

17 Minute Languages

Slovak grammar in a nutshell



Basic facts about the Slovak language

Slovak (slovenčina) is one of the **Slavic languages**.

Slovak is most closely related to the Czech language, with which it shares numerous similarities in vocabulary and grammar.

Around **six million** people speak Slovak as their mother tongue.

Slovak is written using the **Latin alphabet**.

The Slovak alphabet includes **46 letters and letter combinations**, which we will present to you – together with their pronunciation.

Slovak alphabet and pronunciation

Before we start to train Slovakian pronunciation, it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with the Slovak alphabet. The 46 letters correspond to a specific sound, making Slovakian pronunciation relatively phonetic. Some unique characters include č, š, and ž, which represent distinct sounds not found in the English language.

☞ Please read the following examples aloud.

čaj [tʃaj] – tea
čas [tʃas] – time
človek [tʃlo.vek] – person
škola [ʃko.la] – school
šport [ʃport] – sport
šest' [ʃɛʃt] – six
žena [ʒɛ.na] – woman
život [ʒi.vɔt] – life
žiť [ʒit] – to live

Vowel sounds in Slovakian

Vowels play a significant role in Slovakian pronunciation. There are 14 vowels and understanding the differences between the **short** and **long** vowels is crucial.

Short vowels (a, e, i, o, u, y) are pronounced briefly. Long vowels (á, é, í, ó, ú, ý) are held for a more extended period.

For instance, **a** and **á** represent short and long 'a' sounds, respectively.

The prolongation mark only means that the syllable should be pronounced twice as long as a short syllable and does not mean that the syllable should be emphasised.

Two long syllables do not occur consecutively.

☞ Please read out the following examples aloud.

Stretch out the long vowels and keep the short ones short.

In the beginning of your training: Exaggerate – this will give you a better feeling for your pronunciation in the future.

auto ['aw.to] – car
hora ['ho.ra] – mountain
áno ['a:nɔ] – yes
káva ['ka:va] – coffee

jeden ['jɛ.dɛn] – one
kéž [keʒ] – I wish

my [mɪ] – we
sytý ['sɪ.ti:] – full
rýchlý ['ri:x.li] – fast

Nasal vowels in Slovak

Slovakian features **nasal** vowels (ä, ô), unlike English. When encountering nasal vowels, remember to pronounce them through your nose, creating a distinctive sound.

☞ Practice with words containing **ä** and **ô** to develop this skill.

kräva [kræ.va] – cow
mäso ['mæ.so] – meat
môj [moj] – my
dôvera ['do.ve.ra] – trust
tôň [ton] – sink



Slovak diphthongs

Diphthongs have a phonetic quality and are combinations of two vowel sounds pronounced in one syllable.

It's important to distinguish **diphthongs** from **vowel combinations** in Slovak.

Diphthongs are pronounced as a single sound within one syllable, whereas vowel combinations are pronounced as separate sounds in two different syllables.

Slovakian diphthongs are combinations of short and long vowels.

Some common diphthongs in Slovak include **ia**, **ie**, **iu**, **äu**, and **au**.

Diphthongs are pronounced **as a single sound**, with a smooth transition from one vowel to the other within the same syllable.

For example, the diphthong **ia** is pronounced as a single sound, similar to the English [ya].

Practice with these examples.

diaľka ['ja.ɫ.ka] – distance

dieťa ['je.ca] – child

rieka ['ri.ɛ.ka] – river



Hard and soft consonants

Since the last letter of a word often determines gender and division of declension, it is important to distinguish between hard and soft consonants:

hard consonants: d, g, h, ch, k, n, r, t

soft consonants: c, dz, č, ď, j, ň, š, ť, ž, v

☞ Have a look at these examples and practice saying them.

tri [tri] – three

ťažký [ˈtʃaʒ.ki] – heavy

cukor [ˈtsu.kɔr] – sugar

cvičenie [ˈtʃvi.tʃɛ.njɛ] – exercise

dzíp [dzip] – zipper

ďakujem [ˈja.ku.jem] – thank you

ďaleko [ˈja.lɛ.kɔ] – far

ňufák [ɲu.fa:k] – snout

Consonant clusters

Slovakian is known for its **consonant clusters**, where multiple consonants appear together in a word.

