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# Romanian

## Absolute Beginner



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## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #1

## Introducing Yourself in Romanian

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# 1

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună, mă numesc Masanobu.
2. Andreea: Bună, eu sunt Andreea. Bine ai venit în România!
3. Masanobu: Mulțumesc. Sunt încântat să te cunosc în sfârșit.
4. Andreea: Și eu sunt încântată de cunoștință. Să mergem să vedem orașul!
5. Masanobu: Cu drag.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hi, my name is Masanobu.
2. Andreea: Hi, I'm Andreea. Welcome to Romania!
3. Masanobu: Thank you. I'm glad to finally meet you.
4. Andreea: I'm pleased to meet you as well. Let's go see the city!
5. Masanobu: Gladly.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
bună	hi	interjection
a (se) numi	to (be) call(ed)	verb
mulțumesc	thank you	interjection

încântat	glad, delighted	adjective
a fi	to be	verb
a (se) cunoaște	to meet (each other) (for the first time), to get acquainted	verb
a vedea	to see	verb
oraș	city	noun
a merge	to walk, to go	verb
drag	dear; pleasure	adjective/noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Bună, Andreea!</b> "Hi, Andreea!"</p>	<p><b>Bună Elena! Bine ai venit în orașul meu.</b> "Hi Elena! Welcome to my city!"</p>
<p><b>Mă numesc Andreea.</b> "My name is Andreea."</p>	<p><b>Mulțumesc!</b> "Thank you!"</p>
<p><b>Mulțumesc pentru sprijinul tău.</b> "Thank you for your support."</p>	<p><b>Nu, mulțumesc.</b> "No thank you."</p>
<p><b>Încântat de cunoștință.</b> "Pleased to meet you."</p>	<p><b>Eu sunt american.</b> "I am American."</p>
<p><b>A fi bărbat.</b> "To be a man."</p>	<p><b>M-am cunoscut cu mama ta astăzi.</b> "Today I got acquainted with your mother."</p>
<p><b>Văd cerul.</b> "I see the sky."</p>	<p><b>Tokyo este un oraș foarte mare.</b> "Tokyo is a very big city."</p>

<b>București este un oraș mare.</b> "Bucharest is a big city."	<b>Acest autobuz merge la Brașov?</b> "Is this bus going to Brasov?"
<b>Mergem cu drag.</b> "We're gladly going."	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Bună!** "Hi!"

This is one of the most basic greeting expressions. It literally means "good" (from "good day").

The closest translation in English is "hi," so it is used in rather casual situations, such as when greeting peers or friends. However, in formal situations, such as when greeting people older than you, your teachers, supervisors etc., the longer version—**bună ziua**, "hello"—is usually used. In this case, we have the full, literal expression "good day."

Why is this expression only "usually" used? Because there are exceptions. Even if the person you're addressing is older than you or is higher in rank/your teacher/supervisor, you can use the casual **bună**, "hi." If he or she has previously let you, it is ok to do so.

#### **For example:**

1. *Bună, sunt Masanobu.*  
"Hi, I'm Masanobu."

### **Încântat (ă) de cunoștință** "Pleased to meet you"

This phrase is made out of **încântat**, which is an adjective meaning "delighted" or "pleased," and the noun **cunoștință**, "acquaintance."

It can be used in virtually any situation when meeting someone for the first time, regardless of the person.

**Încântat** is used for male speakers and **încântată** for female speakers. Also, like in English, you can omit sunt "I am." So you can just say **încântat de cunoștință**, which would be the equivalent of "pleased to meet you."

**For example:**

1. *Încântat de cunoștință, Andreea.*  
"Pleased to meet you, Andreea."

**Cu drag**  
"Gladly"

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The word **drag** can be an adjective or a noun. When it is an adjective, it means "dear"—it means "pleasure" when it's a noun. However, the expression **cu drag** means "gladly," which in English is an adverb. To understand why this is, let's break the phrase down to see its literal meaning: **cu** means "with," and **drag** is in this case a noun, so it means "pleasure." Therefore the phrase would sound something like "with pleasure," hence its adverbial property.

This is used in formal situations as well as informal ones, but mostly when you mean to convey that it's a pleasure to do something. This is a phrase you'd rather use in an informal context, between friends, family etc., so it would sound unnatural in a business context.

**For example:**

1. *Te ajut cu drag.*  
"I will gladly help you."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Grammar to Introduce Yourself

1. ***Bună, mă numesc Masanobu.***  
**"Hi, my name is Masanobu."**
  2. ***Bună, eu sunt Andreea.***  
**"Hi, I'm Andreea."**
  3. ***Să mergem să vedem orașul!***  
**"Let's go see the city!"**
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In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. Say "to call, to name" in the reflexive form to mean "my name is"
2. Use "to be"
3. Make sentences with "let's!"

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### 1. How to say "to call, to name" in the reflexive form to mean "my name is"

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In Romanian, the phrase commonly used to express "my name is" is **mă numesc** and it literally means "I name myself." Also, in Romanian the pronoun is usually omitted, therefore we have only two words. "I" is **Eu** as we will see in the chart below. **Mă** means "myself" and is a reflexive pronoun, while **numesc** is **a numi** ("to name"/"to call") conjugated in the singular 1st person. You can use **mă numesc** to mean "my name is" in just about any situation where you want to introduce yourself. Below we can see the conjugation chart for each of the reflexive pronouns and for the verb **a numi** ("to name"/"to call").

#### Reflexive pronouns conjugation chart

singular	<i>eu</i>	"I"	<b>mă</b>	"myself"
singular	<i>tu</i>	"you"	<b>te</b>	"yourself"
singular	<i>el/ea</i>	"he/she"	<b>se</b>	"himself/ herself"
plural	<i>noi</i>	"we"	<b>ne</b>	"ourselves"
plural	<i>voi</i>	"you"	<b>vă</b>	"yourselves"
plural	<i>ei/ele</i>	"they"	<b>se</b>	"themselves"

#### Verb **a numi** = "to name"/"to call" conjugation chart (present tense)

singular	(eu) <i>numesc</i>	"I name"
singular	(tu) <i>numești</i>	"you name"
singular	(el/ea) <i>numește</i>	"he/she names"
plural	(noi) <i>numim</i>	"we name"
plural	(voi) <i>numiți</i>	"you name"
plural	(ei/ele) <i>numesc</i>	"they name"

## Sentence Structures

reflexive pronoun (conjugated) + verb (conjugated)

### For example:

1. *mă numesc* / lit. "(I) name myself"

### Let's see some example sentences using this phrase:

1. *Bună, eu mă numesc Mike.*  
"Hi, my name is Mike."
2. *Tu cum te numești?*  
"What is your name?"
3. *Mă numesc Andrei.*  
"My name is Andrei."

## 2. How to use "to be"

As in many languages, in Romanian too the verb "to be" is one of the most frequently used and important verbs. In Romanian it is a **fi**. The *a* is the infinitive particle of the verb and **fi** is the verb itself in the infinitive (original) form. Just like in English, it can mean "to exist" or "to be something" (indicating occupation, qualities etc.). In this latter case it has the function of copula.

**Let's take a look at the conjugation chart of the verb *a fi* in present tense below:**

singular	<b>(eu) sunt</b>	<b>I am</b>
singular	<b>(tu) ești</b>	<b>you are</b>
singular	<b>(el/ea) este (informal: e)</b>	<b>he/she is</b>
plural	<b>(noi) suntem</b>	<b>we are</b>
plural	<b>(voi) sunteți</b>	<b>you are</b>
plural	<b>(ei/ele) sunt</b>	<b>they are</b>

**Now let's take a look at how the verb can be used in some actual examples.**

1. *Ei sunt aici.*  
"They are here."
2. *Eu sunt american.*  
"I am American."
3. *Noi suntem fericiți.*  
"We are happy."

### 3. How to make sentences with "let's!"

In Romanian, the incentive phrase "let's" is expressed using the verb tense called **conjunctiv**, equivalent to the English "conjunctive." In Romanian, it is marked by the conjunction

**să**. It usually means "to" (as in "to eat"), but in this case it carries the meaning of "let's."

Now let's see how to actually make a sentence using **să**.

To actually say "let's do something," you attach the conjunctive particle **să** before the present tense of the verb. Because this expression refers to the 1st person in its plural form (i.e. *noi*, "we"), the verb is conjugated to the plural 1st person.

### Sentence Structures

să + present tense of the verb (conjugated in 1st person plural)

## Now let's see some examples that use the phrase pattern we just learned:

1. *Să mergem în România!*  
"Let's go to Romania!"
2. *Să vorbim!*  
"Let's talk!"
3. *Să scriem în română!*  
"Let's write Romanian." (Lit. "Let's write in Romanian.")

## Examples from the Dialogue:

1. *Bună, eu sunt Andreea. Bine ai venit în România!*  
"Hi, I'm Andreea. Welcome to Romania!"
2. *Și eu sunt încântată de cunoștință. Să mergem să vedem orașul!*  
"I'm pleased to meet you as well. Let's go see the city!"

## Sample Sentences

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1. *El se numește Masanobu.*  
"His name is Masanobu."
2. *Eu mă numesc Andreea și sunt din România.*  
"My name is Andreea and I'm from Romania."
3. *Să mâncăm!*  
"Let's eat!"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Meeting someone for the first time in Romania

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When meeting someone for the first time in Romania, you should generally use formal speech. However, when you are in a non-business situation and if you can tell the person is in the same age group as you, it's ok to use informal language.

Also, physical contact usually only takes the form of a firm handshake if it is

between males. Lighter handshakes are also ok in rather formal situations between men and women. Romanian culture used to also include the greeting where a man would lightly kiss a woman's hand. However, this has become rather uncommon in the past years and should be avoided.

Making frequent eye contact is also good for a positive first impression, but no longer than 3-4 seconds at a time. However, if you grew up in a culture which typically has less eye contact, less should not cause any significant hindrance in your communication with whom you're becoming acquainted.

Useful expression:

1. *a da noroc*  
"to shake hands"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #2

## Making Friends in Romania

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# 2

## ROMANIAN

1. Andreea: Bună, mamă. Ți-l prezint pe amicul meu, Masanobu.
2. Masanobu: Bună ziua, mă numesc Masanobu. Sunt japonez. Încântat de cunoștință.
3. Doamna Popescu: Încântată de cunoștință. Bine ai venit în România!
4. Doamna Popescu: Lucrezi?
5. Masanobu: Lucrez de doi ani. Acum am douăzeci și șapte de ani.

## ENGLISH

1. Andreea: Hi Mom. I'm introducing my friend Masanobu to you.
2. Masanobu: Hello, my name is Masanobu. I'm Japanese. Nice to meet you.
3. Mrs. Popescu: Nice to meet you. Welcome to Romania!
4. Mrs. Popescu: Are you working?
5. Masanobu: I have been working for 2 years. Now I am 27 years old.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
mamă	mother	noun
a prezenta	to introduce	verb

amic	friend	noun
cunoștință	acquaintance	noun
bine	good, well	adverb
a veni	to come	verb
cu	with	preposition
a lucra	to work	verb
douăzeci	twenty	numeral

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Ea este mama ta?</b> "Is she your mother?"</p>	<p><b>Ea este mama mea.</b> "She is my mother."</p>
<p><b>Să mă prezint.</b> "Let me introduce myself."</p>	<p><b>Vin cu doi amici.</b> "I'm coming with 2 friends."</p>
<p><b>El este o cunoștință de-a mea.</b> "He's an acquaintance of mine."</p>	<p><b>Ea vorbește limba română bine.</b> "She speaks Romanian well."</p>
<p><b>Venim în România.</b> "We're coming to Romania."</p>	<p><b>Știu că nu vrei ca eu să vin la petrecere.</b> "I know you don't want me to come to the party."</p>
<p><b>Sper că el nu v-a veni aici.</b> "I hope he will not come here."</p>	<p><b>Sunt foarte fericită că tu vii să mă vizitezi.</b> "I'm so happy that you're coming to visit me."</p>
<p><b>Cafea cu lapte.</b> "Coffee with milk."</p>	<p><b>Cu plăcere!</b> "You're welcome!"</p>

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**Lucrez ca traducător.**

"I work as a translator."

**Aici sunt douăzeci de studenți.**

"There are 20 students here."

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**Am nevoie de douăzeci de fotografii pentru acest proiect.**

"I need twenty photos for this project."

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Bine ai/ați venit!***

**"Welcome!"**

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First, let's break down this phrase to see what each word means. **Bine** means "good" or "well," and **ai venit** is the past tense of "to come." We won't go into details regarding the past tense in this section, but just remember that **bine** means "well," and **ai venit** means "came." So it would literally mean "well came," close to "welcome."

This is generally used in just about any situation when you want to greet someone arriving somewhere new.

This phrase has two slightly different versions: **bine ai venit** is for casual, informal situations and **bine ați venit** is formal speech, so using them accordingly is recommended.

**For example:**

1. *Bine ați venit în București!*  
"Welcome to Bucharest!"

***Lucrezi?***

**"Are you working?"**

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**Lucrezi** is the Romanian verb **a lucra**, meaning "to work," in its 2nd person singular form.

This expression is used when you're not sure whether the person you're addressing is currently working. You should be careful when asking this, as it can be taken as rude if the person is not too young or too old, as then it would be obvious that he or she should be working. If you're not sure about the age, you can

use the next sample sentence: "Where do you work?" **Unde lucrezi?**

### For example:

1. *Unde lucrezi?*  
"Where do you work?"

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Using Prepositions in Romanian.

1. ***Ți-l prezint pe amicul meu, Masanobu.***  
**"I'm introducing my friend Masanobu to you."**
  2. ***Bine ai venit în România!***  
**"Welcome to Romania!"**
  3. ***Lucrez de doi ani.***  
**"I have been working for two years."**
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In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. use "on" to express a direct object

2. use "in"

3. use the simple present and "of" to express duration from past to present

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### 1. How to use "on" to express a direct object

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In Romanian, when a direct object represents a person or an animal, i.e. an animate noun, it is expressed using the preposition **pe** which means "on." Romanian is an SVO language, that is a language whose typical sentence pattern is:

#### Subject + Verb + Object

The object is placed after the preposition **pe**. Also, the verb comes before the preposition. And before the verb, a pronoun in its accusative form is needed.

To make it simpler, let's visualize the **sentence pattern** below:

(Subject - optional) + pronoun (accusative form) + verb (conjugated) + **pe** ("on") + noun

**For example:**

1. *(Eu) îl prezint pe amic.* / Lit. "(I) him introduce on friend" to mean "I introduce the friend."

So unlike English, both the pronoun as well as the noun indicating the same concept are in the same sentence.

However, when the object is an inanimate noun (anything except animals and people) the structure is the same as in English, so there is no need to add any special prepositions or pronouns:

(Subject - optional) + verb (conjugated) + noun

**For example:**

1. *(Eu) mănânc salamul.*  
"(I) eat the salami."

Now let's see the Romanian pronouns' inflection in their accusative form for each person.

singular	<b>mă</b>	<b>"me"</b>
singular	<b>te</b>	<b>"you"</b>
singular	<b>îl/o</b>	<b>"him/her"</b>
plural	<b>ne</b>	<b>"us"</b>
plural	<b>vă</b>	<b>"you"</b>
plural	<b>îi/le</b>	<b>"them"</b>

**Now let's see some sample sentences**

1. *Eu o întreb pe Andreea.*  
"I ask Andreea."

2. *Tu bei vinul.*  
"You drink the wine."
3. *Eu vă invit pe voi.* (object is 2nd person plural)  
"I invite you."

## 2. How to use "in"

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Using the preposition "in" to indicate place in Romanian is pretty much the same as in English. First, the word in Romanian is *în*, which also looks very similar to its English counterpart "in." However its pronunciation is closer to the English "an" (as in "an apple"). The position of this preposition within a phrase is also same as in English, that is just before the noun it determines.

### Phrase Pattern

*în* + noun

### Let's see how this would look in real sentences

1. *Hainele sunt în dulap.*  
"The clothes are in the wardrobe."
2. *Torn sucul în pahar.*  
"I pour the juice in the glass."
3. *În calculator este muzică.*  
"There is music in the computer."

## 3. How to use the simple present and "of" to express duration from past to present

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There is no present perfect continuous tense in Romanian. How then do we express an action that has been taking place since a certain time in past until the moment of speech? Instead, we just use simple present, combined with *de*, which in Romanian literally means "of," but it holds the meaning of "for" to express duration.

**A typical sentence pattern for this type of expression would look like this:**

Verb (simple present tense conjugated) + *de* + numeral + noun (minutes, hours, days etc.)

**Now let's take a look at some sentences using this phrase pattern.**

1. *Citesc cartea aceasta de trei zile.*  
"I have been reading this book for 3 days."
2. *Conduc de patru ore.*  
"I have been driving for 4 hours."
3. *Locuiesc împreună de un an.*  
"They've been living together for a year."

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Încântată de cunoștință. Bine ai venit în România!*  
"Nice to meet you. Welcome to Romania!"
2. *Lucrez de doi ani. Acum am douăzeci și șapte de ani.*  
"I have been working for 2 years. Now I am 27 years old."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Te numesc pe tine drept lider de grupă.*  
"I'm naming you as group leader."
2. *Pâinea este în coș.*  
"The bread is in the basket."
3. *Învăț limba română de trei luni.*  
"I have been learning Romanian language for 3 months."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Meeting someone for the first time in Romania

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In Romanian, there are not many differences between formal and informal speech from a grammar point of view. Formal and informal speech are generally differentiated through vocabulary in Romanian. For example, in this lesson's

dialogue, Masanobu uses **bună ziua**, which is the equivalent of the English "hello," instead of the informal *bună* which means "hi," as he is addressing his friend Adreea's mother. Also, in Romanian culture it is perfectly normal to have a frequent eye contact with someone you're addressing formally/using formal speech. Basically there is no difference from the informal situations explained in Lesson 1. In Romanian, there are two ways to say "friend"—**prieten** or **amic**. The difference is that **prieten** can also mean "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" if it is in its feminine form **prietenă**. So when you want to avoid confusion, you can use **amic** which only means "friend."

Useful expression:

1. *prietena mea*  
"my girlfriend"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #3

## Are Romanian Watermelons Expensive?

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# 3

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună ziua, vreau să cumpăr un pepene verde. Cât costă unul?
2. Vânzător: Acesta de trei kilograme costă trei lei.
3. Masanobu: Cât este aceasta în euro?
4. Vânzător: Înseamnă cam șaizeci de cenți euro.
5. Masanobu: Oh, așa de ieftin?!
6. Vânzător: Da, în România pepenii verzi sunt foarte ieftini.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hello, I'd like to buy a watermelon. How much is one?
2. Salesperson: This 3 kilogram one is 3 lei.
3. Masanobu: How much is that in euro?
4. Salesperson: That means about 60 euro-cents.
5. Masanobu: Wow, so cheap?!
6. Salesperson: Yes, watermelons are very cheap in Romania.

## VOCABULARY

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Romanian	English	Class
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bun	good	adjective
zi	day	noun
să	to	conjunction
a cumpăra	to buy	verb
pepene verde	watermelon	noun
a costa	to cost	verb
ieftin	cheap	adjective
a însemna	to mean, signify	verb
foarte	very	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Acesta este un telefon bun.</b> "This is a good phone."</p>	<p><b>Bună ziua.</b> "Good day."</p>
<p><b>În ce zi vii?</b> "What day are you coming?"</p>	<p><b>O zi bună!</b> "A good day!"</p>
<p><b>Încerc să vorbesc română.</b> "I am trying to speak Romanian."</p>	<p><b>Cumpăr o mașină.</b> "I am buying a car."</p>
<p><b>El va cumpăra o casă lângă râu pentru câinele său.</b> "He will buy a house next to the river for his dog."</p>	<p><b>Mereu cumpăr prea multe produse alimentare atunci când sunt flămând.</b> "I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry."</p>
<p><b>El vrea să cumpere o mașină rapidă.</b> "He wants to buy a fast car."</p>	<p><b>Îmi place pepenele verde.</b> "I like watermelon."</p>

<p><b>Costă mult.</b> "That costs too much."</p>	<p><b>Cât costă un măr?</b> "How much does an apple cost?"</p>
<p><b>Chiria este ieftină aici.</b> "Rent is cheap here."</p>	<p><b>Ce înseamnă aceasta în română?</b> "What does this mean in Romanian?"</p>
<p><b>Un inel de logodnă înseamnă că o femeie este pe cale să se căsătorească.</b> "An engagement ring signifies that a woman is engaged to be married."</p>	<p><b>Ce înseamnă "merci" în franceză?</b> "What does 'merci' mean in French?"</p>
<p><b>Vremea este foarte frumoasă.</b> "The weather is very nice."</p>	<p><b>Mulțumesc foarte mult pentru ajutor.</b> "Thank you very much for your help."</p>
<p><b>Mulțumesc foarte mult.</b> "Thank you very much."</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**Bună ziua!**  
"Hello!" (formal)

**Bună ziua** means "hello" in Romanian. It is formed of the word **bună**, which is an adjective and means "good," and **ziua** which is a noun and means "day" in English.

This expression is used generally from 12 o'clock in the afternoon until the beginning of the dusk, when sunlight starts to dim. Because sunrise, sunset, dusk, and dawn hours vary largely according to the season in Romania, this is reflected into the language. Therefore you can apply these rules of usage wherever you are

around the globe when you speak Romanian. As opposed to **bună**, which is the equivalent of the English "hi" and is therefore a casual way of greeting someone, **bună ziua** is its formal counterpart. It is therefore used in formal situations or when addressing someone older than you, your teacher, or a supervisor.

### For example:

1. *E frumos să dai bună ziua.*  
"It's nice to say hello."

### **Cât costă?**

"How much is it?"

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**Cât costă** means "how much is it" in Romanian. As you likely have already noticed, the expression has a word similar to the English "cost." The meaning is also the same and it is the verb *a costa* which means to cost. **Cât** is an adverb and it means "how much."

You should use this phrase whenever you want to ask the seller the price of a merchandise you are interested in.

### For example:

1. *Nu știu cât costă cartea aceasta.*  
"I don't know how much this book costs."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Using Numbers to Communicate About Prices**

1. *Acesta de trei kilograme costă trei lei.*  
"This 3 kilogram one is 3 lei."
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**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. use cardinal numbers in Romanian
2. express prices using numbers

### 3. use formal and informal expressions

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#### 1. How to use cardinal numbers in Romanian.

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First, let's find out what a cardinal number is in Romanian. It is basically any number as a part of speech that expresses an amount or a quantity. For example, **două cărți** means "two books." The cardinal number or numeral here is **două**, "two." Cardinal numbers are always placed before the noun they determine, like in English.

Let's learn the first ten cardinal numbers in Romanian for now from the **chart** below.

#	Masculine	Feminine	English
1	<i>unu / un</i>	<i>o</i>	one / a
2	<i>doi</i>	<i>două</i>	two
3	<i>trei</i>	<i>trei</i>	three
4	<i>patru</i>	<i>patru</i>	four
5	<i>cinci</i>	<i>cinci</i>	five
6	<i>șase</i>	<i>șase</i>	six
7	<i>șapte</i>	<i>șapte</i>	seven
8	<i>opt</i>	<i>opt</i>	eight
9	<i>nouă</i>	<i>nouă</i>	nine
10	<i>zece</i>	<i>zece</i>	ten

As you can see, 1 and 2 have some variations. First, let me explain the variation between the slash bars for 1. This represents variation according to the cardinal's function in the phrase. The first variation **unu** is used when the cardinal is used to express **the number itself**, without determining any noun, e.g. **unu** meaning "(the number) one," or "horse number one" **calul numărul unu**. Also, in this case of function, we always use the masculine form, because we are referring to the number itself and in Romanian "number" **număr** is a masculine noun. However, in the second case of function, when the cardinal is used as a pure **numeral**, (i.e. to express quantity of a noun, like "a man," **un om**) the second version for 1 is used. This is similar to the difference in English between "one" and "a." Furthermore, 1 and 2 have two versions according to the gender of the noun they determine in this

case. For example, because "bread," **pâine** is feminine in Romanian, "two breads" is **două pâini**.

## 2. How to express prices using numbers

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We can use cardinal numbers to express prices by just attaching the number before the currency.

### Sentence Pattern

*Costă* ("it costs") / *Este* ("it is") + cardinal number (+ *de* "of" - if the number is 20 or bigger) + currency

1. *Costă doi lei.*  
"It costs 2 lei."
2. *Este patru lei.*  
"It is 4 lei."
3. *Costă două zeci și doi de lei.*  
"It costs 22 lei."

The following sentences will come in handy when shopping in Romania:

1. *Cât costă pâinea?*  
"How much does the bread cost?"
2. *Cât este laptele?*  
"How much is the milk?"
3. *Șase sute de grame, vă rog.*  
"600 grams, please."
4. *Cât înseamnă în euro?*  
"How much is it in euro?" (lit. "How much does it mean in euro?")
5. *Cât ai dat pe el?*  
"How much did you pay for it?" (lit. "How much did you give on it?")

## 3. How to use formal and informal expressions

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Formal and informal speech are differentiated in Romanian mostly through

vocabulary and in a few cases through grammar. That is, the counterparts to formal expressions are most often different words or shortened versions of the formal ones, but there are no variations depending on the gender of the speaker. In this season, we will focus on the variations based on vocabulary. For example, in this episode's dialogue we encountered the word *acesta* which means "this." This is the formal version, while its informal variation is *ăsta*, but in English it means the same thing.

### Let's see a list of the most frequently used words and phrases in Romanian that have both a formal and an informal variation

Formal	Informal	English
acesta	ăsta	this (male noun)
aceasta	asta	this (female noun)
bună ziua	bună	hello/hi
dumneavoastră	tu	you

### Here are some usage examples that include phrases from above:

1. *Bună ziua, domnule profesor.*  
"Hi, professor."
2. *Cât costă covorul acesta?*  
"How much does this rag cost?"
3. *Dumneavoastră cum vă numiți?*  
"What is your name?" (formal, polite)

### Examples from the Dialogue:

1. *Înseamnă cam șaizeci de cenți euro.*  
"That means about 60 euro-cents."
2. *Cât este aceasta în euro?*  
"How much is that in euro?"

### Sample Sentences

1. *Am un pix.*  
"I have a pen."
2. *Acest pepene verde costă cinci lei.*  
"This watermelon is 5 lei."
3. *Romanul acesta este foarte interesant.*  
"This novel is very interesting."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Shopping in Romania

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Before the 1989 revolution, when Romania turned from a socialist republic into a democratic country, and during most of the 90's, the most common places to shop for food and consumer goods were open air markets, local personal shops, and department stores. However, starting with the second half of the 90's and the beginning of the 2000's, a big switch started to occur and now the most popular places to shop for daily consumer goods are supermarkets. They are so popular that in Romanian the largest ones are actually commonly called "hypermarkets."

