RU

LANGUAGE COURSE

Russian Grammar 4

12 Chapters

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RUSSIAN GRAMMAR 4

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Russian Grammar 4

Chapter 1 · Verbs of Motion: The Basic Pairs

🚶 Going — Глаго́лы движе́ния

*English says "go" for walking, driving, flying and sailing. Russian does not. It asks two questions before you can say "I go": **how** do you travel (on foot or by vehicle), and **what kind of trip** is it (one journey in one direction, or a habit, a round trip, a general ability)? Each answer gives a different verb, so the verbs of motion come in **pairs**. This chapter teaches the two commonest pairs, идти́ / ходи́ть and е́хать / е́здить.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Use the **unidirectional** verb (**идти́, е́хать**) for **one trip in one direction**, happening now or at a given moment: **Я иду́ домо́й.** Use the **multidirectional** verb (**ходи́ть, е́здить**) for **habit, repetition, round trips and moving about**: **Я хожу́ в шко́лу ка́ждый день. идти́ / ходи́ть** are for going **on foot**; **е́хать / е́здить** are for going **by vehicle**. All of them are **imperfective**.

The two pairs in the present

PRONOUN	ИДТИ́ (ON FOOT, ONE WAY)	ХОДИ́ТЬ (ON FOOT, HABIT)	Е́ХАТЬ (BY VEHICLE, ONE WAY)	Е́ЗДИТЬ (BY VEHICLE, HABIT)
я	иду́	хожу́	е́ду	е́зжу
ты	идёшь	хо́дишь	е́дешь	е́здишь
он, она́	идёт	хо́дит	е́дет	е́здит
мы	идём	хо́дим	е́дем	е́здим
вы	идёте	хо́дите	е́дете	е́здите
они́	иду́т	хо́дят	е́дут	е́здят

Идти́ and *е́хать* are first-conjugation verbs, and *ходи́ть* and *е́здить* are second-conjugation verbs (Russian Grammar 3, Chapters 1 and 2). Note the consonant change in the *я* form of the second-conjugation verbs: *д* → *ж* in **хожу́** (*ходи́ть*) and in **е́зжу** (*е́здить*). The other forms keep the *д*.

Unidirectional or multidirectional?

SITUATION	VERB TYPE	EXAMPLE
Moving now, towards a place	unidirectional	**Сейча́с я иду́ в магази́н.** *I am going to the shop now.*
One trip at a stated time	unidirectional	**Мы е́дем в Москву́.** *We are travelling to Moscow.*
Habit, regular repetition	multidirectional	**Я хожу́ в университе́т ка́ждый день.** *I go to the university every day.*
Going and coming back	multidirectional	**Я ча́сто е́зжу в Москву́.** *I often travel to Moscow.*
Moving about, no one destination	multidirectional	**Я люблю́ ходи́ть пешко́м.** *I like walking.*

Watch out: not "I am going" with ходить

Сейча́с я хожу́ в магази́н is the wrong choice for a trip happening now. *Хожу́* describes a habit (*I go to the shop regularly*). For the trip you are on at this moment, use **Сейча́с я иду́ в магази́н.** The word *сейча́с* ("now") is a good signal for the unidirectional verb, and *ка́ждый день, ча́сто, всегда́* are signals for the multidirectional one.

On foot or by vehicle?

MODE	VERBS	EXAMPLE
On foot	**идти́ / ходи́ть**	**Я иду́ на рабо́ту пешко́м.** *I am walking to work.*
By vehicle (bus, car, train)	**е́хать / е́здить**	**Я е́ду на рабо́ту на авто́бусе.** *I am going to work by bus.*

Watch out: do not use идти for a bus

English "I am going to work" does not say how. In Russian you must choose: **Я иду́ на рабо́ту** means you are walking, and **Я е́ду на рабо́ту** means you are riding or driving. If you do not want to specify, pick the one that is true for the trip.

Where to? куда́

Motion verbs answer **куда́?** ("where to?"), and the place goes in the **accusative** after *в* or *на*. This is the same *в / на* as in Russian Grammar 1, Chapter 6, but the case changes from the prepositional (position) to the accusative (direction).

QUESTION	CASE	EXAMPLE
Где? (where)	prepositional	**Я в шко́ле.** *I am at school.*
Куда́? (where to)	accusative	**Я иду́ в шко́лу.** *I am going to school.*
Куда́?	accusative	**Я иду́ на рабо́ту.** *I am going to work.*
Куда́?	accusative	**Мы е́дем в Москву́.** *We are going to Moscow.*
Куда́? (home)	adverb	**Я иду́ домо́й.** *I am going home.*

The past tense

The past is formed as in Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 4, but *идти́* is irregular: **шёл, шла́, шло́, шли́**. The other three are regular: **ходи́л, е́хал, е́здил**.

INFINITIVE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
идти́	шёл	шла́	шло́	шли́
ходи́ть	ходи́л	ходи́ла	ходи́ло	ходи́ли
е́хать	е́хал	е́хала	е́хало	е́хали
е́здить	е́здил	е́здила	е́здило	е́здили

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Вчера́ я шёл домо́й.	Yesterday I was walking home.	one trip, in progress
Вчера́ я ходи́л в кино́.	Yesterday I went to the cinema (and came back).	a round trip, finished
Ра́ньше я ходи́л в шко́лу пешко́м.	I used to walk to school.	habit in the past
Мы е́хали в Москву́ на по́езде.	We were travelling to Moscow by train.	one trip, in progress
Мы е́здили в Москву́ ка́ждый год.	We went to Moscow every year.	repeated trips

Watch out: the past multidirectional means "went and came back"

Он ходи́л в магази́н usually tells you that he went to the shop **and returned**, so he is not there now. **Он шёл в магази́н** describes the walk itself, and does not say whether he arrived. Compare **Он ходи́л в магази́н.** (*He has been to the shop.*) with **Он пошёл в магази́н.** (*He has gone to the shop and is still there.*): the second uses a prefix, which Chapter 3 explains.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and say for each motion verb whether it is on foot or by vehicle, and whether it is one trip or a habit.

① On the way

A:

Куда́ ты идёшь?

Where are you going?

B:

Я иду́ в магази́н.

I am going to the shop.

A:

Ты ча́сто хо́дишь туда́?

Do you often go there?

B:

Да, я хожу́ туда́ ка́ждый день.

Yes, I go there every day.

② To work

A:

Как ты е́здишь на рабо́ту?

How do you get to work?

B:

Я е́зжу на авто́бусе. Но сего́дня я иду́ пешко́м.

I go by bus. But today I am walking.

③ A trip

A:

Куда́ вы е́дете?

Where are you travelling to?

B:

Мы е́дем в Москву́. Мы е́здим туда́ ка́ждый год.

We are going to Moscow. We go there every year.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
On foot, one trip	**идти́**	**Я иду́ домо́й.**

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
On foot, habit	**ходи́ть**	**Я хожу́ в шко́лу.**
By vehicle, one trip	**е́хать**	**Мы е́дем в Москву́.**
By vehicle, habit	**е́здить**	**Я е́зжу на рабо́ту.**
Where to	**в / на + accusative**	**в шко́лу, на рабо́ту**
Past of идти́	**шёл, шла́, шло́, шли́**	**Она́ шла́ домо́й.**
Past of ходить, ехать, ездить	**regular**	**ходи́л, е́хал, е́здил**

Practice

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

1. Give the *ты* form of **идти´** and of **е´хать**.

▼ Show answer

идёшь, е´дешь.

2. Give the *я* form of **ходи´ть** and of **е´здить**.

▼ Show answer

хожу´, е´зжу.

3. Say in Russian: “I am walking to school now.”

▼ Show answer

Сейча´с я иду´ в шко´лу. One trip, now, on foot.

4. Say in Russian: “I walk to school every day.”

▼ Show answer

Я хожу́ в шко́лу ка́ждый день. A habit: multidirectional.

5. Say in Russian: “We are going to Moscow.” (by train, now)

▼ Show answer

Мы е́дем в Москву́.

6. Say in Russian: “I often travel to Moscow.”

▼ Show answer

Я ча́сто е́зжу в Москву́.

7. Put **идти́** into the past for a woman and for a group.

▼ Show answer

шла́, шли́.

8. Say in Russian: “Yesterday I went to the cinema (and came back).” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Вчера́ я ходи́л в кино́.

9. Why is *Сейчас я хожу в магазин* wrong for a trip you are on now?

▼ Show answer

Хожу́ is multidirectional and describes a habit. For one trip happening now say **Сейча́с я иду́ в магази́н.**

10. Say in Russian: “Where are you going?” (polite, on foot)

▼ Show answer

Куда́ вы идёте?

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that the basic pairs are идти/ходить (on foot) and ехать/ездить (by vehicle); that the unidirectional verbs (*идти, ехать*) describe one trip in one direction, including motion happening now, and the multidirectional verbs (*ходить, ездить*) describe habitual actions, round trips and motion without one destination; that *сейчас* is a signal for the unidirectional verb; that the present examples *я иду, я еду, я хожу, ты ездишь* and the past forms *ходил, ездил* are correct (sources: Mezzo Guild: verbs of motion, russianenthusiast.com: verbs of motion, Sussex: Tolstoy grammar reference, storylearning.com: verbs of motion, Mango Languages: conjugating verbs of motion, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the complete present and past tables and all stress marks; the consonant changes in *хожу* and *езжу*; the past *шёл, шла, шло, шли*; the claim that the past multidirectional usually means "went and came back" (the search gave no usage rules for the past, and the sources differ in detail); the contrast with *пошёл*; the cases after *в / на*; 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, especially the past-tense usage rule.

Coming up in Chapter 2: More Motion Pairs. *нести́ / носи́ть, вести́ / води́ть, везти́ / вози́ть, лете́ть / лета́ть, плыть / пла́вать, бежа́ть / бе́гать*; verbs for carrying, leading and transporting, and the objects they take; the future of motion verbs.

🧳 Carrying, Leading, Flying — Ещё́ глаго́лы движе́ния

Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 1 taught идти́ / ходи́ть and е́хать / е́здить. The same split between one trip and a habit applies to a second group of verbs. Some take an ***object*** *(you carry, lead or transport something or someone), and some describe other kinds of travel: flying, swimming and running. This chapter gives you all six pairs, their present and past forms, and the future of motion verbs.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Every pair has a **unidirectional** verb (one trip, one direction, now) and a **multidirectional** verb (habit, round trips, moving about). The three **object** pairs are **нести́ / носи́ть** (carry on foot, in the hands), **вести́ / води́ть** (lead or take someone on foot) and **везти́ / вози́ть** (transport by vehicle). The three **self-moving** pairs are **лете́ть / лета́ть** (fly), **плыть / пла́вать** (swim, sail) and **бежа́ть / бе́гать** (run). For the **future**, use **бу́ду + multidirectional infinitive** for a habit (*бу́ду ходи́ть*), and the **по-** prefix on the unidirectional verb for one future trip (*пойду́, пое́ду*).

The six pairs

ENGLISH	UNIDIRECTIONAL	MULTIDIRECTIONAL
carry (on foot)	**нести́**	**носи́ть**
lead, take (on foot)	**вести́**	**води́ть**
transport (by vehicle)	**везти́**	**вози́ть**
fly	**лете́ть**	**лета́ть**
swim, sail	**плыть**	**пла́вать**

ENGLISH	UNIDIRECTIONAL	MULTIDIRECTIONAL
run	бежа́ть	бе́гать

Present tense

INFINITIVE	Я	ТЫ	ОН, ОНА́	МЫ	ВЫ	ОНИ́
нести́	несу́	несёшь	несёт	несём	несёте	несу́т
носи́ть	ношу́	но́сишь	но́сит	но́сим	но́сите	но́сят
вести́	веду́	ведёшь	ведёт	ведём	ведёте	веду́т
води́ть	вожу́	во́дишь	во́дит	во́дим	во́дите	во́дят
везти́	везу́	везёшь	везёт	везём	везёте	везу́т
вози́ть	вожу́	во́зишь	во́зит	во́зим	во́зите	во́зят
лете́ть	лечу́	лети́шь	лети́т	лети́м	лети́те	летя́т
лета́ть	лета́ю	лета́ешь	лета́ет	лета́ем	лета́ете	лета́ют
плыть	плыву́	плывёшь	плывёт	плывём	плывёте	плыву́т
пла́вать	пла́ваю	пла́ваешь	пла́вает	пла́ваем	пла́ваете	пла́вают
бежа́ть	бегу́	бежи́шь	бежи́т	бежи́м	бежи́те	бегу́т
бе́гать	бе́гаю	бе́гаешь	бе́гает	бе́гаем	бе́гаете	бе́гают

Look for the pattern: the **unidirectional** verbs *нести́*, *вести́*, *везти́*, *плыть* are irregular first-conjugation verbs (the *ё* forms), the multidirectional verbs *носи́ть*, *води́ть*, *вози́ть* are second-conjugation with *д / з → ж* or *с → ш* in the *я* form, and *лета́ть*, *пла́вать*, *бе́гать* are regular first-conjugation verbs. Note that **вожу́** is the *я* form of **both** *води́ть* and *вози́ть*; the other forms tell them apart. *Бежа́ть* is an exception: it has first-conjugation *бегу́*, *бегу́т* and second-conjugation *бежи́шь*, *бежи́т*, *бежи́м*, *бежи́те*.

