

Gender of Nouns

There are three genders in Russian: masculine, feminine and neuter. You can usually determine the gender of a noun by its ending. Here are some basic rules, although exceptions exist:

Masculine (М)	Feminine (Ж)	Neuter (С)
дом - consonant	Картина -а	Письмо -о
рай -й	История -я	Платье -е
Иегова, дедушка, папа, кофе		Время -мя

Nouns ending in the soft sign **-ь** can be either masculine or feminine: **день** (day - masculine), **жизнь** (life - feminine). The best way to tell the gender of such nouns is to memorize it as you progress with your Russian language study.

Singular and Plural

English plurals often end in -s. In Russian, there are more endings to make plurals, look below:

Noun type	Ending for plural	Example
masculine nouns ending in a <u>hard consonant</u> ; feminine noun ending in -а	-ы	журнал - журналы улица - улицы
any nouns ending in -ь, -й, -я	-и	речь - речи земля - земли
masculine and feminine with the stem ending in - к, -г, -х, -ч, -щ, -ж, -ш,	-и	нож - ножи Книга – книги бог - боги
neuter ending in -о	-а	окно - окна
neuter ending in -е	-я	собрание - собрания

Some nouns are always singular. These are nouns that designate substances **кислород**, **медь** (oxygen, copper), food products **сахар**, **мука** (sugar, flour), a block of objects **мебель** (furniture), some actions **охота** (hunting), feelings **любовь**, **здоровье** (love, health), sorts of fabric **бархат** (velvet), medicine **аспирин** (aspirin), some vegetables and berries **картофель**, **морковь** (potato, carrots).