



THE

January, 2024

ARTIFACT

#BIRSK IN WINTER

#HAVE YOU TAKEN A PHOTO? YES, I HAVE!

#SESSION WITHOUT DEPRESSION

#A WISHLIST OF A TYPICAL STUDENT



CHRISTMAS EDITION

IN SEARCH OF NEW YEAR'S MOOD

New Year is a time of magic, miracles and fulfillment of wishes. At this time you want to believe in fairy tales and plunge into the holiday atmosphere. But how to get the New Year mood, especially when there is a lot of hustle and bustle and stress around?

Here are some tips that will help you create a festive atmosphere and feel really happy:

1. Decorating your home

Decorating your home is one of the easiest ways to create a New Year's mood. Put up a New Year tree, decorate it with toys and garlands, and hang New Year decorations around the house. Let your home be filled with the holiday spirit!

2. A trip to the fair

A visit to a New Year's Eve fair is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. Here you can taste delicious food, buy gifts for your loved ones and just enjoy the atmosphere of fun and magic.

3. Family traditions

Celebrating New Year's Eve with your family is a great way to create unforgettable memories. Share your favorite traditions with your loved ones and create your own holiday story.

4. Candles and Aromatherapy

Candles and aromatherapy can help you create an atmosphere of comfort and tranquility. Light candles scented with pine, citrus or cinnamon and let their warmth envelop you.

5. Watch New Year's Eve movies and listen to holiday music

New Year's Eve movies and music always put you in a festive mood. Sit back in your chair, make a cup of hot tea or coffee and soak up the holiday atmosphere.

New Year's mood is a state of mind that depends on ourselves. Find something that brings you joy and happiness, and let the New Year be the most magical holiday for you!

by Nikolaeva K.



BIRSK IN WINTER: WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO GO

How to spend a fun winter in Birsk and feel the magic of this season? The team of the student magazine "The Artifact" has compiled a list of places that will make you want to come back again.

1. "L'dinka" ice rink (<https://vk.com/katokldinka>)

