

113

Александр Сергеевич Пушкин (1799-1837)

No song this time, just this Pushkin poem, which is considered by many (including us) as one of the best in all of Russian (and world) literature. You are required to memorize the first, second, fourth, and final stanzas – and can earn up to an additional six extra credit points (which could raise you grade by two “ticks,” e.g., from a B+ to an A) by reciting the entire poem.

К ***

- 1 Я _____ **ч**удное мгновенье:
- 2 Передо _____ **я**вилась _____,
- 3 Как **ми**молётное виденье,
- 4 Как гений _____ **к**расоты.

- 5 В томленьях грусти **б**езнадёжной,
- 6 В тревогах шумной суеты,
- 7 Звучал мне долго _____
- 8 И _____ **ми**лые **ч**ерты.

- 9 Шли _____ . Бурь порыв мятежный
- 10 Рассеял **п**режние мечты,
- 11 И я _____ ,
- 12 _____ **н**ебесные черты.

- 13 В глуши, во мраке заточенья
- 14 Тянулись тихо _____
- 15 _____ **б**ожества, _____ **в**дохновенья,
- 16 Без _____ , без _____ , без _____ .

- 17 Душе настало пробужденье:
- 18 И вот _____ **я**вилась _____ ,
- 19 Как **ми**молётное виденье,
- 20 Как гений чистой красоты.

- 21 И _____ **б**ьётся в упоенье,
- 22 И _____ **в**оскресли вновь
- 23 И божество, и вдохновенье,
- 24 И _____ , и _____ , и _____ .

Словарь (Forms in parentheses are the modern Russian equivalents.)

1	чудный	(Adjective from чудо)
1	мгновенье	moment; instant
2	(по)яв ^и +...ся (Perfective only)	appear; come into view; make an appearance
3	мимолётное	(Try to figure out the meaning from the two roots in this word)
3	виденье	vision
4	гений	here: essence; spirit
4	красота	(Noun from красивый)
5	томленье	languor; pining; exhaustion (We saw the present active participle of the verb in the poem «Я вас любил»: то ревностью, то робостью томим Exhausted now by jealousy, now by timidity.)
5	грусть	sadness; sorrow
5	безнадёжный (безнадёжный)	hopeless
6	тревога	anxiety
6	суета	banal daily life; hustle and bustle
7	звуча+	sound; be heard
8	черта	feature; trait; characteristic
9	порыв	gust
9	мятежный	rebellious
10	рассея+	scatter; disperse
10	прежний (soft! - a time/space adj.)	former; old; previous
12	небесный	heavenly (Related to небо.)
13	глушь	the sticks; a boring place far away
13	мрак	darkness
13	заточенье	captivity; confinement
14	тяну+...ся	drag on
15	божество	here: feeling of divinity; sense of holiness (Related to Бог.)
15	вдохновение (вдохновение)	inspiration
17	настан+	arrive (This verb is normally used with times of the year: Настало лето Summer arrived. Translating this entire phrase is rather difficult; the important thing is to try to keep in mind the “naturalness” of the arrival.)
17	пробуждение	awakening
21	{бь+...ся // бй+...ся}	here: beat (of a heart)
21	упоенье	ecstasy; rapture; intoxication (with no sense of drunkenness)
22	воскрес[ну]+	be resurrected; be reborn
22	вновь	anew; again

*There is no grammar for this lesson, just sample sentences with the active vocabulary. Therefore, you should spend most of your time **learning the poem**.*

113.A Sample Sentences For Active Vocabulary

Note that several of the words from this poem are (not surprisingly) rather poetic. You won't hear these words used in everyday situations, but if you read poetry, you'll come across them not infrequently.



(All sample sentences are recorded)

чудный *wondrous; wonderful; marvelous; fabulous*

Какой сегодня чудный день!

What a marvelous day!

Он чудный человек!

He's a wonderful person

У неё чудный голос.

She has a fabulous voice

яв^л+...ся *appear (suddenly); come into view/existence; come out (movie, book)*

In modern Russian the form is **появ^л+...ся**.

У меня появилась возможность поехать в Россию.

There arose for me a possibility to go to Russia.

В дверях появился незнакомый человек.

In the doorway there appeared an unknown man.

Он скоро появится. = Он скоро придёт.

He'll appear soon. = He'll be here soon.

Фильм «Блестящий ум» («Игры разума») недавно появился в Москве.

Recently the film "A Beautiful Mind" came out in Moscow.

