



# STUDY GUIDE

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## serbian

language podcast

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**LESSON 07**

GRAMMAR  
VOCABULARY  
PRACTICE  
ANSWER KEY

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# GRAMMAR

## ORDINAL NUMBERS 1-10

In this lesson we are going to learn **ordinal numbers** from 1 to 10 and learn how to say *first, second, third* and so on in Serbian.

**The ordinal numbers** tell us **the order of things**; they show **the position or the rank of something**: *first, second, third*, and so on. To understand ordinal numbers in Serbian you need to know that they **reflect gender**. Serbian language distinguishes **3 genders** (*masculine, feminine and neuter*) and nouns, pronouns, adjectives and some numbers in Serbian reflect this. In the case of **ordinal numbers, they have 3 forms, each for one gender**. Now let's learn all 3 forms at the same time and then we will look at some examples and explain why and how you can use them.

English	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
first	<i>prvi</i>	<i>prva</i>	<i>prvo</i>
second	<i>drugi</i>	<i>druga</i>	<i>drugo</i>
third	<i>treći</i>	<i>treća</i>	<i>treće</i>
fourth	<i>četvrti</i>	<i>četvrta</i>	<i>četvrto</i>
fifth	<i>peti</i>	<i>peta</i>	<i>peto</i>
sixth	<i>šesti</i>	<i>šesta</i>	<i>šesto</i>
seventh	<i>sedmi</i>	<i>sedma</i>	<i>sedmo</i>
eighth	<i>osmi</i>	<i>osma</i>	<i>osmo</i>
ninth	<i>deveti</i>	<i>deveta</i>	<i>deveto</i>
tenth	<i>deseti</i>	<i>deseta</i>	<i>deseto</i>

You will notice that all **masculine** forms end in **-i**, all **feminine** forms end in **-a** and all **neuter** forms end in **-o**, except the number 3, it ends in **-e**.

For examples:

- *prvi sin* (first son)
- *prva ćerka* (first daughter)
- *prvo dete* (first child)

**Numbers** in **masculine** form, like our example *prvi*, go with **masculine nouns**, like the noun *sin* (son).

**Numbers** in **feminine** form, like our example *prva*, go with **feminine nouns**, like the noun *ćerka* (daughter).

**Numbers** in **neuter** form, like our example *prvo*, go with **neuter nouns**, like the noun *dete* (child).

This is how Serbian language works, there needs to be a **gender agreement between words**, in this case between the number and the noun it refers to. They also **need to agree in number** – the numbers and nouns are all singular.

In the example of *prvi sin*, the noun *sin* (son) is a **masculine** noun in Serbian, and like most masculine nouns it ends in a **consonant**. We see the consonant **-n** here. The number always needs to agree with the word that it is referring to, in this case this is the noun *sin* (son). So, we say *prvi sin* (first son) and both the number and the noun are masculine.

In the example of *prva ćerka*, the noun *ćerka* (daughter) is a **feminine** noun in Serbian, and like most feminine nouns it ends in **-a**. We see the **-a** ending here. We know that the number always needs to agree with the word that is referring to, in this case this is the noun *ćerka* (daughter). So, we say *prva ćerka* (first daughter) and both the number and the noun are feminine.

In the example of *prvo dete*, the noun *dete* (child) is a **neuter** noun in Serbian and like most neuter nouns it ends in **-e**. Neuter nouns in Serbian can also end in **-o**. We see the **-e** ending here. We know that the number always needs to agree with the word that it is referring to, in this case this is the noun *dete* (child). So, we say *prvo dete* (first child) and both the number and the noun are neuter.

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The same goes for all other ordinal numbers in Serbian – they all have three forms: *masculine, feminine and neuter*. Now, let's look at some examples of ordinal numbers in a sentence and let's learn how we can use them.

We use ordinal numbers to say a [date](#).

For example:

*Danas je prvi maj. Today is May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Sutra je osmi april. Tomorrow is April 8<sup>th</sup>.*

We've used the *masculine* form of the number in these two examples (*prvi* and *osmi*), because both numbers refer to a masculine noun - *maj* and *april*. It's useful to know that *months of the year are masculine nouns in Serbian*, all 12 of them. So, with them, you will always use a masculine form of the ordinal number. Both nouns, *maj* and *april*, end in a consonant (*maj* ends in *-J* and *april* ends in *-L*) and this is how we can tell if a noun is masculine or not. This is true 90% of the time.