These clusters can be challenging for beginners, but when you break it down and start to practise the common clusters you will master them for accurate pronunciation.

☞ Practice common clusters like "tr," "pr," and "kr" to improve your fluency.

pravda [ˈprav.da] – truth

príklad [ˈpri:k.lat] – example

trh [tɾx] – market

zmrzlina [ˈzmɾz.li.na] – ice cream

strhnúť [stɾxnɯɕ] – to tear off

vzpružiť [vzpruʒɪɕ] – to stiffen

vtáčnik [ˈvta:tʃ.ni:k] – birdwatcher

vtákopysk [ˈvta:kɔ.pɪsk] – beak of a bird

prststrčprst [pɾstʃɾtɾpɾst] – thumb

Stress patterns in Slovak pronunciation

The Slovak and English language differ significantly in relation to the position and functioning of stress in words.

Also, Slovakian words have specific stress patterns that can change the meaning of a word.

 A **stress** is usually placed on the **first syllable** of a word. There are exceptions.

Learning these stress patterns will help you speak Slovakian naturally and fluently.

Types of accents

Most of the time you will encounter two types of accents in Slovak – **mäkčeň** (the “**softener**”, caron) and **dĺžeň** (the “**lengthener**”, acute mark).

The other two accent marks are dvojbodka (umlaut) and vokáň (“uo”-er, circumflex)

The type of accent determines the pronunciation of letters and letter combinations.

1. longitude accent (dĺžeň)

All vowels (á, é, í, ó, ú and ý) and the consonants *ř* and *ĺ* that are provided with such a longitude sign are pronounced long.

 Practise with these examples.

áno [a:ɲɔ] – yes

nový [ˈɲɔvi:] – new

2. caron (mäkčeň)

Letters marked with a caron or haček (a diacritic mark) on top, are pronounced softly.

This mark shows the reader that a hard sound merges with a "j" (comparable to the "gn" in cognac) and is thereby softened.

This softening occurs in the letters d, l and t (Ď, ď, Ľ, ľ and Ť, ť).

The letters c, dz, n, s and z (Č, č, Ďz, ďz, Ň, ň, Š, š and Ž, ž), which are given the soft sign, are pronounced as sibilants.

Before e and u, the letters d, n, l and t are pronounced with a j after the relevant consonant.

Large and lower case in Slovak

💡 Basically, in Slovak **all words are written in lowercase**. Only at the beginning of a sentence, with nouns, abbreviations and in correspondence do you use capital letters.

💬 Read out this dialogue aloud and insert your first name.

👤 Dobrý deň, som **Miroslav**. **A**ko sa voláte?

Good day, I'm Miroslav. What's your name?

😊 Dobrý deň, **Miroslav**. Volám sa **E**va. Teší ma. Good day, Miroslav. I'm Eva. Nice to meet you.

👤 Rovnako ma teší, **E**va. Odkiaľ pochádzate? Likewise, Eva. Where are you from?

😊 Som z **B**ratislavy. A vy? I'm from Bratislava. And you?

👤 Ja tiež, z **B**ratislavy. Pracujem ako učiteľ. I'm from Bratislava too. I work as a teacher.

The article in Slovak

Slovak has neither definite or indefinite articles.

When it comes to translations, whether you insert a definite or indefinite article depends on the demonstrative pronouns such as “this”, “that” and “some”.

The following example tries to clarify this method:

- If you put “nejaký” (some, any, anyone) in front of a noun, you emphasise that the noun is indefinite.

☞ e.g.:

muž – man

nejaký muž – some man, any man

- To clarify the definiteness of a noun, you can use a pronoun in front of the noun.

