

Fundamentals of Modern Belarusian

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While living in several former republics of the USSR, I learned to speak Russian, the *lingua franca* of CIS countries. Russian is spoken by the majority of adults in the CIS, and has served me well wherever I have traveled in the former Soviet Union. Russian is the dominant language in Belarus. Nevertheless, Belarusian still holds a prominent position in Belarusian society as a symbol of Belarusian identity and nationalism. Many government documents are printed only in Belarusian and most street signs are in Belarusian. Every schoolchild is required to learn the language, and almost all Belarusians can speak it at least to some extent. A knowledge of Belarusian is valuable to anyone who spends any amount of time in Belarus.

This book was written with the assumption that the reader is already moderately familiar with either Russian or Ukrainian. Little explanation is given of noun gender and cases, or verb aspect and tenses. The reader should consult either a Russian or Ukrainian grammar for more details on these principles. I have attempted, in this book, to thoroughly describe those parts of Belarusian grammar that differ from Russian or Ukrainian.

There is great variation in the Belarusian language from region to region, and any attempt to make an authoritative description of the Belarusian language will be plagued by this fact. I have strived to make this work as consistent as possible with the standard Belarusian used in most literature. To this end, I have set forth the most common declensions, conjugations, and vocabulary.

To my comrades of the Vitebskaya Banda

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Chapter 1

Spelling Rules

It is important to understand Belarusian spelling. It is quite complex and more difficult than Russian. Most of the complexity of Belarusian morphology is a result of spelling rules. This problem is aggravated by the competition between two existing sets of spelling rules, hereafter referred to as the Phonetic and Official orthographies. I have chosen the Official orthography for this work since it has more acceptance. I have noted in this chapter those ways in which the Phonetic differs from the Official orthography.

1.1 Vowels

Belarusian has 10 letters which represent vowel sounds. They can be divided into two categories, non-iotized vowels, and their iotized counterparts. The letters in the second column represent the same sounds as the vowels in the first, except they have an initial “y” sound.

а	я
о	ё
у	ю
ы	і
э	е

1.2 Invariably Hard Consonants

The letters **д**, **ж**, **р**, **т**, **ч**, and **ш** are always hard, they are never followed by any letter from the second column. In a situation where a word’s morphology would normally place an iotized vowel after a **д** or a **т**, those consonants are changed to **дз** or **ц** respectively. In a situation where an iotized vowel would normally follow a **ж**, **р**, **ч**, or **ш**, that vowel is changed to its non-iotized counterpart. The consonants **г**, **к**, **х** are never followed by the letter **ы**. In a situation where an **ы** would normally occur, it is changed to an **і** if following one of these three letters.

б <u>я</u> да	<i>misery</i>	у б <u>я</u> дз <u>э</u>	<i>in misery</i>
га <u>р</u> а	<i>mountain</i>	на га <u>р</u> ы	<i>on the mountain</i>
мя <u>ж</u> а	<i>boundary</i>	на мя <u>ж</u> ы	<i>on the boundary</i>
пі <u>р</u> о <u>г</u>	<i>pastry</i>	пі <u>р</u> а <u>г</u> і	<i>pastries</i>
ра <u>ст</u> у <u>ц</u> ь	<i>they grow</i>	ра <u>ст</u> ц <u>э</u>	<i>it grows</i>

1.3 Impossibility of unstressed о, э, or ё

The letters о, э, and ё only exist when stressed. When unstressed, the letters о and э change to а. The letter ё usually changes to а е, but sometimes it also changes to а я. See 1.4 for more details on spelling rules that effect е. Care must be taken when stress shifts to a different syllable.

Sing.	Pl.	
вол	вал <u>ы</u>	<i>ox</i>
сасн <u>а</u>	с <u>о</u> сны	<i>pine tree</i>
стол	стал <u>ы</u>	<i>table</i>

There are exceptions, all of which are loan words.

ра <u>д</u> ыё	<i>radio</i>
тэ <u>л</u> ев <u>и</u> зар	<i>television</i>
экан <u>о</u> міка	<i>economy</i>

1.4 Conversion of е to other vowels

Any е or ё, which immediately precedes the accent, is changed to а.

адз <u>е</u> ць	<i>to dress(per.)</i>	адз <u>я</u> в <u>а</u> ць	<i>to dress(imp.)</i>
в <u>е</u> цер	<i>wind</i>	в <u>я</u> т <u>р</u> ы	<i>winds</i>

Most exceptions to this are foreign words

бенз <u>и</u> н	<i>gasoline</i>
сез <u>о</u> н	<i>season</i>
семна <u>д</u> ца <u>ц</u> ь	<i>seventeen</i>
электр <u>о</u> н	<i>electron</i>

1.5 Conversion of о to ы

In words with the accent on the last syllable, it is common for a preceding syllable -ро- to change to -ры-.

бр <u>о</u> вы	<i>eyebrows</i>	бры <u>в</u> о	<i>eyebrow</i>
гр <u>о</u> м	<i>thunder</i>	гры <u>м</u> е <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to rumble</i>
кр <u>о</u> ў	<i>blood</i>	кры <u>в</u> і	<i>of blood</i>

1.6 The apostrophe

In Belarusian, this letter fills the function of the Russian letter ъ. It only occurs following a consonant, and preceding an iotized vowel. Having no sound of its own, its function is to separate the sound of the vowel following it from the consonant preceding it. This is either to prevent the consonant from being softened, or to conform to spelling rules because the preceding consonant is invariably hard.

аб'явіць	<i>to declare</i>
п'яны	<i>intoxicated</i>
сур'ёзны	<i>serious</i>

1.7 Assimilation

Belarusian de-voices its consonants exactly like Russian. Voiced consonants followed by unvoiced consonants are pronounced as unvoiced. Unvoiced consonants followed by voiced consonants are pronounced voiced. Consonants at the end of words are pronounced as unvoiced. These rules are not completely reliable. Belarusians seem to be inconsistent in following them.

Belarusian has assimilation with respect to softness. If a consonant is soft, an immediately preceding consonant is also softened, provided it is one of the eligible consonants. Only the consonants **дз**, **з**, **л**, **н**, **с**, and **ц** are eligible to be softened in this way. In the Phonetic orthography, a **ь** is placed between the two softened consonants. For the purposes of both assimilation and pronunciation, the letter combination **дз** is treated as a single letter. The consonants **б**, **в**, **м**, and **ф** are not softened this way, but if they are followed by an iotized vowel, consonants that precede it can be softened by assimilation. The invariably hard consonants cannot be softened this way, and will prevent those consonants preceding them from being softened by assimilation.

Phonetic	Official	
дзьв <u>ь</u> еры	дзв <u>ь</u> еры	<i>door</i>
ёсь <u>ь</u> ць	ёс <u>ь</u> ць	<i>there is</i>
п <u>ь</u> сня	п <u>ь</u> сня	<i>song</i>

1.8 Rules for **в**, **у**, and **ў**

If the letter **у** occurs after a vowel, even if the vowel ends the previous word, it is written as an **ў**. This letter is pronounced like the English 'w'.

Пайшлі ў хляў.	<i>She went into the shed.</i>
Стаіць у хлявѳ	<i>She is standing in the shed.</i>
Гэты хлеб увѳсь.	<i>This is all the bread.</i>
Гэта ўсѳ, што ѳсць.	<i>That's all there is.</i>
Ўвайшлі яны ў хату.	<i>They went into the house.</i>
Я ўвайшоў у хату.	<i>He went into the house.</i>

The letter **в** cannot occur, unless it is immediately followed by a vowel, otherwise, it must change to **аў**. The letter **ў** can precede iotized vowels, but is changed to a **в** if it precedes a non-iotized vowel. When preceding an iotized vowel, it is not always clear whether the consonant should be a **в** or an **ў**.

любоў	<i>love</i>	любоўю	<i>with love</i>
справа	<i>affair</i>	спраў	<i>of the affairs</i>
хляў	<i>shed</i>	за хлявом	<i>behind the shed</i>
хляў	<i>shed</i>	у хлявѳ	<i>in the shed</i>

Words cannot begin with an **о**. Many words which would otherwise begin with an **о** instead have the letter **в** added to the beginning. If the **о** changes to an **а** due to an accent shift, the initial **в** often drops off.

возера	<i>lake</i>	азѳры	<i>lakes</i>
вокны	<i>windows</i>	акно	<i>window</i>

Note these exceptions:

одум	<i>deep thought</i>	ордэн	<i>ceremonial order</i>
опера	<i>opera</i>	ордер	<i>warrant</i>
орган	<i>organ</i>		

Chapter 2

Noun Declension

Because of the complex nature of Belarusian spelling rules, I have attempted to give exhaustive examples of the different declensions. Most of the declensions are slight variations of one of the few basic declensions, differing only because of the manifestation of spelling rules. It should be noted that it is extremely common for a noun with accented endings in the singular to have unaccented endings in the plural, and vice-versa.

2.1 Masculine nouns ending in a hard consonant

Most masculine nouns with accented endings decline like стол, *table*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	стол	стол <u>ы</u>
Acc.	стол	стол <u>ы</u>
Gen.	стол <u>а</u>	стол <u>о</u> ў
Dat.	стол <u>у</u>	стол <u>а</u> м
Instr.	стол <u>ом</u>	стол <u>а</u> мі
Prep.	на стол <u>е</u>	на стол <u>а</u> х

вугал	<i>corner</i>
лоб	<i>forehead</i>

Most masculine nouns with unaccented endings decline like план, *plan*.

Nom.	план	пл <u>а</u> ны
Acc.	план	пл <u>а</u> ны
Gen.	пл <u>а</u> на	пл <u>а</u> наў
Dat.	пл <u>а</u> ну	пл <u>а</u> нам
Instr.	пл <u>а</u> нам	пл <u>а</u> намі
Prep.	у пл <u>а</u> не	у пл <u>а</u> нах

аўто <u>б</u> ус	<i>bus</i>
клас	<i>class</i>

Masculine nouns with accented endings in **-д** or **-т** decline like *суд*, *judgment*. The final consonant becomes either **ц** or **дз** for the prepositional singular.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	суд	суды
Acc.	суд	суды
Gen.	суда	судоў
Dat.	суду	судам
Instr.	судом	судамі
Prep.	на судзе	на судах

куст	<i>bush</i>
ліст	<i>leaf</i>

Masculine nouns with accented endings in **-г**, **-к**, or **-х** decline like *пірог*, *pastry*.

Nom.	пірог	пірагі
Acc.	пірог	пірагі
Gen.	пірага	пірагоў
Dat.	пірагу	пірагам
Instr.	пірагом	пірагамі
Prep.	у пірагу	у пірагах

бок	<i>side</i>
мех	<i>sack</i>

Masculine nouns with unaccented endings in **-г**, **-к**, or **-х** decline like *гук*, *sound*.

Nom.	гук	гукі
Acc.	гук	гукі
Gen.	гуку	гукі
Dat.	гуку	гукам
Instr.	гукам	гукамі
Prep.	у гукі	у гукі

луг	<i>meadow</i>
страх	<i>fear</i>

Masculine nouns with unaccented endings in **-д** or **-т** decline like **погляд**, *outlook*, decline like **план**, except the final consonant becomes **ц** or **дз** for the prepositional singular.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	погляд	погляды
Acc.	погляд	погляды
Gen.	погляду	поглядаў
Dat.	погляду	поглядам
Instr.	поглядам	поглядамі
Prep.	у поглядзе	у поглядах

асфальт *asphalt*

Masculine nouns with accented endings in **-ж**, **-р**, **-ц**, **-ч**, or **-ш** decline like **двор**, *yard*.

Nom.	двор	двары
Acc.	двор	двары
Gen.	двара	двароў
Dat.	двары	дварам
Instr.	дваром	дварамі
Prep.	на двары	на дварах

нож *knife*
канец *end*
мяч *ball*
кош *basket*

Masculine nouns with unaccented endings in **-ж**, **-р**, **-ц**, **-ч**, or **-ш** decline like **катэдж**, *cottage*.

Nom.	катэдж	катэджы
Acc.	катэдж	катэджы
Gen.	катэджа	катэджаў
Dat.	катэджу	катэджам
Instr.	катэджам	катэджамі
Prep.	у катэджы	у катэджах

ровар *bicycle*
харч *meat*
палец *finger*
аркуш *sheet of paper*

2.2 Masculine nouns ending in -ь or -й

Most nouns of this group with accented endings decline like пень, *stump*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	пень	пні
Acc.	пень	пні
Gen.	пня	пнёў
Dat.	пню	пням
Instr.	пнём	пнямі
Prep.	на пні	на пнях

а <u>г</u> нь	<i>fire</i>
руч <u>а</u> й	<i>stream</i>

Nouns of this group with unaccented endings decline like портфель, *briefcase*.

Nom.	порт <u>ф</u> эль	порт <u>ф</u> элі
Acc.	порт <u>ф</u> эль	порт <u>ф</u> элі
Gen.	порт <u>ф</u> эля	порт <u>ф</u> эляў
Dat.	порт <u>ф</u> элю	порт <u>ф</u> элям
Instr.	порт <u>ф</u> элем	порт <u>ф</u> элямі
Prep.	у порт <u>ф</u> элі	у порт <u>ф</u> элях

а <u>ў</u> тамаб <u>і</u> ль	<i>automobile</i>
га <u>й</u>	<i>grove</i>

2.3 Neuter nouns ending in -о or -а

Most neuter nouns ending in -о decline like крыло, *wing*.

Nom.	крыл <u>о</u>	крыл <u>ы</u>
Acc.	крыл <u>о</u>	крыл <u>ы</u>
Gen.	крыл <u>а</u>	крыл <u>а</u> ў
Dat.	крыл <u>у</u>	крыл <u>а</u> м
Instr.	крыл <u>о</u> м	крыл <u>а</u> мі
Prep.	крыл <u>е</u>	крыл <u>а</u> х

акн <u>о</u>	<i>window</i>
пісьм <u>о</u>	<i>letter</i>

Most neuter nouns ending in **-a** decline like кола, *wheel*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	ко <u>ла</u>	ко <u>лы</u>
Acc.	ко <u>ла</u>	ко <u>лы</u>
Gen.	ко <u>ла</u>	ко <u>ла</u> ў
Dat.	ко <u>лу</u>	ко <u>лам</u>
Instr.	ко <u>лам</u>	ко <u>ла</u> мі
Prep.	на ко <u>ле</u>	на ко <u>лах</u>

дрэва *tree*

Neuter nouns ending with **д** or **т** as the final consonant decline like крыло or кола, except the final consonant becomes **ц** or **дз** respectively for the prepositional singular.

Nom.	Dat. & Prep.	
гня <u>зд</u> о	гня <u>зд</u> э	<i>nest</i>
ж <u>ы</u> та	ж <u>ы</u> це	<i>rye</i>
ле <u>т</u> а	ле <u>т</u> це	<i>summer</i>

Neuter nouns ending in **-га**, **-ка**, or **-ха** decline like воблака, *cloud*.

Nom.	во <u>б</u> лака	во <u>б</u> лакі
Acc.	во <u>б</u> лака	во <u>б</u> лакі
Gen.	во <u>б</u> лака	во <u>б</u> лакаў
Dat.	во <u>б</u> лаку	во <u>б</u> лакам
Instr.	во <u>б</u> лакам	во <u>б</u> лакамі
Prep.	на во <u>б</u> лаку	на во <u>б</u> лаках

рэха *echo*

Neuter nouns ending in **-жо**, **-ро**, **-цо**, **-чо**, or **-шо** decline like вядро, *bucket*.

Nom.	в <u>я</u> дро	в <u>я</u> дры
Acc.	в <u>я</u> дро	в <u>я</u> дры
Gen.	в <u>я</u> дра	в <u>я</u> дроў
Dat.	в <u>я</u> дру	в <u>я</u> драм
Instr.	в <u>я</u> дром	в <u>я</u> драмі
Prep.	на в <u>я</u> дры	на в <u>я</u> драх

ружжо *gun*
яйцо *egg*
плячо *shoulder*

Neuter nouns ending in **-жа, -ра, -ца, -ча, or -ша** decline like **акенца**, *small window*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	акен <u>ц</u> а	акен <u>ц</u> ы
Acc.	акен <u>ц</u> а	акен <u>ц</u> ы
Gen.	акен <u>ц</u> а	акен <u>ц</u> аў
Dat.	акен <u>ц</u> у	акен <u>ц</u> ам
Instr.	акен <u>ц</u> ам	акен <u>ц</u> амі
Prep.	на акен <u>ц</u> ы	на акен <u>ц</u> ах

м <u>о</u> ра	<i>sea</i>
аблічч <u>а</u>	<i>countenance</i>
падсрэшш <u>а</u>	<i>eaves</i>

2.4 Neuter nouns ending in **-ё** or **-е**

Neuter nouns ending in **-ё** decline like **жыццё**, *life*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	жыцц <u>ё</u>	жыцц <u>і</u>
Acc.	жыцц <u>ё</u>	жыцц <u>і</u>
Gen.	жыцц <u>я</u>	жыцц <u>я</u> ў
Dat.	жыцц <u>ю</u>	жыцц <u>ям</u>
Instr.	жыцц <u>ём</u>	жыцц <u>ям</u> і
Prep.	на жыцц <u>і</u>	на жыцц <u>я</u> х

галл <u>ё</u>	<i>piece of firewood</i>
пачуцц <u>ё</u>	<i>sense</i>

Neuter nouns ending in **-е** decline like **пакаленне**, *generation*.

