

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
САМАРСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

Кафедра английской филологии

SAMARA

**МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ УКАЗАНИЯ ПО ОСНОВНОМУ
ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ
(ПРАКТИКА УСТНОЙ И ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ)**

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специальности «АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК И ЛИТЕРАТУРА»*

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“Oh a day in the city square,
there is no such pleasure in life”
R. Browning

Samara is one of the largest Russian cities. Its history is closely interwoven with the entire history of the Russian State.

Samara in the 20th century is one of the foremost industrial centers of Russia with highly developed aerospace, engineering and oil processing industries.

Samara in its older section, has preserved the general style of building from the late 19th to early 20th century, making it an architectural “open-air museum”.

Samara has deep-rooted cultural traditions. Its past and present preserve the names of famous writers, artists, musicians and actors.

Samara is a city of active political life: it was an arena for uprisings and revolutions and a temporary capital of the USSR during World War II.

Samara is a place of peaceful coexistence for different peoples and religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism).

Samara is situated in a very picturesque locality on the river Volga, with unique natural surroundings.

SAMARA

Where the river Volga meets the Zhiguli mountains it deviates to the east, forming the Samara Bend. Four centuries ago a fortress was built at the point where the river takes a sharp turn, and it eventually grew to become the city of Samara.

Any resident of Samara will tell you that the city's main street is the Volga. This is true in winter when the river is icebound and in summer when hundreds of ships come to the city like snow white swans over the sparkling waves.

Large cities, traditionally, are divided into the "old" and "new" parts. Samara's old downtown section is like a book on the history of architecture – a Moorish building stands next to a classic structure, a modern mansion has a gothic spire for a neighbour. This mixture of styles prevails in the old city even though the city was built-up, in the main, at the same time – the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. True, the choice depended wholly on the owner's taste. Everybody in merchant Samara strove to make "his own" bank or mansion look unlike any other building. This led to a variety of styles bordering on the extravagant.

Samara acquired its present-day look in the 1950-60s, when housing construction took place on a large scale.

The city is 415 years old. Quite a ripe old age. Samara has seen a lot during these years – both loud fame and quiet spells. When Russia's borders were pushed far eastwards in the 17th century, the provincial Samara's "sleep" was not interrupted by events for quite a long time, even though short-lived stormy events did happen in the city – like the peasant uprisings headed by Stepan Rasin and Yemelyan Pugachov.

The city started to awaken from its slumber, so to speak, only in the mid-19th century. As railways and ship navigation on the Volga developed, Samara became a major trade center; the shortest routes, connecting central Russia with the Urals and Siberia, intersected here. Industry in Samara flourished.

Samara's economy swiftly developed during the Great Patriotic War. Gross industrial output increased more than fivefold. The II-2 assault plane, dubbed the "flying tank", is among the better known items made in Samara during the War.

Samara enjoys the reputation of being a theatre city. It has the oldest and best-known Drama theatre in the country, an Opera and Ballet House, the Puppet Theatre and the theatre for Young Spectators.

The museums, monuments, parks and squares of the city contain unique items connected with the history. They contribute to the beauty of the city a lot.

Colorful flowerbeds and neatly cut bushes on the embankment make it a favourite place for the citizens of our city in spring, summer and autumn when the river flows quietly along the granite wall and the Zhiguli attractive mountains draw the people into the thickness of woods and greenery of meadows.

1. Read the text and listen to the recording. Can you remember any facts about Samara?

2. Answer these questions working with a classmate.

1. When and where was Samara founded?
2. What do they call the city main street?
3. What architectural styles characterize Samara's old downtown section?
4. When was the city built-up in the main?
5. What led to a variety of styles?
6. What is known about the history of the city?
7. When did the city start to awaken from its slumber?
8. How did industry develop in the city?
9. What theatres are well-known in the city?
10. What is the favourite place for Samara citizens?

3. Translate the following words combinations from Russian into English.

- река отклоняется к востоку;
- житель Самары;
- белоснежные лебеди;
- сверкающие волны;
- современный особняк;
- готический шпиль;
- смешение стилей;
- купеческая Самара;
- современный вид;
- зрелый возраст;
- громкая слава;
- крестьянские восстания;
- пробуждаться ото сна;
- основной торговый центр.

