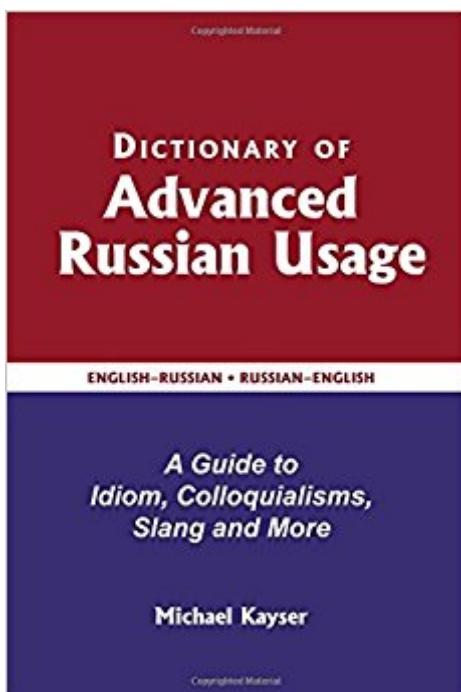


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Dictionary Of Advanced Russian Usage: A Guide To Idiom, Colloquialisms, Slang And More



Synopsis

This dictionary represents a painstaking, sincere effort to fill in the gaps left by even the most comprehensive English-Russian/Russian-English dictionaries. It is not intended for beginners who are looking for basic word-to-word equivalents such as à œtable à “ Ñ•Ñ »â • or à œwindow à “ ¾ à •. It is intended for those who, upon reading through several possible translations of a specific word, phrase or idiom, often find themselves saying: à œNone of this is quite right, none of these possibilities hits the bullâ ™s eye.â • An inspired translation will satisfy on three levels: 1) precision of meaning; 2) the image which is evoked and 3) the actual sound of the word or phrase. For example, if one is to look up à œBoot Hillâ • in virtually any English-Russian dictionary or on-line, one will invariably find the following: à œ ¾ » ‘ , Ñ‰ (— — ? ‘ i “ •); ¾ » ‘ , Ñ‰ ? Ñ , Ñ‡ Ñ ‘ ‘ — — ? ‘ . Even a moderately gifted student or translator would scoff at such a translation because it does not begin to render the spirit or impact of the English phrase à œBoot Hillâ •. It is totally inadequate on two of the three levels listed above. How does à œ œÑ'Ñ Ñ Ñ• Ñ â •(¾ » ‘ , Ñ‰ ” ” »ÑŒ i Ñ - Death/Dead mountain) sound? It is a thousand times better on all three levels than what one finds ANYWHERE. Where does one find such a phrase? You keep your eyes peeled and your ears wide open and your Russian-English subliminal translation machine constantly in gear because you never know when such a gem will pop up. I ran across this particular expression while reading Boris Shergin, a far-northern writer and teller of tales. Have you had to translate à œwow factorâ •? You wonâ ™t find much in any dictionary à “ quite often it is rendered as à œwow Ñ, ¾Ñ Ñ â • or à œ Ñf Ñ, ¾Ñ Ñ â •. If youâ ™re not offended by this, then the fate of the Russian tongue is obviously of no concern to you. How about à œÑ•Ñ ? ÑŒ Ñ ? ‘ , Ñ•Ñ ,â •? Current slang for something awesome is à œ Ñ ? ‘ , Ñ[‘] â •, so youâ ™re just right around the corner from forming the suggested translation. Multiply this by several thousand examples based on decades of study and you a tool like no other.

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Customer Reviews

Michael Kayser is a former English-Russian translator at the Voice of America, an American Translators Association certified English-Russian/Russian-English translator and a former English-Russian simultaneous contract interpreter for the US Department of State. He has been published both in the U.S. and in Russia.

It is rare when a dictionary is compiled from a person's life. Kayser's Dictionary of Advanced Russian Usage is such a book. When leafing through this dictionary, it is akin to savoring a finely aged French burgundy wine. First, it is apparent that the author has painstakingly encapsulated his entire professional life as a Russian specialist into 655 pages. In the preface he points out the challenges of translating the essence and nuances of Russian, and strives to impart the most difficult aspects of learning Russian to the reader. The dictionary begins with a feel of Wilson's The Modern Russian Dictionary for English Speakers. Next, one is reminded of Offord's Using Russian and The Russian Language Today by Ryazanova-Clarke and Wade. Finally, there are instances when elements of Chernov's " in the book. Excellent examples in the dictionary " [You have to hoof it for forty minutes to get to the bus stop (p.183)] or " [a stone's throw (p. 360)]. You would be hard-pressed to find such examples in a dictionary. In addition, the vast amount of slang in contemporary usage will provide the reader with hours of enjoyment. Although this dictionary could benefit readers of any level, I would recommend this book to any intermediate or advanced student of Russian.

I am a learner and a beginner at learning Russian and yet understand the written language and most of the spoken Russian, but failed to grab what the writer meant. This Dictionary is far away from being a book about elucidating on the use or the style of the language like the majority of "usage" dictionaries. Rather it gives the parallel idea of a word, idiom, phrase in a way dissimilar to standard dictionaries. My impression is that it is the product of a translator who is well versed in both languages. Just as the introduction mentions: It is not designed for beginners, or teachers who would pick some expressions for their students. 420 pages for the English-Russian section and a 233 summative pages in the Russian-English

I've been around this Russian game for quite a while. This is the first dictionary I actually started reading, and reading, and reading -- it's that different. There's a lot of classical Russian, but also a great amount of conversational Russian and slang with examples galore. Kudos!

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