

Тридцать шестой урок

36

Грамматика: 36.А: Another Use of Ли
36.Б: Imperfective Gerunds – Form
36.В: Imperfective Gerunds – Meaning

36.А Gerunds: Verbal Adverbs

In the previous lesson we examined participles (*verbal adjectives*). Now let us look at what are normally referred to as *gerunds* or *verbal adverbs*. There are just two types of gerunds in Russian (as opposed to four types of participles): **present** (imperfective – as would be expected) and **past** (perfective only – more on this later).

36.1.А Present (Imperfective) Gerunds: Form -Я(СЬ) / -А(СЬ)

To form an present (imperfective) verbal adverb, remove the ending from the present tense он́- form (-ут/-ют, -ат/-ят) and replace it with **-я** (or **-а** if a spelling rule prohibits -я). Unlike with participles, with gerunds **-ся > сь** after **-я/-а**, which means you *never get -ся* in a gerund.

Present Tense он́-form	Imperfective Gerund
чита́ют	чита́я
гуля́ют	гуля́я
жив-у́т	живя́
сто-я́т	сто́я (See below for info on stress)
занима́ют-ся	занима́ясь
говор-я́т	говоря́
спеш-а́т	спеша́
стуч-а́т	стуча́

Remember to use soft-indicating **-я** whenever possible, even when the stem ends in a hard consonant, as in **живя́**, **кладя́**, etc. The letter **-а** is reserved for spelling rule consonants: **держá**, **слы́ша**, etc. We mentioned this automatic softening back in Lesson 5, which we will repeat here again:

All verb stems soften before endings in {O} (-ё/-е), {I} (-и), {A} (-я)

So, after stems that end in a hard consonant, e.g. you will never find the letters **о**, **ы**, or **а**. Instead write only **ё/е** (*present tense*), **и** (*imperative*), **я** (*present gerund*).

36.Б.1а Some exceptions in the formation of present gerunds: дава́я, бу́дучи

- The three double-stem verbs with past/infinitive stem in **-авáй-** verbs keep the **-авáй-** (instead of using the 3rd plural present): **встава́я**, **остава́я**; **дава́я**, **продава́я**, **отдава́я**; **узнава́я**, **признава́ясь**.

Продава́я моро́женое на углу́, Вита́ думал о сво́ей де́вушке.

While selling ice cream on the corner, Vitya thought about his girlfriend.

Встава́я, он заме́тил, что на у́лице идёт дождь.

While getting up, he noticed that it was raining outside.

- The verb *be* {б[́]уд+ / б[́]ьн+} has the imperfective gerund form б[́]уду^чи, which many Russians consider *very* bookish and “awkward”.

Б[́]уду^чи в П[́]ринстоне, он ч[́]асто ход[́]ил на «стрит».

While he was in Princeton, he often went to The Street.

36.Б.2 Stress in imperfective gerunds

Normally the stress in an imperfective gerund *is similar to the present tense я-form*. (so you may need to “undo” shifting stress.) A few exceptions are listed below. Notice that three of the five exceptions refer to physical position (and are among the most commonly found imperfective gerunds).

Imperfective Gerunds With Unpredictable Stem Stress		
л [́] ёжа	<i>lying</i>	(я леж [́] у)
с [́] идя	<i>sitting</i>	(я сиж [́] у)
ст [́] оя	<i>standing</i>	(я сто [́] ю)
г [́] лядя	<i>looking</i>	(я глян [́] ж [́] у)
*с [́] удя	<i>judging</i>	(я суж [́] у)

*See below for use of this gerund in the fixed expression с[́]удя по *judging by*.



Form imperfective gerunds from the following verbs:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. д [́] умай+ | 2. зан [́] имай+...ся | 3. крич [́] а+ |
| 4. сид [́] е+ | 5. {дай+ / дав [́] ай+} | 6. прос [́] и+ |
| 7. клад [́] + | 8. говор [́] и+ | 9. стоя+ |
| 10. возв [́] ращай+...ся | 11. жал [́] ова+...ся | 12. смот [́] р [́] е+ |
| 13. гуляй+ | 14. смея+...ся | 15. кур [́] и+ |

36.Б.2 Verbs that don't have an imperfective gerund

Many, many imperfective verbs do not normally form a gerund. Most double-stem verbs do not form an imperfective gerunds, nor do verbs whose stem end in a velar (к, г) or many a-stem verbs.

Some (of the Many) Verbs with No Imperfective Gerund
{пой+ / пе+}; {ед+ / эха+}; {п [́] ьй+ / п [́] й+}; п [́] ек+; мог+; жд [́] а+; пис [́] а+; хот [́] еть

To express *waiting*, the stem о[́]жид[́]ай+ is used:

Она сидела на скамейке, о[́]жидая своего мужа.

She sat on the bench, waiting for her husband.

36.Б.3 Gerunds never change form ☺

Unlike participles, which are regular adjectives, gerunds (like regular adverbs) **do not decline** (thank goodness). So there's no such thing as a "comparative" gerund.