4. These are the descriptions of some Samara sights. What are they?

a) The building erected in the 19th century resembles a Russian "terem" with its pyramidal cupolas on the roof and the snow-white relief decorations against a background of red brick walls.

b) The mansion, constructed in 1906 by the design of the architect Alexander Shcherbakov in the eclectic style, belonged to Alexander Naumov, the Marshal of the Nobility of Samara in the early 20th century. The elements from Renaissance and Baroque styles blend in the decor of the fa-

cedes, which gives the building its unique and magnificent appearance. In 1941-43 the building housed the British Embassy.

c) Going upstream on the Volga, one can see a house built almost at the edge of the steep bank. There are two stone elephants facing each other on the ground in front of the building. Formerly, this was a dacha of the painter and merchant of the second guild Konstantin Golovkin. Now it is...

d) Shady paths, an old grotto, a fountain – waterfall, groups of elderly people playing dominos. This piece of land belonged to General S., who was the head of the salt works and the former aide-de-camp to the Emperor. In 1853 the garden was opened to the public.

e) This square was unveiled in 1971. The monument stands in the center of the square. Its pedestal is over 130 ft tall. There is a figure of a worker, over 42 ft tall, holding a pair of wings in his hands raised upward.

f) This most unusual monument was installed at the junction of two major city roads. The monument was found near the lake Oriyari. It was restored in the Kuibyshev Aviation Factory. Now this place is popular with newly – married couples. It is...

VOCABULARY

outskirts *n pl* окраина, предместья; on the outskirts of (a town) на окраине города

multi-storied/storeyed house *n* высотный дом; **sky-scraper** *n* небоскрёб

booth *n* будка, киоск, палатка

stall *n* лоток, палатка, прилавок

NOTE: The words *booth* and *stall* have very similar meanings but mind the word combinations: *a telephone booth* телефонная будка, *a flower-stall* цветочный киоск, *a book stall* книжный киоск

passer-by *n (pl passers-by)* прохожий, проезжий

pedestrian *n* пешеход

queue [kju:] 1. *n* очередь; 2. *v* стоять в очереди (*also*: to stand in a queue)

to form a queue, a line; to get in line - становиться в очередь

to queue, to line up (for smth.) —стать в очередь

to stand in a queue, line —стоять в очереди

without queuing up —без очереди

to get in

пробраться

вне очереди

to cut in

пробиться

Ср. turn - очередь, очерёдность

e. g. It's your turn to read. Wait until your turn. We shall do it in turn (by turns). You mustn't speak out of turn.

thoroughfare *n* оживлённая улица, главная магистраль города, *e. g.* Gorky Street is Moscow's most famous thoroughfare of the capital. No thoroughfare. Проезда нет.

line (up) *v* стоять, тянуться вдоль чего-л., *e. g.* Big houses line both sides of the street. Our streets are lined with trees.

request stop *n* остановка по требованию

rush-hours *n pl* часы «пик»; during the rush-hours в часы «пик»

fine *v* штрафовать; to pay a fine платить штраф

Here are some useful adjectives for describing town:

Picturesque historic spacious elegant magnificent atmospheric quaint lively hectic deserted (e.g. at night) bustling crowded packed filthy run-down shabby
--

Towns can be convenient places to live in because they have many facilities:

Sports: swimming pool, sports centre, golf course, tennis courts, football pitch skating rink

Cultural: theatre, opera house, concert hall, radio station, art gallery

Educational: school, college, university, library, evening classes, museum

Catering and night-life: restaurant, cafe, nightclub, take-away hotel, B and B (bed and breakfast), youth hostel, dance-hall disco

Transport: bus service, taxi rank car, hire, agency, car park, parking meters

Other: health centre, law courts, registry office, citizens' advice bureau, job centre, savings bank, department store, chemist's, estate agent, garden, centre, police station, Town or City Hall, suburbs, housing estate, industrial estate, pedestrian precinct

Cities also have their own special problems. Here are some to be found in Samara now:

Traffic jams: every day, particularly in the rush-hour, the streets get so packed with traffic that travel is very slow or even comes to a standstill

Slums: certain parts of the city which are poor and in a very bad condition

Vandalism: pointless destruction of other people's property

Overcrowding: too many people live in too small a place

Pollution: the air and the water are no longer as pure as they were

ADDITIONAL VOCABULARY

dead-end *n* тупик

a street paved with cobble (stone) улица, вымощенная булыжником (камнем)

to lay out (a town, park, street) закладывать, разбивать, планировать (город, парк, улицу), **a well-laid out town (park, street)** хорошо спланированный город (парк, улица)

residential locality жилой район

public and administrative offices общественные и административные учреждения

to erect a building (statue) воздвигнуть здание (памятник)

site *n* строительная площадка

poster ['roust] *n* афиша, объявление, плакат

shrubbery/shrubs *n* кустарник

hose 1. *n* шланг, 2. *v* поливать из шланга

route [ru:t] *n* маршрут

subway (the) *n* 1. (Am.) метрополитен; 2 тоннель

escalator ['esk leit] *n* эскалатор

slot-machine *n* автомат, **to get (obtain) a ticket from a slot-machine** приобретать билет в кассе-автомате

double-decker *n* двухэтажный автобус (троллейбус, трамвай)

coach *n* автобус междугороднего сообщения

TOWN-CITY

town: a center of population, which is bigger than a village but smaller than a city. *Town* is often used in contrast with *country*.

e. g. Halifax is a town of one hundred thousand inhabitants standing on the River Calder. Would you rather live in a town or in a country?