These pronouns are “ten”, “tá” and “to”.

☞ e.g.:

muž – man

ten muž – this man

Slovakian nouns

There are **three** genders in Slovak: masculine, feminine and neuter.

Masculine nouns denote male living beings and nouns that end in a consonant.

☞ Examples

muž – man

študent – male student

dom – house

byt – apartment, flat

Feminine nouns are nouns ...

- that end in **-a**

There are also masculine nouns that end in **-a**.

However, these are words that describe nouns with a natural masculine gender.

☞ Example

sudca – (male) judge

- that end in - **áreň**
- with -**áleň** the end
- ending in -**ost'**

... Examples for **feminine nouns**

šudentka – female student

vin**áreň** – wine bar

jed**áleň** – dining room

rad**ost'** – joy, pleasure, delight

Neuter are nouns ...

- ending in -**a** and naming young creatures
- with -**e** the end
- that end in -**ie**
- ending in -**o**

Please, keep in mind: there are also masculine nouns ending in -**o**.

These are nouns for words describing natural masculine gender.

... Examples for **neuter nouns**

dieťa – child, baby

srdce – heart

námestie – square

mesto – town, city

múzeum – museum



Plural formation in Slovak

The plural is formed according to the following scheme:

Plural formation in Slovak		
	Singular	Plural
masculine animated	študent (student)	študenti (students)
masculine inanimate	strom (tree)	stromy (trees)
female	žena (women, sg.)	ženy (women, pl.)
neuter	dieťa (child)	deti (children)

Cases in Slovak

 In Slovak there are **six cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative and instrumental**.

The **nominative** case answers the question “who/ what?”.

 Examples: nominative

Eva je doma. – **Eva** is at home.

Dom je veľký. – The **house** is large.

The **genitive** answers the question “**whose?**”

 Examples: genitive

Evin otec je učiteľ. – **Eva's** father is a teacher.

Otcova škola je veľká. – **Father's** school is big.

The **dative** answers to the question “**whom?**”

 Examples: dative

Otec dáva **Eve** peniaze. – Father gives **Eva** money.

Eva pomáha **mame** pri práci. – Eva helps **her mother** at work.

The **accusative** answers the question “**whom/ what?**”.

☞ Examples: accusative

Vidím **Evu**. – I see **Eva**.

Žiak sa pýta **učiteľa**. – The pupil asks **the teacher**.

The **locative** designates a place and always comes together with a preposition.

This case answers the question “**where/ about what?**”.

☞ Examples: locative

Sme v **kaviarni**. – We are **in the cafe**.

Hovoríme o **Eve**. – We are talking **about Eva**.

The **instrumental** determines a remedy and answers the question “**by which/ through which/ with whom/ with what?**”.

☞ Examples: instrumental

On príde s **Evou**. – He comes **with Eva**.

On príde **autom**. – He's coming **by car**.

Declension of masculine nouns

In Slovak, the declension of masculine nouns distinguishes between animate and inanimate nouns and between hard and soft endings (see the section on the alphabet).

Slovak nouns are inflected for case and number.

Animated masculine nouns are male creatures (e.g. muž, chlap – man / pes – male dog), **inanimate** masculine nouns end in a consonant and denote non-living things (e.g. dom – house).

You will learn the declension on the basis of these examples:

chlap – man

byt – flat, apartment

muž – man

stroj – machine

Declension of masculine nouns → Singular

	hard consonant		soft consonant	
	masculine animated	masculine inanimate	masculine inanimate	masculine animated
Nominative	chlap	byt	muž	stroj
Genitive	chlapa	bytu	muža	stroja
Dative	chlapovi	bytu	mužovi	stroju
Accusative	chlapa	byt	muža	stroj
Locative	chlapovi	byte	mužovi	stroji
Instrumental	chlapom	bytom	mužom	strojom

