



RUSSIAN TABLE

Genitive Case



When and how to use -y and -ю as a genitive ending in Russian

Singular masculine nouns have alternative endings -y or -ю in the genitive case. These endings are used **in spoken Russian** in the following situations:

- To talk about the amount of something, for example:

стакан чаю (staKAN CHAYu, "a glass of tea")

BUT use the regular genitive ending in стакан горячего чая (staKAN gaRYAchiva CHAya, "a glass of hot tea"), because there is a characteristic / adjective added!

насыпать перцу (naSYpat PYERtsoo, "to add pepper")

BUT if you're not talking about a quantity, use the regular genitive ending, as in, вкус перца (fkoos PYERtsa, "the taste of pepper")

добавить чесноку (daBAvit chisnaKOO, "to add garlic")

BUT if you're not talking about quantity, use the regular genitive ending, as in, посадка чеснока (paSATka chisnaKA, "garlic planting")



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- To talk about “just a bit” of something (when nouns have diminutive suffixes -ик, -ок), for example:

поесть сахарку (paYEST sakharKOO, “to eat a little bit of sugar”)

- To specify what kind of members go into a collective noun, for example:

куча народу (KOOcha naROdoo, “a bunch of people”)

- To talk about abstract nouns, for example:

много шуму (MNOga SHOOmoo, “a lot of noise”)

нагнать страху (naGNAT STRAKhoo, “to give a fright”)

- In idiomatic phrases, such as:

- танцевать до упаду (tantsyVAT da ooPAdoo, “to dance until you drop”)

- умереть с голоду (oomiTYET z GOLadoo, “to die from hunger”)

- ни слуху ни духу (ni SLOOkhoo ni DOOkhoo, “nothing has been heard of” ; lit: “no sound no breath”)

- с глазу на глаз (z GLAZoo na glas, “eye-to-eye”)

- с жиру беситься (z ZHYroo biSEEtSa, “to have too much money and too little to do,” lit: “to go crazy from riches”)

