

# Рассказ - Часть Седьмая Story - Part Seven (Grammar)

Грамматика: А. Это [noun]  
Б. Не было  
В. Сто раз  
Г. Sample Sentences

## Рассказ - Часть Седьмая: Грамматика

*Friendly reminder: Be sure to listen to (and repeat) the story a few more times, especially **after** you go over the grammar explanations. Everything will make a whole lot more sense – and mastering the vocabulary will be that much easier.*

### 7.A Это [noun]... It's [noun] who / that...

To place special emphasis on exactly *who, what, where, for whom, etc.*, take frozen **это** followed by the Noun or Preposition Phrase in whatever Case is required by context. The Nominative is probably found most often in this construction, but all Cases are possible. You simply keep the Noun (or Prepositional Phrase) in the same form it would normally appear and move it to the front, following **это**.

Generally, this **это** construction is “marked,” i.e., you can’t just start a conversation with it. Often this is used to contradict a previous statement. This contradiction can be expressed with **а не Вера / Вэру / о Вэре / для Вэры, etc.** – see below for examples.

The closest translation in English is *It's [Phrase]...; It was [Phrase]...*

Note that you do not need any form of **который** or **кто** in these sentences, as you sometimes do in English (*which, who*). Also, you do not need to insert the verb *to be*, as in English. The Tense is determined by the main verb.

Это **Нина** всё сделала (а не я).

*It was Nina who did everything (and not me).*

Это **Машу** он любит (а не Нину).

*It's Masha (whom) he loves (and not Nina).*

Это о **Вэре** все говорят (а не о тебе).

*It's Vera everyone is talking about (and not you).*

Это для **Кóли** он купил подарок (а не для Вики).

*It was for Kolya whom he bought the present (and not for Vika).*

Это в **Москву** они ездили (а не в Лондон).

*It was to Moscow they went (and not to London).*

Это в **пятницу** мы будем играть в теннис (а не в субботу).

*It's on Friday that we're going to play tennis (and not on Saturday).*



Переведите на русский

1. It was Tanya Vadik kissed, and not Natasha.

2. It was Tanya who kissed Vadik, and not Masha.

3. It's you everyone is talking about.

4. It was on Tuesday they went to Moscow, and not on Saturday.

5. It's Grisha who speaks slowly, and not me (I).

6. It was from Vera Dima was hiding everything.

7. It's on Wednesday that I will be in New York.

8. It was my older sister who said that.

9. It's my roommate who is lying.

10. It's Zina I love, and not you.

## 7.Б Hé было Absence in the Past Tense

We actually introduced this point earlier, but it probably warrants special attention. To indicate absence in the Past Tense, put the “subject” in the Genitive (singular or plural, depending on context) and use the verb phrase **нэ было**. Sentences with **нэ было** have nothing in the Nominative.

- Note:
- 1) The stress falls only on the **нэ**. There is no stress on **было**.
  - 2) The “default” Neuter Singular form of the verb (**было**) is used. That’s because there is no Nominative Subject with which the verb can agree.

**Нэ было** + Genitive is most commonly used:

### 1) to indicate who or what was not in a particular place:

Его нэ было дома.	<i>He wasn't home.</i>
Дими нэ было в университэте.	<i>Dima was not at the university yesterday.</i>
Никого нэ было в библиотеке.	<i>No one was in the library.</i>
Их нэ было.	<i>They weren't there.</i>
В магазине нэ было хлеба.	<i>There wasn't any bread in the store.</i>
Нэ было молока в холодильнике.	<i>There was no milk in the refrigerator.</i>

### 2) to indicate what [person] did not have (with the **у когó** construction):

У меня нэ было денег.	<i>I didn't have any money.</i>
У нас нэ было икры.	<i>We didn't have any caviar.</i>
Ни у когó нэ было часóв.	<i>No one had a watch.</i>

Recall that in the *Present Tense* the form **нет** is used, also with Genitive of Negation:

Его старшей сестры нет дома.	<i>His older sister is not home.</i>
В этом магазине нет колбасы.	<i>There's no mystery meat in this store.</i>
Ни у когó нет ручки.	<i>No one has a pen.</i>



Переведите на русский

1. They weren't home yesterday.
2. Unfortunately, I didn't have a camera.
3. There were no good books in that store.
4. There are no good books in that store.
5. There were no interesting people at the party.
6. Vera isn't home.
7. No one had a rifle.
8. He didn't used to (previously) have an accent **акцент**.
9. I don't have a car.
10. There wasn't any beer in the refrigerator.

