

Russian Instrumental Case

The Russian Instrumental Case is used to show the instrument - or in other words, how the action is carried out.

Like all cases in the Russian language, the easiest way to determine how to use the Instrumental 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) With what, or by whom, is the action done? Or...

(2) Who/what am I proud of?

The answer to these questions will tell you which nouns require the Instrumental case. When in the Instrumental 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 Instrumental 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.](#)

Instrumental Case - Кем? Чем?

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

Endings	Adjective	Noun
Masculine (m)	-ым -им	-ом -ем (-ём) -ием
Feminine (f)	-ой -ей	-ой -ей -ью -ией
Neuter (n)	-ым -им	-ом -ем -ием
Plural (pl.)	-ыми -ими	-ами -ями

Questions that show Instrumental Case:

Кем? (by whom?) **Чем?** (by what?)

С кем? (with whom?) **С чем?** (with what?)

Examples	With what/by whom?	Who/what am I proud of?
Masculine (m)	Поэма написана Пушкиным (The poem is written by Pushkin)	Я горжусь Джоном (I am proud of John)
Feminine (f)	Я пишу ручкой (I write with a pen)	Я горжусь большой машиной (I am proud of my big car)
Neuter (n)	Я говорю с акцентом (I speak with an accent)	Я люблюсь большим яблоком (I admire the big apple)
Plural (pl.)	Я рисую карандашами (I draw with pencils)	Я люблюсь красивыми твфлями (I admire the nice shoes)