Past tense

INFINITIVE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	PLURAL
нести́	нёс	несла́	несли́
вести́	вёл	вела́	вели́
везти́	вёз	везла́	везли́
плыть	плыл	плыла́	плы́ли
носи́ть, води́ть, вози́ть	носи́л, води́л, вози́л	носи́ла, води́ла, вози́ла	носи́ли, води́ли, вози́ли
лете́ть, лета́ть	лете́л, лета́л	лете́ла, лета́ла	лете́ли, лета́ли
бежа́ть, бе́гать	бежа́л, бе́гал	бежа́ла, бе́гала	бежа́ли, бе́гали
пла́вать	пла́вал	пла́вала	пла́вали

Watch out: the unidirectional past has no -л in the masculine

нёс, вёл, вёз end in a consonant with no *-л*, like *мог* in Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 4. The feminine, neuter and plural add the usual endings after the stem, and the stress moves to the ending: **несла́, несли́**.

Carrying, leading, transporting: the three object pairs

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Я несу́ су́мку домо́й.	I am carrying the bag home.	one trip, on foot
Она́ но́сит очки́.	She wears glasses.	*носи́ть* also means “wear”
Я веду́ дочь в шко́лу.	I am taking my daughter to school.	one trip, with a person, on foot

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Он ка́ждый день во́дит дочь в шко́лу.	He takes his daughter to school every day.	habit
Авто́бус везёт студе́нтов.	The bus is taking the students.	one trip, by vehicle
Па́па во́зит дете́й в шко́лу.	Dad drives the children to school.	habit, by vehicle
Я вожу́ маши́ну.	I drive a car.	*води́ть маши́ну*: "to drive", as a skill or habit

Watch out: these verbs need an object

Нести́, вести́, везти́ and their partners take a direct object in the **accusative**: you carry *something*, you lead *someone*. Choose by what you are doing: **carrying in your hands on foot** is *нести́ / носи́ть*, **with a person or animal on foot** is *вести́ / води́ть*, and **by vehicle** is *везти́ / вози́ть*.

Flying, swimming, running

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Самолёт лети́т в Москву́.	The plane is flying to Moscow.	one trip
Я ча́сто лета́ю в Москву́.	I often fly to Moscow.	repeated trips
Ло́дка плывёт по реке́.	The boat is sailing along the river.	one direction
Я люблю́ пла́вать.	I like swimming.	general, no destination
Я бегу́ домо́й.	I am running home.	one trip
Я бе́гаю у́тром.	I run in the morning.	habit

The future of motion verbs

The imperfective future uses **бу́ду + infinitive** and fits the **multidirectional** verb: **За́втра я бу́ду ходи́ть по го́роду.** (*Tomorrow I shall walk around the city.*) **Я бу́ду ча́сто лета́ть в Москву́.** (*I shall often fly to Moscow.*) For **one future trip** Russian adds the prefix **по-** to the unidirectional verb, which makes it perfective, with a future meaning (Chapter 3 explains prefixes in full).

UNIDIRECTIONAL	FUTURE (ONE TRIP)	EXAMPLE
идти́	пойду́, пойдёшь	За́втра я пойду́ в кино́.
е́хать	пое́ду, пое́дешь	За́втра мы пое́дем в Москву́.
лете́ть	полечу́, полети́шь	Я полечу́ в Москву́.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and say which verbs are unidirectional and which multidirectional.

① A bag

A:

Что ты несёшь?

What are you carrying?

B:

Я несу́ кни́ги домо́й.

I am carrying books home.

② The school run

A:

Кто во́зит дете́й в шко́лу?

Who takes the children to school?

B:

Па́па во́зит их на маши́не, а я вожу́ их в са́дик пешко́м.

Dad takes them by car, and I take them to nursery on foot.

③ Plans

A:

Что ты бу́дешь де́лать за́втра?

What will you do tomorrow?

B:

За́втра я пойду́ в кино́. А ты?

Tomorrow I shall go to the cinema. And you?

A:

Я бу́ду бе́гать в па́рке.

I shall run in the park.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Carry	**нести́ / носи́ть**	несу́, ношу́
Lead, take	**вести́ / води́ть**	веду́, вожу́
Transport	**везти́ / вози́ть**	везу́, вожу́
Fly, swim, run	**лете́ть / лета́ть, плыть / пла́вать, бежа́ть / бе́гать**	лечу́, плыву́, бегу́
Past of unidirectional	**нёс, вёл, вёз, плыл**	несла́, вела́
Future, habit	**бу́ду + multidirectional**	бу́ду бе́гать
Future, one trip	**по- + unidirectional**	пойду́, пое́ду

Practice

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

1. Give the *я* and *ты* forms of **нести́**.

▼ Show answer

несу́, несёшь.

2. Give the *я* form of **носи́ть** and of **вози́ть**.

▼ Show answer

ношу́, вожу́.

3. Say in Russian: “I am taking my daughter to school.” (on foot, now)

▼ Show answer

Я веду́ дочь в шко́лу.

4. Say in Russian: “He drives the children to school every day.”

▼ Show answer

Он ка́ждый день во́зит дете́й в шко́лу. A habit, by vehicle: *вози́ть*.

5. Say in Russian: “She wears glasses.”

▼ Show answer

Она́ но́сит очки́.

6. Put **нести́** into the past for a man and a woman.

▼ Show answer

нёс, несла́.

7. Say in Russian: “The plane is flying to Moscow.” and “I often fly to Moscow.”

▼ Show answer

Самолёт лети́т в Москву́. Я ча́сто лета́ю в Москву́.

8. Say in Russian: “I run in the morning.” and “I am running home.”

▼ Show answer

Я бе́гаю у́тром. Я бегу́ домо́й.

9. Say in Russian: “Tomorrow I shall go to the cinema.” (one trip)

▼ Show answer

За́втра я пойду́ в кино́. *По- + идти́.*

10. Say in Russian: “I shall run in the park.” (a habit or general plan)

▼ Show answer

Я бу́ду бе́гать в па́рке. *Бу́ду* + multidirectional infinitive.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that the pairs нести/носить (carry on foot), везти/возить (transport by vehicle), вести/водить (lead, guide), лететь/летать, плыть/плавать and бежать/бегать exist with the unidirectional / multidirectional split; that the unidirectional forms are irregular (*несу, несёшь; веду; везу*) and the multidirectional forms regular (*ношу, вожу*); that all unprefixed motion verbs are imperfective (sources: Mango Languages: carrying verbs of motion, Sussex: Tolstoy grammar reference, russianenthusiast.com: verbs of motion, storylearning.com: verbs of motion, translate.ru: verbs of motion, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the future of motion verbs (*буду ходить, пойду, поеду, полечу*), because the search found nothing on it and its sources did not confirm these forms; all the full present and past tables and every stress mark; the mixed conjugation of *бежать*; the fact that *вожу* serves both *водить* and *возить*; *носить* meaning “to wear”; *водить машину* for “to drive”; 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, especially the future forms.

Coming up in Chapter 3: Prefixed Motion Verbs. *при-, у-, в-, вы-, под-, от-, пере-, про-, до-, за-*; what each prefix adds; the perfective (*прийти́, уйти́, прие́хать*) and its imperfective (*приходи́ть, уходи́ть*); aspect in motion.

🚪 Arriving, Leaving, Entering — Приста´вочные глаго´лы движе´ния

*Russian Grammar 4, Chapters 1 and 2 taught the plain verbs of motion, which only say how you move. Add a **prefix** and the verb says where the movement goes: arriving, leaving, entering, crossing. The prefix also settles the aspect, and the pair unidirectional / multidirectional turns into a pair perfective / imperfective. This is the most useful group of verbs in everyday Russian.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A prefix + the **unidirectional** verb makes a **perfective** verb: **при- + идти´ → прийти´**, **при- + е´хать → прие´хать**. The same prefix + the **multidirectional** verb makes the matching **imperfective**: **приходи´ть, приезжа´ть**. So each prefixed verb is one pair, *perfective / imperfective*, and the old unidirectional / multidirectional difference is gone. The imperfective *-езжать* is the new form of *е´здить*: **приезжа´ть**, not *приездить*.

The prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	ON FOOT (PF / IMPF)	BY VEHICLE (PF / IMPF)
при-	arrive, come	прийти́ / приходи́ть	прие́хать / приезжа́ть
у-	leave, go away	уйти́ / уходи́ть	уе́хать / уезжа́ть
в-	go in, enter	войти́ / входи́ть	въе́хать / въезжа́ть
вы-	go out, exit	вы́йти / выходи́ть	вы́ехать / выезжа́ть
под-	approach	подойти́ / подходи́ть	подъе́хать / подъезжа́ть
от-	move away from	отойти́ / отходи́ть	отъе́хать / отъезжа́ть

PREFIX	MEANING	ON FOOT (PF / IMPF)	BY VEHICLE (PF / IMPF)
пере-	cross, move across	**перейти́ / переходи́ть**	**переéхать / переезжáть**
про-	pass by, go through	**пройти́ / проходи́ть**	**проéхать / проезжáть**
до-	reach as far as	**дойти́ / доходи́ть**	**доéхать / доезжáть**
за-	drop in, call at	**зайти́ / заходи́ть**	**заéхать / заезжáть**

Watch out: the spelling changes

With *идти́* the stem becomes **-йти** after a prefix (*при-йти, у-йти*) and the *д* returns in the future (**приду́, уйду́**). With *е́хать* the stem stays, but a prefix that ends in a consonant needs the **hard sign** before *е*: **въе́хать, подъе́хать, отъе́хать**. The imperfective of the vehicle verbs ends in **-езжать**: **приезжа́ть, уезжа́ть**. In **вы́йти** the stress is on the prefix in every form.

Forms of the perfective verbs

A perfective has **no present tense**. Its *я / ты / они́* forms mean the **future** (Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 7).

INFINITIVE	FUTURE: Я, ТЫ	PAST: M., F., PL.
прийти́	приду́, придёшь	пришёл, пришла́, пришли́
уйти́	уйду́, уйдёшь	ушёл, ушла́, ушли́
войти́	войду́, войдёшь	вошёл, вошла́, вошли́
вы́йти	вы́йду, вы́йдешь	вы́шел, вы́шла, вы́шли
прие́хать	прие́ду, прие́дешь	прие́хал, прие́хала, прие́хали
уе́хать	уе́ду, уе́дешь	уе́хал, уе́хала, уе́хали

Forms of the imperfective verbs

INFINITIVE	Я, ТЫ	ОНИ́	PAST (M.)
приходи́ть	прихожу́, прихо́дишь	прихо́дят	приходи́л
уходи́ть	ухожу́, ухо́дишь	ухо́дят	уходи́л
приезжа́ть	приезжа́ю, приезжа́ешь	приезжа́ют	приезжа́л
уезжа́ть	уезжа́ю, уезжа́ешь	уезжа́ют	уезжа́л

Aspect in motion

The choice follows Russian Grammar 3, Chapters 5 and 6: the **perfective** reports a finished arrival or departure, and the **imperfective** describes a habit, a process or an action that has been undone.

PERFECTIVE: THE RESULT	IMPERFECTIVE: HABIT OR PROCESS
Он пришёл. *He has arrived. (he is here)*	Он обы́чно прихо́дит в де́вять. *He usually arrives at nine.*
Я прие́ду в пя́тницу. *I shall arrive on Friday.*	Я ча́сто приезжа́ю сюда́. *I often come here.*
Он ушёл. *He has left. (he is not here)*	Он ухо́дит ра́но. *He leaves early (as a rule).*
Я вы́шел из до́ма. *I have left the house.*	Я выхожу́ из до́ма в во́семь. *I leave the house at eight.*

Watch out: приходил is not the same as пришёл

Вчера́ ко мне́ приходи́л друг. (imperfective) tells you a friend **came to see me yesterday**, and he has gone again. **Друг пришёл.** (perfective) tells you the friend **is here now**. The imperfective past often means “came and went” or “used to come”. The perfective means the result still holds.

