

## -СЯ verbs in Russian

There is a special set of -СЯ verbs in Russian, which are conjugated in the same way as other verbs, but have the -СЯ/-Сь particle appeared at the end (after a vowel the particle -СЯ takes the form -Сь):

**УМЫВАТЬСЯ** (to wash (hands and face):

Я – умываЮсь  
 Ты – умываЕШься  
 Он(а) – умываЕТся  
 Мы – умываЕМся  
 Вы – умываЕТЕсь  
 Они – умываЮТся

All these verbs are never followed by an Accusative case noun or pronoun without preposition.

### THE MAIN MEANINGS OF –СЯ VERBS:

#### 1. Reflexive meaning

the object of an action is the subject itself (the subject does something to itself)

**одеваться** (to dress), **раздеваться** (to undress), **бриться** (to shave), **открываться** (to open),  
**закрываться** (to close), **начинаться** (to start), **заканчиваться** (to end)

#### 2. Reciprocal meaning

the action takes place between two or more people

**знакомиться** (to get acquainted) , **встречаться** (to meet), **целоваться** (to kiss), **расставаться** (to part), **обниматься** (to embrace), **советоваться** (to consult), **ссориться** (to quarrel), **мириться** (to make peace), **договариваться** (to agree)

#### 3. Impersonal verbs

denoting condition that doesn't depend on any person

**мне хочется** (I want; I would like), **мне нравится** (I like), **мне не спится** (I can't sleep)

#### 4. Imperfective verbs with passive meaning

**дом строится рабочими** (the house is built by workers), **вопрос обсуждается менеджерами** (the question is discussed by managers)

#### 5. Verbs that are never used without –СЯ:

**надеяться** (to hope), **оставаться** (to stay), **бояться** (to be afraid), **гордиться** (to be proud),  
**смеяться** (to laugh), **улыбаться** (to smile), **становиться** (to become), **стараться** (to try).