



# STUDY GUIDE

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## serbian

language podcast

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**LESSON 16**

GRAMMAR  
VOCABULARY  
PRACTICE  
ANSWER KEY

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# GRAMMAR

## SERBIAN SIMPLE SENTENCE

The basic Serbian sentence is called **the Simple Sentence** and it consists of a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE**. In the sentence *Ja sam Stiven* (*I am Steven*) the subject is the personal pronoun *ja* for the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular and the predicate is *sam Stiven*. The predicate in this case consists of two words: the auxiliary verb *biti* (*to be*) in this case *je* for the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, and the noun *Stiven*. In other instances, the predicate can consist of one word (*i.e. Stiven sedi* - *Steven is sitting, or Steven sits*). The predicate is the verb *sedeti* (*to sit*). In general, the subject in a Serbian sentence is usually a noun, pronoun or group of words with a noun as the main word (*noun phrase*).

## PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Serbian language has a total of 10 personal pronouns - 5 for singular and 5 for plural. They are: *ja, ti, on, ona, ono, mi, vi, oni, one, ona*. For example, the personal pronoun *ja* is used for the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular and it means *I*.

### Chart

Person	Number			
	Singular		Plural	
	Serbian	English	Serbian	English
1.	ja	I	mi	we
2.	ti	you	vi	you( <i>polite/plural</i> )
3.	on	he	oni	they( <i>masculine</i> )
	ona	she	one	they( <i>feminine</i> )
	ono	it	ona	they( <i>neuter</i> )

The personal pronoun *vi* is used for the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural and it means *you all (y'all)*. I.e. *Da li vi dolazite? (Are you all coming?)* The personal pronoun *vi* can also be used in a polite way instead of the personal pronoun *ti*, when you are talking to a person you don't know well or when you want to show respect to a person who is older than you. In this case, you will capitalize *vi* in a written form *Vi*. I.e. *Da li, Vi gospodine, dolazite? (Are you coming, Sir?)*

## GENDERS OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Serbian language has 3 genders: masculine (m), feminine (f) and neuter (n). Regarding the personal pronouns, please pay special attention to the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular (*on, ona, ono*) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural (*oni, one, ona*), because they reflect the gender unlike the other personal pronouns. In the sentence *Oni dolaze (They are coming)* the personal pronoun *oni* points to the *masculine gender*. The English sentence (*They are coming*) does not reflect that. If you want to say, for example, that 2 or more women are coming, you would use the personal pronoun *one*. I.e. *One dolaze*. If you want to say that a man and a woman are coming for example, you would use the personal pronoun *oni*. I.e. *Oni dolaze (They are coming)*.

## PRESENT TENSE - VERB BITI (TO BE)

This is the conjugation of the verb *biti (to be)* in the Present Tense:

### Chart

Person	Number			
	Singular		Plural	
	Serbian	English	Serbian	English
1.	ja <b>sam</b>	I am	mi <b>smo</b>	we are
2.	ti <b>si</b>	you are	vi <b>ste</b>	you are ( <i>polite/plural</i> )
3.	on/ona/ono <b>je</b>	he/she/it is	oni/one/ona <b>su</b>	they are ( <i>masculine/feminine/neuter</i> )

# VOCABULARY

## PERSONAL PRONOUNS

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>ja</b>	<i>I</i>
<b>ti</b>	<i>you</i>
<b>on</b>	<i>he</i>
<b>ona</b>	<i>she</i>
<b>ono</b>	<i>it</i>
<b>mi</b>	<i>we</i>
<b>vi</b>	<i>you (plural/polite)</i>
<b>oni</b>	<i>they (masculine)</i>
<b>one</b>	<i>they (feminine)</i>
<b>ona</b>	<i>they (neuter)</i>

## VERB BITI (TO BE)

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>ja sam</b>	<i>I am</i>
<b>ti si</b>	<i>you are</i>
<b>on, ona, ono je</b>	<i>he, she, it is</i>
<b>mi smo</b>	<i>we are</i>
<b>vi ste</b>	<i>you are (plural/polite)</i>
<b>oni, one, ona su</b>	<i>they are (masculine, feminine, neuter)</i>

## LESSON EXAMPLES

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>Ja sam Stiven</b>	<i>I am Steven</i>
<b>On je Stiven</b>	<i>He is Steven</i>
<b>Mi i oni</b>	<i>We and they (masculine)</i>
<b>*i</b>	<i>and (conjunction)</i>

## ADDITIONAL VOCABULARY

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>subjekat</b>	<i>subject</i>
<b>predikat</b>	<i>predicate</i>
<b>glagol</b>	<i>verb</i>
<b>zamenica</b>	<i>pronoun</i>
<b>lična zamenica</b>	<i>personal pronoun</i>
<b>rod</b>	<i>gender</i>
<b>muški/ženski/srednji rod</b>	<i>masculine/feminine/neuter gender</i>
<b>konjugacija</b>	<i>conjugation</i>

## PRACTICE

### SENTENCES

#	<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Vocabulary</i>
1.	Zdravo. Ja sam Stiven.	Hello. I am Steven.	zdravo - hello
2.	Zdravo. Ja sam Maja.	Hello. I am Maya.	Maja – female name (pronounced “Maya”)

#	Serbian	English	Vocabulary
3.	Zdravo. Mi smo Stiven i Maja.	Hello. We are Steven and Maya.	
4.	Ja sam dečak.	I am a boy.	dečak - boy
5.	Ona je devojčica.	She is a girl.	devojčica - girl
6.	Oni su brat i sestra.	They are brother and sister.	brat – brother; sestra - sister

### EXERCISE #1

Use the correct personal pronoun:

#	Serbian	English
1.	<u>On</u> je Stiven ( <i>example</i> )	He is Steven
2.	_____ sam Maja	I am Maya
3.	_____ je lepa	She is pretty
4.	_____ smo dečak i devojčica	We are a boy and a girl
5.	_____ su brat i sestra	They are brother and sister

### EXERCISE #2

Replace the underlined words with the correct personal pronoun:

#	Serbian	English
1.	<u>Oni</u> su brat i sestra ( <i>example</i> )	<u>Maya and Steven</u> are brother and sister
2.	<u>Devojčica</u> je lepa	<u>The girl</u> is pretty
3.	<u>Stiven i ja</u> smo deca	<u>Steven and I</u> are children
4.	<u>Ana i Maja</u> su drugarice	<u>Ana and Maya</u> are friends

### EXERCISE #3

Use the correct form of the verb *biti* (to be) and fill in the blanks:

#	Serbian	English	Vocabulary
1.	Maja i Stiven <u>su</u> deca ( <i>example</i> )	Maya and Steven are children	deca - children
2.	Ja _____ učiteljica	I am a teacher	učiteljica – elementary school teacher ( <i>for grades 1-4</i> )
3.	Ti _____ pametan	You are clever	pametan – clever, smart
4.	Maja i ja _____ sestre	Maya and I are sisters	

#### EXERCISE #4

*Example: Ja sam Maja (I am Maya)*

Make the following sentences:

	Serbian	English
1. Second person singular	<b><u>Ti si</u></b> Maja ( <i>example</i> )	You are Maya
2. Third person singular		
3. Second person plural – polite		

## ANSWER KEY

#### EXERCISE #1

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Use the correct personal pronoun:

#	Serbian	English
1.	<b><u>On</u></b> je Stiven	He is Steven
2.	<b><u>Ja</u></b> sam Maja	I am Maya
3.	<b><u>Ona</u></b> je lepa	She is pretty

#	Serbian	English
4.	<b>Mi</b> smo dečak i devojčica	We are a boy and a girl
5.	<b>Oni</b> su brat i sestra	They are brother and sister

## EXERCISE #2

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Replace the underlined words with the correct personal pronoun:

#	Serbian	English
1.	<b>Oni</b> su brat i sestra	<u>Maya and Steven</u> are brother and sister
2.	<b>Ona</b> je lepa	<u>The girl</u> is pretty
3.	<b>Mi</b> smo deca	<u>Steven and I</u> are children
4.	<b>One</b> su drugarice	<u>Ana and Maya</u> are friends

## EXERCISE #3

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Use the correct form of the verb *biti* (to be) and fill in the blanks:

#	Serbian	English	Vocabulary
1.	Maja i Stiven <b>su</b> deca	Maya and Steven are children	deca - children
2.	Ja <b>sam</b> učiteljica	I am a teacher	učiteljica – elementary school teacher <i>(for grades 1-4)</i>
3.	Ti <b>si</b> pametan	You are clever	pametan – clever, smart
4.	Maja i ja <b>smo</b> sestre	Maya and I are sisters	



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## EXERCISE #4

*(The answer is in bold)*

*Example: Ja sam Maja (I am Maya)*

Make this sentence for:		<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
1.	Second person singular	<b>Ti si Maja</b>	You are Maya
2.	Third person singular (feminine)	<b>Ona je Maja</b>	She is Maya
3.	Second person plural – polite	<b>Vi ste Maja</b>	You are Maya

Great job guys!

Svaka čast !