

Russian Grammar Reference Guide

Cases and Functions

Case	Function	Question
Nominative	Subject of the sentence	кто? что?
Genitive	The 'of' case: Possession, Quantity & Negation	кого? чего?*
Dative	The 'to/for' case: Indirect object, Recipient	кому? чему?
Accusative	Direct object	кого? что?
Instrumental	The 'by/with' case: Means of doing something	чем? чем?
Prepositional	The 'at/about' case: Location	о ком? о чём? где?

Nominative Case

Gender	Nouns	Adjectives	Possessives
Male	<i>const.</i> , й	ый ий ой	Мой Твой Наш Ваш
Female	а ог я	ая яя	Моя Твоя Наша Ваша
Neuter	о ог е	ое ее	Моё Твоё Наше Ваше
Plural	ы; й а я > ы; ь > и; о > а; е > я;	ый ой > ые; ий > ие	Мои Твои Наши Ваши

Именительный падеж

The nominative case is the default case of a word, as found in dictionaries and when no other case is specifically used. It is also used for the subject of a sentence: in "Bob eats lunch", Bob is the subject of the sentence, so would be in its default nominative form.

Accusative Case

Gender	Nouns	Adjectives	Possessives
M object	<i>As nom.</i>	<i>As nom.</i>	<i>As nom.</i>
M alive	<i>As gen.</i>	<i>As gen.</i>	<i>As gen.</i>
Female	а > у я > ю	ая > ую яя > юю	Мою Твою Нашу Вашу
Neuter	<i>As nom.</i>	<i>As nom.</i>	<i>As nom.</i>
Pl obj	<i>As nom.</i>	<i>As nom.</i>	<i>As nom.</i>
Pl alive	<i>As gen.</i>	<i>As gen.</i>	<i>As gen.</i>

Винительный падеж

The accusative case is used for the direct object of a verb. In "Bob eats lunch," "lunch" is the direct object.

NB! Masculine nouns denoting people or animals (i.e., animate nouns) take their genitive form, while neuter nouns and inanimate masculine nouns take their nominative form. Plural nouns of any gender take their nominative plural form if inanimate, or their genitive plural form if animate.

Prepositional Case

Gender	Nouns	Adjectives	Possessives
Male / Neuter	е	ом ем	Моём Твоём Нашем Вашем
Female	а, я > е ь > и	ой ей	Моей Твоей Нашей Вашей
Plural	<i>const.</i> , о, а > ах й, е, я > ях	ых их	Моих Твоих наших Ваших

Предложный падеж

в (in), на (on), and о/обо (about; it's обо in the phrase "about me" or "about my").

Commonly used to denote a sentence's object's location or an activity. However, these prepositions can also call other cases, in which case their meaning changes. For instance, в + prep means 'in', as in, "I live in England". в + acc, however, means 'into' or 'to', as in, "I'm flying to New York".

Genitive Case

Gender	Nouns	Adjectives	Possessives
Male/ Neuter	<i>const.</i> , о > а; й, е, ь > я	ого его	Моёго Твоего Нашего Вашего
Female	а > ы ь, я > и	ой ей	Моей Твоей Нашей Вашей
Plural	ов, ев, ей	ых их	Моих Твоих наших Ваших

Родительный падеж

- Counting - When counting objects ("I have six sheep"), the thing being enumerated is usually put in the genitive case.
- Possession - If something is owned by something else, the owner is in the genitive case.
- Negation - To say something is there, we generally use the nominative case. If it isn't there, we use нет followed by the genitive.
- Prepositions - Locations (in/on/ne-ar/-etc); Also used for "I have"

Dative Case

Gender	Nouns	Adjectives	Possessives
Male/ Neuter	<i>const.</i> , о > у й, е, ь > ю	ому ему	Моему Твоему Нашему Вашему
Female	а > е я, ь > и	ой ей	Моей Твоей Нашей Вашей
Plural	<i>const.</i> , о, а > ам й, е, я > ям	ым им	Моим Твоим Нашим Вашим

Дательный падеж

The dative case is used to denote indirect objects, which are objects that indicate "to whom", or "to what" an action is done. So in the sentence, "I am writing a letter to you", "(a) letter-" is the direct object of the verb, while "(to) you" is the indirect object.

Instrumental Case

Gender	Nouns	Adjectives	Possessives
Male/Neutral	ом ем ём	ым им	Моим Твоим Нашим Вашим
Female	ой ей ёй	ой ей	Моей Твоей Нашей Вашей
Plural	const., о, а > ыми ами й, е, я > ями	ыми ими	Моими Твоими Нашими Вашими

Творительный падеж

- a) The instru-mental case is used to denote the object by which something is done.
b) with под ('under') над ('abov-e-'/on top of') за ('behind') между ('betw-een'), and перед ('befo-re-'/in front of').

Verb Conjugation

Person	I conj others	II conj
Я ('I')	у/ю	у/ю
Ты ('You')	ешь	ишь
Он/она/оно ('Him/Her/It')	ет	ит
Мы ('We')	ем	им
Вы ('You')	ете	ите
Они ('Them')	ут/ют	ат/ят

Note:

"to ..." is the infinitive of a verb, and keeps the -тъ, while "I am ..." requires conjug-ation

Pronouns

I	Я	Me	Меня
You	Ты	You(informal)	Тебя
He, It (m)	Он	Him, It (m,n)	Его
She, It (f)	Она	Her, It (f)	Её
It	Оно		
We	Мы	Us	Нас
You (formal/plural)	Вы	You (formal/plural)	Вас
They	Они	Them	Их

Вы is used as the formal singular "-you-", and the plural "-you-" (slang: "-you-s" or "you all") when talking to more than one person.