The word *town* preceded by a preposition and usually used without an article means the business, shopping and amusement center of a town or city, contrasted with the suburbs or outskirts.

e. g. I'm going down town to do some shopping. He is in town somewhere

city: a large and important town. In England the word *town* is used more frequently than *city* and even when a place actually is a city, people living in it call it a *town*; the word *city* being used chiefly in connection with local government affairs.

e. g. In the heart of England, about 112 miles north-west of London, is Birmingham, a city with over a million inhabitants.

STREET - THOROUGHFARE

street: a town or village road with buildings on one or both sides.

thoroughfare: a road open at both ends esp. one with much traffic.

e. g. In Windsor some of the oldest streets are rather narrow, but the main thoroughfares are for the most part fairly wide and are all well kept.

ROAD-WAY

road: a specially prepared passage for foot-passengers and carriages.

e. g. Before there were railways, people travelled by road.

way: 1. a road, street, track, path or passage; distance.

e. g. My friend lives over the way (i. e. on the other side of the road). There is no way through. It is a long way from here to the nearest town.

2. a route or road used between two places.

e. g. Do you know the way to the station? Which is the best (right, shortest, etc.) way there? Which is the way in (out)?

ADVERTISE - ANNOUNCE

ADVERTISEMENT - ANNOUNCEMENT

advertise: to make known to people by printed notices (in newspapers, magazines, papers stuck on walls, etc.)

e. g. Manufacturers and shopkeepers advertise the goods they want to sell.

announce: to make news, facts known; to tell. e. g. A meeting of the Trade Union Committee is announced for tomorrow.

advertisement: a printed notice about things to be sold or things that are needed.

e. g. Some newspapers offer pages for advertisement.

Announcements are made about the events that have happened, are happening or will happen.

e. g. Have you seen the announcement about a lecture on Charles Dickens tonight?

INCIDENT - ACCIDENT

incident: an unimportant event.

e. g. What was the most interesting incident in your life?

accident: an unfortunate happening.

e. g. If someone falls out of a window, it is an accident.

DO THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES:

1. Pronounce and transcribe the words:

avenue, administrative, crooked, boulevard, embankment, canal, gallery, granite, thoroughfare, inquiry, museum, exhibition, outskirts, poster, escalator, monument, traffic, fare, militiaman, suburbs, metro, stadium, skating-rink, restore, vacant, route, queue, financial, booth, commercial, pedestrian, residential

2. Read aloud and give Russian equivalents to the following:

a) block, crooked, granite, straight, pavement, sign, exhibition, canal, advertisement, greenery, announcement, bridge, lorry, underground, fare, militiaman, by-street, lamppost, capital, traffic, accident, incident, slums, many-storeyed, water-cart, storey, thoroughfare, avenue, double-decker, dead-end, booth, stall, queue (*v, n*), sky-scraper, residential, pedestrian, multistoried, flower-stall, bookstall, passer-by, slot-machine

b) house under construction; under the green light; dwelling house; moving staircase; to widen a street; to observe the traffic rules; to pull down a house; flowerbed; to pay one's fare; to change money;

traffic-lights; to stand in line; to go sightseeing; to knock down; to set a river in granite; to cross a street at a crossing; to meet with an accident; to live in the suburbs; the seat is vacant; to go shopping; river-bus, enquiry office; swimming-pool; to walk into; booking-office; well-laid out town; to reconstruct a building (street, town); request shop; to lay out (a town); telephone booth; rush-hours; to go as far as; at a corner; to stand in a queue; on the outskirts of a town; to get (obtain) a ticket from a slot-machine; streets are lined with trees. All change! All fares!

3. Translate the following into English:

а) этаж, район, водитель, квартал, тротуар, освещать, восстанавливать, вывеска, фонарный столб, пруд, зелень, фонтан, зоопарк, бульвар, сажать (деревья), канал, музей, реклама, каток, сообщение, эскалатор, грузовик, столица, шофер, метро, сдача (мелочь, мелкая монета), вокзал, кинотеатр, планетарий, милиционер, несчастный случай, трущобы, делать пересадку, небольшое происшествие, спортивная площадка, плавательный бассейн, поливочная машина, светофор, кустарник, тупик, главная магистраль города, афиша, шланг, киоск, двухэтажный автобус, автомат для выдачи билетов, маршрут, штрафовать, автобус междугородного сообщения, пешеход, остановка по требованию, цветочный киоск, книжный киоск, прохожий, проспект, телефонная будка, очередь, лоток (палатка), высотный дом, небоскреб, часы «пик»

