

Module 3. Russia

Lead-In

1. We have asked some foreigners what ideas of Russia they have (the answers are from a real Internet forum). Say which of them you agree/ disagree/ find common / surprising/shocking. Make your comments.

'People there are very good-looking, all of them are blond. Have a look at Putin, for example!' (China)

'RUSSIANS LOVE DRINKING VODKA! P.S. DON'T WORRY ABOUT STEREOTYPES, MOST PEOPLE THINK THAT IN BRAZIL THERE IS ONLY SAMBA. I HATE SAMBA!' (BRAZIL)

'My teacher once said that in Russia it is not a crime if husband would kill his wife. I don't believe it, though.' (Great Britain)

'Cold - yeah that would be the first thing that comes to mind.' (Trinidad and Tobago)

'THE STREETS ARE NOT SAFE FROM GANGS AND ARMED MEN.' (EGYPT)

'hmm Stalin? :) sorry joke...I think you are good at teams sports like volleyball or basketball... football of course too.' (Poland)

'Russians always eat rye bread with herring.' (Netherlands)


'I hate Russian fashion, because there is lots of fur! Haven't you heard of Green Peace, guys??' (United States)

'Russian children dream of leaving the country as soon as they are 18.' (Germany)

'People from Russia are very hospitable. If they invite you, you can be sure of a big welcome!'
(Italy)

Reading

1 a) Match the following geographic features with their Russian equivalents.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. continent | a) океан |
| 2. country | b) река |
| 3. city | c) континент |
| 4. ocean | d) озеро |
| 5. sea | e) страна |
| 6. river | f) пустыня |
| 7. lake | g) город |
| 8. steppe [step] | h) гора |
| 9. plain | i) море |
| 10. forest | j) равнина |
| 11. desert ['dezət] | k) лес |
| 12. mountain | l) степь |
| 13. island ['aɪlənd] | m) канал |
| 14. peninsula [pə'nɪnsjələ] | n) остров |
| 15. canal [kə'næl] | o) полуостров |
| 16. tundra ['tʌndrə] | p) тундра |
| 17. taiga ['taɪgə] | q) тайга |
- 

b) Name the geographical features you can see on the map below.



2. Practise reading the following words and geographic names.

the Russian Federation	ðə rʌʃn feder'eɪʃn
Europe	'juərəʊp
Asia	eɪʒə
the Pacific	ðə pə'sɪfɪk
the Arctic	ðɪ a:ktɪk
the Atlantic	ðɪ ət'læntɪk
China	tʃaɪnə
Mongolia	mɒŋ'gəʊliə
Korea	kə'ri:ə
Kazakhstan	.kæzæk'sta:n
Georgia	'dʒɔ:dʒə
Azerbaijan	.æzəbaɪ'dʒa:n
Norway	'nɔ:weɪ
Finland	'fɪnlənd
the Baltic States	ðə bɔ:ltɪk steɪts
Belorussia	.beləu'rʌʃə
Ukraine	ju:'kreɪn
Siberia	sɪ'bɪəriə
the Urals	ðɪ juərəʊlz
the Caucasus	ðə 'kɔ:kəsəs

the Altai	ðɪ a:l'taɪ	occupy	'ɒkjəpaɪ
the Volga	ðə 'vɒlgə	surface	'sɜ:fɪs
the Caspian Sea	ðə kæspɪən si:	scenery	'si:nəri
the Ob	ðɪ ɒb	climate	'klaɪmət
the Yenisey	ðə 'jɪni'seɪ	temperate	'tempərət
the Lena	ðə 'leɪnə	legislative	'ledʒɪslətɪv
the Amur	ðɪ ə'muə	executive	ɪg'zekjətɪv
the Far East	ðə .fɑ:r'i:st	judicial	dʒu:'dɪʃl
Lake Baikal	leɪk 'baɪkɑ:l		
Moscow	'mɒskəʊ		



NB!

the with geographical names	
The is used before	The is omitted before
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceans • Seas • Rivers • Canals • groups of islands/states • mountain ranges, • deserts • names with 'of' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continents • Names of countries, but: the Netherlands, (the) Sudan, the Vatican City • Cities, but the Hague • Individual mountains • Islands • Lakes

3. Read the text about Russia. Complete the table.

<u>Location</u>	
<u>Total area</u>	
<u>Lowland/Highland</u>	
<u>Water Resources</u>	
<u>Natural Resources</u>	
<u>Population</u>	
<u>Political System</u>	
<u>Capital</u>	
<u>Colours of the flag</u>	



The Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world. It occupies about one-seventh of the earth's surface. It covers the eastern part of Europe and the northern part of Asia. Its total area is about 17 million square kilometers. The current population of Russia is 142 million of people.

The country is washed by 12 seas of 3 oceans: the Pacific, the Arctic and the Atlantic. In the south Russia borders on China, Mongolia, Korea, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Azerbaijan. In the west it borders on Norway, Finland, the Baltic States, Belorussia and Ukraine. It also has a sea-border with the USA.



