совет по русскому языку при Правительстве Российской Федерации), e.g. <www.slovari.gramota.ru>, <www.spravka.gramota.ru>, <www.learning-russian.gramota.ru>, <www.navigator.gramota.ru>.

Note on transcription, stress marks and transliteration

Where it has been necessary to indicate precisely how a Russian word is pronounced (e.g. in the sections on regional variation in 1.5) a standard system of phonetic transcription has been used, according to which the Cyrillic consonants have the following values:

б в г д ж з й к л м н п р с т ф х ц ч ш щ
b v g d zh z j k l m n p r s t f x c ch sh sh'

The symbol ' placed after a letter indicates that the preceding consonant is soft, e.g. *l'es* (лес). Since most consonants, when they precede the vowels represented by the Russian letters **е, ё, и, ю** and **я**, are soft, these letters will in effect be transcribed, within this phonetic system, as 'e, 'o, 'i, 'u, 'a respectively, e.g. *i'lul'a* (ию́ля). The symbol ' may also indicate the presence of a soft sign in the Russian word, e.g. *noč'* (ночь).

Stress is indicated in this book by the use of an acute accent over the stressed vowel, e.g. *хле́ба*. In words which may be stressed in different places by different speakers an acute accent is placed over both the vowels that may bear the stress, e.g. *ко́мпа́с*. The secondary stress (see Glossary) that may occur in some words, especially compound nouns or adjectives, is marked by a grave accent.

The system of transliteration used to render Russian names (e.g. *Petia*, i.e. *Pétya*), place names and other Russian words in Roman script is that used in *The Slavonic and East European Review*. In this book stress has been marked in these transliterated forms (e.g. *Púshkin*, *perestroika*), as well as in Cyrillic forms (Пу́шкин, перестро́йка) unless the Cyrillic form, with stress indicated, is adjacent to the transliterated form.

Glossary of linguistic terms

Besides providing explanation of terms used in this book, the following glossary should aid understanding of the linguistic concepts required for advanced study of Russian. It will in any case be found that many educated Russians have a high degree of awareness of the grammar of their language and that in talking about it they will use some of the terms defined here. Numbers in brackets refer to the section(s) in this book that deal(s) with the phenomenon in question.

- accusative case** (винительный паде́ж): the case in which the direct object of a transitive verb is expressed, e.g. *О́льга чита́ет **кни́гу***, *Ol'ga is reading **a book*** (9.1.2, 10.1.2, 10.3.1, 11.1.2).
- acronym** (звуко́вая аббревиату́ра): word made up of the initial letters of other words, e.g. ***laser** (light **amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation**)* (6.10).
- active voice** (действительный зало́г): construction in which the subject of the verb itself performs the action, e.g. *The boy **stroked** the cat*; cf. **passive voice**.
- adjective** (и́мя прилагáтельное): word that qualifies a noun, e.g. *a **red** pen*.
- adverb** (наре́чие): word modifying the meaning of a verb, adjective or adverb, e.g. *Peter walks **slowly**, **quite** big, **very** quickly* (9.4, 11.14(c)).
- adversative conjunction** (проти́вительный сою́з): conjunction expressing contrast, e.g. ***but***.
- affix** (а́ффикс): an element added to a root or stem to modify its meaning or use, e.g. ***unwilling**, **wonderful***. **Prefixes, infixes and suffixes** (q.v.) are all types of affix.
- affricate** (аффрика́та): consonant sound beginning as a **plosive** (q.v.) and passing into the corresponding **fricative** (q.v.), e.g. the initial and final sounds in ***church***, i.e. *t + ʃ*. Standard Russian has two affricates, *ц* (ц) and *ч* (ч).
- akan'e** (а́канье): loss of distinction between the phonemes *a* and *o* in the pretonic syllable of a word (i.e. the syllable preceding the stress), e.g. *Maskvá* (Москва́; see 1.5.1). *А́канье* is a feature of pronunciation of Muscovite Russian, other C dialects and the S regional dialect.
- alphabetism** (бу́квенная аббревиату́ра): word consisting of initial capital letters of other words, e.g. ***ООН** (Организа́ция Объединённых На́ций, *United Nations Organisation*)* (6.10).
- animacy** (о́душевлённость): grammatical category embracing nouns that denote living things; in Russian, inflection of the accusative singular of most masculine nouns and of the accusative plural of

