

Шестой урок Lesson Six

Dialogues: A: "She's probably a genius"
B: "He's probably a genius"
Grammar: Word order (cont'd)
Possessives
Basic negation in Russian
'Location' endings: -e vs. -ии vs. no change
Spelling/Sounds: Spelling {O} – 3 ways: o, ё, e

Диалогы

Dialogues

A. Она, наверное, гений *She's probably a genius*

(Still looking at фотография)

Люда:	1 2	Хорошо. Я всё понимаю. Это твой старший брат, а это его жена.	<i>OK. I understand everything. That's your older brother and that's his wife.</i>
Стёпа:	3 4	Нет, ты опять всё перепутала. Это моя младшая сестра и её муж. А это их дети.	<i>No, you mixed everything up again. That's my younger sister and her husband. And that's (those are) their children.</i>
Люда:	5	А где живут их дети?	<i>Where do their children live?</i>
Стёпа:	6 7	Сын – инженер. Он живёт в Бостоне. А дочь не работает. Она учится в Принстоне.	<i>Their son is an engineer. He lives in Boston. Their daughter doesn't work. She's a student at Princeton.</i>
Люда:	8	В Принстоне? Ничего себе! Она, наверное, гений.	<i>(At) Princeton? Very impressive! She's probably a genius.</i>

Б. Он, наверное, гений *He's probably a genius*

(Still looking at фотография)

Гёна:	9 10	Хорошо. Я всё понимаю. Это твоя старшая сестра, а это её муж.	<i>OK. I understand everything. That's your older sister and that's her husband</i>
Юля:	11 12	Нет, ты опять всё перепутал. Это мой младший брат и его жена. А это их дети.	<i>No, you mixed up everything up again. That's my younger brother and his wife. And that's (those are) their children.</i>
Гёна:	13	А где живут их дети?	<i>Where do their children live?</i>
Юля:	14 15 16	Дочь – программист. Она живёт в Калифорнии, в Сан-Франциско. А сын не работает. Он учится в Принстоне.	<i>Their daughter is an computer programmer. She lives in California, in San Francisco. Their son doesn't work. He goes to (school at) Princeton.</i>
Гёна:	17	В Принстоне? Ничего себе! Он, наверное, гений.	<i>(At) Princeton? Very impressive! He's probably a genius.</i>

Словарь

Vocabulary

1	всё	<i>everything</i>
1	понимаю	<i>(I) understand</i>
2	его	<i>his</i>

3	опять	<i>again</i>
3	перепутал/а	<i>(you) mixed up (masc/fem)</i> (Another past tense form – note the -л- in both forms. More on this later.)
4	её	<i>her (possessive); hers</i>
4	их	<i>their; theirs</i>
5	дети	<i>children</i> (Use only the plural for now; the singular is from a different word.)
6	инженёр	<i>engineer (M/F)</i>
7	работает	<i>(s/he) works</i>
7	учится в ...	<i>(s/he) is a student at; goes to (school at); studies at</i>
8	ничего себе	<i>very impressive! wow! not bad!</i>
8	наверно	<i>probably</i>
8	гений	<i>genius</i>
14	программист	<i>computer programmer (M/F)</i>



6.A Word order (cont'd)

я всё понимаю (1); ты опять всё перепутала (3)

Note that in Russian the direct object **всё** can come *before* the verb, while in English, it must follow the verb: *I understand everything*. It would sound strange in Russian to put **всё** after the verb, though technically it would not be grammatically incorrect. Generally (but not always), “little” words, especially pronouns, precede the verb. We won't offer any grand theory of word order here; we just want you to pay attention to the differences between Russian and English.

6.B Possessives

We've already seen that the endings of **мой, твой, наш, ваш**, etc. change depending on the ending of the noun they are modifying (**мой брат** vs. **моя сестра**). The 3rd person possessives (**его his, её her, их their**) *never* change, regardless of the gender or number of the noun they modify¹:

MASC:	мой брат	твой брат	наш брат	ваш брат	BUT:	его её их	} брат сестра кресло родители
FEM:	моя сестра	твоя сестра	наша сестра	ваша сестра			
NEUT:	моё кресло (<i>armchair</i>)	твое кресло	наше кресло	ваше кресло			
PL:	мои родители	твои родители	наши родители	ваши родители			

¹ And, as we'll see later, regardless of the Case of the noun they modify as well.



