

Galina Kruberg

A Handbook
for Translating
from English
into Russian

PART

2

Morphological, Syntactic
and Stylistic Notes
to the English Texts
of Part 1

University of Toronto Press

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A B B R E V I A T I O N S

For abbreviations used in the Index, see Subject Index. The following abbreviations have been used in the Notes and in the Appendix:

- App. A. - Appendix A
- App. B. - Appendix B
- conj. - conjunction
- colloq. - colloquial
- comp. - compare; compound (noun, etc.)
- declar. - declarative (sentence)
- 1st pers. sing. - first person singular
- FSP - functional sentence perspective
- gov. - government (verbal etc.)
- interr. - interrogative (sentence)
- r - rheme
- sec. p. - secondary part
- t - theme
- w.o. - word order

P A R T 2

NOTES TO THE ENGLISH TEXTS OF PART 1

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I. ABOUT MYSELF

1. Use the reflexive pronoun себя in the correct case form.
2. "My name is..." is usually rendered into Russian by the phrase "I am called".
Which verb would you use here - звать, называть or называться?

Note: Re use of the verbs звать, называть/называть, and называться:

(i) The verb звать is used only referring to animate beings. After the verb зовут, both the nominative and the instrumental cases may be used:

Её зовут Катя (Катей).

This means that her name is Katya.

The verb звать may also be used meaning "to call someone by name":

Её имя Лидия, но дома её зовут Лидой.

(ii) The verb называть/называть has two meanings:

a) to give a name to someone or something:

Они называли сына Иваном (Иван).

Автор назвал свой рассказ "Странный случай".

b) to call someone by a name:

Как вас называть? По имени или по имени и отчеству?

Её зовут Вероника, а в институте называют Никой.

(iii) The verb называться is used only with inanimate objects:

Как называется город, в котором вы родились?
Больной не мог вспомнить, как называется его болезнь.

"My name is..." may also be rendered by the phrase Моё имя...; this form is more bookish.

3. In Russian, start the sentence with the word "Friends"; delete the possessive pronoun "my"; render the word "family" by a) "close relatives" or b) by a substantivized adjective родные (slightly more colloquial style).
4. In this case both verbs звать and называть are appropriate.

5. Remember the correct Russian grammatical form to denote age. What case should be used in Russian to render the subject of the English sentence?
6. Which preposition and which case form should be used in the adverbial phrase of time which contains the noun год? See II.62(iv).
7. Use the verb окончил + the accusative case of "high school" (no preposition).
8. поступить + в + the accusative case.
9. "I am a first-year student" is rendered either by "I am a student of the first year" (here translate "year" by "course"); or я учусь на первом курсе.
10. At Russian universities the equivalent of the American or Canadian "department" is usually called факультет. Thus "department of chemistry" is called химический факультет. To say that someone is studying in a particular department, the preposition на is used:

Таня учится в Московском государственном университете на химическом факультете (colloq: на химфаке*).

But if the year of study is being mentioned, then the sentence should read:

Таня учится на третьем курсе химического факультета.

If, however, instead of the verbal phrase учится на, we use a phrase with a nominal predicate студент, then the sentence should read:

Таня студентка третьего курса химического факультета Московского государственного университета (МГУ).

* Other widely used abbreviations: геофак (геологический факультет), истфак (исторический факультет), физфак (физический факультет), филфак (филологический факультет) etc. Of departments of language and literature one says: кафедра (отделение) английского (русского) языка;
" " " русской литературы.

11. "graduation" - окончание, followed by the genitive case of "high school".
12. Use средняя школа. In pre-revolutionary Russia the word гимназия was used.
13. "to decide"; use the perfective verb since it conveys the meaning of trying to arrive at a definite decision.

14. Word order: Remember the normal position of the adverb in relation to the verb in Russian, e.g.: Та́ня пло́хо спала́. (For general principles on Russian word order consult the Appendix A at the back of the book.) Render here the phrase "for a long time" by a single adverb followed by the phrase "couldn't decide". Which adverb would you use here - до́лго or да́вно?

Note: Re use of до́лго and да́вно.

- (i) Да́вно is used to render "for a long time":

Я здесь да́вно живу́;
and "long ago": Это случи́лось да́вно.

- (ii) До́лго, however, is used to translate "for a long time" only.

- (iii) If да́вно is used in the meaning "for a long time", it usually implies a continuity from the past into the present:

Я уже́ да́вно собира́юсь (собира́лся) написа́ть вам.
I have wanted for a long time to write to you.

When talking about some action which took a long time to perform, use до́лго:

Я до́лго писа́л это пи́сьмо.
It took me a long time to write this letter.

Whereas:

Я да́вно писа́л это пи́сьмо -
means "I wrote this letter a long time ago."