Glossary of linguistic terms

- nouns of all genders is determined by whether they are classified as animate or inanimate (see 11.1.3).
- attributive adjective** (атрибутивное прилагательное): a descriptive adjective which qualifies a noun or noun-equivalent directly, e.g. *the new car* (9.3.1); cf. **predicative adjective**.
- biaspectual verb** (двувидовый глагол): verb in which one form may function as either imperfective or perfective, e.g. **велеть, рани́ть**.
- buffer vowel** (беглое о): vowel added for the sake of euphony in certain situations to some Russian prepositions and prefixes which end in a consonant, e.g. **во внима́ние, передо мно́й, сожгу́**.
- calque** (калька): a loan translation, i.e. a compound word or phrase that is a literal translation of a foreign expression, e.g. Eng *motorway* from Ger *Autobahn*; **влияние, influence**.
- cardinal numeral** (количественное числительное): numeral expressing *how many*, e.g. **five** (9.5, 11.4); cf. **ordinal numeral**.
- case** (паде́ж): morphological variant of a noun, pronoun, adjective, numeral or participle which expresses the relation of that word to other words in the clause.
- clause** (предложе́ние): word group containing a subject and predicate, e.g. ***I shall do it*** [main/principal clause] ***as soon as I can*** [subordinate clause]. (An overt subject, however, is not always present, e.g. in the imperative ***Do it!***) See also **main clause, subordinate clause**.
- cognates** (однокоренные/однокорневые слова): words that are etymologically related or derived from the same root, e.g. Eng *mother*, Fr *mère*, Ger *Mutter*, Russ *ма́ть*, Sp *madre*; or, within Russian, **ста́рик, ста́рость, ста́руха, ста́рый, уста́ре́лый**, etc.
- colloquial** (разгово́рный): informal or familiar style, expression or form widely used in everyday speech (1.3.1).
- complement** (дополне́ние): word or group of words that completes the meaning of an utterance, esp a noun or noun phrase that directly defines the subject, e.g. *She is a teacher* (11.1.10); see also **object**.
- conditional mood** (усло́вное наклоне́ние): verbal form expressing condition or hypothesis, e.g. *if it rains; if it were to rain* (11.9).
- conjugation** (спря́жение): system of verb inflections expressing tense, mood, voice, person and number.
- conjunction** (сою́з): word used to connect words, groups of words or sentences, indicating the relationship of the connected elements, e.g. *dogs and cats* (coordinating conjunction); *I had supper after they had gone* (subordinating temporal conjunction); *I like curry although it's hot* (subordinating concessive conjunction); *She drank some water because she was thirsty* (subordinating causal conjunction) (11.12.1–11.12.3).
- consonant** (согласный): any speech sound other than a vowel, i.e. sound produced by some obstruction of the airstream (see also **affricate, fricative, plosive**); also any letter representing such a sound.
- coordinating conjunction** (сочини́тельный сою́з): a conjunction connecting two words, groups of words or sentences and indicating