Nom.	пакал <u>е</u> нне	пакал <u>е</u> ння
Acc.	пакал <u>е</u> нне	пакал <u>е</u> ння
Gen.	пакал <u>е</u> ння	пакал <u>е</u> нняў
Dat.	пакал <u>е</u> нню	пакал <u>е</u> нням
Instr.	пакал <u>е</u> ннем	пакал <u>е</u> ннямі
Prep.	у пакал <u>е</u> нні	у пакал <u>е</u> ннях

выключ <u>э</u> нне	<i>exception</i>
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2.5 Neuter nouns ending in –мя

There are seven nouns of this group. They decline like стрэмя, *stirrup*. Many of these nouns have no plural form.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	стрэмя	страмёны
Acc.	стрэмя	страмёны
Gen.	стрэмя	страмёнаў
Dat.	стрэмяю	страмёнам
Instr.	стрэмам	страмёнамі
Prep.	аб стрэмі	аб страмёнах

бярэмя	<i>armful</i>
вымя	<i>udder</i>
племя	<i>tribe</i>
полымя	<i>flame</i>
сэмя	<i>seed</i>
цемя	<i>top of head</i>

2.6 Neuter nouns ending in –я

Nouns of this type decline like цяля, *calf*. All are animate and represent animal young.

Nom.	цяля	цяляты
Acc.	цяля	цялят
Gen.	цяляці	цялят
Dat.	цяляці	цялятах
Instr.	цялям	цялятамі
Prep.	аб цяляці	аб цялятах

парася	<i>piglet</i>
жарабя	<i>foal</i>

2.7 Feminine nouns ending in –а

Most nouns of this group with accented endings decline like сцяна, *wall*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	сця <u>на</u>	сц <u>е</u> ны
Acc.	сця <u>н</u> у	сц <u>е</u> ны
Gen.	сця <u>н</u> ы	сц <u>е</u> н
Dat.	сця <u>н</u> е	сц <u>е</u> нам
Instr.	сця <u>н</u> ой	сц <u>е</u> намі
Prep.	на сця <u>н</u> е	на сц <u>е</u> нах

гала <u>в</u> а	<i>head</i>
сас <u>н</u> а	<i>pine tree</i>

Most nouns of this group with unaccented endings decline like галіна, *branch*.

Nom.	галі <u>н</u> а	галі <u>н</u> ы
Acc.	галі <u>н</u> у	галі <u>н</u> ы
Gen.	галі <u>н</u> ы	галі <u>н</u>
Dat.	галі <u>н</u> е	галі <u>н</u> ам
Instr.	галі <u>н</u> ай	галі <u>н</u> амі
Prep.	на галі <u>н</u> е	на галі <u>н</u> ах

бу <u>л</u> ьба	<i>potatoe</i>
кра <u>м</u> а	<i>store</i>

Nouns of this group with **д** or **т** as the final consonant decline like крыло or кола, except the final consonant becomes **ц** or **дз** respectively for the prepositional singular.

Nom. Sing.	Dat. & Prep.	
плі <u>т</u> а	плі <u>ц</u> е	<i>slab</i>
ха <u>т</u> а	ха <u>ц</u> е	<i>home</i>
ва <u>д</u> а	ва <u>дз</u> е	<i>water</i>
бя <u>с</u> еда	бя <u>с</u> е <u>дз</u> е	<i>discussion</i>

Nouns of this group with the accented endings **-га**, **-ка**, or **-ха** decline like **нага**, *leg*. The ending changes to **-зе**, **-цэ**, or **-це** respectively, for the prepositional and dative singular.

	Sing.	Pl.	
Nom.	на <u>г</u> а	но <u>г</u> і	
Acc.	на <u>г</u> у	но <u>г</u> і	
Gen.	на <u>г</u> і	но <u>г</u>	
Dat.	на <u>з</u> е	на <u>г</u> а <u>м</u>	
Instr.	на <u>г</u> ой	на <u>г</u> а <u>м</u> і	
Prep.	на на <u>з</u> е	на на <u>г</u> а <u>х</u>	
	Nom.	Prep. & Dat.	
	стра <u>х</u> а	стра <u>с</u> е	<i>roof</i>
	ру <u>к</u> а	ру <u>ц</u> э	<i>arm</i>

Nouns of this group with the unaccented endings **-га**, **-ка**, or **-ха** decline like **дарога**, *road*. The ending changes to **-зе**, **-цы**, or **-це** respectively, for the prepositional and dative singular.

Nom.	даро <u>г</u> а	даро <u>г</u> і	
Acc.	даро <u>г</u> у	даро <u>г</u> і	
Gen.	даро <u>г</u> і	даро <u>г</u>	
Dat.	даро <u>з</u> е	даро <u>г</u> а <u>х</u>	
Instr.	даро <u>г</u> ай	даро <u>г</u> а <u>м</u> і	
Prep.	на даро <u>з</u> е	на даро <u>г</u> а <u>х</u>	
	Nom.	Prep. & Dat.	
	скру <u>х</u> а	скру <u>с</u> е	<i>sadness</i>
	зо <u>р</u> ка	зо <u>р</u> цы	<i>star</i>

Nouns of this group with the accented endings **-жа**, **-ра**, **-ча**, **-ца** or **-ша** decline like **мяжа**, *boundary*.

	Sing.	Pl.	
Nom.	мя <u>ж</u> а	ме <u>ж</u> ы	
Acc.	мя <u>ж</u> у	ме <u>ж</u> ы	
Gen.	мя <u>ж</u> ы	ме <u>ж</u> а <u>ў</u>	
Dat.	мя <u>ж</u> ы	ме <u>ж</u> а <u>м</u>	
Instr.	мя <u>ж</u> ой	ме <u>ж</u> а <u>м</u> і	
Prep.	на мя <u>ж</u> ы	на ме <u>ж</u> а <u>х</u>	
	гара	<i>mountain</i>	
	калан <u>ч</u> а	<i>observation tower</i>	
	ду <u>ш</u> а	<i>soul</i>	

Nouns of this group with the unaccented endings –жа, -ра, -ча, -ца or –ша decline like ма́ра, *dream*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	ма́ра	ма́ры
Acc.	ма́ру	ма́ры
Gen.	ма́ры	ма́раў
Dat.	ма́ры	ма́рам
Instr.	ма́рай	ма́рамі
Prep.	на ма́ры	на ма́рах

вежа	<i>spire</i>
ра́ніца	<i>morning</i>
ану́ча	<i>rag</i>
ка́ша	<i>porridge</i>

2.8 Feminine nouns ending in –я

Nouns of this group with accented endings decline like зямля́, *land*.

Nom.	зя́мля	зе́млі
Acc.	зя́млю	зе́млі
Gen.	зя́млі	зе́мляў
Dat.	зя́млі	зе́млям
Instr.	зя́млёй	зе́млямі
Prep.	на зя́млі	на зе́млях

сям'я́	<i>family</i>
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Nouns of this group with unaccented endings decline like лі́нія, *line*.

Nom.	лі́нія	лі́ніі
Acc.	лі́нію	лі́ніі
Gen.	лі́ніі	лі́ніяў
Dat.	лі́ніі	лі́ніям
Instr.	лі́ніяй	лі́ніямі
Prep.	на лі́ніі	на лі́ніях

ку́ля	<i>bullet</i>
па́ртыя	<i>party</i>

2.9 Feminine nouns ending in -ь or consonant

There are a couple of points that must be noted for these nouns. If the final consonant is preceded by a vowel, it is doubled in the instrumental singular. If the genitive plural ending is accented, it will be -ей or -эй, otherwise it will be -аў or -яў.

Nouns of this group with the ending -ь decline like *связь*, *connection*.

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	св <u>я</u> зь	св <u>я</u> зі
Acc.	св <u>я</u> зь	св <u>я</u> зі
Gen.	св <u>я</u> зі	св <u>я</u> зяў
Dat.	св <u>я</u> зі	св <u>я</u> зям
Instr.	св <u>я</u> ззю	св <u>я</u> зямі
Prep.	на св <u>я</u> зі	на св <u>я</u> зях

рад <u>а</u> ць	<i>joy</i>
сол <u>ь</u>	<i>salt</i>

Nouns of this group with the endings -ж, -р, ч, or -ш decline like *ноч*, *night*.

Nom.	но <u>ч</u>	но <u>ч</u> ы
Acc.	но <u>ч</u>	но <u>ч</u> ы
Gen.	но <u>ч</u> ы	нач <u>э</u> й
Dat.	но <u>ч</u> ы	нач <u>а</u> м
Instr.	но <u>ч</u> чу	нач <u>а</u> мі
Prep.	у но <u>ч</u> ы	у нач <u>а</u> х

вупр <u>а</u> ж	<i>bridled horse</i>
мыш	<i>mouse</i>

Chapter 3

Additional Points on Noun Declension

3.1 Accusative form of animate nouns

The accusative form of plural animate nouns is identical the genitive, not the nominative case. Adjectives describing these nouns take the genitive ending.

Пастух збірає своїх кароуь.

The herdsman gathers his cows.

Туды дзяўчат пасылалі.

That's where we sent the girls.

Прасіў у яго, не за сябе, за двух
маленькіх дзетак.

*I asked him, not for myself, but for two
little kids.*

The accusative case is identical to the genitive for singular masculine animate nouns as well. Corresponding adjectives take the genitive ending.

Яна прыдбае новага мужа.

She will get a new husband.

Ён перажываў за старэйшага брата

He was worried about his older brother.

Паважанага пешахода ігнаруюць і
прыгнятаюць пошлыя вадзіцелі.

*The respected pedestrian is ignored and
oppressed by common drivers.*

3.2 Masculine genitive singular endings а/я versus у/ю

There are two groups of masculine nouns. One of these groups has genitive singular endings of а and я, the other group has genitive singular endings of у, and ю. There is no easy way to tell to which group any given noun belongs.

Nouns with the genitive singular endings -а or -я are typically words that can be described in English with the word “many.” These nouns are often concrete, countable objects.

- Nouns denoting people, animals, and body parts
- Units of measurement and currency
- Geographical concepts

брата

of the brother

малатка

of the hammer

грама

of the gram

пальца

of the finger

дня

of the day

перашыйка

of the isthmus

кантынэнта

of the continent

рубля

of the ruble

каня

of the horse

чалавека

of the person

Nouns with the genitive singular endings –y or –ю are typically words that are used in the partitive sense. In other words, some portion of a whole is implied. Typically, such words represent more abstract ideas. They can usually be described in English with the word “much.” If a word in English cannot have an article like “the” applied to it, it will have the –y or –ю genitive ending in Belarusian.

- Nouns that denote a group, gathering, or collection of other things
- Natural phenomena, characteristics, actions, and spatial directions
- Substances and other nouns that can be described in English by the word “much”

выг ^л яду	<i>of the glance</i>	ро ^д у	<i>of the type</i>
дажд ^ж у	<i>of rain</i>	сну	<i>of sleep</i>
ко ^л еру	<i>of color</i>	усхо ^д у	<i>of the east</i>
набо ^р у	<i>of the collection</i>	хо ^л аду	<i>of the cold</i>
нато ^у пу	<i>of the crowd</i>	цу ^к ру	<i>of sugar</i>

3.3 Genitive plural endings

It is often very difficult to predict the genitive plural endings of nouns. The genitive plural form must be memorized for every feminine noun, and for masculine nouns ending in –ь.

Feminine nouns ending in –а or –я are the most problematic.

ве ^ж а	ве ^ж аў	<i>of the spires</i>	зя ^м ля	зе ^м ляў	<i>of the lands</i>
гала ^в а	гало ^ў	<i>of the heads</i>	кра ^м а	кра ^м аў	<i>of the shops</i>
галі ^н а	галі ^н	<i>of the branches</i>	лі ^н ія	лі ^н ій	<i>of the lines</i>
зо ^р ка	зо ^р ак	<i>of the stars</i>	ся ^м 'я	се ^м 'яў	<i>of the families</i>

Masculine nouns ending in –ь also have this issue.

гос ^ц ь	гас ^ц ей	<i>of the guests</i>	ло ^к аць	ло ^к цяў	<i>of the elbows</i>
ко ^н ь	ко ^н ей	<i>of the horses</i>	пе ^н ь	пне ^ў	<i>of the stumps</i>

Some nouns can have either ending.

мя ^ж а	меж or ме ^ж аў	<i>of the boundaries</i>
сас ^н а	со ^с ен or со ^с наў	<i>of the pine-trees</i>
ха ^т а	хат or ха ^т аў	<i>of the cottages</i>

3.4 Irregular prepositional endings

Many masculine and neuter nouns with unaccented endings whose final consonant *г* or *х*, have irregular prepositional singular endings. The final consonant morphs into *з* or *ц* respectively.

бе <u>ра</u> г	на бе <u>ра</u> зе	<i>on the shore</i>
ве <u>р</u> х	на ве <u>р</u> се	<i>on top</i>
ка <u>ж</u> ух	у ка <u>ж</u> у <u>се</u> *	<i>in the leather jacket</i>
лу <u>г</u>	на лу <u>з</u> е	<i>in the field</i>
на <u>ч</u> ле <u>г</u>	на на <u>ч</u> ле <u>з</u> е	<i>in the lodgings</i>
па <u>р</u> о <u>г</u>	на па <u>р</u> о <u>з</u> е	<i>at the threshold</i>
сне <u>г</u>	на сне <u>ц</u> е	<i>on the snow</i>
сто <u>г</u>	на сто <u>з</u> е	<i>on the haystack</i>

*The form *у кажуху* is equally common.

The following masculine and neuter nouns have irregular prepositional forms.

бра <u>т</u>	а <u>б</u> бра <u>т</u> у	<i>about the brother</i>
го <u>р</u> б	на го <u>р</u> бу	<i>on the hump</i>
ме <u>ч</u>	на мя <u>ч</u> ы	<i>on the sword</i>
по <u>ст</u>	на па <u>ст</u> у	<i>at the watch-post</i>
хо <u>д</u>	на ха <u>д</u> у	<i>in motion</i>
гну <u>зд</u> о	у гну <u>зд</u> е	<i>in the nest</i>
мала <u>к</u> о	у мала <u>ц</u> э	<i>in milk</i>
рэ <u>х</u> а	у рэ <u>с</u> е	<i>in the echo</i>

3.5 Feminine Instrumental Ending Variation

There exists a variation of the instrumental ending for feminine nouns ending in *-а* or *-я*. This alternate ending is created by replacing the final *-й* with a *-ю*. This variation is common, but is non-standard and should be avoided by the non-native speaker. This variation extends to adjectives and pronouns as well.

Бабу <u>л</u> я то <u>ль</u> кі га <u>ла</u> во <u>ю</u> па <u>к</u> іва <u>л</u> а.	<i>The old lady just shook her head.</i>
Я пай <u>д</u> у з та <u>бо</u> ю ра <u>з</u> ам.	<i>I will go together with you.</i>
З пэ <u>ў</u> наю пера <u>с</u> цяро <u>г</u> аю ў ду <u>ш</u> ы. Бу <u>ра</u> у пера <u>ст</u> упі <u>ў</u> і дру <u>г</u> і па <u>р</u> о <u>г</u> .	<i>With definite caution in his soul, Burau crossed the second doorway also.</i>

3.6 Gender and declension disagreement

Masculine animate nouns ending in *-а* or *-я* do not decline like other masculine nouns. If the accent falls on the ending, the word declines exactly as though it were feminine. If the accent falls on the stem, the word has feminine endings for the nominative, accusative, and genitive singular cases, but has masculine endings for all remaining cases. Note the examples of *бацька*, *father*, and *тата*, *dad*.

