

Двадцать третий урок Lesson Twenty-three

Dialogues:	A: "You're drinking my vodka"; Б: "You're drinking my milk"; В: "You're drinking my juice"; Г: "You're feeding my horse"
Grammar:	Tag questions 2 nd conjugation and consonant mutation (cont'd): Labials The notion of Case The Nominative Case The Accusative Case of nouns, possessives, and <i>э́тот</i> - Forms; - Uses - Masculine first names in <i>-{A}</i> Case and word order

Диалоги

А. Ты пьёшь мою вóдку! You're drinking my vodka!

Воло́дя:	1	Что же ты де́лаешь?	<i>What the heck are you doing!?</i>
Ле́на:	2	Ты слепой, что ли? Вóдку пью.	<i>Are you blind or something? I'm drinking vodka.</i>
Воло́дя:	3	Я не слепой. Ты пьёшь мою вóдку! Вон стои́т	<i>I'm not blind. You're drinking my vodka! Your</i>
	4	твоя́ вóдка. Дура!	<i>vodka is (standing) over there. Idiot!</i>
Ле́на:	5	Ой, извини́ ра́ди Бо́га.	<i>Oh, I'm really sorry.</i>
Воло́дя:	6	Ничего́.	<i>Don't worry about it.</i>

Б. Ты пьёшь моё молоко́! You're drinking my milk!

Ли́за:	7	Что же ты де́лаешь?	<i>What the heck are you doing!?</i>
Ко́стя:	8	Ты слепая, что ли? Молоко́ пью.	<i>Are you blind or something? I'm drinking milk.</i>
Ли́за:	9	Я не слепая. Ты пьёшь моё молоко́! Вон стои́т	<i>I'm not blind. You're drinking my milk! Your</i>
	10	твоё молоко́. Дура́к!	<i>milk is (standing) over there. Idiot!</i>
Ко́стя:	11	Ой, извини́ ра́ди Бо́га.	<i>Oh, I'm really sorry.</i>
Ли́за:	12	Ничего́.	<i>Don't worry about it.</i>

В. Ты пьёшь мой сок! You're drinking my juice!

Се́ва:	13	Что же ты де́лаешь?	<i>What the heck are you doing!?</i>
Зи́на:	14	Ты слепой, что ли? Сок пью.	<i>Are you blind or something? I'm drinking juice.</i>
Се́ва:	15	Я не слепой. Ты пьёшь мой сок! Вон стои́т	<i>I'm not blind. You're drinking my juice! Your</i>
		твой сок. Дура!	<i>juice is (standing) over there. Idiot!</i>
Зи́на:	16	Ой, извини́ ра́ди Бо́га.	<i>Oh, I'm really sorry.</i>
Се́ва:	17	Ничего́.	<i>Don't worry about it.</i>

Г. Ты ко́рмишь мою ло́шадь! You're feeding my horse!

Ки́ра:	18	Что же ты де́лаешь?	<i>What the heck are you doing!?</i>
Ро́дя:	19	Ты слепая, что ли? Ло́шадь кормлю́ .	<i>Are you blind or something? I'm feeding (my) horse.</i>
Ки́ра:	20	Я не слепая. Ты ко́рмишь мою ло́шадь! Вон	<i>I'm not blind. You're feeding my horse! Your</i>
	21	стои́т твоя́ ло́шадь. Дура́к!	<i>horse is (standing) over there. Idiot!</i>
Ро́дя:	22	Ой, извини́ ра́ди Бо́га.	<i>Oh, I'm really sorry.</i>
Ки́ра:	23	Ничего́.	<i>Don't worry about it.</i>

Словарь

2	слепой (note: end-stressed)	<i>blind</i>
2	... что ли?	<i>... or something? (a tag question)</i>
3	вон	<i>(over) there</i>
4	дура	<i>idiot; fool (said about a woman)</i>
8	молоко	<i>milk (cognate)</i>
10	дурак'	<i>idiot; fool (said about a man)</i>
14	сок	<i>juice</i>
19	кормить+	<i>feed</i>



23.A Tag Questions: ...что ли?

Ты слепой, что ли? (2)

The phrase **что ли** following questions adds incredulity (didn't think you'd see that word today, did you?), something like *or something?*



Listen and repeat:

Ты шутишь, **что ли**?

