

Тридцать первый урок

31

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

В. Соловьёва-Седого - Подмосковные вечера

1 Не слышны в саду _____ шорохи,

2 _____ замерло _____.

3 _____, как мне дороги

4 Подмосковные _____.

5 Речка движется и _____,

6 Вся из лунного серебра.

7 _____ слышится и _____

8 _____.

9 Что ж ты, милая, _____ искоса,

10 Низко голову наклоня?

11 _____ высказать и _____

12 _____.

13 А рассвет _____ всё 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	шо́рох	<i>rustle</i>
2	замира́й+ // {запр+ / >замер+ / замерé+}	<i>become completely still; die down</i>
3	до́рог + <i>dative</i>	<i>be dear to someone</i>
4	подмоско́вный	<i>near Moscow</i> (See grammar.)
5	ре́ч/ка (е)	= <i>ма́ленькая река́</i>
5	двй́га+...ся	<i>move; be in motion</i>
6	весь (е)	here: <i>completely; entirely</i>
6	лу́нный	adjective from <i>луна́, lunar</i>
6	серебро́	<i>silver</i>
7	слы́ша+...ся	<i>be heard</i>
9	йско́са	<i>askance</i>
10	ни́з/кий (о)	<i>low</i>
10	накло́няй+ // накло́ни́+ накло́ня	<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	выска́зывай+ // вы́ска за+	<i>say everything one wants to say</i>
13	рассвёт	<i>dawn</i>
13	всё	<i>more and more</i> (See grammar.)
13	заме́тный	<i>noticeable; visible</i> (cf. <i>замеча́й+ / замети́+</i>)
14	бу́дь добр/добра́ бу́дьте добры́	<i>please</i> (See grammar.)
15	ле́тний (soft!)	adjective from <i>ле́то</i>

Александр Александрович Блок (1880-1921)

- 1 _____ фонарь, аптека,
- 2 Бессмысленный и тусклый свет.
- 3 _____ ещё хоть четверть века -
- 4 _____ так. Исхода _____.
- 5 _____ - начнёшь _____ сначала
- 6 И повторится _____, как встарь:
- 7 Ночь, ледяная рябь _____,
- 8 _____.
- 10 октября 1912

Словарь

1	фонарь (m)	<i>street lamp</i>
1	аптека	<i>pharmacy; apothecary</i>
2	бессмысленный	figure this out from в каком смысле
2	тусклый	<i>dull; not bright; dim</i>
2	свет	<i>light</i>
3	хоть	<i>even</i> (Recall the expression хоть убей <i>even if you kill me; for the life of me</i>)
3	век	<i>century</i>
4	так	<i>as it is now; thusly</i>
4	исход	<i>exit (из + ход)</i>
5	сначала	<i>from the beginning</i> (We previously saw this word with the meaning <i>at first.</i>)
6	повторяй+...(ся) / повтори+...(ся)	<i>repeat (be repeated; repeat itself)</i>
6	встарь	<i>like before; as in olden times</i>
7	ледяная	<i>icy</i>
7	рябь	<i>ripple(s)</i>
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 **станови+...ся** *become, get*.

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

У нас станов́ится всѣ теснее́ и теснее́.	<i>It's getting (becoming) more and more cramped here.</i>
Его́ лекции станов́ятся всѣ скучнее́ и скучнее́.	<i>His lectures are getting more and more boing.</i>
Она́ пропу́скает занятия́ всѣ ча́ще и ча́ще.	<i>She has been skipping classes more and more often.</i>
Бензи́н сто́ит всѣ бо́льше и бо́льше.	<i>Gas has become (is costing) more and more.</i>
В послед́нее вре́мя она́ ку́рит всѣ ме́ньше и ме́ньше.	<i>Lately she has been smoking less and less.</i>
Он расту́ет всѣ вы́ше и вы́ше.	<i>He's growing taller and taller.</i>
Тигр подхо́дил всѣ бли́же и бли́же.	<i>The tiger came (approached) closer and closer.</i>
Ситуа́ция станов́илась всѣ ху́же и ху́же.	<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.

31.5 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 я э́то, я бы не купи́л э́ту маши́ну.	<i>If I had known that, I would not have bought this car.</i>
Живй он в Аме́рике, он бы стал президе́нтом.	<i>If he lived in America, he would become president.</i>
Учи́сь ты в Га́рварде, ты бы получи́л одни́ пяте́рки.	<i>If you went to Harvard, you would get all A's.</i>
Не пе́й ты так мно́го во́дки, ты бы хорошо́ учи́лась.	<i>If you didn't drink so much vodka, you would do well in school.</i>
Будь Ле́на здесь, ты бы не крича́ла на меня́.	<i>If Lena were here, you wouldn't yell at me.</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 убей, я не зна́ю.	<i>For the life of me, I don't know.</i>
Хоть убейте, я не по́мню.	<i>For the life of me, I don't remember.</i>
Хоть убей, я бо́льше не могу́ есть.	<i>I just can't eat another bite.</i>



Переведите на русский:

- If you didn't complain all the time, I would respect you.
- If you didn't knock on my door every morning at 6:00, I would be able to sleep in.
- If Nina hadn't noticed him, he would have walked by.
- If Borya knew that it was freezing outside, he would have put on gloves.
- If you had kept quiet, everything would have been OK.
- If you had put the forks and knives on the table, our guests would not have eaten with (their) hands.
- If Vera were here, we would be dancing on the table.
- If you didn't overeat at the party, you would feel better.
- I can't for the life of me remember what her name is.
- If you didn't interrupt me constantly (without end), I wouldn't have shoved you.

31.В 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 добр** (*masculine*); **будь добра́** (*feminine*); **будьте добры́** (*plural*). Some examples:

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

Будьте добры́ is used very (very!) often in official settings, especially in stores when you need the help of a salesperson.

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

Будьте добры́ 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 **будьте добры́** (similar to **можно**):

Будьте добры́, Лёну.	<i>May I please speak to Lena?</i>
Будьте добры́, 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.)



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 вечерá**, 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 Петербúргом, а не в самóм гóроде.	<i>She lives outside (of) Petersburg, not in the city itself.</i>
Я читаю кнйгу о бйтве под Сталингáдом.	<i>I'm reading a book about the battle (which took place) outside Stalingrad.</i>
Его́ нашлй под Прйнстоном.	<i>They found him near Princeton.</i>

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*.



Переведйте на рýсский:

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



Упражнение 1 Переведите пёсню и стихотворёние и пошлите преподавателю



Упражнение 2 Переведите на русский

1. I live outside Trenton.
2. Nina became more and more beautiful.
3. What's the difference between silver and gold (зóлото)?
4. If (≠если бы) I had known that there was going to be an exam (*think about tense*), I would not have missed class.
5. Please show me that jar of peanut butter.
6. May I please speak to Vera?