

1. What authors have you read?

Let's quickly review yesterday's **accusative case forms** by asking about some Russian authors. Again, since names refer to people, they're **all animate**: female names will follow the "a" to "y" rule, while men's names will look like **genitives**.

NOTE: Some Russian last names are actually **adjectives** — such as **Достоевский** and **Толстой**.

Анна Ахматова
Фёдор Достоевский
Михаил Булгаков

Лев (Льва) Толстой
Татьяна Толстая
Антон Чехов

Владимир Маяковский
Марина Цветаева
Иван Тургенев

Александр Пушкин
Михаил Лермонтов
Лидия Гинзбург (careful!)

— Ты читал(а) **Анну Ахматову** / **Льва Толстого**? "Have you read Anna Akhmatova / Lev Tolstoy?"

— Да, читал(а). / — Нет, не читал(а). "Yes, I have." / "No, I haven't."

2. Aspectual pairs for some daily activities

Look over this list of aspectual pairs, many followed by direct objects in the accusative. After today's lesson, it should be clear how critical it is to get into the habit of **learning Russian verbs as pairs**. This isn't easy — it takes drilling, and plenty of practice. But if you don't know the full pair, you can't really talk about an activity fully, and you may miss the real point of statements or questions about it.

делать АЙ / сделать АЙ домашнее задание	do homework	рисовать ОВА / нарисовать ОВА картину	draw a picture
читать АЙ / прочитать АЙ книгу / статью	read book / article	готовить И / приготовить И ужин	cook dinner
смотреть Е / посмотреть Е сериал	watch TV series	танцевать ОВА / потанцевать ОВА	dance / d. a bit
слушать АЙ / послушать АЙ музыку	listen to music	отдыхать АЙ / отдохнуть НУ ^{end}	relax
писать А ^{shift} / написать А доклад	write a paper	решать АЙ / решить И ^{end} задачу	solve a problem
забывать АЙ / забыть зонт	forget an umbrella	рассказывать АЙ / рассказать А ^{shift} анекдот	tell a joke

URGENT TIP: It is extremely common (and I'm not really sure why!) for students to pay no attention whatsoever to **TENSE**. Tense should be the easy part — everyone knows the difference between present, past, and future tense, and this difference is very clear in Russian. Whenever — whenever! — you use a Russian verb, think about: 1) **aspect** (hard!) 2) **tense** (easy!); and 3) subject-verb **agreement** (easy!).

3. What are you up to today?

Remember, **only imperfective** verbs can be used in the present tense! If it's present tense, there's **no doubt** about the aspect!

— Что ты **делаешь** сегодня? "What are you doing today?"
— Я **читаю** книгу, **пишу** доклад...

"I'm reading a book, writing a paper..."

4. What did you do yesterday?

Now, in the **past**, we can use **either aspect** — and our choice of aspect, including in questions about the past, can really shift the emphasis. Typically, responses to questions **mirror the grammar** of the questions themselves, and this is typically true of aspect as well. To answer the **imperfective** question, use imperfective verbs; to answer the **perfective** question, use perfective verbs! Try both versions:

— Что ты **делал(а)** вчера? "What were you **up to** yesterday?"
— **Читал(а)** книгу, **писал(а)** доклад... "I was reading a book, working on a paper..."
— Что ты **сделал(а)** вчера? "What did you **get done** yesterday?"
— **Прочитал(а)** книгу, **написал(а)** доклад... "I got a book read, I got a paper written..."

5. What will you do tomorrow?

Similarly, in the future tense, we can use either aspect, and that choice impacts our emphasis.

— Что ты **будешь делать** завтра? "What will you be **up to** tomorrow?"
— Я **буду читать** книгу, **писать** доклад... "I'll be reading a book, working on a paper..."
— Что ты **сделаешь** завтра? "What will you **get done** tomorrow?"
— Я **прочитаю** книгу, **напишу** доклад... "I'll get a book read, get a paper written..."