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 vidjenia 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!