

Croatian in everyday situations

Module 5: The first week at work

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The first week at work

Croatian

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U devet, četvrt do, pola

Say **u devet** at nine, **pet do devet** five to nine, **devet i deset** nine ten. **Četvrt do devet** is 8:45, **devet i petnaest** 9:15.

Pola devet is 8:30, halfway toward nine. **Pola šest** is 17:30 in the workday context. Do not interpret it as 9:30 or 6:30. Add **ujutro** • **navečer** when needed.

Duration uses counted noun forms: **jedan sat, dva sata, osam sati, trideset minuta**. **Kasnim** • **kasnite** is the verb for being late, rather than a gendered description.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
u	Rad počinje u devet.	Work starts at nine.
do	Pet je do devet.	It is five to nine.
devet	Četvrt je do devet.	It is a quarter to nine.
Pola	Pola je devet.	It is half past eight.

Ponedjeljkom, uvijek, nikad

Learn the full week: **ponedjeljak, utorak, srijeda, četvrtak, petak, subota, nedjelja**. For a particular day use **u** plus the accusative: **u srijedu, u subotu**.

A repeated day can use an instrumental: **ponedjeljkom, utorkom, srijedom, četvrtkom, petkom, subotom, nedjeljom**. **Svaki ponedjeljak** is another easy recurring-day phrase. **Vikendom** means at weekends.

Frequency adverbs include **uvijek, obično, često, ponekad, nikad**. A negative sentence can include both **nikad** and **ne**: **Nikad ne pijem čaj**. This is normal Croatian negative agreement, not a double-negative mistake.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
četvrtak	Sastanak je u četvrtak.	The meeting is on Thursday.
subotu	Dolazim u subotu.	I come on Saturday.
Ponedjeljkom	Ponedjeljkom jedem juhu.	On Mondays I eat soup.
Uvijek	Uvijek pijem kavu.	I always drink coffee.

EVERY WEEKDAY

Day	On that day	Every such day
ponedjeljak	u ponedjeljak	ponedjeljkom
utorak	u utorak	utorkom
srijeda	u srijedu	srijedom
četvrtak	u četvrtak	četvrtkom
petak	u petak	petkom
subota	u subotu	subotom
nedjelja	u nedjelju	nedjeljom

Ustajem, tuširam se, volim

Useful routines include **ustajem, tuširam se, idem na posao, čitam, kuham**. The verb ending changes with the person: **ustajem • ustaješ • ustaje, čitam • čitaš • čita**.

A reflexive verb includes **se**, as in **tuširati se**. The clitic follows the first phrase: **Ja se tuširam, Ujutro se tuširam, or Tuširam se**. Do not attach an English myself after every routine verb.

Volim plus the accusative describes liking a thing; **volim** plus the infinitive liking an activity: **Volim čitati**. **Sviđa mi se** describes liking a particular thing and agrees with its subject: **Sviđaju mi se palačinke**.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
ustajem	Ja ustajem u pola sedam.	I get up at half past six.
ustaješ	Ti ustaješ u tri.	You get up at three.
se	Ujutro se tuširam.	I shower in the morning.
tuširam	Ja se tuširam.	I shower.

Iza računala, ispred pisača

Use genitive after **iza, ispred, ispod, iznad, pokraj**: **iza računala, ispred pisača, ispod stola**. A fixed place with **u • na** instead takes locative: **na stolu, u torbi**.

The direct object uses accusative: **vidim mačka, imam olovku**. An animate masculine object usually shares the genitive form: **mačak → mačka**. Inanimate **miš** as a computer mouse can stay **miš** in a direct object.

Short object pronouns include **me, te, ga, je • ju, nas, vas, ih**. Learn **daj mi ga** as give it to me: dative **mi** identifies the recipient, accusative **ga** the object. Do not treat every short pronoun as a

new noun ending.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
računala	Miki je iza računala.	Miki is behind the computer.
pisača	Miki je ispred pisača.	Miki is in front of the printer.
stolu	Olovka je na stolu.	The pen is on the table.
stola	Torba je ispod stola.	The bag is under the table.

Dođi, dođite, nemojte

An imperative gives an instruction or request. Familiar one-person forms include **dođi, daj, napiši, pročitaj, uzmi, sjedni**. Polite/plural forms add **-te: dođite, dajte, napišite, pročitajte, uzmite, sjednite**.

Useful commands are not made by copying the present ending of every verb. Learn common real pairs. **Molim** softens the request; **izvolite** invites someone politely.

