

1) Personal Pronouns

Pronouns are nouns which replace or stand in place of definite things, and which can refer to different things depending on who is saying them and what you are referring to – e.g. that, this, me, you. ‘**Me**’ has a different meaning when I say it, as when you say it. Similarly, ‘**that**’ has a different meaning when I am pointing at a desk, as when I am pointing at a table. Pronouns are therefore general nouns, not specific ones.

Personal pronouns are the pronouns that describe persons – **I, you, he, she, it, we, they**.

I = Ja

You (singular, informal) = Ti

He = On

She = Ona

It = Ono

We = Mi

You (plural, i.e. referring to a group of people, or polite when speaking to one person) = Vi

They (masculine i.e. a group of men or male objects) = Oni

They (feminine i.e. a group of women or female objects) = One

They (neuter i.e. a group of things) = Ona

2) Verbs

a) **To be – Biti (verbs in the infinitive (i.e. ‘to ...’) usually end in ‘ti’)**

i) short form

Ja sam –

I am

Ti si –

You (singular/informal) are

On/ona/ono je –

he/she/it is

Mi smo –

we are

Vi ste –

you (plural/formal singular) are

Oni/one/ona su –

they (male/female/neuter) are.

You can use the verb without the personal pronoun – however the short form of the verb (sam, si, etc) can never come at the start of a sentence. E.g. **Gladna** = hungry (female). So, you can say ‘**ja sam gladna**’, or ‘**gladna sam**’, but never ‘**sam gladna**’. ‘**Sam**’, therefore, means ‘I am’ – the personal pronoun is just used for extra emphasis.

ii) long form

jesam

jesmo

jesi

jeste

jest

jesu

If you want to start the sentence with the verb ‘to be’ (when asking questions) or if you need to use it alone, you use the long form.

e.g. ‘**Jesi li gladna?**’ = **Are you hungry?**

‘**Jesam!**’ = **I am** (has affirmative qualities, it’s the equivalent to saying, ‘yes, I am’)

iii) negative

To make a verb into a negative, you simply put ‘ne’ in front of it. So if ‘čitam’ means I’m reading, ‘ne čitam’ means I’m not reading.

Biti and htjeti are the exceptions. The negative form is spelt as one word. For biti, this goes as follows:

Nisam – I’m not

Nismo – We’re not

Nisi – you’re not

Niste – You (plural) are not

Nije – he/she/it is not

Nisu – they’re not

Biti is an irregular verb, but is used to make all past tense constructions so is used more than any other verb except for ‘htjeti’ – ‘to want to/will’ which is used to make all future tense constructions. More about this later...

b) Regular verbs

i) _____ ‘a’ category

To have – imati

Ja imam
Ti imaš
On/ona/ono ima
Mi imamo
Vi imate
Oni/one/ona imaju

‘Ima’ (he/she/it has) also means ‘there is/are’. Any noun following it takes the genitive case (see section 3, nouns)

ii) _____ ‘e’ category (example:- to go – ići)

Ja idem
Ti ideš
On/a/o ide
Mi idemo
Vi idete
Oni/e/a idu

Infinitives ending in ‘ći’ are the other common verb form. There is not always an obvious link between the infinitive (e.g. ići) and the present tense (e.g. idem). However if you know the **ja** form of the present tense you will be able to make all the other forms as almost all verbs follow one of these patterns. Important exceptions are **biti – to be**, **moći – to be able to**, and **htjeti – to want /will**.

iii) _____ ‘i’ category (example:- to work – raditi)

Ja radim	Mi radimo
Ti radiš	Vi radite
On/a/o radi	Oni/e/a rade

In English, the verb doesn’t change except for the 3rd person singular (he/she it **eats**), so you always need to use the personal pronoun (I, you, he/she/it etc) to clarify who you are talking about. In Bosnian, the verb changes each time, so you don’t need to use the ja, ti, on etc forms (personal pronouns) to distinguish between them – only for emphasis. So, **radim** means ‘I’m working’; if someone came into a room where two of you are supposed to be working, but only you are actually doing so, and asked what you were doing, you could say ‘**ja radim**’ to emphasise that *only* you are working.

