

## Moscow to get English radio station

5<sup>th</sup> November, 2012



Moscow's English-speaking residents and language learners will have something new to listen to starting on November 12. The city is launching a brand new radio station in English to cater to expats, tourists and local residents. The

new station, to be called Moscow FM, is being set up by Moscow's city hall. It is part of an ongoing initiative to make the city easier to live in for non-Russians. The radio channel follows hot on the heels of street signs in English, which emerged for the first time several months ago. Moscow's Deputy Mayor Andrei Sharonov told the "Moscow Times" newspaper that the next stage of the city's project would be to provide tuition to the city's police officers to study English.

Moscow FM will have a strong focus on news – both national and international. The "Moscow Times" reported that: "The news content will be produced by the state-funded English language TV channel Russia Today and will make up 20-30 per cent of the airtime." A spokesman for the new station promised it would be, "a fundamentally new urban radio". It is sure to be a hit with tens of thousands of Moscow's foreign residents as well as the five million tourists who pass through Russia's capital every year. It should also prove popular with Russians learning English in Moscow. Language student Oksana Ivashin said she would be tuning in regularly to the station, "for a Russian perspective on English news".

Sources: *The Moscow Times* / *RIA Novosti*

## Writing

*Radio is a greatly under-used resource in the English classroom. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using radio to teach and study.*

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*Moscow / language learners / radio station / initiative / street signs in English / tuition / international news / state-funded / airtime / fundamentally new / foreign residents*

## True / False

- The new Moscow radio station is only for language learners. T / F
- The new station is to be called Moscow English World FM. T / F
- Moscow's city hall is behind the plan to launch the radio station. T / F
- The city's English-speaking police officers will work as DJs. T / F
- The station will focus on domestic and global news. T / F
- As much as 30% of the time on air will be dedicated to news. T / F
- A radio spokesman said the station would be a little different. T / F
- A language learner will listen for a Russian viewpoint on the news. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. residents           | a. constitute  |
| 2. cater to            | b. teaching    |
| 3. initiative          | c. basically   |
| 4. hot on the heels of | d. domestic    |
| 5. tuition             | e. frequently  |
| 6. national            | f. viewpoint   |
| 7. make up             | g. locals      |
| 8. fundamentally       | h. soon after  |
| 9. regularly           | i. scheme      |
| 10. perspective        | j. provide for |

## Discussion – Student A

- How useful is using the radio to learn English?
- Talk about your experiences of learning English listening to the radio?
- Do you think all cities should have an English radio station?
- Do you think Moscow FM will be a big hit?
- What English shows would you like to listen to on the radio?
- Which is better, Internet radio, car radio, or regular radio?
- How much English is there in your town (radio, street signs, etc)?
- What do you think of the idea of giving English tuition to the police?

## Phrase Match

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Moscow's English-speaking | a. heels of          |
| 2. a brand                   | b. airtime           |
| 3. cater                     | c. new radio station |
| 4. hot on the                | d. on news           |
| 5. provide                   | e. in regularly      |
| 6. a strong focus            | f. residents         |
| 7. state-                    | g. perspective       |
| 8. 20-30 per cent of the     | h. tuition to        |
| 9. she would be tuning       | i. to expats         |
| 10. for a Russian            | j. funded            |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do you like news with a strong local or international focus?
- Is there a problem with news content coming from a state-funded body?
- What is "a fundamentally new urban radio" ?
- What should radio stations do to help people learn languages?
- Do you like news from the perspective of your country?
- Which is a better way to learn English, radio or television?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of listening to the radio to learn English?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of Moscow FM?

## Spelling

- Moscow's English-speaking seterdnsi
- nuhagicln a brand new radio station
- part of an ongoing tvitaniiei
- svarele months ago
- the next stage of the city's ocprtje
- provide ttunioi to the city's police officers
- state-nedfdu English language TV channel
- A nmsekpoas for the new station
- "a yuleltdnna new urban radio"
- It should also evrop popular with Russians
- tuning in raelrugly
- for a Russian irptcevpese on English news

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. i	4. h	5. b
6. d	7. a	8. c	9. e	10. f

## Role Play

**Top Moscow FM presenter** - You think Moscow FM will give sell Moscow to the world. You really want to focus a lot more on Moscow only. Think of 3 reasons why. Your boss (who you hate) said she wants an international focus. You also want only Russian songs. People must learn about Russian culture.

**Boss of Moscow FM**- You have spent years planning Moscow FM. You want a very international feel to it. Think of three reasons why. You are very worried about the main presenter, who wants a strong Moscow focus. You also want only US and UK music. You may have to fire the presenter.

**An English student**- You are very excited about the new radio station. You really want lots of news about other countries. Think of three reasons why. You love music from the US and UK. You hope there will be lots of shows about English grammar and vocabulary. You can get news from other stations.

**A local resident**- You think the radio will be great for your English. It must have a very strong Russian focus. You can learn English better if the topics are music are about Russia. Think of three reasons why. You are fed up with people who have no pride in Russia and who always want to be international (the boss and the student).

## Speaking

What are your favorite radio shows? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • local news    | • top songs of the week |
| • weather       | • chat show             |
| • traffic       | • drama                 |
| • business news | • documentary           |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.