Carrying and leading with prefixes

The same prefixes work on the object verbs of Chapter 2, and *при-* and *у-* give the most useful pairs.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
принести́ / приноси́ть	bring (carry here)	**Принеси́ мне воды́.** *Bring me some water.*
унести́ / уноси́ть	take away (carry off)	**Он унёс су́мку.** *He took the bag away.*
привести́ / приводи́ть	bring (a person) along	**Я приведу́ дру́га.** *I shall bring a friend.*
привезти́ / привози́ть	bring (by vehicle)	**Он привёз пода́рки.** *He brought presents.*

The prefix по-: setting off

The prefix **по-** on a unidirectional verb means "set off": **пойти́** (*пойду́, пошёл*), **пое́хать** (*пое́ду, пое́хал*). **Он пошёл в магази́н.** means he **has gone** to the shop and is not back. Compare *Он ходи́л в магази́н* (Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 1), which means he went and came back.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and say which verbs are perfective and which imperfective.

① A visit

A:

Когда́ ты прие́дешь?

When will you arrive?

B:

Я прие́ду в пя́тницу.

I shall arrive on Friday.

A:

② On the phone

A:

Где ты?

Where are you?

B:

Я вы́шел из до́ма и иду́ к тебе́.

Я ско́ро приду́.

А когда́ ты уе́дешь?

And when will you leave?

B:

Я уе́ду в воскресе́нье.

I shall leave on Sunday.

I have left the house and am coming to you. I shall be there soon.

③ At work

A:

Он уже́ пришёл?

Has he arrived yet?

B:

Нет, он ещё не пришёл. Он обы́чно прихо́дит в де́вять.

No, he has not arrived yet. He usually arrives at nine.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Prefix + unidirectional	**perfective**	**прийти́, прие́хать**
Prefix + multidirectional	**imperfective**	**приходи́ть, приезжа́ть**
Vehicle imperfective	**-езжать**	**уезжа́ть**
Hard sign	**въ-, подъ-, отъ- before e**	**въе́хать**
Arrive, leave	**при- / у-**	**пришёл, ушёл**
Enter, exit	**в- / вы-**	**войти́, вы́йти**
Set off	**по-**	**пошёл, пое́хал**

Practice

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

1. Give the perfective and imperfective verb for “arrive on foot”.

▼ Show answer

прийти́ / приходи́ть.

2. Give the *я* form of the perfective **уйти́**. What does it mean?

▼ Show answer

уйду́: “I shall leave”. A perfective has a future meaning.

3. Put **прийти́** into the past for a man and a woman.

▼ Show answer

пришёл, пришла́.

4. Say in Russian: “He has arrived.” (by train)

▼ Show answer

Он прие́хал.

5. Say in Russian: “I come to work every day.” (by bus)

▼ Show answer

Я ка́ждый день приезжа́ю на рабо́ту. Imperfective: a habit.

6. Say in Russian: “She has left the house.”

▼ Show answer

Она́ вы́шла из до́ма.

7. Say in Russian: “Come in, please.” (polite)

▼ Show answer

Входи́те, пожа́луйста. The imperfective is the polite invitation.

8. Say in Russian: “He will leave tomorrow.” (by car)

▼ Show answer

За́втра он уе́дет.

9. Вчера́ он приходи́л. Is he here now?

▼ Show answer

Probably not. The imperfective past often means “came and went”. *Он пришёл* would mean he is here now.

10. Say in Russian: “We shall cross the street.”

▼ Show answer

Мы перейдём у́лицу. *Перейти́* + accusative.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that a prefix added to a unidirectional verb gives a perfective verb and a prefix added to a multidirectional verb gives an imperfective; that при- marks arrival and у- departure, в- movement into a place, and вы- movement out; that the pairs приходить / прийти, уходить / уйти and приезжать / приехать exist and that the stem changes (-йти, -езжать) are spelling or form changes, not changes of meaning (sources: Mango Languages: prefixed verbs of motion, learnrussian: prefixes при- and у-, sublearn.com: prefixed motion verbs, Sussex: Tolstoy grammar reference, polyglottistlanguageacademy.com: prefixed verbs, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the meanings of под-, от-, пере-, про-, до-, за- and по-; the full prefix table and every stress mark; the future and past forms (*приду, пришёл, вышел, уйду* and the rest); the hard sign in *въехать, подъехать, отъехать*; the imperfective conjugations; the use of the imperfective past for “came and went” (*приходил*); the prefixed carrying verbs (*принести, унести, привести, привезти*); 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, especially the stress marks and irregular past forms.

Coming up in Chapter 4: Motion with Prepositions and Cases. *в / на + accusative, из / с + genitive, к / от, через, по*; places and people (*к врачу´, от дру´га*); idioms with *идти´* (*идёт дождь, идёт фильм*).

Russian Grammar 4

Chapter 4 · Motion with Prepositions and Cases

🗺️ Where To, Where From — Куда´, отку´да, где

*A motion verb needs a destination, a starting point, or a route. Russian expresses all three with a **preposition** and the right **case**, and the choice depends on whether the place is a building or area or a person. This chapter ties the verbs of Chapters 1 to 3 to the case system you learnt in Russian Grammar 1.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Three questions, three patterns. **Где?** (where) uses *в / на* + prepositional (*в шко´ле*). **Куда´?** (where to) uses *в / на* + **accusative** (*в шко´лу*). **Отку´да?** (where from) turns *в* into **из** and *на* into **с**, both + **genitive** (*из шко´лы, с рабо´ты*). For a **person** the three are **у** + genitive (at), **к** + dative (to), **от** + genitive (from): *у врача´, к врачу´, от врача´*. The words **до** + genitive (as far as), **через** + accusative (across, through), **ми´мо** + genitive (past) and **по** + dative (along, around) give the route.

Places: в / на, из / с

ГДЕ? (AT)	КУДА́? (TO)	ОТКУ́ДА? (FROM)
в шко́ле	в шко́лу	из шко́лы
в до́ме	в дом	из до́ма
в Москве́	в Москву́	из Москвы́
на рабо́те	на рабо́ту	с рабо́ты
на по́чте	на по́чту	с по́чты
на уро́ке	на уро́к	с уро́ка

The pairs match: a place that takes *в* when you are *there* takes *в* for *to* and **из** for *from*; a place that takes *на* takes *на* and **с**. So *из* is the opposite of *в*, and *с* is the opposite of *на*. Learn each

place with its preposition once: *рабо´та, по´чта, ста´нция, вокза´л, конце´рт* take *на*, and *шко´ла, дом, магази´н, библиоте´ка, го´род* take *в*. (Cases: Russian Grammar 1, Chapter 6, The Accusative, and Chapter 7, The Genitive.)

> **Watch out: из against с**
>
> **Я иду´ из шко´лы** but **Я иду´ с рабо´ты.** Writing *из рабо´ты* sounds wrong because *рабо´та* takes *на*, so its "from" is *с*. If you are not sure which of *в* or *на* a place takes, look up where it is first (*Я на рабо´те*) and then choose *из* or *с* to match.

People: у, к, от

With a person (or a business: a doctor, a friend, a shop assistant) the pattern changes. You go **to** a person with *к* + **dative**, you leave **from** a person with *от* + **genitive**, and you are **at** a person's place with *у* + **genitive**.

ГДЕ? (AT)	КУДА́? (TO)	ОТКУ́ДА? (FROM)
у врача́	к врачу́	от врача́
у дру́га	к дру́гу	от дру́га
у ма́мы	к ма́ме	от ма́мы
у меня́	ко мне́	от меня́

> **Watch out: never в with a person**
>
> *Я иду´ в врача´* and *Я иду´ в друга* are wrong. A person is not a place: use **Я иду´ к врачу´.** and **Я иду´ к дру´гу.** The preposition *к* also becomes *ко* before *мне* (**ко мне´**). The same *к / от* pair is used for movement **towards and away from** a place in the sense of "up to, next to": **Он подошёл к окну´.** (*He went up to the window.*) **Он отошёл от окна´.** (*He moved away from the window.*) These are the verbs *подойти´* and *отойти´* of Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 3.

Adverbs of place

ГДЕ? (HERE, THERE)	КУДА́? (TO HERE, THERE)	ОТКУ́ДА? (FROM HERE, THERE)
здесь	сюда́	отсю́да
там	туда́	отту́да
до́ма	домо́й	из до́ма

Routes: до, через, мимо, по

PREPOSITION	CASE	MEANING	EXAMPLE
до	genitive	as far as	**Как доéхать до вокза́ла?** *How do I get to the station?*
через	accusative	across, through	**Мы идём чéрез мост.** *We are walking across the bridge.*
ми́мо	genitive	past	**Я иду́ ми́мо ба́нка.** *I am walking past the bank.*
по	dative	along, around	**Мы идём по у́лице.** *We are walking along the street.*

The **multidirectional** verbs go naturally with *no*, because they describe moving about: **Я люблю´ ходи´ть по го´роду.** (*I like walking around the city*.) The prefixed verbs of Chapter 3 take their own prepositions: *перейти´ че´рез у´лицу* or *перейти´ у´лицу*, *пройти´ ми´мо дома*, *дойти´ до дома*.

The idioms of идти

The verb *идти´* is also used for things that are not people walking.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Идёт дождь.	It is raining.	literally “rain is going”

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Идёт снег.	It is snowing.	
В кино́ идёт но́вый фильм.	A new film is on at the cinema.	
Уро́к идёт.	The lesson is in progress.	
Вам идёт э́тот цвет.	This colour suits you.	*идти́* + dative: “to suit”

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and name the preposition and case after each motion verb.

① Asking the way

A:

Извини́те, как пройти́ в библиоте́ку?

Excuse me, how do I get to the library?

B:

Иди́те пря́мо, пото́м нале́во.

Go straight on, then left.

② From the doctor

A:

Отку́да ты идёшь?

Where are you coming from?

B:

Я иду́ от врача́.

I am coming from the doctor.

A:

А куда́ ты идёшь тепе́рь?

And where are you going now?

B:

Я иду́ домо́й.

I am going home.

③ To the station

A:

Как дое́хать до вокза́ла?

How do I get to the station?

B:

Вы дое́дете на авто́бусе. Он идёт ми́мо ры́нка.

You can go by bus. It goes past the market.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Where to (place)	**в / на + accusative**	в шко́лу, на рабо́ту
Where from (place)	**из / с + genitive**	из шко́лы, с рабо́ты
At, to, from (person)	**у + gen. / к + dat. / от + gen.**	у врача́, к врачу́, от врача́
As far as	**до + genitive**	до вокза́ла
Across	**через + accusative**	че́рез мост
Past	**ми́мо + genitive**	ми́мо ба́нка
Along, around	**по + dative**	по у́лице

Practice

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

1. Say in Russian: “I am going to school.”

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ в шко́лу. *В* + accusative.

2. Say in Russian: “I am coming from work.”

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ с рабо́ты. *Рабо́та* takes *на*, so the opposite is *с*.

3. Say in Russian: “I am going to the doctor.”

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ к врачу́. *К* + dative for a person.

4. Say in Russian: “I am coming from the doctor.”

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ от врача́.

5. Say in Russian: “He came out of the house.”

▼ Show answer

Он вы́шел из до́ма.

6. Say in Russian: “We are walking along the street.”

▼ Show answer

Мы идём по у́лице. *По* + dative.

7. Say in Russian: “We are walking across the bridge.”

▼ Show answer

Мы идём че́рез мост. *Через* + accusative.

8. Say in Russian: “I am walking past the bank.”

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ ми́мо ба́нка. *Ми́мо* + genitive.

9. Say in Russian: “It is raining.”

▼ Show answer

Идёт дождь.

10. Say in Russian: “How do I get to the library?” (on foot)

▼ Show answer

Как пройти́ в библиоте́ку?

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that movement towards a place uses *в, на* or *к* and movement away uses *из, с* or *от*; that *в* and *на* take the accusative for *куда* and the prepositional for *где*; that *через* takes the accusative and *до* the genitive (*дойти до дома*); that the Sussex grammar lists the idioms *идёт дождь, идёт снег, идёт фильм* (sources: Sussex: Tolstoy grammar reference, Sussex: Blok grammar reference, fluentu.com: Russian prepositions, mezhdunami.ku.edu: free time, UT Austin: Будем на связи, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). **Not covered by the search, from general knowledge:** *к* + dative and *от* + genitive for people, and *у* + genitive for “at someone’s”; *по* + dative for “along, around”; *мимо* + genitive; the pairing *в / из* and *на / с*; the list of which places take *в* and which *на*; the adverbs *сюда, туда, отсюда, оттуда*; the idioms *Урок идёт* and *Вам идёт этот цвет*; every stress mark; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Which places take *на* has many exceptions, so check a dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 5: The Conditional and the Subjunctive. *бы* + the past; real and unreal *если*; polite requests (*Вы не могли́ бы…?*); *хоте́л бы*; wishes and regrets (*Если бы я знал…*).

