

Benvignûts in Friûl

Grammar contents: Subject personal pronouns

Present of “to be”

Affirmative and interrogative sentences

Definite singular article

Gender of the nouns

Mister, Mrs. Miss

SUBJECT PERSONAL PRONOUNS

There are two forms of personal pronouns in the Friulian language: the tonic form and the atonic form.

	<i>tonic form</i>	<i>atonic form</i>
io	jo	o
tu	tu	tu
egli	lui	al
ella	jê	e
noi	nô, noaltris	o
voi	vô, voaltris	o
essi	lôr	a

They are nice.

(You) are Friulian.

(Lôr) a son simpatics.

(Tu) tu sês furlan.

The tonic pronouns can be omitted.

The atonic pronouns (**o, tu, al, e, o, o, a**) must always be expressed and are found in the conjugation of the indicative, conjunctive and conditional moods. They are not used in the other moods. In the affirmative form they come before the verb. In the interrogative form they are placed after the verb.

They are not requested in the negative sentences (exception, with *tu*; see Unit 3), with the reflexive forms, with **cui, ce, nissun, ducj, cu** as we will see later on.

They aren't tired.

Mark is in Rome.

I'm a good boy.

No son stracs.

Marc al è a Rome.

(Jo) o soi un bon frut.

NOTE. The courtesy forms **you** (masculine and feminine genders) in Friulian are expressed with **Jê** (referred to a woman) e **Lui** (referred to a man). You seldom use the **Vô** form, for both genders.

*Mister, do you work in London?
Are you French, madam?*

*Siôr Rossi, Lui lavorial a Londre?
Jê siore, ise francese?*

Auxiliary verb **jessi (sei)**: present indicative

<i>afirmative form</i>	<i>interrogative form</i>
jo o soi	soio?
tu tu sês	sêstu?
lui al è	isal?
jê e je	ise?
nô o sin	sino?
vô o sês	sêso?
lôr a son	sono?

AFFIRMATIVE FORM

The subject (unlike English) may be placed before the verb or in other positions after the verb. If the subject is a pronoun, it is placed before the verb.

She is German.

Our grandfather is coming tonight.

Jê e je todescje.

Usgnot al rive il nono.

Il nono al rive usgnot.

Al rive usgnot il nono.

INTERROGATIVE FORM

When the subject is a noun or a personal noun, it may change position. If the subject is a pronoun, you place it (the atonic form, and must always be expressed) immediately after the verb. The tonic pronoun can be omitted.

Is Marc Friulian?

Are you Gertrud?

Are we tired?

Marc isal furlan?

Isal furlan Marc?

Sêstu Gertrud?

Sino stracs?

SINGULAR DEFINITE ARTICLE

For the singular masculine form: you use *il* before a masculine noun beginning with a consonant or with **J**; you use *l'* before the masculine nouns beginning with a vowel. The form **lu** (il before a vowel) may be found in literary forms.

For the feminine singular forms: you use **la** before a feminine noun beginning with a consonant or with **j**. You use **la o l'** (used in the spoken language and in the written tradition) before the feminine nouns beginning with a vowel.

the packet – il pac

the pen – la pene

the judgement – il judizi

the watch – l'orloi

the water – l'aghe

the grass – la jerbe

GENDER OF THE NOUNS

In Friulian, differently from English, there are only two genders: the masculine and the feminine.

Personal names and personal common nouns are of the gender they represent:

George, waiter: masculine

Jane, waitress: feminine

Zorç, camerîr

Joane, camerire

All the other nouns should be learnt with their correct article.

house

la cjase

bread

il pan

chair

la cjadree

book

il libri

There are nouns with both genders: **la radio, il radio – la sium, il sium – il di, la di – il steme, la steme ...**

A lot of rivers have a feminine gender: **la Fele** (Italian, il Fella), **la Plâf** (Italian, il Piave), **la Tor** (Italian, il Torre), **la Danau** (Italian, il Danubio) ...

Being the noun mount of feminine gender, we have **la Mont Sante** (Italian, il Monte Santo), **la Mont Cjanine** (Italian, il Monte Canin), **la Mont Rose** (Italian, il Monte Rosa), **la Mont Maiôr** (Italian, il Mataiur).

MISTER, MISTRESS, LADY, MISS ...

Before a personal name or a surname, when they have a general meaning and in the vocative forms, we use **siôr** for the masculine (the form **sâr** is rare and literary) and **siore** or **signorine** for the feminine.

<i>He is Mr. Rossi.</i>	Al è il siôr Rossi.
<i>He is a German man.</i>	Al è un siôr todesc.
<i>Excuse me, Madam ...</i>	Ch'e scusi, siore ...
<i>This is Miss Gertrud.</i>	Cheste e je la signorine Gertrud

Verb **STÂ** (*to be, to live*): present indicative

affirmative form

jo o stoi
tu tu stâs
lui al sta
jê e sta
nô o stin
voaltris o stais
lôr a stan

interrogative form

jo stoio?
tu stâstu?
lui staial?
jê staie?
nô stino?
voaltris staiso?
lôr stano?

