

THE SERBIAN FUTURE TENSE (BUDUĆE VREME)

There are three ways to make future tense. Formula 1 is the easiest, Formula 3 is the hardest, but it's the most commonly used. Don't give up! Learn Formula 1 or 2 first and then later tackle Formula 3.

FORMULA 1: PRESENT TENSE OF HTETI 'WANT' + INFINITIVE VERB

The present tense of '**hteti**', meaning 'want' or 'will' is discussed in more details in the section that deals with [present tense of irregular verbs](#). For convenience, below I provide the table of all present tense forms of '**hteti**'. The infinitive verb is the verb that is listed in the dictionary.

Table 1: Present tense of 'hteti' want/will

Person	Short (clitic) forms	Full (non-clitic) forms
Ja (I)	ću	hoću
Ti (you)	ćeš	hoćete
On/ona/ono (he/she/it)	će	hoće
Mi (we)	ćemo	hoćemo
Vi (you)	ćete	hoćete
Oni/one/ona (they)	će	hoće

Note: To make future tense, we need to use clitic (short or unaccented) forms of 'hteti'

Table 2: Examples of future tense using Formula 1

The examples below mean 'I/you/he/... will go'

Person	'hteti'	Infinitive verb ići (go)
Ja (I)	ću	ići
Ti (you)	ćeš	ići
On/ona/ono (he/she/it)	će	ići
Mi (we)	ćemo	ići
Vi (you)	ćete	ići
Oni/one/ona (they)	će	ići

The second way to make the future tense is to add the clitic forms of **'hteti'** to the infinitive stem:

FORMULA 2: INFINITIVE STEM + PRESENT TENSE OF HTETI 'WANT'

Note that this formula is somewhat a reverse of Formula 1, except that we have an infinitive stem, not the whole infinitive verb.

What is the infinitive stem?

Infinitive stem = infinitive verb (what is listed in the dictionary) **minus infinitive ending: - iti/eti/ati.**

Please refer to the [present tense](#) file for more details.

Formula 2 is used only if there is no expressed subject, i.e., the subject of the sentence is omitted. And that happens any time when the subject is a pronoun and it is not emphasized.

Table 3: Examples of future tense using Formula 2

'will stay'	'will work'	'will go'
Ostaću (I'll stay)	Radiću (I'll work)	Idi ću (I'll go)
Ostaćeš (you'll stay)	Radićeš (you'll work)	Idi ćeš (you'll go)
Ostaće (she/he'll stay)	Radiće (she/he'll work)	Idi ćete (s/he'll go)
Ostaćemo (we'll stay)	Radićemo (we'll work)	Idi ćemo (we'll go)
Ostaćete (you'll stay)	Radićete (you'll work)	Idi ćete (you'll go)
Ostaće (they'll stay)	Radiće (they'll work)	Idi će (they'll go)

FORMULA 3:	PRESENT TENSE OF HTETI 'WANT' + DA + PRESENT TENSE OF THE MAIN VERB
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Formula 3 is the most common way of expressing the future tense, since you already need to know how to make the [present tense](#). If this is still hard for you, you may use Formula 1 or 2.

Table 4: Examples of future tense using Formula 3

The example below means 'I/you/he/... will go'

Person	'hteti'	da+present tense of 'ići' (go)
Ja (I)	ću	da idem (to go)
Ti (you)	ćeš	da ideš (to go)
On/ona/ono (he/she/it)	će	da ide (to go)
Mi (we)	ćemo	da idemo (to go)
Vi (you)	ćete	da idete (to go)
Oni/one/ona (they)	će	da idu (to go)

Table 5 below tells you how to say 'I/you/he/... will be' using Formula 3.

Table 5: How to say 'will be' using Formula 3

Person	hteti	Da+present tense of biti
Ja (I)	ću	da budem
Ti (you)	ćeš	da budeš
On/ona/ono (he/she/it)	će	da bude
Mi (we)	ćemo	da budemo
Vi (you)	ćete	da budete
Oni/one/ona (they)	će	da budu

Note that the present tense stem of 'be' is 'bud-'. This is that extra 'be' we discussed in the section about the [present tense of irregular verbs](#).