- (iv) Note the use of verbal aspects with these two adverbs: Да́вно may be used with both the perfective and imperfective aspects in affirmative statements:

Я уже́ да́вно прочита́л эту кни́гу.
Я уже́ да́вно чита́л эту кни́гу.

In the negative statements only the imperfective aspect is used:

Я да́вно не встреча́лся с ним.

With the adverb до́лго only the imperfective aspect is used both in affirmative and negative statements:

Я до́лго реша́л, что мне де́лать.
Я до́лго не писа́л ему́.

15. Delete "my". If the context is not ambiguous, there is a strong tendency to delete the possessive pronoun.
16. The syntactic construction "he wanted me to become"... is impossible in Russian. One should use an object clause introduced by the conjunction чтобы with the verb

in the past tense (чтобы я стал + the instrumental case).
See also note 20. (Чтобы я поступил...).

17. советовал мне
18. Use изучать + the accusative case, since we are dealing here with a serious and often prolonged study of a subject. Consult also the Appendix B, specifically 4 and 5.
19. Use here the adversative conjunction а, since the different members of the family express contrasting points of view.
20. чтобы я поступил на медицинский факультет or в медицинский институт. (In the Soviet Union, medicine is usually studied at medical institutes which are equal in status to the university but are not necessarily part of it.)
21. как
22. гораздо больше
23. "But I am interested in" equals меня же интересуют. See also III.43. In the Russian sentence "the humanities" (гуманитарные науки) becomes the subject.
24. Translate "so" by поэтому.
25. Don't use тоже. Use также or кроме того.

Note: Re use of тоже, также, and кроме того.

(i) As a rule, также can always be used as a synonym for тоже, but not vice versa. Where both adverbs/conj. are possible, the difference in usage is stylistic, также belonging to a more bookish or formal style, тоже being more colloquial. When a statement involves a person engaged in more than one action, the use of тоже is impossible:

Я сделал доклад, а также (not: тоже) написал одну статью.

(ii) Sometimes the actions may be different but when the adverbial phrase referring to both of them is the same, тоже may be employed, meaning "likewise":

Живут они в центре города, работают тоже (также) в центре.

If the action is the same but involves different objects, then тоже also may be used:

Я люблю стихи Пастернака. Блока люблю тоже (также).

(iii) If the statement involves different persons performing the same action, then one may use either то́же or та́кже:

Я сде́лал докла́д, он то́же (та́кже) сде́лал докла́д.
Ива́н говори́т по-а́нглийски, и я то́же (та́кже)
говори́ю по-а́нглийски.

(iv) If the sentence starts with the preposition кро́ме, then one must use та́кже.

Кро́ме Ча́йко́вского, я люблю́ та́кже Боро́дина.

(v) If there are two or more objects following the verb, then the last object is preceded by a та́кже:

Он зна́ет неме́цкий, францу́зский, а та́кже
(not:то́же) ита́льянский язы́к.

(vi) то́же and та́кже are rarely used at the beginning of the sentence, where кро́ме того́ is preferred:

Ива́н хоро́шо говори́т по-а́нглийски. Кро́ме того́,
он владе́ет и неме́ким языко́м.

26. Translate by: "It's very interesting to study at the university".

W.o.: Start with the infinitive учи́ться and finish with the adverbial phrase оче́нь интере́сно. Placing the adverbial phrase in the final position conveys essential information about the theme (учи́ться в университе́те) and indicates sentence stress. See App.A.9(i)

27. учи́ться. See Appendix B.7.

28. Delete "was" since in Russian the present tense is implied here.

Note: In indirect speech or thought the tense of the original statement or thought is preserved (no sequence of tenses as in English).

He said that he was working. Он сказа́л, что он рабо́тает.

She said that it was boring here. Она́ сказа́ла, что здесь ску́чно.

29. семё́стр

30. "examination time" may be translated variously: вре́мя экза́менов, экза́мены, экзаменацио́нная се́ссия.

31. приближа́ться. W.o.: Place the subject "the examination time" after the verb. See App.A.4

