

SCENE 44 • GRAMMAR

Sjedila, spavala, zatvorila

Background, denial and photos

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The festival

Croatian

Read & listen online ↗



Background, denial and photos

For a past state or ongoing activity, the same perfect works with an appropriate verb: **sjedila je, spavala je, svirala je**. Croatian has no compulsory additional ongoing-action auxiliary here.

Kad plus the clause links background or sequence: **Kad je počeo koncert, sjedila sam na klupi**. The actual event order and verb choice supply the meaning. Do not introduce aorist or imperfect forms for this A1 story.

For denial, **nisam spavala** or **nije istina. Samo sam zatvorila oči** explains what happened instead. A known female character uses feminine participles; a learner sentence needs m/f variants.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
sjedila	Mira je sjedila na klupi.	Mira sat on the bench.
spavala	Mira je spavala.	Mira was sleeping.
svirao	Luka je svirao.	Luka was playing.
Nisam	Nisam spavao.	I did not sleep.

Mira je sjedila na klupi.

Mira sat on the bench.

Mira je spavala.

Mira was sleeping.

Luka je svirao.

Luka was playing.

Nisam spavala (spavao).

I did not sleep.

Zatvorila (Zatvorio) sam oči.

I closed my eyes.

Maja je fotografirala.

Maja took photographs.

I ja sam čula (čuo).

I heard it too.

Kad je počeo koncert, Mira je sjedila na klupi.

When the concert started, Mira was on the bench.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Mira je sjedila na klupi.

Meaning: Mira sat on the bench.

- 2 Mira je spavala.

Meaning: Mira was sleeping.

- 3 Luka je svirao.

Meaning: Luka was playing.

- 4 Nisam spavala.

Meaning: I did not sleep.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Mira je _____ na klupi.

- ☐ A sjedio
- ☐ B sjedilo
- ☐ C sjedila

Meaning: Mira sat on the bench.

2 Mira je _____.

- ☐ A spavalo
- ☐ B spavala
- ☐ C spavao

Meaning: Mira was sleeping.

3 Luka je _____.

- ☐ A svirala
- ☐ B sviralo
- ☐ C svirao

Meaning: Luka was playing.

4 _____ spavala.

- ☐ A Nisi
- ☐ B Nisam
- ☐ C Nije

Meaning: I did not sleep.

5 _____ sam oči.

- ☐ A Zatvorilo
- ☐ B Zatvorila
- ☐ C Zatvorili

Meaning: I closed my eyes.

6 Maja je _____.

- ☐ A fotografirala
- ☐ B fotografirao
- ☐ C fotografiralo

Meaning: Maja took photographs.

7 I ja sam _____.

- ☐ A čuli
- ☐ B čula
- ☐ C čulo

Meaning: I heard it too.

8 _____ je počeo koncert, Mira je sjedila na klupi.

- ☐ A Jer
- ☐ B Kad
- ☐ C Prije

Meaning: When the concert started, Mira was on the bench.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

svirao svirala

Luka je _____.

Meaning: Luka was playing.

Nisam Nisi

_____ spavala.

Meaning: I did not sleep.

Zatvorila Zatvorilo

_____ sam oči.

Meaning: I closed my eyes.

fotografirala fotografirao

Maja je _____.

Meaning: Maja took photographs.

čula čulo

I ja sam _____.

Meaning: I heard it too.

Kad Jer

_____ je počeo koncert, Mira je sjedila na klupi.

Meaning: When the concert started, Mira was on the bench.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1 klupi. je Mira sjedila na

Meaning: Mira sat on the bench.

2 spavala. Mira je

Meaning: Mira was sleeping.

3 Luka svirao. je

Meaning: Luka was playing.

4 Zatvorila oči. sam

Meaning: I closed my eyes.

5 je Maja fotografirala.

Meaning: Maja took photographs.

6 I čula. ja sam

Meaning: I heard it too.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Mira sat on the bench. You say:

- ☐ A Mira je sjedila na klupi.
- ☐ B Mira je sjedio na klupi.

2 Mira was sleeping. You say:

- ☐ A Mira je spavala.
- ☐ B Mira je spavao.

3 Luka was playing. You say:

- ☐ A Luka je svirala.
- ☐ B Luka je svirao.

4 I did not sleep. You say:

- (A) Nisam spavala.
- (B) Nisi spavala.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| (1) I ja sam čula. | (A) When the concert started, Mira was on the bench. |
| (2) Luka je svirao. | (B) Mira sat on the bench. |
| (3) Nisam spavala. | (C) I closed my eyes. |
| (4) Maja je fotografirala. | (D) Luka was playing. |
| (5) Zatvorila sam oči. | (E) I heard it too. |
| (6) Mira je spavala. | (F) I did not sleep. |
| (7) Mira je sjedila na klupi. | (G) Maja took photographs. |

- 8 Kad je počeo koncert, Mira je sjedila na klupi.
- H Mira was sleeping.