

# Краткий очерк русской грамматики •

## • A Short Introduction to Russian Grammar

Russian language has the following parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, numerals and auxiliary words (prepositions, conjunctions, particles).

### Nouns

#### 1. Russian nouns have:

- two classes: animate, inanimate;
- two numbers: singular, plural;
- three genders: masculine, feminine, neuter;
- declension in six cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, prepositional.

In dictionaries nouns are given in the nominative singular.

Animate nouns answer the question 'who?' *кто?*

Inanimate nouns answer the question 'what?' *что?*

#### 2. Gender

Animate nouns have two genders: masculine and feminine. Inanimate nouns have three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter.

The endings of nouns indicate their gender:

- a) consonant: indicates masculine gender: *брат* — brother, *урок* — lesson, *студент* — student;
- b) endings *-а, -я*, indicate feminine gender: *мама* — mother, *семья* — family, *книга* — book;
- c) endings *-о, -е*, indicate neuter gender: *письмо* — letter, *море* — sea, *слово* — word;
- d) nouns ending in a soft sign (*-ь*) may be either feminine (*ночь* — night, *дочь* — daughter) or masculine (*день* — day, *дождь* — rain).

#### Exception:

1) Words indicating masculine kinship: *папа* — father, *дядя* — uncle are masculine in gender but decline like nouns of feminine gender.

2) Proper male names: *Ваня, Саша* are masculine in gender, but decline like nouns of feminine gender.

3) Several nouns that end in *-мя* which are neuter (*время* — time, *имя* — name), do not decline like nouns of feminine gender.

### 3. Number

1) Words of masculine gender in the plural have the endings *-ы*, or *-и* (after *к, г, х, ш, ж, ч, щ* or instead of *ь*): *студент* — *студенты*, *врач* — *врачи*.

2) Words of feminine gender in the plural have the endings *-ы* or *-и* (after *к, г, х, ш, ж, щ, ч* or instead of *ь, я*): *комната* — *комнаты*, *книга* — *книги*, *семья* — *семьи*).

3) Words of neuter gender in the plural have the ending *-а* for words that end in *-о* in the singular: *окно* — *окна*, *письмо* — *письма*. If the neuter word had the ending *-е*, then the plural will end in *-я*: *море* — *моря*, *здание* — *здания*.

4) Several masculine nouns that end in a consonant have the plural ending *-ья*: *брат* — *братья*, *лист* — *листья*.

5) Some nouns are used only in the plural: *часы* — watch, clock, *очки* — eyeglasses.

6) Some nouns are used only in the singular: *молоко* — milk, *масло* — butter.

### 4. Cases

Meaning and usage of the cases in Russian:

**Nominative case** is used to mean ‘Who? What?’

1) to name an object                      *Это студент.*  
This is a student.

2) to indicate a subject of an action    *Студент читает.*  
The student is reading.

**Genitive case** is used with nouns ‘Whose? Of what?’ to express:

1) possession                                *Книга студента.*  
(with nouns)                                The student’s book.

2) absence of something                    *У меня нет книги.*  
(with negation)                              I have no book, I do not have a book.

3) part of a whole                            *Центр города.*  
Center of the city.

- 4) quantity  
(with numerals 2, 3, 4)  
With numbers 2, 3, 4, genitive singular is used. *Две книги.*  
Two books.
- 5) quantity  
(with numerals 5, 6, ...)  
With numbers 5, 6, ...  
genitive plural is used. *Пять книг.*  
Five books.
- 6) dates — *When?*  
(with ordinal numbers) *Первого января.*  
The first of January.
- 7) to show approximate time  
and place (with prepositions  
*у, до, из, с, от, около,*  
*напротив, недалеко от,*  
*после, с... до...)*  
*When? Where?* *из дома — from home*  
*напротив института —*  
opposite the institute  
*до вечера — until evening*  
*с пяти до шести часов —*  
from 5 until 6 o'clock
- 8) absence (with the preposition  
*без*) *чай без сахара —*  
tea without sugar  
*читаю без словаря —*  
(I) Read without a dictionary

**Dative case is used:**

- 1) to indicate an object  
of an action (with a list of verbs,  
including *дать, сказать,*  
*позвонить*) *Скажи студенту. —*  
Tell the student.  
*Дай мне. — Give it to me.*  
*Позвони маме. — Call mother.*
- 2) to show the aim of motion  
(with verbs of motion + *к, по*).  
*Where to?* *Я иду к другу. —*  
I am going to my friend's.  
*Он едет по улице. —*  
He is going along the street.

