

Sometimes to improve your Russian, you need to approach the problem sideways, or with a bit of playfulness. In this issue of Uchites, translator Lydia Razran Stone (*The Frogs Who Begged for a Tsar, The Little Humpbacked Horse* and others) offers a matching exercise.

Пословицы

Match the Russian proverbs in the left column with the English couplet translation in the right column that best captures their meaning.

- 1. Назвался груздем полезай в кузов.
- 2. Баба с возу кобыле легче.
- 3. Работа не волк в лес не убежит.
- 4. Чем бы дитя не тешилось, лишь бы не плакало.
- 5. Без меня меня женили.
- 6. Не в свои сани не садись.
- 7. Волков бояться в лес не ходить.
- 8. Не боги горшки обжигают.
- 9. Богатый как хочет, а бедный как может.
- 10. Соловья баснями не кормят.
- 11. Было бы счастье, да несчастье помогло.
- 12. Была бы шея, а хомут будет.
- 13. Всяк по-своему с ума уходит.
- 14. Выше головы не прыгнешь.
- 15. Моя хата с краю, я ничего не знаю.
- 16. Скатертью дорога.

- A. A rich man acts from his own plan. A poor one just does what he can.
- B. Believe the ancient sage who said: You can't jump over your own head.
- C. There's much that's useful in our land, Some made by God and some by man.
- D. If from wolves you'd keep away, Into the forest do not stray.
- E. If tempted by some rich man's sleigh, Don't sneak inside; just turn away.
- F. Because my hut's so far from town, I never know what's going down.
- G. If tending songbirds is your chore, Don't feed them fables; they want more.
- H. If there's a man whose back is strong,A load will find it 'ere too long.
- I. If you claim you are a carrot, although things may get hot, Remember that you said it and jump into the pot.
- J. Observing folks, I'd have to say, We all go nuts in our own way.
- K. May your road be smooth and clear, And may it take you far from here.
- L. We've no regrets you're off the bus, In fact that leaves more room for us.
- M. What grew this pearl? "Twas nothing but, Some painful sand in oyster's gut."
- N. Whatever works, we'll try it, Just so it keeps the baby quiet.
- O. Work won't run off like wolf or bear, Tomorrow it will still be there.
- P. While I was gone they sealed my fate, I argued but they said: "Too late!"