

*Teaching Russian Cultural Competence and Listening Comprehension through Video Interviews*

**Selected Questions from the Interview Guide**

1. Biographical/hobby

- Please introduce yourself: what is your name and your age?
- Where were you born and where do you live now?
- Please tell me about your education and profession.
- Please tell me about your family.
- Please tell me about your neighborhood and the house/apartment where you live.
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- What are your favorite books?/movies?/TV shows?
- What kind of music do you like to listen to?
- What are your favorite places to visit in Russia?

2. Open-ended/abstract

- What experience from your childhood stands out the most for you?
- What do you think about the so-called problem of “fathers and sons”? What do you think should be the relationship between generations?
- What differences do you notice between your life and the lives of your parents and grandparents?
- Who or what has influenced you the most?
- What do you think your life will be like in 10 years?
- What are your biggest worries for the near future/long-term?
- What associations do you have with the word homeland?
- What do you think are the most important problems facing young people in Russia today?
- What do you think are the central problems facing Russia today as a whole? What is your forecast for Russia’s future?
- What role does religion play in your life?
- How do you define happiness?
- Have you ever studied a foreign language, if so, which one and why?
- What have your experiences with foreigners been like?
- If you could go to America, would you? What would you like to see or do there?
- Are there any questions that you would like to ask an American?
- What is one thing you would like students of Russian to know about Russia?

## Interviewee Background

### 1. Native Russian Speakers

- Aleksandra, 26, journalist, born in Ulan-Ude, lives in Moscow
- Andrei Dmitrievich, 63, university teacher of Russian, born in and lives in Moscow
- Dennis, 22, geology student, born in and lives in Moscow
- Kirill, 27, background in economics and management, born in Astrakhan, lives in Moscow
- Nadezhda, linguist and literary scholar, born in Hong Kong, lives in London/Moscow
- Nastya, 19, linguistics student, born in and lives in Moscow
- Nuni, 27, medical resident, born in Turkmenistan, grew up in Kazakhstan, lives in Moscow
- Sergei, 29, computer programmer, born in Mtsensk, lives in Moscow
- Shota, 35, Slavic graduate student, born in Tbilisi, back in Tbilisi after 20 years in the US
- Sonya, 22, teacher of Russian and English, born in Samara, lives in Moscow
- Tatyana Il'inichna, 70, retired chemist, born in Yekaterinburg, lives in Moscow
- Tatyana, 28, teacher, Moscow, born in and lives in Moscow
- Vladimir Alekseevich, 53, university teacher of Russian, born in and lives in Moscow
- Yulia, 26, marketing, born in Vladimir, lives in Moscow

### 2. L2 Russian Speakers

- Alisa, 27, Slavic graduate student, born in Oklahoma City, lives in Princeton
- Jon, resident director for Moscow study abroad program, born in CA, 17+ years in Moscow
- Tony, 33, post-doc in Slavic, born in Taiwan, lives in New London, CT

## Selected Bibliography

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3. Resources for using for developing listening comprehension:

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4. Resources for conceptualizing intercultural exchanges:

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Kramsch, Claire. *Context and Culture in Language Teaching*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Sharifian, Farzad and Maryam Jamarani, eds. *Language and Intercultural Communication in the New Era*. New York: Routledge, 2013.