

NOTES AND HELPS TO RUSSIAN GRAMMAR
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INDEX TO GRAMMAR HELPS

- 1 Russian Vowels**
- 3 Russian Consonants**
- 6 Voicing Assimilations**
- 8 Spelling Rules**
- 9 Consonantal Alternations**
- 11 Transliteration Systems**

- 12 Noun Paradigms:** портфель, конь
- 13 Masc plurals in stressed -a**
- 14 Врач, душ, отец, месяц**
- 15 Музей, гений, воробей**
- 16 Англичанин**
- 17 Телёнок**
- 18 Fem nouns:** комната, женщина
- 19 неделя, няня**
- 20 армия**
- 21 фея, статуя**
- 21а статья, семья**
- 22 3d Declension** тетрадь, дверь, лошадь
- 23 Neuter nouns:** слово, здание
- 24 имя**
- 25 Пушкин, Пушкина, Пушкины, Лермонтов**
- 26 мать, дочь, отец, брат, сестра, сын**

- 27 Underlying ё**

- 27 The Spelling of Jot
- 29 The Mobile Vowel
- 31 Exercises for Mobile Vowel and Jot
- 32 Formation of the Genitive Plural

36 Adjectives: новый

- 37 Молодой, тихий
- 38 синий
- 39 свежий, хороший, болюшой
- 39a Jot-stem Modifiers: чей, третий, божий, медвежий
- 40 Formation of Short Form Adjectives
- 42 Use of Short Form Adjectives
- 43 Semantics of Long and Short Forms
- 45 Comparison of Adjectives
- 46 Synthetic Comparatives
- 48 Use of Synthetic Comparatives
- 49 Comparatives and Superlatives

52 Declension of Pronouns: я ты он она оно мы вы оно себя

- 53 Possessive Pronouns: мой твой свой наш ваш
- 54 кто что никто кто–то что–то
- 55 этот тот
- 56 сам, весь, чей

57 Numerals: один, два, три, четыре, оба, пять, двадцать

- 58 40 – 1000

59 Syntax of Numerals

60 Numerals with Counted Nouns

61 Use of Collectives: Natural Pairs, Pluralia Tantum

64 Some Noun Phrases in Paradigms

68 Prepositions with the Genitive, Dative

69 Accusative, Instrumental, Prepositional

70 Use of Cases with Prepositions

71 У меня (есть) Constructions

75 Relative Clauses: который, кто, что

76 Который

77 Whose

78 Negation

80 'There is no place for me to go' expressions

81 Indefinite Pronouns and adverbs

82 'Ever' - ни

84 Basic Classification of Verbal Conjugation

88 Verbs of Motion

89 Prefixed Verbs of Motion

91 Participles and Gerunds

92 Active participles

94 Passive long-form participles

95 Thoughts on the Passive Voice in Russian

96 Passive short-form participles

97 Formation of the Passive and Passive Participles

98 The past pass participles

100 Exercises

101 Adjectives that act like Passive Parts: *готовый, похожий, довольный*

102 Exercises

102 Verbal Adverbs (Gerunds)

104 Formation

106 Exercises

107 Conditions

109 Reflexive Verbs

110 Impersonal reflexives

111 Passive reflexives; middle voice

112 Idiomatic reflexives, true reflexives

113 Reciprocals

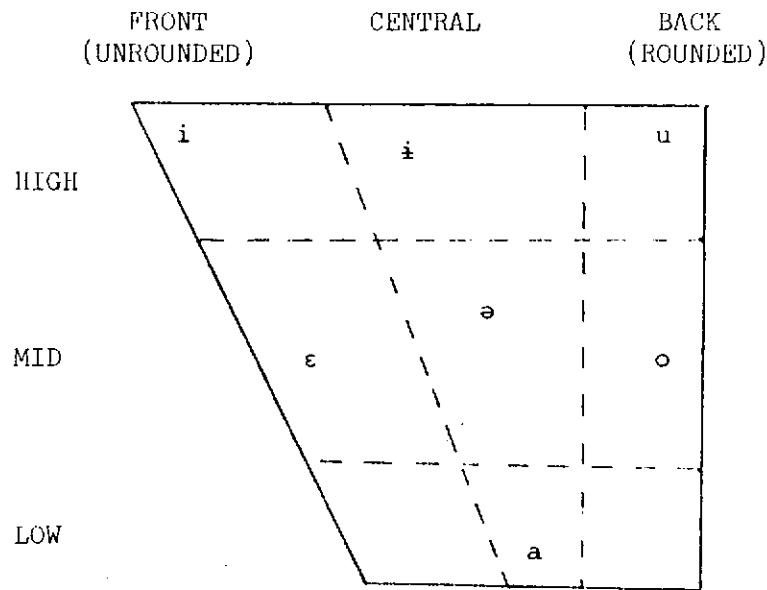
114 General Characteristic; intensification

115 More semantic varieties

117 Verbs of Position in Space -- Lie, sit, stand, put to lie, to sit, to stand

118 Conjugations of Position Verbs

- 5 -

RUSSIAN VOWELS

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RUSSIAN VOWELS

а э о у ю
я е ё ю и

Vowel sounds (under stress) are represented by the following letters in the Russian alphabet:

[i]	а, я
[e]	э, е
[o]	о, ё
[u]	у, ю
[i]	и
[ɨ]	ы

1. Russian vowels under stress are as follows:

[i] [ɨ] [u]
[e] [o]
[a]

2. In absolute initial position, and in the first pretonic position, not after a soft consonant:



3. In all other unstressed positions, not after a soft consonant:



4. In all unstressed positions, after a soft consonant:



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CHART OF RUSSIAN CONSONANTS

	labial	labiodental	dental	aveolar	palatal	velar
nasal	m ²			n ²		
stop	p ² b ²		t ² d ²			k ² g ²
fricative		f ² v ²	s ² z ²	š ū ū:	ç ÿ ÿ:	x ² y ²
affricate			c dz		č đž	
approximant					r ² j	
lateral					l ²	

