

**DATIVE Forms****Feminine declension nouns**

hard type: 'room' singular ко́мнате	plural ко́мнатам	soft type: 'week' singular неде́ле	plural неде́лям
-ь: 'talent' singular спосо́бности	plural спосо́бностям		

**Masculine declension nouns**

hard type: 'courtyard' singular двору́	plural двора́м	soft type: 'nail' singular гвоздю́	plural гвоздя́м
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**Neuter declension nouns**

hard type: 'body' singular те́лу	plural теле́ам	soft type: 'schedule' singular расписа́нию	plural расписа́ниям
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**Adjectives**

hard type: 'first' feminine пе́рвой	masculine пе́рвому	neuter пе́рвому	plural пе́рвым
soft type: 'last' feminine последне́й	masculine последне́му	neuter последне́му	plural последне́м

**Pronouns**

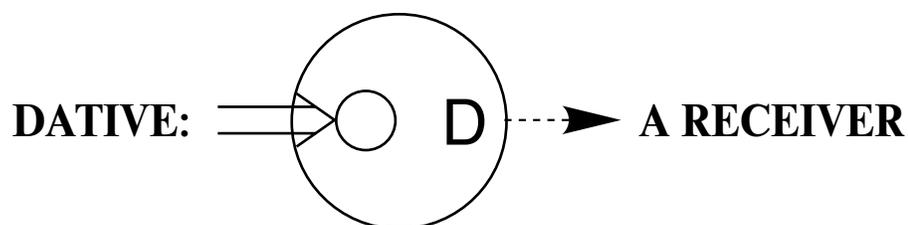
'I' мне	'we' нам	'you' informal тебе́	'you' вам
'she' (н)е́й	'he' (н)е́му	'it' (н)е́му	'they' (н)и́м
'who' кому́	'what' че́му	'oneself' себе́	
'this' feminine этой	masculine э́тому	neuter э́тому	plural э́тим
'all, every' feminine все́й	masculine все́му	neuter все́му	plural все́м

**Possessives**

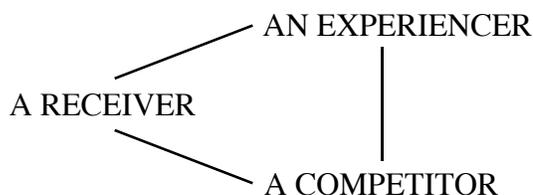
feminine 'my' моё́й	masculine моему́	neuter моему́	plural мои́м
'our' наше́й	на́шему	на́шему	на́шим

**Numerals**

'one' feminine одно́й	masculine одно́му	neuter одно́му	plural одни́м
'two' двум	'three' тре́м	'four' четыре́м	'five' пя́ти



The dative network:



## PROLOGUE

Imagine for a moment that you are playing Mad Libs, and you are asked to supply some words, so you suggest *flowerpot*, *mud puddle*, and *refrigerator*. Then the leader of the game reads the story: “Philanthropists are people who like to help flowerpots. Some of them are very gullible and will believe every mud puddle they meet. These do-gooders will even give a refrigerator their last dime.” Although they are all grammatically correct, these sentences are not representative of the ordinary repertoire of English. The fun of this game in fact consists in creating nonsensical sentences such as these. The three Mad Libs sentences created here are strange because there is a clash between the expectations of constructions containing *help*, *believe*, and *give* and words like *flowerpot*, *mud puddle*, and *refrigerator* which fail to meet these expectations. All three constructions presume that the object is most likely to be a human being. Help is meaningless to a flowerpot because it cannot appreciate the benefit it receives. A mud puddle doesn’t have a story to tell and cannot inspire belief. A refrigerator cannot do anything with money, so there is no point in giving it any. The reason that inanimate objects don’t work in these contexts is that they are incapable of serving as the subjects of further action. If you were to play this round of Mad Libs in Russian, you would put all three words in the dative case because the verbs *помогать* ‘help’, *вѣрить* ‘believe’, and *дать* ‘give’ would require you to do so, but they still wouldn’t make any more sense in Russian than in English. The dative case shows that all three contexts have something in common, and as we saw above, they all share the expectation that the dative item is capable of being a subject. This doesn’t mean that all dative items are going to be human or even animate, but it does mean that when you are dealing with a dative item, it is likely to be able to react or at least to exert forces of its own.

