

Russian Grammar Made Easy

- Lesson 8

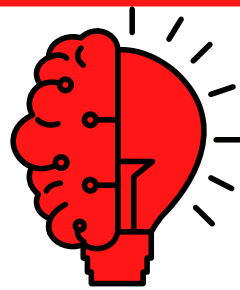
**Russian Sentence Structure:
Negative and Question Form.
Word Order.**



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Keys to L7 : Read the text and find the verbs in **past** and **future tense**

Па́па и сын бы́ли в магази́не. Ма́льчик **увидел** бараба́н и **сказа́л** па́пе: "Па́па, купи́ мне, пожа́луйста, э́тот бараба́н!"

Dad and son were at the store. The little boy saw the drum and said to the daddy: "Daddy, buy me, please, this drum!"

"**Нет, не куплю́, - отве́тил па́па. - Когда́ я бу́ду рабо́тать,**
ты бу́дешь игра́ть на бараба́не и меша́ть мне".

"No, I won't buy it," answered the dad. "When I'll work, you will play the drum and disturb me."

- "**Па́па, я бу́ду игра́ть на нём, когда́ ты бу́дешь спать!**"
- "Daddy, I will play it when you sleep!"

Russian Sentence Structure



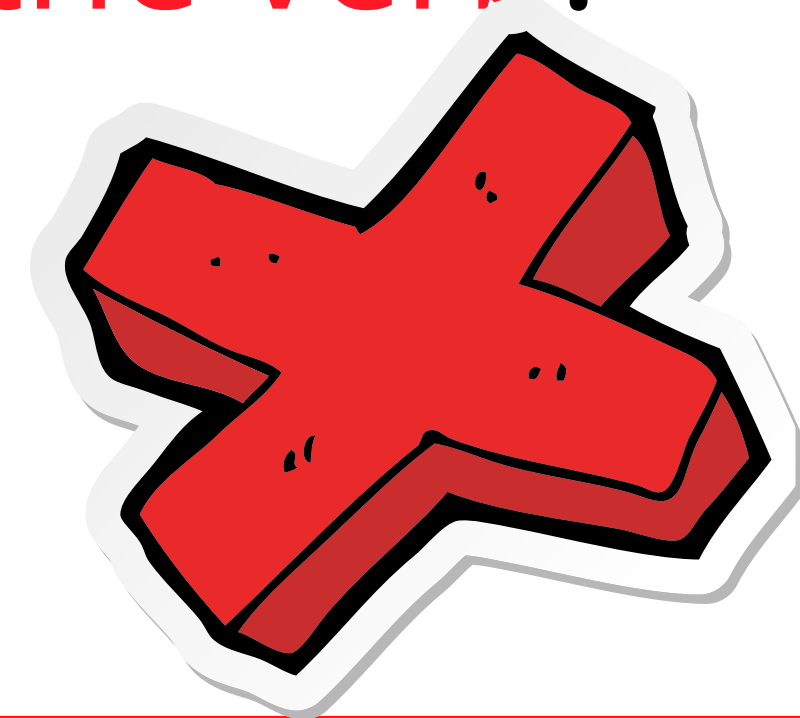
Negative Form of Sentences



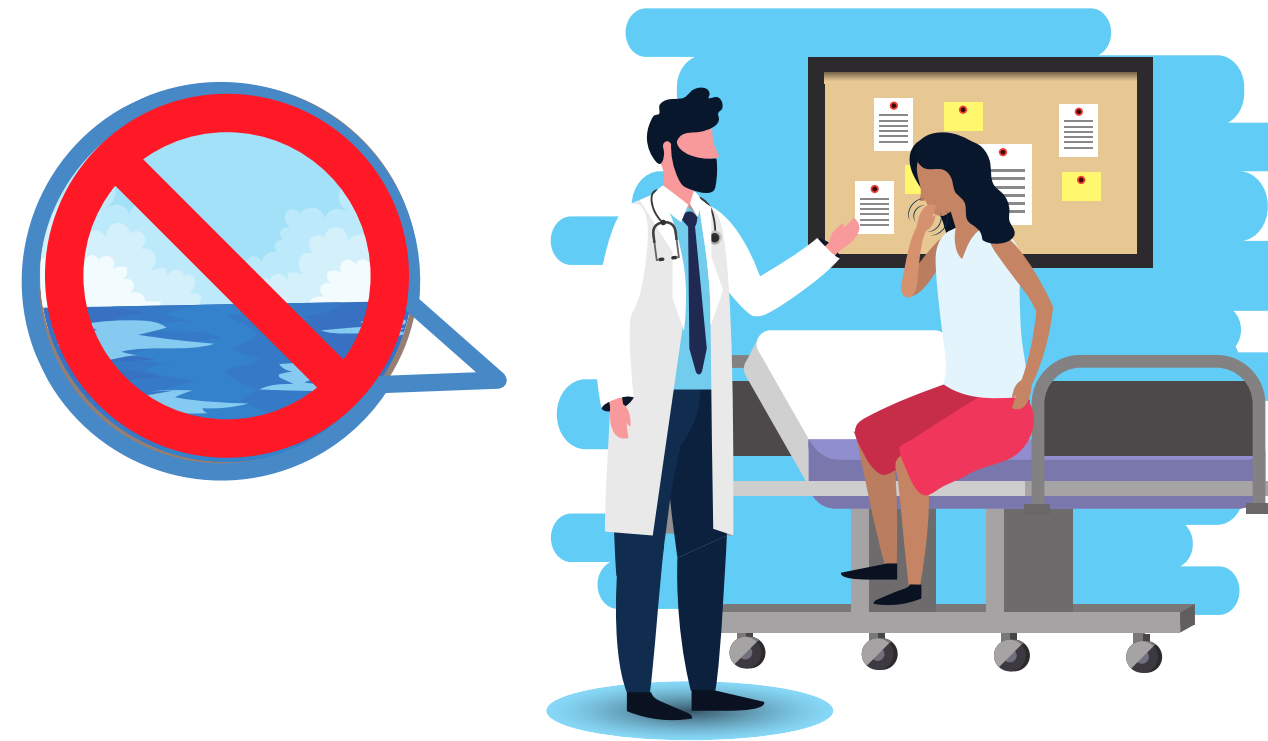
Negative form of sentences

To **negate** the meaning of the whole sentence in Russian = **action** never happened or failed = use particle "**не**" (*not*) **before the verb**.

Unlike in English, **no** other **auxiliary words** are used.



Врач **не советует** Тáne éхать на мóре.



