

## CHAPTER 5

### 52 Present tense, continued

The unpredictable conjugation types continue to belong to the *e*-conjugation. However, there is one more unpredictable verb type which belongs to the *i*-conjugation.

#### 52a. Type *držati*

Several important verbs with **-ati** infinitives belong to the *i*-conjugation. All such verbs keep the same accent in both infinitive and present tense. The most important are **bojati se** “fear” **držati** “keep, hold”, and **stajati** “stand”.

stajati	stand
stojim	stojimo
stojiš	stojite
stoji	stojе

držati	hold, keep
držim	držimo
držiš	držite
drži	drže

The present tense of **stajati** is irregular in that the root vowel changes: **stojim**, **stojiš**, etc. (For the related verb **stajati**, **stajem**; see [101]). Several verbs which imitate sounds (such as **zviždati** “whistle”) also belong to this group. For more on this overall group, see [153d].

#### 52b. Type *doći*

Prefixed forms of the verb **ići** belong to the *e*-conjugation (review [54] and see [146a]). All but one have a present tense stem ending in **-d**. The verb **otići** “go away” has two stems, one in **-d** (1sg. **odem**) and one in **-đ** (1sg. **otiđem**). The first is normally used. For more on this type, represented here by **doći** “come”, see [153s].

doći	come
dođem	dođemo
dođeš	dođete
dođe	dođu

#### 52c. The *budem* present of *biti*

The neutral present tense of **biti** “to be” (review [7b]) is irregular. After conjunctions and in the imperative (see [78]), another present tense of **biti** is used. It is a regular *e*-conjugation verb with the stem is **bud-**.

biti	be
budem	budemo
budeš	budete
bude	budu

#### 52d. The verb *hteti* / *htjeti*

The infinitive of this verb, which means *want*, has both ekavian and ijekavian forms. Its present tense is slightly irregular. First, it is one of only two BCS verbs whose 1sg. ends not in **-m** but in **-u** (the other is **moći** – review [14f]), and second, the 3pl. looks exactly like the 3sg. (they are distinguished in speech by a long vowel in the 3pl. ending). This verb is also notable in that when it is negated, it has a separate conjugation in the present tense. The stem is **neć-** (as opposed to the stem of the affirmative, which is **hoć-**). The negative forms are usually written as a single word, although it has recently become popular in Croatia (and for some Bosnians) to write them separately. For more on other uses of this verb, see [95].

**htjeti / hteti** *want*

affirmative

hò <u>ću</u>	hò <u>ćemo</u>
hò <u>ćeš</u>	hò <u>ćete</u>
hò <u>će</u>	hò <u>će</u>

negative

ně <u>ću</u>	ně <u>ćemo</u>
ně <u>ćeš</u>	ně <u>ćete</u>
ně <u>će</u>	ně <u>će</u>

[alternate negative]

ně <u>ću</u>	ně <u>ćemo</u>
ně <u>ćeš</u>	ně <u>ćete</u>
ně <u>će</u>	ně <u>će</u>

**52e. Type *pisati*, continued**

Verbs of the type **pisati** (review [14b]) shift the stem-final consonant of the infinitive to a different consonant in the present tense. The most frequently encountered sound shifts are **s ~ š** (as in **pisati**, 1sg. **pišem**) and **z ~ ž** (as in **kazati**, 1sg. **kažem**). But this conjugation type also includes verbs exhibiting different sound shifts, such as **t ~ ć**, **h ~ š**, and **c ~ č**, which are illustrated by the three verbs below. In most such verbs, the accent is rising in the infinitive but falling in the present. For more on this verb type, see [65a, 153e].

krè <u>tati</u>	<i>move</i>
kre <u>ćem</u>	kre <u>ćemo</u>
kre <u>ćeš</u>	kre <u>ćete</u>
kre <u>će</u>	kre <u>ću</u>

mà <u>hati</u>	<i>wave</i>
ma <u>šem</u>	ma <u>šemo</u>
ma <u>šeš</u>	ma <u>šete</u>
ma <u>še</u>	ma <u>šu</u>

tì <u>cati</u>	<i>concern</i>
ti <u>čem</u>	ti <u>ćemo</u>
ti <u>ćeš</u>	ti <u>ćete</u>
ti <u>će</u>	ti <u>ću</u>

**52f. Type *uzeti***

The perfective verb **uzeti** “take” belongs to the *e*-conjugation. The infinitive theme vowel *e* is replaced by **m** in the present tense. Another major verb of this conjugation type replaces *e* with **n** (**početi**, **počnem** “begin”). For more on this type, see [153m].

ù <u>zeti</u>	<i>take</i>
uzm <u>m</u>	uzm <u>emo</u>
uzm <u>eš</u>	uzm <u>ete</u>
uzm <u>e</u>	uzm <u>u</u>

**53 Aspect, continued**

BCS has two separate verbs for nearly every individual verbal meaning. One of these two verbs views the verbal idea as a single complete action, and the other views it as a general fact, or an ongoing or repeated action. The relationship between the two (review [28]) is that of verbal *aspect*, and the two verb types are called *perfective* and *imperfective*, respectively. In each instance, the two separate verbs comprise a single set embracing the overall verbal idea. These two verbs are called *aspect partners*, and make up an *aspect pair*: in most dictionaries they are listed together as part of the same entry.

In nearly all cases, the two partner verbs share the same stem. Furthermore, there are certain formal characteristics marking any one verb as imperfective or perfective. In some instances one can fairly successfully predict the shape of a specific imperfective verb from its perfective partner (and vice versa). In other instances, one is only able to guess which aspect the verb form represents. But there *is* a system, within which the non-native speaker can learn to navigate fairly well. The two major ways in which the verbs of BCS aspect pairs are related to each other are *suffixation* and *prefixation*.

**53a. Aspect pairs related by suffixation**

For a number of verbal pairs, it is the shape of the suffix which identifies the aspect of the verb. In pairs of this type, the perfective verbs generally belong to the *i*-conjugation and their imperfective partners to the *a*-conjugation. The examples given below illustrate two of the different ways in which the idea *imperfective aspect* can be marked by suffixation. For instance, it frequently occurs that the final vowel in a polysyllabic stem will change its form in the imperfective.

An example is the word for *answer*. The stem **odgovor-** is followed directly by the theme vowel **i** in the perfective. In the imperfective, the final stem vowel shifts to lengthened **a** (**odgovar-**) before the theme vowel **a**. Sometimes the imperfective partner will have a specific suffix preceding the theme vowel **a**. For instance, the stem **uključ-** is followed directly by the theme vowel **i** in the perfective partner. In the imperfective, however, the suffix **-iv** is added before the theme vowel **a** (this type of verb exceptionally belongs to the *e*-conjugation).

same stem, “aspectual” suffixes

	perfective	imperfective	
	odgovòriti	/ odgovàrati	<i>answer</i>
	uključìti	/ uključìvati	<i>include</i>

Most aspect pairs related to each other by suffixation represent basic verbs which are very frequently used. For more discussion of suffixation in aspect pairs, see [96a, 147a].

### 53b. Aspect pairs related by prefixation

The other type of relationship is prefixation. There exist a sizeable number of imperfective verbs which do not have aspect partners of the above sort. These imperfective verbs are made perfective by the addition of a prefix. In almost all instances the process of prefixation adds an additional shade of meaning (beyond that of perfective aspect). Three examples are given below. In the first, the basic meaning of the imperfective verb **čekati** is altered markedly by the addition of the prefix **do-**, but not so much as to destroy the original meaning altogether. In the second two, the meaning shift is very slight: indeed, the prefixed perfectives **pojesti** and **popiti** simply indicate individual completed instances of the generalized actions **jesti** and **piti**. The English definitions *eat up* and *drink up* are in fact a shorthand way of saying “have [something] to eat / drink [on a particular occasion] [and finish it]”. In all three, however, the idea *perfective* is clearly present. Each of the verbs views the action in question as a single completed instance. The idea contained in **dočekati** is that the process of waiting for someone is carried out to completion when that person arrives and is received appropriately, and the ideas contained in **pojesti** and **popiti** are that something is consumed in full on a particular occasion.

same stem, prefix makes perfective

	imperfective	prefixed perfective	
	čekati	/ dočekati	<i>wait / meet, greet</i>
	jesti	/ pojesti	<i>eat / eat up</i>
	piti	/ popiti	<i>drink / drink up</i>

Most BCS prefixes are similar in form to (or identical with) prepositions. Each individual prefix has several basic meanings associated with it, and in many cases the meanings are similar to those of the related preposition. For more at the general level, see [96b]; for detailed discussion of the relationship of prefixes to prepositions, see [146a-b]; for discussion of the role of prefixes in perfectivization, see [146c]. On accentual changes associated with prefixes, see [166c].

### 53c. Usage of aspect in present tense forms

A perfective verb by nature conveys the idea of *closure*. Normally, such closure is most naturally expressed in the past or future tenses. However, perfective verbs may also be used as infinitives following another verb, or in the present tense after conjunctions which express the idea of eventual completion in some way. Each of these contexts provides a grammatical framework for expression of the limitation inherent in the idea of closure. The examples below show how perfective verbs in these contexts focus attention on the potential completion of a particular

action. Note that when the conjunction **da** is used to express the idea “infinitive”, it fits both the above definitions simultaneously.

## PERFECTIVE

(1) infinitive	Dànas ne mògu d <sup>o</sup> ći. Zauz <sup>e</sup> ta sam. U koliko s <sup>a</sup> t <sup>i</sup> možemo p <sup>o</sup> ći? Nè možeš uz <sup>e</sup> ti auto, jer n <sup>e</sup> ma benz <sup>i</sup> na. Dànas mor <sup>a</sup> m rano da iz <sup>a</sup> dem.	<i>I can't come today. I'm busy.          What time can we go?          You can't take the car, because          there isn't any gas.          I have to go out early today.</i>
(2) after conjunction	Ž <sup>e</sup> lim da d <sup>a</sup> nas iz <sup>a</sup> deš rano. Ako p <sup>o</sup> jedeš tr <sup>i</sup> jabuke, koliko ih ond <sup>a</sup> im <sup>a</sup> š?	<i>I want you to go out early today.          If you eat three apples, then how          many [of them] do you have?</i>

C,B ne mogu doći / S,B ne mogu da dodem; C,B možemo poći / S,B možemo da pođemo; C,B ne možeš uzeti / S,B ne možeš da uzmeš; S,B moram da izadem / C,B moram izaći

Imperfective verbs can also appear in these frameworks, of course. That is, an infinitive following another verb or a present tense form following certain conjugations MAY be in the perfective aspect, but it is not required to be. The choice of aspect depends upon the point of view the speaker takes of the verbal action in any one context. For more on aspect choice and verbal meaning, see [95e, 106b, 145a-b]. For instance, the following sentences have imperfective verbs in the same contexts in which the above sentences had perfective verbs. In each case the speaker focuses upon a particular chunk of time, a fact which could potentially be interpreted as expressing closure. But because the action itself is not seen in terms of completion, the speaker uses the imperfective aspect. This puts the focus on the general idea of the action rather than on its eventual completion.

## IMPERFECTIVE

(1) infinitive	Šta ž <sup>e</sup> liš da rad <sup>i</sup> š <sup>o</sup> vog vik <sup>e</sup> nda? On može zviž <sup>d</sup> ati uz ptič <sup>j</sup> u p <sup>j</sup> esmu.	<i>What do you want to do this          weekend?          He can whistle to the bird's song.</i>
(2) after conjunction	Ako svako <sup>g</sup> dan <sup>a</sup> spav <sup>a</sup> š do 10, ond <sup>a</sup> n <sup>e</sup> možeš vid <sup>j</sup> eti izl <sup>a</sup> zak sun <sup>c</sup> a.	<i>If you sleep till 10:00 every day, then          you can't watch the sunrise.</i>

S,B šta / C što; S,B želiš da radiš / C,B želiš raditi; C,B može zviždati / S,B može da zviždi; J uz pjesmu / E uz pesmu; B,C ptiču / S,B ptičiju; J vidjeti / E videti; C,B ne možeš vidjeti / B,S ne možeš da vidiš

## 54 Aspect pairs of motion verbs

The members of an aspect pair are related to each other by means of suffixation or prefixation (discussed above in [53a] and [53b], respectively). Sometimes both processes are at work within a single set of verbs. The combination might seem complex, but it is in fact highly systematic. A good illustration is furnished by the set of motion verbs derived from the basic verb **ići** “go”. All but one of the verbs derived from **ići** also refer to movement through space. The fact of these concrete meanings, plus the fact that most of the prefixes share the form of well-known prepositions, renders the system fairly transparent.

The chart below gives the base verb, **ići**, in the leftmost column. Adding a prefix to this base verb creates a perfective verb with a separate, more specialized meaning. Because they are perfective verbs, each of them by definition denotes a single complete action. In order to describe the same specialized action without the limitation imposed by the idea of perfectivity, corre-

sponding imperfective verbs are then derived from each one of them. In the case of motion verbs, this is done by replacing the stem completely. The prefix remains, and the new stem is the rarely occurring verb **laziti** (which means “creep, crawl”). The new imperfective verbs contain exactly the same meaning as their perfective partners; the only difference is one of aspect.

MOTION VERBS	base	prefix >	perfective >	imperfective
	ìci	do-	dòci	dòlaziti <i>come</i>
		u-	ùci	ùlaziti <i>enter, go in</i>
		iz-	izàci	izlaziti <i>leave, go out</i>
		po	pòci	pòlaziti <i>set out, go</i>
		s-	šìci	šilaziti <i>come down</i>
		od-	òtjìci	òdlaziti <i>leave, go away</i>
		na-	nàci	nàlaziti <i>find</i>

What is characteristic about this process is its stepwise nature. The first stage adds prefixes to the simple verb, creating from it new perfective verbs with related but more specialized meanings (for more on this stage, see [146b]). The second stage alters these new perfective verbs in various ways to create imperfective verbs with the same specialized meanings, differing only in the meaning of perfective vs imperfective aspect. For more on this stage, and the creation by suffixation of these *derived imperfectives*, see [147c]. Motion verbs are unique in that they replace the stem completely in the derived imperfectives.

## 55 Motion verbs used with prepositions and adverbs

By definition, motion verbs denote some sort of movement. This movement is usually specified more precisely as to manner or direction or both. As in English, prepositions and adverbs are used together with these motion verbs to make these distinctions more explicit.

### 55a. Prepositions and the idea of motion

Two of the most important prepositions in BCS are **u** and **na**. They are used with the accusative case to refer to a particular direction of motion. In this meaning, they are variously translated *to, toward, into, onto*, and the like. But despite the seeming overlap in meaning, these two prepositions are not interchangeable. Instead, any one specific noun requires either one or the other. Although the most foolproof way is simply to learn which of the relevant nouns are “**u**-words” and which are “**na**-words”, certain generalizations can be made. Nouns referring to concepts or areas which can be visualized as an enclosure or as a tangible three-dimensional space usually take **u**, while those which are visualized as a surface, an event, or a more abstract destination usually take **na**. Thus, for instance, nouns denoting cities and countries are **u**-words while nouns denoting islands are **na**-words. Care must be taken, however, as much of BCS usage is idiomatic. Several examples are given below; for more discussion, see [67b].

☆ <b>U</b> + Acc.	Идем у банку, а затим у биоскоп.	<i>I'm going to the bank, then to the movies.</i>
	Мара иде сваки дан у школу.	<i>Mara goes to school every day.</i>
	Идуће недеље иде у Лондон.	<i>She's going to London next week.</i>
	Уопште не долази у обзир!	<i>Totally out of the question [ = in no way does it come into consideration] !</i>

S bioskop / C,B kino; S,B iduće nedelje / B iduće sedmice / C idućeg tjedna; S,B uopšte / C,B uopće

☆ NA + Acc.	Дорђе сад иде на предавање. На коју станицу идете? Мара сад иде на пијаци. Вечерас идемо на концерт.	<i>Dorđe is going to class [= lecture] now. Which station are you going to? Mara's going to the market now. We're going to a concert this evening.</i>
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S,B železničku (željezničku) stanicu / C kolodvor; S,B pijacu / C,B tržnicu

The prepositions **iz** and **s(a)**, used with the genitive, refer to motion in the opposite direction, and are usually translated *from*. What is particular about BCS is the correspondence between the two sets. Any noun that takes **u** + Acc in the meaning motion *towards* must take **iz** + Gen in the meaning motion *away from*. Correspondingly, any noun that takes **na** + Acc in the meaning motion *towards* must take **s(a)** + Gen in the meaning motion *away from*.

☆ U / IZ	Često ide u London, ali nije iz Londona. Stalno izlaze iz jedne kuće, a ulaze u drugu. Kad đaci izlaze iz škole?	<i>S/he often goes to London, but she's not from London. They constantly come out of one house and go into another. When do the children leave school?</i>
☆ NA / S(A)	Dolazim sa sjevera, a idem na istok. Ne znam da li ide rano na fakultet, ali sigurno kasno dolazi s fakulteta. Tko je s Hvara? Želim ići na Hvar. Kako se ide do Hvara?	<i>I come from the north and go to the east. I don't know if s/he goes to campus early [or not], but s/he certainly comes back late from campus. Who is from Hvar? I want to go to Hvar. How does one get to Hvar?</i>

J sa sjevera / E sa severa; B,S da li ide / C,B ide li; C tko / S,B ko; C,B želim ići / B,S želim da idem

### 55b. Usage of motion verbs, with and without prepositions

Verbs of motion whose prefixes correspond directly to the basic prepositions of motion must repeat the preposition if the destination is mentioned. Thus, whereas English only needs to use the adverbial marker *into* in a sentence such as *She's going INTO the room*, BCS must use both the verb meaning *go into* (**ulaziti**) and the prepositional phrase with **u** (also meaning *into*). The same applies to other motion verbs used with matching prepositions, such as the combination of the verb meaning *come out of* (**izlaziti**) and the preposition meaning *out of* (**iz**).

Тко излази из те зграде?	<i>Who's coming out of that building?</i>
Заšto не улазиш у кућу?	<i>Why aren't you going into the house?</i>
Мораš врло пажљиво сићи с крова.	<i>You must come down from the roof very carefully.</i>

C tko / S,B ko; B u kuću / S,C u kuću; C,B moraš sići / S,B moraš da siđeš

### 55c. Question words concerning location and direction

In English, the word *where* can be used to ask either about the location of something (as in *WHERE is your book?*) or the direction of movement (as in *WHERE are you going?*). In BCS, the corresponding question word concerning location is **gde** / **gdje**. For questions about the direction of movement, Serbian and Bosnian use either this word or the question word **kuda**. Croatian, however, uses the question word **kamo**. For more discussion and examples, see [84b].

location	Gde su tvoji prijatelji? Znaš li gdje smo sada?	<i>Where are your friends?</i> <i>Do you know where we are now?</i>
movement	Gdje putuješ ovog ljeta? Kuda sada idete? Kamo idete večeras?	<i>Where are you traveling to this summer?</i> <i>Where are you going now?</i> <i>Where are you going this evening?</i>

E gde / J gdje; C,B znaš li / S,B da li znaš; J ljeta / E leta; C kamo / B,S gdje (gde), kuda

### 55d. Motion verbs and tense meaning

As in English, verbs of motion cover a broad range of time. Their present tense forms can refer to motion in progress, to envisaged future motion, or to the general idea of motion. The following examples demonstrate the similarity with English in this respect; for the use of the genitive without preposition in the meaning of time, see [61b].

in progress	Ah, sve ide <u>tako</u> sporo!	<i>Oh, everything's going so slowly!</i>
in future	Ona dolazi <u>idućeg</u> četvrtka.	<i>She's coming next Thursday.</i>
in general	Obično kasno <u>izlazi</u> iz kuće.	<i>She usually leaves the house late.</i>

B iz kuće / S,C iz kuće

### 55e. Infinitives following verbs of motion

When a sentence expresses purpose after a verb of motion, the verb naming the intended activity may take the form either of an infinitive or a phrase composed of **da** + present tense. Infinitives are somewhat more frequent in this instance, however, than after other verbs.

Idemo u kino <u>gledati</u> film.	<i>We're going [to the cinema] to see a film.</i>
Idemo u bioskop <u>da gledamo</u> film.	[same]
U pet sati <u>idem</u> na stanicu nekoga <u>dočekati</u> .	<i>At 5:00 I'm going to the station [in order] to pick someone up.</i>

C,B kino / S bioskop; B,C,S gledati / B,S da gledamo; B,S [železničku (železničku)] stanicu / C kolodvor;  
B,C,S idem nekoga dočekati / S idem da dočekam nekoga

## 56 Negation, continued

Negation is expressed in several ways, depending on that which is being negated. When negation is part of the overall sentence meaning, it is almost always expressed by the particle **ne**, written as a separate word (review [25]). When the idea of negation is limited to a single word, however, this is often expressed by adding a prefix. In verbs this prefix can be **ne-** or **ni-**, but in pronouns it is always **ni-**. The rules for forming negated sentences differ in certain ways from those of English, which means that English speakers must pay special attention to these rules.

### 56a. Negated verbs, negative pronouns and “double negation”

Verbal negation is expressed by placing the particle **ne** before the verb form (review [25a]). There are only three BCS verbs with separate negative forms. All three of them form the negated present tense by fusing the negative particle with the affirmative present tense form to create a different verb form with its own conjugation. Only one of these three carries this process through to the infinitive, however. In this instance, the two verbs **imati** “have” and **nemati** “not have” are viewed as fully separate verbs in both the infinitive and the present tense.

The other two verbs, **biti** and **hteti** / **htjeti**, have both full and clitic forms in the present tense (for full and clitic forms of **biti**, review [7b]; for the full forms of **hteti** / **htjeti** review [52d], and for the clitic forms, see [95a]). The negated form for both **biti** and **hteti** / **htjeti** repre-

sents a fusion of the negative particle with the clitic form. In both instances, this fused form conveys the idea of negation for all meanings of the verb in question, regardless of whether the clitic or the full form would be used in non-negative instances.

AFFIRMATIVE		NEGATIVE	
infinitive	1 sg. pres.	infinitive	1 sg. pres.
ìmati	ìmam	nèmati	nèmam <i>have</i>
biti	jèšam (sam)	[ne biti]	nìšam <i>be</i>
hteti / htjeti	hoću (ću)	[ne hteti / htjeti]	nèću <i>want</i>

Most interrogative adverbs and pronominal forms can be transformed into negative ones in a similar manner: one places the particle **ni-** before each of them. Each negative form thus created follows the same grammatical rules as its non-negative partner. For instance, the accusative form of both **ko** and **tko** is **koga**; from this one can predict that the accusative form of both **niko** and **nitko** will be **nikoga**. By comparing the BCS forms with their English equivalents in the chart, one can see how much more systematic BCS is than English in this regard. The final word above, **jedan**, though not a question word, has been included because of the parallels in the formation of its negative partner.

base word		negative "partner"	
ko	<i>who</i>	niko	<i>no one</i>
tko	<i>who</i>	nitko	<i>no one</i>
šta, što	<i>what</i>	ništa	<i>nothing</i>
kakav	<i>what kind</i>	nikakav	<i>not any</i>
kako	<i>how</i>	nikako	<i>in no way</i>
kada	<i>when</i>	nikada	<i>never</i>
gde	<i>where</i>	nigde	<i>nowhere</i>
gdje	<i>where</i>	nigdje	<i>nowhere</i>
čiji	<i>whose</i>	ničiji	<i>no one's</i>
jedan	<i>one, a</i>	nijedan	<i>not a single</i>

S,B ko / C tko; S,B niko / C nitko; S,B šta / C što; S,B ništa / C ništo; E gde / J gdje; E nigde / J nigdje

When these words are used in a sentence, THE VERB MUST ALSO BE NEGATED. English speakers must pay special attention to this rule. This is because most English speakers are strongly conscious that what in English is called "double negation" is either incorrect or heavily marked for a certain style. In BCS, however, the presence of ANY ONE of these forms requires that negation be marked on everything else in the sentence that can be so marked. The following examples should be studied carefully.

Multiple negation	Ништа овде није добро.	<i>Nothing here is [any] good.</i>
	Никад нас нико не зове.	<i>Nobody ever calls us.</i>
	Никога не познајем тамо.	<i>I don't know anyone there.</i>
	Она га нигде не види.	<i>She doesn't see him anywhere.</i>
	Ми ништа не знамо.	<i>We don't know anything.</i>

E ovde / J ovdje; S,B niko / C nitko; E nigde / J nigdje

### 56b. Contrastive negation, review

When **ne** precedes a verb, it is unaccented. Whether or not it draws the accent from the verb (review [25a]), there is still only one accent for the entire unit of negation + verb. When **ne** refers to some other part of the sentence, however, it is said to express *contrastive negation*. In such instances, the speaker makes a point of saying ...*NOT this BUT that*. In these instances, the particle **ne** does bear accent. As an example, the exchange below includes one instance of verbal negation and two of contrastive negation; the contrastive **ne** is marked in SMALL CAPITALS. Note that English *not* in such examples also bears a stronger accent.



– Nè mislĭ na lĭ <u>u</u> bav, već na pò <u>e</u> ziju.	“S/he thinks not of love but of poetry.”
– Zašto NE na lĭ <u>u</u> bav?	“Why not about love?”
– Zato što voli <u>u</u> reči, a NE lj <u>u</u> de.	“Because s/he likes words, not people.”

E reči / J riječi

### 56c. Negative conjunctions

The English ideas *either ... or* and *both ... and* are expressed by repeating (or *doubling*) the BCS conjunctions meaning *or* and *and*, respectively (review [10]). Similarly, the negative idea of English *neither ... nor* is expressed by doubling the negated conjunction **ni**. The doubled conjunction **niti** can also express this meaning, with a slightly stronger overtone. When the two words which are contrasted are verbs, only the doubled conjunction **niti** can be used.

<b>ili ... ili</b>	Ili dòlazi ili ne dòlazi!	<i>Either s/he's coming or s/he's not!</i>
<b>i ... i</b>	Mĭ čitāmo i latīnicu i ćirilicu.	<i>We read both Latin and Cyrillic.</i>
<b>ni ... ni</b>	Nè možeš ni jèdno ni drugo.	<i>You can't [do / have] either [the] one or [the] other.</i>
	Ni <u>o</u> n ni <u>j</u> a nè mislĭmo tāk <u>o</u> .	<i>Neither he nor I think that.</i>
<b>niti ... niti</b>	Niti <u>o</u> n niti <u>j</u> a nè mislĭmo tāk <u>o</u> .	<i>Neither he nor I think that.</i>
	Ōna niti jed <u>e</u> niti pij <u>e</u> .	<i>She neither eats nor drinks.</i>

When the conjunction **ni** is used alone, it means *not... either* or *not even* (depending on the context). The verb is still negated. But when the conjunction **niti** appears alone at the beginning of a clause or sentence, it cancels out other negatives. In the first example below, the first verb is negated in the normal manner, with negative marking on both the verb and the pronoun object. But because the second verb is introduced by **niti**, no other negative marking is needed (or possible). Similarly, if **ni** precedes **ne** directly, it is replaced by the non-negative conjunction **i**, as in the third example.

<b>niti</b> alone	Nikoga nè vodi niti išta nosĭ u školu.	<i>S/he takes no one and nothing to school.</i> [ = S/he doesn't take any person / animal nor does s/he take any thing to school.]
<b>ni</b> alone	Ōna ni t <u>o</u> ne želĭ da čuje. <u>O</u> n i ne želĭ da sluša.	<i>She doesn't want to hear that either.</i> <i>He doesn't even want to listen.</i>

C,S u školu / B ù školu; S,B ne želi da čuje / B,C ne želi čuti; S,B ne želi da sluša / C,B ne želi slušati

### 56d. Negated questions; “tag” questions

Speakers who ask what is called a yes-no question (review [8b]) either expect an affirmative answer or do not have any particular expectation. But when a speaker expects a negative answer, or when an element of surprise is present in the question, s/he will negate the verb of the question. For example, the English question *are you coming tonight?* is a relatively natural request for information, while the question *aren't you coming tonight?* expresses either surprise, an element of regret at a suspected negative answer, or both.

The meaning of a BCS negative question is similar to that of English. In form, though, it has one additional element. In addition to negating the verb, one also places the particle **zar** at the beginning of the sentence. The following pairs illustrate the contrast: the first member of each pair is a neutral question, and the second is its negated counterpart. The overtones of emotion in

the latter are shown by the added elements in the English translations. In Croatian (and to a lesser extent in Bosnian), it is also possible to add the particle **li** to a sentence with a negated verb.

neutral	Je li naš jèzik t $\grave{e}$ žak zà v $\grave{a}$ s?	<i>Is our language hard for you?</i>
negated	Zar n $\grave{i}$ je naš jèzik t $\grave{e}$ žak zà v $\grave{a}$ s?	<i>Isn't our language [really] hard for you?</i>
	N $\acute{i}$ je li naš jèzik t $\grave{e}$ žak za v $\grave{a}$ s? [C]	[same]
neutral	Možemo li biti vani do 10?	<i>Can we stay out until 10?</i>
negated	Zar n $\grave{e}$ možemo biti vani do 10?	<i>Can't we stay out until 10? [Why not?]</i>
	N $\acute{e}$ možemo li biti vani do 10? [C]	[same]

C,B je li / S,B da li je; B zà vas / S,C za vas; B,C,S zar nije / C,B nije li; C,B možemo li / S,B da li možemo; C,B možemo biti / S,B možemo da budemo; C,B vani / S napolju; B,C,S zar ne možemo / C,B ne možemo li

One can also add a *tag question* at the end of a phrase. In English, tag questions repeat a negated form of the verbal auxiliary used in the particular sentence, adding phrases such as *isn't it?* *don't they?* *aren't you?* or the like. BCS, by contrast, adds the unchanging phrase **zar ne** at the end of the statement. When the particle **zar** is used without negation, it conveys a strong sense of surprise (and possible doubt).

tag question	Možemo biti vani do 10, zar ne?	<i>We can stay out until 10, can't we?</i>
	Naš jèzik je dosta t $\acute{e}$ žak, zar ne?	<i>Our language is pretty hard, isn't it?</i>
	V $\acute{i}$ govori $\acute{t}$ e naš jèzik, zar ne?	<i>You speak our language, don't you?</i>
non-negated	Zar je već o $\acute{v}$ dje?!	<i>S/he's here already?! Is s/he really here?</i>
	Zar to z $\acute{n}$ aju?	<i>Do they really know that? [I wonder...]</i>

C,B možemo biti / S,B možemo da budemo; C,B vani / S napolju; J ovdje / E ovde

## 57 Genitive plural

There are three Gpl. endings for nouns, **-a**, **-i**, and **-u**, and only one for adjectives: **-ih**. The ending **-u** is found in such a small group of nouns that it is generally considered to be irregular (see [110a]); nearly all nouns take either **-a** or **-i**. But there are a number of unexpected additional features connected with the Gpl. endings. First, these endings are distinctively long – indeed, markedly so. Even speakers who do not otherwise maintain vowel length outside of accented syllables will pronounce Gpl. endings with a long vowel. Second, the ending **-a** requires the addition of an extra syllable in many instances, plus additional changes in the word. Finally, there is a certain unpredictability as to which endings go with which nouns, and which nouns require the addition of the extra syllable.

### 57a. The genitive plural ending **-a**

The ending **-a** is used by all neuter nouns, practically all masculine nouns, and many feminine nouns. This ending, itself a long vowel, requires that the vowel preceding it also be lengthened, no matter what it is. Very often this preceding vowel is **a**, simply because the Gpl. ending **-a** frequently requires the insertion of another **a**. For masculine nouns with fleeting **-a-**, this inserted vowel is often viewed as a return of the fleeting **-a-**, especially inasmuch as the voicing assimilation occasioned by the disappearance of fleeting **-a-** is now “undone”, and the stem-final consonant of the Nsg. is restored; in the case of nouns ending in **-lac**, one sees the return of the **l** which had shifted to **o** when the fleeting **-a-** was lost (review [47]). For the reasoning behind calling it an inserted vowel rather than a returned fleeting vowel, see [167h].

Other nouns – feminine and neuter as well as masculine – insert **a** whenever the stem ends in two consonants OTHER THAN **-st**, **-zd**, **-št**, **-žd**, **-žd̂**, **-šč**, or **-šč̂**. For these nouns, the addition of this **a** creates an additional syllable in the word, one not present in the Nsg. form. Certain nouns may have variant forms without the inserted **a** (for more discussion, see [157]). Sometimes feminine nouns may surprise one with their stem shape. For instance, the consonant **z** in Gpl. **svezaka** does not occur in any other form of the word **sveska**, nor does the consonant **ž** in Gpl. **bilježaka** occur in any other form of the word **bilježka**.

The examples below illustrate the insertion (or non-insertion) of **a** in Gpl. forms. Note that the vowel preceding the Gpl. ending is always lengthened, regardless of whether it is original or inserted. The Gpl. in **-a** also sometimes causes unexpected accent shifts.

	Nsg.	Gsg.	Npl.	Gpl.	
with fleeting -a-	pas	psa	psi	pa <u>sa</u>	<i>dog(s)</i>
	Bosānac	Bosānca	Bosānci	Bosāna <u>ca</u>	<i>Bosnian(s)</i>
	vrābac	vrāpca	vrāpci	vrāba <u>ca</u>	<i>sparrow(s)</i>
	predak	pretka	preci	preda <u>ka</u>	<i>ancestor(s)</i>
	prātilac	prāti <u>o</u> ca	prāti <u>o</u> ci	prātila <u>ca</u>	<i>escort(s)</i>
with inserted -a-	stūdent	stūdent <u>a</u>	stūdent <u>i</u>	stūden <u>a</u> t <u>a</u>	<i>student(s)</i>
	sēstra	sēstre	sēstre	se <u>s</u> t <u>a</u> r <u>a</u>	<i>sister(s)</i>
	děvojka	děvojke	děvojke	děvo <u>j</u> ka <u>a</u>	<i>girl(s)</i>
	sveska	sveske	sveske	sve <u>z</u> ak <u>a</u>	<i>notebook(s)</i>
	pīsmo	pīsm <u>a</u>	pīsm <u>a</u>	pi <u>s</u> am <u>a</u>	<i>letter(s)</i>
without -a-	most	mosta	mostovi	most <u>o</u> va	<i>bridge</i>
	prijatelj	prijatelj <u>a</u>	prijatel <u>j</u> i	prijate <u>l</u> ja	<i>friend(s)</i>
	jèzik	jèzika	jèzici	je <u>z</u> ik <u>a</u>	<i>language(s)</i>
	sèlo	sèla	sèla	se <u>l</u> a	<i>village(s)</i>
	gne <u>z</u> do	gne <u>z</u> da	gne <u>z</u> da	gne <u>z</u> da	<i>nest(s)</i>

S sveska / B teka / C bijležnica; E devojka / J djevojka; E gnezdo / J gnijezdo

### 57b. The genitive plural ending **-i**

The genitive plural ending **-i** is required by all feminine nouns in **-Ø**, a few masculine nouns, and a sizeable number of feminine nouns in **-a** whose stems end in two consonants. Other than this, it is not possible to predict with certainty which nouns will take this ending. Three masculine nouns take it consistently; a few more take it as a variant form (alongside the ending in **-a**). Many more feminine nouns in **-a** take the ending **-i**, although here too there is a great deal of variation. Some take it consistently; many more take it as a variant form. The choice of this ending can be partially predicted by the shape of the stem: certain consonant groups tend to favor **-i** and disfavor **-a**. For more discussion, see [157].

Of the masculine nouns, one, **ljudi**, occurs only in the plural, and another, **sat**, has two different meanings. The Gpl. ending **-i** is used only in the meaning *hour*; when **sat** means *clock*, the Gpl. ending **-a** is used. The chart below lists these three, as well as several examples of feminine nouns. The Gpl. in **-i** is obligatory for feminine nouns in **-Ø**, but largely optional for feminine nouns in **-a**. Of the latter group, the examples cited below are among the feminine nouns that almost always take **-i**.

	Nsg.	Gsg.	Npl.	Gpl.	
masculine	sat	sata	sati	sa <sup>ti</sup>	<i>hour(s) *</i>
	mesec	meseca	meseci	mes <sup>eci</sup>	<i>month(s)</i>
	---	---	ljudi	lj <sup>u</sup> di	<i>people</i>
feminine -a	majka	majke	majke	maj <sup>ki</sup>	<i>mother(s)</i>
	Bosanka	Bosanke	Bosanke	Bos <sup>anki</sup>	<i>Bosnian(s) [f.]</i>
	borba	borbe	borbe	bor <sup>bi</sup>	<i>struggle(s)</i>
feminine -Ø	stvar	stvari	stvari	stv <sup>ari</sup>	<i>thing(s)</i>
	ljubav	ljubavi	ljubavi	lj <sup>u</sup> bavi	<i>love(s)</i>
	riječ	riječi	riječi	rij <sup>e</sup> či	<i>word(s)</i>

E mesec / J mjesec; J riječ / E reč

\*but Gpl. satova *clocks*

### 57c. Nouns and adjectives in genitive plural

The following chart gives examples of noun + adjective phrases in Gpl. The examples are arranged by gender as in earlier charts, despite the fact that the correlations of gender and ending are weak at best in Gpl. This is because noun endings **-i** and **-a** are shared among genders (especially the ending **-a**), and there is no gender distinction at all in adjective endings.

	masculine		neuter		feminine	
Nsg.	crn pas	dug mesec	kratko pi <sup>s</sup> mo	mlada se <sup>s</sup> tra	nova bo <sup>r</sup> ba	slatka stva <sup>r</sup>
Npl.	crni psi	dugi mese <sup>ci</sup>	kratka pi <sup>s</sup> ma	mlade se <sup>s</sup> tre	nove bo <sup>r</sup> be	slatke stva <sup>ri</sup>
Gpl.	crnih pa <sup>sa</sup>	dugih mese <sup>ci</sup>	kratk <sup>ih</sup> pi <sup>s</sup> ama	mladi <sup>h</sup> se <sup>s</sup> tara	nov <sup>ih</sup> bo <sup>r</sup> bi	slatk <sup>ih</sup> stva <sup>ri</sup>

E mesec / J mjesec

## 58 Numbers: 5 - 10 and beyond

Different BCS numbers follow different sets of rules. Those from 1 through 20 are single words (as are multiples of 10 and 100). All other numbers higher than 20 are compounds containing more than one word. In this latter group, it is the final word which determines the form of the following noun. That is, the numbers 21, 31, 41 etc. follow the same rules as the number 1, and the numbers 22-24, 32-34, 42-44 etc. follow the same rules as the numbers 2-4. For more detail, and examples, see [124a]. The following reviews the form of and usage of single-word numbers.

### 58a. Numbers up to 10, review

The number 1 is an adjective modifying a noun (review [36c]): it takes whatever case is required by the noun in the sentence. The numbers 2, 3, and 4 take the counting form, a form of nouns and adjectives which is similar to Gsg. but not identical with it (review [46a]). The numbers 5 through 10 are followed by the Gpl. form of the noun being counted.

1: various	jedan velik gra <sup>d</sup>	<i>1 large city</i>
	jedno važno pi <sup>t</sup> anje	<i>1 important question</i>
	jedna lijepa dje <sup>v</sup> ojka	<i>1 pretty girl</i>
2-4: count form	dva [tri, četiri] velika gra <sup>d</sup> a	<i>2 [3, 4] large cities</i>
	dva [tri, četiri] važna pi <sup>t</sup> anja	<i>2 [3, 4] important questions</i>
	dve [tri, četiri] le <sup>p</sup> e dje <sup>v</sup> ojke	<i>2 [3, 4] pretty girls</i>
	dvi <sup>j</sup> e [tri, četiri] visoke zgra <sup>d</sup> e	<i>2 [3, 4] tall buildings</i>

5-10: Gpl.	pet vèlikih gradova	5 large cities
	šest važnih pitanja	6 important questions
	sedam lijepih djevojaka	7 pretty girls
	osam visokih zgrada	8 tall buildings
	devet pametnih rukovodilaca	9 intelligent managers
	deset američkih studenata	10 American students

J lijepa djevojka / E lepa devojka; E dve / J dvije; J lijepih djevojaka / E lepih devojaka

### 58b. Numbers beyond 10

Both the teens (11 -19) and the decades (multiples of 10) are formed by adding a suffix to the simple numbers, with certain minor spelling adjustments. The suffix which forms the teens is **-naest**, and that which forms the decades is **-deset**. These numbers are given below; for more detailed discussion, see [123a].

11	jedanaest	20	dvadeset
12	dvanaest	30	trideset
13	trinaest	40	četrdeset
14	četnaest	50	pedeset
15	petnaest	60	šezdeset
16	šesnaest	70	sedamdeset
17	sedamnaest	80	osamdeset
18	osamnaest	90	devedeset
19	devetnaest	100	sto

### 58c. Number phrases as subject

If a counted phrase is the subject of a sentence, it takes a singular verb if the number is 1 and a plural verb if the number is 2, 3 or 4. If the number is 5 or more, however, the verb is in the singular. This is because the sentence is considered to be subjectless (review [48] and see [63, 141]). Below are examples; for more, see [124b].

1	Jedan student čita, a drugi piše. Poznajem samo jednu takvu ženu. Jedno pismo je za tebe, drugo za nju.	<i>One student reads and the other writes. I only know one such woman. One letter is for you and the other for her.</i>
2	Sutra dolaze dva studenta. Dve studentkinje pišu zadatke.	<i>Two students are coming tomorrow. Two students are writing their homework.</i>
3	Tri su pisma kod mene. Sutra dolaze moje tri sestre.	<i>Three [of the] letters are with me. My three sisters are coming tomorrow.</i>
4	Sve četiri ptice pevaју. Ta četiri đaka mnogo uče.	<i>All four birds are singing. Those four pupils are studying a lot.</i>
5	Pet debelih pasa ide u grad.	<i>Five fat dogs are going to town.</i>
6	Ne uči svih šest studenata dobro.	<i>Not all six students study well.</i>
7	Sedam patuljaka gleda lepoticu.	<i>The seven dwarves gaze at the beauty.</i>
8	Čeka te osam pisma.	<i>Eight letters are awaiting you.</i>

- 9 : Девет људи долази у госте. *Nine people are coming to visit.*  
 10 : Десет храбрих војника се бори за живот. *Ten brave soldiers are fighting for their lives.*

S,C za tebe / B za tebe; S,C za nj<sup>u</sup> / B za nj<sup>u</sup>; E dve / J dvije; S,B zadatke / C zadaće; S,B kod mene / B kod mene; E pevaju / J pevaju; S,C u grad / B u grad; S,B studentkinje / C,B studentice; E lepoticu / J ljepoticu

## 59 Partitive genitive, continued

Many of the meanings of the genitive case express measure in one way or another. Numbers express measure, of course, and so does the partitive direct object (review [45]). There are also other words expressing the general idea of measuring, after which the genitive must be used.

### 59a. Adverbs of measure, and count vs. mass nouns

Adverbs of measure, such as *many, few, lots, several*, and the like, must be followed by the genitive case of the noun in question. If the noun is one denoting objects that can be counted, it is called a *count noun*, and must take the Gpl. form. But if the noun denotes a substance that cannot be divided up into countable units, it is called a *mass noun*, and must take the Gsg. form. Here are examples both of count and mass nouns, and of some of the more common adverbs of measure:

*count nouns* (Gen.pl.)

Koliko studen <u>ata</u> ?	<i>How many students?</i>
mного дјевојак <u>a</u>	<i>many girls</i>
malo momak <u>a</u>	<i>[very] few young men</i>
puno pisam <u>a</u>	<i>lots of letters</i>
dosta grešak <u>a</u>	<i>quite a few errors</i>
nekoliko gradov <u>a</u>	<i>several cities</i>

*mass nouns* (Gen.sg.)

malo vòde	<i>a little water</i>
mного снег <u>a</u>	<i>a lot of snow</i>
dosta kiš <u>e</u>	<i>a fair amount of rain</i>

J djevojka / E devojka; E sneg / J snijeg

When such a phrase is the subject of a sentence, the verb is 3sg. and the sentence is technically subjectless. Below are two examples; for more examples and discussion, see [63, 141c].

- : Mnogo djevojaka idu u grad. *Many girls are going to town.*  
 : Malo studenata to zna. *[Only] a few students know that.*

J djevojaka / E devojaka; B u grad / S,C u grad

English speakers must take care not to transfer their conceptions of the concepts “count” and “mass” automatically into BCS, as the membership in the two categories is not the same in all instances. For example, the English noun *bread* is a mass noun: in order to make it function as a count noun, English speakers must speak of *a loaf of bread, a piece of bread*, or the like. But in BCS, the nouns **kruh** and **hleb / hljeb** can be either count or mass nouns. The same is true for the English noun *money* vs. its BCS counterpart **novac**. For another example, the English nouns *advice* and *information* are mass nouns only, whereas their BCS counterparts are count nouns only.

E mass, BCS mass	: Želiš li hljeba?	<i>Do you want some bread?</i>
E mass, BCS count	: Evo dva hljeba.	<i>Here's two pieces [ / loaves] of bread.</i>
E mass, BCS mass	: Ne mogu, nemam novca.	<i>I can't, I don't have any money.</i>
E mass, BCS count	: Ne mogu, nemam novca <u>a</u> .	[same]

E mass, BCS count :  $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}\text{m}$  zà tebe dva sàveta. *I have two pieces of advice for you.*  
 : Hvàla za ta tri obaveštenja. *Thanks for those three bits of information.*

C želiš li / S,B da li želiš; J hljeb / E hleb; B,S hljeb (hleb) / B,C kruh; B zà tebe / C,S za tebe; E dva saveta / J dva savjeta; S ta tri obaveštenja / C,B te tri obavijesti

### 59b. “Existentials”: *ima* and *nema*

The verbs **imati** and **nemati** mean *have* and *not have*, respectively. But their 3sg. forms also have a very different meaning, sometimes referred to as *existential*. When used in this context, these forms communicate simply the presence (existence) or absence (non-existence) of something or someone. It is ONLY the 3sg. forms that are used in this meaning. The closest English translation for **ima** is “there is / are [some]”, and the closest English translation for **nema** is “there isn’t / aren’t [any]”. Students who know French, German, Russian or Spanish will find closer equivalents to the BCS existentials, as given below. Note that all these languages also use a 3sg. unchanging verb in this meaning.

	French	German	Russian	Spanish
<b>ima</b>	il y a	es gibt	есть	hay
<b>nema</b>	il n’y a pas [de]	es gibt kein	нет	no hay

When **ima** refers to a singular count noun, it is frequently followed by the word **jedan** and a noun in Nsg. (Croatian can also use **je** in this meaning). Only nouns can be used after **ima** in this way. But when **ima** refers to a mass noun or to any plural noun, or is followed by something other than a noun or noun phrase, it requires the genitive case. The meaning of a sentence with **ima** + plural noun is often a partitive one, which can be conveyed in English by the adjectives *some* or *any*, or by phrases such as *of them*. As the examples below illustrate, however, English can often convey the partitive meaning of **ima** + Gpl. even without such words.

**Nema** must be followed by the genitive, regardless of whether the noun is singular or plural, mass or count. A phrase containing **nema** + noun can either refer to the simple absence of something, or it can carry the negative partitive meaning conveyed by the English expressions *not a single* or *not any*. In the latter instance, BCS sometimes adds the modifiers **nijedan** “not one” or **nikakav** “no kind”. All instances of **ima** and **nema** followed by the genitive constitute subject-less sentences; for more discussion, see [63, 141c].

ima + Nsg.	$\dot{\text{O}}\text{vde}$ $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ jèdna debèla knjiga. : $\dot{\text{O}}\text{vdje}$ je jedna debèla knjiga.	<i>There’s a big [fat] book here.</i> [same]
ima + Gen.	$\text{T}\dot{\text{u}}$ $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ nekoliko debèlih knjiga. : $\text{D}\dot{\text{a}}\text{n}\dot{\text{a}}\text{s}$ $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ mnogo stùdenata. : $\text{K}\dot{\text{o}}\text{d}$ $\text{v}\dot{\text{a}}\text{s}$ $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ lijèpih stvàri. : $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ li sira ili mlijèka? : $\text{K}\dot{\text{o}}\text{l}\dot{\text{i}}\text{k}\dot{\text{o}}$ ih $\dot{\text{I}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ ?	<i>There are several big [= fat] books there.</i> <i>There are a lot of students here today.</i> <i>You’ve [some] very nice things here.</i> <i>Is there [any] cheese or milk?</i> <i>How many [of them] are there?</i>
nema + Gen.	$\text{N}\dot{\text{e}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ novca! Idemo u banku! : $\text{N}\dot{\text{e}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ vode! Šta da radimo? : $\dot{\text{O}}\text{vde}$ $\text{n}\dot{\text{e}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ nijedne dobre knjige. : $\dot{\text{O}}\text{vde}$ $\text{n}\dot{\text{e}}\text{m}\dot{\text{a}}$ nikakvih dobrih knjiga.	<i>No money! We’re off to the bank!</i> <i>There’s no water! What [can] we do?</i> <i>There’s not a single good book here.</i> <i>There are no good books here.</i>

E ovde / J ovdje; B kod vas / S,C, kod vas; J lijepih / E lepih; J mlijeka / E mleka; S,B šta / C što

### 59c. “Distributive” *po*

The idea of distribution is expressed by the preposition **po**, whose object identifies the metric of distribution. English translations often use the words *per*, *each* or *apiece*; the precise translation depends on the context of any one expression. The idea of succession (as in English *one by one*) is also expressed by this preposition. What is unique to both these usages is that the preposition does not require a specific case. Rather, the case of the following noun is determined by the structure of the sentence in which it occurs. Normally, either the nominative or the accusative case follows **po** in these two meanings, as in the examples below. For the forms **svakome** and **im**, see [66], and for their use in these sentences, see [73a].

Nom.	Svi su <u>tu</u> , <u>po</u> jèdan iz svake <u>zèmlje</u> . A od <u>ràkije</u> , <u>svakome</u> <u>po</u> <u>čašica</u> .	<i>Everyone is here, one per country.</i> <i>Everyone gets a small glass of brandy [ = as to brandy, a small glass for everyone].</i>
	U <u>laze</u> jèdan <u>po</u> jèdan.	<i>They come in one at a time [ = one after another].</i>
Acc.	Daj <u>e</u> <u>im</u> <u>svakome</u> <u>po</u> jèdnu jabuku. Sada ga <u>moraš</u> otkidati <u>list</u> <u>po</u> <u>list</u> .	<i>She gives them one apple apiece.</i> <i>Now you must peel [it] leaf by leaf [ = one leaf at a time].</i>

C,B sada ga moraš otkidati / S,B sad moraš da ga otkidaš

## 60 Verbs taking genitive objects

A few BCS verbs require an object in the genitive case, whereas the corresponding English verb takes a direct object. Indeed, these BCS verbs also look as if they are taking direct objects. Most such verbs are **se**-verbs; since **se**-verbs by definition cannot take an accusative object, this may help the student remember that another case is required. Two very common such verbs are **bojati se** “fear, be afraid [of]” and **sjetiti se** / **setiti se** (imperfective **sjećati se** / **sećati se**) “remember”. Another is **ticati se** “concern”. The latter verb is often used following the conjunction **što**, in a phrase best translated by English *as concerns...* Sometimes, however, the **što** must be translated as *what*. For more on sentences with **što** as subject, see [99, 143h], and for more on **se**-verbs which take objects, see [87b]. For discussion of the particle **god** (seen in the final example) as well as more examples of usage, see [143k].

<b>bojati se</b>	Ne <u>bòj</u> im se <u>ma</u> lih <u>mač</u> aka, <u>bòj</u> im se samo <u>ve</u> likih <u>pa</u> sa.	<i>I'm not afraid of little cats, I'm only afraid of big dogs.</i>
<b>sjećati se</b>	Sjećaš li se naše <u>pr</u> ve <u>mač</u> ke, <u>ò</u> ne <u>bi</u> jele?	<i>Do you remember our first cat – that white one?</i>
<b>ticati se</b>	Što se mene <u>t</u> iče, možeš <u>d</u> oći kad god <u>že</u> liš, ali <u>r</u> učak je u dva <u>sa</u> ta.	<i>As far as I'm concerned, you can come when you want, but lunch is at 2.</i>

J sjećati se / E sećati se; C,B sjećaš li se / B,S da li se sjećaš (sećaš); J one bijele / E one bele; C,B možeš doći / S,B možeš da dođeš

## 61 Time expressions, continued

Most prepositions referring to relationships of time and space take the genitive case; some of these function as adverbs as well. The genitive case is also used, without a preposition, to locate an event in time. Time of the clock is also expressed with prepositional phrases. For more on



time expressions, see [125], and for more on the relationships of prepositions, adverbs, and conjunctions expressing the idea of time, see [143b].

### 61a. Prepositions and adverbs of time and space

Prepositions meaning *before*, *after*, and *near* take the genitive case. Almost all of these also function as adverbs, with the corresponding meanings *earlier*, *later* (or *afterwards*), and *nearby*. Only the preposition **nakon** “after” does not also do double duty as an adverb. The examples below illustrate usage of these words both as prepositions and adverbs. Note that although the forms are the same, their function within the sentence is not at all the same. On the use of these same words as conjunctions, see [143b].

#### ☆ PRE / PRIJE

preposition	Ponedjeljak dolazi pre utorka.	<i>Monday comes before Tuesday.</i>
	Nije dobro spavati prije ručka.	<i>It's not good to sleep before lunch.</i>
adverb	Šta obično dolazi prije?	<i>What usually comes first / earliest?</i>
	Bolje pre nego poslije.	<i>Better earlier than later.</i>

#### ☆ POSLE / POSLIJE

preposition	Poslije petka dolazi subota.	<i>After Friday comes Saturday.</i>
	Posle kiše divno miriše.	<i>It smells wonderful after the rain.</i>
	Posle ručka se može spavati.	<i>It's O.K. to sleep after lunch.</i>
adverb	Posle, dušo. Sada ne mogu.	<i>Later, sweetheart. I can't [do it] now.</i>
	Bolje prije nego poslije.	<i>Better earlier than later.</i>

#### ☆ NAKON

preposition	Nakon ručka se može spavati.	<i>It's O.K. to sleep after lunch.</i>
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#### ☆ BLIZU

preposition	Ona živi blizu pošte.	<i>She lives near the post office.</i>
	Ona stoji blizu oca.	<i>She's standing near [her] father.</i>
adverb	Vrlo je blizu, možemo pješice.	<i>It's very close [= nearby], we can [go] on foot.</i>

E ponedjeljak / J ponedjeljak; E pre / J prije; B,S šta / C što; J poslije / E posle; B,C se može spavati / S,B može da se spava; J pješice / E pešice; B,C pješice / S,B peške (pješke)

### 61b. Genitive adjective + noun expressions without preposition

An event can be located in time utilizing a phrase in the genitive case without a preposition. But this can only be done when the BCS point in time is expressed as a phrase including a modifier. If it is expressed by a single word, a preposition must be used (review [23, 67b]). This usage partially corresponds to English, where one must also say *I'll see him NEXT WEEK* (without a preposition). But whereas BCS requires a preposition for days of the week, English allows sentences both with and without a preposition: *I'll see him ON SUNDAY* or *I'll see him SUNDAY*.

...	Mislīm da dolazi idućeg tjedna.	<i>I think he's coming next week.</i>
...	Óvog mešeca mnogo radimo.	<i>We are working a lot this month.</i>
...	Šta radiš iduće godine?	<i>What are you doing next year?</i>

C idućeg tjedna / B iduće sedmice / S,B iduće nedelje (nedjelje); E nedelja / J nedjelja; E meseca / J mjeseca; B,S šta / C što

### 61c. Time of the clock

The time of day is identified by the nominative case (with a singular verb), and an event is located at a particular time of day by the preposition **u**. Time before the hour is noted by the preposition **do**, and time after the hour by the conjunction **i**. The word corresponding to English *o'clock* is **sat** “hour” (Gpl. **sati**). In formal announcements of time, Serbian also uses the noun **čas**. The case following the noun is determined by the number. Half past the hour is usually expressed by the adverb **pola** plus the name of the following hour. Numbers do not change form following prepositions.

Nom	Je li sada četiri <u>sata</u> ? Sad je jedan <u>sat</u> .	<i>Is it four o'clock now?</i> <i>It's one o'clock now.</i>
★ U	Ručak je u dva <u>sata</u> . Večera je u osam <u>sati</u> . Pređavañe je u osam i deset. Obično dolazi u pet do devet. A ja dolazim u pola deset. Voz polazi tačno u osam <u>časova</u> .	<i>Lunch is at two o'clock. Dinner is at eight o'clock.</i> <i>The lecture is at ten after eight (8:10).</i> <i>S/he usually comes at five to nine (8:55).</i> <i>But I come at half past nine (9:30).</i> <i>The train leaves at 8:00 sharp.</i>
★ DO	– Ko li ko je <u>sati</u> ? – Deset do sedam.	<i>“What time is it?”</i> <i>“Ten to seven.”</i>

B,C,S je li / S,B da li je; S,B voz / C vlak; S,B tačno / C točno; S časova / C,B sati

### 62 Non-negative pronouns

When added to interrogative pronouns, the negative prefix **ni-** creates the negative pronouns **niko** / **nitko** “no one” and **ništa** “nothing” (review [56a]). Other prefixes can be added to these same pronouns to create various sorts of non-negative pronouns. One must take particular care with the prefix which creates the indefinite pronouns meaning *someone* and *something*. This is because one might associate the prefix **ne-** with the idea of negation, since it has that meaning when written separately. In this instance, however, it does NOT have negative meaning.

The prefixes **i-** and **sva-** can also be added to create pronouns such as *anyone* / *anything* and *everyone* / *everything*, respectively. Here too, care is necessary, since the pronouns in question are used much less frequently than are their English counterparts. Most instances of English *anyone* or *anything* are used with a negative verb, in which case the BCS negative pronoun must be used. Similarly, the most frequent BCS translations of English *everyone* and *everything* continue to be **svi** and **sve**, respectively (review [36b]). It is more correct to view the pronouns beginning with **i-** as meaning *any at all*, and the ones beginning with **sva-** as *all sorts of*.

prefix <b>ni-</b> no-	Kako nikoga ne čekam?! Baš sada ...	<i>How [can you say] I'm not expecting anyone? Just now ...</i>
prefix <b>ne-</b> some-	... idem na kolodvor dočekati nekoga. Netko te čeka, ne znam tko.	<i>... I'm on my way to the station to pick someone up.</i> <i>Somebody's waiting for you, I don't know who [it could be].</i>
prefix <b>i-</b> any-	Zar ti piješ čaj bez ičega?	<i>Do you [really] drink tea without anything [at all in it]?</i>
prefix <b>sva-</b> all-	Taj dečak govori svašta.	<i>That boy says all [sorts of nonsense].</i>

C na kolodvor / S,B na železničku (željezničku) stanicu; E železničku / J željezničku; C,B idem dočekati / S,B idem da dočekam; C netko / S,B neko; C tko / S,B ko; E dečak / J dječak

### 63 Subjectless sentences, continued

There are several sorts of subjectless sentences in BCS. Those with no noun or pronoun present at all usually correspond to English sentences beginning with *it is...* (review [48]). Others do have a noun or pronoun present, but it is not in the nominative case. In such instances, both the meaning of the sentence itself and its English translation lead one to think that this noun somehow ought to be the subject; and some grammarians even speak of such nouns as the *logical subject* of the sentence. Grammatically, however, the sentences still subjectless. This means that the verb is always 3sg. and that the noun in question is in some other case than nominative.

Subjectless sentences in which the logical subject is in the genitive case are of several types: the noun can occur after a number, after an adverb of measure or after the existentials **ima** or **nema**. Clitic pronouns may also serve as the logical subject (if so, they must be in the genitive case). English translations will vary, especially when pronouns are present. The main point is that the verb is always the 3sg. form. Many such sentences concern the composition of groups of people; for more on the use of numbers describing such groups, see [123c, 124c].

A number of idioms also function as subjectless verbs. For example, when it occurs in the idiom meaning *as concerns...*, the verb **ticati se** always takes the 3sg. form.

numbers	Pet <u>dèvojaka</u> <u>ùlazi</u> u sobu. Čeka te sedam <u>pišama</u> . Danas nas je sedam.	<i>Five girls are coming into the room.            Seven letters are awaiting you.            We are [a group of] seven today.</i>
measure	Koliko ih me čeka? Mnogo te <u>stùdenata</u> <u>gleda</u> . Malo ih <u>to zna</u> <u>òvih dana</u> .	<i>How many of them are expecting me?            Many students are watching you.            These days few of them know that.</i>
existential	Koliko vas <u>ima</u> ? <u>Nema</u> ih mnogo. <u>Ima</u> nas <u>òvde</u> deset <u>stùdenata</u> .	<i>How many of you are there?            There aren't many of them.            We are ten students here [= there are ten            of us students here].</i>
<b>ticati se</b>	Što se mene <u>tiče</u> , <u>to</u> <u>nije</u> ni potrebno. Što se <u>òstalog</u> <u>tiče</u> , možete <u>raditi</u> što <u>želite</u> .	<i>As far as I'm concerned, it's not even            necessary.            As for the rest, you can do what you want.</i>

E devojaka / J djevojaka; E ovde / J ovdje; B,S ostalog / C ostaloga; C,B možete raditi / B,S možete da radite

### 64 Clitic ordering within the XYZ model

According to the XYZ model (review [12b, 29b]), clitics always appear in Y position, and must follow a strict order within that position. The Y position, in turn, comprises six possible sub-slots. These may now be fully described. The following formula defines the six slots, each occupied either by an abbreviation (representing a word class) or the form of a word itself.

X	Y-1	Y-2	Y-3	Y-4	Y-5	Y-6	Z
	<b>li</b>	<i>be (aux)</i>	<i>dat</i>	<i>acc-gen</i>	<b>se</b>	<b>je</b>	

The abbreviation *be (aux)* in slot Y-2 refers to the clitic forms of the verb **biti**, minus the 3rd singular form **je**. So far, these forms have been seen in the meaning of *am, are*, etc. When these

same forms are used as auxiliary verbs in the past tense (see [69, 104c, 111]), they are placed in the same position in the *Y*-sequence. Two other types of verbal auxiliary clitics will also come in this position. These are the auxiliaries for the future tense and the conditional mood (for more discussion of these clitics and their usage, see [102] and [137], respectively).

The abbreviations *dat* in slot *Y-3* and *acc-gen* in slot *Y-4* refer to clitic form object pronouns in the dative case and the accusative/genitive case; for discussion of these clitics, see [66e] and [24a, 42d], respectively. Slots *Y-1*, *Y-5* and *Y-6* are occupied by single words, the first two of which are self-explanatory. The third of these, the form **je** of slot *Y-6*, refers ONLY to the 3sg. form of **biti**. The other form **je**, which means *her, it* (fem.sg. Acc-Gen pronoun object), ALWAYS goes in slot *Y-4*; for more discussion, see [111]. It is nearly impossible to construct a natural-sounding sentence with all six positions filled; indeed, sentences with five of the six are rare (and usually constructed only by linguists). Sentences with two and three clitics are quite common, however, and even four clitics are heard on occasion. The relevant point is that any time there is more than even one clitic in a single clause, they must ALL occur relative to each other in the order given above.

As the student gains more proficiency in the language, s/he will encounter sentences of greater complexity as concerns clitics. The advantage of the *XYZ* model is that it can account for all the different kinds of combinations of clitics. The examples below utilize this model to discuss the placement of object clitics in several different sorts of sentences. Sentences 1-4 illustrate a **se**-verb which takes a genitive object. In this type of sentence, slots *Y-4* and *Y-5* are occupied. No variation is possible: sentences with such clitics can only take this form. The remaining sets illustrate the placement of object clitics in slot *Y-4*, especially as concerns the feminine singular object pronoun **je**. If the pronoun is the only clitic in the sentence or clause, the rules are straightforward, as seen in sentences 5-7 and again in sentence 8. However, if the sentence also contains the 3sg. verb form **je** (whose place is slot *Y-6*), most BCS speakers will substitute the object pronoun **ju** for **je** (in order to avoid the sequence **je + je**). This is seen in sentence 8.

	X	Y						Z	
		1	2	3	4	5	6		
1	T <sub>o</sub>				ga	se		nè t <sub>i</sub> će.	<i>That doesn't concern him.</i>
2	Nè t <sub>i</sub> će				ga	se		t <sub>o</sub> .	<i>It doesn't concern him.</i>
3	Da	li			ga	se		t <sub>o</sub> t <sub>i</sub> će?	<i>Does that concern him?</i>
4	T <sub>i</sub> će	li			ga	se		t <sub>o</sub> ?	[same]
5	Ne mogu				je			vidjeti.	<i>I can't see her.</i>
6	Ne mogu ...								
	... da				je			vidim.	[same]
7	Teško je ...								
	... da				je			vidiš.	<i>It's hard to see her.</i>
8	Teško				ju	je		vidjeti.	[same]
9	Prijatelji				je			često vide.	<i>Friends see her often.</i>
10	Teško				je	je		vidjeti.	<i>It's hard to see her. [B]</i>
11	Prijatelji				ju			često vide.	<i>Friends see her often. [C]</i>

Sentence 8 represents the preferred order in both Croatian and Serbian. But in Bosnian, the sequence **je + je** is also acceptable, and sentences like 10 are heard frequently alongside those like 8. In Croatian, however, only the sequence **ju + je** is possible. Indeed, Croatian sometimes uses **ju** instead **je** even when no contrast is required. Thus, whereas sentences like 8 are the norm throughout BCS, sentences like 11 can also be heard in Croatian.