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LEVEL
2



Czech

Absolute Beginner



Unabridged Edition

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LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1 Greeting People in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

1

CZECH

1. [ve dne]
2. Tomáš: Ahoj.
3. Marie: Ahoj.
4. Tomáš: Jak se máš?
5. Marie: Děkuju, dobře.

ENGLISH

1. [during the day]
2. Tomáš: Hello.
3. Marie: Hello.
4. Tomáš: How are you?
5. Marie: Fine, thanks.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
dobře	well	adverb
jak	how	adverb
mít se	to be doing	reflexive verb
děkovat	to thank	verb, reflexive verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Dobře si to pamatuju. "I remember it well."</p>	<p>Jak se to píše? "How do you write this?"</p>
<p>Jak se čte tohle? "How do you read this?"</p>	<p>Vy se máte dobře. "You are doing well."</p>
<p>Děkovat je slušnost. "It is polite to say thanks."</p>	<p>Děkuji, Jano! "Thank you, Jana!"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***mít se* "to be doing"**

mít = "to have," *se* = "oneself," *mít se* = "to be doing"

On its own, the verb *mít* means "to have." When the reflexive pronoun *se* (meaning "oneself") is added, the meaning of the verb changes into "to be doing."

This is used mainly in question form when asking how somebody is doing. For example:

1. *Jak se máš?*
"How are you doing?"

When used in an answer, you may see...

1. *Já se mám dobře.*
"I'm doing well."
2. *Ty se máš dobře.*
"You're doing well."
3. *Vy se máte dobře.*
"You're doing well." formal
4. *On/ona/ono se má dobře.*
"He/she/ it is doing well."

5. *My se máme dobře.*
"We're doing well."
6. *Vy se máte dobře.*
"You're doing well."
7. *Oni se mají dobře.*
"They're doing well."

For example:

1. *Jak se máš od Vánoc?*
"How have you been since Christmas?"

děkuju "thank you"

The infinitive form of *děkuju* is *děkovat* ("to thank"). This phrase is used when expressing gratitude for something. *Děkuju* is the spoken form, and the written form is *děkuji*. *Děkuju, dobře* means "Thank you, I'm fine."

For example..

1. *Děkuju za dárek.*
"Thank you for the present."

dobře "I'm fine"

Dobře means "well" or "fine." There are a few other forms as well. You may see...

dobrý ("good") for masculine nouns,

dobrá ("good") for feminine nouns, and

dobré (good) for neutral nouns in written form. *Dobrý* for neutral nouns in spoken form.

For example:

1. *Není mi dobře.*
"I don't feel well."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Czech Greetings

Ahoj.

"Hello."

Ahoj. Jak se máš?

"Hello. How are you doing?"

This is one of the most common greetings among Czech people during the day time. It's informal and can be used with people we are familiar with (friends, family, and acquaintances).

The question **Jak se máš?** means "How are you doing?"

Jak means *how*. The meaning of *se máš* is better understood in its infinitive form *mít se* ("to be doing"), for example, *mít se dobře* ("to be doing well").

Jak se máš? is used when addressing only one person. The *š* letter indicates the singular form (as well as noting the question as informal). *Jak se máte* with the *te* at the end indicates the plural form used either with more than one person, i.e. *Ahoj kluci, jak se máte* ("Hello boys, how are you?"), or used as a polite form towards people we cannot be casual with, i.e. *Jak se máte, paní Malá?* ("How are you doing, Mrs. Malá?").

Se on its own means "oneself." It is a part of the so-called reflexive verbs (*zvratná slovesa*). There are many verbs that are always reflexive, which means they always have *se* attached to them. Other verbs tend to be reflexive only in certain tenses. *Se* corresponds to a whole range of words in English, including "myself," "yourself," "ourselves," "yourselves," and "themselves."

For example:

posadit se ("to sit oneself down")

obléct se ("to dress oneself")

omýt se ("to wash oneself")

The answer to the question above, *Jak se máš?* or *Jak se máte?*, is usually *Děkuju, dobře* ("Thank you, I'm fine"). A more casual answer is *díky, dobře* ("thanks, I'm fine"). One can also say just *jo, dobře* ("I'm fine"), *jde to* ("Not too bad"), or *výborně* ("Great").

There are also other informal greetings that Czech people use on a daily basis, although their tone is very casual and they can only be used among friends or family.

These words are *čau* and *nazdar*.

It is perfectly fine to say *čau mami* ("Hi, mom"), or *nazdar Pavle* ("Hi, Pavel").