Chart of Palatalized (Soft) Consonants

	labial	labiodental	dental	aveolar	palatal	velar
nasal	m		b			
stop	p b		t d			k ū
fricative		f v	s ū	š ū ū:	ç ÿ	
affricate				č đž		
approximant				r j		
lateral				l		

Chart of Unpaired Consonants

	labial	labiodental	dental	aveolar	palatal	velar
				w		
				n		
				u:		
				u:		
			c dz		č đž	
						j
				o o o	13	

ARTICULATION OF RUSSIAN CONSONANTS

Place of Articulation

Labials: [p] [p,] [b] [b,] [m] [m,]

Labio-dentals: [f] [f,] [v] [v,]

Dentals: [t] [t,] [d] [d,] [s] [s,] [z] [z,] [š] [ž] [c] [dz] [n] [n,] [x] [x,] [l] [l,

Palatals: [č] [dž] [š,:] [ž,:] [j]

Velars: [k] [k,] [g] [g,] [x] [x,] [γ] [γ,]

Manner of Articulation

Stops (Plosives): [p] [p,] [b] [b,] [m] [m,] [t] [t,] [d] [d,] [n] [n,] [k] [k,] [g] [g,]

Fricatives: [f] [f,] [v] [v,] [s] [s,] [z] [z,] [š] [ž] [š,:] [ž,:] [x] [x,] [γ] [γ,]

Affricates: [c] [dz] [č] [dž]

Laterals: [r] [r,] [l] [l,] [j]

RUSSIAN CONSONANTS

Below are listed the Russian consonantal sounds with their usual representation in the Russian alphabet:

[p]	п	[c]	ц	(always hard)
[p,]	п	[dz]*	ц	(always hard)
[b]	б	[n]	н	
[b,]	б	[n,]	н	
[m]	м	[r]	р	
[m,]	м	[r,]	р	
[f]	ф	[l]	л	
[f,]	ф	[l,]	л	
[v]	в	[č]	ч	(always soft)
[v,]	в	[dž]*	ч	(always soft)
[t]	т	[š, :]	щ	(always soft)
[t,]	т	[ž, :]*	щ	(always soft)
[d]	д	[j]	й	(always soft)
[d,]	д			
[s]	с	[k]	к	
[s,]	с	[k,]	к	
[z]	з	[g]	г	
[z,]	з	[g,]	г	
[š]	ш (always hard)	[x]	х	
[ž]	ж (always hard)	[x,]	х	
		[γ]*	х	
		[γ,]*	х	

The four sounds marked by an asterisk have no separate letter to designate them. They are represented by their devoiced counterparts.

VOICING / DEVOICING ASSIMILATIONSObstruents

devoiced [p] [p,] [f] [f,] [t] [t,] [s] [s,] [š] [c] [č] [š,:] [k] [k,] [x] [x,]
 voiced [b] [b,] [v] [v,] [d] [d,] [z] [z,] [ž] [dž][dž] [ž,:] [g] [g,] [γ] [γ,]

Notes

1. All obstruents have hard/soft counterparts, except the following:
 [c] [dž] [š] [ž] are always hard. [č] [dž] [š,:] [ž,:] are always soft.
2. At the end of words voiced obstruents devoice, e.g.
 боб [bor], сад [sat], мозг [mosk]
3. Word-internally assimilations are regressive, i.e. from right to left.
 So voiced + devoiced becomes devoiced + devoiced, e.g.
 слáдкий [slátk,ij], вчера́ [fčirá]
 And devoiced + voiced becomes voiced + voiced, e.g.
 та́кже [tágžə], прóсьба [próz,bə]

Resonants

[m] [m,] [n] [n,] [r] [r,] [l] [l,] [j] [v] [v,] /see note 3/

Notes

1. All resonants are voiced.
2. The resonants play no part in assimilations. They are not affected themselves, nor do they affect adjoining consonants, e.g.
 смолá [smalá], слон [slon], злой [zloj], книга [kn,ígə], гнатъ [gnat,]
3. в [v] [v,] are resonants when they are the last member of a cluster (going from left to right!), otherwise they are obstruents, e.g.
 свет [s,v,et], but вчера́ [fčirá]

RUSSIAN DIPHTHONGS

The only diphthongs in Russian are formed by adding [j] (always й in writing) to one of the seven vowels, i.e.

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. [aj] | ай / яй | <u>дай</u> / <u>негодяй</u> |
| 2. [ej] | эй / ей | <u>эй!</u> / <u>пей</u> |
| 3. [oj] | ой / ёй | <u>стой</u> / <u>землёй</u> |
| 4. [ij] | ий | <u>кий</u> |
| 5. [ɛj] | ый (иЙ) | <u>выйду</u> (хороший) |
| 6. [uj] | уй / юй | <u>дуй</u> / <u>дюйм</u> |
| 7. [əj] | (usually by ай or ой, not under stress, e.g.
дéлай / дáмой.) | |

Note:

When two vowels occur together, both are pronounced, e.g.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Foreign words: | <u>Аэрофлóт</u> , <u>пиáно</u> , <u>тротуár</u> |
| On a boundary: | <u>вообщé</u> , <u>наоборót</u> |
| With intervening [j]: | <u>дóбрай</u> , <u>дóброе</u> , <u>дóбрые</u>
<u>сíняя</u> , <u>сíнее</u> , <u>сíние</u>
(but no [j] with и: <u>в Россíи</u>) |

SPELLING RULES

A. Distribution of я/я, ю/ю, и/и

1. After я, ю, и, и do not write: я, ю, и
write: я, ю, и
2. After и do not write: я, ю
write: я, ю
In case endings, write: я e.g. отцы (nom. pl.)
otherwise write: и e.g. цирк (circus)
3. After я, ю, и do not write: я, ю, и
write: я, ю, и

B. Distribution of е/o (under stress)

1. After я, ю, и, и
 - a. In noun, adjective and adverb endings always write о
e.g. пахом, карандашом, свечой, плющом
большого, чужого
свеко, горячо
 - b. In verb endings always write е
e.g. течёт, лжёт
 - c. In roots write е if other words from the same root have е
e.g. жена:жёна, чернёто:чёрный, шёлк:шелкá
otherwise write о
e.g. крижбенник

I think it is safe to say that nouns of fixed stem stress have о

- d. cf. подход, arson and поджег, he set fire to.