	Sing.	Pl.	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	бацька	бацькі	тата	таты
Acc.	бацьку	бацькоў	тату	татаў
Gen.	бацькі	бацькоў	таты	татаў
Dat.	бацьку	бацькам	тату	татам
Instr.	бацькам	бацькамі	татам	татамі
Prep.	аб бацьку	аб бацьках	аб тате	татах

сабака	<i>dog</i>
слуга	<i>servant</i>
суддзя	<i>judge</i>

3.7 Declension misfits

Some nouns do not fit well in the normal declension patterns. These include the neuter noun *дзіця*, *child*, and the feminine nouns *любоў*, *love*, and *кроў*, *blood*.

Nom.	дзіця	дзеці	любоў	кроў
Acc.	дзіця	дзяцей	любоў	кроў
Gen.	дзіцяці	дзяцей	любові	крыві
Dat.	дзіцяці	дзецям	любові	крыві
Instr.	дзіцём	дзецьмі	любоўю	крывёй
Prep.	аб дзіцяці	аб дзецях	аб любові	у крыві

There are many nouns, mostly foreign words, which do not decline. They have the same form, regardless of case or number.

маці	<i>mother</i>
пані	<i>Mrs.</i>

Chapter 4

Irregular Plurals

4.1 Words with no plural form

Many words have only a singular form. Most of these words have no plural in English either. Included are things like substances, proper nouns, and ideas.

бульба	<i>potato</i>	сонца	<i>sun</i>
в <u>е</u> цер	<i>wind</i>	спако <u>й</u>	<i>stillness</i>
лі <u>х</u> а	<i>evil</i>	с <u>р</u> ядзіна	<i>middle</i>

Most neuter nouns ending in **-мя** have no plural form.

б <u>р</u> э <u>м</u> я	<i>burden</i>	се <u>м</u> я	<i>seed</i>
в <u>ы</u> м <u>я</u>	<i>udder</i>	це <u>м</u> я	<i>top of head</i>
по <u>л</u> ы <u>м</u> я	<i>flame</i>		

4.2 Words with no singular form

Many words have only a plural form.

аб <u>ц</u> у <u>г</u> і	<i>pincers</i>	к <u>п</u> і <u>н</u> ы	<i>laughter</i>
аку <u>л</u> я <u>р</u> ы	<i>eyeglasses</i>	к <u>р</u> у <u>п</u> ы	<i>porridge</i>
ар <u>э</u> лі	<i>child's swing</i>	л <u>ю</u> д <u>з</u> і	<i>people</i>
в <u>ы</u> б <u>а</u> р <u>ы</u>	<i>election</i>	н <u>е</u> т <u>р</u> ы	<i>depths</i>
г <u>р</u> о <u>ш</u> ы	<i>money</i>	п <u>а</u> в <u>о</u> д <u>з</u> і <u>н</u> ы	<i>behavior</i>
г <u>р</u> уд <u>з</u> і	<i>chest</i>	п <u>р</u> ыс <u>м</u> а <u>к</u> і	<i>hors d'oeuvres</i>
д <u>ж</u> ун <u>г</u> лі	<i>jungle</i>	с <u>а</u> ні	<i>sled</i>
д <u>з</u> в <u>е</u> р <u>ы</u>	<i>door</i>	с <u>у</u> н <u>і</u> ц <u>ы</u>	<i>wild strawberries</i>
д <u>р</u> о <u>в</u> ы	<i>firewood</i>	с <u>у</u> т <u>к</u> і	<i>twenty-four hours</i>
за <u>б</u> а <u>б</u> о <u>н</u> ы	<i>superstition</i>	ш <u>а</u> х <u>м</u> а <u>т</u> ы	<i>chess</i>
зн <u>о</u> сі <u>н</u> ы	<i>relations</i>	ш <u>т</u> а <u>н</u> ы	<i>pants</i>
ка <u>н</u> о <u>п</u> лі	<i>hemp</i>		

4.3 Irregular plurals

The plural forms of these words have different stems than the singular forms.

Masc.

Sing.		Pl.	Gen. Pl.
пан	<i>gentleman</i>	панове	паноў
сусед	<i>neighbor</i>	суседзі	суседзяў
чорт	<i>devil</i>	чэрці	чарцей

Neut.

вока	<i>eye</i>	вочы	вачэй
вуха	<i>ear</i>	вушы	вушэй
зерне	<i>grain</i>	зярняты	зярнят
калена	<i>knee</i>	калені	каленяў
неба	<i>sky/heaven</i>	нябёсы	нябёсаў

Fem.

дзяўчына	<i>girl</i>	дзяўчаты	дзяўчат
курыца	<i>chicken</i>	куры	курэй

4.4 Nouns ending in -ін

These animate nouns denote types of people. Other than the nominative plural ending, the rest of the plural endings are the same as for other nouns. The genitive plural ending is *-аў* and is unaccented.

Masc.	Fem.		Pl.
гараджанін	гараджанка	<i>townsman</i>	гараджане
грамадзянін	грамадзянка	<i>citizen</i>	грамадзяне
мешчанін	мешчанка	<i>aristocrat</i>	мяшчане
палачанін	палачанка	<i>courtier</i>	палачане
сялянін	сялянка	<i>villager</i>	сяляне
славянін	славянка	<i>slav</i>	славяне
хрысціянін	хрысціянка	<i>christian</i>	хрысціяне
татарын	татарка	<i>tatar</i>	татары

Chapter 5

Adjective Declension

Adjectives generally match the gender and case of the noun they describe. As mentioned in 3.1, the accusative case of animate masculine nouns and plural nouns is identical to the genitive case. Consistent with this, adjectives describing these nouns also have accusative endings identical with the genitive case.

5.1 Hard stem adjectives

Hard stem adjectives with accented endings decline like *малады*, *young*.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	малады	маладо <u>е</u>	малада <u>я</u>	малады <u>я</u>
Acc.	малады (-ога)	маладо <u>е</u>	маладу <u>ю</u>	малады <u>я</u> (-ых)
Gen.	маладо <u>га</u>	маладо <u>га</u>	маладо <u>й</u>	малады <u>х</u>
Dat.	маладо <u>му</u>	маладо <u>му</u>	маладо <u>й</u>	малады <u>м</u>
Instr.	малады <u>м</u>	малады <u>м</u>	маладо <u>й</u>	малады <u>мі</u>
Prep.	аб малады <u>м</u>	аб малады <u>м</u>	аб маладо <u>й</u>	аб малады <u>х</u>

Hard stem adjectives with unaccented endings decline like *чырвоны*, *red*.

Nom.	чырво <u>ны</u>	чырво <u>нае</u>	чырво <u>ная</u>	чырво <u>ныя</u>
Acc.	чырво <u>ны</u> (-ага)	чырво <u>нае</u>	чырво <u>ную</u>	чырво <u>ныя</u> (-ых)
Gen.	чырво <u>нага</u>	чырво <u>нага</u>	чырво <u>най</u>	чырво <u>ных</u>
Dat.	чырво <u>наму</u>	чырво <u>наму</u>	чырво <u>най</u>	чырво <u>ным</u>
Instr.	чырво <u>ным</u>	чырво <u>ным</u>	чырво <u>най</u>	чырво <u>нымі</u>
Prep.	аб чырво <u>ным</u>	аб чырво <u>ным</u>	аб чырво <u>най</u>	аб чырво <u>ных</u>

Adjectives with accented endings of -гі, -кі, or -хі decline like *другі*, *second*.

Nom.	дру <u>гі</u>	дру <u>гое</u>	дру <u>гая</u>	дру <u>гія</u>
Acc.	дру <u>гі</u> (-ога)	дру <u>гое</u>	дру <u>гую</u>	дру <u>гія</u> (-іх)
Gen.	дру <u>гога</u>	дру <u>гога</u>	дру <u>гой</u>	дру <u>гіх</u>
Dat.	дру <u>гому</u>	дру <u>гому</u>	дру <u>гой</u>	дру <u>гім</u>
Instr.	дру <u>гім</u>	дру <u>гім</u>	дру <u>гой</u>	дру <u>гімі</u>
Prep.	аб дру <u>гім</u>	аб дру <u>гім</u>	аб дру <u>гой</u>	аб дру <u>гіх</u>

Adjectives, with unaccented endings of –гі, –кі, or –хі, decline like хуткі, *fast*.

Nom.	хуткі	хуткае	хуткая	хуткія
Acc.	хуткі (-ага)	хуткае	хуткую	хуткія (-іх)
Gen.	хуткага	хуткага	хуткай	хуткіх
Dat.	хуткаму	хуткаму	хуткай	хуткім
Instr.	хуткім	хуткім	хуткай	хуткімі
Prep.	аб хуткім	аб хуткім	аб хуткай	аб хуткіх

5.2 Soft stem adjectives

Adjectives, whose stem ends in a softened consonant, decline like апошні, *last*.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	апошні	апошняе	апошняя	апошнія
Acc.	апошні (-яга)	апошняе	апошнюю	апошнія (-іх)
Gen.	апошняга	апошняга	апошняй	апошніх
Dat.	апошняму	апошняму	апошняй	апошнім
Instr.	апошнім	апошнім	апошняй	апошнімі
Prep.	аб апошнім	аб апошнім	аб апошняй	аб апошніх

5.3 Adjective ending variation

The adjectives declined above have the most current and accepted endings, but variations do exist. One common variation replaces the final –й of the feminine prepositional ending with a –ю. See 3.5 for more on how this variation affects nouns. Another variation replaces the final –й of the feminine genitive ending with a –е. Although these variations do exist, they are non-standard and should be avoided by the non-native speaker.

5.3 Short adjectives

The use of short adjectives is much more rare in Belarusian than in Russian, being used almost exclusively for the neuter third person impersonal. As in Russian, such adjectives are only used predicatively. The neuter form of the short adjective is identical to the adverb. See Chapter 29 for more on adverb formation.

Only a very few adjectives can take a short form for anything other than the third person impersonal. These include гатовы, *ready*, and рады, *glad*. The word павінен, which translates as *should*, has no long form and can only be used as a short adjective.

The forms of the most common short adjectives are given below, along with some examples.

Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
гато <u>ў</u>	гато <u>ва</u>	гато <u>ва</u>	гато <u>вы</u>
паві <u>н</u> ен	паві <u>н</u> на	паві <u>н</u> на	паві <u>н</u> ны
рад	ра <u>д</u> а	ра <u>д</u> а	ра <u>д</u> ы

Будзь гатоў! — Заўжды гатоў!
Я рада, што пакінуў.
Яна павінна адразу сказаць ім.

Be prepared! — Always prepared!
I am glad that he left.
She should immediately tell him.

Было маркотна, калі ён не прыйшоў.
Мы дужа працавалі, каб усё
было зраблена ў час.

It was sad when he did not come.
We worked hard so that everything
was done on time.

The long adjective is usually used if the subject is not the neuter third person impersonal.

Пакой поўны людзей.
Яна не абавязаная дапамагчы яму.

The room is full of people.
She is not obligated to help him.

Chapter 6

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Only qualitative adjectives can have a superlative or comparative form. If an English adjective can be used comparatively or superlatively, the equivalent Belarusian adjective most likely can as well. By the same token, if the English adjective cannot be used comparatively or superlatively, the Belarusian adjective probably cannot also.

6.1 Short comparative adjective formation

The short comparative form of an adjective is identical to the comparative adverb. The comparative adverb is formed by removing the final *-ы* or *-і* and replacing it with an accented *-ей*. See 29.4 for more on the comparative adverb.

бедны	<i>poor</i>	бядней	<i>poorer</i>
белы	<i>white</i>	бялей	<i>whiter</i>
важны	<i>important</i>	важней	<i>more important</i>
вольны	<i>free</i>	вальней	<i>more free</i>
вясёлы	<i>fun</i>	вясялей	<i>more fun</i>
дакладны	<i>precise</i>	дакладней	<i>more precise</i>
ранні	<i>early</i>	раней	<i>earlier</i>

If the last consonant of the adjective is invariably hard, the final *-ы* is replaced with *-эй*.

мудры	<i>wise</i>	муднэй	<i>wiser</i>
прыгожы	<i>beautiful</i>	прыгажэй	<i>more beautiful</i>
хітры	<i>cunning</i>	хітрэй	<i>more cunning</i>

For adjectives ending in *-ты* or *-ды*, the ending is removed and replaced with one of the accented endings *-цей* or *-дзей* respectively.

багаты	<i>rich</i>	багацей	<i>richer</i>
густы	<i>thick, viscous</i>	гусцей	<i>thicker, more viscous</i>
жоўты	<i>yellow</i>	жаўцей	<i>more yellow</i>
малады	<i>young</i>	маладзей	<i>younger</i>
просты	<i>simple</i>	прасцей	<i>simpler</i>
тоўсты	<i>thick, fat</i>	таўсцей	<i>thicker, fatter</i>
цвёрды	<i>hard, firm</i>	цвярдзей	<i>harder, firmer</i>
чысты	<i>clean</i>	чысцей	<i>cleaner</i>

There are a number of irregular comparative adjectives.

высокі	<i>high</i>	вышэй	<i>higher</i>
глыбокі	<i>deep</i>	глыбей	<i>deeper</i>
далёкі	<i>far</i>	далей	<i>farther</i>
шырокі	<i>wide</i>	шырэй	<i>wider</i>
блізкі	<i>near</i>	бліжэй	<i>nearer</i>
вузкі	<i>narrow</i>	вужэй	<i>narrower</i>
гладкі	<i>smooth</i>	гладзей	<i>smoother</i>
кароткі	<i>short</i>	карацей	<i>shorter</i>
салодкі	<i>sweet</i>	саладзей	<i>sweeter</i>
глухі	<i>deaf</i>	глушэй	<i>deaf</i>
дарагі	<i>expensive</i>	даражэй	<i>more expensive</i>
доўгі	<i>long</i>	даўжэй	<i>longer</i>
лёгкі	<i>light</i>	лягчэй	<i>lighter</i>
мяккі	<i>soft</i>	мякчэй	<i>softer</i>
ціхі	<i>quiet</i>	цішэй	<i>quieter</i>
хуткі	<i>fast</i>	хутчэй	<i>faster</i>

6.2 Short comparative adverb usage

Because short comparative adjectives are adverbs, they do not decline and can only be used predicatively.

Я маладз <u>ей</u> за яго.	<i>I am younger than him.</i>
Кожнаму хацелася стаць бліж <u>эй</u> да вады.	<i>Each wanted to get closer to the water.</i>

6.3 Irregular short comparative adjectives

A small number of adjectives have unique short comparative adjective forms, separate from their short comparative adverb form. These adjectives all end in **-шы**, decline like other adjectives, and are not limited to predicate usage.

вялікі	<i>big</i>	большы	<i>bigger</i>
добры	<i>good</i>	лепшы	<i>better</i>
дрэнны	<i>bad</i>	горшы	<i>worse</i>
малы	<i>small</i>	меншы	<i>smaller</i>

Some examples of usage of short comparative adjectives are given.

Сам быў не ў лепшым стане.
Там былі яблыкі болшыя,
чым тут.

*I myself was not in any better shape.
The apples were bigger over there
than here.*

The adjective *малады*, *young*, has the normal short comparative form *маладзей*, but it also has an additional short comparative form *малодшы*, which has the specialized meaning of junior. The adjective *стары* does not have a normal short comparative form, but there is the specialized word *старшы*, which means *older*, or *senior*. Both *малодшы* and *старшы* are used like any normal adjective.

Малодшы лейтэнант камандаваў
мінаметнай ротай.
Апроч мяне была ў маці яшчэ
дачка, мая сястра старшая.

*The junior lieutenant commanded
the mortar company.
My mother had another daughter besides
me, my older sister.*

6.4 Long comparative adjectives

Adjectives that do not have a short comparative form can be used comparatively by placing either *больш*, *more*, or *менш*, *less*, before the word.

Я больш палітычны, чым вы
разам узятая.
Беражок ля ямы стаў больш
зручны.

*I am more tactful than both of
you combined.
The rim around the hole became
more convenient.*

6.5 Superlatives ending in *-ейшы* or *-эйшы*

Any adjective which has a short comparative form can form a superlative by appending the ending *-шы* to that short comparative form. Adjectives without a short comparative form that ends in *-ей* or *-эй* do not have a unique superlative form.

бядней	<i>poorer</i>	бяднейшы	<i>poorest</i>
бялей	<i>whiter</i>	бялейшы	<i>whitest</i>
даражэй	<i>more expensive</i>	даражэйшы	<i>most expensive</i>
карацей	<i>shorter</i>	карацейшы	<i>shortest</i>
мякчэй	<i>softer</i>	мякчэйшы	<i>softest</i>
раней	<i>earlier</i>	ранейшы	<i>earliest</i>

The adjective *стары*, *old*, has no short comparative form, but does have the superlative *старэйшы*, *oldest*.

