

APPENDIX

This Appendix is intended to serve as a general orientation tool for identifying the endings associated with the six cases. The paradigms, along with the notes and exceptions, should enable you to identify virtually all the case endings you are likely to encounter. These paradigms will not, however, provide you with a comprehensive guide to other features of Russian inflection, such as placement of stress and mobile vowels (some other books that will give you this information are listed among our suggestions for Further Reading; Levin 1978 is particularly recommended).

Russian Spelling Rules

In order to properly interpret the paradigms, you need to keep in mind the spelling rules that apply to combining consonant and vowel letters and the spelling of [j] (which sounds like the *y* in *yes*). Note that these are rules for spelling case endings; they are not a complete guide to Russian spelling. Most Russian consonants can be hard or soft (and are therefore called “paired”), but instead of having separate consonant letters to show this, Russian uses vowel letters and the soft sign, *ь*. Here is how it is done:

in order to spell a hard paired consonant:

a consonant letter:	is combined with	a hard vowel letter:
б, в, з, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф		а, э, ы, о, у

in order to spell a soft paired consonant:

a consonant letter:	is combined with	a soft vowel letter:
б, в, з, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф		я, е, и, ё, ю or ь

As a rule, if the last consonant in a word is hard, it will generally stay that way throughout its paradigm, and if it is soft it will stay soft. The only major exception will be in the LOC singular, which is -e and softens the final consonant for all hard type nouns (although a few hard masculine nouns can have a LOC singular of -y, which of course does not soften). Note also that ё is just e when it is not stressed, and both these letters stand in for o in position after a soft paired consonant.

Spelling rules are different for the consonants that are not paired. These consonants come in four types, and here are the rules that apply:

the velars г, к, х:

a velar consonant letter:	is combined with	only the following vowel letters:
г, к, х		а, е, и, о, у

the hushers ж, ч, ш, щ:

a husher consonant letter:	is combined with	only the following vowel letters:
ж, ч, ш, щ		а, е, и, у, о (if stressed)/е (if unstressed)

Spelling rules for case endings.

The use of hard and soft vowel letters to spell hard and soft paired consonants.

The use of hard and soft vowel letters with unpaired consonants.

ц:

the consonant letter: ц	is combined with	only the following vowel letters: а, е, ы, у, ó (if stressed)/е (if unstressed)
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Spelling rules
for [j].

[j] (which sounds like y in yes) can be spelled in three ways:

- 1) when there is no vowel following it or at the end of a word it has its own letter: **й**
- 2) after a consonant, the soft sign: **ь** is combined with a soft vowel letter:
я, е, и, ё, ю
- 3) after a vowel you simply add a soft vowel letter:
я, е, и, ё, ю

Spelling rules
for о, ó, and ё.

If an ending has an о after a hard paired consonant, this vowel will appear after a husher or ц as ó if it is stressed, or as е if it is not stressed. Compare these examples of INST singular forms for двор ‘courtyard’, нож ‘knife’, and месяц ‘month’.

о after hard paired consonant двор о́ м	ó if stressed after husher or ц нож о́ м	е if unstressed after husher or ц ме с я ц е м
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The spelling of
endings on
words with
stems ending in
[j].

Understanding the spelling of [j] should make it easier for you to spell endings on words that have stems ending in [j]. For example, the NOM singular and GEN singular endings are the same for ‘courtyard’: NOM singular двор, GEN singular двор**а́** as they are for ‘genius’: NOM singular г**е́**ний, GEN singular г**е́**ния ([j] is the final consonant of г**е́**ний, and it is still there even when the ending is added, so the ending is actually -а). There are also noun stems that end in [j] after a consonant. Compare for example тюрь**м**а́ ‘prison’ (a hard type feminine) with се**м**ь**я́** ‘family’ (a soft type feminine with [j] as its final consonant):

NOM singular тюрь м а́ се м ь я́	NOM plural тюрь м ы се м ь и	GEN plural тюрь м е се м ь и́
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Both nouns have the same stem structure, since both stems end in two consonants: the stem of тюрь**м**а́ ends in soft **рь** + **м**, and the stem of се**м**ь**я́** ends in soft **мь** + [j]. And both nouns have the same ending for the GEN plural: a zero ending (the removal of the vowel represented by а or я), which also motivates an inserted е for both words. Се**м**ь**я́** spells **и́** in the GEN plural because [j] is at the end of the word.

