

Сотый урок

100

Диалог: Я на Цветаевой собаку съела
I know Tsvetaeva inside and out

Грамматика: 100.А: Собаку съел/а/и на + Prepositional
100.Б: Declining Names

Я на Цветаевой собаку съела *I know Tsvetaeva inside and out*

Саша	1	Кира, почему у тебя такой унылый вид? Что-нибудь случилось?	<i>Kira, why do you have such a dejected look (on your face)? Did anything happen?</i>
Кира	2 3	Нет, это всё моя проклятая курсовая работа. Я никак не могу решить, о чём писать.	<i>No, it's just my darned term paper. I just can't decide what do write about.</i>
Саша	4	Я думал, что ты будешь писать о Пушкине.	<i>I thought you were going to write about Pushkin.</i>
Кира	5	Нет. Я обожаю Пушкина, но все о нём пишут.	<i>No. I'm crazy about Pushkin, but everyone writes about him.</i>
Саша	6 7	Как насчёт Цветаевой? Ведь ты очень любишь Цветаеву!	<i>How about Tsvetaeva? After all you really like Tsvetaeva.</i>
Кира	8 9 10	Да, я на Цветаевой, как говорится , собаку съела, но я уже три сочинения написала о Цветаевой. Честно говоря, уже надоело.	<i>Yeah, I know Tsvetaeva, as the saying goes, inside and out, but I already wrote three papers about Tsvetaeva. To be honest, I'm fed up (with it).</i>
Саша	11 12	Может быть, сравнить Толстого с Набоковым? Или Солженицына с Чеховым?	<i>Maybe (you could) compare Tolstoy with Nabokov. Or Solzhenitsyn with Chekhov?</i>
Кира	13	Спасибо за совет .	<i>Thanks for the advice.</i>

Словарь

1	унылый	<i>dejected; depressed; sad</i>
2	проклятый	<i>darned; blasted</i>
5	обожай+	<i>be crazy about; adore</i>
8	собаку съел/а/и на + <i>prepositional</i>	<i>know something inside and out; be an expert at subject (See grammar)</i>
8	как говорится	<i>as the saying goes; as they say.</i>
11	сравнивай+ // сравни+ + <i>accusative c + instrumental</i>	<i>compare X (accusative) with Y (instrumental)</i>
13	совет	<i>advice (This is where the word Soviet comes from. Совет was a council employed by the Bolsheviks.)</i>

100.A To know something inside out Соба́ку съе́сть на чём/ком

To indicate that someone is a *real expert at something; knows something inside and out*, use the construction:

соба́ку съе́л/а/и на + prepositional

Literally this means *ate the dog on [thing/person]*. I have no idea where this expression came from, and I don't think I want to know. Some examples:

Жа́нна на хи́мии соба́ку съела.

Zhanna is an ace at chemistry.

Мы на Пу́шкине соба́ку съели.

We are Pushkin gurus.

Я на гра́жданской война́ в Аме́рике соба́ку съёл.

I know the American Civil War inside and out.

Мой мла́дший брат на компа́ютерах соба́ку съёл.

My younger brother is a computer whiz.

As you can probably sense, this expression is rather colloquial, so you should be careful who you use it around.



Переведите на русский:

1. My older sister is a computer expert.
2. She's a Tolstoy guru.
3. I (Vera) know WWII inside and out.
4. He's knows that inside and out.
5. We're dative case gurus.
6. I (Vadik) know Chinese grammar inside and out.

100.Б Declining Names in Russian (Part One)

We will divide our description of the declension of names into two main sections: Russian Names versus Foreign Names. Each of these two major sections will be further broken down into smaller subcategories – don't worry; you'll see what we mean (we hope).

Russian Names

1) First Names and Patronymics: Decline Like Regular Nouns

All first names and patronymics – both masculine and feminine – decline like regular nouns. And don't forget that masculine names that end in {А} take feminine endings. We repeat: There is no genitive for accusative for masculine names in {А}!!!

Ты помнишь Сергея и Катю?

Do you remember Sergey and Katya?

Она терпеть не может Диму и Машу.

She can't stand Dima and Masha.

Кира ревнует Юрия к Любе.

Kira is jealous of Yuri on account of Lyuba.

Я сидел между Лёшей и Соне́й.

I sat between Lyosha and Sonya.

Мы говорили о Борисе Ива́новиче.

We were talking about Boris son-of-Ivan.

Я должен Ната́лии Никола́евне сто долларов.

I owe Nataliya daughter-of-Nikolay \$100.



Переведите на русский:

1. Everyone adores Mitya.
2. How can you compare Vladimir Vladimirovich with Boris Nikolaevich?
3. Are y'all gossiping about Natasha?
4. Why does Sergey have such a depressed look?
5. How can one not envy Galya and Vadim?
6. I really respect Vera Antonovna.
7. Poor Katya didn't feel well yesterday.
8. Poor Kolya didn't feel well last all week.
9. Marina Vadimovna will be 40 at the end of May.
10. It seems that Yuriy Aleksandrovich is bored.

2) Last Names (Surnames)

“Adjectival” Surnames

Many surnames resemble adjectives, and decline exactly like regular (animate) adjectives. The feminine version behaves like a regular feminine adjective; you’ll see why we draw attention to this fact below, when we discuss the declension of non-adjectival feminine surnames.