Declension of masculine nouns → Plural

	hard consonant		soft consonant	
	masculine animated	masculine inanimate	masculine inanimate	masculine animated
Nominative	chlapi	byty	muži	stroje
Genitive	chlapov	bytov	mužov	strojov
Dative	chlapom	bytom	mužom	strojom
Accusative	chlapov	byty	mužov	stroje
Locative	chlapoch	bytoch	mužoch	strojoch
Instrumental	chlapmi	bytmi	mužmi	strojmi

Declension of feminine nouns in Slovak

You will learn the declension of Slovak feminine nouns on the basis of these examples:

žena – woman

pieseň – song

ulica – street, road

Declension of feminine nouns → Singular			
Nominative	žena	pieseň	ulica
Genitive	ženy	piesne	ulice
Dative	žene	piesni	ulici
Accusative	ženu	pieseň	ulicu
Locative	žene	piesni	ulici
Instrumental	ženou	piesňou	ulicou

Declension of feminine nouns → Plural			
Nominative	ženy	piesne	ulice
Genitive	žien	piesní	ulíc
Dative	ženám	piesňam	uliciam
Accusative	ženy	piesne	ulice
Locative	ženách	piesňach	uliciach
Instrumental	ženami	piesňami	ulicami

Declension of neuter nouns

You will learn the declension on the basis of these examples:

mesto – town, city

more – sea

námestie – square

dieťa – child, baby

múzeum – museum

Declension of neuter nouns → Singular

	-o	-e	-ie	-a (young creatures)	-um
Nominative	mesto	more	námestie	dieťa	múzeum
Genitive	mesta	mora	námestia	dieťaťa	múzea
Dative	mestu	moru	námestiu	dieťaťu	múzeu
Accusative	mesto	more	námestie	dieťa	múzeum
Locative	meste	mori	námestí	dieťaťi	múzeu
Instrumental	mest-om	morom	námestím	dieťaťom	múzeom

Declension of neuter nouns → Plural

	-o	-e	-ie	-a (young creatures)	-um
Nominative	mestá	moria	námestia	deti	múzeá
Genitive	miest	mori	námestí	detí	múzeí
Dative	mestám	moriam	námestiam	deťom	múzeám
Accusative	mestá	moria	námestia	deti	múzeá
Locative	mestách	moriach	námestiach	deťoch	múzeách
Instrumental	mestami	moriami	námestiami	deťmi	múzeami

Slovak Adjectives

Unlike English, Slovak adjectives always agree with the noun they refer to.

This means that the endings of adjectives change to match the noun they modify, in gender, number and case.

1. **gender** (feminine, masculine or neuter)
2. **number** (singular or plural)
3. **case** (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative or instrumental)

This allows you to describe different sizes and a variety of qualities such as, easy or difficult

Furthermore, a distinction is made between **hard** and **soft** adjectives.

The adjective is placed before the noun.

💬 Please practise with the following examples.

červené auto – a red car

ťažký kufr – a heavy suitcase

Môžeš prosím ťa niesť moje **ťažké** kufre? – Can you please carry my heavy suitcases?

Hard adjectives

Most adjectives in Slovak belong to the group of hard adjectives.

Hard masculine adjectives end in **-ý**, feminine end in **-á** and neutral end in **-é**.

💬 The declension of the hard adjectives uses the example:

mlad-ý/-á/-é (m/f/n) – young

Declension of hard adjectives → Singular				
	masculine animate	masculine inanimate	feminine	neuter
Nominative	mladý	mladý	mladá	mladé
Genitive	mladého	mladého	mladej	mladého
Dative	mladému	mladému	mladej	mladému
Accusative	mladého	mladý	mladú	mladé
Locative	mladom	mladom	mladej	mladom
Instrumental	mladým	mladým	mladou	mladým

Declension of hard adjectives → Plural				
	masculine animate	masculine inanimate	feminine	neuter
Nominative	mladí	mladé	mladé	mladé
Genitive	mladých	mladých	mladých	mladých
Dative	mladým	mladým	mladým	mladým
Accusative	mladých	mladé	mladé	mladé
Locative	mladých	mladých	mladých	mladých
Instrumental	mladými	mladými	mladými	mladými

The soft adjectives

Soft adjectives end in a so-called **soft consonants** (c, dz, č, d', j, ň, š, ť, ž, v).

