

Тридцать восьмой урок Lesson Thirty-eight

Диалог: "You have a real zoo!"
Грамматика: The Genitive Plural of nouns
 - Forms
 - Uses
 More uses of the Genitive: quantity

Диалог

У тебя настоящий зоопарк!

You have a real zoo!

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--|---|
| Пётя | 1 | Вот мой дом. Это гостиная. | <i>This is my house. This is the living room.</i> |
| Ира | 2 3 | Бóже мой! У тебя очень много фотографий! Сколько у тебя фотографий? | <i>My goodness. You have very many photographs! How many photographs do you have?</i> |
| Пётя | 4 | Не знаю. А это мой кабинет. | <i>I don't know. And this is my office.</i> |
| Ира | 5 6 7 | Бóже мой! У тебя очень много книг! Ты, наверно, большой любитель книг. Сколько у тебя книг? | <i>My goodness. You have very many books! You're probably a great lover of books. How many books do you have?</i> |
| Пётя | 8 | Не знаю. Моя жена их читает. Вот кухня. | <i>I don't know. My wife reads them. Here's the kitchen.</i> |
| Ира | 9 10 11 | Бóже мой! У тебя очень много ножей! Ты, наверно, большой любитель ножей! Сколько у тебя ножей? | <i>My goodness. You have very many knives! You're probably a great lover of knives. How many knives do you have?</i> |
| Пётя | 12 | Не знаю. Моя жена готовит. Вот двор. | <i>I don't know. My wife cooks. Here's the backyard.</i> |
| Ира | 13 14 15 | Сколько тигров! Сколько слонов! Сколько лошадей! Сколько кошек! | <i>What a large number of tigers! What a large number of elephants! What a large number of horses! What a large number of cats!</i> |

Словарь

| | | |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 1 | дом | <i>house</i> (Related to <u>domestic</u> . And we saw <u>дома</u> at home previously.) |
| 1 | гостиная | <i>living room</i> (This is an Adjective that acts like a Noun. More on this later) |
| 2 | Бóже мой | <i>my goodness</i> (Note that the г in Бог has become ж . We saw this same mutation in <u>могу</u> > <u>может</u> .) |
| 2 | много + GEN | <i>much; many; a lot</i> (This word can be either an Adverb – to do something a lot – or a Quantifier – a lot of books, work, etc.) |
| 3 | сколько + GEN | 1. <i>how many</i> (as a question) 2. <i>what a large number of X</i> (as an exclamation) |
| 4 | кабинет | <i>office</i> |
| 6 | любитель | <i>lover</i> (The suffix -тель often corresponds to English -er ; a person engaged in the activity expressed by the verb.) |
| 8 | кухня | <i>kitchen</i> |
| 8 | нож' (end-stressed) | <i>knife</i> |
| 12 | двор' (end-stressed) | <i>backyard</i> (This is the closest word Russian has for <i>backyard</i> . Двор normally means <i>courtyard</i> .) |
| 13 | тигр | <i>tiger</i> |
| 13 | слон' (end-stressed) | <i>elephant</i> |
| 14 | настоящий | <i>real; genuine</i> |
| 15 | зоопарк | <i>zoo</i> |

38.A The Genitive Plural of Nouns: Forms

For some reason, a lot of Russian textbooks treat the Genitive Plural of Nouns as if it were second only to quantum physics in degree of complexity. It's just not so.

There are *three* endings for the Genitive Plural, which are based on the final letter of the *Nominative Singular* form of the noun. Note that some Genitive Plural endings are shared by Nouns of more than one gender.

