

The keyboard locations of non-pulmonic consonants as a mnemonic for use of the preposition 'with' in Slovenian grammar

Položaji nezvenečih črk na tipkovnici kot mnemonični pripomoček za uporabo predlogov 'z' in 's' v slovenski slovnici

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Abstract

Non-pulmonic consonants are located on the keyboard by some rules, which are quite simple and memorable. These rules can be used for a mnemonic which helps to remember how to put Slovenian options of preposition 'with' in Slovenian grammar. This is also a mnemonic for learning of touch typing and to memorize non-pulmonic consonants.

Nezveneče črke (ali glasovi) so na tipkovnici razporejeni po določenem pravilu, ki je dosti enostavno in zapomnljivo. To pravilo lahko uporabimo za mnemonični pripomoček ki si nam pomaga zapomniti si kako postaviti predloge 's' in 'z' v slovenski slovnici. To je tudi mnemonični pripomoček za učenje slepega tipkanja in mnemonični pripomoček za zapomnjenje nezvenečih črk.

1 The non-pulmonic consonants on the keyboard as a mnemonic

I will show how we can use locations of non-pulmonic consonants on the keyboard as a mnemonic to remember the rule where to put prepositions 's' and 'z' in Slovenian sentences.

In Table 1, let us look the locations of non-pulmonic consonants on the English keyboard.

Table 1: On keyboard, non-pulmonic consonants are shown as bold and uppercase, and pulmonic consonants are shown as non-bold and lowercase.

Q	w	e	r	T	y	u	i	o	P
a	S	d	F	g	H	j	K	l	
z	x	C	v	b	n	m			

It is evident in Table 1 that the locations of the majority of the non-pulmonic consonants form a pattern, this means that the two Slovenian non-pulmonic consonants in the first row are uniformly distributed, i.e. they are in the 5th and the 10th place. In the second row they are also uniformly distributed, i.e. they are on all even places.

Only the third row does not contain such a rule, but

- according to the location of 'C' it is essentially that the sibilants, [1] these are 'Z', 'S' and 'C', form one triangle.
- It can be additionally remembered that letters 'Q', 'S' and 'C' form a line, the same is true for 'S', 'F' and 'T', and that 'Q', 'S', 'C', 'F', 'T', 'H', 'M', and 'P' form a zigzag pattern. (Of course, 'M' is a pulmonic consonant. But additionally, 'P' is close to this zigzag.)
- The first row contains 2^1 of these letters, the second row contains 2^2 of them, and the third row contains 2^0 of them.
- In the first row, the first Slovenian non-pulmonic consonant is in the 5th place. In the second row the first non-pulmonic consonant is in the second place, and in the third row the only non-pulmonic consonant is in the $(5 - 2)$ th place.

'G', 'H' and 'K' are also their own group of letters because " *Softening/palatalization is a change (voice peculiarity) in which the sounds 'K', 'G', 'H', before 'I' and 'E' are replaced by 'Č', 'Ž', 'Š': roka - ročica (a hand - a small hand), noga - nožica (a foot - a small foot), sneg - snežinka (snow - a snowflake).* " [1] On the keyboard, these three letters are together, if we look only at the non-pulmonic consonants and 'G', but we should be aware that 'G' is a pulmonic consonant.¹

Non-pulmonic consonants also include 'Q' and slightly disturb the above order mentioned in the first row. However, it is not used in Slovenian language.

In Table 2, let us look this on the Slovenian keyboard.

Table 2: Unlike the English keyboard, three Slovenian postalveolar consonants and two Croatian ones have been added.

Q	w	e	r	T	z	u	i	o	P	Š	đ
a	S	d	F	g	H	j	K	l	Č	Ć	ž
y	x	C	v	b	n	m					

Here we can help ourselves that all the even letters in the second line to 'Č' are non-pulmonic consonants. Then, because of 'S' and 'Č', we can conclude that 'Š', 'C' and 'Ć' must also be non-pulmonic consonants. This is also a additional mnemonic aid as to why 'C' must be an non-pulmonic consonant.

A square of four non-pulmonic consonants was so created by this Slovenian/Croatian appendix, which is also a mnemonic aid.

The mnemonic about these non-pulmonic consonants that is already known: [2] *Ta suhi škafec pušča.* (It means: *This dry small cupboard is leaking.*) In it, we underlined the consonants, which all are also non-pulmonic ones. This sentence contains all Slovenian non-pulmonic consonants. Words beginning with these consonants are always preceded by the preposition 's', otherwise there is the preposition 'z'.

The above keyboard example, unlike this mnemonic sentence, is spatial rather than verbal. In addition to help us at the Slovenian grammar, there is also a mnemonic tool for remembering non-pulmonic consonants letters and a mnemonic tool for learning touch typing.

The problem with many mnemonics is that only the simple ones are chosen, and upgrades with the somewhat mathematically sophisticated ones do not occur, although they are even more memorable. Almost everyone can have benefits from knowledge of touch typing, thus it is not a waste of time to learn some grammar rule in a little more time than from the above mnemonic sentence.

As an additional curiosity and mnemonic tool, let us look at the example of the Slovenian word 'TIH' or its English translation 'SILENT'. Both have two non-pulmonic consonants, so quieter letters were used inadvertently.

¹Probably something like Table 1 already exists, but I found out this for myself.

