

Reading sample

Ana Bilić

The Silver Lamp

Srebrna lampa

**A mini novel with vocabulary
section for learners of Croatian**

Level: Easystarts

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INTRODUCTION

Srebrna lampa – *The Silver Lamp* – from the series *Kroatisch leicht – Croatian Made Easy* is a reader for learners of the Croatian language. It is a mini novel with a vocabulary list at the end.

✓	Level 0	Easystarts	Up to 400 words
	Level 1	Beginners	Up to 800 words
	Level 2	Intermediate	Up to 1,200 words
	Level 3	Advanced	Up to 1,700 words
	Level 4	Perfection	Up to 2,200 words

The books from the series *Croatian Made Easy* are designed as reading materials that will help students of Croatian grow their vocabulary and enhance their command of the language. Each book is a mini novel whose theme, grammar and vocabulary are tailored to a specific study level – for easystarts, beginners, intermediate or advanced students. Here are some indicators to help you decide what your level is:

Easystarts – Learners who can use Croatian in the present tense.

Beginners – Learners who can use Croatian actively in the present tense and have passive understanding of the future and perfect tenses.

Intermediate level – Learners who are able to actively use the present, future and perfect tenses.

Advanced level – Learners who actively use the present, future and perfect tenses and have passive understanding of the aspects of the verbs.

Perfection – Learners who actively use the present, future, perfect tenses and aspects of the verbs.

For more information about other mini novels, please visit the website:

<http://www.croatian-made-easy.com>

Some Tips For Easy Reading

1. Omitted subject – look out for the verb

Always look out for the verb in a sentence and note how it ends. This is very important as the subject is often dropped, and there are words which look like a subject but are not in fact one. This is the case with “mi” and “ti”. Both are not only used in the subjective case (“we” and “you”), but also in the objective case (“me”, “you” as an object). It is therefore best to start out by looking at the verb and finding out to which (grammatical) person it refers:

Možeš *mi* dati knjigu? – Can **you** give/hand *me* the book?

Šaljemo *ti* pismo. – **We** send *you* the letter.

2. Open the vocabulary list/dictionary right away or not?

This depends on whether you just want to read the information in the text, or if you also want to learn the vocabulary contained in it. If you only want to read the text, it is better not to look for help in the dictionary right away. Each sentence will contain some words you know, and you can try and guess what the rest means in the given context. Even if the sentence does not make sense, try to go on and read the next one, and maybe the broader context will help you understand. Only if it still does not work should you consult the dictionary. But if you are reading the text to expand your vocabulary, you should look up all new words to avoid memorizing any incorrect meanings.

3. Do I need to know adjectives at all?

To get a rough idea of the basic story, adjectives are not the top priority. To understand the text fully and enjoy reading

it, adjectives are essential.

4. Words with two meanings

These words may be irritating to some readers. Some examples include:

„i“ and; also

I ja želim čitati knjigu. (*verbatim*) Also I want to read the book.

“trebati” – shall, should; need

“vrijeme” – weather; time

“se” – myself, yourself, etc.; one (impersonal subject)

– And the list goes on.

It is useful to make a note of such words to avoid getting confused.

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CONTENT - SADRŽAJ

1. Kod prijatelja
2. Polako, polako!
3. Plan za danas
4. "Srebrna lampa"
5. Ručak
6. Prijateljstvo
7. Interesantna tema
8. Neobična reakcija
9. Pitanje
10. Branka
11. Baka
12. Karte za kino
13. Poziv
14. Poslije kina
15. Pismo
16. Dogovor
17. Razgovor s bakom

1. KOD PRIJATELJA

Moje ime je John i ja živim u SAD-u, u Pittsburghu. Ali sada sam u Hrvatskoj, u Osijeku. Osijek je mali grad na istoku Hrvatske, udaljen 280 kilometara od Zagreba.

U Osijeku imam prijatelje. To su Delimir i Anica. Ja stanujem kod njih. Delimir i ja smo prijatelji jer su moja baka Ruža i njegova baka Jelena prijateljice od djetinjstva. Moja baka je naime iz Osijeka. Ona je rođena u Osijeku, ali već 60 godina živi u Pittsburghu.

Delimir i Anica su cijeli dan na poslu i ja sam u njihovom stanu. Ja imam godišnji odmor 3 tjedna. Spavam dugo i šetam po Osijeku. Osijek je mali grad, ali je vrlo lijep. Svaki dan kuham ručak za Delimira i Anicu. Oni vole sve što ja serviram za ručak. Ja znam dobro kuhati jer imam puno recepata od moje bake.

2. POLAKO, POLAKO!

Ja kupujem svaki dan sve što trebam za ručak. Idem u trgovinu i na tržnicu i vježbam hrvatski jezik. Ja volim vježbati hrvatski jer ja govorim s bakom samo hrvatski. Znam dosta dobro hrvatski, ali ne kao moja baka. Zato sada, u Osijeku, želim stalno vježbati hrvatski.

Govoriti strani jezik nije jednostavno. To zna svatko. To ne ide bez problema. U Osijeku su svi oduševljeni što ja govorim hrvatski i misle da ja sve razumijem. Kada ja govorim hrvatski, oni odmah počinju govoriti brzo i puno. Ja kažem: „Molim vas, polako, polako ...“. Ali to ne razumiju svi jer je moj akcent drugačiji nego njihov. Kada kažem na engleskom „Molim, polako...“, onda svi razumiju.

VOCABULARY

Abbreviations:

acc. - accusative

coll. - colloquial language

dat. - dative

f - female

inf. - infinitive

loc. - locative

m - male

n - neuter

N. - nominative

pl. - plural

voc. - vocative

A

a - but; and

A tako! - I see!

akcent - accent

ako - when, if; ako morate, onda morate - if you have to do it, you have to do it

ali - but

Amerikanci (pl.) - (pl.) American

B

baka - grandma, granny; Bako! - (*voc.*) Grandma!

banci → L: u banci; N: banka – bank (*financial institution*)

baš – (*used as emphasis of statement*) simply, just, but; Baš kako treba. – As it should be.

bez – without

bez obzira – regardless

bijel – white

biti – to be

biti na „ti“ – to address so. informally

blaga (f) – mild

blizina – close; u blizini – near, close by

boja – color

bolesna (f) – ill, sick

bolestan (m) – ill, sick

bolje – better

brak – marriage

bridž – bridge (*card game*)

brzo – fast, quick

budan – awake

buditi (ja budim) – to awake (I awake)

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Mini novels croatian-made-easy

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Level 0: Easystarts – up to 400 words

Ana Bilić: My Long-Distance Relationship – Moja daleka ljubav
– *a mini novel with vocabulary section and English introduction*

Ana Bilić: The Silver Lamp / Srebrna lampa

– *a mini novel with vocabulary section and English introduction*

Level 1: Beginner – up to 800 words

Ana Bilić: The Extraordinary Challenge – Izuzetni izazov – *a mini novel with vocabulary section and English introduction*

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More information about «croatian made easy» on:

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and find out more about mini-novels and other learning material.

New books are constantly being published.