Declension of Nouns

Nouns come in three genders: feminine, masculine, and neuter. For each gender we will list the endings for both a stem ending in a hard paired consonant (“hard” type) and for a stem ending in a soft paired consonant (“soft” type). Using the spelling rules above, you can determine which ending (hard type or soft type) you will need for the unpaired consonants. Although all of the information you really need is in the paradigms and the special notes attached to them, there are a couple of global issues that are worth mentioning at the outset: animacy and the formation of the GEN plural.

The genders and
stem types of
nouns.

All animate nouns (nouns referring to living beings of the animal kingdom, including ourselves) substitute the GEN plural form for the ACC plural. Masculine animate nouns make this substitution in the singular as well, using the GEN singular form for the ACC singular. This is mentioned in the paradigms (except in the case of neuter nouns, where animacy is rare), but here are some concrete examples for good measure. Note that for inanimates the ACC forms are the same as the NOM forms, but for animates the ACC forms are the same as the GEN forms:

	feminine		masculine		neuter	
	inanimate	animate	inanimate	animate	inanimate	animate
	‘room’	‘actress’	‘courtyard’	‘actor’	‘cemetery’	‘monster’
NOMsg	ко́мната	акт́риса	двор	актёр	кладби́ще	чудо́вище
NOMpl	ко́мнаты	акт́рисы	дворы́	актёры	кладби́ща	чудо́вища
ACCpl	ко́мнаты	акт́рис	дворы́	актёров	кладби́ща	чудо́вищ
GENpl	ко́мнат	акт́рис	дворо́в	актёро́в	кладби́щ	чудо́вищ

For masculine nouns, note also animacy in the singular:

NOMsg	двор	актёр
ACCsg	двор	актёра
GENsg	дворá	актёра

The GEN plural has three endings: zero (the removal of a final vowel), -ов/-ев (spelling rules apply), and -ей. With very few exceptions, the choice of GEN plural ending can be decided by looking at the NOM singular form:

zero

If the NOM singular ends in a vowel, remove that vowel to get a zero ending. There are examples of this GEN plural ending for feminine and neuter nouns in the table directly above. Be sure to use *ь* or *й* to spell a soft paired consonant or [j] left at the end: NOM singular неделя ‘week’ gives GEN plural недель; NOM singular фами́лия ‘last name’ gives GEN plural фами́лий.

-ов/-ев

If the NOM singular ends in a hard paired consonant (б, в, з, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф), a velar (г, к, х), ц, or й, spell -ов/-ев. This gives us not only the GEN plural дво́ров above, but also the GEN plural не́мцев ‘Germans’ from NOM singular не́мец and GEN plural слоёв ‘layers’ from NOM singular сло́й.

-ей

If the NOM singular ends in a soft paired consonant (in other words б, в, з, л, м, н, п, р, с, т, ф + ь) or a husher (ж, ч, ш, щ), the ending is -ей. For example: NOM singular автомоби́ль ‘automobile’ has GEN plural автомоби́лей and NOM singular нож ‘knife’ has GEN plural ноже́й.

The role of animacy in the declension of nouns.

Rules for the distribution of the three genitive plural endings: zero, -ов/-ев, and -ей.

Feminine Declension Nouns

	hard type: 'room'		soft type: 'week'		-ь: 'talent'	
	singular	plural	singular	plural	singular	plural
NOM	ко́мната	ко́мнаты	неде́ля	неде́ли	спосо́бность	спосо́бности
INST	ко́мнатой	ко́мнатами	неде́лей	неде́лями	спосо́бностью	спосо́бностями
ACC	ко́мнату	ко́мнаты = GEN if animate	неде́лю	неде́ли = GEN if animate	спосо́бность	спосо́бности
DAT	ко́мнате	ко́мнатам	неде́ле -ия > -ии	неде́лям	спосо́бности	спосо́бностям
GEN	ко́мнаты	ко́мнат	неде́ли	неде́ль	спосо́бности	спосо́бностей
LOC	ко́мнате	ко́мнатах	неде́ле -ия > -ии	неде́лях	спосо́бности	спосо́бностях

Notes on the
feminine
declension
endings.

