

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 its final letter.

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	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Consonant	а	о	ы
Й	я	е	и
ь	ь		(sometimes а/я)

Identify the gender of the words below by writing "M", "F", "N" or "P"

Студент	подруга	американцы
Окно	брюки	музей
Майка	пальто	галстук
Часы	рюкзак	документы
Платье	семья	книги
Письмо	ботинки	фамилия

All words describing a noun will have the same gender as the noun. Sometimes you will see a noun and you may be unsure what gender it is. The good news is you can look at the adjectives before it. If the preceding adjective is masculine then the nouns is also masculine.

Learners should keep in mind that when you learn adjectives you need to learn its four forms (Masculine, Feminine, Neuter, Plural). The endings are formed by changing the last two letters of the masculine form. The masculine form of an adjective is considered the standard and is what you will find if you look a word up in a dictionary.

Adjective Endings (Adjective=describes a noun, answers the question 'what kind?')

Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
-ый	-ая	-ое	ые
-ий	-ья	-ее	ие
-ой			

Remembering that adjectives agree with the noun they describe in gender and number (so if the noun is feminine the adjective will be too), identify the gender of these phrases. Hint: The adjective gives it away

1. старое здание
2. умные студенты
3. Красивый сад
4. Большая квартира
5. Маленькая девочка
6. Вкусный суп
7. Маленькая тетрадь

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 3. русский словарь | 8. Далекий край |
| 4. другой день | 9. Большие глаза |
| 5. домашняя работа | 10. Синие моря |

Using the adjective русский (русский, русская, русское, русские) describe the following things. Keep in mind that if you have a masculine noun, you need a masculine adjective. If you have a feminine noun, you need a feminine adjective, etc.

1. _____ язык
2. _____ студенты
3. _____ радио
4. _____ машина
5. _____ друг

Adjectives: Answering the question “which” and “what kind”

As has been mentioned previously, everything that describes a noun needs to match in gender. That means there are FOUR forms for adjectives. The student below wrote a letter to Kolya but had a hard time making his adjectives and possessives AGREE in gender/number with the nouns they describe. Read the letter and 1)Underline mistakes 2)write the correct form above the mistake.

Hint: There are NINE mistakes.

Привет Коля!

Спасибо за твой письмо. Мой родители живут в Калифорнии. Мой

маленький сестра тоже живёт в Калифорнии. У них есть большой дом. Я

живу в Юте. У меня есть маленькое комната в квартире. У меня тоже

есть большое окна в комнате. У меня есть старый синий машина.

А ты? У тебя есть большой семья?

TWO LETTER ENDINGS

Adjective endings consist of two letters.

Using the rules about adjective endings in the box above

Fill in the last two letters depending on the noun they're describing:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Нов_____ машина | 6. Хорош_____ студент |
| 2. Чёрн_____ брюки | 7. Хорош_____ подруга |
| 3. Голуб_____ рубашка | 8. Плох_____ студенты |
| 4. Голуб_____ свитер | 9. Красн_____ ручка |
| 5. бел_____ платье | 10. Больш_____ окно |

Практика:

Below you will have a list of adjectives. Choose an adjective to describe the noun. REMEMBER to change the end of the adjective so that it AGREES with the noun it is describing in gender and number. (If it's plural, the gender of the adjective doesn't matter)

You can find the adjectival endings for each gender on page 74 on the book.

Step 1: Write what gender/number each item is (M, F, N, P) to the LEFT of the number.

Step 2: Choose an adjective and write it in the blank before the noun. (Only use each word once)

Adjectives: (All are in masculine form, you'll need to change them if the noun is not masculine)

Русский	красный	хороший
Американский	белый	чёрный
Новый	плохой	голубой
Синий	зелёный	интересный
Большой	маленький	Красивый

- _____ брат
- _____ книга
- _____ язык
- _____ студенты
- _____ платье

6. _____ брюки
7. _____ подруга
8. _____ сумка
9. _____ мобильник
10. _____ город
11. _____ очки
12. _____ пальто

Какой: The word with three meanings

The word “Какой/какая/какое/какие» has three meanings. As you can see it changes in gender/number depending on the noun it describes. Its endings are just like adjective endings.

1. Meaning 1: to ask WHAT KIND

«Какая машина у тебя есть?»

WHAT KIND of car do you have?

2. Meaning 2: to ask WHICH

«Какой рюкзак твой?»

WHICH backpack is yours?

3. Meaning 3: Exclamation, “What a...!”

«Какое большое окно!»

WHAT A big window!

*You’ll use intonation to distinguish when you’re asking a question, versus making an exclamation.

Don’t confuse “Какой” with “что”. Even though they both sometimes translate as “what” in English they have different functions. If the English word “what” stands alone, use “что”. If it’s followed by a noun or adjective, use “Какой” and just make sure to change it depending on the gender/number of the noun.

Практика: Translate.

1. What kind of cell phone do you have?
2. What a beautiful car!
3. Which purse is yours?
4. What is this?
5. Which coat is yours (formal)?
6. What do you have?

Describing your things

Now that you know adjectives you should be able to answer the following questions about yourself personally.

1. У вас есть машина? Какая?
2. Ваша семья большая?
3. Что у вас есть в рюкзаке?
4. Какая одежда у вас есть сегодня?
5. У вас есть рюкзак? Какой?
6. Какие книги у вас есть?
7. Семьи в Юте большие или маленькие?



COLLEGE RUSSIAN