

# Gender/Number of Nouns and Adjectives

Like many languages, Russian has gender for ALL NOUNS. You can tell what gender a noun is by looking at the final letter it has in its beginning (Nominative, or the form you see when you look it up in a dictionary)

**You don't need to know what any of these words mean to be able to identify their gender.** Just use these rules, look for the endings and complete the worksheet.

## Noun Endings( Noun=person, place or thing)

Masculine (ОН)	Feminine(ОНА)	Neuter(ОНО)	Plural(ОНИ)
Consonant	а	о	ы
Й	я	е	и
Ь	ь		(sometimes а/я)

Identify the gender of the words below by writing "он", "она", "оно" or "они"

Студент	подруга	американцы
Окно	брюки	музей
сумка	пальто	галстук
Часы	рюкзак	документы
Платье	семья	книги
Письмо	ботинки	фамилия
Задание	карандаш	чай
Книга	слово	стол

**WHAT TO DO ABOUT Ъ?** A noun with a soft sign on the end can be EITHER masculine or feminine. You'll just have to memorize which gender they are as you go along.

HINT: When in doubt, look to see if you can find **surrounding adjectives**. Once you know what adjectives look like (they follow a similar pattern as the nouns: feminines end in я, masculines in й) across the genders, you'll realize that if there is a feminine adjective in front of a noun with a а ь on the end, then the noun **MUST** be feminine. This trick will come in handy with irregular plurals too!!!

Write whether the following nouns are ОН или ОНА:

Русский словарь

моя тетрадь

Русская жизнь

мой конь

Русский царь

маленькая дочь

## “It” Personal Pronouns

In English we might say something like, “I lost my phone. Where is IT?” In Russian the way you express IT is actually to use the words ОН, ОНА, ОНО, ОНИ. So the exact above sentence would be thus in Russian,

“Где мой мобильник? Вот он!» (Literally, **where** is my phone? Here **HE** is.)

So anytime you’re tempted to say “it” in English you should think about if you’re actually referring to a noun. If you are, then in Russian you’ll actually need the HE, SHE, IT, THEY equivalent.

He Masculine noun <b>ОН</b>	She Feminine noun <b>ОНА</b>	It Neuter noun <b>ОНО</b>	They Plural noun <b>ОНИ</b>
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

This person lost a whole bunch of items and you, being super on top of things, are finding all of them. Express “Here it is/Here they are” in Russian for each of the nouns given. BOT means here is/here are.

*Example: Где моя книга? Вот она.* (Книга is feminine so I used the “she” word.)

1. Где мой рюкзак? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Где моя машина? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Где мои ключи? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Где моё пальто? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Где моя красная ручка? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Где мой русский друг? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Где это большое окно? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Где моя сумка? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Где мой словарь? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Где моя тетрадь? \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU AN INDUCTIVE LEARNER?**

When learning a new language it's important to figure out what your personal style is. An "Inductive Learner" is what I like to call a "Language Detective".

Even though I haven't explained how the word "My" changes for gender, an inductive learner would be able to look at the examples I gave to the left and figure out what the masculine, feminine, neuter and plural forms of "my". Try your hand at some detective work!