Transform the following phrases as shown in the example:

Example: my sister ⇒ *Это моя сестра.*
 his father ⇒ *Это его отец.*

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. my mother | 2. her son | 3. their parents | 4. my husband |
| 5. her husband | 6. their son | 7. our son | 8. your (sg) older sister |
| 9. his older brother | 10. my dog | 11. her dog | 12. our (male) cat |
| 13. our children | 14. her children | 15. your (pl) parents | 16. your (sg) younger brother |

6.B Basic Negation in Russian

Он не работает (4)

Negation consists of putting the negative particle **не** in front of the word or phrase that you wish to negate. In the most common case the structure is:

SUBJECT	+	НЕ	+	VERB	
Он		не		работáет	<i>He doesn't work.</i>
Я		не		понимáю	<i>I don't understand.</i>



Note that there's no need for a helping verb, as in English: *He does not work; I am not sleeping.*

You can also negate something besides the verb. For instance, if someone says **Я всё понимаю**, *I understand everything*, the thing you want to negate is **всё**: **Я [не всё] понимаю** *I don't understand everything*. You're not negating the fact that you don't understand, but that you don't understand *everything*. Simply put **не** directly in front of the element you wish to negate:

AFFIRMATIVE	ELEMENT BEING NEGATED	NEGATIVE
Он – гéний.	гéний	Он [не гéний].
Я понимáю.	понимáю	Я [не понимáю].
Он работáет.	работáет	Он [не работáет].
Дíма красíвый пáрень	красíвый	Дíма [некрасíвый ²] пáрень.
Мáша живёт в Атлáнте.	в Атлáнте	Мáша живёт [не в Атлáнте].
Я всё понимáю.	всё	Я [не всё] понимáю.

² Negated adjectives and adverbs are often spelled as one word. Don't worry about it for now.



Negate the following sentences:

Example: Моя сестра – программист. ⇔ *Моя сестра не программист.*

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Кóля – <u>врач</u> . | 2. Онí живúт в <u>Москвѐ</u> . | 3. Я <u>понимаю</u> . |
| 4. Он <u>учится</u> . | 5. А́ля <u>красивая девушка</u> . | 6. Он <u>работает</u> . |
| 7. Вíтя – <u>красивый парень</u> . | 8. Пѐтя – <u>адвокат</u> . | 9. Их дочь <u>работает</u> . |
| 10. Я <u>всѐ</u> <u>понимаю</u> . | 11. Гѐна <u>работает</u> в <u>Пари́же</u> . | 12. Ксѐша – <u>гений</u> . |

6.Г 'Location' Endings on Nouns

-е vs. -ии vs. no change

Most nouns expressing location end in **-е** (в клубѐ, в Атлантаѐ, в Нью-Йоркѐ, в Вашингто́нѐ). However, if the dictionary form of a word ends in **-ий**, **-ия**, or **-ие**, the Location ending is **-ии**:

For most nouns (those ending in a consonant, -а, or -о):

	DICTIONARY FORM	LOCATION ENDING	LOCATION FORM
MASC:	клуб, Нью-Йорк		в клубѐ, в Нью-Йоркѐ
FEM:	Атланта, комната (<i>room</i>)	-е	в Атлантаѐ, в комнате
NEUT:	крѐсло (<i>armchair</i>), мѐсто (<i>place</i>)		в крѐслѐ, в мѐстѐ

For nouns ending in -ий, -ия, or -ие:

	DICTIONARY FORM	LOCATION ENDING	LOCATION FORM
MASC:	кафетѐрий (<i>cafeteria</i>)		в кафетѐрии
FEM:	Росси́я (<i>Russia</i>), Калифорни́я	-ИИ	в Росси́и, в Калифорни́и
NEUT:	здáние (<i>building</i>)		в здáнии

Finally, in the dialogue we saw **в Сан-Франциско** when we expect в Сан-Франциске. The reason is:

Foreign nouns ending in -o, -и, -у, -е do *not* decline

That is, they don't change their ending to reflect their function in the sentence. Therefore the dictionary form is the only form that exists. Some others like this are:

