

Serbian prepositions

Unlike nouns, pronouns and adjectives prepositions do not change their form. In linguistic jargon, they are 'undeclinable' or uninflected. So, one less thing to worry about.

The following is an alphabetical list of Serbian prepositions and cases they require on their noun phrase objects (shown as a subscript).

For instance, **bez_{gen}** means that the preposition **bez** 'without' requires a genitive noun that follows it; **nad_{acc,ins}** means that preposition **nad** 'above' requires either a noun in the accusative or the instrumental case. For examples, see Table 2 below.

Please use Table 1 below together with [noun-declension classes](#), to help you choose the right noun case endings after the prepositions.

The abbreviations of cases are as follows:

nom (nominative)	dat (dative)	loc (locative)
gen (genitive)	acc (accusative)	ins (instrumental)

One generalization that can be observed from looking at this table is that majority of the prepositions require genitive case (written in red), and only a few (in green) require other cases. So, if you're not sure what case to use after a preposition, your most probable guess is the [genitive case](#).

Table 1: List of Serbian prepositions and cases they require on their noun objects

Serbian	English	Serbian	English
bez _{gen}	without	pored _{gen}	beside, near
blizu _{gen}	near	posle _{gen}	after
do _{gen}	to, until	posred _{gen}	in the midst, amid
dovrh _{gen}	on top	potkraj _{gen}	at the end of
duž _{gen}	along	poviše _{gen}	above, atop
ispod _{gen}	under	povodom _{gen}	on that account
ispred _{gen}	in front of	povrh _{gen}	above, atop
iz _{gen}	from	pozadi _{gen}	behind
iza _{gen}	behind	pre _{gen}	before
između _{gen}	between	pred _{acc,ins}	before, in front of
iznad _{gen}	above	preko _{gen}	above, over, beyond
izvan _{gen}	outside of, beyond	prema _{dat,loc}	toward, against
k(a) _{dat}	toward	pri _{loc}	at, over, by
kod _{gen}	at	prilikom _{gen}	on the occasion of
kraj _{gen}	by	protiv _{gen}	against
krajem _{gen}	at the end of	put _{gen}	course, way
kroz _{acc}	through	putem _{gen}	by means of, via
među _{acc,ins}	among, between	radi _{gen}	because, for the sake of
mesto _{gen}	instead	s(a) _{gen,ins}	with, by
mimo _{gen}	beyond, outside of	saglasno _{dat}	in accordance with
na _{acc,ins}	on, at	sem _{gen}	except
nad _{acc,ins}	on top of, above, over	shodno _{dat}	in conformity with
nadohvat _{gen}	within the reach of, close to.	silom _{gen}	by force, under compulsion
nadomak _{gen,dat}	near, close to	slično _{gen}	similar, like
nakon _{gen}	after, behind, past	sred _{gen}	midst, in the middle
nakraj _{gen}	at the end of	sredinom _{gen}	midst, in the middle
namesto _{gen}	instead of, in place of	suprotno _{dat}	opposite, contrary

naspram ^{gen}	towards, against	tokom ^{gen}	during, for
nasred ^{gen}	in the middle of, amid,	u ^{gen, acc, loc}	in
nasuprot ^{gen}	against, opposite	u ^{inat, dat}	despite, in defiance to
navrh ^{gen}	on top of	umesto ^{gen}	instead
niz ^{acc}	downwards	unutar ^{gen}	inside, within
niže ^{gen}	below	u ^{oči, gen}	shortly before, on the eve of
o ^{acc, loc}	about	uprkos ^{gen, dat}	despite, in spite
od ^{gen}	from	usled ^{gen}	due to, owing to
oko ^{gen}	around, about	usred ^{gen}	amid, in the middle of
okolo ^{gen}	around, about	uvrh ^{gen}	at the top of
osim ^{gen}	except	uz ^{acc}	beside, along
po ^{acc, loc}	per, by	uzduž ^{gen}	along, alongside
pod ^{acc, ins}	under	van ^{gen}	outside
pokraj ^{gen}	by, beside	više ^{gen}	above, over
podno ^{gen}	under	vrh ^{gen}	on the top
pokraj ^{gen}	beside, alongside	za ^{gen, acc, ins}	for, after
pomoću ^{gen}	by means of	zarad(i) ^{gen}	because of
poput ^{gen}	like	zbog ^{gen}	because of

Here are some examples of prepositions used in sentences. The case on the noun is indicated using a subscript. The first three examples show prepositions that take only the genitive case. The remaining examples show prepositions that can take more than one case. Make sense?

Table 2: Some examples of Serbian prepositions used in sentences

Serbian	English
Ona ne može da živi bez Milana ^{gen} .	She cannot live without Milan.
Marija živi daleko od grada ^{gen} .	Maria lives far from the city.
On ide ispred Zorice ^{gen} .	He's walking in front of Zorica.
On se popeo na kuću ^{acc} .	He climbed on the house.
Nema broja na kući ^{ins} .	There's no number on the house.
Mačka se sakrila pod stolicu ^{acc} .	The cat is hiding under the chair.
Mačka spava pod stolicom ^{ins} .	A cat is sleeping under the chair.
On ide prema prozoru ^{dat} .	He's going toward the window.
On sedi prema prozoru ^{dat} .	He's sitting against the window.
Marija se udala za Jovana ^{acc} .	Maria married Jovan.
Marija putuje za Beograd ^{acc} .	Maria is traveling to Belgrade
Jovan čeka Mariju za uglom ^{ins} .	Jovan is waiting for Maria around/at the corner