

MASTER

UKRAINIAN CASES

TABLES & EXERCISES



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Master Ukrainian Cases

tables & exercises

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Привіт-привіт! My name is Inna Sopronchuk and I teach the Ukrainian language. I was born and raised in Ukraine, and speak Ukrainian, English and German. However, Ukrainian is both my native tongue and my favorite language – I love the language and its culture, and I'm proud to share them with you. I have completed Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in linguistics, and have worked as a teacher at language schools both in Ukraine and abroad. I have now been teaching Ukrainian online for over 7 years. I know how difficult it is to learn a foreign language, but fortunately I've picked up a few techniques along the way to make it easier for you to learn! With this in mind, I worked very hard to create this textbook to help students of Ukrainian to master cases. As the Ukrainian language is built on a system of cases, it's absolutely essential to understand how to use them. In addition, in 2020 I created the online language school "[Speak Ukrainian](#)."



ABOUT SPEAK UKRAINIAN

Speak Ukrainian (<https://www.speakua.com/>) is an online Ukrainian language school where you can study the Ukrainian language and interact with qualified instructors. We taught more than 500 students from 28 nations. Our mission is to be your guide to the beautiful Ukrainian language and culture. We have prepared for you many useful learning materials that you will find online, including video lessons, textbook “Master Ukrainian cases: Tables and Exercises”, 3 sets of flashcards with 500 common Ukrainian words and phrases, courses and individual lessons.



Follow the social media accounts of “Speak Ukrainian”:



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Contact the author via email: info@peakua.com

ABOUT THIS TEXTBOOK

What will I learn in this book?

In this book you will learn how to form and use Ukrainian cases correctly. There are 7 cases in the Ukrainian language: Nominative, Vocative, Genitive, Accusative, Locative, Instrumental and Dative. What is a “case”? A case is a special grammatical category of a noun, pronoun, adjective, participle or numeral whose value reflects the grammatical function performed by that word in a phrase, clause or sentence. Put simply, you won’t even be able to make a simple sentence without using cases.

This book is not a general Ukrainian textbook for beginners. You won’t be taught how to read, practice phonetics, or use new vocabulary etc. You should know some basic Ukrainian before using this book.

Regardless of where you are on your Ukrainian journey, however, this book will act as a useful aide. Whether you want to feel more confident using Ukrainian, learn to form more complex sentences, or better understand how the language works, this book is the right one for you.

How should I use this book?

In each chapter you will study one case and its endings, usage, and functions. We will start our journey with the Nominative case, as this denotes the basic form of each word. Make sure you pay attention to the endings for gender and number of all nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and numerals. In each table in this book, you will see the form of the Nominative case on the left, followed by the forms of the other cases. Comparing with the basic form of the word will give you a better understanding of the endings for each case.

What is the “use and function” of each case?

Ukrainian grammar is built on a system of cases. There are 7 cases in the Ukrainian language, and these 7 cases are like 7 musical notes — much as you wouldn’t be able to play a song if you didn’t learn the notes, you won’t be able to speak Ukrainian fluently unless you learn how to use the cases. Native speakers use these cases automatically, not even realizing the changes in the word-endings. For a non- native speaker studying

Ukrainian, however, it's essential to know the function of each case in a sentence. If you want to use the cases correctly, you have to associate every situation with a specific case. This is why it's necessary to practice a lot by doing the exercises.

How should I do the exercises?

You will find relevant exercises in each chapter, after the tables and the “use and function” section of this textbook. It is very important to use cases correctly in real-life conversations. In order to make as few mistakes as possible, regular practice is essential. This is why I've written over 100 exercises to help you improve your understanding of the Ukrainian language.

Let me explain how you can organize your studies effectively:

- read the tables, and study the endings and examples in them;
- study the “use and function” of the relevant case;
- make your own examples;
- do the exercises by following the rules, and noting the exceptions;
- use the key at the end of the book to check your answers;
- analyze and correct your mistakes;
- redo the exercises again;
- make notes on the more difficult endings;
- enjoy the learning process!

After finishing practicing all of the exercises in this book, I guarantee you will start speaking, thinking and feeling in Ukrainian freely. Follow the process, keep practicing daily, and you will find success in studying Ukrainian in no time!

P.S. You can check correct case conjugation on this website: <https://www.slovnyk.ua/>

Grammar terms explained

In this textbook you will find simple explanations of how Ukrainian cases are formed and used. To help you understand the terminology used in the textbook, I have attached definitions of key grammatical terms below.