6.6 Long superlatives

The superlative form of any qualitative adjective can be formed by placing the adjective самы, *most*, before the adjective and by then declining самы to agree with the adjective. This is the form used for adjectives that do not have a superlative form ending in **-ейшы** or **-эйшы**.

Яны стаялі перад самым крутым
узгорам.

They stood in front of the steepest hill.

А ўвогуле розум — не самае
галоўнае ў чалавеку.

*Generally, the mind is not the most
important thing to a person.*

Chapter 7

Personal Pronouns

7.1 Personal pronouns

	1 st Pers. Sing.	2 nd Pers. Sing.	1 st Pers. Pl.	2 nd Pers. Pl.
Nom.	я	ты	мы	вы
Acc.	мя <u>н</u> е	ця <u>б</u> е	нас	вас
Gen.	мя <u>н</u> е	ця <u>б</u> е	нас	вас
Dat.	мне	та <u>б</u> е	нам	вам
Instr.	мно <u>й</u> *	та <u>б</u> о <u>й</u> *	на <u>м</u> і	ва <u>м</u> і
Prep.	аб мне	аб та <u>б</u> е	аб нас	аб вас
	3 rd Pers. Masc.	3 rd Pers. Neut.	3 rd Pers. Fem.	3 rd Pers. Pl.
Nom.	ё <u>н</u>	я <u>н</u> о	я <u>н</u> а	я <u>н</u> ы
Acc.	я <u>г</u> о	я <u>г</u> о	я <u>е</u>	і <u>х</u>
Gen.	я <u>г</u> о	я <u>г</u> о	я <u>е</u>	і <u>х</u>
Dat.	я <u>м</u> у	я <u>м</u> у	ё <u>й</u>	і <u>м</u>
Instr.	і <u>м</u>	і <u>м</u>	ё <u>й</u>	і <u>м</u> і
Prep.	аб і <u>м</u>	аб і <u>м</u>	аб ё <u>й</u> *	аб і <u>х</u>

*The variations мною, табою, and ею are very common, but are non-standard and should be avoided. See 3.5 for how this variation effects nouns.

7.2 The reflexive personal pronoun

The reflexive pronoun is a direct synonym for the subject of the sentence. This means that it cannot be the subject of a sentence and does not have a nominative form. This pronoun is used when the subject of the sentence is also some other part of the sentence, such as the direct or indirect object.

Acc.	ся <u>б</u> е
Gen.	ся <u>б</u> е
Dat.	са <u>б</u> е
Instr.	са <u>б</u> о <u>й</u> †
Prep.	аб са <u>б</u> е

†The form сабою does exist, but it too should be avoided as non-standard.

7.3 The pronoun сам

This pronoun is used to emphasize part of the sentence, either the subject, an object, or indirect object. When not used with the subject of the sentence, the pronoun сам simply imparts emphasis and is not actually translated, but when used with the subject of the sentence, its meaning can be roughly translated as *myself, yourself, himself*, etc... The pronoun сам is used like an adjective, matching the case and gender of the noun it describes.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	сам	сам <u>о</u>	сам <u>а</u>	сам <u>і</u>
Acc.	сам (о <u>га</u>)	сам <u>о</u>	сам <u>у</u>	сам <u>і</u> (-ix)
Gen.	сам <u>о</u> га	сам <u>о</u> га	сам <u>о</u> й	сам <u>і</u> х
Dat.	сам <u>о</u> му	сам <u>о</u> му	сам <u>о</u> й	сам <u>і</u> м
Instr.	сам <u>і</u> м	сам <u>і</u> м	сам <u>о</u> й	сам <u>і</u> мі
Prep.	аб сам <u>і</u> м	аб сам <u>і</u> м	аб сам <u>о</u> й	аб сам <u>і</u> х

Ён вырашыў сам прыйсці.
Аднойчы нават выратаваў саму
каралеву.
Але гаварыў ён толькі з самімі
суседзьмі.

*He decided to come himself.
Once he even rescued the queen.
However he spoke only with the neighbors.*

Chapter 8

Possessive and Demonstrative Pronouns

These pronouns follow the same rules as adjectives, declining for gender and case to match the nouns they modify, see Chapter 5 for more details on adjectives.

8.1 Possessive pronouns

The first person singular possessive pronoun мой, *my*, declines as follows.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	мой	маё	мая	мае
Acc.	мой (майго)	маё	маю	мае (маіх)
Gen.	майго	майго	маёй	маіх
Dat.	майму	майму	маёй	маім
Instr.	маім	маім	маёй	маімі
Prep.	аб маім	аб маім	аб маёй	аб маіх

The second person singular possessive pronoun твой, *your*, declines as follows.

Nom.	твой	тваё	твая	твае
Acc.	твой (твайго)	тваё	тваю	твае (тваіх)
Gen.	твайго	твайго	тваёй	тваіх
Dat.	твайму	твайму	тваёй	тваім
Instr.	тваім	тваім	тваёй	тваімі
Prep.	аб тваім	аб тваім	аб тваёй	аб тваіх

The first person plural possessive pronoun наш, *our*, declines as follows.

Nom.	наш	наша	наша	нашы
Acc.	наш (нашага)	наша	нашу	нашы (нашых)
Gen.	нашага	нашага	нашай	нашых
Dat.	нашаму	нашаму	нашай	нашым
Instr.	нашым	нашаму	нашай	нашымі
Prep.	аб нашым	аб нашым	аб нашай	аб нашых

The second person plural possessive pronoun *ваш*, *your*, declines as follows.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	ваш	ваша	ваша	ваши
Acc.	ваш (вашага)	ваша	вашу	ваши (ваших)
Gen.	вашага	вашага	вашай	ваших
Dat.	вашаму	вашаму	вашай	вашим
Instr.	вашим	вашаму	вашай	вашими
Prep.	аб вашим	аб вашим	аб вашей	аб ваших

8.2 Third person possessive pronouns

The words *ягны*, *his*, *ейны*, *her*, and *ихны*, *their*, are the most common way of indicating possession. They decline like normal adjectives and their usage is extremely common, however some feel that their usage is colloquial and that it is better to indicate possession by preceding the noun with the genitive form of the third person pronoun.

8.3 The reflexive pronoun

The pronoun *свой* roughly translates as *one's own*, and declines as follows.

Nom.	свой	сваё	свая	свае
Acc.	свой (свайго)	сваё	сваю	свае (свайх)
Gen.	свайго	свайго	сваёй	свайх
Dat.	свайму	свайму	сваёй	свайм
Instr.	свайм	свайм	сваёй	свайми
Prep.	аб свайм	аб свайм	аб сваёй	аб свайх

8.4 The interrogative possessive pronoun

The pronoun *чый* roughly translates as *whose*, and declines as follows.

Nom.	чый	чыё	чья	чые
Acc.	чый (чыйго)	чыё	чыю	чые (чыих)
Gen.	чыйго	чыйго	чыёй	чыих
Dat.	чыйму	чыйму	чыёй	чыйм
Instr.	чыйм	чыйм	чыёй	чыйми
Prep.	аб чыйм	аб чыйм	аб чыёй	аб чыих

8.4 The demonstrative pronouns

The pronouns гэты, *this*, and той, *that*, decline as follows.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	гэты	гэта	гэта	гэтыя
Acc.	гэты (гэтага)	гэта	гэта	гэтыя (гэтых)
Gen.	гэтага	гэтага	гэту	гэтых
Dat.	гэтаму	гэтаму	гэтай	гэтым
Instr.	гэтым	гэтым	гэтай	гэтымі
Prep.	аб гэтым	аб гэтым	аб гэтай	аб гэтых
Nom.	той	тое	тая	тыя
Acc.	той (-аго)	тое	тую	тыя (-ых)
Gen.	тага	таго	той	тых
Dat.	таму	таму	той	тым
Instr.	тым	тым	той	тымі
Prep.	аб тым	аб тым	аб той	аб тых

8.5 The pronoun увесь

This pronoun, meaning *all*, declines as follows.

Nom.	увесь	усё	уся	усе
Acc.	увесь (усяго)	усё	усю	усе (усіх)
Gen.	усяго	усяго	усёй	усіх
Dat.	усяму	усяму	усёй	усім
Instr.	усім	усім	усёй	усімі
Prep.	аб усім	аб усім	аб усёй	аб усіх

Chapter 9

Interrogative and Relative Pronouns

These pronouns follow the same rules as adjectives, declining for gender and case to match the nouns they modify, see Chapter 5 for more details on adjectives.

9.1 The interrogative pronouns

The pronouns *што*, *what*, and *хто*, *who*, decline as follows.

Nom.	што	хто
Acc.	што	каго
Gen.	чаго	каго
Dat.	чаму	каму
Instr.	чым	кім
Prep.	аб чым	аб кім

The pronouns *нішто*, *nothing*, and *ніхто*, *nobody*, decline like *што* and *хто* except for the genitive case, for which the accent lies on the middle syllable.

Гэта *нішто*.

Я *нічога* не сказаў.

Год таму зразумеў, што ў жыцці
я *ніхто* і *нішто*.

У пакоі ўжо *нікога* не было.

It is nothing.

I did not say anything.

*A year ago I realized that in life,
I am a nobody and a nothing.*

*Already there was nobody in the
room*

9.3 The pronoun *які*

The pronoun *які* declines just like the adjective *другі*, *second*, see 5.1 for the complete declension. The pronoun is used as the conjunction *which* or *what*. It is also used as an expletive.

Якую кнігу чытаеш?

Вось кніга, якую чытаю.

Якая дата сёння?

Якая прыгожая дзяўчына!

Which book are you reading?

This is the book, which I am reading.

What is the date today?

What a pretty girl!

Chapter 10

Numerals

10.1 Numerals and case governance

The numeral адзін, *one*, is used just like an adjective, following the same rules. It declines to match the case and gender of the noun it describes. See Chapter 5 for more details. The numerals два, *two*, тры, *three*, and чатыры, *four*, as well as абодва, *both*, all decline to agree with the case of the noun that they govern. Два and абодва also decline to match the gender of their corresponding nouns. Like adjectives, the accusative animate forms of these numerals coincide with the genitive forms for masculine objects.

У мяне застаецца адна ручка.

I have one pen left.

У нас два новыя сталы.

We have two new tables.

Я прыехаў з дзвюма гарматамі.

I arrived with two cannons.

Ён тры дні не паднімаўся з гнілой саломы.

For three days, he did not get up off of the moldy hay.

Ён узяўся абедзвюма рукамі за вугал.

He grabbed the corner with both hands

When the numerals два, тры, чатыры, and абодва are used as either the subject or the inanimate direct object of a clause, the nouns that they govern take a special form. For feminine nouns, this form is identical to the genitive singular. For masculine and neuter nouns, it is formed by appending either *ы* or *і* to the root, depending on whether the root has a hard or soft ending and on other spelling rules. Any modifying adjectives are declined for the nominative plural.

У селяніна ёсць два кані.

The villager has two horses.

Дзве дзяўчыны прыйшлі.

Two young ladies came.

Вось гэтыя тры акны.

Look at these three windows.

Чатыры чалавекі стаяць там.

Four people are standing over there.

Абодва сыны служаць у арміі.

Both sons are serving in the army.

Абедзве даты вельмі прыблізныя.

Both dates are very close.

10.2 The number *one*

The number адзін, *one*, declines as follows.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.
Nom.	адзін	адно	адна	адны
Acc.	адзін (-ога)	адно	адну	адны (-ых)
Gen.	аднаго	аднага	адной	адных
Dat.	аднаму	аднаму	адной	адным
Instr.	адным	адным	адной	аднымі
Prep.	аб адным	аб адным	аб адной	аб адных

The plural form адны is used with nouns that have no singular form, as well as with certain idiomatic constructions.

Там былі адны хлопцы.
Ён там быў толькі адны суткі.

*There were only boys there.
He was here for only twenty-four
hours.*

The word адзін is also used in certain constructions to mean *each other*.

Мы разумеем адзін аднаго.
Падморгвалі адзін аднаму зайздросным
калючым вокам.

*We understand each other.
They blinked at each other with
prickly envious eyes.*

10.3 The number *two*

The number два, *two*, declines as follows.

	Masc.	Neut.	Fem.
Nom.	два	два	дзве
Acc.	два (двух)	два	дзве
Gen.	двух	двух	дзвюх
Dat.	двум	двум	дзвюм
Instr.	двума	двума	дзвюма
Prep.	аб двух	аб двух	аб дзвюх

10.4 *Three and four*

The numbers тры, *three*, and чатыры, *four*, decline as follows.

Nom.	тры	чатыры
Acc.	тры (трох)	чатыры
Gen.	трох	чатырох
Dat.	тром	чатыром
Instr.	трыма	чатырма
Prep.	аб тром	аб чатырох

10.5 *Five and up*

These numbers all decline like сувязь, as shown in 2.9, including сем, *seven*, and восем, *eight*, even though they do not end in а ъ.

пяць	<i>five</i>	чатырнаццаць	<i>fourteen</i>
шэсць	<i>six</i>	пятнаццаць	<i>fifteen</i>
сем	<i>seven</i>	шаснаццаць	<i>sixteen</i>
восем	<i>eight</i>	семнаццаць	<i>seventeen</i>
дзеўяць	<i>nine</i>	васемнаццаць	<i>eighteen</i>
дзесяць	<i>ten</i>	дзеўятнаццаць	<i>nineteen</i>
адзінаццаць	<i>eleven</i>	дваццаць	<i>twenty</i>
дванаццаць	<i>twelve</i>	трыццаць	<i>thirty</i>
трынаццаць	<i>thirteen</i>		

10.6 *Forty, ninety, and one hundred*

The words сорак, *forty*, дзевяноста, *ninety*, and сто, *one hundred*, decline as follows.

Nom.	сорак	дзевяноста	сто
Acc.	сорак	дзевяноста	ста
Gen.	сарака	дзевяноста	ста
Dat.	сарака	дзевяноста	ста
Instr.	сарака	дзевяноста	ста
Prep.	аб сарака	аб дзевяноста	аб ста

10.7 *Fifty, sixty, seventy, and eighty*

These numbers decline like *п'яцьдзес'ят*, *fifty*. These words have two roots, both of which decline. Because of this, although the main accent falls on the final syllable, there is a quieter accent on the end of the first root.

Nom.	п'яцьдзес'ят
Acc.	п'яцьдзес'ят
Gen.	п'яц'ідзес'яц'і
Dat.	п'яц'ідзес'яц'і
Instr.	п'яццюдзес'яццю
Prep.	п'яц'ідзес'яц'і

шэсцьдзес'ят	<i>sixty</i>
семдзес'ят	<i>seventy</i>
восемдзес'ят	<i>eighty</i>

10.8 *Two hundred and beyond*

These numbers also have two roots, which both decline. The number *дзв'есце*, *two hundred*, has only one accent. The numbers *трыста*, *three hundred*, *чатырыста*, *four hundred*, and *п'яцьсот*, *five hundred*, have only one accent in the nominative and accusative cases, but two accents in the rest of the cases. The numbers *шэсцьсот*, *six hundred*, *семсот*, *seven hundred*, *восемсот*, *eight hundred*, and *дзев'яцьсот*, *nine hundred*, have two accents throughout all their forms.

Nom.	дзв'есце	трыста	чатырыста	п'яцьсот
Acc.	дзв'есце	трыста	чатырыста	п'яцьсот
Gen.	дзв'юхсот	трохсот	чатырохсот	п'яц'ісот
Dat.	дзв'юмстам	тромстам	чатыромстам	п'яц'істам
Instr.	дзв'юмастамі	трымастамі	чатырмастамі	п'яц'істамі
Prep.	аб дзв'юхстах	аб трохстах	аб чатырохстах	аб п'яц'істах

Nom.	шэсцьсот	семсот	восемсот	дзев'яцьсот
Acc.	шэсцьсот	семсот	восемсот	дзев'яцьсот
Gen.	шасц'ісот	сям'ісот	васм'ісот	дзев'яц'ісот
Dat.	шасц'істам	сям'істам	васм'істам	дзев'яц'істам
Instr.	шасцюстамі	сямюстамі	васмюстамі	дзев'яццюстамі
Prep.	аб шасц'істах	аб сям'істах	аб васм'істах	аб дзев'яц'істах

10.9 Collective numerals

These numbers are used with nouns that do not have a singular form, and in certain cases with animate nouns. The collective numerals have adjectival endings for the oblique cases. When a collective numeral is in the nominative or accusative case, the noun that it governs takes the genitive plural case. For oblique cases, the noun takes the same case as the numeral. As always, the accusative animate form is the same as the genitive.

