

# **RUSSIAN**

BASIC COURSE

## THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET

- It is known as Cyrillic alphabet;
- there are 33 letters: 11 vowels - 20 consonants - 2 pronunciation signs.
- some letters look usual to European alphabet, but have different sounds; other ones are unusual but have familiar sounds

### **Some important remarks:**

#### **NO SOUND LETTERS**

- ✓ - 2 letters have no sound on their own, but are still considered letters:

**Б** --> the "hard sign" is rarely used. It indicates a slight pause between syllables

**б** --> the "soft sign" makes the previous letter "soft" Think of the "p" sound in the word "pew" (try infecting a very slight "y" sound onto letter before it)

#### **VOWELS**

- ✓ - There are 2 forms of vowel: soft and hard. The first ones are pronounced as it is sound "e" before them (Я - Е - Ю - Ё); the second ones as they are (А - Э - У - О)

#### **SPELLING RULE 1**

- ✓ - You should keep in mind: never write Ъ, Ю, or Я after the letters Г, К, Ж, Х, Ч, Ш, Щ instead use И, У, А.

#### **ABOUT STRESS**

- ✓ in some words it's important to know which syllable is stressed, this is because the letter "o" is pronounced very differently depending on whether it's stressed or not:

Stressed O --> it is pronounced as "O"

Not stresses O --> it is pronounced as "A"

## THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET

А Б В Г Д Е  
Ё Ж З И Й К  
Л М Н О П Р  
С Т У Ф Х Ц  
Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ь  
Э Ю Я

Complete the following words with correct letter!

СКОЛЬК\_

КО\_ДА

ПО\_ЕМУ

\_ЕТ

РУССКИЙ ЯЗ\_К

Complete the following words with correct letter!

ОЧЕНЬ ПРИ\_ТНО

Р\_ЧКА

УЧИТЕЛ\_

СТУ\_ЕНТ

ГОВОР\_ТЬ

## QUESTION WORDS IN RUSSIAN

In Russian there are a number of words used to form questions. When you ask a yes/no question it is formed the same was a statement (there is no equivalent of words "do", "are"). When you are speaking Russian you should use a rising questioning tone.

**Что ?** - What?

**Как?** - How?

**Сколько?** - How many?

**Кто?** - Who?

**Почему?** - Why?

**Когда?** - When?

**Где?** - Where? (Used when you are searching for something. "Where is the bank?")

**Куда?** - (to) Where? (Indicates motion towards something. "Where are you going?")

**Откуда?** (from) Where? (Indicates motion away from something. "Where are you coming from?")

**Какой?** (m), **Какая?** (f), **Какое?** (n), **Какие?** (pl) = Which? What sort of?

**Чей?** (m), **Чья?** (f), **Чьё?** (n), **Чьи?** (pl) - Whose?

### NOTES:

- 1) Where gender is shown, the word should agree with the noun it relates to;
- 2) The word **Какой** declines like a stressed adjective, so it must also agree in case.
- 3) The words **Что?** and **Кто?** Have different forms I different cases.

## GENDER OF RUSSIAN NOUN

- ✓ In Russian, each noun is assigned a gender;
- ✓ Russian has 3 genders: masculine / feminine/ neuter
- ✓ For masculine, attention to words related to physical meaning or no physical meaning
- ✓ It is almost always possible to recognize gender by the spelling
- ✓ Each gender is subjected to change mets at the final part of the word. It determines the complement. There are the rules of the cases! --> by changing the final part of the word, a new complement is formed. The cases in Russian are 6: NOMINATIVE - GENITIVE - DATIVE - ACCUSATIVE - INSTRUMENTAL - PREPOSITIONAL
- ✓ The last letter of the word indicates the gender:
  - ☐ If it is a consonant, or Ъ the word is masculine
  - ☐ if it is "А" or "Я" it is feminine
  - ☐ if it is "О" or "Ё" it is neuter
  - ☐ if it is sign "Ь" then it could be either masculine or feminine
  - ☐ Exceptions

