RU

LANGUAGE COURSE

Russian Grammar 2

12 Chapters

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RUSSIAN GRAMMAR 2

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🎨 Adjectives — Прилага́тельные

*Adjectives describe a noun: new, big, Russian, tasty. In Russian an adjective must **agree** with its noun in **gender, number and case**, so one adjective has a whole set of forms. This chapter teaches the **nominative**: the four endings, the three adjective types, the spelling rules that change them, stress, and adjectives that have become nouns. Chapters 3 to 5 add the other cases, and Chapter 6 the plural.*

> THE RULE IN ONE BOX
>
> A regular adjective has four nominative endings: **-ый** (masculine), **-ая** (feminine), **-ое** (neuter), **-ые** (plural, all genders). To write one: **1.** find the gender and number of the noun; **2.** take the dictionary form (masculine singular) and find its type; **3.** add the matching set of endings. The gender comes from the *noun*, never from the meaning.

The four endings

	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
new	но́вый дом	но́вая кни́га	но́вое окно́	но́вые дома́
old	ста́рый друг	ста́рая маши́на	ста́рое письмо́	ста́рые друзья́
tasty	вку́сный суп	вку́сная ры́ба	вку́сное молоко́	вку́сные конфе́ты
ending	**-ый**	**-ая**	**-ое**	**-ые**

The adjective question *како́й?* (what kind of? which?) is itself an adjective and has the same endings: **како́й, кака́я, како́е, каки́е**. Use it to ask about a noun: **Како́й э́то дом? — Э́то но́вый дом.** (*What kind of house is it? It is a new house.*)

The adjective normally stands **before** its noun. It can also stand **after** the noun as the predicate ("the house *is* new"). The present tense has no word for "is", so the adjective simply agrees with the noun in the nominative.

BEFORE THE NOUN	AFTER THE NOUN (PREDICATE)	ENGLISH
но́вый дом	Дом но́вый.	The house is new.
но́вая кни́га	Кни́га но́вая.	The book is new.
но́вое окно́	Окно́ но́вое.	The window is new.
но́вые дома́	Дома́ но́вые.	The houses are new.

Watch out: the gender follows the noun, not the meaning

A noun in *-а* that names a man is still masculine, so its adjective is masculine: **молодо́й мужчи́на**, **до́брый де́душка**. In the same way, a noun in *-ь* can be either gender, and you have to know it: **но́вая дверь** (feminine), **но́вый день** and **но́вый слова́рь** (masculine). Neuter nouns in *-мя* take neuter adjectives: **но́вое и́мя**.

Three types of adjective

The set of endings depends on the **last consonant of the stem** and on where the **stress** falls. Three types are enough to start with. The masculine ending tells you which one you have: **-ый** is never stressed, **-ой** is always stressed, and **-ий** is for the soft type and for the spelling-rule type below.

TYPE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL	MEANING
hard, stress on the stem	но́вый	но́вая	но́вое	но́вые	new
hard, stress on the ending	молодо́й	молода́я	молодо́е	молоды́е	young
soft (stem in soft *н*)	си́ний	си́няя	си́нее	си́ние	dark blue

Soft-type adjectives use the soft vowels (*-яя, -ее, -ие*) where the hard type has *-ая, -ое, -ые*. There are not many of them, but some are very common, such as **си́ний** (dark blue) and **ра́нний** (early).

The spelling-rule type

You met the Russian spelling rules in Russian Grammar 1 (they are at work in Chapter 4, Plural Nouns). They explain why the adjective endings change after certain consonants:

THE SPELLING RULES FOR ADJECTIVES

1. After **г, к, х, ж, ш, ч, щ** never write *ы*: write *и*. So *-ый* becomes **-ий** and *-ые* becomes **-ие**. **2.** After **ж, ш, ч, щ** an *unstressed o* is written *e*: the neuter is **-ее**. **3.** A *stressed o* stays *o*: the masculine is **-ой** and the neuter **-ое**. The feminine *-ая* never changes.

STEM ENDS IN	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL	MEANING
к (stress on the stem)	**ру́сский**	**ру́сская**	**ру́сское**	**ру́сские**	Russian
к (stress on the stem)	**ма́ленький**	**ма́ленькая**	**ма́ленькое**	**ма́ленькие**	small
г (stress on the ending)	**дорого́й**	**дорога́я**	**дорого́е**	**дороги́е**	expensive; dear
ш (stress on the stem)	**хоро́ший**	**хоро́шая**	**хоро́шее**	**хоро́шие**	good
ш (stress on the ending)	**большо́й**	**больша́я**	**большо́е**	**больши́е**	big

Watch out: three kinds of -ий

The masculine ending *-ий* comes from three sources, and the feminine tells them apart. **си́ний** is soft: feminine **си́няя**. **ру́сский** follows the rule for *к, г, х*: feminine **ру́сская**. **хоро́ший** follows the rule for *ж, ш, ч, щ*: feminine **хоро́шая**. When you learn a new adjective in *-ий*, learn the feminine form with it.

Watch out: -ой means a stressed ending

> Do not read the *-ой* of **молодо́й** or **большо́й** as a different kind of adjective. It is the ordinary hard ending with the stress on it. The plural shows the same stress: **молоды́е**, **больши́е**. Compare an unstressed ending in the same place: **хоро́шее** (not *хорошое*), but **большо́е** (stressed, so *о*).

Stress in adjectives

In the long forms the stress stays on the **same syllable** in all four forms: **но́вый, но́вая, но́вое, но́вые** (on the stem) and **молодо́й, молода́я, молодо́е, молоды́е** (on the ending). So learn the masculine form with its stress, and the rest follows. Some adjectives shift the stress in their short forms, which Chapter 7 covers.

Everyday adjectives

The masculine form is shown. Adjectives in the vocabulary lists carry a rough English respelling, with the stressed syllable in capitals.

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
но́вый	NOH-vyee	new
ста́рый	STAH-ryee	old
большо́й	bahl-SHOY	big
ма́ленький	MAH-len-kee	small
хоро́ший	hah-ROH-shee	good
плохо́й	plah-KHOY	bad
молодо́й	mah-lah-DOY	young
краси́вый	krah-SEE-vyee	beautiful
вку́сный	VKOOS-nyee	tasty

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
горя́чий	gah-RYAH-chee	hot (to the touch)
холо́дный	khah-LOHD-nyee	cold
дорого́й	dah-rah-GOY	expensive; dear
дешёвый	de-SHOH-vyee	cheap
интере́сный	een-te-RES-nyee	interesting

Colours

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
кра́сный	KRAHS-nyee	red
бе́лый	BYEH-lyee	white
чёрный	CHOR-nyee	black
зелёный	ze-LYOH-nyee	green
жёлтый	ZHOHL-tyee	yellow
си́ний	SEE-nyee	dark blue
голубо́й	gah-loo-BOY	light blue
се́рый	SYEH-ryee	grey
кори́чневый	kah-REECH-ne-vyee	brown

Adjectives that became nouns

Some words look like adjectives but work as nouns. They keep the adjective endings in every case, and their gender is shown by the ending: *-ая* is feminine, *-ое* is neuter, *-ый / -ой / -ий* is

masculine.

WORD	GENDER	ENGLISH
столо́вая	feminine	dining room; canteen
ва́нная	feminine	bathroom
гости́ная	feminine	living room
моро́женое	neuter	ice cream
ру́сский / ру́сская	masculine / feminine	a Russian (man / woman)
больно́й / больна́я	masculine / feminine	a patient (a sick person)

For example: **Он ру´сский. Она´ ру´сская. Они´ ру´сские.** (*He is Russian. She is Russian. They are Russian.*) Here **ру´сский** is an adjective used in the predicate, and it takes the gender of the person it describes.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice that each adjective ends the way its noun requires.

① Neighbours

A:

Каки´е у тебя´ сосе´ди?

What are your neighbours like?

B:

Сосе´ди хоро´шие. Он — молодо´й студе´нт, а она´ — ру´сская учи´тельница.

The neighbours are good. He is a young student, and she is a Russian teacher.

A:

А кварти´ра?

② In the café

A:

Что вы хоти´те?

What would you like?

B:

Чай, пожа´луйста. Горя´чий и чёрный.

Tea, please. Hot and black.

A:

А моро´женое? Оно´ о´чень вку´сное.

And ice cream? It is very tasty.

And the flat?

B:

Кварти́ра ма́ленькая, но ую́тная.

The flat is small, but cosy.

B:

Нет, спаси́бо.

No, thank you.

Quick reference

TYPE	M.	F.	N.	PL.	EXAMPLE (M.)
hard	**-ый**	**-ая**	**-ое**	**-ые**	**но́вый**
hard, ending stressed	**-о́й**	**-а́я**	**-о́е**	**-ы́е**	**молодо́й**
soft	**-ий**	**-яя**	**-ее**	**-ие**	**си́ний**
after г, к, х (stem stressed)	**-ий**	**-ая**	**-ое**	**-ие**	**ру́сский**
after г, к, х (ending stressed)	**-о́й**	**-а́я**	**-о́е**	**-и́е**	**дорого́й**
after ж, ш, ч, щ (stem stressed)	**-ий**	**-ая**	**-ее**	**-ие**	**хоро́ший**
after ж, ш, ч, щ (ending stressed)	**-о́й**	**-а́я**	**-о́е**	**-и́е**	**большо́й**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Add the ending: **но́в___ маши́на**.

▼ Show answer

но́вая маши́на. Feminine, hard type: *-ая*.

2. Add the ending: **ру́сск___ студе́нты**.

▼ Show answer

ру´сские студе´нты. Plural after *к*: *-ие*, never *-ые*.

3. Add the ending (the ending is stressed): **больш__ го´род**.

▼ Show answer

большо´й го´род. Stressed hard ending in the masculine: *-ой*.

4. Add the ending: **си´н__ мо´ре**.

▼ Show answer

си´нее мо´ре. Soft type, neuter: *-ее*.

5. Write the feminine form of **молодо´й** with **сестра´**.

▼ Show answer

молода´я сестра´. The stress stays on the ending.

6. Which is correct: **ма´ленький** or **ма´ленькый**? Why?

▼ Show answer

ма´ленький. After *к* the spelling rule forbids *ы*.

7. Put into the plural: **краси´вая де´вушка**.

▼ Show answer

краси´вые де´вушки. The plural adjective is the same for all genders.

8. Why is it **хоро´шее молоко´** and not **хоро´шое молоко´**?

▼ Show answer

After *ш* an unstressed *о* is written *е*, and the ending of **хоро´шее** is not stressed.

Compare the stressed **большо´е**.

9. What gender is **столо´вая**, and how can you tell?

▼ Show answer

Feminine. The word has an adjective ending, and *-ая* is the feminine ending.

10. Say in Russian: “The ice cream is cold.” and “The bathroom is small.”

▼ Show answer

Моро´женое холо´дное. Ва´нная ма´ленькая. Each adjective takes the gender of its noun (neuter, then feminine).

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): the nominative endings of the hard type (*-ый, -ая, -ое, -ые*); the stressed masculine ending *-ой* (*большой, молодой, другой*); the spelling rule that writes *-ий, -ие* after *г, к, х, ж, ш, щ, ч* (*русский, русские, хороший*) while the feminine and neuter of *русский* stay hard (*русская, русское*); and the soft type *-ий, -яя, -ее, -ие* with *синий* as the example (sources: pelister.org: adjective endings, utexas.pressbooks.pub, masterrussian.com: adjectives, russianenthusiast.com: adjectives, fluentu.com: adjectives, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the neuter *-ее* after *ж, ш, ч, щ* (*хорошее*); the full forms of *маленький, дорогой, большой*; the claim that the long forms keep the stress on one syllable and that some adjectives shift it in the short forms; the list of adjectives used as nouns and their genders; the stress marks, the respellings and the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. The search described soft-type adjectives as fairly rare; I have not tried to count them. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 2: Possessives and Demonstratives. *мой, твой, наш, ваш, свой* and *его´, её, их*; *э´тот, тот, тако´й, како´й, чей*; *свой* against *его´*; the nominative singular and plural.

👉 This and Mine — Э́тот и мой

*Possessives (my, your, our) and demonstratives (this, that, such, whose) are not adjectives in the dictionary, but they behave like them: they agree with the noun in **gender, number and case**, and they stand before it. Russian Grammar 2, Chapter 1 gave you the adjective endings. This chapter shows how the same pattern, with small differences, covers these small and very frequent words. As before, only the **nominative** is taught here; the other cases follow in Chapters 3 to 5.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A possessive agrees with the **thing possessed**, never with the owner: a woman says **мой брат** (“my brother”), because *брат* is masculine. The only exceptions are **его́, её, их** (his, her, their): they **never change**. A demonstrative agrees with its noun in the same way: **э́тот дом, э́та кни́га, э́то окно́, э́ти дома́**.

Possessives

OWNER	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
my	мой дом	моя́ кни́га	моё окно́	мои́ дома́
your (one person, informal)	твой друг	твоя́ сестра́	твоё письмо́	твои́ друзья́
our	наш го́род	на́ша кварти́ра	на́ше мо́ре	на́ши сосе́ди
your (several people, or polite)	ваш брат	ва́ша ма́ма	ва́ше и́мя	ва́ши де́ти
one’s own	свой дом	своя́ кни́га	своё окно́	свои́ дома́

The endings are those of Chapter 1 with two spelling effects: *мой, твой, свой* end in *-й*, so the feminine, neuter and plural are written *-я, -ё, -и* (**моя́, моё, мои́**), and *наш, ваш* have a

plain *-а, -е, -и* (**на́ша, на́ше, на́ши**). The stress sits on the ending in *мой, твой, свой* and on the stem in *наш, ваш*.

His, her, their: invariable

OWNER	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
his	его́ брат	его́ сестра́	его́ окно́	его́ друзья́
her	её брат	её сестра́	её окно́	её де́ти
their	их сын	их дочь	их письмо́	их друзья́

> **Watch out: the possessive follows the noun, not the owner**
> **его́ сестра́** means “his sister” and **её брат** means “her brother”. The word for “his” or “her” comes from the owner, but it does not change. The words **мой, твой, наш, ваш** do the opposite: they change with the thing owned (**мой брат, моя́ сестра́**), whoever says them.

свой against его́

свой means “one’s own” and points back to the **subject of the clause**. If the owner is the subject, use *свой* (third person). If the owner is someone else, use *его́, её, их*. The test: *is the owner the one doing the verb?* In the examples below *свой* stands in the object position, where an inanimate masculine, neuter or plural noun looks just like the nominative; the other forms come in Chapters 3 to 5.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Он лю́бит свой дом.	He loves his own house. (He is the owner.)
Он лю́бит его́ дом.	He loves his house. (Somebody else’s: a friend’s, say.)
Она́ лю́бит своё письмо́.	She loves her own letter.
Мы лю́бим свои́ дома́.	We love our own houses.
Я лю́блю мой дом.	I love my house. (With *я, ты, мы, вы*, either *мой* or *свой* is correct.)

Watch out: свой never describes the subject

Свой can describe an object, but it cannot belong to the subject itself. To say “his house is big” you must use **Его́ дом большо́й.** The subject is *дом*, and *свой* would have to refer back to a subject that is not there.

Demonstratives

WORD	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
this	э́тот дом	э́та кни́га	э́то окно́	э́ти дома́
that	тот дом	та кни́га	то окно́	те дома́
such; so	тако́й дом	така́я кни́га	тако́е окно́	таки́е дома́
what kind of	како́й дом?	така́я кни́га?	како́е окно́?	таки́е дома́?
whose	чей дом?	чья кни́га?	чьё окно́?	чьи дома́?

тако́й and **како́й** take the stressed adjective endings of Chapter 1 (*-ой, -ая, -ое, -ие*, with *-ие* after *к*). **э́тот**, **тот** and **чей** have their own short forms, which are shown above. Use *э́тот* for what is near and *тот* for what is far, and the two together for a contrast: **Э́тот дом но́вый, а тот дом ста́рый.** (*This house is new, and that house is old.*)

Watch out: э́то is not э́тот

The invariable **э́то** means “this is / that is”, whatever the gender of the noun that follows: **Э́то мой дом. Э́то моя́ кни́га. Э́то мои́ друзья́.** The agreeing **э́тот, э́та, э́то, э́ти** means “this” as an adjective: **э́тот дом**, “this house”. Compare **Э́то мой дом.** (*This is my house.*) with **Э́тот дом мой.** (*This house is mine.*)

Putting the words in order

When several of these words stand before a noun, the order is **demonstrative or possessive, then adjective, then noun**. All of them agree with the noun.

PATTERN	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
possessive + adjective + noun	**мой но́вый дом**	**моя́ но́вая кни́га**	**моё но́вое окно́**	**мои́ но́вые дома́**
demonstrative + adjective + noun	**э́тот ста́рый слова́рь**	**э́та ма́ленькая кварти́ра**	**э́то си́нее мо́ре**	**э́ти хоро́шие друзья́**

Everyday words

A rough English respelling is given, with the stressed syllable in capitals. Note that the *г* of *его́* is read as *в*.

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
мой	moy	my
твой	tvoy	your (informal singular)
наш	nahsh	our
ваш	vahsh	your (plural or polite)
свой	svoy	one’s own
его́	ye-VOH	his; its
её	ye-YOH	her
их	eekh	their
э́тот	EH-tot	this
тот	tot	that
тако́й	tah-KOY	such; so
како́й	kah-KOY	what kind of; which
чей	chey	whose

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice which word agrees with which noun.

① Whose is it?

A:

Чей э́то телефо́н?

Whose phone is this?

