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MIRJANA DANILOVIĆ

STEP BY STEP SERBIAN

SRPSKI KORAK PO KORAK



KONTRAST

Beograd, 2019.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

STEP-BY-STEP SERBIAN 1 is intended for absolute beginners working on their own or with a teacher. The central purpose of the book is to teach practical language skills so that students feel confident to engage in daily life in Serbia when ordering meals in restaurants, asking for directions, shopping, arranging appointments, understanding notices, travelling around the country, holding simple conversation; in short — to explain what they want and learn how to get it.

The book is a result of over fifteen years of teaching experience. It has been tried on numerous students and adapted to achieve the best results. It is also a product of the author's experience in teaching and learning other languages.

Each unit introduces vocabulary and phrases necessary for everyday life in the country. It also gradually introduces grammar concepts, providing an understanding of how the language works. Since the focus of the book is a practical use of the language, the initial units are created according to the immediate needs of somebody who has come to live and work in Serbia. As a result, the first language concepts exceed the grammar rules that are introduced later in the book.

The book follows the communicative method of learning languages, which means that each grammar pattern that is introduced, finds its purpose in immediate, practical conversation. The subjects of conversation are real, close to simple interaction with native speakers, such as talking about family, personal likes and dislikes, daily routine, habits, making plans, discovering the country, etc. The book follows one main character that represents the needs of most foreigners living and working in Serbia. The situations that he encounters are realistic and correspond with contemporary Serbian society.

The book is organised so that each unit introduces:

- core vocabulary and phrases to be acquired
- text followed by questions as a basis for simple conversation
- dialogue that contains set colloquial phrases
- simplified grammar explanations
- role-plays and conversational exercises
- grammar exercises and translations from English into Serbian

The book is divided into seven steps and each one revises vocabulary and grammar introduced in the previous units. The first steps are more directed towards acquiring useful phrases and vocabulary and the latter on grammar skills. By the seventh step, one should have attained the 'survival language' and feel confident in predictable everyday situations, hold simple conversations in Serbian, while having developed the taste for further learning. Approximately one hundred hours of teaching/working is needed to 'conquer' this book.

The texts in the book are written in both alphabets, Latin and Cyrillic. It is intended for English speaking students, so the Latin alphabet is a more familiar and easier script to begin with. However, the Cyrillic alphabet is necessary when living in Serbia, particularly to be able to read notices and street signs. Experience has shown that mixing the two is often counterproductive so the texts in different alphabets are in separate parts of the book. That way they are used as practice in reading both scripts and also as revision material for the lessons previously introduced.

I thank Carol Kiernan who proofread the English texts, Tanja Uskoković for her beautiful illustrations and Miloš Trajković for making this book look attractive. I am grateful to Pavle Ćosić, my first publisher, who provided valuable help and support. My thanks go to many others who helped at different stages of the book's development, especially my students whose feedback convinced me that the book really works and should be accessible to others willing to learn or teach the language.

Mirjana Danilović

HOW TO READ & *write* SERBIAN (LATIN ALPHABET)

SERBIAN IS AN EASY LANGUAGE TO SPELL and pronounce. It follows phonetic principle — every letter represents only one sound. In Serbian you ‘write as you speak and read as it is written.’ To make it simple, here is an example: if your name happens to be Christopher, Serbs would write it as Kristofer. They could hear nine separate sounds so they would write nine letters that represent them. Sometimes they would not shorten the word, but make it longer; in the word taxi they hear t-a-k-s-i and they write taksi. That is how Harry Potter becomes Hari Poter and George Bush — Džordž Buš, Mary is Meri and Simon is Sajmon.

There are two alphabets in use — Latin and Cyrillic. Both the Latin and the Cyrillic alphabets contain 30 letters to represent 30 sounds. We will begin with the introduction of the Latin alphabet. It is given bellow and explained through corresponding English sounds.

| Letters | English equivalent | Pronounced as in | Practice words |
|---------|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| A a | A | Father | Atom |
| B b | B | Bed | Balet |
| C c | Ts | Bits | Centar |
| Č č | Ch (hard) | Check | Ček |
| Ć ć | Ch (soft) | Endings of Serbian surnames - Popovi ć , Simi ć | Ćilim (<i>kilim</i>) |
| D d | D | Doctor | Dunav (<i>Danube</i>) |
| Dž dž | J | John | Džez (<i>jazz</i>) |
| Đ đ | D | Georgia | Đorđe |
| E e | E | Men | Eksport (<i>export</i>) |
| F f | F | Fish | Fakultet (<i>faculty</i>) |
| G g | G | Good | Grad (<i>town</i>) |
| H h | H | Hot | Hotel |
| I i | Ee | Need | Import |
| J j | Y | You | Jugoslavija |
| K k | K | Kind | Kilogram |
| L l | L | London | Lampa |
| Lj lj | L (soft) | Million | Ljiljana |
| M m | M | Moon | Motor |
| N n | N | Not | Novi Sad |
| Nj nj | N (soft) | New | Njujork (<i>New York</i>) |
| O o | O | Or | Olga |
| P p | P | Pen | Papir (<i>paper</i>) |
| R r | R | Room | Restoran |
| S s | S | Son | Sport |
| Š š | Sh | Shoe | Šok (<i>shock</i>) |
| T t | T | Top | Tenis |
| U u | Oo | Book | Unija (<i>union</i>) |
| V v | V | Very | Vladimir |
| Z z | Z | Zoo | Zebra |
| Ž ž | S | Pleasure | Žirafa (<i>giraffe</i>) |

