

Russian Verb Conjugation Cheat Sheet

Verbal Aspect (ONLY applies to the past tense)		The Present Tense	
Imperfective verbs	Perfective verbs	Conjugation Class I	Conjugation Class II
Used to: (1) place emphasis on the process of an action (in a manner akin to the English past continuous tenses - i.e. was/were + writing, reading, painting etc.); or to convey (2) how often something is done (frequency); or (3) for how long an activity is done (duration). Often used with definite and indefinite adverbs of frequency, as well as with adverbs indicating duration or repetition. For example: один раз в неделю – once a week, два раза в неделю – twice a week, всегда – always, часто – often, обычно – usually, иногда – sometimes, редко – rarely, никогда – never; всё время – all the time; долго – long; ежедневно – daily. For example: To read – читать (imperfective) I was reading a fascinating article about languages. - Я читал очаровательную статью о языках. (process) I read in Russian every day. - Я читаю по-русски каждый день. (frequency) She [read / was reading] for a long time. - Она долго читала. (duration)	Describe: (1) actions which have been or will be completed successfully (i.e. the result of an action); or (2) things that occurred only once, at some point in the past. Adverbs indicating completion: наконец – finally, всё́м – altogether, сразу – immediately, вдруг – suddenly etc. For example: To read – прочитать (perfective) I have read that book too! - Я тоже прочитал эту книгу! (A one-time action, completed at a point in time in the past.) I read 3 chapters of the book today. - Сегодня я прочитал 3 главы книги. (Past action, with emphasis on the result - the completion of 3 books)	Usually end in -ать, or -ять. However, there are a number of exceptions. Drop the last two letters of the infinitive and add the endings highlighted below: 1st person singular (I): -ю (у) 2nd person singular (you): -ешь (-ёшь) 3rd person singular (he/she/it): -ет (-ёт) 1st person plural (we): -ем (-ём) 2nd person plural (you): -ете (-ёте) 3rd person plural (they): -ют (ут) For example: Infinitive: работать – to work я работаю ты работаешь он/она/оно работает мы работаем вы работаете они работают	Verbs ending in -еть or -ить. However, there are 4 exceptions.* Drop the last three letters of the infinitive, and add the ending highlighted below: 1st person singular: -ю (у) 2nd person singular: -ишь 3rd person singular: -ит 1st person plural: -им 2nd person plural: -ите 3rd person plural: -ят(ат) For example: Infinitive: смотреть – to watch я смотрю ты смотришь он/она/оно смотрит мы смотрим вы смотрите они смотрят
The Imperfective (or Compound) Future Tense		The Past Tense	
Used to: (1) describe repeated or habitual actions which will take place in the future for an indefinite period of time; or (2) denotes actions without considering their completion or the result of the said actions, in a manner equivalent to the simple future and future continuous tenses in English. Formed with the auxiliary verb быть meaning 'to be' and the infinitive of an imperfective verb. Я буду Ты будешь Он/она/оно будет Мы будем Вы будете Они будут ⊕ imperfective verb For example: To study – учить (imperfective) I'm going to study / will be studying English this afternoon. - Я буду учить английский сегодня днём. (No consideration of result)	Used to talk about something that started and finished at a definite time in the past. For almost all verbs, simply drop the infinitive ending -ть / -ти / -чь and add the endings below which vary according to gender and number. For example: To write - писать (imperfective) Masculine (я/ты/он) писал Feminine (я/ты/она) писала Neuter (он/она/оно) писало Plural (мы/вы/они) писали	The Imperative Mood	
The Perfective Future Tense		The Reflexive Verbs and the particles -ся / -сь	
Used to describe: (1) actions taking place in the future, but with an emphasis on the completion of a particular task, or the achievement of a particular result, by a definite point of time in future; or (2) a one-time action. Remove the verb ending -ть and add the present tense endings to the perfective infinitive. For example: To read – прочитать (perfective) I will read. / I'm going to read. – я прочитаю (A one-time action)	Used to: (1) give directions; or (2) communicate an order, command, or call to action. The singular imperative is informal and the plural imperative form is used to refer to more than two people or as a sign of respect. With imperfective verbs, use the 3rd person singular (ты) conjugation of the present simple as your base. With perfective verbs, use the 3rd person singular (он/она/оно) conjugation of the perfective future as your base. For the singular imperative, remove the ending and add -й if the last letter is a vowel, or -и if the last letter is a consonant. For example: Infinitive verb 'to think' - думать > 3rd person plural: думают > думай To convert the above into plural imperative forms, simply add -те after -й, or -и. With reflexive verbs, there should be no change to the suffixes -ся/сь; simply slot -и(те)/й(те) between the root of the verb and the reflexive suffix. For example: Смотри́те, не забудь́те*! - Be sure not to forget! Смотри́и, не опозда́й! - Be sure not to be late! *A spelling change occurred due to the stressed syllable. Read about this and more in 'notes' below.	Present tense spelling rule: after ж, ч, ш, щ the first person singular ending becomes -у and the third person plural ending becomes -ат. *There are 4 verbs ending with -ать, which are governed by the second conjugation: слышать, дышать, гнать and держать. To learn more about present tense rules and exceptions, see 'notes' below.	
		The Reflexive Pronoun себя	
		The Conditional / Subjunctive Moods	

