

Семьдесят второй урок

Диалоги

So that's why Grisha left his wife

Грамматика

72.A More on the Genitive of Negation

72.B His/Her/Their: Свой vs. Его/Её/Их vs. ∅

Вот почему Гриша ушёл от своей жены So that's why Grisha left his wife

	1	(В середине разговора)	(In the middle of a conversation)
Боб	2 3по-моему, Володя влюбился в его жену с первого взгляда.	...I think Volodya fell in love with his wife at first sight.
Даша	4 5 6 7	Стоп. Ты, конечно, хочешь сказать «в свою жену» а не «в его жену». Американцы часто делают эту ошибку. Володя влюбился в свою жену с первого взгляда.	Stop. Of course you meant to say "in his (own) wife" and not 'in his (someone else's) wife'. Americans often make that mistake. Volodya fell in love with his (own) wife at first sight.
Боб	8 9 10 11 12	Нет, я никакой ошибки не сделал. Я таких ошибок не делаю. Я же учил русский язык в Принстоне! Мы говорили о Грише. Володя влюбился в его жену, то-есть в Гришину жену, с первого взгляда.	No, I didn't make a mistake. I don't make such mistakes. I studied Russian at Princeton, for heaven's sake. We were talking about Grisha. Volodya fell in love with his wife, i.e. Grisha's wife, at first sight.
Даша	13 14	А, вот почему Гриша ушёл от своей жены. Теперь всё понятно.	Oh, so that's why Grisha left his wife. Now everything is clear.
Боб	15	Откуда ты знаешь обо всём этом?	How do you know about all this?
Даша	16 17	Гриша рассказал брату, а потом брат всё рассказал мне.	Grisha told his brother, and then his brother told me everything.
Боб	18 19	Пожалуйста, никому не говори об этом, особенно своему мужу.	Please don't tell anyone about this, especially your husband.
Даша	20	Конечно, я никому не расскажу. Могла!	Of course, I won't tell anyone. Mums the word.

Словарь

1	разговóр	conversation
4	стоп!	stop! – a command (Russians actually say this.)
4	свой	one's own (See grammar)
8	никакой	(not) any (As with other ни words, a Preposition will intercede between ни and the second element: Мы ни о каком учебнике не говорили We weren't taking about any textbook.)
13	вот почему...	so that's why...
13	уходи ^х + / уй ^т и от когó “Present” уйдú, уйдёт, уйдúт Past ушёл. ушла. ушли	leave a person
16	рассказывай ⁺ // рассказа ^х кому о чём/ком	tell (someone about something/someone) (Generally, this verb involves telling a longer story, vs. сказа ^х +, which implies uttering a single statement.)
20	могила	here: I won't tell a soul; I'll keep it on the DL (The most common meaning of могила is grave.)

72.A More on the Genitive of Negation

Earlier, we saw that when you want to indicate what you *don't* have, the thing lacking goes into *genitive*:

У меня нет машины .	<i>I don't have a car.</i>
У него нет денег .	<i>He doesn't have any money.</i>
У нас нет детей .	<i>We don't have any children.</i>

This use of the *genitive* in negative constructions extends beyond lacking a thing. To say that *someone / something is not (was not / will not be) somewhere*, use the genitive:

Бориса нет на работе сегодня.	<i>Boris is not at work today.</i>
Веры нет дома.	<i>Vera's not home.</i>
Их там нет.	<i>They're not there.</i>
Там никого нет.	<i>There's no one there.</i>

Such sentences have no noun in the nominative. Thus in the past and future a *neuter singular* verb is used (this is the default, there being no nominative for the verb to agree with). Note that in the past the stress shifts to the **не** and away from the verb, giving **не было**:

Меня завтра не будет.	<i>I won't be here (there) tomorrow.</i>
Маша вчера не было.	<i>Masha wasn't here (there) yesterday.</i>
Никого не было на вечеринке.	<i>No one was at the party.</i>
Вчера не было концерта .	<i>There was no concert yesterday.</i>
Там не будет никаких актёров .	<i>There won't be any actors there.</i>

Not all negation requires Genitive

When you are not denying the *existence* of person or thing, you do not need to use the genitive of negation. Some basic examples:

Лёва не врач, он адвокат.	<i>Lyova's not a doctor, he's a lawyer.</i>
Она неплохая певица.	<i>She's not a bad singer.</i>
Фильм не был очень интересный.	<i>The film was not very interesting.</i>
Он не такой гений, как все говорят.	<i>He's not such a genius like everyone says.</i>



Negate the following

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Маша дома. | 2. Маша была дома. |
| 3. Завтра будет концерт. | 4. Вчера был концерт. |
| 5. У меня есть деньги. | 6. Я дома. |
| 7. У Маши были деньги. | 8. Лёна адвокат. |
| 9. Фильм был очень длинный. | 10. Там будут интересные люди. |

Another use of the Genitive of Negation: Negated Direct Object

Often, when the direct object is negated, it appears in genitive:

Я пíва не пил.	<i>I didn't drink any beer.</i>
Он ру́сского (языка́) не знаёт.	<i>He doesn't know Russian.</i>
Она́ никогда́ не де́лает дома́шней рабо́ты .	<i>She never does any homework.</i>
Мы никаки́х фотогра́фий не видели.	<i>We didn't see any photographs.</i>

No Genitive of Negation in Oblique (Prep., Dat., Instr.) Cases

If the object is in a case other than accusative, you *cannot* use the genitive of negation. You must keep the original case:

Она́ не интересу́ется му́зыкой .	<i>She's not interested in music.</i>
Профе́ссор не помога́ет студэнтам .	<i>The professor does not help the students.</i>
Мы не ду́маем о грамма́тике .	<i>We're not thinking about grammar.</i>
Он не бо́ится Ла́ры .	<i>He's not afraid of Lara.</i>

In this last example, it's probably a moot point, but the genitive is due to the verb **бо́я+...ся**, and not the negation.

Moral of the Story: The Genitive of Negative is Complicated

To be honest, it can be very tricky trying to determine when to use the genitive of negation and when to keep the accusative. In fact, there is quite a large variation among native speakers. The most important thing is to be able to *recognize* the genitive of negation when reading or conversing with Russians, and not to get the genitive of negation confused with a different use of the genitive.



Translate. Pay attention to when the direct object goes into the Genitive.

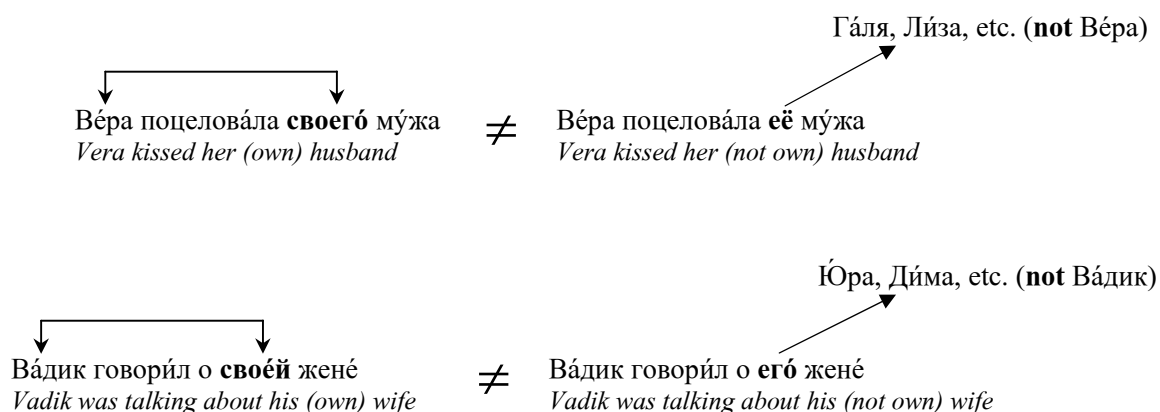
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. I didn't see any woman. | 2. I didn't see that woman. |
| 3. She doesn't drink beer. | 4. She isn't drinking your beer. |
| 5. I wasn't reading any book. | 6. I wasn't reading that book. |
| 7. He doesn't know German. | 8. I don't envy rich people. |
| 9. I didn't drink your vodka. | 10. I didn't drink any vodka. |
| 11. We didn't buy any books. | 12. We didn't buy anything. |

72.Б His / Her / Their: Свой vs. Его/Её/Их vs. Ø

You have probably noticed that quite often in the dialogues and the homework we put possessive pronouns such as *his, her, their* in parentheses: *Boris called (his) wife*. You need to be **very** careful when translating the 3rd person possessives into Russian because there is an important difference between English and Russian. It's not a difficult point, but students quite often “forget” about this when speaking and writing. Stay alert!

Свой (One's own) – Refers *back* to the subject of the clause

When the subject of a clause (in nominative) and the possessive pronoun refer to the same person, you must use **свой** (in the correct CNG). **Свой** declines exactly like **твой** – except it almost never appears in nominative. (See more below.) If you use the regular 3rd person possessives (**его, её, их**) with a 3rd person subject, a completely different meaning arises:



Notice that the above English sentences – minus the parentheses – are potentially ambiguous. To disambiguate, we need to add something like “her/his own.” This ambiguity can never arise in Russian - and not because no Russian woman would ever think of kissing another woman’s husband.

Some more examples of **свой** in various CNGs. Be sure to go over these carefully:

Он получил письмо от своего дедушки.	He got a letter from his grandfather.
Он часто помогают своим соседям.	They often help their neighbors.
Все говорили о своих детях	Everyone was talking about their kids.
Нина восхищается своим мужем.	Nina adores her husband.
Кто бы не хотел познакомиться со своей прабабушкой?	Who wouldn't want to meet his/her (own) great-grandmother?
Она очень любит свою собаку.	She really loves her dog.



