

## Шестьдесят восьмой урок

Грамматика: 68.А: Нёкому, Нёгде, etc.  
68.Б: Есть кому́, где, etc.

# 68

Я лучше останусь дома и помю голову *I would rather stay home and wash my hair*

Тáня	1	О́ля, пошли́ с на́ми на та́нцы.	<i>Olga, come to the dance with us.</i>
О́ля	2	Мне не́когда. Я должна́ занима́ться.	<i>I can't (because I don't have the time). I have to study.</i>
Тáня	3 4 5	Какая́ ты зану́да! Ты никогда́ никуда́ не ходи́шь. Нельзя́ так. На́до <b>хоть вре́мя от вре́мени</b> отдыха́ть.	<i>You're such a bore! You never go anywhere. You can't live like that. You have to relax, if only from time to time.</i>
О́ля	6 7	Да мне там не́ с кем бу́дет танцева́ть. Мне не́ о чем говори́ть с э́той <b>пу́бликой</b> .	<i>There won't be anyone there for me to dance with anyway. There's nothing for me to talk about with the people who are going to be there.</i>
Тáня	8 9	О чём ты говори́шь? Там бу́дет с кем обща́ться. По-мо́ему, приде́т Андру́ша.	<i>What are you talking about? There will be people there to hang out with. I think Andrusha is going to be there.</i>
О́ля	10 11	<b>Фу!</b> Он тако́й проти́вный. <b>Нет уж</b> , спасибо́. Я <b>лучше</b> оста́нусь до́ма и <b>помю</b> го́лову.	<i>Yuck. He's so disgusting. No – thank – you. I would rather stay home and wash my hair.</i>

### Слова́рь

1	та́нцы Мы бы́ли на та́нцах.	<i>dance (social event)</i> (Note that the noun is <b>always plural</b> in Russian.)
5	хоть	<i>if only; at a minimum; at the very least</i>
5	вре́мя от вре́мени	<i>from time to time</i>
9	пу́блика	<i>group of people</i>
13	фу	<i>yuck</i>
13	нет уж	<i>(very emphatic) no</i>
14	лучше + future verb (often perfective)	<i>would rather</i>
15	{мо́й+ / мы́+} // по- го́лову	<i>wash your hair</i> (French also uses the noun <i>head</i> in this context.)

## 68.A Hé- Constructions: *There is no one / nowhere / nothing...*

Russian has a special construction in which you can express the fact that there does (or does not) exist: 1) a subject to perform an action or; 2) an object on which (or reason why, or time to, or person with whom) to perform an action. We actually saw this construction in the very first lesson in SLA101: **Мне некогда** *I have no time / There is no time (in which I can anything)*, but we have never explained it – until now.

### 68.A.1 Hé- Constructions: Absence of Subject or Object (or Time/Place/Reason, etc.)

The **hé-** element consists of *stressed hé-* followed by a question word. If a prepositional phrase is involved, the preposition comes between **hé** and the complement (exactly like **ни** + preposition + complement). Try not to confuse **hé-** constructions, which stress the **existence** (or lack thereof) of a person, place, thing, etc., with **ни-** words, which we discussed previously, and which are part of simple negation. Here are the most common **hé-** words:

нечего, нечему, нечем*	<i>there is nothing to...</i>
негде	<i>there is no place to...</i>
некогда	<i>there is no time to...</i>
некого, некому*	<i>there is no one to...</i>
не с кем	<i>there is no one with whom to...</i>
незачем	<i>there is nothing to be gained by...</i>
некуда	<i>there is no place to go to...</i>
не о чем (no stress on чем)	<i>there is nothing about which to...</i>
не о ком	<i>there is no one about whom to...</i>

\*Notice that **ничто** and **никто** do not exist (in this list – they do exist, but with a completely different meaning).

The syntax of these **hé-** constructions is as follows (be sure to read over these examples carefully):

(1) 'Logical subject' in <b>Dative</b>	(2) <b>hé-</b> word indicating absence of (in)direct object, place, etc.	(3) <b>Infinitive (+ rest of sentence)</b>	
Мне	нечего	есть.	<i>There is nothing for me to eat.</i>
Нам	негде	спать.	<i>There is nowhere for us to sleep.</i>
Нине	нечем	писать.	<i>Nina has nothing to write with.</i>
Борису	некогда	играть в теннис.	<i>Boris has no time to play tennis.</i>
Ей	некуда	идти.	<i>She has no place to go.</i>
Им	незачем	заниматься.	<i>They have nothing to gain by studying.</i>

Note that the **hé-** word is the **only** negative element in these sentences, as opposed to basic negation, which requires **ни-...(ни-)....не**, which we saw has multiple negation.