Nom.	двое	трое	чацвёра	пяцёра
Acc.	двое	трое	чацвёра	пяцёра
Gen.	дваіх	траіх	чацвярых	пяцярых
Dat.	дваім	траім	чацвярым	пяцярым
Instr.	дваімі	траімі	чацвярымі	пяцярымі
Prep.	аб дваіх	аб траіх	аб чацвярых	аб пяцярых
Nom.	шасцёра	сямёра		
Acc.	шасцёра	сямёра		
Gen.	шасцярых	сямярых		
Dat.	шасцярым	сямярым		
Instr.	шасцярымі	сямярымі		
Prep.	аб шасцярых	аб сямярых		

The words *двое*, *трое*, and *чацвёра* can be used with nouns that only have a plural form.

У нас двое саней.

Загадана ўзяць ежы на трое сутак.

We have two sleds.

It was ordered that enough food be taken for three days.

These numerals can also be used to denote a number of people. They are especially used with men, workers, children, and words that decline like the neuter nouns of section 2.6.

У яго трое дзяцей.

Чацвёра манахаў-дамініканаў неслі
вялізны чорны крыж.

Сем прыйшлі, а пяцёра з іх спазніліся.

He has three children.

*For dominican monks carried a
large black cross.*

*Seven came, but five of them
were late.*

10.10 Ordinal numerals

These adjectives are used as ordinal numbers.

першы	<i>first</i>	пятнаццаты	<i>fifteenth</i>
другі	<i>second</i>	шаснаццаты	<i>sixteenth</i>
трэці	<i>third</i>	семнаццаты	<i>seventeenth</i>
чацвёрты	<i>fourth</i>	васемнаццаты	<i>eighteenth</i>
пяты	<i>fifth</i>	дзевятнаццаты	<i>nineteenth</i>
шосты	<i>sixth</i>	дваццаты	<i>twentieth</i>
сёмы	<i>seventh</i>	трыццаты	<i>thirtieth</i>
восьмы	<i>eighth</i>	саракавы	<i>fortieth</i>
дзевяты	<i>ninth</i>	пяцідзесяты	<i>fiftieth</i>
дзесяты	<i>tenth</i>	шасцідзесяты	<i>sixtieth</i>
адзінаццаты	<i>eleventh</i>	сямідзесяты	<i>seventieth</i>
дванаццаты	<i>twelfth</i>	васьмідзесяты	<i>eightieth</i>
трынаццаты	<i>thirtieth</i>	дзевяносты	<i>ninetieth</i>
чатырнаццаты	<i>fourteenth</i>	соты	<i>hundredth</i>

Chapter 11

1st Conjugation Verbs

Most of the difficulty involved with Belarusian verbs comes from the spelling rules, which distort the ending of the verb. Careful attention to spelling rules predicts and explains the different variations of conjugation. Verbs of the 1st conjugation are called type 1 verbs. Unless otherwise noted, all verbs here are imperfective.

11.1 The root ends in a vowel and the ending is accented

In general, type 1 verbs conjugate like даваць, *to give*.

да <u>ю</u>	да <u>ём</u>		
да <u>еш</u>	да <u>яце</u>		
да <u>е</u>	да <u>юць</u>		
		1 st pers. sing.	2 nd pers. sing.
жа <u>в</u> аць	<i>to chew</i>	жу <u>ю</u>	жу <u>еш</u>
пе <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to sing</i>	пя <u>ю</u>	пя <u>еш</u>

This group also includes verbs whose stem ends in ь or the apostrophe. An example of these is біць, *to hit*.

б' <u>ю</u>	б' <u>ём</u>		
б' <u>еш</u>	б' <u>яце</u>		
б' <u>е</u>	б' <u>юць</u>		
лі <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to pour</i>	ль <u>ю</u>	ль <u>еш</u>
пі <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to drink</i>	п <u>ь</u> ю	п <u>ь</u> еш

11.2 The root ends in a vowel and the root is accented

Verbs of this type conjugate like чакаць, *to wait*.

ча <u>к</u> аю	ча <u>к</u> аем		
ча <u>к</u> аеш	ча <u>к</u> аеце		
ча <u>к</u> ае	ча <u>к</u> аюць		
га <u>д</u> аць	<i>to guess</i>	га <u>д</u> аю	га <u>д</u> аеш
шы <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to sew</i>	шы <u>ю</u>	шы <u>еш</u>

11.3 The root ends in a consonant and the ending is accented

Most verbs of this type conjugate like жыць, *to live*.

жыву	жывём		
жывеш	жывяце		
жыве	жывуць		
		1 st pers. sing.	2 nd pers. sing.
зваць	<i>to call</i>	заву	завеш
грызці	<i>to gnaw</i>	грызу	грызеш

For verbs of this type, whose root ends in **д** or **т** for the first person singular and third person plural, the final consonant changes to either **дз** or **ц** for the other persons. They conjugate like класці, *to put*.

кладу	кладзём		
кладзеш	кладзяце		
кладзе	кладуць		
ісці	<i>to go</i>	іду	ідзеш
цвісці	<i>to bloom</i>	цвіту	цвіцеш

For verbs of this type, whose root ends in **г** or **к** for the first person singular and third person plural, the final consonant changes to either **ж** or **ч** for the other persons. They conjugate like пячы, *to bake*.

пяку	пячом		
пячэш	пячаце		
пячэ	пякуць		
сячы	<i>to cut up</i>	сяку	сячэш
берагчы	<i>to take care of</i>	берагу	беражэш

Verbs of this type, whose root ends in an invariable hard consonant conjugate like браць, *to take*.

бярэ	бярэм		
бярэш	бярэце		
бярэ	бярэць		
перці	<i>to make one's way</i>	пру	прэш
церці	<i>to rub</i>	тру	трэш

11.4 The root ends in a consonant and the root is accented

Verbs like these conjugate like цягнуць, *to pull*.

цягну	цягнем		
цягнеш	цягнеце		
цягне	цягнуць		
		1 st pers. sing.	2 nd pers. sing.
прыняць	<i>to accept</i>	прыму	прымеш
узяць	<i>to take</i>	вазму	возмеш

Verbs of this type, whose root ends in **д**, conjugate like быць, *to be*.

буду	будзем		
будзеш	будзеце		
будзе	будуць		
ехаць	<i>to go [by vehicle]</i>	еду	едзеш
красці	<i>to steal</i>	краду	крадзеш

Verbs of this type, whose root ends in **г**, conjugate like магчы, *to be able*.

магу	можам		
можаш	могаце		
можа	могуць		
легчы	<i>to lie down</i>	лягу	ляжаш

Verbs of this type, whose root ends in an invariably hard consonant, conjugate like рэзаць, *to cut*.

рэжу	рэжам		
рэжаш	рэжаце		
рэжа	рэжуць		
казаць	<i>to say</i>	кажу	кажаш
плакаць	<i>to cry</i>	плачу	плачаш

Chapter 12

2nd Conjugation Verbs

Most of the difficulty involved with Belarusian verbs comes from the spelling rules, which distort the ending of the verb. Careful attention to spelling rules predicts and explains the different variations of this conjugation. Unless otherwise noted, all verbs here are imperfective. Verbs of this conjugation are called type 2 verbs.

12.1 The root ends in a vowel

Accent placement of type 2 verbs has no effect. Some examples of these verbs are *стаяць*, *to stand*, *строіць*, *to prepare*, and *таіць*, *to hide*.

ста <u>ю</u>	стаі <u>м</u>	стро <u>ю</u>	строі <u>м</u>	та <u>ю</u>	таі <u>м</u>
стаі <u>ш</u>	стаі <u>це</u>	строі <u>ш</u>	строі <u>це</u>	таі <u>ш</u>	таі <u>це</u>
стаі <u>ць</u>	стая <u>ць</u>	строі <u>ць</u>	строа <u>ць</u>	таі <u>ць</u>	тоа <u>ць</u>

12.2 The root ends in some other consonant

These verbs conjugate very similarly to the verbs in 12.1, but there are variations on the endings, depending on what consonant the root ends in. Verbs, whose root ends in л or н have the same endings as the verbs shown above.

	п <u>м</u> ню	п <u>м</u> нім		
	п <u>м</u> ніш	п <u>м</u> ніце		
	п <u>м</u> ні <u>ць</u>	п <u>м</u> ніа <u>ць</u>		
			1 st pers. sing.	2 nd pers. sing.
валі <u>ць</u>		<i>to knock down</i>	вал <u>ю</u>	валі <u>ш</u>
гна <u>ць</u>		<i>to chase (determinate)</i>	ган <u>ю</u>	гані <u>ш</u>

Verbs of this type, whose root ends in б, в, м, п, or ф, have a л added between the root and the ending for the first person singular.

	раб <u>л</u> ю	раб <u>і</u> м		
	раб <u>і</u> ш	раб <u>і</u> це		
	раб <u>і</u> ць	раб <u>і</u> а <u>ць</u>		
ста <u>в</u> іць	<i>to put</i>	ста <u>ў</u> лю	ста <u>в</u> іш	
кар <u>м</u> іць	<i>to feed</i>	кар <u>м</u> л <u>ю</u>	кар <u>м</u> іш	
куп <u>і</u> ць	<i>to buy (perfective)</i>	куп <u>л</u> ю	куп <u>і</u> ш	

If the final letters of the root are **дз, з, с, сц,** or **ц,** they change for the first person singular as shown below. An example of these verbs is **ходзіць, to walk.**

хаджу	ходзім	дз	—>	дж
ходзіш	ходзіце	з	—>	ж
ходзіць	ходзяць	с	—>	ш
		сц	—>	шч
		ц	—>	ч

		1 st pers. sing.	2 nd pers. sing.
вазіць	<i>to transport</i>	важу	возіш
ляцець	<i>to fly</i>	лячу	ляціш
насіць	<i>to carry</i>	нашу	носіш
песціць	<i>to pamper</i>	пешчу	песціш

Verbs of this type, whose root ends in an invariably hard consonant, conjugate like **бачыць, to see.**

бачу	бачым		
бачыш	бачыце		
бачыць	бачаць		
гаварыць	<i>to speak</i>	гавару	гаворыш
служыць	<i>to serve</i>	служу	служыш
рашыць	<i>to decide</i>	рашу	рэшыш

Chapter 13

Miscellaneous Verbs and Verb Irregularities

13.1 Three miscellaneous verbs

The verbs бегчы, *to run*, даць, *to give*, and есці, *to eat*, conjugate as follows.

бяг <u>у</u>	бяж <u>ы</u> м	да <u>м</u>	дадз <u>і</u> м	е <u>м</u>	ядз <u>і</u> м
бяж <u>ы</u> ш	бяж <u>ы</u> це	да <u>с</u> і	да <u>с</u> це	е <u>ш</u>	я <u>с</u> це
бяж <u>ы</u> ць	бяг <u>у</u> ць	да <u>с</u> ць	да <u>д</u> уць	е <u>с</u> ць	я <u>д</u> уць

13.2 Shifting stress

For many verbs, the accent is on the ending for the first person singular, but is the root for all other persons. This happens most often when the final syllable of the infinitive is accented.

infin.		1 st pers. sing.	2 nd pers. sing.
вазі <u>ць</u>	<i>to transport</i>	важ <u>у</u>	вазі <u>ш</u>
гавар <u>ы</u> ць	<i>to speak</i>	гавар <u>у</u>	гавор <u>ы</u> ш
прыня <u>ць</u>	<i>to receive</i>	пры <u>м</u> у	пры <u>м</u> еш
ха <u>ц</u> ець	<i>to want</i>	хач <u>у</u>	хоч <u>а</u> ш

13.3 Verb ending variation

The verbs conjugated above have the most current and accepted endings, but variations do exist. One common variation that affects verbs of the types discussed in 11.1 and 11.3 is to replace the ending of the 1st person plural, **-ём** or **-ом**, with the endings **-ем** or **-эм**, respectively. Another common variation, which affects all verbs with accented endings, replaces the final **-е** of the 2nd person plural with a **-ё**. Although these variations do exist, they are non-standard and should be avoided by the non-native speaker.

Chapter 14

Reflexive Verbs

14.1 Use of reflexive verbs

The one characteristic that all reflexive verbs have in common is that they cannot take a direct object in the accusative case. Very often, the fact that the verb is reflexive means that the subject of the sentence is what is being acted upon.

Мяч кідаецца ім.
Яны баяцца.

The ball is thrown by him.
They are afraid.

14.2 Conjugation of reflexive verbs

Reflexive verbs in general are all formed from non-reflexive verbs in the same way. Below are given examples of both type 1 and type 2 reflexive verbs. The reader will notice that they are formed in the exact same way. An example of a type 1 reflexive verb is старацца, *to try*, and an example of a type 2 reflexive verb is туліцца, *to press against*.

стараюся
стараешся
стараецца

стараемся
стараецца
стараюцца

тулюся
тулішся
туліцца

тулімся
туліцеся
туліяцца

падабацца
спадзявацца
баяцца
нарадзіцца

to be pleasing
to hope
to fear
to be born

1st pers. sing.
падабаюся
спадзяюся
баяюся
нарадзуся

2nd pers. sing.
падабаешся
спадзяешся
баяшся
нарадзішся

14.3 Reflexive past tense, participles, and gerunds

All other parts of the verb are formed like normal verbs, with the suffix *-ся* placed on the end.

Ён стараўся дапамагаць.
Ляжалі абняўшыся і маўчалі.
Міхась быстра падняўся з зямлі,
не аглядаючыся вакол.

He tried to help.
They lay hugging and were quiet.
Michael quickly got up off the ground,
not looking around.

Chapter 15

Past Tenses

15.1 Past tense formation

Belarusian verbal aspect is similar to Russian and Ukrainian. Consult a text on one of these languages for more information on verbal aspect. Belarusian has two past tenses, the past perfect and the past imperfect. The past tense form is conjugated for gender and number, but not for person. The past tense is formed from the infinitive of the appropriate aspect.

Мы шмат рабілі, калі жылі там.	<i>We were getting a lot done while we were living there.</i>
Я пазнаёміўся з ім, калі прыехаў.	<i>I met him when I arrived.</i>
Густая і чорная вада цякла ціха і спакойна.	<i>The thick and black water flowed quietly quietly and peacefully.</i>

Infinitives with the ending **-ць** form the past tense by replacing the final **-ць** with **-ў** to form the masculine, **-ло** to form the neuter, **-ла** to form the feminine, or **-лі** to form the plural. If unaccented, the neuter ending is **-ла**.

infin.		masc.	neut.	fem.	pl.
быць	<i>to be</i>	быў	было	была	былі
жыць	<i>to live</i>	жыў	жыло	жыла	жылі
чытаць	<i>to read</i>	чытаў	чытала	чытала	чыталі

15.2 Past tense of verbs ending in **-чы** or **-ці**

The past tense of these verbs really just have to be memorized. If the masculine form ends in **-ў**, the verb is conjugated for the other genders by replacing the final **-ў** with the proper ending, either **-ло**, **-ла**, or **-лі**.

вeсці	<i>to bring</i>	вёў	вяло	вяла	вялі
eсць	<i>to eat</i>	eў	eла	eла	eлі
iсці	<i>to go</i>	iшоў	iшло	iшла	iшлі
класці	<i>to put</i>	клаў	клала	клала	клалі
красці	<i>to steal</i>	краў	крала	крала	кралі
сeсці	<i>to sit</i>	сеў	сeла	сeла	сeлі
цвiсці	<i>to bloom</i>	цвiў	цвiло	цвiла	цвiлі

If the masculine past tense form ends in a consonant, the other genders are formed by simply adding the appropriate ending to the end of the masculine form

infin.		masc.	neut.	fem.	pl.
бегчы	<i>to run</i>	бег	бегла	бегла	беглі
берагчы	<i>to take care of</i>	бярoг	берагло	берагла	бераглі
валачы	<i>to drag</i>	валoк	валакло	валакла	валаклі
легчы	<i>to lie down</i>	лeг	лягло	лягла	ляглі
магчы	<i>to be able to</i>	мог	магло	магла	маглі
пячы	<i>to bake</i>	пeк	пякло	пякла	пяклі
сячы	<i>to cut up</i>	сек	секла	секла	секлі
стрыгчы	<i>to cut [hair]</i>	стрыг	стрыгло	стрыгла	стрыглі
вeзці	<i>to transport</i>	вeз	вязло	вязла	вязлі
лeзці	<i>to climb</i>	лез	лезла	лезла	лезлі
нeсці	<i>to carry</i>	нeс	несла	несла	неслі
памeрці	<i>to die</i>	памeр	памерла	памерла	памерлі
пeрці	<i>to make one's way</i>	пeр	перла	перла	перлі
цeрці	<i>to rub</i>	цeр	церла	церла	церлі

15.3 Past tense of verbs ending in –нуць

Most verbs ending in –**нуць** form the past tense normally, but there are a few irregular ones that just have to be memorized. These ones form the masculine past tense by removing the –**нуць** ending. The other genders are formed by adding the appropriate ending.

