

Девятый урок Lesson Nine

Dialogues: A: "It's on the bed"; Б: "It's in the fridge";
B: "It's on the couch"; Г: "They're on the table"
Grammar: Another 'location' ending: -и
The direct object (a first look)
Plural of nouns (a first look)
More on gender and pronouns
A different set of verb endings
Spelling/Sounds: Vowel reduction

Диалогы

Dialogues

А. Он лежит на кровати *It's on the bed*

Дима:	1 2	<i>(in a hurry)</i> Ах! Мне некогда. Где мой фотоаппарат? Ты не видела мой фотоаппарат?	<i>(in a hurry) Ugh! I'm in a hurry. Where is my camera? You didn't happen to see my camera?</i>
Нadia	3	По-моему, он лежит на кровати.	<i>I think it's (lying) on the bed.</i>
Дима:	4	Здесь нет. Где же он?	<i>No, (it's) not here. Where the devil is it?</i>

Б. Она в холодильнике *It's in the fridge*

Соня	5 6	<i>(in a hurry)</i> Ах! Мне некогда. Где моя водка? Ты не видел мою водку?	<i>(in a hurry) Ugh! I'm in a hurry. Where is my vodka? You didn't happen to see my vodka?</i>
Дима	7	По-моему, она в холодильнике.	<i>I think it's in the fridge.</i>
Соня	8	Там нет. Где же она?	<i>No, (it's) not there. Where the devil is it?</i>

В. Оно лежит на диване *It's on the couch*

Вика	9 10	<i>(in a hurry)</i> Ах! Мне некогда. Где мое пальто? Ты не видел мое пальто?	<i>(in a hurry) Ugh! I'm in a hurry. Where is my coat? You didn't happen to see my (over)coat?</i>
Лёня	11	По-моему, оно лежит на диване.	<i>I think it's (lying) on the couch.</i>
Вика	12	Здесь нет. Где же оно?	<i>No, (it's) not here. Where the devil is it?</i>

Г. Они лежат на столе *They're on the table*

Паша:	13 14	<i>(in a hurry)</i> Ах! Мне некогда. Где мои ключи? Ты не видела мои ключи?	<i>(in a hurry) Ugh! I'm in a hurry. Where are my keys? You didn't happen to see my keys?</i>
Аля	15	По-моему, они лежат на столе.	<i>I think they're (lying) on the table.</i>
Паша:	16	Там нет. Где же они?	<i>No, (they're) not there. Where the devil are they?</i>

Словарь

Vocabulary

1	ах!	(expresses dismay)
2	фотоаппарат	<i>camera</i>
	ты не видел/а	<i>you didn't (happen to) see (Masc/Fem)</i>
3	по-моему	<i>I think; in my opinion (don't leave out the hyphen!)</i>
	лежит	<i>it is (lying, in a flat position)</i>
	на	<i>on</i>
	кровать (Fem) на кровати	<i>bed (not to be confused with the French word for necktie) on the bed</i>
4	здесь	<i>here</i>
	же	(adds emphasis to preceding word; a good English equivalent is: ... <i>the devil</i> ...)
5	вódка	<i>vodka</i>
7	холодильник	<i>refrigerator</i>
8	там	<i>there</i>
9	пальто	<i>overcoat</i>
11	диван	<i>sofa; couch</i>
13	ключ ключи	<i>key keys - plural (*note stress is on ending)</i>
15	лежат	<i>they are (lying, in a flat position)</i>
	стол на столе	<i>table on the table (*note stress is on ending)</i>



9.A Another Location Ending: -и

на кровати (3)

Note that for the noun **кровать** *bed* instead of the expected location ending **-е**, the ending is **-и: на кровати**. (This only happens in Feminine nouns ending in **-ь**.) We'll examine this group of nouns in Lesson 12.

9.Б The Direct Object (A First Look)

Ты не видел мою водку? (6)

When the noun phrase **моя водка** is used as a direct object (of the verb **видел see**), the endings on both words change from **-{A}** to **-{U}**: **мою водку**. This change occurs only with Feminine singular nouns. All the other noun phrases, **мой фотоаппарат** (Masc sg), **моё пальто** (Neut sg) **мои ключи** (pl) are the same whether they are used as subject or direct object. We will discuss this in detail in Lesson 23.

9.В The Plural of Nouns (A First Look)

ключи (13)

Many plural nouns end in **-{I}** (дети, родители, ключи). The spelling depends on the hardness/softness of the preceding consonant or spelling rule. More on forming the plural in Lesson 15.

?

Question: I don't understand why the 'н' in **они́** is soft. Since the 'н' is hard in all the singular pronouns **он, она́, оно́**, shouldn't the plural end in **-ы́**?