The INST singular of hard type and soft type nouns has a variant (archaic/poetic) ending -ою/-ею. Soft type nouns ending in -ия use -ии in both the DAT singular and the LOC singular, so *история* 'history' has the form *истории* for both. It is not uncommon for soft type feminine nouns ending in -ня to harden their final consonant in the GEN plural form: NOM singular *песня* 'song' has GEN plural *песен*.

Not all feminine declension nouns are feminine. There are many nouns of both the hard and soft type that refer to male human beings, such as *дедушка* 'grandfather', *дядя* 'uncle', and nicknames like *Костя* from *Константи́н* or *Гри́ша* from *Григо́рий*. Although these nouns and names decline as animate feminine declension nouns, any adjective that agrees with them uses masculine endings, which gives us *ста́рый деду́шка* 'old grandfather'. There is also one masculine noun which follows the feminine type in -ь, *пу́ть* 'way'; it asserts its masculinity only in the INST singular, which is *пу́тём*.

Exceptions:

1) *Ма́ть* 'mother' and *до́чь* 'daughter' follow the declension of *спосо́бность*, but add -ер- before all endings: INST singular *ма́терью/до́щерью*, DAT/GEN/LOC singular and NOM plural *ма́тери/до́чери*, etc. For the word 'daughter', the INST plural has two variants: *до́черями/до́черьми*.

2) *Ло́шадь* 'horse' has the exceptional INST plural *лошада́ми* alongside the expected *лошадя́ми*.

3) Some soft type nouns and some nouns with stem in husher + **a** have a GEN plural in -ей instead of zero: *вожжа́* 'rein' has GEN plural *вожже́й*, *те́тя* 'aunt' has GEN plural *те́тей*, and the same goes for *дядя́* 'uncle' with GEN plural *дяде́й*.

Masculine Declension Nouns

	hard type: 'courtyard'		soft type: 'nail'	
	singular	plural	singular	plural
NOM	дво́р	дво́ры	гвоздь	гвозди́
INST	дво́ром	дво́рами	гвозде́м	гвоздя́ми
ACC	дво́р	дво́ры	гвоздь	гвозди́
	= GEN if animate	= GEN if animate	= GEN if animate	= GEN if animate
DAT	дво́ру	дво́рам	гвоздю́	гвоздя́м
GEN	дво́ра	дво́ров	гвоздя́	гвозде́й
LOC	дво́ре	дво́рах	гвозде́	гвоздя́х

Some masculine declension nouns can also have the ending *-y/-ю* in the GEN singular and/or LOC singular, for example *ча́ю* ‘(some) tea’ and *в сне́гу* ‘in the snow’. This is discussed in the chapters on the genitive and locative cases. There are also many masculine declension nouns that use the ending *-á/-я́* for the NOM plural: NOM singular *дом* ‘house’ has NOM plural *дома́*, and NOM singular *учи́тель* has NOM plural *учите́ля*. Inanimates use this ending for the ACC plural as well, so we have ACC plural *дома́*.

Exceptions:

1) Some words have a hard type declension in the singular, but a soft type declension throughout the plural, adding a [j] (spelled *ь* + soft vowel letter) to the stem. Compare the NOM singular and plural forms in these examples:

	NOM singular	NOM plural
‘man’	му́ж	му́жья́
‘chair’	сту́л	сту́лья́
‘brother’	бра́т	бра́тья́
‘son’	сы́н	сыно́вья́
‘friend’	друг	дру́зья́

There are a few nouns that can have both a hard and soft plural of this type, depending upon their meaning: *зуб* ‘tooth’ usually has the NOM plural *зубы́*, but if it refers to the teeth on a cogged wheel, its NOM plural is *зубья́*.

2) A rarer case of a hard type singular and a soft type plural is represented by *че́рт* ‘devil’ and *сосе́д* ‘neighbor’, which have the NOM plural forms *че́рти* and *сосе́ди* and follow the soft type declension throughout the plural.

3) Some nouns have a singular stem in *-ин*, but form their plural by removing *-ин*. All of these nouns refer to human beings, and most of them name members of a nationality. In the plural they continue to follow the hard type declension, but they can have a variety of NOM plural endings. By far the most common NOM plural ending is *-е*, but note variants also:

	NOM singular	NOM plural
‘Englishman’	англича́нин	англича́не
‘Bulgarian’	болга́рин	болга́ры
‘master’	хозя́ин	хозя́ева

All of these nouns have a zero ending in the GEN-ACC plural: *англича́н*, *болга́р*, *хозя́ев*.

