

Slovene in everyday situations

Module 1: Arrival

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Arrival

Slovenian

Read & listen online ↗



sem, si, je, ste

Person	Slovene	Meaning
jaz	sem	I am
ti	si	you are, familiar
on/ona/ono	je	he/she/it is
vi	ste	you are, polite or plural
nov sosed	nova sosed	new male neighbour / new female neighbour

Slovene has no articles corresponding to English a and the. Introduce yourself with **Jaz sem Ana** or simply **Ana sem**. The verb already identifies the person, so the subject pronoun is often omitted. The subject or identity form is called the nominative case.

Biti means to be: singular **jaz sem, ti si, on/ona/ono je**. Use polite **vi ste** with unfamiliar adults and familiar **ti si** with a child or friend. Polite **vi** addresses one person or several.

A noun belongs to masculine, feminine or neuter gender. Start with **sosed** (male neighbour), **soseda** (female neighbour) and **ime** (neuter name). Describing words agree: **nov sosed, nova sosed**. Keep the learner gender in both your own speech and questions addressed to you.

imam, imaš, nimaš

Form	Example	Meaning
imam	Jaz imam ključ.	I have a key.
imaš	Ti imaš ključ.	You have a key.
ni	Muri ni moj maček.	Muri is not my cat.
to	Kaj je to?	What is this?
lačen	Tudi jaz sem lačen.	I am hungry too.
slab	Nisem slab sosed.	I am not a bad neighbour.

Imeti means to have: **imam** I have, **imaš** you have, **ima** he/she/it has. A direct object uses the accusative. With an inanimate masculine noun it often looks unchanged: **imam ključ.**

Negated forms join **ne** to the verb: **nimam, nimaš, nima.** For **biti**, use **nisem, nisi, ni.** Learn **nimam ključa** as a whole early phrase; the genitive after negation will be practised in module 2.

Point with **ta ključ** (this key), **ta kavarna** (this café), or neuter **to** in **Kaj je to?** Questions can use **Ali**, but ordinary speech also uses question intonation: **Imaš ključ?**

kavo ali čaj

Form	Example	Meaning
Kavo	Kavo, prosim.	A coffee, please.
torto	Želim torto.	I would like cake.
ali	Kavo ali čaj?	Coffee or tea?
in	Kavo in torto, prosim.	Coffee and cake, please.
torto	Lačen sem. Želim torto.	I am hungry. I would like cake.
Kavo	Nov sem tukaj. Kavo, prosim.	I am new here. A coffee, please.

Use the accusative for what you order: **kava** → **kavo**, **torta** → **torto**.
 A masculine inanimate noun is unchanged: **čaj** → **čaj**. A short request with **prosim** is natural: **Kavo, prosim**.

Ali links alternatives: **kavo ali čaj?**; **in** links a list: **kavo in torto**.
Izvolite is a useful polite offering formula. Learn **dober tek** (enjoy your meal) and **me veseli** (nice to meet you) whole.

Possessives agree with the thing owned, not the owner: **moja kava**, **moj čaj**, **moje ime**. After the accusative change, say **mojo kavo**.

živim, igram, hočem spati

Form	Example	Meaning
živim	Jaz živim spodaj.	I live downstairs.
igraš	Ti igraš trobento.	You play the trumpet.
spi	Muri spi tukaj.	Muri sleeps here.
spati	Hočem spati.	I want to sleep.
spati	Utrujen sem. Hočem spati.	I am tired. I want to sleep.
Živim	Nov sem tukaj. Živim spodaj.	I am new here. I live downstairs.

In the present tense, endings identify the person: **živim** I live, **živiš** you live, **živi** he/she lives; **igram**, **igraš**, **igra**. Most simple verbs have first-person **-m**, second-person **-š** and third-person without those endings.

Use separate **ne** before ordinary verbs: **ne igram**, **ne spi**. Wanting an action uses an infinitive: **hočem spati**. Do not put a finite person ending on the second verb.

Slovene uses the same present for I play and I am playing. Time words such as **zdaj** or **ponoči** make the context clear. The short request **jutri igray** is a scene formula; commands are taught in module 5.

kje, moj, moja, moje

Form	Example	Meaning
Kje	Kje je kavarna?	Where is the café?
moj	To je moj ključ.	This is my key.
moja	To je moja kavarna.	This is my café.
moje	To je moje stanovanje.	This is my flat.
moja	Lačen sem. Kje je moja kava?	I am hungry. Where is my coffee?
moje	Nov sem tukaj. Kje je moje stanovanje?	I am new here. Where is my flat?

Kje asks where someone or something is: **Kje je kavarna?** For simple locations, **tukaj**, **tam**, **zgoraj** and **spodaj** need no preposition.

