

### 1. Introducing animate nouns

**Animate** nouns answer the question **Кто?** (Who?), and refer to people — or animals (not plants!). This “**animacy**” distinction will affect certain endings, as we’ll soon see. For today, just get familiar with these nouns and practice pronouncing them.

hard nouns					
masculine			feminine		
<b>враг</b>	enemy	<b>студент</b>	student (male)	<b>студентка</b>	student (female)
<b>автор</b>	author	<b>аспирант</b>	grad student (male)	<b>аспирантка</b>	grad student (fem.)
<b>поэт</b>	poet	<b>друг</b>	friend (male)	<b>подруга</b>	friend (female)
<b>сосед</b>	neighbor/roommate	<b>профессор</b>	professor	<b>сестра</b>	sister
<b>мальчик</b>	boy	<b>отец</b>	father	<b>мама</b>	mom
<b>сын</b>	son	<b>человек</b>	human being	<b>женщина</b>	woman
<b>кот</b>	cat (male)	<b>брат</b>	brother	<b>девушка</b>	young woman
<b>котёнок</b>	kitten	<b>родственник</b>	relative	<b>девочка</b>	girl
<b>щенок</b>	puppy	<b>товарищ</b>	comrade; buddy	<b>собака</b>	dog
<b>президент</b>	president	<b>начальник</b>	boss	<b>кошка</b>	cat (female)
<b>знакомый</b>	male acquaintance	<b>masculine (but feminine endings!)</b>		<b>знакомая</b>	fem. acquaintance
<b>внук</b>	grandson	<b>папа</b>	dad	<b>бабушка</b>	grandmother
<b>муж</b>	husband	<b>дедушка</b>	grandfather	<b>внучка</b>	granddaughter
<b>жених</b>	groom, fiancé	<b>коллега</b>	colleague	<b>дочка</b>	daughter
<b>ребёнок</b>	child	<b>зануда</b>	boring person, killjoy	<b>жена</b>	wife
<b>игрок</b>	a player / gambler	<b>мужчина</b>	man	<b>невеста</b>	bride, fiancée
<b>солдат</b>	soldier	<b>пьяница</b>	drunkard	<b>соседка</b>	neighbor/roommate

  

soft nouns					
masculine			feminine		
<b>парень</b>	guy	<b>писатель</b>	writer	<b>тётя</b> aunt	
<b>герой</b>	hero	<b>masculine (but feminine endings!)</b>			
<b>приятель</b>	pal, buddy	<b>дядя</b>	uncle		

### 2. What can you not live without?

Of course, we could probably “live” without a lot of things. Sure, we could perhaps survive biologically without, say, Russian literature. But what kind of life would that be?! Hardly one worth living! Share your own values using **без + the genitive**. A few possibilities:

<b>(русская) литература</b>	(Russian) literature	<b>философия</b>	philosophy	<b>моя собака</b>	my dog
<b>(русская) музыка</b>	(Russian) Music	<b>дорогая машина</b>	an expensive car	<b>моя кошка</b>	my cat
<b>(русская) поэзия</b>	(Russian) poetry	<b>огромный телевизор</b>	a gigantic television	<b>бабушка</b>	grandma
<b>(русское) кино</b>	(Russian) cinema	<b>мобильный телефон</b>	a mobile phone	<b>дедушка</b>	grandpa
<b>(русский) балет</b>	(Russian) ballet	<b>наш учебник</b>	our textbook	<b>мама и папа</b>	mom and dad
<b>(русская) культура</b>	(Russian) culture	<b>это упражнение</b>	this exercise	<b>вода</b>	water

Here again, for reference, is a table showing how to put words in the nominative into the accusative.

masculine				neuter				feminine			
nominative		genitive		nominative		genitive		nominative		genitive	
adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun
-ый, -ий	∅	-ого, -его	-а, -я	-ое, -ее	-о, -е	-ого, -его	-а, -я	-ая	-а, -я	-ой, -ей	-ы, -и

Ask and answer questions like these:

Без <b>чего</b> ты не можешь жить?	“Without <b>what</b> you are not able to live?”
Без <b>кого</b> ты не можешь жить?	“Without <b>whom</b> you are not able to live?”
Ты можешь жить без <b>музыки</b> ?*	“You are able to live without music?”

\* Recall Nietzsche’s aphorism: “Ohne Musik wäre das Leben ein Irrtum.” (Without music life would be a mistake.)