Formation of Genitive Plural Nouns

| IF NOM SG ENDS IN: | THEN GEN PL ENDING IS: | GENDER(S) INVOLVED: | EXAMPLES: |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Husher (ш, ж, ч, щ) or ь | -ей | 1. Masculines in ш, ж, ч, щ | нож → ножей ключ → ключей |
| | | 2. All soft Masculines (except those in -й) | словарь → словарей |
| | | 3. Feminines in -ь | дверь → дверей |
| Hard consonant, ц, or й | -{О}в | 1. All hard Masculines | тигр → тигров |
| | | 2. Masculines in -ц or -й | отец → отцов гений → гениев |
| Any vowel (i.e. а/я, о/е/ё) | -∅ (Nuke the Vowel: NTV) | 1. All Neuters | место → мест здание → зданий |
| | | 2. All Feminines ending in a vowel | книга → книг фотография → фотографий |

Note the following about the spelling of various Genitive Plural forms:

38.A.1 The spelling of **-{О}в** after 'ц' and 'й'

As we would expect, the spelling of {О} after these 2 letters is determined by stress:

After **-ц** Unstressed: **-ев: америкánцев**
 Stressed: **-óв: отцóв**

After **-й** Unstressed: **-ев: гéниев**
 Stressed: **-ёв: кра́й (edge) → краёв** (We won't see any nouns like this the entire year, but the form does show that our rules really do work.)

38.A.2 Nuking the Vowel for Feminines and Neuters

Recall that there are only two possible *vowel* endings for Nouns in the Nominative Singular: $\{-A\}$ (for Feminine) and $\{O\}$ (for Neuter).

Let's take a closer look at nouns like **здáние** and **фотограф́ия** using our system of basic sounds. (You haven't forgotten about that, have you?) When the vowel is nuked in these nouns, guess what emerges? The **й** which was hiding under the guise of a Soft-indicating vowel not immediately preceded by a consonant. The Genitive Plural is "proof" that it was there all along. See, we weren't lying to you. This also confirms our rule that ALL Noun *stems* must end in a Consonant. In other words, for all Neuter and Feminine Nouns (in $\{A\}$), the Genitive Plural is the same as the Noun Stem.

| NOMINATIVE SINGULAR | | GENITIVE PLURAL | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Basic sounds</u> | <u>Actual spelling</u> | <u>Basic sounds</u> | <u>Actual spelling</u> |
| зд{A}н ^b {l}й + {O} | здáние | зд{A}н ^b {l}й + ∅ | здáний |
| ф{O}т{O}гр{A}ф ^b {l}й + {A} | фотограф́ия | ф{O}т{O}гр{A}ф ^b {l}й + ∅ | фотограф́ий |

Finally, let's take a look at the Genitive Plural of nouns like **окно́**, **письмо́**, **полоте́нце**, **сестра́**, which are all Nouns whose *stems* end in more than one consonant, i.e., in a consonant cluster. After you nuke the vowel you'd be left with 'окн', 'пíсьм', 'полоте́нц', 'сестр'. Seems like a job for the Cluster Buster.

How do you know which Cluster Buster vowel to insert? We'll tell you – by including it in parentheses next to the word.

A good example is **ку́хня (о)**. This word nicely illustrates both of the above points. When the ending $\{-A\}$ is chopped off, that leaves **кухнь**, with a nasty cluster at the end (remember that the final **н** is soft and this must be represented). In comes the Cluster Buster Vowel **-о-**, and all is well: the Genitive Plural is **ку́хонь**.

Some nouns with a Cluster Buster in the Genitive Plural

| NOM SG | GEN PL |
|----------------|------------|
| де́вушка (е) | де́вушек |
| ку́хня (о) | ку́хонь |
| окно́ (о) | о́кон |
| письмо́ (е) | пíсем |
| полоте́нце (е) | полоте́нец |
| сестра́ (э) | сестёр |

In **пíсем**, once the Cluster Buster Vowel **e** is inserted you no longer need the **ь** to indicate that the **c** is soft. The soft-indicating vowel itself does that.

For **сестёр** note that the stress goes back to the end (as opposed to the Nominative Plural **се́стры**) and that the Cluster Buster Vowel is a soft-indicating **э**. Какой кошмар! Извините, ради́ Бо́га.

