

Unit One

Si jeni?

How are you?

In this unit you will learn about:

- greetings, introductions, farewells
- subject pronouns
- the present indicative of the verbs **jam** 'to be' and **kam** 'to have'
- the interrogative pronoun **kush** 'who'
- negative sentences
- asking and answering yes/no questions
- nationality adjectives
- the definite form of proper nouns
- saying where you are from



Dialogue 1



Mirëmbërëma, si jeni? (CD1; 4)



It's 7 o'clock in the evening. Dea meets Mr. Ardian on the street.

DEA	Mirëmbërëma, zoti Ardian. Si jeni?
ZOTI ARDIAN	Mirëmbërëma, Dea. Jam shumë mirë, faleminderit. Po ti, si je?
DEA	Mirë, faleminderit.
ZOTI ARDIAN	Natën e mirë, Dea.
DEA	Natën e mirë, zoti Ardian!

DEA *Good evening, Mr. Ardian. How are you?*
 MR. ARDIAN *Good evening, Dea. I am very well, thank you. And you, how are you?*
 DEA *Good, thank you.*
 MR. ARDIAN *Have a good night, Dea!*
 DEA *Have a good night, Mr. Ardian!*



Dialogue 2



Si quheni ju? (CD1; 6)

It's 10 o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Arjana, the Albanian teacher, meets her students for the first time.

ZONJA ARJANA *Mirëmëngjes! Unë quhem Arjana. Si quheni ju?*
 DANIEL *Mirëmëngjes! Unë quhem Daniel.*
 ZONJA ARJANA *Gëzohem! Po ju, si¹ quheni?*
 PETER *Unë quhem Peter.*
 ZONJA ARJANA *Më falni, si quheni?*
 PETER *Peter.*
 ZONJA ARJANA *Gëzohem, Peter! Po ju, kush jeni?*
 LURA *Jam Lura.*

MRS. ARJANA *Good morning! My name is Arjana. What is your name?*
 DANIEL *Good morning! My name is Daniel.*
 MRS. ARJANA *I am glad (to meet you)! And you, what is your name?*
 PETER *My name is Peter.*
 MRS. ARJANA *Pardon me, what is your name?*
 PETER *Peter.*
 MRS. ARJANA *I am glad to meet you, Peter! And you, who are you?*
 LURA *I am Lura.*

¹ Another way to ask someone's name is: **Si e keni emrin?** (literally: What do you have it, the name?).

Vocabulary



faleminderit	thank you	quheni	you are called,
gëzohem	Pleased		your name is
	(to meet you) ²	si	how
jam	I am	si je	how are you (2nd sing)?
jeni	are (2nd pl)	si jeni	how are you (2nd pl)?
kush	who	si quheni ⁴	what is your name?
më falni	excuse me		(literally: how are
mirë	well		you called?)
mirëmbrema	Good evening!	shumë	very
mirëmëngjes	Good morning!	ti	you (2nd sing)
natën e mirë	Good night!	unë	I
po³ ju	and you	zonjë	Madam
quhem	I am called,	zoti	Mister
	my name is		

Language points



Greetings

Mirëmëngjes	Good morning
Mirëdita	Good afternoon
Mirëmbrema	Good evening

² Also: **Gëzohem që ju njoh!** 'I am pleased to get to know you!'/**Gëzohem që ju takoj!** 'I am pleased to meet you!'

³ You will see later that **po** has different meanings: **po** = yes, **po** = and (when used in interrogative structures: **po ju?**).

⁴ For the second person singular use: **Si quhesh?**

Farewells

Mirupafshim	Goodbye (used any time, day or night)
Ditën e mirë	Have a good afternoon!
Natën e mirë	Have a good night!/Good night

Subject pronouns

unë	I	ne	we
ti	you	ju	you
ai	he	ata	they (masc)
ajo	she	ato	they (fem)

Subject pronouns are often omitted in Albanian, as the information about the speaker is given by the verb. So you can say: **Unë quhem Arjana** or **Quhem Arjana** for ‘My name is Arjana’ (literally: I am called Arjana).

The pronoun **ju** is used to address an individual formally or to address a group formally or informally.

Ti is the informal form of address for the second person singular. However, it is sometimes used in formal situations. As a foreigner, it is safer to use **ju** with people you don’t know and restrict **ti** to people your age or younger.