### NOTES

1) "CASES" are a grammar way of determining what a noun does in a sentence. In English we do this by having a strict word-order;

## CASES IN RUSSIAN

- ✓ Russian grammar uses the case system
- ✓ The subject of the sentence could not be placed as the first noun (VS EN: it makes no sense to swap the position of the word - the meaning could be completely changed!). In RU, it is possible to change the order of the words, and still keep the same meaning. Changes of order could simply help to EMPHASISE something. The Russian word position is not important because the meaning of a sentence is indicated by its case
- ✓ To indicate each case we change the ending of word. Example:

"Ivan gives Peter's pen to Anna" --> **Иван даёт ручку Пётра Анне**

**NOMINATIVE CASE:** the subject of a sentence (Ivan) [WHAT? WHO?]

**GENITIVE CASE:** indicates ownership (Peter's) [WHOM?] --> the object that is owned always come first

**DATIVE CASE:** the indirect object of the sentence (to whom - to Anna) [TO WHAT? TO WHOM?]

**ACCUSATIVE CASE:** the object of a sentence (pen) [WHAT?]

**INSTRUMENTAL CASE:** indicates "with" or "by means of" [BY/WITH WHAT/WHOM?]

**PREPOSITIONAL CASE:** used after certain prepositions (in - on - at - about) [IN/AT/ABOUT WHAT/WHOM?]



## CASES IN RUSSIAN

Let's see how cases work with different noun gender:

### MASCULINE sing. - ИБАН

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Nominative case:    | ИБАН    |
| GENITIVE case:      | ИБАНА   |
| DATIVE case:        | ИБАНУ   |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ИБАНА * |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | ИБАНОМ  |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ИБАНЕ   |

### FEMININE sing - АННА

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| NOMINATIVE case:    | АННА  |
| GENITIVE case:      | АННЫ  |
| DATIVE case:        | АННЕ  |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | АННУ  |
| Instrumental case:  | АННОЙ |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | АННЕ  |

### NEUTRAL sing

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Nominative case:    | ОКНО  |
| GENITIVE case:      | ОКНА  |
| DATIVE case:        | ОКНУ  |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ОКНО  |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | ОКНОМ |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ОКНЕ  |

### MASC AND FEMIN (plur)

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Nominative case:    | -Ы            |
| GENITIVE case:      | -ОВ / -ЕЙ     |
| DATIVE case:        | -АМ           |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | -Ы / -ОВ. -ЕЙ |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | -АМИ          |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | -АХ           |

## CASES IN RUSSIAN - when a noun ending with - Ъ - Я -Е

Let's see how cases work thin different noun gender:

### MASCULINE sing. УЧИТЕЛЬ

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Nominative case:    | УЧИТЕЛЬ   |
| GENITIVE case:      | УЧИТЕЛЯ   |
| DATIVE case:        | УЧИТЕЛЮ   |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | УЧИТЕЛЯ * |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | УЧИТЕЛЕМ  |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | УЧИТЕЛЕ   |

### FEMININE sing БАШНЯ

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| NOMINATIVE case:    | БАШНЯ  |
| GENITIVE case:      | БАШНИ  |
| DATIVE case:        | БАШНЕ  |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | БАШНЮ  |
| Instrumental case:  | БАШНЕЙ |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | БАШНЕ  |

### NEUTRAL sing

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Nominative case:    | МОЕ  |
| GENITIVE case:      | МОЯ  |
| DATIVE case:        | МОЮ  |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | МОЕ  |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | МОЕМ |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | МОЕ  |

### MASC AND FEMIN (plur)

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Nominative case:    | -И / - Я       |
| GENITIVE case:      | -ЕВ / - ЕЙ     |
| DATIVE case:        | -ЯМ            |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | -И / - ЕВ - ЕЙ |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | -ЯМИ           |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | -ЯХ            |

## PREPOSITIONS IN RUSSIAN

As follow, there are the most udes prepositions in Russian:

ИЗ - В - НА - ОТ - К - У - С - О/ОБ - ДЛЯ - ЗА - НАД - ПОД - МЕЖДУ

### Which cases they need?

NOMINATIVE CASE: no preposition (articles do not exist in Russian!)