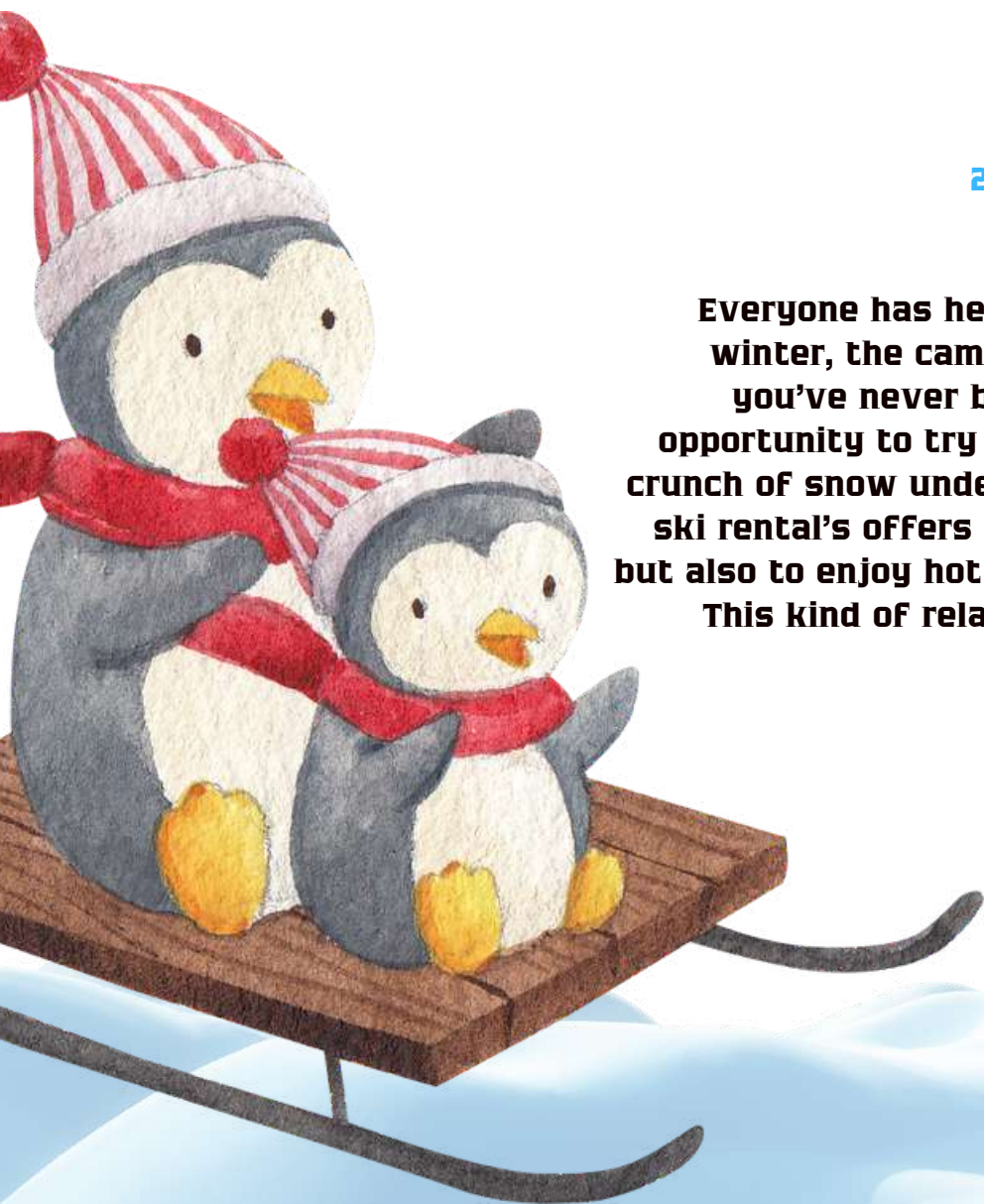
It's hard to imagine winter without ice skating. Do you want to have a great time? Put on warm clothes, invite friends, and go to the ice rink. Fun, laughter, and warm memories are guaranteed.

Don't worry if you're still a beginner. The support for skating will help you at any moment (both literally and figuratively). The most important thing is the company!



2. "Lesnaya Skazka" ski rental's (<https://vk.com/lsski>)

Everyone has heard about "Lesnaya Skazka". In winter, the camp area turns into a ski track. If you've never been on skis, this is the perfect opportunity to try something new! Pine trees, the crunch of snow under your feet, and fresh air... The ski rental's offers not only a chance to try skiing, but also to enjoy hot pancakes and aromatic coffee. This kind of relaxation will appeal to everyone!





3. Oktyabrskaya/Troitskaya Square

This year, the builders of the ice city have outdone themselves: ice sculptures, illuminated exhibits, slides, and even a wooden dragon with a Christmas tree. It's definitely worth your attention! Don't forget your sled (ledyanka) and a fun company to make the day even more memorable.



4. the "Aurora" Entertainment complex (<https://krkavrora.ru/>)

If you prefer to spend winter in warmth, welcome to the "Aurora" entertainment complex: a cinema, bowling, arcade games, and PlayStations. Everyone will find something to their liking.

5. "Chirkov" Creative space (https://vk.com/chirkov_birsk)

"Chirkov" is not just a cafe, but also a gallery of modern art, a creative workshop, and a souvenir shop. And in winter, house parties, poetry evenings, and book clubs are especially popular. These events will warm the heart of everyone!

by Khusnutdinova D.



MANY NAMES OF THE MOST FAMOUS WIZARD

Unchangeable symbols of New Year in Russia are the Christmas tree, presents, olivie salad and surely Ded Moroz and his granddaughter Snegurka.