In Romania, like in some other countries (but not all) around the world, it is common to make small talk with the sales staff. However, you should take into consideration that is is mostly the case with younger generations, while some of the old fashion sales clerks might not be as open to small talk.

Romanian currency is called **leu** and it literally means "lion." There are no wild lions in Romania, though. The name comes from an old Dutch currency that also meant "lion." Even though Romania is part of the European Union, transition to the euro has been postponed a couple of times so the traditional leu is still used and will likely still be for at least another several years.

Useful expression:

1. *alimentară*  
"grocery store"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #4 Don't Lose Track of the Time in Romania!

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- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 4

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Nu vă supărați, îmi puteți spune cât este ceasul?
2. Om pe stradă: Desigur. Acum este nouă și jumătate.
3. Masanobu: Vă mulțumesc. De fapt, nu știți la cât închide librăria Cărturești?
4. Om pe stradă: Ah, cred că închide la zece fără un sfert.
5. Masanobu: Vă mulțumesc mult pentru ajutor.
6. Om pe stradă: Cu plăcere.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Excuse me, can you tell me what time it is?
2. Man on the street: Sure, right now it is 9:30.
3. Masanobu: Thank you. Actually, do you know what time the Carturesti bookstore closes?
4. Man on the street: Oh, I think it closes at 9:45.
5. Masanobu: Thank you very much for your help.
6. Man on the street: You're welcome.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
a se supăra	to mind; to get angry	verb
a spune	to tell; to say	verb
cât	how much	adverb
ceas	watch; clock	noun
desigur	sure, of course	adverb
jumătate	half	noun
librărie	bookstore	noun
fără	without	preposition
ajutor	help	noun
sfert	quarter	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Sunt supărat pe tine.</b> "I'm angry at you."</p>	<p><b>Nu pot să spun asta.</b> "I can't say that."</p>
<p><b>Cât costă până la București?</b> "How much does it cost to Bucharest?"</p>	<p><b>Am un ceas de mână.</b> "I have a wristwatch."</p>
<p><b>Desigur că vă ajut.</b> "Of course I will help you."</p>	<p><b>Privește jumătatea plină a paharului.</b> "Look at the full half of the glass."</p>
<p><b>Caut o librărie.</b> "I am searching for a bookstore."</p>	<p><b>Este o librărie renumită pe Bulevardul nr 3.</b> "There is a famous bookstore on 3rd Avenue".</p>

<p><b>Băutura aceasta este fără zahar.</b></p> <p>"This drink is sugar-free."</p>	<p><b>Primesc ajutor de la el.</b></p> <p>"I'm getting help from him."</p>
<p><b>Aștept ajutor de la tine.</b></p> <p>"I'm waiting for your help."</p>	<p><b>Un sfert înseamnă douăzeci și cinci la sută.</b></p> <p>"A quarter means 25 percent."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***Nu vă supărați.*** "Excuse me."

**Vă supărați** is the polite conjugation of the verb **a se supăra**, "to get angry, to mind," and **nu** generally means "no." But in this case, it is used to form the negative form of the verb.

This expression is the standard way to call someone to get their attention in a polite way. You can also use the informal version, which is **nu te supăra** and also means "excuse me."

**Nu vă supărați** would be used when addressing someone older than you, a supervisor, or a stranger, while the informal version **nu te supăra** is used for peers but with whom you're not in a friend relationship and don't talk to that often.

### **For example:**

1. *Te superi dacă nu mergem azi?*  
"Do you mind if we don't go today?"

### ***Desigur!*** "Of course!"

**Desigur** is an adverb and is a word by itself, meaning "surely" or "of course."

It is used when you want to confirm something in a polite and elegant way. It is a rather polite and formal way of saying "of course." When talking to friends just saying *da*, "yes" is more natural.

**Desigur** can be further broken down etymologically into two words: **de** and **sigur**, literally "of" and "sure."

**For example:**

1. *Desigur, putem merge mâine.*  
"Sure, we can go tomorrow."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson is How to Ask and Give the Time**

1. ***Nu vă supărați, îmi puteți spune cât este ceasul?***  
**"Excuse me, can you tell me what time is it?"**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. ask "what time is it?"
2. say "half past"
3. say "a quarter to"

---

### 1. How to ask "what time is it?"

To ask the time in Romanian, we actually ask "how much the watch/clock is it?"

That is **Cât este ceasul?** **Cât** means "how much," **este** is "it is," and **ceasul** means "the watch" or the "the clock." Literally, "how much is the clock?"

So for example if someone asks you all of the sudden on the street "how much your watch" is, don't worry, they're not trying to buy your watch; they are just asking for your help in finding out what time it is.

### Sentence Pattern

**Cât** "how much" + **este** "it is" + **ceasul** "the watch" / "the clock"

**Now let's see this expression being used in some sample sentences.**

1. *Mă scuzați, îmi puteți spune cât este ceasul?* (formal)  
"Excuse me, could you tell me what time is it?"
2. *Scuze, cât e ceasul acum?* (informal)  
"Sorry, what time is it now?"
3. *Cât e ceasul?* (informal)  
"What time is it?"

## 2. How to say "half past"

---

To say "half past" in Romanian, we have to know the words for "half" and for "and." "Half" is **jumătate**, while "and" is **și**. Then we just literally say the hour and add "and half," i.e. **și jumătate**.

For example, in the dialogue the man on the street who was asked about the time answers that it is nine thirty. That is **nouă și jumătate**. Also, in informal situations, the **și**, meaning "and," can be dropped.

### Sentence Pattern

hour number (e.g. "one" *unu*, "seven" *șapte* etc.) + (*și* "and") + *jumătate* "half"

1. *Plecăm la zece și jumătate.*  
"We are leaving at half past ten."
2. *Ajung la și jumătate.*  
"I am arriving at half past." (can be used in both informal and formal situations as long as the hour number is understood from context.)
3. *Acum este ora cinci și jumătate.*  
"Now it is half past five o'clock."

## 3. How to say "a quarter to"

---

To say "a quarter to," we need to know the words for "quarter" and for "without." That is because in Romanian we actually express this by saying "without a quarter." "Quarter" is **sfert** and "without" is **fără**. Also, we have to put **un** ("a") before quarter. So if someone asks you on the street what hour the bookstore closes and it is "9:45," you say **cred că închide la zece fără un sfert**, which means "I think it

closes at a quarter to ten."

## Sentence Pattern

Hour number + *fără* "without" + *un sfert* "a quarter"

Do not forget to always say **un** ("a") before quarter as this is how the phrase is used in Romanian, even though it would be weird to use "quarter" to express more than one of them.

## Sample sentences

1. *Este ora nouă fără un sfert.* (formal)  
"It is a quarter to nine o'clock."
2. *E nouă fără un sfert.* (informal)  
"It's a quarter to nine."
3. *E fără un sfert.* (informal)  
"It's a quarter to."

(literally "it's without a quarter."; similar to the case with "half past," this can be used in Romanian in both informal and formal situations as long as the hour is understood from context.)

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Desigur. Acum este nouă și jumătate.*  
"Sure, right now it is 9."
2. *Ah, cred că închide la zece fără un sfert.*  
"Oh, I think it closes at 9."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Nu știu cât este ceasul acum.*  
"I don't know what time it is now."
2. *Mâine mă trezesc la cinci și jumătate.*  
"Tomorrow I'm waking up at 5:30."
3. *Sosim cu trenul la nouă fără un sfert.*  
"We arrive by train at 8:45."

# CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Romanian bookstore-tea shop culture

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Let's talk about bookstores. Everyone who enjoys reading paperbacks usually enjoys going to bookstores, and in Romania there are still plenty of people who read their books on paper rather than in a digital format, even though the latter is also widely available. In Bucharest, one of the most popular bookstores is Cărturești and it has two shops including one inside the Old City Center, a highly popular tourist spot. These kinds of bookstores also include vinyl stands, music CD's, gift and souvenir areas, a teahouse, and often coffee shops. Regardless of which one you visit, including a bookstore in your visit plan for Bucharest or any other big city from Romania will definitely be worth it if you like places that have these features. Speaking about traveling, there might be a situation where you don't have a watch with you and your phone dies out, in which case you might think of asking a passerby the time. In this case, you should first use the phrase for attracting attention, and then simply ask the time. As for body language, a distance slightly farther than a normal conversation is recommended. This may vary depending on culture, but just assume that it should be roughly double the distance you usually take when having a conversation with someone. Regarding the spoken language, even if the person you're stopping to ask for the time might look like someone you would otherwise address using informal speech, in this case it is recommended to use formal language.

Useful expression:

1. *ceainărie*  
"teahouse"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #5 Will the Weather Hold Up for Your Beach Weekend in Romania?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 5

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Ce cald este astăzi!
2. Mihai: Da, în România verile sunt foarte calde.
3. Masanobu: Da, acum văd. Apropo, în weekend-ul acesta este vreme frumoasă?
4. Mihai: Nu. Din păcate, plouă și este frig.
5. Masanobu: Ah, ce păcat!
6. Andreea: Nu-i nimic, săptămâna viitoare este însorit și cald.
7. Masanobu: Ce bine! Atunci să mergem la sfârșitul săptămânii viitoare la mare.
8. Mihai: Mergem toți!

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Today is so hot.
2. Mihai: Yes, summers in Romania are very hot.
3. Masanobu: Yes, I can see that now. By the way, will there be nice weather this coming weekend?
4. Mihai: No. Unfortunately, it will rain and it will be cold.
5. Masanobu: Oh, that's too bad!

CONT'D OVER

6. Andreea: Don't worry, it will be sunny and warm next week.
7. Masanobu: That's great! Then let's go to the seaside next weekend.
8. Mihai: We're all going!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
cald	hot	adjective
vară	summer	noun
a ploua	to rain	verb
păcat	sin; shame	noun
nimic	nothing	pronoun
vreme	weather; times	noun
frumos	beautiful	adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Este prea cald.</b> "It's too hot."</p>	<p><b>Îți place vara?</b> "Do you like summer?"</p>
<p><b>Nu îmi place să merg în tabere de vară.</b> "I don't like to go to summer camps".</p>	<p><b>Plouă mereu în Londra?</b> "Does it always rain in London?"</p>
<p><b>Este păcat să faci asta.</b> "Doing that is a sin."</p>	<p><b>Aici nu este nimic.</b> "There is nothing here."</p>

<p><b>Nimic interesant.</b> "Nothing interesting."</p>	<p><b>Învăț despre vremea interbelică.</b> "I study about the inter-war times."</p>
<p><b>Ea este foarte frumoasă.</b> "She is very beautiful."</p>	<p><b>Foarte frumos.</b> "Very beautiful."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Ce păcat!** "That's a shame!"

**Ce** means "what" and **păcat** originally means "sin," but in this case it holds the meaning of "shame" as a feeling of regret.

This expression is used when you want to express regret that something didn't go as planned.

**Ce** ("what") is used for emphasis, in this case on the word **păcat** "shame," so **ce păcat!** would literally mean "what a shame!"

#### **For example**

1. *Ce păcat că nu vedem filmul împreună!*  
"It's such a shame we're not seeing the movie together!"

### **Nu-i nimic.** "Don't worry."

**Nu-i** is the contracted form of **nu e**, which yet again contains the contracted form of **este** "it is." As **nu** ("no") is placed before the verb to negate it, **nu-i** means "it is not." **Nimic** means "nothing." So this expression literally means "it is nothing" (rather "it is not nothing," because Romanian grammar adopts double negations) and is equivalent to the English "don't worry."

This is used to convey the message to someone that you don't mind something they did or the situation that that person is apologizing about. It can be used both

as formal and informal language.

### For example:

1. *Nu-i nimic, nu mă deranjează.*  
"Don't worry, I don't mind about it."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Discussing Weather Forecasts

1. *Din păcate, plouă și este frig.*  
"Unfortunately, it will rain and it will be cold."

---

In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. use verbs to explain weather forecasts
2. use predicates in Romanian
3. use the soft imperative mode of verbs to encourage actions

---

### 1. How to use verbs to explain weather forecasts

---

Explaining weather forecasts can mean officially presenting the meteorological forecasts on TV but also informally passing information you acquired through news onto friends or other people you are communicating with. In this case we will learn about the latter case, as it requires just some basic but very frequent verbs. The key point to remember regarding phrases that refer to weather is that in Romanian we need to use the 3rd person singular conjugation of the verb, as there is no equivalent for the English "it."

In this lesson, we will learn **a ploua** ("to rain") and **a fi senin**, or "to be fair (weather)."

First of all, just like in English, in Romanian **a ploua** "to rain" is an impersonal verb. So we can't say that "we are raining." However, because Romanian does not have the pronoun equivalent for "it," the 3rd person singular conjugation is used for the verb. For impersonal verbs however, unlike for the other verbs, the pronoun itself is always hidden. So let's see the conjugation chart for **a ploua** ("to rain") in present tense.

## Conjugation chart for *a ploua* "to rain" - Present Tense

---

singular	(el/ea) <b>plouă</b>	<b>it rains / it is raining</b>
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Also, **plouă** can mean "it rains" as well as "it is raining." This is because Romanian has **only one** present tense, and that is simple present tense. It can be used to express a general action/activity/phenomenon as well as a continuous one. Therefore, it can also have the functions of the English present continuous, including expressing a future action or phenomenon.

Now let's take a look at the conjugation chart for "to be fair" in present tense.

## Conjugation chart for *a fi senin* "to be fair" - Present Tense

---

singular	(el/ea) <b>este senin</b>	<b>it is fair</b>
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---

**Este** means "it is," and it is the conjugation of a **fi** ("to be") in 3rd person singular as we learned in Lesson 1. **Senin** is an adjective, and it means "fair" or "clear," as opposed to "cloudy."

### Examples:

1. *Mâine plouă?*  
"Is it raining tomorrow?" (Lit. "Tomorrow it rains?")
2. *Este senin în București.*  
"It is fair weather in Bucharest."
3. *La munte plouă des.*  
"It rains often in the mountains."

## 2. How to use predicates in Romanian

---

We can define the predicate as the part of the sentence that expresses what is said about the subject. This is the case for English as well, and generally predicates work in Romanian the same as they do in English. The exception is that in Romanian the subject is hidden most of the time. This means that even though the verb that takes the function of the predicate within the sentence is conjugated based on the person and number, the pronoun itself is not spoken. For example, to say "we all go," you can say **noi mergem toți**, where **noi** is "we," but in most cases the pronoun **noi** is omitted. In that case, the sentence will be **mergem toți**, meaning "we all go."

## Sentence Pattern

(subject - a **pronoun - optional**) + predicate - a **verb** - conjugated based on the pronoun

### Let's see some sample sentences and focus on predicates

1. *El merge repede.*  
"He walks fast."
2. *Vorbește singur.*  
"He talks to himself."  
(Lit. "talks alone." The person is detected based on the unique conjugation of the verb, in this case 3rd person singular. Also, in this case, the following word **singur**, or "alone," is an adjective which varies based on the gender of the subject, therefore indicating that the person is a male. Thus, the pronoun is "he," or **el** in Romanian.)
3. *Vorbim cu tine.*  
"We speak to you." (Lit. "Speak with you.")

### 3. How to use the soft imperative mode of verbs to encourage actions

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In Romanian, there are two types of imperative conjugation for verbs. One is rough and the other one is softer. We will first only learn about the softer version in these series as it is used more often and is easier to control at this level.

The soft imperative mode of verbs to encourage actions is similar to part 3 of Lesson 1 - How to make sentences with "let's!" However, it is different in that in this case, it is actually an imperative mode (though soft), while in Lesson 1 it was just an incentive (used usually to mean "let's" so in 1st pers. plural). You can see the differences in meaning and usage in the example sentences below.

## Sentence Pattern

să (conjunction "to") + present tense of the verb - conjugated in 2nd person singular or plural

### Exception Pattern - when using the verb *a fi* "to be"

să + *fii* (2nd pers. sg.) / *fiți* (2nd pers. pl.)

### For example:

1. *Să fii bun!*  
"Be good!" (2nd person singular)
2. *Să exersați, da?*  
"Practice, ok?" (2nd person plural)
3. *Să nu uți de întâlnire.*  
"Don't forget about the meeting." (2nd person singular)

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Mergem toți!*  
"We're all going!"
2. *Ce bine! Atunci să mergem la sfârșitul săptămânii viitoare la mare.*  
"That's great! Then let's go to the seaside next weekend."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Astăzi plouă, dar este cald.*  
"Today it rains, but it is hot."
2. *Citește romane.*  
"He reads novels."
3. *Să vedem!*  
"Let's see!"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Climate in Romania

---

The climate in Romania is a temperate-continental type. That means it has four seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter, 3 months each. Even though there are always personal preferences, spring is probably the most pleasant time of the year followed by summer. Personally, I prefer summer, but one feature of the

climate of Romania is that summers are very hot with maximum temperatures reaching over 30 degrees Celsius or 86 degrees Fahrenheit, and winters are very cold, with daily maximum temperatures not reaching more than about -3 degrees Celsius or 26 degrees Fahrenheit for several months in a row.

Romanians love to travel, even though many people from older generations have never traveled abroad due to the old restrictive communist regime that lasted until 1989. Summers are very popular because long vacations can be taken from work and many Romanians travel abroad, to the mountainside (Carpathian Mountains) or to the seaside (Black Sea).

Did your grandma ever tell you to shut the window or the door because "you'll be caught by the draft?" I didn't think so. In Romania, there is a superstition that if there is a free draft traveling between two or more open windows, doors, or any other "holes" connecting a building to the outside, you are going to catch a cold. I like drafts, but if my grandma starts shouting about it I'll close any window or door, because any little actual heat is preferable to heat from Romanian grandmas.

Useful expression:

1. *iarnă*  
"winter"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #6 A Romanian Family Portrait

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- 2 English
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# 6

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună, clasă! Astăzi vă prezint familia mea prin fotografii.
2. Masanobu: Aceasta este mama mea. Este foarte prietenoasă. Lucrează ca doctor.
3. Masanobu: El este tatăl meu. El este pompier. Este bun la suflet.
4. Masanobu: Ea este sora mea. Este cercetătoare. Este timidă, dar mereu optimistă.
5. Masanobu: Și aici este fratele meu. Este destul de sever. Este profesor.
6. Profesorul de limba română: Aha, sever! Mulțumim, Masanobu. Ai o familie foarte frumoasă.
7. Masanobu: Vă mulțumesc!

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hi, class! Today I'm introducing my family to you through pictures.
2. Masanobu: This is my mother. She is very friendly. She works as a doctor.
3. Masanobu: He is my father. He is a firefighter. He is a good man.
4. Masanobu: She is my sister. She is a researcher. She is shy, but always optimistic.
5. Masanobu: And here is my brother. He is rather strict. He is a teacher.

CONT'D OVER

6. Romanian Language Teacher: Strict, I see! Thank you, Masanobu. You have a very nice family.
7. Masanobu: Thank you!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
sever	strict, severe	adjective
optimist	optimistic	adjective
prietenos	friendly	adjective
profesor	teacher; professor	noun
doctor	doctor	noun
frate	brother	noun
soră	sister	noun
familie	family	noun
mamă	mother	noun
tată	father	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Președintele este sever.</b> "The president is strict."</p>	<p><b>Ești o persoană optimistă.</b> "She is an optimistic person."</p>
<p><b>El este prietenos.</b> "He is friendly."</p>	<p><b>Vreau să fiu profesor.</b> "I want to be a teacher."</p>

<p><b>Astăzi mergem la doctor.</b></p> <p>"Today we are going to the doctor."</p>	<p><b>Fratele tău lucrează?</b></p> <p>"Is your brother working?"</p>
<p><b>Sora mea are doi copii.</b></p> <p>"My sister has two children."</p>	<p><b>Mănânc cina cu familia.</b></p> <p>"I eat dinner with the family."</p>
<p><b>Familia regală va avea o reuniune importantă.</b></p> <p>"The Royal Family will have an important reunion."</p>	<p><b>Ea este mama ta?</b></p> <p>"Is she your mother?"</p>
<p><b>Ea este mama mea.</b></p> <p>"She is my mother."</p>	<p><b>Unde este tatăl tău?</b></p> <p>"Where is your father?"</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***familia mea*** "my family"

This phrase is comprised of two words, which is a feminine noun in its singular form, meaning "family," and the word **mea**, a noun of possession meaning "mine."

This phrase is used whenever you want to say "my family" in any possible situation. This phrase can be used in any type of situation whether it's formal or informal.

#### **For example:**

1. *Familia mea are mulți membri.*  
"My family has many members."

### ***ca doctor*** "as a doctor"

This phrase is comprised of the word **ca**, literally meaning "like," and **doctor**, which has the same meaning as in English, "doctor." **Ca** is a preposition, and it holds

the meaning of "as," "with the function of."

This is used when you want to say that someone, or even yourself, works "as a doctor." This expression has no restriction language-wise and can be used in both formal and informal situations.

### **For example:**

1. *El este bucătar, dar lucrează ca doctor!*  
"He is a chef but he works as a doctor!"

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Using Adjectives to Describe People**

1. ***Aha, sever! Mulțumim, Masanobu. Ai o familie foarte frumoasă.***  
**"Strict, I see! Thank you, Masanobu. You have a very nice family."**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. **use the correct word order when using adjectives in Romanian**
2. **recognize frequent adjective patterns**
3. **conjugate "to work"**

---

### **1. How to use the correct word order when using adjectives in Romanian**

---

In this lesson, we're learning about adjectives in Romanian—particularly about their order within sentences. Like in English, they may come both before and after the noun they determine. However, in Romanian, they appear after the noun in most cases. They rarely appear before the word they describe, except in some special cases, such as in poems, other literary phrases, or sometimes in speeches.

#### **Typical structure**

noun + adjective

Ex.: *cer albastru* - "blue sky"

## Sample sentences

1. *Citesc o revistă **interesantă**.*  
"I am reading an **interesting** magazine."
2. *Ești un om **bun**.*  
"You are a **good** man."
3. *Iarba este **verde**.*  
"Grass is **green**."

## 2. How to recognize frequent adjective patterns

---

Now let's see some typical adjective word patterns that will definitely help you spot adjectives within sentences and spare you time looking up what part of speech they are.

There are several word endings that are particular to adjectives in Romanian.

Typical adjective word pattern:

word stem + suffix **-ist / -os / -ic / -iv / -ar**

These are the most frequently used suffixes for adjectives in Romanian. There are also other endings, but these are the ones that appear most frequently and that are most typical to adjectives.

## Sample sentences

1. *El este **optimist**.*  
"He is **optimistic**."
2. *Tatăl tău este **mărinimos**.*  
"Your father is **generous**."
3. *Mi-a plăcut momentul **artistic**.*  
"I enjoyed the **artistic** moment."

## 3. How to conjugate "to work"

---

As we encountered a new verb—**a lucra**, meaning "to work"—in this episode, let's learn more about it.

Its meaning is narrower than in English, so it can only be used to mean that

someone is working, but not that something functions properly or not.

### Conjugation chart of the verb *a lucra* ("to work") in present tense:

---

singular	<b>(eu) lucrez</b>	<b>"I work"</b>
singular	<b>(tu) lucrezi</b>	<b>"you work"</b>
singular	<b>(el/ea) lucrează</b>	<b>"he/she works"</b>
plural	<b>(noi) lucrăm</b>	<b>"we work"</b>
plural	<b>(voi) lucrați</b>	<b>"you work"</b>
plural	<b>(ei/ele) lucrează</b>	<b>"they work"</b>

---

### Now let's take a look at the verb being used in some actual examples.

1. *Eu lucrez ca profesor.*  
"I work as a teacher."
2. *Duminica nu se lucrează.*  
"We don't work on Sundays." (Reflexive form singular 3<sup>rd</sup> person learned in lesson 1 used here to mean an impersonal general fact.)
3. *Ea lucrează la un proiect nou.*  
"She is working on a new project."

### Examples from the Dialogue:

1. *Aha, sever! Mulțumim, Masanobu. Ai o familie foarte frumoasă.*  
"Strict, I see! Thank you, Masanobu. You have a very nice family."
2. *Ea este sora mea. Este cercetătoare. Este timidă, dar mereu optimistă.*  
"She is my sister. She is a researcher. She is shy, but always optimistic."
3. *Aceasta este mama mea. Este foarte prietenoasă. Lucrează ca doctor.*  
"This is my mother. She is very friendly. She works as a doctor."

## Sample Sentences

1. *Cartea este pe masa înaltă.*  
"The book is on the tall table."
2. *Nu găsesc ochelarii negri.*  
"I can't find the black glasses."
3. *Mașina argintie este a ta?*  
"Is the silver car yours?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Families in Romania

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A typical modern family structure in Romania is usually a father, a mother and a couple of children. Until several decades ago, this was different as a single household would also include the grandparents of the children, and sometimes the children would even build an extension of the house to live close to their family after getting married. The urban move to more narrow houses and blocks of flat-type housing, as well as the modern way of thinking, which promotes more individual independence, have made this way of living less and less common nowadays.

What about job types in Romania? According to the latest statistics, the typical jobs in Romania are salespeople, commercial agents, medical assistants, manufacturing industry-workers, and middle school teachers.

### Useful expression

1. *asistent medical*  
"medical assistant"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #7

## Talking About Your Day in Romanian

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 11 Cultural Insight

# 7

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună, clasă. Ce fac eu într-o zi obișnuită din viața mea?
2. Masanobu: Mă trezesc la șase dimineața dar reușesc mereu să întârzii.
3. Masanobu: După ce mă trezesc fac duș și apoi mănânc micul dejun.
4. Masanobu: La ora opt plec la muncă. Iar la douăsprezece după-amiaza mănânc prânzul.
5. Masanobu: La șapte seara ajung acasă și iau cina pe la opt.
6. Masanobu: La opt și jumătate fac baie.
7. Masanobu: De la nouă mă uit la televizor și apoi navighez pe internet.
8. Masanobu: La douăsprezece mă culc. Ah, dar nu e fiecare zi la fel.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hi, class. What do I do in a normal day of my life?
2. Masanobu: I wake up at 6 o'clock in the morning but always manage to be late.
3. Masanobu: After I wake up, I take a shower and then I eat breakfast.
4. Masanobu: At 8 o'clock, I go to work. And at 12 o'clock in the afternoon, I have lunch.
5. Masanobu: At 7 o'clock in the evening, I get back home and have dinner at 8 o'clock.