Are you joking (or something)?

Ты слепой, **что ли**?

Are you blind (or something)?

Ты не понимаешь, **что ли**?

Don't you understand? Can it really be that you don't understand?

Она американка, **что ли**?

Is she an American? (I thought she was French.)



Express incredulity about the following. Use the **ты** form. (*Don't worry if your answer doesn't match exactly*):

Example: Your roommate is studying AGAIN ⇒ Ты **ОПЯТЬ** занимаешься, что ли?

1. Your friend is drinking YOUR vodka.
2. Your roommate says she has a date with Brad Pitt (ha ha).
3. You think you see cigarette smoke coming from your 10-year-old brother's room.
4. Your roommate is ironing his pants AGAIN.
5. You think you smell beer on your conservative roommate's breath.
6. Your roommate refuses to bathe.

23.Б More Consonant Mutations: Labial Consonants (б, в, м, п, ф)

The verb **корми́+** (*feed*) is the third example of an inserted ‘л’ in the 1st sg Present. We previously saw 1) **б>бл** (**любѝ+** {U} → **я люблю́**) and 2) **в>вл** (**гото́ви+** {U} → **я гото́влю**). All three consonants (**м, б, в**) are pronounced using the lips, and are referred to as **labial consonants**. The other labials are ‘п’ and ‘ф’. (We won’t see any verbs with ‘ф’ this year, but they also > **фл** in the я-form of the present tense.)

LABIAL MUTATIONS	EXAMPLE: 2 nd conj., 1sg pres. tns.	NO MUTATION: Remaining pres. tns.
б > бл	любѝ+ {U} → люблю́	лю́бишь ... лю́бят
в > вл	гото́ви+ {U} → гото́влю	гото́вишь ... гото́вят
м > мл	корми́+ {U} → кормлю́	ко́рмишь ... ко́рмят
п > пл	купи́+ {U} → куплю́	ку́пишь ... ку́пят

To review other mutations, see Lesson 19.



Chameleon:

- | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|
| 1. корми́+ ло́шадь / я | 2. он | 3. онѝ |
| 4. любѝ+ смотре́ть телеви́зор | 5. вы | 6. я |
| 7. гото́ви+ обе́д | 8. По́ля | 9. мы |
| 10. купи́+ (<i>will buy</i>) молоко́ | 11. Же́ня | 12. я |

23.B The Notion of Case (or How to Write a Ransom Note in Russian)

If you kidnapped someone named Tanya and wanted to send a ransom note (in English) using words cut out of a newspaper, you could use any of the following instances of the word “Tanya”:

- (1) **Tanya** prefers double-stem verbs.
- (2) Only no-talent singers respect Tanya.
- (3) I dreamt about **Tanya** again last night.

Each time it’s simply T-a-n-y-a. The reader of the ransom note couldn’t tell whether ‘Tanya’ had been the subject of the sentence [sentence (1)], the direct object of a verb [sentence (2)], or the object of a preposition [sentence (3)].¹

Russian kidnapers are not as lucky. For each of the three examples above (plus a few more), the form/ending of **Таня** - which is a **noun** - is different. So if the Russian kidnapers snatched Tanya and they wanted to write (in Russian): “We will harm Tanya if you don’t pay us,” - where Tanya is the direct object of the verb ‘harm’ - they would have to find a sentence in the newspaper in which Tanya was *also* a direct object. In the other two sentences (subject of the sentence or object of preposition) Tanya would have a different ending. This is what is known as **Case** - the function (subject/direct object/object of preposition, etc.) of a noun (along with its modifiers) appears as part of the word.²

There are six Cases in Russian, which we will not enumerate for you at this time (we like to maintain an element of surprise). A great deal of this course from now on will focus on these Cases, both their forms and uses.

So ...

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CASE!

23.G The Nominative Case (Именительный Падёж)

So, what Case have nouns, pronouns, etc. been in all this time? Usually they’ve been in the Nominative Case, whose main function is to indicate the subject of the sentence. We’ve already learned the Nominative forms in both the singular and the plural, e.g., **моя любимая книга, твой старшие сёстры**. The “dictionary form” of nouns that we talked about in before is actually the Nominative Case.

Also, remember the *location* endings we learned Chapter One? This is called (not surprisingly) the Locative or Prepositional Case. We will learn more forms and uses of this Case later.