So, we now see that there are two forms in which a Cluster Buster can be found. Either: 1) the Masculine Nominative (and Inanimate Accusative) Singular (**мешо́к (о)** > **мешкíй**, **мешкé**, etc.; **оте́ц (е)** > **отца́**, **отцы́**, etc.) or; 2) the Genitive Plural of Feminine or Neuter Nouns (**де́вушка (е)** > **де́вушек**; **окно́ (о)** > **о́кон**).

Genitive Plural Nouns: More Examples

| | NOM SG | GEN PL |
|---|---|--|
| | NOM SG ENDS IN HUSHER OR -Ь -ей | |
| Masc in Husher or Soft Con (exc. -й) | нож´ карандаш´ ключ´ товарищ (<i>comrade</i>) рубль´ словарь´ | ножэй карандашэй ключэй товарищей рублэй словарэй |
| All Fem in -ь | лошадь мышь ночь | лошадэй мышэй ночэй |
| | NOM SG ENDS IN HARD CONSONANT, Ц, OR Й -{O}В | |
| All hard Masc | адвока́т сло́н га́лстук фильм | адвока́тов слоно́в га́лстукoв фи́льмов |
| Masc in -ц | отец´ (e) америка́нец (e) | отцо́в америка́нцев |
| Masc in -й | музе́й (<i>museum</i>) ге́ний | музе́ев ге́ниев |
| | NOM SG ENDS IN VOWEL -Ø (Nuke The Vowel) | |
| All Neut | ме́сто (<i>place</i>) окно́ (o) письмо́ (e) полоте́нце (e) зда́ние общежи́тие | мест о́кон пи́сем полоте́нец зда́ний общежи́тий |
| All Fem in a vowel | кни́га жена́ ^x сосе́дка (o) де́вушка (e) ку́хня (o) фотогра́фия а́рмия (<i>army</i>) | книг же́н сосе́док де́вушек ку́хонь фотогра́фий а́рмий |



Practice forming the Genitive Plural. Just for the heck of it, stick the number '5' in front of the noun. (We just like the way that sounds.) ***This is another long but important exercise***

Example: кні́га ⇨ *пять книг*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. кні́га | 2. ті́гр | 3. нож | 4. актрі́са |
| 5. конве́рт | 6. каранда́ш | 7. рубль´ | 8. сло́во |
| 9. жена́ (<i>think!</i>) | 10. вра́ч | 11. адвока́т | 12. ге́ний |
| 13. студе́нт | 14. письмо́ (е) | 15. журна́л | 16. студе́нтка (о) |
| 17. телеві́зор | 18. ключ | 19. зда́ние | 20. фотогра́фия |
| 21. тради́ция (<i>tradition</i>) | 22. ме́сто | 23. слова́рь | 24. подру́га |
| 25. ю́бка (о) (<i>skirt</i>) | 26. мяч´ (<i>ball</i>) | 27. музе́й | 28. фі́льм |
| 29. крэ́сло (е) (<i>armchair</i>) | 30. зада́ние | 31. до́ллар | 32. не́мец (е) (<i>German male</i>) |



Question:

A Flaw in the Analysis??

I think see a problem with your analysis of the Genitive Plural. You say the form is based on the Nominative *Singular*. What about Nouns like **де́ти**, **брю́ки**, and **часы́**, which are always *Plural*. How can you predict what the Genitive Plural will be these Nouns?

Answer:

If we didn't know better, we'd swear you'd taken this course before.

