



**BASIC
CZECH I**

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KAROLINUM

Basic Czech I

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This textbook has been developed to quickly acquaint students with basic Czech. It contains 6 lessons, each corresponding to at least 10 teaching hours. The main emphasis is on communicative methods based on an action-oriented approach. The textbook is mostly intended for intensive short courses and it fits level A 1 of the Common European Frame.

The textbook contains about 700 basic words and phrases. In the Vocabulary after each lesson the user will find all words and phrases used in the texts and exercises except the verbs and words included in the tables, together with their English equivalents.

Basic Czech I is based on methodological principles similar to those successfully employed with the CIEE programme by colleagues at the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies, Charles University (Intensive Czech for American students, course leader Jana Čemusová).

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ABBREVIATIONS

Genders:

- M – masculine
- Mi – masculine inanimate
- Ma – masculine animate
- F – feminine
- N – neuter

Cases:

- Nom. – nominative
- Gen. – genitive
- Dat. – dative
- Acc. – accusative
- Loc. – locative
- Instr. – instrumental

- adj. – adjective
- adv. – adverb
- prep. – preposition
- sg. – singular
- pl. – plural
- coll. – colloquial

Symbols:

- »» – grammatical explanation
- ▲ – lexical explanation
- ▶ – MP3 audio*

* MP3 available at www.karolinum.cz.

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VOCABULARY

VOWELS (samohlásky)



short (krátké)

A	pas (<i>passport</i>), Praha, maso (<i>meat</i>), mapa (<i>map</i>), ano (<i>yes</i>)
E	pes (<i>dog</i>), den (<i>day</i>), sen (<i>dream</i>), jeden (<i>one</i>), metro, ne (<i>no</i>)
I, Y	pivo (<i>beer</i>), kino (<i>cinema</i>), minuta byť (<i>apartment</i>)
O	voda (<i>water</i>), sobota (<i>Saturday</i>), kolo (<i>bike</i>)
U	pusa (<i>mouth, kiss, coll.</i>), rum, nula (<i>zero</i>)

long (dlouhé)

Á	máma (<i>mum</i>), mám (<i>I have</i>), ráno (<i>morning</i>), banán, káva (<i>coffee</i>)
É	dobré ráno (<i>good morning</i>), mléko (<i>milk</i>), problém, léto (<i>summer</i>)
Í, Ý	víno (<i>wine</i>), prosím (<i>please; you are welcome</i>) Dobrý den! (<i>“good day”, e.g. Hello!</i>), sýr (<i>cheese</i>), být (<i>to be</i>)
Ó	móda (<i>fashion</i>), próza (<i>prose</i>), gól
Ú, Ů	úterý (<i>Tuesday</i>), dům (<i>house</i>), domů (<i>home</i>)

» Long vowels are about twice as long as short ones. Therefore you may have the impression that Czech speech has a melodic, “singing” character.



BYT
BÝT

» It is quite important to remember where long and short vowels appear, because the vowel length can change the meaning of the word.

- » I-Y, Í-Ý, Ú-Ů = two graphic variants of one vowel having the same pronunciation. I/Í is called “soft” (měkké i), while Y/Ý is called “hard” (tvrdé i).
 ´ = čárka (long-sign), ° = kroužek (circle), ˇ = háček (hook).

DIPHTHONGS (dvojlásky)

OU	Dobrou noc! (<i>Good night!</i>), Na shledanou! (<i>Good-bye!</i>), houska (<i>roll</i>)
AU	auto (<i>car</i>), automat (<i>vending machine</i>), autobus (<i>bus</i>), sauna
EU	euro, pneumatika (<i>tyre</i>)

CONSONANTS (souhlásky)

<i>hard</i> (tvrdé)	<i>soft</i> (měkké)
H hotel, Praha	Ž život (<i>life</i>)
CH chalupa (<i>cottage</i>)	Š šest (<i>six</i>)
K koberec (<i>carpet</i>)	C co (<i>what</i>)
G vegetarián	Č česky (<i>Czech</i>)
R Dobré ráno! (<i>Good morning</i>)	Ř dveře (<i>door</i>)
D jeden den (<i>one day</i>)	Ď Maďarsko (<i>Hungary</i>)
T tabule (<i>board</i>)	Ť chuť (<i>taste</i>)
N noc (<i>night</i>)	Ň daň (<i>tax</i>)
	J čaj (<i>tea</i>)

HOW DO WE PRONOUNCE IT?

