

Двенадцатый урок Lesson Twelve

Dialogues:	A: "Whose book is this?"; Б: "Whose horse is this?"; В: "Whose pencil is this?"; Г: "Whose beer is this?"
Grammar:	The anatomy of nouns and possessives: Stem + Ending Gender of nouns ending in -ь Wimpy possessives and bossy nouns Чей, чьё, чья <i>whose</i> Forming possessives from first names in {-A}

Диалоги

From now on we will **bold** new vocabulary as it is introduced in the dialogues

А. Чья это книга? *Whose book is this?*

(Галья takes a book)

Мйша:	1	Что ты делаешь? Это моя книга.	<i>What are you doing? That's my book.</i>
Галья:	2	О чём ты говоришь? Она моя.	<i>What are you talking about? It's mine.</i>
Мйша:	3	Мама, чья это книга? Моя или Галина?	<i>Mom, whose book is this? Mine or Galya's?</i>
Мама:	4	Не твоя и не Галина. Это моя книга!	<i>It's not yours and it's not Galya's. It's my book!</i>

Б. Чья это лошадь? *Whose horse is this?*

(Лёша takes a horse outside a saloon)

Катя:	5	Что ты делаешь? Это моя лошадь.	<i>What are you doing? That's my horse.</i>
Лёша:	6	О чём ты говоришь? Она моя.	<i>What are you talking about? It's mine.</i>
Катя:	7	Папа, чья это лошадь? Моя или Лёшина?	<i>Dad, whose horse is this? Mine or Lyosha's?</i>
Папа:	8	Не твоя и не Лёшина. Это моя лошадь!	<i>It's not yours and it's not Lyosha's. It's my horse!</i>

В. Чей это карандаш? *Whose pencil is this?*

(Дима takes a pencil)

Жёня:	9	Что ты делаешь? Это мой карандаш.	<i>What are you doing? That's my pencil.</i>
Дима:	10	О чём ты говоришь? Он мой.	<i>What are you talking about? It's mine.</i>
Жёня:	11	Мама, чей это карандаш? Мой или Димин?	<i>Mom, whose pencil is this? Mine or Dima's?</i>
Мама:	12	Не твой и не Димин. Это мой карандаш!	<i>It's not yours and it's not Dima's. It's my pencil!</i>

Г. Чьё это пиво? *Whose beer is this?*

(Соня starts drinking a beer)

Боря:	13	Что ты делаешь? Это моё пиво.	<i>What are you doing? That's my beer.</i>
Соня:	14	О чём ты говоришь? Оно моё.	<i>What are you talking about? It's mine.</i>
Боря:	15	Папа, чьё это пиво. Моё или Сонино?	<i>Dad, whose beer is this? Mine or Sonya's?</i>
Папа:	16	Не твоё и не Сонино. Это моё пиво!	<i>It's not yours and it's not Sonya's. It's my beer!</i>

Словáрь

1	дéлаешь	<i>do/make; are doing/making</i> (ты-form)
1	кнѳга	<i>book</i>
2	о чѳм ты говорѳшь?	<i>what are you talking about?</i>
3	чей+ (е): чей, чьѳ, чья	<i>whose</i> (M, F, N) (We'll explain what the (e) means in an upcoming lesson.)
3	ѳли	<i>or</i>
5	лѳшадь	<i>horse</i> (F)
9	карандáш	<i>pencil</i>
13	пѳво	<i>beer</i>



Listen and repeat:

Other Nouns:

Masculine	Neuter	Feminine	Feminine in -ѳ
журнал <i>magazine</i>	мѳло <i>soap</i>	газѳта <i>newspaper</i>	мышь <i>mouse</i>
словáрь <i>dictionary</i>	печѳнье <i>cookie</i>	спáльня <i>bedroom</i>	дверь <i>door</i>
	ружьѳ <i>rifle</i>		



12.A The Anatomy of Nouns and Possessives: STEM + ENDING

Every noun and possessive in Russian consists of a *stem* (**which must end in a consonant, C**) + an *ending* (**which must begin in a vowel, V**). Some nouns and possessives have a zero ending (-∅), i.e. consist of just a stem – and therefore end in a consonant.

