

Grammar 8—Verb Conjugation

The endings of verbs change to match the subject of the sentence. To learn to conjugation a verb you must memorize its stem and the endings for the conjugation to which it belongs.

	1st Conjugation	2nd Conjugation	Remarks
Infinitive	чита́ть	говори́ть	dictionary form
Stem	читай-	говор-	aid to memorizing conjugations
Imperative (command form)			
Ты implied	чита́й (stem+nothing)	говори́ (stem+и)	to one person
Вы implied	чита́йте (stem+те)	говори́те (stem+ите)	to a group or formal
Present Tense (of imperfective verbs such as these)			
Я (I)	чита́ю (stem+y)	говори́ю (stem+ю)	Form depends on person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st: I/we• 2nd: thou/you• 3rd: he/they and number <ul style="list-style-type: none">• singular• plural
Мы (We)	чита́ем (stem+ем)	говори́м (stem+им)	
Ты (Thou)	чита́ешь (stem+ешь)	говори́шь (stem+ишь)	
Вы (You)	чита́ете (stem+те)	говори́те (stem+ите)	
Он/Она/Оно (He/She/It)	чита́ет (stem+ет)	говори́т (stem +ит)	
Они (They)	чита́ют (stem+ут)	говори́ят (stem+ят)	
Past Tense			
Stem	чита-	говори-	Remove -ть from infinitive
Он	чита́л (stem+л)	говори́л (stem+л)	Singular form matches gender of grammatical subject. There is only one plural form.
Она	чита́ла (stem+ла)	говори́ла (stem+ла)	
Оно	чита́ло (stem+ло)	говори́ло (stem+ло)	
Они	чита́ли (stem+ли)	говори́ли (stem+ли)	

Consonant Changes

Though it does not happen with either of the verbs shown above, with some verbs the final consonant (or consonant cluster) of the stem changes as endings are added. When this happens it follows this pattern:

Stem Ends With	Changes to	These changes occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all persons of first conjugation verbs ending in -ать • In the мы, ты, вы, and он/она/оно forms of first conjugation verbs ending in -чь • In the я form of second conjugation verbs
Г, Д, З	Ж	
Т, СТ, СК	Щ	
С, Х	Ш	
К, Т	Ч	
Б	БЛ	
В	ВЛ	
М	МЛ	
П	ПЛ	

Vowel Changes

The first vowel in the ending will sometimes change as described in [Alphabet 4—Phonetic Rules Reference](#).