мимолётный *fleeting; brief*

This word is quite bookish in Russian, much more so than English *fleeting*. You really won't hear this word very often in everyday speech, but it's certainly found in poetry.

Счастье оказалось мимолётным.

Happiness turned out to be fleeting.

Я боюсь, что его успех окажется мимолётным.

I'm afraid that his success will prove to be fleeting.

Наша мимолётная встреча произвела очень сильное впечатление на меня.

Our brief encounter left a very strong impression on me.

красотá *beauty*

Достоёвский писáл, что красотá спасёт мир. *Dostoevsky wrote that beauty would save the world.*

Платón много говорíл о значéнии красоты́. *Plato talked a lot about the meaning of beauty.*

This word is also used as a rather colloquial exclamation:

Красотá! *Eeeeeexcellent!*

безнадéжный *hopeless*

In modern Russian the form is **безнадéжный**.

Я боóсь, что ситуáция на Блíжнем Востоке безнадéжна. *I'm afraid that the situation in the Middle East is hopeless.*

Тебе́ это́ не уда́тся сде́лать. Это́ безнадéжно. *You won't be able to do that. It's hopeless.*

Он безнадéжно бо́лен. *He's hopelessly ill.*

черта́ *trait; characteristic; aspect*

Мне не нра́вится э́та черта́ его́ харáктера. *I don't like that aspect of his personality.*

Опи́шите черты́ сти́ля Толсто́го. *Describe the characteristics of Tolstoy's style.*

Како́я у неё са́мая гла́вная черта́? Доброта́. *What's her most important character trait? Kindness.*

пре́жний *former; previous*

В пре́жние времена́ лю́да е́здили на лоша́дях. *In previous times people rode on horses.*

Мо́й пре́жние друзья́ ре́дко пи́шут мне. *My former friends don't write me very often.*

В моёй пре́жней жи́зни я был актёром. *In my former life I was an actor.*

вдохнове́нье *inspiration*

In modern Russian the form is вдохнове́ние. Like мимолётный, this word is rather bookish in Russian, much more so than English *inspiration*. Therefore we have included a few examples with the corresponding verb **вдохновля́й+**, which itself is not that common.

Я про́сто не могу́ писа́ть, когда́ нет вдохновения.	<i>I just can't write when I don't have inspiration.</i>
Творче́ство Ба́ха вдохновля́ло мно́гих компози́торов.	<i>The work of Bach inspired a lot of composers.</i>
Э́то меня́ вдохновляет!	<i>That inspires me!</i>

{бь́й+...ся // бь́+...ся} *beat (of a heart)*

У него́ о́чень бы́стро бьётся се́рдце.	<i>His heart is beating fast.</i>
Он уви́дел краси́вую де́вушку и у него́ заби́лось се́рдце.	<i>He saw a beautiful woman and his heart started beating.</i>
Его́ се́рдце перестало́ биться́ в три часа́ два́дцать минут.	<i>His heart stopped beating at 3:20 (AM).</i>

воскрёс[ну]+ *be resurrected*

This word is normally only used in a religious context.

Христиа́не ве́рят, что после́ сме́рти Иису́с Христос́ воскрёс.	<i>Christians believe that after he died, Jesus Christ rose from the dead (was resurrected).</i>
Ты ви́дел филь́м «Замри́, умри́, воскреси́»?	<i>Did you see the film "Freeze, Die, Come to Life"?</i>
В Па́сху ру́сские обы́чно гово́рят друг дру́гу «Христос́ воскресе́!»	<i>On Easter Russians say to each other "Christ has risen!"</i>

If you're wondering about the exotic looking form of the verb in the last example (**воскрёсе**), it's a remnant of a tense – the aorist, which is equivalent to the simple past – that has disappeared in Russian. Still, notice that the [ну] has dropped.

**Упражнение 1** Переведите стихотворение и пошлите по e-mail преподавателю

Here are some questions that should help with the translation:

1. What is the meaning of **мимолётный** (3)? Break down the word into its two roots.
2. What case is **бурь** (9)? How would the entire phrase appear with “normal” word order?
3. Explain the case on **душé** (17).

**Упражнение 2** Be prepared to answer the following questions about the poem in class

1. To whom (or what – or perhaps to both whom and what) is the poem written? You should be able to justify your answer based on *concrete grammatical evidence*.
2. What is “odd” about the sequence of events described in lines 17-18 of the poem? Look very carefully.
3. What can you make of the order of the final three nouns in the poem? Also, which noun seems “out of place”?
4. Take a close look at the forms of the verbs in the poem and see if you can discover something that applies to just two verbs.