**Accusative case is used:**

- 1) to show the object  
of an action. *Whom? What?* *Я пью чай. — I am drinking tea.*  
*Он ждёт подругу. —*  
He is waiting for his girlfriend.
- 2) to show the point of  
destination (with prepositions  
*в* and *на* + verbs of motion).  
*Where?* *Ехать в Москву. —*  
To go to Moscow.  
*Пришёл на вокзал. —*  
(I) Arrived at the station.

- 3) to show the time of an action  
(with preposition *через*).  
*When?*

*Через час.* — In an hour.

**Instrumental case is used:**

- 1) to express the instrument  
or agent of an action.  
*By whom? With what?*

*Я пишу ручкой.* —  
I write with a pen.  
*Письмо написано братом.* —  
The letter is written by my brother.

- 2) with the preposition *с* = with

*Кофе с молоком.* —  
Coffee with milk.  
*Говорил с другом.* —  
(I) Spoke with my friend.

- 3) to show the approximate place  
of an action  
(with prepositions *под*,  
*над*, *перед*, *рядом с*)

*Перед домом* —  
In front of the house.  
*Рядом с магазином* —  
Next to the store.  
*Под стулом* — Under the chair.  
*Над столом* — Over the table.

- 4) to express a period of time  
(of day or year). *When?*

*утром* — in the morning  
*днём* — during the day  
*вечером* — in the evening  
*ночью* — at night  
*летом* — in the summer  
*зимой* — in the winter  
*весной* — in the spring  
*осенью* — in the fall

**Prepositional case is used:**

- 1) to express the place  
(position) of an object  
(with prepositions of  
position *в*, *на*).  
*Where?*

*Книга на столе.* —  
The book is on the table.  
*Словарь в сумке.* —  
The dictionary is in the bag.

- 2) to express time  
(with prepositions *в*, *на*).  
*When?*

*Приехал в январе.* —  
(I) Arrived in January.  
*Приехал на этой неделе.* —  
(I) Arrived this week.

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|---|---|
| 3) to show a topic<br>(of thought, conversation, etc.)<br>(with the preposition <i>о</i> ).<br><i>About whom? About what?</i> | <i>Думаю о брате. —</i><br>I am thinking about my brother.<br><i>Говорить о книге. —</i><br>To talk about the book. |
|---|---|

5. Types of declension are given in the appendix.

## Adjectives

### 1. Adjectives in Russian have:

- three genders: masculine, feminine, neuter;
- two numbers: singular, plural;
- degrees of comparison;
- declension;
- 6 cases.

In dictionaries adjectives are given in the nominative singular masculine form. The gender, number and case of the adjective is determined by the gender, number and case of the modifying noun.

### 2. Gender, number

- Adjectives of masculine gender have *-ой, -ый, -ий* endings.
- Adjectives of feminine gender have *-ая, -яя* endings.
- Adjectives of neuter gender have *-ое, -ее* endings.

In the plural all adjectives have the endings *-ые, -ие* in the nominative case.

### 3. There are descriptive, relative and possessive adjectives.

1) Descriptive adjectives denote the quality and features of an object: *хороший* — good, *плохой* — bad, *большой* — big, *маленький* — small, *старый* — old, *новый* — new.

Descriptive adjectives have:

a) two forms: full (*хороший*) and short (*хорош*). Short forms change by gender and number (*хорош* — m., *хороша* — f., *хороши* — pl.), but not by case.

b) degrees of comparison:

- analytical: *новый* — *более новый* — *самый новый*;
- suffixal: *новый* — *новее* — *новейший*;
- suppletive: *хороший* — *лучше* — *наилучший*;

c) adjective adverbs: *хорошо* — *плохо*.

2) Relative adjectives denote the characteristics relative to some other object, action or attitude: *лимонный сок* — lemon juice, *рабочий день* — work day, *деловой человек* — businessman. These adjectives have no degrees of comparison.

3) Possessive adjectives denote ownership of an object: *мамино платье* — mother's dress, *Танина тетрадь* — Tanya's notebook. These adjectives have no degrees of comparison.