The doctor **does not advise** Tanya to go to the sea.

(Literally: "The doctor **not advises** to Tanya to go to the sea")



Aspects, Tenses and Negative Form

The particle “**He**” is used in the same way with **all verbs**,
regardless of their aspect or tense.

**If you want to say that something didn't happen
in the PAST,**

use **"he"** + verb in the past

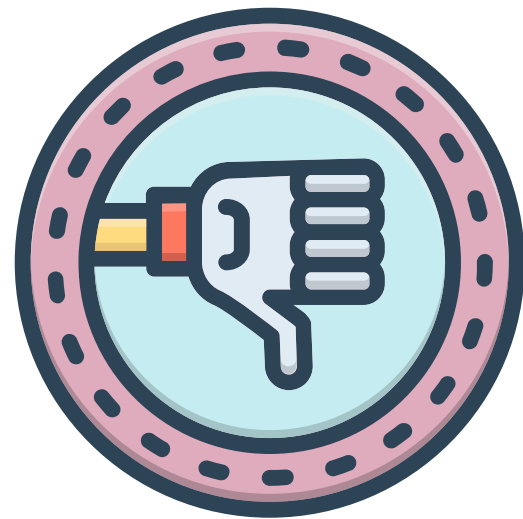


**(in accord with the gender and number
of the subject)**

он не дѣлал
he was not doing

они не сдѣлали
they didn't do

The use of the **perfective** in the negative implies that the **action failed**.



он не **с**дѣлал
he didn't do

The use of the **imperfective** in the negative implies the **action never happened**.



он не дѣлал
he never did, he was not doing
(didn't even start)



**Let's see some examples of
the use of
perfective aspect
in negative form**

in Past Tense



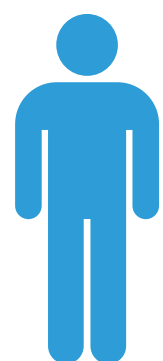


Я не позвони́ла –



I didn't call.

(I was expected to, but I failed).



Я не по́нял, что он сказа́л. –

I did not understand what he said.





**Let's see some examples of
the use of
imperfective aspect
in negative form**

in Past Tense



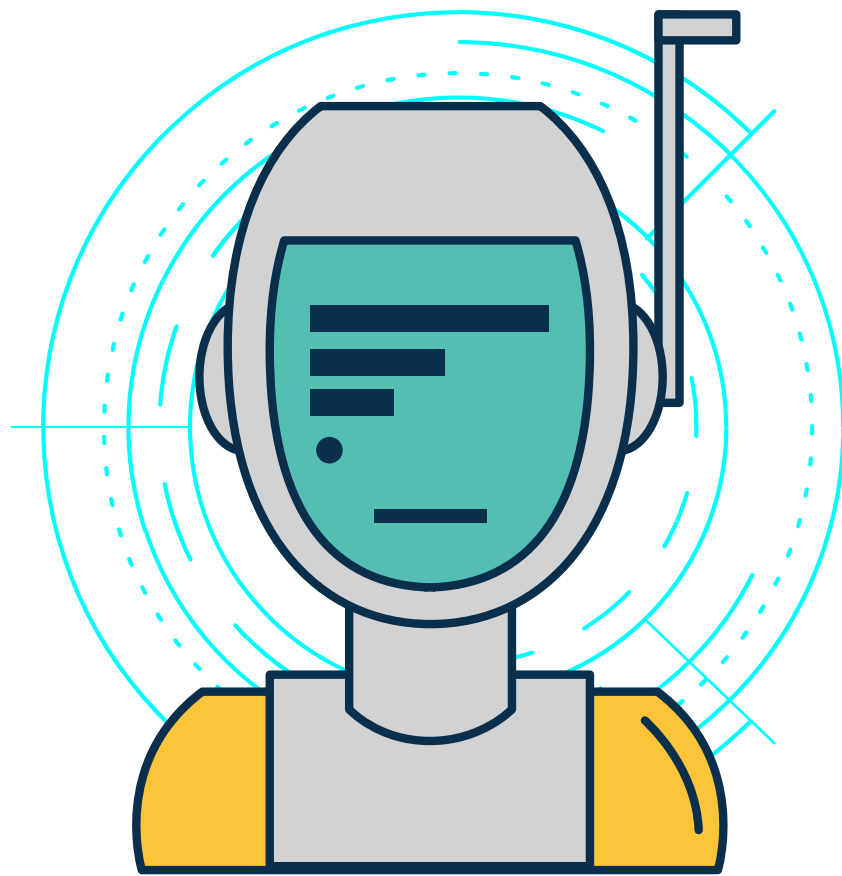
Она не читáла кнѳгу. –
She did not read the book.