- that both are independent and have the same function and importance, e.g. **and** (11.12.1).
- dative case** (дательный паде́ж): the case used to denote the indirect object of a verb, e.g. *I gave it to my father*; Она́ послала́ мне письмо́, *She sent the letter to me* (see 9.1.2, 9.1.8, 10.1.4, 10.3.3, 11.1.7–11.1.8).
- declension** (скло́нение): system of inflections of noun, pronoun, adjective, numeral or participle expressing gender, case and number.
- defective verb** (недоста́точный глаго́л): verb which for some reason lacks some personal form or forms, e.g. **победить** which has no first-person-singular form.
- denominal preposition** (отыме́нный предло́г): preposition derived from a noun, e.g. **по отноше́нию к**, **with regard to** (10.2).
- devoicing** (девокализа́ция, оглуше́ние): transformation of a **voiced consonant** into a **voiceless consonant** (q.v.), e.g. pronunciation of final *b* of *паб* as *p*.
- dialect** (диале́кт): a variety of language distinguished from others by features of its sound system, vocabulary, morphology and syntax. Dialects may be geographic (i.e. spoken by people of the same territory) or social (i.e. spoken by people of the same class, social or occupational group). In Russian the term **наре́чие** designates a regional dialect spoken over a very wide area, whilst the term **ро́вор** designates a local dialect confined to a much smaller area (1.5).
- direct object** (прямо́е до́полне́ние): the thing on which the action denoted by a transitive verb is directed, e.g. *I broke a window*; *She bought a newspaper* (11.1.2–11.1.3, 11.1.6).
- disjunctive conjunction** (разде́лительный сою́з): conjunction which unites clauses or sentences but separates meanings, e.g. **or**.
- dual number** (дво́йственное число́): a grammatical form indicating duality; the form is obsolete in Russian but remnants of it survive, e.g. in plurals such as **глаза́** and **у́ши** and in the use of genitive singular forms of nouns after the numerals 2, 3 and 4.
- ellipsis** (элли́псис): omission of a word or words whose meaning will be understood by the listener or reader, e.g. *after all [that has been said]*; Вы меня́ [спра́шиваете]? [**Are**] you [**asking**] me? (11.13).
- ending** (оконча́ние): in Russian, inflectional suffix added to a word to indicate its case, number, tense, mood, etc. in a particular context.
- faux ami** (ло́жный друг): a word in a foreign language that does not mean what a foreigner, on the basis of her or his own language, might expect it to mean, e.g. Russian **трансля́ция** does not mean *translation* (3.5).
- fricative** (фрикати́вный): consonant sound produced by the breath being forced through a narrow opening, e.g. Eng **f**, **v**, **s**, **z** and **th** in both *that* and *think*.
- genitive case** (роди́тельный паде́ж): the case expressing possession, e.g. *кни́га бра́та*, (*my*) *brother's book* (9.1.2, 9.1.4, 9.1.7, 10.1.3, 10.3.2, 11.1.4–11.1.6).