Now let’s look at the Accusative Case, which is used to mark direct objects (among other things).

¹ Actually, there is one possible form of ‘Tanya’ in English that the kidnapers could not use: “**Tanya’s** hair is really from one of those spray cans.” (unless they cut out the ‘s.)

² The only place English distinguishes Case with varying forms is in personal pronouns: *he* vs. *him* vs. *his*; *she* vs. *her* vs. *her(s)*; *I* vs. *me* vs. *my/mine*, etc.

23.Д The Accusative Case (Винительный Падёж) of Nouns

23.Д.1 Forms

Accusative Case: Singular Nouns, Possessives, Этот

NOMINATIVE	ACCUSATIVE
MASCULINE	
-∅ (Same as Nominative) (consonant / -ь)	
мой сок Мйшин фотоаппарат наш словарь этот карандаш	мой сок Мйшин фотоаппарат наш словарь этот карандаш
NEUTER	
-{O} (Same as Nominative) (-o / -ë (rare for nouns) / e)	
моё мýло наше пýво Сáшино печенье это здáние	моё мýло наше пýво Сáшино печенье это здáние
FEMININE	
-{U} (-y / -ю)	
моя газéта наша вóдка Мáшина спáльня эта фотогráfия	мою газéту нашу вóдку Мáшину спáльню эту фотогráfию
FEMININE NOUNS IN -ь	
-∅ (Same as Nominative) (always -ь) (Modifiers take -{U})	
моя мать наша мышь Юрина дверь эта лóшадь	мою мать нашу мышь Юрину дверь эту лóшадь

We saw the Accusative of Feminine nouns in the 'Telephone' dialogue: “**Мóжно Гáлю / Вéру?**” We still have not had Feminine Accusative Adjectives, so we can't yet say “*I want cheap Russian vodka*”.

Remember: the 3rd person possessives NEVER change form, even with nouns in the Accusative Case: **его/её/их сок, мýло, вóдку, мать**



IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT MASCULINE NOUNS IN THE ACCUSATIVE: The Accusative of Masculine nouns is the same as the Nominative ONLY for *inanimate* nouns, i.e., a thing – as opposed to a person or animal. *Animate* Masculine nouns (people and animals) get their own special ending. So, at this point we do not know how to say “*I loathe my Russian professor*”. We'll cover this in Chapter 4. Hopefully by then your feelings will have changed.

23.Д.2 Uses of the Accusative Case

The most common use of the Accusative Case is for marking the *Direct Object* of a transitive verb³:

{Ты}	пьёшь	[моё пиво].
{Вэра}	читает	[мой журнал].
{Кто}	пьёт	[мою водку]?
{Моя сестра}	кормила	[эту лошадь].

↑
↑
 {subject} [Direct Object]
Nominative *Accusative*

We will see further uses of the Accusative Case in the next few lessons.



Listen and repeat. Pay attention to the new endings (for Feminine):

1. Я читаю книгу (журнал, письмо, газету, роман (*novel*), статью (*article*), диссертацию)
2. Слава пьёт молоко (чай, водку, кофе, сок, вино, воду (*water*), пиво)
3. Я вижу твою ручку (этот словарь, её мыло, нашу собаку, эту дверь, его карандаш, книгу, твоё радио)
4. Ты знаешь Вэру? (эту женщину, мою сестру, его мать, Борину жену, их дочь)



Insert the possessive or demonstrative in the correct form:

Example: Он пьёт водку (my) ⇒ Он пьёт мою водку.
 Ты видишь женщину (that there) ⇒ Ты видишь эту женщину.

1. Вэра читает книгу. (my, your-sg, our, Ira's, his, their, that there, your-pl, Kolya's)
2. Юра пьёт молоко. (my, her, our, their, Gena's, your-sg, that there, your-pl)
3. Я вижу рюкзак. (his, her, your-sg, Vera's, my, their, our, this here, Vika's)

23.Д.3 The Accusative of Masculine first names in **-{A}** Кто любит Мйшу?

A refinement of the above note about Masculine animate nouns: As we just mentioned, the Accusative ending for Masculine animate nouns is different from the ending for inanimate nouns. However, Masculine first names ending in **-{A}** (which we forced all the males in the class to select) behave just like regular Feminine nouns and take **-{U}** in the Accusative:

Вэра любит Мйшу.