36.B Present (Imperfective) Gerunds/Verbal Adverbs: Meaning

The imperfective gerund denotes an action that is simultaneous to the action of the main verb. There are several possible translations for an imperfective gerund, depending, of course, on the context. As a general rule, all the translations involve a verb form in '-ing':

'X-ing'	Она подошла, улыбаясь. <i>She walked up, smiling.</i>
	Боясь сильного дождя, я взял зонт с собой. <i>Fearing (because I feared) a strong rain, I took an umbrella along with me.</i>
'while X-ing'	Сидя в автобусе, мы разговаривали о русской грамматике. <i>While sitting in the bus, we talked about Russian grammar. (Yeah, sure!)</i>
	Живя в Нью-Йорке, я ходил на уйму концертов. <i>While living in New York, I went to a ton of concerts</i>
'by X-ing'	Он готовился к экзамену, читая словарь. <i>He prepared for the exam by reading the dictionary</i>
	Мы следили за событиями, слушая радио. <i>We followed the events by listening to the radio.</i>

The above are the most common ways of translating imperfective gerunds. We will point out any other possibilities as they arise.

36.B.1 Be Careful With '-ing' Forms

Even though gerunds in Russian normally correspond to '-ing' forms of the verb, you cannot use them in exactly the same way that forms like *smoking, singing, dancing, etc.* are used in English. Often an '-ing' form in English must appear as an *infinitive* in Russian. Compare:

Russian: Infinitive	English: 'ing' Form
Я люблю танцевать.	<i>I like dancing.</i>
Не курить	<i>No Smoking</i>
Скучно сидеть дома всё время.	<i>It's boring sitting at home all the time.</i>

**Переведите на русский:**

1. Sitting motionlessly on the sofa, he thought about Russian verbs.
2. While lifting the suitcase, she saw a large dog.
3. Scooting over toward Vera, Misha burst out crying.
4. While returning the book to the library, Tanya met her ex-boyfriend.
5. He ate while listening to music.
6. He fell asleep repeating the poem.
7. Missing her home, she often wrote letters to her parents
8. Complaining about the bad weather, he closed the windows.

36.B.2 The Spoken Equivalent of Imperfective Gerunds

As with participles, gerunds are found almost exclusively in the *written* language. In the spoken language imperfective gerunds are normally expressed either by (1) **когда...** ; (2) a regular imperfective verb (even past tense—if the simultaneous action took place in the past); (3) **из-за того, что...** *due to the fact that; because.* (Again, these are just the most common examples. There are other possibilities.)

Written Language With Gerund	Spoken Language
Читая газету, я увидел статью о том, что мой профессор украл салфетки из столовой.	Когда я читал газету, я увидел статью о том, что мой профессор украл салфетки из столовой.
Он каждый день пишет письма лёжа в кровати.	Он каждый день лежит в кровати и пишет письма.
Стоя возле библиотеки, Саша ждал свою подругу.	Саша стоял возле библиотеки и ждал свою подругу.
Не зная что делать, я закричал «Помогите!»	Из-за того, что я не знал что делать, я закричал «Помогите!»

36.B.3 Gerunds In Fixed Expressions

While gerunds (like participles) are to a large extent limited to the written language, there are a number of common expressions that contain imperfective gerunds:

несмотря на (+ *accusative* / то, что)

despite; in spite of (the fact that)

Несмотря на то, что Вера всю ночь занималась, она получила двойку на экзамене.

Despite the fact that Vera studied all night, she got a D on the exam.

Несмотря на плохую погоду, они решили играть в теннис.

Despite the bad weather, they decided to play tennis.

чѐстно говорѧ *to be honest*

Чѐстно говорѧ, у твоегó мѹжа нет вкѹса.

To be honest, your husband has no taste.

Чѐстно говорѧ, я заснѹл на лекѳии.

To be honest, I fell asleep at the lecture.

сѹдя по + *dative* *judging by*

Сѹдя по твоеѳ улыбке, ты доволѳна пятѳрой.

Judging by your smile, you're satisfied with an A.

Сѹдя по твоеѳ реѧкции, ты со мной не согласна.

Judging by your reaction, you disagree with me.

не говорѧ ужѧ о (+ *prepositional* / том, что) *not to mention (the fact that)*

Она прекрасно знает фѳзику, *не говорѧ* ужѧ о матемѧтике.

She knows physics really well, not to mention math.

You need to be careful with **не говорѧ о том**. In English, we can use the phrase *not to mention* directly in front of an adjective or adverb: *He's smart, not to mention good-looking*. But in Russian—due to considerations of case—you often need to insert the “buffer” phrase **том, что** and then add an entire clause in which the adjective or adverb is expressed:

Вѧра очѧнь ѹмная, не говорѧ о том, что очѧнь дѳбрая и щѧдрая.

Vera is very smart, not to mention kind and generous.



Переведѳте на рѹсский:

- To be honest, I'm bored.
- Lying in bed, he smoked an expensive French cigarette.
- Judging by your reaction, you would like to kill me.
- Not paying attention to anyone, Vera put on her coat, gloves and left.
- He's lazy, not to mention very stupid.
- Despite the fact that I was born and raised in Japan, I don't speak Japanese.
- I told him that knowing that he can't keep secrets.
- Judging by his smile, she said “Yes.”
- Despite the bad weather, we decided to play golf.
- To be honest, I didn't get enough sleep.



Упражнение 1 Ответьте на вопросы по рассказу:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



Упражнение 2 Form Imperfective Gerunds, *when possible*

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. ду́май+ | 2. занима́й+...ся |
| 3. сто́я+ | 4. кла́д+ |
| 5. смотре́+ | 6. говори́+ |
| 7. держа́+ | 8. писа́+ |

translation into english



Упражнение 3 Переведите на русский

1. Judging by your reaction (реакция), he's not your kind of guy (use the word **вкус**).
2. How was your trip to Moscow?
3. Socrates was a very wise man.
4. Don't suffer! Time heals all wounds.
5. Sitting on the couch, she thought about her crazy husband.
6. Judging by your reaction, you don't agree with the head of the company.