

## Accusative Case: Masculine Animate Nouns and Adjectives

When we first started talking about the accusative case, I mentioned that masculine animate nouns and adjectives (as well as anything that functions as an adjective) changes very differently. Today, we're finally going to talk about them. Let's review what an animate noun actually is: this is a person or animal, any noun that is alive and happens to be grammatically masculine. This includes not only male names, titles, and professions, but also animals that happen to be grammatically masculine, like the word *pas*.

So how do we do it? To put animate masculine nouns in the accusative case, simply add "a" at the end of the word. So the word *čovjek/covjek* becomes *čoveka/covjeka*. A name like *Damir* becomes *Damira*. Masculine names that end in "o" also change in the accusative case. Like the name *Darko* becomes *Darka*.

Sometimes, like in the words *pas* or *momak*, you'll notice that there's an "a" in the last syllable. When putting words like these in the accusative case, that "a" disappears. Thus, *pas* becomes *psa*, and *momak* becomes *momka*. This is called a fleeting-A. We've already seen it in some adjectives, like *sladak* → *slatki*, *slatka*, *slatko*, and *dobar* → *dobri*, *dobra*, *dobro*. Other masculine nouns with a fleeting-A are *Amerikanac*, *Bosanac*, and *otac* (which becomes *oca*, the "t" also falls out in that one).

The adjective ending for masculine animate accusative is "-og" or "-eg." (The latter ending, "-eg" is usually seen after the letters *j*, *ć*, and *š*. Don't worry too much about these spelling differences for now, though.) So, for example, *dobar* becomes *dobrog*, and *visok* becomes *visokog*. The demonstrative pronominal adjectives *ovaj*, *onaj*, and *taj* become *ovog*, *onog*, and *tog*. For the possessive pronominal adjectives *moj* and *tvoj*, you can say *mojeg* and *tvojeg*, or *mog* and *tvog* (Croatian: *moga* and *tvoga*). All other possessive pronominal adjectives have regular endings.

It's important to note that words like *tata*, which is masculine but has a feminine ending, will change in the accusative case just like all other nouns in the that end in "a," where a → u. However, all the adjectives that modify it will change just like any other animate masculine adjective. Therefore, the sentence "I love her good dad" would become *Volim njenog dobrog tatu*.

So, let's look at some more examples:

*Da li vidiš ovog čoveka/čovjeka?/Vidiš li ovog čoveka/čovjeka?*  
Do you see this man?

*Mi volimo našeg profesora.*  
We love our professor.

*On ima dobrog oca.*

He has a good father.

*Vi volite mog brata.*

You all love my brother.

*Volim tvoг slatkog psa.*

I love your cute dog.

*One gledaju vašeg lepog/lijepog momka.*

They are watching your handsome boyfriend.

*Da li vidiš njegovog studenta?/Vidiš li njegovog studenta?*

Do you see his student?

*Stvarno volim tvoг sina.*

I really love your son.

*Moj drug ima velikog konja.*

My friend has a large horse.

*Ona voli toг glupog Amerikanca!*

She loves that stupid American!

Now that we've gone over this, can you come up with a few examples using masculine animate nouns and adjectives in accusative case?