Answer: You're right. However, there are some historical reasons (which are not really worth going into) why the form is **они́**. But we will see this unexpected softening in a few more forms of the plural.

9.Г More on Gender and Pronouns

In Lessons 4 and 5 we saw that the 3rd person personal pronouns (**он he, она́ she, они́ they**) are used to 'replace' proper nouns (i.e., people):

Masc: Где Миша? **Он** в клубе.

Where's Misha? He's at a club.

Fem: Это моя сестра Наташа. **Она́** врач.

This is my sister Natasha. She's a doctor.

Pl: Где живут твои родители?

Where do your parents live?

Они́ живут в Чикаго.

They live in Chicago.

These same pronouns, plus the Neuter pronoun **оно́**, can also be used to replace **things** as well.

The choice of pronoun (**он, она́, оно́, они́**) depends on the gender of the noun being replaced (which, as we've explained, is determined by its ending¹):

¹ As you may have figured out, endings reflect the grammatical gender and number of the nouns. We'll be explaining gender in full very soon.

GENDER/ NUMBER	PRONOUN	FOR NOUNS ENDING IN:
Masc (sg)	ОН	∅ (a consonant), e.g., фотоаппарат, клуб, словарь, чай Где фотоаппарат? Он на кровати. ↑ ↑
Fem (sg)	ОНА	{A}, e.g., водка, собака, фотография Где водка? Она в холодильнике. ↑ ↑
Neut (sg)	ОНО	{O}, e.g., пальто, окно (window), сердце (heart), ружьё (rifle) Где моё пальто? Оно на диване. ↑ ↑
Plural (all genders)	ОНИ	{I}, e.g., ключи, фотоаппараты Где мои ключи? Они на столе. ↑ ↑

Note that when describing a thing, these pronouns must be translated into English differently than when describing a person:

PERSON	THING
он = 'he' она = 'she'	он она } = 'it' оно
они = 'they' (i.e., those people)	они = 'they' (i.e., those things)

So, before you can translate он, она, оно, они, you need to know whether it is a person or a thing being referred to. If someone asks you how to translate, e.g., она, your answer should be: 'I need context. Is the pronoun referring to a person or a thing?'

MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
Где Мiша? Где фотоаппарат? > Где он?	Где Вeра? Где водка? > Где она?	no proper nouns Где пальто? > Где оно?	Где дeти? Где ключи? > Где они?



Answer the questions using the correct pronoun (*you don't even need to know the meaning of the noun*):

Example: Где мой ключи́? (лежа́т на столе́) ⇒ Они́ лежа́т на столе́.
Где Ва́ня? (в Па́риже) ⇒ Он в Па́риже.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Где на́ши коты́? (лежа́т на столе́) | 2. Где Ната́ша? (в Калифо́рнии) |
| 3. Где Ко́ля? (в клу́бе) | 4. Где егó во́дка? (в холоди́льнике) |
| 5. Где моё пальто́? (лежи́т на дива́не) | 6. Где мо́я сестра́? (в Росси́и) |
| 7. Где её́ брат? (в рестора́не) | 8. Где тво́й роди́тели? (в Петербу́рге) |
| 9. Где тво́й муж? (в Москвё) | 10. Где мо́я кни́га (<i>book</i>)? (лежи́т на столе́) |
| 11. Где моё пи́во (<i>beer</i>)? (в холоди́льнике) | 12. Где Ве́ра? (в Нью-Йо́рке) |
| 13. Где мой журна́л? (лежи́т на кровáти) | 14. Где их фотоаппа́ты? (лежа́т на кровáти) |



Replace the noun with the a pronoun as in the example. Be sure to supply the correct preposition and the correct form of the noun:

Example: Где Ма́ша? (Прин́стон) ⇒ Она́ в Прин́стоне.
Где мой ключи́? (стол) ⇒ Они́ на столе́.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Где Ка́тя? (Нью-Йо́рк) | 2. Где тво́й муж? (рестора́н) | 3. Где мой ключи́? (стол) |
| 4. Где во́дка? (холоди́льник) | 5. Где письмо́ (<i>letter</i>)? (дива́н) | 6. Где егó брат? (Лондо́н) |
| 7. Где её́ кот? (кровáть) | 8. Где мой фотоаппа́т? (стол) | 9. Где ва́ши де́ти? (Москвá) |

9.Д 'Person' and Verb Endings (A First Look)

жив-ЁТ vs. жив-УТ; леж-ИТ vs. леж-АТ

We previously saw different endings for different persons (singular vs. plural) in the Present Tense with the verb *live*. The verb *be* (*in a lying position*) has different set of endings. Compare:

	3 RD SINGULAR	3 RD PLURAL
<i>live</i>	Он/а живЁТ	Они́ живУ́Т
<i>be (lying)</i>	Он/а/о лежИ́Т	Они́ лежА́Т

Verbs change in the Present Tense for person (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and number (singular, plural). We've seen instances of almost every one in the dialogues, but we are not going to show the whole verbal paradigm just yet. For now, we just want you to be aware that the verb *live* has different endings than *be* (*in a lying position*).