32. пришёл срок сдавать сочинения (курсовые работы)
33. Use the verb приходиться in an impersonal construction.
E.g.: Нам часто приходится ждать. We often have to wait.
34. "to work hard" is usually rendered in Russian by очень много (усиленно) работать; тяжело работать would mean hard physical labour. Use заниматься since in the context working means studying. See also Appendix B.1.
35. Днём. See also II.24(ii).
36. Use a verb of motion. What would be appropriate - идти or ходить?
37. лѣкция
Note: The word класс in school (not college) context in Russian could mean: "a classroom" (в классе душно), "a group of students" attending the same class (в нашем классе только девочки) or "a grade" in public or high school (я учусь в десятом классе). "Class" in the meaning of specific "lecture" or "lesson" at college level is rendered by лѣкция or занятие. For a more general description of "classes", e.g. "Classes start at 8 o'clock", use занятия. E.g.: Занятия начинаются в 8 часов утра.
38. заниматься. See Appendix B.1.c.
To translate "in the evening", use the preposition по + the dative case of the noun in the plural to denote the time when a repeated action takes place:
Перед экзаменами я иногда занимаюсь и по ночам.
39. Use the adjectival form with the suffix -ск-.
40. Translate by: "I wait impatiently (for)...". Note that the English adverb "impatiently" should in this instance be rendered into Russian by a prepositional phrase с нетерпением, and not by the adverb нетерпеливо. The use of these expressions depends sometimes on the verb which they qualify, or on the context, e.g.:
Он нетерпеливо топнул ногой - (denotes the manner in which a single action is being performed).
Он с нетерпением ждал её приезда - (the verb ждать (ожидать), if accompanied by с нетерпением very often means looking forward to something pleasant).
41. как и многие

Note: Re use of мно́гие and мно́го:

(i) Мно́гие as an adjective:

Прошли́ мно́гие го́ды.

Мно́гие студе́нты так ду́мают - (many, but each one taken separately).

(ii) Мно́го - an adverb (many in its collective meaning).

Мно́го студе́нтов так ду́мает - (many students regarded as a group; here the collective meaning of the phrase много студентов is supported by the use of the verb in the singular).

(iii) Мно́гие as a substantivized adjective is equal in meaning to мно́гие люди́.

Мно́гие так ду́мают. Many people think this way.

42. е́сли мне воо́бще́ посча́стливится + the infinitive (to find).

43. Which indefinite pronoun should be used here - како́й-то or како́й-нибу́дь?

Note:

(i) A pronoun compounded with the particle - то (кто-то, что-то, како́й-то, etc.) is used whenever the speaker means a definite person or a thing, unknown to him, but probably known to others (or information known to the speaker but for some reason withheld from others):

Они́ о чём-то т́ихо разгово́ривали. (... about something...)

Всю́ ночь в сосе́дней ко́мнате кто-то ка́шлял. (... someone...)

Я об э́том что-то слы́шал, но не могу́ тебе́ сказа́ть (... something...)

Он сейча́с пи́шет какую́-то ста́тью. (... some article)..

(ii) A pronoun compounded with the particle -нибу́дь (or with the particle -ли́бо) is used whenever the speaker has in mind a completely unspecified person or thing (i.e., unknown to the speaker as well as to others) or when he means anything at all no matter what, when or where, etc.):

Когда́-нибу́дь (some day, meaning any time at all in the future) ты вспо́мнишь обо́ мне.

Compare with: Когда́-то я егó знал (at one time - a definite time in the past, but not specified by the speaker).

(iii) The tendency is to use the particle -то with the past tense of the verb, and the particle -нибу́дь with the future tense or the imperative. Sometimes,

however, the particle -то is used with the future tense of the verb when the speaker for some reason does not want to be specific: Я тебе́ завтра́ что-то принесу́ (the speaker has something definite in mind but does not disclose what it is). Compare with: Я тебе́ завтра́ что́-нибудь принесу́ (the speaker himself doesn't know what he will bring, but it will be something).

44. хоть. Place this intensifying particle before the indefinite pronoun "any", and the noun "work" in the final position in the sentence.
45. заявле́ние
46. с про́сбой дать мне рабо́ту. Note the use of the prepositional phrase in Russian rendering the English gerund "asking".
47. There is no precise equivalent in Russian for English emphatic "do". Here translate simply by using the present tense of the verb "to hope", deleting the pronoun "I".
48. In Russian, the conjunction "that" (что) must be used to introduce the explanatory clause "I'll get a job..." For "some" see note 43.
49. Use the adjective with the suffix -н-.
50. куро́т
51. Use the conditional-subjunctive mood (could + бы + infinitive).
52. Use the instrumental case.
53. соверша́ть прогу́лки
54. In Russian, use the singular and either the accusative or the locative case.
55. ходи́ть в + the accusative case.
56. воо́бще́ прия́тно проводи́ть вре́мя. Note some other examples where the English construction "to have a good time" ("to have + an object modified by an adjective) is translated into Russian by an infinitive modified by an adverb and followed by the object in the accusative case:

to have a good Christmas	-	хорошо провести/проводить Рождество
" " " " vacation	-	" провести/проводить каникулы
" " " nice evening	-	приятно провести/проводить вечер
" " " " weekend	-	" провести/проводить уикенд.

II. M Y D A Y

1. W.o.: Use the adverbial phrase "in our family" at the beginning of the sentence and place the adverb "early" at the very end for emphasis. (See App. A.9(v)) What verb would you use here: начи́нать or начи́наться?

