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ВОРОНЕЖСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

NEVER BEFORE



The special issue dedicated to the 25th jubilee of AMM advanced English groups



AMM Advanced Groups Statistics

- ◆ 292 students graduated from 26 advanced English groups
- ◆ 11 students studied in the USA as exchange undergraduate students and at graduate programs
- ◆ 4 graduates defended their Ph.D dissertations in the USA and Australia
- ◆ about 100 graduates work abroad or for foreign companies
- ◆ advanced groups students:
 - ✓ won several city contests in English
 - ✓ twice won the University contests of compositions in English
 - ✓ several times took the first place in the city contests of compositions in English
 - ✓ twice won the all-Russia contests of students' compositions
 - ✓ thrice won the University and city contests of translation of poems from Russian into English
 - ✓ issued the first students' newspaper in English "Never Before"
 - ✓ participated in 25 English parties at the department.

News from English Lessons

In November the first year students of AMM advanced English groups held a contest of limericks. Today we publish some of them.



There was a girl of Russia
Her name was Ivanova Natasha
She was clever and smart
But sometimes she drank hard
That interesting girl of Russia.

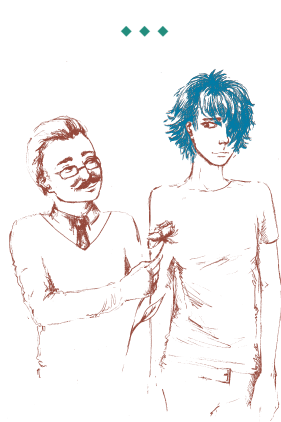
Elena Em

He decided to buy her a rose,
But when he came to her close
He understood that it was a
womanlike guy.
Oleg Kondrakhin



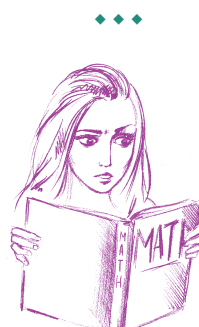
There was a boy of Ukraine
Who wasn't afraid of rain
He had great health
But didn't study Math
That's why he was stolen by the
hurricane.

Roman Chernigovskikh



There was an almost blind man of
Krasnoyarsk Krai
Who saw a beautiful girl with the
hair of color sky

Mary Khots



There was a young girl of VSU
Whose dreams were going to
come true
She wanted her math
To be in progress
That's great for the girl of VSU.

AMM Advanced Groups Archive

From the very beginning English classes in advanced groups were combined with out-of-class activities. One of the first contests held in the first advanced group was that of macaronic verses. Today we publish the poem of the winner of that contest held in April 1989 Lubov Tolkacheva (Zhavlieva).

V. Mayakovsky and L. Tolkacheva

What is it хорошо and what is it плохо

Крошка son to father came
And askнула кроха:
— What is it хорошо
And what is it плохо?

У меня секретов нет, —
Listen me, childришки, —
Father's этого ответ
Placed in этой книжке.

If the ветер roofы рвет,
If the hail загрохал, —
Каждый knows — this is what
For the walking плохо.

Rain покапал and прошел
Sun in whole свете.
This is very хорошо
For the big and детям.

If the son is black as night,
Dirt лежит на рожице, —
That is clear, плохо очень
Для childрячей кожицы.

If a boy likes мыло
And зубной порошок,
Этот boy is very милый
Поступает хорошо.

Если бьет дрянной драчун
Delicate мальчишку,
I такого don't want
Даже put in книжку.

That is shouting: — Не трожь
Тех, who smaller ростом!
This мальчишка very good,
Загляденье просто.

Если you порвал подряд
Воокицу and мячик,
Октябрюта say to you:
Плоховатый мальчик.

Если мальчик likes to work,
Тычет finger в книжку,
Про такого written тут
He is good мальчишка.

From a crow карапуз
Убежал, заохав,
He's a coward, этот boy,
This is very плохо.

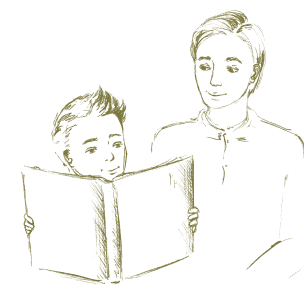
Этот хоть и very small,
Disputes he with птица.
Храбрый boy, it's very good,
В life пригодится.

Этот в dirt полез and glad
Что рубаха dirty,
Про такого есть ответ:
He is bad, неряха.

Этот cleans his валенки,
Washes сам галоши,
He, хотя и smallенький,
Но quite хороший.

This remembers every сын,
Знай любой childренок:
Вырастет из sona свин,
If the son — pigненок.

Мальчик gladостный пошел
And decided кроха:
I shall делать only well
And shall no — плохо.



Kids of graduates speak:

I have never asked myself whether to learn or not to learn English. I was only 4 years old, when my mom decided everything for me. Since that moment English has become an integral part of my life. Only when I grew up, while listening to mom's stories about her studentship, I began to understand where she got her fascination of English from.

