

# Семна́дцатый урoк

# 17

Диалoг:	Я егó еле спас I barely saved him
Граммáтика:	17.А: The Past Tense 17.Б: Get “Unused” To

## Я егó еле спас I barely saved him

Лéна	1 2	Мíша, что с тобóй? Ты совсéм блéдный! Чтo-нибудь случíлось?	<i>Misha, what's wrong with you? You're totally pale. Did something happen?</i>
Мíша	3	Мой друг чúть не утонúл в óзере. Я егó еле спас.	<i>My friend nearly drowned in the lake. I barely saved him. (I was just barely able to save him.)</i>
Лéна	4	Знáчит, он жив?	<i>So, he's alive?</i>
Мíша	5 6	Да, жив, Слáва Бóгу! Сейчáс всё в порядке, но я чуть не úмер от стрáха.	<i>Yeah, he's alive. Thank goodness! Everything's OK now, but I almost died from fear.</i>
Лéна	7	Как éто случíлось?	<i>How did it happen?</i>
Мíша	8 9	Когдá ребята шли домóй пóсле кóнцерта, кто-то случáйно толкнúл егó и он упáл в óзеро.	<i>When the guys were walking home after the concert, someone accidentally push him and he fell into the lake.</i>
Лéна	10	Ты óчень тяжелó дýшишь. Всё в порядке?	<i>You're breathing really heavily. Is everything OK?</i>
Мíша	11 12	Дéло в том, что я совсéм отвык от физíческой нагрúзки.	<i>The thing is that I have gotten “unused” to physical activity.</i>

## Словáрь

1	блéд/ный (е)	<i>pale</i>
3	тонú+ // у-	<i>drown (intransitive)</i>
9	óзеро ( <i>plural</i> озéра)	<i>lake</i> (We saw this word last year in the phrase «Лебедíное óзеро».)
3	эле ( <i>alternative: эле эле</i> )	<i>barely</i>
3	спасáй+ // спас+'	<i>save; rescue</i>
4	жив, живá, живо, живы	<i>alive</i>
6	стрáх умерéть от стрáха	<i>fear</i> <i>die from fear</i>
9	толкáй+ // толкнú+	<i>push; shove</i>
9	пáдай+ // упáд+	<i>fall</i> (Note the different stems between imperfective and perfective.)
10	тяжéлый <i>adverb</i> тяжелó	<i>heavy</i>
10	дышá+ ( <i>imperfective only</i> )	<i>breathe</i>
11	отвыкáй- // отвык[ну]- от + <i>genitive</i> or <i>imperfective infinitive</i>	“get unused to”; become unaccustomed to (See explanation.)
11	физíческий	<i>physical</i>
12	нагрúзка	<i>(work)load; activity</i>

## 17.A The Past Tense (Прошѣдшее время)

☺ Compared to English (and a lot of other languages), forming the past tense in Russian is very easy. There are very few rules, and practically no exceptions.

As you recall, the past tense endings are based on **gender** and **number** (but not person, as in the present tense). So, a single form, say, **читáл** could be used with **я**, **ты**, and **он** (assuming я and ты are male).

### 17.A.1 The Past Tense Endings

Past Tense Endings		
<i>Singular</i>		
Masculine	-Л or ∅	в́идел / мог
Feminine	-ЛА	в́идела / могла́
Neuter	-ЛО	в́идело / могло́
-----		
<i>Plural</i>		
All Genders	-ЛИ	в́идели / могли́

All of the above endings begin with a consonant (**C**), which means that stems ending in a vowel will attach the endings harmoniously (**V+C**). The addition of the past tense endings to stems ending in a consonant may be chaotic (**C+C**), with various results, which we discuss below.

☺ In the past tense, there are no distinctions in conjugation type as there are in the present (Up-to-Snuff vs. Guitar). For example, when forming the past tense it makes no difference whether the verb is a **жа-жа-**, **{O}ва-** (root or non-root), or **a-stem** (syllabic or non-syllabic). Since all end in a vowel, they just attach the ending directly.