B:

Э́то мой телефо́н. А э́то твоя́ су́мка?

This is my phone. And is this your bag?

A:

Нет, э́то не моя́ су́мка. Э́то её су́мка.

No, this is not my bag. It is her bag.

② At home

A:

Э́та кварти́ра ва́ша?

Is this flat yours?

B:

Да, э́то на́ша кварти́ра. Э́ти ко́мнаты больши́е, а те ма́ленькие.

Yes, this is our flat. These rooms are big, and those are small.

Quick reference

WORD	M.	F.	N.	PL.
my	**мой**	**моя́**	**моё**	**мои́**
your (sing.)	**твой**	**твоя́**	**твоё**	**твои́**
one's own	**свой**	**своя́**	**своё**	**свои́**
our	**наш**	**на́ша**	**на́ше**	**на́ши**
your (pl.)	**ваш**	**ва́ша**	**ва́ше**	**ва́ши**
his, her, their	**его́, её, их**	same	same	same
this	**э́тот**	**э́та**	**э́то**	**э́ти**

WORD	M.	F.	N.	PL.
that	**тот**	**та**	**то**	**те**
such; what kind of	**тако́й, како́й**	**така́я, кака́я**	**тако́е, како́е**	**таки́е, каки́е**
whose	**чей**	**чья**	**чьё**	**чьи**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Add the right word for “my”: ____ **кни́га**.

▼ Show answer

моя́ кни́га. *Кни́га* is feminine.

2. Add the right word for “our”: ____ **окно́**.

▼ Show answer

на́ше окно́. Neuter: *-е*.

3. A woman talks about her brother. Which is right: **мой брат** or **моя́ брат**?

▼ Show answer

мой брат. The possessive agrees with *брат* (masculine), not with the speaker.

4. Complete the question: ____ **э́то су́мка?** (whose)

▼ Show answer

Чья э́то су́мка? *Су́мка* is feminine, so *чья*.

5. Say “that book” in Russian.

▼ Show answer

та кни´га. The feminine of *mom* is *ma*.

6. Say “What a house!” (such a house) in Russian.

▼ Show answer

Тако´й дом! *Тако´й* takes the stressed masculine ending.

7. This is Anna. Add the right word: **А´нна — студе´нтка. ____ брат — студе´нт.** (her)

▼ Show answer

её брат. *Её* never changes.

8. Which sentence is right if he is talking about his own house: **Он лю´бит свой дом.** or **Он лю´бит его´ дом.**?

▼ Show answer

Он лю´бит свой дом. The owner is the subject, so *свой*. The other sentence means somebody else’s house.

9. Put into the plural: **э´тот ста´рый дом**.

▼ Show answer

э´ти ста´рые дома´. The demonstrative and the adjective both take the plural.

10. Say in Russian: “Whose house is this? It is ours.”

▼ Show answer

Чей э´то дом? Э´то наш дом. *Э´то* stays the same, and *наш* agrees with *дом*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): the nominative forms of the possessives *мой, моя, моё, мои* and *твой, наш, ваш* (they agree with the possessed noun); that *его, её, их* are fixed and do not decline; and the rule that *свой* refers back to the subject of the clause (*Он любит свою работу* against *его работу*), with the object forms of *свой* following the animacy rule (*свой дом,*

свои дома) (sources: elon.io: свой, the reflexive possessive, elon.io: его, её, их, elon.io: possessive forms, Bucknell University: possessive pronouns, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the declension forms of *этот, тот, такой, какой, чей* (the search returned no tables for them; check these against a dedicated reference); the claim that *свой* cannot describe the subject of its own clause; the rule that either *мой* or *свой* is acceptable with *я, ты, мы, вы*; the word order of possessive or demonstrative before adjective; the stress marks, respellings (including *его* read *ye-VOH*), example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 3: Adjectives: Accusative and Prepositional. *в но́вом до́ме, на но́вой рабо́те*; the accusative *-ую / -юю*; the animate-masculine rule for the whole phrase; direction and place.

📍 Place and Object — Ме́сто и объе́кт

In Russian Grammar 1 you learned that the noun changes with its role: object (accusative, Chapter 6) and place (prepositional, Chapter 5). The adjective changes with it, so a new house becomes ***но́вый дом*** *as an object, but* ***в но́вом до́ме*** *as a place. This chapter teaches the accusative and prepositional* ***singular*** *of adjectives. The plural comes in Chapter 6.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Accusative singular: feminine **-ая** → **-ую** (soft **-яя** → **-юю**); neuter **unchanged**; masculine **unchanged if inanimate**, but **-ого / -его** if it names a person or animal. **Prepositional singular:** masculine and neuter **-ом / -ем**, feminine **-ой / -ей**. The adjective and its noun change **together**, and the spelling rules from Chapter 1 still decide between *-ом / -ем* and *-ой / -ей*.

The accusative singular

The accusative is the case of the **direct object** and of **direction** after *в* and *на* (*куда́?*, "where to?"). The feminine ending changes, the neuter and inanimate masculine do not, and animate masculines take a new ending.

TYPE	MASCULINE, INANIMATE	MASCULINE, ANIMATE	FEMININE	NEUTER
hard	но́вый дом	но́вого дру́га	но́вую кни́гу	но́вое окно́
hard, ending stressed	большо́й дом	большо́го бра́та	большу́ю кварти́ру	большо́е окно́
soft	после́дний дом	после́днего студе́нта	после́днюю кни́гу	после́днее окно́

TYPE	MASCULINE, INANIMATE	MASCULINE, ANIMATE	FEMININE	NEUTER
after к	ру́сский журна́л	ру́сского студе́нта	ру́сскую кни́гу	ру́сское письмо́
after ш	хоро́ший дом	хоро́шего дру́га	хоро́шую кни́гу	хоро́шее ме́сто

The animate masculine adjective takes the same *-ого / -его* ending as the genitive, which Chapter 4 teaches in full. Here you only need it for animate masculine objects. *-его* appears after a soft stem and after *ж, ш, ч, щ* when the stress is on the stem (**после́днего, хоро́шего**), and *-ого* after a hard stem or a stressed ending (**но́вого, большо́го**).

Watch out: the animate rule changes the whole phrase

With an animate masculine noun **both** the adjective and the noun take the genitive form: **Я зна́ю но́вого студе́нта.** With an inanimate masculine noun neither changes: **Я ви́жу но́вый дом.** A feminine noun, animate or not, always takes *-ую* in the adjective: **Я зна́ю но́вую студе́нтку.** A common mistake is to change the noun and leave the adjective in the nominative, as in *новый студента*.

Watch out: the г in -ого is pronounced в

The ending *-ого* is spelled with *г* but pronounced with a *в*: **но́вого** and **большо́го** sound as if they were written with *в*. The same is true of *-его*, and of the pronoun **его́** from Chapter 2.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Я чита́ю интере́сную кни́гу.	I am reading an interesting book.
Я зна́ю но́вого студе́нта.	I know the new student.
Мы ви́дим большо́й дом.	We see a big house.
Она́ покупа́ет си́нюю су́мку.	She is buying a blue bag.
Он пьёт холо́дное молоко́.	He is drinking cold milk.

The prepositional singular

The prepositional case answers *где?* (“where?”) after *в* and *на*, and it follows *о* (“about”). It is used **only** with a preposition. The masculine and the neuter share their ending.

TYPE	MASCULINE	NEUTER	FEMININE
hard	в но́вом до́ме	в но́вом письме́	в но́вой кни́ге
hard, ending stressed	в большо́м до́ме	в большо́м окне́	в большо́й кварти́ре
soft	в си́нем до́ме	в си́нем мо́ре	в си́ней су́мке
after к	в ру́сском го́роде	в ру́сском письме́	в ру́сской шко́ле
after ш	в хоро́шем до́ме	в хоро́шем письме́	в хоро́шей шко́ле

Watch out: after ж, ш, ч, щ an unstressed ending is -ем / -ей

The spelling rule from Chapter 1 works here too. **хоро´ший** has the stress on the stem, so its endings are *-ем* and *-ей*: **в хоро´шем до´ме, в хоро´шей шко´ле**. **большо´й** has the stress on the ending, so it keeps *-ом* and *-ой*: **в большо´м до´ме, в большо´й шко´ле**.

Watch out: the adjective ignores the odd noun endings

Some masculine nouns take a stressed *-у* in the prepositional case after *в* and *на* (**в саду´**, **в аэропорту´**), but the adjective keeps its normal ending: **в большо´м саду´**, **в хоро´шем аэропорту´**. In the same way, a noun that never changes keeps its form while the adjective takes the ending: **в но´вом кафе´**, **в но´вом метро´**.

Direction against place

The same preposition can take two cases. **Direction** (*куда´?*, motion towards) takes the **accusative**. **Place** (*где?*, no motion) takes the **prepositional**. The adjective changes with the noun.

WHERE TO? (ACCUSATIVE)	WHERE? (PREPOSITIONAL)
Я иду́ в но́вую шко́лу.	Я в но́вой шко́ле.
Он идёт на но́вую рабо́ту.	Он на но́вой рабо́те.
Мы идём в большо́й парк.	Мы в большо́м па́рке.
Она́ идёт в хоро́шее кафе́.	Она́ в хоро́шем кафе́.

The preposition **о** (“about”) always takes the prepositional case, and it becomes **об** before a vowel: **Мы говори́м о но́вом фи́льме.** (*We are talking about the new film.*) **Мы говори́м об интере́сной кни́ге.** (*We are talking about an interesting book.*) To name a language, use *на*: **на ру́сском языке́** (*in Russian*).

Places to practise with

The two forms of each noun are shown with the preposition that goes with it. A rough English respelling is given, with the stressed syllable in capitals.

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	WHERE TO?	WHERE?
магази́н	mah-gah-ZEEN	shop	**в магази́н**	**в магази́не**
шко́ла	SHKOH-lah	school	**в шко́лу**	**в шко́ле**
рабо́та	rah-BOH-tah	work; job	**на рабо́ту**	**на рабо́те**
парк	pahrk	park	**в парк**	**в па́рке**
кафе́	kah-FEH	café	**в кафе́**	**в кафе́**
кварти́ра	kvahr-TEE-rah	flat	**в кварти́ру**	**в кварти́ре**
го́род	GOH-raht	city; town	**в го́род**	**в го́роде**
музе́й	moo-ZEY	museum	**в музе́й**	**в музе́е**
библиоте́ка	beeb-lee-ah-TEH-kah	library	**в библиоте́ку**	**в библиоте́ке**

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice which phrases show direction and which show place.

① Where are you going?

A:

Куда́ ты идёшь?

Where are you going?

B:

Я иду́ в но́вую библиоте́ку. А ты?

I am going to the new library. And you?

A:

Я иду́ в большо́й магази́н. Мой ста́рый друг рабо́тает в но́вом кафе́.

I am going to a big shop. My old friend works in a new café.

B:

Где э́то кафе́?

Where is that café?

A:

В ма́леньком па́рке.

In a small park.

② Do you know him?

A:

Ты зна́ешь но́вого учи́теля?

Do you know the new teacher?

B:

Да, я ча́сто ви́жу его́. Он ру́сский.

Yes, I often see him. He is Russian.

A:

А но́вую учи́тельницу?

And the new (female) teacher?

B:

Её я не зна́ю. Она́ молода́я.

I do not know her. She is young.

Quick reference

CASE	MASCULINE	NEUTER	FEMININE
Accusative	inanimate: as nominative animate: **-ого / -его**	as nominative	**-ую / -юю**

CASE	MASCULINE	NEUTER	FEMININE
Prepositional	**-ом / -ем**	**-ом / -ем**	**-ой / -ей**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Put the phrase in the prepositional case: **в (но́вый дом)**.

▼ Show answer

в но́вом до́ме. Masculine, hard: *-ом*.

2. Put the phrase in the prepositional case: **на (но́вая рабо́та)**.

▼ Show answer

на но́вой рабо́те. Feminine, hard: *-ой*.

3. Put the phrase in the accusative: **Я чита́ю (интере́сная кни́га).**.

▼ Show answer

Я чита́ю интере́сную кни́гу. Feminine: *-ая → -ую*.

4. Put the phrase in the accusative: **Я ви́жу (но́вый студе́нт).**.

▼ Show answer

Я ви́жу но́вого студе́нта. A student is animate, so the adjective and the noun both take the genitive form.

5. Put the phrase in the accusative: **Я ви́жу (но́вый дом).**.

▼ Show answer

Я ви́жу но́вый дом. A house is inanimate, so nothing changes.

6. Put the phrase in the prepositional case: **в (си́няя су́мка)**.

▼ Show answer

в си´ней су´мке. Soft type, feminine: *-ей*.

7. Say in Russian: “I am going to the big park” and “I am in the big park”.

▼ Show answer

Я иду´ в большо´й парк. Я в большо´м па´рке. Direction takes the accusative, place the prepositional.

8. Put the phrase in the prepositional case: **в (хоро´шая шко´ла)**.

▼ Show answer

в хоро´шей шко´ле. After *ш*, with the stress on the stem, the ending is *-ей*.

9. Why does **Я зна´ю молодо´го врача´** have *-ого* and not *-ый*?

▼ Show answer

A doctor is animate and masculine, so the adjective takes the genitive form *-ого*. The stress stays on the ending, and the *г* is pronounced *в*.

10. Complete: **Мы говори´м ____ (интере´сная кни´га).** (about an interesting book)

▼ Show answer

Мы говори´м об интере´сной кни´ге. *О* becomes *об* before a vowel, and it takes the prepositional case.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): the feminine accusative singular *-ую* (soft *-юю*); the animate masculine accusative taking the genitive form *-ого / -его* while the inanimate masculine stays as the nominative; and the prepositional singular *-ом / -ем* for the masculine and neuter and *-ой / -ей* for the feminine (sources: BYU: word endings and spelling, masterrussian.com: the accusative case, masterrussian.com: declension of adjectives, Russian grammar (laussy.org), mezhdunami.ku.edu: unit 3, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). **Not covered by the search, from general knowledge:** the choice between *-ом / -ем* and *-ой /*

-ей after *ш* and *ж* (the search did not give the stress condition); the full forms of *большой, последний, русский, хороший* in these cases; the pronunciation of *г* as *в* in *-ого*; the stressed prepositional *-у* of nouns such as *в саду, в аэропорту*; the rule that *о* becomes *об* before a vowel; the stress marks, respellings, example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. The search also noted that sources differ on how they list some of these endings; check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 4: Adjectives: the Genitive. *нет но́вой кни́ги, у но́вого студе́нта*; the endings *-ого, -ой, -его*; possessives and demonstratives in the genitive; the prepositions *из, с, от, до, без, для, у*.

🏠 Whose and Without — Чей и без чего́

*The genitive is the case of "of", of absence and of "from". Russian Grammar 1 (Chapters 7 and 8) taught it for nouns. This chapter adds the adjective, the possessives and the demonstratives in the **singular**. It is the easiest case so far, because the adjective has only **two** endings, one for masculine and neuter and one for feminine. The plural comes in Chapter 6.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Genitive singular: masculine and neuter **-ого** (soft, and after *ж, ш, ч, щ* with the stress on the stem, **-его**); feminine **-ой** (soft and the same hushing group, **-ей**). The adjective, possessive or demonstrative takes this ending whatever the noun, animate or not. The noun takes its own genitive ending from Russian Grammar 1.

Adjectives in the genitive

TYPE	MASCULINE	NEUTER	FEMININE
hard	нет но́вого до́ма	нет но́вого окна́	нет но́вой кни́ги
hard, ending stressed	нет большо́го до́ма	нет большо́го окна́	нет большо́й кни́ги
soft	нет после́днего до́ма	нет после́днего окна́	нет после́дней кни́ги
after к	нет ру́сского журна́ла	нет ру́сского письма́	нет ру́сской кни́ги
after ш	нет хоро́шего до́ма	нет хоро́шего ме́ста	нет хоро́шей кни́ги

The ending of the adjective comes from its gender, number and case. The ending of the noun comes from its own declension. In **нет но́вой кни́ги** the two endings happen to look alike (*-ой*, *-и*), but they are different things.

Watch out: the masculine genitive is the animate accusative

In Chapter 3 you met **Я зна´ю но´вого студе´нта.** The adjective ending *-ого* there is the genitive ending, taken over by the accusative of animate masculine nouns. So you already know the masculine genitive: **но´вого, хоро´шего, ру´сского, большо´го**.

Watch out: the feminine -ой appears in four cases

The feminine genitive *-ой / -ей* is the same as the feminine prepositional of Chapter 3: **нет но´вой кни´ги** (genitive), **в но´вой кни´ге** (prepositional). The dative and the instrumental use *-ой / -ей* too, which Chapter 5 shows. You tell the cases apart by the **preposition or the verb** and by the **noun ending**, not by the adjective alone.

Possessives and demonstratives in the genitive

They take the same two endings as the adjective. The stress moves to the ending in *мой, твой, свой* (**моего´, мое´й**) and stays on the stem in *наш, ваш* (**на´шего, на´шей**). The words **его´, её, их** never change, and **тот** keeps a stressed ending in the masculine and neuter (**того´**).

WORD	MASCULINE AND NEUTER	FEMININE
my	моего́ дру́га	мое́й сестры́
your (sing.)	твоего́ дру́га	твое́й сестры́
one's own	своего́ дру́га	свое́й сестры́
our	на́шего дру́га	на́шей сестры́
your (pl.)	ва́шего дру́га	ва́шей сестры́
his, her, their	его́ / её / их дру́га	его́ / её / их сестры́
this	э́того дру́га	э́той сестры́
that	того́ дру́га	той сестры́

WORD	MASCULINE AND NEUTER	FEMININE
such	**тако́го дру́га**	**тако́й сестры́**
what kind of	**како́го дру́га?**	**како́й сестры́?**
whose	**чьего́ дру́га?**	**чьей сестры́?**

> **Watch out: его́, её, их do not take н-**
>
> After a preposition the personal pronouns *его, её, их* take an *н-* (**у него́**, **у неё**, **у них**), as you learned in Russian Grammar 1. The **possessives** with the same spelling never do: **у её сестры́** (“at her sister’s”), **для их дру́га** (“for their friend”).

The genitive in use

These are the uses to learn first. The preposition or construction demands the genitive, and the whole noun phrase follows.

USE	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
absence: *нет*	**У меня́ нет но́вой кни́ги.**	I do not have a new book.
absence: *нет*	**В кварти́ре нет большо́го окна́.**	There is no big window in the flat.
possession: *у*	**У моего́ дру́га есть но́вая маши́на.**	My friend has a new car.
“of”	**Э́то дом на́шего сосе́да.**	This is our neighbour’s house.
origin: *из*	**Он из ма́ленького го́рода.**	He is from a small town.
origin: *из*	**Она́ из большо́й семьи́.**	She is from a big family.
from: *с*	**Я иду́ с но́вой рабо́ты.**	I am coming back from the new job.
from a person: *от*	**Э́то письмо́ от ста́рого дру́га.**	This is a letter from an old friend.
as far as: *до*	**Я иду́ до большо́го па́рка.**	I am walking as far as the big park.

USE	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
without: *без*	**Я пью чай без сла́дкого са́хара.**	I drink tea without sweet sugar.
for: *для*	**Э́то пода́рок для мое́й ма́мы.**	This is a present for my mum.
after: *по́сле*	**По́сле до́лгой рабо́ты я отдыха́ю.**	After a long day at work I rest.

The prepositions of the genitive

A reminder of the prepositions from Russian Grammar 1, with an adjective added.

PREPOSITION	MEANING	EXAMPLE
у	at, by; “have”	**у но́вого дру́га**
из	from, out of	**из но́вого до́ма**
с	from, off	**с но́вой рабо́ты**
от	from (a person)	**от ста́рой подру́ги**
до	as far as; until	**до но́вого магази́на**
без	without	**без но́вого телефо́на**
для	for	**для но́вой шко́лы**
по́сле	after	**по́сле до́лгой рабо́ты**
о́коло	near; about	**о́коло большо́го до́ма**

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice which phrases are in the genitive and why.

① Do you have it?

② A present

A:

У тебя́ есть но́вый слова́рь?

Do you have a new dictionary?

B:

Нет, у меня́ нет но́вого словаря́.

No, I do not have a new dictionary.

A:

А у твоего́ дру́га?

And your friend?

B:

У моего́ дру́га то́же нет.

My friend does not have one either.

A:

Э́то пода́рок для мое́й ма́мы.

This is a present for my mum.

B:

От кого́?

From whom?

A:

От на́шего ста́рого сосе́да. Он из ма́ленького го́рода.

From our old neighbour. He is from a small town.

Quick reference

CASE	MASCULINE	NEUTER	FEMININE
Genitive, regular	**-ого**	**-ого**	**-ой**
Genitive, soft and after ж, ш, ч, щ (stem stressed)	**-его**	**-его**	**-ей**
Genitive, ending stressed	**-о́го**	**-о́го**	**-о́й**
Possessives and demonstratives	**-ого / -его**	**-ого / -его**	**-ой / -ей**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Put the phrase in the genitive: **У меня́ нет (но́вая кни́га).**.

▼ Show answer

У меня́ нет но́вой кни́ги. Feminine: *-ой*, and the noun takes *-и*.

2. Complete: **Э́то дом (наш сосе́д).**.

▼ Show answer

Э́то дом на́шего сосе́да. Masculine: *-ого*, and the stress stays on the stem of *наш*.

3. Complete: **Я из (большо́й го́род).**.

▼ Show answer

Я из большо́го го́рода. The stressed ending *-ого*, and *г* sounds like *в*.

4. Complete: **Э́то письмо́ от (моя́ ма́ма).**.

▼ Show answer

Э́то письмо́ от мое́й ма́мы. Feminine of *мой*: *мое́й*, with the stress on the ending.

5. Complete: **У (твой друг) есть ма́ленькая соба́ка.**.

▼ Show answer

У твоего́ дру́га есть ма́ленькая соба́ка. Masculine of *твой*: *твоего́*.

6. Complete: **У нас нет (после́дняя кни́га).**.

▼ Show answer

У нас нет после́дней кни́ги. Soft type, feminine: *-ей*.

7. Complete: **Я иду́ из (хоро́шая шко́ла).**.

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ из хоро́шей шко́лы. After *ш*, with the stress on the stem: *-ей*.

8. Which is right: **у её сестры́** or **у неё сестры́**?

▼ Show answer

у её сестры́. The possessive *её* never takes *н-*. The pronoun appears alone: **у неё есть сестра́**.

9. Say in Russian: “a present for my brother” and “a present for my sister”.

▼ Show answer

пода́рок для моего́ бра́та, **пода́рок для мое́й сестры́**. Masculine *моего́*, feminine *мое́й*.

10. What do **нет но́вой кни́ги** and **в но́вой кни́ге** have in common, and how do you tell them apart?

▼ Show answer

The adjective ending *-ой* is the same. The case is shown by *нет* (genitive) and *в* (prepositional), and by the noun ending (*-и* and *-е*).

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): the genitive singular endings of adjectives (*-ого / -его* for the masculine and neuter, *-ой / -ей* for the feminine, with *-его* after a soft stem or after *ж, ш, ч, щ*); and that the possessives and demonstratives take the same endings, with *моего, твоего, нашего, вашего, этого, того* for the masculine and neuter, *моей, твоей, нашей, вашей, этой, той* for the feminine, and *чьего* and *чьей* for “whose” (sources: Russian For Everyone: genitive adjectives, Wikibooks: the genitive case, Cornell: adjective case endings, pelister.org: genitive singular, special modifiers, Mango Languages: genitive adjectives, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the genitive of *какой* (*какого, какой*), which the search did not list and which I inferred from the same pattern; *такого, такой*; the stress marks on *моего, моей, своего, своей, того*; the claim that the feminine *-ой / -ей* also serves the dative and instrumental (Chapter 5 will show this); the rule that the possessives *его, её, их* take no *н-*; the example sentences and dialogs, the stress marks and the genitive forms of the nouns, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 5: Adjectives: Dative and Instrumental. *но́вому, но́вой, но́вым*; *с но́вым дру́гом*; roles and states; *к, по*; feelings and need.

🤝 To and With — Кому́ и с кем

The dative is the case of the person who receives, who is helped, or who feels something. The instrumental is the case of company, means and roles. Russian Grammar 1 (Chapters 9 and 10) taught both for nouns. This chapter adds the adjective, the possessives and the demonstratives in the ***singular****, which completes the singular of the adjective. The plural comes in Chapter 6.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Dative singular: masculine and neuter **-ому / -ему**, feminine **-ой / -ей**.
Instrumental singular: masculine and neuter **-ым / -им**, feminine **-ой / -ей**. The soft ending (*-ему, -им, -ей*) is used after a soft stem and after *ж, ш, ч, щ* with the stress on the stem. After *г, к, х* the instrumental is *-им* (never *-ым*), and the dative stays *-ому*.

Dative and instrumental of the adjective

The tables show the masculine with **друг** and the feminine with **подру́га** (a female friend). The neuter takes the same ending as the masculine.

TYPE	DATIVE, MASC. AND NEUT.	DATIVE, FEM.	INSTRUMENTAL, MASC. AND NEUT.	INSTRUMENTAL, FEM.
hard	но́вому дру́гу	но́вой подру́ге	но́вым дру́гом	но́вой подру́гой
hard, ending stressed	большо́му дру́гу	большо́й подру́ге	больши́м дру́гом	большо́й подру́гой
soft	после́днему дру́гу	после́дней подру́ге	после́дним дру́гом	после́дней подру́гой
after к	ру́сскому дру́гу	ру́сской подру́ге	ру́сским дру́гом	ру́сской подру́гой

TYPE	DATIVE, MASC. AND NEUT.	DATIVE, FEM.	INSTRUMENTAL, MASC. AND NEUT.	INSTRUMENTAL, FEM.
after ш	хоро́шему дру́гу	хоро́шей подру́ге	хоро́шим дру́гом	хоро́шей подру́гой

Watch out: -им after г, к, х and ж, ш, ч, щ

The ending *-ым* becomes **-им** after the spelling-rule consonants: **ру´сским, хоро´шим, ма´леньким**. It is also *-им* for the soft type (**си´ним, после´дним**). The stressed **большо´й** follows the same rule and shifts the stress to the ending: **больши´м**.

Watch out: the same -ой in four cases, the same -ым in two

The feminine *-ой / -ей* now serves four cases: genitive, dative, instrumental and prepositional. Only the preposition, the verb and the noun ending tell you which one you have. The masculine instrumental **но´вым** is also the **dative plural** (Chapter 6): **с но´вым дру´гом** (“with a new friend”) and **но´вым друзья´м** (“to new friends”) share the adjective form but not the noun. In books you may also meet the longer feminine instrumental *-ою / -ею*; everyday writing and speech use *-ой / -ей*.

Possessives and demonstratives

They take the same endings. The stress moves to the ending in *мой, твой, свой* and stays on the stem in *наш, ваш*. **его´, её, их** never change. **тот** has the short instrumental **тем**.

WORD	DATIVE, MASC. AND NEUT.	DATIVE, FEM.	INSTRUMENTAL, MASC. AND NEUT.	INSTRUMENTAL, FEM.
my	моему́ дру́гу	мое́й подру́ге	мои́м дру́гом	мое́й подру́гой
your (sing.)	твоему́ дру́гу	твое́й подру́ге	твои́м дру́гом	твое́й подру́гой
one’s own	своему́ дру́гу	свое́й подру́ге	свои́м дру́гом	свое́й подру́гой

WORD	DATIVE, MASC. AND NEUT.	DATIVE, FEM.	INSTRUMENTAL, MASC. AND NEUT.	INSTRUMENTAL, FEM.
our	на́шему дру́гу	на́шей подру́ге	на́шим дру́гом	на́шей подру́гой
your (pl.)	ва́шему дру́гу	ва́шей подру́ге	ва́шим дру́гом	ва́шей подру́гой
his, her, their	его́ / её / их дру́гу	его́ / её / их подру́ге	его́ / её / их дру́гом	его́ / её / их подру́гой
this	э́тому дру́гу	э́той подру́ге	э́тим дру́гом	э́той подру́гой
that	тому́ дру́гу	той подру́ге	тем дру́гом	той подру́гой
such	тако́му дру́гу	тако́й подру́ге	таки́м дру́гом	тако́й подру́гой
what kind of	како́му дру́гу?	како́й подру́ге?	каки́м дру́гом?	како́й подру́гой?
whose	чьему́ дру́гу?	чьей подру́ге?	чьим дру́гом?	чьей подру́гой?

The dative in use

The dative names the person **to or for whom** something happens. With the preposition **к** (“to, towards a person”) and **по** (“along, around”) it also names the goal and the surface.

USE	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
giving	**Я даю́ кни́гу но́вому дру́гу.**	I give the book to a new friend.
writing	**Она́ пи́шет письмо́ мое́й ста́рой подру́ге.**	She is writing a letter to my old friend.
calling	**Я звоню́ ста́рой подру́ге.**	I am calling an old friend.

USE	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
helping	**Он помога́ет на́шему сосе́ду.**	He is helping our neighbour.
к: to a person	**Мы идём к хоро́шему врачу́.**	We are going to a good doctor.
по: along, around	**Мы гуля́ем по большо́му па́рку.**	We are walking around the big park.
feeling	**Мое́й сестре́ хо́лодно.**	My sister is cold.
feeling	**Но́вому студе́нту интере́сно.**	The new student finds it interesting.

The instrumental in use

The instrumental answers *с кем?* (“with whom?”), *чем?* (“with what?”) and *кем?* (“as whom?”). Company needs the preposition **с**, while a tool or a role takes the instrumental **alone**.

USE	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
company: *с*	**Я иду́ в кино́ с но́вым дру́гом.**	I am going to the cinema with a new friend.
company: *с*	**Она́ говори́т с ру́сской учи́тельницей.**	She is talking with a Russian teacher.
with: *с*	**Я пью ко́фе с горя́чим молоко́м.**	I drink coffee with hot milk.
means (no preposition)	**Я пишу́ си́ней ру́чкой.**	I write with a blue pen.
role: *быть*	**Он хо́чет быть хоро́шим врачо́м.**	He wants to be a good doctor.
interest	**Я интересу́юсь ру́сской исто́рией.**	I am interested in Russian history.

USE	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
position: *пе́ред*	**Мы стои́м пе́ред на́шим до́мом.**	We are standing in front of our house.
position: *за*	**Дом за больши́м па́рком.**	The house is behind the big park.

Watch out: с means “with”, но с means “by means of”

Я иду́ с но́вым дру́гом. (*I am going with a new friend.*) **Я пишу́ но́вой ру́чкой.** (*I write with a new pen.*) If you add *с* to the second sentence you change its meaning to “together with a new pen”. And with **быть** the instrumental of a role is natural in the past, the future and the infinitive (**Он был хоро́шим студе́нтом.**), while the present tense usually keeps the nominative (**Он студе́нт.**).

Prepositions of the dative and the instrumental

CASE	PREPOSITION	MEANING	EXAMPLE
dative	**к**	to, towards (a person or place)	**к но́вому дру́гу**
dative	**по**	along, around; by	**по большо́й у́лице**
instrumental	**с**	with	**с но́вой подру́гой**
instrumental	**за**	behind	**за ма́леньким до́мом**
instrumental	**над**	above	**над но́вым до́мом**
instrumental	**под**	under	**под больши́м столо́м**
instrumental	**пе́ред**	in front of	**пе́ред на́шим до́мом**
instrumental	**ме́жду**	between	**ме́жду но́вым до́мом и па́рком**

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice the question word that starts each one.

① A letter

A:

Кому́ ты пи́шешь?

Who are you writing to?

B:

Я пишу́ письмо́ мое́й ста́рой подру́ге.

I am writing a letter to my old friend.

A:

Чем ты пи́шешь?

What are you writing with?

B:

Си́ней ру́чкой.

With a blue pen.

② The cinema

A:

С кем ты идёшь в кино́?

Who are you going to the cinema with?

B:

С но́вым дру́гом. Он хо́чет быть хоро́шим врачо́м.

With a new friend. He wants to be a good doctor.

A:

Интере́сно!

How interesting!

Quick reference

CASE	MASCULINE AND NEUTER	FEMININE
Dative, regular	**-ому**	**-ой**
Dative, soft and after ж, ш, ч, щ (stem stressed)	**-ему**	**-ей**
Instrumental, hard	**-ым**	**-ой**
Instrumental, soft, after г, к, х and after ж, ш, ч, щ	**-им**	**-ей / -ой**
Possessives and demonstratives	**-ому / -ему, -ым / -им**	**-ой / -ей**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Complete: **Я даю́ кни́гу (но́вый друг).**.

▼ Show answer

Я даю́ кни́гу но́вому дру́гу. Dative, masculine: *-ому*.

2. Complete: **Я звоню́ (моя́ ста́рая подру́га).**.

▼ Show answer

Я звоню́ мое́й ста́рой подру́ге. Dative, feminine: *-ой*, and the stress of *мой* moves to the ending.

3. Complete: **Мы идём к (хоро́ший врач).**.

▼ Show answer

Мы идём к хоро́шему врачу́. After *ш* with the stress on the stem: *-ему*.

4. Complete: **Мы гуля́ем по (большо́й парк).**.

▼ Show answer

Мы гуля́ем по большо́му па́рку. Stressed ending: *-ому*.

5. Complete: **Я иду́ в кино́ с (но́вый друг).**.

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ в кино́ с но́вым дру́гом. Instrumental, masculine: *-ым*.

6. Complete: **Она́ говори́т с (ру́сская учи́тельница).**.

▼ Show answer

Она́ говори́т с ру́сской учи́тельницей. Feminine: *-ой* after *к*.

7. Complete: **Я пишу́ (си́няя ру́чка).**.

▼ Show answer

Я пишу́ си́ней ру́чкой. Soft type, feminine: *-ей*. No *с*, because it is a tool.

8. Complete: **Он хо́чет быть (хоро́ший врач).**.

▼ Show answer

Он хо́чет быть хоро́шим врачо́м. A role after *быть* takes the instrumental, with *-им* after *ш*.

9. Which is correct: **ру́сским** or **ру́сскым**? Why?

▼ Show answer

ру́сским. The spelling rule forbids *ы* after *к*.

