

Spelling Rules

Remember these simple spelling rules, and save yourself from making lots of mistakes:

1. The rule of the unholy seven

Запомните! After the three guttural consonants (г, к, х,) and the four sibilants (ж, ч, ш, щ) you cannot write ы, я and ю. Instead, you must write и, а, and у (respectively):

ы > и

я > а

ю > у

Examples:

To make книга plural, you would normally add "ы" because it's a hard noun, but because of the spelling rule, you would add "и" instead:

книга > книги

To conjugate the verb слышать you would normally add "ю" as the first-person singular ending and "ят" as the third-person plural ending, but because of the spelling rule, you would add "у" and "ат", respectively:

слышу

слышат

2. *The rule of the unstressed "O"*

After the letters ж, ч, ш, щ and ц, you cannot have an unstressed "o". When a grammatical situation arises in which you would normally use an "o", use a "e" instead:

Запомните ! After the sibilant consonants
ж, ч, ш, щ and the letter ц: o > e

Example:

The neuter adjectival form of the verb хороший (which is already affected by the first spelling rule in the masculine and plural forms), will be хорошее, not because it is a soft adjective, but because of the unstressed "o" spelling rule.