💭 What Would Happen If — Усло́вное наклоне́ние

*So far every verb you have learnt states a fact, asks a question or gives a command. This chapter adds a fourth kind of sentence: things that **would** happen, **could** have happened, or that you **wish** would happen. In English that takes "would" and "if I had…". In Russian it takes one little word, **бы**, and a verb in a form you already know: the **past tense**.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The **conditional** is **past-tense verb + бы**: **Я пошёл бы. Я бы пошёл.** (*I would go.*) The verb agrees with its subject in gender and number (*Я бы пошла́* for a woman). A **real** condition, one that may really happen, uses plain **е́сли** and an ordinary verb: **Е́сли за́втра бу́дет дождь, мы оста́немся до́ма.** An **unreal** condition uses **е́сли бы** + past in the "if" clause and **бы** + past in the main clause: **Е́сли бы я знал, я бы сказа́л.** The past form carries **no past meaning** here: the time comes from the context. **бы** never changes.

Forming the conditional

PRONOUN	MAN SPEAKING	WOMAN SPEAKING
я	я чита́л бы / я бы чита́л	я чита́ла бы / я бы чита́ла
ты	ты бы чита́л	ты бы чита́ла
он, она́	он бы чита́л	она́ бы чита́ла
мы, вы, они́	мы бы чита́ли, вы бы чита́ли, они́ бы чита́ли	

The particle *бы* usually stands **right after the verb** or after the first important word of the clause (*Я бы пошёл*, *Я пошёл бы*), and both orders are correct. It is not stressed.

Watch out: the past form is not a past meaning

Я бы пошёл в кино´ за´втра. is about **tomorrow**, although *пошёл* is a past form. The time reference comes from words such as *сейча´с, за´втра, вчера´* or from the context, not from the verb. Do not look for a past event just because you see *-л*.

Real and unreal conditions

KIND	PATTERN	EXAMPLE
Real, future	**е́сли + future, future**	**Е́сли за́втра бу́дет хоро́шая пого́да, мы пойдём в парк.** *If the weather is good tomorrow, we shall go to the park.*
Real, present	**е́сли + present, future or present**	**Е́сли ты хо́чешь, я помогу́.** *If you want, I shall help.*
Unreal, now or future	**е́сли бы + past, бы + past**	**Е́сли бы у меня́ бы́ло вре́мя, я бы пошёл в кино́.** *If I had time, I would go to the cinema.*
Unreal, past	**е́сли бы + past, бы + past**	**Е́сли бы я знал, я бы сказа́л.** *If I had known, I would have said.*

In an **unreal** sentence both clauses carry *бы*. In a **real** sentence neither does, and Russian uses the **future** after *е´сли* where English uses the present ("if it *rains*", but *е´сли бу´дет дождь*).

Watch out: no future with бы

Е´сли бы я бу´ду знать is wrong. After *е´сли бы* the verb is always the **past**: **Е´сли бы я знал.** And *е´сли я знал, я бы сказа´л* mixes the two patterns. Decide first: is the condition real (no *бы*) or unreal (*бы* in both clauses)?

Polite requests and wishes

The same *бы* softens requests, as English "would" and "could" do.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Я хоте́л бы заказа́ть ко́фе.	I would like to order a coffee.	polite, standard
Я бы хоте́л ча́шку ко́фе.	I would like a cup of coffee.	*хоте́ть + бы*
Вы не могли́ бы мне помо́чь?	Could you help me?	literally “couldn’t you help me?”
Вы не могли́ бы закры́ть окно́?	Could you close the window?	
Я бы отдохну́л.	I would like to rest. / I would rest.	wish or advice
Тебе́ бы отдохну́ть.	You ought to have a rest.	dative + *бы* + infinitive

Wishes and regrets

A wish about something that did not happen uses *е́сли бы* alone, or *бы* with an exclamation: **Е́сли бы я знал!** (*If only I had known!*) **Хорошо́ бы пое́хать в Москву́.** (*It would be good to go to Moscow.*) A **wish that someone else does something** uses *что́ бы*, which Chapter 6 explains.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and say for each sentence whether the condition is real or unreal.

① In a café

A:

Я хоте́л бы заказа́ть ко́фе.

I would like to order a coffee.

B:

Коне́чно. С мо́локом?

Of course. With milk?

② Regret

A:

Е́сли бы у меня́ бы́ло вре́мя, я бы пое́хал в Москву́.

If I had time, I would go to Moscow.

B:

Жаль. Я бы то́же пое́хала.

A:

Да, пожа´луйста. И вы не могли´ бы принести´ меню´?

Yes, please. And could you bring the menu?

What a pity. I would go too.

③ Weather

A:

Е´сли за´втра бу´дет дождь, ты оста´нешься до´ма?

If it rains tomorrow, will you stay at home?

B:

Нет, я пойду´ в кино´. А е´сли бы не´ было дождя´, я бы пошёл в парк.

No, I shall go to the cinema. And if there were no rain, I would go to the park.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Conditional	**past + бы**	**Я бы пошёл.**
Real condition	**е́сли + ordinary verb**	**Е́сли бу́дет дождь, я оста́нусь.**
Unreal condition	**е́сли бы + past, бы + past**	**Е́сли бы я знал, я бы сказа́л.**
Polite wish	**хоте́л бы**	**Я хоте́л бы ко́фе.**
Polite request	**Вы не могли́ бы + infinitive?**	**Вы не могли́ бы помо́чь?**
Advice	**dative + бы + infinitive**	**Тебе́ бы отдохну́ть.**

Practice

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

1. Say “I would read” for a woman.

▼ Show answer

Я бы чита́ла. The past form agrees with the speaker.

2. Say in Russian: “I would like a coffee.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Я хоте́л бы ко́фе. or **Я бы хоте́л ко́фе.**

3. Say in Russian: “Could you help me?” (polite)

▼ Show answer

Вы не могли́ бы мне помо́чь?

4. Say in Russian: “If I knew, I would say.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Е́сли бы я знал, я бы сказа́л. *Бы* in both clauses.

5. Say in Russian: “If I had time, I would go to the cinema.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Е́сли бы у меня́ бы́ло вре́мя, я бы пошёл в кино́.

6. Say in Russian: “If it rains tomorrow, we shall stay at home.” (a real condition)

▼ Show answer

Е́сли за́втра бу́дет дождь, мы оста́немся до́ма. No *бы*, and the future after *е́сли*.

7. Why is *Если бы я буду знать* wrong? Give the correct form.

▼ Show answer

After *е́сли бы* the verb must be in the past form. Say **Е́сли бы я знал.**

8. Say in Russian: “If it had rained yesterday, we would have stayed at home.”

▼ Show answer

Е́сли бы вчера́ шёл дождь, мы бы оста́лись до́ма. Time comes from *вчера́*.

9. Say in Russian: “I would go with you.” (a woman speaking)

▼ Show answer

Я бы пошла́ с тобо́й.

10. Say in Russian: “You ought to have a rest.”

▼ Show answer

Тебе́ бы отдохну́ть.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that real conditions use plain *если* with ordinary indicative verbs; that unreal conditions use *если бы* + past and *бы* + past in the main clause; that the past form in the unreal condition carries no past meaning and the time comes from the context; that *бы* alone expresses wishes and advice; that *хотел бы* is the standard polite “I would like” (*Я бы хотел чашку кофе, Я хотел бы заказать*) (sources: pelister.org: conditional mood, russianenthusiast.com: subjunctive or conditional mood, Mango Languages: conditionals, elon.io: the conditional with бы, elon.io: real and unreal conditions, storylearning.com: the conditional, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the construction *Вы не могли бы…?* (the search found no source on it); the advice form *Тебе бы отдохнуть* and the exclamation *Хорошо бы…*; the free position of *бы* and the claim that it is unstressed; the future after *если* in real conditions; all the forms and stress marks; 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, especially the polite-request and advice forms.

Coming up in Chapter 6: Чтобы. *что́бы* for purpose (*Я учу́ ру́сский, что́бы жить в Росси́и*); wish and request (*Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл*); infinitive or clause; *для того́, что́бы*.

🎯 So That, In Order To — Союз «что́бы»

*One small word does two jobs in Russian: it says **why** someone does something ("I called in order to ask") and it says what someone **wants another person to do** ("I want you to come"). That word is **что́бы**. It is built from что and бы, so it works like the conditional of Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 5: after it the verb is in the **past form**, which here has no past meaning.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

After **что́бы**, check **who does the second action**. If it is the **same person** as in the main clause, use an **infinitive**: **Я хочу́ прийти́. Я позвони́л, что́бы узна́ть.** If it is a **different person**, use **что́бы + past form**: **Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл. Я позвони́л, что́бы ты не волнова́лась.** The past form agrees with the new subject (*пришёл, пришла́, пришли́*), and it has **no past meaning**.

Same subject: purpose with the infinitive

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Я учу́ ру́сский, что́бы жить в Росси́и.	I am learning Russian in order to live in Russia.
Я иду́ в магази́н, что́бы купи́ть хлеб.	I am going to the shop to buy bread.
Он пришёл, что́бы помо́чь.	He came to help.
Я хочу́ отдохну́ть.	I want to rest.

The formal **для того́, что́бы** means the same as *что́бы* for purpose and sounds more careful: **Я учу́ ру́сский для того́, что́бы жить в Росси́и.** In speech the short form is far more common.

Different subject: чтобы + past

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл.	I want you to come.	wish
Она́ про́сит, что́бы я помо́г.	She asks me to help.	request
Врач сказа́л, что́бы я отдохну́л.	The doctor told me to rest.	instruction
Нам ну́жно, что́бы вы помогли́.	We need you to help.	necessity
Я позвони́л, что́бы ты не волнова́лась.	I rang so that you would not worry.	purpose, new subject (to a woman)

Watch out: no “want you to” with an infinitive

English says “I want *you to* come”. Russian has no such pattern: *Я хочу́ тебя́ прийти́* is wrong. When the person who acts is not the speaker, you must use a clause: **Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл.** The same applies to *проси́ть* (ask), *сказа́ть* (tell), *сове́товать* (advise) and *ну́жно* (it is necessary): when the actor is someone else, *что́бы* + past form.

Watch out: same person, no clause

If the speaker is also the person who acts, do **not** use a clause: *Я хочу́, что́бы я пришёл* is wrong. Say **Я хочу́ прийти́.** The test is simple: “Who does the second verb?” The same person gives an infinitive, a different person gives *что́бы* + past.

Forms of the past after чтобы

The past form agrees with the **new** subject in gender and number, just as in Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 4.

NEW SUBJECT	EXAMPLE
он	**Я хочу́, что́бы он пришёл.**

NEW SUBJECT	EXAMPLE
она́	**Я хочу́, что́бы она́ пришла́.**
вы, они́	**Я хочу́, что́бы вы пришли́.**

A **negative** wish or purpose puts *не* before the verb: **Я прошу´, что´бы ты не опозда´л.** (*I ask you not to be late.*)

что against чтобы

ЧТО: A FACT OR A REPORT	ЧТО́БЫ: A WISH, A REQUEST, A PURPOSE
Я зна́ю, что он придёт. *I know that he will come.*	**Я хочу́, что́бы он пришёл.** *I want him to come.*
Он сказа́л, что придёт. *He said that he will come.*	**Он сказа́л, что́бы я пришёл.** *He told me to come.*

The verb after *что* keeps its own tense (*придёт*), and the verb after *что´бы* is always the past form (*пришёл*). Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 10 returns to *что* clauses.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and say for each что´бы whether the infinitive or the past follows, and why.

① A wish

A:

Ты хо´чешь, что´бы я пришёл?

Do you want me to come?

B:

Да, я хочу´, что´бы ты пришёл в пя´тницу.

② A phone call

A:

Заче´м ты звони´шь?

Why are you ringing?

B:

Я звоню´, что´бы узна´ть, когда´ ты прие´дешь.

Yes, I want you to come on Friday.

I am ringing to find out when you will arrive.

③ The doctor

A:

Что сказа́л врач?

What did the doctor say?

B:

Он сказа́л, что́бы я отдохну́л. А я хочу́ порабо́тать.

He told me to rest. But I want to work a bit.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Same subject	**infinitive**	**Я хочу́ прийти́.**
Different subject	**что́бы + past**	**Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл.**
Purpose	**что́бы + infinitive**	**Я иду́, что́бы купи́ть хлеб.**
Negative	**что́бы … не + past**	**Я прошу́, что́бы ты не опозда́л.**
Formal purpose	**для того́, что́бы**	**для того́, что́бы жить**
Fact	**что**	**Я зна́ю, что он придёт.**

Practice

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

1. Say in Russian: “I want to rest.”

▼ Show answer

Я хочу́ отдохну́ть. Same subject: infinitive.

2. Say in Russian: “I want you to rest.” (to a man)

▼ Show answer

Я хочу́, что́бы ты отдохну́л. Different subject: *что́бы* + past.

