

# Тридцать пятый урок

# 35

Грамматика:	Introduction to Participles 35.A: Present Active Participles : Form 35.Б: Present Active Participles : Meaning 35.B: Present Active Participles : Text
Текст:	Он был просто в отчаянии <i>He was in simply in despair</i>

For this lesson, as well as the other lessons on participles, we will begin with the grammar explanation, and present the text at the end. We have our reasons.

## The Wonderful World of Russian Participles (Verbal Adjectives)

- **Participles are “Verbal Adjectives”**

In this lesson we begin our discussion of **participles** (often referred to as “verbal adjectives”). Whatever exactly a participle is in English (and that is up for debate), in Russian it is an **adjective** which is formed from a verb (hence the term “verbal adjective”). In the English noun phrase *barking dog* the word *barking* is an adjective (because it answers the question “Which dog?”), formed from the verb *bark*. Similarly, in the phrase *forgotten ancestors* the word *forgotten* is an adjective formed from the verb *forget*. Such participles/verbal adjectives may precede the nouns they modify, as in the above phrases, or may follow them, as in the phrases: *The dog barking in our yard likes caviar* or *Our ancestors, forgotten by almost everyone, were famous circus performers*. The same holds in Russian: Participles may either precede or follow the noun they modify – with a few twists (see more below).

- **Participles Are Limited (More or Less) to the Written Language**

Participles in Russian are (more or less) *limited to the written language*. Anyone who would include participles in their everyday speech would be looked upon as some kind of freak. However, if you want to read just about anything in Russian, from a newspaper article to a scientific journal to the best of Russian literature (prose and poetry), you must be able to recognize and properly translate participial phrases. It’s absolutely essential.

- **Four Types of Participles**

As verbal forms, participles reflect the two features: 1) **Tense** (present/past – but not future – see below) and; 2) **Voice** (active/passive – more on this below). Therefore, there are four types of participles:

	Active	Passive
Present	<b>Present Active</b>	<b>Present Passive</b>
Past	<b>Past Active</b>	<b>*(Perfective) Past Passive</b>

\*We’ll explain why we included (perfective) here in a later lesson.

Note that there are no participles with a future meaning.<sup>1</sup> In theory it should be possible to have a future participle, but it just doesn’t occur in Russian. So, you can say *The man who wrote/writing the letter is my uncle*, but not *The man who will write the letter is my uncle* using a participle. Do any of you know a language that has participles with future meaning?

- **Participles Agree in Case, Number, and Gender with Modified Noun**

Since they are adjectives, participles must always agree with the noun they modify in case, number and gender (CNG). See more on this below.

<sup>1</sup> Actually, as we’ll see later on, some Past Passive forms can be used with a future meaning. More on this in a few weeks.

## Active Participles

- *Basic Overview of Active Participles*

(The following description refers to active participles in general. We'll get to the details of present active participles directly below.)

Active participles describe *what the modified noun was doing (did)/is doing (does)*. They replace (or, to be more precise, are equivalent to) relative clauses where *который* is in the **nominative** case.

Any verb—in theory—can form an active participle (but not all do - the verb **хотеть** is one example). Of course only imperfective verbs can form *present* active participles (because perfective verbs have a future meaning), while verbs of both aspects are—in theory—possible for past active participles.

### 35.A Present Active Participles: Form

(Remember - only from *imperfective* verbs): **-Щ-... (СЯ)**

Forming a present active participle is *very* easy. Simply replace the final **-Т** of the present tense **они**-form (for either conjugation) with a **-Щ-** and the appropriate CNG ending – more on this below.

Present Tense они-form (т > щ+ending)	Present Active Participle (in various CNGs)
чита́ют	чита́ющий
живу́т	живу́щая
звоня́т	звоня́щей
говоря́т	говоря́щими
танцу́ют	танцу́ющей
пью́т	пью́щим
еда́т	еда́щего
спя́т	спя́щие
мо́ют	мо́ющим
крича́т	крича́щая

We've actually already seen a number of adjectives that were originally present active participles:

**сле́дующий** *next* (from the verb **сле́дова**+ *follow*)  
**потряса́ющий** *fantastic* (from the verb **потряса́й**+ *shake; shock*)  
**пи́шущая** машинка *typewriter* (Lit.: writing machine)

The above three words have really become full-fledged adjectives. More below on the distinction between “real” adjectives and participles (which just act like adjectives).

