

Двадцать пятый урок Lesson Twenty-five

Dialogues:	A: "You never do anything" Б: "No one bought anything"
Grammar:	Review of fixed expressions Negation (cont'd) - Negating question words - Russian: a <i>multiple</i> negative language - Translating ни- words: A problem with English - Masculine verbal agreement with никто́ and ниче́го. Expressing PERSON and I, you and PERSON etc.

Диалоги

А. Ты никогда́ ничего́ не делаешь *You never do anything*

Ната́ша:	1	Что ты делаешь?	<i>What are you doing?</i>
Ю́ра:	2	Ниче́го.	<i>Nothing.</i>
Ната́ша:	3	Ты никогда́ ничего́ не делаешь.	<i>You never do anything.</i>
Ю́ра:	4	А ты ничего́ не зна́ешь! Отста́нь от меня́.	<i>And you don't know anything! Leave me alone.</i>

Б. Никто́ ничего́ не купи́л *Nobody bought anything*

Ле́ня:	5	Где ты была́?	<i>Where were you?</i>
Жа́нна:	6	Когда́?	<i>When.</i>
Ле́ня:	7	Сего́дня, конече́но же. Уже́ по́здно.	<i>Today, of course. It's already late.</i>
Жа́нна:	8	Ни́где.	<i>Nowhere.</i>
Ле́ня:	9 10	Вы с Га́лей бы́ли в магази́не. Что ты купи́ла?	<i>You and Galya went shopping (were at the store). What did you buy?</i>
Жа́нна:	11	Ниче́го.	<i>Nothing.</i>
Ле́ня:	12	А Га́ля, что она́ купи́ла?	<i>And Galya, what did she buy?</i>
Жа́нна:	13	Никто́ ничего́ не купи́л.	<i>No one bought anything.</i>
Ле́ня:	14	Сла́ва Бо́гу.	<i>Thank goodness. (Thank God.)</i>

Слова́рь

3	отста́нь	Informal form of отста́ньте , which we had in Lesson 3.
6	когда́	<i>when</i>
7	конече́но	<i>of course</i> (Notice that the ч is pronounced ш , similar to что)
7	уже́	<i>already</i>
7	по́здно	<i>late</i> (The д is silent between the з and н .)
8	ни́где	<i>nowhere; anywhere</i>
9	вы с Га́лей	<i>you and Galya</i> (lit.: you (pl) with Galya) (Note the voicing of the с to [з].)
9	магази́н	<i>store</i> (false cognate)
10	купи́+	<i>buy</i>
13	никто́	<i>no one</i>
14	сла́ва Бо́гу	<i>thank goodness; thank God; that's good</i> (lit.: glory to God)

25.A Multiple Negation in Russian

Ты никогда́ ничего́ не делаешь! (4); Никто́ ничего́ не купил. (13)

25.A.1 Negating Verbs and Question Words

Back in Lesson 6 we learned that basic negation involves simply placing the negative particle **не** in front of the element you wish to negate (usually the verb):

Я **не** знаю.

I don't know.

Они́ живу́т **не** в Принстоне, а в Трентоне.

They don't live in Princeton, but in Trenton.

You can also negate a question word, such as **кто**, **когда́**, **где**, **что**, etc. In this case add **ни** (don't confuse with **не**¹) to the question word:

Q WORD	НИ+Q WORD
что <i>what</i>	ничего́ ² <i>nothing</i> (Nom/Acc)
кто <i>who</i>	никто́ (Nom); никого́ (Acc) <i>no one</i>
когда́ <i>when</i>	никогда́ <i>never</i>
где <i>where</i>	нигде́ <i>nowhere</i>
како́й	никако́й <i>none at all</i>
чей	ниче́й <i>no one's</i>
как	ника́к <i>not at all; in no way</i>

Now add the verb phrase. We still need **не** as well (We know - there ends up being more than one negative particle in a single sentence. We'll explain below). Keep the **не** in front of the verb phrase. As a rule, it is better to move all the **ни**-words to the front, before the [**не** + verb phrase]. This gives you the following word order:

SUBJECT + НИ + Q WORD + НЕ + VERB PHRASE			
Ты	ничего́	не зна́ешь!	<i>You don't know anything!</i>
Никто́		не лю́бит занима́ться.	<i>No one likes to study.</i>
Он	ника́к	не хоте́л обиде́ть <i>offend</i> Ма́шу.	<i>He didn't want to offend Masha in any way.</i>
Я	никогда́	не ви́дел твою́ но́вую маши́ну.	<i>I never saw your new car.</i>
Её́ роди́тели	нигде́	не рабо́тают.	<i>Her parents don't work anywhere.</i>

¹ **не** and **ни**- are very easily confused, even more so since they are pronounced virtually the same (they are normally unstressed and, as you remember, 'е' and 'и' both reduce to /и/).

