

Croatian in everyday situations

Module 2: The empty flat

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The empty flat

Croatian

Read & listen online ↗



Odakle, prezime, govorim

Odakle ste? asks where you are from. **Iz** takes a genitive: **iz Njemačke, iz Hamburga**. Languages after speak use simple forms: **govorim njemački • engleski • hrvatski**.

An identity noun does not need an article: **Ja sam inženjer • inženjerka**. Use real male/female profession and nationality words when talking about the learner. Formal **Vi** still takes plural verbs, **govorite**, even with a singular identity noun.

Learn repair requests: **Ne razumijem, Možete li govoriti sporije?, Slovkajte, molim**. Keep Becker's written spelling. The complete Croatian alphabet includes digraph letters and is shown in this unit.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
govorim	Ja govorim hrvatski.	I speak Croatian.
govorite	Vi govorite njemački.	You speak German. (polite)
iz	Dolazim iz Njemačke.	I come from Germany.
u	Živim u Hamburgu.	I live in Hamburg.

Croatian has 30 letters. The two-character letters **dž, lj, and nj** each count as one letter. Keep Becker's foreign written spelling: **B E C K E R**. Imported names may also use Q, W, X, Y.

Letters	Practice
*A	B E C K E R
B	
C	
Č	
Ć	
D	
Dž	
Đ	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	
J	
K*	
*L	L I P O V A
Lj	
M	
N	
Nj	
O	
P	
R	
S	
Š	
T	
U	
V	
Z	
Ž*	

Nema stola, u kupaonici

Ima can mean there is/are as well as have. **Nema** says there is no: **nema stola, nema kauča, nema stolica**. This existence/absence pattern takes the genitive. Do not copy English there is/are into a person-conjugated be phrase.

A feminine noun in **-a** often has genitive **-e**: **šalica** → **šalice**. Many masculine nouns add **-a**: **stol** → **stola**. Genitive plural often has **-a**, but common phrases are learnt with their real form.

For a fixed location, **u** and **na** take the locative: **u stanu**, **u kupaonici**. For entry, learn **Mogu li ući?** and **Uđi • Uđite**. These imperative request chunks precede the fuller instructions lesson.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
stola	Nema stola.	There is no table.
kauča	Nema kauča.	There is no sofa.
stolica	Nema stolica.	There are no chairs.
krevet	Ima jedan krevet.	There is one bed.

Žut, crvena, mali

Adjectives agree with the noun: masculine **žuti kauč**, feminine **crvena svjetiljka**, neuter **kratko ime**. Their endings also follow case: **imam crvenu svjetiljku**. Long forms such as **mali** and short forms such as **malen** are both useful, but learn the actual phrase.

The possessor does not decide the adjective's gender: **moja svjetiljka** is feminine whoever owns it. **Moj • moja • moje** are a possessive set, not learner-sex variants.

Na kauču is a fixed place with locative; **ispod kauča** uses genitive. **Čiji • čija • čije?** asks whose and agrees with the item. Learn adjectives in a small table with all three genders.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
žut	Kauč je žut.	The sofa is yellow.
crvena	Svjetiljka je crvena.	The lamp is red.
malen	Stan je malen.	The flat is small.
mala	Kupaonica je mala.	The bathroom is small.

Stolovi, stolice, jedna šalice

Typical plurals include **stol** • **stolovi**, **ključ** • **ključevi**, **stolica** • **stolice**, **šalice** • **šalice**, **mjesto** • **mjesta**. Some short masculine nouns add **-ov** • **-ev**. There is no universal rule that every consonant noun has the same plural.

Jedan • **jedna** • **jedno** agree with the noun. With two, use **dva** for masculine/neuter, **dvije** for feminine. The full counting constructions come with the number lesson.

Treba mi stol means I need a table. **Mi** is a dative pronoun; **treba Vam** politely says you need. **Ovo je moj stol** identifies ownership; **ovo su moje stolice** describes a plural.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
šalice	Ovo su moje šalice.	These are my cups.
stolovi	Ovo su moji stolovi.	These are my tables.
šalicu	Imam jednu šalicu.	I have one cup.
šalice	Imam dvije šalice.	I have two cups.

Jesmo, smo, imate, nemamo

The short present of be is **sam, si, je, smo, ste, su**; stressed forms are **jesam, jesi, jest, jesmo, jeste, jesu**. Negatives are **nisam, nisi, nije, nismo, niste, nisu**. A clitic normally follows the first phrase: **Mi smo ovdje**.

Have is **imam, imaš, ima, imamo, imate, imaju**; its negative is **nemam, nemaš, nema, nemamo, nemate, nemaju**. Polite **Vi imate** • **nemate** takes second-person plural forms. **Mi** includes any group contextually; Croatian does not have a grammatical inclusive/exclusive we distinction.