There is no equivalent for the pronoun ‘it’ in Albanian. Instead the pronouns **ai** and **ajo** are used, depending on the gender of the subject. As we will see later, all nouns in Albanian are either masculine or feminine.

Ata refers to a group of males or a group of males and females. **Ato** refers to a group of exclusively females. These pronouns may also refer to objects.

The verbs **jam** and **kam** in the present indicative

The verbs **jam** ‘to be’ and **kam** ‘to have’ are irregular. Since Standard Albanian has no infinitives, verbs are usually referred to by the first person singular of the present indicative.

<i>jam</i>			<i>kam</i>		
(unë)	jam	I am	(unë)	kam	I have
(ti)	je	you are	(ti)	ke	you have
(ai, ajo)	është	he/she is	(ai, ajo)	ka	he/she has
(ne)	jemi	we are	(ne)	kemi	we have
(ju)	jeni	you are	(ju)	keni	you have
(ata, ato)	janë	they are	(ata, ato)	kanë	they have

The interrogative pronoun kush 'who'

Kush is the equivalent of the English 'who'.

Kush **jeni ju?** **Unë jam Ana.**

Kush **je ti?** **Unë jam Ana.**

Exercise 1

How would you say the following in Albanian?

- 1 My name is Barbara. (Unë) quhem Barbara.
- 2 How are you?
- 3 I am fine, thank you. And you?
- 4 Very well.
- 5 Good evening!
- 6 Good bye!



Exercise 2

Complete the following dialogues with the correct word from the list.

faleminderit, janë, jeni, mirë, quhem, quheni, si, kush, ajo

- 1 Si **je?** – **Mirë,** _____
- 2 Si _____? – _____ **Mira.**
- 3 _____ **është ajo?** – _____ **është Ana.**
- 4 Si _____? – **Jemi shumë _____, faleminderit.**
- 5 **Ata _____ Peteri dhe (and) Lura.**





Exercise 3

Write the correct forms of the verb **jam** in the present indicative.

- 1 Unë jam **Adriana**.
- 2 Ajo _____ **Alberta**.
- 3 Ata _____ **Peteri dhe Danieli**.
- 4 Ai _____ **Adriani**.
- 5 Ti _____ **Klaudia**.
- 6 Ne _____ **Peteri dhe Klaudia**.
- 7 Ato _____ **Adriana dhe Alberta**.
- 8 Ju _____ **Lura dhe Dea**.



Exercise 4

Write the correct forms of the verb **kam** in the present indicative.

- 1 Unë kam **një vëlla** (a brother).
- 2 Ti _____ **një motër** (a sister).
- 3 Ne _____ **një shok** (a male friend).
- 4 Ai _____ **një shoqe** (a female friend).
- 5 **Adriana dhe ti** _____ **një qen** (a dog).
- 6 **Lura dhe unë** _____ **një mace** (a cat).
- 7 **Ti dhe unë** _____ **një makinë** (a car).
- 8 Ata _____ **një vëlla**.
- 9 Ju _____ **një shok dhe një shoqe**.
- 10 Ajo _____ **një motër dhe një vëlla**.
- 11 Ata _____ **një mace dhe një qen**.
- 12 Ajo _____ **makinë**.



Dialogue 3



Jam shqiptar (CD1; 9)

Dea and Silvio are saying where they are from.

DEA Mirëdita. Unë jam Dea. Jam shqiptare. Jam nga Shqipëria.
Nga jeni ju?

SILVIO Mirëdita, Dea. Unë jam Silvio. Jam nga Italia. Jam italian.

DEA *Good afternoon. I am Dea. I am Albanian. I am from Albania.
Where are you from?*

SILVIO *Good afternoon, Dea. I am Silvio. I am from Italy. I am Italian.*

Dialogue 4



Jam anglez (CD1; 12)



Eduard and Barbara are introducing themselves to each other.

EDUARD *Mirëdita. Unë quhem Eduard. Jam nga Anglia. Jam anglez. Si quheni ju?*

BARBARA *Mirëdita, Eduard. Unë quhem Barbara. Jam amerikane. Jam nga Shtetet e Bashkuara.*

EDUARD *Gëzohem që ju njoh!*

EDUARD *Good afternoon. My name is Eduard. I am from England. I am British. What is your name?*

BARBARA *Good afternoon. My name is Barbara. I am American. I am from the United States.*

EDUARD *Glad to meet you!*

Dialogue 5



Ju jeni gjermane? (CD1; 13)



Rea and Alva are saying their nationality.

