



**Mezikulturní  
programy**  
*Česká republika*

Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Beginner's Guide  
to  
Czech Language

Basic vocabulary & grammar  
for AFS-students in CZE

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# Introduction

This booklet can help you to learn Czech language during the first months of your stay. The sooner you start learning our language, the sooner you'll be able to get around by yourself, make new friends, discover new activities... Using this "beginner's guide" is a first step towards a more interesting life in the Czech Republic, so make the most of it!

The first part explains basic pronunciation rules. Of course it's quite hard to explain pronunciation in a written text, but at least it's a start. If you're having doubts, just go online and try to find some recordings of Czech words.

The second part is a mini-dictionary. The words you'll need in daily life are arranged by a couple of themes, like "school", "food", "family"... You can try to learn a couple of words every day. Decide for yourself which ones are most useful for you to know and start with those.

In the third part we've included an introduction to some grammar rules. Depending on your native language, some things may seem quite complicated, or fairly easy. Don't worry too much about it though. It's just some basics, the real language you'll learn by practising.

We truly hope this will help you to understand and speak Czech more easily. It might seem very hard sometimes, but remember that many students succeeded in the past, and so can you! Just try a little bit every day and practise, practise, practise...

# Pronunciation

## Vowels

### Short vowels

<b>a</b>	u in but, a in father	<b>o</b>	o in hot, but more rounded
<b>e</b>	e in ten	<b>u</b>	u in put
<b>i</b>	y in happy	<b>y</b>	y in happy

### Long vowels

In general these sounds are the same as the short vowels but pronounced about 1,75 times as long. Long vowels are marked by an „accent“ (čárka). This does NOT indicate that the syllable is stressed, only that the sound of the vowel is longer. The meaning of the word can be different depending on the length of the vowel, so try to pronounce the difference between a long and a short vowel clearly.

**á** **é** **í** **ó** **ú** **û** (same sound as **ú**) **ý**

### Special vowel

**ě** ye in yes

### Diphthongs

**ou** ow in show **au** ow in now

## Consonants

### Same as in English

The following consonants have the same sound as the ones in English:

**b d f g l m n s v z**

The following consonants have sounds that also exist in English, but are represented by different letters:

<b>c</b>	ts in bits	<b>j</b>	y in yes
<b>č</b>	ch in church	<b>š</b>	sh in shock

### Similar to English

<b>k, p, t</b>	never aspirated!	<b>ž</b>	similar to s in vision
<b>h</b>	always voiced, as in ham	<b>r</b>	rolled, like in Spanish

### Non-existent in English

<b>d'</b>	almost d in dune, there should be a soft y-sound (as in yes) following the sound of d
<b>ch</b>	ch in loch (Scottish) or Bach (German)
<b>ň</b>	almost n in new, there should be a soft y-sound (as in yes) following the sound of n
<b>ř</b>	combine the sound of a (rolling) r and sh at the same time
<b>t'</b>	almost t in tune, there should be a soft y-sound (as in yes) following the sound of t

# Vocabulary

When speaking Czech, you'll notice it's important to know whether a noun is masculine, feminine or neutral. To make it easier for you, we'll be using colours to indicate the grammatical gender of the word. When you arrive to the Czech Republic, AFS will provide you with a textbook, which uses the same system to indicate the type of the words.

Masculine (animate)	<b>dark blue</b>
Masculine (inanimate)	<b>light blue</b>
Feminine	<b>orange</b>
Neutral	<b>green</b>

All other types of words (adjectives, verbs, adverbs...) are simply printed in black.

## Home

### Buildings & rooms

house	<b>dům</b>
apartment	<b>byt</b>
balcony	<b>balkon</b>
bathroom	<b>koupelna</b>
kitchen	<b>kuchyň</b>
dining room	<b>jídlna</b>
room	<b>pokoj</b>
building	<b>budova</b>
stairs	<b>schody</b> (plural)
garage	<b>garáž</b>
garden	<b>zahrada</b>
wall	<b>stěna</b>
hall	<b>chodba</b>
living room	<b>obýván</b>
toilet	<b>záchod</b>
basement	<b>sklep</b>

floor	<b>podlaha</b>
terrace	<b>terasa</b>

### Things

plant	<b>rostlina</b>
door	<b>dveře</b> (plural)
television	<b>televize</b>
window	<b>okno</b>
clock	<b>hodiny</b> (plural)
toothbrush	zubní <b>kartáček</b>
toothpaste	zubní <b>pasta</b>
hair dryer	<b>fén</b>
towel	<b>ručník</b>
lamp	<b>lampa</b>
bed	<b>postel</b>
drawer	<b>šuplík</b>
chair	<b>židle</b>
shelf	<b>polička</b>