10. Say in Russian: “My sister is cold.”

▼ Show answer

Мое́й сестре́ хо́лодно. The person who feels it is in the dative, and *хо́лодно* does not change.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): the dative singular endings of adjectives (*-ому / -ему* for the masculine and neuter, *-ой / -ей* for the feminine); the instrumental of the masculine and neuter (*-ым / -им*, with *-им* after *г, к, х*); the soft feminine instrumental *-ей*; that the possessives and demonstratives take the same endings as adjectives; that *тем* is both the singular instrumental and the plural dative of *тот*; and that the longer feminine *-ою / -ею* may be met in writing (sources: BYU: word endings and spelling, learnrussianlanguage.net: the dative case of adjectives, Russian For Everyone: unit 11, Mango Languages: the dative case, masterrussian.com: declension of adjectives, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the individual forms of the possessives and demonstratives (*моему, моим, нашему, нашим, этому, этим, тому* and the rest), which I applied from the adjective pattern; the stress marks on *большому, большим* and on the possessives; the uses and prepositions (*к, по, с, за, над, под, перед, между*), the verbs and the example sentences; the rule that the present tense of *быть* usually keeps the nominative for a role; the stress

marks, respellings and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 6: Adjectives in the Plural. All the plural cases (*-ые, -ых, -ым, -ыми*); *-ие* after the spelling-rule consonants; possessives and demonstratives in the plural; reading practice with whole noun phrases.

👥 Many and New — Мно́гие и но́вые

*The plural is the easy part of the adjective: it has **one set of endings for all three genders**. You have already met the nominative -ые / -ие (Chapter 1). This chapter adds the other cases, the possessives and demonstratives in the plural, and reading practice with whole noun phrases. Together with Chapters 3 to 5 this completes the adjective in every case.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Plural, all genders: nominative **-ые / -ие**, genitive **-ых / -их**, dative **-ым / -им**, instrumental **-ыми / -ими**, prepositional **-ых / -их**. The accusative is the **nominative** for inanimate nouns and the **genitive** for animate ones, *whatever the gender*. The soft endings (*-и-*) are used after a soft stem and after *г, к, х, ж, ш, ч, щ*.

The plural of the adjective

TYPE	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE AND PREPOSITIONAL	DATIVE	INSTRUMENTAL
hard	но́вые	но́вых	но́вым	но́выми
hard, ending stressed	молоды́е	молоды́х	молоды́м	молоды́ми
soft	после́дние	после́дних	после́дним	после́дними
after к	ру́сские	ру́сских	ру́сским	ру́сскими
after ш	хоро́шие	хоро́ших	хоро́шим	хоро́шими
after ш, ending stressed	больши́е	больши́х	больши́м	больши́ми

The accusative is not listed because it borrows: **Я чита́ю но́вые кни́ги.** (inanimate, like the nominative) but **Я зна́ю но́вых студе́нтов.** (animate, like the genitive).

All the cases with a noun

Here are two phrases through the whole plural: *new friends* (animate) and *new books* (inanimate). The noun takes the plural endings of Russian Grammar 1 (Chapter 4 for plural nouns, with the cases following in Chapters 5 to 10).

CASE	НО́ВЫЕ ДРУЗЬЯ́ (ANIMATE)	НО́ВЫЕ КНИ́ГИ (INANIMATE)
Nominative	но́вые друзья́	но́вые кни́ги
Accusative	но́вых друзе́й	но́вые кни́ги
Genitive	но́вых друзе́й	но́вых книг
Dative	но́вым друзья́м	но́вым кни́гам
Instrumental	но́выми друзья́ми	но́выми кни́гами
Prepositional	о но́вых друзья́х	о но́вых кни́гах

Watch out: the animate plural accusative covers all genders

In the singular only the *masculine* animate noun takes the genitive form in the accusative (Chapter 3). In the plural **every** animate noun does, masculine or feminine: **Я зна́ю но́вых студе́нтов.** and **Я зна́ю но́вых студе́нток.** A common mistake is to keep the feminine in *-ые* because the singular feminine had its own ending.

Watch out: -им and -ым serve two cases

The plural dative *-ым / -им* is the same as the masculine and neuter instrumental of Chapter 5. So **но́вым** can be **с но́вым дру́гом** (instrumental singular) or **но́вым друзья́м** (dative plural). The noun and the preposition tell you which. In the same way the plural genitive and prepositional share *-ых / -их*.

Possessives and demonstratives in the plural

They take the same plural endings as adjectives. The prepositional is the same as the genitive, and the accusative follows the animacy rule. **его́, её, их** never change.

WORD	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE AND PREPOSITIONAL	DATIVE	INSTRUMENTAL
my	мои́	мои́х	мои́м	мои́ми
your (sing.)	твои́	твои́х	твои́м	твои́ми
one's own	свои́	свои́х	свои́м	свои́ми
our	на́ши	на́ших	на́шим	на́шими
your (pl.)	ва́ши	ва́ших	ва́шим	ва́шими
this	э́ти	э́тих	э́тим	э́тими
that	те	тех	тем	те́ми
such	таки́е	таки́х	таки́м	таки́ми
what kind of	каки́е	каки́х	каки́м	каки́ми
whose	чьи	чьих	чьим	чьи́ми

The genitive plural and quantity

After **мно́го** ("many"), **ма́ло** ("few") and **не́сколько** ("several") both the adjective and the noun go into the **genitive plural**: **мно́го но́вых книг**, **ма́ло хоро́ших друзе́й**, **не́сколько ру́сских студе́нтов**. Numerals need a different pattern, which Chapter 9 teaches.

Nouns that are always plural

Some nouns exist only in the plural, and so do their adjectives: **но́вые очки́** (new glasses), **ста́рые часы́** (an old watch), **больши́е де́ньги** (a lot of money). Some common nouns have irregular plurals, and the adjective follows the plural, not the singular. A respelling is given, with the stressed syllable in capitals.

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
друзья́	droo-ZYAH	friends (singular *друг*)	**мои́ ста́рые друзья́**
лю́ди	LYOO-dee	people (singular *челове́к*)	**хоро́шие лю́ди**
де́ти	DYEH-tee	children (singular *ребёнок*)	**ма́ленькие де́ти**
роди́тели	rah-DEE-tye-lee	parents	**на́ши роди́тели**
очки́	ahch-KEE	glasses	**но́вые очки́**
часы́	chah-SY	watch; clock	**ста́рые часы́**
де́ньги	DYEN-gee	money	**больши́е де́ньги**

Reading practice: name the case

Read the six sentences, then check each case in the table. The whole noun phrase takes the case; the adjective and the possessive agree with the noun.

1. У мои́х ру́сских друзе́й большо́й дом. 2. В до́ме мно́го интере́сных книг. 3. Они́ ча́сто пи́шут ста́рым друзья́м. 4. Я чита́ю их хоро́шие кни́ги. 5. Мы говори́м о но́вых фи́льмах. 6. Я иду́ в кино́ с мои́ми друзья́ми.

SENTENCE	PHRASE	CASE	WHY
1	**у мои́х ру́сских друзе́й**	genitive plural	*у* (“have”) takes the genitive
2	**мно́го интере́сных книг**	genitive plural	*мно́го* takes the genitive plural

SENTENCE	PHRASE	CASE	WHY
3	**ста́рым друзья́м**	dative plural	the person who is written to
4	**их хоро́шие кни́ги**	accusative plural	direct object, inanimate: like the nominative; *ux* never changes
5	**о но́вых фи́льмах**	prepositional plural	*o* (“about”) takes the prepositional
6	**с мои́ми друзья́ми**	instrumental plural	*c* (“with”) takes the instrumental

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice that each adjective agrees with a plural noun.

① Who are they?

A:

Кто э́ти лю́ди?

Who are these people?

B:

Э́то мои́ ста́рые друзья́. Они́ ру́сские.

These are my old friends. They are Russian.

A:

У них есть де́ти?

Do they have children?

B:

Да, у них ма́ленькие де́ти.

Yes, they have small children.

② Looking for glasses

A:

Я ищу́ но́вые очки́.

I am looking for new glasses.

B:

Каки́е?

Which ones?

A:

Чёрные, ма́ленькие.

Black ones, small ones.

Quick reference

CASE	HARD	SOFT AND AFTER Г, К, Х, Ж, Ш, Ч, Щ
Nominative	**-ые**	**-ие**
Accusative	inanimate: as nominative animate: as genitive	inanimate: as nominative animate: as genitive
Genitive	**-ых**	**-их**
Dative	**-ым**	**-им**
Instrumental	**-ыми**	**-ими**
Prepositional	**-ых**	**-их**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Put into the plural: **но´вый дом**.

▼ Show answer

но´вые дома´. Plural nominative: *-ые*.

2. Put into the plural: **ру´сский студе´нт**.

▼ Show answer

ру´сские студе´нты. After *к*: *-ие*.

3. Complete: **У меня´ нет (но´вые кни´ги).**.

▼ Show answer

У меня´ нет но´вых книг. Genitive plural: *-ых*, and the noun has the zero ending.

4. Complete: **Я зна´ю (но´вые студе´нты).**.

▼ Show answer

Я зна´ю но´вых студе´нтов. Animate, so the adjective and the noun both take the genitive.

5. Complete: **Я чита´ю (интере´сные кни´ги).**.

▼ Show answer

Я чита´ю интере´сные кни´ги. Inanimate: nothing changes.

6. Complete: **Я помога´ю (на´ши сосе´ди).**.

▼ Show answer

Я помога´ю на´шим сосе´дям. Dative plural: *-им* after *ш*.

7. Complete: **Я иду´ с (мои´ друзья´).**.

▼ Show answer

Я иду´ с мои´ми друзья´ми. Instrumental plural: *-ими*, with the stress on the ending.

8. Complete: **Мы говори´м о (хоро´шие фи´льмы).**.

▼ Show answer

Мы говори´м о хоро´ших фи´льмах. Prepositional plural: *-их* after *ш*.

9. Which is correct: **ру´сскыми** or **ру´сскими**? Why?

▼ Show answer

ру´сскими. The spelling rule forbids *ы* after *к*.

10. Say in Russian: “new glasses” and “my new glasses”.

▼ Show answer

но´вые очки´, **мои´ но´вые очки´**. *Очки´* is plural only, so the adjective is plural.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): the plural adjective endings (nominative *-ые / -ие*, genitive *-ых / -их*, dative *-ым / -им*, instrumental *-ыми / -ими*), with the soft endings after a stem in a spelling-rule consonant; and that the accusative plural follows the nominative for inanimate nouns and the genitive for animate ones (sources: BYU: word endings and spelling, Mango Languages: animate against inanimate, Russian For Everyone: unit 9, masterrussian.com: declension of adjectives, Russian grammar (laussy.org), from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the forms of the possessives and demonstratives in the plural (*мои, моих, моим, моими, наших, этих, тех, теми* and the rest), which I applied from the adjective pattern (the search said these were worth checking against a pronoun table); the plural prepositional being the same as the genitive; the stress marks on *молодых, больших, моими, чьими*; the plural noun forms (*друзей, друзьям, книг, студенток*) and the examples with *много, мало, несколько*; the plural-only nouns and their respellings; the reading text and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 7: Short Adjectives and Adverbs. *рад, до´лжен, ну´жен, гото´в, бо´лен, согла´сен*; adverbs from adjectives (*хорошо´, бы´стро*); *мо´жно, на´до, нельзя´*; time and manner adverbs.

Short and Quick — Кра́тко и бы́стро

*Chapters 1 to 6 taught the **long** adjective, which changes in every case. Russian also has a **short** adjective, which has no cases at all and is used only as a predicate ("he is ready"). This chapter teaches the short forms you need every day, then the adverbs that Russian makes from adjectives, and the useful predicates мо́жно, на́до, нельзя́.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A short adjective is the long form with its ending dropped and a new one added: **masculine** nothing, **feminine -а**, **neuter -о**, **plural -ы** (or **-и** after the spelling-rule consonants). It stands **after** the noun as the predicate, never before it, and it never changes for case. An **adverb** is usually the neuter short form (**хоро́ший → хорошо́**, **бы́стрый → бы́стро**) and does not change at all.

The short forms

MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL	ENGLISH
рад	ра́да	ра́до	ра́ды	glad
до́лжен	должна́	должно́	должны́	must; obliged
ну́жен	нужна́	ну́жно	нужны́	needed
гото́в	гото́ва	гото́во	гото́вы	ready
бо́лен	больна́	больно́	больны́	ill
согла́сен	согла́сна	согла́сно	согла́сны	in agreement
за́нят	занята́	за́нято	за́няты	busy
свобо́ден	свобо́дна	свобо́дно	свобо́дны	free

MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL	ENGLISH
ва́жен	ва́жна	ва́жно	ва́жны	important
краси́в	краси́ва	краси́во	краси́вы	beautiful

The masculine of an adjective in *-н-* or *-ж-* often gets a **fleeting vowel**, *е*, to keep two consonants apart: **бо´лен** but **больна´**, **ва´жен** but **ва´жна**. The stress may move too: **хоро´ш, хороша´, хорошо´, хороши´** (from **хоро´ший**).

> **Watch out: short forms have no cases and stand alone**
>
> You say **Он гото´в.** or **Она´ ра´да.** You never say *гото´в друг* for "a ready friend": before a noun you use the long adjective (**гото´вый** or a different word). The word **рад** exists **only** as a short form, and **до´лжен** has no everyday long partner, so you simply learn both as short forms.

Short against long

With some adjectives you can use either form as a predicate. The long form names a lasting quality, and the short form a state at one moment or a judgement about one thing. Before a noun only the long form is possible.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	WHICH FORM
Он бо́лен.	He is ill (now).	short: a state
Э́то больно́й челове́к.	This is a sick person.	long: before a noun
Она́ краси́ва.	She is beautiful.	short: predicate
Она́ краси́вая де́вушка.	She is a beautiful girl.	long: before a noun

What the short adjectives mean in use

Several short adjectives are followed by an infinitive or by a case of their own. The forms still agree with the subject in gender and number.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Я рад вас ви́деть.	I am glad to see you.	*рад* + infinitive; to a woman, *ра́да*
Мы ра́ды.	We are glad.	plural *-ы*
Он до́лжен рабо́тать. Она́ должна́ рабо́тать.	He must work. She must work.	*до́лжен* + infinitive
Они́ должны́ идти́.	They must go.	plural *должны́*
Он гото́в идти́.	He is ready to go.	*гото́в* + infinitive
Я согла́сен с ва́ми.	I agree with you.	*согла́сен с* + instrumental
Мне ну́жен слова́рь.	I need a dictionary.	*ну́жен* agrees with the thing needed (masculine)
Мне нужна́ кни́га.	I need a book.	feminine *нужна́*
Мне нужны́ но́вые очки́.	I need new glasses.	plural *нужны́*, and the adjective is plural too
Вчера́ она́ была́ больна́.	Yesterday she was ill.	*быть* + short form: *был, была́, бы́ло, бы́ли*

Watch out: ну́жен agrees with the thing, до́лжен with the person

Я до´лжен идти´. (*I must go.*) The subject is the person, so *до´лжен* agrees with it. **Мне ну´жен слова´рь.** (*I need a dictionary.*) The person is in the dative, and *ну´жен* agrees with *слова´рь*. Compare **Мне нужна´ кни´га.** and **Мне ну´жно идти´.** (*I need to go.*, neuter, because there is no noun.)

Adverbs from adjectives

An adverb says how, when or where, and it never changes. Most are made from an adjective with **-о**, which is the neuter short form. A few take **-е** or **-и**. Adjectives in *-ский* form an adverb with **по-** and **-ски**: **ру´сский → по-ру´сски** (“in Russian”). A respelling is given, with the stressed syllable in capitals.

ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	SAY IT	ENGLISH
хоро́ший	**хорошо́**	hah-rah-SHOH	well
плохо́й	**пло́хо**	PLOH-khah	badly
бы́стрый	**бы́стро**	BYS-trah	quickly
ме́дленный	**ме́дленно**	MYEHD-len-nah	slowly
тру́дный	**тру́дно**	TROOD-nah	with difficulty; hard
лёгкий	**легко́**	lyekh-KOH	easily; easy
краси́вый	**краси́во**	krah-SEE-vah	beautifully
до́лгий	**до́лго**	DOHL-gah	for a long time
ра́нний	**ра́но**	RAH-nah	early
по́здний	**по́здно**	POZD-nah	late
ти́хий	**ти́хо**	TEE-khah	quietly
гро́мкий	**гро́мко**	GROHM-kah	loudly
ру́сский	**по-ру́сски**	pah-ROOS-kee	in Russian

Watch out: хорошо́ is an adverb, хоро́ший is an adjective

An adjective describes a noun and agrees with it: **Он хоро´ший студе´нт.** An adverb describes a verb and does not change: **Он хорошо´ говори´т по-ру´сски.** (*He speaks Russian well.*) Do not use the adjective for "well": *Он хоро´ший говори´т* is wrong. Note also that **Э´то хорошо´.** (*That is good.*) is the same word used as a predicate, with *э´то* as the subject.

Time, place and manner adverbs

Many common adverbs are not made from adjectives. They are worth learning as they are.

RUSSIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
сего́дня	see-VOHD-nyah	today
вчера́	fchee-RAH	yesterday
за́втра	ZAHF-trah	tomorrow
сейча́с	say-CHAHS	now
ча́сто	CHAH-stah	often
ре́дко	RYEHT-kah	rarely
всегда́	fsee-GDAH	always
ни́когда	NEE-kahg-dah	never (with *не*)
здесь	zdyes	here
там	tahm	there
до́ма	DOH-mah	at home
далеко́	dah-lee-KOH	far
бли́зко	BLEES-kah	near
ря́дом	RYAH-dahm	next to; nearby
сюда́	syoo-DAH	(to) here
туда́	too-DAH	(to) there
домо́й	dah-MOY	(to) home

Мо́жно, на́до, нельзя́

These three small words are **predicates**: they stand alone, with no subject and no agreement. The person who can, must or may not is in the **dative**, and the action is an infinitive.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	MEANING
Мо́жно войти́?	May I come in?	*мо́жно*: it is possible; it is allowed
Здесь мо́жно говори́ть по-ру́сски.	You can speak Russian here.	*мо́жно*
Мне на́до идти́.	I have to go.	*на́до*: it is necessary; same as *ну́жно*
Ему́ на́до рабо́тать.	He has to work.	dative of the person
Здесь нельзя́ говори́ть гро́мко.	You must not talk loudly here.	*нельзя́*: it is not allowed; it is not possible
Сего́дня жа́рко.	It is hot today.	weather: the same pattern with no person
В кварти́ре хо́лодно.	It is cold in the flat.	state of a place

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and notice which words agree with a person and which stand alone.

