

Verbal aspect—perfective/imperfective

The BCS verbal system differs from English and other European languages in one important way: it is built primarily on the distinction of aspect (whether the action has been or will be completed) rather than tense (whether the action occurred in the past, present, or will occur in the future). Aspect is a verbal category that distinguishes between actions which are successfully completed once and those which are not. Actions successfully completed once (emphasis is on a result) are called **perfective**. Those not successfully completed once may be either (a) in progress (hence not completed) or (b) repeated (hence carried out more than once) are called **imperfective**. Most of BCS verbs come in pairs (imperfective/perfective) with the same meaning, though the conjugation may differ. Perfective verbs are often formed by adding a prefix to its imperfective pair:

Jesti/pojesti	čitati/pročitati	pisati/napisati
Raditi/uraditi	piti/popiti	misliti/pomisliti

<u>Different conjugation type:</u>	Spremati/spremiti	kupovati/kupiti	
	Ja spremam (a/aju)/spremim (i/e)	Ja	kupujem (e/u)-kupim(i-e)
<u>Different verbs:</u>	tražiti-naći	gledati-videti	govoriti -reći/kazati
	Ja tražim-nađem	Ja gledam-vidim	Ja govorim-kažem

Choose the correct verbal aspect:

Merima pije/popije mleko/mlijeko.

Josip hoće čitati/pročitati pismo od brata.

Ana sprema/spremi večeru za svoju sestru.

Translate the following sentences:

He wants to read (finish reading) the book for the exam.

I am looking (searching) for Marko. Do you know where he is?

His doctor often drinks tea. He must drink either tea or coffee every day.

My sister does not want to watch this movie. She has to finish writing that email.

We cannot find your girlfriend. I think that she is buying a present (poklon).