The “subject” in dative can be omitted. Such subjectless sentences can either be general statements (about no one in particular), or, if it is clear from the context, they can refer to specific, unnamed person, as seen in the last example below:

В этом магази́не не́чего купить.

*There's nothing to buy in this store.*

Там не́где сиде́ть.

*There's no place to sit there.*

Неза́чем раба́тать.

*There's nothing to be gained by working.*

Не́кому зада́ть э́тот вопро́с.

*There's no one whom (we) can ask that question.*



### Переведите на русский

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|--|--|
| 1. I have nothing to write with.           | 2. He has no time to write.                          |
| 3. We have no place to write.              | 4. They have nothing to gain by writing that letter. |
| 5. There is nothing for her to buy.        | 6. There is no place for you (sing.) to write to.    |
| 7. There is nothing to eat in the kitchen. | 8. There is nothing to be gained by working out.     |

The case of the **не́-** element is determined by the verb (which follows) or preposition (which precedes). So, if a verb takes genitive, the form will be **не́чего** / **не́кого**; if the verb requires the preposition **с** + instrumental, the form will be **не́ с кем** / **не́ с чем**, etc.

Тебе́	не́чего (Gen from боя́ться)	боя́ться.	<i>There is nothing for you to be afraid of.</i>
Та́не	не́ с кем (Instr from с)	танцева́ть.	<i>Tanya has no one to dance with.</i>
Ему́	не́кому (Dat from помо́чь)	помо́чь.	<i>There is no one for him to help.</i>

Note that even **че́м** loses its stress in a **не́-** construction:

На́м	не́ о чем	сплётнича́ть.	<i>We have nothing to gossip about.</i>
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### Переведите на русский

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|---|--|
| 1. I have nothing to eat with. (Think!) | 2. I have no one to hang out with.       |
| 3. We have no one to gossip about.      | 4. Vera has no place to sleep.           |
| 5. There is no place for us to go to.   | 6. Vadik has nothing to gain by working. |
| 7. They have nothing to ask about.      | 8. There is no one here to envy.         |

### 68.A.2 Negating the Subject: Нéкому + Infinitive (There is no one who can...)

You can also negate the subject (in the dative), which gives the meaning *There is no one to [verb]*, *There does not exist a person to [Verb]*. In this case slot (2) is normally empty.

Нéкому	XXXXXX	открýть дверь.	<i>There is no one to open the door.</i>
Нéкому	XXXXXX	готóвить обéд для нас.	<i>There is no one to make dinner for us.</i>

In a sentence with **нéкому** plus a verb that takes dative, there is potential ambiguity:

Нéкому	профéсору	помóчь.	<i>There is no one to help the professor.</i> or <i>There is no one for the professor to help.</i>
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The first meaning (lack of a person to perform the act) is much more common, though there is nothing to rule out the second possibility. Normally the meaning is clear from context.

Note what has more or less become a fixed expression:

Нéчего дéлать. (Дéлать нéчего.)	<i>There's nothing that can be done.</i>
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Переведите на русский

1. There is no one to open the door.
2. There is nothing that can be done.
3. There is no one to help me.
4. There is no one here for me to help.
5. There is no one to catch fish.
6. There is no one for the nasty boy to spy on.

### 68.A.3 Нé- Constructions in the Past and Future

In the **present**, no conjugated verb is found, only the infinitive. In the **past** and the **future**, the default 3<sup>rd</sup> singular neuter **бýло** or **бýдет** appears *after* the **нé-** word:

Мне нéчего <b>бýло</b> есть. Нам нéчего <b>бýдет</b> есть.	<i>There was nothing for me to eat.</i> <i>There won't be anything for us to eat.</i>
Ей нé на чем <b>бýло</b> спать. Им нé на чем <b>бýдет</b> спать.	<i>There was nothing for her to sleep on.</i> <i>There won't be anything for them to sleep on.</i>
Бóре нéзачем <b>бýло</b> занимáться. Нáде нéзачем <b>бýдет</b> занимáться.	<i>There was no reason for Borya to study.</i> <i>There won't be any reason for Nadya to study.</i>



Переведите на русский

1. He had no time to wash his hair.
2. He won't have the time to wash his hair.
3. There wasn't anything to laugh about.
4. There won't be anything to drink.
5. There won't be anyone to hang out with.
6. There wasn't anyone to hang the picture.