б) многоквартирный дом; строящийся дом; жилой дом; кривая улица; прямой переулок; справочное бюро; расширять улицу; гранитная набережная; воздвигнуть памятник кому-либо; место занято; место свободно; платить за проезд; стоять в очереди; осмотреть город; наткнуться на кого-либо; сбить с ног; жить в пригороде; пересекать улицу при зеленом свете; потерпеть аварию; задавить (переехать); украшать дома (улицы); содержать улицы в чистоте; заключать реку в гранитную набережную; реконструировать дом; регулировать движение; на углу; планировать город; разбивать парк; воздвигнуть памятник; высотный дом; стоять в очереди; на окраине города; улицы обсажены деревьями; высокие дома выстроились вдоль улицы; сборный стандартный дом; жилой район

4. Choose the right word:

а) *advertise, announce, announcement*

1. There are cards pinned up on a wooden board near the door. One card tells you that there will be a dance in the village hall on Saturday evening. Other cards .1. second-hand furniture and other goods for sale. 2. Miss X., now seventy-five, has recently sold her thirty-year-old car. She is .2. that her garage can be rented for five shillings a week. 3. It is .2. that there will be no school this afternoon. 4. The arrival of a distinguished man is .2. in the papers. 5. I've seen an .3. that the book will be published next month.

b) *accident, incident*

1. Carelessness always causes ... 2. The book narrates a series of brilliant ... 3. A rather funny ... took place at school yesterday. 4. Serious ... on the railway: thirty persons injured. 5. He was delighted and looked upon the ... as an adventure.

5. Complete the sentences:

1. A building made for people to live in is called a ... 2. A town or village road with houses on both sides is called a ... - 3. Going about the town to see places of interest is called ... 4. The money paid for a journey in a tram, bus, train, etc. is called the 5. The person on a tram or bus who collects fares and gives tickets is called a ... 6. A person who travels by car, tram, ship, etc. is called a 7. A place where goods are shown and sold is called a ... 8. A collection of books or a place in which it is kept is a ... 9. A building for the exhibition of pictures is called a picture

Play the parts of the characters in the following dialogue:

WHAT'S THE CAPITAL

BOY: What's the capital of Louisiana?

MOTHER: Louisiana? Let's see, now. New Orleans?

BOY (*laughing*): No, Baton Rouge.

MOTHER (*laughing with him*): Why, of course. Baton Rouge. Go ahead. Ask me more.

BOY: All right. What's the capital of Illinois?

MOTHER (*promptly*): Chicago.

BOY (*crying and squealing with delight*): No, Springfield. Everybody makes that mistake. Everybody says Chicago.

MOTHER (*with a hint of annoyance in her voice*): Oh, dear, that's true. Springfield. What else?

BOY: I better give you an easy one. What's the capital of Florida?

MOTHER: Oh, I know that. Tallahassee.

BOY: That's right. But that's an easy one. What's the capital of Washington?

MOTHER: Seattle.

BOY (*clapping his hands- gleefully between his knees and bending over to enjoy his laughter*): No, it isn't! It's Olympia! What's the capital of California?

MOTHER: Oh, dear, let me see now. Los Angeles? No, no - wait. Wait, I have it. San Francisco!

BOY (*squealing*): No! Sacramento! I have one. An easy one this time. What's the capital of Nevada?

MOTHER: What's the capital of—Oh, yes. Nevada. The capital of Nevada. Reno.

BOY (*giggling*): No. Carson City.

MOTHER (*sharply*): Oh, now David, that's not fair. You're studying them in school now and I haven't been to school in years. (*Softening her voice to a prettily maternal tone of mild reproof.*) It's been years since mother studied the capitals, you know.

(After *An Easy One* by Jerome Weidman)

Translate into Russian paying attention to the English equivalents of *way, road, distance, street*

Way in Everyday Speech

1. This way, sir.
2. It's only a short way to the square.
3. It's a long way from here.
4. Which is the best way there?
5. You're going in the opposite way (direction).
6. I can't find my way in.
7. Which is the way out?
8. There's no way through.
9. Can't you find your way home alone?
10. Are you going my way?
11. Shall I see you part of the way?
12. He lives over the way (on the other side of the road).
13. Which is the right way to the station?
14. They must have lost their way in the dark.
15. Please show me the way to the Zoo.
16. It is in an out-of-the-way place (corner).
17. Which is the shortest way to the planetarium?
18. The taxi-driver brought us a long way round, not by the shortest way.
19. Now that we have come so far, we may as well walk all the way.
20. I don't know what to do or which way to turn.