For a negative instruction, use **nemoj • nemojte** plus the infinitive: **nemoj spavati, nemojte kasniti**. Ordinary rules can use **ne** plus the present tense: **Mačak ne sjedi na računalu. Dvaput dnevno** is twice a day.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Dođi	Dođi ovamo, Miki.	Come here, Miki. (familiar)
Dođite	Dođite ovamo, molim.	Please come here. (polite)
Dajte	Dajte mi papir, molim.	Please give me paper. (polite)
Napišite	Napišite poruku, molim.	Please write a message. (polite)

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Umoran sam.

Meaning: I am tired.

2 Umorna sam.

Meaning: I am tired.

3 Rad počinje u devet.

Meaning: Work starts at nine.

4 Sastanak je u četvrtak.

Meaning: The meeting is on Thursday.

5 Ja ustajem u pola sedam.

Meaning: I get up at half past six.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Lukas: Umoran _____.

- ☐ A si
- ☐ B sam
- ☐ C ste

Meaning: I am tired.

2 Lena: Umorna _____.

- ☐ A ste
- ☐ B si
- ☐ C sam

Meaning: I am tired.

3 Rad počinje _____ devet.

- ☐ A u
- ☐ B do
- ☐ C od

Meaning: Work starts at nine.

4 Sastanak je u _____.

- ☐ A srijedu
- ☐ B petak
- ☐ C četvrtak

Meaning: The meeting is on Thursday.

5 Ja _____ u pola sedam.

- ☐ A ustajem
- ☐ B ustajete
- ☐ C ustaješ

Meaning: I get up at half past six.

6 Miki je iza _____.

- ☐ A računala
- ☐ B računalo
- ☐ C računalom

Meaning: Miki is behind the computer.

7 _____ ovamo, Miki.

- ☐ A Dođem
- ☐ B Dođi
- ☐ C Dođite

Meaning: Come here, Miki. (familiar)

8 Pet je _____ devet.

- ☐ A od
- ☐ B do
- ☐ C u

Meaning: It is five to nine.

9 Dolazim u _____.

- ☐ A subotu
- ☐ B subota
- ☐ C subotom

Meaning: I come on Saturday.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

četvrtak srijedu

Sastanak je u _____.

Meaning: The meeting is on Thursday.

ustajem ustaješ

Ja _____ u pola sedam.

Meaning: I get up at half past six.

računala računalo

Miki je iza _____.

Meaning: Miki is behind the computer.

Doďi Doďite

_____ ovamo, Miki.

Meaning: Come here, Miki. (familiar)

do u

Pet je _____ devet.

Meaning: It is five to nine.

subotu subota

Dolazim u _____.

Meaning: I come on Saturday.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 Rad počinje devet. u

Meaning: Work starts at nine.

- 2 je u Sastanak četvrtak.

Meaning: The meeting is on Thursday.

- 3 Ja sedam. u ustajem pola

Meaning: I get up at half past six.

- 4 Miki iza je računala.

Meaning: Miki is behind the computer.

5 Dod̑i ovamo, Miki.

Meaning: Come here, Miki. (familiar)

6 Pet do devet. je

Meaning: It is five to nine.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 **Lukas: I am tired. You say:**

- ☐ A Umoran si.
- ☐ B Umoran sam.

2 **Lena: I am tired. You say:**

- ☐ A Umorna sam.
- ☐ B Umorna si.

3 Work starts at nine. You say:

- ☐ A Rad počinje u devet.
- ☐ B Rad počinje od devet.

4 The meeting is on Thursday. You say:

- ☐ A Sastanak je u četvrtak.
- ☐ B Sastanak je u srijedu.

5 I get up at half past six. You say:

- ☐ A Ja ustaješ u pola sedam.
- ☐ B Ja ustajem u pola sedam.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ① Pet je do devet. | ① A Work starts at nine. |
| ② Dolazim u subotu. | ② B I get up at half past six. |
| ③ Ja ustajem u pola sedam. | ③ C The meeting is on Thursday. |
| ④ Umorna sam. | ④ D Miki is behind the computer. |
| ⑤ Miki je iza računala. | ⑤ E Come here, Miki. (familiar) |
| ⑥ Rad počinje u devet. | ⑥ F It is five to nine. |
| ⑦ Sastanak je u četvrtak. | ⑦ G I come on Saturday. |
| ⑧ Dođi ovamo, Miki. | ⑧ H I am tired. |