

CL-150 Cohort Lesson of the Month – November 2019

As of November 2019, there are more than 8,100 Cohort lessons published in the CL-150—and counting. We’re taking a look at one lesson each month to find out why language professionals are maintaining proficiency on the job with weekly Cohort lessons.

What are CL-150 Cohorts?

If you’re not familiar, CL-150 Cohorts are weekly lesson streams designed specifically for USG language professionals maintaining proficiency on the job. Each lesson provides a 2-hour “workout” at a specific ILR level, based on a professionally relevant, authentic source.

You can learn more about CL-150 Cohorts and complete a sample lesson [here](#).

Cohort Lesson of the Month

This month’s featured lesson, [BRICS Summit](#), comes from the Russian ILR 2 Cohort.

This lesson focuses on two skills that ILR 2 level learners need to practice continuously: listening comprehension and the Russian case system.

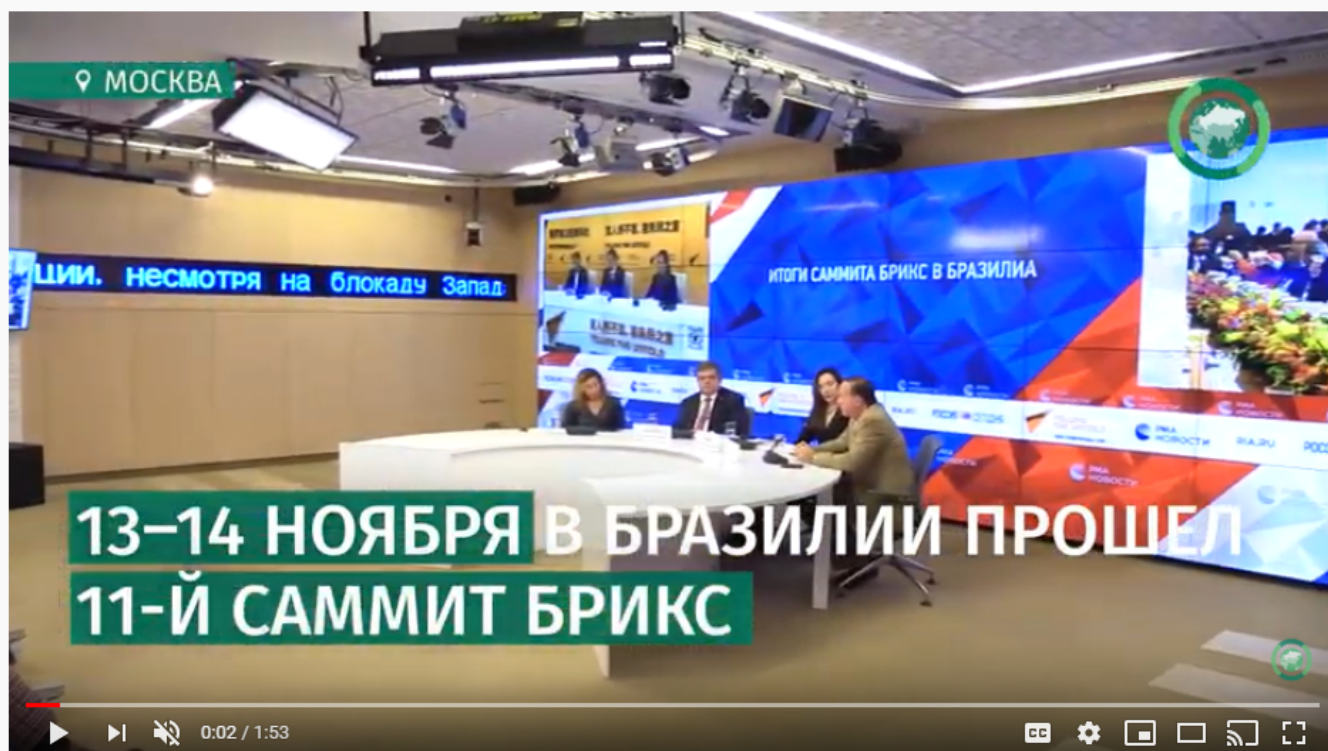
The screenshot displays a language learning application interface. At the top, it says "Russian • Listening Comprehension" with a "0 % Complete" indicator. Below this is an "Audio" player with a progress bar at 0:23 / 1:47. The "Questions" section contains a "Multiple Choice" question: "Какие темы будут обговаривать на встрече?" (Which topics will be discussed at the meeting?). The correct answer is "цифровая экономика, борьба с оргпреступностью и отмыванием денег" (digital economy, fight against organized crime and money laundering). Below this is an "Open-Ended" question section with three questions: "Какова цель создания БРИКСа?" (What is the goal of creating BRICS?), "Когда состоялся первый саммит?" (When was the first summit held?), and "Где прошел предыдущий саммит?" (Where was the previous summit held?). At the bottom, there are buttons for "ARTICLE TEXT" and "DONE".

Focus on Listening Comprehension

All Cohort lessons include audio, usually recorded by the lesson author, along with a dedicated Listening Comprehension activity. But Tanya, the author of this lesson, wanted to provide extra listening practice:

“In the Slide Show activity, I included a link to a video clip from a Russian news broadcast on

the topic as a supplemental listening exercise. Learners can hear about the BRICS summit in more detail while they practice listening to a range of native Russian speakers. Best of all, the key vocabulary is in the video captions, so they can follow along and digest the lesson vocab in context.”



Итоги саммита БРИКС. ФАН-ТВ

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The Listening Comprehension activity, which focuses on the companion audio to the lesson text, includes a mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions. Some questions are straightforward and factual, asking about member countries and dates. Others are more thematic, challenging learners to think about what they’ve heard rather than combing through the text for word-for-word answers.

Focus on Russian Grammar

Just like learners need to continuously practice and improve listening skills, they also need to continuously review grammar—even concepts previously learned in class. That’s why Tanya provided opportunities to practice noun-adjective agreement both explicitly and implicitly throughout the lesson:

“Learners at ILR 2 should already be comfortable with case, but it’s complicated. There’s lots of endings and agreements to memorize, so it’s important to keep practicing and applying it to new vocabulary.”

In Table, learners are presented with a list of Russian adjectives used in the lesson text in various cases. They must identify the case, then match the appropriate noun to each adjective, ensuring it agrees in gender, plurality, and of course case.

Russian • Table 0 % Complete REFERENCE SHORTCUTS (CTRL + H)

Fill the blanks with answers from the right

Based on the reading, put the words in the correct case by matching the noun with the adjective.

Adjectives	Nouns
регулярные	сотрудничество
финансовых	саммиты
научно-технологическое	государства
сельского	безопасность
цифровая	экономика
устойчивое	_____
близкие	_____
продовольственная	_____

Список слов для выбора: хозяйства, развитие, институты

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Other lesson activities highlight the grammar concept more implicitly. The multiple-choice answers in the Reading Comprehension activity and the blanks in Fill in the Blank feature the noun-adjective pairs. This repetition reinforces what learners practiced in Table.

This lesson exemplifies the benefits of Cohorts: covering fresh news that motivate sustainers while still providing a valuable refresh of previously learned grammar to maintain proficiency.

Russian sustainers, complete this month's [featured lesson](#) and make sure you remember those pesky Russian case markers that you studied so hard.

Sustaining a different language? Explore our [available Cohorts](#) and stay tuned for next month's featured lesson for more behind-the-scenes action from our Cohort Team.