Road in Everyday Speech

1. Where does this road lead?
2. I know the road, it is a good fast one.
3. You may go by either road.
4. You've mistaken the road.
5. May I help you over the road?
6. Are we on the right road?
7. Go right to the end of this road and turn (to the) left.
8. Follow this road until you reach the hotel.
9. On turning the corner you will see that the road descends steeply.
10. The road slopes to the sea by a gradual descent.
11. The roads are slick (slippery) with wet mud.
12. The motor-car skidded (slipped sidewise) on the wet road.

Distance in Every day Speech

1. It's a long distance off.
2. The station is no distance at all.
3. It's quite a distance from here.
4. Oh, some distance.
5. He lives within easy distance of his office.
6. My house is within a walking distance of the University.
7. The house stands on a hill and can be seen at a distance of two miles.
8. The house has trees round it and cannot be seen from a distance.

Street in Everyday Speech

1. There are many people in the street.
2. Let's walk on the shady side of the street.
3. Meet me at the corner of the street.
4. The window gives upon (faces) the street.
5. He looked down the street for her.
6. She saw him coming down the pebbly street.
7. They were walking along the street.
8. When you cross a busy street you should use caution.
9. Our streets are brightly lit up.
10. They went up a hill to a small clean street.
11. A wide street is called an avenue.
12. The reconstruction of Moscow has made it possible to widen the streets.
13. There are many well laid-out streets and avenues in the city.
14. The street is built up with well-proportioned buildings.
15. That is a quiet street.
16. The streets are congested at New Year.
17. The streets soon emptied when the rain began.
18. The streets were bedecked (decorated) with flags.
19. There are stringing lamps across the street.
20. The Gallery is off Cork Street.
21. He lives at 22, Lenin Street.

Answer your friend's questions:

1. Do you know the town you live in very well? 2. What number bus do you take when you go to work? 3. What kind of city transport do you like best? 4. What is the most convenient kind of city transport (if there is such)? 5. What is the usual interval between underground trains? 6. From what time in the morning till what time at night do buses, trolley-buses and trams run? 7. Are the traffic rules in Britain different from those in other European countries? 8. What are traffic lights used for? 9. What is the main street in your town? 10. What are the most common conversational formulas we use when asking the way? 11. Are there conductors on buses and trams in Samara? How do passengers pay their-fares?

Add a beginning. Use the phrases: *May I ask you..., Be so kind as to..., Will you please..., Would you please..., Could I trouble you for...*

- (1) —...
—You may go by either road.
- (2) —...
—Not that way. The information booth is over there.
- (3) —...
—It's a long distance off. You'd better take a bus.
- (4) —...
—Sure it is. We can't do better than take a taxi.
- (5) —...
—Certainly it is, but if you walk, you'll have to give yourself half an hour to get there in time.
- (6) —...
— It's at the other end of the town.
- (7) —...
— It's at a stone's throw from here.

Supply prepositions or adverbs where necessary:

1. How far is it the lake wharf? 2. We are still a mile short our destination. 3. He lives a mile the air-port. 4. Go right until you get the circus. 5. Can you direct me the Fine Arts Museum? 6. To reach the monument walk two blocks east and then turn the left. 7. Am I to turn right? 8. He lives easy reach. 9. The street goes the square. 10. Turn the highway the smaller roads. 11. Turn right an angle. 12. I thank you helping me . 13. You'll find it the bottom the street.

Say it in English:

1. Извините, не покажете ли вы мне дорогу к железнодорожному вокзалу? Спасибо. 2. Скажите, как мне пройти к центральному стадиону? 3. Скажите, пожалуйста, я пройду так к гостинице «Национал»? 4. Идите прямо вдоль этой улицы, затем поверните направо. 5. Пройдите прямо три квартала по этой улице, затем поверните налево. 6. Идите прямо, дойдете до высотного здания, а там спросите у кого-нибудь. 7. Вам надо сесть на 18-й номер трамвая и проехать... Дайте подумать... и проехать четыре остановки, затем вернуться назад на один квартал. 8. Поезжайте на автобусе до метро (это конечная остановка), затем на метро к центру четыре остановки. 9. Я доеду на этом автобусе до Самарской площади? -Боюсь, что нет. Вам надо было сесть на 22 или 14. А этот автобус вообще идет в обратном направлении. 10. На чем удобнее всего добираться до

вашего учреждения? - Из отеля, где вы остановились, лучше всего идти пешком или взять такси. - Спасибо.

Make up some dialogues of your own on the following topics:

- (1) the view of your city from the hills;
- (2) the night scene in the city central part;
- (3) the riverside;
- (4) the shopping center;
- (5) the residential area;
- (6) the historical center;
- (7) architectural groups;
- (8) museums and monuments;
- (9) the main street;
- (10) parks and gardens.

