

6 | 3 | Lekcija 1: Sviđa mi se

Liking – SVIDATI SE and Dative Pronouns

Croatian has two verbs that can both be translated as the English “like” - **voljeti** and **svidati se**.



You've seen the verb **voljeti** (stem: vol- / ja volim), and you know that it means “like” and “love.” It signals a rather strong attachment to a person or thing.



The other verb for “like” is **svidati se**. It also expresses a positive emotion toward a person or a thing, often where the speaker is expressing an opinion based on a first impression, or a less deeply held feeling.

At its core, the verb **svidati se** is really equivalent to the English “to be pleasing to.” In sentences with **svidati se**, the roles of subject (“liker”) and object (the person/thing liked) are flipped in comparison to English sentences with like and Croatian sentences with the verb **voljeti**. For example:



I like this book.

(ja) Volim ovu knjigu.

In the sentences with English “I like,” the liker is the subject, expressed by the nominative case; the thing liked is the direct object in the accusative case



This book is pleasing to me.

Ova knjiga **mi** se sviđa.

In the sentences with is pleasing / **svidati se**, the thing liked is the subject of the verb, expressed by the Nominative case. The person experiencing the positive impression is expressed by the Dative case.

One function of the Dative case is for expressing the idea of the experiencer “to whom” and “for whom” things happen.

Implications

Since the thing liked is the subject, and the verb **svidati se** will need to agree with the subject, you will need to use the form **svidaju** when the thing liked is in the **plural** (just as in the “to be interested in” – *zanima me / zanimaju me*).

Sviđa ti se knjiga?

Svidaju ti se knjige?

Some of the most common reflexive verbs with the Dative case

veseliti se (mami) - to look forward to mom

nadati se (vijestima) - to hope for a [good] news

6.3 Zadatak 1. Kome se sviđa?

You already learned that personal pronouns in the Dative case can have stressed and unstressed form. Listen to the following sentences using a stressed form. Have in mind that a stressed form usually appears at the beginning of the sentence or at the end of the sentence.

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Listen to the sentences again, pay attention to the things/people that are liked in each sentence.

[h5p id="723"]

6.3 Zadatak 2. Sviđa mi se

Listen to the following sentences and indicate who is the liker.

[h5p id="724"]

6.3 Zadatak 3. Tko se kome sviđa?

Listen to the following sentences about Marija i Davor. In each sentence indicate who is the liker (a person that likes). Keep in mind that word order in Croatian is very flexible and words can be placed in a different order, without losing the meaning of the sentence. Remember, the liker is always in the Dative case and a thing/person that is liked is always in the Nominative case.

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6.3 Zadatak 4. Ivana i Ivan

Listen to the following sentences about Ivan i Ivana. Since many names in Croatian have masculine and feminine forms (such as Ivan/Ivana, Petar/Petra, Marin/Marina, Dino/Dina, etc.), hearing who likes who might be confusing at first. Listen carefully and indicate who is the liker (a person that likes).

[h5p id="726"]

6.3 Zadatak 5. Što nam se sviđa?

Listen to the following sentences and indicate if a person likes one or more things.

[h5p id="727"]

6.3 Zadatak 6. Gramatika (ponavljanje)

Review

[h5p id="728"]



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