There are exactly three possible endings for singular nouns and possessives: -∅, -{A}, -{O}¹. The various spellings of the ending ('C' or **Сѳ**'; 'а' or 'я'; 'о' or 'ѳ' or 'е') depend on: 1) the quality (hard or soft) of the final consonant of the stem; 2) stress (for 'о' vs. 'ѳ', as well as 'ѳ' vs. 'е'); 3) spelling rules (covered in Lesson 7)

As we've already discussed, Russian nouns and possessives (and adjectives – next lesson) are marked for gender (and number – also next lesson). There are three genders in Russian: masculine, feminine, and neuter, which you can usually determine based on the ending of the noun. The only nouns whose gender you can't tell for sure are those that end in ѳ. Still, there are some clues even for these nouns, which we'll discuss later.

Gender of Nouns (Singular Only)		
Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
∅ (Consonant or ѳ)	{A} or ѳ	{O}
журнал словáрь	сестра спáльня лѳшадь	пѳво ружьѳ печѳнье

¹ When you see a noun or possessive that ends in -е, what you really have is the ending {O}, leaving aside forms like паркѳ, which impart a different meaning (location).

Examples of Stem + Ending

Nouns:

GENDER	STEM (MUST END IN C)	+	ENDING (MUST BEGIN IN V)	=	FULL WORD
MASC	брат ⁺		-∅		брат
	словáръ ^{b+}				словáрь
NEUT	пíвъ ⁺				пíво
	мóръ ^{b+}		-{O}		мóре
	ружьй ⁺				ружьё (<i>ũ{O} is spelled e/ë</i>)
	здáний ⁺				здáние (<i>ũ{O} is spelled e/ë</i>)
FEM	кнiг ⁺				кнiга
	спáльн ^{b+}		-{A}		спáльня
	лóшад ^{b+}		-∅ (ь)		лóшадь

Possessives share the same endings as nouns (so far):

Possessives:

GENDER	STEM (MUST END IN C)	+	ENDING (MUST BEGIN IN V)	=	FULL WORD
MASC	МОЙ ⁺ НАШ ⁺		-∅		мой
					наш
FEM			-{A}		моя́ (<i>ũ{A} is spelled я</i>)
					наша́
NEUT			-{O}		моё́ (<i>ũ{O} is spelled e/ë</i>)
					наше́ (<i>ũ{O} is spelled e/ë</i>)

12.5 The Gender of Nouns Ending in -Ь

How can you determine the gender of a noun ending in **-Ь**? Two answers: Sometimes you can tell, sometimes you can't.

ALWAYS MASCULINE (based on <i>meaning</i>)	ALWAYS FEMININE (based on <i>form or meaning</i>)	CAN'T PREDICT
<p>Noun that refers to a <i>profession</i> (which are based on a verb) often end in -ТЕЛЬ. There are quite a lot of these.</p> <p>учитель <i>teacher</i> преподаватель <i>instructor</i> руководитель <i>leader</i> писатель <i>writer</i> водитель <i>driver</i> любитель <i>lover</i></p> <p>Also note па́рень <i>guy</i>.</p>	<p>Nouns ending in husher ('ж, ш, ч, щ') + -Ь are feminine:</p> <p>рожь <i>rye</i> мышь дочь вещь <i>thing</i></p> <p>Abstract nouns are often feminine:</p> <p>любо́вь <i>love</i> жизнь <i>life</i> смерть <i>death</i> за́висть <i>envy</i></p>	<p>Need to memorize gender when you learn the noun. (We suggest you write it into your vocab index cards in phrases with modifiers of the correct gender.)</p> <p>словáрь, рубль <i>ruble</i> - (M) ло́шадь, дверь - (F)</p> <p>(Not surprisingly, мать is feminine, though you can't tell based strictly on the form.)</p>

Eventually, combinations like **мой словáрь** and **моя ло́шадь** should start 'sounding better' to you than **моя словáрь** and **мой ло́шадь**.

So, anytime we give you a 'can't-predict' noun ending in **-Ь**, we'll indicate the gender.

