

Can be used at any level of study from elementary to advanced Russian

Can be used in conjunction with any textbook or other course materials

Can be used for independent study by anyone who is interested in maintaining and improving their Russian

Individual chapters on each case with major case usages explained in a use-by-use fashion

The book may be read through from beginning to end or in sections or used as a reference

Future projects include The Aspect Book for Russian as well as Case and Aspect Books for other Slavic languages

All examples in the text and exercises are drawn from a database of naturally occurring Russian sentences

Examples represent a variety of genres and topics

Focus is on Case *usage*, not *endings*, but tables of case endings are included at the beginning of each chapter and in a comprehensive Appendix

Accompanying CD-ROM for both Windows and Macintosh platforms

Exercises for each chapter are presented in three difficulty levels to facilitate the use of the book and CD-ROM with different years of study

CD-ROM contains male and female native-speaker recordings of all examples

Publication expected in late 2000 or early 2001

The Case Book *for Russian*

A decade of research on Russian case semantics has come together in a valuable new pedagogical tool through the work of Laura Janda and Steven Clancy. *The Case Book for Russian*, a textbook and exercises, presents the Russian case system in terms of structured semantic wholes. This method of explanation is easily accessible to students and provides a coherent conceptual framework that accounts for the rich and often confusing details of Russian case usage. Throughout the text, the basic meanings of the cases are illustrated with examples from a large database of Russian prose, compiled specifically for this project. Examples in the text and exercises were taken from a variety of sources (primarily books and newspapers of the past decade) and are representative of multiple genres and fields (fiction, current events, contemporary history, politics, law, economics, science and medicine, etc.).

The aim of the text is to familiarize students with the variety of case usage by using real Russian sentences as opposed to the controlled language of traditional textbook examples. By confronting real case samples in an unadulterated form, students can learn to make sense of the systematic meanings of case in a fashion that will approach the understanding of a native speaker. The accompanying exercises continue the presentation of the text and challenge students to implement the concepts they have learned.

The interactive version (CD-ROM for Macintosh and Windows platforms or internet-based access), contains recordings of all examples by both male and female native speakers, playable at the click of a button. As students work through the exercises, they can easily consult the electronic version of the text for quick reference and can print out summary sheets of completed assignments to hand in for class.

The Case Book for Russian

FEATURES

All example sentences are fully parsed and translated to help with difficult vocabulary.

Headings, text, and example sentences are arranged on the page in a user-friendly fashion

Tables compile information such as verbs and prepositions and the cases they govern

52 *The Accusative Case*

on a scale from general to specific, and the boundaries between submeanings are rather diffuse.

Another hallmark of the accusative case is the way it deploys prepositions. With all other cases, each preposition is associated with only one submeaning. Not so the accusative. It is not uncommon for prepositions to use two or even all three meanings of the accusative. This table will give you some idea of how versatile prepositions are in the accusative case, and the individual uses of each will be discussed below.

Distribution of prepositions among the meanings of the accusative case		
ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION	ACCUSATIVE: A DIMENSION	ACCUSATIVE: AN ENDPPOINT
в 'in, into; on, at; for'	в 'in, during; like'	в 'in, at; at the end of'
на 'to, on, onto; on, at; for'	на 'for; lasting; to'	на 'for; lasting; to'
за 'behind; for'	за 'during'	за 'away; by the end of'
о 'against'	о 'with'	
по 'up to; after, to get'	по 'through; each'	
под 'under, toward; for use as'	под 'like; to the tune of'	
про 'for'	про 'about'	
	с 'approximately'	
	сквозь 'through'	
	через 'through'	через 'across, after; in'

We often spend so much time learning the prepositions in Russian that we neglect the fact that it also has postpositions. Just as a preposition is a word that comes before other words, a postposition is a word that comes after other words. All the postpositions associated with the accusative case are used to express time with ACCUSATIVE: AN ENDPPOINT, and appear in the last section of this chapter.

ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 1 — в 'in, into'

ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION operates in four domains: space, time, action, and purpose. In the spatial domain ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is a destination of physical motion; in terms of time it is a temporal destination, a time when something happens; in the domain of action it is the destination of a verbal activity — what we usually call the direct object; and in the do[]Y[] of purpose its meaning is roughly equivalent to the English word for.

In the domain of space, ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION always requires a preposition to tell us what sort of trajectory is envisioned. The prepositions that can appear here are: в 'to, into', на 'to, onto', за 'to the farback side of', о 'against', по 'after, to get', под 'to the underside of, approaching', and про 'for'. We will look at each preposition, including its metaphorical uses, in turn.

Physical movement through space in the direction of or entering something is the most basic use of в expressing ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION.

Accusative: a destination 1 53

Лишь 7 процентов людей выразили желание переехать в другие места.
[Only 7-NOM percent-GEN people-GEN express desire-ACC move to other places-ACC.]
Only 7 percent of the people expressed a desire to move to other places.

Эта девушка раньше училась в их классе, а потом перешла в другое училище.
[That girl-NOM earlier studied in their class-LOC, but later transferred to another school-ACC.]
That girl used to study in their class, but later she transferred to another school.

Мама ранила в суматошном доме.
[Mama-NOM wound-up in a lunatic asylum-ACC.]
Mama wound up in a lunatic asylum.

The last example shows that Russian will often express the idea of moving toward a destination even when the equivalent English doesn't. Here's another typical example:

Я раздвинулся и лег в постель.
[I-NOM got-undressed and lay-down in bed-ACC.]
I got undressed and lay down in bed.

Many kinds of motion, large and small, may be conceived of as showing direction. Here are some examples that you might not expect to use the accusative, given the way we think of them in English. Still, they do show directed motion, and thus the logic of using ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is justified.

Удар в грудь, стучать в дверь.
[blow-NOM to chest-ACC, knock to door-ACC]
a blow to the chest, to knock on a door

Я как сумасшедший захлопал в ладоши.
[I-NOM like crazy-person-NOM began-clapping to palms-ACC.]
I started clapping my hands like a crazy person.

Of course, in addition to moving oneself, one can also move other objects to accusative destinations, as in the following example:

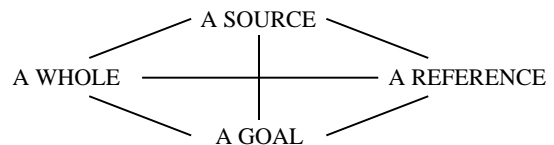
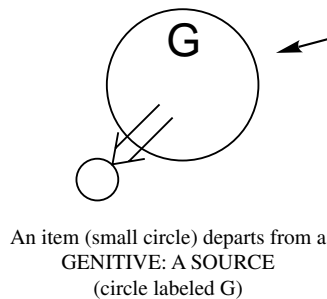
Ван Гог отрезал себе ухо и отдал в бороду.
[Van Gogh-NOM cut-off self-DAT ear-ACC and sent to brotchel-ACC.]
Van Gogh cut off his ear and sent it to the brotchel.

ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is also used when the motion is more imaginary than actual, as in the following to examples:

Clear headings provide reference points and state the main idea of each section

Figures and case networks summarize case usages and provide a visual mnemonic for learning

Notes in the grey margins provide concise summaries of text content



The Genitive Case

The Case Book for Russian
Textbook, Exercises
and Interactive CD-ROM
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