We use ordinal numbers to point out an [order](#) in which something has happened.

For example:

*On je prvi - He is first*

*On je drugi - He is second*

Let's say a man is waiting in line and you want to say *He is first. On je prvi.* (*On* is *he* and *je* means *is*). Or if the man is second in line, you would say *He is second. On je drugi.* *Prvi* and *drugi* both have *-i* ending, which is indicative of a *masculine* gender, because both numbers (*prvi* and *drugi*) refer to the masculine pronoun *on* (*he*).

*Ona je prva. She is first.*

*Ona je druga. She is second.*

Let's say the person waiting in line is a woman and you want to say *She is first*. *Ona je prva*. (*Ona* is *she* and *je* means *is*). Or if the woman is second in line, you would say *She is second*. *Ona je druga*. *Prva* and *druga* both have **-A** endings which is indicative of a **feminine gender** because both numbers (*prva* and *druga*) refer to a feminine pronoun *ona* (*she*). The pronoun *ona* also has the **-a** ending like most feminine nouns in Serbian.

*Dete je prvo - The child is first*

*Ono je prvo - It is first*

*Ono je drugo - It is second*

*Ovo je moje treće dete - This is my third child*

Let's say there is a child waiting in line and you want to say *The child is first* or *It is first*, since the word *child* is neuter in Serbian. You would say *Dete je prvo* or *Ono je prvo*. (*Ono* is *it* and *je* means *is*). Or if the child is second in line, you would say *It is second*. *Ono je drugo*. *Prvo* and *drugo* both have **-o** endings which is indicative of a neuter gender because both numbers (*prvo* and *drugo*) refer to a neuter pronoun *ono* (*it*). The pronoun *ono* also has the **-o** ending like most neuter nouns in Serbian. Some neuter nouns can have an **-e** ending. When talking about children, we want to use ordinal numbers in the neuter form because the word *child*, in Serbian *dete*, is neuter, which means the numbers need to have the **-o** ending, or in the case of number 3 we have the **-e** ending. *Ovo je moje treće dete*. *This is my third child*. Remember, neuter words can end in **-o** or **-e**. *Treće* is the ordinal number in neuter form and it refers to a neuter noun *dete* (*child*). Both the number and the noun are **neuter gender** and they have the **-e** ending.

A quick note regarding the gender category in Serbian. There is a **natural gender** (for *people* and *animals*, for example – all *living things* so to say) and a **grammatical gender** (for all other things – *things that are not alive* like *inanimate objects*). *Men* for example are **naturally masculine** in terms of **gender** because they are males. *Women* are **naturally feminine** because they are *females* and *children* and *baby animals* are **naturally neuter** gender. All things that surround us, man-made objects, planets in our solar system, abstract ideas, concepts, they all have **a grammatical gender**. If a word (noun, pronoun etc.) ends in a *consonant* it is usually **masculine**. If a word ends in *-a*, it is usually **feminine**. And if a word ends in *-o* or *-e*, it is usually **neuter**. This is true 90% of the time.

Using numbers in Serbian is impossible without knowing how gender category affects words. If a number refers to a noun for example, we first determine the gender of that noun and then use the proper number form (masculine, feminine or neuter) because **numbers need to agree in gender with the word that they are referring to**.