CONT'D OVER

6. Masanobu: At 8:30, I take a bath.
7. Masanobu: From 9 o'clock, I watch the tv and then surf the internet.
8. Masanobu: I go to bed at 12 o'clock. Oh, but not everyday is the same.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
a (se) trezi	to wake up	verb
dimineață	morning	noun/adverb
a face	to do; to make	verb
a pleca	to leave	verb
devreme	early	adverb
după-amiază	afternoon	adverb
a ajunge	to arrive	verb
a mânca	to eat	verb
seară	evening	noun/adverb
a lua	to take	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>La ce oră să ne trezim mâine?</b></p> <p>"What hour shall we wake up tomorrow?"</p>	<p><b>Dimineața este frig.</b></p> <p>"In the morning it is cold."</p>
<p><b>Ei merg la plimbare în fiecare dimineață.</b></p> <p>"They go for a walk every morning."</p>	<p><b>În această perioadă a anului e încă frig dimineața.</b></p> <p>"At this time of the year it is still cold in the morning."</p>

<p><b>Programarea lui la doctor este mâine dimineață.</b></p> <p>"His appointment at the doctor is tomorrow morning."</p>	<p><b>Magazinele noastre vor fi deschise iar, mâine dimineață.</b></p> <p>"Our stores will open again tomorrow morning."</p>
<p><b>Bună dimineața!</b></p> <p>"Good morning."</p>	<p><b>Mâine fac mâncare.</b></p> <p>"Tomorrow I am making food."</p>
<p><b>Noi plecăm în zece minute.</b></p> <p>"We are leaving in 10 minutes."</p>	<p><b>Este prea devreme.</b></p> <p>"It is too early."</p>
<p><b>Acum este ora două după-amiaza.</b></p> <p>"Now it is 2 o'clock p.m.(in the afternoon)."</p>	<p><b>Pisicii mele îi place să tragă un pui de somn după-amiaza.</b></p> <p>"My cat likes to take a nap in the afternoon."</p>
<p><b>Revin eu cu un telefon în după-amiaza asta.</b></p> <p>"I'll call you back this afternoon."</p>	<p><b>Va ninge după-amiază.</b></p> <p>"It's going to snow this afternoon."</p>
<p><b>Când ajungi la gară?</b></p> <p>"When do you arrive at the station?"</p>	<p><b>Ai ajuns acasă cu bine?</b></p> <p>"Did you arrive home safely?"</p>
<p><b>Ar trebui să mâncăm de cel puțin trei ori pe zi.</b></p> <p>"We are supposed to eat at least three times a day."</p>	<p><b>Eu mănânc la restaurantul italian.</b></p> <p>"I eat at the Italian restaurant."</p>
<p><b>Îmi place să mănânc fructe la desert.</b></p> <p>"I like to eat fruits for dessert."</p>	<p><b>Nu mai pot mânca.</b></p> <p>"I can't eat anymore."</p>

<p><b>Seara este răcoare.</b> "In the evening it is chilly."</p>	<p><b>Deseori jucăm cărți într-o seară caldă de vară.</b> "We often play cards on a warm summer evening."</p>
<p><b>Mâine seară voi merge la concert.</b> "Tomorrow evening I will go to the concert."</p>	<p><b>Terenul de tenis este deschis și seara.</b> "The tennis court is open in the evening, too."</p>
<p><b>Bună seara!</b> "Good evening!"</p>	<p><b>Să luăm prânzul!</b> "Let's have lunch."</p>

**Femeia își ia medicamentele în fiecare dimineață înainte de micul dejun.**

"The woman takes her pills every morning before breakfast."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***a lua cina*** **"to have dinner"**

**A lua** is the Romanian verb for "to take" in its infinitive form while **cina** means "the dinner" ("dinner"= *cină*). Therefore, this phrase would literally translate as "to take the dinner."

This expression is rather formal, but it doesn't actually include any word that is formal per se. Let's just remember that it is used in rather formal situations. In a casual situation, the expression **a mânca de seară**, literally meaning "to eat for evening," would be more natural.

#### **For example:**

1. *Luăm cina în oraș mâine seară.*  
"Tomorrow evening we're having dinner downtown."

### ***la fel***

## "the same"

---

This is an idiomatic expression. This means that the words it contains do not directly point to the meaning it holds as a whole, but when they are used together, the phrase has a fixed meaning. In this case, **la** is "to," and **fel** means "kind/type." The phrase means "the same."

This phrase is used each time you want to say that two objects or abstract concepts are identical. This is the usual phrase to use when you want to say "the same." It is not as objective as the word equivalent to the English "identical." In that case, we must use the English loanword **identic**.

### For example:

1. *Anotimpurile din România nu sunt la fel ca în Statele Unite.*  
"Seasons in Romania are not the same as in the United States."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Verbs in Romanian

1. ***Bună, clasă. Ce fac eu într-o zi obișnuită din viața mea?***  
**"Hi, class. What do I do in a normal day of my life?"**
2. ***După ce mă trezesc fac duș și apoi mănc micul dejun.***  
**"After I wake up, I take a shower and then I eat breakfast."**

---

In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. **classify verbs by conjugation rules - groups I to IV**
2. **use the present simple tense**
3. **use irregular verbs**

---

### 1. How to classify verbs by conjugation rules - groups I to IV

---

We have learned so far the conjugation for two verbs—**a fi** ("to be,") in lesson 1 and **a lucra** ("to work,") in lesson 6. As this lesson contains many verbs you should

add to your vocabulary, let me wrap up and explain how verbs conjugation works in Romanian. With the exception of a few irregular ones, most of the verbs in Romanian are classified into one of four conjugation groups. Usually, these are indicated using Roman numerals - I, II, III, and IV for 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

Let's see an overview of the Romanian verb conjugation groups below.

I will use a verb we've already learned and conjugate it in Simple Present Tense as an example. The endings typical to each group will be in bold.

### Romanian Verb Conjugation Groups

*a exersa* ("to practice") - **GROUP I** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) <i>exerse<b>z</b></i>	"I practice"
singular	(tu) <i>exerse<b>zi</b></i>	"you practice"
singular	(el/ea) <i>exerse<b>ază</b></i>	"he/she practices"
plural	(noi) <i>exers<b>ăm</b></i>	"we practice"
plural	(voi) <i>exers<b>ați</b></i>	"you practice"
plural	(ei/ele) <i>exerse<b>ază</b></i>	"they practice"

*a vedea* ("to see") - **GROUP II** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) <i>vă<b>d</b></i>	"I see"
singular	(tu) <i>ve<b>zi</b></i>	"you see"
singular	(el/ea) <i>vede<b>e</b></i>	"he/she see"
plural	(noi) <i>vede<b>m</b></i>	"we see"
plural	(voi) <i>vede<b>ți</b></i>	"you see"
plural	(ei/ele) <i>vă<b>d</b></i>	"they see"

*a face* ("to do/to make") - **GROUP III** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) <i>fac</i>	"I do" /" make"
singular	(tu) <i>fac<b>i</b></i>	"you do" /" make"

singular	(el/ea) <b>face</b>	"he/she does" /" makes"
plural	(noi) <b>facem</b>	"we do" /" make"
plural	(voi) <b>faceți</b>	"you do" /" make"
plural	(ei/ele) <b>fac</b>	"they do" /" make"

*a numi* ("to name") - **GROUP IV** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) <b>numesc</b>	"I name"
singular	(tu) <b>numești</b>	"you name"
singular	(el/ea) <b>numește</b>	"he" /" she names"
plural	(noi) <b>numim</b>	"we name"
plural	(voi) <b>numiți</b>	"you name"
plural	(ei/ele) <b>numesc</b>	"they name"

So to wrap up,

Group **I** ends in **-a**,

Group **II** ends in **-ea**,

Group **III** in **-e**,

Group **IV** in **-i** (and sometimes in **-î**).

So the verb **a lucra**, "to work," whose conjugation we learned last lesson, is a Group I verb. **A fi**, "to be," is one of the irregular verbs, so we simply have to memorize its conjugations.

### Sample sentences

1. *Noi exersăm limba română.*  
"We are practicing the Romanian language."
2. *Eu fac un suc.*  
"I am making a juice."
3. *Ce vezi mâine la cinema?*  
"What are you seeing tomorrow at the cinema?"

## 2. How to use the present simple tense

---

Present simple tense is the basic verbal tense used in Romanian to express an action that takes place in the present. Romanian does not have a tense equivalent to the English present continuous (e.g. "I am reading"), so the present simple tense also covers that function in Romanian.

We just learned above the conjugation rules for the present simple tense for each group of verb.

The general pattern for the verbs conjugated in the present simple tense is:

verb stem + verb group specific conjugation suffix ex. *fac + i = faci* ("you do/ you make")

Now let's see below another conjugation example for a verb which appeared in the first lesson's dialogue.

### Conjugation chart for present simple tense - *a merge* "to walk" / "to go"

*a merge* ("to walk/to go") - present simple tense (group III)

singular	( <i>eu</i> ) <i>merg</i>	"I walk/go"
singular	( <i>tu</i> ) <i>mergi</i>	"you walk/go"
singular	( <i>el/ea</i> ) <i>merge</i>	"he/she walks/goes"
plural	( <i>noi</i> ) <i>mergem</i>	"we walk/go"
plural	( <i>voi</i> ) <i>mergeți</i>	"you walk/go"
plural	( <i>ei/ele</i> ) <i>merg</i>	"they walk/go"

### Sample sentences

1. *Eu învăț în fiecare zi.*  
"I study every day."
2. *Ei merg repede.*  
"They walk fast."
3. *Cum te numești?*  
"What's your name?"

### 3. How to use irregular verbs

Apart from these four conjugation groups, there are also several irregular verbs that must be memorized. For example, the verb we learned earlier **a fi**, "to be," is one of the irregular ones.

Let's see the conjugation in simple present tense for a couple of other frequently used irregular verbs.

#### Conjugation chart for irregular verbs

*a mânca* ("to eat") - present simple tense

singular	<b>(eu) mănânc</b>	<b>"I eat"</b>
singular	<b>(tu) mănânci</b>	<b>"you eat"</b>
singular	<b>(el/ea) mănâncă</b>	<b>"he/she eats"</b>
plural	<b>(noi) mîncăm</b>	<b>"we eat"</b>
plural	<b>(voi) mâncați</b>	<b>"you eat"</b>
plural	<b>(ei/ele) mănâncă</b>	<b>"they eat"</b>

*a ști* ("to know") - present simple tense

singular	<b>(eu) știu</b>	<b>"I know"</b>
singular	<b>(tu) știi</b>	<b>"you know"</b>
singular	<b>(el/ea) știe</b>	<b>"he/she knows"</b>
plural	<b>(noi) știm</b>	<b>"we know"</b>
plural	<b>(voi) știți</b>	<b>"you know"</b>
plural	<b>(ei/ele) știu</b>	<b>"they know"</b>

#### Sample sentences

1. *Voi nu mâncați cu noi?*  
"Won't you eat with us?"

2. *Nu știu ce înseamnă.* (singular 1<sup>st</sup> person)  
"I don't know what it means."
3. *El nu mănâncă niciodată dimineața.*  
"He never eats in the morning."

### Examples from the Dialogue:

1. *Bună, clasă. Ce fac eu într-o zi obișnuită din viața mea?*  
"Hi, class. What do I do in a normal day of my life?"
2. *La opt și jumătate fac baie.*  
"At 8:30 I take a bath."
3. *La ora opt plec la muncă. Iar la douăsprezece după-amiaza mănânc prânzul.*  
"At 8 o'clock I go to work. And at 12 o'clock in the afternoon I have lunch."

### Sample Sentences

1. *Ce facem la cursul acesta?*  
"What are we doing in this class?"
2. *Mă numesc Andrei.*  
"My name is Andrei."
3. *Eu mănânc mai încet decât tine.*  
"I eat slower than you."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Daily Life in Romania

---

In this episode, let's talk about daily life in Romania.

First, let's discuss work schedules. There is no unified working schedule for all types of jobs around the country, but service related businesses, like grocery stores, malls, and other shops as well as industry related workplaces, have generally early starting hours such as 7 a.m. Also, while there are of course personal variations, in Romanian culture, work is viewed as an activity that exists in

order to assure a good family life. Therefore, there are very few cases where family is placed second, priority-wise. Even when a job truly brings fulfillment and pleasure to the individual, work-life balance is praised—in most cases there are not many overtime working hours.

However, due to this tendency, many families wait until around 3 p.m. to get back home from work and eat lunch together. This in turn causes dinner to also be rather late—sometimes as late as 9 p.m. This is not the case for families whose members have an office job, because these jobs typically have a schedule from 9 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m. In this case, each member of the family eats away from home during the lunch break.

#### Useful expression

1. *muncă*  
"job"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #8 Going on a Shopping Trip in Romania

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# 8

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Astăzi vreau să-mi cumpăr o cămașă roșie, verde, galbenă.
2. Andreea: Deci vrei să cumperi trei cămăși?
3. Masanobu: Nu, doar una.
4. Andreea: Nu înțeleg. Deci ce culoare cauți?
5. Masanobu: Toate culorile. Vreau o cămașă pentru excursia din Delta Dunării.
6. Andreea: Ah, acum înțeleg. Vrei ceva colorat, pentru vară.
7. Masanobu: Da, asta vreau să spun.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Today I want to buy a red, green, and yellow shirt.
2. Andreea: So you want to buy three shirts?
3. Masanobu: No, only one.
4. Andreea: I don't understand. So what color are you looking for?
5. Masanobu: All of them. I want a shirt for the trip to the Danube Delta.
6. Andreea: Oh, now I understand. You want something colorful for the summer.
7. Masanobu: Yes, that's what I mean.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
colorat	colorful	adjective
a vrea	to want	verb
cămașă	shirt	noun
doar	only	adverb
roșu	red	adjective
verde	green	adjective
galben	yellow	adjective
a înțelege	to understand	verb
pentru	for	preposition

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Acea grădină este foarte colorată.</b></p> <p>"That garden is very colorful."</p>	<p><b>El vrea să te întrebe ceva.</b></p> <p>"He wants to ask you something."</p>
<p><b>Vreau să mă culc devreme astăzi.</b></p> <p>"I want to go to sleep early today".</p>	<p><b>Nu vreau copiii mei să își cheltuiască toți banii lor pe dulciuri.</b></p> <p>"I don't want my children to spend all their money on sweets."</p>
<p><b>Astăzi port o cămașă albă.</b></p> <p>"Today I wear a white shirt."</p>	<p><b>Cămașa cea nouă pe care mi-ai cumpărat-o îmi dă o senzație de mâncărime.</b></p> <p>"This new shirt you bought me makes me itchy."</p>

<p><b>Pune-ți cămășile murdare în mașina de spălat te rog.</b></p> <p>"Put your dirty shirts into the washing machine, please."</p>	<p><b>Nu îmi place culoarea acestei cămăși.</b></p> <p>"I don't like the color of this shirt."</p>
<p><b>Această cămașă.</b></p> <p>"This shirt."</p>	<p><b>Am doar o întrebare.</b></p> <p>"I have only one question."</p>
<p><b>Seara soarele este roșu.</b></p> <p>"In the evening the sun is red."</p>	<p><b>În caz de urgență apăsați butonul roșu.</b></p> <p>"In case of emergency, press the red button."</p>
<p><b>Vin roșu, vă rog.</b></p> <p>"Red wine, please."</p>	<p><b>Cana verde este a ta.</b></p> <p>"The green mug is yours."</p>
<p><b>Mănânc o înghețată galbenă.</b></p> <p>"I am eating a yellow ice cream."</p>	<p><b>Înțeleg ce spui.</b></p> <p>"I understand what you are saying."</p>
<p><b>Ai înțeles?</b></p> <p>"Did you understand?"</p>	<p><b>Ai înțeles?</b></p> <p>"Did you understand?"</p>
<p><b>Înțeleg.</b></p> <p>"I understand."</p>	<p><b>Am un mesaj pentru tine.</b></p> <p>"I have a message for you."</p>
<p><b>Pentru o persoană.</b></p> <p>"For one person."</p>	<p><b>Pentru puțin.</b></p> <p>"For nothing."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Vreau să cumpăr***  
**"I want to buy"**

This phrase is structured just like its English counterpart: First we have the verb **vreau**, "I want" (simple present 1st person singular), and then **cumpăr**, "I buy," connected by the conjunction **să**, which means "to."

This expression can be used when you want to say that you intend to buy something or as a request to a salesperson for further information about the product you are interested in.

### For example:

1. *Vreau să cumpăr o casă la mare.*  
"I want to buy a house at the seaside."

### **doar una** "only one"

---

The phrase is made of **doar**, which is an adverb meaning "only," and **una**, which is a pronoun (feminine) in Romanian and it means "one."

This is a common phrase containing neutral words from the point of view of formality. Therefore, it can be used in any type of situation, whenever you intend to indicate that there is or you want "only one object."

### For example:

1. *Am doar una.*  
"I only have one."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Gender in Romanian

---

1. ***Astăzi vreau să-mi cumpăr o cămașă roșie, verde, galbenă.***  
**"Today I want to buy a red, green, yellow shirt."**
- 

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

- 1. recognize the gender of nouns - masculine or feminine**
- 2. recognize which nouns are neutral**

### 3. conjugate adjectives by gender

---

#### 1. How to recognize the gender of nouns—masculine or feminine

---

Romanian is one of those languages in which nouns have a gender. This concept sometimes seems a little difficult to grasp for non-native speakers or learners of Romanian whose mother tongue does not have a gender for nouns. The first thing I should mention is that generally the way the gender of a word is decided may seem rather random, even though there are a few patterns.

These patterns are based on the sound the nouns end with, but even so there are no rigid rules. So the recommended way to get a grasp of gender is just to memorize the gender of each new word as you learn it.

In time, you can develop an instinct to detect what gender the words are, based only on how they sound.

First of all, let's see below some basic patterns, with examples, regarding how nouns of masculine or feminine gender sound.

#### **Basic noun word-ending patterns and their grammatical gender:**

-nouns ending in a consonant or in the vowel or semivowel **u** are almost always masculine:

ex.: *domn* ("mister"; "gentleman"), *profesor* ("teacher")

-nouns ending in **ă** are feminine:

ex.: *fată* ("girl"), *cană* ("mug"), *seară* ("evening")

-nouns ending in stressed **a** are feminine:

ex.: *cafea* ("coffee"), *teighea* ("bar counter")

-nouns ending in **e** are generally feminine

ex.: *femeie* ("woman"), *librărie* ("bookstore"), *vreme* ("weather")

#### **Sample sentences**

1. *Un domn intră în restaurant.*  
"A gentleman enters the restaurant."
2. *Cana galbenă este a ta?*  
"Is the yellow mug yours?"

3. *Astăzi este vreme frumoasă.*  
"The weather is nice today."

## 2. How to recognize what nouns are neutral

Another feature of Romanian is the existence of a third gender of nouns—neuter. However, unlike German or Latin who also have this gender, in Romanian it is slightly different.

There is no third declension for this gender. Instead, there are certain nouns that are masculine in the singular form but feminine in the plural one. These are the nouns that are considered neuter. In other words, there is no stand-alone neuter gender, just nouns that act as masculine in singular but as feminine in plural and are thus considered a neuter word.

Also note that the **pattern** for these neuter nouns is always:

male in singular form / female in plural form

Now let's see some examples of neuter nouns from the vocabulary we've already learned.

### Conjugation chart for Romanian neuter nouns

Romanian		English	
Singular (masculine form)	Plural (feminine form)	Singular	Plural
<i>oraș</i>	<i>orașe</i>	city	cities
<i>ceas</i>	<i>ceasuri</i>	watch	watches
<i>sfert</i>	<i>sferturi</i>	quarter	quarters

### Sample sentences

1. *România are multe orașe frumoase.*  
"Romania has many beautiful cities."
2. *Ai un ceas sau mai multe ceasuri?*  
"Do you have a watch or several watches?"

3. *Două sferturi înseamnă o treime.*  
"Two quarters means a half."

### 3. How to conjugate adjectives by gender

Now that we learned about all three genders of Romanian nouns, let's take a look at how adjectives change according to the gender of the noun to which they refer.

In their basic form, every adjective is in its male conjugation. In order to conjugate the adjective in its female form (when the noun it determines is female), we just have to add *ă* to the end of the adjective in its singular form. For plural, add *e* instead.

#### Conjugation chart (ex. *cald* "warm")

Singular		Plural	
Masculine	Feminine	Feminine plural	
<i>cald</i>	<i>caldă</i>	<i>calzi</i>	<i>calde</i>

#### Sample sentences

1. *Fotoliul este cald.* (singular masculine)  
"The armchair is warm."
2. *Primăverile sunt calde aici.* (plural feminine)  
"Springs are warm here."
3. *Coperta aceasta este veche și urâtă.* (singular feminine)  
"This book cover is old and ugly."

#### Examples from the Dialogue:

1. *Astăzi vreau să-mi cumpăr o cămașă roșie, verde, galbenă.*  
"Today I want to buy a red, green, yellow shirt."
2. *Nu înțeleg. Deci ce culoare cauți?*  
"I don't understand. So what color are you looking for?"
3. *Ah, acum înțeleg. Vrei ceva colorat, pentru vară.*  
"Oh, now I understand. You want something colorful for the summer."

## Sample Sentences

1. *Aceasta este o cămașă frumoasă.*  
"This is a beautiful shirt."
2. *Am un tricou albastru și două tricouri galbene.*  
"I have a blue t-shirt and 2 yellow t-shirts."
3. *Tu ai un tricou galben și o cămașă galbenă.*  
"You have a yellow t-shirt and a yellow shirt."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Food in Romania

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As this lesson is about shopping, let's talk about food and shopping for food in Romania.

Like many other cultures, Romania has what is considered a staple food, that is the food that is eaten routinely and that accompanies almost every meal. In Romania it was originally bread (made out of wheat), but after maize (commonly known as "corn") was brought to Europe between the 15th and 16th century, a new staple gained popularity in the area that is now Romania—*mămăligă*, which can also be called "polenta" in English. It is made of cornmeal until it hardens and acquires a consistency close to that of wheat bread. Also, a typical alcoholic drink in Romania is *țuică*, which is a brandy-like, transparent drink made out of plum and typically reaching around 40 percent alcohol by volume.

### Useful expression

1. *mămăligă*  
"polenta"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #9

## What Do You Do in Your Free Time in Romania?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 12 Cultural Insight

# 9

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Andreea, tu vii des la grădina zoologică?
2. Andreea: Nu. Merg rareori la zoo. Dar tu?
3. Masanobu: Nici eu nu merg des. Dar ce faci în timpul liber?
4. Andreea: Deseori ies în oraș cu prietenii.
5. Masanobu: Eu de obicei ascult muzică și fac ciclism cu prietenii.
6. Andreea: Foarte interesant și sănătos!
7. Masanobu: Mulțumesc. Dar trebuie și să mănânc mai sănătos.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Andreea, do you often come to the zoo?
2. Andreea: No. I seldom go to the zoo. How about you?
3. Masanobu: I don't go often either. But what do you do in your leisure time?
4. Andreea: I often go out with my friends.
5. Masanobu: I usually listen to music and cycle with my friends.
6. Andreea: Very interesting and healthy!
7. Masanobu: Thank you. But I must also eat healthier.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
sănătos	healthy	adjective
interesant	interesting	adjective
des	often	adverb
rareori	seldom, rarely	adverb
obicei	habit	noun
grădină	garden	noun
zoo	zoo	noun
a ieși	to exit, to go	verb
oraș	city	noun
a asculta	to listen	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Este sănătos să mănânci legume.</b></p> <p>"Eating vegetables is healthy."</p>	<p><b>Cartea aceea este interesantă.</b></p> <p>"That book is interesting."</p>
<p><b>Cât de des faci mișcare?</b></p> <p>"How often do you workout?"</p>	<p><b>Rareori merg la cinema.</b></p> <p>"I rarely go to the cinema."</p>
<p><b>Este un obicei prost.</b></p> <p>"It is a bad habit."</p>	<p><b>Ai prostul obicei să îți lași jacheta în vestibul.</b></p> <p>"You have the bad habit of leaving your jacket in the hallway."</p>
<p><b>Ce grădină mare!</b></p> <p>"What a big garden!"</p>	<p><b>Astăzi mergem la zoo.</b></p> <p>"Today we are going to the zoo."</p>

<p><b>Leul a ieșit din cușcă!</b> "The lion got out of the cage!"</p>	<p><b>Tokyo este un oraș foarte mare.</b> "Tokyo is a very big city."</p>
<p><b>București este un oraș mare.</b> "Bucharest is a big city."</p>	<p><b>Asculți ce spun?</b> "Are you listening to what I am saying?"</p>
<p><b>Îmi place să ascult radio înainte să adorm.</b> "I like to listen to the radio before going to sleep."</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***a ieși în oraș*** **"to go out"**

This phrase is made out of *a ieși*, which is a verb meaning "to exit," "to go out." *în* means "in" and *oraș*, "city."

This is a very common phrase used to mean going out in general. It is neutral formality-wise—therefore, it can be used in virtually any scenario.

#### **For example**

1. *Haide să ieșim în oraș în seara asta!*  
"Let's go out tonight!"

### ***de obicei*** **"usually"**

This phrase is used as an adverb altogether. It is made out of the preposition *de*, meaning "of," and the noun *obicei*, which means "habit." Literally, "of habit," which would translate to "habitually."

This is used to express the frequency of an action or something else that takes place several times per a given period. It is used in both formal as well as more casual situations.

## For example

1. *De obicei nu mănânc mămăligă.*  
"I don't usually eat polenta."

## ***a asculta muzică*** **"to listen to music"**

---

This phrase is made out of the verb *a asculta*, "to listen," and the noun *muzică*, which means "music."

It is used whenever you want to say that you or someone is listening or listens to music. It can be used in both formal and casual scenarios.

## For example

1. *Ei ascultă muzică des?*  
"Do they often listen to music?"

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is the Present Simple Tense**

#### ***Andreea, tu vii des la grădina zoologică?*** **"Andreea, do you often come to the zoo?"**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

- 1. use present simple to express general habits**
  - 2. use adverbs of frequency**
  - 3. ask questions**
- 

### **1. How to use present simple to express general habits**

---

The present simple tense of verbs is one the basic tenses in Romanian and also one of the most used ones.

It is employed to express that something is currently happening (at the moment of speech), but also to express general actions that take place at certain intervals, as there is no present continuous tense in Romanian. However, its third use is to

express things that will take place in the future, even though there is also a future tense in Romanian.

The basic conjugation rule is as follows: Remove the verb ending distinctive to each verb group (group I: *-a*, group II: *-ea*, group III: *-e* and group IV: *-i* or *î*). Now you have the stem of the verb. Next, add the terminations characteristic to each grammatical person, which we learned in lesson 7.

Now let's see again some examples of verbs conjugated in the present simple tense. The verbs that appeared in the dialogue of this episode are all included below, with the exception of *a face* ("to do"/"to make"), *a merge* ("to walk"/"to go"), and *a mânca* ("to eat"), which were all introduced with their present simple tense conjugation in lesson 7.

