



# STUDY GUIDE

Learn Serbian. Have fun.

## serbian

language podcast

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**LESSON 84**

GRAMMAR  
VOCABULARY  
PRACTICE  
ANSWER KEY

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# GRAMMAR

## IMPERATIVE

Today we are going to learn how to give commands and directions in Serbian. If you wanted to tell someone to *Sit down!* or to *Go straight!* how would you say that? Well, you will have to know how to use Imperative in Serbian.

It's important to note that imperative in Serbian is not a verb tense like the present tense, or past tense. Imperative is a mood. In short, a tense refers to time (present, past or future time/action), whereas a mood refers to a manner of expression (a wish or a command). A mood tells us the tone of the sentence, whereas a verb tense tells us the time of the action being done. Today we are going to focus on imperative and how to give commands and provide directions in Serbian.

## IMPERATIVE - USAGE

It's important that we understand why and how it's used. It's primarily used to give commands or orders, to provide instruction and give directions. In every day usage, the imperative is used for:

- ✓ giving directions *i.e. Go straight and make a left!*
- ✓ for detailed instructions when cooking or baking *i.e. Add 2 cups of flour!*
- ✓ for warnings *i.e. Watch out!*
- ✓ for prohibitions *i.e. Don't do that!*
- ✓ for polite requests *i.e. Please, do this for me!*

Imperative can be used only for the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular *ti*, 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural *vi*, and 1<sup>st</sup> person plural *mi*. You can't really give commands to yourself (1<sup>st</sup> person singular *ja*) or to people who are not present (3<sup>rd</sup> person singular and plural).

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## IMPERATIVE – FORMATION

Imperative can be made in a few ways, one of them is by using the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of any verb in Present Tense and the Imperative endings. This is what we are going to learn today.

### IMPERATIVE ENDINGS

For the verbs that end in a vowel like *-e* or *-u* in 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Present Tense, the endings *-i*, *-imo*, *-ite* are added. For the verbs that end in *-ju* in 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Present Tense, the endings *-j*, *-jmo*, *-jte* are added.

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*For verbs whose 3<sup>rd</sup> p.p. ends in a vowel*

#	Singular	Plural
1.	/	<b>-imo</b>
2.	<b>-i</b>	<b>-ite</b>
3.	/	/

*For verbs whose 3<sup>rd</sup> p.p. ends in -ju*

#	Singular	Plural
1.	/	<b>-jmo</b>
2.	<b>-j</b>	<b>-jte</b>
3.	/	/

The Imperative endings are added to the verb stem after the ending for Present Tense for 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural has been removed. Let's learn by example!

Take the verb *otvoriti* - *to open* as an example. The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of *otvoriti* in Present Tense is *otvore* (as in *oni otvore they open*). Since this is a verb whose 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Present Tense ends in a vowel which is *-e* the following endings will be used to make the Imperative: *-i, -imo, -ite*. To form Imperative, we first need to remove *e* (the ending for the Present Tense) to get the verb stem *otvor*. To this stem we then add the endings for Imperative.

So, with our verb stem *otvor* we can now give the command:

- to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular: *otvor + i = otvori* *i.e. Otvori prozor! Open the window! (meaning: You open the window!)*
- to the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural: *otvor + imo = otvorimo* *i.e. Otvorimo vrata sada! Open the door now! (meaning: We (all) open the door now!)*
- to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural: *otvor + ite = otvorite* *i.e. Otvorite kutiju odmah! Open the box immediately! (meaning: All of you open the box immediately!)*

Take the verb *dati* - *to give* as an example. The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of *dati* in Present Tense is *daju* (as in *oni daju they give*). Since this is a verb whose 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Present Tense ends in *-ju* the following endings will be used to make the Imperative: *-j, -jmo, -jte*. To form Imperative, we first need to remove *-ju* (the ending for the Present Tense) to get the verb stem *da*. To this stem we then add the endings for Imperative.

So, with our verb stem *da* we can now give the command:

- to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular: *da + j = daj* *i.e. Daj mi! Give me!*
- to the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural: *da + jmo = dajmo* *i.e. Dajmo im vremena! Let's give them time!*
- to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural: *da + jte = dajte* *i.e. Dajte mi malo vode! Give me some water!*

Let's try this on another example, the verb *to listen slušati*:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of *slušati* in Present Tense is *slušaju* (as in *oni slušaju they listen*). Since this is a verb whose 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Present Tense ends in *-ju* the following endings will be used to make the Imperative: *-j, -jmo, -jte*. To form Imperative, we first need to remove *-ju* (the ending for the Present Tense) to get the verb stem *sluša*. To this stem we then add the endings for Imperative.