GENITIVE CASE: ИЗ - У - ДЛЯ - ОТ -

DATIVE CASE: К

ACCUSATIVE CASE: НА - В (ACCUSATIVE also for moving states - TO)

INSTRUMENTAL CASE: indicates "with" or "by means of"

PREPOSITIONAL CASE: НА - В - О/ОБ (PREPOSITIONAL also for NO moving states - IN/AT)

### NOTES

1) The word "в" (in) is used to replace the English word "at", when you are referring to enclosed spaces.

2) the word "на" (on - at) replaces the English word "at" when you are talking open spaces or places that were traditionally open spaces.

## RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: PLEASE AND THANK YOU

The two most important words you will learn in Russian are "please" and "thank you".

- СПАСИБО - thank you
- ПОЖАЛУЙСТА - Please ( and "Welcome", after somebody says thank you)

## RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: YES AND NO

- ДА - yes
- НЕТ - no

## RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: HELLO

- ЗДРАВСТВУЙТЕ - hello (formal)
- ПРИВЕТ - hi (informal)

## RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: INTRODUCING YOURSELF

- МЕНЯ ЗОВУТ... - my name is...
- КАК ВАС ЗОВУТ? - what's your name?
- ОЧЕНЬ ПРИЯТНО ПОЗНАКОМИТЬСЯ - pleased to meet you.

## RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: HOW ARE YOU

- КАК ДЕЛА? - how are you?
- ХОРОШО СПАСИБО - good, thank you
- ТАК СЕБЕ - so and so

## PREPOSITIONS IN RUSSIAN

### MOVEMENTS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH PREPOSITION OF PLACE:

#### ОТ-КУДА?

Answers: ИЗ Рима - ОТ брата

#### КУДА?

Answers: В Рим/ НА почту - К брату

#### ГДЕ?

Answers: В Риме/ НА почте - У брата

# CASES IN Russian : PRONOUNS

We use the GENITIVE case to create a way of saying "to have" or not to have". To create these sentences you use the word "У" (by/near) and "ЕСТЬ" (exist/is) --> У МЕНЯ ЕСТЬ КНИГА / У МЕНЯ НЕТ КНИГИ

## THE NOMINATIVE CASE (The subject of a sentence)

Я - I  
ТЫ - you  
ОН - he  
ОНА - she  
ОНО - it  
МЫ - we  
ВЫ - you  
ОНИ - they

## THE GENITIVE CASE \*

МЕНЯ - me  
ТЕБЯ - you  
ЕГО - him  
ЕЁ - her  
ЕГО - its  
НАС - us  
ВАС - you  
ИХ - them

We use the GENITIVE also after numbers:  
1-4 --> GENITIVE sing /  
5-on --> GENITIVE pl.

## THE DATIVE CASE

МНЕ - me  
ТЕБЕ - you  
ЕМУ - him  
ЕЙ - her  
ЕМУ - its  
НАМ us  
ВАМ - you  
ИМ them

We use the DATIVE case  
1) after the verbs "ПОМОГАТЬ" (to help) and "СОВЕТОВАТЬ" (to advice)  
2) with verb "НРАВИТЬСЯ" (to like)  
3) with "НУЖЕН" (to need) --> the word you would expect as the subject, is used in the dative)  
4) To express your age

## THE ACCUSATIVE CASE

МЕНЯ - me  
ТЕБЯ - you  
ЕГО - him  
ЕЁ - her  
ЕГО - its  
НАС - us  
ВАС - you  
ИХ - them

## THE INSTRUMENTAL CASE

МНОЙ - me  
ТОБОЙ - you  
ИМ - him  
ЕЙ - her  
ИМ - it  
НАМИ - us  
ВАМИ - you  
ИМ И - them

## THE PREPOSITIONAL CASE

МНЕ - me  
ТЕБЕ - you  
НЁМ - him  
НЕЙ - her  
НЁМ - it  
НАС - us  
ВАС - you  
НИХ - them

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- НЕТ - no

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- ХОРОШО СПАСИБО - good, thank you
- ТАК СЕБЕ - so and so

### RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: **GOOD BYE**

- ДО СВИДАНИЯ (formal) - good bye
- ПОКА (informal) - bye

### RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: **ASK TO SOMEONE ABOUT SOMETHING**

- СКАЖИТЕ ПОЖАЛУЙСТА.. - tell me please
- ВЫ ЗНАЕТЕ КАК... - do you know how...
- КАК Я МОГУ... - how can I....

### RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: **PLEASE GIVE ME...**

- ДАЙТЕ МНЕ ПОЖАЛУЙСТА... - give me please
- ПРИНОСИТЕ МНЕ ПОЖАЛУЙСТА... - bring me please...

### RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: **WHAT IS THIS?**

- ЧТО ЭТО? - what is this?
- ПРОСТИТЕ ЭТО....? - excuse me, is this...?

### RUSSIAN EXPRESSIONS: **HOW MUCH?**

- СКОЛЬКО? - how much?/ how many?
- СКОЛЬКО СТОИТ? - how much does it cost?
- ТАК СЕБЕ -



## CASES IN RUSSIAN : the **ADJECTIVE**

Let's see how cases work thin different noun gender:

### **MASCULINE sing. ДОБРЫЙ**

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Nominative case:    | ДОБРЫЙ        |
| GENITIVE case:      | ДОБРОГО       |
| DATIVE case:        | ДОБРОМУ       |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ДОБРЫЙ / ОГО* |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | ДОБРЫМ        |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ДОБРОМ        |

### **FEMININE sing ДОБРАЯ**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| NOMINATIVE case:    | ДОБРАЯ |
| GENITIVE case:      | ДОБРОЙ |
| DATIVE case:        | ДОБРОЙ |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ДОБРУЮ |
| Instrumental case:  | ДОБРОЙ |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ДОБРОЙ |

### **NEUTRAL sing**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Nominative case:    | ДОБРОЕ  |
| GENITIVE case:      | ДОБРОГО |
| DATIVE case:        | ДОБРОМУ |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ДОБРОЕ  |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | ДОБРЫМ  |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ДОБРОМ  |

### **MASC AND FEMIN (plur)**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Nominative case:    | -ЫЕ        |
| GENITIVE case:      | -ЫХ        |
| DATIVE case:        | -ЫМ        |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | -ЫЕ / - ЫХ |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | -ЫМИ       |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | -ЫХ        |

## CASES IN RUSSIAN : the **ADJECTIVE** with letters - Ш - Щ - Х - Ж - В - Ц before ending

Let's see how cases work thin different noun gender:

### **MASCULINE sing. ДОБРЫЙ**

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Nominative case:    | ДОБРЫЙ        |
| GENITIVE case:      | ДОБРОГО       |
| DATIVE case:        | ДОБРОМУ       |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ДОБРЫЙ / ОГО* |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | ДОБРЫМ        |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ДОБРОМ        |

### **FEMININE sing ДОБРАЯ**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| NOMINATIVE case:    | ДОБРАЯ |
| GENITIVE case:      | ДОБРОЙ |
| DATIVE case:        | ДОБРОЙ |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | ДОБРУЮ |
| Instrumental case:  | ДОБРОЙ |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | ДОБРОЙ |

### **MASC AND FEMIN (plur)**

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Nominative case:    | -ЫЕ       |
| GENITIVE case:      | -ЫХ       |
| DATIVE case:        | -ЫМ       |
| ACCUSATIVE case:    | -ЫЕ / -ЫХ |
| INSTRUMENTAL case:  | -ЫМИ      |
| PREPOSITIONAL case: | -ЫХ       |

It is always important to **AGREE** adjective and noun following the same case!

Ex: Я говорю с добрым человеком

Ex: Я пишу доброй подруге

Ex: Я говорю по-русски с хорошей подругой

Ex: Мы встречаем наших студентов

Придумайте дополнительные примеры... :)