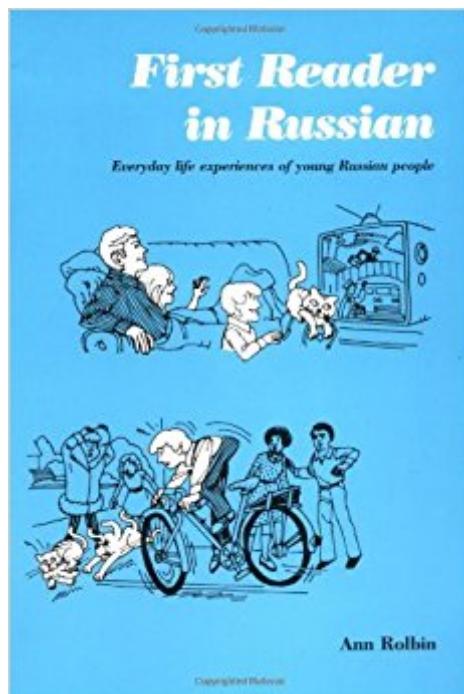


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First Reader In Russian (NTC: FOREIGN LANGUAGE MISC)



Synopsis

Made for beginning Russian students First Reader in Russia (Rolbin) gives your students a successful experience reading Russian in the first year of their Russian study. This book contains 27 readings about cultural experiences relevant to students' lives, and each can be covered in a single classroom period. Humorous drawings throughout the text match the tone of each story. This reader is softcover, 6 1/2 x 9 1/2, and 64 pages in length.

Book Information

Series: NTC: FOREIGN LANGUAGE MISC

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education; 1 edition (February 12, 1995)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Russian (translation)

McGraw-Hill authors represent the leading experts in their fields and are dedicated to improving the lives, careers, and interests of readers worldwide

UPDATE - I picked this book up again after a long time collecting dust, only to be frustrated again. I don't understand Ann Robin. If she has a text with limited vocabulary, with a glossary in the back what was her rationale for excluding some words from the glossary? It's very frustrating when you look up a word in the glossary from the text and it's total mystery why she didn't include the word you need to look up, for example, "podytelni" parents. So it just means I need to look it up in the glossary, not there, then go to a dictionary to look it up,. Is she adding more work because of

carelessness on her part, or is the publisher careless? Just seems like a betrayal of the reader, a slap in the face. >>>> I was surprised at how thin this book is, and not extremely helpful. A lot of space is taken up by rudimentary illustrations and blank space, so it seems like maybe 20 pages of text at the most. It would help if the text were printed on the front of each page with the English translation on the back. You can find text easily for free in many places in which you must look up the translation in a dictionary (or computer translator) which is what this is --- frustrating that when you look in the book's glossary the word may or may not be included. At the very beginning is an apparent name of a street and apparently name of a family that lives in a house or apartment on that street, and it's unclear. In Google Translate I discovered that the name of the street translates to "Trade Union". I suspect that the high price and little that you get is part of the trouble with the "textbook-education institution industry". If it's required by your teacher, you don't get a choice. In the preface it says a "teachers guide" to the book is available. Maybe much of the problem is that it's designed to be read together with a teacher who can explain things that remain a mystery, or still partially hanging in the book itself. There's a house and a family that lives in the house. It seems the name of the family is given, but it would be more clear if she were to give the name of the father first so it's clear about the family name. If you go to Russian language web sites (for example, focus.ua) you can quickly translate the text with Google, etc., with no question about the correctness of the Russian, because it's written for Russian speakers, and the vocabulary can be learned by copying the words into flash cards, like Quizlet. Different people learn languages differently, and there's a big difference between being more on your own with some help from friends, etc., and just going to a class, which seems to be what this book is about (if the price were about half.) That is, it can be fun to guess what words mean, using context and the illustrations, but you want to know for sure whether your guess is right, where a teacher might be involved, or you can just stay mystified or research it.

Okay First: I've had a year and a half worth of Russian 3 years ago at university and now I do more self studying and reading on my own now. I use word reference a lot, hence expanding my vocab. So this book, in my opinion, is very simple to read. The questions at the end of each chapter are simple and you CAN "catch the drift" of what's going on if you do not completely understand a sentence or two. Seriously simple. If you can't find a word in the pitiful "dictionary" provided in the back of this book then either pull up wordreference.com or break out a dictionary if you cannot get the gist of what's going on in the picture. Very simple thing to do. When you move on to more advanced books like Harry Potter (trust me, it's not the same as reading it in english), Tolstoy and

whatnot, you're going to end up working with a dictionary if you are limited in vocab, hence that's how you expand your vocab. Also this book has NO english translation which is good. Enough said now on to the review...1. This book is recommended for students who are active self taught learners, students who have had 1 or two semesters of Russian, are able to read both print and cursive (there's a splash of cursive in here). This is not recommended for people who have not had any Russian or can't read.2. The "dictionary" in the back of this book is crappy in my opinion(knock off one star), especially for people who don't have a vast vocab background. It's missing a couple of words. People with a vast vocab, more than a semester's worth of Russian, active self learners will have no problem with this.3. This book is very, very simple. It's a good start for reading, getting a grip on the cases, etc. Hell I would even recommend it to students that are midway through their first semester...I should say the students who are really interested in learning the language4. Glad this book is selling for \$14. It's not worth more than that either nor should you pay more than that price. It's very thin book, thinner than my iPad...only 58pgs long it should've cost \$10 or \$8.5. This book is not meant to be the end all when it comes to Russian life and culture.6. Everything is in the present tense. The past tense is not hard and they could've printed the book that way but it's a first reader. This book got a 4 out of 5 stars because of the crappy "dictionary" in the back other than that it's not bad for those who have had some Russian under their belts. I'm actually glad that it doesn't have an English translation in it. It gives you the chance to use your brain, not be lazy, and come up with your own meaning.

This reader is a good place to start learning to read Russian. You will have to have had some background in the Russian language before tackling this book. The story line is simple and straightforward while still remaining interesting. For the beginning Russian student, the text is challenging enough to be educational but still simple enough so that the student does not get too frustrated. The only problem I have with the book is the glossary. It should be more inclusive. You will need a good Russian/English dictionary for some words. I recommend this one: A English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary. Overall an excellent supplement to a Russian course for the beginning student.

I go through a lot of literary materials for students studying Russian, as I teach entry-level courses at a university. However, a lot of books that claim to be good for beginners or intermediate students are far more advanced than the students can hope to read. This book actually provided very good and easy to read materials for first year students, and I've used the texts to supplement my

teaching. Would recommend this for any beginner student!

My Russian language is extremely rusty, from never being that great to begin with....This first reader is helpful because it stays in everyday, easy to follow sentence structure, with a glossary in the back. I have (pretty) confidently translated half this book so far and plan to, with learning any language, read and reread to improve my language skills. Advanced students will be bored. It is "First Reader" afterall, but in late "beginner" or early "intermediate" state of learning, it is a fun addition to your reading.

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