

Русский язык 101

Work for Week Eight, Mon Oct 12 — Mon Oct 19

Monday, October 12

Today you will enjoy individual conferences with me in class. Be sure and come if you are not ill. Mid-term grades and achievements to date will be under discussion.

Tuesday, October 13

Begin Lesson 4.

Possession and non-possession, existence and non-existence in Russian.
Genitive case of nouns and personal pronouns.

Notes on the grammar of possession.

To express possession, Russian says 'by me is X'. 'Me' is in the genitive case (for pronouns, this is the same as the forms used with *меня зовут, вас зовут*), 'is' is the word *есть*, emphasizing existence or possession and X (the thing possessed) is in the nominative. Thus:

У нас есть компьютер. We have a computer. Grammatically, 'by us (GEN) is computer (NOM)'

У него есть брат и сестра. He has a brother and a sister. 'by him (GEN) is brother and sister (NOM)'

У меня есть дом и машина. I have a house and a car.

У неё есть рояль и телевизор. She has a piano and a television.

У нас есть шахматы. We have a chess set.

The word *есть* is omitted if emphasis is on the quality of the entity possessed (an adjective), or its location:

У нас новая квартира. We have a new apartment. 'by us (GEN) new apartment (NOM)'

У них ужасный сосед. They have a terrible neighbor. 'by them (GEN) horrible neighbor (NOM)'

Где у тебя шахматы? Where do you have the chess set? 'Where by you (GEN) chess set (NOM)?'

У тебя маленькая собака. You have a little dog.

To say that something is not possessed, is missing, or does not exist, Russian uses *нет* 'there is not' and the genitive. (This is not the same *нет*

meaning 'no'.)

For genitive forms of nouns, see p. 130. Literally this comes out '(by X -) is not - of Y'.

У меня нет папы. I have no father. 'by me (GEN) is-not of father (GEN)'

Нет Бога? Does God (бог) not exist?

Нет водки. There is no vodka. 'is-not of vodka (GEN)'

У него дома нет тетрадки. He has no notebook at home.

В России уже нет коммунизма. In Russia there is no longer communism.

Здесь нет остановки авробуса. There is no bus stop here.

Clearly we need to know the forms of the genitive. They are given on p. 130 (pronouns) and 132 (nouns). This will take some time. Enjoy!

Russian, in possessive phrases, is very different from languages we are generally familiar with.

Note that in the negative there is no nominative subject. It is characteristic of Russian in many constructions to fail to present a nominative subject.

(Cool)

The video introduces us to this construction in the context of дом номер 3. The first three remarks on the video are:

окно нельзя открыть.

window (acc) — it is impossible — to open

воды нет

of water (gen) — there is not

дверь нельзя открыть

door (acc) — it is impossible — to open.

These are magnificent examples of Russian impersonals — sentences without a nominative subject.

Study the video!!

есть	there is, there are
нет	there is not, there are not

нет воды	there is no water
вода есть	there is water
есть проблема	there's a problem
душ	shower
пол	floor
прекрасно	splendid (adverb)
нельзя	it is impossible
невозможно	it is impossible
компьютер	computer
телевизор	television
ванна	bathtub
холодный	cold
холодильник	refrigerator
пылесос	vacuum cleaner
будильник	alarm clock
зачем	why, for what purpose, with what end?
почему	why, by what cause?
зачем ванна, если нет воды	why have a tub when there's no water
кошмар	nightmare
дверь (ж.)	door
закрыть	to close
открыть	to open
есть человек, есть проблема, нет человека, нет проблемы	If there's a person, there's a problem; if there's no person, there's no problem (Mafia wisdom)

For Tuesday, October 13

Study video. Study forms of genitive, pp. 130 and 132. Please write workbook 4.1, А, Б, Г, Д, Е Ж. Audit tracks 1-4 in Langstream. Video! Video!

For Wednesday, October 14

Review video (naturally). Write 3, К, Л, М. Audit tracks 5-8. Study dialogues 1 and 2, p. 136, and exer. 12, p. 135.

Wednesday is mid-term!

Thursday and Friday --- Fall Break! Fly to Vermont for foliage

for **Monday, October 19**

Brief, non-invasive quiz on 4.1; basic video events and possessive / non-possessive phrases we studied on Tuesday and Wednesday. You don't need the whole vocab list, just the forms we'll have studied in class. We will review briefly before the quiz.