3) Questions

a) Question words

Gdje – where (pronounced g’dyey)
Kako – how
Kad – when
Koliko – How much
Zašto – Why (za = for, što or šta = what, i.e. for what?)
Ko – who
Koji – which
Šta - what

e.g.s

Gdje si =	Where are you?
Koliko je ... =	How much is...?
Kako ste =	How are you?

b) making a question without using question words

Compare the following constructions to see the difference between a statement and a question:

Statement

Govorim hrvatski.	<i>I speak Croatian</i>
Razumijem engleski	<i>I understand English</i>
Gladna ste	<i>You're hungry</i>

Question

Govorite li hrvatski?	<i>Do you speak Croatian?</i>
Razumijete li engleski?	<i>Do you understand English?</i>
Jeste li gladna?	<i>Are you hungry?</i> (n.b. the verb changes to its long form as 'ste' can't go at the beginning of a sentence)

If you include the personal pronoun in the question, then the word order is as follows:

Govorite li **vi** hrvatski?
Razumijete li **vi** engleski?
Jeste li **vi** gladna?

So, a question is made by putting **li** after the verb and before the personal pronoun. A question can also be made by putting **da li** in front of the verb:

Da li govorite hrvatski?	<i>Do you speak Croatian?</i>
Da li razumijete engleski?	<i>Do you understand English?</i>
Da li ste gladna?	<i>Are you hungry?</i> (N.B. the verb is in its short form again as it isn't at the start of a sentence)

When you use question words (e.g. who, where etc) you don't need to use **li** or **da li**.

3) Nouns

a) Nouns decline into 7 cases – Nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive, dative and instrumental.

- i) Nominative = subject, the person or thing which is acting e.g. the **cat** ate the dog
- ii) Vocative = addressing or calling someone or something e.g. **John!**
- iii) Accusative = object, the person or thing which is being acted on e.g. the cat ate the **dog**
- iv) Genitive = 'of' someone or something e.g. the cat ate **fred's** dog
- v) Dative = 'to' or 'for' – e.g. she wrote a letter **to/for her mother**, this present is **for you**.
- vi) Instrumental = 'by' something – this almost always refers to methods of transport, e.g. he travelled by train

Nouns are also gendered, like french nouns – you can tell what gender a noun is by its ending: masculine nouns end in a consonant, and case endings are added onto it; feminine nouns end in an 'a' which changes to make the different case endings, and neuter nouns end in an 'o', which changes to make the ending.

b) Masculine nouns, singular - Vlak – train

Nominative –	vlak
Vocative -	vlake
Accusative –	vlak
Genitive –	vlaka
Dative -	vlaku
Instrumental -	vlakom

c) Feminine nouns, singular – Žena – woman

Nom -	Žena
Voc -	Ženo
Acc -	Ženu
Gen -	Žene

Dat - Ženi
Ins - Ženom

d) Neuter nouns, singular – Selo – village

Nom - Selo
Voc - Selo
Acc - Selo
Gen - Sela
Dat - Selu
Ins - Selom

Vocab list

Selo (n) - village

Žena (f) – woman

Vlak (m) – train

Biti, ja sam/jesam – to be, I am

Gladna – hungry

Čitati, čitam – to read, I read

Htjeti, hocu – To want/will, I want/will

Imati, imam – To have, I have

Ima – he/she/it has, there is

Ići, idem – to go, I go

Moći, mogu (irregular) – To be able to/can, I am able to/can

Raditi, radim – to work, I work

Gdje – where (pronounced g'dyey)

Kako – how

Kad – when

Koliko – How much

Zašto – Why (za = for, što or šta = what, i.e. for what?)

Ko – who

Koji – which

Šta – what

Govoriti, govorim – to speak, I speak

Hrvatski - Croatian

Razumijeti, razumijem – To understand, I understand

Engleski – english

Li/da li – has no translatable meaning in english, makes statements into a question