There are three meanings to the dative, all of which involve the dative’s capacity to interact with its surroundings. The first two meanings are relatively passive, involving receiving objects (DATIVE: A RECEIVER) and absorbing experiences (DATIVE: AN EXPERIENCER), whereas the third one is relatively active, involving exerting equal or superior strength in relation to something else (DATIVE: A COMPETITOR).

A dative item is one that can react or exert forces of its own.

An overview of the dative case.

## DATIVE: A RECEIVER 1—The indirect object

DATIVE: A RECEIVER expresses the indirect object.

DATIVE: A RECEIVER in the context of giving.

DATIVE: A RECEIVER involves the transfer of an object from one thing or person to another, as in *Sally gave the book to John*. The thing or person on the receiving end (John) is marked with the dative. You might recognize this as the indirect object (the direct object, of course, is the book, marked in the accusative). As we will see, the tricky thing about Russian is that you can sometimes have an indirect object (DATIVE: A RECEIVER) without an obvious direct object (ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION). But let's start with some straightforward examples.

Giving is a universal experience of human interaction, and it serves as the logical starting point for the meanings of the dative. Russian has two verbs for 'give': *давать/дать* (which can have many prefixes) and *дарить/подарить*, and the following examples illustrate their use with the dative:

Дори́ан обхо́дит свои́х ученико́в, раздаёт *им* но́ты.  
[Dorian-NOM walk-around own pupils-ACC, gives-out them-DAT music-ACC.]  
Dorian makes the rounds of his pupils, handing out music *to them*.

Иде́я была́ мо́я, я сама́ подары́ла её *своему́ нача́льнику*.  
[Idea-NOM was mine-NOM, I myself-NOM gave it-ACC own boss-DAT.]  
The idea was mine, I gave it *to my boss* myself.

You can see that these sentences have parallel structures, as indicated in this table:

subject	verb	<i>indirect object</i>	direct object
Dorian	hands out	<i>to pupils</i>	music
I	gave	<i>to my boss</i>	the idea

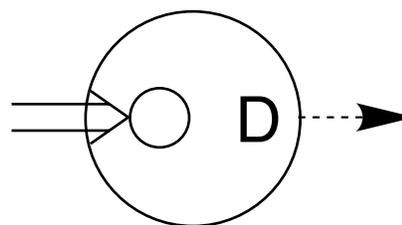
The indirect object can act as the subject for a further action.

DATIVE: A RECEIVER in the context of metaphorical giving.

You can also see that both the pupils and the boss are much more than passive destinations for the music and the idea. In both instances we presume that they are going to do something with what they have received: the pupils are probably going to play the music on their instruments, and the boss is probably going to implement the idea. Even if they fail to do anything, the fact that they could do something is crucial here.

Giving need not involve tangible objects. In English we can offer more abstract, metaphorical "gifts", such as chances and opportunities, and the same goes for Russian:

Ему́ да́ли шанс вы́платить долги́ по креди́там.  
[Him-DAT gave chance-ACC pay-off debts-ACC along credits-DAT.]  
They gave *him* the chance to pay off his debts on credit.



A force (arrow) brings an item (small circle) to a DATIVE: A RECEIVER (circle labeled D), which has the potential to exert a force (dotted arrow)

Смея́сь, мы широко́ открыва́ем рот, напряга́я все мыш́цы лица́, и даём возможность по́лностью рассла́биться *други́м мыш́цам*.

[Laughing, we-NOM widely open mouth-ACC, tensing all muscles-ACC face-GEN, and give opportunity-ACC completely relax other muscles-DAT.]

When we laugh, we open wide our mouth, tensing all the muscles in our face, and we give *our other muscles* an opportunity to completely relax.

Acts of transferring objects from one party to another are fairly widespread; in English, for example we can *send*, *offer*, *supply*, and *deliver* things to other people. We can even extend this idea of making something available to someone to words like *buy* (She bought *me* a ticket) and *show* (He showed *me* his report card). These words aren't really synonyms of *give*, but they share the same basic conceptual structure, and it is no surprise that in Russian words like these will also have dative indirect objects, as we see in the following table and examples:

Words meaning 'transfer' or 'make available' trigger DATIVE: A RECEIVER.

