

## Serbian Interrogative Pronouns (Upitne zamenice)

Interrogative pronouns are used when you want to ask a question, as in: *Ko dolazi?* "Who is coming?" *Šta je ovo?* "What is that?" We use both **ko** 'who' and **šta** 'what' to ask questions about a person and about a thing.

As you probably know by now, in Serbian, interrogative pronouns have six different case forms: [nominative](#), [accusative](#), [genitive](#), [dative](#), [locative](#), [instrumental](#). We use a specific case depending on whether we are asking about an object, subject, object of a preposition, etc.

**Table 1: Declension of Serbian Interrogative Pronouns: ko and šta**

SINGULAR	ko 'who' – asking about persons	šta 'what' – asking about things
Nominative	<b>ko</b>	<b>šta, što</b>
Accusative	<b>koga, kog</b>	<b>čega, čeg</b>
Genitive	<b>koga, kog</b>	<b>šta, što</b>
Dative	<b>kome, kom</b>	<b>čemu</b>
Locative	<b>kome, kom</b>	<b>čemu</b>
Instrumental	<b>kime, kim</b>	<b>čime, čim</b>

**Table 2: Some examples of interrogative pronouns ko and šta used in sentences**

	Serbian	English (the relevant pronoun is underlined)	Grammatical function of the pronoun in a sentence and its case
1.	<b>Ko</b> je ona?	Who is she?	ko = subject (nominative)
2.	<b>Ko</b> su oni.	Who are they.	ko = subject (nominative)
3.	<b>Koga</b> vidiš.	Whom do you see?	koga = object (accusative)
4.	S <b>kime</b> pričaš?	With whom do you talk?	kime = object of preposition (instrumental)
5.	<b>Kome</b> si dao knjigu?	(To) whom did you give book?	kome = indirect object (dative)
6.	<b>Šta</b> je ovo?	What is this?	šta = subject (nominative)
7.	<b>Šta</b> gledaš?	What do you want?	šta = object (accusative)
8.	<b>Čega</b> se plašiš?	What are you afraid of?	čega = object (genitive)
9.	<b>Čemu</b> se nadaš?	What do you hope for?	čemu = object (dative)
10.	<b>Čime</b> putuješ?	How are you traveling?	čime = object (instrumental)

Besides **ko** 'who' and **šta** 'what', there are various other interrogative pronouns:

**Table 3: Other interrogative pronouns**

<b>čiji</b> 'whose'	<b>koliko</b> 'how much'
<b>koji</b> 'which'	<b>koliki</b> 'how big'
<b>koji</b> 'which, who'	<b>kako</b> 'how, what'
<b>kakav</b> 'what kind'	

**Table 4: Some examples of interrogative pronouns used in sentences**

	Serbian	English (the relevant pronoun is underlined)
1.	<b>Čije</b> je to dete?	Whose child is it?
2.	<b>Čiju</b> knjigu su našao?	Whose book did you find?

3.	<b>Koji</b> su to došli?	<u>Who</u> came?
4.	<b>Kakav</b> on ima temperament?	<u>What kind</u> of temper does he have?
5.	<b>Koliko</b> to košta?	<u>How much</u> does that cost?
6.	<b>Kako</b> se zoveš?	<u>What</u> is your name?

Iz stop here continue from this point mention ciji – and cross reference it with possessive pronouns

In addition to interrogative pronouns, there are some interrogative words which function is also to ask a question. These are:

<b>gde</b> 'where'	<b>Gde</b> ideš?	<u>Where</u> are you going?
<b>kuda</b> 'where'	Od <b>kuda</b> dolaziš?	From <u>where</u> are you coming?
<b>kada</b> 'when'	<b>Kada</b> putuješ?	<u>When</u> are you traveling?

You can see how similar in pronunciation **kada** 'when' and **kuda** 'where' is. Try not to mix them up.

In example 8, Daj **nam** vremena, the verb form **daj** 'give' is the [imperative verb form](#).

And now some exercises! If you get stuck or are not sure you got it right, please [email](#) me for help.

In example 10, the clitic genitive pronoun **ih** is used. The [genitive case](#) is used in constructions with **nema** 'there isn't',

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**Exercise 1 – Fill out the appropriate case forms of personal pronouns in sentences below**

Using the pronouns below (underlined in the English gloss) insert their appropriate case forms. For convenience, I have indicated which case of a pronoun goes with which sentence. For this exercise, use both full and short forms of pronouns. Remember that short or clitic pronouns always go in the second place in the sentence.

- |               |               |                 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. genitive   | 4. dative     | 7. instrumental |
| 2. genitive   | 5. nominative | 8. genitive     |
| 3. accusative | 6. nominative | 9. accusative   |

1. Ja se bojim _____	I'm afraid of <u>him</u> .
2. On se setio _____	He remembered <u>me</u> .
3. Marija voli _____	Marija likes <u>them</u> .
4. Dragan je dao ružu _____	Dragan gave a rose to <u>her</u> .
5. _____ su dobri.	<u>They</u> (feminine) are good.
6. _____ su nemirna.	<u>They</u> (neuter) are good.
6. Volim _____	I love <u>you</u> (plural)
7. Marija ide sa _____	Marija is going with <u>me</u> .
8. Zorica stalno sedi pored _____	Zorica always sits by <u>them</u> .
9. Milan stoji uz _____	Milan is standing by <u>her</u> .

**Exercise 2 – Translate the following sentences**

For this exercise you need to know both the [present tense](#) and [past tense](#). If you don't have a bi-directional Serbian-English-Serbian dictionary, you may go to the website: <http://www.krstarica.com/dictionary/> to get the words you need for this exercise.

1.	He played with them. (them – masculine)
2.	They (feminine) don't speak to her.
3.	She and I are going to the store.
4.	They (masculine) gave her a book.
5.	She hates him.
6.	I don't like them.
7.	We see them.
8.	She is singing with me.