

111

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 Пѣредо _____ **я**вилась _____,
- 3 Как **ми**молѣтное видѣнье,
- 4 Как гѣний _____ **к**расоты.

- 5 В томлѣнях грусти **б**езнадѣжной,
- 6 В тревѣгах шумной суеты,
- 7 Звучал мне долго _____
- 8 И _____ **ми**лые **ч**ерты.

- 9 Шли _____ . Бурь порыв мятежный
- 10 Рассѣял **п**рѣжние мечты,
- 11 И я _____ ,
- 12 _____ небесные черты.

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

- 17 Душе настало пробужденье:
- 18 И вот _____ **я**вилась _____ ,
- 19 Как мимолѣтное видѣнье,
- 20 Как гѣний чистой красоты.

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

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

1	чúдный	<i>(Adjective from чúдо)</i>
1	мгновéнье	<i>moment; instant</i>
2	(по)явй́+...ся (Perfective only)	<i>appear; come into view; make an appearance</i>
3	мимолётное	(Try to figure out the meaning from the two roots in this word)
3	видéнье	<i>vision</i>
4	гéний	<i>here: essence; spirit</i>
4	красотá	<i>(Noun from красíвый)</i>
5	томлéнье	<i>languor; pining; exhaustion</i> (We saw the present active participle of the verb in the poem «Я вас любй́л»: то рéвностью, то рóбостью томй́м Exhausted now by jealousy, now by timidity.)
5	грусть	<i>sadness; sorrow</i>
5	бездáдeжный (бездáдeжный)	<i>hopeless</i>
6	тревóга	<i>anxiety</i>
6	суетá	<i>banal daily life; hustle and bustle</i>
7	звучá+	<i>sound; be heard</i>
8	чертá	<i>feature; trait; characteristic</i>
9	порýв	<i>gust</i>
9	мятéжный	<i>rebellious</i>
10	рассéя+	<i>scatter; disperse</i>
10	прéжний (soft! - a time/space adj.)	<i>former; old; previous</i>
12	небéсный	<i>heavenly</i> (Related to néбо.)
13	глушь	<i>the sticks; a boring place far away</i>
13	мрáк	<i>darkness</i>
13	заточéнье	<i>captivity; confinement</i>
14	тяну́+...ся	<i>drag on</i>
15	божествó	<i>here: feeling of divinity; sense of holiness</i> (Related to Бог.)
15	вдохновéнье (вдохновéние)	<i>inspiration</i>
17	настáн+	<i>arrive</i> (This verb is normally used with times of the year: Настáло лéто 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	пробуждéнье	<i>awakening</i>
21	{бй́+...ся // бй́+...ся}	<i>here: beat (of a heart)</i>
21	упоéнье	<i>ecstasy; rapture; intoxication (with no sense of drunkenness)</i>
22	воскрéс[ну]+	<i>be resurrected; be reborn</i>
22	внóвь	<i>anew; again</i>

*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**.*

111.5 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!	<i>What a marvelous day!</i>
Он чудный человек!	<i>He's a wonderful person</i>
У неё чудный голос.	<i>She has a fabulous voice</i>

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

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

У меня появилась возможность поехать в Россию.	<i>There arose for me a possibility to go to Russia.</i>
В дверях появился незнакомый человек.	<i>In the doorway there appeared an unknown man.</i>
Он скоро появится. = Он скоро придёт.	<i>He'll appear soon. = He'll be here soon.</i>
Фильм «Блестящий ум» («Игры разума») недавно появился в Москве.	<i>Recently the film "A Beautiful Mind" came out in Moscow.</i>

мигомлётный *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.	<i>Happiness turned out to be fleeting.</i>
Я боюсь, что его успех окажется мимолётным.	<i>I'm afraid that his success will prove to be fleeting.</i>
Наша мимолётная встреча произвела очень сильное впечатление на меня.	<i>Our brief encounter left a very strong impression on me.</i>

красотá *beauty*

Достоёвский писáл, что красотá спасёт мир. *Dostoevsky wrote that beauty would save the world.*
 Платон 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 бою́сь, что ситуáция на Бли́жнем Востоке безнадéжна. *I'm afraid that the situation in the Middle East is hopeless.*
 Тебе́ это не удаётся сде́лать. Это 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 егó харáктера. *I don't like that aspect of his personality.*
 Опишите черты́ стíля Толсто́го. *Describe the characteristics of Tolstoy's style.*
 Какáя у неё са́мая глáвная черта́? Добротá. *What's her most important character trait? Kindness.*

пре́жний *former; previous*

В пре́жние времена́ лóда éздили на лоша́дях. *In previous times people rode on horses.*
 Мои́ пре́жние друзья́ рéдко пи́шут мне. *My former friends don't write me very often.*
 В моёй пре́жней жíзни 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 просто не могу́ писа́ть, когда́ нет вдохновения.	<i>I just can't write when I don't have inspiration.</i>
Творче́ство Ба́ха вдохновля́ло мно́гих композито́ров.	<i>The work of Bach inspired a lot of composers.</i>
Э́то меня́ вдохновляет!	<i>That inspires me!</i>

{бь́й+...ся // бь́й+...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 мину́т.	<i>His heart stopped beating at 3:20 (AM).</i>

воскрéс[ну]+ *be resurrected*

This word is normally only used in a religious context.

Христиа́не ве́рят, что после́ сме́рти Иису́с Христóс воскрéс.	<i>Christians believe that after he died, Jesus Christ rose from the dead (was resurrected).</i>
Ты ви́дел филь́м «Замри́, умри́, воскрéсни»?	<i>Did you see the film "Freeze, Die, Come to Life"?</i>
В Па́сху ру́сские обы́чно гово́рят друг дру́гу «Христóс воскрéсе!»	<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 (**воскрéсе**), 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.