## Family

family	<b>rodina</b>
grandfather	<b>dědeček, děda</b>
grandmother	<b>babička</b>
brother	<b>bratr</b>
sister	<b>sestra</b>
mother (formal)	<b>matka</b>
father (formal)	<b>otec</b>
mother (informal)	<b>maminka, máma</b>
father (informal)	<b>tatínek, táta</b>
uncle	<b>strýc</b>

aunt	<b>teta</b>
husband	<b>manžel</b>
wife	<b>manželka</b>
son	<b>syn</b>
daughter	<b>dcera</b>
cousin	<b>bratranec, sestřenice</b>
parents	<b>rodiče</b> (plural)
nephew	<b>synovec</b>
niece	<b>neteř</b>
marital status	rodinný <b>stav</b>

married (man) ženatý (**muž**)  
 married (woman) vdaná (**žena**)

divorced  
 single

rozvedený/rozvedená  
 svobodný/svobodná

## Personal data

personal data osobní **údaje** (plural)  
 @ **zavináč**  
 postal code poštovní směrovací **číslo**  
 electronic mail elektronická **pošta**  
 number **číslo**  
 floor **patro**

first první  
 second druhý  
 third třetí  
 point **tečka**  
 residence **bydliště**  
 telephone **telefon**

## School & work

### Subjects in school

subject **předmět**  
 biology **biologie**  
 phys. education tělesná **výchova**  
 physics **fyzika**  
 geography **zeměpis**  
 informatic **informatika**  
 literature **literatura**  
 math **matematika**  
 chemistry **chemie**  
 break **přestávka**  
 religion **náboženství**

### Things

thing, things **věc, věci**  
 high school **gymnázium**  
 school **škola**  
 library **knihovna**  
 pen **propiska**  
 eraser **guma**  
 class **třída**  
 notebook **sešit**  
 dictionary **slovník**  
 pencil case **penál**  
 pencil **tužka**  
 book **kniha, knížka**  
 map **mapa**  
 table **stůl**  
 backpack **batoh**  
 computer **počítač**  
 paper **papír**  
 trash bin odpadkový **koš**

blackboard **tabule**  
 chair **židle**

### Professions

profession **povolání**  
 lawyer **právník, právnička**  
 actor **herec, herečka**  
 architect **architekt, architektka**  
 waiter **číšník, servírka**  
 singer **zpěvák, zpěvačka**  
 chef **kuchař, kuchařka**  
 dentist **zubař, zubařka**  
 electrician **elektrikář**  
 businessman **podnikatel**  
 doctor **lékař/doktor, lékařka**  
 model **model, modelka**  
 musician **hudebník, hudebnice**  
 laborer **dělník, dělnice**  
 painter **malíř, malířka**  
 policeman **policista, policistka**  
 assistant **asistent, asistentka**  
 taxi driver **taxikář, taxikářka**  
 salesman **prodavač, prodavačka**

### Workplace

workplace **pracoviště**  
 clinic **klinika**  
 company **firma**  
 studio **studio, ateliér**  
 fabric **továrna**  
 hospital **nemocnice**  
 office **kancelář**  
 shop **obchod**

## Free time

### Basics

activity	<b>aktivita</b>
free time	volný <b>čas</b>
cinema	<b>kino</b>
concert	<b>koncert</b>
culture	<b>kultura</b>
sport	<b>sport</b>
style	<b>styl</b>
exhibition	<b>výstava</b>
favorite	oblíbený
gym	<b>posilovna</b>
music	<b>hudba</b>
nature	<b>příroda</b>
movie	<b>film</b>
theater	<b>divadlo</b>
martial arts	bojová <b>umění</b>
dance	<b>tanec</b>

### Activities

to go lay down	jít spát
to have breakfast	snídat
to have lunch	obědovat
to have dinner	večeřet
to drink	pít
to eat	jíst
to buy	nakupovat , koupit
to sleep	spát

to stand up	vstávat
to dance	tancovat
to take a bath	vykoupat se
to walk	chodit, jít
to have a rest	odpočívat
to do sports	sportovat
to take pictures	fotit
to play	hrát
to swim	plavat
to travel	cestovat
to ski	lyžovat
to exercise	cvičit
to ride (bicycle)	jezdit (na kole)
to go out	vyjít si, jít ven
to drive	řít

