

## SERBIAN PRONOUNS (ZAMENICE U SRPSKOM)

What is a pronoun?

**A pronoun is a substitute for a noun or a noun phrase, or things previously mentioned or understood from the context.** These are words like **ja** 'I', **mene** 'me', **sebe** 'himself, herself', **ovo** 'this', **ko** 'who', **koji** 'which', **neko** 'somebody', **niko** 'nobody', **svi** 'all', **svako** 'everybody'.

Based on their meaning and the function in the sentence, pronouns are classified in the following categories:

**Table 1: Classification of pronouns**

Types of pronouns	Examples
<a href="#">Demonstrative pronouns</a>	<b>ovo</b> 'this', <b>to</b> 'that', <b>ovde</b> 'here', <b>tamo</b> 'there'
<a href="#">Indefinite or impersonal pronouns</a>	<b>neko</b> 'somebody', <b>nešto</b> 'something'
<a href="#">Interrogative pronouns</a>	<b>ko</b> 'who', <b>koga</b> 'whom', <b>šta</b> 'what'
<a href="#">Personal pronouns</a>	<b>ja</b> 'I', <b>ti</b> 'you', <b>on</b> 'he', <b>ona</b> 'she', <b>ono</b> 'it' <b>mi</b> 'we'
<a href="#">Possessive pronouns</a>	<b>my</b> 'moj', <b>tvoj</b> 'your', <b>njen</b> 'her', <b>njegov</b> 'his', <b>naš</b> 'our'
<a href="#">Relative pronouns</a>	<b>koji</b> 'which', <b>što</b> 'that', <b>čiji</b> 'whose'
<a href="#">Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns</a>	<b>sebe</b> 'herself, himself', <b>se</b> 'self', <b>jedno drugo</b> 'one another'
<a href="#">Universal pronouns</a>	<b>svi</b> 'all', <b>svako</b> 'everybody', <b>svašta</b> 'everything', <b>svaki</b> 'each', <b>svuda</b> 'everywhere'

Just like nouns, Serbian pronouns also change their forms depending on their position in a sentence, i.e., whether they function as a subject (ex. **ja** 'I'), a direct object (**njega** 'him'), an object of a preposition (**od nje** 'from her'). This different positioning of a pronoun in a sentence is called a case (or 'padež').

Serbian pronouns (as well as nouns and adjectives) have seven cases: [nominative](#), [accusative](#), [genitive](#), [dative](#), [locative](#), [instrumental](#) and [vocative](#), in both singular and plural. Because of their complex inflections but also similarities among various types of pronouns, Serbian pronouns are usually the hardest items to memorize. I suggest that you tackle each pronominal class separately, starting with personal pronouns.