2 Nezveneče črke na tipkovnici, kot mnemonični pripomoček

Pokazal bom, kako si s položajem nezvenečih črk na tipkovnici naredimo mnemonični pripomoček, da si zapomnimo pravilo, kje v slovenski slovnici postavimo predlog 's', kje pa 'z'.

Poglejmo položaj nezvenečih črk na angleski tipkovnici na Tabeli 3.

Table 3: Nezveneče črke na tipkovnici so prikazane kot velike potemnjene črke, ostale pa kot male nepotemnjene črke.

Q	w	e	r	T	y	u	i	o	P
a	S	d	F	g	H	j	K	l	
z	x	C	v	b	n	m			

Na tabeli lahko opazimo, da lokacija večine nezvenečih črk na tipkovnici tvori vzorec, to pomeni, nezveneči slovenski črki v prvi vrstici sta enakomerno porazdeljeni, to je na petem in desetem mestu. Ravno tako so enakomerno porazdeljene v drugi vrstici, to je na vseh sodih mestih.

Le v tretji vrstici ni takšne zakonitosti, vendar

- pa je glede lokacije 'C' bistveno, da so sičniki, [1] to so 'Z', 'S' in 'C', na tej tipkovnici skupaj in tvorijo trikotnik.
- Si pa lahko še dodatno zapomnimo, da so črke 'Q', 'S' in 'C' postavljene v liniji, enako črke 'C', 'F' in 'T' ter, da 'Q', 'S', 'C', 'F', 'T', 'H', 'M' in 'P' tvorijo cikcak vzorec. (Seveda 'M' je zveneča črka. Toda dodatno, 'P' je zelo blizu temu cikcak-u.)
- V prvi vrsti je 2^1 teh črk, v drugi vrsti jih je 2^2 , in v tretji vrsti jih je 2^0 .
- V prvi vrsti je prva slovenska nezveneča črka na petem mestu, v drugi vrsti je prva na drugem mestu, in v tretji vrsti je edina na $(5 - 2)$ -gem mestu.

Tudi 'G', 'H' in 'K' so svoja skupina črk, ker "Mehčanje/palatalizacija je premena (glasovna posebnost), pri kateri se glasovi 'K', 'G', 'H', pred 'I' in 'E' zamenjajo s 'Č', 'Ž', 'Š': roka – ročica, noga – nožica, sneg – snežinka." [1] Na tipkovnici so te tri črke skupaj, če gledamo samo nezveneče črke in 'G', toda moramo se zavedati, da je 'G' zveneča črka.²

Med nezveneče soglasnike spada tudi 'Q' in nekoliko zmoti urejenost prve vrstice. Vendar se ne uprablja v slovenskem jeziku.

Poglejmo to še na slovenski tipkovnici na Tabeli 4.

Table 4: Za razliko od angleške tipkovnice so dodani še trije slovenski šumniki in dve hrvaška.

Q	w	e	r	T	z	u	i	o	P	Š	đ
a	S	d	F	g	H	j	K	l	Č	Ć	ž
y	x	C	v	b	n	m					

Tu si lahko pomagamo s tem, da so vse sode črke v srednji vrsti do "Č" nezveneče. Potem zaradi 'S' in 'Č' sklepamo, da morajo biti nezveneči tudi 'Š', 'C' in 'Ć'. To pa je tudi mnemonični pripomoček, zakaj mora biti 'C' nezveneča črka.

²Verjetno kaj podobnega, kot Tabela 3 že obstaja, vendar to sem sam ugotovil.

Ustvaril se je tudi kvadrater ob nezvenečih črk of slovensko/hrvaškem dodatku, kar je tudi mnemonični pripomoček.

Mnemonični pripomoček, ki ga že poznamo za te nezveneče črke: [2] *Ta suhi škafec pušča*. V njem smo podčrtali soglasnike, ki so vsi tudi nezveneči. Ta stavek vsebuje vse slovenske nezveneče soglasnike. Pred besedami, ki se začnejo s temi soglasniki, je vedno predlog 's', sicer pa je tam predlog 'z'.

Zgornji primer s tipkovnico je za razliko od tega mnemoničnega pripomočka prostorski, namesto besedni. Poleg pomoči pri slovenski slovnici je še mnemonični pripomoček za to, katere so nezveneče črke, in mnemonični pripomoček pri učenju slepega tipkanja.

Problem pri mnogih mnemoničnih pripomočkih je, da se izberejo samo enostavni, do nadgraditve z nekoliko matematično sofisticiranimi pa ne pride, čeprav so še bolj zapomnljivi. Skoraj vsakdo ima lahko koristi od znanja slepega tipkanja, zato ni zapravljanje časa, če nekdo za učenje nekega slovničnega pravila porabi nekoliko več časa, kot iz zgornjega mnemoničnega stavka.

Kot dodatno zanimivost in mnemonični pripomoček si pogledjmo primer slovenske besede 'TIH' ali njenega angleškega prevoda 'SILENT'. Obe imata dve nezveneči črki, torej sta bili nenamerno uporabljeni bolj tihi črki.

References

- [1] Klementina Podvršnik, Marijana Klemenčič Glavica, Nataša Kralj, Mateja Črv Sužnik, "SLOVENŠČINA 1," "PRAVOREČJE | Soglasniki | Posebnosti," <<https://eucbeniki.sio.si/slo1/2172/index3.html>>.
- [2] AdriatIQa ATE Globalis d.o.o., "Ste na kavi s Zoisom ali z Zoisom?," <<https://www.adriatiqa.com/sl/ste-na-kavi-s-zoisom-ali-z-zoisom/>>.