**Dative Case**

The dative case looks exactly like the locative case. Adjectives end in “*-om/-oj*,” and nouns end in “*-u/-i*.” However, the dative case is used very differently than the locative. One of the most common usages of the dative case is as indirect object in a sentence. Let’s take a moment to review the grammar, in English: “He said something to me.” In this sentence the word “something” is the direct object. In BCS, it would be in accusative case. The phrase “to me” is the indirect object, and it would be in dative case. While in English we use the preposition “to” to indicate indirect objects, in BCS you’re only going to use the dative case. (Remember how you use the genitive case instead of the word “of”? This is similar.)

There are a lot of other instances where you’ll use the dative case, of course. But this is the most basic, and it’s a good place to start. Another difference between dative and locative cases is that dative case often uses enclitical (short) pronouns. Indeed, it’s possible that you’ll see and use the short pronouns more than the long ones. So, let’s go over them:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1st person | 2nd person | 3rd person |
| Singular | *Meni*  *Mi* | *Tebi*  *Ti* | *Njemu/Njoj*  *Mu/Joj* |
| Plural | *Nama*  *Nam* | *Vama*  *Vam* | *Njima*  *Im* |

Sometimes, you’ll also end up using the dative case with specific prepositions, like *prema* and *ka*. Both of these mean “toward,” and are used to indicate direction, as in “I’m going toward the university,” which would be: *Idem ka univerzitetu*. You’re probably wondering how this is different than using *u/na* plus accusative case. You can kind of use them interchangeably, but the difference is in the destination. When using the accusative case, you’re emphasizing the final destination, whereas if you use the dative case, you’re emphasizing the direction.

Here are some examples using the dative case (we’ll go over some more usage before you have to come up with your own examples):

*Moj otac vozi auto prema planini.*

My father is driving the car toward the mountain.

*Stepan mi je dao ukusan tort.*

Stepan gave me a delicious cake.

*Mi smo rekli lepoj/lijepoj ženi da ona je naša drugarica/prijateljica.*

We told the beautiful woman that she is our friend.