

Reading Level 2: Russian tourism

28th November 2014

Topics: tourism, Russia

Learning points:

- vocabulary
- simple past and present perfect
- connectives
- going-to future

1 Fewer Russian tourists have been coming to Austria than last year. There was a 7-10% drop¹ in overnight
2 stays by Russian tourists during² the summer compared to³ last year, and advance⁴ bookings for the winter
3 season have fallen by 30-40% compared to a year ago. To make matters worse⁵, Aeroflot has announced⁶
4 that it is not going to not fly from Moscow to Innsbruck this winter, because the demand⁷ for tickets was not
5 high enough.

6

7 This is going to cause⁸ problems for the tourist industry in Austria. For many Tyrolean resorts, Russians make
8 up 20% of the number of visitors and in some resorts it is Russians who bring in the majority⁹ of the income.
9 Russians typically come to Austria for more than just skiing: they like to buy fashionable clothes and ski
10 equipment in Austria and to go sightseeing in the towns and cities too. So times are going to be harder for
11 everyone in the tourist industry this year – apart from¹⁰ those in the most exclusive ski resorts, like¹¹ St.
12 Moritz. Apparently¹² the super-rich Russians are still coming to their favourite ski resorts, and in the luxury
13 stores in Vienna there has been a 8% increase¹³ in business since January.

14

15 The reason for the fall in numbers is the crisis in the Ukraine, which has also caused the rouble to fall in value
16 by more than 20% against the euro. The weak rouble makes it more expensive for Russians to travel to
17 Europe, but should make it easier for Europeans to travel to Russia.

18

19 However¹⁴, foreign visitors are also not going to Russia. Overnight stays in hotels in Moscow have fallen by
20 10-40% and visitor numbers in St Petersburg in 2014 so far¹⁵ have been 20% down on last year.

21 Overall¹⁶, there have been 40-60% fewer tourists from Europe and the USA going to Russia this year.

22

23 The crisis in the Ukraine, the sanctions on Russia and even the low oil prices have hurt and are going to
24 continue to hurt both Russia and Austria – the question is, how much?

¹ drop = Rückgang, Fall

² during = während

³ compared to = verglichen mit

⁴ advance = Voraus-

⁵ to make matters worse = um die Lage zu verschlimmern

⁶ to announce = etw bekanntgeben

⁷ demand = Nachfrage

⁸ to cause = verursachen

⁹ majority = Mehrheit

¹⁰ apart from = außer von

¹¹ like = wie

¹² apparently = anscheinend

¹³ increase = Anstieg / Zunahme

¹⁴ however = aber

¹⁵ so far = bis jetzt

¹⁶ overall = insgesamt

Learning points

1. Simple Past and Present Perfect

- which sentences are about actions/events in the past that have finished?
- which sentences are about actions/events in the past that have not finished?

2. Connectives

- how many connectives can you find in the text?

3. going-to future

- there are three (and only three!) examples of the going-to future in this text. Can you find them?
- how is the going-to future different to the will-future (see level 1)?

Answers

1. a) Simple Past:

There **was** a 7-10% drop

The demand for tickets **was** not high enough

b) Present Perfect (simple & continuous)

Fewer Russian tourist **have been coming** to Austria

Advance bookings for the winter season **have fallen** by 30-40%

Aeroflot **has announced** that

In the luxury stores in Vienna there **has been** a 8% increase in business since January

... which **has** also **caused** the rouble to fall in value

Overnight stays in hotels in Moscow **have fallen** by 10-40%

Visitor numbers in St Petersburg in 2014 so far **have been** 20% down on last year.

Overall, there **have been** 40-60% fewer tourists from Europe and the USA **going** to Russia this year

The low oil prices **have hurt** Russia and Austria

2. Connectives

and because apart from which but

3. Going-to future

a) it is not going to not fly from Moscow to Innsbruck this winter

So times are going to be harder for everyone in the tourist industry

low oil prices are going to continue to hurt both Russia and Austria

b) 'will' is for any future, so it can be fixed or possible, and can be spontaneous

'going to' is for things that have already been decided, so are more certain