

Croatian in everyday situations

Module 4: Photos on the wall

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Croatian

Read & listen online ↗



Brat, sestra, imam trideset

Age uses have: **Imam trideset godina**, not an English-style am construction. **Jednu sestru** is feminine accusative; **jednog brata** masculine animate accusative.

Sibling relative age is explicit: **starija sestra**, older sister; **mlađi brat**, younger brother. In an object phrase, **jednu stariju sestru**, **jednog mlađeg brata**. These do not change with the learner's sex.

Genitive expresses possession after a noun: **majka moje sestre**. Learn **Mira živi ovdje pedeset godina** as an ongoing duration and **Bila je učiteljica četrdeset godina** as an early past-state chunk before the fuller perfect lesson.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
trideset	Imam trideset godina.	I am thirty years old.
sestru	Imam jednu stariju sestru.	I have one older sister.
brata	Imam jednog mlađeg brata.	I have one younger brother.
starija	Moja sestra je starija.	My sister is older.

Croatian past tense uses a form of be with a gender/number participle. Here, **bio • bila** are useful past-state chunks; the complete perfect pattern follows at the end of this module.

Desetog srpnja, prvi, drugi

Dates use an ordinal form for the day and genitive for the month: **desetog srpnja, dvadeset osmog ožujka**. The month table contains the full nominative/genitive set. Birthdays keep these forms whatever the learner's sex.

Positions use **prvi · prva · prvo, drugi · druga · drugo, treći · treća · treće**. They agree with the noun: **prvo pitanje, treća stranica**. Dates use forms such as **prvog, drugog, trećeg, desetog**; longer **-oga** forms are also correct.

Ask **Kada ti je rođendan?** and **Koliko imaš godina?**. The learner's birthday is 10 July; Lana's 28 March. Possessive nationality/profession nouns in her homework use true learner variants, not generic masculine for Lena.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
desetog desetoga	Rođendan mi je desetog srpnja.	My birthday is on the tenth of July.
ožujka	Lanin rođendan je dvadeset osmog ožujka.	Lana's birthday is on the twenty-eighth of March.
prvo	Ovo je prvo pitanje.	This is the first question.
drugo	Ovo je drugo pitanje.	This is the second question.

ALL TWELVE MONTHS

Month	In a date	Meaning
siječanj	siječnja	January
veljača	veljače	February
ožujak	ožujka	March
travanj	travnja	April
svibanj	svibnja	May

Month	In a date	Meaning
lipanj	lipnja	June
srpanj	srpnja	July
kolovoz	kolovoza	August
rujan	rujna	September
listopad	listopada	October
studeni	*studenog · studenoga*	November
prosinac	prosinca	December

Smeđe oči, crna kosa

Descriptions agree with the described noun: **visok glazbenik, niska žena, crna kosa, smeđe oči**. A person is **visok · nizak**, hair **duga · kratka**. Grammatical noun gender differs from the learner's own sex.

Use have for appearance: **Ima smeđe oči, ima naočale. Oči** and **naočale** are plural; **kosa** is singular as a mass of hair. The word **brada** means beard.

Kakav · kakva · kakvo? asks what something is like and agrees with the noun: **Kakav je stan?**. Learn useful contractions as whole phrases rather than converting every English question word literally.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
visok	Luka je visok.	Luka is tall.
niska	Mira je niska.	Mira is short.
crna	Kosa je crna.	The hair is black.
smeđe	Oči su smeđe.	The eyes are brown.

Za Lanu, Lani, pola

Za takes accusative for a recipient or purpose: **dar za Lanu**. Giving can use a dative directly: **Dajem Lani knjigu**. Feminine names in **-a** often have dative **-i**; do not leave every name unchanged.

Useful choices are **veliki** • **mali** with a masculine noun or **velika** • **mala** with a feminine one. **Pre-** can make too: **premalen, prevelik**. It is not a verb tense marker.

Pola is half. The large sketchbook is 28 euros, the small 12. Sharing the large one is 14 each. **Moj** • **tvoj** • **njegov** • **njezin** refer to the possessor but their endings agree with the thing possessed.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Lanu	Dar je za Lanu.	The gift is for Lana.
Lani	Dajem Lani knjigu.	I give Lana a book.
veliki	Želim veliki blok.	I want the big sketchbook.
premalen	Mali blok je premalen.	The small sketchbook is too small.

