

Gender of Nouns in the Nominative Case (Hard Stem)

Russian nouns belong to one of three grammatical classes called **genders**. They are divided into three groups:

nouns of masculine (мужской),

feminine (женский)

neuter (средний) gender, which is clearly expressed only in the singular nouns. The gender of a noun is shown by its ending.

- **Masculine nouns** are nouns end in a **consonant** (have **Ø*** ending in the Nominative case): Иван, дом, nouns end in «**тель**» (преподаватель, учитель), some nouns end in **нь, рь**» (шампунь, словарь, день). Exceptions: дедушка (grandfather), мужчина (man), дядя (uncle), папа (father)
- **Feminine nouns** are nouns end in the vowel **-а, -я** in the Nominative case: Анна, лампа, тётя (aunt), семья (family). Nouns end in **-ь** (тетрадь, кровать (bed), дочь (daughter), ночь (night).
- **Neuter nouns** are nouns end in the vowel **-о, -е** in the Nominative case: окно, море (sea), поле (field). Exceptions: имя (name), время (time), зная.

Personal pronouns он (he), она (she), оно (it)

Nouns of any gender may be replaced by the corresponding personal pronouns.

In contrast to English the Russian pronouns он and она may replace not only animate, but also inanimate nouns.

- The pronoun **он** replaces any masculine noun (**Иван, дом - он**).
- The pronoun **она** replaces any feminine noun (**Анна, комната - она**).
- The pronoun **оно** replaces any neuter noun (**окно - оно**).

1. Это Иван. Он журналист.
2. Вот парк. Он слева.
3. Это Таня. Она студентка.

1. This is Ivan. He is a journalist.
2. This is a park. It is on the left.
3. This is Tanya. She is a student.

The Verb "to be" in the Present Tense

In Russian the verb "to be" is not used in the present tense. In English you would say: "He **is** a journalist"; "She **is** a student"; "Where **is** the letter? - Here it **is**", but in Russian you simply say: Он журналист; Она студентка; Где письмо? - Вот оно!