You're right. For Nouns that appear only in the plural, you cannot predict the Genitive. We will always tell you. Here are three plural-only nouns with the three different Genitive Plural endings:

| | | |
|--------|---|-------|
| де́ти | → | детей |
| лю́ди | → | людей |
| брю́ки | → | брюк |
| часы́ | → | часов |

Even Russian dictionaries for *Russians* list the Genitive Plural of such Nouns. There's just no way to predict these

38.Б The Genitive Plural of Nouns: Usage

In general, whatever is Genitive in the singular will also be Genitive in the plural:

| USES OF GENITIVE | SINGULAR | PLURAL |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <i>of</i> | Он любите́ль пива. <i>He's a lover of beer.</i> | Они́ любите́ли книг. <i>They are lovers of books.</i> |
| 2. Various prepositions: из, для, у | Он из Алаба́мы. <i>He's from Alabama.</i> | Она́ из «Шта́тов». <i>She's from the 'States' (USA).</i> |
| 3. Possession | Э́то кни́ги профе́ссора. <i>Those are the professor's books.</i> | Э́то кни́ги профе́соров. <i>Those are the professors' books.</i> |
| 4. Genitive of negation | У меня́ нет же́ны. <i>I don't have a wife.</i> | У нас нет дете́й. <i>We don't have children.</i> |

38.В The Genitive With Quantity

мно́го книг (5); ско́лько фотогра́фий? (3)

The Genitive Case is used with many words that express **quantity**. Some “quantity” words are **мно́го** (*much; many; a lot*), **ско́лько** (*how many?; how much?; what a large amount!*), and **нет** (*absence of*).

After these “quantity” words both the Genitive Singular and Plural are found:

If the noun is something that you normally cannot count, the Genitive Singular is used. These are known as “mass nouns”¹.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| У меня́ мно́го со́ка. | <i>I have a lot of juice.</i> |
| У нас нет ча́я. | <i>We don't have any tea.</i> |
| Ско́лько во́дки! | <i>What a large amount of vodka!</i> |

Nouns that you *can* count (called, appropriately enough, “count nouns”) are put in the Genitive Plural:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| У них мно́го книг. | <i>They have a lot of books.</i> |
| У нас нет дете́й. | <i>We don't have any children.</i> |
| Ско́лько у него́ же́н? | <i>How many wives does he have?</i> |

In case you're wondering why the Genitive is used with quantities, we don't have a great explanation. But notice that many quantity words in English require *of*: *a lot of beer/questions*. Coincidence??

¹ Russian is much more restrictive than English about putting mass nouns into the Plural. While in English you can say things like *I had six beers*, in Russian you would have to say something like *I had six bottles of beer (Gen Sg)*.



Form a question with **у тебе́** or an exclamation using **ско́лько**. Remember: don't put nouns in the Plural that you can't count:

Example: маши́на (!) ⇨ *Ско́лько маши́н!*
 га́лстук (?) ⇨ *Ско́лько у тебе́ га́лстуков?*

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. слон (?) | 2. америка́нец (!) | 3. актри́са (!) |
| 4. ключ (?) | 5. фотоаппара́т (!) | 6. зда́ние (?) |
| 7. гений (!) | 8. фотогра́фия (?) | 9. письмо́ (е) (!) |
| 10. ди́ск (!) | 11. молоко́ (?) | 12. ко́шка (!) |
| 13. чай (?) | 14. каранда́ш (!) | 15. книга (?) |
| 16. де́вушка (е) (!) | 17. де́ти (?) | 18. жена́ (?) |



Exercise 1 Fill in the table. (Be aware of any changes in stress!). Use arrows to save time.

| DICTIONARY FORM | SINGULAR | | | PLURAL | |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|---------|-----|
| | NOM | ACC | GEN | NOM/ACC | GEN |
| ключ' | | | | | |
| серёжка (e) <i>earring</i> | | | | | |
| обшежи́тие | | | | | |
| фильм | | | | | |
| двѐрь | | | | | |
| музе́й | | | | | |

Lesson 38 – Homework



Exercise 2

Form questions and answers based on the example. (Pick your own nouns, but make sure you have all three possible Genitive Plural endings.) In your answer you may choose between having many or none at all.

Example: cars ⇨ – *Скільки у тебе машин?* – *У мене багато/нет жодних машин.*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



Exercise 3

Toughie: The Genitive Plural of **песня** is **песен**. Is this **exactly** what we would expect? Explain.
