

The Terminal:

1. Victor's introduction to the United States is not smooth. His lack of mastery of English contributes to this. He has a prepared script, and says "yes" whenever he doesn't understand. How do you think this may apply to your initial interactions in your host country?
2. The US official explains the very complicated circumstances of a *coup d'etat* and revocation of an entry visa very quickly. There is a hint that he doesn't understand when the only word he responds to is "Krakozhia". How does the US official use non verbal "sign language" to explain the coup? How well does it work?
3. When he hears bad news about his country he can't understand – he knows it is about Krakozhia, but can't figure out what it is about. What does he try to do?
4. He tries to make a phone call home, with a free calling card. How does this turn out?
5. What other mishaps does he encounter in his first few days in "America"?
6. When he tries to communicate with another non-native speaker of English, what mistakes are made?
7. Not understanding, he tries many times to get an entry visa. What happens?
8. After a while, one person suspects him of being a CIA spy. Why would someone suspect a foreigner who doesn't fit in to be a spy?
9. He begins to adapt when he figures out how to pay for meals. What does he do?
10. When Victor makes a friend, a whole new world of opportunity opens up. Describe how this happens.
11. Language problems – What do the following phrases mean when Victor says them:
 - a. Moose turd
 - b. I wet"
 - c. He shits"
 - d. Juss
12. Victor's adaptation develops. Discuss other ways he learns to adapt to the "culture" of the international transit lounge.
13. When there is a crisis, Victor finally is able to translate a keyword that averts disaster. What does he do?
14. The "Inbound Syndrome" is the tendency for expatriates to bond together. When Victor helps the Russian with his drug import problem, how do the workers in the terminal show their solidarity with him?
15. Victor practices the phrase "bite to eat" over and over, but when the time comes he says "eat to bite". How might this relate to early language acquisition?
16. When Victor "leaves" the culture of the terminal, he is showered with gifts. How does this represent his integration into that culture?

(not part of study guide) But a great quotation from Katherine Zeta-Jones: "I read a lot of history books. They're long and cheap and usually about men killing one another".