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Forward

Users

The "Living Russian Grammar" is intended for university students and for students in schools and colleges, as well as for adults at beginner and pre-intermediate level. It can also usefully be used by intermediate learners who wish to review and consolidate their language skills, either with a teacher, or in self study mode.

Development

The "Living Russian Grammar" responds to the needs of learners who wish to acquire the basics of communication in Russian with a correct lexical and grammatical basis.

The book was tested in different versions, and improved in response to feedback from clients — students, business people, diplomats, ex-pats, etc.

Principles

This grammar does not purport to be a full description of the Russian language. It is a teaching and learning tool based on a selection of the most essential grammatical structures, and introducing an active and useful vocabulary. We have tried to show how linguistic elements are organised and used in real contexts. In order to keep up with contemporary linguistic research, we have tried to avoid the use of an over specialised technical vocabulary, which might confuse learners. Similarly, we have only used examples that might be considered useful at this level of study.

Lastly, we have always attempted to make the learning of Russian grammar less abstract, more interesting, and more motivating.

Layout

The book comprises 57 units, which allow separate research of each grammatical topic, as well as a set of grammatical tables at the end. In the units, grammatical points are explained on the left-hand pages, with live examples, and exercises to practise the language are given on the right-hand page. Certain more complex grammatical topics are split over several units.

We hope that this volume will help you find pleasure and ease in acquiring the basics of everyday Russian, a language too often considered to be a difficult one to learn.

We wish you good luck!

The authors

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NOUNS singular and plural

Э́то магази́н.	Э́то маши́на.	Э́то окно́.
This is a shop.	This is a car.	This is a window.
Э́то магази́н ы .	Э́то маши́н ы .	Э́то о́кн а .
These are shops.	These are cars.	These are windows.

THE NOMINATIVE PLURAL

General rule. Noun endings change according to gender and number. The nominative plural endings are as follows:

masculine	feminine	neuter
-Ы (-И)	-Ы (-И)	(R-) A-
студе́нт <i>(student)</i> → студе́нт ы	ла́мп а (lamp) → ла́мп ы	де́л о (business) → дел а́
ден ь <i>(day)</i> → дн и	áрми я (army) → áрми и но́вость (piece of news) → но́вост и	мо́р е (sea) → моря́

SPELLING RULES

These are generally to do with phonetics. Certain letters may not follow each other.

◆ After the consonants Γ, K, X and Ж, Ч, Ш, Щ we write -И:

```
Γ
    кни́га (book)
                               кни́ги
К
    уро́к (lesson)
                           → уро́ки
Χ
                           → эпо́хи
    эпо́ха (epoch)
Ж
    эта́ж (floor)
                           → этажи́
Ч
    врач (doctor)
                           → врачи́
Ш
    каранда́ш (pencil)
                               карандаши́
Щ
    плащ (raincoat)
                               плащи́
```

◆ Masculin nouns in -Ň, feminine nouns in -Я and all nouns in -Ь have a Nom. pl. in -N:

```
трамва́й (masc.) (tram) → трамва́и тётя (fem.) (aunt) → тёти слова́рь (masc.) (dictionary) → словари́ тетра́дь (fem.) (exercise book) → тетра́ди
```

4	Reply in the negative, putting the word in brackets into the plural:
	Example: — Это книги? (словарь) — Нет, это не книги, это словари.

словари ___

клубы

1) — Это гостиницы? (институт)	<u> </u>
2) — Это школы? (университет)	<u> </u>
3) — Это ручки? (карандаш)	
4) — Это сёстры? (подруга)	_
5) — Это компьютеры? (телевизор)	<u> </u>
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
6) — Это письма? (документ)	

квартиры

IRREGULAR PLURAL FORMS

Nouns that have a change to the stem:

masculine

друг (friend) \rightarrow друзья́ стул (chair) \rightarrow сту́лья брат (brother) \rightarrow бра́тья челове́к (person) \rightarrow лю́ди цвето́к (flower) \rightarrow цветы́ ребёнок (child) \rightarrow де́ти сын (son) \rightarrow сыновья́, etc.

feminine

дочь *(daughter)* → до́чери мать *(mother)* → ма́тери, etc.

neuter

де́рево (tree) → дере́вья вре́мя (time) → времена́, и́мя (first name) → имена́, etc. я́блоко (apple) → я́блоки

♦ Masculine nouns with a stressed **-A** (**-Я**) ending in the Nominative plural:

цвет (colour) → цвет**á** профе́ссор (professor) → профе́ссор**á** учи́тель (teacher) → учител**я́** ве́чер (evening) → вечер**á** дом (house) → дом**á** по́езд (train) → поезд**á** по́езд (train) → поезд**á** профе́ссор (professor) → профе́ссор**á** адрес (address) → адрес**á** го́род (town) → город**á** па́спорт (passport) → паспорт**á** глаз (eye) → глаз**á**, etc.

◆ As in English, certain nouns have **no plural**. This includes substances, feelings, etc. (things that cannot be counted):

ры́ба (fish as a dish) молоко́ (milk) са́хар (sugar)
пи́во (beer) мя́со (meat) нефть (oil)
соль (salt) серебро́ (silver) зо́лото (gold)
хи́мия (chemistry) любо́вь (love) сча́стье (happiness)

♦ As in English, certain nouns have **no singular**. This includes words that in some way designate a pair, and certain other nouns:

ОЧКИ (glasses)Часы́ (clock or watch)Кани́кулы (holidays)Де́ньги (money)Духи́ (perfume)но́жницы (scissors)

су́тки (24 hours) брю́ки (trousers) трусы́ (short trousers, pants)

Certain neuter nouns of foreign origin never change their endings:

метро, радио, такси, пальто, меню, etc.

кофе

метро

стул

сестра

девочка

ключ

нефть

время

друг