## VOCABULARY

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>redni brojevi</b>	<i>ordinal numbers</i>
<b>prvi, prva, prvo</b>	<i>first</i>
<b>drugi, druga, drugo</b>	<i>second</i>
<b>treći, treća, treće</b>	<i>third</i>
<b>četvrti, četvrta, četvrto</b>	<i>fourth</i>
<b>peti, peta, peto</b>	<i>fifth</i>
<b>šesti, šesta, šesto</b>	<i>sixth</i>
<b>sedmi, sedma, sedmo</b>	<i>seventh</i>
<b>osmi, osma, osmo</b>	<i>eighth</i>

<i>deveti, deveta, deveto</i>	<i>ninth</i>
<i>deseti, deseta, deseto</i>	<i>tenth</i>
<i>sin</i>	<i>son</i>
<i>ćerka</i>	<i>daughter</i>
<i>dete</i>	<i>child</i>
<i>deca</i>	<i>children</i>
<i>danas</i>	<i>today</i>
<i>sutra</i>	<i>tomorrow</i>
<i>april</i>	<i>April</i>
<i>maj</i>	<i>May</i>

## LESSON EXAMPLES

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>On je prvi</b>	<i>He is first</i>
<b>Ona je prva</b>	<i>She is first</i>
<b>Ono je prvo</b>	<i>It is first</i>
<b>On je treći</b>	<i>He is third</i>
<b>Ona je treća</b>	<i>She is third</i>
<b>Ono je treće</b>	<i>It is third</i>
<b>prvi sin</b>	<i>first son</i>
<b>prva ćerka</b>	<i>first daughter</i>
<b>prvo dete</b>	<i>first child</i>
<b>drugi sin</b>	<i>second son</i>
<b>druga ćerka</b>	<i>second daughter</i>
<b>drugo dete</b>	<i>second child</i>
<b>Danas je prvi maj</b>	<i>Today is May 1<sup>st</sup></i>
<b>Sutra je osmi april</b>	<i>Tomorrow is April 8<sup>th</sup></i>

# PRACTICE

## EXERCISE #1

Translate into English and determine the gender:

#	Serbian	Gender	English
1.	peti	masculine	fifth (example)
2.	sedma		
3.	drugo		
4.	osmo		
5.	šesta		

## EXERCISE #2

Translate into Serbian and pay attention to the gender:

#	English	Serbian
1.	tenth masculine	deseti (example)
2.	first neuter	
3.	third feminine	
4.	fourth neuter	
5.	ninth masculine	

## EXERCISE #3

Translate into Serbian:

#	English	Serbian
1.	first house	prva kuća (example)
2.	third computer	
3.	fifth tree	
4.	tenth book	
5.	eighth sea	



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## EXCERCISE #4

Translate into Serbian:

#	English	Serbian
1.	Today is December 9 <sup>th</sup> .	<i>Danas je deveti decembar (example)</i>
2.	Tomorrow is February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
3.	Today is May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
4.	Tomorrow is October 1 <sup>st</sup>	

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## ANSWER KEY

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### EXCERCISE #1

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Translate into English and determine the gender:

#	Serbian	gender	English
1.	peti	<i>masculine</i>	<i>fifth (example)</i>
2.	sedma	<b><u>feminine</u></b>	<b><u>seventh</u></b>
3.	drugo	<b><u>neuter</u></b>	<b><u>second</u></b>
4.	osmo	<b><u>neuter</u></b>	<b><u>eighth</u></b>
5.	šesta	<b><u>feminine</u></b>	<b><u>sixth</u></b>

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## EXERCISE #2

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Translate into Serbian and pay attention to the gender:

#	English	Serbian
1.	tenth masculine	<i>deseti (example)</i>
2.	first neuter	<b><u>prvo</u></b>
3.	third feminine	<b><u>treća</u></b>
4.	fourth neuter	<b><u>četvrto</u></b>
5.	ninth masculine	<b><u>deveti</u></b>

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## EXERCISE #3

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Translate into Serbian:

#	English	Serbian
1.	first house	<i>prva kuća (example)</i>
2.	third computer	<b>treći kompjuter</b>
3.	fifth tree	<b>peto drvo</b>
4.	tenth book	<b>deseta knjiga</b>
5.	eighth sea	<b>osmo more</b>

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## EXERCISE #4

*(The answer is in bold)*

Translate into Serbian:

#	English	Serbian
1.	Today is December 9 <sup>th</sup> .	<i>Danas je deveti decembar (example)</i>
2.	Tomorrow is February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sutra je drugi februar</b>
3.	Today is May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b><u>Danas je treći maj</u></b>
4.	Tomorrow is October 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>Sutra je prvi oktobar</u></b>

Odlično! Samo tako nastavite!