



SUCCESS STORIES

ANDRES MARTINEZ



Both bilingual finance manager Andres Martinez and his adopted son Roma are students at the VICI Language Academy in Newbury and here Dad reveals the rather lovely story behind their commitment to learn Russian.

“Well it was few years ago, I was just reading a local newspaper and I saw local news about VICI and then approached them and I started just to study Russian. After that I took my kid also, because I think they are good, really. Well, I’m trying to learn Russian, but not sure I am making a lot of progress to be honest! It is my third language after Spanish and English

“I chose Russian, firstly because my son Roma, comes from Russia. He's adopted. Even though he has almost forgotten Russian, but I tried to have it there sometimes just to recover it from the back of his brain. And I thought that it was a good idea if I, myself, was also trying to learn.

“I also think that Russian is spoken by a large number of people and in the future, probably, it'll be good just to have the knowledge of the language and it'll be good for business, for many things to be honest.

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“Roma is living in Spain now. He will be coming to live with me for a few months after the term ends this year, in Spain. And what he does is, well, he spends some time in the Academy in the year, apart from summers. When he's here, he's also studying English and Russian. I would like to keep it alive

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because I think it's important for him. Somehow I think that helps if he sees that his Dad is also interested and wants to make the effort. It's really a huge effort but I think it's worth doing it.

“My weekly lessons are interesting, particularly because the lesson also covers the knowledge of the Russian culture. I think it's important when you're learning a language, that you also have some tips about the culture of the country, because it makes sense when you put it all together. It's more stuff, but better than learning on an isolated basis. And it's good just from time to time, in the lessons, we are commenting on things that are related to Russia, like some customs or traditional things there.

“The first thing I noticed when I was in Russia the first time, was that I couldn't even read it, because the alphabet is so different, I was just lost! Completely lost. And now I'm able to read and recognise some things. And sometimes I listen to the radio, to the Russian radio; it's not that I understand, I don't understand it really, but I can pick up some words, some things, it is improving.

“I think it's very relaxed at VICI, very nice and I think they are addressing my needs. It's flexible - the lesson can be flexible. I think that also helps. Because

if I find something really difficult, we can focus on it again and again from different angles and try to get it right. It's really difficult. I thought it was easy, but it's not!

“Apart from that they are really, really very kind and friendly. I feel at home there, honestly. And my kid enjoys it. It's the first thing he's wanted each time he's come here; he asks, "Can I have a lesson? Can I have a lesson?" And even after long days he doesn't really mind going to VICI after work and having a couple of hours learning. And he's happy with that! And I'm also really happy with his attitude. It means that he wants to go.”

“I would definitely recommend VICI, definitely. I think the main things are the flexibility, they can tailor the package to fit your needs. And it's not just the language, because they are using native speakers, they can tell you something more than the language, about the culture... and I think that is very good. That is definitely key.”

