

Croatian in everyday situations

Module 1: Arrival

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Arrival

Croatian

Read & listen online 



Ja sam, Vi ste, moj ključ

Use **ja sam** (I am), **ti si** (you are, familiar), **on • ona je** (he/she is).
With adults and staff, use polite **Vi ste**. Polite **Vi** takes plural verb forms even when speaking to one person.

A noun has grammatical gender: masculine **susjed**, feminine **susjeda**, neuter **ime**. An adjective agrees with its noun. A male learner is **novi susjed**, a female learner **nova susjeda**. Croatian has no article like English a/the.

A case is a form showing the job of a noun. The nominative names a person or thing. Learn **Evo Vašeg ključa** as a whole: **evo** introduces a genitive form. **Dobra večer**, **hvala**, and **drago mi je** are greeting and courtesy chunks.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
sam	Ja sam novi susjed.	I am the new neighbour.
ste	Vi ste novi susjed.	You are the new neighbour. (polite)
si	Ti si susjed.	You are the neighbour. (familiar)
susjed	Ovo je novi susjed.	This is the new neighbour.

A pronoun names a person or thing in place of its noun: **ja, ti, on, ona**. Singular means one; plural means more than one. Polite **Vi** still takes plural grammatical agreement.

Imam, nemam, gladan/gladna

Imam, imaš, ima mean I/you/he or she have. The negatives are **nemam, nemaš, nema**. After **imati**, the object uses the accusative. Inanimate masculine **ključ** keeps its form; feminine **kava** becomes **kavu**.

For not be, use **nisam, nisi, nije**: **Nisam gladan • gladna**. The adjective changes with the learner's sex, not the verb **sam**. Miki is **mačak**, a male cat; **mačka** can name a female cat or cats generically.

Questions can use intonation or **li** after the verb: **Imaš li ključ?** Ask a person with **tko?**, a thing with **što?**. **Gdje?** asks where. **Nema** means there is no, and takes a genitive: **nema ključa**.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
imam	Ja imam ključ.	I have a key.
imaš	Ti imaš moj ključ.	You have my key.
ima	Miki ima ključ.	Miki has a key.
nemam	Ja nemam ključ.	I do not have a key.

Kavu, čaj, Vaš kolač

The accusative names the direct object. Masculine inanimate **čaj** stays **čaj**; feminine **kava** becomes **kavu**. Say **Kavu, molim** or **Čaj, molim** as complete ordering phrases.

A possessive agrees with the thing: **moj kolač, moja kava, moje ime**. Polite your is **Vaš • Vaša • Vaše**, familiar your **tvoj • tvoja • tvoje**. Neither changes according to the owner's sex.

Drago mi je means nice to meet you and is a useful dative-pronoun chunk. **Sviđa mi se** means I like it; **Dobar tek** wishes someone a good meal. Treat these as complete phrases here.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
kavu	Želim kavu.	I want coffee.
čaj	Želim čaj.	I want tea.
moj	Ovo je moj kolač.	This is my cake.
moja	Ovo je moja kava.	This is my coffee.

Živim, sviram, želim

Verbs have person endings. **Živim** • **živiš** • **živi** say I/you/he or she live; **sviram** • **sviraš** • **svira** say play an instrument. Subject pronouns can be left out because the ending helps identify the person.

Želim spavati means I want to sleep. **Spavati** is the infinitive, the dictionary form without person marking. **Možeš li svirati sutra?** is a useful request chunk before the full modal lesson.

The present tense can describe now or a routine. **Ne** negates most verbs: **ne spavam**. Present be is special: **nisam** • **nisi** • **nije**. Learn **Živim dolje** and **Laku noć** as simple everyday phrases.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
živim	Ja živim dolje.	I live downstairs.
živiš	Ti živiš gore.	You live upstairs.
svira	Luka svira trubu.	Luka plays the trumpet.
sviram	Ja sviram trubu.	I play the trumpet.

Gdje, noću, tko živi

Gdje? asks a fixed location; **kamo?** a destination. Use **ovdje** • **tamo** and **gore** • **dolje**. Learn location chunks **u kući**, **u kafiću**, **iznad kafića**. A preposition connects a noun to a place or relation.

Some names have an address form, the vocative: **Mira** → **Miro**, **baka** → **bako**. **Gospođo Miro** respectfully addresses Mira. Other case forms of names appear in possession: **od Mire**, from Mira.