### Events

event	<b>událost</b>
championship	<b>turnaj, mistrovství</b>
race	<b>závod</b>
contest	<b>soutěž</b>
festival	<b>festival</b>
party	<b>slavnost</b>
fireworks	<b>ohňostroj</b>
orchestra	<b>orchestr</b>
course	<b>kurz, workshop</b>

## Places & getting around

### Places

place	<b>místo</b>
bar	<b>bar, hospoda</b>
house	<b>dům</b>
cottage	<b>chalupa, chata</b>
center	<b>centrum</b>
city	<b>město</b>
town	malé <b>město</b>
village	<b>vesnice</b>
hotel	<b>hotel</b>
monument	<b>památka</b>
pool	<b>bazén</b>
restaurant	<b>restaurace</b>
square, place	<b>náměstí</b>
corner	<b>roh</b>

### Shops

shop	<b>obchod</b>
butcher's	<b>řeznictví</b>
fruit shop	<b>ovoce</b>
delicatessen	<b>uzenářství</b>
market	<b>trh, tržiště</b>
bakery	<b>pekárna</b>
fish shop	<b>rybárna</b>
supermarket	<b>supermarket</b>
vegetables shop	<b>zelenina</b>
drugstore	<b>drogérie</b>
drugstore (pills)	<b>lékárna</b>
open	otevřeno
closed	zavřeno

## Transportation

transport	<b>doprava</b>
by foot	pěšky
metro	<b>metro</b>
stop (place)	<b>zastávka</b>
port, harbour	<b>přístav</b>
tram	<b>tramvaj</b>
train	<b>vlak</b>
to get (to a place)	přijít, přijet

## City life

in the city	ve <b>městě</b>
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## Time

### Basics

time	<b>čas</b>
when?	kdy?
now	ted'
day	<b>den</b>
night	<b>noc</b>
tomorrow	zítra
today	dnes, dneska
yesterday	včera
2 days ago	předevčím
morning	<b>ráno, dopoledne</b>
noon	<b>poledne</b>
afternoon	<b>odpoledne</b>
evening	<b>večer</b>
soon	brzy
late	pozdě
last night	včera <b>večer</b>
hour	<b>hodina</b>
minute	<b>minuta</b>

### Days

Monday	<b>pondělí</b>
Tuesday	<b>úterý</b>
Wednesday	<b>středa</b>
Thursday	<b>čtvrtek</b>
Friday	<b>pátek</b>
Saturday	<b>sobota</b>
Sunday	<b>neděle</b>
weekend	<b>víkend</b>
week	<b>týden</b>

bank
atm
football field
castle
cathedral
mall
cybercafé
police station
ice cream shop
church
postal office
park

<b>banka</b>
<b>bankomat</b>
fotbalové <b>hřiště</b>
<b>hrad</b>
<b>katedrála</b>
obchodní <b>centrum</b>
internetová <b>kavárna</b>
policejní <b>stanice</b>
<b>zmrzlinárna</b>
<b>kostel</b>
<b>pošta</b>
<b>park</b>

### Months

month	<b>měsíc</b>
January	<b>leden</b>
February	<b>únor</b>
March	<b>březen</b>
April	<b>duben</b>
May	<b>květen</b>
June	<b>červen</b>
July	<b>červenec</b>
August	<b>srpen</b>
September	<b>září</b>
October	<b>říjen</b>
November	<b>listopad</b>
December	<b>prosinec</b>
year	<b>rok</b>

### Frequency

how often?	jak často?
always	vždy
often	často
usually	většinou
sometimes	někdy, občas
seldom	málokdy
never	nikdy
already	už

### Others

in/at the end	nakonec
last time	naposled, posledně
after (time)	potom, pak
early	časně



# Food

## Fruit & vegetables

fruit	ovoce
strawberry	jahoda
apple	jablko
orange	pomeranč
banana	banán
vegetable	zelenina
garlic	česnek
onion	cibule
lettuce	ledový salát
potato	brambora
cucumber	okurka
paprika	paprika
tomato	rajče