Esercizi 1

Who is pronouncing these sentences? Tick the correct answer

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Sêstu Gertrud? | <input type="checkbox"/> siôr Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise |
| 2. Gertrud e je bielzà chi. | <input type="checkbox"/> siore Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise |
| 3. Cheste e je Gertrud! | <input type="checkbox"/> Agnul | <input type="checkbox"/> siore Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise |
| 4. Cheste e je Luise. | <input type="checkbox"/> siore Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Agnul |
| 5. Ancje tu sêstu chi? | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Gertrud |
| 6. Alore tu tu sês Gertrud. | <input type="checkbox"/> siôr Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> siore Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc |
| 7. Mame! O sin ca. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gertrud | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise |
| 8. Ancje jo o voi a durmî. | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise | <input type="checkbox"/> Gertrud |
| 9. Dal sigûr tu sês strache. | <input type="checkbox"/> siôr Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> siore Dri | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc |
| 10. O soi strache. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gertrud | <input type="checkbox"/> Marc | <input type="checkbox"/> Luise |

Esercizi 2

*Insert the correct subject personal pronoun (tonic and atonic).
In the first exercises, for the new words, use a dictionary.*

1. (Ella) je une femine todescje.
2. (Essi) son a cjase.
3. (Egli) è un universitari.
4. (Noi) son simpri legris.
5. (Tu) sês furtunât.
6. (Esse) son amiis simpatichis.
7. (Voi) sês invidâts a cene.
8. (Tu) sês coragjôs.
9. (Voi)stais intune biele cjase.
10. (Ella) je cence mari.

Esercizi 3

Insert the atonic personal pronoun.

1. Gertrud je todescje.
2. Marc e Alexander son zovins.
3. Tu sês simpatic.
4. Lôr son furlans.
5. Voaltris sês a Udin.
6. Jo stoi a Tarcint.
7. Nô sin in cjase.
8. Jê lavore a Milan.
9. Lui è alt.
10. Gertrud e Luise son in cjamare

Esercizi 4

*Insert the atonic pronoun and the correct form of the verb **to be**.*

1. Lui content.
2. Lôr a Udin.
3. Jo pront a zuiâ.
4. Noaltris simpri in buine companie.
5. Luise strache.
6. Tu biel.
7. Voaltris a cjase.
8. tart.
9. Nô in stazion.
10. Jo in cjamare.

Esercizi 5

Insert the atonic pronoun and the correct form of the verb **to be**.

1. La cjamare biele.
2. Marc di Codroip.
3. Gertrud e Luise bielzà chi.
4. La siore Dri a cjase.
5. za tart.
6. Jo e Marie di Udin.
7. Tu e Zuan fradis.
8. Jo timit.
9. Jê di Heidelberg.
10. Voaltris fortunâts.

Esercizi 6

Change in the interrogative form the previous exercise.

Esercizi 7

Insert the definite article.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a) | b) |
| 1. fantate. | 1. cjamare. |
| 2. libri. | 2. amì. |
| 3. taule. | 3. pene. |
| 4. professôr. | 4. cjapiel. |
| 5. amie. | 5. borsete. |
| 6. armâr. | 6. articul. |
| 7. miedi. | 7. zes. |
| 8. clap. | 8. ordenadôr. |
| 9. ort. | 9. orele. |
| 10. jeche. | 10. gjaline. |

Esercizi 8

Match these communicative sentences.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Thanking. | a) Benvignût, di cûr. |
| 2. Wishing a nice day. | b) O soi strac. |
| 3. Wishing good night. | c) Graziis. |
| 4. Introducing oneself. | d) Buine sere. |
| 5. Saying you are tired. | e) Cheste e je Luise. |
| 6. Leaving a friend. | f) O soi Paule. |
| 7. Introducing a person. | g) Buine gnot. |
| 8. Saying it's already late. | h) Bundì. |
| 9. Welcoming someone. | i) Al è za tart. |
| 10. Wishing good evening | j) Mandi. |

Esercizi 9

Make the correct questions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Il viaç al è stât interessant. | a) |
| 2. Sì, o soi Luise. | b) |
| 3. Marc al è a stâ a Codroip. | c) |
| 4. Sì, e je la sût di Marc. | d) |
| 5. Gertrud e je tal tinel. | e) |
| 6. Sì, o sin stracs. | f) |

Esercizi 10

What do you say on these occasions?

1. A man comes into your office: you greet him and introduce yourself.
2. You say it's late.
3. You meet a boy: you introduce yourself and ask his name.
4. You introduce your sister Paule to a woman.
5. You say you live in Milan.
6. You meet Marc's friend: you ask him where she lives.
7. You meet your sister's friend: you ask her if she lives in Udin.
8. It's late, you are at your friends' house: you are leaving them.

Esercizi 11

ore	sio	cûr	gnot	plasê	student	pari	sere
	viaç	mame	sût	famee	tinel	cjamare	

Insert the Friulian word with the definite article.

night	.....	heart	.....
evening	.....	student	.....
sitting room	.....	pleasure	.....
father	.....	voyage	.....
mother	.....	time	.....
family	.....	sister	.....
woman	.....	bedroom	.....

Esercizi 12

Complete the following dialogue.

"Salve."	""
""	" Jo mi clami Francesc."
""	" O stoi a Udin."
""	" Mandi."