

THE SERBIAN PAST TENSE (PROŠLO VREME)

The past tense is used:

- i) to describe some action that happened (but not necessarily finished) in the past.

Formation of the past tense:

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| FORMULA: | PRESENT TENSE OF BITI 'TO BE' + PAST PARTICIPLE |
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The present tense of '**biti**' 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 '**biti**'.

Table1: Present tense of **biti 'to be'**

| Person | Short (clitic) forms | Full (non-clitic) forms |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Ja (I) | sam | jesam |
| Ti (you) | si | jesi |
| On/ona/ono (he/she/it) | je | jeste |
| Mi (we) | smo | jesmo |
| Vi (you) | ste | jeste |
| Oni/one/ona (they) | su | jesu |

Note: For past tense formation, you generally use clitic (short or unaccented) forms of '**jesam**'

Table 2: Past participle endings

| Gender | Singular | Plural |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Masculine | -o | -li |
| Feminine | -la | -le |
| Neuter | -lo | -la |

The above past participle endings are added to the infinitive stems to make the past participle.

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.

Table 3: Examples of past tense conjugation of the verb **raditi – 'to work'**

| PERSON | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ja (I) | sam radi o | sam radi la | |
| Ti (you) | si radi o | si radi la | |
| On/ona/ono (he/she/it) | je radi o | je radi la | je radi lo |
| Mi (we) | smo radi li | smo radi le | |
| Vi (you) | ste radi li | ste radi le | |
| Oni/one/ona (they) | su radi li | su radi le | su radi la |