

Двенадцатый урок

12

Песня:	Окуджава
Стихотворение:	Тютчев
Грамматика:	12.A: Dative of Experience 12.B: Modal Use of Infinitive 12.B: Uses of the Verb Вѣри+

This is the first of twelve “song/poem” lessons. Our suggestions on how to proceed: 1) Listen to the song/poem several times and fill in the blanks; 2) Listen and repeat the song/poem several times; 3) Read over the grammar and do the oral exercises. The grammar explanations may help you figure out certain forms you may have been unsure of (hint, hint); 4) Listen and repeat once or twice more.

On each exam you will have to option to sing a song or recite a poem for extra credit. (Many students have raised several of their test scores by memorizing songs or poems.)

For all “authentic” texts (songs, poems, stories), you are only responsible for vocabulary given in **bold**. (Of course, when you sing/recite a work, you must include all the words.)

Булат Окуджава (1924-1997)

- 1 _____ метрѳ
- 2 _____,
- 3 _____ с дѳтства
- 4 _____,
- 5 _____ **вместѳ** припѳва:
- 6 «_____ , проходѳте _____.»
- 7 **Порядок вѳчен**, _____ **свят** –
- 8 Те, что _____ , _____.
- 9 Но те, что _____ , _____
- 10 Держатѳся _____ сторон _____.

Словарь

3	дѳтство с дѳтства в дѳтстве	<i>childhood</i> <i>from/since childhood</i> <i>in/during childhood; as a child</i> (Note that instead of the typical на-с pair of prepositions, it’s в-с .)
---	--	---

5	вместо + genitive	<i>instead of</i>
5	припев	<i>chorus (of a song)</i>
6	проходи́+ // {пройди́+ / проше́+ (ё)} Infinitive пройти́	<i>go past; pass; overtake</i>
7	порядок (o)	<i>order</i> (We saw this noun in the phrase Всё в порядке <i>All is in order; Everything is OK.</i>)
87	вечный (e)	<i>eternal</i>
87	святой	<i>holý</i>
8	те, что	= <i>те люди, которые</i> (This is rather colloquial.)
10	держи́+...ся + genitive	<i>keep to; stay on (a certain side)</i>

Фёдор Ива́нович Тютчев (1803-1873)

1 Умо́м _____ понять,

2 Арши́н _____ измери́ть;

3 _____ ней о́собе́нн _____ стать —

4 В _____.

1866

Словарь

1	у́м	<i>mind; intellect</i> (related to <i>у́мный</i>)
2	арши́н	<i>arshin</i> (old Russian unit of length equal to ~28 inches)
2	измеряй+ // измери+	<i>measure</i>
3	у ней	= <i>у неё</i> (This is an archaic form, used here for meter, and to create a certain mood.)
3	статья (<i>F</i>)	<i>figure; character; type</i>

12.A Dative of Experience Constructions

Note: We realize that, officially at least, the dative case has not yet been presented. However, if memory serves us correctly, you did cover it last year. In our examples (and on the exam) we'll stick with pronouns.

In the first two lines of the song we find the construction **Мне ... никогда не тѣсно** *I'm never cramped; I never feel crowded*. Let's review various "Dative of Experience" constructions (and see when you *cannot* use them).

To express how one feels (either physically or emotionally), Russian often uses a "Dative of Experience" construction, which consists of the following elements:

1) Dative "Subject"*	2) Third-Person Neuter of <i>be</i> (in Past and Future)	3) Adverb/Neuter Predicate**	4) Adverbial Phrase (optional)
Мне/емý/ей/нам	было/будет	хорошо/скучно/холодно	там/вчера/без пальто

* We put the word *subject* in parentheses because, technically, only nouns in the *nominative* can be the grammatical subject of a sentence in Russian. Still, in these constructions it is certainly the noun in the dative that "feels" like the subject.

**The exact status of this element – is it simply an adverb or is it a something called a "predicate"? – is actually a rather tricky question. For our purposes, it really doesn't matter what we call it.

The key when translating from English into Russian is avoid a kneejerk *I=я, she=она, they=они* reaction. Before you instinctively blurt out that nominative subject, take a second to think, Could this phrase contain a dative "subject"?

Some more examples of the Dative of Experience:

Мне плохо.	<i>I don't feel well.</i>
Емý сейчас лучше/хуже.	<i>He feels better/worse now.</i>
Ей всегда жарко/холодно.	<i>She's always hot/cold.</i>
Вам будет весело у нас.	<i>You'll have a good time at our place.</i>
Мне было очень интересно на лекции.	<i>I found the lecture very interesting.</i>
Я боюсь, что тебе будет скучно на опере.	<i>I'm afraid you'll be bored at the opera.</i>
Им было очень грустно когда бабушка умерла.	<i>They were very sad when their grandmother died.</i>

Still, as common as these Dative of Experience constructions are, you can't use them for *every* expression of physical or emotional states. Here are some examples using a regular nominative subject with either an adjective or verb:

Я голоден.	<i>I'm hungry.</i>
Он хочет пить.*	<i>He's thirsty.</i>
Она устала.	<i>She's tired.</i>

* To be honest, the best way to say *He's thirsty* is with the dative construction **Емý хочется пить**, though **Он хочет пить** is by no means incorrect.



