

**T**he 2010 *Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back!* is designed for learners of Russian at the intermediate level who have already completed approximately 130-200 hours of elementary-level instruction.

The goal of the course is to improve functional competence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing by providing a culturally enriched context to facilitate the activation of the base grammar covered in an elementary course. The materials are designed and structured to take learners to the Intermediate Mid/Intermediate High level of oral proficiency as defined by the *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages*. Students are expected to double their active vocabulary up to 1600-2000 words. A variety of audio activities, for use both in the classroom and independently, are designed to help learners significantly increase their listening comprehension skills, and to improve pronunciation. The engaging story line provides the situations upon which the lexical and grammatical materials in each unit are thematically based. Such an approach provides students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Russian culture, as well as how complex concepts such as verbal aspect are used in real-world contexts.

The new edition of *Welcome Back!*, like *Russian Stage One*, is culture- and situation-based throughout. The video series (divided into ten units and twenty episodes, plus a brand-new Introductory Unit) follows the lives of young Moscovites, and continues the story of our friends from *Russian Stage One: Live from Russia!* – Tanya, Misha, Olya, and Kevin. We follow the continuing adventures and misadventures of our old friends, and meet some new ones along the way. While the characters and many of the settings will be familiar to those who have used *Russian Stage One: Live from Russia!*, this set of materials can be used independently by any learner who possesses the typical 800-1000 words vocabulary of a beginning learner, and who has completed a core elementary course covering the basic grammar and structure of the language.

*Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back!* can be adapted for use in a variety of academic settings: the entire course can be covered in classes that meet three to six hours per week for two semesters (for intensive courses of five or six hours per week, intensive summer programs, and for independent users, a variety of reading texts are provided via the brand-new dedicated website <http://www.livefromrussia.org>).

The following materials make up the 2010 edition of *Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back!*

**DVD:** Shot in Moscow in 2008, the new DVD contains twenty episodes, two per unit. Also included is a brief introductory video clip («Скóлько лет, скóлько зим!») composed of clips from *Russian Stage One: Live from Russia!* Also included on the DVD is a set of clips (referred to as «Москвá и москвичи!») from the video episodes, conveniently arranged for use as part of homework assignments.

**Textbook:** Introductory Unit and Units 1-10. Each unit contains:

Two video episodes

Nine days of activities and exercises intended for classroom use

Комментáрий (arranged at the end of each unit) that provides analyses of the major grammatical, lexical, and communicative topics of the unit

Словáрь that lists the words (grouped by part of speech) and expressions intended for activization

Extensive appendices

Comprehensive Russian-English/English-Russian dictionaries

**Workbooks: Vol. 1** (Intro Unit-Unit 5); **Vol. 2** (Units 6-10). Exercises include writing, listening, reading, and video exercises. Included in each unit are exercises that focus on basic grammatical structure, including word formation to help students build both active and passive vocabulary more effectively.

**Audio CDs:** These include extensive audio recordings incorporated into the homework, and also used in classroom activities.

**Online Instructor's Manual:** Provides support material for teachers on a variety of aspects of Russian phonology and morphology, as well as cultural and socio-linguistic information relevant to the material. Detailed unit-by-unit suggestions, sample syllabi, and a variety of supplemental materials for teachers are also included, such as exercise keys and exams, suggestions for additional role plays, and mid-term and final projects.

**Online Website** ([www.livefromrussia.org](http://www.livefromrussia.org)) for *Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back!* provides supplemental materials, including reference materials, reading texts thematically related to each of the units, and links to a variety of authentic materials that are freely available via the Internet. The reading texts related to each unit represent various genres, and are accompanied by extensive exercises. These texts may be used to expand the material of each unit, or they may be used independently. The website is also designed for all those using the textbook to share resources and materials.

Included is a link to the Russian Pronunciation Guide: <http://comet.cls.yale.edu/russianpronunciation/>