глухнуць	<i>to go deaf</i>	глух	глухла	глухла	глухлі
знікнуць	<i>to disappear</i>	знік	знікла	знікла	зніклі
мерзнуць	<i>to freeze</i>	мeрз	мерзла	мерзла	мерзлі
пранікнуць	<i>to penetrate</i>	пранік	пранікла	пранікла	праніклі
прывыкнуць	<i>to get used to</i>	прывык	прывыкла	прывыкла	прывыклі
сохнуць	<i>to become dry</i>	сох	сохла	сохла	сохлі
узнікнуць	<i>to arise</i>	узнік	узнікла	узнікла	узніклі

Chapter 16

Present and Future Tenses

Belarusian verbal aspect is similar to Russian and Ukrainian. Consult a text on one of these languages for more information on verbal aspect.

16.1 Present tense

Belarusian has one present tense and two future tenses, the future perfect and the future imperfect. The present tense is formed by conjugating the infinitive of the imperfect aspect of a verb for the correct person.

Я тут жы <u>в</u> у.	<i>I live here.</i>
Я жы <u>в</u> у ця <u>п</u> ер у ся <u>б</u> ро <u>ў</u> .	<i>I am living with friends right now.</i>
Я жы <u>в</u> у з і <u>мі</u> ме <u>с</u> я <u>ц</u> .	<i>I have lived with them for a month.</i>

The verb быць, *to be*, has no present tense conjugation. The verb *to be* is often rendered in the present tense as a pause, represented as a dash when written. It is dropped completely in third person impersonal constructions. The verb *to be* can also be expressed by using other verbs like бываць, *to occur*, and стаць, *to become*.

Я — аме <u>р</u> ыка <u>н</u> ец, а ты — бе <u>л</u> ару <u>с</u> .	<i>I am an american, and you are a belarusian.</i>
Хло <u>п</u> чык — ве <u>л</u> ьмі га <u>л</u> одны.	<i>The young man is very hungry.</i>
Ця <u>ж</u> ка вы <u>в</u> учы <u>ц</u> ь но <u>в</u> ую мо <u>в</u> у.	<i>It is difficult to learn a new language.</i>

16.2 Future imperfect formation

The future imperfect tense is formed by conjugating the verb быць for the correct person, and following that with the infinitive of a verb's imperfective aspect.

Ш <u>т</u> о буд <u>з</u> еш ра <u>б</u> і <u>ц</u> ь?	<i>What will you be doing?</i>
Я буд <u>у</u> мно <u>г</u> а чы <u>т</u> а <u>ц</u> ь.	<i>I will be reading a lot.</i>

16.3 Future perfect formation

The future perfect tense is formed by conjugating the infinitive of a verb's perfective aspect for the correct person.

Ш <u>т</u> о з <u>р</u> об <u>і</u> ш?	<i>What will you do?</i>
Я ск <u>о</u> н <u>ч</u> у гэ <u>т</u> у к <u>н</u> і <u>г</u> у.	<i>I will finish this book.</i>

Chapter 17

The Imperative

17.1 Formation of the imperative

In the case of the vast majority of Belarusian verbs, the imperative is formed as follows. Conjugate the verb for the 2nd person plural and remove the final two letters. If the stem ends in a vowel, add an *-й*. If the stem ends in an invariably hard consonant, nothing is added, otherwise add either an *-і* or a *-ь*. The ending *-і* is added either if the infinitive is more than one syllable and the accent falls on the last syllable, or if the root ends in two or more consonants (note that the letter combinations *дз* and *дж* are each treated as a single letter). If neither of these two conditions is met, then a *-ь* is added. This forms the singular form of the imperative. To form the plural imperative, the suffix *-це* is appended to the singular form.

infin.		2 rd pers. sing.	stem	imp. sing.	imp. pl
браць	<i>to take</i>	бярэ <u>ш</u>	бяр-	бяр <u>ы</u>	бяр <u>ыце</u>
глядзець	<i>to look</i>	глядз <u>іш</u>	глядз-	глядз <u>і</u>	глядз <u>іце</u>
глянуць	<i>to glance</i>	глян <u>іш</u>	глян-	глян <u>ь</u>	глян <u>ьце</u>
жыць	<i>to live</i>	жыве <u>ш</u>	жыв-	жыв <u>і</u>	жыв <u>іце</u>
легчы	<i>to lie down</i>	ляж <u>аш</u>	ляж-	ляж	ляж <u>це</u>
мыць	<i>to wash</i>	мы <u>еш</u>	мы-	мы <u>й</u>	мы <u>йце</u>
ехаць	<i>to drive</i>	едз <u>еш</u>	едз-	едз <u>ь</u>	едз <u>це</u>
рабіць	<i>to do</i>	р <u>о</u> бі <u>ш</u>	роб-	раб <u>і</u>	раб <u>іце</u>
рэзаць	<i>to slice</i>	р <u>э</u> ж <u>аш</u>	рэж-	р <u>э</u> ж	р <u>э</u> ж <u>це</u>
сячы	<i>to cut up</i>	сяч <u>эш</u>	сяч-	сяч <u>ы</u>	сяч <u>ыце</u>
стаць	<i>to become</i>	стан <u>іш</u>	стан-	стан <u>ь</u>	стан <u>ьце</u>
стукнуць	<i>to knock</i>	стукн <u>іш</u>	стукн-	стукн <u>і</u>	стукн <u>іце</u>
чакаць	<i>to wait</i>	чак <u>а</u> еш	чака-	чак <u>ай</u>	чак <u>айце</u>

17.2 Vowel changes due to spelling rules

There are several verbs, which seem to be irregular, but the changes of their vowels are really just manifestations of spelling rules.

баяцца	<i>to fear</i>	ба <u>е</u> ш <u>я</u>	бо-	б <u>о</u> й <u>я</u>	б <u>о</u> й <u>це</u> с <u>я</u>
смяцца	<i>to dare</i>	см <u>я</u> еш <u>я</u>	сме-	см <u>е</u> й <u>я</u>	см <u>е</u> й <u>це</u> с <u>я</u>
стаяць	<i>to stand</i>	ста <u>і</u> ш	сто-	стой	стой <u>це</u>

17.3 Verbs beginning with вы-

If imperative form of verb ends in an -і (or -ы due to spelling rules) the verb formed by adding the prefix **вы-** to the verb also has an imperative that ends in -і, even though the accent will fall on the prefix.

в <u>е</u> сці	<i>to lead</i>	в <u>я</u> дзі	в <u>ы</u> в <u>е</u> сці	<i>to lead away</i>	в <u>ы</u> в <u>е</u> дзі
ка <u>х</u> аць	<i>to say</i>	ка <u>ж</u> ы	в <u>ы</u> ка <u>з</u> аць	<i>to state smthng.</i>	в <u>ы</u> ка <u>ж</u> ы
р <u>в</u> аць	<i>to tear</i>	р <u>в</u> і	в <u>ы</u> р <u>в</u> аць	<i>to tear away</i>	в <u>ы</u> р <u>в</u> і

17.4 Irregular imperatives

Certain verbs have irregular imperatives. They are given below.

да <u>в</u> аць	<i>to give</i>	да <u>е</u> ш	да <u>в</u> ай	да <u>в</u> айце
да <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to give (perfective)</i>	да <u>с</u> і	да <u>й</u>	да <u>й</u> це
е <u>с</u> ці	<i>to eat</i>	е <u>ш</u>	е <u>ш</u>	е <u>ш</u> це
б <u>і</u> ць	<i>to hit</i>	б' <u>е</u> ш	б <u>і</u>	б <u>і</u> це
л <u>і</u> ць	<i>to pour</i>	л <u>ь</u> еш	л <u>і</u>	л <u>і</u> це
п <u>і</u> ць	<i>to drink</i>	п <u>ь</u> еш	п <u>і</u>	п <u>і</u> це

17.5 1st person plural imperative

The most common way of forming the 1st person plural imperative is by using the word давайце. If the verb is imperfective, давайце is followed by the verb's infinitive. If the verb is perfective, the word давайце is followed by the verb conjugated for the 1st person plural.

Давайце яшчэ нальем.
Давайце крычаць: хто слабей
крыкне, таго зьядзем.

Let's pour in some more.
Let's yell: Whoever yells the weakest,
him we will eat.

Alternatively, verbs do have a special form for the 1st person plural imperative.

Бярэм манаткі і марш!
Уцякайма, пакуль не позна.
Едзем на базар, каб купіць ежу
на заўтра.

Let's grab our gear and move out!
Let's get out of here, while it's not too late.
Let's go to the market to buy food
for tomorrow.

If the 2nd person singular imperative ends in –й, the 1st person plural imperative is formed by adding the letters –ма to the end of the imperative.

infin.		imp. sing.	1 st pers. pl. imp.
будаваць	<i>to build</i>	буду́й	буду́йма
мыцца	<i>to wash oneself</i>	мы́йся	мы́ймася
чытаць	<i>to read</i>	чыта́й	чыта́йма

If the 2nd person singular imperative ends in an accented –ы or –і, the 1st person plural imperative is formed by replacing that final letter with –эм or –ем respectively.

бегчы	<i>to run</i>	бяжы́	бяжэ́м
брацца	<i>to wrap around smthng</i>	бярэ́ся	бярэ́мся
крычаць	<i>to yell</i>	крычы́	крычэ́м
сарваць	<i>to tear (perfective)</i>	сарві́	сарве́м
спаць	<i>to sleep</i>	спі́	спе́м
хадзіць	<i>to walk</i>	хадзі́	хадзе́м

Otherwise, the 1st person plural imperative is identical to the 1st person plural indicative form.

быць	<i>to be</i>	будзь	будзем
сесці́	<i>to sit down (perfective)</i>	сядзь	сядзем
лягчы́	<i>to lie down (perfective)</i>	ляж	ляжам

17.6 3rd person imperative

The third person imperative is formed by placing either the particle хай or няхай before the verb, conjugated for the third person, either singular or plural.

Хай гаво́рыць.	<i>Let him speak.</i>
Не чапа́й, хай ляжы́ць.	<i>Don't disturb him, let him lie.</i>
Хай будзе́ святло́.	<i>Let there be light!</i>

Chapter 18

Verbs of Motion

There is a set of verbs expressing motion, whose imperfective aspect has two distinct parts, the indeterminate form and the determinate form. The determinate form is used when expressing a distinct progression from one point to another. The indeterminate form is used in all other instances.

indeterminate
хадзіць

determinate
ісці

to walk

хаджу
ходзіш
ходзіць

ходзім
ходзіце
ходзяць

іду
ідеш
ідзе

ідзем
ідзяце
ідуць

хадзіў
хадзіла
хадзіла

хадзілі

ішоў
ішло
ішла

ішлі

ездзіць

ехаць

to go [by transport]

езджу
ездзіш
ездзіць

ездзім
ездзіце
ездзяць

еду
едзеш
едзе

едзеш
едзеце
едуць

ездзіў
ездзіла
ездзіла

ездзілі

ехаў
ехала
ехала

ехалі

бегаць

бегчы

to run

бегаю
бегаеш
бегае

бегаем
бегаеце
бегаюць

бягу
бяжыш
бяжыць

бяжым
бяжыце
бягуць

бегаў
бегала
бегала

бегалі

бег
бегла
бегла

беглі

вадзіць

ваджу
водзіш
водзіць

вадзіў
вадзіла
вадзіла

весці

водзім
водзіце
водзяць

вадзілі

вяду
вядзеш
вядзе

вёў
вяло
вяла

to lead

вядзем
ведзяце
вядуць

вялі

вазіць

важу
возіш
возіць

вазіў
вазіла
вазіла

везці

возім
возіце
возяць

вазілі

вязу
вязеш
вязе

вёз
везла
везла

to transport

вядзем
вядзяце
вядуць

везлі

ганяць

ганяю
ганяеш
ганяе

ганяў
ганяла
ганяла

гнаць

ганяем
ганяеце
ганяюць

ганялі

ганю
гоніш
гоніць

гнаў
гнала
гнала

to chase

гонім
гоніце
гоняць

гналі

качаць

качаю
качаеш
качае

качаў
качала
качала

каціць

качаем
качаеце
качаюць

качалі

качу
коціш
коціць

каціў
каціла
каціла

to roll

коцім
коціце
коцяць

кацілі

лазіць

лажу
лазіш
лазіць

лазім
лазіце
лазяць

лазіў
лазіла
лазіла

лезці

лезу
лезеш
лезе

лез
лезла
лезла

лезем
лезеце
лезуць

лезлі

to climb

лятаць

лятаю
лятаеш
лятае

лятаем
лятаеце
лятаюць

лятаў
лятала
лятала

ляцець

лячу
ляціш
ляціць

ляцеў
ляцела
ляцела

ляцім
ляціце
ляцяць

ляцелі

to fly

насіць

нашу
носіш
носіць

носім
носіце
носяць

насіў
насіла
насіла

несці

нясу
нясеш
нясе

нёс
несла
несла

нясём
несяце
нясуць

неслі

to carry

цягаць

цягаю
цягаеш
цягае

цягаем
цягаеце
цягаюць

цягаў
цягала
цягала

цягнуць

цягну
цягнеш
цягне

цягнуў
цягнула
цягнула

цягнем
цягнеце
цягнуць

цягнулі

to pull

Chapter 19

Verbel Prefixes

19.1 Prefix usage

Adding a prefix to an imperfective verb creates a perfective verb with a modified meaning. When a prefix ending in a consonant is attached to a verb beginning in an iotized vowel, a buffer symbol ‘ is placed between them.

When хадзіць has a prefix attached to it, the accent moves to the root for all forms. When ісці has a prefix attached to it, the initial i- changes to an й- and the accent falls on the prefix for all persons in the present tense except the 1st person singular. The exception to this is the prefix вы-, the accent always falls on this prefix, irrespective of person or tense. When either хадзіць or ісці has a prefix attached, which ends in a consonant, an ы is placed as a buffer between the prefix and root.

аб’явіць	<i>to announce</i>	пад’ехаць	<i>to drive up</i>
прыходжу	<i>I am coming</i>	прыходзіў	<i>I came</i>
пойдзе	<i>he will go</i>	пайшоў	<i>he went</i>
разышліся	<i>they dispersed</i>	адыходжу	<i>I am leaving</i>

19.2 Directional prefix meanings

Each of these prefixes has additional meanings that have nothing to do with direction, but for now I have only listed the meanings which imply a direction of motion. Prefixes can be added to verbs to create new verbs. Adding a prefix to the indeterminate form of a verb of motion creates the imperfective infinitive of a verb, and adding the prefix to the determinate form creates the perfective infinitive of the same verb. The exception to this rule is the verb ехаць and ездзіць, *to go [by transport]*. The perfective aspect of a verb can be formed by adding a prefix to ехаць, but the imperfective aspect of the same verb is formed by adding the prefix to the verb язджаць. The form язджаць rarely occurs on its own, without a prefix. These prefixes can also be added to other, non-motion verbs.

па- This prefix is added to the directional infinitive to form the perfective infinitive for all verbs of motion.

пайсці	<i>to go [somewhere, on foot]</i>
паехаць	<i>to go [somewhere, by transport]</i>
пабегчы	<i>to run [somewhere]</i>
панесці	<i>to carry [something somewhere]</i>

аб- This prefix implies encompassing or overtaking motion.

а <u>б</u> ходзіць	а <u>б</u> ыйсці	<i>to walk around</i>
а <u>б</u> 'язджаць	а <u>б</u> 'ехаць	<i>to drive around</i>
а <u>б</u> ганяць	а <u>б</u> гнаць	<i>to overtake</i>
а <u>б</u> кладваць	а <u>б</u> класці	<i>to surround [with something]</i>

ад- This prefix has the meaning of moving away.

а <u>д</u> ходзіць	а <u>д</u> ыйсці	<i>to withdraw</i>
а <u>д</u> носіць	а <u>д</u> несці	<i>to carry off</i>
а <u>д</u> біраць	а <u>д</u> браць	<i>to take away</i>
а <u>д</u> рываць	а <u>д</u> арваць	<i>to tear off</i>

вы- This prefix has the meaning of moving away.

