

Title: Teaching Time Constructions in Complex Sentences at the Advanced Level
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Abstract:

Existing Russian state standards for teaching Russian as a Foreign Language at an Advanced level do not provide any recommendations for inclusion of complex sentence time constructions in teaching manuals. Only typical constructions, such as *когда, пока, пока не, до того как, после того как, по мере того как, прежде чем* are recommended as mandatory for Intermediate and Upper-Intermediate levels (CERF levels B1 to B2). As a rule, most Advanced level textbooks do not present other complex sentence time constructions, while some work has been done in regard to several contextual uses. At the same time, it is feasible to include more complex time constructions at the advanced level in particular and to emphasize their semantic-syntactic function.

In this article I will present select complex sentence time constructions important to be learned at the Advanced stage. The choice of grammar constructions at the Advanced level is subject to students' needs and frequency of use; they were selected according to their relevance as based on the Russian National Corpus. Our own experience of working with American students within the Bard-Smolny Language Institute (2008 - 2018), Saint-Petersburg, Russia was also taken into consideration.

Among such constructions, for example, are *He + Past, как ...*, *Стоило + Inf., как ...* (*He успела мама отойти от стола, как ребенок схватил горячий пирожок. Стоило ему получить зарплату, как он тут же потратил большую часть денег*), etc.

The second half of this paper examines difficulties encountered by Upper-Intermediate and Advanced level English-speaking students studying grammar constructions of time in complex sentences.