REA *Përshëndetje. Më falni, zonjë, ju jeni gjermane?*

ALVA *Jo, nuk jam gjermane.*

REA *Çfarë jeni ju?*

ALVA *Jam franceze. Jam nga Franca.*

REA *Greetings. Excuse me, Madam, are you German?*

ALVA *No, I am not German.*

REA *What (nationality) are you?*
 ALVA *I am French. I am from France.*



Dialogue 6



Ju jeni austriak? (CD1; 14)

Dea and Hans are saying where they are from.

DEA *Zoti Hans, ju jeni austriak?*
 HANS *Po, unë jam nga Vjena. Jam austriak. Po ti, Dea?*
 DEA *Unë jam shqiptare. Jam nga Shqipëria, nga Tirana.*

DEA *Mister Hans, are you Austrian?*
 HANS *Yes, I am from Vienna. I am Austrian. And you, Dea?*
 DEA *I am Albanian. I am from Albania, from Tirana.*



Vocabulary

amerikan , -e	American
anglez , -e	British, English
Angli , -a	England
Austri , -a	Austria
austriak , -e	Austrian
çfarë	what
francez , -e	French (nationality)
Franc/ë , -a	France
Gëzohem që ju njoh!	Pleased to meet you!
gjerman , -e	German
Gjermani , -a	Germany
Itali , -a	Italy
italian , -e	Italian
jo	no
nga	from
Nga jeni ju?	Where are you from?

nuk	not
përshëndetje	greetings
po	yes
s'	not
Shqipëri, -a	Albania
shqiptar, -e	Albanian
Shtetet e Bashkuara	the United States
Tiranë, -a	Tirana
Vjenë, -a	Vienna

Language points



Negative sentences

To make a sentence negative, put **nuk** or **s'** before the verb. Both forms are interchangeable.

Unë nuk jam angleze. I am not English.

Unë s'jam angleze. I am not English.

Asking yes/no questions

There are three ways to ask yes/no questions in Albanian.

- (1) Use an affirmative sentence and rising intonation at the end of the sentence.

Affirmative sentence: **Ju jeni austriak.** You are Austrian.

Interrogative sentence: **Ju jeni austriak?** You are Austrian?

- (2) Invert the subject and the verb. Remember that the subject is used for contrast or emphasis.

Jeni ju austriak? Are you Austrian?

Jeni austriak?

- (3) Use the particle **a** before the inverted verb.

A jeni ju austriak? Are you Austrian?

A jeni austriak?

Note: Use of the particle **a** is optional.

Constructions (2) and (3) are the most common ways to ask yes/no questions. Construction (1) indicates surprise or suggests the speaker assumes the sentence is true and is asking for confirmation.

Answering yes/no questions

To answer affirmatively, use **po** 'yes'.

A jeni ju austriak?	Are you Austrian?
Po, unë jam austriak.	Yes, I'm Austrian.

To answer negatively, use **jo** 'no'.

A jeni ju austriak?	Are you Austrian?
Jo, unë nuk jam austriak.	No, I'm not Austrian.
Jo, unë s'jam austriak.	No, I'm not Austrian.

Nationality adjectives

Adjectives⁵ can be either feminine or masculine, depending on the noun they modify (**Dea** → **shqiptare**, **Silvio** → **italian**, **Eduard** → **anglez**, **Alva** → **franceze**). To form the feminine nationality adjective, add **-e** to the masculine form.

<i>Country</i>		<i>Nationality adjective</i>		<i>Language</i>
		<i>masculine</i>	<i>feminine</i>	
Angli ⁶	Great Britain	anglez	angleze	anglisht
Austri	Austria	austriak	austriake	gjermanisht
Brazil	Brazil	brazilian	braziliane	portugalisht

⁵ There are two classes of adjectives in Albanian. Class 1 adjectives, like nationality adjectives, can be used on their own. As we will see in Unit 2, Class 2 adjectives will require an additional article when used.

⁶ The term **Angli** refers to Great Britain, while the term **anglez/angleze** refers to someone from Great Britain. We also have the terms **skocez/skoceze** for 'Scottish' and **uellsian/uellsiane** for 'Welsh'.