**Мы не смотре́ли фѳльм
вчерá.–**
*We did not watch the movie
yesterday.*

Я не жилá в А́нглии. –
I did not live in England.

Он не хотéл вѳдеть меня́. –
He did not want to see me.

**If you want to say that something will not
happen in the **FUTURE**,**



use **"he"** + **verb in the future**

**(in accord with
gender and number of the subject)**

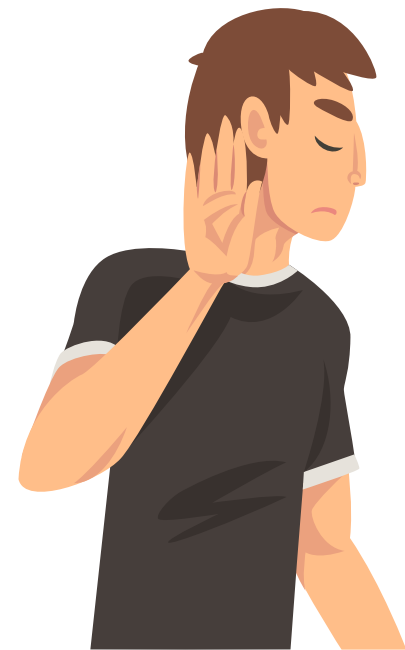


**Let's see some examples of
the use of perfective verbs
in the negative**

**in Future Tense
(=Future Simple)**



Я не позвоню́ -
I will not call.



Он не сде́лает э́того. -
He won't do this.

Она́ **не пойдёт** в шко́лу сегóдня. –
She will not go to school today.





**Let's see some examples of
the use of imperfective verbs
in the negative**

**in Future Tense
(= Future Compound)**



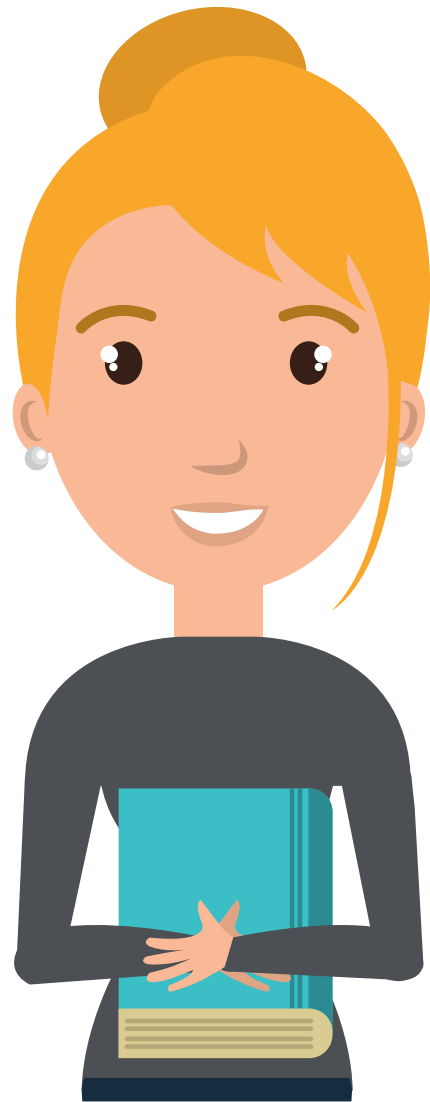
Она́ не бу́дет чита́ть кни́гу. –
She will not read the book.



Я не бу́ду жи́ть в А́нглии. –
I will not live in England.



Did you notice a common pattern?

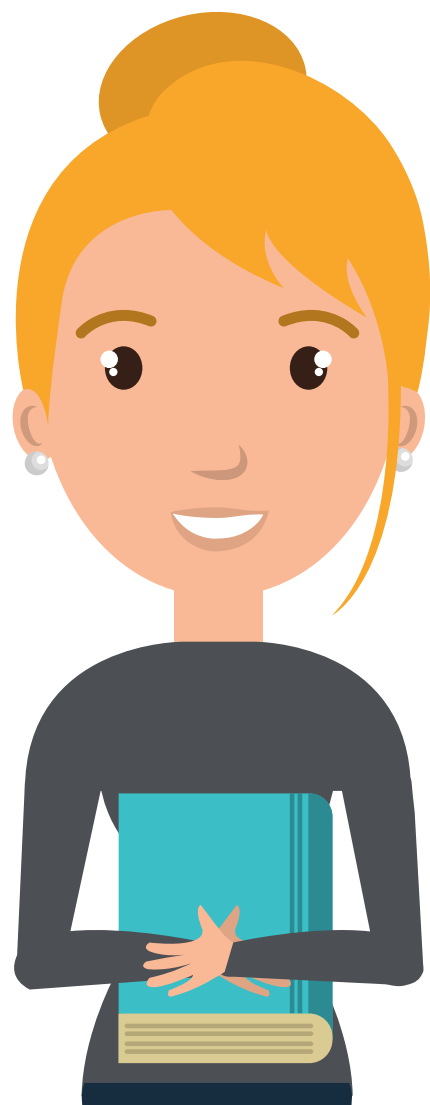


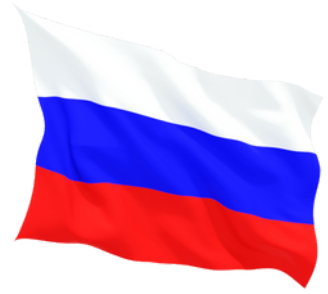
The particle “не”

- **is used with all forms of verbs**
- **is written separately from the verb it negates.**



**How else can you express
negation in Russian
(apart from verbs) ?**





Negation in other parts of speech

The particle “**не**” (*not*) negates every word it directly precedes.