All the informal greetings above, *ahoj*, *čau*, and *nazdar*, can be used for both greetings and goodbyes.

For example:

1. *Tak čau, já jdu.*
"See you then, I'm going."
2. *Tak ahoj, měj se.*
"Bye then, take care."
3. *'Nazdar hoši, jak se máte?*
"Hi boys, how are you doing?"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jak se máš?*
"How are you?"
2. *Děkuju, dobře.*
"Fine, thanks."

Sample Sentences

1. *Tak ahoj, měj se!*
"Bye then, take care!"
2. *Tak čau, já jdu.*
"See you then, I'm going. "
3. *Nazdar, jak se daří?*
"Hey, how have you been?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Gestures and Etiquette when Greeting Czech People

Meeting for the first time requires shaking right hands in both formal and informal situations.

Sometimes in informal situations shaking hands can be skipped and you can use only a greeting. For example, when you meet a whole group of new people, shaking hands with each of them is not necessary.

If the situation allows, formal language can also be skipped and conversation can start informally. For example, if a friend is introducing a friend, or the speakers are of the same age and meeting in an informal setting, you could start conversing casually right away.

The formal language, using a person's surname and addressing them as *vy* ("you," polite) is called *vykat*. Informal language, calling a person by their first name and using *ty* ("you") is called *tykat*.

Useful expression:

1. *Ahoj, můžeš mi tykat.*
"Hi, you can call me by my first name."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2 Introducing Yourself in the Czech Republic

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

2

CZECH

1. Tomáš: Já jsem Tom.
2. Marie: Já jsem Mary.
3. Tomáš: Těší mě.
4. Marie: Také mě těší.

ENGLISH

1. Tomáš: My name is Tom.
2. Marie: I'm Mary.
3. Tomáš: It's a pleasure to meet you.
4. Marie: It's a pleasure to meet you, too.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
já	I	pronoun, personal pronoun
být	to be	verb
těšit se	to be looking forward to something, to be pleased	reflexive verb
také	also, too	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Já se podívám. "I will have a look."</p>	<p>Já jsem Čech. "I'm Czech."</p>
<p>Já jsem Adam. "I'm Adam."</p>	<p>Musím být v práci v osm hodin. "I need to be at work at eight o'clock."</p>
<p>Chci být doma. "I want to be at home."</p>	<p>Být muž. "To be a man."</p>
<p>Těším se na prázdniny. "I look forward to the holidays."</p>	<p>Já jsem také nemocný. "I'm ill, too."(male speech)</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Těšit (se)* "to please," "to look forward to something," "to comfort"**

Těšit can have several meanings. On its own, *těšit* means "to please." When the personal pronoun *mě* (*těšit mě*) is added, the meaning changes into "it is a pleasure for me." When we add the reflexive pronoun *se* (*těšit se*), the meaning becomes "to be looking forward to something." *Těšit* can also mean "to comfort" if used as *těšit někoho* ("to comfort somebody").

This phrase can be used in three different settings.

Těší mě ("pleased to meet you") when meeting somebody for the first time.

Těším se ("I look forward to") when there is something to be looked forward to.

Těšit někoho when giving comfort to somebody. For example, *Těšila mě maminka* ("My mom was comforting me").

For example:

1. *Těšit se na Vánoce.*
"Look forward to Christmas."

***Já jsem* "I am"**

já = "I," *jsem* = "am." *Jsem* is the conjugated form of infinitive "to be."

You use this phrase when speaking about yourself as the speaker. However, in Czech, the subject pronouns are often omitted as the subjects of verbs are used more for emphasis.

The whole conjugations are...

Já jsem ("I am"), *ty jsi* ("you are"), *on/ona je* ("he/she is"), *my jsme* ("we are"), *oni jsou* ("they are"), *vy jste* ("you are") .

For example:

1. *Já jsem manželka Ondry.*
"I'm Ondra's wife."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Saying Your Name in Czech

Já jsem Tom

"My name is Tom."

Formal Greetings

Dobrý den literally means "good day," but is translated as "hello." In Czech, this is a formal greeting which is used as a general greeting in public places, when talking to strangers, elderly people, superiors etc.

Dobré ráno, meaning "good morning," is used exclusively from the morning until midday. It can be used in both formal as well as informal situations.

Dobré odpoledne, meaning "good afternoon," is used from midday until early evening (until it starts getting dark). It's not as frequently used as *dobrý den*, which has become the more common greeting throughout the day.

Dobrý večer, meaning "good evening," is used from the time it gets dark outside. This is still a frequently used greeting.