Vera loves Misha.

Наташа не любит Колью.

Natasha doesn't love Kolya.

³ For those who never paid attention in high school English, a transitive verb (like *see*) is one that takes a Direct Object (*John sees Bill*), while an intransitive verb (like *go*) does not (*John went*; ~~*John went Bill*~~ is not grammatical).



Put the following nouns/phrases into the Accusative:

Example: Кто видит (this here book)? ⇨ *Кто видит эту книгу?*

1. Кто видит...? (juice, vodka, Misha, Misha's dog, my book, Vika, beer, that sofa, this photograph, Sveta's mother, Kolya)
2. Я люблю (our refrigerator, his magazine, that song, Vera, his sister, this pencil, their wine, Borya, her horse, your-sg milk, Seryozha)

23.E Case and Word Order

Compare the English sentences: “Lassie bit Timmy” “Timmy bit Lassie”

Obviously these sentences have different meanings. In English the meaning is revealed by *word order*. Changing the word order changes the meaning of the sentence. In English normally you have Subject > Verb > Direct Object. The form of a noun in English doesn't change if it's the subject versus the Direct Object versus the object of a preposition, etc. So, if we cut out the word ‘Timmy’ and asked you whether he had been the subject (the ‘biter’ or the Direct Object (the ‘bitee’), you couldn't tell.

Since in Russian you **can** tell the function of the noun by the form of the word (its Case), the order in which the words appear is not as important. So, for the single English sentence “Masha loves Gena”, you can have several equivalents in Russian:

Мáша лüбит Гéну.	=	Masha loves Gena.
Мáша Гéну лüбит.		
Гéну лüбит Мáша.		
Гéну Мáша лüбит.		
Лüбит Мáша Гéну.		
Лüбит Гéну Мáша.		

Is there *any* difference in meaning when you change word order? The answer is yes: Different word orders normally result from emphasizing different elements of the sentence. But the “rules” pertaining to word order in Russian can be quite complex, and we won't spend a lot of time focusing on this question.

To be honest, in speech the most common word order in Russian is Subject > Verb > Object, just as in English. In writing, however, many ‘strange and exotic’ word orders occur all over the place. So, you are going to need to “bust out” of the Subject > Verb > Object mindset.

23-й урок - Домашнее задание



Exercise 1 Identify the case of the nouns and modifiers in the sentences. Be careful! There is not always going to be Subject-Verb-Direct Object word order:

Example: Мíша лóбит Мáшу.
Nom Acc

Лóшадь кóрмит Лéна.
Acc Nom

1. Сáша читáет кнiгу.

2. Мой кот их собáку не лóбит.

3. Вéру Мiша не вiдит.

4. Вéра Мiшу не вiдит.

5. Молокó кот пьёт.

6. Мáша обéд готóвит.

7. Пáша вiдит мышь.

8. Пáшу вiдит мышь.

9. Ёра стáтью (*article*) читáет.

10. Винó пьёт Вiтя.

23-й урок - Домашнее задание



Exercise 2 Rewrite as in the example. Don't forget to change the possessive pronoun.

Example: Вон лежить тво́я кни́га, віди́шь? ⇨ Да, я ві́жу мо́ю кни́гу.

1. Вон лежить мо́я газе́та, віди́шь? (*Think about what possessive to use!*)

2. Вон лежить тво́є пече́нье, віди́шь?

3. Вон лежить е́го соба́ка, віди́шь?

4. Вон лежить тво́є пи́сьмо, віди́шь?

5. Вон лежить Ми́шин фотоаппара́т, віди́шь?

6. Вон лежить Лі́дина ми́шь, віди́шь?



Exercise 3 Put the nouns in the Accusative. (*You don't know most of these nouns, but it makes no difference – you know the forms*):

1. Га́ля віди́т (мо́я гру́ша *pear*) _____.

2. Ми́ша ку́рит (ма́рихуа́на) _____.

3. Ко́ля гла́дит (Ки́рино пла́тье *dress*) _____.

4. Окса́на гото́вит (за́втрак *breakfast*) _____.

5. Паворо́тти пое́т (а́рия) _____.

6. Ле́на ко́рмит (тво́я ло́шадь) _____.

7. Кто ло́бит (е́го дочь) _____?