

Девяносто девятый урок

99

Диалог:	А вас сколько, четверо? <i>How many of you are there, four?</i>
Грамматика:	99.А: Зря 99.Б: Collective Numerals

А вас сколько, четверо? *How many of you are there, four?*

Дуня	1	Извините, пожалуйста. Вы метрдотель?	<i>Excuse me, are you the maître d'?</i>
Метрдотель	2	Да, я метрдотель.	<i>Yes, I'm the maître d'.</i>
Дуня	3 4	Мы уже ждём около двух часов. Разве нет свободного столика?	<i>We've been waiting for almost two hours. Is it possible that there isn't a free table?</i>
Метрдотель	5	А вас сколько, четверо?	<i>How many of you are there, four?</i>
Дуня	6 7	Нас пятеро. Двое мужчин, двое детей, и одна женщина.	<i>There are five of us. Two men, two children, and one woman.</i>
Метрдотель	8 9	К сожалению, у нас есть только один столик на троих.	<i>Unfortunately we only a table for three.</i>
Лара	10 11	Извините, я нечаянно слышала, что вы сказали, что два часа ждёте.	<i>Excuse me. I overheard you saying that you have been waiting for two hours.</i>
Дуня	12	Да. Правильно.	<i>Yes. That's correct.</i>
Лара	13 14 15	Два часа! Большое дело! Я трое суток звонила в этот ресторан чтобы заказать столик. И всё зря!	<i>Two hours! Big deal! I called this restaurant for three days trying to reserve a table. And it was all in vain!</i>

Словарь

1	метрдотель	<i>maître d'</i>
4	столик	<i>table at a restaurant</i> (If you say стол people will understand you, but no Russian would use that term.)
5	вас сколько?	<i>how many of you are there? what is the size of your party?</i> (See Grammar)
5	четверо	<i>four – collective</i> (See grammar)
6	пятеро	<i>five – collective</i> (See grammar)
6	двое	<i>two – collective</i> (See grammar)
9	столик на + <i>accusative</i>	<i>table for (in a restaurant)</i>
9	трое	<i>three – collective</i> (See grammar)
10	нечаянно слыша+	<i>(accidentally) overheard</i>
13	сут/ки (о) Genitive plural: суток	<i>twenty-four hours; twenty-four hour period; day</i>
14	заказывай+ // заказã+	<i>reserve</i>
15	зря	<i>in vain</i> (See grammar)

99.A Зря *In vain; for nothing; with no result*

There's a rather common adverb (which is also used fairly often as a predicate – after the verb *be*) that has a strange looking form: **зря** *in vain; for nothing; waste one's time doing something (because no good will come of it)*.

Some examples of adverbial **зря**:

Ты зря приглашаешь Вэру. Она ни за что не придёт.

You're wasting your time inviting Vera. She won't come for anything in the world.

Они зря жалуется. Ничего не изменится.

They're complaining in vain. Nothing will change.

Зря ты пишешь письмо декану. Он вообще не читает никаких писем от студентов.

You're wasting your time writing that letter to the dean. He doesn't read letters from students in the first place.

When used as a predicate, **зря** normally only modifies either **всё** or **это**:

Это всё было зря!

This is all in vain.

Всё, что он ни делал было зря!

No matter what he did, it was in vain.

Я боюсь, что это будет зря.

I'm afraid this will be for nothing.



Переведите на русский:

1. I'm afraid this will all be in vain.
2. You're complaining in vain. No one cares.
3. You're sending that letter in vain. The president of the university does not read letters from students in general.
4. We waited in line for three hours in vain.

99.B Collective Numerals

Could it possibly be that there is more to learn about numbers? The scary answer is that we just barely scratched the surface of numbers in Russian in several previous lessons. Now we'll take a look at the (rather oddball) world of *collective numerals*, which are used rather frequently in about two or three constructions, but those two or three are quite common. We'll explain below (sort of) why the term “collective” for these numerals.

We have seen a few collectives before. Recall from «Москва слезам не верит»:

У Тони с Гришей было **трое** детей (сыновей).

Tonya and Grisha had three children.

And from the Выsóцкий song:

Но всегда выпивать на **тройх**,
Но всегда покурить на **двойх**.

*But you always have to drink in threes,
And you always have to smoke in pairs.*

99.Б.1 Collective Numerals: Form

Before we present all the forms, we actually have some good news. All you really need to learn are the *nominative* and *accusative* of the collectives 2-5, which we'll mark in bold.