Example:

cudz -í/-ia/-ie (m/f/n)– foreign, alien

Declension of soft adjectives → Singular				
	masculine animate	masculine inanimate	feminine	neuter
Nominative	cudz í	cudz í	cudz ia	cudz ie
Genitive	cudzi mu	cudzie ho	cudze j	cudzie ho
Dative	cudzie ho	cudzi mu	cudze j	cudzi mu
Accusative	cudzie ho	cudz í	cudzi u	cudz ie
Locative	cudz om	cudz om	cudze j	cudz om
Instrumental	cudz ím	cudz ím	cudz ou	cudz ím

Declension of soft adjectives → Plural				
	masculine animate	masculine inanimate	feminine	neuter
Nominative	cudz í	cudz ie	cudz ie	cudz ie
Genitive	cudz ích	cudz ích	cudz ích	cudz ích
Dative	cudz ím	cudz ím	cudz ím	cudz ím
Accusative	cudz ích	cudz ie	cudz ie	cudz ie
Locative	cudz ích	cudz ích	cudz ích	cudz ích
Instrumental	cudz ími	cudz ími	cudz ími	cudz ími

The comparison of adjectives

We often use adjectives and adverbs to compare.
There are three degrees of comparison, **positive** (or negative), **comparative**, and **superlative**.

☞ Examples:

Positive degree (basic form)

masculine Sing.

starý muž – an old man

feminine Sing.

stará žena – an old woman

neuter Sing.

staré auto – an old car

Plural

starí ľudia – old people

Comparative degree

The comparative degree is formed by adding '-er' to the end of the adjective followed by 'than'.

This is the case of monosyllabic adjectives.

On the contrary, in the case of polysyllabic adjectives, the adjectives remain the same and use the word 'more' before the adjective.

This form is used when comparing two things or expressing a higher degree of the adjective.

To form the comparative degree, you usually add the suffix -ší to the adjective base.

☞ Examples:

m Sing.

starší muž – an older man

f Sing.

staršia žena – an older woman

n Sing.

staršie auto – an older car

Pl.

starší ľudia – older people

Superlative degree

This form is used to express the highest degree of an adjective.

To form the superlative degree, you typically add the prefix **naj-** to the adjective base and change the ending according to the gender and number of the noun.

💬 Examples:

m Sing.

najstarší muž – the oldest man

f Sing.

najstaršia žena – the oldest woman

n Sing.

najstaršie auto – the oldest car

Pl.

najstarší ľudia – the oldest people

Remember that these are the basic patterns for regular adjectives.

Irregular adjectives may have different forms in the comparative and superlative degrees.

Some commonly used but irregular adjectives

Irregular comparison is only used for the following adjectives (and their derived adverbs): dobrý, zlý, malý, veľký, pekný.

dobrý (good) – lepší – najlepší

zlý (bad) – horší – najhorší

veľký (big/large) – väčší – najväčší

malý (small) – menší – najmenší

mladý (young) – mladší – najmladší

pekný (beautiful) – krajší – najkrajší

Adverbs in Slovak

Slovak adverbs are important for adding information about the manner, frequency, time, place, or degree of an action, verb, or adjective.

They are essential for providing context and accuracy to a sentence.

Here are some key points to know about Slovak adverbs:

Unlike adjectives, adverbs are **not declined** in Slovak.

Formation

In English adverbs are usually formed by adding (-ly) to adjectives.

In Slovak many adverbs are formed from adjectives, simply by changing the suffix from long to short ending in -e, -o or -y.