### Conjugation chart for verbs in the present simple tense

*a asculta* "to listen" - **group I** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) ascult	I listen
singular	(tu) ascu <b>ți</b>	you listen
singular	(el/ea) ascultă	he/she listens
plural	(noi) ascultă <b>m</b>	we listen
plural	(voi) ascultă <b>ți</b>	you listen
plural	(ei/ele) ascultă	they listen

*a lucra* "to work" - **group I\*** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) lucre <b>z</b>	I work
singular	(tu) lucre <b>zi</b>	you work
singular	(el/ea) lucre <b>ază</b>	he/she works
plural	(noi) lucră <b>m</b>	we work
plural	(voi) lucră <b>ți</b>	you work
plural	(ei/ele) lucre <b>ază</b>	they work

\*In lesson 7, we introduced the Romanian verb conjugations with one example per

group. However, in this lesson we are introducing more verbs. On this occasion, we can see here that there are two conjugation patterns for group I verbs. The one above, *a lucra* ("to work"), ends in *-a*, so it is a group I verb. However, this group has two conjugation patterns, the one from *a asculta* ("to listen") and the one from the verb above. Unfortunately, there really is no rule to determine which type each verb is just from the infinitive form, and in most cases no special classification is mentioned in dictionaries either, so you just have to memorize case by case.

*a vedea* "to see" - **group II** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) văd	I see
singular	(tu) vezi	you see
singular	(el/ea) vede	he/she sees
plural	(noi) vedem	we see
plural	(voi) vedeți	you see
plural	(ei/ele) văd	they see

*a zice* "to say"/"to tell" - **group III** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) zic	I say
singular	(tu) zici	you say
singular	(el/ea) zice	he/she says
plural	(noi) zicem	we say
plural	(voi) ziceți	you say
plural	(ei/ele) zic	they say

*a cunoaște* "to meet"/"to get acquainted" - **group III** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) cunosc	I meet / get acquainted
singular	(tu) cunoști	you meet / get acquainted

singular	(el/ea) cunoaște	he/she knows / gets acquainted
plural	(noi) cunoaș <b>tem</b>	we meet / get acquainted
plural	(voi) cunoaș <b>teți</b>	you meet / get acquainted
plural	(ei/ele) cunosc	they meet / get acquainted

*a râde* "to laugh" - **group III** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) râd	I laugh
singular	(tu) râ <b>zi</b>	you laugh
singular	(el/ea) râ <b>de</b>	he/she laughs
plural	(noi) râ <b>dem</b>	we laugh
plural	(voi) râ <b>deți</b>	you laugh
plural	(ei/ele) râd	they laugh

*a veni* "to come" - **group IV** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) vin	I come
singular	(tu) vi <b>ii</b>	you come
singular	(el/ea) vi <b>ne</b>	he/she comes
plural	(noi) veni <b>m</b>	we come
plural	(voi) veni <b>ți</b>	you come
plural	(ei/ele) vin	they come

*a ieși* "to exit"/"to go" - **group IV** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) ies	I exit / go
singular	(tu) ieși	you exit / go
singular	(el/ea) iese	he/she exits / goes
plural	(noi) ieșim	we exit / go
plural	(voi) ieșiți	you exit / go
plural	(ei/ele) ies	they exit / go

*a hotărî* "to decide" - **group IV\*** (present simple tense)

singular	(eu) hotărăsc	I decide
singular	(tu) hotărăști	you decide
singular	(el/ea) hotărăște	he/she decides
plural	(noi) hotărîm	we decide
plural	(voi) hotărîți	you decide
plural	(ei/ele) hotărăsc	they decide

\*Just like in the case of group I verbs, group IV verbs too have a second variation of personal terminations in the present simple tense. In this case, the verb above *a hotărî* ("to decide") is type 2. Unfortunately, as in the case of group I verbs, there is no rule to determine which type each verb is from the infinitive form, so the verbs have to be memorized case by case.

*a trebui* "to must" - **group IV** (present simple tense)\*

singular	(eu) trebuie	I must
singular	(tu) trebuie	you must
singular	(el/ea) trebuie	he/she must
plural	(noi) trebuie	we must

plural	(voi) trebuie	you must
plural	(ei/ele) trebuie	they must

\*With a *trebui*, we have a special case. Because it means "to must," just like in English, it is an impersonal verb, which means it cannot be used conjugated according to the grammatical persons. However, on a side note, because it can be theoretically conjugated by person, it is classified from a grammatical point of view as a group IV verb, and the form that is always used is considered to be the 3rd person singular one. So, in the table above, you can see a rare case of a Romanian verb not changing at all according to grammatical person, but that is only because that form is actually the 3rd person singular used for all persons throughout.

### Sample sentences

1. *Eu văd un film în fiecare weekend.*  
"I watch a movie every weekend."
2. *El iese mereu în oraș în weekend.*  
"He always goes out on weekends."
3. *Ei lucrează până seara.*  
"They work until the evening."

## 2. How to use adverbs of frequency (Ex. *mereu* "always," *uneori* "sometimes," *niciodată* "never")

Adverbs in Romanian are all non-changing parts of speech—they do not conjugate according to grammatical elements around them, such as gender, number, etc. In this episode, we encountered several expressions of frequency and thus, also many adverbs of frequency. We are going to see how these should be used in Romanian as well as some example sentences.

First of all, remember that the sentence pattern is usually verb + adverb, so the adverb comes after the verb in most cases. However, if you want to put emphasis on the adverb, you can place the adverb before the verb as well.

### Sentence Pattern

verb + adverb / adverb + verb

### Sample sentences

1. *El mereu întârzie la cursuri.*  
"He is always late for class." (lit.: "He always delays at classes.")
2. *Uneori mănânc în oraș.*  
"Sometimes I eat out." (lit.: "Sometimes I eat downtown.")
3. *Niciodată nu am vizitat Mongolia.*  
"I never visited Mongolia." (lit.: "I didn't visit never Mongolia."); in this case you can see an example where the adverb is placed before the verb to emphasise the former.

### 3. How to ask questions

Questions in Romanian are very easy to form. However, they may not be especially intuitive for English native speakers, because they are made by **just changing the intonation**.

**There is no change in word order or addition of other words to take the role of question markers like in English.** For example, the first question that appears in the dialogue of this episode is *Andreea, tu vii des la grădina zoologică?* which literally translates to "Andreea, you come often to the zoo?" There is no "do" before the verb to mark the question.

#### Sentence Pattern

The only pattern you need to remember in order to form any question in Romanian is that you have to put a question mark at the end in written language and gradually raise the tone of your voice towards the end of the phrase.

Ex.:

Language	Affirmative phrase	Question
Romanian	Este cald în București.	Este cald în București?
English	It is hot in Bucharest.	Is it hot in Bucharest?

Now let's see some more examples below.

#### Sample sentences

1. *Când începe facultatea în România?*  
"When does college start in Romania?" (lit. "When starts college in Romania?")

2. *Fructele sunt ieftine în aici?*  
"Are fruits cheap here?" (lit. "Fruits are cheap here?")
3. *Îți place skiul?*  
"Do you like to ski?" (lit. "You like the ski?")

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Andreea, tu vii des la grădina zoologică?*  
"Andreea, do you often come to the zoo?"
2. *Deseori ies în oraș cu prietenii.*  
"I often go out with my friends."
3. *Nu. Merg rareori la zoo. Dar tu?*  
"No. I seldom go to the zoo. How about you?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Eu mânânc mereu micul dejun.*  
"I always eat breakfast."
2. *Nu citesc prea des.*  
"I don't read too often."
3. *Unde vrei să călătorești?*  
"Where do you want to travel?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Health and Habits in Romania

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Outside of work, most Romanians like to spend time with family and friends or pursue their hobbies.

Regarding of eating habits, traditional Romanian food has always been relatively high in fats. This did not directly cause any health issues in the population until the recent century, as lifestyles have dramatically changed, with more sedentary ways of spending time. This, combined with the recent popularization of fast food and instant or semi-instant type foods, has led to a significant increase in health issues

caused by eating habits in Romania.

However, pets do not suffer from such issues and have been arguably getting increasingly better lives. Dogs and cats are the most popular pets in Romania, as well as parrots and iguanas.

### **Useful expression**

1. *papagal*  
"parrot"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #10 Talking Sports in Romanian

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
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- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# **10**

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Mă bucur că vedem astăzi meciul de fotbal împreună.
2. Mihai: Și eu mă bucur.
3. Masanobu: La noi baseball-ul este mai popular decât fotbalul, dar eu prefer fotbalul.
4. Mihai: Și ce alte sporturi îți plac?
5. Masanobu: Îmi place să merg pe bicicletă. Ție?
6. Mihai: Mie îmi place și ping-pong-ul.
7. Masanobu: Ce înseamnă ping-pong?
8. Mihai: Ah, tenis de masă.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: I'm glad today we're watching the soccer game together.
2. Mihai: I'm glad too.
3. Masanobu: Baseball is more popular in my country, but I prefer soccer.
4. Mihai: What other sports do you like?
5. Masanobu: I like riding bicycles. You?
6. Mihai: I also like ping pong.

CONT'D OVER

7. Masanobu: What does ping pong mean?
8. Mihai: Oh, table tennis.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
a merge	to walk, to ride	verb
a (îi) plăcea	to like	verb
a se bucura	to be glad	verb
astăzi	today	adverb, noun
împreună	together	adverb
mai	more	adverb
decât	than	adverb
fotbal	soccer	noun
sport	sport	noun
bicicletă	bicycle	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Mergi prea repede.</b> "You are walking too fast."</p>	<p><b>Lor le place să citească.</b> "They like reading."</p>
<p><b>Ne bucurăm să vă revedem.</b> "We're happy to see you again."</p>	<p><b>Ce zi este astăzi?</b> "What day is today?"</p>
<p><b>Astăzi a fost o zi de vară fantastic de călduroasă.</b> "Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day."</p>	<p><b>Parada este astăzi.</b> "The parade is today."</p>

<p><b>Ei călătoresc împreună.</b> "They travel together."</p>	<p><b>Astăzi este mai cald decât ieri.</b> "Today it is hotter than yesterday."</p>
<p><b>Îmi place pepenele verde mai mult decât pepenele galben.</b> "I like watermelons more than melons."</p>	<p><b>Joc fotbal în fiecare săptămână.</b> "I play soccer every week."</p>
<p><b>Am jucat fotbal cu David Beckham.</b> "I played soccer with David Beckham."</p>	<p><b>Îmi place sportul.</b> "I like sports."</p>
<p><b>Ea are două biciclete.</b> "She has 2 bicycles."</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***Mă bucur că...*** **"I'm glad that..."**

This phrase contains three words. *Mă* means "myself" (accusative case), *bucur* is first person singular for *a bucura*, meaning "to rejoice," "to make glad" and *că* is "that" (conjunction). Therefore, "I'm glad that..." is literally expressed in Romanian as "I rejoice myself that..."

This phrase is used whenever you want to express your excitement about an event or someone's happiness. Language-wise, it is perfectly fine to use this phrase in both formal and informal speech, however it is something you usually say to a friend or someone close rather than a supervisor, a teacher, or in a business situation.

### **For example**

1. *Mă bucur că pot să exersez limba română cu tine.*  
"I'm glad I can practice Romanian with you."

## **Ce înseamnă...?** **"What does...mean?"**

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The phrase is made out of *ce*, which means "what," and *înseamnă*, which is 3rd person singular for *a însemna*, meaning "to mean." Literally "what means...."

It is used when you want to ask what something means.

It is very common to use when you are communicating in a language you are currently learning, but it may sound unnatural if you're considered a native speaker, as it is very direct and may be taken as childish. In that case, you should instead just try to repeat the words you heard to convey that you don't grasp the meaning.

### **For example**

1. *Ce înseamnă acest cuvânt?*  
"What does this word mean?"

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Useful Adverbs for Expressing Preferences**

***La noi baseball-ul este mai popular decât fotbalul, dar eu prefer fotbalul.***  
**"Baseball is more popular in my country, but I prefer soccer."**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

- 1. use "too" to express the degree**
  - 2. use "more" and "than" to express preferences**
  - 3. use the hyphen to connect definite articles to newly borrowed words from other languages (Spelling neologisms)**
- 

### **1. How to use "too" to express the degree**

In this lesson, we encountered a very common and useful word in Romanian—*prea*, meaning "too." It can be used to simply express the degree of something, in which case it is followed by an adjective. It can also be used in verbal negative structures to express the low degree or frequency of a verb.

Let's see how these two possible usage scenarios would translate into as a

grammatical pattern.

### **Sentence Pattern - expressing the degree of a characteristic**

*prea* ("too") + adjective

### **Sentence Pattern - expressing the degree or frequency of a state or an action**

*nu* ("no") + *prea* ("too") + verb

#### **Sample sentences**

1. *Deja este prea târziu.*  
"It's already too late." (lit. "Already it is too late.")
2. *Nu prea joc biliard.*  
"I don't play billiards that much." (lit. "I don't too play billiard.")
3. *Nu prea îmi plac filmele de acțiune.*  
"I don't like action movies that much." (lit. "I don't too like movies of action.")

## **2. How to use "more" and "than" to express preferences**

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Next, let's learn how to express preferences using comparative expressions in Romanian. To do this, first we must remember the words *mai*, which means "more," and *decât*, which means "than." Now let's see the grammatical pattern used to form comparative expressions.

### **Sentence Pattern**

noun + verb + *mai* ("more") + adjective + *decât* ("than") + noun

Next, let's see how this pattern translates in some concrete sentences below.

#### **Sample sentences**

1. *Desertul este mai dulce decât carnea.*  
"Dessert is sweeter than meat." (lit. "The dessert is more sweet than the meat.")
2. *Vara este mai caldă decât iarna.*  
"Summer is hotter than winter." (lit. "The summer is more hot than the winter.")

3. *Articolul acesta este mai interesant decât acea revistă.*  
 "This article is more interesting than that magazine."

### 3. How to use the hyphen to connect definite articles to newly borrowed words from other languages (Spelling neologisms)

Like many languages around the world, in Romanian words borrowed from other languages through cultural interaction are a significant part of the vocabulary. They are called "neologisms," or *neologisme* in Romanian. As a part of speech, these are virtually always **nouns or adjectives**. Most of them fall into the first category. For example, *internet*, which means of course "internet," is a noun in Romanian, like in English; *cool*, which also means the same thing as the English "cool" (the slang meaning - "very good" or "fashionable, hip"), is an adjective. When they are nouns, neologisms usually take a masculine or neuter grammatical gender, with rare cases of feminine neologisms. Adjectives, on the other hand, do not change according to the noun they determine, unlike traditional adjectives in Romanian.

Most importantly, in this part of the lesson we want to remember that nouns can take a definite article (to mean "the noun"), in which case they behave like traditional Romanian adjectives, but the article is connected to the noun with a hyphen, after the original word. The only exception is feminine neologisms in their singular form. In this case, the definite article *-a* is always connected to the word. Some older neologisms (words that are considered relatively newly borrowed, but have been in the language for several decades) can have the definite article connected directly to the word, without a hyphen.

In Romanian, the definite article can take many forms, so in this series we'll first learn about the most frequent ones in the table below.

#### Conjugation chart

Language	Singular		Plural	
Romanian	Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Romanian	-ul	-a	-ii	-urile
English	the			

Now let's see some examples below:

Romanian	English
site-ul	the (web)site

mouse-ul	the mouse (IT)
card-ul	the card
computerul	the computer
planul	the plan

You can see that the last two words don't have a hyphen separating the the definite article from the word. That is because they belong to the category of older neologisms.

### Sample sentences

1. *WiFi-ul nu merge prea bine aici.*  
"WiFi doesn't work too well here." (lit. "The WiFi doesn't work too well here.") (*WiFi* is a relatively recently borrowed word, so the definite article - *ul* is connected to the word using a hyphen)
2. *Internetul există de zeci de ani.*  
"The internet has been around for tens of years." (lit.: "The internet exists for tens of years.") \*Because *internet* is a neologism that was borrowed and has been used for tens of years, there is no need to use the hyphen anymore.
3. *Crema este pe masă.*  
"The cream is on the table." (Because the neologism *crema* is a feminine noun, the definite article is connected directly to the word without a hyphen)

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Îmi place să merg pe bicicletă. Ție?*  
"I like riding bicycles. You?"
2. *La noi baseball-ul este mai popular decât fotbalul, dar eu prefer fotbalul.*  
"Baseball is more popular in my country, but I prefer soccer."
3. *Mie îmi place și ping-pong-ul.*  
"I also like ping pong."

### Sample Sentences

1. *Astăzi este prea cald pentru picnic.*  
"Today is too hot for a picnic."
2. *Muntele Fuji este mai înalt decât Munții Carpați.*  
"Mount Fuji is taller than the Carpathian Mountains."
3. *WiFi-ul nu este internetul.*  
"WiFi is not the internet."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Sports in Romania

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In Romania, the most popular sport is soccer. It is actually so popular that if you buy a sports newspaper and wish to read about any other sport other than soccer, you actually have to turn to the very last page of the paper to a tightly packed collection of small articles about 'miscellaneous sports,' ready to be crushed by the weight of the other 10 pages monopolized by soccer topics.

Also, in Romania, as in most other countries except the USA, "soccer" is called *fotbal*.

One of the most popular sports besides soccer is arguably tennis, with two famous male players, Țiriac and Năstase, and recently one female player, Simona Halep, known all around the world.

### Useful expression

1. *fotbal*  
"soccer"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #11 Choosing the Perfect Birthday Present for a Romanian Friend

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 10 Cultural Insight

# **11**

## ROMANIAN

1. Andreea: Hai să îi cumpărăm un cadou lui Mihai de ziua lui!
2. Masanobu: Ah, e ziua lui de naștere?
3. Andreea: Da, în română "ziua lui" înseamnă și "zi de naștere".
4. Masanobu: Înțeleg. Când este ziua lui Mihai?
5. Andreea: Astăzi este marți, trei iunie, deci este săptămâna viitoare, vineri, treisprezece iunie.
6. Masanobu: Ce să îi cumpărăm?
7. Andreea: E pasionat de astronomie. Să îi cumpărăm o excursie pe lună?
8. Masanobu: Da, e o idee foarte bună.

## ENGLISH

1. Andreea: Let's buy Mihai a present for his day.
2. Masanobu: Oh, is it his birthday?
3. Andreea: Yes, in Romanian "his day" also means "birthday."
4. Masanobu: I understand. When is Mihai's birthday?
5. Andreea: Today is Tuesday, June 3rd, so it's next week's Friday, June 13th.

CONT'D OVER

6. Masanobu: What shall we buy him?
7. Andreea: He loves astronomy. How about we buy him a trip to the moon?
8. Masanobu: Yes, that's a very good idea.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
cadou	present	noun
naștere	birth	noun
lui	his	pronoun
când	when	adverb
săptămână	week	noun
viitor	next, coming	adjective
iunie	June	noun
pasionat	passionate, keen	adjective
idee	idea	noun
lună	moon, month	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Copiii vor multe cadouri de Crăciun.</b></p> <p>"Children want many presents for Christmas."</p>	<p><b>Vă rog scrieți ziua dumneavoastră de naștere.</b></p> <p>"Please write your date of birth."</p>
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<p><b>Aceasta este mașina lui.</b> "This is his car."</p>	<p><b>Aici scrie când începe spectacolul.</b> "It is written here when the show starts."</p>
<p><b>Când achiți biletul de tren?</b> "When will you pay the train ticket?"</p>	<p><b>Când este Ziua Recunoștinței?</b> "When is Thanksgiving Day?"</p>
<p><b>Când crezi că el o să ne sune?</b> "When do you think he'll call us?"</p>	<p><b>O lună are patru săptămâni.</b> "A month has 4 weeks."</p>
<p><b>Studiez franceza o dată pe săptămână.</b> "I study French once a week."</p>	<p><b>Anul viitor mergem în Alaska.</b> "Next year we are going to Alaska."</p>
<p><b>Luna iunie este caldă în România.</b> "The month of June is warm in Romania."</p>	<p><b>Când ești pasionat de ce faci, timpul trece repede.</b> "When you're keen on what you are doing, time goes fast."</p>
<p><b>Nu am nicio idee.</b> "I have no idea."</p>	<p><b>Ce frumoasă este luna în seara aceasta!</b> "The moon is so beautiful this evening."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***zi de naștere*** **"birthday"**

*Zi* means "day," *de* is "of," and *naștere* is a noun meaning "birth," originating in the verb *a naște*, meaning to "give birth to."

This phrase is commonly used to refer to one's birthday as a date, as opposed to the event or party celebrating one's birthday. It is generally used in formal situations. In casual speech, the expression *sunt născut pe*, literally meaning "I am born on," is preferred.

To refer to one's birthday as a celebrating event in informal speech, usually *ziua mea* "my day" is commonly preferred.

### For example

1. *Când este ziua ta de naștere?*  
"When is your birthday?"

### ***pasionat de*** **"keen on"**

---

*Pasionat* is the past participle of the verb *a pasiona*, meaning "to especially interest," and *de* is a preposition meaning "of." Literally "especially interested of."

This phrase is used to talk about your hobbies.

Please note that *pasionat de* is used to refer to your most favorite hobbies and not for any other thing or activity that you like. On a level of enjoyment, 1 being normal and 3 being the highest, this is used to refer to level 3 activities and hobbies.

### For example

1. *Eu sunt pasionat de modă.*  
"I am keen on fashion."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Expressing Dates**

***Astăzi este marți, trei iunie, deci este săptămâna viitoare, vineri, treisprezece iunie.***

**"Today is Tuesday, June 3rd, so it's next week's Friday, June 13th."**

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**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

**1. use the main time adverbs**

**2. use the words for "year," "month," "week," and "day"**

### 3. spell months and days

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#### 1. How to use the main time adverbs

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Time adverbs in Romanian are the most used words to express concepts related to time.

They do not vary according to other words (e.g. like adjectives), so once you memorize them they are fairly easy to use. The only thing you need to get a hold of regarding the usage is the order within the sentence, as they can be placed both before and after the verb, as shown below.

#### Sentence Pattern and Main Time Adverbs in Romanian

time adverb + verb

OR

verb + time adverb

---

Romanian	English
alaltăieri	day before yesterday
ieri	yesterday
astăzi	today
mâine	tomorrow
poimâine	day after tomorrow
înainte	before, formerly
adineaori	a moment ago
acum	now
mai târziu	later
data viitoare	next time

---

There is no particular difference in meaning caused by the placement of the time adverb within the phrase. However, depending on each time adverb, there is a

typical placement used in most cases. Therefore, the most natural way of getting used to this is by using each one as natives do, and in time you will be able to use the time adverbs spontaneously.

## Sample sentences

1. *Astăzi merg la școală.*  
"Today we're going to school." (lit. "Today I go to school.")
2. *El merge mâine.*  
"He's going tomorrow." (lit.: "He goes tomorrow.")
3. *Ea sosește târziu acasă.*  
"She's arriving late at home." (lit. "She arrives late at home.")

## 2. How to use the words for "year", "month", "week" and "day"

The words for "year," "month," "week," and "day" in Romanian are nouns, just like in English. Also like in English, with the exception of "day" which becomes the standalone word "today," all of them can be used like an adverbial expression by attaching *acesta / aceasta*, which both mean "this" (masculine / feminine).

*Acest* ("this") is a demonstrative pronoun, which in Romanian is conjugated according to the gender and number of the noun it determines. Other than these rules, remember that the phrases using "year," "month," "week," and "day" can be placed virtually anywhere within the sentence when you want to express these time concepts.

Let's see how *acesta* ("this") is conjugated, according to the words we're learning in this section.

### Conjugation chart of demonstrative pronoun *acest* "this" with basic words that express time

noun (noun gender)	demonstrative pronoun "this"	English meaning
anul (masculine)	acesta (masculine)	this year
luna	aceasta (feminine)	this month
săptămâna	aceasta (feminine)	this week

### "Today"

time adverb	English meaning
astăzi (masculine)	today

Now let's see below some examples using these words.

### Sample sentences

1. *Anul acesta eu încep facultatea.*  
"I'm starting college this year." (lit.: "Year this I start college.")
2. *Cartea este publicată luna aceasta.*  
"The book is being published this month." (lit. "The book is published month this.")
3. *Săptămâna aceasta plouă.*  
"It's raining this week." (lit. "Week this rains.")

### 3. How to spell months and days

Have you noticed in the dialogue of this episode how "Tuesday" or "June" are spelled in Romanian?

Yes, they are written as *marți* and *iunie* respectively. In Romanian, words expressing days of the week and months of the year are written in lowercase letters. Of course, when they are at the beginning of a sentence, they are written in uppercase.

Grammar-wise, they are used most often as adverbs. Below are the typical patterns of usage.

#### Sentence Pattern

verb + noun expressing day of the week

OR

noun expressing day of the week + verb

verb + *în* ("in") + noun expressing month of the year

*în* ("in") + noun expressing month of the year + verb

**Now let's learn all days of the week and months of the year from the**

tables below.

### Naming the days of the week

<b>Romanian</b>	<b>English</b>
<i>luni</i>	Monday
<i>marți</i>	Tuesday
<i>miercuri</i>	Wednesday
<i>joi</i>	Thursday
<i>vineri</i>	Friday
<i>sâmbătă</i>	Saturday
<i>duminică</i>	Sunday

You can notice from the order in the table above that usually in Romania Monday is counted as the first day of the week.

### Naming the months of the year

<b>Romanian</b>	<b>English</b>
<i>ianuarie</i>	January
<i>februarie</i>	February
<i>martie</i>	March
<i>aprilie</i>	April
<i>mai</i>	May
<i>iunie</i>	June
<i>iulie</i>	July
<i>august</i>	August
<i>septembrie</i>	September
<i>octombrie</i>	October

<i>noiembrie</i>	November
<i>decembrie</i>	December

## Sample sentences

1. *Marți am o ședință.*  
"I have a meeting on Tuesday." (lit. "Tuesday I have a meeting.")
2. *Merg la New York miercuri.*  
"I'm going to New York on Wednesday." (lit. "I go to New York Wednesday.")
3. *Festivalul are loc în noiembrie.*  
"The festival takes place in November." (lit. "The festival has place in November.")

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Înțeleg. Când este ziua lui Mihai?*  
"I understand. When is Mihai's birthday?"
2. *Da, în română "ziua lui" înseamnă și "zi de naștere".*  
"Yes, in Romanian 'his day' also means 'birthday.'"
3. *Astăzi este marți, trei iunie, deci este săptămâna viitoare, vineri, treisprezece iunie.*  
"Today is Tuesday, June 3rd, so it's next week's Friday, June 13th."

## Sample Sentences

1. *Astăzi și mâine sunt foarte ocupat.*  
"Today and tomorrow I am very busy."
2. *Un an are douăsprezece luni.*  
"A year has 12 months."
3. *În România anul școlar începe în septembrie și se termină în iunie.*  
"In Romania the school year starts in September and ends in July."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Celebrating Birthdays in Romania

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In Romania, birthdays are one of the most important days all year for an individual. Thus, they are celebrated both with family and friends, as well as at the workplace. Depending on the age of the celebrated person, if he or she is an adult, this can mean 3 parties—one with parents (and sometimes other relatives), one with friends, and another one at the workplace.

