

Тридцать первый урок

31

Песня:	Подмосковные вечера
Стихотворение:	Тютчев
Грамматика:	31.А: Все + Comparative
	31.Б: Imperative as Conditional
	31.В: Будьте добры
	31.Г: Под + Instrumental of Place

Подмосковные вечера

- 1 Не слышны в саду _____ шорохи,
2 _____ замерло _____.
3 Если б _____, как мне дороги
4 Подмосковные _____.
- 5 Речка **движется** и _____,
6 Вся из лунного **серебра**.
7 _____ слышится и _____
8 В _____.
- 9 Что ж ты, милая, _____ йскоса,
10 **Низко** _____ наклоня?
11 _____ вискзать и _____
12 _____.
- 13 А **рассвет** _____ **все** заметнее.
14 Так, _____, **будь добра**,
15 _____ и ты эти летние
16 _____.

Словарь

1	слы́шен (слы́шна, слы́шчо, слы́ны)	<i>be audible</i>
1	сад (ý)	<i>garden</i> (Related to <i>посади́+</i> <i>plant</i>)
1	шóрох	<i>rustle</i>
2	замира́й+ // {запр+ / з̃амер+ / замерé+}	<i>become completely still; die down</i>
3	б	=бы
3	дóрог + <i>dative</i>	<i>be dear to someone</i>
4	подмоскóвный	<i>near Moscow</i> (See grammar.)
5	реч/ка (е)	= <i>мáленькая река́</i>
5	двй́га+...ся	<i>move; be in motion</i>
6	весь (е)	<i>here: completely; entirely</i>
6	лу́нный	adjective from <i>луна́, lunar</i>
6	серебрó	<i>silver</i>
7	слы́ша+...ся	<i>be heard</i>
9	что	=почему
9	йскоса	<i>askance</i>
10	ни́з/кий (о)	<i>low</i>
10	наклоня́й+ // наклоня́+ наклоня́	<i>bow (one's head)</i> <i>having bowed</i> (This is actually a past gerund form, which we will discuss later in the course. It turns out that this is not the form we would expect. More on this later.)
11	выска́зывает+ // вы́сказа+	<i>say everything one wants to say</i>
13	рассвёт	<i>dawn</i>
13	всё	<i>more and more</i> (See grammar.)
13	замётный	<i>noticeable; visible</i> (cf. <i>замеча́й+ /замéти+</i>)
14	бу́дь добр/добра́ бу́дьте добры́	<i>please; be so kind</i> (See grammar.)
15	и	<i>here: either</i> (the idea is that the author won't forget the nights and that the person addressed shouldn't forget them either.)
15	лётный (soft!)	adjective from лётó

Александр Александрович Блок (1880-1921)

- 1 _____ фонарь, аптека,
 2 Бессмысленный и тусклый свет.
 3 _____ хоть четверть века -
 4 _____ так. Исхода _____.
 5 _____ - начнёшь _____ сначала
 6 И повторится _____, как встарь:
 7 _____, ледяная рябь _____,
 8 _____.

10 октября 1912

Словарь

1	фонарь' (М)	street lamp
1	аптека	pharmacy; apothecary
2	бессмысленный	figure this out from в каком смысле
2	тусклый	dull; not bright; dim
2	свет	light
3	хоть	even (Recall the expression хоть убей even if you kill me; for the life of me)
3	век	century
4	так	as it is now; thusly
4	исход	exit (из + ход) Also the name of the second book of the Old Testament.
5	сначала	from the beginning (We previously saw this word with the meaning <i>at first</i> .)
6	повторяй+...(ся) / повторй+...(ся)	repeat (be repeated; repeat itself)
6	встарь	like before; as in olden times
7	ледяной	icy
7	рябь (figure out the gender)	ripple(s)
7	канал	guess – hint: Blok lived in Saint Petersburg

31.A Всѣ + Comparative: X-er and X-er

In line 13 of the song we find the phrase **всѣ замѣтнее** (*the dawn is already*) *more and more visible/noticeable*. Let's look at the construction **всѣ + comparative**.

Всѣ combines with comparative adjectives and adverbs to give the meaning **more and more** (e.g. *faster and faster, closer and closer, more and more expensive*, etc.). Normally the comparative form is repeated, though—as we see in the song—it is possible to state it just one time.