Переведите

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Vera is talking about her own husband. | 2. Vera is talking about her (Vika's) husband. |
| 3. Kolya is standing behind his own wife. | 4. Kolya is standing behind his (Dima's) wife. |
| 5. They got a letter from their (someone else's) children. | 6. They got a letter from their own children. |
| 7. Pasha doesn't envy his (Misha's) Russian professor. | 8. Pasha doesn't envy his own Russian professor. |
| 9. Kira is feeding her own horse. | 10. Kira is feeding her (Galya's) horse. |

For 1st and 2nd person pronouns you can use either **свой** or the regular possessive pronouns (**мой, твоёму, нашем, вашими**, etc.)

'Regular' Possessive	≈	Свой
Я потерял мой ключи.	≈	Я потерял свой ключи.
Ты говоришь о твоём профессоре?	≈	Ты говоришь о своём профессоре?
Мы не завидуем нашим детям.	≈	Мы не завидуем своим детям.
Вы довольны вашими курсами?	≈	Вы довольны своими курсами?

Generally, **свой** is more “neutral,” though it is certainly not wrong to use **мой, твою, нашему, вашими**, etc.

Note that in imperative constructions **свой** is used even though no overt subject appears:

Возьми свой ключи.	<i>Take your keys.</i>
Не смейся над своим братом.	<i>Don't laugh at your brother.</i>
Пригласите своих родителей на концерт.	<i>Invite your parents to the concert.</i>
Купи что-нибудь своему мужу.	<i>Buy your husband something.</i>

In the above examples it is *possible* to use **твой, твоёму, ваших**, etc., but **свой** is found much more often.

With rare exceptions (that we won't discuss this year), **свой** *does not appear in the nominative case*. In part this is because **свой** cannot appear on its own – it must *refer back* to a noun or pronoun (which itself is nominative) in the same clause. With imperatives, the 2nd person is so strongly implied that **свой** can be used.

Optionality of Possessive Pronouns

This point isn't directly related to **свой**, but it is important to keep in mind when thinking about possessive pronouns.

We saw early on that when it is clear from the context to whom something belongs, Russian often uses no possessive pronoun at all (as opposed to English, where one is required). This is especially true when referring to body parts and family members, but you also find it with “regular” nouns:

Голова́ бо́лит.	<i>I have a headache. (My head hurts)</i>
Он подарил́ бра́ту зелёный галстук.	<i>He gave (as a gift) his brother a green tie.</i>
Она́ взяла́ зонт и ушла́.	<i>She took her umbrella and left.</i>
Он изменя́ет жене́ с актри́сой.	<i>He's cheating on his wife with an actress.</i>

For the first example, it's quite common to have a **у** + Genitive phrase: **Голова́ у меня́ бо́лит.**

As with the Genitive of Negation, it's hard to give absolute, 100% inviolable rules about when to include or exclude possessive pronouns (and that's really not just a cop-out). The main thing is, don't be thrown by “missing” possessive pronouns. As a *very general* rule, you can leave out possessive pronouns in *a lot* of situations. So, live dangerously.



Переведите. Don't worry if your answer doesn't match the recording – but be sure to repeat.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. My head hurts. | 2. Help your younger sister. |
| 3. He gave his wife (as a gift) a bouquet of roses for her birthday. | 4. Vera is cheating (изменяй + + Dative) on her husband. |
| 5. Nina kissed her (Masha's) husband on the lips. | 6. My stomach hurts. |
| 7. Don't laugh at his wife. | 8. I (Viktor) took my umbrella and left. |
| 9. My arm hurts. | 10. Drink your milk. |

**Упражнение 1** Negate the following sentences:

1. У меня есть машина.
2. Нина актриса.
3. Кира дома.
4. Мы были на вечеринке.
5. Я пил пиво.
6. Я всем завидую.
7. У меня зелёное полотенце. (Make this as negative as possible.)
8. Он будет на фильме.
9. Сашины родители были в ресторане вчера.
10. Витя украл Нинин карандаш.

**Упражнение 2** Insert свой only where **required**. Otherwise use another possessive. (Assume that each sentence contains a possessive and that the possessor and the subject are the same person.)

1. Саша говорит о _____ доч _____.
2. Мы терпеть не можем _____ профессор _____.
3. Я завидую _____ студент _____ . *plural*

72-й урок – Домашнее задание

Имя _____

4. Все довольны _____ курсами.
5. Кто не любит _____ ма́т _____?
6. Ты убра́л _____ кварти́р _____?
7. Ле́ня ушёл от _____ жен _____.
8. О́ни не понима́ют _____ дет _____.
9. Он никогда́ не помога́ет _____ сосе́д _____ . *singular*
10. Я всегда́ помога́ю _____ сосе́д _____ . *plural*



Упражне́ние 3

Переведите на русский:

1. I don't have any tickets to the opera.
2. Why did she leave her husband?
3. + Tell me about your elephant. – I don't have an elephant.
4. + Don't tell anyone about our conversation. - Mum's the word!