**7B. Сто раз (Genitive Plural = Nominative Singular)**

The word for *time; occurrence* is **раз**. Quite unexpectedly, the Genitive Plural is also **раз** (instead of the expected **разов**). After numbers ending in 2, 3, 4 you get the expected Genitive Singular form **раза**:

Я тебе сто раз звонил.

*I called you 100 times.*

Мы много раз ездили на дачу.

*We went to the dacha many times.*

Он два раза видел этот фильм.

*He saw that film twice.*

Я только один раз был в Париже.

*I've only been to Paris once.*

It turns out that there are two or three other common Masculine Nouns whose Genitive Plural is the same as the Nominative Singular. In case you're interested, the most important is **человек**, but you are not responsible for knowing this yet. (There are some other details about **человек** we'll get to later.)



Переведите на русский

1. She asked about him 5 times. (*Repeated action!*)
2. We rehearsed the dialogue 10 times.
3. I was in Petersburg twice.
4. He saw "Austin Powers" (*it declines, baby!*) 25 times.
5. I went to the library just one time.
6. I read that book many times.

**7Г. Sample Sentences**

мédленный	1. Он всегда óчень мэдленно говорít.	1. <i>He always speaks very slowly.</i>
несмотря на то, что...	2. Несмотря на то что Грiша год жил в Лóндоне, он плóхо говорít по-английски.	2. <i>Despite the fact that Grisha lived in London for a year, he didn't speak English well.</i>
раз один раз    два рáза пять раз	3. Я дéсять раз éздил в Москвú, а моя сестра двадцать два рáза.	3. <i>I went to Moscow 10 times, and my sister (went there) 22 times.</i>
репетíрова+	4. Онi репетíруют диалóг.	4. <i>They are rehearsing the dialogue.</i>
разговóр	5. У нас был óчень стрáнный разговóр.	5. <i>We had a strange conversation.</i>
нérвничай+	6. Вáдик всегда нérвничает, когда он говорít с Вéрой.	6. <i>Vadik always gets nervous when he talks to Vera.</i>
всё в порядке порядок (о)	7. У него всё в порядке?	7. <i>Is everything OK with him?</i>
не хватáет + GEN	8. Молокá не хватáет.	8. <i>We don't have enough milk.</i>
что-то другóе	9. Он читáет не «А́нну Карéнину», а что-то другóе	9. <i>He's not reading Anna Karenina, but (rather) something else.</i>
сдéлай мне одолжéние	10. Он сдéлал мне большóе одолжéние.	10. <i>He did me a big favor.</i>
не нáдо + Infinitive	11. Не нáдо здесь курítь.	11. <i>You shouldn't smoke here.</i>
чепухá	12. + По-мóему, она говорít правду. - Нет, это всё чепухá!	12. <i>+ I think she's telling the truth. – No, it's all nonsense.</i>
это	13. Это Нiну я люблю!	13. <i>It's Nina (whom) I love!</i>
скривáй+ + Accuastive от когó	14. Э́сли я не ошибáюсь, Мiша что-то скривáет от жены.	14. <i>If I'm not mistaken, Misha is hiding something from his wife.</i>
умей+	15. Ты уме́ешь игрáть в шáхматы?	15. <i>Do you know how to play chess?</i>
чéстное слóво {дай+ / давáй+} чéстное слóво	16. Он сто раз давáл мне чéстное слóво, что больше не бúдет пить.	16. <i>He gave me his word 100 times that he would not drink any longer</i>
не было	17. Вчера́ никогó не было дóма.	17. <i>No one was home yesterday.</i>
лáдно	18. Лáдно, я не бúду петь сего́дня вéчером на вечерiнке.	18. <i>OK (Fine), I won't sing at the party tonight.</i>
станови́+...ся	19. Здесь станови́тся хóлодно в ноябрé.	19. <i>It gets cold here in November.</i>
целúю	20. Целúю. Пока́.	20. <i>Warm wishes. Bye.</i>





**Exercise 2**

Use the following new vocabulary items in a sentence NOT related to the story.

1. нёрвничай+

2. умей+

3. раз

4. не было

5. скрыва́й+



**Exercise 3**

Переведите на русский

1. Despite the fact that Dima was born and grew up in Moscow, he doesn't speak Russian.

2. Is everything OK?

3. I really miss you (You are sorely lacking.)