① Are you ready?

A:

Ты гото́в?

Are you ready?

B:

Нет, я ещё за́нят. Я до́лжен рабо́тать.

No, I am still busy. I must work.

A:

Тогда́ я гото́в ждать.

Then I am ready to wait.

② Where is Anna?

A:

Где А́нна?

Where is Anna?

B:

Она́ больна́. Она́ до́ма.

She is ill. She is at home.

A:

Жаль! Мне нужна́ её кни́га.

What a pity! I need her book.

B:

Её кни́га здесь, на столе́.

Her book is here, on the table.

③ In the library

A:

Здесь мо́жно говори́ть?

Can one talk here?

B:

Нет, нельзя́. На́до говори́ть ти́хо.

No, it is not allowed. You have to speak quietly.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Short adjective	**ø / -а / -о / -ы**	**рад, ра́да, ра́до, ра́ды**
Short adjective, spelling rule	**-и**	**хоро́ш, хороша́, хорошо́, хороши́**
Adverb from an adjective	**-о**	**хорошо́, бы́стро**
Adverb for a language	**по-...-ски**	**по-ру́сски**
Possible, necessary, forbidden	**мо́жно, на́до, нельзя́**	**Мне на́до идти́.**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the feminine short form of **гото́вый**: **Она́ ____.**.

▼ Show answer

Она́ гото́ва. Feminine: add *-а* to the masculine *гото́в*.

2. Complete: **Мы ____.** (glad)

▼ Show answer

Мы ра́ды. Plural: *-ы*.

3. Complete: **Мне ____ но́вые очки́.** (needed)

▼ Show answer

Мне нужны́ но́вые очки́. *Очки́* is plural, so *нужны́*.

4. Complete: **Он ____ рабо́тать, а она́ ____ рабо́тать.** (must)

▼ Show answer

Он до́лжен рабо́тать, а она́ должна́ рабо́тать. The stress moves to the ending in the feminine.

5. Complete: **Он ____ говори́т по-ру́сски.** (хоро́ший)

▼ Show answer

Он хорошо́ говори́т по-ру́сски. An adverb, not an adjective, because it describes the verb.

6. Make an adverb from **тру́дный** and from **лёгкий**.

▼ Show answer

тру́дно, **легко́**. The ending *-о*; the stress of *легко́* moves to the ending.

7. Say in Russian: “I have to go.” Give two ways.

▼ Show answer

Мне на́до идти́. Я до́лжен идти́. The first has the person in the dative, the second has the person as the subject.

8. Say in Russian: “May I come in?”

▼ Show answer

Мо´жно войти´? No subject and no agreement.

9. Say in Russian: “She was ill.”

▼ Show answer

Она´ была´ больна´. *Была´* is feminine, and so is *больна´*.

10. Say in Russian: “I agree with you.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Я согла´сен с ва´ми. *Согла´сен* is masculine, and *ва´ми* is the instrumental after *с*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that the short form is made by dropping the long ending, with the masculine bare and the feminine, neuter and plural taking a one-letter ending; that it is used mainly or only as a predicate, as in *Он болен*; that *готов* and *должен* are standard short adjectives; and that not every adjective has a short form (sources: pelister.org: short forms, masterrussian.com: long and short forms, linguapedia.info: long and short adjectives, Mango Languages: long and short adjectives, mezhdunarni.ku.edu: unit 5, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the individual short forms and their stress (*больна, должна, нужна, нужно, занята, хороша, хорошо*); the fleeting vowel in *болен, важен*; the long-against-short contrasts (the search described them only in general terms); the formation of adverbs with *-о* and *по-…-ски* (the search found nothing on adverbs, and I did not run a second search); the predicates *можно, надо, нельзя* and the dative of the person; the time, place and manner adverbs, their stress marks and respellings; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 8: Comparison. *но´вее, лу´чше, ху´же, бо´льше, ме´ньше*; *бо´лее* and *ме´нее*; *чем* and the genitive; *са´мый* and *-ейший*; *как мо´жно*; *одина´ково, так же*.

⚖️ Better, Bigger, Newest — Лу́чше, бо́льше, са́мый но́вый

*Russian has **two routes** to a comparative. A short **suffix** form (нове́е, лу́чше) is the one you hear most, and it never changes. The other is бо́лее + the long adjective, which does change for case and is used before a noun. The superlative is usually са́мый + adjective. This chapter also teaches чем against the genitive, как мо́жно and the ways to say "the same as".*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Simple comparative: the stem + **-ее** (**но́вый → нове́е**), or a short **-е** with a changed consonant (**до́рогой → доро́же**), or an irregular form (**хоро́ший → лу́чше**). It **never changes** and is used as a predicate or an adverb. **Compound comparative: бо́лее но́вый**, which declines like any long adjective. **Superlative: са́мый но́вый**, with *са́мый* and the adjective both agreeing with the noun. **Than:** *чем* + the same case as the first item, or the **genitive** with no *чем*.

The simple comparative with -ее

Most adjectives drop the long ending and add **-ее**. The stress usually falls on the *-е́е*.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	ENGLISH
но́вый	нове́е	newer
бы́стрый	быстре́е	faster
си́льный	сильне́е	stronger
у́мный	умне́е	cleverer
краси́вый	красиве́е	more beautiful

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	ENGLISH
тру́дный	трудне́е	harder
холо́дный	холодне́е	colder
тёплый	теплее́	warmer

The short comparative with -e and a changed consonant

Adjectives whose stem ends in *г, к, х, д, т, ст* take a short **-е**, and the final consonant changes (*г, д* → *ж*; *к* → *ч*; *х* → *ш*; *т* → *ч*; *ст* → *щ*). These forms are worth learning one by one.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	ENGLISH
до́рогой	доро́же	more expensive
дешёвый	деше́вле	cheaper
лёгкий	ле́гче	easier; lighter
гро́мкий	гро́мче	louder
ти́хий	ти́ше	quieter
бога́тый	бога́че	richer
ча́стый	ча́ще	more often
ре́дкий	ре́же	more rarely
широ́кий	ши́ре	wider
у́зкий	у́же	narrower
глубо́кий	глу́бже	deeper
до́лгий	до́льше	longer (in time)

Irregular and age-and-distance comparatives

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SAY IT	ENGLISH
хоро́ший	**лу́чше**	LOOCH-sheh	better
плохо́й	**ху́же**	KHOO-zheh	worse
большо́й	**бо́льше**	BOHL-sheh	bigger; more
ма́ленький	**ме́ньше**	MYEHN-sheh	smaller; less
высо́кий	**вы́ше**	VY-sheh	higher; taller
ни́зкий	**ни́же**	NEE-zheh	lower
бли́зкий	**бли́же**	BLEE-zheh	nearer
далёкий	**да́льше**	DAHL-sheh	farther
ста́рый	**ста́рше**	STAHR-sheh	older (people)
молодо́й	**моло́же**	mah-LOH-zheh	younger
ра́нний	**ра́ньше**	RAHN-sheh	earlier
по́здний	**по́зже**	POHZ-zheh	later

> **Watch out: never double the comparative**
> *Лу´чше* already means “better”, so *бо´лее лу´чше* is wrong, and so is *бо´лее нове´е*. Choose one route: **нове´е** (alone, as a predicate) or **бо´лее но´вый** (before a noun). Also keep the stress on the ending in **нове´е**.

Than: чем or the genitive

“Than” is **чем** (with a comma before it). When the first item is in the **nominative** (or the accusative), you may drop *чем* and put the second item in the **genitive**. In every other situation

you must use *чем*.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Она́ ста́рше меня́.	She is older than me.	genitive, no *чем*
Она́ ста́рше, чем я.	She is older than me.	*чем* + nominative
Э́та кварти́ра дешёвле той.	This flat is cheaper than that one.	genitive of *тот*
Я чита́ю бо́льше, чем ты.	I read more than you.	the second item is the subject of its own clause
Я живу́ бли́же к це́нтру, чем она́.	I live nearer the centre than she does.	*чем* is needed after a phrase with a preposition
Сего́дня холодне́е, чем вчера́.	It is colder today than yesterday.	*чем* before an adverb

By how much: на, в, намного

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Он ста́рше меня́ на два го́да.	He is two years older than me.
Э́то в два ра́за дешёвле.	This is half the price. (twice as cheap)
Э́то намно́го лу́чше.	This is much better.
Э́то гора́здо интере́снее.	This is far more interesting.
Говори́те ме́дленнее, пожа́луйста.	Speak more slowly, please.
Дай мне чуть бо́льше.	Give me a little more.

After *на* the amount is in the accusative (*на два го́да*). *Намно́го* and *гора́здо* mean “much, far”, and *чуть* and *немно́го* mean “a little”. Use these, never *о́чень*, with a comparative.

Before a noun: бо´лее and ме´нее

The simple comparative cannot stand before a noun and does not decline. To say “a newer house” you use **бо´лее** (“more”) or **ме´нее** (“less”) with the long adjective. The long adjective then takes the case of the noun, as in Chapters 3 to 6.

CASE	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Nominative	**Э́то бо́лее но́вый дом.**	This is a newer house.
Accusative	**Я ищу́ бо́лее но́вую маши́ну.**	I am looking for a newer car.
Prepositional	**Мы живём в бо́лее но́вом до́ме.**	We live in a newer house.
Genitive	**У меня́ нет бо́лее ва́жных дел.**	I have no more important matters.
Predicate	**Э́тот отве́т ме́нее ва́жен.**	This answer is less important.

Бо´лее and *ме´нее* never change, so only the adjective carries the ending. *Ме´нее* is the only way to say “less new”, because Russian has no simple suffix form for it. A few adjectives have a declining comparative of their own, which you can use before a noun:

ADJECTIVE	DECLINING COMPARATIVE	EXAMPLE
хоро́ший	**лу́чший** (best; better)	**Он мой лу́чший друг.** (He is my best friend.)
плохо́й	**ху́дший** (worst)	**Э́то ху́дший день.** (It is the worst day.)
ста́рый	**ста́рший** (elder)	**Э́то мой ста́рший брат.** (This is my elder brother.)
молодо́й	**мла́дший** (younger)	**Э́то моя́ мла́дшая сестра́.** (This is my younger sister.)

The superlative: са´мый, and -ейший

Put **са´мый** (“most”) before the long adjective. Both words agree with the noun and decline together, so every pattern from Chapters 1 to 6 still works.

CASE	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Nominative	**Э́то са́мый но́вый дом.**	This is the newest house.
Accusative	**Я зна́ю са́мую краси́вую пе́сню.**	I know the most beautiful song.
Genitive	**Э́то оди́н из са́мых больши́х городо́в.**	This is one of the biggest cities.
Prepositional	**Мы живём в са́мом ма́леньком до́ме.**	We live in the smallest house.
Instrumental	**Он говори́т с са́мым ста́рым учи́телем.**	He is talking with the oldest teacher.

There are two other ways. The simple superlative in **-ейший** (**но́вый → нове́йший**, **у́мный → умне́йший**) is rather bookish and often means "very". And the comparative with **всех** ("than all") or **всего́** ("than everything") is very common in speech.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Он ста́рше всех.	He is the oldest (of all).	people: *всех*
Она́ говори́т лу́чше всех.	She speaks best of all.	adverb + *всех*
Э́то лу́чше всего́.	This is the best of all.	things: *всего́*
Э́то нове́йшая тео́рия.	This is the very latest theory.	bookish *-ейший*

> **Watch out: са́мый is not used with a comparative**
>
> Never put *са́мый* before *лу́чше* or *нове́е*. Use **са́мый лу́чший** (adjective) or **лу́чше всех** (comparative + *всех*), and likewise **са́мый но́вый**, not *са́мый нове́е*.

Как мо́жно, всё, чем… тем

PATTERN	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
как мо́жно + comparative	**Прихо́дите как мо́жно ра́ньше.**	Come as early as possible.
как мо́жно + comparative	**Говори́те как мо́жно ме́дленнее.**	Speak as slowly as you can.

PATTERN	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
всё + comparative	**Ста́новится всё холодне́е.**	It is getting colder and colder.
чем … тем	**Чем бо́льше, тем лу́чше.**	The more, the better.
по- + comparative	**Да́йте, пожа́луйста, побо́льше.**	Give me a bit more, please.

The same as, not as … as

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Он так же высо́к, как брат.	He is as tall as his brother.	*так же … как*
Она́ говори́т так же хорошо́, как я.	She speaks as well as I do.	adverb
У нас така́я же маши́на, как у вас.	We have the same car as you.	*тако́й же* agrees with the noun
Они́ одина́ково высо́кие.	They are equally tall.	*одина́ково*: equally
Он не тако́й высо́кий, как брат.	He is not as tall as his brother.	*не тако́й … как*
Э́то не так тру́дно, как я ду́мал.	This is not as hard as I thought.	*не так … как*

> **Watch out: so, such, as … as**
>
> *Так* is an adverb (“so, in this way”) and goes with verbs and adverbs. *Тако́й* is an adjective (“such”) and goes with nouns and agrees with them, as taught in Chapter 2. So **так хорошо́** but **тако́й хоро́ший челове́к**.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud. Which comparatives are the simple form, and which use бо́лее?

① Choosing a flat

A:

Кака´я кварти´ра лу´чше?

Which flat is better?

B:

Втора´я деше´вле и бли´же к це´нтру.

The second is cheaper and nearer the centre.

A:

Но пе´рвая бо´льше и светле´е.

But the first is bigger and lighter.

B:

Да, но она´ доро´же на ты´сячу рубле´й.

Yes, but it is a thousand roubles dearer.

② Two brothers

A:

У тебя´ есть брат?

Do you have a brother?

B:

Да, ста´рший. Он ста´рше меня´ на три го´да.

Yes, an elder one. He is three years older than me.

A:

Он вы´ше тебя´?

Is he taller than you?

B:

Нет, мы одина´ково высо´кие.

No, we are equally tall.

③ In a café

A:

Говори´те ме´дленнее, пожа´луйста.

Speak more slowly, please.

B:

Коне´чно. Э´то са´мый вку´сный торт в го´роде.

Of course. This is the tastiest cake in town.

A:

Да´йте, пожа´луйста, побо´льше!

Give me a bit more, please!

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Simple comparative	**-ее**	**нове́е, быстре́е**
Short comparative	**-е + consonant change**	**доро́же, ле́гче, ти́ше**
Irregular	**learn each**	**лу́чше, ху́же, бо́льше, ме́ньше**
Before a noun	**бо́лее / ме́нее + adjective**	**в бо́лее но́вом до́ме**
Than	**чем + same case, or genitive**	**ста́рше меня́; ста́рше, чем я**
Superlative	**са́мый + adjective**	**са́мый но́вый дом**
Best of all	**comparative + всех / всего́**	**лу́чше всех**
As possible	**как мо́жно + comparative**	**как мо́жно быстре́е**
As … as	**так же … как**	**так же хорошо́, как я**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Make the comparative of **но́вый**, **си́льный** and **тру́дный**.

▼ Show answer

нове́е, сильне́е, трудне́е. The ending *-ее*, with the stress on it.

2. Give the comparative of **до́рогой**, **ти́хий** and **лёгкий**.

▼ Show answer

доро́же, ти́ше, ле́гче. The consonant changes: *г → ж*, *х → ш*, *к → ч*.

3. Say in Russian two ways: “She is older than me.”

▼ Show answer

Она́ ста́рше меня́. Она́ ста́рше, чем я. The genitive *меня́*, or *чем* and the nominative.

4. Say in Russian: “It is colder today than yesterday.”

▼ Show answer

Сего́дня холодне́е, чем вчера́. *Чем* is needed because the second item is an adverb.

5. Complete: **Мы живём в ____ но́вом до́ме.** (more)

▼ Show answer

Мы живём в бо́лее но́вом до́ме. *Бо́лее* does not change, and *но́вом* is prepositional.

6. Say in Russian: “This is the newest house.”

▼ Show answer

Э́то са́мый но́вый дом. *Са́мый* and *но́вый* are both masculine nominative.

7. Say in Russian: “We live in the smallest house.”

▼ Show answer

Мы живём в са́мом ма́леньком до́ме. Both words take the prepositional ending *-ом*.

8. Say in Russian: “He is two years older than me.”

▼ Show answer

Он ста́рше меня́ на два го́да. *На* and the accusative for the difference.

9. Say in Russian: “Come as early as possible.”

▼ Show answer

Прихо´дите как мо´жно ра´ньше. *Как мо´жно* and the comparative.

