

LECTURE 12

Supplementary material

1. Verbs in the Past Tense
2. Additional vocabulary

Section 1

Remember that we form the Past Tense from the **infinitive** verb rather than a conjugated (changed) form of the verb, so it is very important to memorise each **infinitive** form of the verb and its conjugation.

First conjugation (or group) of verbs has a very straightforward formation of the Past Tense, since we only drop the infinitive ending “ть” (last 2 letters) to conjugate it in the Present Tense, i.e.:

ПОНИМА́ТЬ – to understand (1st conjugation since it has an “а” in front of the infinitive ending “ть”)

The vowel “а” is present in all the forms of the verb in the Present Tense and so we can either use the infinitive form of the verb or replace the Present Tense ending with an appropriate Past Tense ending to form the Past Tense.

Present Tense

ПОНИМА́Ю

ПОНИМА́ЕТ

Past Tense

ПОНИМА́ЛА

ПОНИМА́Л

ГОВОРИ́ТЬ – to speak (2nd conjugation since it has an “и” in front of the infinitive ending “ть”)

The vowel “и” is **not** present in all the forms of the verb in the Present Tense since we remove the last **3** letters from the 2nd conjugation verbs in order to use them in the Present Tense. Therefore, when it comes to the 2nd conjugation, it is extremely important to refer to the infinitive form of the verb rather than its Present Tense form to use it the Past Tense.

Present Tense

говорю

говорят

Past Tense

говорила

говорили

Section 2

Specific terminology:

прош́едшее вре́мя

насто́ящее вре́мя

име́нительный паде́ж

Past Tense

Present Tense

Nominative Case