Adjective

Identifies, describes, limits or qualifies a noun or pronoun. For example, *awesome*,

best, both, happy, our, this, three, whose, and yellow are adjectives.

Adverb

Identifies, describes, limits or qualifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a group of words. For example, *almost, also, eloquently, not, often, rapidly, really, someday, thus, and very* are adverbs.

An animate noun is a word that refers to a living being. In Ukrainian, all people and animals are animate nouns. For example, *mother, people, or dog*.

An inanimate noun is a word that refers to any object that is not alive. For example, *book, food, or pencil*.

Case

Indicates how a noun or pronoun functions in a sentence. In English, personal pronouns have three cases: subject (for a subject or subject complement), object (for the object of a verb or preposition) and possessive. For example, for the pronoun *he*, *he* is the subject case, *him* is the object case, and *his* is the possessive case. In English, nouns and indefinite pronouns generally have two cases: the common case for both subject and object (e.g., *writer, someone*) and the possessive (e.g., *writer's, someone's*). In Ukrainian, things are a little more complicated, as there are 7 cases. The basic form of a word is the **Nominative case**. The gender of the noun (masculine, feminine, neuter) is determined by the ending of the word in the Nominative. You will find this form of the word in the dictionary. The subject of the sentence is always in the Nominative case. For example, "*Kyiv (Nominative case)* is the capital of Ukraine".

Direct object

Receives the action of a transitive verb. The direct object answers the question *what?* or *whom?* after the verb. For example, the noun *report* is the direct object in the sentence *I handed in my monthly report*. It answers the question *I handed in what?*

Gender

Refers to the classification of nouns and pronouns as masculine (e.g., *man, he*), feminine (e.g., *woman, she*), and neuter (e.g., *tree, it*).

Indirect object

Names the person or thing affected by the verb. The indirect object answers the question *to whom? for whom, to what? or for what?* For example, the noun *Liette* is the indirect object in the sentence *Don gave Liette a set of fishing lures*. It answers the question *to whom did Don give a set of fishing lures?*

Infinitive

The unconjugated, uninflected base or stem form of a verb, often preceded by *to*. For example, *to consider, to extinguish, to be, and to drink* are infinitives.

Noun

Designates an idea (*immortality*), a person (*astronaut, Gretzky*), a place (*penalty box*), a thing (*canoe*), an entity (*Group of Seven*), a quality (*determination*), or a point in time (*tomorrow*).

Number

Refers to the form of a noun, pronoun, demonstrative adjective or verb indicating whether it is singular (e.g., *book, it, this, is*), or plural (e.g., *books, they, these, are*).

Person

Refers to the form of a verb or pronoun indicating whether the subject is speaking (first person *I – am, we are*), spoken to (second person – *you are*) or spoken about (third person – *he, she, or it is; they are*).

Preposition

Precedes a noun or pronoun to form a phrase that identifies, describes, limits or qualifies a part of a sentence. Common prepositions include *about, before, except, for, into, near, of, to, underneath* and *via*. A preposition may follow a verb to form a phrasal verb: e.g., *make use of (something), run into (someone)*.

Pronoun

Generally, acts as a substitute for a noun. The words *I, you, it, me, them, mine, yours, herself, ourselves, someone, anything, few, each other, who, and which* are all examples of pronouns.

Verb

Expresses an action (*break, call, tremble, skate*), an occurrence (*happen, occur*), or a state of being (*appear, become, seem*). Auxiliary (or helping) verbs are placed in front of a main verb to form a verb phrase. They have several functions; for example, they may help to create a different tense (e.g., *will* and *be* in the verb phrase *will be going*) or add an idea (e.g., the idea of obligation expressed by *must* in the verb phrase *must go*).