? Who is **Спящая Красавица**? (Clue: The answer does not have the word “babe” in it.)

### 35.A.1 Stress in Present Active Participles

The only instances in which the stress of a present active participle differs from the present tense онѝ-form are *2<sup>nd</sup>-conjugation verbs that have shifting stress*. For these verbs, the stress in the present active participle is on the *ending*, and not on the stem (as it would be for the онѝ-form). 1<sup>st</sup>-conjugation verbs that have shifting stress keep the stress where it is in the онѝ-form.

Онѝ-form	Present Active Participle / Stem
просят	просящему / просѝ+
держат	держащих / держѝ+
смотрят	смотрящей / смотреѝ+
ищут	ищущая / искаѝ+ ( <i>1<sup>st</sup>-conjugation so stress is same as present</i> )
бóруются	бóрящийся / борѝ+...ся ( <i>1<sup>st</sup>-conjugation</i> )

Exception to the exceptions on stress ☹. Stress is on shifted-to syllable:

Онѝ-form	Present Active Participle / Stem
лю́бят	лю́бящую / любѝ+

### 35.A.2 Always a Full -СЯ

Verbs in -СЯ keep the “whole” -СЯ, even when a vowel directly precedes. This is the first time we’ve seen this.

у́чатся	уча́щаяся
занима́ются	занима́ющая
выпе́ндриваются	выпе́ндривающие
изменя́ются	изменя́ющая




Form present active participles from the following verbs. (Keep in masculine nominative singular)


- |                        |                    |                           |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. повто́рай+          | 2. говори́+        | 3. лежа́+                 |
| 4. ду́май+             | 5. живѝ+           | 6. борѝ+...ся             |
| 7. сиде́+              | 8. {пѝ+ / пиѝ+}    | 9. {моѝ+...ся / мѝ+...ся} |
| 10. плева́+            | 11. занима́й+...ся | 12. любѝ+                 |
| 13. выпе́ндривай+...ся | 14. пла́ка+        | 15. ве́д+                 |

### 35.A.3 Agreement of Participle and Noun

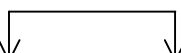
Since participles are adjectives, they must agree with the noun they modify in CNG. It doesn't matter that originally **котóрый** was in nominative. In the sentences below focus on the form of the participles; we'll discuss meaning in just a bit.



Я ви́дела де́вушку, говоря́щую [= котóрая говорит] с профе́ссором. (fem/acc /sing)  
*I saw the girl who was talking to the professor*



Он получи́л письмо́ от бра́та, живу́щего [= котóрый живёт] в При́нстоне. (masc/gen/sing)  
*He got a letter from his brother (who was) living in Princeton.*



Мы смея́лись над студéнтами, уча́щимися [= котóрые учатся] в Га́рварде. (instr/plur)  
*We were laughing at the students who go to Harvard.*

### 35.A.4 Adjectives as “Verbs” – Participles Take Same Complement As Verb

Even though they are adjectives, participles can mark objects with the same case that the original verb or verb phrase does:

Я ви́дел студéнта, помога́ющего *Ки́ре* (Dative because of **помога́й-**)  
*I saw the student who was helping Kira.*

Она́ не лю́бит мужчи́ну, крича́щего на *соба́ку*. (Accusative because of **крича́-** на)  
*She doesn't like the man who is yelling at the dog.*



Form Present Active Participles in the correct CNG from the following verbs:

- Мы говори́ли о челове́ке, **жив**<sup>+</sup> в Москвё.
- Я зави́дую лю́дям, **интересова́+...ся** фíзикой.
- На вечери́нке была́ де́вушка, **рабо́тай+** в Ри́ме.
- Я терпéть не могу́ профе́ссора, **изменя́й+** своёй женé.
- Что ты зна́ешь о лю́дях, **стуча́+** в дверь?
- Они́ смею́тся над врача́ми, **игра́й+** в го́льф.
- Вы знако́мы с па́рнем, **пропуска́й+** все за́нятия?
- Там был мужчи́на, {**бре́й+...ся** / **бри́+...ся**} три ра́за в день.
- Мы ви́дели бе́дную же́нщину, **умира́й+** от ра́ка.
- Кто э́ти студéнты, **поворачива́й+...ся** ко нам?
- Здесь не хвата́ет люде́й, **уме́й+** игра́ть на гита́ре.
- Все говори́ли о де́вушке, **уважа́й+** сво́их роди́телей.

