

Шестьдесят седьмой урок

Грамматика: 67.А: No Matter Who / Where / When...

67

Что бы я ни делал для неё... *No matter what I did for her...*

И́нна	1 2	Воло́дя, что с тобо́й? Ты пла́чешь? Что случи́лось?	<i>Volodya, what's wrong with you? Are you crying? What happened?</i>
Воло́дя	3	Как ни странно , Ки́ра меня́ бро́сила.	<i>Strange as it may seem, Kira dumped me.</i>
И́нна	4 5	Как э́то «бро́сила»? Вы же бы́ли вме́сте на спектакле на про́шлой неде́ле.	<i>What do you mean 'dumped'? You were together at the play last week.</i>
Воло́дя	6 7	Она́ на днях ни с то́го, ни с се́го сказа́ла, что хо́чет расста́ться со мной	<i>The other day, out of the blue she said that she wanted to split up (with me).</i>
И́нна	8	Почему́?	<i>Why?</i>
Воло́дя	9 10 11 12 13 14	Ума́ не приложу́ почему́. Что бы я ни де́лал для неё, она́ всегда́ находи́ла недоста́тки . Какие бы подарки я ни покупал ей, она́ всегда́ была́ недово́льна. Куда́ бы я ни води́л её, ей всегда́ бы́ло ску́чно. Как бы я ни старале́сь ей угоди́ть , она́ всегда́ жа́ловалась.	<i>I can't for the life of me figure out why. No matter what I did for her, she always found something wrong. No matter what kind of presents I bought for her, she was always dissatisfied. No matter where I took her, she was always bored. No matter how I tried to please her, she always complained.</i>
И́нна	15	А я слы́шала, что ты ей изменя́л с Мари́ной.	<i>Well I heard that you cheated on her with Marina.</i>
Воло́дя	16	Ах, да , мо́жет быть из-за э́того.	<i>Oh, yeah, maybe it was because of that.</i>

Словарь

3	как ни странно	<i>strange as it may seem; as hard as it may be to believe</i>
7	{расстай+...ся / расставай+...ся} // расстан+...ся с кем	<i>split up with someone; break up with someone</i>
10	недоста́ток (о)	<i>shortcoming; defect</i>
12	води́+ кого́ куда́	<i>take someone (to a place)</i>
14	старай+...ся // по-	<i>try; give one's best; make a concerted effort</i>
14	угождай+ // угоди́+ + dative (Note case!)	<i>please, oblige someone</i>
16	ах, да	<i>oh, yeah...</i>

67.A No Matter Who / What / Where / How Many...

There is another construction with **ни** (but with *no other negative element in the sentence*) that gives the meaning “no matter what / who / where / how much, etc.” Here is the syntax:

(1) Question word / phrase	(2) бы	(3) Subject	(4) ни	(5) Verb in Past tense (because of бы)	Translation
Что	бы	он	ни	делал...	<i>No matter what he does / did*..</i>
Куда́	бы	мы	ни	шли...	<i>No matter where we go / went..</i>
Кого́	бы	ты	ни	спрашивал...	<i>No matter whom you ask / asked..</i>
О чём	бы	Мáша	ни	думала...	<i>No matter who Masha thinks / thought about..</i>
Ско́лько	бы	я	ни	занимáлся...	<i>No matter how much I study / studied..</i>
От кого́	бы	я	ни	получáл письма...	<i>No matter who I get / got letters from..</i>

*Notice that none of these examples are complete sentences, which is why the exact tense of the verb cannot be specified. As we'll see below, the translation of the tense in this introductory clause is determined by the tense in the lower clause (the tense in Russian must be past because of **бы**).



Переведите на русский

- No matter whom you saw...
- No matter when you were born...
- No matter whom you danced with...
- No matter how much tea he drinks...
- No matter what she said...
- No matter from where they arrived...
- No matter whom he apologized to...
- No matter where you live...
- No matter what Vera wrote about...
- No matter how much the earrings cost...

- When you want to say “No matter **who**...” where *who* is the subject, put **кто** in front of **бы**:

Кто	бы		ни	приходи́л...	<i>No matter who comes / came...</i>
Кто	бы		ни	звони́л...	<i>No matter who calls / called...</i>

- When the question phrase involves **како́й + noun**, you have to split up this noun phrase, with **како́й** (in the required CNG) in first position and the noun after **бы**. (And if there is a preposition, keep it before **како́й**, as seen in the last two examples below.)