### 17.A.2 Stress Patterns in the Past Tense

Before we look at actual forms, let's examine possible stress patterns in the past tense. There are two basic patterns:

- 1) Fixed Stress (either always on the stem or on the ending – last possible vowel)
- 2) Shifting Stress (on the stem, *except in the feminine*, where the ending **-ла́** is stressed)

We will indicate shifting stress in the past with a raised <sup>></sup> above the vowel on which the stress falls in all forms except the feminine past tense.

Fixed Stress		Shifting Stress
Stem Stressed	End Stressed	(Stem in all forms except Feminine)
знáй+    знал / знáла / знáло / знáли	вѣд+ '    вѣл / велá / велó / велí	жив+ <sup>&gt;</sup> жил / <b>жилá</b> / жíло / жíли

The majority of verbs that have shifting stress in the past are *consonant stems*. (See below for exceptions.) Recall that the opposite holds in the present, where normally only stems ending in a vowel have shifting stress.

### 17.A.2a. Vowel Stems With Shifting Stress in the Past Tense

1) Many **non-syllabic a-stems** have shifting stress in the past:

жда <sup>́</sup> +	жда́л, ждала́, ждало, ждали
вра <sup>́</sup> +	вра́л, <b>вра́ла</b> , вра́ло, вра́ли
бра <sup>́</sup> +(е)	бра́л, <b>бра́ла</b> , бра́ло, бра́ли

“Regular” a-stems (писа́+, сказа́+, etc.) only have shifting stress in the present tense. No exceptions.

2) Some double-stem verbs have shifting stress in the past:

{бу́д+ / бы́+}	бы́л, <b>бы́ла</b> , бы́ло, бы́ли
{пью́+ / пью́+}	пью́л, <b>пью́ла</b> , пью́ло, пью́ли
{возьму́+ / возьму́+}	возьму́л, <b>возьму́ла</b> , возьму́ло, возьму́ли

### 17.A.2a. Shifting Stress in Past; Stress on Final Stem Vowel in Infinitive

You may recall when we introduced double-stem verbs in Lesson 8 that a few verbs had a rather odd notation in the past/infinitive stems: {начн+ / нача́+} and {прим+ / приня́+}. Why are there two different accent marks? Well, things are messy.

In the past tense these verbs shift their stress from the first syllable to the last:

{начн+ / нача́+}	нача́л, <b>нача́ла</b> , нача́ло, нача́ли
{прим+ / приня́+}	приня́л, <b>приня́ла</b> , приня́ло, приня́ли

There’s nothing strange about this stress pattern. The problem is that the stress in the infinitive falls on the final vowel of the stem:

{начн+ / нача́+}	нача́ть
{прим+ / приня́+}	приня́ть

Thus, for these verbs, between the past tense and the infinitive, the stress falls on *three* different vowels! Какой кошма́р! We’ll indicate this stress pattern with a regular stress mark above the final vowel stem (the stress for the infinitive, which is fixed), and a shifting stress mark above the first vowel of the stem (the stress for the past tense).

3) The verb **роди+...ся** can have either shifting stress or fixed end-stress, with the masculine form even stressed on the on the **-ся**):

роди+...ся	родился́, родилась́, родилось́, родились́
	or
	роди́лся, <b>роди́лась</b> , роди́лось, роди́лись

**Роди+...ся** is the only и-stem in the entire language that has (potentially) shifting stress. (But you can just use the end-stressed forms and forget about this “exception.”)

### “Regular” Past Tense Forms in Russian

In the chart below, we present only those consonant-stem verbs in which the final consonant from the stem is truncated (i.e., those whose stems end in a “loser” consonant) and replaced by **-л/-ла/-ло/-ли**. The chart also contains vowel-stem verbs, which never present a problem.

