

6 | 2 | Lekcija 1: Mislimo na druge

| The Dative Case

The Dative case might seem tricky because the rules on when to use it are not very straightforward. Fortunately, the noun and adjective endings for the Dative case are identical to those used in the Locative, so you only have to learn them once. The Dative is most commonly used without prepositions as an indirect object, mostly describing to whom something is given or for whom something is done:

Marko će kupiti čokoladu mami .	Marko will buy chocolate <i>for his mom</i> .
Luka će kupiti igračku sinu .	Luka will buy a toy <i>for his son</i> .
Maja će pisati pismo prijatelju .	Maja will write a letter <i>to her friend</i> .

| Confused by direct and indirect objects?

Consider sentences where the verb is followed by two nouns:

	The teacher shows the students pictures .
	Parents give the children toys .

One of those nouns will be the direct object; it directly receives the action of the verb. You can identify it by asking “whom” or “what” after the verb.

	Question: The teacher shows what?
	Answer: pictures. “ Pictures ” is the direct object (i.e., Accusative case).

In the second example, “toys” is the direct object. In the Croatian translation of these sentences, the direct object will be expressed by nouns in the Accusative case.

	Question: The parents give what?
	Answer: toys. “ Toys ” is the direct object (i.e., Accusative case).

The other noun following the verb in the example sentences is the indirect object. You can identify it by asking “to whom” or “for whom” after the verb.



Question: Parents give toys to whom?



Answer: **Children**. "Children" is the indirect object (i.e., Dative case).

Indirect objects express the beneficiary of an action. In the Croatian translation of these sentences, the indirect object will be expressed by nouns in the **Dative case**. Note: Because the Dative case expresses the idea of «to whom?» and «for whom?» an action happens, the case is often used with proper names.

Foreign Names

Foreign names like Sonia and John will decline because they fit easily into typical Croatian declension patterns. If the foreign names do not fit into Croatian declensional patterns, they will not decline. For example, names like Rachel or Emme do not decline because they are women's names that end in a consonant like a masculine noun (Rachel) or in a vowel other than -a (Emme).

number	case	masculine	feminine	neuter
singular	Nominative	prijatelj	sestra	selo
	Dative	prijatelj- u	sestr- i	sel- u
plural	Nominative	prijatelji	sestre	sela
	Dative	prijatelj- ima	sestr- ama	sel- ima

6.2 Zadatak 1. Pokloni

Look at the picture and choose the correct sentence that corresponds to a picture.

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6.2 Zadatak 2. Kome što pokloniti

Read the following statements for each person. It tells you what each family member likes. Then, read the sentences and indicate for whom each gift would be the most appropriate.

brat	voli slušati glazbu	mama	voli prirodu
sestra	voli kazalište i filmove	tata	voli povijest i arhitekturu

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6.2 Zadatak 3. Kome ćeš pokloniti?

Who is the intended recipient? Listen to the sentences and indicate who will receive a gift. Mark **on** for any masculine noun recipient, **ona** for feminine noun recipients, or **oni** for any plural nouns recipients).

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6.2 Zadatak 4. Kome pokloniti?

Read the following statements for each group of people. It tells you what each group likes. Then, read the sentences and indicate for whom each gift would be the most appropriate.

roditelji	vole operu	prijatelji	jesti i piti kavu
sestre	vole književnost	braća	vole kuhati
djeca	vole čokoladu		

*Remember – nouns **braća** (brothers) and **djeca** (children), grammatically follow the feminine singular declension pattern, even though they are technically plural.

[h5p id="469"]

| The Verb MOĆI

The verb *moći* means to be able to, to have the possibility or permission to do something. It is a modal verb and is always followed by another verb in its infinitive form. The most frequent translation of the verb also implies the notion you can do something. You already encountered this verb in Unit 4.

Ja mogu kupiti knjigu tati.

I can buy a book for my dad.

SINGULAR			PLURAL		
(audio)	ja	mog-u	(audio)	mi	mož-emo
(audio)	ti	mož-eš	(audio)	vi	mož-ete
(audio)	on/-a/-o	mož-e	(audio)	oni/-e/-a	mog-u

As you can see, the verb has the same form in the 1st person singular (ja) and 3rd person plural (oni/one/ona). Usually the context of your speech will help the interlocutors understand who the conversation is about.

6.2 Zadatak 5. Što možemo kupiti?

Read the following sentences and indicate who is the subject in each sentence. Remember that a 3rd person singular and plural have the same form.

[h5p id="471"]

6.2 Zadatak 6. Kome ćeš pokloniti?

Choose the correct statement.

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