

Numbers 1-10

- 1 – Jedan, Jedna, Jedno
- 2 – Dva, Dve/Dviije
- 3 – Tri
- 4 – Četiri
- 5 – Pet
- 6 – Šest
- 7 – Sedam
- 8 – Osam
- 9 – Devet
- 10 – Deset

As of now, we've briefly seen the word for "one" in context, and you've probably noticed that it functions like an adjective. It has to agree with the word it's modifying in gender and case. So, for example, we can say something like: Jedna mačka gleda kroz prozor. In this sentence, "one cat" is feminine, nominative case, and singular. We can also say things like: Ona voli samo jednog dobrog čoveka/čovjeka. In this sentence, "one good man" is in masculine animate accusative, and it's singular.

Things get a little different for numbers 2, 3, and 4. For these numbers, we are going to be utilizing a special agreement. This special agreement is neither nominative nor accusative case, and it's used whenever the abovementioned numbers are utilized. Masculine and neuter nouns change the same way: add the ending *-a* (and drop the *-o/-e* for neuter nouns) on both nouns and adjectives. For the number 2, use *dva*. Feminine nouns for numbers 2, 3, and 4 are going to look just like nominative and accusative plural, with the *-e* ending (and F2 nouns will continue to end in *-i*). Let's look at this in context with some examples:

Dva dobra đaka studiraju zajedno.

Two good pupils are studying together.

Tri mladne devojke/djevojke idu na koncert.

Three young women go to the concert.

On sada uči četiri strana jezika.

He is now studying four foreign languages.

Ja volim moje dve/dviije mačke.

I love my two cats.

Mi čitamo tri duga pisma.

We are reading three long letters.

Compound numbers that end in 2, 3, or 4 will also take these endings. See, for example, the sentence: Dvadeset dva studenta te čekaju. ("Twenty-two students are waiting for you.") Or, the sentence: Trideset četiri ptice lete iznad nas. ("Thirty-four birds are flying over us.")

The numbers 5-20 use another grammatical structure, as do numbers like 30, 40, 50, and 100, etc. We'll get to those soon! For now, focus on studying how to correctly utilize numbers 1-4 in sentences!