10. Say in Russian: “She speaks as well as I do.”

▼ Show answer

Она´ говори´т так же хорошо´, как я. *Так же … как*, with the adverb *хорошо´*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that most adjectives form the simple comparative with *-ее*; that stems in г, к, х, д, т, ст take a short *-е*; that *лучше, хуже, больше, меньше, выше, ближе, дальше* are irregular; that the compound comparative *более* + adjective exists and that doubling forms (*более лучше*) is wrong; that the superlative is formed with *самый* or with *-ейший*, and that *старше всех* is a common alternative (sources: russianenthusiast.com: comparatives and superlatives, translate.ru: degrees of comparison, Mango Languages: comparatives, polyglotclub.com, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the full list of comparatives and the stress marks on them (*нове´е, красиве´е, теплее´, трудне´е, деше´вле, ле´гче*); the exact consonant changes (*к → ч, х → ш, г/д → ж, т → ч, ст → щ*) and which adjectives use which; *старше* against *старее* for people and things; *чем* against the genitive and the rule that *чем* is needed when the first item is not nominative or accusative; *на* + accusative and *в … раза* for the difference; *намного, гораздо, чуть*; the declining *лучший, худший, старший, младший*; *как можно, всё* + comparative, *чем … тем* and *по-* + comparative; *так же … как, такой же, одинаково*; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 9: Numerals and Cases. *оди´н, два, три, четы´ре* declined; 5 to 20 and the tens declined; adjectives after numbers (*два но´вых стола´*); *о´ба, ты´сяча, миллио´н*; collective numerals (*дво´е, тро´е*).

🔢 Counting with Cases — Счёт и падежи́

*In Russian a number decides the **form of the noun** after it: оди́н стол, два стола́, пять столо́в. The number itself also changes for case. Russian Grammar 1 left this open, and this chapter closes it. The adjective goes in the genitive plural, with one exception for feminine nouns.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

1 agrees with the noun like *э́тот*. **2, 3, 4 + genitive singular** (**два стола́**). **5 to 20, 30 and every higher number + genitive plural** (**пять столо́в**). In a compound number the **last word** decides (**два́дцать оди́н стол, два́дцать два стола́, два́дцать пять столо́в**). The adjective after 2, 3, 4 and above is in the **genitive plural** (**два но́вых стола́**), but a feminine noun may keep the adjective in the **nominative plural** (**две но́вые кни́ги**). Only in the nominative and the inanimate accusative does this pattern appear: in every other case the number, the adjective and the noun all take the **same case** in the plural.

One: оди́н, одна́, одно́, одни́

Оди́н is a real adjective and agrees with its noun in gender, number and case. It declines like *э́тот* (Chapter 2). The plural *одни́* is used with plural-only nouns and means “some, alone” (**одни́ очки́**, “one pair of glasses”).

CASE	MASC.	FEM.	NEUT.	PLURAL
Nominative	оди́н	одна́	одно́	одни́
Accusative	оди́н / одного́	одну́	одно́	одни́ / одни́х
Genitive	одного́	одно́й	одного́	одни́х
Dative	одному́	одно́й	одному́	одни́м

CASE	MASC.	FEM.	NEUT.	PLURAL
Instrumental	**одни́м**	**одно́й**	**одни́м**	**одни́ми**
Prepositional	**одно́м**	**одно́й**	**одно́м**	**одни́х**

The accusative of the masculine follows the animate rule from Grammar 1: **Я ви´жу одного´ студе´нта.** (animate) but **Я ви´жу оди´н стол.** (inanimate).

Two, three, four

These three take the **genitive singular** of the noun. *Два* has a feminine form **две**. After the number, a number of nouns shift stress: **час → два часа´**, **шаг → два шага´**.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
два стола́	two tables	masculine *два*, genitive singular
две кни́ги	two books	feminine *две*
три окна́	three windows	neuter takes *два* / *три*
четы́ре дня	four days	genitive singular *дня*
два но́вых стола́	two new tables	adjective: genitive plural
три но́вых окна́	three new windows	genitive plural, neuter noun
две но́вые кни́ги	two new books	feminine: nominative plural (usual)
две но́вых кни́ги	two new books	feminine: genitive plural (also correct)

The oblique forms of the numbers themselves:

CASE	2 (MASC., NEUT.)	2 (FEM.)	3	4
Nominative	**два**	**две**	**три**	**четы́ре**
Genitive	**двух**		**трёх**	**четырёх**

CASE	2 (MASC., NEUT.)	2 (FEM.)	3	4
Dative	**двум**		**трём**	**четырём**
Instrumental	**двумя́**		**тремя́**	**четырьмя́**
Prepositional	**двух**		**трёх**	**четырёх**

Watch out: outside the nominative, everything takes the same case

The “genitive singular” pattern is only for the nominative (and the inanimate accusative). After that the number, the adjective and the noun are all **plural in the case the sentence needs**: **у двух но´вых студе´нтов** (genitive), **с двумя´ но´выми студе´нтами** (instrumental), **о двух но´вых студе´нтах** (prepositional). With animate nouns the accusative of 2, 3, 4 is the genitive: **Я ви´жу двух студе´нтов** and **двух де´вушек**, but **Я ви´жу два стола´**.

Five to twenty, and thirty

From **пять** upward the noun is in the **genitive plural** (Russian Grammar 1, Chapter 8, for the endings). These numbers end in a soft sign and decline like a noun such as *но´чь*: **пять, пяти´, пяти´, пятью´, о пяти´**.

NUMBER	SAY IT	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
пять	pyaht	**пять столо́в**	five tables
шесть	shehst	**шесть кни́г**	six books
семь	syem	**семь дней**	seven days
во́семь	VOH-seem	**во́семь часо́в**	eight hours
де́вять	DYEH-vyaht	**де́вять студе́нтов**	nine students
де́сять	DYEH-syaht	**де́сять мину́т**	ten minutes
оди́ннадцать	ah-DEE-naht-saht	**оди́ннадцать окон**	eleven windows

NUMBER	SAY IT	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
два́дцать	DVAHT-saht	**два́дцать рубле́й**	twenty roubles
три́дцать	TREET-saht	**три́дцать дней**	thirty days

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
пять но́вых столо́в	five new tables	adjective: genitive plural
шесть но́вых книг	six new books	genitive plural also for feminine
Здесь пять столо́в.	There are five tables here.	nominative, genitive plural noun
Я ви́жу пять столо́в.	I see five tables.	inanimate accusative = nominative
Я ви́жу пять студе́нтов.	I see five students.	same form, because the genitive plural is the same
У пяти́ студе́нтов есть кни́ги.	Five students have books.	*пяти́* is the genitive
с пятью́ студе́нтами	with five students	instrumental *пятью́*

Watch out: the last word of a compound number decides

два´дцать оди´н студе´нт (21 students: singular, because it ends in *оди´н*), **два´дцать два студе´нта** (22: genitive singular), **два´дцать пять студе´нтов** (25: genitive plural). Note that 11 to 14 are always in the 5-and-up group: **оди´ннадцать, двена´дцать, трина´дцать, четы´рнадцать студе´нтов**, and so are 111 to 114. With *оди´н* the verb is singular and agrees in gender: **Пришёл два´дцать оди´н студе´нт.**

Tens and hundreds

Most tens and hundreds are compounds, and in the oblique cases every part declines. The everyday forms to know:

NUMBER	NOMINATIVE	OTHER CASES	EXAMPLE
40	**со́рок**	**сорока́** (all other cases)	**со́рок рубле́й**
50	**пятьдеся́т**	**пяти́десяти́**, instr. **пятью́десятью́**	**пятьдеся́т рубле́й**
90	**девяно́сто**	**девяно́ста** (all other cases)	**девяно́сто рубле́й**
100	**сто**	**ста** (all other cases)	**сто рубле́й**
200	**две́сти**	**двухсо́т**, **двумста́м**	**две́сти рубле́й**
500	**пятьсо́т**	**пятисо́т**, **пятиста́м**	**пятьсо́т рубле́й**

The rest of the tens and hundreds (60, 70, 80, 300, 400, 600 to 900) behave the same way: the nominative is followed by the genitive plural, and in the oblique cases both parts of the compound change. In everyday speech it is enough to recognise these forms and to use the nominative correctly.

Both: о́ба and о́бе

О́ба (masculine, neuter) and **о́бе** (feminine) pattern like *два* and *две*: the genitive singular of the noun, then the plural cases.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
о́ба бра́та	both brothers	nominative; masculine
о́бе сестры́	both sisters	nominative; feminine
обо́их бра́тьев	of both brothers	genitive: *обо́их* / *обе́их*
с обе́ими сёстрами	with both sisters	instrumental: *обо́ими* / *обе́ими*

Thousand and million

Ты́сяча (“a thousand”) is a **feminine noun**, and *миллио́н* is a **masculine noun**. They count like any noun, and the thing counted goes in the genitive plural after them.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
ты́сяча рубле́й	a thousand roubles	nominative singular, then genitive plural
две ты́сячи рубле́й	two thousand roubles	*две* + genitive singular *ты́сячи*
пять ты́сяч рубле́й	five thousand roubles	*пять* + genitive plural *ты́сяч*
миллио́н челове́к	a million people	genitive plural *челове́к*
три миллио́на челове́к	three million people	*три* + genitive singular *миллио́на*
пять миллио́нов челове́к	five million people	*пять* + genitive plural

Collective numerals: дво´е, тро´е

Besides the ordinary numbers, Russian has **collective numerals**: **дво´е, тро´е, че´тверо, пя´теро**. They are used with a limited set of nouns, always followed by the **genitive plural**.

USE	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Male persons	**дво́е друзе́й**	two friends
Children	**тро́е дете́й**	three children
Plural-only nouns	**дво́е су́ток**, **тро́е но́жниц**	two days and nights; three pairs of scissors
Pronouns	**нас бы́ло дво́е**	there were two of us

> **Watch out: no collective numerals for women or things**
>
> You say **две сестры´**, never *дво´е сестёр*, and **два стола´**, never *дво´е столо´в*. Use *дво´е* and the rest for men, for children, and for plural-only nouns. **Сколько** (“how many”) and **не´сколько** (“several”) take the genitive plural too: **Ско´лько студе´нтов?**

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud and watch which form of the noun follows each number.

① In the shop

A:

Ско́лько сто́ит э́та кни́га?

How much does this book cost?

B:

Три́ста пятьдеся́т рубле́й.

Three hundred and fifty roubles.

A:

Да́йте две кни́ги и три тетра́ди.

Give me two books and three exercise books.

② The family

A:

У вас есть де́ти?

Do you have children?

B:

Да, у нас дво́е дете́й: сын и дочь.

Yes, we have two children: a son and a daughter.

A:

А у вас?

And you?

B:

У меня́ о́ба бра́та жена́ты.

Both my brothers are married.

③ A class

A:

Ско́лько студе́нтов в гру́ппе?

How many students are in the group?

B:

Два́дцать оди́н студе́нт.

Twenty-one students.

A:

А кни́г?

And books?

B:

Два́дцать две кни́ги.

Twenty-two books.

Quick reference

NUMBER	NOUN AFTER IT	EXAMPLE
1, 21, 31 …	**nominative singular**	**два́дцать оди́н стол**
2, 3, 4 (22–24 …)	**genitive singular**	**два стола́, три кни́ги**
5–20, 25–30 …	**genitive plural**	**пять столо́в**
Adjective after 2–4	**genitive plural (fem.: also nominative plural)**	**два но́вых стола́; две но́вые кни́ги**
Other cases	**same plural case on all**	**с двумя́ но́выми студе́нтами**
Both	**о́ба / о́бе + genitive singular**	**о́ба бра́та, о́бе сестры́**
Thousand, million	**noun; count by the number before it**	**пять ты́сяч рубле́й**
Collective	**дво́е, тро́е + genitive plural**	**дво́е дете́й**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say in Russian: “two new tables”.

▼ Show answer

два но´вых стола´. Genitive plural adjective, genitive singular noun.

2. Say in Russian: “three new books”. Give both correct forms.

▼ Show answer

три но´вые кни´ги or **три но´вых кни´ги**. The nominative plural is usual for a feminine noun.

3. Say in Russian: “five students” and “five new tables”.

▼ Show answer

пять студе´нтов, **пять но´вых столо´в**. The genitive plural from five upward.

4. Say in Russian: “21 students”, “22 students” and “25 students”.

▼ Show answer

два´дцать оди´н студе´нт, два´дцать два студе´нта, два´дцать пять студе´нтов. The last word of the number decides.

5. Complete: **Я ви´жу ____ студе´нтов.** (two)

▼ Show answer

Я ви´жу двух студе´нтов. Animate accusative of two = genitive.

6. Say in Russian: “with two new students”.

▼ Show answer

с двумя´ но´выми студе´нтами. Instrumental plural on all three words.

7. Complete: **У ____ студе´нтов есть кни´ги.** (five)

▼ Show answer

У пяти´ студе´нтов есть кни´ги. *Пяти´* is the genitive of *пять*.

8. Say in Russian: “both sisters” and “both brothers”.

▼ Show answer

о´бе сестры´, **о´ба бра´та**. Feminine *о´бе*, masculine *о´ба*.

9. Say in Russian: “two thousand roubles” and “five thousand roubles”.

▼ Show answer

две ты´сячи рубле´й, **пять ты´сяч рубле´й**. *Ты´сяча* is a feminine noun and counts like one.

10. Say in Russian: “We have three children.” Which collective numeral fits?

▼ Show answer

У нас тро´е дете´й. The collective numeral goes with *де´ти*. **Три ребёнка** is also correct, but *тро´е дете´й* is the natural way to say it; **три де´ти** is wrong.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that два, три, четыре take the genitive singular and that два has the feminine две; that numerals from пять to двадцать take the genitive plural; that the adjective after a numeral depends on the gender, with the genitive plural for masculine and neuter nouns and the nominative plural for feminine nouns; that трёх and четырёх are genitives and that 5 to 20 decline like soft-sign nouns (sources: Wikibooks: Russian/Numbers, Mango Languages: cardinal numbers, russianforfree.com: numbers in all cases, russky.info: numerals, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the whole declension of оди´н, два/две, три, четыре and the stress on each form; the oblique forms of 40, 50, 90, 100, 200 and 500; the compound-number rule and the exceptions for 11 to 14; the animate accusative of 2, 3, 4 and of оба; the stress shifts after the numeral (два часа´, два шага´); the forms and use of оба/обе, тысяча and миллион, and the collective numerals двое, трое, четверо and the nouns they go with (the search found nothing on collective numerals, and I did not run a second search); the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these, and note that the optional feminine adjective choice (две новые / две новых книги) is a point on which sources differ in how strictly they put it.

Coming up in Chapter 10: Ordinals, Dates and Time. *пе´рвый … со´тый*; dates (*пе´рвого января´*); telling the time (*в пять часо´в*, *без че´тверти*); years and ages; prices and money.

🗓 Which One, and When — Како́й по счёту и когда́

Dates, clock times, ages and prices are where learners most often need numbers in real life, and where the cases from the whole course meet. ***Ordinals*** *("first, second") are ordinary adjectives and decline like the adjectives in Chapters 1 to 6. A date puts the ordinal and the month in the* ***genitive****, a clock time uses* ***в*** *and the numbers from Chapter 9, and ages put the person in the* ***dative****.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

An **ordinal** is a long adjective (**пе́рвый, второ́й, пя́тый**) and agrees with its noun in gender, number and case. In a compound number only the **last word** is an ordinal (**два́дцать пе́рвый**). **Date** ("on the 5th of May"): neuter ordinal in the genitive + month in the genitive, **пя́того ма́я**. **Year:** *в* + ordinal in the prepositional + *году́*. **Time:** *в* + the hour, **в пять часо́в**. **Age:** dative + number + *год, го́да, лет*, **Мне два́дцать оди́н год.**

Ordinals

Most ordinals are the cardinal stem + **-ый** or **-ой** (when the stress falls on the ending). Four are irregular: *пе́рвый, второ́й, тре́тий* and *четвёртый*. Note that *тре́тий* has a **soft** stem, like *си́ний*: **тре́тья, тре́тье, тре́тьи, тре́тьего**.

NO.	ORDINAL	SAY IT	ENGLISH
1	**пе́рвый**	PYEHR-vy	first
2	**второ́й**	ftah-ROY	second
3	**тре́тий**	TRYEH-tee	third
4	**четвёртый**	cheet-VYOR-ty	fourth
5	**пя́тый**	PYAH-ty	fifth

NO.	ORDINAL	SAY IT	ENGLISH
6	**шесто́й**	shees-TOY	sixth
7	**седьмо́й**	seed-MOY	seventh
8	**восьмо́й**	vahs-MOY	eighth
9	**девя́тый**	dee-VYAH-ty	ninth
10	**деся́тый**	dee-SYAH-ty	tenth
11	**оди́ннадцатый**	ah-DEE-naht-sa-ty	eleventh
12	**двена́дцатый**	dvee-NAHT-sa-ty	twelfth
20	**двадца́тый**	dvah-TSAH-ty	twentieth
30	**тридца́тый**	tree-TSAH-ty	thirtieth
40	**сороково́й**	sah-rah-kah-VOY	fortieth
50	**пятидеся́тый**	pee-tee-dee-SYAH-ty	fiftieth
100	**со́тый**	SOH-ty	hundredth

Numbers from 11 to 19 form the ordinal from the cardinal (*-надцатый*), and the tens from 20 to 30 from the cardinal with *-тый*. In a compound only the last element is an ordinal and the others stay cardinal and do not change: **два´дцать пе´рвый** (21st), **сто пя´тый** (105th). The ordinal declines like any long adjective.

CASE	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Nominative	**Э́то пя́тый этаж.**	This is the fifth floor.
Accusative	**Я чита́ю вторую́ кни́гу.**	I am reading the second book.
Genitive	**Нет тре́тьего ме́ста.**	There is no third place.
Prepositional	**Он живёт на деся́том этаже́.**	He lives on the tenth floor.

CASE	RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Instrumental	**Ря́дом с пе́рвым до́мом.**	Next to the first house.