### 68.Б Есть (Было / Будет): *There is someone / something...*

#### Positive statements: **есть, было, будет**

The opposite of these **не**- constructions contain *stressed* **есть** (present tense) **было** (past) or **будет** (future). Some examples:

(1) Dative	(2) есть (было, будет)	(3) Question word / phrase	(4) Infinitive	
Мне	<b>есть</b>	чем	писа́ть	<i>I <b>do</b> have something to write with.</i>
Ей	<b>будет</b>	с кем	танцева́ть	<i>She <b>will</b> have someone to dance with.</i>
Нам	<b>было</b>	о чём*	говори́ть	<i>We <b>did</b> have something to talk about.</i>

\*Note that in these affirmative sentences, **че́м** is stressed (as opposed to **не о чем**, where stress moves to the **не**).

You can also stress that there **is** someone to perform an action. In this case **есть (было / будет)** must *precede* the dative "subject" **кому́**:

**Есть** кому́ откры́ть дверь.

*There **is** someone to open the door.*

**Было** кому́ постро́ить дом.

*There **was** someone to build the house.*

**Будет** кому́ подня́ть чемода́н.

*There **will** be someone to lift the suitcase.*

Compare the word order of non-present tense **не**- constructions (where the verb *be* must follow the **не**- word) to that of **есть** constructions (where the verb *be* must precede the question word).

Negative ( <b>не</b> -question word > be)	Positive (be > question word)
Мне <b>не</b> че́го <b>было</b> чита́ть.	Мне <b>было</b> что чита́ть.
Нам <b>не</b> о <b>чем</b> <b>будет</b> говори́ть.	Нам <b>будет</b> о <b>че́м</b> говори́ть.
<b>Не</b> кому́ <b>было</b> откры́ть дверь.	<b>Было</b> кому́ откры́ть дверь.

(To be honest, there is some flexibility in word order for both of these constructions, but it's best to follow the guidelines we give above.)



Переведите на русский

1. I **do** have someone to dance with.
2. She **does** have something to write with.
3. You (sing) **did** have a place to sleep.
4. There **will** be someone to open the door.
5. We **will** have a place to go.
6. There **is** someone to help them.
7. Sasha **did** have something to say.
8. Masha **does** have something to ask him about.

### 68.B Нё- / Ёсть Constructions vs. 'Regular' Negation / Affirmation

We should first note that these **нё-** / **ёсть** constructions are very common, in both the written and oral language. In some cases, however, it is possible to express more or less the same idea of negation / affirmation with 'regular' negation (or affirmation), though, as we'll see, some rather intricate sentences are required. Instead of **нё-** or **ёсть** you would overtly state the noun that is implied in the **нё-** / **ёсть** construction. In general, Russians *strongly* prefer **нё-** / **ёсть** constructions. Here are pairs of (roughly) equivalent sentences:

<b>Нё- / Ёсть constructions</b>	<b>'Regular' Negation / Affirmation</b>
Ему нёкогда занимáться	У него нет врёмени занимáться
Нам нёгде спать.	Нет мёста, где мы мóжем спать.
Мне нёчем писáть.	У меня нет карандашá (рúчки), котóрым (котóрой) я могу писáть.
Тáне бýло нё с кем общáться.	Нё было людéй, с котóрыми Тáня могла общáться.



**Упражнение 1:**

Think of a reason the action can't be performed. Use a different *né-* word in e sentence.

in e

1. Боря спит.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Я пишу́ письмо́.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Я писа́л пи́сьма. (*A different reason than above.*)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Они́ бу́дут рабо́тать ка́ждый день.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Мы его́ уби́ли.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Я занима́юсь ру́сским языко́м.



**Упражнение 2** For two of the above, contradict the negative. (Make sure the tense is the same as in the original sentence.)

1.

2.

3.



**Упражнение 3** Переведите на русский

1. He would rather stay home and watch TV.

2. How often do you wash your hair?

3. - Do you want to go (*Perfective*) to the dance with me? - No – thank – you!