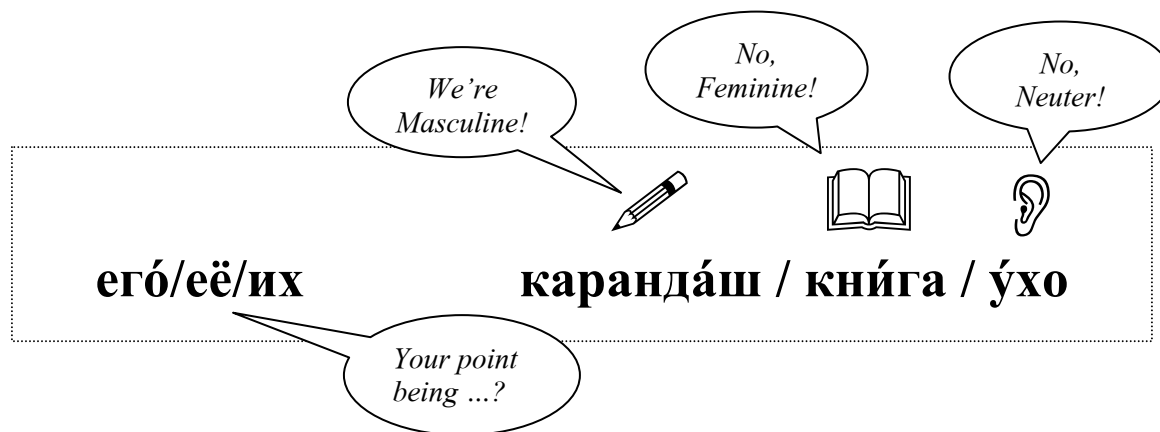
12.B Wimpy Possessives and Bossy Nouns

Word like **кни́га**, **ло́шадь**, **ку́хня**, **наха́лка**, etc. are always feminine. They're just "born" that way – and they never change. The same holds for **каранда́ш**, **наха́л**, **бра́т**, etc. being "born" masculine and **пи́во**, **пи́сьмо**, **пече́нье**, etc. being 'born' neuter.

Possessives (and adjectives), on the other hand, are not "born" any particular gender – they just agree with the noun they are modifying. So if someone asks you how to say *our* in Russian, you have to break the news to them that there are several answers: **наш** (бра́т), **на́ша** (сестра́), **на́ше** (пи́во). For some reason, dictionaries only list the first of these, the masculine singular (not very politically correct, we know). Perhaps the best answer to give would be: '**наш**+ plus the appropriate ending', but that tends to be a bit hard to express. Still, keep in mind that possessives (and all adjectives) are wimps – they just take on whatever form they're told to by the noun.



** Remember: the 3rd person possessives (**его́**, **её**, **их**) *never* change, regardless of gender and number:





Put the possessive in the correct form (depending on the gender of the noun). (Note that you don't need to know the meaning of the noun, just the gender based on the ending):

Example: кнiга (my) ⇒ Это моя кнiга.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. кнiга (our) | 2. брат (your – formal) | 3. пiво (his) | 4. фотоаппарат (their) |
| 5. печенье (her) | 6. журнал (my) | 7. яблоко (apple) (my) | 8. мать (your – informal) |
| 9. отец (her) | 10. телевизор (TV) (our) | 11. фотография (his) | 12. слон (elephant) (my) |
| 13. дочь (your – informal) | 14. учитель (teacher) (her) | 15. сердце (heart) (my) | 16. карандаш (his) |

12.Г Чей / Чьё / Чья Whose

Here are the masculine, neuter, and feminine forms of the question word *whose*:

STEM	+	ENDING	=	FULL WORD
		-Ø (Masc)		чей
чей+		-{O} (Neut)		чьё (ÿ{O} = ё/e)
		-{A} (Fem)		чья (ÿ{A} = я)

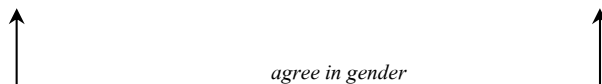
For now, it's best to just memorize these three forms. We'll explain later on why the masculine begins with **че-**, while the neuter and feminine begin with **чь-**.



Every form of *whose* except the dictionary form (masculine) begins with the letters **чь-**.

With **чей**, **чьё**, **чья** we find another 'frozen **это**' construction – **Чей это карандаш?**, **Чьё это пиво?**, **Чья это кнiга?** Note that while the **это** is frozen, the question word **чей**, **чьё**, **чья** still agrees with the noun.

AGREEING FORM OF ЧЕЙ+	FROZEN ЭТО	NOUN	
Чей	ЭТО	карандаш ?	Whose pencil is this/that?
Чьё		пиво ?	Whose beer is this/that?
Чья		кнiга ?	Whose book is this/that?





Form a question as seen in the examples:

Example: ко́шка ⇒ Чья́ это́ ко́шка?