2. After и under stress in endings and suffixes always write о
e.g. концом, отцом
Also in roots always write о
e.g. чокатъ

C. Distribution of е/o

1. After я, ю, и, и, и in unstressed endings, write е
e.g. пейзажем cf. пахом
хорбшего cf. большого
пальцем cf. отцом
плачем cf. мячом

CONSONANTAL ALTERNATIONS

Labials: п > пл

б > бл

ф > фл

в > вл

м > мл

Dentals: т > ч, щ (OCS)

д > ж, жд (OCS)

с > ш

з > ж

н > н'

р > р'

л > л'

Velars: к > ч, ц

г > ж, (з)

х > ш, (с)

Clusters: ст > щ

ск > щ

Also note the following:

т } before т > ст
д }

e.g. мету, мести < тт

веду, вести < дт

American Transliteration of Russian

The preference of the University of Chicago Press, for general use, is the system of the United States Board on Geographic Names. Regardless of the system of transliteration, however, well-known Russian names should be given in the form in which they have become familiar to English-speaking readers: that is, the spellings of *Webster's Biographical Dictionary* and the *Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer* or *Webster's Geographical Dictionary* should prevail:

Tchaikovsky Chekhov Catherine the Great
 Moscow Nizhni Novgorod (Gorki) Dnieper

TABLE 9.1: TRANSLITERATION OF RUSSIAN

CYRILLIC ALPHABET		U.S. BOARD ON GEO- GRAPHIC NAMES	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS	"LINGUISTIC" SYSTEM
Upright	Cursive			
А а	А а	а		
Б б	Б б	б		
В в	В в	в		
Г г	Г г	г		
Д д	Д д	д		
Е е ¹	Е е	е		e
Ё ё ²	Ё ё	ё	é	é, ё
Ж ж	Ж ж	ж	zh	z
З з	З з	з	z	
И и	И и	и	i	
Й ий	Й ий	ий	y	j
К к	К к	к	k	
Л л	Л л	л	l	
М м	М м	м	m	
Н н	Н н	н	n	
О о	О о	о	o	
П п	П п	р	r	
Р р	Р р	р	r	
С с	С с	с	s	
Т т	Т т	т	t	
У у	У у	у	u	
Ф ф	Ф ф	ф	f	
Х х	Х х	х	kh	x, ch
Ц ц	Ц ц	ц	ts	c
Ч ч	Ч ч	ч	ch	č
Ш ш	Ш ш	ш	sh	s
Щ щ	Щ щ	щ	shch	šč
Ъ ъ ³	Ъ ъ	ъ	"	"
Ы ы ³	Ы ы	ы	y	
Ь ь ³	Ь ь	ь	,	,
Э э	Э э	э	e	è
Ю ю	Ю ю	ю	yu	ju
Я я	Я я	я	ya	ja

NOTE: The Library of Congress and "linguistic" systems employ the same characters as the U.S. Board system except where noted.

1. Initially and after a vowel or ъ or ъ.
2. Not considered a separate letter.
3. Does not occur initially.

000020

MASCULINE HARD STEM NOUNS

INANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	tórt - Ø	tórt - y
Genitive	tórt - a	tórt - ov
Dative	tórt - u	tórt - am
Accusative	tórt - Ø	tórt - y
Instrumental	tórt - om	tórt - ami
Prepositional	<u>tórt - e</u>	tórt - ax

ANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	studént - Ø	studént - y
Genitive	studént - a	studént - ov
Dative	studént - u	studént - am
Accusative	studént - a	studént - ov
Instrumental	studént - om	studént - ami
Prepositional	<u>studént - e</u>	studént - ax

Nom.	торт	тóрты
Gen.	тóрта	тóртов
Dat.	тóрту	тóртам
Acc.	торт	тóрты
Instr.	тóртом	тóртами
Prep.	тóрте	тóртах

Nom.	студéнт	студéнты
Gen.	студéнта	студéнтов
Dat.	студéнту	студéнтам
Acc.	студéнта	студéнтов
Instr.	студéнтом	студéнтами
Prep.	студéнте	студéнтах

MASCULINE SOFT STEM NOUNS

INANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	portfél' - Ø	portfél' - i
Genitive	portfél' - a	portfél' - ej
Dative	portfél' - u	portfél' - am
Accusative	portfél' - Ø	portfél' - i
Instrumental	portfél' - em	portfél' - ami
Prepositional	portfél' - e	portfél' - ax

ANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	kón' - Ø	kón' - i
Genitive	kon' - á	kon' - éj
Dative	kon' - ú	kon' - ám
Accusative	kon' - á	kon' - éj
Instrumental	kon' - ём	kon' - ámi
Prepositional	kon' - é	kon' - áx

Nom.	портфель	портфели
Gen.	портфеля	портфелей
Dat.	портфелю	портфелям
Acc.	портфель	портфели
Instr.	портфелем	портфелями
Prep.	портфеле	портфелях

Nom.	конь	кóни
Gen.	коня	конéй
Dat.	коню	конáм
Acc.	коня	конéй
Instr.	конём	конáми
Prep.	конé	конáх

MASCULINE NOUNS WITH NOM. PL. IN -á/-ý/

N	дом	дома́
G	дома	домо́в
D	дому	дома́м
A	дом	дома́
I	домом	дома́ми
P	доме	дома́х

N	учите́ль	учите́ля
G	учите́ля	учите́лей
D	учите́лю	учите́лям
A	учите́ль	учите́лей
I	учите́лем	учите́лями
P	учите́ле	учите́лях

Notes:

1. Only mas. nouns with stem-stress in the singular can have a plural in -á/-ý/.
2. Mas. nouns with nom. pl. in -á/-ý/ are ending-stressed thruout the plural.
3. It is not possible to predict which mas. nouns will have nom. pl. in -á/-ý/. They have to be learned.
4. Sometimes there are two nom. plurals (one in -á/-ý/), which are semantically different. e.g.