Переведите на русский

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Are you bored? | 2. They were very hot in the train compartment. |
| 3. I think we will be cramped. | 4. He's very hungry. |
| 5. I don't feel well. | 6. Do you feel better? |
| 7. We feel very sad. | 8. I'm thirsty. |
| 9. We were very cold in the dorm. | 10. Do you find this interesting? |

12.5 Modal Use of Infinitive: Bare Infinitive To Express Im/possibility

In line 1 of the poem we find the line **Умóm Рóссию не поня́ть** *One cannot grasp Russian with one's mind or Russia cannot be understood with the mind*. Let's look at one so-called "modal" use of the infinitive. By "modal" we mean expressing either **im/possibility** (can/not), **advisability** (should, must), **permission** (may), as well as a host of similar shades of meaning. For now we'll look just **im/possibility**.

12.5.1 Bare Perfective Infinitive + Dative "Subject" to Express Im/possibility

Up until now the uses of the infinitive we have seen in Russian have been more or less parallel to those we find in English. In both languages we find the infinitive after helping verbs like *want, like, be able (can), promise, going (future)*. We also saw the infinitive after certain predicates, as in **Трудно най́ти рабóту** *It's hard to find a job* or **При́ятно спáть на дивáне** *It's pleasant to sleep on the sofa*, etc.

Now let us look at one use of the infinitive in Russian that does not correspond to anything in English, one of the so-called **modal** uses of the infinitive. In Russian a **bare perfective infinitive** (without any helping verb or predicate in sight) used with an optional dative "subject" can express **possibility**, (or **impossibility** when combined with the negative particle **не**):

Где мне найт́и тако́го челове́ка?	<i>Where can I find such a person?</i>
Как ей уговорíть его оста́ться в Москвё?	<i>How can she convince him to stay in Moscow?</i>
Нам нигде́ не купи́ть э́ту кни́гу.	<i>We cannot buy that book anywhere.</i>
Никому́ не спеть э́ту пёсню, как Лёна.	<i>No one can sing that song like Lena.</i>

In some cases, as we see from the first line of the poem **Умóm Росси́ю не поня́ть**, it is possible to omit the dative "subject," in which case the best way to translate the phrase is with generalized *you*, or *one* (though *one* sound a bit formal to some), or even as a passive sentence:

Э́ту дверь не откры́ть без ключа́.	<i>One cannot open that door without a key. That door cannot be opened without a key.</i>
Как стать президéнтом, е́сли нет де́нег?	<i>How can one become president if one has no money?</i>

Notice that in all the examples above, the statements (as opposed to questions) are all negative, while the affirmative uses of the "infinitive of possibility" are found only in questions.

As you probably can tell, there's a lot more to be said about the modal use of infinitives (and modals in general), which we will do a little later in the course.



Переведите на русский

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I can't close the window. | 2. Where can we obtain tickets to that play (=performance)? |
| 3. She can't read this article without a dictionary. | 4. He can't pay for such an expensive dinner. |
| 5. Where can one buy a leather armchair? | 6. How can they do that? |
| 7. He just can't (ника́к) get used to classes. | 8. I can't eat all those apples. |

12.B Believe: **Вéри+ + Dative** or **В + Accusative**

The last line of the poem reads **В Росси́ю мо́жно то́лько вéрить** *One can only believe in Russia*. Let's look at the various ways the verb **вéри+** *believe* is used.

Last year we only saw **вéри+** followed by the *dative*, to indicate either that: 1) you think the person is telling the truth, or; 2) you trust the person. (It's difficult to say whether Russian actually makes this distinction between *believe* and *trust*. In any case, keep in mind that both these concepts are expressed by **вéри+ + dative**.)

Са́ра не вéрила Рóберту когда́ он сказа́л, что не
целова́л Джу́ди.

*Sara didn't believe Robert when he said that he
didn't kiss Judy.*

Я тебе́ не вéрю!

I don't believe/trust you!

Она́ почему́-то не вéрит ему́.

For some reason she doesn't believe/trust him.

We also saw **вéри+** followed by the *dative* in the following fixed expression from Part 2 of the story:

Я не мог пове́рить мо́им глаза́м.

I couldn't believe my eyes.

As we see in the last line of the poem **вéри+** can also be used with **в + accusative** to indicate (deeply held) belief/faith in God or a doctrine (often a political system), or even a country or a single person:

Ты вéришь в Бо́га? (Notice Бог is "animate".)

Do you believe in God?

Он до конца́ своéй жи́зни вéрил в коммуни́зм.

He believed in Communism until the day he died.

Мы вéрим в Аме́рику.

We believe in America.

Я вéрю в тебя́!

I believe in you!

Он ни во что не вéрит.

He doesn't believe in anything.



Переведите на русский

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Previously, my older brother didn't believe in God. | 2. I don't trust him. |
| 3. Why don't you believe me? | 4. Do you believe in ghosts? (привидéния <i>inanimate</i>) |
| 5. I believe in Democracy. (демократи́я) | 6. She doesn't believe in anything. |

12-й урок - Домашнее задание

 **Упражнение 1** **Переведите пёсню и стихотворёние на английский**

 **Упражнение 2** **Переведите на русский**

1. They felt/were cramped in such a small room.
2. I had a very happy childhood.
3. We just can't take (measure) the temperature (температу́ра) of that elephant.
4. He ordered vodka instead of milk.
5. She complains eternally.
6. One should think with one's head and not one's heart.

12-й урок - Домашнее задание

 **Упражнение 3** *Отвѣтьте* на вопросы. Use complete sentences (and the constructions described in the lesson).

1. Do you believe in God?
2. Whom do you (not) trust and why?
3. What can you just not do (no how)?