The verb most commonly found in this construction is **станóви+...ся** *become, get*.

In the past tense, only **imperfective** verbs are used (since a process is being described).

У нас станóвится всѣ теснее и теснее.	<i>It's getting (becoming) more and more cramped here.</i>
Его лекции станóвятся всѣ скучнее и скучнее.	<i>His lectures are getting more and more boring.</i>
Она пропускает занятия всѣ чаще и чаще.	<i>She has been skipping classes more and more often.</i>
Бензín стóит всѣ больше и больше.	<i>Gas has become (is costing) more and more.</i>
В последнее время она кúрит всѣ меньше и меньше.	<i>Lately she has been smoking less and less.</i>
Он растёт всѣ в́ыше и в́ыше.	<i>He's growing taller and taller.</i>
Тигр подходил всѣ б́лиже и б́лиже.	<i>The tiger came (approached) closer and closer.</i>
Ситуация становилась всѣ х́уже и х́уже.	<i>The crises got worse and worse.</i>

Don't worry, we're going to review the formation and use of comparatives later in the course.



Переведите на русский:

- His exams are becoming more and more difficult.
- Everything is getting more and more expensive.
- It seems to me the students are getting smarter and smarter.
- The economic crisis was getting worse and worse.
- The elephant was approaching closer and closer.
- She has been late for class more and more often.
- It's getting darker and darker in here.
- It seem to me that you are getting dumber and dumber.
- Lately he has been drinking more and more.
- Lately she has been studying less and less.

31.Б Imperative as Conditional

In line 3 of the poem is the phrase **Живй ещё хоть четверть века** *Even if one were to live a quarter century*. What's up with the *imperative* here? It turns out that the imperative *singular* (never the plural) can be used in place of **если бы** to indicate a conditional statement (and is normally followed by **бы** in the lower clause – but not in the poem. Doesn't Блок know any grammar?).

Also recall that the verb must go into the *past tense* in the clause containing **бы**. Here are some more typical examples of the “Imperative as Conditional”:

Зна́й я́ это́, я бы́ не купи́л э́ту маши́ну.	<i>If I had known that, I would not have bought this car.</i>
Живй́ он в Аме́рике, он бы́ стал президе́нтом.	<i>If he lived in America, he would become president.</i>
Будь́ Ле́на здесь, ты бы́ не крича́ла на меня́.	<i>If Lena were here, you wouldn't yell at me.</i>

Put the negative particle **не** in front of the imperative form:

Не пей́ ты так мно́го во́дки, ты бы́ лу́чше себя́ чу́ствовалá.	<i>If you didn't drink so much vodka, you would feel better.</i>
Не проспуска́й Са́ша за́нятия́ все́ вре́мя, он бы́ хорошо́ учи́лся.	<i>If Sasha didn't skip class so much, he would do better in school.</i>

This conditional meaning of the imperative is also found in the fixed expression **хоть убей/те** *for the life of me* (lit.: *even if you were to kill me*). Note that you don't need **бы** after this expression. Also note that here you can use the *plural* imperative form. (Sorry about all the exceptions, but the main point about the imperative as conditional still stands.)

Хоть убей́, я не зна́ю.	<i>For the life of me, I don't know.</i>
Хоть убей́те (<i>plural!</i>), я не по́мню.	<i>For the life of me, I don't remember.</i>
Хоть убей́, я бо́льше не могу́ есть.	<i>I just can't eat another bite.</i>

This use of imperative as conditional is mostly found in the written language, and even there it is normally found with a few selected verbs (most of which are seen in the examples above). So, the most important thing is to be able to recognize this when you come across it in your reading – and believe us, you will encounter it at some point.



Переведите на русский:

- If I lived in France, I would speak French without an accent.
- If he didn't complain all the time, everyone would gladly help him all the time.
- If I went to (were a student at) Harvard, I would never study (**занима́й+...ся**)
- If I had known that, I would not have said anything to Nina.
- If Lena were here, she would know what to do.
- If he weren't a jerk, girls would love him.
- If he didn't eat so much sweets (*singular*), he would feel better.
- If my mother didn't scold me every day, I would always do everything that she wants.