Watch out: one, two, three, four use different words

оди́н → пе́рвый, **два → второ́й**, **три → тре́тий**, **четы́ре → четвёртый**. These four have to be learnt separately. From 5 on the ordinal is built from the number: *пя́тый, шесто́й, седьмо́й, восьмо́й.*

The months and the date

MONTH	GENITIVE (FOR A DATE)	PREPOSITIONAL ("IN …")
янва́рь	**января́**	**в январе́**
февра́ль	**февраля́**	**в феврале́**
март	**ма́рта**	**в ма́рте**
апре́ль	**апре́ля**	**в апре́ле**
май	**ма́я**	**в ма́е**
ию́нь	**ию́ня**	**в ию́не**
ию́ль	**ию́ля**	**в ию́ле**
а́вгуст	**а́вгуста**	**в а́вгусте**
сентя́брь	**сентября́**	**в сентябре́**
октя́брь	**октября́**	**в октябре́**
ноя́брь	**ноября́**	**в ноябре́**
дека́брь	**декабря́**	**в декабре́**

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Кака́я сего́дня да́та? / Кото́рое сего́дня число́?	What is today's date?	asking the date
Сего́дня пя́тое ма́я.	Today is the fifth of May.	neuter nominative ordinal (*число́* understood) + genitive month
Мой день рожде́ния пя́того ма́я.	My birthday is on the fifth of May.	on a date: neuter genitive, **no preposition**
Я родился пе́рвого января́.	I was born on the first of January.	genitive
с пе́рвого по деся́тое ма́я	from the first to the tenth of May	*с* + genitive, *по* + accusative
Мы прие́дем в ма́е.	We will arrive in May.	month alone: *в* + prepositional

Years, days and seasons

A year is expressed with the **ordinal**, and the last word is the one that changes: **две ты́сячи два́дцать шесто́й год** (2026). After *в* the ordinal is prepositional and the word for year is *году́*: **в две ты́сячи два́дцать шесто́м году́**.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
В како́м году́ ты родился?	In what year were you born?	*в* + prepositional
Я родился в ты́сяча девятьсо́т девяно́сто дев́ятом году́.	I was born in 1999.	only the last word is ordinal
Пя́того ма́я две ты́сячи два́дцать шесто́го го́да.	On the fifth of May 2026.	full date: *го́да* in the genitive
в понеде́льник, во вто́рник, в сре́ду	on Monday, on Tuesday, on Wednesday	*в* + accusative (*во* before *вто́рник*)

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
в четве́рг, в пя́тницу, в суббо́ту, в воскресе́нье	on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	feminine days take *-у*
весно́й, ле́том, о́сенью, зимо́й	in spring, summer, autumn, winter	instrumental, no preposition

Telling the time

To ask: **Кото́рый час?** or **Ско́лько вре́мени?** The hour is the number plus *час* (**оди́н час, два часа́, пять часо́в**, as in Chapter 9). For the time of an event use *в* + the accusative of the whole phrase: **в пять часо́в** (“at five”).

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Сейча́с пять часо́в.	It is five o’clock.	telling the time
Встре́тимся в пять часо́в.	We will meet at five.	*в* + accusative
Сейча́с оди́н час.	It is one o’clock.	1: *час*
Сейча́с три часа́.	It is three o’clock.	2–4: *часа́*
пять мину́т шесто́го	five past five (5:05)	minutes + **genitive ordinal of the next hour**
че́тверть шесто́го	quarter past five (5:15)	*че́тверть* + genitive
полови́на шесто́го	half past five (5:30)	*полови́на* + genitive
без че́тверти шесть	quarter to six (5:45)	*без* + genitive + **cardinal** hour
без десяти́ шесть	ten to six (5:50)	*без десяти́* + hour
в полови́не шесто́го	at half past five	*в* + prepositional *полови́не*

For the part of the day, add the genitive: **пять часо́в утра́** (5 a.m.), **три часа́ дня** (3 p.m.), **во́семь часо́в ве́чера** (8 p.m.), **два часа́ но́чи** (2 a.m.). In official use the 24-hour clock is common, and then the cardinal is used: **семна́дцать три́дцать** (17:30).

> **Watch out: half past five is "half of the sixth"**
>
> Russian counts towards the **next** hour: **полови́на шесто́го** is 5:30, and the sixth hour begins at 5:00. English speakers read it as 6:30 and arrive an hour late. The quarter past and the minutes work the same way: **че́тверть шесто́го** is 5:15. After *без* the hour that follows is the plain cardinal.

Ages

The person is in the **dative**, followed by the number and **год, го́да** or **лет**. The counting rules from Chapter 9 apply: *год* after 1, *го́да* after 2 to 4, *лет* (a special genitive plural, not *годо́в*) after 5 and up.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ско́лько тебе́ лет?	How old are you?	*ско́лько* + dative + *лет*
Мне два́дцать оди́н год.	I am 21.	1: *год*
Ей два́дцать два го́да.	She is 22.	2–4: *го́да*
Ему́ со́рок пять лет.	He is 45.	5 and up: *лет*
Ребёнку три го́да.	The child is three.	dative noun

Prices and money

To ask the price: **Ско́лько э́то сто́ит?** The name of the currency follows the number with the same rules as Chapter 9: *рубль* after 1, *рубля́* after 2 to 4, *рубле́й* after 5 and up. A kopeck is *копе́йка, копе́йки, копе́ек*.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
оди́н рубль	1 rouble	nominative singular
три рубля́	3 roubles	genitive singular
пять рубле́й	5 roubles	genitive plural
два́дцать оди́н рубль	21 roubles	last word decides
сто пятьдеся́т рубле́й	150 roubles	genitive plural
Кни́га сто́ит две́сти рубле́й.	The book costs 200 roubles.	*сто́ить* + nominative price
У меня́ нет пяти́ рубле́й.	I do not have five roubles.	*нет* + genitive
Ско́лько с меня́?	How much do I owe?	at a till

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and find the ordinals, the genitive dates and the numbers.

① An appointment

A:

Когда́ мы встре́тимся?

When shall we meet?

B:

В пя́тницу, пе́рвого ма́я, в полови́не пя́того.

On Friday, the first of May, at half past four.

A:

Хорошо́. Я бу́ду без че́тверти пять.

Fine. I will be there at a quarter to five.

② A birthday

A:

Когда́ твой день рожде́ния?

When is your birthday?

B:

Три́дцать пе́рвого декабря́.

On the thirty-first of December.

A:

Ско́лько тебе́ бу́дет лет?

How old will you be?

B:

Тридцать два го́да.

Thirty-two.

③ At the till

A:

Ско́лько с меня́?

How much do I owe?

B:

Три́ста два́дцать пять рубле́й.

Three hundred and twenty-five roubles.

A:

Вот пятьсо́т.

Here is five hundred.

B:

Ваша сда́ча — сто семьдеся́т пять рубле́й.

Your change is 175 roubles.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Ordinal	**long adjective; last word only**	два́дцать пе́рвый
On a date	**neuter genitive + genitive month**	пя́того ма́я
In a month	**в + prepositional**	в ма́е
In a year	**в + prepositional ordinal + году́**	в девя́том году́
On a day	**в + accusative**	в пя́тницу
At an hour	**в + number + час**	в пять часо́в
Half past	**полови́на + genitive ordinal of next hour**	полови́на шесто́го
Quarter to	**без че́тверти + cardinal**	без че́тверти шесть

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Age	**dative + number + год / го́да / лет**	Мне пять лет.
Price	**number + рубль / рубля́ / рубле́й**	три рубля́

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say in Russian: “the third floor” and “on the third floor”.

▼ Show answer

тре´тий эта´ж, **на тре´тьем этаже´**. *Тре´тий* has a soft stem, so *-ьем*.

2. Say in Russian: “Today is the first of January.”

▼ Show answer

Сего´дня пе´рвое января´. Neuter nominative ordinal, genitive month.

3. Say in Russian: “My birthday is on the eighth of March.”

▼ Show answer

Мой день рожде´ния восьмо´го ма´рта. Genitive for “on a date”, with no preposition.

4. Say in Russian: “in September” and “on Friday”.

▼ Show answer

в сентябре´, **в пя´тницу**. Prepositional for a month, accusative for a day.

5. Say in Russian: “I was born in 1999.”

▼ Show answer

Я родился в ты́сяча девятьсо́т девяно́сто девя́том году́. A woman says *родила́сь*.

6. Say in Russian: “It is half past five.” and “We will meet at five.”

▼ Show answer

Сейча́с полови́на шесто́го. Встре́тимся в пять часо́в. The first counts towards the sixth hour.

7. Say in Russian: “It is a quarter to six.”

▼ Show answer

Сейча́с без че́тверти шесть. *Без* and the genitive, then the plain cardinal.

8. Say in Russian: “I am 21”, “She is 22” and “He is 45”.

▼ Show answer

Мне два́дцать оди́н год. Ей два́дцать два го́да. Ему́ со́рок пять лет. Dative, then *год, го́да, лет*.

9. Say in Russian: “The book costs 150 roubles.”

▼ Show answer

Кни́га сто́ит сто пятьдеся́т рубле́й. Genitive plural after the number.

10. Say in Russian: “from the first to the tenth of May”.

▼ Show answer

с пе́рвого по деся́тое ма́я. *С* + genitive, *по* + accusative.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that the hour is the number + *час, часа, часов* (1, 2–4, 5 and up); that half past is *половина* + the genitive of the next hour (*половина седьмого, половина десятого*); that a quarter past is *четверть десятого*; that a quarter to is *без четверти шесть* or *без пятнадцати шесть*; that the 24-hour clock with cardinals is the official style

(sources: Babbel: telling time in Russian, ruslanguage.ru: telling the time, russianenthusiast.com: telling the time vocabulary, wisc.pb.unizin.org: grammar, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the ordinals, their stress marks and their respellings, and the soft stem of *третий*; the date pattern with the genitive ordinal and genitive month, and *с … по …*; the months in the genitive and the prepositional and their stress; years and *в … году*, and *года* in a full date (the search found nothing on dates or years, and I did not run a second search); days of the week with *в* and the seasons in the instrumental; the way minutes are added to the genitive hour (*пять минут шестого*), *в половине шестого*, *утра, дня, вечера, ночи*; ages with *год, года, лет*; the forms of *рубль* and *копейка* and the price patterns; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these, and note that sources differ on whether the hour is described with an ordinal or a cardinal.

Coming up in Chapter 11: The Other Pronouns. *весь, сам, ка´ждый, друго´й, любо´й, вся´кий*; *кто-то, что-нибудь, никто´, ничто´*; double negation (*Я никого´ не ви´жу*); *себя´*; the reflexive possessive.

🔍 All, Some, Any, None — Весь, ко´е-что´, никто´

*Russian Grammar 1 taught the personal pronouns, and Chapter 2 taught мой, э´тот and the rest of the possessives and demonstratives. This chapter adds the pronouns that say **all**, **each**, **some**, **any** and **none**, plus сам ("myself, yourself") and себя´. Most of them decline like words you already know, so the new work is meaning and word order.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

весь (all) and **сам** (self) agree like adjectives and have their own forms. **ка´ждый, друго´й, любо´й, вся´кий** are ordinary long adjectives. **Indefinites** are *кто, что, где, когда´, како´й* + **-то** (something exists), **-нибудь** (any at all) or **ко´е-** (a certain thing I will not name). The question word declines, the particle stays: **кого´-то, с кем-нибудь**. **Negatives** (*никто´, ничто´, нигде´, ни´когда*) need **не** before the verb as well: **Я никого´ не ви´жу. Себя´** has no nominative and means the subject itself.

Весь: all, the whole

CASE	MASC.	FEM.	NEUT.	PLURAL
Nominative	весь	вся	всё	все
Accusative	весь / всего́	всю	всё	все / всех
Genitive	всего́	всей	всего́	всех
Dative	всему́	всей	всему́	всем
Instrumental	всем	всей	всем	все́ми
Prepositional	всём	всей	всём	всех

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Весь день я рабо́таю.	I work all day.	masculine accusative = nominative for a thing
Она́ чита́ла всю ночь.	She read all night.	feminine accusative *всю*
Все студе́нты здесь.	All the students are here.	plural *все*
Все зна́ют э́то.	Everything knows this.	*все* alone = everyone, with a plural verb
Всё хорошо́.	Everything is fine.	*всё* alone = everything, with a singular verb
Я ви́жу всех.	I see everyone.	animate accusative *всех*
Мы говори́м обо всём.	We talk about everything.	*обо* before *всём*

> **Watch out: все is everyone, всё is everything**
>
> The two words are spelt differently in careful writing (*все* and *всё*), but many texts print both with *е*. The verb tells you which: **Все ушли́.** (plural, *everyone left*) and **Всё ушло́.** (neuter, *everything is gone*).

Сам: myself, yourself, by oneself

Сам adds **emphasis**: the very person, not someone else, and often “by myself, without help”. It agrees with the subject it points to.

CASE	MASC.	FEM.	NEUT.	PLURAL
Nominative	**сам**	**сама́**	**само́**	**са́ми**
Genitive	**самого́**	**само́й**	**самого́**	**сами́х**
Dative	**самому́**	**само́й**	**самому́**	**сами́м**
Instrumental	**сами́м**	**само́й**	**сами́м**	**сами́ми**

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Я сам э́то сде́лал.	I did it myself. (a man speaking)
Она́ сама́ пришла́.	She came by herself.
Мы са́ми зна́ем.	We know ourselves.
Он говори́т с самим дире́ктором.	He is talking to the director himself.

Ка´ждый, друго´й, любо´й, вся´кий

These four are ordinary long adjectives, with the endings of Chapters 1 to 6.

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
ка́ждый	each, every	**ка́ждый день, ка́ждую неде́лю**	every day, every week
друго́й	another, other	**друго́й челове́к, в друго́м го́роде**	another person, in another city
любо́й	any (you like)	**Возьми́те люб́ую кни́гу.**	Take any book.
вся́кий	any; every kind of	**на вся́кий слу́чай**	just in case

Друго´й also works as a pronoun: **Я хочу´ друго´е.** (*I want another one.*), and *друг дру´га* is “each other”: **Они´ лю´бят друг дру´га.** The first word never changes and the second takes the case that the verb or preposition needs: **друг с дру´гом**, **друг о дру´ге**.

Indefinite pronouns and adverbs

Take a question word and add a particle. The question word declines as usual, and the particle stays at the end. A preposition goes **between** the question word and the particle only if the preposition belongs to the pronoun: **с кем-нибудь**, **о чём-то**.

PARTICLE	MEANING	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
-то	someone exists, a real but unknown person or thing	**Кто́-то звони́л.**	Someone rang.
-нибудь	anyone at all, not specific; questions, commands, the future	**Позвони́ кому́-нибудь.**	Ring someone (anyone).
ко́е-	someone or something definite that I do not name	**Я зна́ю ко́е-что́.**	I know a thing or two.

CASE	КТО-ТО	ЧТО-ТО	КТО-НИБУДЬ	ЧТО-НИБУДЬ
Nominative	**кто́-то**	**что́-то**	**кто́-нибудь**	**что́-нибудь**
Accusative	**кого́-то**	**что́-то**	**кого́-нибудь**	**что́-нибудь**
Genitive	**кого́-то**	**чего́-то**	**кого́-нибудь**	**чего́-нибудь**
Dative	**кому́-то**	**чему́-то**	**кому́-нибудь**	**чему́-нибудь**
Instrumental	**ке́м-то**	**че́м-то**	**ке́м-нибудь**	**че́м-нибудь**
Prepositional	**о ко́м-то**	**о чём-то**	**о ко́м-нибудь**	**о чём-нибудь**

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Я что́-то слы́шал.	I heard something.	I know there was something: *-то*
Ты что́-нибудь слы́шал?	Did you hear anything?	a question: *-нибудь*
Он где́-то живёт.	He lives somewhere.	*где́-то*
Дай мне како́й-нибудь журна́л.	Give me any magazine.	*како́й-нибудь* declines like *како́й*
Он почему́-то не пришёл.	He did not come for some reason.	*почему́-то*

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Мы куда́-нибудь пойдём.	We will go somewhere (anywhere).	future, so *-нибудь*

Watch out: -то for facts, -нибудь for the unknown

Use **-то** when the thing exists and has happened or is going on (**Кто́-то стучи́т.** “Someone is knocking.”). Use **-нибудь** for something that has not happened, is a question, or is a free choice (**Е́сли кто́-нибудь придёт, скажи́ мне.** “If anyone comes, tell me.”).

Negatives and double negation

The negative pronouns are built with **ни-**. Russian always keeps **не** before the verb as well: the negative is doubled, and this is correct, not an error. If the pronoun takes a preposition, **ни** and the preposition are written apart and the preposition goes **inside**: **ни с кем, ни о чём**.

CASE	НИКТО́	НИЧТО́
Nominative	**никто́**	**ничто́**
Accusative	**никого́**	**ничто́**
Genitive	**никого́**	**ничего́**
Dative	**никому́**	**ничему́**
Instrumental	**ни́кем**	**ничём**
Prepositional	**ни о ко́м**	**ни о чём**

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Никто́ не знает.	Nobody knows.	*не* + verb is required
Я никого́ не ви́жу.	I do not see anyone.	accusative *никого́*, animate

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Он ничего́ не зна́ет.	He knows nothing.	genitive-form *ничего́* is used for the object too
Я ни с кем не говорю́.	I am not talking to anyone.	preposition inside: *ни с кем*
Он никогда́ никуда́ не хо́дит.	He never goes anywhere.	several negatives can pile up
Здесь нигде́ нет ба́нка.	There is no bank anywhere here.	*нигде́ нет*
Он не чита́ет никаки́х книг.	He does not read any books.	*никако́й* + genitive after *не*

Two related words mean “there is nothing / nobody to …”. They take the dative of the person and an infinitive: **Мне не́чего де́лать.** (*I have nothing to do.*) and **Мне не́кого спроси́ть.** (*I have nobody to ask.*). With a preposition: **Мне не́ с кем говори́ть.**

> **Watch out: не is not optional**
>
> **Я никого́ не ви́жу.** is correct. *Я никого́ ви́жу* is wrong, and *Я не ви́жу никого́* is also right (the pronoun may come after the verb). Do not translate “I see nobody” word for word as if two negatives cancelled each other, as in English.

