

Russian Dative Case

The Russian Dative Case is used to show the indirect object, or the receiver of the action. Like all cases in the Russian language, the easiest way to determine how to use the Dative case is to ask the key questions associated with the case.

So, in other words, when you are forming the sentence, first ask yourself the questions:

(1) To whom am I (or the subject) doing this? Or...

(2) To what am I (or the subject) doing this?

The answer to these questions will tell you which nouns require the Dative case. When in the Dative case, nouns drop their 'regular' endings, and are replaced by the corresponding endings shown in the table below.

The table outlines the typical endings used, as well as the relevant endings that apply to any adjectives linked to the noun. Further, we have given some specific examples highlighting the word endings so you can see how the Dative case works.

[If you'd like to get your FREE copy of *The Russian Phrase Book for Lovers* including excellent summary tables of the Russian cases, click here.](#)

Dative Case - Кому? Чему?

In Dative Case, the ending is removed and replaced as below.

Endings	Adjective	Noun
Masculine (m)	-ому -ему	-у -ю -ию
Feminine (f)	-ой -ей	-е -и -ии
Neuter (n)	-ому -ему	-у -ю -ию
Plural (pl.)	-ым -им	-ам -ям

Questions that show Dative Case:

Кому? К кому? (to whom?)

Чему? К чему? (to what?)

Examples	To whom...	To what...
Masculine (m)	Я даю подарок Джон<u>у</u> (I am giving a present to John)	Я подхожу к больш<u>ому</u> стол<u>у</u> (I am approaching the big table)
Feminine (f)	Я даю сумку Инн<u>е</u> (I am giving a bag to Inna)	Я подхожу к больш<u>ой</u> машин<u>е</u> (I am approaching the big car)
Neuter (n)	Я даю подарок к дит<u>ю</u> (I am giving a present to the baby)	Я подхожу к больш<u>ому</u> ябл<u>оку</u> (I am approaching the big apple)
Plural (pl.)	Я отдаю ключ родител<u>ям</u> (I am returning the key to my parents)	Я подхожу к красив<u>ым</u> туфл<u>ям</u> (I am approaching the nice shoes)