Regular patterns include **sviram • sviraš • svira • sviramo • svirate • sviraju, radim • radiš • radi • radimo • radite • rade**, and **pišem • pišeš • piše • pišemo • pišete • pišu**. Learn common irregular **idem • ideš • ide • idemo • idete • idu**, rather than inventing endings from another language.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
smo	Mi smo ovdje.	We are here.
su	Oni su ovdje.	They are here.
imamo	Mi imamo ključ.	We have a key.
nemamo	Mi nemamo vremena.	We have no time.

Ongoing or repeated actions and completed actions often use a related verb pair. Learn common examples as words: **uzimati • uzeti** (take), **davati • dati** (give), **kupovati • kupiti** (buy). A prefix or a change of stem does not by itself tell you when the action takes place.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Ja sam inženjer.

Meaning: I am an engineer.

2 Ja sam inženjerka.

Meaning: I am an engineer.

3 Ja sam Nijemac.

Meaning: I am German.

4 Ja sam Njemica.

Meaning: I am German.

5 Ja govorim hrvatski.

Meaning: I speak Croatian.

6 Nema stola.

Meaning: There is no table.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Lukas: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A inženjeri
- ☐ B inženjerima
- ☐ C inženjer

Meaning: I am an engineer.

2 Lena: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A inženjerima
- ☐ B inženjerka
- ☐ C inženjeri

Meaning: I am an engineer.

3 Lukas: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A Nijemcima
- ☐ B Nijemci
- ☐ C Nijemac

Meaning: I am German.

4 Lena: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A Nijemcima
- ☐ B Njemica
- ☐ C Nijemci

Meaning: I am German.

5 Ja _____ hrvatski.

- ☐ A govoriš
- ☐ B govorim
- ☐ C govorite

Meaning: I speak Croatian.

6 Nema _____.

- ☐ A stola
- ☐ B stol
- ☐ C stolom

Meaning: There is no table.

7 Kauč je _____.

- ☐ A žuto
- ☐ B žut
- ☐ C žuta

Meaning: The sofa is yellow.

8 Ovo su moje _____.

- ☐ A šalice
- ☐ B šalica
- ☐ C šalicom

Meaning: These are my cups.

9 Mi _____ ovdje.

- ☐ A ste
- ☐ B smo
- ☐ C sam

Meaning: We are here.

10 Vi _____ njemački.

- ☐ A govorim
- ☐ B govorite
- ☐ C govoriš

Meaning: You speak German. (polite)

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

govoriš govorim

Ja _____ hrvatski.

Meaning: I speak Croatian.

stol stola

Nema _____.

Meaning: There is no table.

žuta žut

Kauč je _____.

Meaning: The sofa is yellow.

šalice šalice

Ovo su moje _____.

Meaning: These are my cups.

sam smo

Mi _____ ovdje.

Meaning: We are here.

govorim govorite

Vi _____ njemački.

Meaning: You speak German. (polite)

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

Ja

sam

inženjer.

Meaning: I am an engineer.

2 inženjerka. Ja sam

Meaning: I am an engineer.

3 Nijemac. Ja sam

Meaning: I am German.

4 Njemica. Ja sam

Meaning: I am German.

5 Ja hrvatski. govorim

Meaning: I speak Croatian.

6 je Kauč žut.

Meaning: The sofa is yellow.

7 su Ovo moje šalice.

Meaning: These are my cups.

8 smo Mi ovdje.

Meaning: We are here.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 **Lukas: I am an engineer. You say:**

- ☐ A Ja sam inženjeri.
- ☐ B Ja sam inženjer.

2 Lena: I am an engineer. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam inženjeri.
- ☐ B Ja sam inženjerka.

3 Lukas: I am German. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam Nijemac.
- ☐ B Ja sam Nijemci.

4 Lena: I am German. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam Njemica.
- ☐ B Ja sam Nijemci.

5 I speak Croatian. You say:

- ☐ A Ja govoriš hrvatski.
- ☐ B Ja govorim hrvatski.

6 There is no table. You say:

- ☐ A Nema stol.
- ☐ B Nema stola.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ① Ja sam inženjerka. | ① A These are my cups. |
| ② Ovo su moje šalice. | ② B I am German. |
| ③ Ja sam Njemica. | ③ C I am an engineer. |
| ④ Kauč je žut. | ④ D I speak Croatian. |
| ⑤ Nema stola. | ⑤ E You speak German. (polite) |
| ⑥ Mi smo ovdje. | ⑥ F The sofa is yellow. |
| ⑦ Vi govorite
njemački. | ⑦ G We are here. |
| ⑧ Ja govorim hrvatski. | ⑧ H There is no table. |