## Meat & fish

fish	ryba
tuna	tuňák
shrimps	kreveta
seafood	mořské plody (plural)
hake	treska
salmon	losos
meat	maso
pork	vepřové maso
veal	telecí maso
beef	hovězí maso
ham	šunka
chicken	kuře

## Sweets & others

sweets	sladkosti (plural)
sugar	cukr
chocolate	čokoláda
ice cream	zmrzlina
cake	dort, koláč, buchta
olive oil	olivový olej
rice	rýže
cereal	cereálie (plural)
egg	vejce
milk	mléko

# Nature

## Animals

animal	zvíře
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bread	chléb, chleba
baguette	bageta
cheese	sýr
pasta	těstoviny (plural)
yogurt	jogurt

## Drinks

drink	nápoj
water	voda
alcohol	alkohol
beer	pivo
coffee	káva, kafe
wine	víno
tea	čaj

## Buying food

expensive	drahý
quarter	čtvrt
gram	gram
kilogram	kilo
can	plechovka
liter	litr
half	půl
offer	akce, nabídka
to pay	platit
pack	balík, balení
more	víc

## Restaurant

restaurant	restaurace
bill	účet
salad	salát
fried	smažený
macaronis	makarony (plural)
menu	menu, jídelní lístek
to order	objednat
plate	talíř
dessert	dezert, zákusek
tip	spropitné
to serve	servírovat, podávat
to drink	pít

dog	pes
cat	kočka
monkey	opice

turtle	<b>želva</b>
fish	<b>ryba</b>
ant	<b>mravenec</b>
bee	<b>včela</b>
dinosaur	<b>dinosaurus</b>
bird	<b>pták</b>
snake	<b>had</b>
horse	<b>kůň</b>
cow	<b>kráva</b>
butterfly	<b>motýl</b>
squirrel	<b>veverka</b>
sheep	<b>ovce</b>
chicken	<b>kuře</b>
shark	<b>žralok</b>
pet	domácí <b>mazlíček</b>
penguin	<b>tučňák</b>
worm	<b>červ</b>

## Weather

weather	<b>počasí</b>
hot	teplo
cold	zima
degree	<b>stupeň</b>
to rain	pršet
to snow	sněžit
cloudy	zataženo

## Verbs

### Basic conjugated verbs

I am	jsem
I want	chci
I can	můžu
I must	musím
I have to	musím
I have got	mám

### Verbs I

to sing	zpívat
to listen	poslouchat
to write	psát
to be	být
to read	číst
to ask	ptát se
to have	mít
to see	vidět
to be bored	nudit se
to think	myslet si

sun	<b>slunce</b>
wind	<b>vítr</b>

### Seasons

season	roční <b>období</b>
winter	<b>zima</b>
autumn	<b>podzim</b>
spring	<b>jaro</b>
summer	<b>léto</b>

### Others

nature	<b>příroda</b>
east	<b>východ</b>
north	<b>sever</b>
west	<b>západ</b>
south	<b>jih</b>
landscape	<b>krajina</b>
region	<b>oblast, region</b>
forest	<b>les</b>
coast	<b>pobřeží</b>
lake	<b>jezero</b>
mountain	<b>hora</b>
beach	<b>pláž</b>
river	<b>řeka</b>
sea	<b>moře</b>

to say	říkat
to speak	mluvit
to fall in love	zamilovat se
to be	být
to do, to make	dělat
to go	jít, jet
to watch	dívat se
to prefer	mít radši
to want	chtít

### Verbs II

to act	hrát, vystupovat
to fix	opravovat
to help	pomáhat
to cook	vařit
to know	znát, poznat
to take care	starat se
to teach	učit
to paint	malovat
to work	pracovat

to sell	prodávat
to live (somewhere)	bydlet
to live (be alive)	žít
to open	otevřít
to rent	pronajmout
to go downstairs	jít dolů
to start	začít
to invite	pozvat
to call	zavolat
to close	zavřít
to finish	skončit
to pass	vstoupit
to use	používat
to drink	pít
to say	říkat

### Verbs III

to leave, to let	nechat
to smoke	kouřit
to put	dát (něco někam), položit
to produce	vyrábět
to approve	schválit
to agree	souhlasit
to dive	potápět se
to find	najít
to surf	surfovat
to watch out	pozorovat
to forget	zapomenout
to lose	ztratit
to receive	dostat
to remember	vzpomenout, pamatovat
to go upstairs	jít nahoru

to carry	nosit
to construct	stavět
to feel	(po)cítit
to shave	oholit
to kill	zabít
to destruct	ničit
to take	vzít
to translate	překládat, přeložit