#### Expressions of giving associated with DATIVE: A RECEIVER

'return' возвраща́ть/возврати́ть/верну́ть	'send, dispatch' отправля́ть/отпра́вить	'send' посыла́ть/посла́ть посы́лка 'sending; parcel'
'deliver, entrust' вруча́ть/вручи́ть вруче́ние 'delivery'	'pass, convey' передава́ть/переда́ть переда́ча 'passing; broadcast'	'offer' предлага́ть/предложи́ть предложе́ние 'offer'
'give out, issue' выдава́ть/выда́ть вы́дача 'issue'	'show' пока́зывать/показа́ть показа́ние 'testimony, evidence'	'grant' предоставля́ть/предоста́вить предоставле́ние 'grant(ing)'
'give' дава́ть/да́ть	'buy' покупа́ть/купи́ть	'bring' приноси́ть/принести́ приноше́ние 'bringing'
'give as a gift' дари́ть/подари́ть даре́ние 'giving' подáрок 'gift'	'entrust' поруча́ть/поручи́ть	'sell' продава́ть/продáть продáжа 'sale'
'bequeath' завеща́ть	'dedicate' посвяща́ть/посвяти́ть посвяще́ние, 'dedication'	'hand out, distribute' раздава́ть/разда́ть разда́ча 'distribution'
'render' ока́зывать/оказа́ть	'supply' поставля́ть/поста́вить поста́вка 'supply, delivery'	'hand over, surrender' сдава́ть/сда́ть сда́ча 'handing over, surrender'
'leave (for)' оста́влиять/оста́вить		

DATIVE: A  
RECEIVER in the  
context of  
transfer.

Пáртия монархíстов напра́вила письмó *англи́йскому прínцу Эдвáрду* с прóсьбой стать эсто́нским королём.

[Party-NOM monarchists-GEN sent letter-ACC English prince Edward-DAT with request-INST become Estonian King-INST.]

The monarchist party sent a letter *to the English Prince Edward* with a request that he become King of Estonia.

Кита́й поставля́л *Ира́ну* компонен́ты, кото́рые мо́гут бы́ть испо́льзованы́ для создáния я́дерного ору́жия.

[China-NOM supplied Iran-DAT components-ACC, which-NOM can be used-NOM for creation-GEN nuclear weapons-GEN.]

China supplied components *to Iran* that can be used to create nuclear weapons.

DATIVE: A  
RECEIVER in the  
context of  
metaphorical  
transfer.

Transfer of objects with a variety of verbs also lends itself to abstract, metaphorical usage. Granting status and selling your soul involve a transfer that is more fictive than actual, but still the connection with giving is clear:

Он та́кже предло́жил предоста́вить *восточноевропе́йским страна́м* ста́тус наблюда́телей при Запа́дноевропе́йском сою́зе.

[He-NOM also suggested grant East-European countries-DAT status-ACC observers-GEN at West-European union-LOC.]

He also suggested granting *the East European countries* the status of observers in the West European union.

Все ду́шу *дья́волу* прода́ют, а я подарíл беспла́тно.

[Everyone-NOM soul-ACC devil-DAT sell, but I-NOM gave for-free.]

Everyone sells their soul *to the devil*, but I gave mine for free.

DATIVE: A  
RECEIVER in the  
context of  
creation.

Another way to give someone something is by creating the gift for the person. If I say *I'll bake you a cake for your birthday*, I'm promising to bring the cake into existence so that you will receive it; in Russian you would be the DATIVE: A RECEIVER. All kinds of words involving making things can be recruited for this purpose, such as building, cooking, sewing, etc. Here's an example:

*Себе́* она́ ниче́го не пострóила.

[Self-DAT she-NOM nothing-GEN not built.]

She didn't build anything *for herself*.

DATIVE: A  
RECEIVER in the  
absence 'give'.

The force of the dative case is so strong that the role of DATIVE: A RECEIVER comes through loud and clear even when there is no word indicating giving at all, as in this example:

Наслédники, три бра́та и сестра́, переругáлись, обсужда́я что — *кому́*.

[Heirs-NOM, three brothers-NOM and sister-NOM cussed-each-other-out, discussing what-NOM who-DAT.]

The heirs, three brothers and a sister, cussed each other out while discussing what would go/be given *to whom*.

You will also recognize this verb-less construction in the formulaic phrase *Слáва Бóгу* [Glory-NOM God-DAT] ‘Glory to God’.

