

Possessive Adjectives from Names and Titles

In BCS it's not uncommon to take a person's name, or a person's title, and turn it into an adjective. Think of it this way—it's as if you're saying "George's car" or "Mom's chair." These words function as adjectives.

Here's how you go about doing this—

If you have a feminine word that ends in "-a" you drop the letter and add "-in." Thus: Branka → Brankin. If this adjective is modifying a masculine noun, it stays the same. So, "Branka's dog" becomes "Brankin pas." If the adjective is modifying a feminine noun, we simply add a feminine ending. So, "Branka's cat" becomes "Brankina mačka." And of course, the same pattern occurs with neuter. See, "Branka's letter," or "Brankino pismo."

Sometimes, rather than a name, you'll see this utilized with a title or profession. For example, "Mom's house" becomes "Mamina kuća." Keep in mind that the word "majka," which means "mother," has a slight difference in spelling: the "-k" becomes a "-č." Thus, "Majčina kuća." This often happens with names and titles/professions that end in "-ica." The name Milica → Miličin.

For masculine nouns, we simply add the ending "-ov." Thus: Jasmin → Jasminov. So, "Jasmin's dog" would be "Jasminov pas." Likewise, "Jasmin's cat" would be "Jasminova mačka." And "Jasmin's letter" would be "Jasminovo pismo."

You'll also see this with masculine titles and professions. Thus, "the professor's house," would be "profesorova kuća," and "the professor's window" becomes "profesorov prozor." The word "otac" also has a change of consonants, much like "majka." Thus, for example, "father's dog," would be "očev pas."

Sometimes you'll come across masculine nouns that end in "-a," the most prominent example being "tata," which means "dad." For these, you change them as if they were feminine nouns. Thus, "dad's dog" would be "tatin pas," utilizing the "-in" ending that we've previously seen when turning feminine names and titles into adjectives.

It's not uncommon in BCS to see masculine names that end in "-o," Like Branko, Darko, Marko, etc. For these names, you simply drop the last letter and follow the same pattern as noted above. So, "Branko's book" would be "Brankova knjiga." You'll rarely see neuter nouns undergo this process, but in the event that you do come across one, it'll follow this same pattern.

Can you come up with a few sentences using possessive adjectives from names or titles?