Supply the correct form of the correct verb (as well as the correct preposition and Location ending):

Example: Кáтя (Бóстон) ⇨ *Кáтя живёт в Бóстоне*
 Ключи́ (стол) ⇨ *Ключи́ лежат на столе́.*

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Дима́ (Рим <i>Rome</i>) | 2. Фотоаппарáт (дивáн) | 3. Его́ родители (Техáс) |
| 4. Мои́ ключи́ (кровать) | 5. Ры́ба (<i>fish</i>) (холодильник) | 6. Ёра́ (Кана́да) |
| 7. Пальто́ (дивáн) | 8. Кни́га (<i>book</i>) (стол) | 9. Их де́ти (Росси́я) |
| 10. Фотоаппарáты (кровать) | 11. Лю́да (Берли́н) | 12. Моя́ сестра́ (дивáн) |

9.E Vowel Reduction

In Lessons 5 - 8, we learned about **basic** sounds in Russian and how they are represented in the spelling. But if you've been listening carefully to the recordings, you've probably noticed that **quite often the actual pronunciation of a Russian word does not match its basic sounds**. We will be spending the remainder of Chapter 1 covering factors affecting Russian pronunciation.

In the presentation of the alphabet we mentioned that when a vowel is not stressed its pronunciation may be 'reduced'. In examining the rules for vowel reduction, we will look at vowel **letters**, rather than basic vowel sounds. Therefore, for example, an unstressed letter 'e' that is actually basic {O} will be pronounced the same as unstressed basic {E}: the 'e' in *женá* (which is {O}) is pronounced the same as the e in *местá* (which is {E}).

The following is a fairly general description of vowel reduction; there are many more details about specific vowels in specific positions that we will not cover right now.

We will use square brackets [] to indicate actual pronunciation (as opposed to basic sounds).

One final note: We realize there are **a lot** of details here, and we don't expect you to memorize all of them. The goal is to be aware of vowel reduction, and to eventually make it an automatic part of your Russian speech.

9.E.1 Unstressed letters 'a' and 'o'

- 1) In word-initial position or in the syllable immediately preceding the stressed syllable these letters are pronounced [a] as in *fáther*. In these positions the letter 'a' has more or less the same sound as it does in stressed position, though it is shorter and not as articulated.

Where 'a' and 'o' reduce to [a]:



1 ST LETTER		1 SYLLABLE BEFORE STRESS	
о́тец	<i>sounds like</i> [а́тец]	сло́ва́рь	<i>sounds like</i> [сла́ва́рь]
а́нто́н	<i>sounds like</i> [а́нто́н]	па́льто́	<i>sounds like</i> [па́льто́]

- 2) Elsewhere (either more than one syllable before stress or after stress) ‘а’ and ‘о’ are pronounced as a “schwa” [↔], like the ‘а’ in *sofа*:

Where ‘а’ and ‘о’ reduce to [↔]:



> 1 SYLLABLE BEFORE STRESS		AFTER STRESS	
понимáю	<i>sounds like</i> [п↔нимáю]	плóхo	<i>sounds like</i> [плóх↔]
бараба́н <i>drum</i>	<i>sounds like</i> [б↔раба́н]	сказа́ла	<i>sounds like</i> [сказа́л↔]

Thus, the word **хорошо́** has all possible pronunciations of the basic vowel {O}: [х↔рашо́]

9.E.2 Unstressed letters ‘е’ and ‘я’

Note: Since the letter ‘а’ after permanently **soft** consonants ‘ч’ and ‘щ’ is pronounced as if it were the letter ‘я’, the following reduction rules apply to unstressed **ча** and **ща** as well.

Unstressed ‘е’ and ‘я’ both reduce to roughly the sound between [↔] and [и]. At the end of the word the sound is closer to [↔], while elsewhere it’s closer to [и].