Себя́: the reflexive pronoun

Себя́ means “oneself” and refers to the **subject** of the sentence. It has no nominative and no gender or number, and it is the **same for every person**: **Я ви́жу себя́. Ты ви́дишь себя́. Они́ ви́дят себя́.**

CASE	FORM	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
Accusative, genitive	**себя́**	**Я ви́жу себя́ в зе́ркале.**	I see myself in the mirror.
Dative	**себе́**	**Я покупа́ю себе́ пода́рок.**	I am buying myself a present.

CASE	FORM	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
Instrumental	собо́й	Возьми́ с собо́й зо́нтик.	Take an umbrella with you.
Prepositional	о себе́	Он говори́т то́лько о себе́.	He only talks about himself.

The reflexive possessive свой

Chapter 2 introduced *свой* (“one’s own”), which is the possessive twin of *себя́* and agrees with the noun it describes. It points back to the subject of the clause. In the third person it matters a great deal: *его́, её, их* mean “someone else’s”, and *свой* means “the subject’s own”.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Он лю́бит свою́ жену́.	He loves his (own) wife.
Он лю́бит его́ жену́.	He loves his (someone else’s) wife.
Она́ взяла́ свою́ су́мку.	She took her (own) bag.
Я забы́л свой телефо́н.	I forgot my phone.

> **Watch out: свой is never the subject**
>
> *Свой* cannot be part of the subject, because it points back *to* the subject. You say **Его́ кни́га лежи́т на столе́.** (*His book is on the table.*), not *Своя́ кни́га лежи́т на столе́*. And in the first and second person *мой* and *твой* are as good as *свой*: **Я люблю́ мою́ рабо́ту / свою́ рабо́ту.**

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and find each pronoun and the case it is in.

① Is anyone home?

A:

② A bad day

A:

Кто́-нибудь до́ма?

Is anyone at home?

B:

Нет, никого́ нет. Все ушли́.

No, nobody is in. Everyone has gone out.

A:

А я что́-то слы́шал.

But I heard something.

Что́ ты де́лал весь день?

What did you do all day?

B:

Ничего́. Мне не́чего де́лать, и мне не́кому звони́ть.

Nothing. I have nothing to do and nobody to ring.

A:

Позвони́ кому́-нибудь!

Ring someone!

③ Doing it yourself

A:

Ты сама́ э́то сде́лала?

Did you do this yourself?

B:

Да, никто́ мне не помога́л.

Yes, nobody helped me.

A:

Молоде́ц! Ты мо́жешь гордиться собо́й.

Well done! You can be proud of yourself.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
All	**весь, вся, всё, все**	**весь день, все студе́нты**
Self	**сам, сама́, само́, са́ми**	**Я сам э́то сде́лал.**
Each, another, any	**ка́ждый, друго́й, любо́й**	**ка́ждый день**

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Someone (exists)	**кто́-то, что́-то**	**Кто́-то звони́л.**
Anyone (unknown)	**кто́-нибудь, что́-нибудь**	**Ты что́-нибудь слы́шал?**
Nobody, nothing	**никто́, ничто́ + не**	**Я никого́ не ви́жу.**
Nothing to do	**не́чего, не́кого + dative + infinitive**	**Мне не́чего де́лать.**
Oneself	**себя́, себе́, собо́й, о себе́**	**Он говори́т о себе́.**
One's own	**свой**	**Он лю́бит свою́ жену́.**

Practice

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say in Russian: "I work all day" and "She read all night".

▼ Show answer

Я рабо´таю весь день. Она´ чита´ла всю ночь. Masculine *весь*, feminine accusative *всю*.

2. Say in Russian: "Everyone knows this." and "Everything is fine."

▼ Show answer

Все зна´ют э´то. Всё хорошо´. Plural verb for *все*, singular for *всё*.

3. Say in Russian: "She came by herself."

▼ Show answer

Она´ сама´ пришла´. Feminine *сама´* agrees with the subject.

4. Say in Russian: "Someone rang." and "Did anyone ring?"

▼ Show answer

Кто́-то звони́л. Кто́-нибудь звони́л? *-то* for a known fact, *-нибудь* for a question.

5. Say in Russian: “I do not see anyone.”

▼ Show answer

Я никого́ не ви́жу. *Не* is required with *никого́*.

6. Say in Russian: “I am not talking to anyone.”

▼ Show answer

Я ни с кем не говорю́. The preposition goes inside: *ни с кем*.

7. Say in Russian: “I have nothing to do.”

▼ Show answer

Мне не́чего де́лать. Dative + *не́чего* + infinitive.

8. Say in Russian: “He only talks about himself.”

▼ Show answer

Он говори́т то́лько о себе́. Prepositional *себе́*.

9. Say in Russian: “Take an umbrella with you.”

▼ Show answer

Возьми́ с собо́й зо́нтик. Instrumental *собо́й* after *с*.

10. What is the difference between **Он лю́бит свою́ жену́.** and **Он лю́бит его́ жену́.**?

▼ Show answer

The first: he loves his own wife. The second: he loves another man’s wife. *Свой* points back to the subject, *его́* to someone else.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that indefinite pronouns with *-то, -нибудь, -либо* and *кое-* decline like the question words they are built from, with forms such as *кто´-то* and *ке´м-то*; that *-нибудь* and *-либо* share one meaning; that *кое-кто* often refers to a few people; that the negative pronouns *никто* and *ничто* keep the particle *не* before the verb (negative concord) (sources: learnrussianlanguage.net: indefinite pronouns, russky.info: pronouns, ukrainianlanguage.org.uk: negative pronouns, Mango Languages: indefinite words, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the declension of *весь* and *сам* and the stress marks on the oblique forms of *сам* (the search returned nothing on *себя, весь* or *сам*, and I did not run a second search); *каждый, другой, любой, всякий* and *друг друга*; the difference in use between *-то* and *-нибудь*; *никто/ничто* in all cases, with the stress on *никем* and *ничем*; *нечего* and *некого*; the forms and use of *себя* and *свой*, including the contrast with *его*; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 12: Putting It Together. Whole noun phrases (demonstrative + adjective + noun) through all six cases in one table; reading a short text and naming each form; common errors; recap and **Course Complete**; a pointer to Russian Grammar 3.

🧩 Putting It Together — Собира́ем всё вме́сте

*Eleven chapters have given you the pieces: adjectives, possessives, demonstratives, short forms, comparison, numerals, ordinals and the other pronouns. In a real sentence they arrive **together**, as a whole noun phrase in which every word must carry the same case. This chapter lays out one complete phrase through all six cases, reads a short text and names each form, lists the most common errors, and recaps the course.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

In a noun phrase the **noun** decides the gender and number. Every word before it (**demonstrative, possessive, numeral 1, adjective**) agrees in **gender, number and case**, so you pick the case first and then give every word its ending. The animate-masculine accusative (and every plural animate accusative) borrows the genitive. After **2, 3, 4** and **5 and up** the noun is in the genitive (Chapter 9), and in the oblique cases the whole phrase is plural in that case.

One noun phrase through the six cases

The model phrase is **э́тот но́вый дом** (“this new house”), **э́та но́вая кни́га** (“this new book”) and **э́то но́вое окно́** (“this new window”). The prepositional is given with a preposition because it cannot stand alone.

CASE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER
Nominative	э́тот но́вый дом	э́та но́вая кни́га	э́то но́вое окно́
Accusative	э́тот но́вый дом	э́ту но́вую кни́гу	э́то но́вое окно́
Genitive	э́того но́вого до́ма	э́той но́вой кни́ги	э́того но́вого окна́
Dative	э́тому но́вому до́му	э́той но́вой кни́ге	э́тому но́вому окну́

CASE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER
Instrumental	э́тим но́вым до́мом	э́той но́вой кни́гой	э́тим но́вым окно́м
Prepositional	об э́том но́вом до́ме	об э́той но́вой кни́ге	об э́том но́вом окне́

The plural, with an animate noun to show the animate accusative: **э́ти но́вые студе́нты** (“these new students”).

CASE	PLURAL	ENGLISH
Nominative	э́ти но́вые студе́нты	these new students
Accusative	э́тих но́вых студе́нтов	(I see) these new students
Genitive	э́тих но́вых студе́нтов	of these new students
Dative	э́тим но́вым студе́нтам	to these new students
Instrumental	э́тими но́выми студе́нтами	with these new students
Prepositional	об э́тих но́вых студе́нтах	about these new students

Watch out: the ending of the adjective is easier than the noun

The adjective endings do the same work for every word in the phrase, because the demonstrative and the possessive use almost the same set. Learn the adjective endings first (*-ого, -ому, -ым, -ом* for masculine and neuter, *-ой, -ую* for feminine). Remember the spelling rules from Russian Grammar 1: after *г, к, х, ж, ч, ш, щ* you write *и* in place of *ы* (*хоро́шие*), and after a soft consonant you write *-ий / -ее* (*си́ний, си́нее*).

Reading a short text

Read the text aloud, then use the table below to name each case. The sentences use almost everything in the course.

> В пя́тницу, пе́рвого ма́я, мы с мои́м ста́рым дру́гом пое́хали в большо́й го́род. Мы жи́ли в но́вой гости́нице, на деся́том этаже́. Там

бы́ло мно́го краси́вых домо́в, и все тури́сты фотографи́ровали себя́. Никто́ не знал, где нахо́дится но́вая библиоте́ка. Мы спроси́ли одну́ ста́рую же́нщину, и она́ показа́ла нам доро́гу. В полови́не пя́того мы бы́ли гото́вы. Э́то был лу́чший день в мое́й жи́зни!

On Friday, the first of May, my old friend and I went to a big city. We stayed in a new hotel, on the tenth floor. There were a lot of beautiful houses there, and all the tourists photographed themselves. Nobody knew where the new library was. We asked one old woman, and she showed us the way. At half past four we were ready. It was the best day of my life!

FORM IN THE TEXT	WHAT IT IS	CHAPTER
в пя́тницу	day of the week: *в* + accusative	10
пе́рвого ма́я	date: neuter genitive ordinal + genitive month	10
с мои́м ста́рым дру́гом	instrumental after *с*: possessive, adjective and noun	2, 5
в большо́й го́род	accusative of direction; inanimate masculine	3
в но́вой гости́нице	prepositional feminine, place	3
на деся́том этаже́	prepositional of an ordinal	10
мно́го краси́вых домо́в	genitive plural after a quantity word	6, 9
все тури́сты	plural of *весь*, nominative	11
себя́	reflexive pronoun, accusative	11
Никто́ не знал	negative pronoun + *не*	11
но́вая библиоте́ка	nominative feminine	1
одну́ ста́рую же́нщину	accusative feminine: *оди́н*, adjective, noun	9, 3
В полови́не пя́того	time: *в* + prepositional, half of the fifth hour	10
гото́вы	short adjective, plural	7
лу́чший день в мое́й жи́зни	declining comparative; possessive prepositional	8, 2

The most common mistakes

WRONG	RIGHT	WHY
Я живу́ в но́вый дом.	**Я живу́ в но́вом до́ме.**	the adjective must change with the noun (prepositional for a place)
Я ви́жу но́вый студе́нт.	**Я ви́жу но́вого студе́нта.**	animate masculine accusative = genitive, for the whole phrase
два столы́	**два стола́**	2, 3, 4 take the genitive singular
пять но́вых маши́ны	**пять но́вых маши́н**	5 and up take the genitive plural
Он хоро́ший говори́т.	**Он хорошо́ говори́т.**	an adverb, not an adjective, describes a verb
бо́лее лу́чше	**лу́чше**	do not double the comparative
Я никого́ ви́жу.	**Я никого́ не ви́жу.**	the negative pronoun needs *не*
Он лю́бит его́ жену́ (meaning his own wife)	**Он лю́бит свою́ жену́.**	*свой* points back to the subject
Мне два́дцать оди́н лет.	**Мне два́дцать оди́н год.**	the last word of the number decides
Ско́лько вре́мени? — Полови́на пя́того.	**Полови́на пя́того.**	half of the next hour is in the genitive

🗣️ In Use — Применя́ем

Read the exchanges aloud and name the case of every word in each noun phrase.

① At the hotel

A:

② About a friend

A:

У вас есть свобо́дный но́мер?

Do you have a free room?

B:

Да, на тре́тьем этаже́. Он сто́ит три ты́сячи рубле́й.

Yes, on the third floor. It costs three thousand roubles.

A:

Хорошо́. Я возьму́ э́тот но́мер.

Fine. I will take this room.

С кем ты ходи́л в кино́?

Who did you go to the cinema with?

B:

С мои́м лу́чшим дру́гом. Он ста́рше меня́ на два го́да.

With my best friend. He is two years older than me.

A:

А кто́-нибудь ещё был?

Was anyone else there?

B:

Нет, никого́.

No, nobody.

📋 Recap of the course

CH	TOPIC	THE ONE THING TO REMEMBER
1	Adjectives: nominative	gender and number endings; three types; spelling rules
2	Possessives and demonstratives	*мой, э́тот, свой* agree like adjectives
3	Accusative and prepositional	animate masculine takes the genitive form for the whole phrase
4	Genitive	*-ого, -ой, -его*; the prepositions of the genitive
5	Dative and instrumental	*-ому, -ой, -ым*; roles and states
6	Plural	*-ые, -ых, -ым, -ыми*; *-ие* after spelling-rule consonants
7	Short forms and adverbs	predicate only; *хорошо́* is not *хоро́ший*
8	Comparison	*нове́е* or *бо́лее но́вый*; *са́мый*; *чем* or the genitive
9	Numerals and cases	2–4 take genitive singular; 5 and up genitive plural

CH	TOPIC	THE ONE THING TO REMEMBER
10	Ordinals, dates, time	date in the genitive; half past is half of the next hour
11	Other pronouns	*-то, -нибудь, ни-* and *не*; *себя́* and *свой*

📝 Try It Yourself — Упражне́ния

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Put **э́та но́вая кни́га** into the genitive, the instrumental and the prepositional (with *об*).

▼ Show answer

э́той но́вой кни́ги, **э́той но́вой кни́гой**, **об э́той но́вой кни́ге**.

2. Say in Russian: “I see this new student.” (a male student)

▼ Show answer

Я ви́жу э́того но́вого студе́нта. Animate masculine: the accusative copies the genitive, for all three words.

3. Say in Russian: “with these new students”.

▼ Show answer

с э́тими но́выми студе́нтами. Instrumental plural on all three words.

4. Say in Russian: “We live in a newer house.”

▼ Show answer

Мы живём в бо́лее но́вом до́ме. *Бо́лее* does not change; the adjective is prepositional.

5. Say in Russian: “two new tables” and “five new tables”.

▼ Show answer

два но́вых стола́, пять но́вых столо́в.

6. Say in Russian: “My birthday is on the fifth of May.”

▼ Show answer

Мой день рожде́ния пя́того ма́я.

7. Say in Russian: “It is half past five.”

▼ Show answer

Сейча́с полови́на шесто́го.

8. Say in Russian: “He is ready, but she is busy.”

▼ Show answer

Он гото́в, а она́ занята́. Short forms: masculine bare, feminine *-а*.

9. Say in Russian: “I do not see anyone.”

▼ Show answer

Я никого́ не ви́жу.

10. Say in Russian: “She loves her (own) work.”

▼ Show answer

Она́ лю́бит свою́ рабо́ту. *Свою́* points back to the subject.

🎓 COURSE COMPLETE

You have finished **Russian Grammar 2**: the words that agree with a noun (adjectives, possessives, demonstratives and numerals), comparison, short forms and adverbs, ordinals with dates and time, and the other pronouns. Keep this chapter at hand as a reference table.

What comes next

The course plan puts the **verb** in **Russian Grammar 3** (conjugation, past and future, aspect, imperatives, reflexive verbs) and **Russian Grammar 4** (motion verbs, participles, conditionals and the sentence). This split is provisional and will be confirmed when each course is outlined. Meanwhile you can already read the Basic Conversation courses with a much clearer eye for every adjective, number and pronoun in them.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that learners commonly mis-form the noun after numerals (*два столы, пять новых машины* against the correct *два стола, пять новых машин*), that the adjective must agree with the noun in case and learners often change the noun but leave the adjective in the dictionary form, and that quantified and negated subjects take the genitive and an impersonal neuter verb (sources: polyglottistlanguageacademy.com: common Russian grammar mistakes, elon.io: agreement rules, univext.com: common Russian mistakes, lidenz.com: common mistakes, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

A point on which the sources disagree: one search result lists *двадцать два новые машины* as an error. Chapter 9 of this course, following other sources, allows the nominative plural of the adjective with feminine nouns after 2, 3, 4 (*две новые книги*), and I have not settled the question for compound numbers such as 22. Use the genitive plural (*двадцать две новых машины*) if you want the safe form for compound numbers, and check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker.

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the model phrase tables, the stress marks, the text and its analysis table, the list of mistakes beyond the numeral and agreement examples above, the recap table, the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a Russian dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.