4) There are a number of nouns referring to the young of animals that have a singular stem ending in *-онок/-ёнок* which follows the masculine hard type declension, but a plural stem ending *-ат/-ят* which follows the neuter hard type declension. For example, NOM singular *котёнок* ‘kitten’ has the NOM plural *кота́та*, with an animate GEN-ACC plural of *кота́т*. *Ребе́нок* ‘child’ has two plurals: one is the expected NOM plural *ребя́та* which however means ‘fellows’, whereas ‘children’ is expressed by the NOM plural *де́ти* (which follows the soft type declension and has the unusual INST plural *деты́ми*).

5) One very common noun has a completely different stem in the plural than in the singular: человек ‘person’ (hard type masculine throughout the singular), with the NOM plural люди ‘people’ (soft stem masculine throughout the plural, but note that the GEN plural with numerals is usually человек instead of людéй).

6) A few nouns have a zero ending in the GEN plural, which is therefore the same as the NOM singular: солдат ‘soldier’, сапог ‘boot’, глаз ‘eye’.

7) The GEN plural of год ‘year’ is usually лёт; годóв is possible only when referring to a special set of years: мо́да девяно́стых годóв ‘fashion of the nineties’.

Neuter Declension Nouns

	hard type: ‘body’		soft type: ‘schedule’	
	singular	plural	singular	plural
NOM	тёло	телá	расписа́ние	расписа́ния
INST	тёлом	телáми	расписа́нием	расписа́ниями
ACC	тёло	телáм	расписа́ние	расписа́ния
DAT	тёлу	телáм	расписа́нию	расписа́ниям
GEN	тёла	тел	расписа́ния	расписа́ний
LOC	тёле	телáх	расписа́нии	расписа́ниях

The vast majority of soft type neuter nouns end in -ие; for those that do not, the LOC singular ending is -е, so NOM singular and LOC singular look alike for мо́ре ‘sea’.

Exceptions

1) A few common neuter nouns do not follow the usual rules for the GEN plural. Мо́ре ‘sea’ and по́ле ‘field’ have GEN plural forms морéй and полéй. Пля́тье ‘dress’ and о́блако ‘cloud’ have GEN plural forms пля́тьев and облако́в.

2) There are ten neuter nouns that end in -мя: бре́мя ‘burden’, вре́мя ‘time’, вѳ́мя ‘udder’, зна́мя ‘banner’, ѳ́мя ‘name’, пла́мя ‘flame’, пле́мя ‘tribe’, се́мя ‘seed’, стре́мя ‘stirrup’, те́мя ‘crown (of head)’. All of them decline like вре́мя, with the additon of -ен to the stem; the only exceptions are the GEN plural forms for се́мя and стре́мя, which are семя́н and стремя́н.

	singular	plural
NOM	вре́мя	временá
INST	вре́менем	временáми
ACC	вре́мя	временá
DAT	вре́мени	временáм
GEN	вре́мени	време́н
LOC	вре́мени	временáх

3) Чу́до ‘miracle’ and не́бо ‘heaven’ both add -ec to their stems throughout the plural, giving NOM plural чудесá and небесá. Тёло can use the alternate plural телесá in the special meaning ‘heavenly bodies’.

4) A few nouns have a soft stem ending in [j] in the plural; the most common is *дéрево* ‘tree’ (with the expected hard type neuter declension throughout the singular), which has NOM plural *дерéвья*. All such nouns have the unexpected GEN plural *-ев*.

5) A few nouns, most referring to paired parts of the body, have an unexpected NOM plural in *-и*:

	NOM singular	NOM plural
‘knee’	колéно	колéни
‘shoulder’	плечó	плéчи
‘ear’	úхо	úши
‘apple’	яблоко	яблoки

There are also some borrowed nouns of all genders that do not decline at all, for example *сопράно* ‘soprano’ (feminine in reference to a singer, but neuter in reference to a musical part), and *кенгурý* ‘kangaroo’ (masculine).

Indeclinable nouns.