мех	меха́ мехи́	fur bellows
образ	образа́ образы	ikon image
орден	орденá ордены	decoration order (monastic, etc.)
хлеб	хлеба́ хлéбы	corn loaf of bread
цвет /цветóк/	цвета́ цветы́	color flower

MAS. SIBILANT STEMS

/-- ж, ч, ш, щ --/

N	врач	врачи	N	душ	души
G	врача	<u>врачей</u>	G	душа	<u>дүшай</u>
D	врачу	<u>врачам</u>	D	дышу	<u>дүшам</u>
A	врачá	<u>врачей</u> (A)	A	душ	дүши (INA)
I	<u>врачом</u>	<u>врачами</u>	I	<u>дышем</u>	дүшами
P	<u>враче</u>	врачах	P	дүше	дүшах

MAS. NOUNS WITH STEMS IN -Ц

N	отéц (H)	отцы	N	мéсяц	мéсяцы
G	отца	<u>отцóв</u>	G	мéсяца	<u>мéсяцев</u>
D	отцу	<u>отцáм</u>	D	мéсяцу	<u>мéсяцам</u>
A	отца	<u>отцóв</u> (A)	A	мéсяц	мéсяцы (INA)
I	<u>отцом</u>	отцами	I	<u>мéсяцем</u>	мéсяцами
P	<u>отце</u>	отцах	P	мéсяце	мéсяцах

MAS. JOT-STEMS

Type 1

N	музéй	музéи	N	гéний	гéни
G	музéя	<u>музéев</u>	G	гéния	<u>гéниев</u>
D	музéю	музéям	D	гéнию	<u>гéниям</u>
A	музéй	музéи	A	гéния	<u>гéниев</u>
I	музéем	музéями	I	гéнием	<u>гéниями</u>
P	музéе	музéях	P	<u>гéнии</u>	гéниях

- Notes:
- 1) All these nouns are masculine.
 - 2) They can be animate or inanimate.
 - 3) The nom. sg. stem can end in:
-ей, -ай/-яй/, -ой, -уй/-юй/, -ий.
 - 4) Only nouns with nom. sg. stem ending in -ий have prep. sg. in -ии, e.g. óпий - óпии (prep. sg.) "opium".
 - 5) All others have prep. sg. in -(v)e, e.g.

сарай	саrae	barn
буй	буe	buoy
конвой	конвое	convoy
хоккéй	хоккéе	hockey
 - 6) The distinguishing feature of mas. jot-stems is that the gen. pl. is: -ев/-ёв/.

Type 2

(with Havlík's Law)

N	воробéй	воробý
G	воробья	<u>воробъев</u>
D	воробью	воробъям
A	воробья	<u>воробъёв</u>
I	воробьем	воробъями
P	воробье	воробъях

- Notes:
- 1) There are only six or seven nouns which follow this pattern!
 - 2) The nom. sg. stem always ends in -ей.
 - 3) Be careful to distinguish between Type I nouns with nom. sg. stem ending in -ей (without Havlík) and Type 2 nouns (with Havlík).
 - 4) As above, the distinguishing feature of mas. jot-stems is that the gen. pl. is: -ев/-ёв/.

HETEROCLITICS

/-яни́н, -ани́н/

N	а́нгличáни́н	<u>а́нгличáне</u>
G	а́нгличáнина	<u>а́нгличáн</u>
D	а́нгличáни́ну	<u>а́нгличáнам</u>
A	а́нгличáнина	<u>а́нгличáн</u>
I	а́нгличáни́ном	<u>а́нгличáнами</u>
P	а́нгличáни́не	<u>а́нгличáнах</u>

- Notes:
- 1) All these nouns are mas. and animate.
 - 2) **-и́н-** is dropped in the plural.
 - 3) Nom. pl. has the ending: **-е**.
 - 4) Gen./acc. pl. has a zero ending.
 - 5) These nouns denote:
nationality
religion
social class
town-of-birth.

"YOUNG" NOUNS

тёлёнок - calf

N	тёлёнок	теля́та
G	тёлёнка	теля́т
D	тёлёнку	теля́там
A	тёлёнка	теля́т
I	тёлёнком	теля́тами
P	тёлёнке	теля́тах

Notes: 1) All these nouns are animate and masculine.2) The plural has a neuter-look about it, but
A equals G because of animacy.

Other examples:	жеребёнок - жеребя́та	foal
	поросёнок - порося́та	piglet
	медвежёнок - медвежя́та	(sp. rule) bear cub
	утёнок - утя́та	duckling
	китайчонок - китайчáта	(sp. rule) little Chinese
	ребёнок - /ребя́та/	child (pl. "chaps")

FEMININE HARD STEM NOUNS

INANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	kómnat - a	kómnat - y
Genitive	kómnat - y	kómnat - Ø
Dative	<u>kómnat</u> - e	kómnat - am
Accusative	kómnat - u	kómnat - y
Instrumental	kómnat - oj	kómnat - ami
Prepositional	<u>kómnat</u> - e	kómnat - ax

ANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	žénščin - a	žénščin - y
Genitive	žénščin - y	žénščin - Ø
Dative	<u>žénščin</u> - e	žénščin - am
Accusative	žénščin - u	žénščin - Ø
Instrumental	žénščin - oj	žénščin - ami
Prepositional	<u>žénščin</u> - e	žénščin - ax