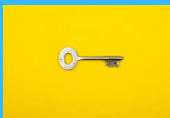
Multiple uses; see 'notes' below to match the uses to the constructions provided in this section.

Both the conditional and subjunctive follow the same grammatical construction:

Verb in the past tense + бы, regardless of gender, number, or verbal aspect.

The particle бы may be contracted to б.

If only she were able to see me now. - Если бы только она могла видеть меня сейчас. (Case 1)
I would call it betrayal. - Я бы назвала это предательством (Case 2)
It is imperative that you obey my orders. - Крайне важно, чтобы вы подчинялись моим приказам. (Case 3)
I wouldn't do that if I were you. - На твоём месте я бы так не поступил. (Case 4)
If only you were more studious, you would get better grades. - Если бы ты был более усердным, ты бы получил лучшие оценки. (Case 5)
I would (like to) ask you not to speak about it. - Я бы попросил вас об этом не говорить. (Case 6)



Russian Verb Conjugation Cheat Sheet Notes

The Present Tense

Used to express actions taking place at the time of speaking, to express facts, to describe a person or a thing, to describe habitual actions or to describe actions which began in the past and are still happening.

There are 5 main verbs which feature a combination of endings from both conjugation classes: **хотеть** (to want), **брéзжить** (to glimmer), **бежать** (to run), **дать** (to give), **есть** (to eat) and other verbs containing the same root such as **надоесть** – to annoy, to bother, **создать** – to create and **задать** – to assign.

For example:

хотеть > **я хочУ**, **ты хочЕшь**, **он /она /ОНО хочЕт**, **мы хотИ́м**, **вы хотИ́те**, **они хотЯ́т**

There are certain consonant changes which take place in the present tense. The rules governing these changes are as follows:

г, д, з > becomes **ж** > For example: **реЗать** > **реЖу** (to cut)
т, ст, ск > becomes **щ** > For example: **чиСТить** > **чиЩу** (to clean)
с, х > becomes **ш** > For example: **пиСать** > **пиШу** (to write)
т > becomes **ч** > For example: **плаКать** > **плаЧу** (to cry)
б > becomes **бл** > For example: **люБИть** > **люБлю** (to love)
в > **вл** becomes > For example: **готоВить** > **готоВлю** (to cook)
м > becomes **мл** > For example: **корМить** > **корМлю** (to feed)
п > becomes **пл** > For example: **терПеть** > **терПлю** (to endure, suffer, tolerate, stand, or bear), **тороПить** - **тороПлю** (to hurry, rush)

For Conjugation Class I, the consonant changes take place across ALL persons (i.e. all the way through 1st person singular to 3rd person plural). For Conjugation Class II, the consonant changes take place in the 1st person singular ONLY.

Only 4 first conjugation verbs with a stem ending in a labial (**б, в, м, п, ф**) add **л** in the present tense to ALL grammatical persons. The only one potentially worth knowing is **дремать** (to doze).

Verbs ending in **-вать**, which are preceded by **да, ста, or зна** lose **ва** in the present tense.

Most verbs ending in **-овать** or **-евать** add **-у** or **-ю** to the verb stem for ALL persons, before the regular present tense endings are applied. For example: **рисовать** > **рисую, рисуешь... рисуют** (to draw) **горевать** > **горюю, горюешь... горюют** (to grieve, mourn). However, some undergo no such change and the in the present tense. For example: **одевать** (to dress): **одеваю, одеваешь... одевают** and **уповать** (to hope): **уповаю, уповаешь... уповают**.

The Imperative Mood

For a single request, order or command, use a perfective verb. For a request or command etc., involving repeated actions, offering general advice, expressing impatience, making a polite request, inviting someone to do something, or with the negative imperative use the imperfective form of a verb.

Should the stress of an infinitive verb fall on the stem of the verb, add **-ь** and **-ьте** for the singular and plural imperatives respectively.

For example:

To introduce/present - **знако́мить** (imperfective)

3rd person plural > **знако́мят** > **знако́мь** / **знако́мьте**.