² **Ничто́** does exist, but its use is rather limited.



Listen and repeat. Note that due to vowel reduction, you can't really hear any difference between **не** and **ни-**:

QUESTION**NEGATIVE RESPONSE**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Кто сидит на диване? | Никто не сидит на диване. |
| 2. Что Саша купила? | Саша ничего не купила. |
| 3. Когда он учил русский язык? | Он никогда не учил русский язык. |
| 4. Где ты живёшь? | Я нигде не живу. |
| 5. Что лежит на столе? | Ничего не лежит на столе. |



Answer the questions in the negative:

Example: Кто лежит на кровати? ⇒ *Никто не лежит на кровати.*
 Когда Гриша занимается? ⇒ *Гриша никогда не занимается.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Когда вы читали «Анну Каренину»? | 2. Что они делают? |
| 3. Где Маша видела Сашу? | 4. Какая рука болит? |
| 5. Кто любит рэп музыку? | 6. Что Маша купила? |
| 7. Когда Игорь занимается? | 8. Где они были вчера? |
| 9. Кто здесь курит? | 10. Что ты знаешь? |

25.A.2 Russian is a *Multiple Negative Language*

Many textbooks refer to Russian as a “double negative” language. But, as we've seen, Russian is a multiple negative language. You can pile as many **ни**-words in front of the [**не** + verb] phrase as you'd like (as long as the sentence still makes sense):

Никто ничего нигде не купил.
 Он **никогда ничего не** говорит.

No one bought anything anywhere.
He never says anything.



'Add water' and negate these 'freeze dried' sentences:

Example: Кто / что / любит^х ⇒ *Никто ничего не любит.*

1. Кто / когда / занимай+...ся
2. Маша / когда / что / понимай+
3. Мы / где / когда / что / делай+
4. Кто / что / виде+

25.A.1 Translating Ни- words: A problem with English

In the table in 25.A.1 we translated the Russian **ни-** words as *no-* words in English (**ничего** = *nothing*, **никто** = *no one*, **нигде** = *nowhere*). but then most of the sentences that followed show the English equivalents of the **ни-** words beginning with *any-* (**Ты ничего не знаешь!** = *You don't know anything!*). Technically, this could also be translated *You know nothing*. This is a problem with *English*; fortunately, in Russian negative question words are always **ни-**.

To make matters more complicated, the English *any-* can be used in non-negated constructions as well, e.g., *Did you see anything? Anyone could have done this*. This is a totally different usage of *any* than in negative sentences, and is expressed in Russian in a way which we haven't learned yet. For now, every case of *any-* will be in a negative sentence.

Compare these negative responses in English vs. Russian. Note how the one word responses in English differ from complete sentence responses:³

QUESTION		NEGATIVE RESPONSE	
Что ты купил?	<i>What did you buy?</i>	→ Ничего. → Я ничего не купил.	<i>Nothing.</i> <i>I <u>didn't</u> buy <u>anything</u>.</i>
Где ты видела Веру?	<i>Where did you see Vera?</i>	→ Нигде. → Я нигде не видел Веру.	<i>Nowhere.</i> <i>I <u>didn't</u> see Vera <u>anywhere</u>.</i>
Кто любит тёплое пиво	<i>Who likes warm beer?</i>	→ Никто. → Никто не любит тёплое пиво.	<i>No one</i> <i><u>No one</u> likes warm beer</i>
Когда он читает газету?	<i>When does he read the paper?</i>	→ Никогда. → Он никогда не читает газету.	<i>Never</i> <i>He <u>doesn't</u> ever read (OR: <u>never</u> reads) the paper.</i>

Whenever you see an English sentence that contains a negative question word, first make everything that you can negative and then translate the sentence into Russian:

REGULAR ENGLISH SENTENCE	WITH EVERYTHING NEGATED	REGULAR RUSSIAN SENTENCE
<i>I don't see anything ></i>	<i>I don't see nothing ></i>	Я ничего не вижу.
<i>No one likes Ira ></i>	<i>No one doesn't like Ira ></i>	Никто не любит Иру.
<i>No one ever drinks anything ></i>	<i>No one never doesn't drink nothing ></i>	Никто никогда ничего не пьёт.