Adjectives

Adjectives, like nouns, come in hard and soft types, and they match their gender, number, and case to the noun they modify.

hard type: ‘first’				
	feminine	masculine	neuter	plural
NOM	пéрвая	пéрвый	пéрвое	пéрвые
		-ой if stressed		
INST	пéрвой	пéрвым	пéрвым	пéрвыми
ACC	пéрвую	пéрвый	пéрвое	пéрвые
		= GEN if animate		= GEN if animate
DAT	пéрвой	пéрвому	пéрвому	пéрвым
GEN	пéрвой	пéрвого	пéрвого	пéрвых
LOC	пéрвой	пéрвом	пéрвом	пéрвых
soft type: ‘last’				
	feminine	masculine	neuter	plural
NOM	послéдняя	послéдний	послéднее	послéдние
INST	послéдней	послéдним	послéдним	послéдними
ACC	послéдную	послéдний	послéднее	послéдние
		= GEN if animate		= GEN if animate
DAT	послéдней	послéднему	послéднему	послéдним
GEN	послéдней	послéднего	послéднего	послéдних
LOC	послéдней	послéднем	послéднем	послéдних

Both hard and soft type adjectives have variant (archaic/poetic) endings *-ою/-ею* for the feminine INST singular. There are short adjectives, but these appear only in the nominative case (NOMINATIVE: AN IDENTITY), for example *я готóва, он готóв, мы все готóвы* ‘I am ready, he is ready, we are all ready’. In addition, there are some soft type adjectives that have short endings in the NOM and ACC; these are possessive adjectives like *вóлчий* ‘wolf’s’ and the ordinal numeral *трéтий* ‘third’. These adjectives have the following NOM and ACC endings (their endings for other cases contain *ь* followed by the soft type endings listed above, giving *трéтьей, трéтьего*, etc.):

Notes on adjectival endings.

	feminine	masculine	neuter	plural
NOM	трѣтя	трѣтий	трѣтье	трѣтьи
ACC	трѣтью	трѣтий трѣтьего if animate	трѣтье	трѣтьи трѣтьих if animate

Pronouns

	‘I’	‘we’	‘you’ informal	‘you’
NOM	я	мы	ты	вы
INST	мнѡй	на́ми	тобо́й	ва́ми
ACC	меня́	нас	тебя́	вас
DAT	мне	нам	тебе́	вам
GEN	меня́	нас	тебя́	вас
LOC	мне	нас	тебе́	вас

	‘she’	‘he’	‘it’	‘they’
NOM	она́	он	оно́	они́
INST	(н)еѡй	(н)им	(н)им	(н)ѡми
ACC	(н)еѣ	(н)его́	(н)его́	(н)их
DAT	(н)еѡй	(н)ему́	(н)ему́	(н)им
GEN	(н)еѣ	(н)его́	(н)его́	(н)их
LOC	ней	нѣм	нѣм	них

	‘who’	‘what’	‘oneself’
NOM	кто	что	
INST	кем	чем	собо́й
ACC	кого́	что	себя́
DAT	кому́	чему́	себе́
GEN	кого́	чего́	себя́
LOC	ком	чѣм	себе́

	feminine	masculine	‘this’ neuter	plural
NOM	ѣта	ѣтот	ѣто	ѣти
INST	ѣтой	ѣтим	ѣтим	ѣтими
ACC	ѣту	ѣтот ѣтого if animate	ѣто	ѣти ѣтих if animate
DAT	ѣтой	ѣтому	ѣтому	ѣтим
GEN	ѣтой	ѣтого	ѣтого	ѣтих
LOC	ѣтой	ѣтом	ѣтом	ѣтих

	feminine	masculine	‘all, every’ neuter	plural
NOM	вся	весь	всѣ	все
INST	всей	всем	всем	всѣми
ACC	всю	весь всего́ if animate	всѣ	все всех if animate
DAT	всей	всему́	всему́	всем
GEN	всей	всего́	всего́	всех
LOC	всей	всѣм	всѣм	всех

Note the variant (archaic/poetic) INST forms **мно́ю, тобо́ю, (н)е́ю, собо́ю**, and feminine **это́ю, все́ю**. Сам ‘by oneself’ looks exactly like **это́т** except that it does not add **-от** in the masculine NOM singular. Тот ‘that’ looks just like **это́т** except that (like **весь**) it uses the vowel **е** everywhere that **это́т** uses **и** (so the plural is **те, те́ми**, etc.).

Notes on
pronouns.