- gerund** (дееприча́стие): in Russian, verb form invariable in gender, case and number which may be derived from verbs of either aspect and which defines the relationship in time of one action to another action denoted by the main verb of the sentence, e.g. *Она гуляла, напева́я мелодию*, *She strolled, humming a tune* (imperfective gerund denoting simultaneous action); *Про́верив рабо́ту, он закры́л тетра́дь*, *Having checked his work, he closed the exercise-book* (perfective gerund denoting prior action) (9.7.1–9.7.2, 11.11.1).
- government** (управле́ние): way in which a word controls the form of another word, e.g. the verb *горди́ться* governs an object in the instrumental case; the preposition *около́* governs a noun or noun-equivalent in the genitive case.
- grammar** (граммáтика): rules of morphology and syntax of a language.
- hard sign** (твёрдый знак): the letter **ъ**, as in e.g. *разъ́ехаться*, the function of which is explained at 8.2.2.
- homoform** (омофо́рма): a word identical with another word only when it is in one of the several morphological forms that it may adopt, e.g. *лечу́* (3.2).
- homograph** (омо́граф): a word written in the same way as another word but pronounced in a different way and having different meaning, e.g. *потом*, i.e. *по́том* and *потом* (3.3).
- homonym** (омо́ним): a word having the same sound as another word and written in the same way, but having a different meaning and possibly a different origin, e.g. *bank* (side of river and financial institution) (3.1.1–3.1.2).
- homophone** (омофо́н): a word which sounds the same as another word but is written differently, e.g. *bare/bear, right/write* (3.2).
- ikan'e** (яканье): pronunciation of *e* as *'a* after a soft consonant in the pretonic syllable. In **strong** (сильное) *яканье*, pretonic *'a* replaces *e* irrespective of the quality of the vowel in the stressed syllable, e.g. *n'aslá* (несла́), *s'alóm* (село́м), *n'asú* (несу́), *t'ap'ér'* (тепе́рь). In **moderate** (умеренное) *яканье*, pretonic *'a* replaces *e* only before hard consonants, e.g. *n'aslá* (несла́), *s'alóm* (село́м), *n'asú* (несу́), but *t'epér'* (тепе́рь) where *p* is soft.
- idiom** (идио́ма): expression peculiar to a language, group of words with a single meaning which cannot readily be derived from the meanings of the individual component words, e.g. Eng *to spill the beans*, Russ *Ви́лами на/по воде́ пи́сано*, *It's still up in the air* (5.7).
- ikan'e** (яканье): pronunciation of the vowels *e* and *'a* in the pretonic syllable after a soft consonant as *'i*, e.g. *dít'ej* (детей́), *n'íslá* (несла́), *t'ip'ér'* (тепе́рь), *vz'ilá* (взяла́), *r'idý* (ряды́), *t'inú* (тяну́).
- imperative mood** (повелите́льное наклоне́ние): verbal mood expressing command, invitation, suggestion, entreaty, request, etc., e.g. *come in, sit down* (6.8, 9.6.11, 11.5.6).
- imperfective aspect** (несоверше́нный вид): describes an action without reference to its extent and thus presents it as incomplete,

- e.g. Она **пéла**, *She was singing/used to sing* (11.5); cf. **perfective aspect**.
- indicative mood** (изъявительное наклонéние): mood which affirms or denies that the action or state denoted by the verb in question is an actual fact, e.g. *I read*, *she went*, *they were sitting*, *the sun was not shining*.
- indirect object** (кóсвенное дополнéние): a noun, pronoun or phrase denoting an object indirectly affected by an action, e.g. *He gave the book* [direct object] *to his sister* [indirect object]. See also **dative case**.
- indirect speech** (also called **reported speech**; кóсвенная речь): discourse in which the substance of sb's words or thoughts is related without being quoted verbatim, e.g. *He told me that he would do it*, *She said she was twenty* (11.6).
- infinitive** (инфинитив): verb form expressing the idea of an action without reference to person or number, e.g. *to speak*, **говорить**.
- infix** (инфикс): element inserted in the middle of a word to modify its meaning or use, e.g. **записывать** (8.6); English, unlike Russian, has no infixes.
- inflection** (also **flexion**; окончáние): the grammatical ending that expresses relations of case, tense, number, gender, etc. in nouns, pronouns, adjectives, numerals, verbs and participles, e.g. **брáта**, **себé**, **нóвого**, **трéх**, **читáю**, **сидящáя**.
- instrumental case** (творительный падéж): the case denoting the agent **by** which or the instrument **with** which sth is done, e.g. **подписанный им договор**, *the treaty signed by him*, **писáть карандашóм**, *to write with a pencil* (9.1.2, 9.1.8, 10.1.5, 10.3.4, 11.1.9–11.1.10).
- interjection** (междомéтие): an exclamatory word, invariable in form, which is thrown into an utterance to express emotion, e.g. **oh!**, **ox!** (5.5).
- intransitive verb** (неперехóдный глагол): a verb that does not require a direct object, e.g. *The sun rises*, *A crowd gathered* (4.4, 11.8).
- isogloss** (изоглóсса): a line separating one region from another which differs from it in a feature of dialect. The isogloss may indicate e.g. the limits of distribution of a certain word or the boundary beyond which one phenomenon (e.g. **óканье**) is replaced by another (**áканье**).
- lexical** (лексический): relating to vocabulary (as opposed to grammar).
- locative case** (мéстный падéж): the case which indicates location of an object; used after the prepositions **в** and **на** (9.1.2, 9.1.5, 10.1.6, 10.3.5, 11.1.11); see also **prepositional case**.
- long form** (of adjective; пóлная фóрма): full form that must be used when a Russian adjective is attributive, e.g. **ру́сский**, **но́вая**, **бе́лое**, **си́льные**, etc. (9.3.1); cf. **short form**, which may be used when the adjective is predicative.