Bio/bila, živio/živjela

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.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Ja sam mlad.

Meaning: I am young.

2 Ja sam mlada.

Meaning: I am young.

3 Ja sam zanimljiv.

Meaning: I am interesting.

4 Ja sam zanimljiva.

Meaning: I am interesting.

5 Imam trideset godina.

Meaning: I am thirty years old.

6 Rođendan mi je desetog srpnja.

Meaning: My birthday is on the tenth of July.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Lukas: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A mlad
- ☐ B mlado
- ☐ C mladi

Meaning: I am young.

2 Lena: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A mlada
- ☐ B mlado
- ☐ C mladi

Meaning: I am young.

3 Lukas: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A zanimljivo
- ☐ B zanimljiv
- ☐ C zanimljivi

Meaning: I am interesting.

4 Lena: Ja sam _____.

- ☐ A zanimljivo
- ☐ B zanimljivi
- ☐ C zanimljiva

Meaning: I am interesting.

5 Imam _____ godina.

- ☐ A pedeset
- ☐ B trideset
- ☐ C deset

Meaning: I am thirty years old.

6 Rođendan mi je _____ srpnja.

- ☐ A deseti
- ☐ B desetim
- ☐ C desetog

Meaning: My birthday is on the tenth of July.

7 Luka je _____.

- ☐ A visoka
- ☐ B visoko
- ☐ C visok

Meaning: Luka is tall.

8 Dar je za _____.

- ☐ A Lanom
- ☐ B Lana
- ☐ C Lanu

Meaning: The gift is for Lana.

9 Lukas: Nisam _____.

- ☐ A oženjen
- ☐ B oženjeno
- ☐ C oženjeni

Meaning: I am not married.

10 Lena: Nisam _____.

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

Meaning: I am not married.

11 Imam jednu stariju _____.

- ☐ A sestrom
- ☐ B sestru
- ☐ C sestra

Meaning: I have one older sister.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

deset trideset

Imam _____ godina.

Meaning: I am thirty years old.

deseti desetog

Rođendan mi je _____ srpnja.

Meaning: My birthday is on the tenth of July.

visoka visok

Luka je _____.

Meaning: Luka is tall.

Lana Lanu

Dar je za _____.

Meaning: The gift is for Lana.

oženjeno oženjen

Lukas: Nisam _____.

Meaning: I am not married.

oženjeno udana

Lena: Nisam _____.

Meaning: I am not married.

sestra sestru

Imam jednu stariju _____.

Meaning: I have one older sister.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

mlad.

sam

Ja

Meaning: I am young.

2 mlada. sam Ja

Meaning: I am young.

3 zanimljiv. sam Ja

Meaning: I am interesting.

4 sam Ja zanimljiva.

Meaning: I am interesting.

5 Imam trideset godina.

Meaning: I am thirty years old.

6 desetog srpnja. mi Rođendan je

Meaning: My birthday is on the tenth of July.

7 visok. je Luka

Meaning: Luka is tall.

8 Dar Lanu. za je

Meaning: The gift is for Lana.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 **Lukas: I am young. You say:**

- ☐ A Ja sam mlado.
- ☐ B Ja sam mlad.

2 Lena: I am young. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam mlado.
- ☐ B Ja sam mlada.

3 Lukas: I am interesting. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam zanimljiv.
- ☐ B Ja sam zanimljivo.

4 Lena: I am interesting. You say:

- ☐ A Ja sam zanimljivo.
- ☐ B Ja sam zanimljiva.

5 I am thirty years old. You say:

- ☐ A Imam deset godina.
- ☐ B Imam trideset godina.

6 My birthday is on the tenth of July. You say:

- ☐ A Rođendan mi je deseti srpnja.
- ☐ B Rođendan mi je desetog srpnja.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ① Luka je visok. | ① A Luka is tall. |
| ② Nisam udana. | ② B The gift is for Lana. |
| ③ Imam jednu stariju sestru. | ③ C My birthday is on the tenth of July. |
| ④ Ja sam zanimljiva. | ④ D I am interesting. |
| ⑤ Imam trideset godina. | ⑤ E I am not married. |
| ⑥ Dar je za Lanu. | ⑥ F I am thirty years old. |
| ⑦ Rođendan mi je desetog srpnja. | ⑦ G I have one older sister. |
| ⑧ Ja sam mlada. | ⑧ H I am young. |