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. пѝво | 2. во́дка | 3. бра́т | 4. дочь |
| 5. газѣ́та | 6. слова́рь | 7. мѝло | 8. ло́шадь |
| 9. кара́ндаш | 10. копьѣ́ (<i>spear</i>) | 11. журна́л | 12. колбаса́ (<i>sausage</i>) |
| 13. сига́рета | 14. оте́ц | 15. печѣ́нье | 16. ма́ть |

12.Д Forming Possessive From First Names in {A}

Га́лина кнѝга (3)

Now that we know how to ask to whom something belongs, let's see how to answer. To form a possessive from a first name (which *must* end in {A} – don't worry, we only let you pick names that end in {A}), you should:

1) Nuke the -{A}	2) Add the suffix -ин-	3) Add the appropriate ending to match the noun modified (-Ø, -{A}, -{O})
Ка́тѣ	Ка́т-ин-	Ка́тин муж <i>Katya's husband</i> Ка́тино пѝво <i>Katya's beer</i> Ка́тина сестра́ <i>Katya's sister</i>
Ми́ша	Ми́ш-ин-	Ми́шин оте́ц <i>Misha's father</i> Ми́шино пальто́ <i>Misha's coat</i> Ми́шина жена́ <i>Misha's wife</i>
Зи́на	Зи́н-ин-	Зи́нин кара́ндаш <i>Zina's pencil</i> Зи́нино у́хо <i>Zina's ear</i> Зи́нина кнѝга <i>Zina's book</i>

For some reason, students often want to add the soft endings ('я', 'е') to these forms; sorry, you can't do that. Use the hard endings 'а', 'о'.



Form sentences using possessives:

Example: сын (Вѣра) ⇒ Это́ Вѣрин сын.


- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. сестра́ (Ми́ша) | 2. бра́т (Ма́рина) | 3. ло́шадь (Та́ня) | 4. вино́ (Ко́стя) |
| 5. чай (Вѣра) | 6. дива́н (Серѣ́жа) | 7. пальто́ (А́ся) | 8. дочь (Ю́ра) |
| 9. фотоаппара́т (Ви́тя) | 10. муж (И́нна) | 11. оте́ц (Ви́ка) | 12. жена́ (Пе́тя) |
| 13. соба́ка (Ма́рта) | 14. ста́ршая сестра́ (О́ля) | 15. мла́дший бра́т (Бо́ря) | 16. пѝво (И́ра) |



Form questions and provide answers as seen in the example:


Example: кні́га (his) ⇒ Чья́ э́то кні́га? Э́то егó кні́га.
 брат (Яша) ⇒ Чей э́то брат? Э́то Яши́н брат.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. журна́л (your – sg) | 2. сестра́ (his) | 3. брат (their) | 4. фотогра́фия (Да́ша) |
| 5. пі́во (my) | 6. гита́ра (her) | 7. гара́ж (your – informal) | 8. су́мка (<i>purse</i>) (my) |
| 9. я́блоко (<i>apple</i>) (his) | 10. дочь (our) | 11. газе́та (her) | 12. зо́лото (<i>gold</i>) (Ко́ля) |
| 13. па́спорт (Ма́рта) | 14. ру́чка (<i>pen</i>) (my) | 15. мышь (their) | 16. слова́рь (your – formal) |

 **Exercise 1** Identify (when possible) the gender of a noun. Write ?? if you can't be sure – this applies only to words we have not had. You should know the gender of all the words we've had:

Example: карандаш *M*
книга *F*
слово *N*
рояль ?? (if you're interested, this word means *piano*, and it's masculine)

- | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1. журнал | _____ | 2. мать | _____ | 3. сердце | _____ | 4. дверь | _____ |
| 5. деревня | _____ | 6. словарь | _____ | 7. вещь | _____ | 8. окно | _____ |
| 9. гений | _____ | 10. статья | _____ | 11. здание | _____ | 12. мышь | _____ |
| 13. нож | _____ | 14. газета | _____ | 15. печенье | _____ | 16. день | _____ |
| 17. нос | _____ | 18. лошадь | _____ | 19. письмо | _____ | 20. любитель | _____ |
| 21. бельё | _____ | 22. ночь | _____ | 23. рояль | _____ | 24. деревня | _____ |

 **Exercise 2** Form questions and answers as seen in the example:

Example: книга (my) ⇒ Чья это книга? Это моя книга.
пиво (Миша) ⇒ Чьё это пиво? Это Мишино пиво.

1. водка (his)

2. мыло (your – formal)

3. журнал (Таня)

4. машина *car* (our)

5. яблоко *apple* (her)

6. собака (Лёва)

7. словарь (my)

8. радио (Íра)

9. компьютер (your – informal)

10. сумка *purse* (Света)

11. слон *elephant* (their)

12. профессор (our)
