

Summary and Guide for Lessons 1-4 by eLearnRussian.com

We recommend that you read this after having gone through the lessons and are feeling comfortable with the material. Hopefully this will then serve as a reference and 'wrap up' of everything that's been covered to this point.

One important aspect, that will be an ongoing challenge, is to master the various endings for the verbs in Russian. Rather than trying to memorize a bunch of confusing rules, it's best to master the changes for a set of basic verbs, and then new verbs can be related to ones that you've already learned.

In the table below, it's very helpful to read it (as is done in the audio) from left to right. Я делаю. читаю, слушаю, живу, работаю, знаю.

Doing this helps 'lock in' the -oo ending sound for "I, me". Similarly the 'yesh' ending for 'you', etc.

		делать	читать	слушать	жить	работать	знать	
I, me	я	дела-ю	чита-ю	слуша-ю	жив-у	работа-ю	зна-ю	(-oo)
you	ты	дела-ешь	чита-ешь	слуша-ешь	жив-ёшь	работа-ешь	зна-ешь	(-yesh)
he ; she	он, она	дела-ет	чита-ет	слуша-ет	жив-ёт	работа-ет	зна-ет	(-yet)
we, us	мы	дела-ем	чита-ем	слуша-ем	жив-ём	работа-ем	зна-ем	(-yem)
(plural & formal) you	вы	дела-ете	чита-ете	слуша-ете	жив-ёте	работа-ете	зна-ете	(-yet'ia)
they, them	они	дела-ют	чита-ют	слуша-ют	жив-ут	работа-ют	зна-ют	(-oot)

Memorizing these endings is only marginally beneficial. They need to become 'part of you' by using them to the point that they become 'automatic'.

Practice and drills are useful though to help get you using the correct ending quickly without having to stop and think.

You've also been introduced to the concepts of 'gender'.

	masculine	feminine	neuter
my	МОЙ	МОЯ	МОЁ
	папа	мама	письмо
	брат	сестра	яблоко
	сын	дочь	фото
	дом	книга	
	журнал	газета	
		квартира	

Remembering the gender of words is generally not so difficult. What's difficult to remember is to match the ending of the surrounding words, and to get the right ending changes for each of the six cases.

Practice makes perfect on this one, and learning the rules is best done on a 'step-by-step' basis, the same as you did for learning the verb endings (starting with just 'he, she and they').

Likewise, it takes practice to get the right possessive pronoun coming out of your mouth without a long pause to think.

masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
МОЙ	МОЯ	МОЁ	МОИ
ТВОЙ	ТВОЯ	ТВОЁ	ТВОИ
его, её			
НАШ	НАША	НАШЕ	НАШИ
ВАШ	ВАША	ВАШЕ	ВАШИ
ИХ			

moy, maya, mayoe, mayee
 tvoj, tvaya, tvayoe, tvayee
 yevoa, yeyo
 nash, nasha, nashay, nashee
 vash, vasha, vashay, vashee
 eekhe

Mastering these details requires a significant amount of time, so it's best to continue learning new aspects while continuing to practice these basic elements.

Again, practice and drills are useful, but not imperative since you will get enough exercise with all these aspects as you progress through the material.

You also had an introduction to Russian cases, starting with the expression:

меня зовут ...

Later you'll learn that 'меня' is 'Case 4 – Accusative', and you'll learn the expressions for 'your name', 'his name', etc. And as a point of interest, зовут means 'they call', but again, there's absolutely no reason to know this at this point.

Similarly, with the example:

Я читаю газету.

You see that the noun changes after a verb (object of an action), which is 'Case 4 – Accusative'. Again, that's irrelevant information at this point. Simply remember that the '-a' ending changes to '-y' (-oo sound), and others generally remain the same.

You also had an introduction to 'Case 6 – Prepositional' which is used for location of things. And the ending is almost always '-e' (-ye sound).

Они в парке.

Где он сейчас?
 Сейчас он в школе.
 Это его школа?
 Да.

And you can already guess that if we say "He's going to school." (walking to school) or "They're building a school.", then the ending will be '-y' (школу).

All these details will become more and more clear over time and the most effective way to learn them all is a step-by-step approach using dialogues that maintain lots of repetitions and variations, that slowly add new variations, and where the idea is clear.