But in this article, we will have a short trip around the world and find out all the names of this New Year's wizard.

1. First of all, I need to mention **Santa Claus**, one of the most popular foreign names for the New Year's wizard. He brings gifts to children in the UK, USA, Canada as well as Australia and South Korea. You can recognize Santa by his red hat, striped stockings, a sleigh with reindeer and his elf assistants.

2. **Papa = Daddy/Per Noel** also comes to children from many French-speaking countries such as France, Brazil, Spain, Peru, Portugal and Ecuador. This name is common mainly in France and the former French colonies. The French-speaking Canadian province of Quebec has its own post office. It even has a special zip code: HOH OHO, reminiscent of the laughter of the American Santa Claus (in English): "Ho-ho-ho!"

And the external image of Per Noel was based on the image of Santa.

3. In China, where the New Year does not coincide with the global one, it is celebrated according to the lunar calendar, there are several interpretations of the name and image of the winter wizard who brings gifts. He can be called **Shan Dan Laozhen, Dong Che Lao Ren** or **Sho Hin**. His appearance and clothes are very different from the image of the "classic" Santa Claus or Ded Moroz.



4. There is no Santa Claus character in Iceland, and his role is played by **13 dwarfs**. They are called **Yolasweinars**. For 13 days before Christmas, the dwarves one by one visit children, who leave their shoes on the windowsill in the hope that they will wake up and find treasures in them. Good kids get candy, and naughty ones get rotten potatoes.

5. In Japan, there is not 1 wizard, but 2! **Santa Kurosu** is a Japanese interpretation of the American Santa. Thanks to a marketing campaign in the 1970s, he became a major local advertising character.

Hoteyosho is a Buddhist monk who distributes gifts on New Year's Eve. Hoteyosho has eyes in the back of his head that let him see when Japanese children are misbehaving.

Thus, summing up our short journey, it must be said that the concept of Ded Moroz is undergoing changes in different countries, but the image of a kind old man with gifts persists in every nationality, and motivates children to believe in a New Year's miracle all over the world.

by **Pilipenko A.**



HAVE YOU TAKEN A PHOTO? YES, I HAVE!



Hello everyone, today we will tell you about the most beautiful places for **winter** photos in Birsk!



Everyone may have taken pictures there, and if you didn't know, it's a great place for your photos.

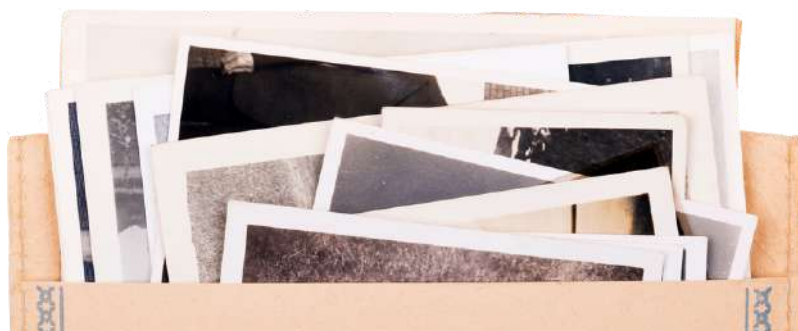


Those lanterns, or the square near the museum

Yes, that the one, in winter, especially in the evening, it's magical there!



the "Sokolok" Park.





You know, there are so many different locations you can find there, and now against the backdrop of twinkling lights, the photos will be incredible!



Our dear center!

**Imagine yourself in a warm sweater, with a cup of aromatic coffee, and outside the window is a snowstorm...
Isn't that like a fairy tale? And if you capture all these moments and share them on your VKontakte, it will be just wonderful!**



"Chirkov" coffee shop



Fun and useful, go skiing and take incredibly atmospheric photos!



"Lesnaya Skazka" ski base

by Bakirova G., Belyavskaya A.



In today's world, student life is inseparable from technology and accessories that help us study, work, and have fun.