My mother told me, that when she entered the AMM faculty she was lucky to pass selection to the advanced English group. Still you might ask: what kind of luck is that if you have more classes, more homework and have to study and take exams one more year when normal students have already passed all the exams and have forgotten about learning English. But mom says that she has never regretted it. Even now, when she tells me how funny and interesting these classes were, she smiles involuntarily. I especially remember her story how

they were making macaronic poems. I tried to make some by myself, but failed.

Students of AMM faculty get the speciality that is not limited by the borders of our country. So it is inexcusable to have a language barrier. And to start talking and communicating freely you need to love this beautiful and difficult language. I think that was the goal of advanced English groups' creators: to make students love English.

I was only 4, when my mom took me to English classes. By that time I could speak Russian and read a little bit. Now I've understood: parents are always trying to teach their kids something that parents like. A long time ago Marina Abramovna was teaching her students like her own children. And then the love to English, which my mom got in student years, passed to me. Thank you a lot for this!



Anastasiya Zhavlieva
daughter of Lubov Tolkacheva,
the 1st advanced group graduate

Advanced group graduates tell about the role of advanced English groups in their professional career and personal life

Time flies... The feeling is that just recently we were attending university and doing grand rehearsals for another performance of the English Advanced Groups. The truth is that it was quite a while ago and surprisingly the challenges I have now are far from those I could ever imagined sitting in a class and studying English.

Back then, while being a student of the English Advanced Group:

- ♦ It was hard to comprehend that in English you have more than one past tense.
- ♦ Traveling to the States was a hard to achieve dream.
- ♦ Using English in a daily life was hard to imagine.

Now, living in the USA, working in a big international corporation:

- ♦ It is a big challenge to teach my own kids Russian since they prefer to use English.
- ♦ Visiting Russia is something to dream about.
- ♦ It is hard to imagine a day without using English.

I think I was really lucky that I was accepted to the Advanced English Group while studying at the AMM department of our university. In addition of being a real fun the classes provided a firm fundament of English for the future. Thinking back I believe it was the only class where we as students actually regretted when we had to miss a class while some other classes we skipped intentionally because they were too boring. Marina Abramovna is a very unique teacher that loves each and every student and does everything to make English classes an enjoyable journey and not just a required necessity. I envy a bit her current students since they still enjoy the classes and fun performances while for me it all became a cherished memory.



*Tatiana Zagorovskiy
Senior Testing Expert
Amdocs Inc.
Saint Louis, MO USA
1997 advanced group graduate*

I have always known learning English is essential in modern world. Working in international environment since 2010, now I know it even better.

Back in 2004 I was happy to realize that it is possible to learn English properly being a student of the Advanced English group at AMM faculty. Our classes with Natalya Mikhailovna were wonderful – while others only read boring specialized

texts, we learned how to communicate using a foreign language. We paid attention to cultural differences, we watched movies, we prepared talks. And one day I realized that I am able to talk indeed.

Moving to another country (Germany in my case) was the scariest experience in my life, but it also proved to be the most exciting after the first difficulties were left behind. Thanks to my amazing teachers, I've got many compliments regarding my English in the past few years. And indeed, it wasn't quite as hard as it seemed in the beginning. Very soon I started to enjoy watching movies with original sound, reading books and magazines without translation, talking in English with people from all over the world, travelling without agencies, etc. It blew my mind to realize how different the cultural background might be, and how logical different behaviors become when you know their origin. The ability to speak decent English gives me a lot of freedom, which I couldn't even imagine few years ago. I love travelling, especially when I can see the real life of real people and not only touristic attractions. I love my job in a company, where only about 30% are locals. But even if one doesn't care about travelling and international companies, he or she might care about professional literature or the pulse of modern science and it's impossible to keep up with those without being able to read in English.

*Evgenia Kochkina (Granova)
2008 advanced group graduate*

The time spent in the Advanced group was a special time for me. One might consider these classes to be ordinary English classes. However, there was a place as for mandatory studies, so as for free creative work while making translations, as for serious tests and exams, so as for totally informal April Fools' Day celebration and common movie watching. Every student was a part of this atmosphere – the atmosphere of creative work and new knowledge concern. Certainly it became true because of our lecturers and department direction activity. We should warmly thank them for their efforts, patience and everyday labour. Looking back I regret only the fact that it is over now and we can only reminisce them while gathering all together. I would like to wish everyone to keep everything you already know, don't spare your efforts and time for new knowledge and remember that all lies in your hands!



*Alexander Ivannikov
CorePartners .Net Developer
2010 advanced group graduate*

Hi, I'm Anna. Welcome to my wonderland of multiple countries and multinational friends! I've started to explore it about 10 years ago from UNESCO students exchange program in Perugia, Italy. It was great experience of independent life, studying, traveling and making friends in awesome country with great history, architecture and cuisine. Everyday I opened something new in international communication, math and applied science – it was door to absolutely new world and I managed to open it by the key named the English language! This key in my hand was so magnetic, constantly leading me to new places, connections and extending my wonderland. So after Italy it brought me to Big Holland financial group which proposed me to develop world of retail banking together. Cross-national team, international projects and friends all over the world – it's everyday reality of my wonderland. It's the world of self-development and people coaching, breathless hobbies (yachting, surfing, snowboarding, etc) and amazing planet exploration (South Africa, Costa Rica, United States, Asia, etc). Your own world is limited only by your desire to explore and open it. Just let yourself be happy in your wonderland!