Glossary of linguistic terms

- main clause** (главное предложение): a clause which can stand independently, e.g. *I went home* [main clause] *after I had spoken to you* [**subordinate clause**, q.v.].
- mobile vowel** (беглый гласный): one of the vowels **о**, **ё** or **е** when (a) they precede the final consonant of a masculine noun in its nominative singular form but disappear once an inflection is added, e.g. угол (угла́, etc.; see 9.1.3), or (b) are inserted in certain types of feminine or neuter noun which in the genitive plural have a **zero ending** (q.v.), e.g. доска́ (досо́к), полотёнце (полотёнец; see 9.1.7).
- modal particle** (модальная частица): a short indeclinable word which emphasises, intensifies or in some other way expresses the speaker's emotion or attitude, e.g. **ведь, же** (5.4).
- modal verb** (модальный глагол): verb (e.g. Eng *can, could, may*; Russ **мочь**) expressing possibility, permissibility, obligation, etc., and followed by another verb which it modifies (4.3).
- monosyllable** (односложное слово): word comprising one syllable, e.g. *cat, word*.
- mood** (наклонение): form of the verb that indicates how the speaker views an action or state, i.e. whether it is seen as matter-of-fact, desirable, contingent on sth else, etc. See also **conditional, imperative, indicative, subjunctive**.
- morphology** (морфология): study of the forms of words.
Inflectional morphology (see **inflection**) relates to the declension of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, numerals and participles and conjugation of verbs (see Chapter 9). **Lexical** (q.v.)
morphology relates to **word-formation** (q.v.; see Chapter 8).
- neologism** (неологизм): a new word or phrase (e.g. **грант, тeneви́к**), or the use of an old word in a new sense (e.g. **боеви́к**) (5.1).
- nominative case** (именительный паде́ж): the case in which the subject is expressed, e.g. **О́льга** чита́ет кни́гу, *Ol'ga is reading a book* (9.1.2, 10.1.1, 11.1.1).
- number** (число́): the grammatical property of a word which indicates whether it is singular, dual (q.v.) or plural. The difference between *car/cars, mouse/mice, I am/we are* is in each instance a difference of number.
- numeral** (числи́тельное): a word denoting number, e.g. **two, five**; see also **cardinal numeral** and **ordinal numeral**.
- object** (дополне́ние): see **direct object** and **indirect object**.
- oblique case** (ко́свенный паде́ж): any case other than the nominative (and in other Slavonic languages, vocative), i.e. in Russian accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental, prepositional. In this book the term is used to embrace the last four of these cases, but not generally the accusative.
- okan'e** (о́канье): the phoneme *o* preserves its value in the pretonic syllable, e.g. *sová* (совá); cf. **akan'e** above. In **full** (по́льное) о́канье *o* retains its value even in the syllable before the pretonic syllable, e.g. *molodój* (молодо́й). In **incomplete** (непо́льное) о́канье, *o* in the

syllable preceding the pretonic syllable is reduced to *э*, e.g. *мало́к* (молоко́) (1.5).