Nom.	кóмната	кóмнаты
Gen.	кóмнаты	кóмнат
Dat.	кóмнате	кóмнатам
Acc.	кóмнату	кóмнаты
Instr.	кóмнатой	кóмнатами
Prep.	кóмнате	кóмнатах

Nom.	жéнщина	жéнщины
Gen.	жéнщины	жéнщин
Dat.	жéнщине	жéнщинам
Acc.	жéнщину	жéнщин
Instr.	жéнчиной	жéнчинами
Prep.	жéнчине	жéнчинах

FEMININE SOFT STEM NOUNS

INANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	nedél' - a	nedél' - i
Genitive	nedél' - i	nedél' - Ø
Dative	nedél' - e	nedél' - am
Accusative	nedél' - u	nedél' - i
Instrumental	nedél' - ej	nedél' - ami
Prepositional	nedél' - e	nedél' - ax

ANIMATE

	singular	plural
Nominative	n'án' - a	n'án' - i
Genitive	n'án' - i	n'án' - Ø
Dative	n'án' - e	n'án' - am
Accusative	n'án' - u	n'án' - Ø
Instrumental	n'án' - ej	n'án' - ami
Prepositional	n'án' - e	n'án' - ax

Nom.	недéля	недéли
Gen.	недéли	недéль
Dat.	недéле	недéлям
Acc.	недéлю	недéли
Instr.	недéлей	недéлями
Prep.	недéле	недéлях

Nom.	нáня	нáни
Gen.	нáни	нáнь
Dat.	нáне	нáням
Acc.	нáню	нáнь
Instr.	нáней	нáнями
Prep.	нáне	нáнях

000031

Feminine Nouns in -ИЯ

N	áрмия	áрмии
G	áрмии	áрмий
D	áрмии	áрмиям
A	áрмию	áрмии
I	áрмией	áрмиями
P	áрмии	áрмиях

Notes:

1. The stem is arm,ij-.
2. As expected the gen. pl. is zero, i.e. arm,ij-∅, áрмий.
3. The dat. and prep. sg. are spelt with -ии,
i.e. áрмии, phonetically [árm,i(j)i].

FEM. NOUNS WITH STEMS ENDING IN VOWEL-JOT

N	фéя	фéи
G	фéи	фей
D	фéе	фéям
A	фéю	фей
I	фéей	фéями
P	фéе	фéях

N	стáтуя	стáтуи
G	стáтуи	стáтуй
D	стáтуе	стáтуям
A	стáтую	стáтуи
I	стáтуей	стáтуями
P	стáтуе	стáтуях

- Notes:
1. There are quite a lot of such nouns ending in -ея.
 2. There are a couple of such nouns ending in -ая, -оя, уя.
 3. There is one such noun ending in -ыя.
 4. There are no such nouns ending in -яя, -ёя, -юя.
 5. Nouns ending in -иЯ are a mere orthographic variation of this pattern, having dat. & prep. sg. in -и (rather than -е).
 6. Фея is to be analyzed: (stem) fej - a (ending).
 7. The gen. pl., as expected, is zero: fej - ∅. In Cyrillic this is: фей.

006033

Jot-Stem Adjectives; a Wh-word; an Ordinal

Here are some important hybrid declensions in Russian. They include the important wh-word чей, чья, чьё, pl чьи ‘whose’, the ordinal третий, третья, третье, pl третыи ‘third’, and important relational adjectives like медвежий ‘of a bear, bear-like’,, заячий ‘of a hare’, вербюжий ‘of a camel’ and, indeed, божий, божья, божье, божьи ‘God’s’.

The words bear a root mobile vowel and a root j. Their nom-acc forms are like nouns, or possessive pronouns, while their other forms have soft adjective endings, as is normal after j.

The stems are: č-j—, tret-j—, medvež-j— (= ч/й, трет/й, медвеж/й) etc. Note that the root noun undergoes substitutive softening before j.

These words are very cool and anyone in Russian language should learn them and know how to explain them. You will amaze your Russian friends who won’t know what the heck you are talking about — they think the words are merely ‘irregular’. Get them to *pronounce* these words for you, and then they will feel better.

	Masc	Fem	Neuter	Pl	Masc	Fem	Neuter	Pl
Nom	чей	чья	чьё	чьи	третий	третья	третье	третыи
Gen	чьего	чьей	чьего	чьих	третьего	третьей	третьего	третьих
Dat	чьему	чьей	чьему	чьим	третьему	третьей	третьему	третьим
Acc	чей/ чьего	чью	чьё	чyi/ чьих	третий/ третьего	третьей	третье	третьи/ третьих
Prep	чём	чей	чём	чих	третьём	третьей	третьём	третьих
Instr	чим	чей	чим	чими	третьим	третьей	третьим	третьими

THIRD DECLENSION

(feminine)

Nominative	тетра́дь	тетра́ди
Genitive	тетра́ди	тетра́дей
Dative	тетра́ди	тетра́дям
Accusative	тетра́дь	тетра́ди
Instrumental	тетра́дью	тетра́дями
Prepositional	тетра́ди	тетра́дях

Nominative	дверь	две́ри
Genitive	две́ри	двере́й
Dative	две́ри	дверя́м
Accusative	дверь	две́ри
Instrumental	две́рью	дверя́ми
Prepositional	две́ри	дверя́х

Animacy can be a factor, but only in the plural:

<u>singular</u>		<u>plural</u>	
N	A	N	A
ло́шадь	ло́шадь	лошади	лошаде́й
мы́шь	мы́шь	мыши	мышей
се́льдь	се́льдь	се́льди	се́льдей

NEUTER HARD STEM NOUNS

	singular	plural
Nominative	slov - o	slov - á
Genitive	slóv - a	slov - ø
Dative	slóv - u	slov - ám
Accusative	slóv - o	slov - á
Instrumental	slóv - om	slov - ámi
Prepositional	<u>slóv - e</u>	slov - áx

