

Case

One way in which Russian differs from English is that Russian nouns, adjectives and pronouns have endings that indicate their function in a sentence. Consider these two English sentences.

Mother loves Maria and Maria loves mother

You can tell which is the subject and which is the object in these sentences because, in English, the word order tells you which is which. In Russian, the word order is much more free and so the way you can tell a word's role in the sentences is by the endings on the nouns and adjectives.

Мама любит Марию and Марию любит мама

Both mean Mother loves Maria.

The system of putting endings on nouns, pronouns and adjectives is called the case system. Russian has six cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, prepositional, dative and instrumental.

Nominative Case

The nominative case is used for naming. Nouns and adjectives given in the dictionary are in nominative case. The nominative case is used for:

1. The subject of the sentence.

Джон—американец John is an American

2. The predicate complement in an equational sentence (any word that “is” the subject)

ДЖОН—американец John is an American

Prepositional Case

The prepositional case is used in many situations, but to start with, it indicates a stable location. (Some people also call this the locative case)

- Джон живёт в Америке
- Джейн живёт в Нью-Йорке
- Пол живёт в Мичигане
- Энн живёт в Калифорнии

To indicate location, use the prepositions **в** or **на** followed by the noun in the prepositional case. You can figure out the prepositional case form of a singular noun if you know its nominative case form.

1. If the noun in nominative case ends in a consonant other than - й , add – е:

Nominative

Нью Йорк

Санкт Петербург

Prepositional

в Нью Йорке

в Санкт Петербурге

2. If the noun in nominative case ends in а й, а, or я, drop that letter and add –е.

Nominative

музей

Москва

Аня

Prepositional

в музее

в Москве

об Ане

3. Never end a word with- ие as the last two letters in the prepositional case. Write – ии instead.

Nominative

Калифорния

Prepositional

Калифорнии

4. For foreign words ending in -о, -и, or -у , prepositional case looks the same as the nominative case.

Nominative

Колорадо

Миссури

Баку

Prepositional

Колорадо

Миссури

Баку

5. To say “in an American state,” you may put the word штат in the prepositional case and then keep the state name in the nominative.

Nominative

Я живу в Нью Йорке

Я живу в Мичигане

Prepositional

Я живу в штате Нью Йорк

Я живу в штате Мичиган

6. To say “in an American city,” you may put the word город in the prepositional case and then keep the city name in the nominative.

Nominative

Я живу в Нью Йорке

Я живу в Анн-Арборе

Prepositional

Я живу в городе Нью Йорк

Я живу в городе Анн Арбор

Russian

Seim

Имя _____

Indicate which words are in the nominative case (N) and which ones are in the prepositional case (P)

Джон () – студент ()

Джон () – американец ()

Джон () учится в университете () в Бостоне ()

Джон () живёт в Массачусетсе ()

Бостон () в Массачусетсе ()

Джейн () родилась в Буффало ()

Write the sentence to tell where the following people live.

Example: Миша – Краснодар

Write: *Миша живёт в Краснодаре*

1. Джон – Уллинойс _____

2. Кэрл – Арканзас _____

3. Ваня – Санкт-Петербург _____

4. Сьюзан – Индиана _____

5. Курт – Монтана _____

6. Саша – Москва _____

7. Дима – Россия _____

8. Мэри – Калифорния _____

9. Деннис – Колорадо _____

10. Сара – Миссисипи _____