Every student dreams of making their learning process and everyday life as comfortable and productive as possible.

Here are some ideas from a wishlist of a typical student for the New Year:



1. Laptop:

A modern and productive laptop is a fantastic gift for a student.

Students often use a laptop for study, research, writing essays, and creating presentations.



2. Online course subscription:

Students always strive for self-development and deepening their knowledge.

A gift in the form of an online course subscription will enable the student to learn new subjects or develop their professional skills.



3. Books:

Books can be a great gift for any student.

Books can help the student expand their knowledge as well as serve as a source of inspiration and entertainment.



4. Inspiring poster or decorative item:

Students often spend a lot of time at home or in the hostel, so their working space should be as comfortable as possible.

Such gift as a poster with motivational messages, pictures, or interesting decorative items will help to create a cozy atmosphere and support the students during their studies



5. Gadgets and accessories:

Modern gadgets and accessories can also be a good gift for a student.

For example, noise-cancelling headphones are better for study or enjoying music without distractions.

Electronic gadgets such as tablets or e-readers can also be popular in making the learning process more interactive and convenient.

Don't forget that the best gift for a student is your support and understanding!

by Shaverskaya D.





WINTER SCHOOL OF LIFE FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS: HOW TO PASS A SESSION WITHOUT DEPRESSION?



There are two pieces of news: the holidays are beginning, but the exam session is coming soon. All of you have already heard about the coming session; everyone seems to be afraid of it and not everyone can survive it. But this is not the cause for sadness and depression!

You probably have a lot of questions: "What is a session?", "Is it really that scary?", "What to do?", "How to survive?"

As we have seen in the example of films: a session is exactly the very situation when students stand with a pendulum over the desk on which the cards are spread and test their psychic abilities in the hope that they will pull out exactly the one topic that they have learned.

And now we will tell the first-year students everything what is necessary to know about the first session at the university as well as give some tips how to prepare for it properly:

The first piece of advice, which, of course, is almost never used by anyone:

During lectures and seminars take notes and commit to memory the material throughout the entire learning until the session itself. This way it will be easier for you and you won't have to memorize everything at the last moment.



If you have already failed in the first point then we move on to the second: «Notes are the first and foremost thing!»

If there is no luck with the notes and you don't have them, then you will have to restore them. After all, they are the most important thing in preparing for the exam. Don't be lazy to put them to paper by your own hand. This way the information will be stored and muscle memory will work.



The third tip: «One head is good, but two are better!»

If something is unclear or there is a question, don't hesitate to contact your groupmates. This way you will prepare together and figure out the questions. And you can also arrange an exam rehearsal for each other. This way you will prepare much better.

Groupmates are, of course, good, but senior students are even better. After all, they have been through all this from their own experience, so they will help you with advice, share information or even give you their materials.



TEST



A+ **The fourth tip: «Don't drive the horses!»**

Don't think that all the holidays you have to think only about the upcoming session, start preparing for it instead of New Year's activities, not to go anywhere, lock yourself in the room and sit cramming? 3-4 days before the exam itself will do for you, certainly not all the days-off.

A+ **The fifth tip: «Rest + adequate sleep = strong nerves»**

If you follow this point it will help your brain to relax and relieve the accumulated tension. After all, our brain quickly gets tired of such a huge amount of information so that then it can simply stop assimilating it.

Psychologists conducted a study that showed that memory works better if you go to bed after the learning process. Moreover, long-term memory works better this way – information is stored for a longer period of time.

A+ **The sixth tip: «0 worries»**

The session isn't so scary. And it's certainly not worth pining over. Believe in yourself and do everything possible to achieve success. Smile wider and take the exam with confidence, because you know everything! Hard work and ingenuity always lead to good results.