31.B A Very Polite Phrase: Будь Добр / Будь Добра́ / Будьте Добры́

In line 14 of the song we find the phrase **будь добра́**, which is used as a polite introduction to a command. Literally this phrase means *be kind*, though a closer approximation is *would you be so kind as to* or simply *please*. (Actually, the Russian is not quite as formal as *would you be so kind as to*—see below). Let's look at this phrase in greater detail.

First you should recognize what the phrase actually consists of, i.e., the imperative of the verb **be** and the short-form of the adjective **добрый** (which is end-stressed in the short-form). Therefore, as we would expect, the phrase changes depending on the gender and number of the person(s) addressed: **будь до́бр** (*masculine*); **будь добра́** (*feminine*); **бúдьте до́бры** (*plural*). Some examples:

Будь добр, открь дверь.	<i>Please close the door. (Said to a male)</i>
Будь добра́, налей мне чаю.	<i>Would you please pour me some tea? (Said to a female)</i>
Бúдьте до́бры, поставьте книгу на полку.	<i>Please put this book on the shelf. (Said to >1 person or someone with whom you use вы.)</i>

Бúдьте до́бры is used very (very!) often in official settings, especially in stores when you need the help of a salesperson:

Бúдьте до́бры, покажите мне этот красный галстук.	<i>Could you please show me that red tie?</i>
Бúдьте до́бры, дайте мне килограмм апельсинов.	<i>May I please have a kilo of oranges?</i>
Бúдьте до́бры, дайте мне десять марок.	<i>I'd like 10 stamps, please.</i>

Бúдьте до́бры can also be used on the telephone phrase to ask to speak to someone (similar to **можно**, which we saw last year). Simply put the person's name in the accusative following **бúдьте до́бры** (similar to **можно**):

Бúдьте до́бры, Лэну.	<i>May I please speak to Lena?</i>
Бúдьте до́бры, Владимира Владимировича.	<i>Is Vladimir Vladimirovich there, please?</i>

(In case you're interested why the *accusative* is used, it's because a verb that governs the accusative has been ellipted. In you're dying to know, we'll tell you what the verb is.)

This is a very common (and useful, not to mention polite) phrase that we highly recommend you incorporate into speech.



Переведите на русский:

1. Could you please lock the door? (Said to Vera)
2. May I please have a fish sandwich and corn?
3. Could you please show me that brown scarf?
4. May I please speak to Dima?
5. Please pour me some herbal tea. (Said to husband)
6. May I please speak to Professor Petróv?
7. May I please have 5 stamps and 10 envelopes?
8. Please close the window. (Said to brother)
9. Could you please hang this mirror on the wall? (Said to worker you don't know)
10. Please bring me a typewriter. (Said to daughter)

31.Г Под + Instrumental (Place Name)

The name of the song is **Подмоскóвные вечера́**, which is almost always translated as *Moscow Nights*. That's not wrong, but it's not 100% accurate. To find out why not, let's look at how the preposition **под** combines with place names (in the instrumental).

Под can be followed by a location (often a city) in the *instrumental* to mean *in the environs of; near* (but not in the location itself). Some examples:

Она́ живёт под Петербу́ргом, а не в са́мом го́роде. *She lives outside (of) Petersburg, not in the city itself.*

Я чита́ю кни́гу о бй́тве под Сталингра́дом. *I'm reading a book about the battle (which took place) outside Stalingrad.*

Его́ нашли́ под При́нстоном. *They found him near Princeton.*

As far as the actual title of the song is concerned, the adjective **подмоскóвный** is formed from the noun **Подмоскóвье**, which is normally translated as *area outside of Moscow; Moscow suburbs*. Yes, there's actually a separate noun (which you do not have to know) for this. Don't worry about this; just focus on the use of **под** + place names to indicate *area outside*.



Переведите на русский:

1. I used to live outside Moscow.
2. The war began outside Paris.
3. I have a dacha outside Petersburg.
4. His uncle was born outside Chicago.
5. My great-grandmother grew up outside Rome.
6. There's a fantastic Chinese restaurant outside Minsk.

31-й урок – Домашнее задание



Упражнение 1 Переведите песню и стихотворение



Упражнение 2 Переведите на русский

1. I live outside Trenton.
2. Nina is becoming more and more beautiful.
3. What's the difference between silver and gold (золото)?
4. If (≠если бы) I had known that there was going to be an exam (*think about tense*), I would not have skipped class.
5. May I please speak to Vera?