NEUTER SOFT STEM NOUNS

	singular	plural
Nominative	zdánij - e	zdánij - a
Genitive	zdánij - a	zdánij - ø
Dative	zdánij - u	zdánij - am
Accusative	zdánij - e	zdánij - a
Instrumental	zdánij - em	zdánij - ami
Prepositional	<u>zdánij - i</u>	zdánij - ax

Nom.	слово	словá
Gen.	слóва	слов
Dat.	слóву	словáм
Acc.	слóво	словá
Instr.	слóвом	словáми
Prep.	слóве	словáх

Nom.	здáние	здáния
Gen.	здáния	здáний
Dat.	здáнию	здáниям
Acc.	здáние	здáния
Instr.	здáнием	здáниями
Prep.	здáнии	здáниях

000035

Neuter Nouns of the Type ИМЯ

Nominative	имя	именá
Genitive	имени	имён
Dative	имени	именам
Accusative	имя	именá
Instrumental	именем	именами
Prepositional	имени	именах

The words in this group are the following:

имя "name"	брéмя "burden"
вýмя "udder"	знáмя "banner"
плáмя "flame"	плéмя "tribe"
врéмя "time"	сéмя "seed"
стрéмя "stirrup"	téмя "crown (of head)"

- Notes:
1. gen. pl. of сéмя, стрéмя are семян, стремян.
 2. знáмя in the pl. has penultimate stress, i.e.
зnamёна, знамён, знамёнам, etc.

RUSSIAN FAMILY NAMES

-- ов/ев, ёв/ & ин --

	M	F	Pl
N	Пушкин	Пушкина	Пушкины
G	Пушкина	Пушкиной	Пушкиных
D	Пушкину	Пушкиной	Пушкиным
A	Пушкина	Пушкину	Пушкиных
I	Пушкиным	Пушкиной	Пушкиными
P	Пушкине	Пушкиной	Пушкиных

N	Лермонтов	Лермонтова	Лермонтовы
G	Лермонтова	Лермонтовой	Лермонтовых
D	Лермонтову	Лермонтовой	Лермонтовым
A	Лермонтова	Лермонтову	Лермонтовых
I	Лермонтовым	Лермонтовой	Лермонтовыми
P	Лермонтове	Лермонтовой	Лермонтовых

RELATIVE PARADIGMS

мать	mother	отец	father
дочь	daughter	сын	son
сестра	sister	брать	brother
тётя/тётка	aunt	дядя	uncle
бабушка	grandmother	дед/дедушка	grandfather

N	мать	матери	N	сестра	сёстры
G	матери	матерей	G	сестры	<u>сестр</u>
D	матери	матерям	D	сестре	сестрам
A	мать	матерей	A	сестру	<u>сестёр</u>
I	матерью	матерями	I	сестрой	сестрами
P	матери	матерях	P	сестре	сёстраках

N	сын	сыновья	N	брать	братья
G	сына	<u>сыновей</u>	G	брата	братьев
D	сыну	сыновьям	D	брату	братьям
A	сына	<u>сыновей</u>	A	брата	братьев
I	сыном	сыновьями	I	братьем	братьями
P	сыне	сыновях	P	брате	братьях

NOTES: 1. отец goes like студент, but with Havlík.

2. дочь goes like мать, but with instr. pl. дочерьми.

3. дядя goes like няня, but with acc./gen. pl. дядей.

4. тётя goes like няня, but with acc./gen. pl. тётей.
тётка goes like женщина, but with Havlík.

5. бабушка goes like женщина, but with Havlík.

6. дед goes like студент.
дедушка goes like женщина, but with Havlík.

Underlying ё

In later Old Russian, e not followed by a soft consonant was labialized to o. This is reflected in the letter ё in stressed position, but in unstressed position, e and o became the same, as they are reduced and, after a soft consonant, both are phonetically [i]. We can see the underlying o in roots and in many declensional and conjugational suffixes, e.g. сестрА, сестрЫ; сёстры, сёстрам, женA, женЫ; жёны, жёнам. We see that in these words the root vowel has become o, but it is spelled e in the sg, where its pronunciation is reduced. But note стена, стены, стено; стены, стен, стенам; this word has underlying e, not o, in the root. To induce the root vowel, we need to compare all the forms of the paradigm.

In nominal declension, note instr окнОм, пОлем, словарём. We can posit an underlying -om as the instr masc/neuter ending, spelled e if under root stress after soft consonant, ё if end-stressed after a soft consonant, -o after a hard consonant: окнO окнA окнУ окнОм окнE, пОле, пОля, пОлю, пОлем, пОле, словАрь, словарЮ, словарём, словарЕ.

In conjugation we note живУ живёшь живёт, Еду, Едешь, Едет; читАю, читАешь, читАет, даю, даёшь, даёт. These data suggest a single underlying vocalic 1st conj. ending, 2nd sg to 2nd pl: o, with softening after paired consonants, and unstressed o becoming e (= phonetic i). This was first suggested by Jakobson in 1941 in his epochal article, "Russian Conjugation."

The Spelling of Jot (pronounced [yot], spelled [jot])

Jot is the most important sound in Russian; it is an acute glide, like the semi-vowel in boy, yet. It has two complementary spellings in Russian: ѹ, the only letter in Russian with an obligatory diacritic, and Ѻ, when preceding a soft vowel letter (otherwise, Ѻ = preceding consonant is palatalized, e.g. дать). But that's not all: when a soft vowel letter follows a vowel letter, a jot intervenes, and at word-initial, я, ю, ё, е = jot plus a, u, o, e.

To hear the glidal quality of jot in Russian at word-final, ask a Russian to spell a word ending in ѹ, e.g. русский. He will likely say: er, u, es, es, ke, i, i—j (not 'и краткое'). Try it. He will be emphasizing and drawing out the pronunciation.

