

Genitive Case: With Prepositions

As we've already seen with the accusative case, while cases are often used by themselves for specific reasons (accusative: direct object, genitive: possession), they're also used with specific prepositions. If you turn to page 331 in your textbook, you'll see a box with a list of prepositions and the necessary case listed next to it. As you can clearly see, there are many prepositions used with the genitive case. The most important preposition, and the one I'll be focusing most on today, is *iz*. This means "from," and is used in sentences such as "I'm from America."

Let's look at some examples:

—*Odakle si ti? —Ja sam iz Amerike.*

—Where are you from? —I'm from America.

Moji roditelji su iz velikog grada.

My parents are from a big city.

Zašto on ne voli ljude iz sela?

Why doesn't he like people from the countryside?

Note: the word *odakle* is really important. When asking, specifically, where someone/something is from, rather than using *gde/gdje*, we use *odakle* (as seen in the examples above).

The preposition *iz* is important because it's widely used, but it's also important because it pops up in other prepositions. If you look on page 331, you'll notice that a lot of the prepositions used with genitive case are *iz+*. For example: *ispod, ispred, iza, između, iznad*. These prepositions also occur without the *iz* alongside other cases that we haven't gone over yet, which you can see in the box. (Nowadays it's more common to use the *iz+* forms of these prepositions, but the other forms are still prevalent—we'll talk about them once we get to the other cases, though.)

There are other important prepositions used with genitive case that you can see in this chart as well, such as *bez, do, and kod*, to name just a few.

Kod, in particular, is important. While this preposition usually means "at" (as in "at home"—*kod kuće*), it also means "to" with verbs of motion when talking about visiting a person.

Let's look at a couple examples:

Danas idem kod doktora.

Today I'm going to the doctor.

On ide kod devojke/djevojke.

He's going to his girlfriend's place.

In this last example, you can see that rather than writing out/saying the full phrase "girlfriend's house/apartment" we just use the term "girlfriend." *Kod* can also mean "at" as in "I'm at someone's house," but rather than saying "house," you'd just say the person's name. For example: *Ja sam kod Milice*. This would mean "I'm at Milica's house."

Can you come up with your own examples now?