### Verbs IV

to drink	pít
to look for	hledat
to change	změnit, vyměnit
to eat	jíst
to complete	doplnit, dokončit
to buy	koupit, nakupovat
to must	muset
to have fun	bavit se
to sleep	spát
to last	trvat
to elaborate	vyrobit
to find	najít
to write	psát
to work (function)	fungovat
to like	líbit se
to do, make	dělat
to go away	odejít
to read	číst
to fight	bojovat
to need	potřebovat
to hate	nenávidět
to recommend	doporučovat, doporučit

## Adjectives

### Colours

colour	<b>barva</b>
yellow	žlutý
blue	modrý
white	bílý
brown	hnědý
black	černý
red	červený
green	zelený

### Basic adjectives

good	dobrý
bad	špatný

boring	nudný
beautiful	hezký, krásný
short	krátký
difficult	těžký
fun	zábavný
easy	lehký
ugly	ošklivý
big	velký
new	nový
long	dlouhý
small	malý
old	starý
young	mladý

## Characteristics

character	<b>povaha</b>
happy	veselý
kind	milý
good person	hodný
sweet	sladký
cute	roztomilý
mean	sobecký
talkative	upovídaný
intelligent	inteligentní
bad	zlý
nervous	nervózní
weird	zvláštní, divný
serious	vážný
sociable	společenský
nice	sympatický
dumb	hloupý
lazy	líný

## Experiences, opinions

awesome	báječný
fantastic	úžasný
fatal	hrozný
great	skvělý
terrible	hrůzný

## Nouns

age	<b>věk</b>
beard	<b>vousy</b> (plural)
birthday	<b>narozeniny</b> (plural)
bottle	<b>láhev</b>
bus	<b>autobus</b>
camera	<b>foťák</b>
car	<b>auto</b>
cd	<b>cd</b>
death	<b>smrt</b>
eye	<b>oko</b>
fear	<b>obava</b> , <b>strach</b>
football	<b>fotbal</b>
force	<b>síla</b>
friend	<b>kamarád</b>
gift	<b>dárek</b>
hair	<b>vlasy</b> (plural)
health	<b>zdraví</b>
kind, sort	<b>druh</b>
magazine	<b>časopis</b>
message	<b>sms</b> , <b>vzkaz</b>

incredible

better

best

worse

worst

neuvěřitelný

lepší

nejlepší

horší

nejhorší

## More adjectives

same	stejný
different	jiný
older	starší
younger	mladší
pleasant	příjemný
hot	teplý, horký
comfortable	pohodlný
cold	studený
forbidden	zakázaný
alike	podobný
healthy	zdravý
complicated	komplikovaný
valuable	cenný
clueless	zmatený
important	důležitý
organized	uspořádaný, organizovaný
last	poslední
previous, last	minulý
fake	falešný

mobil

mustache

neighbour

noise

pants

postcard

poster

product

purse

radio

schedule

shirt

shoes

soul

suitcase

swimsuit

ticket

tourist

vacation

**mobil**

**knír**

**soused**, **sousedka**

**hluk**

**kalhoty** (plural)

**pohled**

**plakát**

**výrobek**

**kabelka**

**rádio**

**rozvrh**

**tričko**

**boty** (plural)

**duše**

**kufř**

**plavky** (plural)

**lístek**

**turista**

**prázdniny** (plural)

## Question words

how many?	kolik?
how much?	kolik?
why?	proč?
where to?	kam?
where?	kde?
which?	jaký?

how?	jak?
whose?	koho?, čím?
what?	co?
who?	kdo?
when?	kdy?