☞ Examples:

adjective: rýchly – fast

adverb: rýchlo – fast, quickly

rýchle auto – a fast car

Ivan jazdí **rýchlo**. – Ivan drives fast.

dobry pianista – a good piano player

Ivan hrá **dobre** na klavíri. – Ivan plays the piano well.

Comparison of adverbs

Like adjectives, adverbs can also be compared in Slovak.

The comparative form typically adds the suffix **-šie** or **-ejšie**.

The superlative form adds **naj-** to the base adverb.

☞ Examples:

ýchlo – fast, quickly

rýchlejšie – faster, more quickly

Michal šoféruje rýchlejšie. – Michal drives faster.

najrýchlejšie – fastest, the most quickly

Adam hrá najlepšie na klavíri. – Adam plays the piano the best.

Position within a sentence

In Slovak, adverbs can be quite flexible in their placement within a sentence, but they often appear before the verb.

Commonly used adverbs

Please learn these commonly used Slovak adverbs by heart as you will encounter them often.

hneď – immediately

ešte – yet

len – only

veľa – a lot

veľmi – very

tu – here

tam – there

často – often

vždy – always

The verb in Slovak

Verbs have **three** major **conjugations**.

There are three persons and two numbers (singular and plural).

Slovak verbs are an essential part of the language, they are parts of speech, which are used to specify an action or condition in people, animals, or objects.

There are several categories of verbs.

Infinitive form

The base form of a verb in Slovak is the infinitive, which typically ends in **-ť**.

In a dictionary you will find all Slovak verbs listed in their infinitive form.

💬 Examples:

robiť – to do

byť – to be

mať – to have

ísť – to go

chcieť – to want

Conjugation of verbs

In Slovak, verbs will change and have different endings, depending on the time, person, mood.

This is known as conjugation.

This means that the verb form changes depending on who is performing the action, whether it's one person or multiple people, and when the action is taking place.

Person and number

Slovak verbs have three persons (first, second, and third) and two numbers (singular and plural).

The conjugation of verbs depends on the combination of person and number.

☰ Example:

First person singular: ja robím – I do

Second person singular: ty robíš – you do

Third person singular: on/ona/ono robí – he/she/it does

First person plural: my robíme – we do

Second person plural: vy robíte – you do

Third person plural: oni/ony/ony robia – they do

Please take a look at the chapter with the [personal pronouns](#) to learn more.

Tenses

Slovak verbs are conjugated for various tenses, including present, past, future, conditional, and more. Each tense conveys when an action is happening or happened.

Aspect

Verbs in Slovak can be either imperfective (ongoing actions) or perfective (completed actions).

This aspect affects verb conjugation and meaning.

Regular and irregular verbs

Slovak verbs can be categorised as regular or irregular.

Regular verbs follow predictable conjugation patterns, while irregular verbs have unique conjugations that do not follow the standard rules.

Auxiliary verbs byť (to be) and mať (to have)

Auxiliary verbs (also called helping verbs) are used along with a main verb to express tense, mood, or voice.

Let's start out with the two very important auxiliary verbs byť (to be) and mať (to have).

Unlike English, Slovak does not typically use auxiliary verbs to form the past, present and future tenses. Instead, they are formed by changing the verb endings.

For example, "I see" is "vidím," "I saw" is "videl som," and "I will see" is "uvidím."

When you learn their conjugation in the present tense – you will be able to express a lot!

Present tense of important auxiliary verbs mať (to have)

(ja) mám	I have
(ty) máš	you have
(on/ona/ono) má	he/she/it has
(my) máme	we have
(vy/Vy) máte	you have
(oni/ony) majú	they have

Please note:

Mať is a regular verb, whereas byť is irregular.

**Present tense of important auxiliary verbs
byť (sein)**

(ja) som	I am
(ty) si	you are
(on/ona/ono) je	he/she/it is
(my) sme	we are
(vy/Vy) ste	you are
(oni/ony) sú	they are

The present tense

The conjugation of Slovak verbs in the present tense is very regular.