Some examples:

песня, песни, песне	'song'; no jots, anywhere; soft consonants only
статья, статьи, статью	'article'; jot after t', before a: stat'j—a > статья
имя, имени, именем	'name'; no jots; soft m, soft n
Англия	jot after the i and before a is a jot: Anglij—a;

- 2 -

this splits the letter я into j—a, where j belongs
to the root and a is the ending

русский	й is jot
соловей, соловья	at the end, й, and between soft v' and -a: solov'j—a
лью, льёшь; льёт	'I pour, you pour, he pours'; in every case, l'j—u, l'j—oš...
лёт	'flight'; no jot!
читаю	'I read'; jot between a and u
даю	'I give'; same as above
дашь	'you shall give'; no jot
дядя	'uncle'; no jot, two soft consonants, d'a-, d'a-
семья, семьи, семью, семьёй	'family'; jot right after the soft m, signalled by soft sign
морём	'ocean', instr; no jot, soft r
неделя	'week'; three soft consonants
статей	'article' gen pl; jot at the end
семей	'family'; gen pl; jot at the end
друзья	'friends' nom pl; soft z', jot, a: -z'j—a
друзей	z'—e-j (jot at end)
друзьям	soft z', jot, a: z'j—am
друзьях	soft z', jot, a: z'j—ax
друзьями	soft z', jot, a: druz'j—am'i
парки	no jot
паркам	no jot
парках	no jot
соловей, соловья, соловьёв	solov'—e-j, solov'j—a, solov'j—ov
я	yes, j—a
меня	no jot
его	yes, j—evo
её	yes, twice: j—e-j—o
мой	yes, at end

- 3 -

моя	yes, between o and a
моё	yes, between o and o
мои	yes, between o and i

Note that the last four examples presume an underlying analysis of stem *moj*—# [zero], fem *moj*—a, neuter *moj*—o, pl *moj*—i.

The Mobile Vowel

The mobile vowel in vowel-zero alternations is {o}, morphophonemic o. It has a variant /e/ which occurs before jot, ң, and soft paired consonants, unless the soft consonant is preceded by a velar (k, g, x). Example of variant /e/: *соловЕй*, *сердЕц*, *день*.

Variant /o/ is spelled e or ё, unless {k, g, x} precedes or follows the mobile vowel. If it precedes, the vowel is always o; if it follows, the vowel is o unless a preceding soft consonant forces it to e (underlying ё).

We use the slash to mark the mobile vowel.

Examples:

вес/на, вëс/e/н ‘spring’; nom sg, gen pl; this is underlying ё, in the mobile V

ов/ё/с, ов/cA ‘oats’; nom sg, gen sg; mobile V in nom sg

вЕт/e/p, вЕтр/a ‘wind’; nom sg, gen sg

бЕд/e/н, бедн/A ‘poor’; masc has mobile V, fem does not

ум/ё/н, умнА ‘intelligent’; masc, fem

ог/O/нь, огн/Я ‘fire’; nom sg, gen sg; velar precedes, forcing o; mobile V in nom

окнO, Ok/o/н ‘window’ velar precedes; mobile V in gen pl

лОк/o/ть, лОк/tя ‘elbow’; velar precedes

лОд/ка, лОд/o/к ‘boat’; velar follows

пАл/ка, пАл/o/к ‘stick’; velar follows

- 4 -

коn/ё/к, коnь/кА	'little horse, hobby'; velar follows, soft C precedes
гOp/e/к, горь/ кий	'bitter'; masc has soft C preceding; note the C is still soft in full form

In monosyllabics we may have either o or e if there is no velar:

c/o/n, c/на	'dream'
p/o/t, p/та	'mouth'
b/o/шь, b/ша	'louse' (insect)
p/ё/c, p/са	'dog, cur'
л/ё/d, ль/да	'ice'
p/o/жь, ржи	'rye'

There are complications when either consonant is a resonant (п л н м в) and certain common gen pls will have to be memorized.

сест/pA, сест/ё/p	'sister'; nom sg, gen pl; fill vowel is stressed
люб/O/вь, люб/вИ	'love'; irregular, for expected *люб/E/вь before soft C
гOсть/я, гOст/и/й	'guest'; in this and the following two examples, unstressed /e/ before j is spelled и, as is regular in this position ¹
воскресЕнь/е, воскресЕн/и/й	'Sunday'; nom sg, gen pl
трЕт/и/й, трЕть/его	'third'; masc nom sg, masc/neuter gen sg
семь/Я, сем/Е/й	'family'; gen pl fill V stressed, as is all pl
стать/Я, стат/E/й	'article'; as above; note that jot transforms from й to ў
вороб/e/й, воробъ/Я	'sparrow'; fill V in nom sg, all other forms zero
европей/ка, европE/e/к	'European woman'; fill V/e/ in gen pl only
пЕси/я, пEc/e/н	'song'; unpredictable harding in gen pl

1. Cf. the eccentric spelling of prepositional e as и after stem и: в России, в консерватории, в Англии. In both cases, this vowel is really an unstressed /e/.

After hushers, stressed fill V is spelled о, while after soft consonants and unstressed V after husher, we see ё:

знач/О/к, знач/кА	'badge'
кошел/ё/к, кошель/кА	'purse'
книж/ка, книж/е/к	'little book'

The mobile vowel may appear in some instr sg. zero-triggering endings, as in the irregular люб/О/въ nom-acc, люб/О/вью instr, в/О/шъ nom-acc, в/шИ, в/шЕй, в/О/шью instr sg. Both words are very important to Russian vocabulary (the second is receding into history with the new century). Very charming declension!

Exercises for Underlying ё:

1. Look up the following words and find forms to document root ё: вестИ 'lead', печь 'bake', гнездО 'nest', женA 'wife', стек/лO 'glass'. In endings, cite forms to prove underlying ё:
 Англией 'England' instr sg, подстрИжен 'sheared' masc short pass part, музЕем 'museum' instr sg, слУшаешь 'listen' 2nd sg pres.

