

Tenses of Verbs

Russian verbs have only 3 tenses – past, present and future. It is very easy – when you speak about anything that happened some time ago (even one second ago), you should use the Past Tense. If you'd like to tell about anything that is going to happen – use the Future Tense. The table below will help you understand how to form different tenses.

To form the Past Tense you only need to know the infinitive form of the verb. You should also remember that verbs in the Past Tense have only 4 forms: он (masculine), она (feminine), оно (neuter, rarely used) and они (plural).



3	Hal	ľЪ
to	know.	inf.

ОН	она	ОНО	ОНИ
я, ты	я, ты		мы, вы
знал	знала	знало	знали

Some Verbs in Past Tense





infinitive: работать
чита́л (-а,-и)
отдыха́л (-а,-и)
за́втракал (-а,-и)
обе́дал (-а,-и)
у́жинал (-а,-и)
знал (-а,-и)
ду́мал (-а,-и)
слу́шал (-а,-и)
встава́л (-а,-и)
гуля́ <mark>л</mark> (-а,-и)
понима́ <mark>л</mark> (-а,-и)
пил (-а,-и)

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infinitive: смотреть
люби́л (-а,-и)
хоте́л (-а,-и)
смотре́л (-а,-и)
кури́л (-а,-и)
говори́л (-а,-и)
ел (-а,-и)
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How to Form Different Tenses

