

## Reading Level 1: Russian tourism

28<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Topics:** tourism, Russia

**Learning points:**

- vocabulary
- present simple and present continuous
- comparatives and superlatives

- 1 There are fewer<sup>1</sup> Russian tourists in Austria than last year.
- 2 The number of Russian visitors was 7-10% less<sup>2</sup> in summer 2014 than at the same time a year ago.
- 3 Bookings for winter are 30-40% lower than at the same time last year.
- 4 Aeroflot will not fly from Moscow to Innsbruck this winter, because there are not enough travellers.
- 5
- 6 In many resorts in the Tyrol, normally 20% of the total number of tourists are Russian skiers.
- 7 In a few resorts in the Tyrol, most of the income is from Russian tourists. Russians often spend<sup>3</sup> money on
- 8 more things than skiing: they buy expensive clothes and visit the towns and cities.
- 9 So everyone in the tourist industry will feel the difference this year – except<sup>4</sup> people in the most expensive ski
- 10 resorts. The richest Russians are still<sup>5</sup> coming to places like<sup>6</sup> St. Moritz and will come in winter again.
- 11
- 12 Lots of Russian tourists are not coming to Austria because of the problems with the Ukraine and also because
- 13 the rouble is very weak<sup>7</sup>, so it is expensive to travel to Europe. It should be cheaper to travel to Russia, but
- 14 European tourists are not travelling to Russia, too<sup>8</sup>. Hotels in Moscow have 10-40% fewer guests than last
- 15 year and in St Petersburg the number of visitors is 20% less. In total<sup>9</sup>, there are 40-60% fewer tourists from
- 16 Europe and the US to Russia than last year.
- 17
- 18 So, the crisis in the Ukraine and the sanctions on Russia are hurting<sup>10</sup> both Russia and Austria.

### Learning points

#### 1. Comparatives:

- a) what is the comparative form of 'low' (line 3)?
- b) what is the comparative form of 'few'?
- c) what is the comparative form of 'little'?
- d) what is the comparative form of 'a lot' (or much/many)?

#### 2. Superlatives

- a) what is the superlative form of 'rich'?
- b) what is the superlative form of 'expensive'?
- e) do you know the superlative forms of 'few', 'little' and 'a lot'?

#### 3. Present Simple and Present Continuous

- a) which sentences are facts (that will not change)?
- b) which sentences are happening now (but will change)?

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<sup>1</sup> fewer = weniger (zählbar)

<sup>2</sup> less = weniger (unzählbar)

<sup>3</sup> to spend (money) = Geld ausgeben

<sup>4</sup> except = außer

<sup>5</sup> still = immer noch

<sup>6</sup> like = (ähnlich) wie

<sup>7</sup> weak = schwach

<sup>8</sup> too = auch

<sup>9</sup> in total = insgesamt

<sup>10</sup> to hurt = schmerzen / verletzen

## Answers

### Comparatives

1 a) low – lower – lowest

b) few – fewer – fewest

c) little – less – least

d) a lot / much / many – more – most

2 a) rich – richer – richest

b) expensive – more expensive – most expensive

c) *see above*

3 a) there **are** few Russian tourists this year

Bookings for winter **are** 30-40% lower

In many resorts, normally 20% of the total number of tourists **are** Russian skiers.

In a few resorts in the Tyrol, most of the income **is** from Russian tourists

Russians often **spend** money on more things

they **buy** expensive clothes and visit the towns and cities

it **is** expensive to travel to Europe

hotels in Moscow **have** 10-40% fewer guests than last year

In total there **are** 40-60% fewer tourists

b) The richest Russians **are** still **coming** to places like St. Moritz

Lots of Russian tourists **are** not **coming** to Austria

European tourists **are** not **travelling** to Russia

Sanctions on Russia **are hurting** both Russia and Austria