

Пятьдесят девятый урок

59

Грамматика: 59.А: Before / After
59.Б: Managing To Do Something
59.В: Teaching

59.А Before and After До / После (Того Как)

59.А.1 With a Noun: Plain Genitive

The prepositions *до before* and *после after* both govern the genitive case. When a noun – normally an event of some kind – immediately follows these two, there is no problem; you simply put the noun in the genitive:

Он умер до Первой мировой войны .	<i>He died before WWI.</i>
Дуня написала три страницы до завтрака .	<i>Dunya wrote three pages before breakfast.</i>
Мы уехали после революции .	<i>We left after the revolution.</i>
После обеда я иду на собрание.	<i>After dinner I am going to a meeting.</i>

59.А.2 With a Clause: “Buffer Phrase” Того, Как

When a *clause* follows *до* or *после* you must insert the “buffer phrase” **того, как** (so that the preposition can “release” its case). Note that **того** is the genitive of **то**.

До того, как Боря заснул, он слушал Баха.	<i>Before Borya fell asleep, he was listening to Bach.</i>
Он уже узнал об этом до того, как я ему сказал.	<i>He had already found out about it before I told him.</i>
После того, как родители легли спать, мы вышли на балкон покурить.	<i>After our parents went to bed, we went out onto the balcony to have a smoke.</i>
Петя пошёл в бар после того, как он сдал MCAT.	<i>Petya went to a bar after he took the MCAT.</i>

59.А.1 [Time] Before ~ After: за...до ~ через...после

To express phrases like “20 minutes before the concert” or “2 hours after she left” you need an “extra” preposition in Russian in front of the time phrase, which is in *accusative*. (And, sadly, there are separate prepositions that come are used with *до* and *после*.) (The element following *до/после* remains the same as described directly above.)

For time *before*, use:

за [time phrase in accusative] до ...

Он ушёл за десять минут до того как ты пришёл.	<i>He left 10 minutes before you got here.</i>
Она вернулась в Москву за три месяца до начала войны.	<i>She returned to Moscow 3 months before the beginning of the war.</i>

For time *after* use:

через [time phrase in accusative] после ...

Моя бабушка умерла через неделю после моей свадьбы.

My grandmother died a week after my wedding.

Миша стал президентом года через два после того, как он окончил юридический колледж.

Misha became president around two years after he graduated from law school.

This is always a difficult construction – where English has nothing and Russian requires a word. There's no way around it; it's simply wrong to leave out the **за** or **через** in these sentences.



Переведите на русский:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. After the lecture, we headed to a cafe. | 2. Let's meet in front of the entrance to the cafe 20 minutes after the lecture. |
| 3. Before Vera became president, everyone made fun of her. | 4. Two years before Misha and Zina split up, they bought a luxurious house on the bank of a lake. |
| 5. After Mark apologized to his wife, they went to a super-expensive Vietnamese restaurant. | 6. The Germans surrendered (сдались) before summer. |
| 7. The bread became stale 3 days after I bought it. | 8. He got drunk an hour before the rehearsal. |

59.Б Managing To Do Something: Кому удалось / удаётся / удастся + Infinitive

To indicate that someone *managed* (*manages* / *will manage*) *to do something* (perhaps of some difficulty) use the following construction:

	удалось (Past)	
<i>Dative "Subject" +</i>	удаётся (Present)	<i>+ Infinitive</i>
	удастся (Future)	

As you can see, the verb is in the default neuter 3rd singular. Very often a *perfective* infinitive is used.

Literally these phrases mean *to [person] it was given [to verb]...* Thus, there is a sense of good fortune in managing to accomplish the action.

Нам наконец удалось открыть дверь.	<i>We finally managed to get the door open.</i>
Как тебе удалось её уговорить?	<i>How did you manage to convince her?</i>
Ему всегда удаётся всё делать вовремя.	<i>He always manages to do everything on time.</i>
Тебе почему-то никогда не удаётся сочинить хорошее стихотворение.	<i>For some reason you never manage to compose a good poem.</i>
Если тебе не удастся купить эту книгу, я её тебе одолжу на неделю.	<i>If you're not able to buy this book, I'll lend it to you for a week.</i>
По-моему, Боре не удастся поступить в медицинский колледж.	<i>I don't think that Borya will not manage to get into medical school.</i>

The past imperfective **удавалось** is also possible (though it's much rarer than the perfective **удалось**). Russian uses this construction quite often, more so than we find “managed to” in English.



Переведите на русский

- How did you manage to convince him?
- You will not be able to open the lock with a screwdriver.
- How does Gleb always manage to describe her so well?
- Kolya managed to obtain tickets in the first row.
- No one will manage to stop that car.
- I never manage to get enough sleep.

59.B Teaching Someone: 1) Something; 2) How to Do Something

To indicate *teach someone* either: 1) a concrete thing (song, poem, etc.) or; 2) how to do something – use the verb **учи́+** / **на-** **кого́** followed by one of two complements:

учи́+ // **на-** **кого́** +
 1) Dative (Concrete Item / Subject)
 2) Infinitive (Но как!)

In the past, normally the perfective **научи́л/а/и** is found – regardless of the length of the process of teaching. In the future either aspect is found. Normally the imperfective **бу́д+ учи́ть** is used when you want to emphasize that the teaching will go on for a significant time. Otherwise, use the perfective **научи́+**, again, regardless of how long the process of teaching will take—assuming that the intent is to successfully teach someone (to do) something

Я научи́л Са́ру этой пе́сне.	<i>I taught Sara that song.</i>
Пе́р меня́ учи́т францу́зскому язы́ку.	<i>Pierre is teaching me French.</i>
Научи́ меня́ каки́м-нибу́дь хоро́шим выраже́ниям.	<i>Teach me some good expressions.</i>
Она́ бу́дет учи́тю меня́ ру́сскому язы́ку.	<i>She's going to teach me Russian.</i>

When an infinitive follows you cannot insert **как** *how*.

Кто тебя научил играть на барабáne?

Who taught you (how) to play the drums?

Я учу Лилю готовить борщ.

I'm teaching Lilya how to make borscht.

Научи меня стоять на головé.

Teach me to stand on my head.

Remember, no **как** in front of the infinitive. (In case you couldn't tell, that's a very common — and understandable— mistake students make.)



Переведите на русский

1. Who taught you to play chess?
2. I taught Vera a poem of Pushkin's.
3. Gera is teaching Natasha to play the drums.
4. Who taught you Russian?
5. Teach me how to make spaghetti .
6. He taught me some inappropriate expressions.
7. They will teach us how to draw.
8. I will teach you karate **каратэ**.



Упражнение 1 Ответьте на вопросы по рассказу:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9. (Give 2-3 sentence answer)



Упражнение 2

Use the following vocabulary items in a different context than that in which they appeared in the story:

1. через ... после
2. девичья фамилия
3. до того, как
4. поддерживай+ связь
5. давным-давно



Упражнение 3

Переведите на русский:

1. Who taught you how to drive a car?
2. I managed to convince Marta to sign up for Philosophy.
3. The semester is coming to an end. ☺