



## Lesson 3: How much?

Колко kolko

### LESSON NOTES

In Bulgarian, “how much” is “kolko” (колко). Shopping, at the market, at an eatery, depending on your spending habits this may be an extremely high frequency phrase!

The most rudimentary way of using “how much” is pointing at something while saying “kolko,” but let’s expand our vocabulary with the expression “how much is this” which in Bulgarian is “kolko struva tova” (колко струва това). The first word “kolko” means “how much.” This is followed by “struva” (струва) which is the Bulgarian equivalent of the verb “cost.” The third word in the expression is “tova” (това) and means “this.”

Looking at the word for “this”, warrants a look at the word for “that” which is “onova” (онова). The phrase “how much is that” is “kolko struva onova” (колко струва онова).

### PHRASES

Bulgarian	Romanized	English
колко струва това	kolko struva tova	how much is this
колко струва онова	kolko struva onova	how much is that
колко струва тази пица	kolko struva тази pizza	how much is that pizza
колко струва това, моля	kolko struva tova, molya	how much is this, please
колко струва онова, моля	kolko struva onova, molya	how much is that, please

### VOCABULARY

Bulgarian	Romanized	English
колко	kolko	how much

### QUICK TIP

It’s time for another reminder that unlike English nouns, Bulgarian nouns that refer to inanimate objects have different genders. For instance, a “table” – “masa” (маса) in Bulgarian – is a “she” while “chair” – “stol” (стол) – is a “he”. Under these linguistic circumstances, “tova” (това) and “onova” (онова), the Bulgarian equivalents of “this” and “that” should be used when you want

to express something along the lines of “this thing” or “that thing” where the gender of “thing” is neutral in Bulgarian and you won’t have to worry about achieving gender agreement between “this” – your indicator word – and the noun you are indicating.

In other words, if you don’t know what gender “pizza” (пица) is in Bulgarian, just say: “kolko struva tova” or “kolko struva onova” while pointing at it. Saying “kolko struva tova pizza” is grammatically incorrect as “pizza” is a “she” in Bulgarian and requires the indicator “tazi” before a noun in the feminine: “kolko struva тази pizza” (колко струва тази пица) would be the correct expression in this case.

## QUICK TIP 2

An extra level of politeness can go a long way in Bulgaria and in the context of today’s lesson, you can achieve that effect by adding the magic word “please” at the end of each expression: “How much is this, please” is “kolko struva tova, моля” (колко струва това, моля) and respectively, “how much is that, please” is “kolko struva onova, моля” (колко струва онова, моля).

Prices in Bulgarian urban areas are almost always fixed. A lack of price tag is not an invitation to a bargaining session which will usually not bring about a price reduction. Hence, be advised that you should bargain only if local people you trust say it is okay to do so.