While it is very common to celebrate at the workplace, this does not mean that people will dance on tables (or desks), but usually the birthday person will bring desserts and beverages, place them on a free table in the office, and invite colleagues (and supervisors too) to have a short break while chatting and enjoying the sweet snacks.

So, this means that the celebrated person makes a treat, but the presents are of course bought by the people celebrating.

### Useful expression

1. *petrecere*  
"party"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #12 Finding Your Way Around a Romanian Grocery Store

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 12

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Nu vă supărați, unde este șamponul?
2. Vânzător: Mergeți înainte și o luați la stânga pe primul culoar.
3. Vânzător: Șampoanele sunt pe partea dreaptă, pe al doilea raft de jos.
4. Masanobu: Mulțumesc. Și pasta de dinți?
5. Vânzător: Faceți prima la dreapta și este a treia de sus.
6. Masanobu: Înțeleg. Vă mulțumesc pentru ajutor.
7. Vânzător: Cu mare plăcere.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Excuse me, where is the shampoo?
2. Salesperson: Walk straight ahead and make a left at the 1st aisle.
3. Salesperson: The shampoos are on the right side, on the 2nd shelf from the bottom.
4. Masanobu: Thank you. How about the toothpaste?
5. Salesperson: Take the 1st right, and it's the 3rd one from the top.
6. Masanobu: I see. Thank you for your help.
7. Salesperson: You're very welcome.

## VOCABULARY

<b>Romanian</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Class</b>
unde	where	adverb
șampon	shampoo	noun
înainte	forward, straight ahead	adverb
stânga	left	noun
dreapta	right	noun
primul	the first	adjective
al doilea	the second	adjective
pastă	paste	noun
dinte	tooth	noun
al treilea	the third	adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Unde mergi?</b> "Where are you going?"</p>	<p><b>Unde este stația de tren?</b> "Where is the train station?"</p>
<p><b>Unde este hotelul Belvedere?</b> "Where is Belvedere hotel?"</p>	<p><b>Unde este cămașa mea roșie?</b> "Where is my red shirt?"</p>
<p><b>Unde este toaleta?</b> "Where is the toilet?"</p>	<p><b>Ce șampon folosești?</b> "What shampoo do you use?"</p>
<p><b>De unde pot să cumpăr șampon de mere?</b> "Where I can buy apple shampoo?"</p>	<p><b>Dacă vă intră șampon în ochi, clățiți imediat cu apă</b> "If some of the shampoo gets in your eyes, rinse them with water immediately."</p>

<p><b>Magazinul este o sută de metri înainte.</b></p> <p>"The store is 100 meters ahead."</p>	<p><b>Aici trebuie să o iei la stânga.</b></p> <p>"Here you have to turn to the left."</p>
<p><b>Nu merge la stânga.</b></p> <p>"Don't go to the left."</p>	<p><b>Am greșit și am făcut dreapta.</b></p> <p>"I turned to the right by mistake."</p>
<p><b>O iei la dreapta pâna la metrou.</b></p> <p>"Take a right until the subway."</p>	<p><b>El sosește primul.</b></p> <p>"He arrives first."</p>
<p><b>Al doilea câștigă medalia de argint.</b></p> <p>"The second one wins the silver medal."</p>	<p><b>Îți place pasta de somon?</b></p> <p>"Do you like salmon paste?"</p>
<p><b>În România dintele de lapte îl arunci pe casă.</b></p> <p>"In Romania you throw your milk tooth over the house."</p>	<p><b>Al treilea sosit câștigă medalia de bronz.</b></p> <p>"The third one to arrive wins the bronze medal."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***O luați la stânga*** **"You make a left turn"**

*O* is the direct object pronoun for 3rd person singular, feminine, meaning "it." *Luați* literally means "you take," and the infinitive form of the verb is *a lua* ("to take"), *la* is "at" or "to," and *stânga* means "left."

This phrase is used when giving directions to someone. This expression is formal speech. For informal situations, *o luați* should be replaced with *o iei*. The meaning is the same, and there is no harm in using the formal variation in a casual situation, but the other way around can be considered rude.

## For example

1. *Trebuie să o luați la stânga peste cinci zeci de metri.*  
"You must make a left turn after 50 meters."

## **Mergeți înainte** **"Go straight ahead"**

---

*Mergeți* means "you go," and the infinitive of the verb is *a merge* ("to go"), while *înainte* is an adverb and means "ahead."

This phrase is used when explaining to someone how to get to a certain place. This expression is a formal variation. For informal situations, you should use *mergi* instead of *mergeți*. There is absolutely no change in meaning.

## For example

1. *Pentru a ajunge în centrul orașului, mergeți înainte.*  
"Go straight forward in order to get to the city center."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Expressing Order with Numbers**

#### ***Mergeți înainte și o luați la stânga pe primul culoar.*** **"Walk straight ahead and make a left on the 1st aisle."**

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**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

- 1. use ordinal numbers in Romanian**
  - 2. use the masculine and feminine forms for "first" and "second"**
  - 3. remember the basic forms for one to ten**
- 

### **1. How to use ordinal numbers in Romanian**

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We learned back in lesson 3 about cardinal numbers, i.e. numbers that expresses an amount or a quantity. In this lesson, we will learn about ordinal numbers are a part of speech that, as the name suggests, represent position or rank in a sequence, or simply said, words that represent order. For example, while in English "one" and "two" are cardinal numbers, the ordinal numbers equivalent to

these are "first" and "second" respectively. Let's see the typical pattern of a phrase containing ordinal numbers below.

## Sentence Pattern / Conjugation chart

[ordinal number + noun]

So, remember that the ordinal numbers are always placed before the noun they determine. Also, the "noun" part above is between brackets because sometimes nouns can be omitted and expressed indirectly only through the ordinal number. This phenomenon is also possible in English, e.g. when saying "the first one" instead of "the first city."

Now let's see some examples in Romanian below to make things more clear.

## Sample sentences

1. *Ei câștigă în al nouălea meci.* (*al nouălea* means "the ninth")  
"They win in the ninth match."
2. *Acesta este primul oraș atestat istoric din România.* (*primul* means "first")  
"This is the first historically attested city in Romania."
3. *Ea este prima persoană care merge pe Marte.* (*prima* also means "first")  
"She is the first person to walk on Mars."

## 2. How to use the masculine and feminine forms for "first" and "second"

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Now let's see how to use the masculine and feminine forms for "first" and "second" in Romanian. First of all, why are there masculine and feminine forms to begin with? It is because, just like cardinal numbers for "one" (*unu*) and "two" (*doi*), in Romanian ordinal numbers vary according to the words they determine.

Actually, we just saw in the last two example sentences above that "first" took two slightly different forms. Basically, ordinal numbers change form according to the grammatical gender of the noun they determine.

Let us see this for "first" and "second" in the table below. There is only one column for the English translation because numbers here do not change form according to other words.

## Conjugation chart

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**Masculine**

**Feminine**

**English (invariable)**

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<i>primul</i>	<i>prima</i>	first
<i>al doilea</i>	<i>a doua</i>	second

### Sample sentences

1. *În primul rând, eu nu vorbesc spaniolă.*  
"First of all, I can't speak Spanish." (lit.: "In the first row, I don't speak Spanish.")
2. *Astăzi termin prima pagină.*  
"Today I'm finishing the first page."
3. *A doua oară e cu noroc.*  
"The second time is lucky." (lit.: "The second time is with luck.")

### 3. How to remember the basic forms for one to ten

Unlike cardinal numbers, not only *unu* ("one") and *doi* ("two"), but all ordinal numbers in Romanian change form according to the word they determine. In this lesson, let's learn those forms for up to "ten," i.e. "the tenth."

### Conjugation chart

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>English (invariable)</b>
<i>primul</i>	<i>prima</i>	(the) first
<i>al doilea</i>	<i>a doua</i>	(the) second
<i>al treilea</i>	<i>a treia</i>	(the) third
<i>al patrulea</i>	<i>a patra</i>	(the) fourth
<i>al cincilea</i>	<i>a cincea</i>	(the) fifth
<i>al șaselea</i>	<i>a șasea</i>	(the) sixth
<i>al șaptelea</i>	<i>a șaptea</i>	(the) seventh
<i>al optulea</i>	<i>a opta</i>	(the) eighth
<i>al nouălea</i>	<i>a noua</i>	(the) ninth

## Sample sentences

1. *Duminică este a șaptea zi a săptămânii.*  
"Sunday is the seventh day of the week."
2. *Acesta este al cincilea pahar.*  
"This is the fifth glass."
3. *Pământul este a treia planetă de la Soare.*  
"Earth is the third planet from the Sun."

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Mergeți înainte și o luați la stânga pe primul culoar.*  
"Walk straight ahead and make a left on the 1st aisle."
2. *Faceți prima la dreapta și este a treia de sus.*  
"Turn to the 1st right and it's the 3rd one from upside."
3. *Șampoanele sunt pe partea dreaptă, pe al doilea raft de jos.*  
"The shampoos are on the right side, on the 2nd shelf from below."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Este a treia oară când vin în Europa.*  
"It's the first time I've come to Europe."
2. *Muzeul este prima clădire la dreapta.*  
"The museum is the first building on the right."
3. *Este al patrulea telefon pe care ea îl sparge.*  
"It's the 4th phone she breaks."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Asking for Directions

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When shopping in a supermarket or any other self-serving type shop, it is totally fine to ask a salesperson around for help. In many cases, you will get the information you need.

This means an oral answer about the area where you can find the product, but rarely will you get guided to the actual product by the person in charge. This is a normal practice regarding the extent of support, so you should not take this as the staff being rude—it is just how they are generally trained to act.

Also, in crowded shops you will often see elderly citizens. Even if they might notice you are a foreigner and that you might not be able to speak their languages, many are very chatty and very often casually speak to anyone near them. In case you don't understand the words, just remember that they are just being friendly.

### **Useful expression**

1. *aglomerat*  
"crowded"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #13

## Enjoying a Delicious Romanian Dessert

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **13**

## ROMANIAN

1. Andreea: Hmm, vreau să mănânc o prăjitură cu căpșuni.
2. Masanobu: Toate arată foarte bine. Ce îmi recomanzi?
3. Andreea: Dacă îți plac fructele, îți recomand prăjitura cu vișine.
4. Masanobu: Da, îmi plac fructele. Tu vii des aici?
5. Andreea: Nu foarte des, vin din când în când.
6. Masanobu: Simt că eu o să vin mereu aici!
7. Andreea: Mă bucur!

## ENGLISH

1. Andreea: Hmm, I want to eat a strawberry cake.
2. Masanobu: They all look very delicious. What's your recommendation?
3. Andreea: If you like fruits, my recommendation is the sour cherry cake.
4. Masanobu: Yes, I like fruits. Do you come here often?
5. Andreea: Not too often, I come sometimes.
6. Masanobu: I feel that I will always come here!
7. Andreea: I'm glad!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
prăjitură	cake	noun
căpșună	strawberry	noun
a arăta	to look	verb
fruct	fruit	noun
a recomanda	to recommend	verb
vișină	sour cherry	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Aceasta este o prăjitură tradițională japoneză .</b></p> <p>"This is a traditional Japanese cake."</p>	<p><b>Poți cumpăra căpșune pe tot parcursul anului, dar sunt mai gustoase vara.</b></p> <p>"You can buy strawberries all year round, but they taste best in summer."</p>
<p><b>Arată delicios!</b></p> <p>"It looks delicious!"</p>	<p><b>Strugurele ăla arată cam ofilit.</b></p> <p>"That grape looks wilted."</p>
<p><b>Ei au diferite sortimente de fructe la magazin.</b></p> <p>"They have many kinds of fruit in the market".</p>	<p><b>Îți recomand să mănânci mai multe legume.</b></p> <p>"I recommend you eat more vegetables."</p>
<p><b>Aceasta este o vișină.</b></p> <p>"This is a sour cherry."</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**îți recomand...**  
**"I recommend you..."**

---

*îți* is 2nd person singular pronoun in its dative case, meaning "to you," and *recomand* is 1st person singular of *a recomanda*, "to recommend."

This phrase is often used when discussing various options with someone, and you want to recommend a certain thing to your interlocutor. The phrase contains the 2nd person singular pronoun *îți*, which is informal. To make this expression more polite, replace *îți* with its formal version *vă*, also meaning "to you."

### For example

1. *Eu îți recomand acest restaurant.*  
"I am recommending you this restaurant."

### ***arată bine*** **"it looks good"**

---

*Arată* literally means "it shows," but it is basically the way to say "it looks" in Romanian. *Bine* is an adverb meaning "good" or "well."

This expression is used when you want to express your opinion about the appearance of either an object or a person. There is no variation pertaining to the level of formality.

### For example

1. *Camera renovată arată bine.*  
"The remodeled room looks good."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Conditional Clauses

***Dacă îți plac fructele, îți recomand prăjitura cu vișine.***  
**"If you like fruits, my recommendation is the sour cherry cake."**

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**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

- 1. say "if"**
- 2. construct conditional phrases**
- 3. deal with exceptions**

---

## 1. How to say "if"

---

In this episode, we encountered a conditional clause. So let's see how this type of clauses is built in Romanian. First of all, let's remember the most used word in conditional clauses—"if." In Romanian, it is *dacă*. As a part of speech, this is a conjunction.

### Sentence Pattern of Conditional Clauses

[*dacă* + predicate (verb) + complement (adverb)]

OR

[*dacă* + complement + predicate (verb)]

So, the conjunction *dacă* ("if") is always positioned before the rest of the conditional phrase, just like in English. Also, unlike in English, the complement can also be placed before the predicate. Let's see some sentence examples below.

### Sample sentences

1. *Dacă sosim în trei zeci de minute, prindem avionul.*  
"If we arrive in 30 minutes, we'll catch the airplane." (*în treizeci de minute* ["in 30 minutes"] is an adverbial expression—so this is an example where the adverb complement is placed after the predicate. Therefore, it is the first type of pattern introduced above)
2. *Dacă luna aceasta înveți, ieși examenul.*  
"If you study this month, you will pass the exam." (lit."If this month you study, you pass the exam." In this case, *luna aceasta* ["this month"] is the complement, placed before the predicate, so it is the second type of pattern introduced above)
3. *Dacă te înțeapă tântarul, te mănâncă.*  
"If the mosquito stings you, it will feel itchy." (lit."If the mosquito stings you, it eats you." In Romanian, we say "to feel itchy" [*a te mânca*])

Notice that the conditional clause is placed before the main clause; we must use a comma to separate the two.

## 2. How to construct conditional phrases

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Now that we've learned about the structure of conditional phrases, let's see how to

actually build them together. First of all, remember that just like in English, the conditional clause marker, i.e. the conjunction *dacă* ("if"), is always placed before the conditional clause. Also, the conditional phrase can be placed after the main clause as well as before it. When it is positioned before, we must separate the two clauses with a comma. The comma is always placed after the last word of the conditional phrase.

Now let's see how to connect the if clauses and main clauses to construct a conditional expression.

### **Sentence Pattern**

[*Dacă* + conditional clause + main clause]

OR

[Main clause + *dacă* + conditional clause]

As you can see above, there are two possible patterns that can be used to express conditional phrases. The first one is to place the conditional clause (or "if clause" as it is used in English grammar) before the main clause. In the second pattern the order is the other way around, with "if" (*dacă*) placed between the two clauses.

The difference in nuance between the two cases is as follows. It might seem a bit counterintuitive, but when the conditional clause is positioned before the main clause the emphasis is placed on the main clause. And when the main clause comes first, emphasis is placed on the conditional clause.

Now let's see how this would look in a few sample sentences.

### **Sample sentences**

1. *Dacă bei prea mult, te îmbeți.*  
"If you drink too much, you will get drunk."
2. *Dacă alergi pe pietre te rănești.*  
"If you run on the rocks, you will hurt yourself."
3. *Surzești dacă ascuți muzică prea tare.*  
"You will go deaf if you listen to music too loudly."

### **3. How to deal with exceptions**

---

Unlike English, Romanian has fewer rules regarding the coordination of conditional clauses and main clauses. Just remember that the verb in the "if clause" must have

the same tense as the verb in the main clause and you're safe.

## Sentence Pattern

If clause verb tense	Main clause verb tense
Imperfect	Imperfect
Present Simple	Present Simple
Conditional	Conditional
Past Conditional	Past Conditional
Future Perfect	Simple Future*
Simple Future	Simple Future

As you can see, there are many tenses that we haven't learned yet. These have not been mentioned in the Absolute Beginner series, but please stay tuned to find out more in the following levels. For now, just remember that the tense in the conditional clause is the same, with this one \*exception: when the verb of the conditional clause or "if clause" is in the tense called Future Perfect, the verb in the main clause must be in the Simple Future tense.

## Sample sentences

1. *Dacă îmi spui din timp, aranjez eu totul.*  
"If you tell me in advance, I'll prepare everything."
2. *Dacă ninge, trebuie să încălț ghetele.*  
"If it snows, I have to wear the boots."
3. *Înțelegi multe lucruri mai bine dacă ai răbdare.*  
"You will understand a lot of things better if you have patience."

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Dacă îți plac fructele, îți recomand prăjitura cu vișine.*  
"If you like fruits, my recommendation is the sour cherry cake."
2. *Simt că eu o să vin mereu aici!*  
"I feel that I will always come here!"

3. *Nu foarte des, vin din când în când.*  
"Not too often, I come sometimes."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Dacă plouă, spectacolul este amânat.*  
"If it rains, the show is canceled."
2. *Dacă mâine nu este prea frig, mergem să patinăm.*  
"If tomorrow is not too cold, we are going skating."
3. *Vorbim dacă vin.*  
"We talk if they come."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Common fruits in Romania

---

The most popular fruit consumed by people in Romania are apples. They are so popular that they are most often consumed just for the sake of eating a healthy fruit and are taken for granted. Another popular fruit are sour cherries. They are related to cherries, but they grow smaller and are actually really sour, even when ripe. If you like the taste, you can eat them as they are, but they are also often consumed with yogurt or just with sugar on top for a more balanced taste. Also, these are a base for an alcoholic drink—*vișinată*, a thick, red brandy mostly popular with women.

### Useful expression

1. *vișinată*  
"sour cherry liquor"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #14

## Finding Your Way Round Romania

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **14**

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Nu vă supărați, îmi puteți spune unde este Muzeul Național de Istorie?
2. Femeie pe stradă: Da, pot. Mergeți drept înainte cam 500 (cinci sute) de metri.
3. Masanobu: Vă mulțumesc.
4. Femeie pe stradă: Stați, încă nu am terminat!
5. Femeie pe stradă: Apoi o luați la stânga și este imediat în față.
6. Masanobu: Am înțeles. Vă mulțumesc mult!

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Excuse me, can you tell me where the National Museum of History is?
2. Lady on the street: Yes I can. Go straight for about 500 meters.
3. Masanobu: Thank you.
4. Lady on the street: Wait, I'm not finished yet.
5. Lady on the street: Then make a left, and it's right in front.
6. Masanobu: I understand. Thank you very much!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
muzeu	museum	noun
național	national	adjective
istorie	history	noun
a sta; a aștepta	to stay; to wait	verb
apoi	then	adverb
mult	a lot, much	adjective, adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Aici este un muzeu.</b> "There is a museum here."</p>	<p><b>El este erou național.</b> "He is a national hero."</p>
<p><b>Acesta este un manual de istorie.</b> "This is a history textbook."</p>	<p><b>Stai o secundă, vin imediat.</b> "Wait a second. I'm coming right away."</p>
<p><b>Discuțăm, apoi stabilim.</b> "We discuss, then we decide."</p>	<p><b>Astăzi am citit mult.</b> "I read a lot today."</p>
<p><b>Prea mult.</b> "Too much."</p>	<p><b>Foarte mult.</b> "Very much."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Îmi puteți spune...?** "Could you tell me...?"

*Îmi* is 1st person singular personal pronoun in its dative form, meaning "to me" in Romanian. Then we have *puteți*, which means "you can" (infinitive form is *a putea* meaning "to be able to"), and *spune* means "to tell."

This phrase is used when you want to politely ask someone if they can give you certain information. This is the formal expression. Just replace *puteți* with *poți* to change it to informal speech.

### For example...

1. *Îmi puteți spune unde este Piața Victoriei?*  
"Could you tell me where Victoriei Square is?"

### **stați!** "wait!"

---

*Stați* means "stay!" but in this case it translates to "wait."

This phrase is used when you want to stop someone from leaving or from proceeding with what they are about to do. This expression is fairly polite, even though it may sound too direct. The casual variation *stai* is more straightforward; therefore, caution is required when used as it can be perceived as impolite.

### For example...

1. *Stați un moment, vă rog.*  
"Please wait a second."

### **Vă mulțumesc mult!** "Thank you very much!"

---

*Vă* is a pronoun in the dative case, and it means "to you" (2nd person plural or 2nd person singular formal speech). *Mulțumesc* is written the same way as one of the first words we learned in lesson 1. In that case it meant "thank you," and it was an interjection as a part of speech. However, in this case, it is a verb. That is why it is used with the pronoun *vă*, "to you." Lastly, *mult* means "a lot" and is an adverb. So, this expression would literally mean "I thank you a lot."

This expression is used whenever you want to say "thank you" in a more polite way than the usual expression of *mulțumesc* (which translates as just "thank you"). This is formal speech, so it should be used in scenarios where you use formal Romanian. Also, if you just want to express your gratitude even more strongly than just *mulțumesc* ("thank you") but in an informal way (for example when talking to your friends), just take away the *vă* ("to you" in 2nd person plural or 2nd person singular formal speech) to get *mulțumesc mult*, which would translate as "thanks a lot."

### For example...

1. *Vă mulțumesc mult pentru explicațiile acordate.*  
"Thank you very much for your explanation." (lit. "Thank you for the given explanations.")

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Adverbs of Time

***Stați, încă nu am terminat!***  
**"Wait, I'm not finished yet."**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. say and use "yet"
  2. say and use "then"
  3. say and use "at once/right"
- 

#### 1. How to say and use "yet"

---

We learned in lesson 11 about the main adverbs of time in Romanian. In this lesson, we will learn about another category of adverbs of time—adverbs used to express a sequence of events. First, let's see how to say and use "yet." In Romanian, it is *încă*.

#### Sentence Pattern

[*încă* + *nu* + verb]

OR

[*nu* + verb + *încă*]

Notice that the verb must always be in the negative form (marked by the *nu* meaning "no" placed before it), as in Romanian, when it means "yet," *încă* is only used with negative clauses. Also, regarding its position within the sentence, it can be placed either just before or after the verb with no significant difference in meaning, other than a slight emphasis on *încă* when it is placed anterior to the verb. When it's the other way around, the emphasis is on the verb.

#### Sample sentences

1. *Încă nu ne întoarcem acasă.*  
"We are not going back home yet."
2. *Încă nu știu când începe.*  
"I don't know yet when it'll start."
3. *Nu are încă înscriși.*  
"He doesn't have subscribers yet."

## 2. How to say and use "then"

---

Another adverb of time frequently used in Romanian is *apoi*, which means "then." That is "then," as in "You wake up, then you eat." Let's see the typical sentence pattern for *apoi*.

### Sentence Pattern

[(main clause +) *apoi* + secondary clause]

The "main clause" above is between brackets because, like in English, the secondary clause can be separated from the main clause by a full stop, in which case the secondary clause will start with *apoi* ("then").

### Sample sentences

1. *Cumpăr niște pâine, apoi vin acasă.*  
"I'll buy some bread then come home."
2. *Termin de învățat, apoi mă culc.*  
"I will finish studying then go to sleep."
3. *Apoi apare un balaur.*  
"Then a dragon comes out."

## 3. How to say and use "at once/right away"

---

*Imediat* is another useful adverb of time frequently encountered in Romanian. It can be translated as "at once" or "right (away)."

### Sentence Pattern

[verb + *imediat*]

OR

[*imediat* + verb]

When *imediat* is positioned before the verb, the adverb (*imediat*, "right away") is emphasized.

Now, let's see this expression used in a few sentences.

### Sample sentences

1. *Te rog să vii imediat!*  
"Please come at once!"
2. *Muzeul este imediat pe partea stângă.*  
"The museum is right on the left side."
3. *Imediat sosesc!*  
"I'll arrive right away." (lit."Right away I arrive!")

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Stați, încă nu am terminat!*  
"Wait, I'm not finished yet."
2. *Apoi o luați la stânga și este imediat în față.*  
"Then make a left, and it's right in front."
3. *Da, pot. Mergeți drept înainte cam 500 (cinci sute) de metri.*  
"Yes I can. Go straight for about 500 meters."

### Sample Sentences

---

1. *Încă nu ești gata?*  
"Aren't you ready yet?"
2. *Torni apă caldă, apoi amesteci.*  
"You pour hot water then stir."
3. *Te sun imediat.*  
"I'll call you right away."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Museums in Romania

---

We saw the National Museum of History appear in the dialogue in this episode. It is one of the most prestigious museums of history in Romania, located on Victoriei Avenue, one of the central arteries of the city, adjacent to the Old City Center. If you are into history or even just superb old artifacts with beautiful, awe-inspiring background stories, this is a strong recommendation.

There are also other types of museums in Romania, ranging from technology to modern arts. Another interesting museum worth recommending is the Village Museum in Bucharest, which is an ethnographic, village-type museum with real, traditional houses from all regions around Romania installed in open space.

A good opportunity to visit almost any museum in Bucharest and any other major city in Romania is the yearly event supported by UNESCO all around the E.U. called Night of Museums. Usually held each May for the past 8 years, this event opens the museums, which become free to access for one night until 12 o'clock AM the next day.

### Useful expression

1. *sat*  
"village"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #15

## Booking a Hotel Room in Romania

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **15**

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună ziua. Doresc să mă cazez aici o noapte.
2. Angajat al hotelului: Bună ziua. Aveți rezervare?
3. Masanobu: Nu am rezervare. Aveți vreo cameră liberă?
4. Angajat al hotelului: Din fericire, avem. Doriți să faceți check-in astăzi?
5. Masanobu: Da, pentru o noapte. Check-out-ul până la ce oră se face?
6. Angajat al hotelului: Mâine până la ora 11 dimineața.
7. Masanobu: Am înțeles. Și unde mă pot conecta la Wi-Fi?
8. Angajat al hotelului: Oriunde în hotel. Numele rețelei și parola sunt pe biroul din cameră.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hello. I wish to lodge here for a night.
2. Hotel clerk: Hello. Do you have a booking?
3. Masanobu: I don't have one. Do you have any vacant rooms?
4. Hotel clerk: Fortunately, we do. Do you wish to check in today?
5. Masanobu: Yes, for one night. Until what hour can I check out?