Read and translate the text "Bread, Kumiss and Civil War". It is an abstract from the book "Volga, Volga" written by Lesley Chamberlain, an English journalist.

Samara, the most easterly Volga town, sprawls for more than 15 km (10 miles) on a long crest bisected by a Volga tributary "The un-Russian-sounding name originates with the Bolgars, who maintained contacts with Baghdad and traded with Persia, Central Asia and India, and whose empire reached its southern limit here.

Locals mourn the passing of the Voskresensky Sobor, the Cathedral Resurrection church of 1894. They say the sight of this gold-crested thanks-offering for the life of Alexander II, with its twelve blue cupolas, used to bring admiring steamer passengers out on deck, while in the town all municipal and family life had its roots and its meeting-place here. But in the early 1940s, when the Moscow government made Samara, initially far from the German front, its wartime seat, the Voskresensky Sobor became an ideological embarrassment. It was the town's most prominent wartime architectural casualty, blown up in stages, at night. Children scoured the streets next day for coloured fragments from the cupolas and frescoes. Post-war Samara built an opera and ballet theatre on this church's foundations, while the catacombs and tunnels under the church were converted into a wartime bunker for Stalin. The bunker is open to visitors nowadays.

There are many tensions in the recent history of the city. From being Samara, a county town of wheat and camels and horses, it became the industrial city of Kuibyshev in 1935. Colsed to the world after the Second World War, the city Kuibyshev went on to produce rockets and aircraft, including the TU-154, Russia's more than adequate answer to the Boeing 727. Electronic equipment, machine tools, bearings, building materials, clothes

and processed foods, ultimately almost everything the Soviet Union needed to survive was made here.

They called Samara a Russian Chicago because, still small in 1850, it very quickly grew with the railway into a mighty provincial industrial city. From St Petersburg and Moscow the Trans-Siberian Railway crossed the Volga at Samara.

Before Soviet times, prosperity depended on grain. Samara, along with Ukraine, made Russia the world's biggest grain exporter by 1913. From all around Samara province, and neighbouring Orenburg province, peasants and gentry landowners, travelling by horse and cart, by sled and by camel, delivered winter wheat and rye, also oats, barley and millet. The grain was stored in some two hundred and fifty silos along the Volga and the Samara international spring sales followed.

Grain brought wealth but also disaster. From Kazan to Samara and Saratov the Volga region was prey to famine, caused by excessively hot summers and insufficient rain. When the crop failed the poor suffered most, because they had insufficient land for their needs. Crisis years were 1874 and 1891, when the summer temperature in Samara hovered between 43° and 45°C (about 110°F). Famine meant typhus, dead cattle, dead children. In his story *Nikita's Childhood* A. Tolstoy remembered his mother standing at the window and weeping with relief when a rainstorm finally interrupted the broiling summer they experienced at their country home. In another early story he painted an opposite picture of careless plenty, with the very rooms in the house of a declining landowning family ankle-deep in grain. That was the extreme rhythm of Russian agricultural life, with terrible political consequences.

Exercises

1. Write 15 questions about the text.
2. Comment on the title of the text.
3. Give the summary of the text.

Translate the text from Russian into English

САМАРА

ХРОНИКА СОБЫТИЙ

В 1586 году князь Григорий Засекин по царскому указу заложил крепость Самара. В 1600 г. у крепости построена первая пристань для царских судов, ходивших в Астрахань за солью, но только в 1843 г. открылось регулярное движение пароходов по Волге.

Осенью 1851 г. была образована Самарская губерния и в этот же год состоялись первые в истории города театральные представления. Этот год считается годом рождения Самарского театра драмы. В 1853 г. в городе установлены первые фонари, что означало начало уличного освещения.

В 1863 г. началось мощение улиц. Первыми были «одеты» в камень ул. Дворянская и три спуска к Волге.

В 1881 г. 15 января вышел первый номер «Самарской газеты», к этому же году относится и появление в городе телефонной связи.

10 июля 1896 г. появился новый общественный транспорт - конка,

В сентябре 1922 г. создана первая группа юных пионеров.

Первые самолёты «ИЛ-2» были собраны на авиационном заводе в ноябре 1941 г.

В августе 1947 г. первый асфальт покрыл площадь им. В.В. Куйбышева. А в марте 1958 г. начались первые передачи Куйбышевского телевидения.

Additional Material

THE ALABIN MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND LOCAL LORE

In 1880, the question of the construction of a building for the Public Library and Public Museum in Samara was on the agenda in the City Council. The site for the building was chosen near the Strukovsky Garden. Petr Alabin planned to organize 16 departments in the museum. Nevertheless, it was not until 1886 that the museum was opened in a rented house. Thanks to the help of local intellectuals and Alabin's correspondence with Russian cultural workers, many interesting exhibits were included in the displays. Alabin bequeathed to the museum his collections of paintings, arms, medals and coins.

