**Irregularities in Past Tense**

Previously, we discussed how past tense is formed by conjugating the verb *biti* in present tense and then changing the infinitive by removing the *-ti* and adding a new ending according to gender and number. But, as we all know, some verbs don’t end in *-ti*.

Verbs that end in *-sti* in the infinitive aren’t too different from regular verbs. Rather than dropping only the *-ti*, you’ll drop the entire *-sti*. To use the verb *jesti* as an example: *Ja sam jela kolače, i ti si jeo čevape.*

However, some verbs have completely different infinitives, ending in *-ći.* The one we’re more familiar with is *ići*. So I’ll use this as an example:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Ići* (past tense) | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Singular | *Išao* | *Išla* | *Išlo* |
| Plural | *Išli* | *Išle* | *Išla* |

To use this in context: *Ja sam išla u školu svaki dan, a on nije išao danas u školu. Juče/Jučer mi smo išli na biblioteku/knjižnicu zajedno.* The most important thing that happens here is the appearance of the *Š* in the past tense. The other changes, as you’ll notice, are consistent with other verbs in past tense.

Keep in mind that while *ići* is one of the verbs of this type we’ll be seeing used most often in the past tense, there are many others that you’ll come across.

The verb *moći* (to be able to) in the past tense looks a bit different than other verbs that end in *-ći* when we put it in the past tense. Rather than add the letter *Š*, you’ll see the appearance of the letter *G*:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Moći* (past tense) | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Singular | *Mogao* | *Mogla* | *Moglo* |
| Plural | *Mogli* | *Mogle* | *Mogla* |

To put in context: *Ja sam mogla da kupim hleb/hlijeb/kruh, ali on nije mogao da ga kupi.*

Can you come up with a series of events using verbs that end in *-ći* as in the examples above?