а <u>д</u> ходзіць	<u>в</u> ыйсці	<i>to leave [on foot]</i>
а <u>д</u> носіць	а <u>д</u> несці	<i>to carry off</i>
а <u>д</u> біраць	а <u>д</u> браць	<i>to take away</i>
а <u>д</u> рываць	а <u>д</u> арваць	<i>to tear off</i>

да- This prefix implies movement as far as, or up to, a certain point.

да <u>д</u> ходзіць	да <u>д</u> йсці	<i>to reach</i>
да <u>д</u> носіць	да <u>д</u> несці	<i>to bring as far as</i>
да <u>д</u> ганяць	да <u>д</u> гнаць	<i>to catch up to</i>
да <u>д</u> бірацца	да <u>д</u> брацца	<i>to get as far as</i>

з- This prefix has the meaning of coming off of, or coming out of.

з <u>з</u> ходзіць	з <u>з</u> ыйсці	<i>to come off of</i>
з' <u>з</u> язджаць	з' <u>з</u> ехаць	<i>to depart</i>
з <u>н</u> осіць	з <u>н</u> есці	<i>to take down from, to take out of</i>
з <u>н</u> імаць	з <u>н</u> яць	<i>to remove</i>

за- Verbs with this prefix have the meanings of traveling far, or past something.

за <u>х</u> одзіць	зай <u>с</u> ці	<i>to walk behind</i>
за <u>б</u> егаць	за <u>б</u> егчы	<i>to run ahead</i>
за <u>н</u> осіць	за <u>н</u> есці	<i>to carry [far] away</i>
за <u>к</u> ладваць	за <u>к</u> ласці	<i>to place behind</i>

на- Verbs with this prefix have the meaning of collision with something.

на <u>х</u> одзіць	най <u>с</u> ці	<i>to come across, to walk into</i>
на <u>я</u> зджаць	на <u>я</u> ехаць	<i>to run into [with a vehicle]</i>
на <u>п</u> адаць	на <u>п</u> асці	<i>to fall into</i>
на <u>с</u> тупаць	па <u>с</u> тупіць	<i>to approach [a certain time]</i>

пад- This prefix has the basic meaning of upward motion.

па <u>д</u> ыходзіць	па <u>д</u> ыйсці	<i>to approach [on foot]</i>
па <u>д</u> 'язджаць	па <u>д</u> 'ехаць	<i>to drive up to</i>
па <u>д</u> бягаць	па <u>д</u> бегчы	<i>to run up to</i>
па <u>д</u> німаць	па <u>д</u> няць	<i>to lift</i>

пера- This prefix has the meaning of crossing over something.

пе <u>р</u> аходзіць	пе <u>р</u> айсці	<i>to walk across</i>
пе <u>р</u> аносіць	пе <u>р</u> анесці	<i>to carry across</i>
пе <u>р</u> адаваць	пе <u>р</u> адаць	<i>to pass along</i>
пе <u>р</u> акладваць	пе <u>р</u> акласці	<i>to transfer, to translate</i>

пра- This prefix gives verbs the meaning of passing by something.

п <u>р</u> аходзіць	п <u>р</u> айсці	<i>to pass by</i>
п <u>р</u> аязджаць	п <u>р</u> аехаць	<i>to drive past</i>
п <u>р</u> абягаць	п <u>р</u> абегчы	<i>to run by</i>
п <u>р</u> аносіць	п <u>р</u> анесці	<i>to carry by</i>

раз- This prefix gives verbs the meaning of movement in various directions, or distribution.

разыходзіцца	разыйсціся	<i>to disperse</i>
раз'язджацца	раз'ехацца	<i>to drive away [in various directions]</i>
разбягацца	разбегчыся	<i>to run off, to scatter</i>
разлятацца	разляцецца	<i>to fly away, to scatter</i>

у- This prefix gives verbs the meaning of entering. It changes to ува with хадзіць and ісці.

уваходзіць	увайсці	<i>to enter</i>
уязджаць	уехаць	<i>to drive in</i>
убягаць	убегчы	<i>to run in</i>
уносіць	унесці	<i>to carry in</i>

уз- This prefix gives verbs the meaning of upward motion.

узыходзіць	узыйсці	<i>to walk up</i>
узлазіць	узлезці	<i>to climb up</i>
узлятаць	узляцець	<i>to take off</i>
узвышаць	узвысіць	<i>to elevate</i>

Chapter 20

Gerunds and Participles

Gerunds and participles are not commonly used in colloquial Belarusian, but they are found in literature.

20.1 Present imperfect gerunds

These gerunds are formed by conjugating an imperfect infinitive of a verb for the 3rd person plural, removing the final *-ць*, and appending the ending *-чы*. They are often also used as a present active participle, but they do not decline.

infin.		3 rd pers. pl.	ger.
вярта <u>ц</u> ца	<i>to turn</i>	вярта <u>ю</u> цца	вярта <u>ю</u> чыся
гавар <u>ы</u> ць	<i>to speak</i>	гавор <u>а</u> ць	гавор <u>а</u> чы
піса <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to write</i>	пішу <u>ц</u> ь	пішу <u>ч</u> ы
хадз <u>і</u> ць	<i>to walk</i>	ходз <u>я</u> ць	ходз <u>я</u> чы
чыта <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to read</i>	чыта <u>ю</u> ць	чыта <u>ю</u> чы

Яго вусны заварушыліся, нібы
творачы святую малітву.

*His lips moved, as though forming a
sacred prayer.*

Нават будучы параненым, ён не
меў права на спакойнае
жыццё.

*Even being wounded, he didn't have
the right to a peaceful life.*

20.2 Past perfect gerunds

These gerunds are formed from perfective verbs by conjugating the verb for the past tense masculine singular and adding the ending *-шы*.

напіса <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to write</i>	папіса <u>ў</u>	папіса <u>ў</u> шы
зрабі <u>ц</u> ь	<i>to do</i>	зрабі <u>ў</u>	зрабі <u>ў</u> шы
вярну <u>ц</u> ца	<i>to return</i>	вярну <u>ў</u> ся	вярну <u>ў</u> шыся
прывес <u>ц</u> і	<i>to bring</i>	прывё <u>с</u>	прывё <u>с</u> шы
пабе <u>г</u> чы	<i>to run</i>	пабе <u>г</u>	пабе <u>г</u> шы

Напісаўшы, што трэба было, ён
пачаў поркацца ў паперах.
Перанёсшы яго, рыбы доўга не

*Having written what was necessary, he
began to pore over the papers.
Having carried him over, the fish did not*

вярталіся.

return for a while.

20.3 Past passive participles

Participles are adjectives, obeying all the same rules that other adjectives do. Most of them are formed by attaching **-аны**, or **-ены** to the root of the infinitive. There really isn't much rhyme or reason to the formation, each participle needs to be memorized. These participles can be formed from either aspect, but they are formed much more often from the perfective aspect.

infin.		past pass. part.
піса <u>ць</u>	<i>to write</i>	піса <u>ны</u>
звяза <u>ць</u>	<i>to bind (perfective)</i>	звяза <u>ны</u>
купі <u>ць</u>	<i>to buy (perfective)</i>	купле <u>ны</u>
зрабі <u>ць</u>	<i>to do, to make (perfective)</i>	зробле <u>ны</u>
скла <u>сці</u>	<i>to stack (perfective)</i>	складзе <u>ны</u>

Monosyllable infinitives form the past passive participle by removing the final **-ць** and appending the suffix **-ты**.

мы <u>ць</u>	<i>to wash</i>	мы <u>ты</u>
бі <u>ць</u>	<i>to hit</i>	бі <u>ты</u>
шы <u>ць</u>	<i>to sew</i>	шы <u>ты</u>

У выстаўцы ёсць карань беларускі,
пісаны татарскімі літарамі.

*In the exhibit is a Belarusian Koran, written
with the tatar alphabet.*

Яна была падобна да зробленай
з каменю фігуркі.

She was like a statue made from stone.

Давялося-б яму зараз выціраць
свой твар ад слядоў, а
галаве прышлося-б
пазнаёміцца з бітым шклом.

*He just happened to peel his face away
from the footprints, and his head
happened to become acquainted with
the smashed glass.*

Chapter 21

The Nominative Case

21.1 Use of the nominative case

This case is taken by the subject of the sentence. If the verb of the sentence is ёсць, or if there is no verb, then the object of the sentence also takes the nominative case.

Белару <u>с</u> ь — прыго <u>ж</u> ы кут.	<i>Belarus is a beautiful land.</i>
Але ён дурны, а я разумны.	<i>But he is foolish, and I am wise.</i>

The direct objects of the verb зваць, *to call*, often take the nominative case.

Яго завуць Са <u>ш</u> а.	<i>His name is Sasha.</i>
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The direct object of the verbs быць, *to be*, and стаць, *to become*, can take the nominative case if the direct object is an adjective that is being used as a predicate.

Яна ста <u>л</u> а цяпер жва <u>в</u> ая.	<i>She now became lively.</i>
Ра <u>н</u> а ці по <u>з</u> на будуць назван <u>ы</u> я злач <u>ы</u> нц <u>а</u> мі і праклат <u>ы</u> я.	<i>Sooner or later, they will be labeled criminals and damned.</i>

Chapter 22

The Accusative Case

22.1 Use of the accusative case

The direct object of most verbs usually takes the accusative case. Certain prepositions are followed by nouns in the accusative case, often when motion is implied. A period of time placed in the accusative case, with no preposition preceding it, indicates that an action was carried out over the course of that time.

Скажы мне, ты запраўды мяне кахаеш? Кахаю цябе Я жыў з імі месяц.	<i>Tell me, do you really love me? I love you. I lived with them for a month.</i>
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22.2 Prepositions with the accusative case

The following prepositions can be followed by the accusative case. Often, the meaning of the prefix revolves around a sense of motion. The meaning of each preposition in that context is given.

аб	<i>against</i> Лодка стукнулася аб бераг.	<i>The boat bumped against the shore.</i>
з	<i>about</i> Прайшоў з кіламетр.	<i>I walked about a kilometer.</i>
за	<i>behind</i> Ён пайшоў за хату.	<i>He went behind the house.</i>
	<i>at</i> Саджуся за стол.	<i>I sit down at the table.</i>
	<i>after</i> Гаварылі далёка за поўнач. [not translated, expresses distance]	<i>They spoke well past midnight.</i>
	Жыве за 40 кіламетраў за горада.	<i>He lives 40 kilometers from the city.</i>
	<i>in</i> Гэта можна зрабіць за два	<i>This can get done in two days.</i>

		дні.	
на	<i>on</i>	Паставіць яго на стол.	<i>He will put it on the table.</i>
	<i>to</i>	Ідзём на Магілёў.	<i>We're going to Mohilyow.</i>
		[not translated, similar to 'per']	
		Два разы на тыдзень.	<i>Twice a week.</i>
	<i>by</i>	Дыван тры на шэсць метраў.	<i>The carpet is three by six meters.</i>
па	<i>up to</i>	Стаіць у вадзе па пояс.	<i>He stands in water up to his waist.</i>
	<i>for</i>	Пайдзі пад студню па ваду.	<i>Go to the well for water.</i>
	<i>along</i>	Людзі ішлі па той бок.	<i>People were walking along that side.</i>
пад	<i>under</i>	Схаваў яго пад падушку.	<i>He hid it under the pillow.</i>
	<i>about</i>	Гадоў пад сорак.	<i>About forty years.</i>
	<i>to</i>	Пайдзі пад студню па ваду.	<i>Go to the well for water.</i>
паўз	<i>by</i>	Праязджалі паўз лес.	<i>We drove by the forest.</i>
пра	<i>about</i>	Мы гаварылі пра яго.	<i>We were talking about him.</i>
праз	<i>through</i>	Прайсці праз натоўп.	<i>To pass through a crowd.</i>
	<i>after</i>	Прышло праз дзве гадзіны.	<i>It arrived after two weeks.</i>
	<i>because of</i>	Праз гэта я многае страціў.	<i>I suffered a lot because of this.</i>

скрозь	<i>through</i> (implying penetration) Промні прабіваліся скрозь галіны.	<i>Sunbeams broke through the branches.</i>
цераз	<i>across</i> Пераступіць цераз парог.	<i>To step across the threshold.</i>
	<i>through</i> Дождж ішоў цераз поўнач.	<i>It rained right through midnight.</i>
у	<i>to</i> Дзеці ходзяць ў школу.	<i>The children go to school.</i>
	<i>in</i> Запісаў гэта ў сшытак.	<i>He wrote it down in his notebook.</i>
	<i>into</i> Яны ўвайшлі ў лес.	<i>They walked into the forest.</i>
	<i>on</i> Стукаць у дзверы.	<i>To knock on the door.</i>
	<i>at</i> Страляць у праціўніка.	<i>To shoot at an enemy.</i>
	<i>up to</i> Намяло снегу ў пояс. [not translated, similar to 'per']	<i>Snow drifted up to waist height.</i>
	<i>on</i> Адзін раз у год.	<i>Once a year.</i>
	<i>on</i> Не працую ў выхадныя. [used to denote multiplication]	<i>I don't work on weekends.</i>
	Два ў тры — шэсць.	<i>Two times three is six.</i>

Chapter 23

The Genitive Case

23.1 Use of the genitive case

This case is used both by certain prepositions and also to express ownership and relationship. Some verbs require that the direct object be placed in the genitive case. To negate a sentence, the particle не is placed before the direct object, and the direct object is placed in the genitive case. A lack of something can be expressed by the word няма, followed by the noun in the genitive plural, or genitive singular if the noun has no plural form.

Расліны баюцца марозу.
Я сама гэтага хацела.

*Plants fear the frost.
I myself wanted this.*

Невядома, хто гаспадар гэтага
катэджа.

*It is not know who the owner of this
cottage is.*

Я не маю часу.
Я нічога не разумею.

*I do not have any time.
I do not understand anything.*

23.2 Prepositions with the genitive case

The following prepositions can be followed by the genitive case. The meaning of each preposition in that context is given.

ад *from*

Ад сасны адламалася галінка. *A branch broke off from the tree.*

Схаваліся ад дажджу. *They hid from the rain.*

Ад вясны да восені. *From spring to fall.*

than

Мацней ад грому. *Stronger than thunder.*

акрамя *but*

Там нікога не было
акрамя мяне. *No one was there
besides me.*

апрача	<i>but</i>	Там нікога не было апрача мяне	<i>No one was there besides me.</i>
без	<i>without</i>	Без усялякай прычыны.	<i>Without any excuse.</i>
вакол	<i>around</i>	Вакол яго сабраліся людзі.	<i>People gathered around him.</i>
воддаль	<i>far from</i>	Воддаль дарогі стаяла вёска.	<i>Far from the road was a village.</i>
да	<i>until</i>	Яшчэ некалькі дзён да жніва.	<i>It is still a few days until harvest.</i>
	<i>to</i>	Дадаць пяць да трох. Ужо да берага падплываў.	<i>Add five to three. He had already swum to the bank.</i>
дзеля	<i>for [the benefit of someone or something]</i>	Зраблю гэта дзеля цябе.	<i>I will do this for you.</i>
для	<i>for (many senses)</i>	Для яго гэта лёгкая справа.	<i>It is an easy thing for him.</i>
з	<i>off of (opposite of на + accusative)</i>	Прыбраў ліст з акна.	<i>He removed the leaf off of the window.</i>
	<i>out of (opposite of у + accusative)</i>	Выйшаў з вады.	<i>He got out of the water.</i>
замест	<i>instead</i>	Хочаш вады замест чаю?	<i>Do you want water instead of tea?</i>

звыш	[used to mean a surpassing or exceeding] Набраў звыш двух дзесяткаў. <i>He gathered more than twenty.</i>	
каля	<i>near</i> Дрэва расце каля плоту. <i>The tree grows near the fence.</i>	
	<i>about</i> Каля пяці гадзін. <i>About five o'clock.</i>	
між	<i>among</i> Спрэчка між сябраў. <i>An argument among friends.</i>	
паводле	<i>in accordance with</i> Апанутая паводле апошняй моды. <i>Dressed according to the latest fashions.</i>	
паміж	<i>between</i> Стаець паміж двух агней. <i>To stand between two fires.</i>	
супраць	<i>across</i> Хата стаіць супраць школы. <i>The house is across from the school.</i>	
	<i>against</i> Плысці супраць цячэння. Хто «за» і хто «супраць»? Здарылася супраць маёй волі. <i>To swim against the current. Who is "for" and who is "against"? It happened against my will.</i>	
сярод	<i>in the middle of</i> Дрэва стаіць сярод поля. <i>A tree stands in the middle of a field.</i>	
у	[used to indicate possession] У яго баліць галава. <i>His head hurts.</i>	
	<i>at</i> Шыць паліто ў краўца. <i>To have the coat mended at the taylor's.</i>	

Chapter 24

The Dative Case

24.1 Use of the dative case

This case is used to signify indirect objects, and is also used by certain prepositions. Very often, words in the dative case can be translated into English as having the word 'to' placed before them. There are also certain constructions with predicates that use the dative case.

