

The Verb “Zvati se”

You’ve already seen this verb in phrases like “Zovem se...”, etc. Now we’re going to learn how to conjugate it. In other words, how to change it according to the subject of the sentence. (For more information check p. 1 in your textbook.)

To conjugate a verb, we start with the basic form of the verb, which is the infinitive. We’ll get more into that later, but for now just know that the infinitive is the form of the verb that ends in “-ti”. The infinitive changes according to the subject of the verb. (In the sentence “I call myself Alejandra” the subject is **I**. In the sentence “He has a cat,” the subject is **he**.)

<i>Zvati se</i>	Singular	Plural
1st person	Zovem se <i>I am called</i>	Zovemo se <i>We are called</i>
2nd person	Zoveš se <i>You are called</i>	Zovete se <i>You all are called</i> <i>(Also formal)</i>
3rd person	Zove se <i>He/She/It is called</i>	Zovu se <i>They are called</i>

You’ll notice that in in BCS, you don’t necessarily need to have a visible subject in a sentence, it’s implied. So, let’s put this verb in context:

Zovem se Michael. *I am called Michael. (Also: My name is Michael.)*
Zoveš se Branka. *You are called Branka. (Also: You’re name is Branka.)*
Zove se Juliana. *She is called Juliana. (Also: Her name is Juliana.)*
Zovemo se Michael i Branka. *(We are called Michael and Branka. Also: Our names are Michael and Branka.)*
Zovete se Juliana, Branka, i Michael. *(You all are called Juliana, Branka, and Michael. Also: Your names are Juliana, Branka, and Michael.)*
Zovete se Goran. *(You (formal) are called Goran. Also: Your (formal) name is Goran.)*
Zovu se Michael, Branka, Juliana, i Goran. *(They are called Michael, Branka, Juliana, and Goran. Also: Their names are Michael, Branka, Juliana, and Goran.)*

Of course, you’ll often find yourself in the position of having to ask what someone’s name is. In this case, you’ll need the word “kako,” which means “how.” For example:

Kako se zoveš? *Literally: How are you called? But maybe better to say: What’s your name? (informal)*
Kako se zovete? *What are your names? OR, What is your (formal) name?*

We’ll talk about pronouns and stuff later so we can make more interesting sentences, but you get the idea for now.