CONT'D OVER

6. Hotel clerk: Until tomorrow at 11 AM.
7. Masanobu: I see. And where can I connect to WiFi?
8. Hotel clerk: Anywhere inside the hotel. The network name and the password are on the room desk.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
a dori	to wish, to want	verb
a (se) caza	to lodge (oneself)	verb
rezervare	booking	noun
fericire	happiness	noun
noapte	night	noun
până	until, up to	adverb
a (se) conecta	to connect	verb
parolă	password	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Bună ziua, ce doriți să cumpărați?</b></p> <p>"Hello, what do you wish to buy?"</p>	<p><b>Vă putem caza în camera executive.</b></p> <p>"We can lodge you in the executive suite."</p>
<p><b>Doresc să fac o rezervare la restaurant pentru două persoane.</b></p> <p>"I wish to make a booking for the restaurant for 2 persons."</p>	<p><b>Pentru fericire există o definiție pentru fiecare persoană.</b></p> <p>"There is a definition for happiness for each person."</p>

<p><b>În Japonia este deja noapte.</b> "It's already night in Japan."</p>	<p><b>Noapte bună.</b> "Good night."</p>
<p><b>Ai voie să inoți doar până aici.</b> "You are only allowed to swim up to here."</p>	<p><b>M-am conectat acum la Wi-Fi.</b> "I'm connected to the Wi-Fi now."</p>

**Are parolă?**

"Does it have a password?"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Doresc să...***  
**"I wish to..."**

*Doresc* is 1st person singular of the verb *a dori* ("to wish" or "to want") and *să* means "to."

This phrase is used when you want to express your intention in a polite way. This is a rather formal expression. A more casual way of expressing your intentions is by using the verb *a vrea*, "to want." So, this expression would become *Vreau să...* ("I want to...").

**For example...**

1. *Doresc să fac o rezervare.*  
"I wish to make a booking."

***Din fericire***  
**"Fortunately"**

*Din* is an adverb, and it literally means "out of." *Fericire* is "happiness." Therefore, this expression would literally translate as "out of happiness," to mean "fortunately."

This phrase is used whenever you want to express a personal impression concerning a certain event and the way it turned out.

**For example...**

1. *Din fericire încă mai sunt locuri disponibile.*  
"Fortunately there still are free seats."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Indefinite Adverbs and Pronouns

***Oriunde în hotel. Numele rețelei și parola sunt pe biroul din cameră.***  
**"Anywhere inside the hotel. The network name and the password are on the room desk."**

---

In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. use the structure **any** + an adverb/pronoun
2. use the words "anywhere," "anytime," and "anyhow"
3. use the words "anything" and "anyone"

---

### 1. How to use the structure **any** + an adverb/pronoun

---

"Indefinite adverbs" and "indefinite pronouns," as the names imply, sound like indefinite terms. So, to be more clear, let's give an example in English first. "Anywhere" and "anyone" are an indefinite adverb and an indefinite pronouns, respectively. So basically, English words that have "any-" at the beginning are indefinite parts of speech. They fall in the two categories mentioned above, depending on the original part of speech that comes after the "any-" particle. Remember that in Romanian that particle is *ori-*.

### Chart of most common indefinite Romanian adverbs and pronouns based on the prefix *ori-*

Category	Romanian	English
indefinite adverbs	<b>oriunde</b>	<b>anywhere</b>
indefinite adverbs	<b>oricum</b>	<b>anyhow</b>

---

indefinite adverbs	<b>oricând</b>	<b>anytime</b>
indefinite adverbs	<b>oricât</b>	as much as*
indefinite pronouns	<b>oricare</b>	<b>anybody</b>
indefinite pronouns	<b>oricine</b>	<b>anyone</b>
indefinite pronouns	<b>orice</b>	<b>anything</b>

\*Note that some words do not necessarily follow the pattern with the particle "any-" at the beginning of the words when translated into English.

### Sample sentences

1. *Nu oricine poate face așa ceva.*  
"Not just anyone can do such a thing."
2. *Te ajut cu orice ai nevoie.*  
"I'll help you with anything you need." (lit.: "I help you with anything you need.")
3. *Poți să călătorești oriunde dorești.*  
"You can travel wherever you wish."

## 2. How to use the words "anywhere," "anytime," and "anyhow"

Next, let's see how to actually use three of the most frequently used indefinite adverbs in Romanian: *oriunde* "anywhere," *oricând* "anytime," and *oricum* "anyhow."

### Sentence pattern

[verb + indefinite adverb]

OR

[indefinite adverb + verb]

In most cases, the verb is positioned before the indefinite adverb, but sometimes

the adverb comes before the verb. In these cases, the emphasis is placed on the adverb.

### Sample sentences

1. *Muzica lor poate fi auzită oriunde.*  
"Their music can be heard anywhere."
2. *Poți începe oricând.*  
"You can start anytime."
3. *Oricum trebuie să discutăm.*  
"We have to talk anyhow." (lit.: "Anyhow, we have to discuss.")

### 3. How to use the words "anything" and "anyone"

---

Next, let's learn how to use two of the most common indefinite pronouns: *orice* "anything" and *oricine* "anyone."

#### Sentence Pattern

[verb + indefinite pronoun]

OR

[indefinite pronoun + verb]

Similar to the phrases containing indefinite adverbs, in phrases containing indefinite pronouns too the verb is usually positioned before the indefinite pronoun. Sometimes, however, the pronoun comes before the verb. In this case, the emphasis is placed on the indefinite pronoun.

#### Sample sentences

1. *Acest dispozitiv poate fi utilizat de către oricine.*  
"This device can be used by anyone."
2. *Poți imprima orice obiect tridimensional cu această imprimantă.*  
"You can print any three-dimensional object with this printer."
3. *Oricine întreabă, spune-i că nu sunt disponibil!*  
"If anyone asks, tell them that I'm not available!" (lit.: "Anyone asks, tell him that I am not available.")

#### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Oriunde în hotel. Numele rețelei și parola sunt pe biroul din cameră.*  
"Anywhere inside the hotel. The network name and the password are on the room desk."
2. *Nu am rezervare. Aveți vreo cameră liberă?*  
"I don't have one. Do you have any vacant rooms?"
3. *Mâine până la ora 11 dimineața.*  
"Until tomorrow at 11 AM."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Putem începe oricând.*  
"We can start anytime."
2. *Luați loc oriunde doriți.*  
"Have a seat wherever you want."
3. *Oricine poate spune asta.*  
"Anybody can say that."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Internet in Romania

---

Perhaps surprisingly, Romania has one of the fastest, most reliable, and widespread internet infrastructures in the world. According to a list made in 2015 by a US-based IT company, Romania ranks 10th in the world and 1st in Europe, in terms of Internet speed.

One explanation could be that while Romania has been crippled by decades of economic and sociological isolation during the communist era, leading the country behind in terms of road and basic communication infrastructure, Internet only requires mostly light wires, and lately even just signal emitters for wireless access, making the infrastructure easier to build. This, combined with the Romanian tendency towards IT careers, leads to the virtual space infrastructure being far more advanced than other, heavier ones.

Also, most public places have free WiFi access, protected only by a password.

### Useful expression

1. *dezvoltat*  
"developed"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #16 See Romania's Sights From a Helicopter!

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# **16**

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Alo! Sunt Masanobu.
2. Mihai: Salut, Masa. Ce mai faci?
3. Masanobu: Bine, uite am o rugămintе.
4. Mihai: Sigur, ce este?
5. Masanobu: Mă poți ajuta să împrumut un elicopter?
6. Mihai: Știi să pilotezi?!
7. Masanobu: Ce? Nu, vreau doar să zbor până la munte să văd peisajul.
8. Mihai: Aa, vrei să închiriezi un elicopter cu pilot. Haha. Sigur, te ajut!

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hello! It's Masanobu.
2. Mihai: Hi, Masa. How are you?
3. Masanobu: I'm fine. I just have a favor to ask you.
4. Mihai: Sure, what is it?
5. Masanobu: Can you help me borrow a helicopter?
6. Mihai: You can fly?!

CONT'D OVER

7. Masanobu: What? No, I just want to ride into the mountains to see the landscape.
8. Mihai: Oh, you want to rent a helicopter with a pilot. Haha. Sure, I'll help you!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
alo	hello	interjection
uite	look, well	interjection
rugăminte	request, favor	noun
sigur	sure, surely	adverb
elicopter	helicopter	noun
a ști	to know, to be able to	verb
a pilota	to fly (an aircraft as a pilot)	verb
a zbura	to fly (as a pilot or as a passenger)	verb
munte	mountain, mountains	noun
a ajuta	to help	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Alo, cine este?</b> "Hello, who is it?"</p>	<p><b>Uite, un mamut!</b> "Look, a mammoth!"</p>
<p><b>Aveți vreo rugăminte?</b> "Do you have any requests?"</p>	<p><b>Ești sigur?</b> "Are you sure?"</p>

<p><b>Este greu să pilotezi un elicopter.</b></p> <p>"It's hard to fly a helicopter."</p>	<p><b>Nu știu să scriu thailandeză.</b></p> <p>"I can't write Thai."</p>
<p><b>El pilotează avioane.</b></p> <p>"He flies airplanes."</p>	<p><b>Lui îi place să zboare cu avionul.</b></p> <p>"He likes flying by airplane."</p>
<p><b>Ce munte mare!</b></p> <p>"What a big mountain!"</p>	<p><b>Mulțumesc că mă ajuți.</b></p> <p>"Thanks for helping me."</p>
<p><b>Scopul ei în viață a fost să ajute alte persoane.</b></p> <p>"Her purpose in life was to help other people."</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Alo!**

#### **"Hello!" (on the phone)**

*Alo* is an interjection, meaning "hello." It can be used when calling someone who is within view in order to attract his attention as well as being the typical way of greeting someone over the phone. The expression is neutral, formality-wise, as a greeting over the phone. However, it is almost always rude to call someone who is physically within your sight using this interjection.

This is one of the cases of words that took a slightly different meaning and connotation in time. As there were no phones ages ago, this was used only to call people out as an alternative to their name. However, it slowly came to be perceived as rather rude. However, the usage as a greeting over the phone is still very common and there is no issue in using it.

#### **For example...**

1. Alo, eu sunt!  
"Hello, it's me!"

### **Ce mai faci?**

## "How have you been?"

---

This expression is comprised of *ce* ("what"), *mai* which literally means "more," and *faci*, which means "you do," from the verb *a face* ("to do").

It is used as a greeting when meeting someone after a relatively long period of time. It can be used in any case as long as the other person is a peer, as the expression is casual.

*Mai* ("more") can be explained as holding the meaning of time that has passed, as opposed to the simple *ce faci?*, which is a normal everyday greeting, and would be translated as "what's up?"

### For example...

1. *Ce mai faci, e totul bine?*  
"How have you been; is everything fine?"

## **Sigur.** "Sure."

---

*Sigur* is an adverb meaning "sure."

This phrase is used to convey that you are sure about a certain fact. It is neutral from a formal perspective. Therefore, it can be used in both casual and formal situations.

### For example...

1. *Sigur, putem vorbi acum.*  
"Sure, we can talk now."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Borrowing in Romanian

***Mă poți ajuta să împrumut un elicopter?***  
"Can you help me borrow a helicopter?"

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

**1. use *a împrumuta*, "to borrow" and *a închiria*, "to rent" correctly**

## 2. use a *împrumuta* to mean "to lend"

### 3. use and tell the difference between these words and their meanings.

---

## 1. How to use a *împrumuta*, "to borrow" and a *închiria*, "to rent" correctly

---

A *împrumuta* and a *închiria*, the two verbs we saw in the dialogue of this lesson, are similar in meaning. So let's analyze their meanings first. They both basically mean "to use something that belongs to someone else for a period of time before returning it." The difference is that a *împrumuta* is used for casual situations, so it means "to borrow," while a *închiria* is used for official cases. Thus, the English translation is "to rent."

The difference is clearer when summed up in a chart:

### A *împrumuta* vs. a *închiria* meaning chart

---

Romanian	English
a împrumuta	to borrow
a închiria	to rent

---

Let's see some usage examples.

### Sample sentences

1. *Vreau să închiriez o mașină pentru o săptămână.*  
"I want to rent a car for a week."
2. *Pot să împrumut creionul tău?*  
"Can I borrow your pencil?"
3. *Acea firmă închiriază bărci.*  
"That company rents boats."

## 2. How to use a *împrumuta* to mean "to lend"

---

One difference from English regarding the verb a *împrumuta* is that, in Romanian, it also bears the meaning "to lend." So, now let's see the chart for the verbs in this

lesson with the complete meanings below.

## A împrumuta

Romanian	English
a împrumuta	to borrow / <b>to lend</b>
a închiria	to rent

Also, we know that in English "to rent" can mean "**to use** something that belongs to someone else for a period of time in exchange for a fee" as well as "**to let someone use** something that belongs to you for a period of time in exchange for a fee."

So basically, this means that in Romanian both "to rent," *a închiria* and "to borrow" (and as we now know, also "to lend"), *a împrumuta* have two-way meanings.

### Sample sentences

1. *Da, îți împrumut creionul meu.*  
"Yes, I will lend you my pencil."
2. *Îți împrumut mașina.*  
"I am lending you the car."
3. *El îmi împrumută caietul.*  
"He is lending me the notebook." (lit.: "He lends me the notebook.")

## 3. A împrumuta

### Conjugation chart

*a împrumuta* "to borrow" / "to lend" (group I) (present simple tense)

<b>singular</b>	(eu) împrumut	I borrow / lend
singular	(tu) împrumuți	you borrow / lend
singular	(el/ea) împrumută	he/she borrows / lends
<b>plural</b>	(noi) împrumutăm	we borrow / lend
plural	(voi) împrumutați	you borrow / lend

plural	(ei/ele) împrumută	they borrow / lend
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*a închiria* "to rent" (group I) (present simple tense)

<b>singular</b>	(eu) închiriez	I rent
singular	(tu) închiriezi	you rent
singular	(el/ea) închiriază	he/she rents
<b>plural</b>	(noi) închiriem	we rent
plural	(voi) închiriați	you rent
plural	(ei/ele) închiriază	they rent

So now that we know all the meanings of these two new verbs in Romanian, **let us see how to tell the difference** between their meanings in order to use them correctly.

The way to distinguish the meanings is through context, just like it is the case with "to rent" in English. Namely, look for case markers that might indicate the direction of the action.

For example, when the verb means "to borrow" (and the equivalent "to rent"), we might encounter the preposition **de la which means "from."**

For the other meaning, "to lend," we might find **pronouns in the dative case.**

### Sample sentences

1. *El închiriază mâine o casă de la o firmă.*  
"He will rent a house tomorrow from a company." (*de la* means "from")
2. *Noi vă împrumutăm sala o zi.*  
"We're lending you the hall for a day. (*vă* means "to you")
3. *Eu împrumut telefonul.*  
"I'm borrowing the phone." OR "I'm lending the phone."

In the last example, as there is neither a preposition nor any pronoun in the dative case to indicate the direction of the action, both meanings can be assumed. Only when we have more substance from further context can we be sure which one it is.

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Mă poți ajuta să împrumut un elicopter?*  
"Can you help me borrow a helicopter?"
2. *Aa, vrei să închiriezi un elicopter cu pilot. Haha. Sigur, te ajut!*  
"Oh, you want to rent a helicopter with a pilot. Haha. Sure, I'll help you!"
3. *Ce? Nu, vreau doar să zbor până la munte să văd peisajul.*  
"What? No, I just want to ride into the mountains to see the landscape."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Vreau să împrumut două cărți de la bibliotecă.*  
"I want to borrow 2 books from the library."
2. *Îți împrumut manualul meu.*  
"I'm lending you my textbook."
3. *Vrem să închiriem trei biciclete.*  
"We want to rent 3 bicycles."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Asking for Favors

---

Let's talk about asking for favors. In Romanian culture, it's common sense to ask for favors not only from friends, family, and peers, but also people that are considered only acquaintances such as a supervisor, for example.

However, with old friends and old acquaintances, it's rather uncommon to ask. Still, it's not so awkward as long as it is an emergency and you cannot reach other, closer persons.

It's not very common to ask your teachers or people you only run into from time to time in the neighborhood.

### Useful expression

1. *cartier*  
"neighborhood"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #17

## Ordering a Nightcap in Romania

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **17**

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Nu vă supărați, puteți să îmi aduceți un pahar de vin roșu?
2. Chelner: Un pahar de vin roșu. Sigur, domnule.
3. Masanobu: Și nota, vă rog.
4. Chelner: Am înțeles.
5. Masanobu: Pot plăti cu cardul de credit?
6. Chelner: Da, puteți.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Excuse me, can you bring me a glass of red wine?
2. Waiter: A glass of red wine. Sure, sir.
3. Masanobu: And the bill, please.
4. Waiter: All right.
5. Masanobu: Can I pay by credit card?
6. Waiter: Yes, you can.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
vin	wine	noun

a putea	to be able	verb
a aduce	to bring	verb
pahar	glass (as a container)	noun
notă	bill	noun
a plăti	to pay	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Cumpăr o sticlă de vin roșu românesc.</b></p> <p>I am buying a bottle of red Romanian wine.</p>	<p><b>Vin roșu.</b></p> <p>Red wine.</p>
<p><b>Nu putem să inchiriem tot autobuzul.</b></p> <p>We can't rent the whole bus.</p>	<p><b>Stai aici, îți aduc eu ochelarii.</b></p> <p>Wait here, I'll bring you the glasses.</p>
<p><b>Adu-mi nota de plată, te rog.</b></p> <p>Bring me the check, please.</p>	<p><b>Vreau să cumpăr un pahar pentru bere.</b></p> <p>I want to buy a beer glass.</p>
<p><b>Vă aduc și nota?</b></p> <p>Shall I bring you the bill too?</p>	<p><b>Plătesc cash.</b></p> <p>I am paying in cash.</p>

**În sfârșit el a reușit să-și plătească toate facturile.**

He finally managed to pay all his bills.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***un pahar de...***  
**"a glass of..."**

*Un* means "one," *pahar* means "glass," and *de* is "of."

This phrase is used to express quantity. You can replace *pahar* ("glass") with other words indicating quantity to change the meaning. For example, *un litru de* means "a liter of." *O pungă de* means "a bag of."

### For example...

1. *Doresc să beau un pahar de cocktail.*  
"I wish to drink a cocktail."

### **Nota, vă rog.** **"Bill, please."**

---

*Nota* originally meant "a written note," but lately it is mostly used to mean "bill." *Vă rog* means "please."

This is the simplest way to ask for the bill in a restaurant or any other shop. This expression is fairly formal, as the language usually used, by both the customer and by the service provider, in customer service situations itself is formal.

### For example...

1. *Întrați, vă rog!*  
"Come in, please!"

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Formal and Informal Verbs**

***Nu vă supărați, puteți să îmi aduceți un pahar de vin roșu?***  
**"Excuse me, can you bring me a glass of red wine?"**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

- 1. identify the part of the verb that is affected by formal speech**
  - 2. work through an example, using "to be able to"**
  - 3. say "how have you been?" in both informal and formal speech**
- 

**1. How to identify the part of the verb that is affected by formal speech**

In this episode, we will learn about formal speech in Romanian. Generally speaking, compared to other languages around the world, Romanian has a relatively low distinction between formal and informal speech. This means that even if you speak in a formal situation, there are only a few words that change form. One of these are verbs referring to the person you are addressing formally. This means that verbs change form in formal speech only for 2nd person singular. We will also learn later about why this is, but first let's see a chart with frequent Romanian verbs conjugated in their formal speech form below.

### Conjugation chart to formal speech for frequent Romanian verbs

<b>Romanian infinitive (basic) form</b>	<b>Formal speech (2nd person singular) form</b>	<b>English infinitive</b>	<b>English translation of formal speech form</b>
<i>a avea</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) aveți</i>	to have	you have
<i>a merge</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) mergeți</i>	to walk	you walk
<i>a asculta</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) ascultați</i>	to listen	you listen
<i>a ști</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) știți</i>	to know	you know
<i>a trimite</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) trimiteți</i>	to send	you send
<i>a face</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) faceți</i>	to do / to make	you do / you make
<i>a fi</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) sunteți</i>	to be	you are
<i>a spune</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) spuneți</i>	to tell	you say
<i>a numi</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) numiți</i>	to name	you name
<i>a veni</i>	<i>(dumneavoastră) veniți</i>	to come	you come

Now that we have the conjugations, let's continue with explaining the reason why all verbs have only one formal conjugation (for 2nd person singular) and why they are identical to the conjugation for 2nd person plural. It all boils down to that long word appearing before each verb conjugated in the chart above: *dumneavoastră*. This is actually another main marker for formal speech in Romanian. Its part of speech is a personal pronoun and replaces the normal pronouns for "you" *tu* (2nd person singular) and "you" *voi* (2nd person plural). It would literally mean "your highness." Sounds extremely respectful, but no one actually thinks of it that way when using it—rather, it's just a respectful pronoun replacing the normal ones for the 2nd person. It requires verbs to be conjugated to their 2nd person plural form. That is why when in formal form, verbs appear as plural even when you're actually addressing one person.

### Sample sentences

1. *Câte proiecte aveți?*  
"How many projects do you have?"
2. *Cum vă numiți, doamnă?*  
"What's your name, miss?"
3. *Aveți rezervare aici?*  
"Do you have a booking here?"

## 2. How to work through an example, using "to be able to"

---

Now let's go through an example using only one verb to make things clearer. We will use *a putea*, "to be able to." Just remember that you have to conjugate the verb to the 2nd person plural, even though you're addressing only one person, i.e. 2nd person singular. Other than that, all the conjugations are just like in informal speech. The most common scenarios when you would need to use these forms are when talking to a person you're meeting for the first time, except when the person is a child, or when that person is your supervisor or teacher.

### Sentence Pattern

[(subject +) verb conjugated to the 2nd person plural form]

As always in Romanian, the subject is optional—which is why it's written in brackets above.

Now let's see some sample sentences using the verb *a putea*, "to be able to."

### Sample sentences

1. *Puteți să înregistrați bagajul aici.*  
"You can check in your luggage here."
2. *Nu puteți ridica încă pachetul.*  
"You cannot receive the package yet." (lit. "You cannot raise yet the package.")
3. *Dumneavoastră puteți sosi mai devreme?*  
"Can you arrive earlier, sir?" (lit.: "You can arrive earlier?")

### 3. How to say "how have you been?" in both informal and formal speech

There are two ways to ask someone "how they have been" after meeting them for the first time in a while. One is *ce mai faci*, which is used in informal situations. The other one is *ce mai faceți*, which is used in formal scenarios. Let's break down the phrase in a chart:

#### Sentence Pattern

Romanian	English
<i>ce</i>	what
<i>mai</i>	more - in this case, meaning "lately"
<i>faci / faceți</i>	you do / you do (formal speech)

Just remember it as a fixed phrase, because it is actually an idiom. However, the verb does change according to the level of formality of the scenario. Make sure to use the formal speech conjugation that appears second in the table (*faceți*) when you are in a situation where formal speech is required.

#### Sample sentences

1. *Bună seara, ce mai faceți, domnule?*  
"Good evening, how have you been, sir?"
2. *Ce mai faci, Masanobu?*  
"How've you been, Masanobu?"

3. *Ce mai faceți, doamna profesoară?*  
"How have you been, teacher?" (lit.: "What have you been doing, Miss teacher?")

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Nu vă supărați, puteți să îmi aduceți un pahar de vin roșu?*  
"Excuse me, can you bring me a glass of red wine?"
2. *Da, puteți.*  
"Yes, you can."
3. *Pot plăti cu cardul de credit?*  
"Can I pay by credit card?"

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Aveți o carieră impresionantă.*  
"You have an impressive career."
2. *Puteți accesa site-ul nostru de aici.*  
"You can access our site from here."
3. *Bună ziua, ce mai faceți?*  
"Hello, how have you been?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Getting the Waiter's Attention

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Maybe you already noticed from the dialogue in this episode that "waiter" in Romanian is *chelner*. However, while this is the term, you should be careful not to actually use it to call the waiter when at a restaurant, as in the past years it has begun to be considered rude. How then should you call for the waiter? It is considered well-mannered to just make eye contact with the waitstaff and, at most, also ask *vă rog*, "please." Other restaurant etiquette to keep in mind is that giving tips is the norm. However, as it is not a rule and they are not an official value written on the bill, you should only give a tip if you really consider the service to be worthy of it. Also, if you are invited to a dinner or other meal at a restaurant (or at someone's home for that matter), always wait for the host before starting to eat.

## Useful expression

1. *maniere*  
"manners"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #18

## Why are Romanian Taxis So Expensive?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# **18**

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună ziua. Cât costă până în centrul orașului?
2. Șofer de taxi: Cinci zeci de lei până la Piața Universității.
3. Masanobu: Destul de scump.
4. Șofer de taxi: Da. Noi, taxiurile suntem foarte scumpi. Și suntem mândri de asta.
5. Șofer de taxi: Dacă vreți mai ieftin, vă recomand autobuzul.
6. Masanobu: Vă mulțumesc pentru informații.
7. Șofer de taxi: Cu plăcere. O zi bună!

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hello. How much is it to the city center?
2. Taxi driver: 50 lei to the University Square.
3. Masanobu: Pretty expensive.
4. Taxi driver: Yes. We taxis are very expensive. And we are proud of it.
5. Taxi driver: If you want cheaper, my recommendation is the bus.
6. Masanobu: Thank you for the information.
7. Taxi driver: You're welcome. Have a nice day!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
universitate	university	noun
centru	center	noun
leu	lion; leu (Romanian currency)	noun
piață	market; square	noun
destul	enough; pretty	adverb
scump	expensive	adjective
dacă	if	conjunction
plăcere	pleasure	noun
autobuz	bus	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Ea predă cursuri la universitate.</b></p> <p>She teaches classes at the university.</p>	<p><b>Acesta este centrul cercului.</b></p> <p>This is the center of the circle.</p>
<p><b>Acest covrig costă doar un leu.</b></p> <p>This pretzel is only 1 leu.</p>	<p><b>Bucureștiul are multe piețe mari.</b></p> <p>Bucharest has many large squares.</p>
<p><b>Nu este destul.</b></p> <p>It is not enough.</p>	<p><b>Acest tren este foarte scump.</b></p> <p>This train is very expensive.</p>
<p><b>Este scump să locuiești în Tokyo.</b></p> <p>It is expensive to live in Tokyo.</p>	<p><b>Dacă doriți, vă pot ajuta, domnule.</b></p> <p>I can help you if you wish, sir.</p>

<p><b>Este o plăcere să te ascult cântând.</b></p> <p>Listening to you singing is a pleasure.</p>	<p><b>Mi-a făcut plăcere să te ajut.</b></p> <p>It was a pleasure to help you.</p>
<p><b>Coborâm aici și urcăm în autobuz.</b></p> <p>We get off here and get on the bus.</p>	<p><b>Un bilet de autobuz.</b></p> <p>A bus ticket.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Cu plăcere** "You're welcome."