3. Say in Russian: “She asks me to come.” (a man is asked)

▼ Show answer

Она́ про́сит, что́бы я пришёл.

4. Say in Russian: “I am going to the shop to buy bread.”

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ в магази́н, что́бы купи́ть хлеб.

5. Say in Russian: “I am ringing so that you do not worry.” (to a woman)

▼ Show answer

Я звоню́, что́бы ты не волнова́лась.

6. Why is *Я хочу, чтобы я пришёл* wrong? Give the correct form.

▼ Show answer

The same person does both actions, so Russian uses an infinitive: **Я хочу́ прийти́.**

7. What is the difference between **Он сказа́л, что придёт** and **Он сказа́л, что́бы я пришёл**?

▼ Show answer

The first reports a fact (“He said that he will come”). The second is an instruction (“He told me to come”).

8. Say in Russian: “We need you to help.” (polite *вы*)

▼ Show answer

Нам ну́жно, что́бы вы помогли́.

9. Say in Russian: “The doctor told me to rest.” (a man is told)

▼ Show answer

Врач сказа́л, что́бы я отдохну́л.

10. Say in Russian: “I am learning Russian in order to live in Russia.”

▼ Show answer

Я учу́ ру́сский, что́бы жить в Росси́и.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that with the same subject *чтобы* takes an infinitive (*Я пришёл, чтобы помочь, Я хочу пойти*) and with a different subject it takes the past form (*Я хочу, чтобы ты пошёл*); that the past form here is a subjunctive-type form without past meaning; that Russian has no “want + object + infinitive” pattern; that wishes, requests, instructions, advice and necessity take a *чтобы* clause when someone else acts; and that *что* introduces a fact while *чтобы* marks intention or desire. One source adds that in some styles a same-subject purpose clause can also take the past form, though the infinitive is standard (sources: elon.io: чтобы clauses, elon.io: что and чтобы, Cornell: Russian grammar, elon.io: purpose and result clauses, elon.io: concessive and purpose, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: *для того, чтобы* as the formal variant; the negative *чтобы … не*; the examples with *просить, сказать, нужно*; the past forms *помог, отдохнул, пришёл* and their stress marks; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 7: Present Participles. Active *-ущий / -ющий / -ащий / -ящий*; passive *-емый / -имый*; agreement as adjectives; where learners meet them (signs, news, books).

📖 Verbs That Behave Like Adjectives — Прича́стия настоя́щего вре́мени

*A **participle** is a verb form that works as an adjective: it describes a noun, and it agrees with that noun in gender, number and case, but it still carries the meaning of a verb. English has "the reading student" and "a loving mother". Russian uses participles far more, mainly in **writing**: newspapers, textbooks, official notices and books. You need to **recognise** them, and you need to form a few. This chapter teaches the **present** participles, and Chapter 8 teaches the **past** ones.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The **present active participle** is made from an **imperfective** verb: take the **они́** form, drop the final **-т**, and add **-щий**: **чита́ют → чита́ющий**; **говоря́т → говоря́щий**. So the suffix is **-ущ- / -ющ-** for first-conjugation verbs and **-ащ- / -ящ-** for second-conjugation ones. It declines like an adjective: *-щий, -щая, -щее, -щие*. A reflexive verb keeps **-ся**, never *-сь*. It means "who is doing" and replaces **кото́рый** + a present-tense verb: **студе́нт, чита́ющий кни́гу** = *студе́нт, кото́рый чита́ет кни́гу*. The **present passive participle** ("being done") takes the **мы** form instead and adds **-емый / -имый**: **люби́мый**.

Forming the active participle

INFINITIVE	ОНИ́ FORM	PARTICIPLE	ENGLISH
чита́ть	чита́ют	чита́ющий	reading
писа́ть	пи́шут	пи́шущий	writing
жить	живу́т	живу́щий	living
игра́ть	игра́ют	игра́ющий	playing

INFINITIVE	ОНИ́ FORM	PARTICIPLE	ENGLISH
говори́ть	говоря́т	говоря́щий	speaking
люби́ть	лю́бят	лю́бящий	loving
стоя́ть	стоя́т	стоя́щий	standing
занима́ться	занима́ются	занима́ющийся	engaged in, busy with

The stress is the same as in the *они́* form. For a reflexive verb the particle is always *-ся*, even after a vowel: **занима́ющийся, улыба́ющийся**.

> **Watch out: imperfective only**
>
> Only **imperfective** verbs have a present participle, because a perfective verb has no present tense (Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 5). You can make *чита́ющий* from *чита́ть*, but there is no present participle of *прочита́ть*. Past participles (Chapter 8) cover the perfective.

Agreement: a participle is an adjective

A participle agrees with the noun it describes in **gender, number and case**, like any adjective (Russian Grammar 2).

MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
чита́ющий	чита́ющая	чита́ющее	чита́ющие

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Студе́нт, чита́ющий кни́гу, мой брат.	The student reading a book is my brother.	masculine nominative
Де́вушка, чита́ющая кни́гу, моя́ сестра́.	The girl reading a book is my sister.	feminine nominative
Я ви́жу студе́нта, чита́ющего кни́гу.	I see the student reading a book.	accusative animate = genitive

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Я говорю́ со студе́нтом, чита́ющим кни́гу.	I am talking to the student who is reading a book.	instrumental
Игра́ющие де́ти ве́село смею́тся.	The playing children are laughing happily.	before the noun, no commas

> **Watch out: commas and position**
>
> When the participle comes **after** its noun together with its own words (*студе́нт, чита́ющий кни́гу*), it is a phrase and is set off by **commas**. When a single participle stands **before** the noun (*игра́ющие де́ти*), it works like an adjective and takes no commas. In both cases the ending follows the noun's case, so *со студе́нтом, чита́ющим*, not *чита́ющий*.

Replacing который

A present active participle gives a shorter version of a *кото́рый* clause whose verb is in the **present** tense.

WITH КОТО́РЫЙ (EVERYDAY)	WITH A PARTICIPLE (WRITTEN)
Челове́к, кото́рый стои́т у окна́, наш учи́тель.	**Челове́к, стоя́щий у окна́, наш учи́тель.**
Де́ти, кото́рые игра́ют во дворе́, шу́мят.	**Де́ти, игра́ющие во дворе́, шу́мят.**
Студе́нты, кото́рые изуча́ют ру́сский язы́к, у́чатся хорошо́.	**Студе́нты, изуча́ющие ру́сский язы́к, у́чатся хорошо́.**

In **speech**, use *кото́рый*. The participle is for writing and for reading comprehension. Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 10 teaches the *кото́рый* clause in full.

The present passive participle

A **passive** participle describes a noun that *receives* the action: "loved", "respected". Take the **мы** form of a transitive imperfective verb and add **-ый** (the adjective ending): first-conjugation

чита́ем → чита́емый, second-conjugation *лю́бим → люби́мый*. They are rarer than the active ones, and you will meet only a few in everyday Russian.

PARTICIPLE	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
люби́мый	beloved, favourite	**Москва́ — мой люби́мый го́род.**
уважа́емый	respected, dear (in letters)	**Уважа́емые колле́ги!**
чита́емый	widely read	**Э́то са́мая чита́емая кни́га.**

Participles that became ordinary adjectives

Several participles are so common that they are now simply adjectives. You should know them as words.

WORD	FROM	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
сле́дующий	**сле́довать**	next	**Сле́дующий уро́к в пя́тницу.**
бу́дущий	**быть**	future, next	**в бу́дущем году́** next year
настоя́щий	**настоя́ть**	real, present	**настоя́щий друг** a real friend
подходя́щий	**подходи́ть**	suitable	**подходя́щее вре́мя** a suitable time

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and find each participle and the noun it describes.

① Who is that?

A:

Кто э́тот челове́к, стоя́щий у окна́?

Who is that man standing by the window?

② Favourites

A:

Како́й ваш люби́мый го́род?

What is your favourite city?

B:

B:

Э́то наш но́вый учи́тель.

That is our new teacher.

Мой люби́мый го́род — Москва́.

My favourite city is Moscow.

③ The lesson

A:

Когда́ сле́дующий уро́к?

When is the next lesson?

B:

Сле́дующий уро́к в пя́тницу.

The next lesson is on Friday.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Active, 1st conjugation	они́ form – т + -щий (-ущий, -ющий)	чита́ющий
Active, 2nd conjugation	-ащий, -ящий	говоря́щий
Reflexive	always -ся	занима́ющийся
Aspect	imperfective only	чита́ть → чита́ющий
Agreement	gender, number, case of the noun	чита́ющего, чита́ющим
Passive	мы form + -ый (-емый, -имый)	люби́мый
Common adjectives	learn as words	сле́дующий, бу́дущий

Practice

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

1. Form the present active participle of **чита́ть**.

▼ Show answer

чита́ющий. From *чита́ют*.

2. Form the present active participle of **говори́ть**.

▼ Show answer

говоря́щий. From *говоря́т*: second conjugation, *-ящий*.

3. Rewrite with a participle: **Студе́нт, кото́рый чита́ет кни́гу, мой брат.**

▼ Show answer

Студе́нт, чита́ющий кни́гу, мой брат.

4. Rewrite with a participle: **Де́вушка, кото́рая чита́ет кни́гу, моя́ сестра́.**

▼ Show answer

Де́вушка, чита́ющая кни́гу, моя́ сестра́. Feminine: *-ая*.

5. Say in Russian: “the playing children”.

▼ Show answer

игра́ющие де́ти.

6. Say in Russian: “I see the student reading a book.”

▼ Show answer

Я ви́жу студе́нта, чита́ющего кни́гу. Accusative animate masculine, so the participle ends in *-его*.

7. Form the passive participle meaning “beloved” from **люби́ть**.

▼ Show answer

люби´мый. From *лю´бим*.

8. Say in Russian: “my favourite city”.

▼ Show answer

мой люби´мый го´род.

9. Say in Russian: “the next lesson”.

▼ Show answer

сле´дующий уро´к.

10. Why is there no present participle of **прочита´ть**?

▼ Show answer

It is perfective, and a perfective verb has no present tense, so it has no present participle.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that the present active participle is formed from the *они* form by dropping *-т* and adding *-щий*, with *-ущ-/-ющ-* for the first conjugation and *-ащ-/-ящ-* for the second; that only imperfective verbs form it; that reflexive verbs always keep *-ся*; that a participle agrees in gender, number and case with its noun; that participles often correspond to a relative clause; and that the present passive participle is built from the first-person plural (*мы*) stem plus the adjective ending (sources: sublearn.com: active participles, russianenthusiast.com: participles, Russian Language Blog: participles, University of Iowa: Russian participle readme, Tomsk State University: participles, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the passive suffixes *-емый / -имый* and the examples *любимый, уважаемый, читаемый*; the stress marks on all the participles; the claim that the stress follows the *они* form; the rules on commas; the participles that became ordinary adjectives (*следующий, будущий, настоящий, подходящий*); the examples with *который*; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. One source in the results called *сидящий* both incorrect and standard, so some forms are disputed. No dictionary was consulted. Check a dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 8: Past Participles. Active *-вший / -ший*; passive *-нный / -тый*; the short passive (*закры́то, постро́ено*); the participle against *кото́рый*.

📕 Done and Finished — Прича́стия проше́дшего вре́мени

*Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 7 gave you participles for what is happening now. This chapter gives you the ones for what has already happened: "the man who read the book" and "the book that was read". The **passive** kind matters most: it gives you words like закры́тый (closed), напи́санный (written) and the short forms on signs and in news (Магази́н закры́т). As in Chapter 7, you need to **recognise** them and form a few.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Past active participle ("who did"): add **-вший** to the past stem after a vowel and **-ший** after a consonant: **прочита́л → прочита́вший**. It can be made from **both** aspects. **Past passive participle** ("that was done"), almost always from a **perfective** verb: drop **-л** and add **-нный** after a vowel (**прочи́танный**), drop **-ил** and add **-енный** (**постро́енный**), or add **-тый** to some verbs (**закры́тый**). The **short form** keeps **one н** and ends in a gender ending: **прочи́тан, прочи́тана, прочи́тано, прочи́таны**.

Past active participles

INFINITIVE	PAST (M.)	PARTICIPLE	ENGLISH
прочита́ть	прочита́л	прочита́вший	who has read
чита́ть	чита́л	чита́вший	who was reading, used to read
написа́ть	написа́л	написа́вший	who has written
рабо́тать	рабо́тал	рабо́тавший	who worked
занима́ться	занима́лся	занима́вшийся	who was engaged in

INFINITIVE	PAST (M.)	PARTICIPLE	ENGLISH
прийти́	пришёл	пришéдший	who has come

Unlike the present participle, the past active participle can come from an **imperfective** or a **perfective** verb. The aspect decides the meaning: *чита́вший* is “who was reading, used to read” (a process) and *прочита́вший* is “who has read it through” (a finished result). It agrees with its noun in gender, number and case: *-вший, -вшая, -вшее, -вшие*. For a verb whose past has no *-л* you build it from the masculine past stem plus *-ший* (*пришéдший*), and these forms are irregular.