In 1896, the museum and the library moved into their own house on Dvoryanskaya St. (131 Kuibyshev St.). Since that time, the museum halls housed all kinds of art exhibitions. In 1897, The Sixth Regular Exhibition of Samara Artists was held here. On behalf of the participants, the painter Golovkin donated some of the exhibited paintings to the city. Gradually, the rooms of the museum became too small to house all the exhibits. In 1908, the artists Golovkin, Mikhailov and Goundobin organized a society for the construction and support of the House of Science and Engineering. In 1916, Golovkin wrote an official letter, in which he informed the City Council that he had prepared the front and back elevation drawings and plans for the House of Science and Engineering and suggested building it with his own means. The project was not realized. After the Revolution of 1917, the Public Museum was renamed into the Museum of History and Local Lore and housed in the former mansion of Souroshnikov (22 Pionerskaya St.). The museum possessed small but unique archaeological and numismatic collections, books, documents on the history of the land and paintings. Subsequently, the museum's collections were supplemented by historical and revolutionary materials and the exhibits of the Societies of Archaeology, History, Ethnography and Natural Science.

Recently, the building of the former Lenin Memorial was transferred to the Museum of History and Local Lore.

In 1993, the museum was given the name of its founder, Petr Alabin.

THE SAMARA LIBRARY

The Samara Library was one of the undertakings of Governor Grott. By its inauguration in 1860, the library had comprised 800 volumes in Russian, a lot of foreign books and periodicals. Grott bequeathed his own book collection to the library.

Alabin also assisted the library a great deal. He became Chair of the Public Committee of the library in 1889. Thanks to Alabin, in 1882 the library was named Alexandrovskaya after Czar-reformer Alexander II. By the 1890's, the library had possessed 50,000 books.

WRITERS AND SAMARA

Many famous men of letters have passed through the city and region of Samara. Among them are such notables as: Alexander Pushkin, Alexander Ostrovsky, Alexandre Dumas, Taras Shevchenko, Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Bunin, Boris Pasternak.

In 1833, Pushkin passed through the Samara Region. During his journey the poet was collecting information on the insurrection commanded by Pugachev for the book *The Story of Pugachev* and the novel *The Captain's Daughter*. Pushkin did not visit Samara, but passed through the settlement of Smyshliayevka, which today lies within the city suburbs.

Alexander Ostrovsky stayed in Samara in January-February 1849. Here, he finished his first comedy *Bankrupt* and read it for the first time to the public.

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN IN SAMARA

In 1950, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the future Nobel Prize winner, spent more than a month in the transit prison of Samara. He had been condemned to spend eight years in prison for his doubt in Stalin's talent as great thinker. Solzhenitsyn had expressed his doubts in a private correspondence, being at the front of World War II. In the summer of 1995, Solzhenitsyn visited Samara, where he met and talked with his readers.

LEO TOLSTOY IN SAMARA

In May 1862, Leo Tolstoy came to the Samara Region for the first time. He stayed in the village of Gavrilovka, the Buzuluk District (now, the Alexeyevsky District), on the river Karalyk (85 miles from Samara), where he took the koumiss cure.

TOLSTOY - A LANDOWNER

Tolstoy liked the spaces of the Trans- Volga steppe, the dry climate and the simple life of the local Bashkir inhabitants and decided to buy an estate here. He wrote to his wife: "The simplicity, honesty, naivete and wit of local people tempt me to buy an estate here... The healthy climate and ordinary methods of housekeeping are also tempting."

In 1872, after he had finished the novel *War and Peace*, Tolstoy bought an estate of 6,750 acres in area. For the next ten years he came here with his family almost every year. His favorite pursuits were fanning and

horse-breeding. Stallions of various breeds were purchased. According to the writer's daughter, Tolstoy aimed at raising a mixed breed of the local steppe horse with the stalwart European ones.

Being in the Samara Region for the last time in 1883, Tolstoy decided to sell his estate to the tenant peasants at the price that they would themselves suggest. The peasants, however, did not believe Tolstoy. An old, wise woman fancied that "the Master" wanted to save his soul. Only after this explanation of Tolstoy's proposal, the peasants agreed.

ILYA REPIN

Ilya Repin is one of the greatest masters of Russian realistic painting from the second half of the 19th c. In 1870 and 1872, he visited Samara and its picturesque vicinities to draw inspiration from nature and to look for new subjects for his paintings.

«The Volga seemed to me a kind of musical piece, something like *The Kamarinskaya* by Glinka... It seems that the mountains themselves dance,» Repin wrote in memoirs.