Let's look at an example:

In the present tense, the verb **robiť** undergoes regular conjugation for regular verbs, where the endings change to match the person and number of the subject.

The stem **rob-** remains the same, and the endings are added accordingly to form the correct conjugated form for each subject.

infinitive: robiť – to do

ja robím – I do

ty robíš – you do (informal singular)

on/ona/ono robí – he/she/it does

my robíme – we do

vy robíte – you do (formal singular/plural)

oni/ony/ony robia – they (m/f/n) do

Negation of Slovak verbs

The negation of verbs in Slovak follows a simple rule.
The prefixes **ne/nie** (no) are added to the verb form.

Examples:

nie som – I am not

nemám – I have not

Ja **nejem**. – I am not eating.

Oni **nechodia** von. – They do not go out.

My **nevidíme** nič. – We do not see anything.

Future tense

To describe future actions, you combine the future tense of the auxiliary verb byť (to be) with the infinitive of a verb.

general rule		example	
budem + infinitive	I will ...	budem volať	I will call
budeš + infinitive	you will...	budeš volať	you will call
bude + infinitive	he/she/it will ...	bude volať	he/she/it will call
budeme + infinitive	we will...	budeme volať	we will call
budete + infinitive	you will...	budete volať	you will call
budú + infinitive	they will...	budú volať	they will call

Examples:

Budem pracovať zajtra. – I will work tomorrow.

Ona bude študovať v zahraničí. – She will study abroad.

Budeme mať večeru o 7. – We will have dinner at 7.

Building the past participle of Slovak verbs

Start with the infinitive form

Begin with the infinitive form of the verb.

For example, let's use the verb *robiť* (to do).

Remove the infinitive ending

Remove the infinitive ending *-ť* from the verb stem.

In our example, the stem is *rob-*.

Add the suffix

Add one of the past participle suffixes *-l/-la/-lo/-li* to the verb stem.

The final form will be **robil** for masculine subjects and **robila** for feminine subjects.

☞ Here are a few more examples:

písať (to write) → *napísal* (m) / *napísala* (f)

hovoríť (to speak) → *hovoril* (m) / *hovorila* (f)

rozumieť (to understand) → *rozumel* (m) / *rozumela* (f)

Keep in mind that some verbs may have irregular past participles.

The past participle is used in compound verb tenses and passive constructions in Slovak.



Past tense

The past tense is formed by changing the suffix -ť of the infinitive.

The suffix depends on the gender and number:

- **-l** in masculine gender (písa-ť = písa-l)
- **-la** in feminine gender (kresli-ť = kresli-la)
- **-lo** in neutral gender (chodi-ť = chodi-lo)
- **-li** in plural (vari-ť = vari-li)

The past tense is formed following this rule:

1st and 2nd person singular and plural

past participle of the main verb + the conjugated auxiliary
verb byť (to be)

3rd person singular and plural:

past participle of the main verb is sufficient

Example:

ja robil (m)/robila (f) som – I did
ty robil (m)/robila (f) si – you did
on/ona/ono robil (m)/robila (f) – he/she/it did
my robili (m)/robili (f) sme – we did
vy robili (m)/robili (f) ste – you did
oni/ony/ony robili (m)/robili (f) – they did

Passive

To form the passive, use the auxiliary verb byť (to be) + the past participle of the verb.

Formation of passive verb forms in Slovak

general rule		example	
som + past participle	I	som pozvaný	I am invited
si + past participle	you	si pozvaný	you are invited
je + past participle	he	je pozvaný	he is invited
	she	je pozvaná	she is invited
	it	je pozvané	it is invited
sme + past participle	we	sme pozvaní	we are invited
ste + past participle	you	ste pozvaní	you are invited
sú + past participle	they	sú pozvaní	they are invited

Imperative

To form the imperative of a Slovak verb, you generally follow this rule.