For example:

Моё имя **не** **Ва́ня**, а Са́ша
(My name is **not Vanya** but Sasha)

Я **не** **украї́нец**, я бело́ру́с
(I am **not Ukrainian**, I am
Belorussian)

Врач советует Тáne
не éхать на мóре. -

*The doctor advises Tanya
not to go to the sea.*



Врач советует Тáne éхать
не на мóре, а в гóры. -

*The doctor advises Tanya to go
not to the sea,
but to the mountains*



**Apart from the use of the particle “не”,
negation can also be expressed by:**

- particle “**ни**” meaning “*not even one*” or “*not at all*”:

на нéбе **ни óблачка**

(there's no cloud in the sky)



- pronouns and adverbs with prefix **НИ-**:

НИКТО́

(no-one)

НИ О ЧЁМ

(about nothing)

НИКОГДА́

(never)

- predicative pronouns with prefix **НЕ-**:

НЕГДЕ

(nowhere)

НЕКОМУ

(to no one)

• words

нет

(no)

нельзя́

(forbidden)

• adjectives and adverbs with prefix **не-**:

невозмо́жно

(impossible)

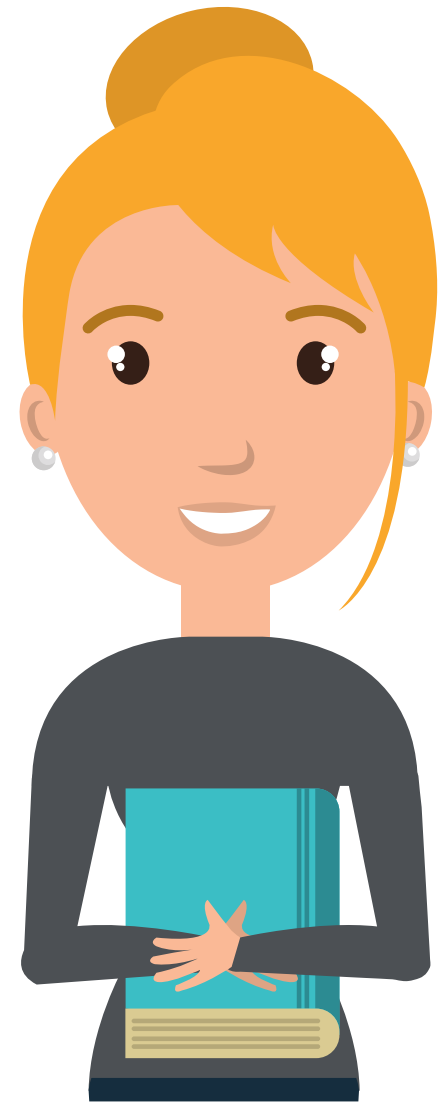
нежелáтельно

(undesirable)

немно́го

(a little)

! Note



**In Russian, double negation is correct,
while in English the repetition of
negation in one grammatical structure
would be a mistake**



Compare:



Double negation in Russian

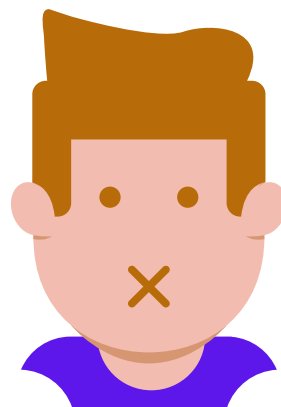
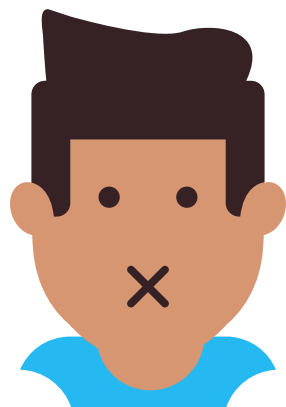
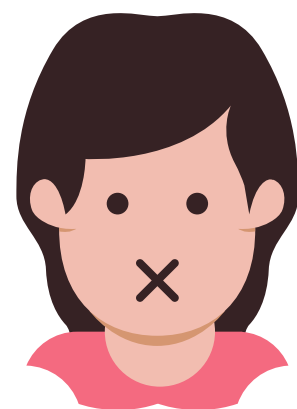
Он **не** дал **никому́** **ничего́** сказа́ть

(Literally:

He **didn't** let **no one** say **nothing**) –

In proper English:

He didn't let anyone say anything



Он никому не написáл

(Literally: He didn't write to nobody) –

He didn't write to anyone.

Никто́ не отве́тил

(Literally: Nobody didn't answer) –

Nobody answered.