A+ **The seventh tip: «Down with laziness!»**

If you have already taken up this case and made a plan of action, then you have now to shoot the works and not give up! Yes, of course, you won't want to write, learn or do anything. Motivate yourself by the fact that you will have a well-deserved vacation when you can fully relax. And now you need to push up and strain a little, so that you can go to vacate and rest with a clear conscience and a beautiful record book.

Believe in yourself and everything will work out! If something doesn't work out for you or even if you haven't passed the session, don't despair and try again. A session is not the most important thing in your life. It's an experience.

P.S. For luck, you can put a nickel under your heel!

by Girfanova E.



CONFESSIONS OF A LANGUAGE LEARNER

Currently I'm revising the second volume of the excellent Soviet course of the Hindi language, and I decided to share some of my memories, experience, and to give advice to young linguists.

The Hindi language is very beautiful, especially its script – the Devanagari (देवनागरी). Now, more than twenty years since I first saw those wonderful and mysterious letters, I downloaded an audio course to listen to, and imitate, the native Hindi speech. Here we come across a paradox: I studied many foreign languages on my own, but somehow I never cared much about talking to native speakers.

If you have to choose between a simpler and a more difficult language course (something like “Teach Yourself ...” or an academic course for universities), choose the more difficult one: the more effort you make at the beginning of your studies, the easier it will be in the future. With a simpler course you will perhaps be more successful right away and it will be easier to stay motivated.

In 2002 we were sophomores and had German and French as elective courses. Many of my fellow-students liked neither the nasal vowels of French (“Je pense que tout va bien, qu'en penses-tu?”) nor the harsh sounds of German (“Ich trinke Tee mit Zitrone gern. Meine Schwester heißt Gertruda”) and chose not to study them, but I attended both courses with great pleasure.

One of the very first texts we read (and, if my memory serves me right, had to recite by heart) was the wonderful poem “Erlkönig” by Goethe which left a deep and lasting impression on me and I still remember a couple of passages.

I was young and naïve and thought that girls could be impressed by man's knowledge of languages. It turned out that girls can be impressed by other, more important and interesting things... Nevertheless, language study (Spanish) brought me in contact with two nice girls (just imagine – both students of faculties of foreign languages, one in Birsk when I was a fifth-year student; and the other later in Krasnoyarsk – we got acquainted via the internet, then met in real life, but communication did not develop into a relationship).

During the second semester of the first academic year (2002, when the name of our alma mater was “Birsk State Pedagogical Institute”) I found two language textbooks in the library: Hindi and Spanish. I thought it better to start with Hindi, a more challenging language than Spanish. I began studying Spanish later that year, and I remember doing exercises during our psychology lectures instead of taking notes...

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I cannot name any decisive factor for my love of languages. Probably it was the course of linguistics at the institute which triggered my language passion.

The Mari language is particularly dear to me as it was frequently spoken by my deceased Mother and Grandmother. To this day I “hear” those phrases “кочкаш молан уке?”, “ит кычкыре”, “пашаш каяш”. My mind kept only these short phrases and separate words, I do not remember any long sentences and cannot speak Mari myself. We, the children (me, my sister and my brother) did not speak and were not taught Mari. Again, there was a two-book course of Mari at the institute library which I inevitably found and started to peruse. This summer I ordered the first book of this course from Yoshkar-Ola by mail and refreshed the rudiments of my knowledge.

Such worldwide languages as English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese might be a great advantage in your future careers. I’m trying to study Rumanian now – what career is that for? Of course, the question is rhetorical. You cannot learn Arabic and Chinese fast, but these two are extremely rewarding languages; just imagine being able to read the Arabic script which is written from the right to the left and whose consonants act as “roots” to make words of different parts of speech while short vowels need not be written at all, or Chinese whose script is logographic and syllables carry different tones.