So, with our verb stem *sluša* we can now give the command:

- to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular: *sluša + j = slušaj i.e. Slušaj! Listen! Or Listen up!*
- to the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural: *sluša + jmo = slušajmo i.e. Slušamo ovu pesmu! Let's listen to this song!*
- to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural: *sluša + jte = slušajte i.e. Slušajte me svi sada! Everybody listen to me now!*

To give command to the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular (*he, she or it*) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural (*them*) you can use the word **NEKA** with a verb in Present Tense. If you want to give a command and say *Tell them to buy that!* You would use the word *neka* which loosely translates to *tell* or *let them* follow by the verb in Present tense. In this case this is *kupe*. So to say *Tell them to buy that*, we would say *Neka kupe to*.

If you wanted to give a command to a child and say *Tell him not to do that!* you would say *Neka ne radi to.*

*To do* in Serbian is *raditi*. Because we are giving a command to a child (*he*) and *he* is a personal pronoun for 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular we need to use the word *neka* with a negation of the verb in Present Tense for 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular which is *ne radi*. That is how we get *Neka ne radi to* which means *Tell him not to do that!*

## VOCABULARY

<i>Serbian</i>	<i>English</i>
<b>otvoriti</b>	<i>to open</i>
<b>dati</b>	<i>to give</i>
<b>slušati</b>	<i>to listen to</i>
<b>kupiti</b>	<i>to buy</i>
<b>paziti</b>	<i>to watch out</i>
<b>sesti</b>	<i>to sit down</i>
<b>dodati</b>	<i>to add</i>
<b>prozor</b>	<i>window</i>
<b>vrata</b>	<i>door</i>
<b>kutija</b>	<i>box</i>
<b>odmah</b>	<i>immediately</i>
<b>sada</b>	<i>now</i>
<b>šolja</b>	<i>cup</i>

brašno	flour
pravo	straight
levo	left

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## LESSON EXAMPLES

Serbian	English
Otvori prozor!	(You) Open the window!
Otvorimo vrata!	(We) Open the door!
Otvorite kutiju!	(All of you) Open the box!
Daj!	(You) Give!
Neka kupi to!	Tell him/her to buy that! or Let him/her buy that!

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## PRACTICE

### EXERCISE #1

Use the appropriate form of the verb and make Imperative:

#### 1) the verb UČITI (to study)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b>Uči!</b> (example)
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	

#### 2) the verb DATI (to give)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	

#	Person	Imperative
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	

### 3) the verb SLUŠATI (to listen)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	

### 4) the verb RADITI (to work)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	

### 5) the verb GLEDATI (to watch)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	

### 6) the verb ČITATI (to read)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	



#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	

## EXERCISE #2

Make Imperative in Serbian by using the word NEKA:

#	English	Imperative
1.	Tell him to read!	<i>Naka (on) čita! (example)</i>
2.	Tell her to read!	
3.	Tell them to read!	
4.	Tell him to listen!	
5.	Tell her to listen!	
6.	Tell them to listen!	
7.	Tell him to watch!	
8.	Tell her to watch!	
9.	Tell them to watch!	

## ANSWER KEY

### EXERCISE #1

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

Use the appropriate form of the verb and make imperative:

#### 1) the verb UČITI (to study)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b><u>Uči!</u></b> (example)
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	<b><u>Učimo!</u></b>

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	<b><u>Učite!</u></b>

## 2) the verb DATI (to give)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b><u>Daj!</u></b>
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	<b><u>Dajmo!</u></b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	<b><u>Dajte!</u></b>

## 3) the verb SLUŠATI (to listen)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b><u>Slušaj!</u></b>
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	<b><u>Slušajmo!</u></b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	<b><u>Slušajte!</u></b>

## 4) the verb RADITI (to work)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b><u>Radi!</u></b>
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	<b><u>Radimo!</u></b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	<b><u>Radite!</u></b>

## 5) the verb GLEDATI (to watch)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b><u>Gledaj!</u></b>
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	<b><u>Gledajmo!</u></b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	<b><u>Gledajte!</u></b>

## 6) the verb ČITATI (to read)

#	Person	Imperative
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	<b><u>Čitaj!</u></b>
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	<b><u>Čitajmo!</u></b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	<b><u>Čitajte!</u></b>

## EXERCISE #2

*(The answer is underlined and in bold)*

**Make Imperative in Serbian by using the word NEKA:**

#	English	Imperative
1.	Tell him to read!	<i>Naka (on) čita! (example)</i>
2.	Tell her to read!	<b><u>Neka (ona) čita!</u></b>
3.	Tell them to read!	<b><u>Neka (oni) čitaju!</u></b>
4.	Tell him to listen!	<b><u>Neka (on) sluša!</u></b>
5.	Tell her to listen!	<b><u>Neka (ona) sluša!</u></b>
6.	Tell them to listen!	<b><u>Neka (oni) slušaju!</u></b>
7.	Tell him to watch!	<b><u>Neka (on) gleda!</u></b>
8.	Tell her to watch!	<b><u>Neka (ona) gleda!</u></b>
9.	Tell them to watch!	<b><u>Neka (oni) gledaju!</u></b>

Great job! Odlično!