Никто́ его не ви́дел

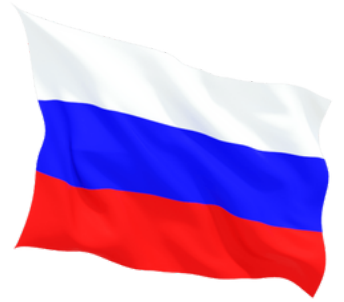
(Literally: Nobody didn't see him) –

No one saw him.

Russian Sentence Structure



Question Form of Sentences



Question form of sentences

As you already know, in Russian, there are
no auxiliary or modal verbs =

words like “*does*” or “*is*” are NOT used
to construct sentences –

be it affirmative, negative or question sentences.



Question form of sentences

Inversion of the main verb is also quite rare (and only used to place a special focus or in colloquial expressions).

The best way to remember how to form a question in Russian is...

- to use the **affirmative sentence** in its respective tense with a **question intonation** and
- to change the subject where necessary (this mostly concerns pronouns).





**To form a question,
follow one of the following
formulas**



(EN to RU transformations)

a.  **question sentences with auxiliary verbs** **VS**

in , **NO auxiliary verb:**

Do you speak English?

- Yes, I do. /

- Yes, I speak English.

Вы говорíte по-английски?

- Да. /

- Да, я говорю по-английски.

- *Did you like it?*

- *No, I didn't.*

- **Тебé** понрáвилось éто?

- Нет, **мне** не понрáвилось.

- *Does it taste good?*

- *Yes, it does.*

- Это **вкúсно?**

- Да.

- *Do you like summer?*

- *I adore summer.*

- **Тебе** нрáвится лето?

- **Я** обожáю лето.

b.  question sentences with inversion of the main verb “to be” **VS**

in  don't invert the verb, change the subject (about whom you are asking)

– *Were you cold?*

– **Вам бы́ло холодно?**

– *Yes, I was cold.*

– **Да, мне́ бы́ло хо́лодно**

– *Was the film interesting?*

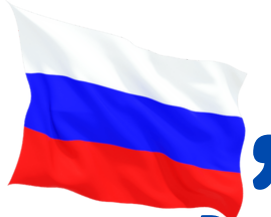
– **Фильм был интере́сным?**

– *Yes, the film was interesting.*

– **Да, фильм был интере́сным.**

c.  **question-word questions**

VS

in , **use the question word first,
do not use auxiliary word,
do not invert the main verb,**

**continue with the subject and then
the main verb.**



- *What is your name?*

- *My name is Irina.*

- **Как Вáс зовúт?**

- **Меня зовúт Ирíна.**

- *How do I get to the
train station?*

- *You can take the metro.*

- **Как я могу доéхать до
вокзáла?**

- **Вы мóжете доéхать
на метрó.**

- *When does the movie start?*

- *The movie starts in 20 minutes.*

- **Когда начинáется фильм?**

- **Фильм начинáется чéрез 20
минúт.**

**d. To construct the negative form
of an interrogative sentence
in Russian,**

**begin with the words
Разве?/Неужели?
followed by subject and main verb
with particle “не” (not).**



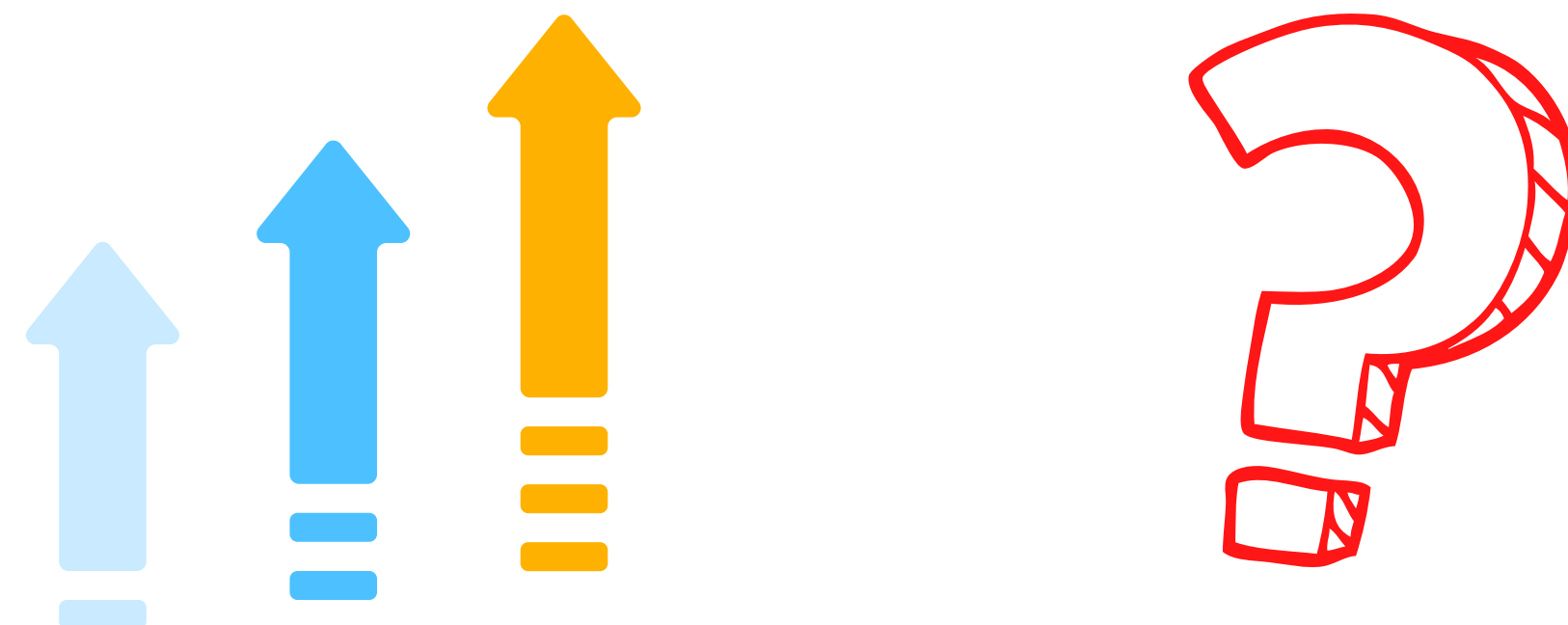
Didn't you call him? **Ра́зве/Неужэ́ли ты не
звони́л ему́?**