## DATIVE: A RECEIVER 2—Indirect objects without direct objects

The remaining uses of the DATIVE: A RECEIVER submeaning are not indirect objects in the classic sense because they don’t have any ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION direct objects. However, they do involve the transfer of something to a receiver, even if that something is not explicitly named in the accusative case, and for this reason we can think of these uses as being very close relatives to the indirect object. Usually the “missing” direct objects can be found in the meaning of the trigger word; for example, verbs of communication all involve the transfer of a signal to a receiver, and these verbs take the dative case. When you make a contribution to a worthy cause, it is not necessary to specify that you gave them money, we still understand the charitable organization as the receiver even when the money is not mentioned. It is also possible for something to bring itself to a receiver, in which case the “missing” direct object is the subject of the sentence. Each of these types of indirect objects will be taken up below.

There is quite a selection of words that express delivering signals to receivers. For convenience they can be broken down into two groups: those that involve talking and those that do not. In most instances you can easily recover the “missing” direct object by restating these words as ‘give a signal to X’, where the signal is the direct object and X is the DATIVE: A RECEIVER. Because the signal is already implicit in the word, we can skip right over it and go directly to the receiver. This table contains some of the communication words associated with the dative that you are likely to encounter:

DATIVE: A RECEIVER can express the indirect object without a direct object.

“Missing” direct objects include signals, money and gifts, and the self.

DATIVE: A RECEIVER in the context of giving signals.

### Expressions of communication associated with DATIVE: A RECEIVER

#### communication: talking

‘thanks to’ благодаря	‘call’ звонить/позвонить звонóк ‘call’	‘explain’ объяснять/объяснить
‘order’ велеть/повелеть	‘flatter’ льстить/польстить	‘answer’ отвечать/ответить отвёт ‘answer’
‘say вы to’ в́икать в́икание ‘saying вы to’	‘pray’ молиться/помолиться молитва ‘prayer’ молебен ‘prayer service’ молящийся ‘person who is praying’	‘say yes to’ поддакивать/поддакнуть поддакивание ‘saying yes to’
‘speak, tell’ говорить/сказать	‘remind’ напомина́ть/напо́мнить напо́минание ‘reminder’	‘order’ прика́зывать/приказа́ть приказа́ние ‘order’
‘threaten’ грози́ть/пригрози́ть угро́за ‘threat’	‘promise’ обеща́ть	‘protest’ протестова́ть протéст ‘protest’

## Expressions of communication associated with DATIVE: A RECEIVER (continued)

**communication: talking**

‘report, inform’ сообщать/сообщить сообщение ‘report, communication’	‘say ты to’ тыкать тыкание ‘saying ты to’	‘read (out loud) to’ читать/прочитать (вслух)
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‘advise’ советовать/посоветовать совет ‘advice’		
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**communication: other signals**

‘applaud’ аплодировать	‘write’ писать/написать письмо ‘letter’	‘signal’ сигнализировать сигнализировать(ся) сигнал ‘signal’
‘nod’ кивать/кивнуть	‘wink’ подмигивать/подмигнуть подмигивание ‘winking’	‘laugh’ смеяться/посмеяться
‘bow’ кланяться/поклониться поклон ‘bow’	‘message, epistle’ послание	‘telegraph’ телеграфировать
‘wave’ махать/помахать	‘radio’ радиировать	‘smile’ улыбаться/улыбнуться
‘blink, wink’ моргать/моргнуть	‘applaud, clap’ рукоплескать рукоплескание ‘applause’	‘grin’ усмехаться/усмехнуться

The following three examples illustrate how communication words involving talking are used with the dative:

Сегодня он напоминает *мне*: в январе испытания нового стеклопластика должны быть закончены.

[Today he-NOM reminds me-DAT: in January-LOC tests-NOM new plexiglass-GEN should-NOM be finished-NOM.]

Today he reminds *me*: the tests on the new plexiglass should be finished in January.

Я позвонил *заведующему* спортивной кафедрой.

[I-NOM called head-DAT athletic department-INST.]

I called *the head* of the athletic department.

А я отвечаю *ему*, что я трачу только на еду.

[And I-NOM answer him-DAT, that I-NOM spend only on food-ACC.]

And I answer *him* that I only spend money on food.

There are some communication verbs that do not use the dative case. Благодарить/поблагодарить ‘thank’ has an accusative direct object, but it used to take the dative, and the preposition благодаря ‘thanks to’ still does:

Население Сербской Республики благодаря *своим политикам* уже расколото между Пале и Баня-Лукой.

[Population-NOM Serbian Republic-GEN thanks own politicians-DAT already split-NOM between Pale-INST and Banja-Luka-INST.]