Possessive ownership forms agree with the noun: masculine **moj ključ**, feminine **moja kavarna**, neuter **moje stanovanje**. Use **tvoj** with familiar **ti** and **vaš** with polite **vi**.

After **v** and **na** for a fixed location use the locative: **v kavarni, v hiši, na mizi**. Learn these frequent phrases now; the location versus destination contrast comes in module 6.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS

Underline the form described in this unit.

- 1 Jaz sem Ana.

Meaning: I am Ana.

- 2 Jaz imam ključ.

Meaning: I have a key.

- 3 Kavo, prosim.

Meaning: A coffee, please.

- 4 Jaz živim spodaj.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

5 Kje je kavarna?

Meaning: Where is the café?

6 Sem nov sosed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

7 Sem nova sosed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

8 Tukaj je nov sosed.

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

9 Tukaj je nova sosed.

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

10 On je Muri.

Meaning: He is Muri.

11 Muri ni moj maček.

Meaning: Muri is not my cat.

12 Kavob ali čaj?

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Jaz _____ Ana.

- ☐ A je
- ☐ B si
- ☐ C sem

Meaning: I am Ana.

2 Jaz _____ ključ.

- ☐ A imaš
- ☐ B ima
- ☐ C imam

Meaning: I have a key.

3 _____, prosim.

- ☐ A Kavo
- ☐ B Kava
- ☐ C Kavi

Meaning: A coffee, please.

4 Jaz _____ spodaj.

- ☐ A živiš
- ☐ B živim
- ☐ C živi

Meaning: I live downstairs.

5 _____ je kavarna?

- ☐ A Kje
- ☐ B Kaj
- ☐ C Kdo

Meaning: Where is the café?

6 Lukas: Sem _____ sosed.

- ☐ A novo
- ☐ B nove
- ☐ C nov

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

7 Lena: Sem _____ sosed.

- ☐ A nova
- ☐ B novo
- ☐ C nove

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

8 Lukas: Tukaj je _____ sosed.

- ☐ A novo
- ☐ B novi
- ☐ C nov

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

9 Lena: Tukaj je _____ soseda.

- ☐ A novi
- ☐ B nova
- ☐ C novo

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

10 On _____ Muri.

- ☐ A si
- ☐ B sem
- ☐ C je

Meaning: He is Muri.

11 Muri _____ moj maček.

- ☐ A si
- ☐ B je
- ☐ C ni

Meaning: Muri is not my cat.

12 Kavo _____ čaj?

- ☐ A brez
- ☐ B ker
- ☐ C ali

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

si sem

Jaz _____ Ana.

Meaning: I am Ana.

imaš imam

Jaz _____ ključ.

Meaning: I have a key.

Kava Kavo

_____, prosim.

Meaning: A coffee, please.

Živiš živim

Jaz _____ spodaj.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

Kdo Kje

_____ je kavarna?

Meaning: Where is the café?

novο nov

Lukas: Sem _____ sosed.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

novο nova

Lena: Sem _____ sosedā.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

novο nov

Lukas: Tukaj je _____ sosed.

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

novo nova

Lena: Tukaj je _____ soseda.

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

si je

On _____ Muri.

Meaning: He is Muri.

je ni

Muri _____ moj maček.

Meaning: Muri is not my cat.

ker ali

Kavo _____ čaj?

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1

Jaz

sem

Ana.

Meaning: I am Ana.

2

imam

Jaz

ključ.

Meaning: I have a key.

3 živim Jaz spodaj.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

4 Kje kavarna? je

Meaning: Where is the café?

5 sosed. Sem nov

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

6 Sem nova sosedka.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

7 je nov sosed. Tukaj

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

8 sosed. nova je Tukaj

Meaning: The new neighbour is here.

9 Muri. je On

Meaning: He is Muri.

10 Muri moj ni maček.

Meaning: Muri is not my cat.

- 11 Kavo čaj? ali

Meaning: Coffee or tea?

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I am Ana. You say:

- ☐ A Jaz sem Ana.
- ☐ B Jaz si Ana.

2 I have a key. You say:

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

3 A coffee, please. You say:

- ☐ A Kavo, prosim.
- ☐ B Kava, prosim.

4 I live downstairs. You say:

- (A) Jaz živim spodaj.
- (B) Jaz živiš spodaj.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Tukaj je nova soseda. | (A) A coffee, please. |
| (2) Kavo, prosim. | (B) I am the new neighbour. |
| (3) On je Muri. | (C) Where is the café? |
| (4) Jaz imam ključ. | (D) He is Muri. |
| (5) Jaz živim spodaj. | (E) I have a key. |
| (6) Sem nova soseda. | (F) I live downstairs. |
| (7) Kje je kavarna? | (G) The new neighbour is here. |
| (8) Jaz sem Ana. | (H) I am Ana. |