Combination	Stem	Forms			
		M	F	N	PI
<b>V+C (harmony)</b>	куп <sup>й</sup> +	куп <sup>и</sup> л	куп <sup>и</sup> ла	куп <sup>и</sup> ло	куп <sup>и</sup> ли
	ви <sup>д</sup> е+	ви <sup>д</sup> ел	ви <sup>д</sup> ела	ви <sup>д</sup> ело	ви <sup>д</sup> ели
	кри <sup>ч</sup> а+	кри <sup>ч</sup> а <sup>л</sup>	кри <sup>ч</sup> а <sup>ла</sup>	кри <sup>ч</sup> а <sup>ло</sup>	кри <sup>ч</sup> а <sup>ли</sup>
	пи <sup>с</sup> а+	пи <sup>с</sup> а <sup>л</sup>	пи <sup>с</sup> а <sup>ла</sup>	пи <sup>с</sup> а <sup>ло</sup>	пи <sup>с</sup> а <sup>ли</sup>
	жда <sup>д</sup> +	жда <sup>л</sup>	жда <sup>ла</sup>	жда <sup>ло</sup>	жда <sup>ли</sup>
	тан <sup>ц</sup> е <sup>в</sup> а+	тан <sup>ц</sup> е <sup>в</sup> а <sup>л</sup>	тан <sup>ц</sup> е <sup>в</sup> а <sup>ла</sup>	тан <sup>ц</sup> е <sup>в</sup> а <sup>ло</sup>	тан <sup>ц</sup> е <sup>в</sup> а <sup>ли</sup>
	со <sup>в</sup> а+	со <sup>в</sup> а <sup>л</sup>	со <sup>в</sup> а <sup>ла</sup>	со <sup>в</sup> а <sup>ло</sup>	со <sup>в</sup> а <sup>ли</sup>
	бор <sup>б</sup> +...ся	бор <sup>б</sup> о <sup>л</sup> ся	бор <sup>б</sup> о <sup>л</sup> ась	бор <sup>б</sup> о <sup>л</sup> ось	бор <sup>б</sup> о <sup>л</sup> ись
<b>C+C (first C drops) (й, в, н, д, т are “loser” consonants)</b>	ду <sup>м</sup> ай+	ду <sup>м</sup> а <sup>л</sup>	ду <sup>м</sup> а <sup>ла</sup>	ду <sup>м</sup> а <sup>ло</sup>	ду <sup>м</sup> а <sup>ли</sup>
	жи <sup>в</sup> + <sup>&gt;</sup>	жи <sup>л</sup>	жи <sup>ла</sup>	жи <sup>ло</sup>	жи <sup>ли</sup>
	ста <sup>н</sup> +	ста <sup>л</sup>	ста <sup>ла</sup>	ста <sup>ло</sup>	ста <sup>ли</sup>
	кра <sup>д</sup> +	кра <sup>л</sup>	кра <sup>ла</sup>	кра <sup>ло</sup>	кра <sup>ли</sup>
	ме <sup>т</sup> + <sup>´</sup>	ме <sup>л</sup>	ме <sup>ла</sup>	ме <sup>ло</sup>	ме <sup>ли</sup>

So, the stem-final consonants that drop are: **й, в, н, д, т**. The other consonants don't go so quietly – which is where Greasy Zeke comes in.



Give the Past Tense он / она / мы forms:

- |                                   |                                       |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. зам <sup>е</sup> ти+           | 2. дыш <sup>а</sup> +                 | 3. спас <sup>а</sup> й+            |
| 4. оста <sup>н</sup> +...ся       | 5. п <sup>л</sup> ыв+ <sup>&gt;</sup> | 6. куп <sup>и</sup> +              |
| 7. ме <sup>т</sup> + <sup>´</sup> | 8. упа <sup>д</sup> +                 | 9. бор <sup>б</sup> +...ся         |
| 10. преувеличивай+                | 11. со <sup>в</sup> а+                | 12. ве <sup>д</sup> + <sup>´</sup> |

### 17.A.2 Greasy Zeke Says “Get the Л Outta Here”

If the final letter of the stem is **г-р-с-з-к** (Greasy Zeke), in the masculine form of the past tense the **-л** from the ending is dropped and the stem remains intact. In all other forms, the full ending (**-ла/-ло/-ли**) is attached directly to the consonant stem. So, in these non-masculine past tense forms you actually get **С+С** with no truncation of either consonant.