After I started my language-learning journey in 2002, I made several long interruptions. Sometimes it is advisable to leave the textbooks aside for a certain period, and then resume your practice. Use all available sources: books, newspapers and magazines, audio files, films and series, Youtube, various websites, smartphone applications, whatever you come across. You can also communicate with native speakers of the desired language online. Don’t forget to keep the balance between all the aspects: speaking and listening, grammar, vocabulary, and writing.

Once you’ve mastered any Romance language, e.g. French or Spanish, the rest of them are comparatively easy because of common vocabulary and grammar structures. The same is true for Turkic languages which are a hard nut to crack for me. Bashkortostan is home to many Bashkirs and Tatars who, I believe, can easily study any Turkic language such as Turkish, Turkmen, Azerbaijani etc.

What’s the practical purpose of learning many foreign languages? I don’t know, you have to decide for yourselves. As for the financial aspect, I earned money only thanks to English. Travelling as such demands no knowledge of the language of the country you go to – English might help, or you can take along an appropriate phrase-book.



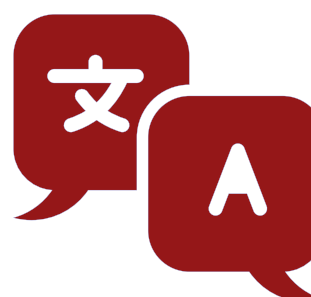
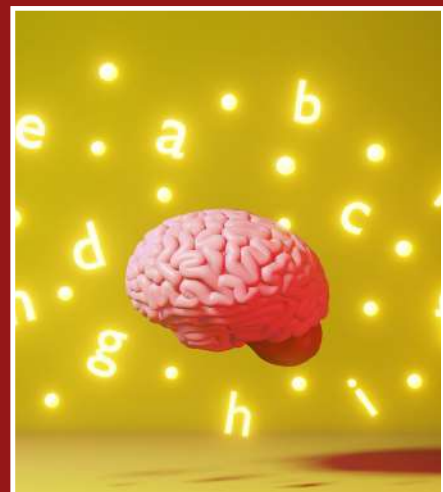
I highly recommend studying languages while you are young – the memory is more flexible, it is much easier to grasp and memorize information and to do exercises. Later you become lazier and the routine fills up your thoughts.

I now have five or six textbooks of the Hungarian language but every time I started this language I gave up – somehow it's quite difficult for me, or maybe I just do not try hard enough.

I read a lot of books to maintain the knowledge of the written language – mainly in Italian, Spanish, Polish, French, German, Portuguese, also a few in Serbian, Czech, Bulgarian. Most of my library is now in Birska and I would happily make them available to the reading public and students there, but I'm too worried about their safety as most of the time I'm elsewhere.

What's the most difficult language on the Earth? Any language is hard only when you begin studying it, but, as they say, "feather by feather a goose is plucked". The more languages you study, the higher the probability that you will know one or two of them much better than the others. And each new language will probably be easier.

by Alexandr Alferov, 2006 graduate, the Artifact ex-editor



#LEARN ENGLISH WITH THE ARTIFACT

WORD SEARCH

G	L	G	I	O	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	X
I	R	J	C	Z	F	C	M	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	S	M
N	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	J	Y	N	X	N	X	H	S
G	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	C	A	R	O	L	S	E	T
E	C	W	B	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	C	A	R	D	O
R	L	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	L	I	G	H	T	S	C
B	P	B	U	W	R	A	P	P	I	N	G	P	A	P	E	R	K
R	G	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	C	R	A	C	K	E	R	I
E	F	E	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	V	N	J	V	M	N
A	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	E	V	E	N	E	I	H	G
D	Q	L	N	D	Z	V	B	K	O	Y	Z	O	G	G	G	G	P
U	W	R	J	I	S	L	E	I	G	H	A	Y	D	V	E	A	G

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden:



CANDY CANE

CHRISTMAS CARD

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

REINDEER

SLEIGH

STOCKING

WRAPPING PAPER

CRACKER

DECORATIONS

GINGERBREAD

MISTLETOE

ORNAMENTS