Thanks to *its politicians* the population of the Republic of Serbia is already split between Pale and Banja-Luka.

As you see in the table above, communication through bodily gestures and electrical signals is likewise directed to DATIVE: A RECEIVER. Here is an example so you can see the parallel with verbs of verbal communication:

Он поклонился *актрисе*.

[He-NOM bowed actress-DAT.]

He bowed *to the actress* .

In both Russian and English there are some verbs that mean ‘give money or a gift’, such as *pay* and *donate* . Because the idea that money or a gift is involved is already part of the word, it doesn’t need to appear as an accusative direct object, just like the signals above. Here are some of the words you can expect to see with DATIVE: A RECEIVER, along with an example to illustrate:

DATIVE: A RECEIVER in the context of giving money or gifts.

#### Expressions of giving money associated with DATIVE: A RECEIVER

‘donate’

жертвовать/пожертвовать  
пожертвование ‘donation’

‘compensate’

компенсировать  
компенсация ‘compensation’

‘pay’

платить/заплатить  
плата, зарпла́та ‘pay, wages’

‘change (money back)’  
сдача

Я в состоянии заплатить *гражданам* за грехи предыдущих правителей.

[I-NOM in condition-LOC pay citizens-DAT for sins-ACC previous rulers-GEN.]

I am in a position to pay *the citizens* for the sins of their previous rulers.

### DATIVE: A RECEIVER 3—Giving the self

As an alternative to presenting something to a DATIVE: A RECEIVER, the subject can simply present itself, and this can impact the receiver in two ways. The subject can physically bring itself to the receiver, or it can bring itself merely to the perception of the receiver, usually with verbs meaning ‘appear (in a dream)’, ‘seem’, ‘make an impression’. Here are some words that commonly indicate the giving of the self to a DATIVE: A RECEIVER:

DATIVE: A RECEIVER in the context of giving the self.

#### Expressions of appearance and manifestation associated with DATIVE: A RECEIVER

‘appear to in a dream’  
грéзиться/пригрéзиться

‘come to; allow oneself to  
be caught by’  
дава́ться/да́ться

‘go to, fall to one’s lot,  
be inherited by’  
достава́ться/доста́ться

## Expressions of appearance and manifestation associated with DATIVE: A RECEIVER (contin-

'become fixed in one's memory' запóмниться	'seem to' казáться/показáться	'introduce oneself to' представля́ться/предста́виться представле́ние 'introduction'
'known to' извёстный	'appear to, haunt' мерещи́ться/померещи́ться	'go in front of, precede' предшествова́ть
'impress' импони́ровать	'toward' навстрéчу	'appear to in a dream' снíться/приснíться

Money presents itself to receivers in two situations in this example. In the first instance the receiver is an individual on a payroll (who pays attention to how much is in his check), whereas in the second one it is an anonymous firm (that will sign off on any amount of money):

Ведь зарпла́та достаётся *конечному потребителю*, кото́рый допóдлинно знаёт, получи́л он миллио́н и́ли полмиллио́на, в то вре́мя как инвестицио́нные де́ньги уходи́т *фирме*, кото́рая за́просто мо́жет расписа́ться за любо́е коли́чество де́нег.

[After-all salary-NOM goes end user-DAT, who-NOM for-certain knows, received he-NOM million-ACC or half-million-ACC, in that time-ACC as investment money-NOM goes firm-DAT, which-NOM simply can sign for any amount-ACC money-GEN.]

After all a salary goes *to the end user*, who knows for certain whether he received a million or half a million, whereas investment money goes *to a firm* which can simply sign for any amount of money.

Ultimately many verbs of motion can be used to bring the subject to a receiver; the preposition навстрéчу 'toward, to meet' is often used to enhance this meaning:

Навстрéчу *мне* спеши́т эконо́мический обозрева́тель.

[Toward me-DAT hurries economic reviewer-NOM.]

The economic reviewer comes hurrying toward *me*.

The following three examples are of the metaphoric type. In all cases the subject is presenting itself to the perception of the receiver, by making an appearance (to waking or dreaming consciousness) or by making an impression.

До сего́дняшнего дня мо́я лабора́тория казáлась *мне* святы́м ме́стом.

[Until today's day-GEN my laboratory-NOM seemed me-DAT holy place-INST.]

Up to the present day my laboratory has seemed *to me* to be a holy place.