#### The Past Tense of Greasy Zeke Verbs

Combination	Stem	Forms			
		M	F	N	PI
<b>C+C</b> (first C remains in all forms; л is lost in Masculine)	мог+ <sup>с</sup>	мог	могла́	могло́	могли́
	стриг+...ся	стригся	стриглась	стриглось	стриглись
	запер+ <sup>з</sup>	запер	заперла́	заперло́	заперли́
	умер+ <sup>з</sup>	умер	умерла́	умерло́	умерли́
	нёс+ <sup>с</sup>	нёс	несла́	несло́	несли́
	спас+ <sup>с</sup>	спас	спасла́	спасло́	спасли́
	вёз+ <sup>з</sup>	вёз	везла́	везло́	везли́
	лёз+ <i>climb</i>	лез	лёзла	лёзло	лёзли
	пёк+ <sup>с</sup>	пёк	пекла́	пекло́	пекли́
	тёк+ <sup>с</sup> <i>flow</i>	тёк	текла́	текло́	текли́

#### 17.A.2a Greasy Zeke Drinks Beer (Not Ale)

Finally, a word about **б-stems**. They are also Greasy Zeke types, so we could say that Greasy Zeke likes *beer* and not *ale*. The problem is that the only really common б-stem is very obscene, and we're sure you would never wish to utter it. Here are the two other б-stem verbs, which behave as expected:

грёб+<sup>б</sup> *row*                      грёб, гребла́, гребло́, гребли́  
скрёб+<sup>б</sup> *scrape*                скрёб, скребла́, скребло́, скребли́



Give the он / она́ / они́ forms. This exercise contains both regular and Greasy Zeke verbs:

- |                        |                       |                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. постриг+...ся       | 2. тёк+ <sup>с</sup>  | 3. полз+ <sup>з</sup>   |
| 4. стёр+ <sup>с</sup>  | 5. нёс+ <sup>с</sup>  | 6. умер+ <sup>з</sup>   |
| 7. строи+              | 8. спас+ <sup>с</sup> | 9. обиде+               |
| 10. грёб+ <sup>б</sup> | 11. пёк+ <sup>с</sup> | 12. пльив+ <sup>з</sup> |

## 17.A.3 Disappearing [ny] Verbs

There are a number of verb stems that have the suffix **ny** in the present tense, imperative, and infinitive, but which drop the **ny** in all forms of the past tense – and then act like Greasy Zeke verbs (keeping the final stem consonant in all forms and not attaching **л** in the masculine). The most famous disappearing [ny] verb is **исчез[ny]+**, which itself means *disappear*.

Combination	Stem	Forms			
		M	F	N	PI
<b>C+C (after ny drops)</b> <b>(first C remains in all forms; л is lost in Masculine)</b>	исчез[ny]+	исчез	исчезла	исчезло	исчезли
	привык[ny]+	привык	привыкла	привыкло	привыкли
	отвык[ny]+	отвык	отвыкла	отвыкло	отвыкли
	замёрз[ny]+	замёрз	замёрзла	замёрзло	замёрзли

How can you tell if the **ny** drops? First, use our notation, in which disappearing [ny] is contained in square brackets, while non-disappearing **ny** is not in any brackets. There are some other guidelines.