## 35.Б Present Active Participles: Meaning/Translation

As we mentioned above, active participles (both present and past) are equivalent to clauses that contain **который** in the nominative. For purposes of translation, you can (almost always) ignore the fact that the phrase contains a participle, and simply translate the phrase as if nominative **который (которое/которая/которые)** were still there. Don't get confused by the fact that the participle itself may not be in nominative.

### 35.Б.1 Get Into the *Who/Which/That* Habit!

In fact, by far the easiest way to translate *all* participial phrases (not just present active participles, which is today's topic) is with *who* or *which/that*. In some cases, it may be possible, even preferable, to leave out *who* or *which/that*, but you'll never be wrong to include it in your translation. And as we'll see shortly, very often you must use *who* or *which/that* in order for the sentence to make sense. So get into the habit right away. Trust us, it will make things much easier for you.

Getting to today's topic, **present active participles** describe what the noun is doing (or does) at the time of the action being described, and are best rendered by *who is singing; talking; eating, etc.* or *which/that is hanging; falling; not working, etc.* You don't always have to use the progressive '-ing' tense. Sometimes the simple present *who lives; works; runs, etc.* or *which/that costs; sits, etc.* is better.

Sentences with Present Active Participle	Translation
Мы видели женщину, очень переживающую [= которая очень переживает] после смерти отца.	<i>We saw the woman who is grieving after the death of her father.</i>
Я покажу кузькину мать мужчине, смотрящему [= который смотрит] на мою жену.	<i>I'm really going to give it to the man who is looking at my wife.</i>
Фильм не понравился студентам, учащимся [= которые учатся] в Принстоне.	<i>The students who go to Princeton didn't like the movie.</i>
Он мечтает о женщине, работающей [= которая работает] в польском ресторане..	<i>He's dreaming about the woman who works in a Polish restaurant.</i>
Я познакомился с людьми, всегда хранящими [=которые всегда хранят] тайну.	<i>I met people who always keep a secret.</i>

### 35.Б.1 Pre-Posing Entire Participial Phrases: “*I saw the yelling-at-her-son woman*”

In order to translate the above three sentences into English you really have to put the “who/which” phrase *after* the noun. There's just no other place for it. Not so in Russian. You will often find rather large participial phrases *preceding* the noun:

Я покажу кузькину мать смотрящему на мою жену мужчине.  
Literally: *I'm really going to give it to the looking-at-my-wife man.*

Мы видели очень переживающую после смерти отца женщину.  
Literally: *We saw a really-going-through-a-hard-time-after-the-death-of-her-father woman.*

Я познакомился со всегда хранящими тайну людьми.  
Literally: *I became acquainted with always-keeping-a-secret people.*

For purposes of translation, there is no difference between the “pre-posed” and “post-posed” participial phrases. It may help you to mentally *cut* and *paste* the phrases so they reflect English word order. (Note that in English you *can* have a participle in front - “the barking dog” - but only if it is a single word. In English you can’t say: “I saw the barking loudly at the car dog”. But this is fine in Russian (the sentence, not dogs barking loudly at cars).



Transform these *котирый* clauses into participial phrases:

1. Мйша подошёл к актрйсе, которая кричит на своих детей.
2. Она довольна картой, которая висит над креслом. (Pre-pose!)
3. Она влюбилась в парня, который дрожит всё время.
4. Коля получил письмо от испанца, который завидует мне. (Pre-pose!)
5. Мы не понимаем людей, которые пьют травяной чай.
6. Коля смотрит на девушку, которая ставит тарелки на стол.
7. Люда помогла немцу, который вешает карту на стену. (Pre-pose!)
8. Кто эти люди, которые советуют президенту?
9. Почему он звонит девушке, которая не обращает на него внимания?
10. Вы знаете человека, который часто объедается? (Pre-pose!)

### 35.Б.2 Participles as “Pure” Adjectives

Sometimes participles (all 4 kinds) can become indistinguishable from adjectives (and thereby violate our ‘*who/which*’ rule.) For example, in the sentence *He played a leading role in the war*, “*leading*” looks and smells like any other adjective (*important/crucial/insignificant*), but it certainly derives from the verb “*lead*”. The same phenomenon holds in Russian. Some participles have attained adjectival status (**ведущий** *leading* from the verb **вёд+** *lead* is one example). There is no simple way to predict which participles can attain such vaunted status. So, if you were trying to translate the sentence:

Он играл ведущую роль в войне

you would not want to write: *He played a role which was leading in the war*, but rather *He played a leading role in the war*. As mentioned above, the adjectives **следующий** *following, next* and **потрясающий** *fantastic* were originally present active participles. **Следова+** is related to the adjective; it means *follow*. **Потрясай+** is also vaguely related to the adjective; it means *shake; shock*.