Informal Greetings

Ahoj, meaning "hi" or "hello" is used only in informal situations, with friends, family, children, or people who are or look younger than you.

Čau has the same function and conditions of use as *ahoj*.

Nazdar is a colloquial greeting similar to *ahoj* and *čau*. It's used only with people we are very familiar with.

Ahoj, *čau* and *nazdar* are informal greetings that can be used not only when meeting somebody, but also upon leaving in the same way as saying "goodbye" or "bye."

Introducing Oneself

Formal

1. *Dobrý den, já jsem Tomáš Novotný. Těší mě.*
"Hello, I'm Tomas Novotny, nice to meet you."
2. *Dobrý den, Novotný. Těší mě.*
"Hello, Novotny. Nice to meet you."

Já jsem is the same as "I am" in English.

Těší mě, in literal translation, means "I am pleased," but it gets translated as the English as "(I am) pleased to meet you," or "nice to meet you."

In formal greetings it is necessary to introduce ourselves either by our full name including surname (family name), or just by surname. It is also possible to skip *já jsem* ("I am") and give your name directly. *Těší mě* ("nice to meet you, pleased to meet you") has to always follow.

Informal

1. *Ahoj, já jsem Tomáš, těší mě.*
"Hello, I'm Tomas, nice to meet you."
2. *Čau, já jsem Tomáš, těší mě.*
"Hi, I'm Tomas, nice to meet you."
3. *Nazdar, já jsem Tomáš, těší mě.*
4. "Hi, I'm Tomas, nice to meet you."

An alternative to *těší mě* ("nice to meet you, pleased to meet you") is *rád tě poznávám*, literally meaning "I'm glad/pleased to be meeting you" which in loose translation is the same as "pleased to meet you."

Rád tě poznávám is the male speech.

Ráda tě poznávám is the female speech.

For example:

1. *Ahoj, já jsem Michal, rád tě poznávám.*
"Hello, I'm Michal, pleased to meet you."
2. *Ahoj, já jsem Petra, ráda tě poznávám.*
"Hi, I'm Petra, pleased to meet you."

Formal "you"

In formal greetings, the informal **tě** ("you") in *rád tě poznávám* ("pleased to meet you") needs to be changed to **Vás** (the formal "you"). It becomes *Rád Vás poznávám* ("pleased to meet you").

Vás is the accusative form of personal pronoun Vy ("you") which is used in formal speech towards people we need to show respect for.

For example:

1. *Dobry den, já jsem Petráš. Rád **Vás** poznávám.*
"Hello, I'm Petráš. Nice to meet **you**."

Furthermore, there are differences between male and female speech.

Female speech:

1. *Dobry den, já jsem Svobodová. **Ráda** Vás poznávám.*
"Hello, I'm Svobodová. Pleased to meet you."
2. *Dobry den, Svobodová. Těší mě.*
"Hello, Svobodová. Nice to meet you."

Male speech:

1. *Dobry den, já jsem Petráš. **Rád** Vás poznávám.*
"Hello, I'm Petráš. Nice to meet you."
2. *Dobry den, Petráš. Těší mě.*
"Hello, Svobodová. Nice to meet you."

In the Czech Republic, it's a good habit to shake right hands while introducing yourself.

If you want to simplify your introduction you can do so by saying only *Těší mě* plus your name and a handshake.

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Já jsem Mary.*
"I'm Mary."
2. *Těší mě.*
"It's a pleasure to meet you."

Sample Sentences

1. *Ahoj, já jsem Pavla. Těší mě.*
"Hi, I'm Pavla. Nice to meet you."
2. *Ahoj, já jsem Petr, rád tě poznávám.*
"Hi, I'm Petr, pleased to meet you. "
3. *Ahoj, já jsem Blanka, ráda tě poznávám.*
"Hi, I'm Blanka, pleased to meet you."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Popular Names in the Czech Republic

There are set regulations in the Czech Republic about naming children. Names can be Czech or foreign, but their origin has to be verified as already existent in the world and they must comply with the Czech language regulations. A completely new name cannot be made. Names must not be mispronounced, abbreviated in any way, or used in their diminutive or domestic forms. A maximum of two given names can be registered.

A recent trend for celebrities is to give their children unusual names, even those that seem exotic, while ordinary people seem to prefer old Czech names. According to a Czech magazine for women, the most popular names in 2013 for boys were Jakub, Jan, Matyáš, Matěj, Adam, Tomáš, David, Lukáš. For girls, the top names were Ema, Eliška, Tereza, Adéla, Anna, Natálie, Karolína, Nela.