## Prepositions

in	v, na
on	na
to, towards	do
near to	blízko
far from	daleko
with	s
without	bez
after	po
next to	vedle
before	před

since, from	od
from	z
in front of	naproti
between	mezi
down	dole
up	nahoře
below, under	pod
inside	v
behind	za
above	nad

## Conjunctions

and	a
or	nebo
but	ale
that's why	proto

because	protože
if	jestli (simple conditional)
than	než (comparison)
that	že (connecting sentences)

## Numbers

1	jeden, jedna, jedno
2	dva, dvě, dvě
3	tři
4	čtyři
5	pět
6	šest
7	sedm
8	osm
9	devět
10	deset
11	jedenáct
12	dvanáct
13	třináct
14	čtrnáct
15	patnáct
16	šestnáct

17	sedmnáct
18	osmnáct
19	devatenáct
20	dvacet
21	dvacet jedna
22	dvacet dva
23	dvacet tři
30	třicet
40	čtyřicet
50	padesát
60	šedesát
70	sedmdesát
80	osmdesát
90	devadesát
100	sto
1000	tisíc

first	první	sixth	šestý
second	druhý	seventh	sedmý
third	třetí	eighth	osmý
fourth	čtvrtý	ninth	devátý
fifth	pátý	tenth	desátý

## Quantities

quantity	<b>množství</b>	none	žádný
a little/few	málo, trochu	nobody	nikdo
some	některý	nothing	nic
any, some	nějaký	somebody	někdo
almost	skoro, téměř	something	něco
a lot	hodně, moc	everything	všechno
enough	dost	everybody	<b>všichni</b>
too much	příliš		
each, every	každý		

## Personal pronouns

I	já	it	ono
you (singular)	ty	we	my
you (formal)	vy	you (plural)	vy
he	on	they	oni
she	ona		

## Miscellaneous

this	tento, tato, toto	at/to the left	nalevo/doleva
too	také, taky	which, that	který
neither	také ne	just, only	jenom
here	tady	like this	takhle
there	tam	alone	sám, sama
at/to the right	napravo/doprava		

## To like & to love

There are 4 different ways of expressing you like or love something:

- chutnat to like the taste of something
  - Chutná mi zmrzlina I like ice cream
- líbit se to like something, usually for a specific time, not as a habit
  - Libí se mi Praha I like Prague
- mít rád to like or love something or someone, for a longer period of time
  - Mám rád kamarády I like friends
- milovat to love something or someone, strong and serious feeling
  - Miluju tě I love you

# Grammar

## Adjectives

The ending of an adjective changes depending on the grammatical gender of the noun it's describing. There are two types of adjectives. If the basic masculine ending is –ý, then the basic feminine ending is –á and the basic neutral ending is –é. If the basic masculine ending is –í, then the basic feminine and the basic neutral ending are also –í.

Masculine (animate)	ý	dobrý student	í	kvalitní student
Masculine (inanimate)	ý	dobrý banán	í	kvalitní banán
Feminine	á	dobrá káva	í	kvalitní káva
Neutral	é	dobré auto	í	kvalitní auto

## Possessive pronouns

Like adjectives, possessive pronouns also adapt themselves to the gender of the noun they're with. In the following table you'll find all the basic forms:

	Masculine (animate)	Masculine (inanimate)	Feminine	Neutral
my	můj	můj	moje	moje
your (singular)	tvůj	tvůj	tvoje	tvoje
his, its	jeho	jeho	jeho	jeho
her	její	její	její	její
our	náš	náš	naše	naše
your (plural)	váš	váš	vaše	vaše
their	jejich	jejich	jejich	jejich

## Demonstrative pronouns

Again, demonstrative pronouns (this, that, these) change according to the gender of the noun:

	Masculine (animate)	Masculine (inanimate)	Feminine	Neutral
that	ten	ten	ta	to
this	tenhle	tenhle	tahle	tohle

## Use of personal pronouns

In Czech, pronouns are only used when you want to put a stress on who is doing the action. This means that usually, you'll hear people say “dělám” instead of “já dělám”; or “chceš” instead of “ty chceš”. But when you want to draw attention to the fact that a certain person is doing something, you can add the appropriate pronoun.

# Verbs

## Present tense

Czech verbs have to be conjugated. This means the ending of the verbs changes according to the person. As in most languages, there are regular verbs, which follow basic rules, and irregular verbs, which need to be memorized. In the following table, you can find the basic rules for three types of regular verbs:

	OVAT	Á	Í
Infinitive ends with	-ovat	-at (mostly)	-it, et, ět (mostly)
Word Stem =	infinitive without -ovat	infinitive without -at	infinitive without -it, -et, -ět
Conjugation = Word Stem +			
já	-uju	-ám	-ím
ty	-uješ	-áš	-íš
on, ona, ono	-uje	-á	-í
my	-ujeme	-áme	-íme
vy	-ujete	-áte	-íte
oni	-uji	-ají	-í
Example	milovat já miluju	dělat ty děláš	mluvit on mluví

