

## Verbs *Moći* and *Hteti/Htjeti*

So we've recently learned how to conjugate verbs. We've discussed the three types of verbs, and how to distinguish them. Now we're going to discuss two specific verbs, *moći*, which means "to be able to," and *hteti/htjeti*, which means "to want." These verbs are important because they can both be combined with other verbs in sentences, such as "I am able to read," or "I want to talk."

Let's look at the conjugation:

<i>Moći</i> (to be able to)			<i>Hteti/Htjeti</i> (to want)		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	(Ja) Mogu	(Mi) Možemo	1 <sup>st</sup> person	(Ja) Hoću	(Mi) Hoćemo
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(Ti) Možeš	(Vi) Možete	2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(Ti) Hoćeš	(Vi) Hoćete
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(On/Ona) Može	(Oni/One) Mogu	3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(On/Ona) Hoće	(Oni/One) Hoće

As I mentioned above, both of these verbs can be combined with other verbs to create somewhat more complicated sentences. There are two ways to do this:

- Combine the conjugated verbs + the infinitive, not unlike many other languages (including English): *Ja mogu pisati.* (I can write.) *Ti hoćeš govoriti.* (You want to speak.)
- Using the word "da" to combine two conjugated verbs: *Ja mogu da pišem.* (I can write.) *Ti hoćeš da govoriš.* (You want to speak.)

Both methods yield the same results. In other words, you're saying the same thing whether you use the conjugated verb + infinitive, or conjugated verb + "da" + conjugated verb. In Serbian and Bosnian, you can basically use both methods interchangeably, though method (b) is slightly more common in Serbian. In Croatian, you will only ever see method (a).

While it's very common to see the verbs *moći* and *hteti/htjeti* combined with other verbs in this way (which is why I'm teaching them to you now), it's important to remember that these aren't the only verbs you can combine. For example, you can also combine the verb  *voleti/voljeti* (to love) with other verbs: *On voli da govori srpski./On voli govoriti srpski.* (He loves to speak Serbian.)

Now it's your turn. Practice using both methods to write sentences combining *moći* and *hteti/htjeti* with other verbs.