

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Bio/bila, živio/živjela

Marriage and the basic perfect

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Croatian

Read & listen online



Marriage and the basic perfect

Learn the current-state expressions **oženjen • udana** (married), **nisam oženjen • nisam udana, nemam djece**. Formal **Jeste li oženjeni • udani?** keeps plural agreement but uses the correct marriage word for the person.

Croatian past uses a present be auxiliary plus a participle: **bio sam • bila sam, živio sam • živjela sam**. The auxiliary goes after the first phrase; the participle agrees with the subject. Male/female singular **-o • -la**, neuter **-lo**; plural **-li • -le • -la**. Polite single-person **Vi ste bili** uses masculine plural regardless of the addressee's sex.

Introduce this perfect structure fully here for photographs and later routines. Common background **bio • bila, imao • imala, živio • živjela** are practised first. Later event stories consolidate regular/irregular participles. The verb negative is in the auxiliary: **nisam bio • bila**, not an invented past ending.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
oženjen	Nisam oženjen.	I am not married.
djece	Nemam djece.	I have no children.
Bio	Bio sam ovdje.	I was here.
Živio	Živio sam u Hamburgu.	I lived in Hamburg.

Nisam udana (oženjen).

I am not married.

Nemam djece.

I have no children.

Bila (Bio) sam ovdje.

I was here.

Živjela (Živio) sam u Hamburgu.

I lived in Hamburg.

Mira je bila učiteljica.

Mira was a teacher.

Luka je bio mali.

Luka was little.

Vi ste bili ovdje.

You were here. (polite)

Nisam bila (bio) tamo.

I was not there.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Nisam udana.

Meaning: I am not married.

2 Nemam djece.

Meaning: I have no children.

3 Bila sam ovdje.

Meaning: I was here.

4 Živjela sam u Hamburgu.

Meaning: I lived in Hamburg.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Nisam _____.

- ☐ A udana
- ☐ B oženjeni
- ☐ C oženjeno

Meaning: I am not married.

2 Nemam _____.

- ☐ A djece
- ☐ B djecom
- ☐ C djecu

Meaning: I have no children.

3 _____ sam ovdje.

- ☐ A Bilo
- ☐ B Bila
- ☐ C Bili

Meaning: I was here.

4 _____ sam u Hamburgu.

- ☐ A Živjelo
- ☐ B Živjeli
- ☐ C Živjela

Meaning: I lived in Hamburg.

5 Mira je _____ učiteljica.

- ☐ A bila
- ☐ B bilo
- ☐ C bio

Meaning: Mira was a teacher.

6 Luka je _____ mali.

- ☐ A bio
- ☐ B bilo
- ☐ C bila

Meaning: Luka was little.

7 Vi ste _____ ovdje.

- ☐ A bila
- ☐ B bio
- ☐ C bili

Meaning: You were here. (polite)

8 _____ bila tamo.

- ☐ A Nije
- ☐ B Nisi
- ☐ C Nisam

Meaning: I was not there.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

Bilo Bila

_____ sam ovdje.

Meaning: I was here.

Živjelo Živjela

_____ sam u Hamburgu.

Meaning: I lived in Hamburg.

bio bila

Mira je _____ učiteljica.

Meaning: Mira was a teacher.

bila bio

Luka je _____ mali.

Meaning: Luka was little.

bio bili

Vi ste _____ ovdje.

Meaning: You were here. (polite)

Nisi Nisam

_____ bila tamo.

Meaning: I was not there.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

sam

Bila

ovdje.

Meaning: I was here.

2 sam Živjela u Hamburgu.

Meaning: I lived in Hamburg.

3 je Mira učiteljica. bila

Meaning: Mira was a teacher.

4 bio je Luka mali.

Meaning: Luka was little.

5 bili ovdje. Vi ste

Meaning: You were here. (polite)

6

Meaning: I was not there.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I am not married. You say:

- ☐ A Nisam oženjeno.
- ☐ B Nisam udana.

2 I have no children. You say:

- ☐ A Nemam djecu.
- ☐ B Nemam djece.

3 I was here. You say:

- ☐ A Bila sam ovdje.
- ☐ B Bilo sam ovdje.

4 I lived in Hamburg. You say:

- Ⓐ Živjela sam u Hamburgu.
- Ⓑ Živjelo sam u Hamburgu.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ⓐ Nisam udana. | Ⓐ You were here. (polite) |
| Ⓑ Vi ste bili ovdje. | Ⓑ Mira was a teacher. |
| Ⓒ Nemam djece. | Ⓒ I lived in Hamburg. |
| Ⓓ Mira je bila učiteljica. | Ⓓ I was not there. |
| Ⓔ Nisam bila tamo. | Ⓔ Luka was little. |
| Ⓕ Živjela sam u Hamburgu. | Ⓕ I am not married. |
| Ⓖ Bila sam ovdje. | Ⓖ I have no children. |

- 8 Luka je bio mali. H I was here.