Note: The phase verbs нача́ть/начи́нать, продолжа́ть, ко́нчить/конча́ть are used as a) part of compound verbal predicate (phase verb + imperfective infinitive) or b) with a noun complement in the accusative case (without a preposition), e.g.:

Ви́тя сра́зу же нача́л занима́ться. Я уже́ ко́нчил рабо́ту.

In other cases use the intransitive -ся verbs, e.g.:

Ле́кция начала́сь в 9. Дождь ещё продолжа́ется.

2. звони́ть; place the verb before the subject (alarm clock).
3. When the attribute without agreement denoting possession is expressed in Russian by the use of the genitive case of a noun, it is placed after the noun it modifies:

Дом сестры́. (My) sister's house.

Родители́ мамы́. The parents of (my) mother.

В ко́мнате брата́. In (my) brother's room.

4. the first - пре́жде всех; render "is to get up" by the present tense of the verb встава́ть.
W.o.: The prepositional phrase пре́жде всех + verb + subject (mother). See App. A.9(ii)

5. Translate by "and I hear", deleting "can". Which Russian verb should you use here - слу́шать or слы́шать?

Note: The verb слу́шать denotes intentional or purposeful action (to listen), the verb слы́шать denotes the simple act of hearing:

Вы слы́шали свóдку погóды на зáвтра?

Ка́ждый день в 10 часóв вéчера я слу́шаю по ра́дио последние извéстия.

6. The syntactic construction "I can hear her going down - stairs" is impossible in Russian. Use an object clause introduced by the conjunction как (как она́ спуска́ется по ле́стнице). The conjunction как is here synonymous with the conjunction что and is used mainly when the

object clause is an adjunct to a verb of perception (видеть, слышать, etc.)

7. Translate by "and starts to prepare."
8. Choose your adjective and noun with care.
9. The phrase "fills the house" should be translated by по всему́ до́му распространя́ется...
W.o.: The temporal adverb (soon) + adverbial modifier of place (по всему́ до́му) + verb + subject. See App.A.9(iii)
10. Use пото́м, and not тогда́.
Note: The English adverb "then" has three different meanings for which the Russian has several distinct terms.
(i) "Then" meaning "afterwards" is rendered either by пото́м or зате́м (the latter means "immediately afterwards"):
Порабо́таем, пото́м отдохне́м.
Она́ пригото́вила обе́д, зате́м накры́ла на стол.
(ii) "Then" meaning "at that time" is rendered by тогда́:
Тогда́ он был ещё мо́лод.
(iii) "Then" meaning "in such a case" (in that event) is also rendered by тогда́, or в тако́м слу́чае. (The latter is more formal).
Уста́л? Тогда́ отдохне́м.
Вы не сда́ли кни́гу в библиоте́ку? В тако́м слу́чае вам приде́тся запла́тить штра́ф.
11. See note 5.
12. шагí. See also note 3.
13. зате́м See note 10(i).
14. In Russian, use the infinitive to render the English participle "running".
15. W.o.: See note 9.
16. The English expression "used + infinitive" is usually rendered in Russian by the imperfective verb, since it implies habitual action in the past.
17. "in the shower" translate by "while taking a shower", using the verbal adverb принима́я + the object "shower".
18. последне́е вре́мя. Do not use неда́вно (recently) or

за последнее время, since the latter phrase is used only with perfective verbs, meaning that a certain transformation has taken place recently within a definite period of time:

За последнее время брат сильно похудел.
За последнее время вы очень изменились.

19. почему-то
20. Translate by "he isn't singing anymore"; "not anymore..." is rendered by ...больше не ...; e.g.: Мы больше туда не ходим.
21. Note that the English pronoun "that" is very often translated into Russian by the pronoun этот (in the appropriate case), especially when "that" refers to something mentioned previously (in a preceding sentence). See also note 59.(i).
22. W.o.: Since "brother" is introduced in the text for the first time (new information), place the verb before the subject. See App. A.9(ii).
23. Use either impersonal construction with нужно + infinitive, or personal construction with должен + infinitive.
24. Use preposition к + the dative case of the numeral to translate "by ... o'clock". Add the noun "morning". In what case would you use it?
Note: Re use of the words утро, вечер, etc. in temporal expressions:
 - (i) If the exact time is given, then the noun утро (вечер, etc.) is used in the genitive case:

Она приезжает в десять часов вечера.
Я приду к семи (часам) утра.
 - (ii) If no specific time is mentioned, then one should use the adverbial form - утром, днём, вечером, ночью:

Я зайду к вам завтра днём.
Этот поезд прибывает в Москву ночью.
25. Render by the dative case of the personal pronoun "I". The construction of the sentence will be impersonal; delete the preposition "for."
26. порá
27. W.o.: Two versions are possible in this sentence: