



# STUDY GUIDE

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## serbian

language podcast

**LESSON 57**

GRAMMAR  
VOCABULARY  
PRACTICE  
ANSWER KEY

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# GRAMMAR

## SERBIAN DECLENSION SYSTEM – 2<sup>ND</sup> CASE, GENITIVE

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> case (Genitive)** is one of the more challenging cases and it's the most diverse case in Serbian in terms of its usage and the number of prepositions and verbs that go along with it. This case can be used with or without prepositions. It's used primarily to reference *time, distance, source or origin*. It's also used for the purposes of *comparison, exclusion, and substitution*.

Here are some prepositions that frequently go with the 2<sup>nd</sup> case. They are *OD* and *DO*. *Od* means *from* and *do* means *to* or *until*. The noun that comes after the prepositions *OD* or *DO*, needs to be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case. The verbs (*of movement or motion*) like *ići* (*go*), *doći* (*come*), *putovati* (*travel*), *krenuti* (*move*), *stići* (*arrive*) etc. are used with the 2<sup>nd</sup> case to express *distance* or *time*.

*Example: Ja obično odmaram pre ručka - I usually rest before lunch*

Can you guess what *ručka* is in the 1<sup>st</sup> case? *Ručak*. When you see an *-a* ending at the end of a word, that is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case, it's a clue that the word is *masculine* since *masculine singular inanimate nouns* require an *-a* ending in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case.

*Example: Putujem od Njujorka do Beograda - I'm traveling from New York to Belgrade*

Again, we see prepositions that give us a clue about which case they require. *Od* means *from* and *do* means *to* or *until*, and so this sentence is referencing *distance*, which means the nouns within the sentence require the 2<sup>nd</sup> case. *New York* in the 1<sup>st</sup> case is *Njujork*, but since it is a *singular inanimate masculine noun* we apply the pattern we learned in previous lessons, which requires adding an *-a* to the end of the noun, giving us *Njujorka*, since *Njujork* is treated as one word. We see an *-a* ending at the end of *Beograd*, too, giving us *Beograda*, and this is because it is preceded by *do*, which means *to* in this example. And, since *Beograd* is a *singular masculine inanimate noun* it requires the same 2<sup>nd</sup> case declension

pattern as *Njujork*, which requires adding an *-a* to the end of the noun, giving us *Beograda*. This is how we end up with *Putujem od Njujorka do Beograda* which means *I'm traveling from New York to Belgrade*.

The next pair of prepositions that frequently go with the 2<sup>nd</sup> case are *PRE*, which means *before*, and *POSLE*, which means *after*.

2<sup>nd</sup> case also deals with *source or origin*, with preposition *IZ*, which means *from*.

*Example: Ona je iz Srbije - She is from Serbia*

Notice how the noun *Srbija* becomes *Srbije* when it goes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> case, per the declension pattern you learned in previous lessons for *singular feminine nouns*. The clue for us in this sentence is the preposition *iz*, which means *from*, and references *origin*, in this case, where the person is from and that's how we know we need to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> case here.

*Example: Pozdrav iz Beograda - Greetings from Belgrade.*

*Pozdrav* means *greetings*, *iz* means *from*, and *Beograd* is *Belgrade*. Now, we have to put it altogether using the 2<sup>nd</sup> case. *Beograd* is a *singular masculine inanimate noun*, so in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case it requires adding an *-a* to the end of the noun, and we get *Beograda*. This is how we end up with *Pozdrav iz Beograda*.

*Example: Radim svaki dan do ponoći - I work every day until midnight*

The preposition *do*, which means *until* or *to* is in reference to *time*. *Do* is a preposition that can **only go with the 2<sup>nd</sup> case**, so when we see prepositions that reference time we know immediately that the nouns (*ponoć – midnight*) and adjectives in the sentence will require the 2<sup>nd</sup> case.

#	Sentence	Preposition	2 <sup>nd</sup> case / 1 <sup>st</sup> case
(1)	Ja obično odmaram <u>pre ručka</u> I usually rest before lunch	<b>pre</b> – before	ručka– 2 <sup>nd</sup> case (ručak, <u>masculine</u> noun, 1 <sup>st</sup> case, means <b>lunch</b> )
(2)	Putujem <u>od Njujorka do Beograda</u> I am traveling from New York to Belgrade	<b>od</b> – from <b>do</b> – to	Njujorka/Beograda– 2 <sup>nd</sup> case (Njujork/Beograd, <u>masculine</u> nouns, 1 <sup>st</sup> case, means <b>New York/Belgrade</b> )
(3)	Ona je <u>iz Srbije</u> She is from Serbia	<b>iz</b> – from	Srbije– 2 <sup>nd</sup> case (Srbija, <u>feminine</u> noun, 1 <sup>st</sup> case, means <b>Serbia</b> )
(4)	Pozdrav <u>iz Beograda</u> Greetings from Belgrade	<b>iz</b> – from	Beograda– 2 <sup>nd</sup> case (Beograd, <u>masculine</u> noun, 1 <sup>st</sup> case, means <b>Belgrade</b> )
(5)	Radim svaki dan <u>do ponoći</u> I work every day till midnight	<b>do</b> – till, until	ponoći– 2 <sup>nd</sup> case (ponoć, <u>feminine</u> noun, 1 <sup>st</sup> case, means <b>midnight</b> )
(6)	Ja obično čitam <u>posle večere</u> I usually read after dinner	<b>posle</b> – after	večere– 2 <sup>nd</sup> case (večera, <u>feminine</u> noun, 1 <sup>st</sup> case, means <b>dinner</b> )

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## VOCABULARY

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<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>	
<b>raditi</b>	<i>to work</i>	<i>verb</i>
<b>putovati</b>	<i>to travel</i>	<i>verb</i>
<b>odmarati</b>	<i>to rest</i>	<i>verb</i>
<b>čitati</b>	<i>to read</i>	<i>verb</i>
<b>jutro</b>	<i>morning</i>	<i>noun, neuter</i>
<b>dan</b>	<i>day</i>	<i>noun, masculine</i>
<b>veče</b>	<i>evening</i>	<i>noun, neuter</i>
<b>noć</b>	<i>night</i>	<i>noun, feminine</i>
<b>ponoć</b>	<i>midnight</i>	<i>noun, feminine</i>
<b>podne</b>	<i>noon</i>	<i>noun, neuter</i>
<b>doručak</b>	<i>breakfast</i>	<i>noun, masculine</i>
<b>ručak</b>	<i>lunch</i>	<i>noun, masculine</i>
<b>večera</b>	<i>dinner</i>	<i>noun, feminine</i>
<b>užina</b>	<i>snack</i>	<i>noun, feminine</i>
<b>Njujork</b>	<i>New York</i>	<i>noun, masculine</i>
<b>Beograd</b>	<i>Belgrade</i>	<i>noun, masculine</i>
<b>Srbija</b>	<i>Serbia</i>	<i>noun, feminine</i>
<b>pozdrav</b>	<i>greeting</i>	<i>noun, masculine</i>
<b>obično</b>	<i>usually</i>	<i>adverb</i>
<b>svaki</b>	<i>every</i>	<i>pronoun</i>
<b>od</b>	<i>from</i>	<i>preposition</i>
<b>do</b>	<i>until, till; to</i>	<i>preposition</i>
<b>iz</b>	<i>from</i>	<i>preposition</i>
<b>pre</b>	<i>before</i>	<i>preposition</i>
<b>posle</b>	<i>after</i>	<i>preposition</i>

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## LESSON EXAMPLES

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<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>svaki dan</b>	<i>every day</i>
<b>od jutra</b>	<i>from morning</i>
<b>do jutra</b>	<i>until morning</i>
<b>pre ručka</b>	<i>before lunch</i>
<b>pre doručka</b>	<i>before breakfast</i>
<b>posle večere</b>	<i>after dinner</i>
<b>od Njujorka</b>	<i>from New York</i>
<b>do Njujorka</b>	<i>to New York</i>
<b>iz Njujorka</b>	<i>from New York</i>
<b>od Srbije</b>	<i>from Serbia</i>
<b>do Srbije</b>	<i>to Serbia</i>
<b>iz Srbije</b>	<i>from Serbia</i>
<b>do kasno</b>	<i>tnill/till late</i>

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## PRACTICE

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### EXERCISE #1

Translate into Serbian:

#	<i>English</i>	<i>Serbian</i>
1.	Greetings from New York ( <i>example</i> )	Pozdrav is Njujorka
2.	I am traveling from the village	
3.	He usually rests after dinner	
4.	They are traveling from America to Serbia	
5.	We are from New York	
6.	You are traveling from Belgrade to the village	

#	English	Serbian
7.	She usually reads before breakfast	

## EXERCISE #2

**Underline and bold the nouns in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case, write them in the 1<sup>st</sup> case, identify their gender, and translate these sentences into English:**

#	Sentences	Preposition	2 <sup>nd</sup> case / 1 <sup>st</sup> case
(1)	<i>Ti obično čitaš <u>pre večere</u> (example)</i> <i>You usually read before dinner</i>	<b>pre - before</b>	(večere–2 <sup>nd</sup> case ) <i>večera, 1<sup>st</sup> case,</i> <i>noun, feminine</i> <i>(example)</i>
(2)	<i>Marija putuje od Srbije do Amerike</i> <i>Maria is traveling from Serbia to America</i>		
(3)	<i>Stiven je iz Njujorka</i> <i>Steven is from New York</i>		
(4)	<i>Mi smo iz Evrope</i> <i>We are from Europe</i>		
(5)	<i>Ja radim do kasno</i> <i>I work until late</i>		
(6)	<i>Pozdrav iz Amerike</i> <i>Greetings from America</i>		
(7)	<i>Oni putuju od novog sela do lepog mora</i> <i>They are traveling from the new village to the beautiful sea</i>		

# ANSWER KEY

## EXERCISE #1

(The answer is underlined and in bold)

Translate into Serbian:

#	English	Serbian
1.	Greetings from New York ( <i>example</i> )	Pozdrav iz Njujorka
2.	I am traveling from the village	<b><u>Ja putujem iz sela</u></b>
3.	He usually rests after dinner	<b><u>On obično odmara posle večere</u></b>
4.	They are traveling from America to Serbia	<b><u>Oni putuju od Amerike do Srbije</u></b>
5.	We are from New York	<b><u>Mi smo iz Njujorka</u></b>
6.	You are traveling from Belgrade to the village	<b><u>Ti putuješ od Beograda do sela</u></b>
7.	She usually reads before breakfast	<b><u>Ona obično čita pre doručka</u></b>

## EXERCISE #2

(The answer is underlined and in bold)

**Underline and bold the nouns in the 2<sup>nd</sup> case, write them in the 1<sup>st</sup> case, identify their gender, and translate these sentences into English:**

#	Sentences	preposition	noun
(1)	<i>Ti obično čitaš <b><u>pre večere</u></b> (<i>example</i>)</i> <i>You usually read before dinner</i>	<b><u>pre</u></b> - before	<b><u>(večere–2<sup>nd</sup> case)</u></b> <b><u>večera, 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun,</u></b> <b><u>feminine</u></b>
(2)	<i>Marija putuje <b><u>od Srbije do Amerike</u></b></i>	<b><u>od</u></b> – from	<b><u>(Srbije– 2<sup>nd</sup> case)</u></b>

	<i>Maria is traveling from Serbia to America</i>	<b>do</b> – to	<b>(Srbija, 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun, feminine)</b> <b>(Amerike–2<sup>nd</sup> case)</b> <b>Amerika, 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun, feminine</b>
(3)	<i>Stiven je <b>iz Njujorka</b></i> <i>Steven is from New York</i>	<b>iz</b> – from	<b>(Njujorka–2<sup>nd</sup> case)</b> <b>Njujork, 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun, masculine</b>
(4)	<i>Mi smo <b>iz Evrope</b></i> <i>We are from Europe</i>	<b>iz</b> – from	<b>(Evrope–2<sup>nd</sup> case)</b> <b>Evropa, 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun feminine)</b>
(5)	<i>Ja radim <b>do kasno</b></i> <i>I work until late.</i>	<b>do</b> – until	<b>kasno – adverb</b>
(6)	<i>Pozdrav <b>iz Amerike</b></i> <i>Greetings from America</i>	<b>iz</b> – from	<b>(Amerike–2<sup>nd</sup> case)</b> <b>Amerika – 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun, feminine</b>
(7)	<i>Oni putuju <b>od novog sela do lepog mora</b></i> <i>They are traveling from the new village to the beautiful sea</i>	<b>od</b> – from <b>do</b> – to	<b>(novog sela–2<sup>nd</sup> case)</b> <b>novo selo – 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun phrase (adjective &amp; noun), neuter;</b> <b>(lepog mora– 2<sup>nd</sup> case)</b> <b>lepo more – 1<sup>st</sup> case, noun phrase (adjective &amp; noun) neuter</b>

Great job! Čao, drugari!