WITH КОТО́РЫЙ	WITH A PARTICIPLE
Студéнт, кото́рый прочита́л кни́гу, отвеча́ет хорошо́.	Студéнт, прочита́вший кни́гу, отвеча́ет хорошо́.
Же́нщина, кото́рая рабо́тала здесь, уéхала.	Же́нщина, рабо́тавшая здесь, уéхала.

Past passive participles

INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE	PATTERN	ENGLISH
прочита́ть	проче́танный	-л → -нный	(having been) read
написа́ть	напи́санный	-л → -нный	written
сде́лать	сде́ланный	-л → -нный	done, made
постро́ить	постро́енный	-ил → -енный	built
реши́ть	решённый	-ил → -ённый (end stress)	decided, solved
купи́ть	ку́пленный	-ил → -енный, with л added	bought
закры́ть	закры́тый	-ть → -тый	closed
откры́ть	откры́тый	-ть → -тый	open, opened

INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE	PATTERN	ENGLISH
забы́ть	забы́тый	-ть → -тый	forgotten
взять	взя́тый	-ть → -тый	taken

Watch out: perfective only, and the stress moves

Past passive participles come almost always from **perfective** verbs, because they describe a result: *прочита́ть → прочи́танный*, not *чита́ть*. The stress often shifts from the infinitive: *прочита́ть, прочи́танный*; *купи́ть, ку́пленный*. Learn each participle with its stress. The doubled **нн** in the long form is a common spelling test, and **-тый** verbs take only one *т* and no doubled letter.

The short passive

The **short form** works as a predicate (after *быть* or alone): it keeps **one н** and takes a bare gender ending, with no adjective ending. It tells you the **state** that results from an action.

LONG FORM	SHORT FORMS (M., F., N., PL.)
прочи́танный	прочи́тан, прочи́тана, прочи́тано, прочи́таны
напи́санный	напи́сан, напи́сана, напи́сано, напи́саны
закры́тый	закры́т, закры́та, закры́то, закры́ты
откры́тый	откры́т, откры́та, откры́то, откры́ты

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Магази́н закры́т.	The shop is closed.	masculine
Дверь закры́та.	The door is closed.	feminine
Окно́ откры́то.	The window is open.	neuter
Письмо́ напи́сано.	The letter is written.	neuter

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Э́тот дом постро́ен в 1990 году́.	This house was built in 1990.	masculine, with *быть* understood

The doer in the instrumental

A passive participle can name who did the action. The doer goes into the **instrumental**: **кни́га, напи́санная мои́м дру́гом** (*a book written by my friend*), **кни́га, прочи́танная мно́й** (*a book read by me*). The same participle with *кото́рый* is *кни́га, кото́рую написа́л мой друг.*

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and find each participle and say whether it is active or passive.

① A book

A:

Ты прочита́л э́ту кни́гу?

Have you read this book?

B:

Да, э́то кни́га, напи́санная мои́м дру́гом.

Yes, it is a book written by my friend.

② At the shop

A:

Магази́н откры́т?

Is the shop open?

B:

Нет, он закры́т до утра́.

No, it is closed until morning.

③ Tired

A:

У тебя́ уста́вший вид.

You look tired.

B:

Да, я о́чень уста́л.

Yes, I am very tired.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Past active	**past stem + -вший / -ший**	**прочита́вший**
Aspect of past active	**both**	**чита́вший, прочита́вший**
Past passive	**-нный, -енный / -ённый, -тый**	**проче́танный, постро́енный, закры́тый**
Aspect of past passive	**perfective (almost always)**	**написа́ть → напи́санный**
Short form	**one н, gender ending**	**напи́сан, напи́сана, напи́сано**
The doer	**instrumental**	**напи́санная мно́й**

Practice

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

1. Form the past active participle of **прочита́ть**.

▼ Show answer

прочита́вший. From *прочита́л + -вший.*

2. Form the past active participle of **рабо́тать**.

▼ Show answer

рабо́тавший.

3. Rewrite with a participle: **Студе́нт, кото́рый прочита́л кни́гу, отвеча́ет хорошо́.**

▼ Show answer

Студе́нт, прочита́вший кни́гу, отвеча́ет хорошо́.

4. Form the past passive participle of **написа́ть**.

▼ Show answer

напи́санный. Note the stress shift.

5. Form the past passive participle of **закры́ть**.

▼ Show answer

закры́тый. A *-тый* verb.

6. Say in Russian: “The window is open.” (short form)

▼ Show answer

Окно́ откры́то. Neuter short form.

7. Say in Russian: “The shop is closed.”

▼ Show answer

Магази́н закры́т.

8. Say in Russian: “The letter is written.”

▼ Show answer

Письмо́ напи́сано.

9. Say in Russian: “a book read by me”.

▼ Show answer

кни́га, прочи́танная мно́й. The doer is in the instrumental.

10. Give the feminine short form of **прочи́танный**. How many *н* does it have?

▼ Show answer

прочи́тана. One *н*: short forms of *-нный* participles lose one.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that the past active participle is formed by adding *-вший* to the past stem and can come from both aspects, with *читавший* meaning a process and *прочитавший* a finished result; that past passive participles come almost entirely from perfective verbs, with *-нный* after a vowel + *л* and *-енный* for *-ил* verbs; that the short form keeps one *н* (*прочитан, написан*); and that *закрытый* has the short form *закрыт* and *Дверь закрыта* (sources: elon.io: past active participles, elon.io: participle formation, russianenthusiast.com: participles, russianenthusiast.com: passive voice, Cornell: Russian grammar, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). The sources disagree on how to classify *-тый*, and some grammars treat *закрыт* as a short adjective rather than a participle.

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the full list of *-тый* verbs (*откры́ть, забы́ть, взять*); *купленный* (with *л* added) and *решённый*; the irregular *прише́дший*; every stress mark, including the stress shifts; the doer in the instrumental; *уставший* as an adjective; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Past participles have many irregular forms, so check a dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 9: Gerunds. Imperfective *-я / -а*, perfective *-в / -вши*; “while doing” and “after doing”; the same-subject rule; set expressions.

🔗 Doing Two Things at Once — Деепричáстия

*A **gerund** is a verb form that works like an adverb. It never changes: it has no gender, number or case. It describes **how** or **when** the main action happens, and it always belongs to the **same person** who does the main action. English shows it with "-ing" ("He walks home, listening to music") or "having" ("Having read the book, he went to bed"). Like participles, gerunds are common in writing and rare in conversation.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The **imperfective gerund** means "while doing". Take the **они́** stem and add **-я** (or **-а** after *ж, ч, ш, щ*): **чита́ют → чита́я**; **говоря́т → говоря́**. The **perfective gerund** means "after doing". Take the **past stem** and add **-в** (or **-вшись** for a reflexive verb): **прочита́л → прочита́в**; **верну́ться → верну́вшись**. The gerund **never changes**, and the person doing it must be the **subject of the main verb**. A gerund phrase is separated by **commas**.

The imperfective gerund: "while doing"

INFINITIVE	ОНИ́ FORM	GERUND	ENGLISH
чита́ть	чита́ют	чита́я	reading
де́лать	де́лают	де́лая	doing
слу́шать	слу́шают	слу́шая	listening
говори́ть	говоря́т	говоря́	speaking
смотре́ть	смотря́т	смотря́	looking
сиде́ть	сидя́т	сидя́	sitting
жить	живу́т	живя́	living

INFINITIVE	ОНИ́ FORM	GERUND	ENGLISH
улыба́ться	улыба́ются	улыба́ясь	smiling

A reflexive verb keeps *-сь* after the vowel: **улыба́ясь**. In these examples the stress falls where it falls in the *я* form (*чита́ю → чита́я*, *говорю́ → говоря́*). A few verbs have no gerund at all, and you use *кото́рый* or a new clause instead.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Он идёт домо́й, слу́шая му́зыку.	He walks home listening to music.
Она́ говори́т, улыба́ясь.	She speaks, smiling.
Я чита́ю, сидя́ в кре́сле.	I read sitting in an armchair.

The perfective gerund: “after doing”

INFINITIVE	PAST (M.)	GERUND	ENGLISH
прочита́ть	прочита́л	прочита́в	having read
написа́ть	написа́л	написа́в	having written
сказа́ть	сказа́л	сказа́в	having said
верну́ться	верну́лся	верну́вшись	having returned
умы́ться	умы́лся	умы́вшись	having washed
прийти́	пришёл	придя́	having come (irregular)

Verbs in *-ти* and a few others form the perfective gerund in an irregular way, from the future stem plus *-я* (**придя́, уйдя́**). Learn them as they appear.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Прочита́в письмо́, он позвони́л домо́й.	After reading the letter, he rang home.

RUSSIAN	ENGLISH
Верну́вшись домо́й, я позвони́л дру́гу.	Having returned home, I rang a friend.

The same-subject rule

The gerund describes an action by **the subject of the main verb**. The person who walks, reads or returns must be the person in the main clause.

CORRECT	WRONG
Иду́ домо́й, я встре́тил дру́га. (Walking home, I met a friend.)	*Идя домой, начался дождь.* (the rain was not walking home)
Когда́ я шёл домо́й, начался́ дождь. (When I was walking home, it began to rain.)	

> **Watch out: a different subject needs a clause**
> If the two actions belong to different people or things, do not use a gerund. Use *когда́* or another conjunction and a full clause, as in **Когда́ я шёл домо́й, начался́ дождь.** The check is the same as in Chapter 6: ask “Who does each verb?”

Negatives, commas and set expressions

A negative gerund puts *не* before it: **Не зна́я твой а́дрес, я не смог найти́ дом.** (*Not knowing your address, I could not find the house.*) A gerund phrase is set off by **commas**: *Он, идя́ домо́й, слу́шает му́зыку* has commas on both sides because the gerund phrase stands in the middle of the sentence. Some gerunds have become ordinary adverbs or prepositions, and you will meet them constantly.

EXPRESSION	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
не сказа́в ни сло́ва	without saying a word	**Он ушёл, не сказа́в ни сло́ва.**
несмотря́ на + accusative	despite	**Несмотря́ на дождь, мы пошли́ гуля́ть.**

EXPRESSION	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
благодаря́ + dative	thanks to	**Благодаря́ тебе́ я прие́хал.**
сидя́, стоя́	sitting, standing	**Я рабо́таю сидя́.**

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and find each gerund and say whether it means "while" or "after".

① Reading

A:

Где ты чита́ешь?

Where do you read?

B:

Я чита́ю, сидя́ в кре́сле и слу́шая му́зыку.

I read sitting in an armchair and listening to music.

② After work

A:

Что ты сде́лал, верну́вшись домо́й?

What did you do after you got home?

B:

Верну́вшись домо́й, я позвони́л дру́гу.

Having got home, I rang a friend.

③ A missed meeting

A:

Почему́ ты не пришёл?

Why did you not come?

B:

Не зна́я твой а́дрес, я не смог найти́ дом.

Not knowing your address, I could not find the house.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Imperfective	**они́ stem + -я (-а)**	чита́я
Perfective	**past stem + -в (-вшись)**	прочита́в, верну́вшись
Reflexive	**-сь after a vowel**	улыба́ясь
Meaning	**while / after**	слу́шая / прочита́в
Rule	**same subject as the main verb**	Идя́ домо́й, я встре́тил дру́га.
Punctuation	**commas**	Прочита́в письмо́, он позвони́л.

Practice

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

1. Form the imperfective gerund of **чита´ть**.

▼ Show answer

чита´я. From *чита´ют.*

2. Form the imperfective gerund of **говори´ть**.

▼ Show answer

говоря´. From *говоря´т.*

3. Form the perfective gerund of **прочита´ть**.

▼ Show answer

прочита´в. From *прочита´л.*

4. Form the perfective gerund of **сказа´ть**.

▼ Show answer

сказа́в.

5. Say in Russian: “He walks home listening to music.”

▼ Show answer

Он идёт домо́й, слу́шая му́зыку. A gerund: “while”.

6. Say in Russian: “After reading the letter, he rang home.”

▼ Show answer

Прочита́в письмо́, он позвони́л домо́й. A perfective gerund: “after”.

7. Say in Russian: “Having returned home, I rang a friend.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Верну́вшись домо́й, я позвони́л дру́гу.