*Cu* is a preposition and it means "with." *Plăcere* means "pleasure." So, literally this phrase means "with pleasure."

This is the most common response to *mulțumesc* ("thank you") or *mersi* ("thanks"). This expression is very versatile and can be used in both formal scenarios as well as more casual ones such as when talking to your friends, family or peers.

#### **For example...**

1. *Cu plăcere, mai poftiți!*  
"You're welcome, come again!"

### **O zi bună.** "Have a nice day."

*O* is an indefinite article meaning "one" (feminine form), *zi* is "day," and *bună* means "good." So this phrase would literally translate as "have a good day."

This expression is a nice way to greet someone and is used as a farewell greeting.

#### **For example...**

1. *Vă doresc o zi bună.*  
"I wish you a nice day."

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Nouns in Romanian

**Bună ziua. Cât costă pâină în centrul oraşului?**  
"Hello. How much is it to the city center?"

---

In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. recognize the gender of nouns
  2. use defective nouns
  3. deal with the declension of nouns with the definite article
- 

### 1. How to recognize the gender of nouns

---

In this episode, we will review the topic about noun gender in Romanian. We first learned in Lesson 8 what the main suffixes of nouns are according to each gender. Let us now review those patterns to refresh up our memory as well as improve our noun gender sense using examples of some new nouns in the chart below:

#### Basic Noun Word Ending Patterns and Their Grammatical Gender

- nouns ending in a consonant or in vowel or semivowel *u* are almost always masculine  
ex. *copac* ("tree"), *aur* ("gold")
- nouns ending in *ă* are feminine:  
ex. *ceapă* ("onion"), *fată* ("girl")
- nouns ending in stressed *a* are feminine:  
ex. *catifea* ("silk"), *sardea* ("sardine")
- nouns ending in *e* are generally feminine (there are some exceptions)  
ex. *carte* ("book"), *cheie* ("key"), *miere* ("honey")

Please remember that there is no third declension for this gender—instead there are certain nouns that are masculine in the singular form but feminine in plural. These are the nouns that are considered neuter.

#### Sample sentences

1. *Merg să cumpăr nişte miere.*  
"I'm going to buy some honey."

2. *Această rochie este făcută din catifea.*  
"This dress is made out of silk."
3. *Fotografiéz un copac.*  
"I'm taking a picture of a tree." (lit.: "I'm picturing a tree.")

## 2. How to use defective nouns

Did you ever wonder if "information" has a plural form in English? Well, looks like it does not. Or at least it should not from a grammatical point of view, regardless of the fact that we live in "the age of information." Also, there is no singular form for "scissors" or for "shenanigans." In the same fashion, in Romanian there are nouns that either do not have a plural form or a singular one. They are called "defective nouns." However, of course, that doesn't mean they're broken. They work like this:

### Chart of Defective Nouns

Category	Romanian	English
plural defective (no plural)	aur	gold
plural defective (no plural)	miere	honey
plural defective (no plural)	cinste	honesty
plural defective (no plural)	feudalism	feudalism
singular defective (no singular)	icre	roe
singular defective (no singular)	șale	loin
singular defective (no singular)	ochelari	glasses
singular defective (no singular)	pantaloni	trousers

## Sample Sentences

1. *Ea poartă o brățară de aur.*  
"She is wearing a gold bracelet."
2. *Ursul mănâncă miere.*  
"The bear eats honey."
3. *Nu găsesc ochelarii.*  
"I can't find the glasses."

## 3. How to deal with the declension of nouns with the definite article

Now that we've learned more about nouns, let's see how to use the definite article with Romanian nouns. Unlike English, where you just use "the" before the noun to make it a definite noun, in Romanian the declension varies noun by noun, but generally rules can be applied according to the categories of nouns we learned in the first section of this episode. So that means the declension of nouns with the definite article is made first according to the gender of the noun, and then according to its suffix.

### Declension chart of nouns with the definite article in Romanian

Romanian				English			
Singular		Plural		Singular		Plural	
Infinitive	Articulated	Infinitive	Articulated	Infinitive	Articulated	Infinitive	Articulated
<i>piață</i> (f.)	<i>piața</i>	<i>piețe</i>	<i>piețele</i>	square	the square	square s	the square s
<i>informație</i> (f.)	<i>informația</i>	<i>informații</i>	<i>informațiile</i>	information	the information	-	-
<i>fată</i> (f.)	<i>fata</i>	<i>fete</i>	<i>fetele</i>	girl	the girl	girls	the girls
<i>carte</i> (f.)	<i>cartea</i>	<i>cărți</i>	<i>cărțile</i>	book	the book	books	the books

<i>băiat</i> (m.)	<i>băiatul</i>	<i>băieți</i>	<i>băieții</i>	boy	the boy	boys	the boys
<i>profesor</i> (m.)	<i>profesorul</i>	<i>profesori</i>	<i>profesorii</i>	professor	the professor	professors	the professors
<i>centru</i> (n.)	<i>centrul</i>	<i>centre</i>	<i>centree</i>	center	the center	centers	the centers
<i>oraș</i> (n.)	<i>orașul</i>	<i>orașe</i>	<i>orașele</i>	city	the city	cities	the cities
<i>autobuz</i> (n.)	<i>autobuzul</i>	<i>autobuze</i>	<i>autobuzele</i>	bus	the bus	buses	the buses

As you can see, there are many vocals changing and a few other variations in a noun when articulated with a definite article. But, roughly said, when articulated with a definite article, male nouns in Romanian get the suffix *-ul* in the singular form and *-ii* in the plural form, while female nouns take *-a* and *-le* in the singular and plural form respectively.

### Sample sentences

1. *Piața Unirii este foarte mare.*  
"The Union Square is very big."
2. *Informațiile primite mă ajută mult.*  
"The information received is of great help." (lit. "The information received help me a lot.")
3. *Centrul orașului este aglomerat.*  
"The center of the city is crowded."

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Bună ziua. Cât costă până în centrul orașului?*  
"Hello. How much is it to the city center?"
2. *Vă mulțumesc pentru informații.*  
"Thank you for the information."
3. *Da. Noi, taxiurile suntem foarte scumpe. Și suntem mândri de asta.*  
"Yes. We taxies are very expensive. And we are proud of it."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *București este capitala României.*  
"Bucharest is the capital of Romania."
2. *Mierea nu se strică niciodată.*  
"Honey never goes bad."
3. *Îmi place biroul acesta.*  
"I like this desk."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Transport in Romania

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Train infrastructure in Romania is really underdeveloped compared to Western Europe's dense system of railways. Main cities and areas of the countries are connected by railways, but speed is still average.

The trains are safe and clean, but cars are the most popular means of transport for Romanians.

In big cities like Bucharest, taxis are also a common way of commuting if you don't have a car.

### Useful expression

1. *stație*  
"station"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #19 Stocking up on Groceries in Romania

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **19**

## ROMANIAN

1. Mihai: Bună ziua, cât este șunca?
2. Vânzător: Cincisprezece lei kilogramul.
3. Mihai: Trei sute de grame, vă rog.
4. Vânzător: Sigur. Altceva?
5. Mihai: Și două franzele de pâine și un kilogram de făină.
6. Vânzător: Pofțiți. O zi bună!

## ENGLISH

1. Mihai: Hello, how much is the ham?
2. Salesperson: 15 lei per kilogram.
3. Mihai: 300 grams, please.
4. Salesperson: Sure. Anything else?
5. Mihai: And 2 bread loaves and a kilogram of flour.
6. Salesperson: Here you are. Have a nice day!

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
șuncă	ham	noun

kilogram	kilogram (2.2 lbs)	noun
gram	gram	noun
a pofti	to receive	verb
franzelă	loaf	noun
pâine	bread	noun
făină	flour	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Această șuncă are prea multă grăsime.</b></p> <p>"This ham has too much fat."</p>	<p><b>Cât costă un kilogram?</b></p> <p>"How much does 1 kg cost?"</p>
<p><b>O uncie înseamnă douăzeci și opt virgulă trei grame.</b></p> <p>"1 ounce is 28.3 grams."</p>	<p><b>Ea pofteste o prăjitură.</b></p> <p>"She receives a cake."</p>
<p><b>Mănânc singur o franzelă de pâine pe zi.</b></p> <p>"I eat a loaf of bread a day alone."</p>	<p><b>Vrei cu pâine sau cu mămligă?</b></p> <p>"Do you want it with bread or with polenta?"</p>
<p><b>Pâinea albă nu este sănătoasă pentru tine.</b></p> <p>"White bread is not healthy for you".</p>	<p><b>Cumpăr un kilogram de făină.</b></p> <p>"I am buying 1 kg of flour."</p>
<p><b>Am uitat să cumpăr făină, poți să cumperi tu în drum spre casă?</b></p> <p>"I forgot to buy flour, can you buy some on your way home?"</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

## **Cât este...?** **"How much is the...?"**

---

*Cât* is an adverb meaning "how much," and *este* is 3rd person singular of *a fi*, "to be."

This expression is commonly used every time you want to ask how much a product costs. This expression is neutral, formality-wise, so you can use it in virtually any situation where you want to obtain information about the price of something.

This expression is more common than *cât costă* (lit. "how much does it cost?") introduced in Lesson 3.

### **For example...**

1. *Cât este această carte?*  
"How much is this book?"

## **Poftiți.** **"Here you are."**

---

*Poftiți* literally means "please receive." The original verb is *a pofti*, meaning "to receive."

This phrase is used any time you want to give someone something. It is rather polite, and in casual situations this phrase should be replaced by *uite*, literally "look" for a more natural tone.

### **For example...**

1. *Poftiți, aceasta este comanda dumneavoastră.*  
"Here you are, this is your order."

## **GRAMMAR**

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Nouns - Shop Names**

## **Bună ziua, cât este șunca?** **Hello, how much is the ham?**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

## 1. shop in food stores

## 2. shop in general purpose stores

## 3. shop in health and beauty related stores

---

### 1. How to shop in food stores

---

In Romania, there are specialty shops like bakeries and grocery stores as well as general purpose ones, like shopping malls, supermarkets, etc.. In this episode, we are going to learn some useful language that might help you when shopping in Romania.

Let's start with food shops. When shopping in food stores in Romania, the following phrases and words will come in handy:

#### Useful phrases when shopping in food stores

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Romanian	English
<i>Nu vă supărați,</i>	Excuse me,
<i>vă rog</i>	please
<i>O zi bună!</i>	Have a nice day!
<i>Cât costă...?</i>	How much is...? / How much does...cost?
<i>Vreau...</i>	I want..
<i>pâine</i>	bread
<i>un kilogram de</i>	a kilogram (cca. 2.2 lbs) of
<i>un litru de</i>	a liter (0.26 gal.) of

---

**Now let's see some sample sentences using some of the phrases above.**

1. *Nu vă supărați, cât costă această pâine?*  
"Excuse me, how much does this bread cost?"
2. *Vreau un litru de lapte, vă rog!*  
"I'd like a liter of milk, please!" (1 liter is roughly 33.8 ounces.)

## 2. How to shop in general purpose stores

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Next, the following sentences might be useful to remember when shopping in general purpose stores, such as a supermarket or hypermarket, as the biggest ones are called.

### Useful phrases when shopping in general purpose stores

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Romanian	English
<i>Unde este</i>	Where is
<i>Caut....</i>	I'm looking for...
<i>Aveți...?</i>	Do you have...?
<i>Vreau să plătesc...</i>	I want to pay...
<i>în cash</i>	in cash
<i>cu cardul</i>	by card
<i>cu bonuri de masă</i>	in restaurant tickets
<i>și o pungă</i>	and a bag

---

**Now let's see some sample sentences using some of the phrases above.**

1. *Unde este farmacia?*  
"Where is the drugstore?"
2. *Bună ziua, aveți ouă aici?*  
"Hello, do you have eggs here?" ("do you have" is used to mean "do you sell.")

## 3. How to shop in health and beauty stores

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In the last section of this episode, we'll learn some phrases that might be useful if you go shopping in health or beauty stores in Romania.

### Useful phrases when shopping in health and beauty stores

---

Romanian	English
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<i>ruj</i>	lipstick
<i>fond de ten</i>	foundation
<i>prea</i>	too
<i>scurt</i>	short
<i>pe lateral</i>	on the sides
<i>breton</i>	bangs
<i>permanent</i>	permanent
<i>destul</i>	enough

Now let us take a look at a couple of **example sentences** using some of the phrases above.

1. *Vreau mai scurt pe lateral.*  
"I want it shorter on the sides." (lit.: "I want shorter on the sides.")
2. *Nu, mulțumesc, este destul.*  
"No, thank you, that's enough."

### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Bună ziua, cât este șunca?*  
"Hello, how much is the ham?"
2. *Și două franzele de pâine și un kilogram făină.*  
"And 2 bread loaves and a kilogram of flour."
3. *Trei sute de grame, vă rog.*  
"300 grams, please."

### Sample Sentences

1. *Trebuie să merg la alimentară.*  
"I must go to the grocery store."

2. *Noi facem cumpărături la supermarket în fiecare weekend.*  
"We shop at the supermarket every weekend."
3. *Aceasta este frizeria mea preferată.*  
"This is my favorite hair salon."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### English and Romanians

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Before 1989, when revolutions across East Europe and some Central Europe countries brought an end to communist regimes in these regions, English language access in Romania was fairly limited. It was taught in schools, however, French was the most popular foreign language.

This changed after the Revolution, which resulted in the fact that, nowadays, most people up to around 40-45 years old can speak day-to-day English, whereas the older population can sometimes speak a little French, but not English.

This means that a lot of the sales staff in shops might not be able to speak English, but in many cases will compensate a little through hospitality.

### Useful expression

1. *limba engleză*  
"English (language)"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #20

## Making Plans in Romania

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# 20

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Bună, ce mai faci?
2. Andreea: Bună. Bine, uite, mă pregătesc să ies prin oraș.
3. Masanobu: Ești ocupată săptămâna viitoare, sâmbătă?
4. Andreea: Nu, nu am niciun program. De ce?
5. Masanobu: Vrei să mergem undeva?
6. Andreea: Sigur! Ce zici de noul parc de distracții din Tei?
7. Masanobu: Super idee! Bine, așa rămâne!

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Hi, how've you been?
2. Andreea: Hi. Well, I'm fine, getting ready to go out.
3. Masanobu: Are you busy next (week's) Saturday?
4. Andreea: No, I don't have any plans. Why?
5. Masanobu: Do you want to go out somewhere?
6. Andreea: Sure. How about the new amusement park in Tei?
7. Masanobu: Great idea! Ok, it's settled.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
prin	through	preposition
a (se) pregăti	to get ready	verb
ocupat	busy	adjective
program	plans; program, schedule	noun
undeva	somewhere	adverb
nou	new	adjective
distracție	fun, entertainment, amusement	noun
parc	park	noun
a zice	to say; to tell	verb
a rămâne	to remain, to stay	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Invățăm multe lucruri prin cărți.</b></p> <p>"We learn many things through books."</p>	<p><b>Vânătorul a mers tiptil prin pădure.</b></p> <p>"The hunter walked slowly through the woods."</p>
<p><b>Să ne pregătim de plecare!</b></p> <p>"Let's get ready for the departure!"</p>	<p><b>Sunt ocupat acum.</b></p> <p>"I am busy now."</p>
<p><b>Ești ocupat sâmbătă?</b></p> <p>"Are you busy on Saturday?"</p>	<p><b>Ce program ai în weekend?</b></p> <p>"What schedule do you have during the weekend?"</p>

<p><b>Există undeva în zonă vreo brutărie?</b></p> <p>"Is there any bakery somewhere in the area?"</p>	<p><b>Banca este undeva între supermarket și spălătoria de mașini.</b></p> <p>"The bank is somewhere in between the supermarket and the car wash."</p>
<p><b>El are un ghiozdan nou.</b></p> <p>"He has a new satchel."</p>	<p><b>Nu este prea ușor să continui să inventezi idei noi.</b></p> <p>"It's not so easy to keep creating new ideas."</p>
<p><b>Uneori este important și să te distrezi.</b></p> <p>"Sometimes having fun is also important."</p>	<p><b>Acest parc este mic, dar frumos.</b></p> <p>"This park is small but beautiful."</p>
<p><b>Nu înțeleg ce zice.</b></p> <p>"I don't understand what he is saying."</p>	<p><b>Eu rămân aici.</b></p> <p>"I am staying here."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***Ești ocupat?*** **"Are you busy?"**

***Ești*** means "you are," and is 2nd person singular of a ***fi*** ("to be"). *Ocupat* is an adjective meaning "busy."

This expression is used when asking someone about their plans and availability in order to make a proposal later—the informal variation. In case you ask this in a formal situation, use ***sunteți ocupat?*** instead.

### **For example**

1. *Ești ocupat joi?*  
"Are you busy on Thursday?"

### **Ce zici de...?** **"How about...?"**

---

**Ce** is an indefinite pronoun meaning "what." **Zici** is the 2nd person singular of a **zice** "to say," and **de** means "of." Therefore, this would be literally translated as "what do you say of...?"

This is used when you want to ask someone about their opinion regarding your proposal—the casual form. For a formal situation, **ce ziceți de...?** is recommended.

#### **For example**

1. *Ce zici de un jogging in weekend?*  
"How about jogging in the weekend?"

### **Așa rămâne.** **"It's settled."**

---

**Așa** is an adverb meaning "like this" or "like that" (there is no one adverb word to differentiate this in Romanian), and **rămâne** is 3rd person singular of **a rămâne**, meaning "to remain" (it even sounds similar to the English).

This is used when a decision has been made, and you want to communicate that within a group for confirmation.

#### **For example**

1. *E bun planul tău, așa rămâne!*  
"Your plan is good; it's settled."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Indefinite Adverbs and Pronouns**

#### **Vrei să mergem undeva?** **Do you want to go out somewhere?**

---

## In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. use the structure "some" plus an adverb or pronoun
2. use the words "sometime," "somewhere," "somehow"
3. use *ceva* and *cineva*

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### 1. How to use the structure "some" plus an adverb or pronoun

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We already learned about indefinite adverbs and pronouns in a previous lesson, and now we are going to learn an additional type. The only difference is that the pattern is different. Last time, we learned about indefinite adverbs and pronouns beginning mainly with the prefix "any-" in English and their counterpart in Romanian, which begins with the prefix "**ori-**." Now we are going to learn about a new category, beginning in English with "some-". The equivalent in Romanian this time is the suffix **-va**.

#### Chart of most common indefinite Romanian adverbs and pronouns based on the suffix **-va**

Category	Romanian	English
indefinite adverbs	<i>unde<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b> where
indefinite adverbs	<i>cum<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b> how
indefinite adverbs	<i>când<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b> time
indefinite adverbs	<i>cât<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b>
indefinite pronouns	<i>care<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b> body
indefinite pronouns	<i>cine<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b> one
indefinite pronouns	<i>ce<b>va</b></i>	<b>some</b> thing

So, we have here the same list of adverbs and pronouns as a few episodes ago; only this time we replaced the **ori-** prefix with the **-va** suffix. This time all of the examples beautifully translate into words in English beginning with the "some-" prefix.

### Sample sentences

1. *Este cineva acolo?*  
"Is there anyone there?" (lit. "Is there someone there?")
2. *Sigur ajungem acolo cândva.*  
"We'll surely get there sometime." (lit.: "Surely we arrive there sometime.")
3. *Vrei ceva de la cofetărie?*  
"Do you want something from the confectionery shop?"

## 2. How to use the words "sometime," "somewhere," "somehow"

---

Not let's focus on three of the most used indefinite adverbs in Romanian.

### Sentence pattern

[verb + indefinite adverb]

OR

[indefinite adverb + verb]

In most cases, the verb is positioned before the indefinite adverb, but sometimes the adverb comes before the verb. In these cases, emphasis is placed on the adverb.

### Sample sentences

1. *Vino în vizită cândva!*  
"Come visit sometime!"
2. *Mergi undeva în vacanța de vară?*  
"Are you going somewhere during the summer vacation?"
3. *Cumva te descurci tu cumva.*  
"Somehow you'll find a way." (lit.: "Somehow you find a way.")

## 3. How to use *ceva* and *cineva*

---

Next, in the indefinite pronoun category, two of the most used words are **ceva** ("something") and **cineva** ("someone").

## Sentence Pattern

[verb + indefinite pronoun]

OR

[indefinite pronoun + verb]

Also, similar to the phrases containing indefinite adverbs, in phrases containing indefinite pronouns the verb is usually positioned before the indefinite pronoun. Sometimes, however, the pronoun comes before the verb. In this case, emphasis is placed on the indefinite pronoun.

## Sample sentences

1. *Ceva sigur se schimbă.*  
"Something will change." (with emphasis on "something")
2. *Este ceva în cutie?*  
"Is there something in the box?"
3. *Cineva trebuie să preia inițiativa.*  
"Someone must take the initiative."

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Vrei să mergem undeva?*  
"Do you want to go out somewhere?"
2. *Bună. Bine, uite, mă pregătesc să ies prin oraș.*  
"Hi. Well, I'm fine, getting ready to go out."
3. *Nu, nu am niciun program. De ce?*  
"No, I don't have any plans. Why?"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Astăzi vine cineva în vizită.*  
"Today someone will come to visit."
2. *Reușim noi cumva.*  
"We will make it somehow."

3. *Astăzi învăț ceva nou.*  
"Today I am learning something new."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Leisure Activities in Romania

---

There are many amusement parks in cities around Romania, and the one currently gaining popularity is Parcul de Agrement Tei, meaning "Tei Amusement Park." It is located in the northern part of Bucharest, and it hosts the largest Ferris wheel in Romania.

One of the most popular ways of spending a beautiful, sunny day for many Romanians is having a barbecue outside with family or friends. It is also a way of spending time with work colleagues on free days.

Also, not only teenagers, but people in their 20's, 30's, and 40's spend weekend nights dining outside or clubbing.

### Useful expression

1. *grătar*  
"barbecue"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #21 Taking a Day Trip in Romania

---

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- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 21

## ROMANIAN

1. Mihai: Mă gândesc să mergem într-o excursie cu mașina la mare.
2. Masanobu: Îmi place ideea. Când?
3. Mihai: Sâmbata asta. Vine și Andreea și plecăm dimineața la prima oră.
4. Masanobu: Scuze, sâmbăta asta nu pot, am cursuri de pilotaj.
5. Masanobu: Nu putem să mergem sâmbăta viitoare?
6. Mihai: Săptămâna viitoare, da? Ba da.
7. Masanobu: Ok, atunci așa rămâne.

## ENGLISH

1. Mihai: I'm thinking of going on a trip by car to the seaside.
2. Masanobu: I like the idea. When?
3. Mihai: This Saturday. Andreea is coming too, and we're leaving first thing in the morning.
4. Masanobu: Sorry, I can't this Saturday; I have flying lessons.
5. Masanobu: Can't we go next Saturday?
6. Mihai: Next week, right? Yes we can.
7. Masanobu: Ok, then it's settled.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
ba da	yes (as an answer to a negative clause)	particle
așa	so, like that	adverb
oră	hour	noun
excursie	Trip	noun
mașină	car; machine	noun
mare	sea, seaside	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Ba da, știu.</b> Yes, I do know.</p>	<p><b>Așa se face.</b> That's how it's done.</p>
<p><b>Durează o oră până ajungem.</b> It takes 1 hour until we get there.</p>	<p><b>O oră.</b> One hour.</p>
<p><b>Mâine mergem în excursie cu bicicletele.</b> Tomorrow we are going on a bicycle trip.</p>	<p><b>Ce preferi, mașina sau trenul?</b> What do you prefer, car or train?</p>
<p><b>Marea este adâncă.</b> The sea is deep.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**la mare**  
"to the seaside"

**la** is an adverb of place meaning "at," and **mare** is "sea."

This type of phrase is used to express the destination of movement or travel, in this case, to the seaside.

### For example

1. *Ei merg la mare în fiecare an.*  
"They go to the seaside every year."

### ***la prima oră*** **"first thing in the morning"**

---

In this phrase, we encounter **la**, which was explained in the expression above, **prima**, which means "first" (feminine), and **oră**, "hour" (when pronounced it bears a similarity to the English word). All together, this literally means "at the first hour."

It is used to express vaguely and in a flexible way the first thing one does after waking up.

### For example

1. *Mă ocup de aceasta mâine la prima oră.*  
"I'll take care of this first thing tomorrow."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Expressions of Rejection**

***Scuze, sâmbăta asta nu pot, am cursuri de pilotaj.***  
**"Sorry, I can't this Saturday; I have flying lessons."**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. **say "I'm sorry" in formal Romanian**
  2. **say "sorry" in informal Romanian**
  3. **suggest a different time**
- 

### **1. How to say "I'm sorry" in formal Romanian**

---

In this episode, we're learning how to politely reject an invitation in Romanian. First, the most polite expression used in formal speech is **îmi cer scuze**, which is the equivalent of the English "I'm sorry." **îmi cer** means "I ask for," and **scuze** is "apologies." So, this would literally translate as "I ask for apologies."

Also, it is common to use the word **dar** ("but") before starting the rejection phrase. The pattern would look like this:

### Sentence Pattern

[*îmi cer scuze* + *dar* ("but") + rejection phrase]

OR

[*îmi cer scuze* + rejection phrase (without *dar*)]

### Sample sentences

1. *Îmi cer scuze, dar am rău de înălțime.*  
"I'm sorry, but I'm afraid of heights." (lit. "I apologize, but I have sickness of height.")
2. *Îmi cer scuze, nu am carnet de conducere.*  
"I'm sorry, I don't have a driving licence."
3. *Îmi cer scuze!*  
"I'm sorry!"

The phrase can also be used by itself as in the last example.

## 2. How to say "sorry" in informal Romanian

---

Now let's learn how to say "sorry" in informal speech. Let's see the pattern in a simple chart below.

### Sentence Pattern

[*scuze* + *dar* ("but") + rejection phrase]

OR

[*scuze* + rejection phrase]

So basically the formal phrase is shortened by eliminating the *îmi cer* part. This is similar to eliminating the "I'm" in English from "I'm sorry" to result in "sorry."

## Sample sentences

1. *Scuze, dar nu pot veni săptămâna viitoare.*  
"Sorry, but I can't come next week."
2. *Scuze, nu știu cum se face.*  
"Sorry, I don't know how it's done."
3. *Scuze!*  
"Sorry!"

Just as with the formal case, the phrase can also be used by itself, like in this last example.

## 3. How to suggest a different time

---

Finally, let's see how to suggest a different time in case you cannot accept an invitation but you are free another day. The most useful phrase in such scenarios is ***nu putem să?*** which means "can't we?" ***Nu*** is the negative prefix combined with the verb ***a putea*** ("to be able to") conjugated to the 2nd person plural. ***să*** is the conjunction "to," because in informal Romanian direct object clauses are usually connected by a conjunction. However, in formal speech, the infinitive form of the verb is used instead of the subordinate, like in English.