4. Types of declension are given in the appendix.

## Pronouns

1. Russian pronouns have:

- three genders: masculine, feminine, neuter;
- two numbers: singular, plural;
- declension;
- 6 cases.

2. There are several classes of pronouns.

1) Personal: *я, ты, он, она, оно, мы, вы, они*. These pronouns change by case.

2) Possessive: *мой, твой, его, её, наш, ваш, их, свой*.

The pronouns *мой, твой, наш, ваш, свой* change by gender, number and case like adjectives.

3) Demonstrative: *этот, тот*. They also change by gender, number and case like adjectives.

4) Interrogative-relative: *кто, что, чей, какой, сколько, как, когда, где, откуда, куда, почему*.

The pronouns *кто, что* change by case. Pronouns *чей, какой* change by gender, number and case. The remaining pronouns do not change.

5) Negative, indefinite: *никто, ничто, ничей, никогда, никакой, нигде, некто, нечто, некоторые, кто-то, что-то, кое-кто, кое-что, кто-нибудь, что-нибудь*.

### Note:

*ни* is never stressed.

*не* is always stressed.

The pronouns *некто, нечто, нигде, никогда* do not change. The pronouns *никто, ничто, кто-то, что-то, кое-кто, кое-что, кто-нибудь, что-нибудь* change by case, although only *кто* and *что* part of

the words changes. The pronouns *ничей, никакой, некоторые* change by gender, number and case like adjectives.

6) Definitive: *целый, весь, каждый, любой, всякий, самый*. These pronouns change by gender, number and case like adjectives.

7) Reflexive: *себя*. It changes by case.

**3. Types of declension are given in the appendix.**

## Verbs

### 1. Russian verbs have:

- two aspects: imperfective, perfective;
- three tenses: present, past, future;
- two conjugations in the present tense;
- forms of person and number in the present and future tense;
- forms of gender and number in the past tense;
- three moods: indicative, imperative, conditional.

### 2. In dictionaries verbs are given in the infinitive. Infinitives end in *-ть*:

*читать* — to read, *писать* — to write. Some verbs have the infinitive ending *-ти*: *идти* — to go, *нести* — to carry. Few verbs have the infinitive ending *-чь*: *печь* — to bake, *беречь* — to care.

### 3. Present tense

The present tense is used when we speak of actions which:

a) are occurring at the present moment;

*Сейчас я пишу письмо.*

Now I am writing a letter.

b) occur constantly;

*Земля вращается вокруг Солнца.*

The earth rotates around the sun.

c) repeat themselves;

*Каждый день я хожу в магазин.*

Every day I go to the store.

d) began earlier but are continuing in the moment of speaking;

*Он живёт в Москве уже 2 года.*

He has lived in Moscow for two years already.

Only verbs in the imperfective aspect are used in the present tense. Verbs in the present tense change by person and number, that is they are

conjugated. Russian verbs are divided into two categories by type of conjugation: First Conjugation and Second Conjugation. Most Russian verbs fall into the first category.

The productive classes of first conjugation verbs include verbs with the infinitive ending *-ать*, *-ять* (class 1), *-еть* (class 2), *-овать*, *-евать* (class 3), *-нуть* (class 4). Productive classes of second conjugation verbs include only verbs with the infinitive ending *-ить* (class 5). Tables of First and Second Conjugation verbs are given in the appendix.

### Exception:

There are a few verbs ending in *-ать* (*лежать*, *кричать*, *молчать*, *стучать*, *слышать*, *дышать*, *знать* and others) and several ending in *-еть* (*смотреть*, *видеть*, *гореть*, *велеь*, *ненавидеть*, *терпеть*, *обидеть*, *сидеть* and others) who fall into the Second Conjugation category.

There is a small group of verbs in the First and Second Conjugations that have unusual conjugations: *ждать*, *класть*, *помочь*, *резать* and others. These are considered unproductives classes. The conjugation of these verbs should be memorized.

### 4. Past tense

There is only one form of the past tense. In the past tense verbs change not by person and number, but by gender and number. The past tense is formed from the root of the infinitive + *-л* (m.), *-ла* (f.), *-ло* (n.), *-ли* (pl.).

For example: *читать*: *читал* (m.) — *читала* (f.) — *читали* (pl.).

This is how the past tense is formed in a vast majority of Russian verbs whose stem ends in a vowel. Other verbs have peculiarities in the formation of the past tense.