Find the jots:

Я живу и работаю в Новом Орлеане. Мой брат работает в книжном магазине, а мои сыновья ещё учатся в консерватории. Я всю жизнь здесь живу. Что вы об этом думаете? Я же не перееду в Калифорнию, чтобы жить с Арнольдом.

Predict the mobile V in the zero form:

1. вЕт/ра, вЕт/ром 'wind'; give nom sg (masc)
2. крАс/ный 'red'; give masc short form
3. рЕз/кий 'sharp'; give masc short form
4. лОд/ка 'boat'; give gen pl
5. огурцЫ 'cucumber'; give masc nom sg
6. бОжь/его 'of God'; give masc nom-acc sg
7. кОг/тя, кОг/тем. кОг/ти 'talon'; give masc nom sg

8. р/ва, р/вом ‘ditch’; give masc nom sg
 9. колбАс/ка ‘little sausage; give gen pl
 10. кус/кА, кус/кОм, кус/кИ ‘piece’; give masc nom sg
 11. кусОч/ка, кусОч/ком, кусОчк/е ‘little piece’; give masc nom sg
 12. соловь/И, соловь/ёв ‘nightingale’; give masc nom sg
 13. кост/рА, костр/Ом, кост/рЕ ‘campfire’; give masc nom sg
 14. мАмоч/ка, мАмоч/кой, мАмоч/ку ‘dear mother’; give gen pl
 15. человЕч/ком, человЕчке ‘little person’; give masc nom sg
 16. огонь/кА, огонь/кОм ‘little fire, spark’; give masc nom sg

Formation of the Genitive Plural

Having studied underlying ё, the spelling of jot, and the transformations of the mobile vowel, we can approach the most difficult case in Russian, indeed, the *only* problematic case form in Russian.

Jakobson suggested the rule for gen pl is an alpha-switch rule: if the nom sg is *real*, then the gen pl will be *zero*, and vice versa, if the nom sg is *zero*, then the gen pl will be *real*. Examples of the first: кОмната, кНИГа, недЕля > кОмнат, кНИГ, недЕль,² of the second, стол, парк, дом > столОв, пАрков, домОв. The zero ending in the nom sg is replaced by a real -ов in the gen pl, and the real -а/-я in the nom sg is replaced by zero in the gen pl. What is remarkable is that this rule applies across declensional boundaries — but so do the rules for the other plural cases, which are generalized for both 1st and 2nd declension nouns, masc, fem and neuter.

2. Soft л maintains its softness in all sorts of declensional and derivational forms, e.g. комел/ё/к, кошель/кА, кошелькОм ‘purse (nom sg, gen sg, instr sg) иЮль, иЮльский ‘July; of July (adj)’. Soft р is also persistent: октЯбрь, октЯбрьский ‘October; of October’.

A zero in either form may include a mobile vowel, which emerges at the boundary of a consonant cluster and zero: gen pl ок/O/н < ок/нО ‘window’, студент/o/k < студент/ка ‘female student’, ог/O/нъ < ог/нЯ, ог/нём.

The *real* endings of the gen pl will be –ов for hard stems, –ей for soft: студЕнт ‘male student’ > студЕнтов, стол ‘table’ > столОв, учИтель ‘teacher’ > учителЕй, д/e/нь ‘day’ > д/нЕй, нож ‘knife’ > ножЕй, пляж ‘beach’ > пляжЕй. Hushers, as we see, also take the soft ending, but stems in -ы take the real gen pl ending ов, ёв: музЕй > музЕев ‘museum’, гЕний > гЕниев ‘genius’, вороб/E/й > воробы/ёв ‘sparrow’, мурав/E/й > муравы/ёв ‘ant’. Stems ending in ц will take the hard ending: молод/E/ц > молод/цОв, огур/E/ц > огурцОв, although, as you have seen, the mobile vowel before ц is e, not o.

Fem 3rd declension nouns take the soft ending –ей which here also is a *real ending*: дочь > дочерЕй, дверь > дверЕй, мать > матерЕй. In some stems (which we reviewed above), ей will be analyzed as /e/й, that is, the mobile vowel, stressed, before jot, in a zero ending. So we have: стать/Я > стать/E/й, семь/Я, семь/E/й. The ending here, I repeat, is *zero*, which you can plainly see by the slash with the mobile vowel. Yet other cases of ей may be treated as irregular *real* ending for soft stems, in place of the expected zero: дядя > дядей ‘uncles’, тётя ‘aunts’ > тётей; here there is no mobile vowel at all, merely a real soft ending. So also for the important stems without a sg, дети > детЕй ‘children’, люди, людЕй, людям, людях ‘people’.

Neuter third declension nouns act as they should, with zeros: Имя, Имени > имён, врЕмя, времени, времён.

So, despite the sophistication of our analysis of zero, real, and mobile vowels, there remain stems that confound the rules. Plurals in the original collective suffix -ья usually contain a mobile vowel if animate and suffix-stressed, which appears in the gen pl: сын > сыновь/Я, сынов/E/й, друг > друзь/Я, друз/E/й. Here the plural seems to be fully independent from the sg, and the fill vowel appears as part of a zero. If the stress is on the stem (and/or the noun is inanimate), we have a real ending: братья ‘brothers’ братьеv, стулья ‘chairs’, стульев.

Fem soft stems may have zero or real soft, e.g. зем/ля, зем/ли > зем/E/ль ‘earth, land’, with fill vowel and persistent soft л (see note 1), пЕс/ня, пЕс/ни > пЕс/e/н ‘song’, with fill vowel and hardening, кУх/ня, кУх/ни > кУх/o/нь ‘kitchen’, with fill vowel and retained softening.

You should try to learn these rules and, certainly, all of the words discussed here. Here is a chart in summary. For each gen pl, note if it is regular or irregular, zero or real, and if it contains a mobile vowel. Consider whether the gen pl reveals a reformed plural stem, as in пОле sg, but