The picture. *Barge Haulers on the Volga*, the studies of which had been conducted in Shiriayevo in the summer of 1870, became the height of the painter's art. In the center of the canvas, he depicted the figure of a real person — a barge hauler, Kanin, a former priest. The barge haulers reminded Repin of «the philosophers of Ancient Rome, enslaved in wartime.»

THE ART MUSEUM

The origins of the collection of the Art Museum lie in 1897, when it was decided to organize an art department in the Public Museum after the Sixth Regular Exhibition of Samara artists. A group of activists headed by Konstantin Golovkin asked the famous Russian artists to donate their works to the museum.

Today the museum's depository has over 12,000 exhibits, including a small but valuable collection of icons and copperware of the 17th - 20th cc.

The museum possesses a splendid collection of the Russian art of the 18th to early 20th cc.

THEATERS

Samara has always been a theatrical city. One could not picture the panorama of its life today without such performances as these: the Drama Theater, *SamArt*, Opera and Ballet, Puppet-Show, theatrical festivals, tours of actors and whole theatrical companies from various cities of Russia and abroad, local critics' reviews, theatrical discussions, conferences, recitals and evenings in the Actor's House.

Role-play "The town Planners' Meeting"

Students discuss proposed changes to Samara and come to a compromise about what to change and what to keep as it is.

Warm-up The teacher asks the students how they think Samara has changed over the last 20 years. Show them photographs of the city taken 20 years ago and the city today, in order to prompt comments.

Procedure Explain the following situation: the town planners are faced with suggestions for a completely new city centre. Some of them are in favour. Some of them are not. They must decide which changes they will carry out. Ask the students to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of modern cities.

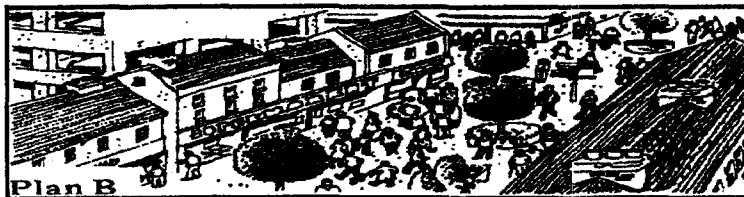
Role card A

You are a staunch conservationist. You like the traditional character of your town. You do see that one or two things could be improved slightly without fundamentally modifying the town centre.



Role card B

You wish to see radical changes in the town because of traffic jams, and hazards for pedestrians. You also dislike the old-fashioned look of the town, and would like to see a modern convenient town centre as in plan B.



Brain-storming activities

Favourites

Write on the board about 5 or 6 sights of Samara: Drama Theatre, Revolution Square, etc. Identify each by a letter: A, B, C.

Each student writes down the letters in order of preference. Then they discuss their choices. When they have all finished, hold a vote to see the most popular choices.

Five-Minute Writing Storms

The students have exactly 5 minutes to write about something. The teacher sets a subject which she (he) feels will focus the students' minds but encourage personal rather than generalized responses.

Themes

- the place I know well in Samara;
- my favourite sight;
- the least favourite monument;
- a road;
- an unexpected meeting on the embankment.

Flashing

The teacher can flash a picture with the sight of Samara. The students then identify and/or describe what they saw. Flash several times to promote attempts at identification and discussion. In the end show the picture to the students.

Anecdotes and Jokes

1. A lady who was a very uncertain driver stopped her car at the traffic signals which were against her. As the green flashed on, her engine stalled, and when she had restarted it the colour was again red. This flurried her so much that when green returned she again stalled her engine and the cars behind began to hoot. While she was waiting for the green the third time the constable on duty stepped across and with a smile said:

"Those are the only colours showing to-day, ma'am."

2. Rex Stout, bewhiskered creator of the detective *Nero Wolf* was a passenger aboard a crowded Madison Avenue bus one day. An aggressive little man battled his way to Stout's side and, unable to reach a strap, forthwith clutched a strand of the author's beard in a grip of iron. Stout spluttered indignantly for a full block and finally demanded, "will you kindly take your paws away from my beard?"

"What's the matter, mister?" said the little man. "Are you getting off?"

3. Montgomery Epstein was downtown with his wife and four little children when he decided to take a taxicab home. Approaching a cab driver, he demanded, "How much will you charge to drive us to the Bronx?"

"I figure \$2 a piece for you and your wife," said the driver. "I'll take the four kids along for nothing."

Montgomery Epstein turned to his children and said, "Jump in kids, and have a nice ride home. Mamma and I will take the subway."

4. In a contest in Surrey for road safety slogans, one youngster came up with this suggestion:

He looked; she didn't.

He is; she isn't.

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