Haven't they seen the sign? **Ра́зве они́ не ви́дели знак?**

Don't you like it? **Неужэ́ли тебе́ не нра́вится
э́то?**



The final punctuation is always a question mark (?)

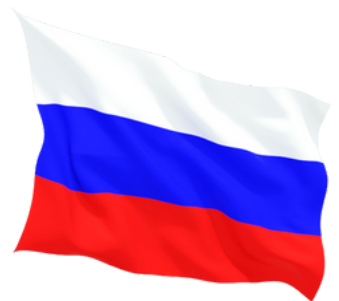


and do not forget to use the question intonation (raise)

Russian Sentence Structure



Word order

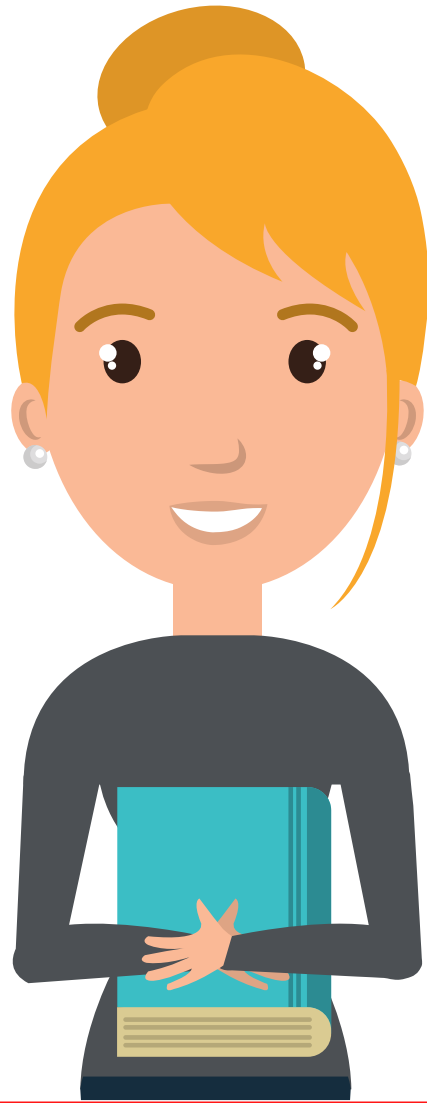


Word order

The word order in Russian sentences is much freer than it is in English.