Noću means at night and **danju** in the daytime. **Svaki dan** means every day. A question with **li** follows the verb: **Živi li Lana ovdje?**. Singular/plural refer to number, not the speaker's sex.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Gdje	Gdje živite?	Where do you live?
gore	Luka živi gore.	Luka lives upstairs.
iznad	Ivana živi iznad kafića.	Ivana lives above the café.
Miro	Gospođo Miro, kako ste?	Mrs Mira, how are you?

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Ja sam novi susjed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 2 Ja sam nova susjeda.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 3 Vi ste novi susjed.

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

- 4 Vi ste nova susjeda.

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

- 5 Ja sam novi susjed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 6 Ja sam nova susjeda.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 7 Ja imam ključ.

Meaning: I have a key.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

- 1 Lukas: Ja _____ novi susjed.

- ☐ A je
- ☐ B si
- ☐ C sam

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 2 Lena: Ja _____ nova susjeda.

- ☐ A je
- ☐ B sam
- ☐ C si

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

3 Lukas: Vi _____ novi susjed.

- ☐ A si
- ☐ B ste
- ☐ C sam

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

4 Lena: Vi _____ nova susjeda.

- ☐ A ste
- ☐ B si
- ☐ C sam

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

5 Lukas: Ja _____ novi susjed.

- ☐ A si
- ☐ B je
- ☐ C sam

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

6 Lena: Ja _____ nova susjeda.

- ☐ A sam
- ☐ B je
- ☐ C si

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

7 Ja _____ ključ.

- ☐ A imaš
- ☐ B imam
- ☐ C ima

Meaning: I have a key.

8 Želim _____.

- ☐ A kavom
- ☐ B kavu
- ☐ C kava

Meaning: I want coffee.

9 Ja _____ dolje.

- ☐ A žvim
- ☐ B žviš
- ☐ C živi

Meaning: I live downstairs.

10 _____ živite?

- ☐ A Kamo
- ☐ B Gdje
- ☐ C Tko

Meaning: Where do you live?

11 Lukas: Vi _____ novi susjed.

- ☐ A ste
- ☐ B sam
- ☐ C si

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

12 Lena: Vi _____ nova susjeda.

- ☐ A sam
- ☐ B ste
- ☐ C si

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

si sam

Lukas: Ja _____ novi susjed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

si sam

Lena: Ja _____ nova susjeda.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

imaš imam

Ja _____ ključ.

Meaning: I have a key.

kava kavu

Želim _____.

Meaning: I want coffee.

živiš živim

Ja _____ dolje.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

Kamo Gdje

_____ živate?

Meaning: Where do you live?

Sam ste

Lukas: Vi _____ novi susjed.

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

Sam ste

Lena: Vi _____ nova susjeda.

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 Ja sam novi susjed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 2 susjeda. Ja sam nova

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

- 3 susjed. Vi novi ste

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

- 4 ste Vi susjeda. nova

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

5 susjed. sam novi Ja

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

6 sam nova Ja susjeda.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

7 imam Ja ključ.

Meaning: I have a key.

8 Ja živim dolje.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

9 susjed. Vi novi ste

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

10 ste Vi susjeda. nova

Meaning: You are the new neighbour. (polite)

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 **Lukas: I am the new neighbour. You say:**

- ☐ A Ja sam novi susjed.
- ☐ B Ja si novi susjed.

2 **Lena: I am the new neighbour. You say:**

- ☐ A Ja sam nova susjeda.
- ☐ B Ja si nova susjeda.

3 Lukas: You are the new neighbour. (polite) You say:

- ☐ A Vi ste novi susjed.
- ☐ B Vi sam novi susjed.

4 Lena: You are the new neighbour. (polite) You say:

- ☐ A Vi ste nova susjeda.
- ☐ B Vi sam nova susjeda.

5 Lukas: I am the new neighbour. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam novi susjed.
- ☐ B Ja si novi susjed.

6 Lena: I am the new neighbour. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam nova susjeda.
- ☐ B Ja si nova susjeda.

7 I have a key. You say:

- ☐ A Ja imaš ključ.
- ☐ B Ja imam ključ.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| ① Gdje živite? | ① I am the new neighbour. |
| ② Ja sam nova susjeda. | ② I live downstairs. |
| ③ Vi ste nova susjeda. | ③ I want coffee. |
| ④ Vi ste nova susjeda. | ④ You are the new neighbour.
(polite) |
| ⑤ Ja imam ključ. | ⑤ You are the new neighbour.
(polite) |
| ⑥ Ja živim dolje. | ⑥ I have a key. |
| ⑦ Želim kavu. | ⑦ Where do you live? |
| ⑧ Ja sam nova susjeda. | ⑧ I am the new neighbour. |