The **ny** will *not drop* if: 1) it is stressed:                      верн<sup>у́</sup>+    верн<sup>у́</sup>л, верн<sup>у́</sup>ла, верн<sup>у́</sup>ло, верн<sup>у́</sup>ли  
2) it is preceded by a vowel:              тр<sup>о́</sup>ну+    тр<sup>о́</sup>нул, тр<sup>о́</sup>нула, тр<sup>о́</sup>нуло, тр<sup>о́</sup>нули

Otherwise, if a consonant precedes unstressed **ny**, there's no way to predict whether the **ny** stays or drops:

прыгну+ *jump*              прыгнул, прыгнула, прыгнуло, прыгнули  
ослеп[ny]+ *go blind*      ослеп, ослепла, ослепло, ослепли



Give the он / она / они forms:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. улыб <sup>н</sup> у́+...ся              | 2. покину+ <i>leave</i>                     | 3. вс <sup>у</sup> ну+ <i>shove in</i>         |
| 4. дост <sup>и</sup> г[ny]+ <i>achieve</i> | 5. привык[ny]+                              | 6. исч <sup>е</sup> з[ny]+                     |
| 7. верн <sup>у́</sup> +...ся               | 8. к <sup>и</sup> с[ny]+ <i>become sour</i> | 9. натк <sup>н</sup> у́+...ся <i>bump into</i> |

## 17.A.4 The Past Tense of Double-Stem Verbs

With the exception of just a few verbs verbs (which actually are perfectly regular – see below) the past tense and infinitive stems of all double-stem verbs end in a vowel – creating a harmonious **V+C** environment:

Combination	Stem	Forms			
		М	F	N	Pl
<b>V+C</b>	{пѳй+ / пѳй+}	пил	пила́	пи́ло	пи́ли
	{убѳй+ / убѳй+}	убѳил	убѳил	убѳило	убѳили
	{моѳй+...(ся) / мѳй+...(ся)}	мѳил(ся)	мѳила(сь)	мѳило(сь)	мѳили(сь)
	{закроѳй+ / закрьѳй+}	закрьѳил	закрьѳила	закрьѳило	закрьѳили
		дава́л	дава́ла	дава́ло	дава́ли
		встава́л	встава́ла	встава́ло	встава́ли
	{бу́д+ / бы́+}	был	была́	бы́ло	бы́ли
	{бреѳй+...(ся) / бриѳй+...(ся)}	бриѳил(ся)	бриѳилась	бриѳилось	бриѳились
	{пой+ / пе́+}	пел	пе́ла	пе́ло	пе́ли
	{возьм+ / взя́+}	взял	взяла́	взя́ло	взя́ли
	{ѳд+ / ѳха+}	ѳхал	ѳхала	ѳхало	ѳхали
{спи- / спа́+}	спал	спала́	спала́	спали́	

The stems {встаѳй+ / вставаѳй+} and {даѳй+ / даваѳй+} both have a past/infinitive stem that ends in ѳ, a “loser” consonant, which predictably is truncated: **встава́л (встава́л, встава́ли), дава́л (дава́ла, дава́ло, дава́ли)**.

The other two double-stem verbs whose past tense stems end in a consonant follow all the rules described earlier:

{ся́д+ / се́д+}      д, a “loser” consonant, is truncated in all forms of the past: **сел, се́ла, се́ло, се́ли**

{ля́г+ / ле́г+}      г, a Greasy Zeke consonant, stays in all forms of the past: **ле́г, легла́, легло́, легли́**



Give the он / она́ / они́ forms:

- |                      |                                   |                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. {бу́д+ / бы́+}    | 2. {возьм+ / взя́+}               | 3. {ѳд+ / ѳха+}    |
| 4. {ля́г+ / ле́г+}   | 5. {бреѳй+...ся / бриѳй+... (ся)} | 6. {спи- / спа́+}  |
| 7. {прим+ / при́ня+} | 8. {встаѳй+ / вставаѳй+}          | 9. {ся́д+ / се́д+} |

## 17.A.2 Irregular Past Tense Verbs

We could say that there are **no** irregular past tense verbs in the sense that only the regular past tense endings (-л/Ø, -ла, -ло, -ли) are used (as opposed to the four irregular present tense verbs with anomalous endings we saw last week). Still, perhaps one verb deserves some attention:

**шёл, шлá, шлó, шлí**

This verb is odd because the present tense stem is **ид+**, which certainly looks nothing like **шёл/шла/шло/шли**. Still, we could simply classify it as the double-stem verb {ид+ / шë+ (ë)} where the **ë** is a cluster buster in the masculine past tense. (The infinitive raises some other problems. ☹)

As far as the verbs that are irregular in the present tense are concerned, they are well-behaved in the past, though **дать** does have shifting stress.