Ž	{ʒ}	– like in <i>plea<u>ʒ</u>ure</i>
Š	{ʃ}	– like in <i>sh<u>ʃ</u>adow</i>
Č	{tʃ}	– like in <i>ch<u>ʃ</u>ance</i>
DŽ	{dʒ}	– like in <i>ju<u>ʒ</u>t</i>
C	{ts}	– like in <i>tz<u>ʃ</u>at<u>ʒ</u>iki, t<u>ʒ</u>ar, t<u>ʒ</u>unami</i>
G	{g}	– like in <i>g<u>ʒ</u>ame</i>
J	{j}	– like in <i>y<u>ʒ</u>ellow</i>
Ř		– like nowhere! Try to pronounce {r+ʒ} as one sound!
CH		– the compound letter like in Scots “ <i>loch</i> ” (lake)

AMBIGUOUS CONSONANTS

B F L M	banka, film, lék (<i>medicine</i>), mapa
P S V Z	papír, salám, vejce (<i>egg</i>), zítra (<i>tomorrow</i>)

HOW DO WE WRITE IT?

i/y × í/ý	
Ž Š	žít (<i>to live</i>), sešit (<i>notebook</i>)
Č Ř	+ i/í číst (<i>to read</i>), říkat (<i>to say</i>)
C J	cíl (<i>goal</i>), jídlo (<i>food</i>)
H CH	nahý (<i>nude</i>), chyba (<i>mistake</i>)
K R	velký (<i>big</i>), rychlý (<i>fast</i>)
G	+ y/ý gymnázium (<i>grammar school</i>)
D T	mladý (<i>young</i>), kalhoty (<i>trousers</i>)
N	noviny (<i>newspaper</i>)
B F	bílý (<i>white</i>) × blbý (<i>stupid</i>); film × fyzika (<i>physics</i>)
L M	+ i/í × y/ý líný (<i>lazy</i>) × malý (<i>small</i>); mít (<i>to have</i>) × mýt (<i>to wash</i>)
P S	pivo (<i>beer</i>) × hloupý (<i>silly</i>); síla (<i>force</i>) × sýr (<i>cheese</i>)
V Z	vítr (<i>wind</i>) × vy (<i>you</i>); zítra (<i>tomorrow</i>) × jazyk (<i>language</i>)

PRONUNCIATION AND SPELLING OF Ď, Ť, Ň + E, I/Í

ď ť ň + e →	dě tě ně	neděle (<i>Sunday</i>), tělo (<i>body</i>), něco (<i>something</i>)
ď ť ň + i →	di ti ni	divadlo (<i>theatre</i>), platit (<i>to pay</i>), nic (<i>nothing</i>)
ď ť ň + í →	dí tí ní	dítě (<i>child</i>), pítí (<i>drink</i>), moderní

» Words of foreign origin e.g. **univerzita**, **diskuse**, **mítink**, don't follow this soft pronunciation rule!

ALL COMBINATIONS WITH "Ě"

DĚ	neděle	PĚ	pět (<i>five</i>)
TĚ	tělo	VĚ	věta (<i>sentence</i>)
NĚ	něco	FĚ	na Harfě (<i>a square in Prague</i>)
BĚ	běhat (<i>to run</i>)	MĚ	město (<i>city</i>)

» "ě" itself is pronounced {je}, so pě is {pje}, bě {bje}, etc. Only "mě" is pronounced {mňe}.

VOICED AND VOICELESS CONSONANTS (znělé a neznělé souhlásky)

b	v	d	ď	z	ž	g	h	dž	r	l	m	n	j	voiced
p	f	t	ť	s	š	k	ch	č	c	voiceless				

HOW DO WE PRONOUNCE IT?

klub {klup}, lev {lef}, bod {bot}, obraz {obras}, grog {grok}, muž {muž}

voiceless ← voiced – **voiceless**

obbchod {oppchot}, dívka {dífka}, hezký {heský}

odpoledne {otpoledne}, tužka {tuška}

lodka {lotka}, včera {fčera}

v pondělí {fpondělí}, v Praze {fpraze}

voiced ← voiceless – **voiced**

kdo {gdo}, kde {gde}, kdy {gdy}



břeh {bržech}, příklad {pršíklad}, tři {trši}

na shledanou {na sch... * na zh...}

» The stress is always on the first syllable.

» The preposition and the word following are pronounced as one word with the stress on the first syllable: v Praze {fpraze}.

■ Read and try to guess the meaning some of the words:

A – Á	mapa pátek	banka banán	maso salám	zprava zpráva	pořad pořád	ano
E – É	den léto	dezert krém	kemp lék	led problém	lekce mléko	ne
I/Y – Í/Ý	pivo pít	kino víno	ryba rýma	prosít prosím	sešít sýr	byt být
O – Ó	voda sólo	soda gól	sobota móda	okno tón	kolo nervózní	
U – Ú/Ů	rum úterý dům	ruka únor sůl	nula úkol stůl	pusa ústa půl	tulipán účet růže	
OU	kousek Dobrou noc!	houska	meloun Dobrou chuť!		Na shledanou!	
NI – NY	nic noviny	nikdo koruny	zelenina hodiny		! unie !	! tenis !
NÍ – NÝ	není krásný	moderní výborný	národní špatný			
DI – DY	divadlo kdy	hodina někdy	lidi tady		! dieta !	! idiot ! ! dynastie !
DÍ – DÝ	dítě Londýn	mládí mladý	budík dýně			
TI – TY	platit boty	naproti kalhoty	ticho typ		! titul !	! tip !
TÍ – TÝ	platím týden	letí tým	smetí svatý			
BĚ	běhat	oběd	běh			
PĚ	pět	pěkný	opět			
VĚ	svět	devět	věta			
MĚ	město	náměstí	měsíc			