**Other Uses of Dative Case**

**Feelings**

We’ve already talked a little bit about how we use the dative case to indicate direct objects in sentences, and how certain prepositions take the dative case. But the dative case is one of the most commonly used cases in BCS, largely because it’s used to express feelings, states of mind, and similar. For example, you could say “I feel good” as “*Dobro mi je*.”

Put the adjective in the neuter—*dobro, loše, drago*—and then use the dative case for the person who is doing the feeling. More often than not, you’d use the short, enclitical form of the dative pronoun, as in the example above. However, it’s still possible to use the long form pronoun, you’d just slightly change the syntax—“*Meni je dobro*” or “*Dobro je meni*.”

**Feel Like Doing Something**

Another way that dative case is used to express “feelings” is by taking a verb, such as *spavati*, adding the reflexive particle *se*, conjugating the verb in the third person singular, and then putting whoever is doing the feeling in the dative case. For example—“*Spava mi se*” would mean “I feel like sleeping.” You can also do this with the negative forms, for example—“*Ne se mi uči*.” You can also ask questions in this format: “*Da li vam se spava*?” “Do you feel like sleeping?” (Note: For Croatian, you would simply say “*Želite la spavati?*” which doesn’t include the dative case.)

**With Certain Verbs**

*Sviđati se*

We’ve already talked a lot about the verb *voleti/voljeti*, which means “to love.” We can say a sentence like “*Ja volim knjige*,” which means “I love books.” We can love books, people, hamburgers, whatever. But there are other ways to express like! The verb *sviđati se* means simply “to like.” However, what you’re really saying is “such-and-such is pleasing to me/you/whoever.” Let’s say you like a cat. The word for cat—*mačka*—is the subject of the sentence, and so the verb would be conjugated accordingly to third person singular. Then, the “to me” would indicate the need for the dative pronoun, in this instance the first person singular. (In other words *ja🡪meni/mi*.) So the whole sentence would be: *Mačka mi se sviđa.* Or variations thereof: *Meni se sviđa mačka*, etc.

There’s a lot of grammar here, so I’m going to go ahead and show you some other examples:

*Knjige mi se sviđaju./Meni se sviđaju knjige.*

I like books. (Books are pleasing to me.)

*Ti mi se sviđaš./Meni ti se sviđas.*

I like you. (You are pleasing to me.)

*(Ja) Sviđam ti se./Tebi se sviđam.*

You like me. (I am pleasing to you.)

More often than not, you’re going to be seeing and using this verb in the third person singular and plural (*sviđa se* and *sviđaju se*), but I think it’s important to be aware of what the other forms look like, and how they’re used. The verb *dopadati se* is basically a synonym of *sviđati se*, though for now we’ll be focusing on the former. Don’t be afraid to use this other verb too, though.

*Činiti se*

The verb *činiti se* means “to seem like.” It’s usually used in the third person singular. We can use it by itself, for example, “*Čini se da vreme/vrijeme je hladno*” (“It seems that the weather is cold”). (Note: the word *da* here translates as “that.”) However, we can also insert nouns and pronouns in the dative case, i.e. “It seems to me….” or “*Čini mi se….”*

Let’s look at some examples:

*Čini ti se da ove knjige su loše.*

It seems to you that these books are bad.

*Čini mu se da cveće/cvijeće je lepo/lijepo.*

It seems to him that the flowers are beautiful.

*Tebi se čini da tetkina kuća je stara.*

It seems to you that our aunt’s house is old.

Let’s look at some more examples of all these used of the dative case, then come up with our own and do some more practice.