There is hardly a country in the world where such a variety of scenery and vegetation can be found. We have steppes in the south, plains and forests in the midland, tundra and taiga in the north, highlands and deserts in the east.

There are two Great Plains in Russia: the Great Russian Plain and the West Siberian Lowland. There are several mountain chains on the territory of the

country: the Urals, the Caucasus, the Altai and others. The largest mountain chain, the Urals, separates Europe from Asia.

There are over two million rivers in Russia. Europe's biggest river, the Volga, flows into the Caspian Sea. The main Siberian rivers — the Ob, the Yenisey and the Lena — flow from the south to the north. The Amur in the Far East flows into Pacific Ocean. Russia is rich in beautiful lakes. The world's deepest lake (1600 meters) is Lake Baikal. It is much smaller than the Baltic Sea, but there is much more water in it. Russia has one-sixth of the world's forests. They are concentrated in the European north of the country, in Siberia and in the Far East.

On the vast territory of the country there are various types of climate, from arctic in the north to subtropical in the south. In the middle of the country the climate is temperate and continental.

Russia is very rich in oil, coal, iron ore, natural gas, copper, nickel and other mineral resources.

Russia is a parliamentary republic. The Head of the State is the President. The legislative powers are exercised by the Duma. The executive power belongs to the Government and the judicial – to the System of Courts.

The capital of Russia is Moscow. It is its largest political, scientific, cultural and industrial centre. It is one of the oldest Russian cities.

At present, the political and economic situation in the country is rather complicated. There are a lot of problems in the national economy of the Russian Federation. But in spite of the problems Russia is facing now, there are a lot of opportunities for this country to become one of the leading countries in the world.

4. Match the following words with their definitions. Define the part of speech.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. surface | → | a) beautiful natural environment |
| 2. to occupy | → | b) to divide into parts |
| 3. scenery | | c) top part of something |
| 4. vegetation | | d) liquid used as a fuel |
| 5. to separate | | e) to use a place or period of time |
| 6. lowland | | f) plants |
| 7. oil | | g) black substance, burnt to get heat |

8. coal

h) flat land, same level as sea

5. a) Match adjectives with nouns to make meaningful collocations.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. total | a) resources |
| 2. vast | b) economy |
| 3. natural | c) area |
| 4. mineral | d) climate |
| 5. parliamentary | e) territory |
| 6. executive | f) country |
| 7. complicated | g) gas |
| 8. national | h) power |
| 9. leading | i) republic |
| 10. temperate | j) population |
| 11. current | k) situation |

b) Fill in the gaps with the collocations above.

Canada occupies most North America. It is the world's second largest country by (1)_____after Russia. The (2)_____ of Canada provides a wide variety of climates throughout the country. For example, Coastal British Columbia enjoys a (3)_____, while Prairie provinces experience a continental one. Canada is a (4)_____. Its strong democratic traditions have made it one of the (5)_____ in the world though it had a (6)_____ with the British Monarchy during World War II. The (7)_____ is directed by the Cabinet of ministers.

The (8)_____ is 32 million people, including English (21%), French (15.8%), Scottish (15.2%), Irish (13.9%), German (10.2%), Italian (5%), Chinese (3.9%), Ukrainian (3.6%), etc. Canada's two official languages are English and French. Canada is one of the world's wealthiest nations. Agricultural products play an important part in the (9)_____. Canada is also a global source of many (10)_____, such as gold, nickel, aluminium, and (11)_____.

6.a) Fill in the gaps with the following prepositions.

in(2)

into

by(2)

on

into

to

a) Japan is a country of over three thousand islands washed (1)_____ the Pacific Ocean.

- b) Japan doesn't border (2)_____ any countries because it is an island.
c) Japan is rich (3)_____ gold, magnesium, and silver, though it is dependent on foreign sources for many of the minerals.
d) The Shinano River is the longest river in Japan flowing (4)_____ the Sea of Japan at Niigata City.
e) Most of the population is concentrated (5)_____ Tokyo because of education and job opportunities.
f) Japan is an island, but it belongs (6)_____ the continent of Asia.
g) The legislative power is exercised (7)_____ the Diet of Japan.

b) Put all possible questions to the sentences above.

You should remember the following words and phrases!

to occupy	занимать
to cover	покрывать
a surface	поверхность
scenery	пейзаж
vegetation	растительность
highland	высокогорье
lowland	низменность
temperate	умеренный
oil	нефть
coal	уголь
iron ore	железная руда
natural gas	природный газ
copper	медь
mineral resources	природные ископаемые
legislative	законодательный
executive	исполнительный
judicial	судебный
to border	граничить

to flow into	впадать (о реке)
to exercise	исполнять, осуществлять

Grammar

- We use the **comparative** degree to compare one person with another. We often use THAN after a comparative.
- We use the **superlative** degree to compare one person or thing with more than one of the same group. We often use OF or IN after a superlative.

