

## **Croatian Language Lesson Script**

**Silvija** (In Croatian) Oprostite, jeste li u redu? Mogu li Vam pomoci?

**Scott** Oh, um .. sorry, I don't speak Croatian.... Do you speak English?

**Silvija** Da, of course - I asked if you were ok, do you need some help?

**Scott** Thanks – I seem to have twisted my ankle – what a dumb thing to do!

**Silvija** Ouch! Do you have far to go? Here let me help you up.

**Scott** Thanks. I'm staying on the other side of the park and I was walking past and it looked so beautiful I just came in for a wander around, but I wasn't watching where I was putting my feet.... And now I've twisted it and it bloody hurts!

**Silvija** Come, I was just finishing my run, I'll show you a short-cut back to the other side of the park, I was going that way anyway. Where are you from?

**Scott** Australia and thanks for your help - I really appreciate it!

**Silvija** Australia! I've got some family living in Melbourne.

**Scott** Melbourne's great, I'm from Sydney. Hey, I don't suppose you could teach me a bit of Croatian as we go along... I might need a bit if I need to go the doctor!

**Silvija** I think you say No Worries - sure, what can I teach you?

**Scott** (laughing) yeah, that's us – no worries! Ok, can you teach me some basics like Hello and Goodbye

**Silvija** Well, Croatians can be quite conservative when you first meet them so you should try to be a bit formal. So, Good Morning is Dobro jutro

**Scott** Dobro Jutro

**Silvija** Good Day is Dobar dan.

**Scott** Dobar dan.

**Silvija** Good evening is Dobar vecer.

**Scott** Dobar vecer.

**Silvija** In Croatia we also have a few expressions for Hello and Goodbye – these are more casual, for hello we might say Zdravo or Bog (sounds like Bok).

**Scott** Zdravo, bok

**Silvija** And for Goodbye we might say Zbogom or Do vidjenja

**Scott** Zbogom – what does this mean?

**Silvija** It's like Go with God and Do vidjenja means Until we see each other again.

**Scott** Should I also say Mr or Mrs when I meet people?

**Silvija** Yes, this is a good idea – so my name is Silvija Horvat, and you might say Gospodjice Horvat which means Miss Horvat – but you would probably only do this with someone who is a bit older than me!!!

**Scott** (smiling) Yeah, I think I'd feel funny calling you Miss Silvija – particularly if I wanted to buy you a drink!! So how do I say My name is Scott ?

**Silvija** Maybe when you can walk properly we can have a drink! To introduce yourself you say Ja sam Scott ili Ja se zovem Scott.

**Scott** Ja se zovem Scott. How do I ask what a person's name is?

**Silvija** You say Kako se zovete? if it's formal, or Kako se zoves? if it's informal.

**Scott** Kako se zoves? How do I say....I'm from Australia

**Silvija** You say.... Ja sam iz Australije.

**Scott** Ja sam iz Australije.

**Silvija** Not bad! But lucky for you many Croatians speak English pretty well, so you won't have any trouble getting by. But your efforts at Croatian will be appreciated!

**Scott** Gee – am I that bad!?!?! Mind if we sit on this bench for a second, my ankle is killing me!

**Silvija** Sure, of course – there's a bench over there. Are you in Croatia for long?

**Scott** I got here yesterday and I'm staying for a week or so. I'm loving Zagreb, so far I've walked all around the Upper and Lower town, I'm not sure if my ankle would handle all those cobblestones now!

**Silvija** It really is a lovely part of town. Did you visit the Dolac?

**Scott** The Dolac?

**Silvija** The big produce market in the centre of town just near the Cathedral. It's a great place to go and see a real slice of Croatian life. You can get all kinds of fresh fruit, meat and vegetables there. And, surrounding the markets are great bars and cafes where you can get really good Croatian food and mix with locals.

**Scott** Sounds great – maybe tomorrow morning when I'm feeling less like a cripple! Is there really a Zoo in this park?

**Silvija** Yes, that's right, Maksimir Park Zoo is the second largest in Croatia. The park also has several Pavilions and monuments as well as woods and five lakes. My favorite spot is the Echo Pavilion which is the oldest building in here. When your ankle is better you should come and explore some more.

**Scott** I had no idea it was so huge! Shall we keep moving?

**Silvija** Sure, sorry – I was in power-walk mode before which is not great for your ankle, I'll slow down for you! How about some more Croatian to take your mind off the pain?

**Scott** Ok, back to basics – what about yes, no, please, thank you and excuse me.

**Silvija** Yes – Da

**Scott** Da

**Silvija** No – Ne

**Scott** Ne

**Silvija** Thank you – Hvala

**Scott** Hvala

**Silvija** Excuse me – Oprostite

**Scott** Oprostite

**Silvija** Please – molim

**Scott** Molim. Now for some touristy type words - what about Where is and Which way to?

**Silvija** Yes, very important - Where is – Gdje je

**Scott** Gdje je

**Silvija** Which way to - Kojim putem do...

**Scott** Kojim putem do... It seems that trams are the way to get around Zagreb – how do I say tram and ticket?

**Silvija** Ah, this is tramvaj and ticket is karta. It is cheaper to buy your ticket from a newsstand than from the tram driver. You can get short trip tickets or day passes and from Trg Bana Jelacica, you can catch trams to just about anywhere.

