



Personal Pronouns

Every form, plus the *н*-rule that changes them after a preposition.

The full table

Case	I	you (sg.)	he / it	she	we	you (pl./formal)	they
Nom.	я	ты	он / онó	онá	мы	вы	они́
Acc.	меня́	тебя́	его́	её	нас	вас	их
Gen.	меня́	тебя́	его́	её	нас	вас	их
Dat.	мне	тебе́	ему́	ей	нам	вам	им
Inst.	мно́й	тобо́й	им	ей / ёю	на́ми	ва́ми	и́ми
Prep.	мне	тебе́	не́м	ней	нас	вас	них

Accusative and genitive are identical for every personal pronoun – one less thing to learn.

The *н*-rule

Third-person pronouns (он, онá, они́) add *н*- at the front after a preposition. This is the single most noticeable thing about Russian pronouns in real text, and it applies only after a preposition.

After a preposition – takes <i>н</i> -	No preposition – no <i>н</i> -
у него́ – at his place / he has	Я ви́жу его́. – I see him.
к ней – to her	Я помога́ю ей. – I help her.
с ни́ми – with them	Я зна́ю их. – I know them.
о не́м – about him / it	Я жду её. – I am waiting for her.

Quick test

Is there a preposition immediately in front? Then it starts with *н*-. If not, it does not. *его́* / *него́*, *ей* / *ней*, *их* / *них* – same pronoun, and the preposition is the only trigger.

ты and вы

Form	Use it for	Example
ты	One person you know well – friends, family, children	Как ты? – How are you?
вы	More than one person, or one person formally	Как вы? – How are you?

With formal singular *вы* the verb still takes the plural form: *Вы уже чита́ли э́ту кни́гу?* Capitalised *Вы* can show respect in formal correspondence; lower-case *вы* is normal everywhere else.

Combinations you will meet constantly

Phrase	Means	Note
у меня́ есть	I have	literally "at me there is" – Russian has no verb "to have"
у него́ / у неё	he has / she has	the <i>н</i> -rule in its most common outing
мне ну́жно	I need to	dative – the person needing goes in the dative
мне нра́вится	I like	literally "to me it is pleasing"
со мно́й	with me	<i>с</i> becomes <i>со</i> before certain consonant clusters