Двое (2), **трое** (3) take *soft* adjectival plural endings in the oblique cases (similar to **оба / обе**):

Nominative	дво́е	тро́е
Accusative	(Inanimate=Nominative) (Animtate=Genitive)	
Genitive	двои́х	трои́х
Dative	двои́м	трои́м
Prepositional	двои́х	трои́х
Instrumental	двои́ми	трои́ми

Четверо (4), **пятеро** (5), **шестеро** (6), **семеро** (7) take *hard* adjective endings in the oblique cases:

Nominative	че́тверо	пя́теро	ше́стеро	се́меро
Accusative	(Inanimate=Nominative) (Animtate=Genitive)			
Genitive	че́тверых	пя́терых	ше́стерых	се́мерых
Dative	че́тверым	пя́терым	ше́стерым	се́мерым
Prepositional	че́тверых	пя́терых	ше́стерых	се́мерых
Instrumental	че́тверыми	пя́терыми	ше́стерыми	се́мерыми

Also note that both the adjective and noun following any collective (even 2, 3, 4) appear in the **genitive plural**.

Там бы́ло дво́е ру́сских мужчи́н.

There were two Russian men there.

Пришли́ пя́теро вы́соких амери́канцев.

There arrived five tall Americans.

Now let's see how to use collective numerals.

99.Б.2 Uses of Collective Numerals

Collective numerals are used in three different environments:

- 1) Collectives are used when describing *the number of people in a group*. The pronoun itself appears in the genitive plural, *normally preceding the collective number*. Here the idea is that it is a single *collection* of people, viewed as one unit.

Нас пятеро.

There are five of us. / We are a party of five.

The above example could be the answer to the question **Вас сколько?** *How many of you are there (in your party)?* More examples:

Их двое.

They are a party of two. / There are two of us.

Вас четверо?

Are you a party of four? / Are there four of you?

This group meaning is used when asking for a *table/room* for a certain number of people (viewed as a single unit). Use the preposition **на** followed by the *accusative* (= animate genitive):

Мы хотим столик на троих.

We would like a table for three.

У нас только столики на двоих.

We only have tables for two.

У вас есть номер на двоих?

Do you have a room for two people?

- 2) Collectives are used with certain *masculine* (but not feminine) nouns that refer to people, and, most importantly, with **детей** – **this is important!** (There’s nothing really “collective” in this meaning – at least that we can see.)

У них четверо детей.

They have four children.

В комнату вошли трое пожарников.

Three fireman walked into the room.

Там было двое мужчин.

There were two men there.

In theory, it’s not “wrong” to say **два мужчины / ребёнка**, but you won’t really hear Russians say this.

(If someone has more than seven children, just use the regular cardinal number: У них девять детей)

You can even see a collective used without a noun:

Пришли двое.

Two people arrived.

As far as verb agreement (neuter singular vs. plural) is concerned, things can get very complicated, which means that you don’t have to worry about it/

- 3) Collective are used with certain nouns that appear only in the plural. The most important is **су́тки** *twenty-four hours, day*, which is used fairly often. The genitive plural is **су́ток**. Again, there's nothing really "collective" about these nouns; they simply do not have a singular. (Another plural only noun is **са́ни** *sleigh*, with genitive plural **сане́й** – and example is provided just for reference.)

Он про́жил трóе су́ток без воды́.

He lived three days without water.

Я уже́ це́лых двóе су́ток ничегó не ем.

I have not eaten anything for two whole days.

У Влади́мира бы́ло двóе сане́й.

Vladimir had two sleighs.



Переведите на русский:

1. How many of you are there? There are three of us.
2. Do you have a table for two?
3. I didn't eat anything for three days.
4. Vera has four children.
5. Do you have a room (**но́мер**) for three?
6. There were five of them.
7. They have two children.

You don't know how lucky you are when it comes to Collectives

You may not believe it, but we have been very merciful in our presentation of collective numerals. There are at least another 2,549 details that we have left out, but nearly all of them are incredibly specific (and nearly useless, to be quite honest). So, in addition to being able to recognize collective numerals, you should be able to actively use the three constructions described above.



Упражнение 1 Write a 6-line dialogue between a restaurant patron and an obnoxious maître d' using at least 3 Collective Numerals



Упражнение 2 Переведите на русский

1. I would like to reserve a table for three.
2. We did not sleep for two days. (*How is for translated here – if at all?*)
3. I overheard you say that you went to Princeton. You are probably a genius.



Упражнение 3 V O D (Making a rare guest appearance)

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