Possessives

	feminine	masculine	‘my’ neuter	plural
NOM	мо́я	мо́й	моё́	мо́и
INST	моё́й	мои́м	мои́м	мои́ми
ACC	мою́	мо́й моего́ if animate	моё́	мо́и мои́х if animate
DAT	моё́й	моему́	моему́	мои́м
GEN	моё́й	моего́	моего́	мои́х
LOC	моё́й	моём	моём	мои́х

	feminine	masculine	‘our’ neuter	plural
NOM	на́ша	наш	на́ше	на́ши
INST	на́шей	на́шим	на́шим	на́шими
ACC	на́шу	наш на́шего if animate	на́ше	на́ши на́ших if animate
DAT	на́шей	на́шему	на́шему	на́шим
GEN	на́шей	на́шего	на́шего	на́ших
LOC	на́шей	на́шем	на́шем	на́ших

Твой ‘your (informal)’, and свой ‘one’s own’ look just like **мо́й**. Ваш ‘your’ looks just like **наш**. And of course **её́** ‘her’, **его́** ‘his’, and **их** ‘their’ do not decline. Aside from the NOM singular masculine form (which has the vowel **е** instead of **и**), **чей** ‘whose’ looks just like **трéтий** (for example, feminine forms are **чья́, чьей, чью́**, etc.). As with adjectives, the feminine INST singular of possessives has a variant ending **-е́ю**.

Notes on
possessives.

Numerals

	feminine	masculine	‘one’ neuter	plural
NOM	одна́	оди́н	одно́	одни́
INST	однóй	одни́м	одни́м	одни́ми
ACC	одну́	оди́н одногó if animate	одно́	одни́ одни́х if animate
DAT	однóй	одному́	одному́	одни́м
GEN	однóй	одногó	однóй	одни́х
LOC	однóй	однóм	однóм	одни́х

	‘two’	‘three’	‘four’	‘five’
NOM	две (feminine) два (masc/neut)	три	четыре	пять
INST	двумя	тремя	четырьмя	пятью
ACC	две / два двух if animate	три трёх if animate	четыре четырёх if animate	пять
DAT	двум	трьём	четырьём	пяти
GEN	двух	трёх	четырёх	пяти
LOC	двух	трёх	четырёх	пяти

Notes on
numerals

Note the feminine INST variant *одно́ю*. *Оба* ‘both’ has the following forms for masculine and neuter: INST *обо́ими*, ACC *оба*, DAT *обо́им*, GEN *обо́их*, LOC *обо́их*. The feminine forms are the same, but the vowel *е* is substituted for *а*, giving *обе*, *обе́ими*, etc. When the numbers *оба/обе*, *два/две*, *три*, and *четыре* (also called the “paucal numerals”) are used in the NOM or ACC cases, the adjectives and nouns they modify appear with a variety of endings. Adjectives use an ending that looks like the GEN plural (the only acceptable ending when the noun is masculine or neuter) or the NOM/ACC plural (preferred when the noun is feminine). Nouns use an ending that looks like the GEN singular, but sometimes has a unique stress (for example, in the phrase *два часа́* ‘two hours’, *часá* has no equivalent anywhere in the paradigm for *час* ‘hour’; the GEN singular is *ча́са*). This book will follow the convention of treating the entire paucal numeral + adjective + noun phrase as NOM when the numeral is NOM, and ACC when the numeral is ACC, thus:

У меня́ *три краси́вых бра́та* и *две краси́вые/краси́вых сестры́*.
[By me-GEN three handsome brothers-NOM and two beautiful sisters-NOM.]
I have *three handsome brothers* and *two beautiful sisters* .

Я ждала́ *четы́ре до́лгих часа́* и *четы́ре до́лгие/до́лгих мину́ты*.
[I-NOM waited four long hours-ACC and four long minutes-ACC.]
I waited *four long hours* and *four long minutes* .

Collective numerals have one form for the NOM and (inanimate) ACC, such as *дво́е* ‘two-some’, *тро́е* ‘threesome’, *четы́ре* ‘foursome’, *пяте́ро* ‘fivesome’, etc., and form all other cases with adjectival endings, giving for example the INST forms: *дво́ими*, *тро́ими*, *четы́рыми*, *пяте́рыми*, etc. *Ско́лько* ‘how many’ behaves like the collectives (INST: *ско́лькими*). *Соро́к* ‘forty’, *девяно́сто* ‘ninety’, *сто* ‘hundred’ all have the ending *-а* in the INST, DAT, GEN, and LOC forms. For numerals from ‘two hundred’ to ‘nine hundred’, however, *сто* is declined like any hard type neuter noun, with the exception that ‘two hundred’ is *двэ́сти*. *Ты́сяча* ‘thousand’, *миллио́н* ‘million’, and *миллиа́рд* ‘billion’ are all declined just like ordinary nouns.