Old Church Slavonic (церковнославя́нский язы́к): the South Slav language that was used by the early Slav missionaries, in the ninth and tenth centuries, for the transmission of Christian teaching to other Slav peoples; the basis of the language used in Russia for liturgical purposes and most literary forms before westernisation in the eighteenth century.

ordinal numeral (поря́дковое числи́тельное): numeral indicating place in order or sequence, e.g. *second*, *fifth*.

orthography (орфогра́фия): correct or accepted use of the written characters of a language.

paradigm (паради́гма): table setting out the system of inflection of a word.

paronym (па́роним): a word which may be confused with another to which it is close in sound, written form and possibly meaning, and which may be of similar origin, e.g. *principal/principle*. In this book the term is used in a broad sense to include all easily confused words, even those of quite different origin, e.g. *бре́мя, вре́мя* (3.4).

participle (прича́стие): a verb form that combines both the qualities of a verb (e.g. transitivity or intransitivity, active or passive meaning, tense and aspect, but not person) and the qualities of a noun (e.g. gender, case and number). Russian has present and past active participles and present and past passive participles (9.7.3–9.7.6, 11.11.2–11.11.4).

passive voice (страда́тельный зало́г): the form of a verb which indicates that the subject suffered the action, i.e. was not itself the agent, e.g. *I was hit* by a stone, *They were taught* French by their mother.

perfective aspect (соверше́нный вид): describes an action restricted in its extent and thus presents it as complete; perfectives relate to the beginning of an action (e.g. *зазвене́ть*, to start to ring), the limited duration of an action (e.g. *посиде́ть*, to sit for a while), or the completion of an action (e.g. *выпи́ть*, to drink up) (11.5); cf.

imperfective aspect.

periphrasis (перифра́за): complicated, round-about expression, use of more words than is strictly speaking necessary, e.g. *in this day and age*.

person (лицо́): form of the verb which represents: (a) the person/persons or thing/things speaking (i.e. 1st pers, e.g. *I/we read*); (b) the person/persons or thing/things spoken to (i.e. 2nd pers, e.g. *you read*); or (c) the person/persons or thing/things spoken about (i.e. 3rd pers, e.g. *he/she reads, they read*).

phrase (фра́за): group of words lacking a finite verb but felt to express a single idea or to constitute a discrete element in a sentence.

plosive (взрывно́й): consonant sound produced by momentary stoppage of the air passage at some point, e.g. Russ *b* and *p* (labial plosives), *d* and *t* (dental plosives), *g* and *k* (velar plosives); also sometimes called an 'occlusive' (смы́чный) or a 'stop'.

- predicate** (сказуемое): word or group of words which says sth about the subject, e.g. *I am **studying languages***; *Cats **catch mice***. A verb is generally the chief part of the predicate.
- predicative adjective** (предикативное прилагательное): adjective that forms part of the predicate, i.e. which is separated from the noun it qualifies by some part of the verb *to be* or, in Russian, by part of the verb *to be* that is understood, e.g. *The book was **interesting***, Книга была **интересна**.
- prefix** (приставка): element added to the beginning of a word to modify its meaning, e.g. ***predetermine***, **при**ходить (8.3–8.5).
- preposition** (предлог): word that defines the relation of a noun or pronoun to some other word, e.g. *The book is **on** the table*; *I went **across** the road*; *A plane flew **over** the houses* (Chapter 10).
- prepositional case** (предложный падеж): case used after certain prepositions when they have certain meanings (9.1.2, 9.1.5, 9.1.8, 10.1.6, 10.3.5, 11.1.11); see also **locative case**.
- present perfect continuous**: the tense which in English indicates that an action begun in the past is still continuing, e.g. *I **have been living** here for three years*. In Russian this tense must be rendered by an imperfective verb in the present tense (11.6).
- pretonic syllable** (предударный слог): the syllable before the stress, e.g. Москва́.
- pronoun** (местоимение): word used instead of a noun, e.g. ***he**, **she*** (9.2, 11.2).
- prosthetic** (also **prothetic**; протетический): sound inserted at the beginning of a word for ease of pronunciation, e.g. the sound *n* in на него́ (9.2).
- proverb** (пословица): short familiar sentence expressing a supposed truth or moral lesson, e.g. ***Every cloud has a silver lining*** (5.8).
- register** (стиль): a variety of language determined by such factors as medium, subject-matter, purpose and situation (1.2–1.4, 1.6).
- relative pronoun** (относительное местоимение): a word which introduces a subordinate clause describing a preceding noun or pronoun (the antecedent), e.g. Eng ***who**, **which***, Russ **ко́торый**, e.g. *The man **who** sells newspapers*; *The table **which** I bought yesterday* (11.2.1).
- reported speech**: see **indirect speech**.
- root** (ко́рень): the base of a word which bears its fundamental meaning, e.g. стол in **сто́лик**, **сто́ловая**, **насто́льный**, etc.
- secondary stress** (второстепенное ударение): in long words, especially compound words, a syllable other than the main stressed syllable which may also need to be pronounced with additional force. Secondary stress is marked in this book by a grave accent, e.g. *церко̀внославя́нский*.
- semantic** (семанти́ческий): relating to meaning.
- sentence** (предложе́ние): minimum complete utterance, e.g. ***I told him; Come back!***