The common order in **affirmative** sentences is

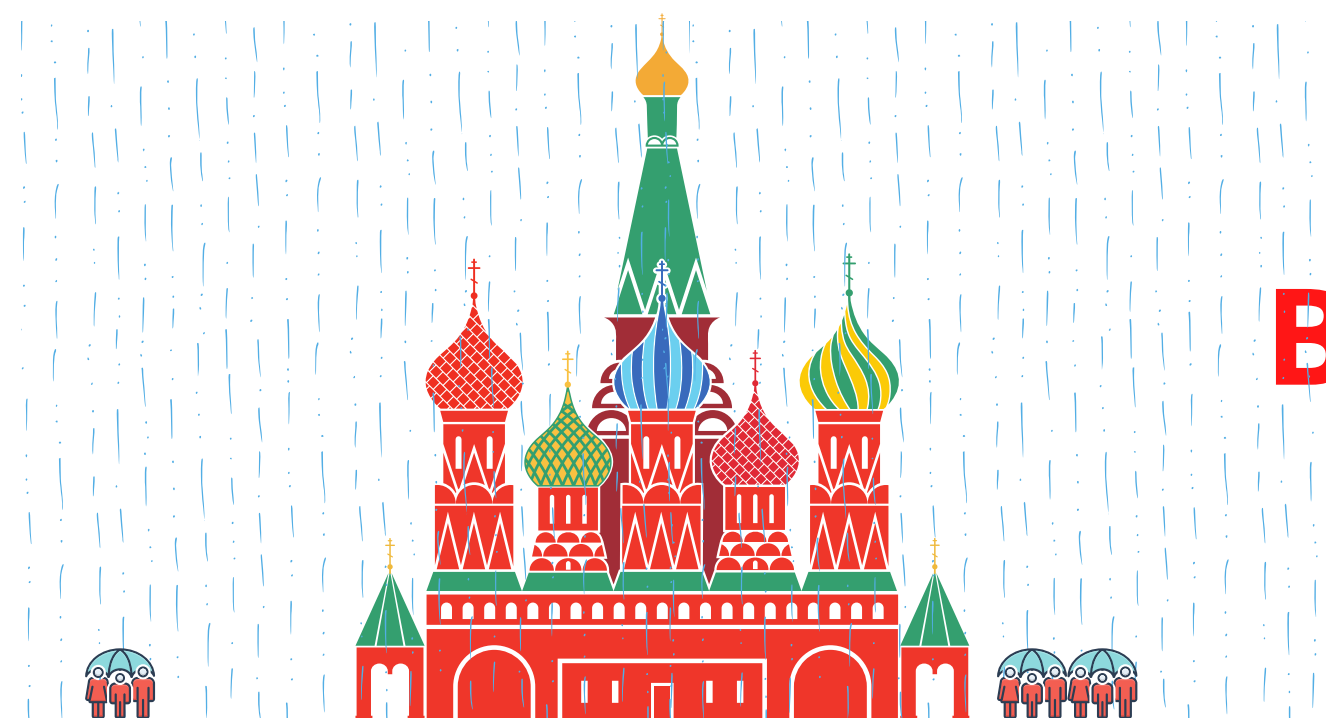




**If you want to *emphasise* a word /
group of words in a sentence, you
may put it in the very *beginning*.**

Ка́ждый день я изучаю
ру́сский язы́к. -

Every day I study Russian.



В Москвѐ сего́дня дождь. -

It's raining in Moscow today.

Не ча́сто мо́жно уви́деть
снег в апрéле. -

Not often can one see snow in April.



Russian proverb, literally translated as “Had I known where I’d fall, I would have laid straws”

Знал бы, где упáсть -
солóмки бы подстелíл. -

*A danger foreseen
is a danger avoided.*



***Let's see more examples
in various tenses:***



Word order in an affirmative sentence in Present Tense

1	2	3	4	5
subject	verb / predicate	object	adverbial 1	adverbial 2
I	study	English	at home	every day.
Я	изучаю	английский	дóма	каждый день.

Word order in an affirmative sentence in Past Tense

1	2	3	4	5
subject	verb / predicate	object	adverbial 1	adverbial 2
I	studied	English	at home	yesterday.
Я	изуча́л	англи́йский	до́ма	вчерá.

Word order in an affirmative sentence in Future Tense

1	2	3	4	5
subject	verb / predicate	object	adverbial 1	adverbial 2
I	will study	English	at home	tomorrow.
Я	бúду учíть	англи́йский	дóма	зáвтра.

учить and изучать (synonyms) = *to learn, to study*

Word order in a negative sentence in Present Tense

1	2	3	4	5	6
subject	verb / predicate		object	adverbial 1	adverbial 2
I	do not	study	English	at home	every day.
Я	не	изучаю	английский	дóма	ка́ждый день.

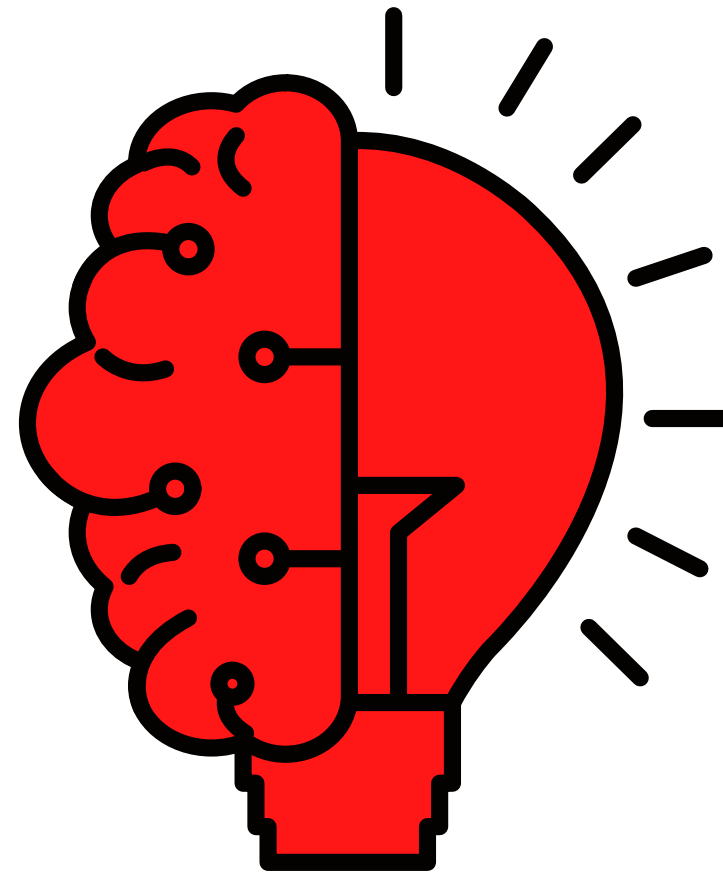
Word order in a negative sentence in Past Tense

1	2	3	4	5	6
subject	verb / predicate		object	adverbial 1	adverbial 2
I	did not	study	English	at home	every day.
Я	не	изуча́л	англи́йский	до́ма	ка́ждый день.

