

What are the best resources available to help me learn the Ukrainian Language?

The following resources were researched and annotated by Tatiana Nazarenko and have been selected as appropriate for the study of Ukrainian. Dariusia Antoniuk revised and updated this material.

MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR SELF-STUDY

This category mainly includes books that are accompanied by audio cassettes and/or CDs. These materials could be used by an adult learner for the self-study of Ukrainian or to supplement knowledge gained through classroom instruction.

Olena Bekh, James Dingley. *Teach Yourself Ukrainian: A Complete Course for Beginners*. London: Teach Yourself Books, 1997.

This book is highly recommended for self-instruction and classroom use. The main emphasis of the book is on the development of oral communicational skills and, as such, the text covers lexical and grammatical topics that are essential for everyday communication in Ukraine. The book is divided into eighteen units, each containing realistic dialogues, grammar and cultural notes, as well as various exercises. Basic rules of reading and pronunciation are also discussed. Keys to the exercises and a Ukrainian-English glossary are included. The information presented in the glossary is derived from the most recent orthographical dictionary published in Kyiv in 1994. Two tapes (recorded by native speakers of Ukrainian) provide an excellent opportunity to master the language as it is spoken in Ukraine. The book can be purchased on its own or as a package that includes the cassettes.

Stefan Pugh and Ian Press. *Colloquial Ukrainian: A Complete Language Course*. London & New York: Routledge, 1994.

This textbook is recommended for students with a limited background in the Ukrainian language or for self-instruction. The lessons contain dialogues that introduce the student to contemporary conversational Ukrainian. Grammar notes are used to explain major structural patterns in colloquial Ukrainian; however, vocabulary and grammar exercises are not extensive. Two 60-minute cassettes/CDs are available to accompany the textbook. The cassettes/CDs contain recordings of native speakers of Ukrainian and are extremely helpful for mastering communicative skills in contemporary Ukrainian.

Zirka Derlycia. *Everyday Ukrainian: A Practical Basic Course*. Guiford: Audio-Forum, 1993.

This textbook is designed for beginners and is recommended for those who wish to learn Ukrainian for business, travel, and other activities. The textbook contains 10 lessons that focus on a particular theme and a specific grammar concept, a grammar appendix, and an English-Ukrainian glossary. Dialogues, exercises, and drills are used to demonstrate the proper usage of vocabulary and to illustrate issues of grammar. Answer keys are provided

for the exercises and drills. Although the emphasis of the book is on developing oral proficiency, the spoken language of contemporary Ukraine is not presented. Dialectical words, expressions, and patterns of speech that are commonly used by Ukrainian speakers in North America are presented alongside terminology from standard literary Ukrainian. Ten 60-minute cassettes accompany the textbook, although the speakers that are recorded are affected by a slight English accent.

Olena Bekh, Jim Gingley. *Ukrainian Phrasebook*. London: Lonely Planet Publication, 1996.

This phrasebook is highly recommended for tourists and business people, as well as students and teachers of Ukrainian. The book contains useful expressions and speech patterns that are necessary for everyday conversations in Ukrainian. The book contains informal and colloquial words that are organized thematically and accompanied by a pronunciation guide. Audio materials are not available.

INTENDED FOR CLASSROOM USE

These materials may be useful for adults who have studied Ukrainian previously. However, the texts and audio materials are most useful in a classroom setting or with the assistance of a qualified tutor.

Roma Franko. *Ukrainian for Speakers of English: Introductory and Intermediate Level*. Calgary: Detselig Enterprises Ltd. 1994.

Although this textbook is geared to University or high school students, it can also be recommended for self-instruction. The book is intended for English-speakers who have no knowledge of Ukrainian. Before a new subject in Ukrainian grammar is introduced, students are briefly reminded about similar structures in English. The simple grammar explanations convey sufficient information for beginners. The textbook contains 38 lessons, Ukrainian-English vocabulary, and grammar tables. Grammar points are followed by oral exercises and mini-dialogues. Written exercises are also included to aid students in practicing grammar structures and to check how thoroughly these structures have been learned. Oral exercises are recorded on cassettes. The lessons provide learners with basic vocabulary for basic everyday conversations; however, some re-phrase words and expressions are more commonly used in the Ukrainian diaspora than in contemporary Ukraine.

Assya Humesky. *Modern Ukrainian*. Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1980.