PRONUNCIATION AND READING

Dž Džon
Džin

Lj Ljubljana
Ljiljana

Nj Njujork
Njutn

Č Čile
Čaplin

Ć Ćirilica
Ćilim

Đ Đenova
Đokonda

Š Šekspir
Šagal

Ž Ženeva
Žak

C Cejlon
Crnogorac

G Goja
Glazgov

H Holandija
Havaji

J Japan
Jukatan

R Rim
Rotterdam

YOU ALREADY UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

adresa
analiza
anatomija
antika
arhitekta
atom
avantura
balet
biber
bilion
car
centar
doktor
džem
džins
džungla
ekologija
ekspedicija
elektrika

energija
evolucija
faks
fizika
fotografija
fudbal
gas
generacija
hemija
hit
humor
ideja
ikona
imitacija
istorija
kakao
kilogram
kilometar
kiosk

koncert
lampa
laboratorija
lokal
maj
magazin
matematika
metar
more
motor
muzej
nervozan
objekat
orkestar
papir
pasoš
politika
princip
program

rakija
rasizam
seks
sport
stil
stres
student
talenat
tiket
trolejbus
turista
vikend
čevapčić
čokolada
šampion
škola
šok
žirafa

Unit 1

GREETINGS AND MAIN PHRASES

DOBRO JUTRO

DOBAR DAN

DOBRO VEČE

ZDRAVO

DOVIĐENJA

LAKU NOĆ

MOLIM

IZVOLITE

HVALA

IZVINITE

PRIJATNO

KAKO STE?

NIJE LOŠE

HVALA, DOBRO

VRLO DOBRO

KAKO SI?

DA VAS UPOZNAM, OVO JE....

DRAGO MI JE.

GOVORITE LI SRPSKI?

GOVORIM

NE GOVORIM

GOVORIM MALO

DA LI GOVORITE ENGLISKI?

RAZUMETE LI....?

RAZUMEM

NE RAZUMEM

UČIM SRPSKI.

MOLIM VAS, PONOVI TE.

AT THE AIRPORT

NA AERODROMU

Pasoška kontrola

- Dobro jutro!
- Dobro jutro! Vaš pasoš, molim.
- Izvolite.
- Vi ste gospodin Bond?
- Da, ja sam Stiv Bond.
- Vi ste turista?
- Ne, ja sam biznismen.
- Vaša adresa u Beogradu?
- Hotel 'Metropol'.
- Izvolite pasoš.
- Hvala.

Susret sa gospodom Jovanović

- Izvinite, da li ste vi gospodin Bond?
- Da, ja sam Stiv Bond.
- Ja sam Ljiljana Jovanović.
- Drago mi je.
- Vi ste Englez?
- Da, ja sam Englez.
- Dobro govorite srpski!
- Hvala.



CC-SA ELUVETIE, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kasnije...

- Dobar dan.
- Dobar dan. Da vas upoznam. Ovo je gospoda Jovanović.
- Drago mi je. Ja sam Žak Gava.
- Gospoda Jovanović je moj biznis partner.
- Gospodine Gava, da li govorite srpski?
- Govorim malo. Učim srpski.
- Koji jezik govorite?
- Govorim francuski i engleski.

Još kasnije...

- Dobro veče, Stiv. Kako ste?
- Dobro veče. Ja sam dobro, hvala. A kako ste vi?
- Dobro sam, hvala. Da vas upoznam. Ovo je moj muž Jovan.
- Drago mi je. Da li govorite engleski?
- Razumem mnogo ali govorim malo.

KEY PHRASES

Ask who people are.

Say who you are.

Ask how someone is.

Reply that you are fine.

*Ask what language people speak,
or understand.*

*Say what language you speak,
or understand.*

Respond when being introduced.

Introduce others.

Respond when meeting people.

Say goodbye.

Da li ste vi...?/ Vi ste...?

Ja sam...

Kako ste?/ Kako si?

Ja sam dobro. /Dobro sam.

Da li govorite? Govorite li....?

Da li razumete/Razumete li...

Govorim.... Razumem...

Drago mi je. Ja sam....

Da vas upoznam. Ovo je....

Dobro jutro.

Dobar dan.

Dobro veče.

Doviđenja. Laku noć.