

1. Summary of our endings so far: nominative, genitive, accusative

Take a moment to review the **genitive** endings we learned previously. All nouns, of all genders, have special genitive forms.

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

The **accusative** is quite different. Only **feminines** have distinctly accusative forms — and their rule is easy: “a” becomes “y” and “я” becomes “ю.” **MEMORIZE THIS!** Meanwhile, **all inanimates** (in the **black box** — both neuter and masculine) have accusatives that look just like **nominatives**. We have to watch out for **masculine animates**: their accusatives look just like **genitives**.

masculine INANIMATE				neuter				feminine			
nominative		genitive		nominative		genitive		nominative		genitive	
adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun	adj	noun
-ый, -ий	∅	-ый, -ий	∅	-ое, -ее	-о, -е	-ое, -ее	-о, -е	-ая	-а, -я	-ую	-у, -ю

masculine ANIMATE			
nominative		genitive	
adj	noun	adj	noun
-ый, -ий	∅	-ого, -его	-а, -я

Of course, while we may need to refer to **tables** at first, we can only really learn the cases by **using them**. Try to focus on the actual examples in our written and conversational exercises to develop a more intuitive feel for these forms.

2. Shopping for feminine nouns!

You're at the mall! They have some must-have products that all happen to be feminine in Russian. Wow, they even have old-fashioned puppy and kitten mills, apparently. (How much is that doggy in the window?) Take turns making them **direct objects** — in the **accusative**!

новая собака	a new dog	хорошая машина	a good car	красивая рубашка	a pretty shirt
новая кошка	a new cat	дорогая одежда	expensive clothes	лёгкая футболка	a light T-shirt
русская книга	a Russian book	необычная сумка	an unusual purse	чистая простыня	a clean bedsheet

- Что ты покупаешь? / Что ты купил(а)? “What are you buying? / What did you buy?”
- **Русскую книгу!** А ты? “A Russian book! What about you?”

3. Shopping for masculines and neuters!

Repeat the exercise — but now you're at a mall that only sells masculine and neuter nouns. Wow, they even have a hedgehog mill. Remember — **ONLY masculine animates** will change in the accusative, and they'll look exactly like **genitives**!

русский роман	a Russian novel	новый щен(о)к	a new puppy	русский ёж (end-stress!)	a Russian hedgehog
дорогое мыло	expensive soap	новый котён(о)к	a new kitten	огромный телевизор	a huge television
красивый ковёр	a pretty rug	новый велосипед	a new bike	хороший зонт	a good umbrella

4. I see...

Review with a very simple exercise: say “I see...” these things and people, with a partner, checking each other's accusative forms!

брат	brother	от(е)ц	brother	ключ	key	папа	dad	студент	student
сестра	sister	семья	sister	зеркало	mirror	щен(о)к	puppy	студентка	student
окно	window	ообщение	window	мама	mom	ручка	pen	бельё	laundry

- Я вижу **брата**. “I see (my) brother.”

All names are **animate** — after all, they refer to people. Generally, if a foreign **man's name** ends in a **consonant**, it is declined like a Russian **masculine**. If a foreign name ends in an “a” (“я”) it can be declined like a **feminine** noun (even if it refers to a man — a good example is **Обама**). Finally, **women's names** ending in a **consonant**, or **any name** ending in a vowel other than “a,” are typically **not declined**.

With a partner, try saying you see classmates, using the **Russian version** of their first name in the **accusative**.

- Я вижу **Бена / Аманду / Кэтрин / Мэри**. “I see Ben / Amanda / Catherine / Mary.”