NOMINATIVE CASE (НАЗИВНИЙ ВІДМІНОК)

Table 1. Endings of nouns in the Nominative case (Singular forms):

ENDINGS OF NOUNS		EXAMPLES:
		Nominative
Masculine	– zero ending (consonant ending) – o (if the masculine noun belongs to a proper name or has a masculine meaning) – й (noun) – ий (adjectives) – ь (especially when a word means an object).	чоловік □, син □, дім □, стіл □ Дніпро (a Ukrainian river), Петро (a male name), дядько музе ^й , трамва ^й вихідний (a day-off) тюль □, дідусь □
Neuter	– o – e – я (if preceded by double consonant)	вікно, село, світло море, сонце, прізвище життя, буття, волосся
Feminine	– а – я – ь (especially when a word denotes character or feelings) – exceptions with the zero endings	мама, сестра, країна мрія, земля сіль □, радість □ зустріч □, ніч □, піч □, Січ □ любов □, подорож □

Table 2. Endings of nouns in the Nominative case (Plural forms):

ENDINGS OF NOUNS		EXAMPLES:
		Nominative
Masculine	– zero ending + и – o – и – й – і – ий – і – ь – і	чоловіки, сини, дома, столи Дніпро (Sing.), Петра, дядьки музеї, трамваї вихідні тюлі, дідусі

Neuter	– о – а – е – я (– а after ж, ш, щ) – я – (remain the same)	вікна, села, світла моря, сонця, прізвища житт ^я , бутт ^я , волосс ^я
Feminine	– а – и – я – і, ія – ї – ь – і – zero ending +і – exceptions	мами, сестри, країни землі, мр ^ї солі, болі ночі, печі, Січі дівчата (S. дівчина), діти (S. дитина), люди (S. людина)

Note #1. In such masculine gender nouns with one syllable as “дім”, “стіл”, “кіт”, etc., we have changing of the vowels to make their plural forms – “дом^и”, “стол^и”, “кот^и”.

Note #2. In such feminine gender nouns as “сі^{ль}” and “пі^ч”, we have to make the changing of the vowels to make their plural forms – “сол^і” and “печ^і”.

Note #3. Some nouns have no plural form (including uncountable nouns): кафе, радіо, кава, кіно, молоко, пиво, фото, сало etc.

Note #4. Some nouns are used only in the Plural forms: окуляри, штани, джинси, ножиці etc.

Table 3. Pronouns in the Nominative case:

PERSONAL PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS			
	Masculine	Neuter	Feminine	Plural
I – я	мій	моє	моя	мої
you – ти (informal)	твій	твоє	твоя	твої
he – він	його			
she – вона	її			
it – воно	його			
we – ми	наш	наше	наша	наші
you – ви, Ви (formal)	ваш	ваше	ваша	ваші
they – вони	їхній	їхнє	їхня	їхні

Use and Function of the Nominative Case

1. A noun in the Nominative case is used in the sentence as the subject:

E.g. Київ (Nom.) – чудове місто. (Kyiv is a great city).

2. A noun in the Nominative case is used in the sentence as a complement after the linking verb "є" (is), which is most often omitted in Ukrainian:

E.g. Київ – чудове місто (Nom.). (Kyiv is a great city).

Exercises

Exercise 1. Determine the gender of the nouns.

E.g. Магазин – **m.g.**

Текст, мама, дитина, стіл, чашка, море, стілець, вікно, телефон, шоколад, студентка, зошит, ручка, олівець, магазин, пальто, сало, їжа, день, телевізор, радіо, дівчина, хлопець, дядько, дідусь.

Exercise 2. Put the questions Хто це? (Who is this?) or Що це? (What is this?), and translate.

E.g. Це Олена.

Хто це? – Це Олена. – Who is this? – This is Olena.

1. ... – Це Тарас.
2. ... – Це мама.
3. ... – Це дім.
4. ... – Це дочка.
5. ... – Це телефон.
6. ... – Це журнал.
7. ... – Це друг.
8. ... – Це тітка.
9. ... – Це шафа.
10. ... – Це дідусь.

Exercise 3. Write the plural form of the words below.

E.g. Дерево – **деревя**

1. Модель –
2. Вікно –
3. Серце –
4. Поема –
5. Йогурт –
6. Щоденник –
7. Пігулка –
8. Фоторамка –
9. Кіно –
10. Світло –
11. Окуляри –
12. Стакан –
13. Їжа –
14. Пазл –
15. Килим –
16. Дівчина –
17. Шорти –
18. Волосся –
19. Відчуття –
20. Папір –

Exercise 4. Choose the correct plural form.

E.g. Місто – (місти/**міста**/містів).

1. Брат – (брат/братів/брати).
2. Метро – (метро/метра/метри).
3. Свічка – (свічко/свічків/свічки).
4. Чоловік – (чоловіки/чоловіка/люди).
5. Сіль – (сілі/солі/соли).
6. Тюль – (тюли/тюлі/тюла).