Modern Ukrainian is recommended for classroom use; however, it is not the best choice for those interested in self-instruction for business, travel, or self-improvement. The textbook consists of 20 lessons that present fundamental morphology, the basics of syntax, and limited notations on phonetics and prosody. The book also includes dialogues (for group reading, repetition, and as patterns for conversation), vocabulary, grammar and explanatory notes, exercises, and reading selections. The book does not include answer

keys to the exercises. Tapes with sound and intonation patterns, dialogues and passages, and listening comprehension passages are available from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., 48109.

Oleksandra Palka. *Modern Ukrainian Grammar in Tables (Morphology)*. L'viv: Polly, 1997.

This album of Ukrainian morphology tables is recommended as a reference book on Ukrainian grammar. The book is intended for English-speaking learners of Ukrainian. The tables explain Ukrainian morphology (nouns, pronouns, adjectives, numbers, verbs, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions) in contrast with English equivalents. The book also contains a Ukrainian-English glossary.

OLD BUT STILL USEFUL

These materials are dated and, as a result, may not reflect the most recent linguistic currents in Ukraine. Nevertheless, the adult learner may find them useful for self-study. Most of the books listed in this category are not accompanied by audio materials.

Yar Slavutych. *Standard Ukrainian Grammar*. Edmonton: Slavuta Publishers, 1987.

The textbook is designed for new learners who wish to acquire a reasonably competent knowledge of spoken and written Ukrainian. *Standard Ukrainian Grammar* is geared to first-year University students and classroom use; however, the sections on reading and pronunciation are recommended for those choosing self-instruction. This textbook presents standard Ukrainian grammar through grammar notes, dialogues, reading selections, drills, and exercises.

Yar Slavutych. *Conversational Ukrainian*. Edmonton: Gateway Publishers, 1969.

Although this textbook is intended for classroom use in high schools and colleges, it is also recommended for self-instruction. The textbook contains 75 lessons that focus on standard spoken Ukrainian. The lessons contain brief and simple explanations of pronunciation rules and basic grammar that convey sufficient information for developing communicative skills in Ukrainian. The vocabulary is introduced in the dialogues and exercises. Some contemporary topics are not covered because of the date of publication.

George Duravetz. *Ukrainian: Conversation and Grammar. Level I*. 4th rev. ed. Toronto: Ukrainian Teacher's Committee, c1987.

Ukrainian: Conversation and Grammar. Level I is recommended for learners who have previous knowledge of Ukrainian and who wish to improve their oral and written skills. This textbook combines both conversational and grammatical approaches to the study of the Ukrainian language. The book consists of 18 lessons, English-Ukrainian vocabulary, maps, and colour illustrations that present an overview of Ukrainian history and culture. The first nine lessons introduce the vowels and consonants and provide reading and

writing practice. Regular dialogues and reading selections/texts begin in lesson 10. Unfortunately, some dialogues are not based on authentic situations and the textbook does not cover the realities (especially technological innovations) of modern life or offer relevant vocabulary. Tapes containing drills, dialogues, pattern drills, and reading exercises are recorded by Ukrainian speakers and are useful in mastering Ukrainian pronunciation and intonation patterns (George Duravetz. *Ukrainian: Conversational and Grammatical: Levels I and II*. Calgary, ACCESS Network, [1977?]).

George Duravetz. *Ukrainian: Conversation and Grammar. Level II*. 4th rev. ed. Toronto: Ukrainian Teacher's Committee, c1987.

Ukrainian: Conversation and Grammar. Level II is a sequel to *Level I* and applies the same approach to language. Both *Level I* and *Level II* cover all aspects of basic Ukrainian. Both books are recommended for classroom use and self-instruction. Tapes are available to supplement the text (George Duravetz. *Ukrainian: Conversational and Grammatical: Levels I and II*. Calgary, ACCESS Network, [1977?]).

Yu. O. Zhluktenko, N.I. Totska, T.K. Molodid. *Ukrainian*. Kyiv: Vyshcha shkola, 1978.

This textbook is designed for teacher-led learning; however, it may also be used for self-instruction by learners who have previous knowledge of Ukrainian. The book covers the most important grammar issues and conversational topics. Keys to the exercises as well as an English-Ukrainian Glossary are included. The audio-cassettes that accompany the text are recorded by native speakers of Ukrainian; however, the text reflects the spelling conditions of Soviet Ukraine. A new edition of the textbook is currently being prepared in Ukraine.