**Scott** Ok, Trg Bana Jelacica is the main square right?

**Silvija** Yes, that's right.

**Scott** so ticket is karta and tram is tramvaj. What about taxi and train?

**Silvija** Taxi is taxi, and train is vlak.

**Scott** Whoa there, slow down – in fact, how do I say Please say that more slowly?

**Silvija** This is Molim recite to polaganije.

**Scott** Molim recite to polaganije.

**Silvija** And Taxi is taxi.

**Scott** Taxi.

**Silvija** And train is vlak.

**Scott** Vlak. How do I say I don't understand. I think I'm going to need this one!

**Silvija** You say it: Ne razumijem.

**Scott** Ne razumijem. And, what about boat or ferry if I head down to the coast.

**Silvija** You should definitely go to the Coast – it's our biggest tourist area, there are over 1000 islands down there and tourism is booming. Oh and Ferry is trajekt.

**Scott** You know, I'd heard so much about the war I was expecting Croatia to be more battle-scarred than I've seen.

**Silvija** In some parts of Croatia you can definitely find reminders of the war, some areas along the border still have landmines that are being cleared and most cities and towns

have lots of reminders – I guess you just need to know where to look. It is still very fresh in all our minds. But tourism has really helped the country get back on its feet and you will mainly be travelling in areas that have benefited from the investment and employment that tourism has provided.

**Scott** So the Coast is the go - I've also heard about some great National Parks....

**Silvija** Yes, that's right, we have eight large and quite famous national parks – they are mainly in the middle of the country though, depending on how much time you have you could spend some time in one on the way down to the Coast. If you do go to the Coast you might want to charter or join a yacht crew – that is a really popular sport down there, yacht is jahta or jedrilica for a sailing boat.

**Scott** Jahta, yeah I've heard yachting is pretty big along the Adriatic – sounds very pleasant I must say! Ok, what else do I need... what about "Have you a room?"

**Silvija** This is Da li imate slobodnu sobu?

**Scott** Da li imate slobodnu sobu? And May I see it?

**Silvija** Da li mogu vidjeti sobu?

**Scott** Da li mogu vidjeti sobu? Ok, How much is it?

**Silvija** This is Koliko kosta?

**Scott** Koliko kosta?

**Silvija** Are you ok? You are slowing down a bit... is your ankle hurt very badly?

**Scott** I don't think so, but it's really beginning to hurt - are we nearly there?

**Silvija** Da, nearly there, come on, lets keep going.

**Scott** Ok, so some more language - how do I say It's too expensive

**Silvija** This is To je preskupo.

**Scott** To je preskupo. Ok, what about counting, how do I count 1-10?

**Silvija** One is jedan

**Scott** Jedan

**Silvija** Two dva three tri

**Scott** Dva, tri

**Silvija** Four cetiri five pet

**Scott** Cetiri, pet

**Silvija** six sest seven sedam

**Scott** Sest, sedam

**Silvija** eight osam nine devet

**Scott** Osam, devet

**Silvija** ten deset

**Scott** Deset. Ok, now that I can count, how do I ask for the bill?

**Silvija** This is Molim platiti.

**Scott** Molim platiti. And should I tip?

**Silvija** Generally you would round up to the nearest 10 or 20 Kuna. But, you don't really need to tip in bars or cafes.

**Scott** I've seen that some things are advertised in Euro – does this mean I can use Euro rather than Kuna?

**Silvija** Yes, in some places, but generally not anywhere official like a museum or for the railways. Places like markets, private accommodation or small shops.

**Scott** Ok, that's good to know. Also, I've seen some posters and advertising for what looks like a totally crazy street festival or party – it looks like some kind of clown gathering!

**Silvija** (laughing) I think you mean Cest is d'Best – this is one of Zagreb's favorite festivals – it's a week long street festival that takes place in all the city's main squares. It's fantastic, the performers come from all over the world – there are bands, street performers and all kinds of weird and wonderful acts! You should try to stay for it if you can.

**Scott** Sounds very tempting – I like that kind of thing! Hey, how do I say I like this

**Silvija** This is Svidja mi se.

**Scott** Svidja mi se. What about I don't like this

**Silvija** This is Ne svidja mi se.

**Scott** Ne svidja mi se. Ok, now let me think... what about today and tomorrow?

**Silvija** Today is Danas

**Scott** Danas

**Silvija** Tomorrow is Sutra

**Scott** Sutra. What about now?

**Silvija** this is Sada.

**Scott** Sada.

**Silvija** You're not bad. You know that I'm teaching you things in a Zagreb dialect – there are three main Croatian dialects and sometimes people can have trouble understanding them.

**Scott** (laughing) Thanks for the vote of confidence, but I don't think my Croatian language skills are so good that dialect is going to matter!

**Silvija** (laughing) You're probably right! We're nearly there, see the road is just through those trees.

**Scott** Thank goodness – my ankle is killing me – I've just got a few words left, two of which I think I'm going to need almost straight away... police, doctor and hospital.

**Silvija** I hope your ankle is not that bad! Police is Policija.

**Scott** Policija

**Silvija** Hospital is Bolnica.

**Scott** Bolnica – lucky I've got travel insurance!

**Silvija** That's good - Doctor is Doktor.

**Scott** Doktor.

**Silvija** Well done – here's the road, do you have very far to go?

Scott No, my hotel is just down that street. Thank you for all your help Silvija, you've been a champ!

**Silvija** It's been my pleasure, good luck with your ankle, I'm heading back to the Echo Pavilion.

**Scott** When my ankle improves I might head over there myself in the next day or so... see you there maybe?!

**Silvija** Da, maybe!