

## 1. Forming the past tense

**IMPORTANT:** remembering that the **past tense is easy** (well, almost always easy!) is one of the most useful bits of knowledge for students of Russian. Sure, the **conjugated forms** of Russian verbs (sometimes called “**non-past**” forms, since, depending on **aspect**, they could be **present-** or **future-tense**) are **HARD**, as we well know — remember all those verb types? But, for the most part, the **past tense** is formed **directly from the infinitive** — even the **stress** typically follows that of the infinitive.

It's very helpful in Russian to **compartmentalize** what's really hard from what's actually easy. Otherwise, the language can seem overwhelming. So, remember: the past tense is easy — and simply watch for those **rare exceptions** to this near-universal rule.

Give the requested past-tense forms below. Note that 1st and 2nd person singular pronouns (**я** and **ты**) can be masculine or feminine.

- |  |               |               |           |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. <b>заплатить</b> И:                 | он _____      | она _____     | они _____ |
| 2. <b>думать</b> АЙ:                   | ты (f.) _____ | ты (m.) _____ | вы _____  |
| 3. <b>иметь</b> ЕЙ:                    | я (m.) _____  | я (f.) _____  | мы _____  |
| 4. <b>плакать</b> А:                   | они _____     | вы _____      | мы _____  |
| 5. <b>сидеть</b> Е:                    | все _____     | он _____      | она _____ |
| 6. <b>рисовать</b> ОВА:                | я (f.) _____  | ты (f.) _____ | она _____ |
| 7. <b>жить</b> В (watch stress!*):     | я (m.) _____  | я (f.) _____  | мы _____  |
| 8. <b>понять</b> Й/М (watch stress!*): | он _____      | она _____     | они _____ |

Here, the stress jumps to the **femining ending** (“a”) only. This is the most common stress-pattern deviation for past-tense verbs.

## 2. Combining past- and future-tense forms with aspectual choice

Give the requested **past-tense** forms for **both aspects**, then choose between them to capture the gist of the English prompt.

**писать** А / **написать** А

- |            |       |                                   |       |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| он: _____  | _____ | 1. Did he get the letter written? | _____ |
| она: _____ | _____ | 2. She was always writing.        | _____ |
| они: _____ | _____ | 3. They wrote an article.         | _____ |

Now repeat, for the future tense. **IMPORTANT:** note clearly the imperfectives and perfectives form their future tense **differently!**

**писать** А / **написать** А

- |   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| я: _____                                    | _____ | _____ |
| 1. I'll write the letter tomorrow.          | _____ | _____ |
| 2. I'll be writing for a long time (долго). | _____ | _____ |

## 3. Putting it all together: three tenses, and two aspects

Given the following aspectual pairs, capture the sense of the English in Russian. Watch both aspect and tense!

- |   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
| <b>платить</b> И /<br><b>заплатить</b> И: | 1. She always paid for (за) the coffee (кофе). | _____ |
|   | 2. She'll pay for the coffee tomorrow.         | _____ |
|   | 3. She'll always pay for the coffee!           | _____ |
| <b>забывать</b> АЙ /<br><b>забыть</b> *:  | 1. He forgot his umbrella again.               | _____ |
|   | 2. He was always forgetting it.                | _____ |
|   | 3. He'll forget it again (опять) tomorrow.     | _____ |