There are also a lot of irregular verbs. Here are some of the most important ones:

	<b>být</b>	<b>chtít</b>	<b>mít</b>	<b>jít</b>	<b>moci</b>
já	jsm	chci	mám	jdu	můžu
ty	jsi	chceš	máš	jdeš	můžeš
on, ona, ono	je	chce	má	jde	může
my	jsme	chceme	máme	jdeme	můžeme
vy	jste	chcete	máte	jdete	můžete
oni	jsou	chtějí	mají	jdou	můžou

## Future tense

The future tense is made as follows:

já	budu	+ infinitive
ty	budeš	
on, ona, ono	bude	
my	budeme	
vy	budete	
oni	budou	

Examples:

I will love      budu milovat  
 She will talk      bude mluvit  
 We will have      budeme mít



There are a few exceptions that have a form of their own, without using the infinitive:

	<b>být</b>	<b>jít</b>	<b>jet</b>
já	budu	půjdu	pojedu
ty	budeš	půjdeš	pojedeš
on, ona, ono	bude	půjde	pojede
my	budeme	půjdeme	pojedeme
vy	budete	půjdete	pojedete
oni	budou	půjdou	pojedou

## Past tense

To use the past tense, you need the “1-form” of the verb.

The 1-form is made as follows:

- take the infinitive                      dělat              milovat              mluvit
- eliminate the end –t                      děla              milova              mluvi
- add an –l at the end                      dělal              miloval              mluvil

Some exceptions of the 1-form:

být	byl	jíst	jedl	psát	psal
mít	měl	jít	šel (šla, šli)	spát	spal
chtít	chtěl	moci	mohl	umřít	umřel
číst	četl	pít	pil		

Then the ending of the 1-form has to be adapted to the gender of the subject (similar to an adjective):

Masculine singular		dělal
Feminine singular	a	dělala
Neutral singular	o	dělalo
Plural	i	dělali

Once you have the right 1-form, you can create the past tense as follows:

já	the right 1-form	jsem
ty		jsi
on, ona, ono		
my		jsme
vy		jste
oni		

Examples:

I loved                      miloval jsem  
 She talked                      mluvila  
 We had                      měli jsme

## Negation

To make a verb negative, you just add ne-:

- Present tense add ne- before the conjugated form of the verb.
- Future tense add ne- before the conjugated form of the future tense of být (budu, budeš...)
- Past tense add ne- before the I-form (NOT before the conjugated form of být!)

Examples:

I don't love	nemiluju
She will not talk	nebude mluvit
We didn't have	neměli jsme

## Imperfective & perfective verbs

Czech language has two types of verbs: imperfective and perfective verbs. Imperfective verbs describe an action like a video, like an ongoing thing and concentrate on the action itself. Perfective verbs describe an action more like a picture, like something that happened at a certain time and concentrate on the result. This means that most verbs come in pairs:

to read	číst - přečíst	to eat	jíst - sníst
to do	dělat - udělat	to paint	malovat - namalovat
to buy	nakupovat - koupit	to sell	prodávat - prodat
to teach	učit - naučit	to give	dávat - dát
to cook	vařit - uvařit	to write	psát - napsat
to repair	opravovat - opravit	to wash	mýt - umýt

In the beginning, you don't need to worry about using the right type of verb to express what you mean. People will understand you. But it's nice for you to know, so you don't get confused; for example when you have learnt that "to write" is "psát" and then somebody is telling you it's "napsat"... It's both! Later, when you'll be used to hearing more Czech around you, you'll also develop the skills to know which type you should use in which circumstances.

## Cases

You might already know that Czech uses "cases", like German or Latin. This means that depending on the function of the word in a sentence, or which preposition it follows, the ending of the word changes. Again, this is something you don't need to worry about when you start speaking Czech. You can just make sentences without caring about the cases and people should understand what you mean. Once you have some basic vocabulary and you're comfortable with conjugating verbs, you can move on to learning the cases as well. Here too, you'll benefit enormously from hearing Czech every day.

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If you would have any comments or suggestions to improve this guide, please let us know. Together we can try to make it as useful as possible for future AFS-students. Thanks in advance for your feedback!

# Notes

This page you can use to make some notes or add new words you're learning...