8. Why is *Идя домой, начался дождь* wrong? Give a correct sentence.

▼ Show answer

The rain did not walk home: the gerund and the main verb have different subjects. Say **Когда́ я шёл домо́й, начался́ дождь.**

9. Say in Russian: “Despite the rain.”

▼ Show answer

Несмотря́ на дождь.

10. Say in Russian: “Thanks to you.” (informal)

▼ Show answer

Благодаря́ тебе́. *Благодаря́* + dative.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that a gerund can be used only when its action belongs to the same person as the main verb (*having done her homework, the girl went for a walk*); that the imperfective gerund is built from the third-person plural present stem (*читают*); that reflexive perfective gerunds end in *-вшись* (*умывшись, вернувшись*); and that some verbs have no gerund at all (sources: russianenthusiast.com: gerunds, russianenthusiast.com: lesson 20, introduction to gerunds, sublearn.com: adverbial participles, Sussex: Pushkin grammar reference, AATSEEL: gerund and participle, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the non-reflexive perfective ending *-в* as such, and the irregular *придя, уйдя*; the rule that the stress follows the *я* form; the spelling *-а* after *ж, ч, ш, щ*; the commas; the set expressions (*не сказав ни слова, несмотря на, благодаря*) and their cases (accusative after *несмотря на*, dative after *благодаря*; one search summary said genitive, which I believe to be wrong); the claim that *сидя, стоя* work as adverbs; all stress marks; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 10: Complex Sentences. *кото́рый* and relative clauses; *что, что́бы, ли* after verbs of speech and thought; direct and reported speech; *потому́ что, поэ́тому, хотя́, пока́*.

🧱 Building Longer Sentences — Сло´жные предложе´ния

Until now most of your sentences had one verb. This chapter joins clauses into longer sentences: ***relative clauses*** *(“the man who lives here”),* ***reported speech*** *(“he said that he was tired”) and clauses of reason, contrast and time (“because”, “although”, “while”). The tools are a handful of small words, and two of them have rules that surprise English speakers:* ***кото´рый*** *takes its case from its own clause, and Russian keeps the* ***original tense*** *in reported speech.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Кото´рый (“who, which, that”) takes its **gender and number** from the noun it refers to, and its **case** from its job inside the new clause: **Кни´га, кото´рую я чита´ю** (feminine because *кни´га*; accusative because it is the object of *чита´ю*). The clause is separated by **commas**, and *кото´рый* can never be left out. After verbs of speech and thought use **что** for statements, **ли** or a question word for questions, and **что´бы** for requests (Chapter 6); the verb keeps the **tense** it had in the original words: **Он сказа´л, что рабо´тает.**

Relative clauses: который

CASE OF КОТО́РЫЙ	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
Nominative (subject)	**Челове́к, кото́рый живёт здесь, мой друг.**	The man who lives here is my friend.
Nominative, feminine	**Же́нщина, кото́рая живёт здесь, моя́ ма́ма.**	The woman who lives here is my mother.
Nominative, plural	**Кни́ги, кото́рые лежа́т на столе́, мои́.**	The books that are on the table are mine.

CASE OF КОТО́РЫЙ	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
Accusative (object), inanimate	**Кни́га, кото́рую я чита́ю, интере́сная.**	The book that I am reading is interesting.
Accusative, animate masculine	**Челове́к, кото́рого я зна́ю, врач.**	The man I know is a doctor.
Dative	**Друг, кото́рому я звоню́, живёт в Москве́.**	The friend I am ringing lives in Moscow.
Instrumental	**Друг, с кото́рым я рабо́таю, прие́хал.**	The friend I work with has arrived.
Genitive after a preposition	**Же́нщина, у кото́рой есть соба́ка, живёт ря́дом.**	The woman who has a dog lives nearby.
Prepositional after a preposition	**Дом, в кото́ром я живу́, ста́рый.**	The house I live in is old.
Prepositional after o	**Де́вушка, о кото́рой он говори́т, моя́ сестра́.**	The girl he is talking about is my sister.

Watch out: gender from the noun, case from the clause

In **кни́га, кото́рую я чита́ю** the ending *-ую* is **feminine** because *кни́га* is feminine, and **accusative** because *кото́рую* is the object of *чита́ю*. Do not copy the case of the noun: *кни́га, кото́рая я чита́ю* is wrong. Always ask two questions: what noun does it refer to (gender and number), and what is its job in the new clause (case, with any preposition)? And do not drop it as English drops "that": *Кни́га, я чита́ю* is wrong. The comma goes on **both** sides when the clause is in the middle of the sentence.

Reported speech: что, ли, что́бы

Direct speech is written in guillemets or after a colon. In **reported** speech the words become a clause, and the pronouns shift to fit the new speaker, as in English. Unlike English, Russian does **not** change the tense: the verb stays as it was in the original.

KIND	DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
Statement, present	**Он сказа́л: «Я рабо́таю».**	**Он сказа́л, что рабо́тает.** *He said that he works / was working.*
Statement, future	**Он сказа́л: «Я приду́».**	**Он сказа́л, что придёт.** *He said that he would come.*
Question with a question word	**Он спроси́л: «Где ты живёшь?»**	**Он спроси́л, где я живу́.** *He asked where I live.*
Yes / no question	**Он спроси́л: «Ты придёшь?»**	**Он спроси́л, приду́ ли я.** *He asked whether I would come.*
Request or command	**Он сказа́л: «Приходи́!»**	**Он сказа́л, что́бы я пришёл.** *He told me to come.*

Watch out: no backshift, and ли is not "if"

English says "He said he *was* working", but Russian says **Он сказа́л, что рабо́тает** ("he said that he works") and leaves the context to show the time. And in an indirect yes / no question use **ли**, placed right after the word being asked about: **Я не зна́ю, придёт ли он.** It is not the *е́сли* of Chapter 5.

Reason, contrast and time

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
потому́ что	because	**Я оста́лся до́ма, потому́ что шёл дождь.** *I stayed at home because it was raining.*
поэ́тому	therefore, so	**Шёл дождь, поэ́тому я оста́лся до́ма.** *It was raining, so I stayed at home.*
хотя́	although	**Хотя́ шёл дождь, мы пошли́ гуля́ть.** *Although it was raining, we went for a walk.*

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
пока́	while	**Пока́ я рабо́тал, он спал.** *While I worked, he slept.*
пока́ не	until	**Я ждал, пока́ он не пришёл.** *I waited until he came.*
когда́	when	**Когда́ я шёл домо́й, начался́ дождь.** *When I was walking home, it began to rain.*

A comma **always** stands before these conjunctions when they start a clause in the middle of a sentence, and after the clause when it opens the sentence. *Потому́ что* answers *почему́?* ("why?"), while *поэ́тому* introduces the result.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and find each кото́рый and say which noun it refers to.

① Friends and books

A:

Ты зна́ешь челове́ка, кото́рый живёт здесь?

Do you know the man who lives here?

B:

Да, э́то мой друг. Он даёт мне кни́ги, кото́рые я чита́ю.

Yes, he is my friend. He gives me the books that I read.

② Someone's address

A:

Ты зна́ешь, где он живёт?

Do you know where he lives?

B:

Нет, но я зна́ю, что он живёт в Москве́.

No, but I know that he lives in Moscow.

③ The rain

A:

Почему́ ты оста́лся до́ма?

Why did you stay at home?

B:

Я оста́лся до́ма, потому́ что шёл дождь. А ты?

I stayed at home because it was raining. And you?

A:

Хотя́ шёл дождь, я пошёл гуля́ть.

Although it was raining, I went for a walk.

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
кото́рый	**gender and number from the noun, case from the clause**	кни́га, кото́рую я чита́ю
Statement	**что + original tense**	Он сказа́л, что рабо́тает.
Yes / no question	**ли**	Я не зна́ю, придёт ли он.
Wh- question	**the question word**	Он спроси́л, где я живу́.
Request	**что́бы + past**	Он сказа́л, что́бы я пришёл.
Reason, result	**потому́ что / поэ́тому**	Шёл дождь, поэ́тому я оста́лся.
Contrast, time	**хотя́ / пока́ / когда́**	Хотя́ шёл дождь…

Practice

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

1. Join: **Э́то друг. Он живёт здесь.**

▼ Show answer

Э́то друг, кото́рый живёт здесь. Masculine nominative.

2. Join: **Э́то кни́га. Я чита́ю её.**

▼ Show answer

Э́то кни́га, кото́рую я чита́ю. Feminine, accusative.

3. Say in Russian: “the friend I work with”.

▼ Show answer

друг, с кото́рым я рабо́таю. Instrumental after *с*.

4. Say in Russian: “the girl he is talking about”.

▼ Show answer

де́вушка, о кото́рой он говори́т. Feminine, prepositional after *о*.

5. Say in Russian: “I know that he is at home.”

▼ Show answer

Я зна́ю, что он до́ма.

6. Say in Russian: “He said that he works.”

▼ Show answer

Он сказа́л, что рабо́тает. The tense is not shifted.

7. Say in Russian: “I do not know whether he will come.”

▼ Show answer

Я не зна́ю, придёт ли он.

8. Report this: **Он спроси́л: «Где ты живёшь?»** (the speaker answers as *I*)

▼ Show answer

Он спроси́л, где я живу́. The pronoun changes from *ты* to *я*.

9. Say in Russian: “I stayed at home because it was raining.”

▼ Show answer

Я оста́лся до́ма, потому́ что шёл дождь.

10. Say in Russian: “Although it was raining, we went for a walk.”

▼ Show answer

Хотя́ шёл дождь, мы пошли́ гуля́ть.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): that *который* takes its gender and number from the head noun and its case from its role in the relative clause, and that a preposition inside the clause governs the case; that in standard Russian a relative word with *котор-* must always be present, unlike English “that”; that learner sources say the tense in an indirect speech clause stays as in the direct speech clause; that *ли* introduces indirect questions, *что* statements, *чтобы* commands (*Он сказал, чтобы я шёл домой*); and the glosses *потому что* (because), *поэтому* (therefore), *хотя* (although) and *пока* (while / until) (sources: elon.io: relative clauses with который, Mango Languages: the word который, Mango Languages: reported speech, sublearn.com: indirect speech, LingQ: Russian conjunctions, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). The reported-speech material comes from learner sites, not from a scholarly grammar.
Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: the individual case examples in the table (*которому, которого, у которой, в котором* and the rest); the comma rules; the use of *пока не*, *пока* and *когда* with the examples given; the difference between *потому что* and *поэтому* in use; the placement of *ли*; every stress mark; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a dictionary or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 11: Word Order and Sentence Types. Free order and emphasis; old and new information; questions and *ли*; negation and the double negative (*никто́ не…*); short answers and ellipsis.

🔀 Putting the Words in Order — Поря́док слов

*English depends on word order: "The dog bites the man" and "The man bites the dog" are different stories. Russian shows who does what with **case endings**, so the words can move, and the order is used for **emphasis**. Word order is flexible but not random. This chapter explains the usual order, how to shift it, and how to form questions, negatives, short answers and exclamations.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The **neutral order** is *subject – verb – object*: **Студе́нт чита́ет кни́гу.** The order tracks **information**: what is **already known** comes first, and the **new** information comes last. A **question** keeps the statement's order and uses intonation or a question word (or **ли**). **Negation** puts **не** before the word it denies, and the words *никто́, ничто́, никогда́, нигде́, никуда́* need **не** before the verb as well: **Никто́ не пришёл.** In **short answers** Russian repeats the verb and drops what is clear: **Ты придёшь? — Приду́.**

Neutral order and emphasis

The same three words can be arranged in different ways, and each order answers a different question.

QUESTION	ANSWER	NEW INFORMATION
Что де́лает студе́нт? *What does the student do?*	**Студе́нт чита́ет кни́гу.**	the verb and object (*чита́ет кни́гу*)
Что чита́ет студе́нт? *What does the student read?*	**Студе́нт чита́ет кни́гу.**	the object (*кни́гу*)
Кто чита́ет кни́гу? *Who is reading the book?*	**Кни́гу чита́ет студе́нт.**	the subject (*студе́нт*), now last

The idea is simple: the speaker puts the **known** thing (“the book”) at the start and the **new** thing (“the student”) at the end. Time and place phrases usually come near the front: **За́втра я пое́ду в Москву́.** A sentence about where something is often starts with the place: **В ко́мнате стои́т стол.** (*There is a table in the room.*)

> **Watch out: when the endings do not decide**
>
> Word order is free only when the case endings show the roles. When the nominative and accusative look the same, the order decides: **Мать лю́бит дочь.** means *the mother loves the daughter*, because the subject comes first and both nouns have the same form. Moving the words (*Дочь лю́бит мать*) would reverse the meaning. When in doubt, keep subject – verb – object.