Regular Comparative and Superlative Forms			
adjectives	positive	comparative	superlative
of one syllable add -(e)r/-(e)st to form their comparative and superlative forms	cold big safe	colder than bigger than safer than	the coldest (of/in) the biggest (of/in) the safest (of/in)
of two syllables ending in -ly, -y, -w also add -er/-est	busy shallow	busier than shallower than	the busiest (of/in) the shallowest (of/in)
of two or more syllables take more/most	famous incredible	more famous than more incredible than	the most famous (of/in) the most incredible (of/in)

Certain adjectives form their comparative and superlative in both ways, either by adding -er/-est to the positive form or by taking more/most. Some of these are: clever, common, cruel, friendly, gentle, narrow, pleasant, polite, shallow, simple, stupid, quiet.

There are several exceptions

positive	comparative	superlative
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
little	less	the least
many/much	more	the most
far	farther/further	the farthest/furthest

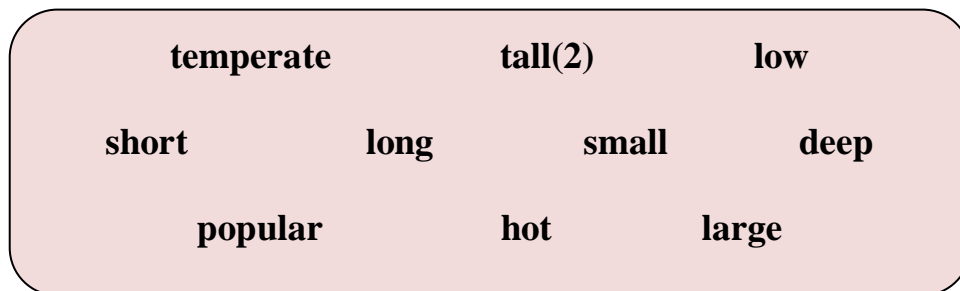
1. In the text (pp. 4-5), underline all the adjectives. Define the degree of comparison.

2. Open the brackets with the suitable degree of comparison.

- a) Greenland is (large) island in the world.
- b) Travelling by plane is (fast) than travelling by train.
- c) Boracay Island in the Philippines has (good) beaches I have ever seen.

- d) Jamaica is (sunny) than Norway.
- e) Fjordland in New Zealand is (wet) place in the world.
- f) Rain in the wet season is (heavy) than during the rest of the year.
- g) Easter Island is (interesting) island I have ever visited.
- h) A holiday in Thailand is (exciting) than a holiday in Spain.
- i) Santa Cruz is the second (large) island in the Galapagos.
- j) The Galapagos are one of (expensive) places in the world to visit.

3. Fill in the gaps with the adjectives from the box below. Choose the right degree of comparison.



- 1. It has a (1)_____ history compared to other world nations.
- 2. The (2)_____ state is Rhode Island with an area of just 1,545 square miles (4,002 sq km). By contrast the (3)_____ state by area is Alaska with 663,268 square miles (1,717,854 sq km).
- 3. Alaska has the (4)_____ coastline in the United States at 6,640 miles (10,686 km).
- 4. Bristlecone pine trees, the world's (5)_____ living things, are found in the western United States in California.
- 5. The west coast has a (6)_____ climate than the interior because the ocean is near, whereas places like Arizona and Nevada are very hot and dry.
- 6. Although English is the (7)_____ language used in the U.S. and is the language used in government, the country has no official language.
- 7. The (8)_____ mountain in the world is located in the United States. Mauna Kea, located in Hawaii, is over 32,000 feet (10,000 meters) high, (9)_____ than Mount Everest (29,028 feet or 8,848 meters).
- 8. The (10)_____ temperature ever recorded in the United States was at Prospect Creek, Alaska on January 23, 1971. The temperature was -80°F (-62°C).
- 9. The (11)_____ temperature recorded in the United States (and in North America) was in Death Valley, California on July 10, 1913. The temperature measured 134°F (56°C).

10. The (12)_____ lake in the U.S. is Crater Lake (1,932 feet or 589 m) located in Oregon.

4. Read the fact files of Russia and Chile and write sentences comparing these two countries.

Official name: Russian Federation
Size: 6,562,115 square miles
Population: 141,960,000
Capital: Moscow
Official language: Russian.
Currency: Russian ruble
Religion: Russian Orthodox
Christians 70.2%, Muslims 6%,
Protestants 1%, Roman Catholics 1%
Literacy: 98%
Climate: Winters can be freezing,
while spring is often slushy and
muddy. July and August are the
warmest months.

Official name: Republic of Chile
Size: 292,258 square miles
Population: 15,980,912
Capital: Santiago
Official Language: Spanish
Currency: Chilean peso
Religion: Roman Catholic 89%,
Protestant 10 %, Jewish less than 1%
Literacy: 96.2%
Climate: Desert in the north; mild in
the central region; cool and damp in
the south