### 5. Future tense

There are two forms of the future tense: the compound future and the simple future. The compound future expresses incomplete, imperfective action. The simple future expresses perfective, complete action. The compound future is formed from the imperfective aspect of the verb, by using the verb *быть* in the future tense and the infinitive of the imperfective verb. For example: *я буду читать*, *ты будешь читать*, etc. The simple future is formed from the perfective aspect of the verb in the same way as the present tense of verbs in the imperfective aspect.

Compare:

Present tense

*я пишу*

*ты пишешь*

Future tense

*я напишу*

*ты напишешь*



## 6. Aspects of verbs

Russian verbs have two aspects: imperfective and perfective. Dictionaries usually indicate the aspect of the verbs listed. For example, *читать* — imperfective, *прочитать* — perfective. These two verbs make up an aspect pair. They indicate the same action, but with the following differences: the imperfective aspect describes the action itself, while the perfective aspect also indicates the completion or results of the action. Verbs in the imperfective aspect are used in the present, past and future tenses (*читаю* — *читал* — *буду читать*). Verbs in the perfective aspect exist only in the past and future tenses (*прочитал* — *прочитаю*).

Usage of the imperfective aspect:

- 1) — *Что ты делал вчера?* — What did you do yesterday?  
 — *Я читал книгу.* — I read the book.

It is not important to the speaker whether or not there was a result of the action.

- 2) — *Ты долго читал книгу?* — Did you read the book for a long time?  
 — *Я читал 2 часа.* — I read for two hours.

The action went on for a defined period of time, with the process of the action being emphasized.

- 3) *Во время отпуска я каждый день читал книги.*  
 During my vacation I read books every day.

The action was repeated many times.

- 4) *Я читал книгу и слушал музыку.*  
 I read a book and listened to music.  
*Когда я читал книгу, сестра слушала музыку.*  
 When I read a book, my sister listened to music.

The actions occur simultaneously.

Uses of the perfective aspect:

- 1) — *Ты прочитал эту книгу?* — Have you finished this book?  
 — *Да, давно прочитал.* — Yes, I finished it a long time ago.

The result of the action is stressed.

- 2) *Спортсмен прыгнул на 6 метров.*  
 The athlete jumped 6 meters.

A one-time action.

- 3) *Вчера я прочитал книгу и пошёл в кино.*  
 Yesterday I read a book and went to a movie.  
*Когда я прочитал книгу, я пошёл в кино.*  
 When I finished the book, I went to a movie.

Two actions occurring in succession, both with results.

In order to determine the aspect of the verb belonging to an aspect pair, you need to know the formal indicators of aspects and the methods of their formation.

Indicators of imperfective aspect	Indicators of perfective aspect
1) <i>писать</i> — no prefix	1) <i>написать</i> — with prefix
2) <i>спрашивать</i> — the suffix <i>-ива-</i> ( <i>-ыва-</i> ) <i>давать</i> — the suffix <i>-ва-</i>	2) <i>спросить</i> — no suffix <i>-ива-</i> ( <i>-ыва-</i> ) <i>дать</i> — no suffix <i>-ва-</i>
3) <i>решать</i> — the suffix <i>-а-</i>	3) <i>решить</i> — the suffix <i>-и-</i>
4) <i>кричать</i> — the suffix <i>-а-</i>	4) <i>крикнуть</i> — the suffix <i>-ну-</i>
5) <i>брать</i> — various roots	5) <i>взять</i> — various roots

Many verbs do not have an aspect pair; they exist in either imperfective or perfective aspect.

## 7. Imperative

The imperative of Russian verbs have two forms: 2nd person singular and 2nd person plural. Imperatives are formed from the stem of the present tense of verbs in the imperfective aspect or of the future tense of verbs in the perfective aspect.

Formation of the imperative

1) If the stem ends in a vowel, *-й* is added for 2nd person singular and *-йте* is added for 2nd person plural.

*читать* — *читаю* — *читай* — *читайте*  
*работать* — *работаю* — *работай* — *работайте*  
*танцевать* — *танцую* — *танцуй* — *танцуйте*  
*дать* — *дам* — *дай* — *дайте*

2) If the stem ends in a consonant, *-и* is added for 2nd person singular and *-ите* is added for 2nd person plural.

