

## Accusative Case: Personal Pronouns

So far, we've learned about personal pronouns in the nominative case: *ja, ti, on/ona/ono, mi, vi*, and *oni/one/ona*. Now we're going to discuss personal pronouns in the accusative case. Pronouns in the accusative case? Sounds wild, right? It isn't, though.

Look at this English sentence: I love you, and you love me. In this sentence, the underlined words "you" and "me" are remnants of accusative case from English language past. Of course, we can't see the change with the word "you" because it looks the same as any other case, but "I" and "me" are very different!

Here's a chart of personal pronouns in the accusative case:

	Singular	Plural
<b>1<sup>st</sup> person</b>	<i>Mene, me</i>	<i>Nas</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> person</b>	<i>Tebe, te</i>	<i>Vas</i>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> person</b>	Masc./Neut.: <i>Njega, ga</i> Fem.: <i>Nju, ju, je (Cr.)</i>	<i>Njih, ih</i>

Wow, that's a lot to take in! Let's break it down. First things first—you'll notice that there are two forms for each pronoun. That's because many pronouns in BCS have a short, enclitical form. In accusative case, those forms are *me, te, ga, ju/je, nas, vas*, and *ih*. (Note: There are actually two forms of "nas" and "vas." The long form has a long "a." It's good to know this, but don't dwell on it for now.) So when do we know when to use long or short pronouns? Well, there are two important details when it comes to using the short, enclitical pronouns: they can't be at the beginning of sentences, and they can't come after prepositions. When in doubt, use the long form. Let's look at some examples:

*Njega vidim.*  
I see him.

*On voli ju.*  
He loves her.

*Ovaj udžbenik je za tebe.*  
This textbook is for you.

*Ja ih volim.*  
I love them.

*Da li imaš roman?/Je li imaš roman? Da, sad čitam ga.*  
Do you have the novel? Yeah, I'm reading it now.

*Vi me volite.*

You all love me.

*Gledamo vas.*

We are looking at you all.

You'll notice that, unlike in English, word order/syntax is not quite as fixed in BCS. This is a direct result of case usage. In other words, because cases are so widely used and noticeable in BCS, it's possible to move things around a lot of the time. Whereas in English, we know the grammatical function of a word precisely because of where it is in a sentence. Of course, that doesn't mean we can put words wherever we want in BCS sentences. It does mean that "*Ja ga volim*," "*Volim ga*," and "*Njega volim*" all mean "I love him."

Can you work together to come up with your own sentences using personal pronouns in BCS?