

More Pronominal Adjectives

So far we've learned the pronominal adjectives *ovaj/onaj/taj*, etc., as well as *moj/tvoj/vaš*, etc. Now we're going to discuss a few more pronominal adjectives, specifically the words that mean "what kind," "which," and "whose." As with the other pronominal adjectives, these will change according to the gender and number of the nouns they're modifying.

"What" and "What Kind"

The words *kakav*, *kakva*, *kakvo*, as well as the plural forms, *kakvi*, *kakve*, and *kakva* can be translated as either "what" or "what kind" depending on the context. Keep in mind that the word "what" in this context functions as an adjective, unlike the word *šta/što*, which functions as a noun. Essentially this is the difference between "What is that?" and "What book are you talking about?" As all adjectives, they have to agree with the nouns they're modifying in gender, number, and case.

So on that note, let's look at these words in context with some examples:

Kakav udžbenik je to?

What textbook is that?

Kakvu olovku hoćeš? Hoću crvenu olovku?

What kind of pencil do you want? I want the red pencil.

Kakvo pismo čita ta žena?

What letter is that woman reading?

Kakvi studenti studiraju tamo?

What kind of students study there?

Kakve devojke/djevojke žive ovde/ovdje?

What kind of girls live here?

"Which" and "That"

The words *koji*, *koja*, *koje*, as well as the plurals *koji*, *koje*, and *koja* mean something like "which" or "that," depending on the context. Sometimes, these words can also be used in questions, or they can be used to separate clauses. And like all adjectives, they have to agree with the nouns they're modifying according to gender, number, and case. Let's look at some examples:

Koji ljudi imaju decu/djecu?

Which people have children?

Da li vidiš tog čoveka/čovjeka koji ima slatku mačku?
Do you see that man, who has a cute cat?

Koju devojku/djevojku voliš?
Which girl do you love?

Ovo pismo, koje piše moj brat, nije za tebe.
This letter, which my brother is writing, isn't for you.

“Whose”

The words *čiji*, *čija*, *čije*, and the plural forms, *čiji*, *čije*, and *čija* mean “whose,” as in the sentence “Whose chair is this?” Once again, these words function as adjectives, and as such, they must agree with the nouns they modify according to gender, number, and case. Here are some examples:

Čiju kuću više voliš?
Whose house do you like more?

Čije dete/dijete je ovo?
Whose child is this?

Čiji profesor je bolji?
Whose professor is better?

Čijeg brata volim?
Whose brother do I love?

You'll notice that because “whose” is a question word, it has to go at the beginning of the sentence.