*смотреть* — *смотрю* — *смотри* — *смотрите*  
*говорить* — *говорю* — *говори* — *говорите*

## 8. Conditional mood

The Conditional mood is formed using 1) the past tense of the verb; 2) the particle *бы*, which can be placed after or before the verb; 3) in complex phrases the conjunction *если* is used.

*Я с удовольствием пошёл бы в кино.*

I would go to a movie with pleasure.

In complex phrases, *бы* is placed on both parts of the phrase.

*Если бы я купил билеты, я пошёл бы в кино.*

If I had bought tickets, I would have gone to the movie.

## 10. Reflexive verbs

There is a large number of Russian verbs with the reflexive particle *-ся (-сь)* on the end.

### Note:

*-ся* after consonants: *одеваться, умываться*

*-сь* after vowels: *одеваюсь, умываюсь*

Reflexive verbs are divided into the following groups:

1) Proper reflexive verbs: The action is reflected to the active person. The meaning of the particle *-ся* in this case is synonymous with the meaning of *себя*.

*Мужчина одевается (т.е. одевает сам себя).*

The man gets dressed (dresses himself).

*Девочка причёсывается (т.е. причёсывает сама себя).*

The girl brushes her hair (brushes it herself).

2) Reciprocal-reflexive verbs: one and the same action, is occurring with two or more people.

*Подруги встретились и обнялись.*

The girls met and hugged each other.

3) General reflexive verbs: indicate changes in movement, situation, the beginning or end of an action.

*Он остановился у метро.*

He stopped near the metro station.

*Фильм начинается в 2 часа.*

The movie is beginning at 14:00 o'clock.

There are verbs which do not exist without the reflexive ending *-ся*: *смеяться, улыбаться, надеяться, бояться, стараться*, and others. Reflexive verbs are conjugated using the regular First and Second Conjugations.

## Adverbs

### The use of adverbs

#### 1. The adverbs of manner, place and time of action denote:

- a) the manner of action (how? *как?*)  
как — how, так — thus, никак — no way;
- b) the place of action (where? *где?*)  
*здесь* — here, *там* — there, *рядом* — close, *далеко* — far,  
*недалеко* — not far;
- c) the time of action (when? *когда?*)  
*сейчас* — now, *потом* — then, *всегда* — always, *обычно* — usually, *иногда* — sometimes, *редко* — seldom, *уже* — already, *ещё* — yet, *после* — after.

#### 2. The adverbs of manner denote:

- a) action (how? *как?*)  
*громко петь, говорить* — to sing, speak loudly  
*быстро ехать* — to drive quickly
- b) feature:  
*очень красивая* — very beautiful
- c) objects:  
*кофе по-турецки* — Turkish coffee

#### 3. The adverb *очень* — very — is used with adjectives (*очень красивая*) and adverbs (*очень красиво*).

#### 4. Adverbs do not change by gender, number or case.

## Numerals

### 1. Cardinals

1	один	14	четырнадцать
2	два	15	пятнадцать
3	три	16	шестнадцать
4	четыре	17	семнадцать
5	пять	18	восемнадцать
6	шесть	19	девятнадцать
7	семь	20	двадцать
8	восемь	21	двадцать один
9	девять	22	двадцать два
10	десять	30	тридцать
11	одиннадцать	40	сорок
12	двенадцать	50	пятьдесят
13	тринадцать	60	шестьдесят

70	семьдесят	700	семьсот
80	восемьдесят	800	восемьсот
90	девяносто	900	девятьсот
100	сто	1000	тысяча
200	двести	10 000	десять тысяч
300	триста	100 000	сто тысяч
400	четыреста	1 000 000	миллион
500	пятьсот	1 000 000 000	миллиард
600	шестьсот		

1) Declension of cardinal numerals is characterized by absence of the category of number and gender (except 1: *один* (m.), *одна* (f.), *одно* (n.), and 2: *два* (m., n.), *две* (f.)).

**Note:** *один, одна, одно* = alone (adjective-pronoun);  
*тысяча, миллион, миллиард* are nouns.

The declension of 2, 3, 4, resembles that of plural possessive pronouns:

Nominative	два, две	три	четыре
Genitive	двух	трёх	четырёх
Dative	двум	трём	четырёх
Accusative	Nom. or Gen.	Nom. or Gen.	Nom. or Gen.
Instrumental	двумя	тремя	четырьмя
Prepositional	о двух	о трёх	о четырёх

2) The declension of 5—20 is identical with declension of feminine nouns ending in *-ь*.