³ This is not intended to be a study of negation in English, but rather a warning about the dangers of word for word translation. But in case you're curious how the English works, the general rule is: *no-* is used unless there is a *preceding* negative particle (like *not*, *-n't*).



Translate into Russian:

1. I don't see anything.
2. Zina didn't see Ira anywhere.
3. He never complains.
4. No one ever speaks Japanese.
5. No students like to study.
6. No one ever understands anything.

25.A.4 Verbal Agreement with **Никто́** and **Ничего́**

We saw in Lesson 21 that **кто** always takes Masculine Singular verb endings. The same is true of **никто́**:

Никто́ не зна́л.

No one knew.

Никто́ ниче́го не купи́л.

No one bought anything.

We also saw that **что** always takes Neuter Singular verb endings. The same is true of **ничего́** when used as a subject.

Ничего́ не лежи́т на столе́.

Nothing is (lying) on the table.

Ничего́ не лежа́ло на дива́не.

Nothing was (lying) on the bed.



For the time being, do not use the verb **to be** in negative constructions. Saying sentences like *No one is home* and *Nothing was in the refrigerator* in Russian is a bit more complex than it seems and will be covered in a later chapter.



Form questions and answer in the negative:

Example: bought an expensive German car ⇨ *Кто купи́л доро́гую неме́цкую маши́ну?*
Никто́ не купи́л доро́гую неме́цкую маши́ну.

1. wants to study
2. understands Russian
3. lives on the moon (луна́)
4. saw Masha's sister
5. sang a Russian song

25.Б Expressing *Vera and I; You and Misha, etc.*

Вы с Гáлей (9)

Expressing plural subjects such as *Vera and I, you and Misha, Katya and Dima, etc.*, is not as simple in Russian as in English. In Russian you (often) cannot simply put **и** between two names (John and I; You and Mark, etc.). Instead, you must use the preposition **с** *with*.. With this preposition, the ending on first names in **-{A}** gets changed to **-{O}й**: **Вéра → с Вéрой, Мíша → с Мíшей**. (This is another Case, the name and details of which are not important right now.)

- To express *[Name] and I*, you need the plural pronoun **мы**, the preposition **с** *with*, and then the name of the person with the ending **-{O}й** e.g., **мы с Лёвой** *Lyova and I*, **мы с Кáтей** *Katya and I*. The verb that follows this subject noun phrase agrees in the form of the pronoun, in this case 1pl.
- To express *you and [Name]*, the pronoun used is **вы** instead of **мы**, e.g., **вы с Гáлей** *you and Galya*, **вы с Гéной** *you and Gena*. Again, the verb agrees with the pronoun, so it appears in the 2pl.

We'll discuss a little later on how to treat phrases like *she and Masha, he and my sister, Dima and Tanya, Nina and Vera*, etc. It can get rather complicated.☺

(PRO)NOUN + С + NAME IN -{O}й + VERB PHRASE			
Мы	с Вéрой	у́чимся / учíлись в Принстоне.	<i>Vera and I go / went to Princeton.</i>
Вы	с Мíшей	смóтрите / смотрели́ этот фильм?	<i>Are / Were you and Misha watching this film?</i>

Note that, for now, the **-{O}й** ending applies only to first names that end in **-{A}** (just like the possessives *Сáшин, Натáшина, Мíшины*, etc.). You cannot yet say sentences like *My brother and I went to Tahiti*.



Translate into Russian:

- Masha and I are going to the movies (the cinema).
- What did you and Galya do yesterday?
- Yesterday Ira and I strolled in the park.
- Why are you and Gena watching TV?
- Kira and I were at the store (went shopping).
- Why did you and Kolya buy American vodka?



Exercise 1

Answer the following questions in the negative (*don't forget both negation elements*):

1. Кто хóчет жить в Нью-Йорке?

2. Что Лёня читаёт?

3. Когда вы б́ыли в Москв́е?

4. Где ты занима́ешься?



Exercise 2

Make up 3 questions and answer them in the negative (the more negative elements the better):

1.

2.

3.

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Exercise 3 Fill in the blanks with the proper forms. Add stress marks where necessary:

1. _____ ид _____ в кино.
(*Vanya and I*)
2. _____ слúша _____ рáдио?
(*you and Dima*)
3. _____ сидéл _____ на дивáне и смотре́л _____ телеви́зор.
(*Shura and I*)
4. _____ бы́л _____ в магази́не.
(*you and Katya*)



Exercise 4 Translate into Russian:

1. I don't see anything anywhere.

2. – Masha didn't buy anything. – Thank God.

3. No one ever sang anything.

4. No students like to study.

5. You never do anything.