Questions

KIND	HOW	EXAMPLE
Yes / no	**same order, rising intonation**	**Ты придёшь?** *Will you come?*
Yes / no, formal	***ли* after the word asked about**	**Придёшь ли ты?** *Will you come?*
Question word	**the question word first**	**Где ты живёшь?** *Where do you live?*
Question word	**the question word first**	**Что ты де́лаешь?** *What are you doing?*

Russian needs no *do* in questions: **Ты чита́ешь?** is simply the statement *Ты чита́ешь* with a different melody. The **ли** form puts the word you are asking about first (*Придёшь ли ты?* asks about coming) and sounds careful or written. Chapter 10 used *ли* in indirect questions.

Negation

Не stands before the word it denies. If you deny the verb, *не* goes before the verb: **Я не чита́ю кни́гу.** If you deny another word, *не* goes before that word, and the correction follows with *а*: **Я чита́ю не кни́гу, а журна́л.** (*I read not the book but a magazine.*)

The double negative

In English two negatives cancel out, but in Russian they **add up**: a negative pronoun or adverb needs **не** before the verb as well.

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
никто́	nobody	**Никто́ не пришёл.** *Nobody came.*
ничто́ / ничего́	nothing	**Я ничего́ не зна́ю.** *I know nothing.*
кого́	nobody (accusative or genitive)	**Я кого́ не ви́жу.** *I see nobody.*
когда́	never	**Он когда́ не опа́здывает.** *He is never late.*
где́	nowhere (position)	**Я где́ не рабо́таю.** *I do not work anywhere.*
куда́	nowhere (direction)	**Я куда́ не иду́.** *I am going nowhere.*

Watch out: never forget the не

Я ничего зна´ю is wrong. The double negative is **required**: **Я ничего´ не зна´ю.** The exception is a one-word answer, where *не* is not needed: **Кто пришёл? — Никто´.** To say "neither … nor" use **ни … ни** with *не* before the verb: **Ни я, ни он не зна´ем.**

Short answers and ellipsis

Russian answers a question by **repeating the verb**, with or without *да* or *нет*. It leaves out whatever is clear from the question.

QUESTION	SHORT ANSWERS
Ты придёшь?	**Приду́. / Да, приду́. / Нет, не приду́.**

QUESTION	SHORT ANSWERS
Ты чита́л э́ту кни́гу?	Чита́л. / Нет, не чита́л.
Что ты де́лаешь?	Чита́ю.

Two other kinds of omission are normal: the verb “to be” in the present (*Он врач*, Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 3), and a repeated verb in the second half of a sentence: **Я пью чай, а он — ко´фе.** (*I am drinking tea, and he, coffee.*)

Exclamations

An exclamation uses **как** (how) with an adverb or **како´й** (what a) with a noun: **Как здесь краси´во!** (*How beautiful it is here!*) **Кака´я пого´да!** (*What weather!*) Statements, questions, commands (Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 8), impersonal sentences (Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 11) and exclamations are the main sentence types you now know.

In Use

Read the exchanges aloud, and say which word carries the new information in each answer.

① Who reads what

A:

Кто чита´ет кни´гу?

Who is reading the book?

B:

Кни´гу чита´ет студе´нт. А студе´нтка чита´ет журна´л.

The student is reading the book. And the girl student is reading a magazine.

② Never seen it

A:

Ты ви´дел э´тот фильм?

Have you seen this film?

B:

Нет, я никогда´ его´ не ви´дел. А кни´гу чита´л.

No, I have never seen it. But I have read the book.

③ Nobody

A:

Кто пришёл?

Who has come?

B:

Никто́. Я никого́ не ви́дел.

Nobody. I have not seen anyone.

A:

Как стра́нно!

How strange!

Quick reference

ITEM	FORM	EXAMPLE
Neutral order	**subject – verb – object**	Студе́нт чита́ет кни́гу.
New information	**at the end**	Кни́гу чита́ет студе́нт.
Yes / no question	**intonation, or ли**	Ты придёшь? Придёшь ли ты?
Negation	**не before the word denied**	Я не чита́ю.
Double negative	**ни-word + не + verb**	Я ничего́ не зна́ю.
Short answer	**repeat the verb**	Приду́.
Exclamation	**как / како́й**	Как краси́во!

Practice

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

1. Answer **Кто чита́ет кни́гу?** with “The student” as the new information.

▼ Show answer

Кни́гу чита́ет студе́нт. The new information goes last.

2. Say in neutral order: “The student reads the book.”

▼ Show answer

Студе́нт чита́ет кни́гу.

3. Say in Russian: “The mother loves the daughter.” Why must the order be kept?

▼ Show answer

Мать лю́бит дочь. The nominative and accusative of both nouns look the same, so the order shows who loves whom.

4. Say “Will you come?” with *ли*.

▼ Show answer

Придёшь ли ты?

5. Say in Russian: “I do not read the book.”

▼ Show answer

Я не чита́ю кни́гу.

6. Say in Russian: “I read not the book but a magazine.”

▼ Show answer

Я чита́ю не кни́гу, а журна́л.

7. Say in Russian: “Nobody came.”

▼ Show answer

Никто́ не пришёл.

8. Say in Russian: “I know nothing.”

▼ Show answer

Я ничего́ не зна́ю. The double negative is required.

9. Say in Russian: “I am going nowhere.”

▼ Show answer

Я никуда́ не иду́.

10. Give a short answer meaning “Yes, I will come” to **Ты придёшь?**

▼ Show answer

Да, приду́. Repeat the verb.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): only that Russian word order is flexible for emphasis, not random; that old (known) information, the theme, comes first and new information, the rheme, comes last; and that Russian questions often keep the statement’s word order and rely on intonation or a question word (sources: polyglottistlanguageacademy.com: Russian word order, UT Austin: Будем на связи, sublearn.com: inversion for emphasis, sublearn.com: literary syntax, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). Some of those pages are inconsistent, so I treated them as secondary.

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: everything else in this chapter: the question and answer pairs with their word order; *Мать любит дочь* and the ambiguity of equal case forms; *ли* and its position; the placement of *не* and the *не … а* contrast; the double negative and the whole table of *ни-* words, *ни … ни*, and the one-word answer *Никто*; short answers and ellipsis; *как* and *какой* exclamations; all stress marks; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. Check a grammar reference or a native speaker before relying on any of these.

Coming up in Chapter 12: Putting It Together. Reading a short text and naming each form; the most common errors; a recap of Russian Grammar 4 and a **Course Complete** note, with ideas for where to go next.

🧩 Everything in One Place — Повторе́ние

This last chapter does three jobs. It shows the whole of Russian Grammar 4 working together in one short text, it lists the mistakes that this course has warned you about, and it gives you mixed exercises that draw on all eleven earlier chapters.

🎓 COURSE COMPLETE

You have finished **Russian Grammar 4**, and with it the whole Russian grammar track. You can use the verbs of motion in their pairs and with prefixes, put the right preposition and case after them, form the conditional and the *что́бы* clause, recognise participles and gerunds, build relative clauses and reported speech, and arrange a sentence for emphasis. Russian Grammar 1 to 4 now cover the nouns, the cases, the adjectives and pronouns, the verb and the sentence.

What each chapter taught

CHAPTER	TOPIC	KEY PATTERN
1	Basic motion pairs	**идти́ / ходи́ть, е́хать / е́здить**
2	More motion pairs	**нести́ / носи́ть, лете́ть / лета́ть; бу́ду + multidirectional**
3	Prefixed motion	**прийти́ / приходи́ть, прие́хать / приезжа́ть**
4	Motion with prepositions	**в / из, на / с, к / от, до, через**
5	Conditional	**past + бы; е́сли бы**
6	Чтобы	**infinitive or что́бы + past**
7	Present participles	**чита́ющий, люби́мый**

CHAPTER	TOPIC	KEY PATTERN
8	Past participles	**прочита́вший, закры́тый, закры́т**
9	Gerunds	**чита́я, прочита́в**
10	Complex sentences	**кото́рый, что, ли, потому́ что**
11	Word order and sentence types	**new information last; ни-word + не**

A short text

Read the text aloud, then study the table below it, which names every form.

Вчера́

Вчера´ я шёл домо´й, слу´шая му´зыку. Когда´ я пришёл, мой друг, кото´рый живёт ря´дом, уже´ ждал меня´.

Yesterday I was walking home, listening to music. When I arrived, my friend, who lives nearby, was already waiting for me.

Он сказа´л, что´бы я позвони´л ма´ме. Я позвони´л и узна´л, что она´ прие´дет в пя´тницу.

He told me to ring my mother. I rang and found out that she will arrive on Friday.

Е´сли бы я знал ра´ньше, я бы купи´л пода´рок. Никто´ не зна´л об э´том.

If I had known earlier, I would have bought a present. Nobody knew about it.

IN THE TEXT	WHAT IT IS	CHAPTER
шёл	unidirectional motion verb, past	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 1
слу́шая му́зыку	imperfective gerund, “while”	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 9
пришёл	prefixed motion verb, perfective	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 3
друг, кото́рый живёт ря́дом	relative clause, nominative	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 10
ждал меня́	*ждать* + accusative of a person	Russian Grammar 3, Chapter 10
сказа́л, что́бы я позвони́л ма́ме	*что́бы* + past (a request); *звони́ть* + dative	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 6
узна́л, что она́ прие́дет	reported speech keeps the future tense	Russian Grammar 4, Chapters 3 and 10
Е́сли бы я знал, я бы купи́л	unreal condition	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 5
Никто́ не зна́л	double negative	Russian Grammar 4, Chapter 11

The most common errors

WRONG	RIGHT	WHY
Сейчас я хожу в магазин.	**Сейча́с я иду́ в магази́н.**	one trip now needs the unidirectional verb (Chapter 1)
Я иду в врача.	**Я иду́ к врачу́.**	a person takes *к* + dative (Chapter 4)

WRONG	RIGHT	WHY
Если бы я буду знать…	**Е́сли бы я знал…**	after *е́сли бы* the past form (Chapter 5)
Я хочу тебя прийти.	**Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл.**	a new subject needs *что́бы* + past (Chapter 6)
Идя домой, начался дождь.	**Когда́ я шёл домо́й, начался́ дождь.**	a gerund needs the same subject (Chapter 9)
Книга, которая я читаю.	**Кни́га, кото́рую я чита́ю.**	case from the clause (Chapter 10)
Я ничего знаю.	**Я ничего́ не зна́ю.**	the double negative is required (Chapter 11)

Mixed practice

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

1. Say in Russian: “I am walking to school now.”

▼ Show answer

Сейча́с я иду́ в шко́лу.

2. Say in Russian: “I am going to the doctor.” (on foot)

▼ Show answer

Я иду́ к врачу́.

3. Say in Russian: “I shall arrive on Friday.” (by vehicle)

▼ Show answer

Я прие́ду в пя́тницу. Perfective: future meaning.

4. Say in Russian: “If I had time, I would go.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Е́сли бы у меня́ бы́ло вре́мя, я бы пошёл.

5. Say in Russian: “I want you to come.” (to a man)

▼ Show answer

Я хочу́, что́бы ты пришёл.

6. Say in Russian: “the student reading a book”. Use a participle.

▼ Show answer

студе́нт, чита́ющий кни́гу.

7. Say in Russian: “The shop is closed.”

▼ Show answer

Магази́н закры́т.

8. Say in Russian: “Having returned home, I rang a friend.” (a man speaking)

▼ Show answer

Верну́вшись домо́й, я позвони́л дру́гу.

9. Say in Russian: “the book I am reading”.

▼ Show answer

кни́га, кото́рую я чита́ю.

10. Say in Russian: “I know nothing.”

▼ Show answer

Я ничего́ не зна́ю.

Where to go next

There is no further Russian grammar course. The best next step is **reading**: short texts, simplified readers and news items, where you can spot participles, gerunds and *кото́рый* clauses at work. Return to the course chapters when a form puzzles you: each has a quick-reference table and its own check list. For practice in speech, revisit Russian Basic Conversation 1 to 4.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-17): only the general point that English speakers often trip over the unidirectional / multidirectional split of the verbs of motion, over treating aspect as a minor detail, over cases, and over carrying English prepositions into Russian (sources: elon.io: verbs of motion overview, italki: aspect in Russian, italki: common mistakes of English speakers, polyglottistlanguageacademy.com: common grammar mistakes, gw2ru: why foreigners struggle with Russian verbs, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). The search found nothing on double negatives or *чтобы*.

Not covered by the search, from general knowledge: everything else. The summary tables repeat material from Chapters 1 to 11, and each of those chapters has its own verification box, which says what was and was not checked. The reading text, the table of forms, the list of errors, the stress marks and the exercises were written for this course. No dictionary was consulted. A dictionary or a native speaker should be the final check on every form in this course, especially the participles, gerunds and irregular verb forms.

Course complete. This was the last Russian grammar course. Reading, and a revisit of the Basic Conversation courses, are the next steps.