Вы даяце прыклад усім нашым калгаснікам. *You give an example to all our workers.*

Мне трэба выйсці. *I have to leave.*
Адставаць жа нельга нам! *We must not become separated!*
Не дваццаць табе летаў! *You are not even twenty years old!*

24.2 Prepositions with the dative case

The following prepositions can be followed by the dative case. The meaning of each preposition in that context is given.

к [used to indicate moving towards something]
Пайшоў к чорту! *Go to hell!*
for
Спякла пірог к святу. *She baked a pie for the holiday.*

The preposition most commonly used with the dative case is на. The different meanings of на + dative are difficult to classify, but several examples are given below. For these usages, the preposition на only takes the dative when the indirect object is singular. If the object is plural, it must take the prepositional case.

Я даў дзецям на яблыку. *I gave the children one apple apiece.*
Плыць па цячэнню *To swim with the current.*
Спаборніцтвы па футболе. *Soccer competition.*
Не прыехаў па хваробе. *He did not come because he was sick.*
Таварыш па універсітэту. *A friend from college.*

Chapter 25

The Instrumental Case

25.1 Use of the instrumental case

This case is used by certain prepositions and also to signify that the noun functions as some means for an action. The direct object of some verbs, especially those that translate as *to be*, also takes this case. A word in the instrumental case can often be translated into English by preceding it with the preposition “with.”

Галоўнай іх сілай былі гранаты.	<i>Their main weapon was grenades.</i>
Мы давай паедзем машынай.	<i>Let's take the car.</i>
Ты павінна валодаць гэтай мовай так, каб чулася як удома між людзей, якія пабеларуску гавораць.	<i>You should have such control of this, language, that you feel at home among people who speak Belarusian.</i>

25.2 Prepositions with the instrumental case

The following prepositions can be followed by the instrumental case. The meaning of each preposition in that context is given.

з	<i>with (as in accompanying)</i> Я пайшоў з імі.	<i>I went with them.</i>
за	<i>behind</i> Ідзі за мною.	<i>Walk behind me.</i>
між	<i>between</i> Дарога ўецца між палямі.	<i>The road winds between fields.</i>
над	<i>over (as in above)</i> Над лесам навісла хмара. <i>exceeding</i> Мароз над усімі маразамі.	<i>A stormcloud hung over the forest.</i> <i>A frost exceeding all frosts.</i>

пад	<i>beneath</i>	Жыта залоціцца пад сонцам.	<i>The rye ripened beneath the sun.</i>
	<i>under</i>	Быць пад строгай аховай.	<i>To be under heavy guard.</i>
паміж	<i>between</i>	Паміж небам і зямлёю.	<i>Between heaven and earth.</i>
перад	<i>in front of</i>	Не адступаць перад цяжкасцямі.	<i>Don't retreat in the face of difficulty.</i>
	<i>before</i>	Перад тым, трэба падумаць.	<i>Before that, one must think.</i>
	<i>compared to</i>	Яны нішто перад ім.	<i>They are nothing compared to him.</i>

Chapter 26

The Prepositional Case

26.1 Use of the prepositional case

This case is only used when following prepositions, hence the name. The following prepositions can be followed by the prepositional case. The meaning of each preposition in that context is given.

аб	<i>about</i>	Гаварылі аб усім.	<i>We spoke of everything.</i>
на	<i>on</i>	Кніга ляжыць на сталё.	<i>Walk behind me.</i>
	<i>in</i>	На вайне куды болей патрэбна такая вась дужасць.	<i>In war, such strength is needed much more.</i>
па	[used to denote movement all over or around something]	Ехаць на санях па лёдзе.	<i>To ride a sleigh over the ice.</i>
	<i>among</i>	Чуткі хадзілі па вёсках.	<i>The rumors circulated among the villages.</i>
	<i>after</i>	Па абедзе.	<i>After dinner.</i>

For the usages of па given below, the prepositional case can only be used if the object is plural. If it is singular, the dative case must be used, see 24.2 for examples.

Пайшлі па ягоных слялах.	<i>They followed in his steps.</i>
Снаборніцтва па лыжах.	<i>Skiing competition.</i>

пры	<i>near</i>	Ён быў пры смерці.	<i>He was near death.</i>
	<i>with</i>	Я застаўся пры сваёй думцы.	<i>I was left with my opinion.</i>

у

in

Стаїць у пакоі.

He is standing in the room.

Chapter 27

Prepositional Oddities

27.1 Preposition variation

The prepositions listed below have a special form when preceding certain words.

normal form	auxiliary form	
аб	аба	When preceding the words мне, ўсім, and ўсіх.
к	ка	When preceding the word мне.
пад	пада	When preceding the word мной.
над	нада	When preceding the word мной.
перад	перада	When preceding the word мной.
у	ва	When preceding any word beginning with ў.
у	ў	Otherwise, if it follows a word ending in a vowel.
з	са	Preceding any word beginning in ж, з, м, с, or ш.

27.2 Pronouns following prepositions

A characteristic unique to Belarusian of all the Slavic languages, the pronouns ён, яно, яна, and яны do not have a euphonic н appended to them when following a preposition.

аб ім	<i>about it</i>
да яго	<i>to him</i>
з ёй	<i>with her</i>
над імі	<i>over them</i>

27.3 Prepositional assimilation

The prepositions of one syllable or less are assimilated into the words that follow them. They and the words in front of them are pronounced as one word. For purposes of pronunciation, all spelling rules should be applied to the preposition as if it were part of the next word, for example, if the following word begins with a softened consonant, the ending of the preposition is pronounced softened. The Phonetic orthography writes the prepositions with the rules applied, while the Official does not. Pronunciation of prepositions reflects the application of the spelling rules, regardless of which orthography is used.

27.3 Prepositions with adverbs

Sometimes prepositions can be followed by an adverb, which is not declined.

Які прагноз на сення?

What is the forecast for today?

Нам трэба купіць ежу на заўтра.

We need to buy food for tomorrow.

Chapter 28

Conditional Sentences

28.1 Real conditional sentences

Conditional sentences consist of two clauses, a condition, and the result of that condition. If the result is certain, given the condition, then the sentence is formed thus; The first clause begins with *калі* and states the condition. The second clause can optionally begin with the word *дык*, and then states the result.

Калі ён здаровы, дык ён можа працаваць. *If he is healthy, then he can work.*

Калі ён ведаў, ён не ішоў. *If he knew, then he did not go.*

28.2 Hypothetical conditional sentences

If the result is uncertain, then the particle *бы* (*б* when preceded by a vowel) must be inserted into the result clause and any indicative verb must be changed to the past tense. If there is speculation involved, then the condition clause can also have *бы* added to it and the verb changed to the past tense.

Калі ён здаровы, ён мог бы працаваць. *If he is healthy, he might be able to work.*

Калі б ён быў здаровы, то мог бы працаваць. *If he were healthy, then he might be able to work.*

Калі ён ведаў, ён не пайшоў бы. *If he knew, he might not have gone.*

Калі б ён ведаў, то не пайшоў бы. *If he had not known, he might not have gone.*

Chapter 29

Adverbs

29.1 Adverbs formed from adjectives

Most adverbs are formed by removing the final **-ы** or **-і** from the adjective and adding **-а** to the ending. If the stress in the adjective falls on the last or next to the last syllable, it shifts to the first syllable for the adverb.

блізкі	<i>close</i>	блізка	<i>closely</i>
важны	<i>important</i>	важна	<i>importantly</i>
вясёлы	<i>happy</i>	весела	<i>happily</i>
дакладны	<i>precise</i>	дакладна	<i>precisely</i>
ранні	<i>early</i>	ранна	<i>early</i>
ціхі	<i>quiet</i>	ціха	<i>quietly</i>

29.2 Compound adverbs

These adverbs are formed by adding 'па-' to the front of the adjective. When certain possessive adjectives are formed from animate nouns, they can be made into adverbs indicating similarity of behavior to the animate noun.

дзіцячы	<i>child's</i>	па-дзіцячы	<i>childishly</i>
воўчы	<i>wolf's</i>	па-воўчы	<i>like a wolf</i>

Ordinal numbers form adverbs by declining the adjective for the nominative neuter case and adding the prefix.

першы	<i>first</i>	па-першае	<i>firstly</i>
другі	<i>second</i>	па-другое	<i>secondly</i>
трэці	<i>third</i>	па-трэцяе	<i>thirdly</i>

Some adjectives, especially ones denoting language or nationality, form an adverb by appending the prefix and changing the final **-і** to an **-у**.

беларускі	<i>Belarusian</i>	па-беларуску	<i>in Belarusian</i>
брацкі	<i>brother's</i>	па-брацку	<i>like a brother</i>
англійскі	<i>English</i>	па-англійску	<i>in English</i>

29.3 The adverbs болей, меней, больш and менш

The adverbs болей and больш mean *more*, and меней and менш mean *less*. See 6.4 for more on the usage of these adverbs.

Сястры ён болей не ўбачыць.	<i>He will not see his sister anymore.</i>
Куды болей за іх баяўся Ізяслаў свайго народа.	<i>Izyaslau feared his own people much more than them.</i>
У жыцці, аднак, усё сталася болей складана і меней шчасліва.	<i>In life, however, everything became more complicated and less happy.</i>
Кожны з якіх збіў больш за 100 нашых самалётаў.	<i>Each of which destroyed more than 100 of our planes.</i>
Я памкнуўся бліжэй, і Франі больш не пабачыў.	<i>I strove closer, and I did not see Franya any more.</i>
Яна, тым не менш, таіла ў сабе неразгаданую загадку.	<i>She nevertheless concealed within herself an unsolved riddle.</i>
Ён пачаў менш успамінаць былое.	<i>He started to remember the past less.</i>

29.4 Comparative and superlative adverbs

There are two ways to form the comparative and two ways to form the superlative form of an adverb. The short comparative form is the more common of the two. It is identical to the short comparative adjective. Section 6.1 covers its formation thoroughly. Not all adverbs have a short comparative form, but all adverbs can also form a comparative by preceding the adverb with болей or больш.

На вайне куды болей патрэбна такая вось дужасць.	<i>In war, such strength is needed much more.</i>
Рабілася ўсё болей сцюдзёна на гэтым ветраным узлеску.	<i>It became much colder at this windy forest edge.</i>
«Размова пра паходы скочана» сказаў больш лагодна	<i>“All talk of the march is finished” he said more good-naturedly.</i>
Гэта ідэя будзе больш выгадна.	<i>This idea will be more profitable.</i>

There are two ways of forming the superlative adverb. The first is to precede the adverb with either *найбольш*, *most*. The second way is to follow the adverb by the phrase *за ўсё* or *за ўсiх*.

Нас маглі накіраваць куды заўгодна, *They could place us wherever is*
але найбольш верагодна – у *convenient, but most likely, it will*
стралковы батальён. *be into a rifle battalion.*
Але найбольш зацята я не хацеў *But most stubbornly, I did not want to*
стаць кампазітарам. *become a composer.*

Але болей за ўсё яму дакучала *But mostly, he felt cravings of hunger.*
адчуванне голаду.
Болей за ўсё верагодна, што ён *It was most likely that he felt the*
адчуў непажаданую *unwanted perspective of loneliness.*
пэрспэктыву адзiноты.

29.5 Miscellaneous adverbs

There are many important adverbs which are not derived from adjectives. A few of them are listed here.

дзе	<i>where</i>	куды	<i>to where</i>
тут	<i>here</i>	сюды	<i>to here</i>
там	<i>there</i>	туды	<i>to there</i>
нідзе	<i>nowhere</i>	нікуды	<i>not to anywhere</i>
усюды	<i>everywhere</i>		
		адкуль	<i>from where</i>
дома	<i>at home</i>	адсюль	<i>from here</i>
дадому	<i>to home</i>	адтуль	<i>from there</i>
		ніадкуль	<i>not from anywhere</i>
калі	<i>when</i>		
цяпер	<i>now</i>	сёння	<i>today</i>
зараз	<i>right now</i>	заўтра	<i>tomorrow</i>
тады	<i>then</i>	учора	<i>yesterday</i>
ніколі	<i>never</i>		
заўсёды	<i>always</i>	вельмі	<i>very</i>
		зноў	<i>again</i>
як	<i>how</i>	ледзь	<i>barely</i>
так	<i>so/that way</i>	надта	<i>significantly</i>
неяк	<i>some way</i>	крыху	<i>a little</i>
ніяк	<i>no way</i>	шмат	<i>a lot</i>
		многа	<i>much/many</i>

Chapter 30

Conjunctions and Particles

30.1 Coordinating conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions join two different phrases into one sentence.

i	<i>and</i>	Ён прыехаў і адразу пачаў працаваць	<i>He arrived and immediately began to work.</i>
	<i>both</i>	Мне падабаюцца і клубніцы і маліны.	<i>I like both strawberries and raspberries.</i>
a	<i>and</i> (contrasting)	Ты школьнік, а ён студэнт.	<i>You are in grade school, and he is in college.</i>
	<i>but</i>	Ён паехаў, а я засталася.	<i>He went, but I stayed behind.</i>
аднак	<i>although</i>	Гэта не зусім лагічна, аднак значна больш нелагічна быў яго наступны ўчынак.	<i>This was not completely logical, although his next action was much more logical.</i>
але	<i>but</i>	Галоўнай іх сілай былі гранаты, але кідаць іх было яшчэ далёка.	<i>Their main weapon was grenades, but it was still a long way to throw them.</i>
ды	<i>and</i>	Каму-ж, калі не ім, па фэстах валачыцца, ды з бяднейшых пакепліваць?	<i>Who, if not they, should wander around the festival and make fun of poor people?</i>
	<i>but</i>	Людзі паміралі, ды не спынялі барацьбы.	<i>People died, but they did not stop the fighting.</i>

ці *or*
Ці рана, ці позна, ці зусім не прыйдзе. *Either sooner, or later, or he will not come at all.*

таксама *also*
Дзеці працавалі таксама як і даросля. *The children worked also, just like the adults.*

то *both*
Гэта ідзе то ўверх, то ўніз. *It goes both up and down.*

See Chapter 28 for examples of *to* as a conditional conjunction.

30.2 Subordinating conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions join a clause to another clause that it depends on.

бо *because*
Хадзем шпарчэй, бо спознімся. *Let's walk faster, because we are going to be late.*

каб *so that*
Ён хоча, каб яго сын быў лекарам. *He wants his son to be a doctor.*

30.3 Predicates

When these are used, the sentence will not have a noun in the nominative case as a subject. Often they are used in combination with the dative case.

можна *one may*
Гэта можна зрабіць за два дні. *This can get done in two days.*

нельга *one must not*
Нельга хадзіць па газонах. *No walking on the grass.*
one cannot
Чалавеку нельга жыць без любові. *Man cannot live without love.*

няма *there is none*
У мяне няма грошай. *I do not have any money.*

трэба *it is necessary*
 На кожны стрэл трэба было браць дазвол камадзіра *For each shot, they needed to get the commander's permission.*

шкада *it is sad*
 Шкада, што тое да мяне яшчэ не дайшло. *It is sad that it still has not come to me.*

30.4 Suffixes

There are suffixes that can be attached to any interrogative pronoun or adverb. Doing this is equivalent to appending “some” to the beginning of an interrogative pronoun or adverb in English.

-небудзь

Што-небудзь тлумачыць я не меў сілы. *This was something that I did not have the strength to explain.*

-сьці

Ён яшчэ дадаў пра злачыннасць тае вайны, за якую калісьці прыйдзеца некаму адказаць. *He again thought about the crimes of that war, for which sometime, someone would have to answer.*

30.5 Other particles

але *yes*
 Але, я вас разумею. *Yes, I understand you.*

абы *if only*
 Абы яна пазваніла... *If only she would call...*
just
 Хачу забіць яго, абы ціха было. *I want to kill him, just so it would be quiet.*

жа [adds emphasis]
 Ён жа вярнуўся тайком, без дазволу. *He returned secretly, without permission.*

так	yes	Так, але... У чым я магу вам памагчы?	<i>Yes, but... What can I help you with?</i>
	so	Так думаў я.	<i>I thought so.</i>
	so [adds emphasis]	Бо іх ужо так шмат на тым баку.	<i>Because there is already so many of them on that side.</i>
ці	[indicates question]	Ці размаўляеш па-беларуску?	<i>Do you speak Belarusian?</i>

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