In the case of **настоящий** *real, authentic*, the verb **настоя+** now has nothing to do with *real*; it means *insist*.

We see the same thing in English, for example, with the adjective *revolting*, which now means *disgusting, completely lacking in taste*. Originally, *revolting* was a present active participle derived from the verb *revolt*. While there is certainly some vague relation between *revolting* and *revolt*, you would be hard-pressed to predict the meaning of the adjective based on the verb. One very simple test of “adjectiveness” is to check a dictionary. Not surprisingly, *revolting* has its own definition, and is identified as an adjective. Participles like *barking* and *forgotten* are not listed separately, since their meanings can be predicted based on the verbs from which they are derived.

We will always list these “pure” adjectives separately.

### 35.B Active Participles: Text

Now that you are a present active participle guru, listen to the text (a few times) and translate it into natural sounding English.

We should warn you – this text contains an artificially large number of present active participles. If you can get through this text, no present active participle will ever frighten you again.



1 На днях я познакомился с одним **страдающим бессонницей** человеком по имени Слава. Он был  
 2 просто в **отчаянии**. Во-первых, на прошлой неделе не очень любящая Славу подруга бросила его и  
 3 стала встречаться с одним зарабатывающим уйму денег мужчиной, которого он, Слава, терпеть не  
 4 может. Во-вторых, всё время пьющий испанский апельсиновый сок и **сочиняющий** очень плохие  
 5 стихи его сосед по комнате **имел наглость** пригласить жить вместе с ними свою подругу Нэду,  
 6 никогда не причёсывающуюся и носящую кожаные ботинки. Слава очень боится, что он будет плохо  
 7 спать из-за без конца **лаяющей** собаки, которую Нэда привезла с собой. Я хотел помочь Славе, но  
 8 моей подруге, **спешащей** на концерт, было всё равно. Она говорит, что знает уйму таких людей, не  
 9 знающих, что делать.

### Словарь

1	страда́й+ (+ <i>instrumental</i> )	<i>suffer from (illness)</i>
1	бессо́ница	<i>insomnia (without sleep)</i>
2	отча́яние в отча́янии	<i>despair</i> <i>in despair (rescue me before I fall into...)</i>
4	сочиня́й+ // сочини́+	<i>compose (Related to сочинёние)</i>
5	име́й+ на́глость + <i>infinitive</i> на́глость на́глый	<i>have the gall, nerve (to do something)</i> <i>temerity; nerve</i> <i>rude; impudent</i>
7	лая́+	<i>bark</i>
8	спеша́+ (куда́)	<i>be in a hurry (to get somewhere)</i>

 Упражнение 1 Translate the text into natural sounding English

 Упражнение 2 Form present active participles, *when possible*. Use any CNG you wish

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. жив <sup>+</sup>                      | 2. сад <sup>+</sup> ...ся |
| 3. мёт <sup>+</sup>                      | 4. пис <sup>+</sup>       |
| 5. {льй <sup>+</sup> / ли <sup>+</sup> } | 6. спрос <sup>+</sup>     |
| 7. повторяй <sup>+</sup> ...ся           | 8. куп <sup>+</sup>       |
| 9. бор <sup>+</sup> ...ся                | 10. сов <sup>+</sup>      |
| 11. крич <sup>+</sup>                    | 12. смотр <sup>+</sup>    |

 Упражнение 3 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the present active participle

- В углу стоят люди, \_\_\_\_\_ ни на кого внимания.  
who are not paying attention
- Я видела собаку, \_\_\_\_\_ домой.  
that is hurrying
- Мы стоим возле мужчины, \_\_\_\_\_ тяжёлый чемодан.  
who is lifting
- Я сочувствую девушке, \_\_\_\_\_ бессоницей.  
who suffers from
- Я терпеть не могу людей, без конца \_\_\_\_\_ всех.  
who interrupt
- Кто эта женщина, \_\_\_\_\_ стихи?  
who is composing
- Мы говорим о студентах, \_\_\_\_\_ в Принстоне.  
who go to/attend/study at