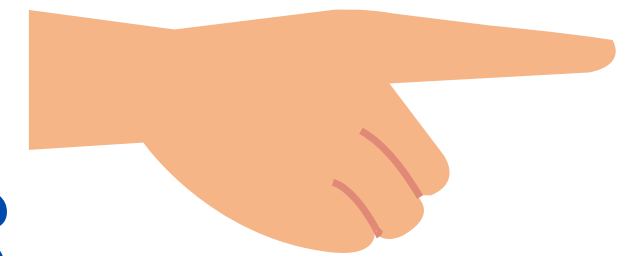
Word order in an negative sentence in Future Tense

1	2	3	4	5	6
subject	verb / predicate		object	adverbial 1	adverbial 2
I	will not	study	English	at home	every day.
Я	не	бúду изучáть	англи́йский	дóма	ка́ждый день.

It's time to practice !



***Fill in the missing words
to complete the sentences***



Мы фильм завтра. -

We will not watch the movie tomorrow.



Я домашнее задание. -

I haven't done the homework.

(girl speaking)



- *Do you want tea or coffee?*

- *Tea, please.*

- чай или кофе?

- Чай, пожалуйста.



- *Where do you live?*

- *I live in Moscow.*

- **Где**?

- **Я в Москвѣ.**



- *Where is the ticket office?* - **ка́сса?**

- *The ticket office is on the 1st floor.* - **На 1 этаже́.**






We are done for today!



Is everything clear so far?

- **Russian sentence structure follows a specific order (noun > verb > additional info), however, it is very common that words you wanna emphasize stand at the very beginning**
 - **No modal or auxiliary verbs to form negative or question sentences**
 - **Particle HE (not) is used with verbs of all tenses and aspects**
- 



What's next?

**We are done with verbs and sentence structure,
and in our next lessons
we will study important elements of almost every
sentence:**



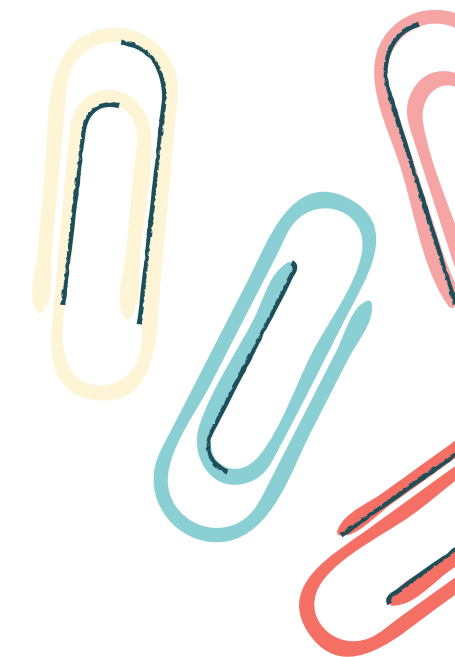
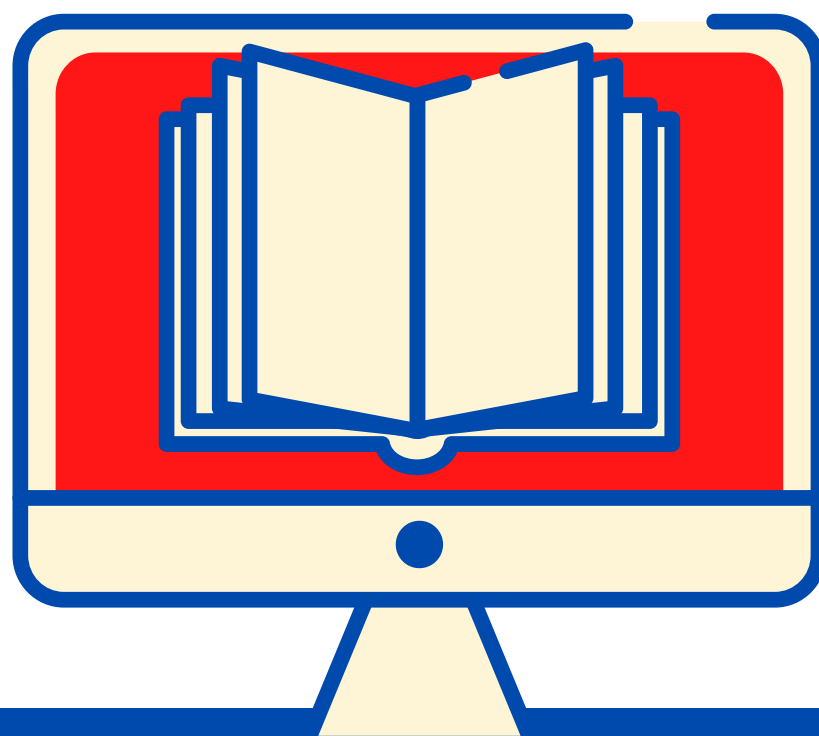
**Lesson 9. Adjectives.
Lesson 10. Pronouns.**





***Thank you for
joining today's lesson***

Hope you enjoyed it!



Darya from ExpressRussian.com

Keys to lesson 8

Мы не будем смотре́ть фíльм за́втра. -

We will not watch the movie tomorrow.



Я не сдѣлала домашнее задание. -

I haven't done the homework.

(girl speaking)



- *Do you want tea or coffee?* - **Вы хотíte чай или кóфе?**
- *Tea, please.* - **Чай, пожа́луйста.**



- *Where do you live?*

- *I live in Moscow.*

- **Где вы живёте?**

- **Я живу́ в Москвѐ.**



- *Where is the ticket office?* - **Где** _ **ка́сса?**

- *The ticket office is on the 1st floor.* - **Касса** _ **на 1 этажé.**