3) Usage of cases with numbers:

1 accusative (*один час*)

2—4 genitive singular (*2 часа, 3 часа, 4 часа*)

5, 6... genitive plural (*5 часов, 20 часов*)

## 2. Ordinals

1) Ordinal numbers are adjectives. All ordinals except for *первый* (first) and *второй* (second) are derived from the corresponding cardinals:

a) with the aid of suffixes:

third — *третий*, fourth — *четвёртый*, fortieth — *сороковой*, thousandth — *тысячный*;

b) or without suffixes, but with the ending *-ый*:

fifth — *пятый*, tenth — *десятый*.

c) Seventh — *седьмой* has a modified stem.

2) Only the final element of compound ordinal numerals has the special ordinal ending: 551 — *пятьсот пятьдесят первый*. Compare with English: five hundred fifty first.

### 3. Ordinals change like adjectives by gender, number and case.

## Auxiliary Words

### 1. Prepositions

1) The prepositions of place: *в* — in, *на* — on, *у* — at/near, *под* — under, *над* — above/over, *за* — behind, *перед* — in front of, *между* — between. They are used to express the place or position of an object and answer the question ‘where?’ *где?*

— *в, на* require the prepositional case: *на столе, в комнате*

— *у* requires the genitive case: *у стола, у института*

— *за, под, перед, над, между* require the instrumental case: *за домом, под домом, etc.*

2) The prepositions of motion: *в* — to, *на* — into/at, *к* — to, *под* — under, *над* — over/above, *за* — behind, *из* — from/out, *по* — on, *с* — from above/after, *от* — from. These are dynamic prepositions, answering the questions ‘where (to)?’ — *куда?*, ‘from where?’ — *откуда?*

— *в, на, под, за* require the accusative case: *Ехать в университет на урок. Залез под стол. Спрятался за угол.*

— *к, по* require the dative case: *Иду к метро. Хожу по улице.*

— *из, от, с* require the genitive case: *Идём из школы. Письмо от брата. Ушёл с работы.*

### 2. Conjunctions

1) Primary conjunctions: *и* — and, *но* — but, *а* — and/but, *или* — or, *либо* — or.

2) Question words *что* — that, *как* — as, *когда* — when.

3) Prepositions of adverbial origin:

*несмотря на (то, что)* — in spite of the fact that.

*подобно (тому, как)* — like.

4) Compound conjunctions indicating reason:

*потому что* — because, *из-за того, что* — because.

### 3. Particles

1) Imperative particles:

*пусть* — let

*Пусть всегда в вашем доме будет счастье!*

Let there always be happiness in your home!

*давай* — let us, let's

*Давай познакомимся.*

Let's get acquainted.

2) The particle *бы*:

*На вашем месте я бы поехала в Москву.*

If I were you, I would go to Moscow.

3) Interrogative particle:

*ли* — if, whether (it is used to express doubt)

*Читал ли ты Пушкина?*

Have you read Pushkin?

*ли* — if, whether (it is used to introduce indirect speech)

*Я спросила, читал ли он Пушкина.*

I asked if he had ever read Pushkin.

4) Interrogative — emphasizing particles:

*неужели* — really

*Неужели он уехал?*

Has he really left?

*разве* — Is (it) ... ? Does (it) ... ?

*Разве она русская?*

Is she really Russian?

5) Emphatic particles: *уже* — already, *даже* — even, *ещё* — yet.

6) Exclamative particles: *Как!* — How! *Ну!* — Come on!

7) The particles of agreement:

*да* — yes; *так* — yes, so; *конечно* — certainly

*хорошо* — well, fine, OK

8) The particles of rejection:

*нет* — no, *не* — not, *ни* — not.

## 9) The particles used in negative and indefinite pronouns:

*ни* (*никто* — nobody)

*не* (*некто* — someone)

*кое-* (*кое-что* — something)

*-то* (*где-то* — somewhere)

*-либо* (*кто-либо* — anyone)

*-нибудь* (*что-нибудь* — anything)

Pronouns with *-то* are used in the present and past tenses. Pronouns with *-нибудь*, *-либо* are used in the future tense.