



Where is it?

Tips and notes

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Russian words take different forms depending on their role in the sentence. These forms are called **cases**. A few forms may look the same (cf. "frequent rains" vs. "It rains often").

These forms have names (mostly calques from Latin) that describe some "prototypal" use of such case: Nominative, Accusative, Genitive, Prepositional, Dative and Instrumental. For you, these are just tags: the use is what defines a case.

As of now, you know the **NOMINATIVE** case: the dictionary form of a word. This form acts as the *grammatical subject* of the sentence, the "doer". It is also used for both nouns in "A is B" structure:

- Мой па́па ест.
- Том — мой брат.

You also know a few Genitive forms (у **меня**) but that's it. For now, we will tackle something easier.

Prepositional case

When we talk about things *being* somewhere, we typically use **в**(in) or **на** (on) with the Prepositional form of the noun. It doesn't work when you mean *motion* to that place!

The Prepositional case (a.k.a. Locative) is the only case that is *never* used on its own without a preposition, even though only four or five prepositions ever use it:

- Я на ко́нцерте. = I am at a concert.
- Я в шко́ле. = I am at (in) school.
- ви́део о шко́ле = a video about school

Unlike English ("at/in school"), in Russian each "place" is associated with just one preposition. The rough overall rule is: use "в"(in, at) when talking about buildings and places with certain boundaries and use "на" (on, at) when



- в до́ме (*at home*), в шко́ле (*at school*), в ко́мнате (*in the room*), в теа́тре (*in the theater*), в кино́ (*at the cinema*), в университе́те (*at the university*)
- на у́лице (*in the street, outdoors*), на пло́щади (*at the square*), на концер́те (*at the concert*), на уро́ке (*at the lesson*), на корабле́ (*on a ship*)

When you mean physically being inside/on top of some object, there is little ambiguity. "Places", unfortunately, require memorization.

Prepositional endings

Here is the rule that covers most nouns:

- feminine nouns ending in ь take **-и**
- nouns ending in -ия, -ий or -ие also take **-и** (so that they end in -ии instead)
- all other nouns take **-е**

What about me and my friends?

Use "y + Genitive" when talking about being at some *person's* place: Да, я у

дру́га = *Yeah, I am at my friend's place.*

▲ ▼ WC

The room with a toilet is **туале́т**. In this course, we stick to the North American "bathroom", even though a room with a bath is, technically **ва́нная** (it has **ва́нна**,

"a bath"). Still, in Russian you would not ask for a "bath-room" unless you really mean it.



We'll deal with that later. But the pattern is consistent. When you *are* somewhere, going *to* that place and going *away* from that place, use the following triplets:

AT	TO	FROM
в + Prep	в + Acc	из + Gen
на + Prep	на + Acc	с + Gen
у + Gen	к + Dat	от + Gen

For example, if the place is used with на, the correct prepositions for the three uses are на—на—с.