Country		Nationality adjective		Language
		masculine	feminine	
Francë	France	francez	franceze	frëngjisht
Greqi	Greece	grek	greke	greqisht
Gjermani	Germany	gjerman	gjermane	gjermanisht
Itali	Italy	italian	italiane	italisht
Spanjë	Spain	spanjoll	spanjolle	spanjisht
Suedi	Sweden	suedez	suedeze	suedisht
Shqipëri	Albania	shqiptar	shqiptare	shqip
Turqi	Turkey	turk	turke	turqisht

Names of countries are written with capital letters; nationality adjectives are written with lower-case letters.

Asking about nationality

To ask about someone's nationality, you literally say 'what nationality do you have?'. Use **çfarë kombësie** or **ç'kombësi** for 'what nationality'. For the moment, notice the different forms: **kombësie** used with **çfarë** and **kombësi** used with **ç'**.

Çfarë kombësie keni?

What is your nationality?

Ç'kombësi keni?

What is your nationality?

The indefinite form of proper nouns

In Albanian all nouns are either masculine or feminine (this is what we call 'grammatical gender'). Generally, masculine nouns end in a consonant while feminine nouns end in a vowel. Proper nouns (names of a person, country, city, etc.) also follow this general rule for gender.

Masculine nouns:

Ëngjëll, Gëzim, Zamir, etc.

Masculine countries:

Brazil 'Brazil', **Egjipt** 'Egypt', etc.

Feminine nouns: **Luljetë, Linditë, Dhuratë, Teutë,**⁷ etc.
 Feminine countries: **Shqipëri** 'Albania', **Greqi** 'Greece',
Gjermani 'Germany'

Using proper nouns as subjects

Albanian has five basic cases. They are: nominative, accusative, dative, genitive and ablative. Each case is associated with particular functions within the sentence (subject of the sentence, direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition, possession, modifier, etc.). In this lesson we will concentrate on the nominative case. As we will see below, nouns have different forms depending on whether they are definite or indefinite. This is due to the fact that in Albanian the definite article follows rather than precedes the noun and forms one word with the noun. Thus to say 'the house', you would say the equivalent of 'house-the'.

Subjects always appear in the nominative case in Albanian. When using a proper noun as a subject, we must use its **nominative definite form**.

Albana dhe Zamiri janë nga Shqipëria.

Albana and Zamir are from Albania.

Shqipëria është në Evropë.

Albania is in Europe.

Apply the following rules to form the nominative definite form of a noun:

- (i) If the masculine noun ends in **-k**, **-g** or **-h**, add **-u**.

Indefinite

Definite

Mark

→

Marku

Luksemburg

→

Luksemburgu

⁷ The indefinite forms of proper nouns are especially common in Kosovo. In Albania, these feminine nouns are used in their definite form, hence, **Luljeta, Lindita, Dhurata, Teuta**, etc.

- (ii) If the masculine noun ends in a consonant other than **-k**, **-g** or **-h**, add **-i**.

<i>Indefinite</i>		<i>Definite</i>
Zamir	→	Zamiri
Egjipt	→	Egjipti

- (iii) If the feminine noun ends in **-ë**, replace the final **-ë** with **-a**.

<i>Indefinite</i>		<i>Definite</i>
Luljetë	→	Luljeta
Tiranë	→	Tirana
Francë	→	Franca

- (iv) If the noun ends in a stressed **-i**, add **-a**.

<i>Indefinite</i>		<i>Definite</i>
Shqipëri	→	Shqipëria
Greqi	→	Greqia

Saying where you are from

To say where you are from, use the verb **jam** 'to be' followed by the preposition **nga** 'from'. **Nga** must always be followed by the **nominative definite form** of the noun.

Gëzimi është nga Tirana.

Gëzim is from Tirana.

Eduardi nuk është nga Gjermania; është nga Brazili.

Eduard is not from Germany, he is from Brazil.

To ask someone where he/she is from, you ask: **Nga jeni ju?/Nga je ti?** 'Where are you from?'

Calling someone by his/her name

When calling someone by his/her name, use the definite form for feminine nouns.

Dhurata, Albana! **Hajdeni**⁸ **këtu!**
Mirëdita, Teuta!

Dhurata, Albana! Come here!
 Good morning, Teuta!

Use the indefinite form for masculine nouns.

Mirëdita, Eduard!
 Zamir, **hajde** **këtu!**

Good morning, Eduard!
 Zamir, come here!

When calling someone by a title (**zoti**, **zonja**, **zonjushë**), also use the indefinite form for masculine nouns and the definite form for feminine nouns.⁹

Zoti Gëzim!
Zonja Barbara!
Zonjushë Albana!

