

Vocabulary 11—Verbs of Motion

Unidirectional at a relevant moment in time

идти—to walk in a particular direction

Иди́!	Be on thy way!
Иди́те!	Be on your way!
Я иду́	I am walking along
Мы иде́м	We are walking along
Ты иде́шь	Thou art walking along
Вы иде́те	You are walking along
Он/Она́/Оно́ иде́т	He/She/It is walking along
Они́ иду́т	They are walking along
Он шёл	He was walking along
Она́ шла	She was walking along
Оно́ шло	It was walking along
Они́ шли	They were walking along

ехать—to ride in a particular direction

Поезжай!	Ride off! (thou)
Поезжайте!	Ride off! (you)
Я еду́	I am riding along
Мы е́дим	We are riding along
Ты е́дешь	Thou art riding along
Вы е́дите	You are riding along
Он/Она́/Оно́ е́дет	He/She/It is riding along
Они́ еду́т	They are riding along
Он е́хал	He was riding along
Она́ е́хала	She was riding along
Оно́ е́хало	It was riding along
Они́ е́хали	They were riding along

Multidirectional during a relevant time period

ходить—to walk around

Ходи́!	Walk about! (thou)
Ходи́те!	Walk about! (you)
Я хожу́	I am walking about
Мы хо́дим	We are walking about
Ты хо́дишь	Thou art walking about
Вы хо́дите	You are walking about
Он/Она́/Оно́ хо́дит	He/She/It is walking about
Они́ ходя́т	They are walking about
Он ходи́л	He was walking about
Она́ ходи́ла	She was walking about
Оно́ ходи́ло	It was walking about
Они́ ходи́ли	They were walking about

ездить—to ride around

Е́зди!	Ride around! (thou)
Е́здите!	Ride around! (you)
Я е́зжу	I am riding around
Мы е́здим	We are riding around
Ты е́здишь	Thou art riding around
Вы е́здите	We are riding around
Он/Она́/Оно́ е́здит	He/She/It is riding around
Они́ е́здя́т	They are riding around
Он е́здил	He was riding around
Она́ е́здила	She was riding around
Оно́ е́здило	It was riding around
Они́ е́здили	They were riding around

A verb of motion describes the act of moving from place to place. Examples from English include “go”, “walk”, “run”, “drive”, “swim”, and “drift”. The table above shows four widely-used Russian verbs of motion. Two of them refer to motion on foot under one's own power. The other two refer to gliding along perhaps in an automobile, on a bicycle, on horseback, or in the brief moment between slipping on a banana peel and hitting the ground.

Russian verbs of motion always come in pairs. One describes a motion which proceeds in one direction (at least during the time the speaker has in mind). The other describes a motion which goes in two or more directions during the time the speaker has in mind. For example, a speaker might use a multidirectional verb to describe his motion from store to store during a shopping trip but switch to a unidirectional verb to tell about crossing the street during the same shopping trip.

The verbs of motion shown above are all imperfective. This means that they invite us to picture the motion in progress. For example, “Я шёл в школу.” means “I was walking on my way to school.” Soon you will learn about prefixes for verbs of motion which can be used to talk about other points in the journey.