- short form** (of adjective; краткая форма): the truncated masculine, feminine, neuter and plural forms, e.g. **нов, новá, нóво, нóвы**, which in modern Russian are indeclinable and which may only be used predicatively (9.3.2, 11.3); see also **predicative adjective**.
- simile** (сравнение): rhetorical likening of a thing to sth else, e.g. *drunk as a lord, like a bolt from the blue* (5.9).
- Slavonicism** (славянизм): a form of **Old Church Slavonic** (q.v.) origin. Many Slavonicisms exist in Russian alongside East Slav forms. They are characterised by (a) certain phonetic features, notably (with the Slavonicism first in each pair): **прах/пóрох**, **млáдший/мóлодой**, **средá/середíна**, **растéние/рост**, **ладья/лóдка**, **гражданин/горожáнин**, **ночь/всéнощная**, **едíный/один**, **юрóдивый/урóд**; (b) certain prefixes, e.g. **избрáть** (cf. **выб́рать**), **низвергáть**, **чрезмéрный** (cf. **чéрез**), **предвидéть** (cf. **пéред**), **преступлéние** (cf. **переступáть**); (c) certain suffixes, e.g. **пéрвенец**, **сочúвствие**, **жизнь**, **моли́тва**, **святы́ня**, **творéние**, **горя́щий** (cf. **горячий**), **богатéйший**, **широча́йший**. Slavonicisms tend to have a more bookish flavour than related Russian forms of East Slav origin and tend to occur in more elevated varieties of language.
- soft sign** (мягкий знак): the letter **ь**, the function of which is to indicate that the preceding consonant is soft. The soft sign is normally transliterated by the symbol ' or by an apostrophe.
- stress** (ударение): in all Russian words of more than one syllable, as in such English words, one syllable is pronounced with more force than the other(s). This stress is marked in this book, as in most textbooks, by an acute accent, but it is not normally indicated in Russian publications. Russian stress patterns (Chapter 12) are numerous and complex.
- stump-compound** (аббревиату́ра): word compounded of segments of other words, e.g. **тера́кт** (террористический акт, *terrorist act*).
- subject** (подлежащее): the agent performing the action expressed by the verb in an active sentence, or the person on whom or the thing on which the action of a passive sentence is performed, e.g. *The priest delivered a sermon; We saw the queen; The man was struck by lightning*.
- subjunctive mood** (сослагáтельное наклонéние): the verbal mood which indicates that the action or state denoted by the verb in question is regarded as hypothetical or subject to another action or state, e.g. *I wish he were right; I demand that it be done* (11.10).
- subordinate clause** (прида́точное предложе́ние): clause which cannot function as a sentence in its own right but is dependent on another clause which can, e.g. *I think [main clause] that she is nice [subordinate clause]; I like the house [main clause] which you have bought [subordinate clause]; I went to bed [main clause] because it was late [subordinate clause]*.
- subordinating conjunction** (подчини́тельный сою́з): conjunction introducing a subordinate clause, e.g. *although, after, because* (11.12.2–11.12.3).