Mr. Gëzim!
 Mrs. Barbara!
 Miss Albana!

With job titles, always use the definite form, both with masculine and feminine nouns.

Profesor Gëzimi!
Mësuese Ingridi!
Doktor Eduardi!

Professor Gëzimi!
 Teacher Ingrid!¹⁰
 Doctor Eduard!



Exercise 5

Answer the following questions.

- 1 **Çfarë jeni ju?** (Austrian) Unë jam austriak/austriake.
- 2 **Çfarë është ajo?** (Italian)

⁸ The word **hajde** is used in different Balkan languages and has many meanings. In this example, it is used as a verb and means 'to come'. **Hajdeni** is the plural second person form; the singular second person form is **hajde**.

⁹ When used as subjects, the title usually appears in its definite form:

Zoti Gëzim është shqiptar.

Mr. Gëzim is Albanian.

Zonja Barbara është shqiptare.

Mrs. Barbara is Albanian.

Zonjushë/Zonjusha Albana është shqiptare.

Miss Barbara is Albanian.

¹⁰ Although the name **Ingrid** is a woman's name, it follows the rules for masculine nouns because it ends in a consonant.

- 3 **Çfarë është ai?** (British)
- 4 **Çfarë je ti?** (Albanian)
- 5 **Çfarë jam unë?** (French)

Exercise 6

Answer the following questions.



- 1 **Nga është Gëzimi?** (Albania) Gëzimi është nga Shqipëria.
- 2 **Nga është Iliri?** (Kosovo)
- 3 **Nga është Tomi?** (United States)
- 4 **Nga është zoti Smith?** (England)
- 5 **Nga janë zonja Julia dhe zoti Adrien?** (Germany, France)

Exercise 7

Answer the following questions about these people's nationalities.



- 1 **Shekspiri është anglez?** Po, Shekspiri është anglez.
- 2 **Marylin Monroe është franceze?**
- 3 **Moxarti është gjerman?**
- 4 **Elvis Presley është italian?**
- 5 **Salvador Dalí është spanjoll?**
- 6 **Armani është francez?**

Exercise 8

Translate the following sentences.



- 1 I am not American. I am Albanian. Unë nuk jam amerikan(e).
Jam shqiptar(e).
- 2 Anton, are you from Spain?
- 3 We are from England.
- 4 Antonia is Italian.
- 5 Maria is not Italian. She is Spanish.
- 6 Mrs. Ana, are you from Kosovo?
- 7 Tansu is from Turkey.

Exercise 9

Based on the reading below, answer the following questions:



- 1 **Nga është Bledi?**
- 2 **Çfarë është Bledi?**

- 3 A ka Bledi vëlla?
- 4 A ka Bledi motër?
- 5 Nga është Tomi?
- 6 A ka Tomi motër?
- 7 Si quhet ajo?
- 8 A ka ajo mace?
- 9 A ka Danieli (një) qen?
- 10 Si quhet qeni?



(CD1; 16)

Bledi

Bledi është nga Shqipëria, nga Tirana. Bledi është student. Ai ka një vëlla. Vëllai quhet Tedi. Ai është dentist. Tedi ka një shok anglez. Ai quhet Tomi. Tomi është nga Londra. Tomi ka një vëlla dhe një motër. Vëllai quhet Daniel. Motra quhet Alberta. Danieli është ekonomist. Alberta është pianiste. Danieli ka një qen. Alberta ka një mace. Qeni quhet Xhufi dhe macja quhet Pisika.



Vocabulary

dentist	dentist (masc)
ekonomist	economist (masc)
pianiste	pianist (fem)
quhet	he/she is called



Exercise 10

Based on the reading in Exercise 9, is the following information about Bledi true or false? If the information is false, provide the correct information.

- 1 Bledi është nga Italia. T F _____
- 2 Bledi është nga Roma. T F _____
- 3 Bledi ka një vëlla. T F _____
- 4 Bledi ka një motër. T F _____
- 5 Bledi ka një shok anglez. T F _____
- 6 Bledi ka një mace. T F _____

Culture point



As in most countries, Albanians shake hands or kiss each other on the cheeks two or three times when meeting.

Albanian gestures for showing disagreement or agreement are different. To say 'no', Albanians typically nod up and down. To say 'yes,' they move the head from left to right a couple of times.