

Title: *Послушайте!*: A New Listening and Speaking Text for Intermediate Russian Language Instruction

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While several textbooks with accompanying audio programs are available for Russian language instruction today, educators recognize the need for more resources for the development of listening strategies and skills, especially beyond the beginning level of language proficiency (Rifkin, 2000). *Послушайте!* is a listening and speaking textbook designed to fill this need in instructional materials. It deliberately concentrates on listening comprehension enabling students to use prior knowledge and specific strategies to understand the ideas in a text as a whole rather than focusing on an individual structure. It teaches students how to listen, with particular attention paid to effective listening strategies such as how to grasp, select and interpret information, and to vary listening behavior depending on the situation and listening purpose. By doing focused pre-, while and post-listening exercises, students develop effective means of coping with spoken language ultimately increasing their chances for successful listening.

While the primary focus of the book is listening proficiency, students are given plenty of opportunities to practice all four language skills. The textbook consists of ten chapters, each highlighting a specific function of the language (e.g. seeking and giving advice, asking for directions, expressing disagreement etc). Listening texts in *Послушайте!* appeal to students as they focus on contemporary conversational Russian and revolve around the topics and ideas students can easily relate to.

At the presentation the author explains the methodological premise behind the textbook, discusses the ways it can be used in the classroom, and presents sample listening texts and activities.

Rifkin, Benjamin. (2000). Materials for teaching Russian. Retrieved from <http://www.slavica.com/teaching/rifkin.html> April 11, 2011.

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