в Нью-Джерси, в Огайо, в Миссури, в Монако, в Баку, в метро, в кино, в кафе³, в Перу, в Санта-Фе



Put the following places in their 'Location' form according to the example:

Example: Мой брат работает (Индиана). ⇔ *Мой брат работает в Индиане.*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Кóля живёт (Берли́н) | 2. Ма́ша рабо́тает (Испáния) |
| 3. Мы бы́ли (Ри́но) | 4. Мои́ родите́ли живу́т (Пра́га) |
| 5. Он (Хе́льсинки) | 6. О́льга живёт (Га́рлем) |
| 7. Его́ оте́ц рабо́тает (Ташке́нт) | 8. Их де́ти живу́т (Пе́ру) |
| 9. На́дя у́чится (Га́рвард) | 10. Серге́жа рабо́тает (Росси́я) |

³ In most foreign words, a consonant preceding the Soft-indicating vowel 'e' is *not* pronounced soft, i.e., it is pronounced as if the following letter were 'э'.

6.E Spelling {O} – 3 ways: ‘o, ё, e’

In the vowel table in Lesson 5 you may have noticed that unlike the other 4 basic vowel sounds, which have two possible spellings ({A} = а/я, {E} = э/е, etc.), {O} has THREE possible spellings: ‘o’ after hard consonants and either ‘ё’ or ‘e’ after soft consonants. The letter ‘ё’ appears only under stress. When not under stress, ‘ё’ loses the two dots, making it seemingly indistinguishable from the ‘e’ used to represent soft-indicating {E}.



Question: If you see an unstressed letter ‘e’, how can you tell whether it’s a soft-indicating {E} or an unstressed soft-indicating {O}?

Answer: You can’t – sort of. You need to find an instance where the vowel is stressed. If it’s really {O}, then when under stress the two dots will ‘re-appear’ and you’ll pronounce a real /o/ sound. If the letter is really {E}, then even when under stress the two dots won’t appear and you’ll pronounce a /e/ sound.

So, where could we possibly find an instance where the vowel is stressed? As you’ll soon discover, stress in Russian can move around, such as between the singular and plural forms of a noun (and a few other places). Look at **сестра́** *sister* (sg). Is the second letter basic {E} or {O}? From this one form it’s impossible to tell, but knowing that the plural is **сёстры** tells us that the vowel is really an {O}: с^b{O}стр{I}.

What about **делá** *matters, affairs*? The singular is **дѐло**, which indicates the second letter is {E}, otherwise it would have been **дѐлѐ**.

What if the letter ‘e’ is never stressed, like **тебѝ** *you*? In that case, we’ll just say that the ‘e’ in this word is basic {E}; since the vowel is NEVER stressed, there’s no proof that it’s really {O}.

Here are some more examples of unstressed letter ‘e’ with their true identities being unmasked by showing another form. (Some words we’ve seen already; don’t worry about the others for now.)

BASIC {E}		BASIC {O}	
Word	Proof	Word	Proof
делá	<i>singular is дѐло</i>	сестра́	<i>plural is сёстры</i>
местá	<i>singular is мѐсто</i>	женá	<i>plural is жѐны</i>
грех	<i>under stress it’s still ‘e’</i>	здáниѐ	<i>similar noun ending is окнѐ житьѐ</i>
менѝ	<i>this ‘e’ is never stressed</i>	узнáет	<i>similar verb ending is узнаѐт</i>
телефѝн	<i>these ‘e’s are never stressed</i>	хорѐшее	<i>similar adj. ending is большѐе</i>

We will be sure to identify any ‘hidden’ {O}s as we introduce new vocabulary.

6-й урок – Домашнее задание



Exercise 1 Answer the following questions about the spelling of {O}:

a) How does the spelling of {O} differ from that of all other basic vowel sounds?

b) Under what circumstances can you not say for certain what the basic vowel sound is?

c) How is it sometimes possible to remedy the problem in (b)? Provide an example.



Exercise 2 Negate the following sentences:

1. Он гений.

2. Галя всё понимает.

3. Слава учится в Гарварде.

4. Мой старший брат адвокат.



Exercise 3 Translate into Russian:

1. Where does his sister live?

2. Our son goes to Princeton (University).

3. Their parents don't live in Atlanta, they live in Albania (Албания).

4. Is that your younger brother?
