

1. Items to compare

Review a few nouns for things you and your classmates probably both have — for use in today's dialogues.

карандаш pencil
ручка pen
ноутбук laptop

рубашка shirt
ключ key
словарь dictionary

стул chair
учебник textbook
рюкзак backpack

книга book
телефон telephone
зонт umbrella

2. What's your stuff like?

Ask about a classmate's stuff. Some reactions (good and bad) are included. Choose based on how your classmate describes the item.

— Какой у тебя карандаш ?	“What's your pencil like?”
— Он уже довольно старый , но хороший .	“It's already quite old, but good.”
— Как интересно! Покажи!	“How interesting! Show (me)!”
— Вот он .	“Here it (is).”
— Ничего себе!.. А у тебя есть?	“WOW!.. And do you have one?”
— Да. Мой совсем новый , но уже грязный .	“Yes. Mine (is) totally new, but already dirty.”
— Как жаль! Покажи!	“What a pity! Show (me)!”
— Вот он .	“Here it (is).”
— Ужас какой-то!	“What a horror!” (lit. “Horror of some sort”)

2. “This is a new pencil” versus “This pencil is new.”

The distinction between the unchanging “pointing word” **это** and **этот, эта, это** is extremely important, especially since both words are so common. Meanwhile, we also have the pronouns **он, она, оно**. TIP: Here and elsewhere, don't let English translations confuse you about the Russian grammar. The three words just discussed are clearly distinct in Russian and function very differently, regardless of translation.

Revisit some of the items you've just discussed, and say these simple things about them.

Это новый карандаш.	“This is a new pencil.”
Он новый .	“It is new.”
Этот карандаш новый .	“This pencil is new.”

3. Comparing stuff

Now that you've discussed a few items, compare them a bit more, based on these models.

IMPORTANT: Remember that the conjunction “**а**” is used to compare and contrast separate items, not to suggest something contradictory about a single thing; while it may translate as either “and” or “but,” it is best to think of Russian “**а**” as meaning “**while**” or “**whereas**.”

To say “the same,” you can use **тот же**, or, to be slightly more emphatic, add on an additional adjectival form: **тот же самый**.

Мой карандаш новый , а твой старый .	My pencil (is) new, while yours (is) old.
Этот карандаш новый , а тот старый .	This pencil (is) new, while that one (is) old.
У меня есть карандаш, а у тебя нет.	At me is pencil, while at you not.
У тебя такой же карандаш, как у меня .	At you (is) the same kind of pencil as at me.
У тебя тот же (самый) учебник , как у меня .	At you (is) the same textbook as at me.