Там был Лёнский / была Лёнская.	<i>Lenskiy / Lenskaya was there.</i>
Я обожаю Толстого / Толстую.	<i>I’m crazy about Tolstoy / Tolstaya.</i>
Что ты знаешь о Достоевском / Достоевской?	<i>What do you know about Dostoevsky / Dostoevskaya?</i>
Никто не завидует Троцкому / Троцкой.	<i>No one envies Trotsky / Trotskaya?</i>
Я получил письмо от Чайковского / Чайковской.	<i>I got a letter from Chaykovskiy / Chaykovskaya.</i>
Мы довольны Вернадским / Вернадской.	<i>We’re satisfied with Vernadskiy / Vernadskaya.</i>



Переведите на русский:

1. What do you know about Tolstaya?
2. I wrote a paper about Dostoyevsky last semester.
3. He likes to compare Tchaikovsky with Lenskaya.
4. I read Trotsky when I was a sophomore.
5. I adore Vernadskaya.
6. How can one not respect Tolstoy?
7. He slowly walked (прошёл) past Mayakovskaya.
8. I had a interesting conversation with Mayakovskiy.

“Non-Adjectival” Surnames

Russian surnames have a separate masculine and feminine forms (which we just above). The most common suffixes found in masculine surnames are {О}в and {И}н, to which the feminine form attaches -а: {О}ва and {И}на.

Masculine Surnames – Regular Nouns (Except for the Instrumental)

Except for the instrumental, masculine surnames decline like regular animate nouns.

Я обожаю Чехова.	<i>I’m crazy about Chekhov.</i>
Что ты знаешь о Путине?	<i>What do you know about Putin?</i>
Никто не завидует Горбачёву.	<i>No one envies Gorbachev.</i>
Я получил письмо от Хрущёва.	<i>I got a letter from Khrushchev.</i>

As we pointed out in an earlier lesson, in the instrumental singular, masculine surnames in {И}н and {О}в take the *adjectival* ending -ым. (It shouldn’t be too huge of a shock that the instrumental singular has an unexpected form – we saw this with the unpredictable softening of **одним. этим, самим.**)

Она́ вчера́ познако́милась с Тургéневым.	<i>She met Turgenev yesterday.</i>
Все восхища́ются Бре́жневым.	<i>Everyone is crazy about Brezhnev.</i>
Ка́тя смея́лась над Пётёй Жеребья́киным.	<i>Katya was laughing at Petya Zherebyakin.</i>
Она́ стоя́ла ме́жду Горбачёвым и Пу́тиным.	<i>She was standing next to Gorbachev and Putin.</i>

Feminine Surnames – Nounjectives!

Strange but true. Feminine surnames take noun endings in the nominative and accusative, while in the oblique cases (genitive, dative, prepositional, instrumental), they take the adjectival ending **-ой**. (Remember, this applies only to Russian surnames, either in {О}ва or {И}на. Feminine first names and patronymics always decline like regular nouns.)

В балéте танцевáла Мака́рова	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Makarova danced in the ballet.</i>
Я обожа́ю Цвета́еву.	<i>Accusative</i>	<i>I'm crazy about Tsvetaeva.</i>

Мы подошли́ к Ни́не Медвéдовой.	<i>Dative</i>	<i>We walked up to Nina Medvedeva.</i>
На ле́кции не́ было Терешко́вой.	<i>Genitive</i>	<i>Tereshkova was not at the lecture</i>
Я стоя́л ря́дом с Ахма́товой.	<i>Instrumental</i>	<i>I was standing next to Akhmatova</i>
Что он сказа́л о Че́ховой?	<i>Prepositional</i>	<i>What did he say about Chekhova?</i>



Переведите на русский:

1. Бре́жнева was bored at the concert.
2. Everyone was afraid of Ста́лин.
3. He read (*new verb*) a long article about Ку́рникова.
4. How can you compare Цвета́ева with Си́доров?
5. Why is everyone laughing at Терешко́ва?
6. I'm crazy about (adore) Тургéнев
7. I got an interesting letter from Ахма́това.
8. I'm interested in Ле́рмонтов.
9. For some reason Пу́тин didn't like the performance.
10. Why are you yelling at Андрóпова?

That's enough for today. In tomorrow's lesson we'll look at how to decline surnames in the plural (e.g., *the Putins invited us for dinner; we were at the Gorbachevs on Friday*, etc.) and how to decline foreign names.

 **Упражнение 2** Переведите на русский

1. I know Pushkin, as the saying goes, inside and out.

2. How can you compare my shchi with her borscht?

3. Everyone adores Kolya.

 **Упражнение 3** V O D (Verb of the day ☺):

сравни+ compare (Perfective)			
Verb Type _____ / Conjugation Type _____			
PRESENT (& IMPERATIVE)		PAST (& INFINITIVE)	
я		он	
он(á)		она́	
онí		онí	
Imperative		Infinitive	
PARTICIPLES AND GERUNDS (NOT ALL ARE POSSIBLE!)			
Pres Active		Past Active	
Pres Passive		PPPP	
Pres Gerund		Past Gerund	