

How many Slovenes do their homework?

Slovene (or Slovenian) is the language of Slovenia, a small country bordering on Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Italy. Slovenian is spoken by almost two million people and is related to other Slavic languages such as Russian and Czech.

Agnes, Gregor, and the twins Darija and Darko are students from Bežigrad Grammar school in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

Slovenian does not have articles such as “the” and “a”.

Here are some sentences in Slovenian with English translations:

	Slovenian Sentences	English Translation
1.	Dvojčka delata domačo nalogo.	The twins do the homework.
2.	Darija pravi: “Darko in jaz delava domačo nalogo”.	Darija says: “Darko and I do the homework”.
3.	Mi tri delamo domačo nalogo.	We three do the homework.
4.	Darija in Darko hodita v šolo.	Darija and Darko walk to school.
5.	Včasih, Agnes in dvojčka hodijo v šolo.	Sometimes, Agnes and the twins walk to school.
6.	Darko pravi: “Včasih, Darija in Agnes in jaz hodimo v šolo”.	Darko says: “Sometimes, Darija and Agnes and I walk to school”.
7.	Darija pravi: “Darko in jaz hodiva v šolo”.	Darija says: “Darko and I walk to school”.
8.	Dvojčka hodita v šolo.	The twins walk to school.

1. Translate the following into Slovenian:

(a) The twins say: “We do the homework”.

(b) Agnes and Gregor do the homework.

(c) Sometimes, Agnes and Gregor walk to school.

(d) Sometimes, the twins and Gregor do the homework.

Here are some extra words:

Slovenian	English
volk	wolf / the wolf
trojčki	triplets / the triplets
v gozdu	in the wood
dve	two
štiri	four

2. Translate the following sentences into English:

(a) Trojčki delajo domačo nalogo.

(b) Dve volkova hodita v gozdu.

3. Translate the following into Slovenian:

(a) The triplets walk in the woods.

(b) The twins walk in the woods.

(c) Darija walks in the woods.

(d) Four wolves walk in the woods.

Slovenian SOLUTION and explanation

1. (a) Dvojčka pravita: "Mi delava domačo nalogo".

(b) Agnes in Gregor delata domačo nalogo.

(c) Včasih, Agnes in Gregor hodita v šolo.

(d) Včasih, dvojčka in delajo domačo nalogo.

2. (a) The triplets do the homework.

(b) Two wolves walk in the woods.

3. Translate the following into Slovenian:

(a) Trojčki hodijo v gozdu.

(b) Dvojčka hodita v gozdu.

(c) Darija hodi v gozdu

(d) Štiri volkovi hodijo v gozdu.

Slovenian distinguishes "dual" and "plural", for two or more than two respectively. The verb endings are as follows:

	singular	dual	plural
1st person "we"	(not shown)	-va	-mo
3rd person "he", "she", "they"	(stem only)	-ta	-jo

Similarly, nouns have different endings

for dual "-a" (dvojčka twins)

and

plural "-i" (trojčki - triplets)