Prepositions

Most prepositions that end in a consonant (*без* ‘without’, *из* ‘from’, *над* ‘above’, *об* ‘about, against’, *от* ‘from’, *пе́ред* ‘before’, *под* ‘under’) or consist only of a consonant (*в*

Notes on
prepositions.

‘to’, к ‘to’, с ‘with, from, approximately’) will frequently add the vowel -о (creating безо, изо, надо, обо, ото, пёредо, подо, во, ко, со) preceding certain consonant clusters, in particular:

мн- (primarily in forms of много/многие ‘many’ and the pronoun я ‘I’): во многом ‘in many ways’, ко мне ‘to me’, пёредо мной ‘before me’

вс- (primarily in forms of весь ‘all’): изо всех сил ‘with all one’s might’, ко всем ‘to everyone’.

The addition of -о to prepositions is also common when the consonant cluster of the next word begins with the same (or similar) consonant as the one at the end of the preposition: во вто́рник ‘on Tuesday’, со сто́ла ‘from the table’, со злóсти ‘out of spite’, со щáми ‘with cabbage soup’, со счёта ‘from the bill’. Less predictable is the insertion of -о before words with other consonant clusters, such as во рту ‘in one’s mouth’, ко дну ‘to the bottom’, обо что ‘against what’, подо льдом ‘under the ice’.

The preposition о ‘against, about’ always adds -б (becoming об) before words beginning in a vowel (а, э, и, о, у), and frequently adds the -б even before consonants when used with the accusative case to indicate ‘against’, as in об стену ‘against the wall’. Regardless of the case used, об will further add -о (becoming обо) before most declined forms (containing мн- and вс-) of я and весь: обо мне ‘about me’, обо всё́м ‘about everything’.

Names

Russian first names and patronymics decline like nouns, but surnames follow a variety of patterns, depending upon their stem shape. There are five types of surnames: 1) Russian surnames ending in -ын, -ин, -ов, -ёв, or -ев; 2) Russian and foreign surnames ending in a consonant; 3) Surnames ending in unstressed -а or -я; 4) Russian surnames with adjectival stems ending in -ый, -ий, or -ой; 5) Russian surnames ending in -ых, -их, -аго, -яго, -ово, Ukrainian surnames ending in -ко, -енко, and all foreign surnames ending in a vowel (other than -а).

1) Russian surnames ending in -ын, -ин, -ов, -ёв, or -ев follow a mixed declension containing both nominal and pronominal endings.

	feminine singular	masculine singular	plural
NOM	Пушкина	Пушкин	Пушкины
INST	Пушкиной	Пушкиным	Пушкиными
ACC	Пушкину	Пушкина	Пушкиных
DAT	Пушкиной	Пушкину	Пушкиным
GEN	Пушкиной	Пушкина	Пушкиных
LOC	Пушкиной	Пушкине	Пушкиных

2) Russian and foreign surnames ending in a consonant are declined like masculine nouns when they refer to a male person, but are indeclinable when they refer to a female person. Compare: Я люблю Дика Лонга ‘I love Dick Long’ vs. Я люблю Сару Лонг ‘I love Sara Long’.

Notes on names.

3) Surnames ending in unstressed -а or -я are declined like feminine nouns regardless of whether they refer to a man or woman: Я люблю Була́та/Ма́рию Окуджáву ‘I love Bulat/Maria Okudzhava’.

4) Russian surnames with adjectival stems ending in -ый, -ий, or -ой are declined like adjectives and agree in gender and number with the person or persons that they refer to: Я люблю Андре́я Бе́лого/Ма́ю Плесéцкую ‘I love Andrej Belyj/Maja Plesetskaja’.

5) Russian surnames ending in -ых, -их, -ого, -яго, -ово, Ukrainian surnames ending in -ко, -енко, and all foreign surnames ending in a vowel (other than -а) are indeclinable (although there is some tendency to decline the Ukrainian surnames ending in -ко, -енко like Russian surnames ending in unstressed -а, cf. 3 above): Я люблю Дóктора Живáго/Шевчéнко (Шевчéнку).