Какие	бы	подарки	она́	ни	покупа́ла ему́...	<i>No matter what kind of presents she buys / bought for him...</i>
Какая́	бы	пого́да		ни	была́...	<i>No matter what the weather is / was...</i>
Каку́ю	бы	кни́гу	она́	ни	чита́ла...	<i>No matter what book she read / is reading...</i>
В како́м	бы	до́ме	ты	ни	жила́...	<i>No matter what kind of house you live(d) in...</i>
В како́й	бы	шко́ле	он	ни	учи́лся...	<i>No matter which school he went to...</i>



Переведите на русский

- No matter who broke the VCR...
- No matter what kind of waffle you ate...
- No matter what your major is...
- No matter who begged you...
- No matter what the weather was...
- No matter what kind music she listens to...
- No matter who winked at you...
- No matter what kind of beer he drinks...

Again, note that this construction **does not involve multiple negation**. The only negative element present is **ни** (which stands *alone* – not attached to a question word). Let's look at some complete sentences with this construction. Here we see that in English the tense of the “no matter” clause will agree with the tense of the lower clause (more or less – it gets complicated in the future, which is a problem with the English tense system).

Что бы Ви́тя ни говори́л, Ма́ша соглаша́лась с ним.	<i>No matter what Vitya said, Masha agreed with him.</i>
Куда́ бы Са́ша ни шла, она́ везде́ ви́дит своего́ бы́вше́го му́жа.	<i>No matter where Sasha goes, she sees her ex-husband everywhere.</i>
Ско́лько бы я ни занима́лась, я бу́ду получа́ть нева́жные отме́тки.	<i>No matter how much I study, I'm going to get bad grades.</i>
Кого́ бы он ни проси́л, все отка́зывались.	<i>No matter whom he asked, everyone refused.</i>
От кого́ бы он ни получа́л пи́сьма, он нико́гда не отве́чает.	<i>No matter who he gets letters from, he never answers.</i>

- The **бы** can be left out, in which case you have to be precise with the tense of the verb in the **ни** clause:

Как Боря ни старáется, он ужáсно поёт.	<i>No matter how Borya tries, he sings horribly.</i>
Скóлько она́ ни занима́лась, он получа́ла плохи́е отméтки.	<i>No matter how much she studied, she got bad grades.</i>
Что я ни покупа́ю, тебе́ всё не нра́вится.	<i>No matter what I buy, you don't like it..</i>

For reasons that are unclear to us, there are many verbs with which this “бы-less” construction just doesn’t work. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you stick with **бы** + past tense; it seems easier, and it’s actually more common.

- There are a few fixed expressions containing this single **ни**. Here’s one Russians use quite often:

как (это) ни странно *strange as it may seem*

Как ни стáнно, спектакль мне не понравился.	<i>Strange as it may seem, I didn't like the play.</i>
Он, как ни стáнно, пришёл голый на уро́к.	<i>Strange as it may seem, he came to the lesson naked.</i>
Как ни стáнно, жена́ Го́ра голосова́ла за Бу́ша.	<i>Strange as it may seem, Gore's wife voted for Bush.</i>
Как ни стáнно, у Ко́ли краси́вая и ми́лая жена́.	<i>Strange as it may seem, Kolya has an attractive and nice wife.</i>



Переведите на русский

- No matter whom I talked with, everyone knew about the nasty boy.
- Strange as it may seem, he doesn't want to move to Rome.
- No matter how he tried to please his professor, the latter was dissatisfied.
- No matter what book you bought for me, I will like (понравится) it.
- No matter who calls, say that I am sleeping.
- I do not respect him, no matter what university he attends.
- Strange as it may seem, he can't stand hot weather..
- No matter how much Vera studied, she got bad grades.
- No matter where he went (ездил) during vacation, it rained.
- No matter who this letter is from, I will not read it until after dinner.



Упражнение 1 Write seven 'no matter ...' sentences. Here are some question words:
что, кто, когó, где, куда́, отку́да, ско́лько, како́й, о ком, о чём, как

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