*Anna Zenchuk
Head of business process optimization and project management, Societe Generale
2005 advanced group graduate*

Our group from the beginning was a strange combination of independent people. Very different, very active. Therefore our discussions were always very vivid and full of emotions. It was never boring to fight each other with not a sword but a word. I'd like to repeat multiple thanks to Vera Ivanovna. I still remember that the translation should be 'Flemish painting' ;)



*Julia Meshcheryakova
.Net Developer, DataArt
2011 advanced group graduate*

There are many things I like about studying in Advanced English Group.

This course has really helped me to develop my English skills, especially in grammar, listening and speaking. Both course books and additional teaching materials were very attractive and full of articles that were interesting to read and discuss. I am particularly grateful to our teacher Elena Vladimirovna Voronina who made the process of studying so effective and interesting.

The courses in American communicative behavior and translation were also helpful. We had a lot of practice in translation that greatly help me in my present work. One of my first tasks there

was translation of technical documentation of about 300 pages. And I've successfully finished it recently.

My English level has improved so much that now I can write mathematical articles in English and take part in mathematical conferences in Europe (I have already been to Poland and Germany).

I can recommend this course to all students who want to improve their English and to discover new horizons.



*Irina Strukova
2010 advanced group graduate*

Three years have passed since I finished AMM advanced English Group. Sometimes I really feel that I do miss my classes and group mates. Because that was a great time!!

First of all, I remember that a lucky chance helped me to join the group. On the 1st of September in 2006 it was my first day in the VSU. I didn't know about the entrance test and missed it!!! Then at my first English class N.M. Shishkina was so kind to tell me that I could try myself in the Advanced group. Their first class was the same day. So I went there. I was very excited but my first impression was a SHOCK, especially after that usual class.

Everyone seemed to be so cool with great knowledge of English, with fluent speech and pronunciation! I even got a thought like: "Oh, what am I doing here??" But some time later I understood that I wished to become a part of the Advanced group, to participate in those talks, to improve my level of English in that great company! My wish came true and I joined E.V. Voronina's group.

Then there were those 4 wonderful unforgettable years. More than 50% of my

memories about AMM are connected with English group. Now I even don't remember most of my classes and tasks in Maths or Informatics but I do remember hours I spent daily doing my English home tasks (by the way, with a great pleasure!), our April fool days and talks during classes, my participation in English Competition among universities and plenty of other things.

We were the first 1st year students who won the April fool day contest, and we repeated our result next year! I was the happiest those days, just like my group mates.

I really adored my English classes, because it was a kind of pleasure or even relaxation after hours of math or programming. There we could talk and discuss everything: from problems that worried us, philosophic topics and people's behavior to films or series. I always waited for the second part of our Headway lesson because there was the next chapter of the series about San Francisco singer and her adventures.

Thanks to my classes, our wonderful teacher Elena Vladimirovna and cool group mates I not only improved my knowledge but got an excellent experience. Now I work as a business analyst at EFKO, the big concern famous for its mayonnaise Sloboda and oil Altero. Though I don't need English in my everyday life I always use it during my vacations. I adore traveling and use every chance to go somewhere. Thanks to Advanced group and knowledge I got I feel as comfortable everywhere abroad as at home. Like there are no barriers, no limits – that's an absolutely wonderful feeling!

Maybe my memories include more emotions than facts, but it's a true fact – I'm happy that AMM has Advanced English groups and that I was a part of it!



*Tyurina Alisa
2010 advanced group graduate*

Students of AMM advanced English groups not only learn English, but also get acquainted with customs and traditions of English-speaking countries. A first year student Juliya Astaf'eva shares her impressions about Halloween celebration they had.

The 31st of October is the day when people from many countries celebrate Halloween. The word Halloween is a shortening of All Hallows' Evening also known as All Hallows' Eve. Of course, we couldn't miss that.

Halloween has long and very interesting history. This holiday has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain. The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31, the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped and the deceased would come

back to life and cause havoc such as sickness or damaged crops.

Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties and visiting "haunted houses". Trick-or-treating is an activity for children in which they proceed from house to house in costumes, saying "Trick or treat?" Trick-or-treating is one of the main traditions of Halloween. That's why people (especially adults) buy a lot of candies, cookies and chocolate bars for trick-or-treaters.

We decided to follow this tradition and made some scary snacks, which by the way were delicious. But the process of cooking was the funniest, because we were expected not only to cook something, but to imagine the situation or the characters. It was really great and we are waiting for Halloween celebration next year.



Editor-in-Chief – Marina Sternina. Drawings – Alina Solovgova

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Адрес издателя и редакции: 394006, город Воронеж, площадь Ленина, дом № 10, комната № 87
Тел.: 222-60-59

gazeta_vu@inbox.ru, steinberg@vsvu.ru

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