- 1) Start with the infinitive
For example, let's use the verb robiť (to do).
- 2) Remove the infinitive ending
In our example, the stem is rob-.
- 3) Add the appropriate ending to match the person and number of the subject.

Here are the imperative endings for informal singular, informal plural, and formal plural:

Informal singular (ty):

Add -j to the stem.

Example:

Robj! – Do!

Hraj! – Play!

Informal / formal plural (vy)

Add -te to the stem.

☞ Examples:

Rob**te**! – Do!

Hraj**te**! – Play!

Informal / formal plural (my)

Add -me to the stem.

☞ Examples:

Rob**me**! – Do!

Hraj**me**! – Let us play!

Pronouns in Slovak**Personal pronouns****Slovak personal pronouns**

ja	I
ty	you
on	he
ona	she
ono	it
my	we
vy	you
Vy	you (polite form of address)
oni	they
(masculine, animate)	
ony	they
(masculine, inanimate, feminine, neuter)	

A personal pronoun is **not required**, if the person is already clearly defined by the conjugated verb, see also the examples below.

It is only added if the person is to be emphasised.

💬 Examples:

Idem. – I go.

Chýbaš mi. – I miss you.

Píše rýchlo. – She writes fast.

Čítame. – We read.

Spievate. – You sing.

Bývajú. – They live.

Possessive pronouns

The possessive pronouns depend on the noun they are associated with.

Slovak possessive pronouns → Singular					
		masculine animate	masculine inanimate	feminine	neuter
1 st Sg.	my	môj	môj	moja	moje
2 nd Sg.	your	tvoj	tvoj	tvoja	tvoje
3 rd Sg.	his	jeho	jeho	jeho	jeho
	her	jej	jej	jej	jej
	its	jeho	jeho	jeho	jeho
1 st Pl.	our	naš	naš	naša	naše
2 nd Pl.	your	váš	váš	vaša	vaše
3 rd Pl.	their	ich	ich	ich	ich

Slovak possessive pronouns

→ Plural

		masculine animate	masculine inanimate	feminine	neuter
1 st Sg.	my	moji	moje	moje	moje
2 nd Sg.	your	tvoji	tvoje	tvoje	tvoje
3 rd Sg.	his	jeho	jeho	jeho	jeho
	her	jej	jej	jej	jej
	its	jeho	jeho	jeho	jeho
1 st Pl.	our	naši	naše	naše	naše
2 nd Pl.	your	vaši	vaše	vaše	vaše
3 rd Pl.	their	ich	ich	ich	ich

Examples:

moja učiteľka – my teacher

tvoje autá – your cars

naš doktor – our doctor

Interrogative pronouns

Here is a tiny collection of the most commonly used interrogative pronouns.

Examples:

Kto sa príde najesť? – Who is coming to dinner?

Čo varíš? – What are you cooking?

Kde prestrieme na stôl? – Where do we set the table?

Odkiaľ pochádza ten profesor? – Where does the professor come from?

Kedy ho musíme vyzdvihnúť? – When do we need to pick him up?

Kam cestujete? – Where are you traveling to?

Na aký spôsob pripravíme to jedlo? – How/ In what way are we going to prepare the food?

Aká bola cesta? – What was the journey like?

Prečo vlak prišiel neskoro? – Why was the train late?

How to form interrogative sentences

The ability to ask questions will help you communicate effectively and improve your grammar.

In interrogative sentences, the sentence order does not change, only the intonation provides information.

Examples:

Hovoríte po slovensky? – Do you speak Slovak?

Je toto miesto voľné? – Is this seat vacant?

Má Evin otec auto? – Does Eva's father have a car?

Count from 1 to 10 in Slovak

jeden [ye-den] – one

dva [dva] – two

tri [tri] – three

štyri [shty-ree] – four

päť [pyaht] – five

šesť [shesht] – six

sedem [seh-dem] – seven

osem [oh-sem] – eight

deväť [deh-vyat] – nine

desať [deh-saht] – ten