

# RUSSIAN PRONOUNS: FORMS AND USES OF PERSONAL, POSSESSIVE, INDICATIVE, REFLEXIVE, AND RELATIVE PRONOUNS, AND THEIR CASE FORMS

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## Abstract

This article provides an in-depth overview of Russian pronouns, covering their various forms and functions. It explores five key types of pronouns: personal, possessive, indicative, reflexive, and relative. The article examines how these pronouns change according to gender, number, and case, and provides examples of their usage in sentences. By explaining the different cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental, and prepositional), the article helps readers understand the structure and grammatical nuances of Russian pronouns. This comprehensive guide is an essential resource for learners aiming to master Russian grammar and sentence construction.

**Keywords:** Russian grammar, Russian pronouns, Personal pronouns, Possessive pronouns, Reflexive pronouns, Relative pronouns, Indicative pronouns, Russian cases, Noun cases in Russian, Russian language structure.

## Introduction

In Russian, pronouns are crucial components of sentence structure. Like nouns, pronouns undergo changes based on gender, number, and case. Russian has several types of pronouns, including personal, possessive, indicative, reflexive, and relative pronouns. Each type serves a distinct function, and understanding their forms and uses is essential for mastering Russian grammar.

### 1. Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns in Russian represent specific individuals or groups, and they change depending on the case, number, and gender of the subject or object.

#### Forms and Cases:

- Nominative (subject): я (I), ты (you - informal singular), он/она/оно (he/she/it), мы (we), вы (you - formal singular/plural), они (they).
- Accusative (direct object): меня (me), тебя (you - informal), его/её (him/her), нас (us), вас (you - formal/plural), их (them).



- Genitive (possessive or absence): меня (of me), тебя (of you - informal), его/её (of him/her), нас (of us), вас (of you - formal/plural), их (of them).
- Dative (indirect object): мне (to me), тебе (to you - informal), ему/ей (to him/her), нам (to us), вам (to you - formal/plural), им (to them).
- Instrumental (with or by): мной (by me), тобой (by you - informal), им/ей (by him/her), нами (by us), вами (by you - formal/plural), ими (by them).
- Prepositional (location, talking about): обо мне (about me), о тебе (about you - informal), о нём/ней (about him/her), о нас (about us), о вас (about you - formal/plural), о них (about them).

Examples:

- Я говорю. (I speak.)
- Он меня слышит. (He hears me.)
- Она думала о нас. (She was thinking about us.)

## 2. Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns in Russian indicate ownership or association and are closely related to personal pronouns but show possession. They also change based on case, gender, and number. Forms:

- Nominative: мой (my - masculine), моя (my - feminine), моё (my - neuter), мои (my - plural), твой (your - informal masculine), твоя (your - informal feminine), твое (your - informal neuter), твои (your - informal plural), его (his), её (her), наш (our - masculine), наша (our - feminine), наше (our - neuter), наши (our - plural), ваш (your - formal masculine), ваша (your - formal feminine), ваше (your - formal neuter), ваши (your - formal plural).
- Accusative: мой (masculine), мою (feminine), моё (neuter), мои (plural), твой (masculine), твою (feminine), твоё (neuter), твои (plural), его (masculine/neuter), её (feminine), наш (masculine), нашу (feminine), наше (neuter), наши (plural), ваш (masculine), вашу (feminine), ваше (neuter), ваши (plural).

Examples:

- Моя книга на столе. (My book is on the table.)
- Его машина новая. (His car is new.)

## 3. Indicative Pronouns

Indicative pronouns refer to objects, people, or concepts without specifying their identity and often serve to point out or emphasize something.

Forms:

- Этот (this - masculine), эта (this - feminine), это (this - neuter), эти (these - plural).
- Тот (that - masculine), та (that - feminine), то (that - neuter), те (those - plural).

Examples:

- Этот дом большой. (This house is big.)
- Я видел тех людей. (I saw those people.)



## 4. Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns indicate that the subject of the verb is also its object. In Russian, the reflexive pronoun is "себя" and is used in a variety of cases.

Forms:

- Nominative: нет reflexive pronoun in nominative.
- Accusative: себя (myself, yourself, himself, etc.).
- Genitive: себя (of oneself).
- Dative: себе (to oneself).
- Instrumental: собой (by oneself).
- Prepositional: о себе (about oneself).

Examples:

- Я вижу себя в зеркале. (I see myself in the mirror.)
- Он гордится собой. (He is proud of himself.)

## 5. Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses, which give additional information about a noun. In Russian, the relative pronoun is который (which, who).

Forms:

- Nominative: который (masculine), которая (feminine), которое (neuter), которые (plural).
- Accusative: который (masculine), которую (feminine), которое (neuter), которые (plural).
- Genitive: которого (masculine), которой (feminine), которого (neuter), которых (plural).
- Dative: которому (masculine), которой (feminine), которому (neuter), которым (plural).
- Instrumental: которым (masculine), которой (feminine), которым (neuter), которыми (plural).
- Prepositional: котором (masculine), которой (feminine), котором (neuter), которых (plural).

Examples:

- Это человек, который мне помогает. (This is the person who helps me.)
- Я знаю девушку, которая поёт. (I know the girl who sings.)

## Conclusion

Russian pronouns serve a variety of functions in sentences, from representing subjects and objects to showing possession, reflexivity, or pointing out specific things. Their forms depend on the case, gender, and number of the noun they are replacing or referring to. Mastery of Russian pronouns is essential for building accurate and meaningful sentences in the language. Understanding how personal, possessive, indicative, reflexive, and relative pronouns work will help learners navigate Russian grammar with greater ease.

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