Where ‘е’ and ‘я’ (‘а’) reduce to ~[↔]:

WORD-FINAL E AND Я	
мо́ре <i>sea</i>	<i>sounds like</i> [мо́р ^Ь ↔]
зда́ние <i>building</i>	<i>sounds like</i> [зда́ний↔]
ку́хня <i>kitchen</i>	<i>sounds like</i> [ку́хн ^Ь ↔]
фотогра́фия	<i>sounds like</i> [ф↔тагра́фий↔]

When ‘е’ or ‘я’ are word initial, don’t forget to pronounce a [й] sound!

Where ‘е’ and ‘я’ (‘а’) reduce to [и]:



WORD-INITIAL (/ЙИ/)		ELSEWHERE	
её	<i>sounds like</i> [йиё]	перепу́тал	<i>sounds like</i> [пирипу́т↔л]
язы́к	<i>sounds like</i> [йизы́к]	отвяжи́сь	<i>sounds like</i> [атвижи́сь] ²

Our experience shows that students often fail to reduce the letter ‘е’ to [и], most probably because it is already rather close to that sound. If you want to sound like a Russian, don’t forget about the reduction of unstressed ‘е’.

² Recall from Lesson 7 that ‘ж’ is an inherently hard consonant, therefore the soft-indicating vowel ‘и’ after it is pronounced as if it were a *Hard*-indicating vowel: [ы].

9.E.3 The other vowel letters ('э' 'ы' 'и' 'ё' 'у' 'ю'): No vowel reduction

The basic pronunciation of the other 6 vowel letters ('э' 'ы' 'и' 'ё' 'у' 'ю') remains the same whether stressed or not. We should note that when these letters are not stressed, they do tend to be pronounced less forcefully than when under stress.

STRESSED	UNSTRESSED
э́то	эле́мент
ключи́	приве́т
ты́	краси́вый
сте́па	(no unstressed ё)
пу́тишь	во́дку
лю́да	Ка́тю

Summary of vowel reduction in Russian (for reference)

BASIC SOUND	UNSTRESSED VOWEL LETTER(S)	WORD-INITIAL	1 SYLLABLE BEFORE STRESS	> 1 SYL. BEFORE STRESS; AFTER STRESS	WORD-FINAL
{A}	а	[a]		[↔]	
{A}	я (ча, ща)	[йи]	[и]		[↔]
{E}	е	[йи]	[и]*		
{O}	о	[a]		[↔]	
{O}	е (like e from {E})	[йи]	[и]		[↔]

*One detail we omitted: When unstressed word-final 'e' represents {E}, it gets reduced all the way to [и]. This is rather subtle, and you probably will not hear the difference in any case.

Vowels that do not change their basic quality (but are shorter when unstressed)

{E}	э	<i>no reduction</i>
{I}	ы, и	<i>no reduction</i>
{O}	ё (<i>always stressed</i>)	<i>no reduction</i>
{U}	у, ю	<i>no reduction</i>

Again, we certainly do not expect you to memorize each and every one of these pronunciation rules. The key is to be aware of vowel reduction, and also listen very carefully to your instructor and the speakers on the audio recordings.

9-й урок

Домашнее задание



Exercise 1 Write in the blanks the actual pronunciation of the underlined vowels.

Example: она ⇒ /a/
телефон ⇒ /u/ /u/

1. хорошо _____
2. девять _____
3. сырой (raw) _____
4. Петербург _____
5. учатся _____
6. шадить (*to spare*) _____
7. его _____
8. луна _____
9. один _____
10. нес _____



Exercise 2 Replace the nouns with pronouns (don't touch phrases like на дивáne, etc.):

Example: Мой брат врач. ⇒ Он врач.

1. Га́ля наве́рно ге́ний.

2. Мои́ роди́тели жи́вут в Пенсильва́нии.

3. Где моё пи́во?

4. Где Бо́ря жи́вет?

5. Мой фотоаппара́т на дивáne.

6. Что тво́я сестра́ сказа́ла?

7. Жа́нна наха́лка.

8. Ди́ма наха́л!

9. Мои ключи на столе

10. Моя водка в холодильнике.

**Exercise 3**

Replace the noun with the a pronoun as in the example. Be sure to supply the correct preposition:

Example: Где Маша? (Принстон) ⇒ Она в Принстоне.
 Где мои ключи? (стол) ⇒ Они на столе.

1. Где твой фотоаппарат? (кровать) _____
2. Где вино *wine*? (стол) _____
3. Где книги *books*? (кровать) _____
4. Где Таня? (Калифорния) _____
5. Где её родители? (Трентон) _____
6. Где Ленин? (Москва) _____

**Exercise 4**

Fill in the blank with the correct form of the correct verb:

1. Мои родители _____ в Аризоне.
2. Маша _____ на диване.
3. Его ключи _____ на столе.
4. Где _____ их сын?
5. Пальто _____ на кровати.