### Sentence Pattern

[*nu putem (să) + verb + adverb of time*]

\* where (verb + adverb of time) ↑ = the new suggestion

## Sample sentences

1. *Nu putem să mergem peste trei zile?*  
"Can't we go in 3 days?" (informal speech, so clauses are connected with conjunction *să*, "to.")
2. *Nu putem schimba camera?*  
"Can't we change the room?" (formal speech, so clauses are connected without a conjunction; instead, the the verb in the subordinate is in infinitive form *schimba*, "change.")
3. *Nu putem să plecăm mai devreme?*  
"Can't we leave earlier?"

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Scuze, sâmbăta asta nu pot, am cursuri de pilotaj.*  
"Sorry, I can't this Saturday; I have flying lessons."
2. *Mă gândesc să mergem într-o excursie cu mașina la mare.*  
"I'm thinking of going on a trip by car to the seaside."
3. *Nu putem să mergem sâmbăta viitoare?*  
"Can't we go next Saturday?"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Îmi cer scuze, dar nu pot veni cu voi.*  
"I am sorry, but I can't come with you."
2. *Scuze, întârzii zece minute.*  
"Sorry, I'll be 10 minutes late."
3. *Nu putem să facem altfel?*  
"Can't we do this differently?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Invitations in Romania

---

While work life and personal life are quite clearly separated in Romanian society, in many cases peers at work become friends outside of work as well.

Thus, after working together for a while, many colleagues might go out for a drink on a weekend together. Refusing a personal invitation might be taken as an insult—unless, you give a clear and honest reason for declining. Straightforwardness is viewed as a positive thing in most cases in Romania, so it is safe to be honest when you're not available.

This is also why there are almost absolutely no invitations out of courtesy in Romanian culture. This kind of invitation may be encountered in very formal situations, such as high-level politics, organizations, or other diplomatic circles.

### Useful expression

1. *a invita*  
"to invite"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #22 Borrowing Something from a Romanian Friend

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- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 22

## ROMANIAN

1. Mihai: Pot să împrumut labele tale de înot azi?
2. Masanobu: Scuze, azi le folosesc eu. Dar pot mâine, dacă vrei.
3. Mihai: Mersi, dar mâine nu înotăm, nu?
4. Masanobu: Aa, da, așa este. Sau poți să o rogi pe Andreea.
5. Mihai: Da, o rog pe ea. Mulțumesc oricum.

## ENGLISH

1. Mihai: Can I borrow your swim fins today?
2. Masanobu: Sorry, I'm using them today. But I can lend them to you tomorrow, if you want.
3. Mihai: Thanks, but we aren't swimming tomorrow, are we?
4. Masanobu: Oh, yes, you're right. Or you can ask Andreea.
5. Mihai: Yes, I'll ask her. Thank you anyway.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
labă	fin	noun
a înota	to swim	verb
azi (informal for "astăzi")	today	adverb

a folosi	to use	verb
mersi	thanks (informal)	interjection
oricum	anyway, anyhow	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Nu pot să înot fără labe.</b> I can't swim without fins.</p>	<p><b>Tu știi să înoți?</b> Can you swim?</p>
<p><b>Azi este foarte frig.</b> Today it is very cold.</p>	<p><b>Ce program folosești pentru ascultat muzică?</b> What software do you use to listen to music?</p>
<p><b>Mersi mult!</b> Thanks a lot!</p>	<p><b>Plouă, dar mergem în oraș oricum.</b> It's raining, but we're going out anyway.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Pot să...?** "May I...?"

**Pot** is 1st person singular of a **putea**, "to be able to." **să** means "to," as previously introduced. This phrase is, therefore, literally "can I." Unlike English, there is no distinction in Romanian between "can" and "may."

This is used when you want to ask permission. This phrase is polite enough to be used in situations that require formal speech but flexible enough to be used in casual situations without sounding unnatural.

### **For example**

1. *Pot să te întreb ceva?*  
"Can I ask you a question?" (lit.: "Can I ask you something?")

## ***dacă vrei*** **"if you want"**

---

**Dacă** is the important conjunction "if," and **vrei** is 2nd person singular for **a vrea**, "to want."

This expression is used when you want to make a proposal sound more mild in order to make the interlocutor understand that it is optional. This is the formal variation, but you can replace **vrei** with **vreți** to make the phrase formal.

### **For example**

1. *Dacă vrei, astăzi gătim mâncare acasă.*  
"If you want, today we'll cook at home."

## ***Mersi oricum.*** **"Thanks anyway."**

---

**Mersi** is the informal version of **mulțumesc**, and it is an interjection. **Oricum** means "anyway," and it is an adverb, just like in English.

This phrase is used in informal situations when you want to thank someone for attempting to help you with something, even if you do not need it. So it is also a polite and nice way of refusing something. As this is informal speech, it can only be used in casual scenarios. If you want to use it in formal situations, you can replace **mersi** with **mulțumesc** to get **mulțumesc oricum**, which would translate as "thank you anyway."

### **For example**

1. *Nu mai am nevoie, mersi oricum.*  
"I don't need it anymore. Thanks anyway."

## **GRAMMAR**

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Conjunctions**

***Pot să împrumut labele tale de înot azi?***  
**"Can I borrow your swim fins today?"**

---

**In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. **identify conjunctions from their basic features**
2. **use "but", a conjunction of coordination and opposition**
3. **use "or", a conjunction of coordination and choice**

## 1. How to identify conjunctions from their basic features

Conjunctions in Romanian are one of the most used parts of speech, even though they are usually short and cannot be used individually, so they are not easily noticed. Conjunctions are a part of speech that have the role of connecting clauses within a sentence and words within a clause. There are several categories of conjunctions. Let's see the most used ones in the chart below:

### Most Frequent Romanian Conjunctions

Romanian	Category		English
<i>și</i>	Coordinating	copulative	and
<i>dar</i>	Coordinating	adversative	but
<i>sau</i>	Coordinating	disjunctive	or
<i>deci</i>	Coordinating	conclusive	so
<i>așadar</i>	Coordinating	conclusive	therefore
<i>să</i>	Subordinating		to
<i>că</i>	Subordinating		that
<i>dacă</i>	Subordinating		if

In Romanian, conjunctions are always placed between the clauses or words they connect.

Let's see some examples below.

### Sample sentences

1. *Am un câine și o pisică.*  
"I have a dog and a cat." (*și* "and" connecting two words within a clause)
2. *Astăzi înotăm și zburăm.*  
"Today we will swim and fly." (*și* "and" connecting two clauses within a sentence)
3. *Este noiembrie, deci este toamnă.*  
"It's November, so it's fall." (*deci* "so" connecting two clauses within a sentence)

## 2. How to use "but," a conjunction of coordination and opposition

---

Out of the frequent conjunctions mentioned above, one of the most used is **dar**, which means "but." It is an adversative conjunction. This means that it connects two clauses or words on the same level of hierarchy within the sentence (they are in coordination), but it has the role of showing opposition between the two phrases.

### Sentence Pattern

[phrase 1 + "but" + phrase 2 (phrase 1 and phrase 2 contain opposing information)]

To make this more concrete and easier to understand, as usual, let's see some sample sentences below.

### Sample sentences

1. *Este toamnă, dar vremea este încă frumoasă.*  
"It is fall, but the weather is still nice." (two clauses connected by *dar* "but")
2. *Acel om stă pe un scaun frumos, dar șubred.*  
"That man is sitting on a beautiful but rickety chair." (lit.: "That man sits on a chair beautiful, but rickety." two adjectives, *frumos* "beautiful" and *șubred* "rickety," connected by *dar* "but")
3. *El este înalt, dar nu joacă baschet.*  
"He is tall, but he doesn't play basketball." (two clauses connected by *dar* "but")

## 3. How to use "or", a conjunction of coordination and choice

---

Another very frequent conjunction is **sau**, which means "or." It is a disjunctive conjunction. This means that it belongs to the category of coordinating conjunctions because it connects two clauses or words on the same level of hierarchy within the sentence.

## Sentence Pattern

[phrase 1 + *sau* + phrase 2 (phrase 1 and phrase 2 contain opposing information)]

## Sample sentences

1. *Vii acum, sau aștepti până după-amiază?*  
"Are you coming now, or are you going to wait until afternoon?" (*sau* "or" connecting two clauses)
2. *Acum puteți să vizitați orașul sau să urcați în turn.* (2nd person plural)  
"You can visit the city or go up the tower."
3. *Vrea să cumpere vin sau bere.*  
"He wants to buy wine or beer." (*sau* "or" connecting two words - the nouns, *vin* "wine" and *bere* "beer")

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Pot să împrumut labele tale de înot azi?*  
"Can I borrow your swim fins today?"
2. *Mersi, dar mâine nu înotăm, nu?*  
"Thanks, but we aren't swimming tomorrow, are we?"
3. *Aa, da, așa este. Sau poți să o rogi pe Andreea.*  
"Oh, yes, you're right. Or you can ask Andreea."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Vreau să învăț limba română.*  
"I want to learn Romanian."
2. *Este motivat, dar nu știe cum să învețe.*  
"He's determined, but he doesn't know how to study."
3. *Știu că iarna este frig în România.*  
"I know winter is cold in Romania."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Romania's Nature as a Recreational Destination

---

Romania is a country that has all of the basic geographical features: plains, hills, mountains, and although generally lesser known around the world, a sea (the Black Sea).

All mountains in Romania are part of the Carpathian Mountain system, a long mountain range originating in Central Europe and continuing up to the Balkan Peninsula. There are many natural reservations with beautiful nature to enjoy.

Also, the Black Sea offers Romania about 250km of seashore, with the Danube Delta in the north and seaside resorts with sand beaches to the south.

### Useful expression

1. *plajă*  
"beach"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #23 Have You Met My Romanian Feline Friend?

---

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- 2 English
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- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 23

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Tu îl știi pe colegul meu de cameră?
2. Mihai: Hmm, nu îmi amintesc.
3. Masanobu: Este roșcat, scund și grăsuț.
4. Mihai: Acum sunt sigur că nu îl cunosc.
5. Masanobu: Este motanul meu. Are doar doi ani.
6. Mihai: Pare de treabă. Vreau să îl cunosc.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: Do you know my roommate?
2. Mihai: Hmm, I don't remember.
3. Masanobu: He's red-haired, short, and plump.
4. Mihai: Now I'm sure I don't know him.
5. Masanobu: It's my tomcat. He is only 2 years old.
6. Mihai: He seems nice. I want to meet him.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
a își aminti	to remember	verb

roșcat	red-haired	adjective
scund	short	adjective
acum	now	adverb
motan	tomcat	noun
a părea	to seem	verb
treabă	work	noun
coleg	colleague, peer, mate	noun
cameră	room	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Îți amintești unde este acel magazin?</b></p> <p>"Do you remember where that shop is?"</p>	<p><b>În grădină este un câine roșcat.</b></p> <p>"There is a red-haired dog in the garden."</p>
<p><b>Vreau un scaun mai scund.</b></p> <p>"I want a shorter chair."</p>	<p><b>Unde ești acum?</b></p> <p>"Where are you now?"</p>
<p><b>Un motan este un mascul de pisică.</b></p> <p>"A tomcat is a male cat."</p>	<p><b>Totul pare în regulă.</b></p> <p>"Everything seems alright."</p>
<p><b>Am treabă acum.</b></p> <p>"I have work to do now."</p>	<p><b>El este colegul meu de muncă zece ani.</b></p> <p>"He has been my work colleague for 10 years."</p>
<p><b>Câte persoane sunt în cameră?</b></p> <p>"How many people are there in the room?"</p>	<p><b>Aceasta este o cameră pentru nefumători.</b></p> <p>"This is a room for non-smokers."</p>

---

**Trebuie să fac curățenie în cameră în seara asta.**

"I need to clean up my room tonight."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Sunt sigur că...***  
**"I am sure that..."**

---

**Sunt** is the 1st person singular of **a fi** "to be," **sigur** means "sure" (in this case is an adjective), and **că** means "that."

This phrase is used to indicate that you are very confident about a certain fact. This expression can be used naturally in virtually any communication situation, as long as you really believe you are sure about it, of course.

### **For example**

1. *Sunt sigur că ea ajunge cu bine.*  
"I'm sure she'll arrive safely." (lit. "I'm sure she'll arrive well.")

***de treabă***  
**"nice (person)"**

---

**de** means "of," and **treabă** means "job" or "business," so literally "of job." It sounds pretty far from the actual translation, but it is idiomatically used and should be remembered as "nice." One possible etymological explanation would be that it originates from the idea that a certain person is nice enough to hop on and help you with any job or action.

This expression is used in daily conversation quite often, and it can be used whenever you want to characterize someone as a nice person.

### **For example**

1. *Tatăl tău este de treabă.*  
"Your father is nice."

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Adjectives Used to Describe People

*Este roșcat, scund și grăsuț.*  
"He's red-haired, short, and plump."

---

In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. **describe hair colors**
2. **describe height**
3. **describe body types and weight**

---

### 1. How to describe hair colors

First, let's see some useful phrases regarding hair colors below.

#### Useful phrases regarding hair colors

Romanian	English
<i>El / Ea are părul...</i>	He / She has...hair
<i>brunet</i>	dark
<i>roșcat</i>	red
<i>șaten</i>	brown
<i>blond</i>	blond
<i>cărunt</i>	grey

Now let's see some **sentences** using these phrases.

1. *El are părul șaten.*  
"His hair is brown." (lit.: "He has brown hair.")
2. *Ea are părul blond.*  
"She has blond hair." (lit.: "Her hair is blond.")

## 2. How to describe height

---

Next, let's learn some useful phrases for describing people's height.

### Useful phrases for describing height

---

Romanian	English
<i>El / Ea este...</i>	He / She is...
<i>înalt / înaltă</i>	tall
<i>scund / scundă</i>	short

1. *Ea este foarte înaltă.*  
"She is very tall."
2. *El este foarte scund.*  
"He is very short."

## 3. How to describe body types and weight

---

Now let's see some frequent expressions for describing body types and weight.

### Useful phrases for describing body types and weight

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Romanian	English
<i>El / Ea are o constituție...</i>	He / She has a...body
<i>slab / slabă</i>	skinny
<i>sveltă</i>	thin
<i>atletică</i>	fit
<i>obișnuită</i>	normal
<i>grăsuță</i>	plump
<i>grasă</i>	fat

Of course, be careful about when you are using these expressions, as they can be

disrespectful depending on the scenario, just like in any other language.

## Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Este roșcat, scund și grăsuț.*  
"He's red-haired, short, and plump."
2. *Este motanul meu. Are doar doi ani.*  
"It's my tomcat. He is only 2 years old."
3. *Pare de treabă. Vreau să îl cunosc.*  
"He seems nice. I want to meet him."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Ea este brunetă.*  
"She's a brunette."
2. *Jucătorii de basket sunt înalți.*  
"Basketball players are tall."
3. *El este plinuț.*  
"He's plump."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Circle of Friends in Romania

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In Romania, it is fairly normal to introduce any friend or acquaintance to other friends or acquaintances. Basically, if you're their common friend, it is acceptable to introduce them to each other in order to expand the circle of friends.

Therefore, it is also OK to bring friends or your partner to parties or events, even if the other guests are colleagues from work, as long as it is not a professional or business meeting.

The most common way to greet someone is by a handshake, which should be firm between men as, well as between women, and even between men and women. Of course, firm does not mean squeezing too strongly. Until a few decades ago, it was common for men to formally kiss a woman's hand, but lately the custom is getting lost. However, hugs and cheek-kissing are two of the more friendly ways of greeting and are made between men as well as between women. The handshake

is generally used in more formal situations, cheek-kissing comes in 2nd for formality, and hugs are the most casual.

### **Useful expression**

1. *Sărut-mâna!*  
"Hello! (lit. "kiss-hand", only said by men to women)"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #24 Free Romanian Medical Advice is the Best Kind!

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 24

## ROMANIAN

1. Masanobu: Ce noroc că ești doctor!
2. Mihai: Cum te simți?
3. Masanobu: Mă doare capul și am febră.
4. Mihai: Atât?
5. Masanobu: Da.
6. Mihai: E răceală. Îți dau o aspirină.

## ENGLISH

1. Masanobu: I'm so lucky that you're a doctor.
2. Mihai: How do you feel?
3. Masanobu: My head hurts and I have a fever.
4. Mihai: Is that all?
5. Masanobu: Yes.
6. Mihai: It's a cold. I'm giving you an aspirin.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
aspirină	aspirin	noun

noroc	luck	noun
a se simți	to feel (as a general state)	verb
a dura	to hurt, to ache	verb
febră	fever	noun
atât	so much	adverb
răceală	cold	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>O aspirină, vă rog.</b> "An aspirin, please."</p>	<p><b>El mereu are noroc.</b> "He is always lucky."</p>
<p><b>Mă simt mai bine acum.</b> "I feel better now."</p>	<p><b>Unde te doare?</b> "Where does it hurt?"</p>
<p><b>Dacă ai febră, trebuie să stai acasă.</b> "You should stay home if you have a fever."</p>	<p><b>Atât, este gata.</b> "That's all; it's ready."</p>
<p><b>Am o răceală.</b> "I have a cold."</p>	<p><b>Cât costă o cămașă pentru copii?</b> "How much does a shirt for kids cost?"</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Mă simt...***  
**"I feel.."**

**Mă** is a personal pronoun meaning "myself" (accusative case), and **simt** is 1st person singular of **a simți**, "to feel." Literally "I feel myself."

This phrase is when you want to express your physical state or sensations, or equally a metaphorical or emotional state. When expressing how you feel, whether it is your physical state or your feelings, formality level does not influence the language. So this phrase can be used in any scenario.

### For example

1. *Acum mă simt foarte bine.*  
"I feel very good now."

### **Atât.** "That's all."

---

**Atât** is an adverb, and it means "this much" or "that much" or even "so much." However, it is more often used to mean "that is all," like in this dialogue.

It is used whenever you want to say that something is enough, basically "there is no more to it," as the literal translation from Romanian suggests. This can be used in formal situations but also sounds natural in casual ones.

### For example

1. *Atât, nu mai cumpăr nimic.*  
"That's, I'm not buying anything else."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Explaining Your Physical Condition

### **Mă doare capul și am febră.** "My head hurts and I have a fever."

---

#### In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. **identify body parts**
2. **describe your physical state**
3. **describe an event that led to an injury**

---

## 1. How to identify body parts

---

In this lesson, we will learn about explaining your physical condition, let's first learn the main body parts in Romanian using the chart below.

### Body parts in Romanian

Romanian (gender)	English
<i>cap (n.)</i>	head
<i>față (f.)</i>	face
<i>gât (n.)</i>	neck / throat
<i>ochi (m.)</i>	eyes
<i>nas (n.)</i>	nose
<i>urechi (f.)</i>	ears
<i>gură (f.)</i>	mouth
<i>buze (f.)</i>	lips
<i>braț (n.)</i>	arm
<i>mână (f.)</i>	hand
<i>picioar (n.)</i>	leg / foot
<i>spinare</i>	back
<i>față (f.)</i>	face

---

## 2. How to describe your physical state

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Next, let's learn some phrases that might come in handy if you need to describe your physical state.

In the chart below, we have some of the most frequent phrases, conjugated in 1st person singular present tense.

## Phrases describing physical state

Romanian	English
<i>sunt obosit</i>	I'm tired
<i>mă doare</i>	it hurts
<i>mă ustură</i>	it's prickling
<i>mă înțeapă</i>	it stings
<i>am febră</i>	I have a fever
<i>îmi este frig</i>	I'm cold
<i>îmi este cald</i>	I'm hot
<i>îmi este greață</i>	I feel nauseous
<i>mă simt amețit</i>	I feel dizzy

### 3. How to describe an event that led to an injury

One useful phrase, just in case you might ever need to describe how you injured yourself, is ***m-am lovit la***, which would literally translate as "I hit myself at the..." It actually means "I hit my..."

#### Sentence Pattern

[*m-am lovit la* + body part]

#### Sample sentences

1. *M-am lovit la cap.*  
"I hit my head."
2. *M-am lovit la picior.*  
"I hit my leg."
3. *M-am lovit la față.*  
"I hit my face."

#### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Mă doare capul și am febră.*  
"My head hurts and I have a fever."
2. *Cum te simți?*  
"How do you feel?"
3. *E răceală. Îți dau o aspirină.*  
"It's a cold. I'm giving you an aspirin."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Mă dor picioarele.*  
"My legs hurt."
2. *Mă simt foarte obosit.*  
"I feel very tired."
3. *Mă ustură limba.*  
"My tongue is prickling."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Getting Medical Treatment in Romania

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Another professional area Romanians are arguably good at is medicine. Many talented doctors actually leave to go abroad for better paid careers in medicine, leaving a vacancy in the Romanian health system.

Most of the hospitals are state-run, and while hospital staff are well-trained and experienced, due to low funding, private clinics are cleaner and offer more complete services. However, prices are often higher in clinics than at hospitals.

And while we're discussing health, why don't we learn another fun but weird superstition from Romania? It is believed that if the palm of your right hand itches, you are going to be receiving some money soon. However, if your left hand palm itches, it's going to be the other way around—you're going to be giving away money soon.

### Useful expression

1. *spital*  
"hospital"

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #25 Being a Good Samaritan in Romania

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Romanian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 25

## ROMANIAN

1. Om pe stradă: Ajutor!
2. Masanobu: Sunteți în regulă, domnule?
3. Om pe stradă: Nu mă simt bine.
4. Masanobu: Chem ambulanța imediat.
5. Om pe stradă: Mulțumesc mult, tinere.

## ENGLISH

1. Man on the street: Help!
2. Masanobu: Are you all right, sir?
3. Man on the street: I don't feel well.
4. Masanobu: I'm calling the ambulance right away.
5. Man on the street: Thank you so much, young man.

## VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
imediat	right away	adverb
tânăr	young man	noun

regulă	rule, normality	noun
domn	sir, mister	noun
a chema	to call	verb
ambulanță	ambulance	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Vin imediat.</b> "I'm coming right away."</p>	<p><b>Te caută un tânăr.</b> "A young man is looking for you."</p>
<p><b>Aceasta este regula.</b> "That's the rule."</p>	<p><b>Bună ziua, domnule.</b> "Hello, sir."</p>
<p><b>Cheamă poliția!</b> "Call the police."</p>	<p><b>Am chemat poliția și pompierii.</b> "I called the police and the fireman."</p>
<p><b>Ambulanța este roșie.</b> "The ambulance is red."</p>	<p><b>Suntem două persoane în ambulanță.</b> "We are two persons in the ambulance."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **în regulă** "all right"

**În** is Romanian for "in," as introduced in a previous lesson. **regulă** means "rule." So, literally when everything is "in rule" or "within rule," it is basically everything is "in order" or "all right."

The expression is used to convey the fact that something or someone is in what

can be considered a relatively good state. This phrase can basically be used in both formal and casual scenarios. However, it is slightly more formal than informal.

### For example

1. *Mulțumesc, totul este în regulă.*  
"Thank you, everything is all right."

### ***Nu mă simt bine.*** **"I don't feel well."**

---

**Nu** is "no," **mă** means "myself" (accusative case), while **simt** is 1st person singular of **a simți** ("to feel"), as introduced in the lesson 24. Finally, **bine** means "good," "well."

This phrase is used when you want to say that you don't feel well in order to seek help or to explain your state.

### For example

1. *Stau acasă astăzi pentru că nu mă simt bine.*  
"I'm staying home today because I don't feel well."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Language for Urgent Situations**

### ***Chem ambulanța imediat.*** **"I'm calling the ambulance right away."**

---

### **In this lesson, we will learn how to:**

1. **call for help when there is a fire**
  2. **call for help in case of an incident or accident**
  3. **call the police and ask for them to attend an accident**
-

## 1. How to call for help when there is a fire

---

As we saw an example of calling the ambulance in an emergency in the dialogue of this lesson, let's see how to call for help in Romanian when there is a fire.

### Useful phrases when calling for help in Romanian when there is a fire

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Romanian	English
<i>Alo!</i>	Hello!
<i>Este un incendiu</i>	There is a fire
<i>Foc!</i>	Fire!
<i>pompieri</i>	firemen
<i>Vă rog să veniți la...</i>	Please come to...

Now let's see some **sample sentences**.

1. *Este un incendiu la etajul 2.*  
"There is a fire on the second floor."
2. *Vă rog să chemați pompierii.*  
"Please call the firemen."

## 2. How to call for help in case of an incident or accident

---

Next, let's see some useful phrases in case you witness an incident between people or an accident.

### Useful phrases for calling for help in Romanian in case of an incident or accident

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Romanian	English
<i>poliția</i>	police
<i>ambulanța</i>	ambulance
<i>incident</i>	incident
<i>accident</i>	accident

<i>strada...</i>	...street
<i>ceartă</i>	fight

Let's see a some of these phrases in a couple of **sample sentences**.

1. *Chemați ambulanța acum!*  
"Call the ambulance now!"
2. *Vă rog să veniți la strada Victoriei, numărul 30.*  
"Please come to number 30 Victoriei street."

### 3. How to call the police and ask for them to attend an accident

Now let's see what phrases might be useful when calling the police to come to the scene of a car accident.

#### Useful phrases for calling for police to attend an accident

Romanian	English
<i>mașină</i>	car
<i>tir</i>	truck
<i>urgență</i>	emergency
<i>răniți</i>	injured (n., plural)
<i>Nu sunt răniți</i>	"There are no injuries" (lit. "There are no injured persons")

Now let's see some **sample sentences** below.

1. *O mașină s-a lovit cu un tir.*  
"A car hit a truck."
2. *Din fericire nu sunt răniți.*  
"Fortunately, there are no injuries."

#### Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Nu mă simt bine.*  
"I don't feel well."
2. *Ajutor!*  
"Help!"
3. *Chem ambulanța imediat.*  
"I'm calling the ambulance right away."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Incendiu, chemați pompierii!*  
"Fire, call the fire truck!"
2. *Chem poliția.*  
"I'm calling the police."
3. *Este un accident, vă rog să veniți aici.*  
"Please come here! There was an accident."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Helping Strangers in Urgent Situations in Romania

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Romanians tend to be very open, even with strangers. Unfortunately, one exception is when seeing a fight on the streets. However, most people will get involved and help if they witness an accident.

People will especially be hesitant if they were raised in a big city like Bucharest. This is not usually the case if they were raised in a more rural place.

However, you too should be cautious even when there is an apparent accident on the road, as lately there have been reported cases of theft where a car stops on the side of the road and acts as if it has some technical issues or has been in an accident. Once you stop to help, they steal something from your car while you're concentrating on theirs.

### Useful expression

1. *accident*  
"accident"



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- 3 Are Romanian Watermelons Expensive?
- 4 Don't Lose Track of the Time in Romania!
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