Reflexive Verbs

Used (1) when the subject and the object of the sentence are the same person (i.e. the subject receives the action of the verb, where it represents the concept of 'to one's self' in English); (2) when a reflexive verb applies reciprocally (represented by the concept of 'each other' in English); (3) in impersonal sentence constructions, which lack a grammatical subject (i.e. where the subject of an impersonal sentence does not perform the action of the verb); (4) in passive constructions; and (5) with verbs denoting state, which would typically be represented in English as the state of being verb 'to be', linked to an adjective; and (6) with verbs indicating qualitative, quantitative changes, or motion.

Reflexive verbs can only refer to the object of a sentence.

The verb **чувствовать** is used with the particle **-ся** when it means 'to get the [sense/feeling] that', or 'it feels' (where 'it' introduces a feeling or point of view held by someone). For example:

It feels like something bad is about to happen. - **Чувствуется, что сейчас произойдет что-то плохое.**
It feels like we're doing something fresh. - **Чувствуется, что мы делаем что-то новое.**
I feel like you love me, too. - **Мне чувствуется, что и вы любите меня.**

The Future Tenses

The imperfective future provides an equivalent to the simple future and future continuous tenses in English. For example:

A: What will you be doing this weekend? - **Что ты будешь делать в эти выходные?**

B: I'll be doing my laundry. - **Я буду стирать.**

The perfective future can provide an equivalent to the future perfect tense form in English (i.e. 'will have...'). For example:

I will have completed my homework by the time you come over. - **Я закончу домашнее задание к тому времени, как ты придешь.**

As the word **уже** (already) indicates completion, it must be used with a perfective verb.

A: I will try to come over to your place this afternoon. - **Я постараюсь прийти к тебе сегодня днем.**

B: I'm sorry, but I will have left by then. - **Простите, но к тому времени я уже уйду.**

Following prepositions such as **после** (after), **если** (if), **до** (until), **пока** (while), and **когда** (when) in Russian, use the future tense, rather than the present tense (as would be the case in English).

For example:

If I go to Moscow next week, I will call you. - **Если я буду в Москве на этой неделе, я позвоню тебе.**
When I go to the market, I will buy you some strawberries. - **Когда я пойду на рынок, я куплю тебе клубнику.**

The present tense can be employed to announce future events or actions, provided that there is certainty they will take place or occur.

I'm going to the cinema tomorrow. - **Завтра я иду в кино.** I will tell him in the evening. - **Я скажу ему вечером.**

The Conditional / Subjunctive Moods

Used to: (1) denote something which is not in fact a reality, but which the subject wishes, desires, or hopes were reality; (2) expresses a judgement, or opinion, held by the subject; (3) expresses obligation; (4) offers advice; (5) functioning in a manner similar to that of the second and third conditionals in English, the Russian subjunctive expresses events, which are unlikely to become true, or imaginary outcomes if something about a past event or action had been different; and (6) is used to frame requests politely.

The English subjunctive is achieved through the use of conjunctives such as **чтобы** – that, **если бы** – if only, **хоть бы** – 'if only', 'I wish', 'I hope' or 'even if', before the verb, whilst something akin to the English second and third conditionals, uses **если** - if, or **когда** - when, followed by a statement and the 'condition', which would have changed a past outcome, or produce an imaginary outcome. As such, the latter is seen in complex sentences with subordinate clauses.

The particle **бы** may be contracted to **б**. The particle generally appears after the verb. However, this is not essential and it may be appear immediately after the subject for emphasis on the subject.

The particle **бы** is attached to the conjunctive **что** to form **чтобы**, meaning 'that'. It often follows impersonal sentences and adverbs, such as it is important that... – **Важно, чтобы...** / It is necessary that... – **Нужно, чтобы...** / It is recommended that... – **Рекомендуется, чтобы...**

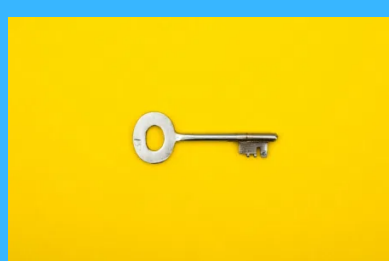
In English, 'would' (and also the phrasal verb 'used to') may be used to express habits or repeated actions which took place in the past and that we no longer do in the present. In Russian, the particle **бы** cannot be used in this manner. Instead, use the perfective past tense. When I was younger, I would eat cherries straight from the tree in those fields. - **Когда я был моложе, я ел вишню прямо с дерева на этих полях.**





Russian Verb Conjugation Cheat Sheet

Notes



Unlocking Russian