<b>есть</b>	ел, éла, éло, éли
<b>да́ть</b>	дал, <b>далá</b> , да́ло, да́ли
<b>хотéть</b>	хотéл, хотéла, хотéло, хотéли
<b>бежа́ть</b>	бежа́л, бежа́ла, бежа́ло, бежа́ли

## 17.B Getting “Unused” to Something/Someone

Back in Lesson 2, we saw the verb **привыка́й+ // привык[ну]+** *get used to; get accustomed to*, which can be followed either by **к** + *dative* or by an imperfective infinitive. This verb most often appears in the past tense, but present and future are certainly possible:

Я ещё не привык к моему́ но́вому сосéду.	<i>I'm not used to my new roommate yet.</i>
Она́ привыкла́ ра́но вставáть.	<i>She's used to getting up early.</i>
Мы постепéнно привыка́ем к пого́де здесь.	<i>We gradually are getting used to the weather here.</i>
Не беспоко́йся. Ты скóро привыкнешь пить Кóка-Кóлу без лда.	<i>Don't worry. You'll soon get used to drinking Coca-Cola without ice.</i>

Russian also has a verb with the *opposite* meaning, **отвыка́й+ // отвык[ну]+** *get unused to; become unaccustomed to*, which can be followed either by **от** + *genitive* or an imperfective infinitive. This verb is found almost exclusively in the past tense (though the present and future are theoretically possible). It can be somewhat difficult to give an elegant, single-word English translation of this verb, as we see in the last example:

Она́ б́ыстро отвы́кала от своегó б́ывшего м́ужа.	<i>She quickly got over her ex-husband.</i>
Я ужé отвы́кла говорíть по-ру́сски.	<i>I'm already out of the habit of speaking Russian.</i>





Переведите на русский:

1. Are you used to classes yet?
2. I'm out of the habit of getting up earlier.
3. We're slowly getting used to the weather here.
4. He quickly get out of the habit of studying.
5. You'll quickly get used to the food here.
6. She's not used to speaking French.

## 17-й урок - Домашнее задание



**Упражнение 1** Give the **past tense** verb forms. Try not to look back at the lesson:

fall ( <i>perfective</i> )	save ( <i>perfective</i> )	disappear ( <i>perfective</i> )
Stem:	Stem:	Stem:
он _____	он _____	он _____
она _____	она _____	она _____
они _____	они _____	они _____

breathe	sit down ( <i>perfective</i> )	bake ( <i>imperfective</i> )
Stem:	Stem:	Stem:
он _____	он _____	он _____
она _____	она _____	она _____
они _____	они _____	они _____

give ( <i>perfective</i> )	give ( <i>imperfective</i> )	accept; take (a shower) ( <i>perfective</i> )
	Stems:	Stems:
он _____	он _____	он _____
она _____	она _____	она _____
они _____	они _____	они _____

return (to a place) ( <i>perfective</i> )	stick; shove ( <i>perfective</i> )	shave ( <i>imperfective</i> )
Stem:	Stem:	Stems:
он _____	он _____	он _____
она _____	она _____	она _____
они _____	они _____	они _____

## 17-й урок - Домашнее задание



### Упражнение 2 Переведите на русский:

1. They're still alive!
2. I have gotten unused to studying (use **заниматься**).
3. He saved me.
4. I have fallen and I can't get up.
5. My favorite elephant drowned in the lake.
6. She nearly died from fear.