Useful expression

Jak se jmenujou vaše děti?

"What are the names of your children?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3

Expressing Your Gratitude in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

3

CZECH

1. Tomáš: Tak tě vítám. Pojd' dál!
2. Jana: Díky. Tady je malý dárek. Snad se ti bude líbit!
3. Tomáš: Jé, mockrát děkuju!
4. Jana: Není zač.

ENGLISH

1. Tomáš: Welcome. Please come in!
2. Jana: Thanks. This is a small gift from me, I hope you like it!
3. Tomáš: Oh, thank you very much!
4. Jana: You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
vítat	to welcome	verb
jít	to walk	verb
dál	to go in	phrase
malý(lá)	small	adjective
dárek	present, gift	noun
snad	perhaps, maybe, hopefully	particle
být	to be	verb

mockrát	many times, a lot	adverb
líbit	to like	verb
děkuju	to thank	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vítáme tě zpět. "Welcome back."	Jdeme na nákup. "We are going shopping."
Nemůžu jít dál. "I can't come in."	Tady je malá lžička. "Here is a small spoon."
Dám ti dárek. "I'll give you a present."	Snad se najdou! "Hopefully they find each other!"
Musím být v práci v osm hodin. "I need to be at work at eight o'clock."	Chci být doma. "I want to be at home."
Být muž. "To be a man."	Už jsem tam byla mockrát. "I've been there many times."
Líbí se ti ta čepice? "Do you like the hat?"	Děkuji, Jano! "Thank you, Jana!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

dárek "gift, present"

Dárek means a "present" or "gift," although "gift" is actually translated as *dar*. *Dárek* implies it is a small gift, whilst *dar* sounds more like something bigger. If somebody says *to byl ale dar!* the meaning is "that was a big gift."

This word is used at times of gift/present giving or receiving, or even in terms of a "freebie." Freebie is also *dárek* in the Czech language. Another use of the word *dárek* is in its diminutive form, *dáreček* ("a tiny present"). This has also an ironic figurative sense. For example, *je ale dáreček*, meaning "what a small present," can be used ironically to describe a misbehaving child.

For example:

1. *Díky za pozvání.*
"Thanks for the invitation."

***není zač* "you're welcome"**

není = "it is not" *zač* = a shortened version of *za co* meaning "what for."

This is used in reply to *děkuju*, *mockrát děkuju*, or any other form of "thank you" in the Czech language.

For example:

1. *Petře, není zač.*
"Petr, you're welcome."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Saying Thank You

Díky. Tady je malý dárek. Snad se ti bude líbit!

"Thanks. This is a small gift from me, I hope you like it!"

There are several ways of expressing thanks or gratitude in the Czech language.

The phrases are divided into **formal** and **informal**.

The most frequently used phrase that is suitable to use at any time and at most situations is *děkuju* ("thank you"). This phrase is neither formal nor informal. *Děkuju* is the spoken form while *děkuji* with 'i' at the end is a written form not used very often in the standard spoken Czech language, but used in some regions of the Czech Republic in the local dialects (for example, in Moravia).

Having said the above, *děkuji* can be used if one wants to sound very polite and proper.

There are other alternatives of expressing thanks depending on the situation.

Formal

Phrases

Děkuju Vám/Děkuji Vám ("Thank you") is an honorific phrase used in a formal situation toward another person.

Děkuju vám/Děkuji vám ("Thank you") is an honorific phrase used in a formal situation towards a group of people.

The difference between these two phrases is only in the written form where we distinguish between capital *V* in *Vám* (a spoken honorific to "you" as one person) and small *v* in *vám* (a spoken honorific to "you" as a group or more than one person).

For example:

1. *Mockrát děkuju/ Mockrát děkuji.*
"Thank you very much." *Mockrát* literally means "many times."
2. *Děkuju pěkně/ Děkuji pěkně.*
"Thank you very much." *Pěkně* literally means "nicely."

A well-placed and sincere *děkuju/ děkuji* will always be appreciated by Czech people when somebody does something for you, helps you with some difficulty, invites you for dinner or drink, or perhaps gives you a compliment.

Informal Phrases

Díky ("thanks")

Dík ("thanks," "ta," "cheers")

Tisíceré díky ("a thousand thanks")

Díky moc ("thanks a lot")

In day-to-day life among Czechs you are likely to hear people saying *díky* or *dík*. These are a shorter form of *děkuju* and they are both informal phrases. In fact, they both correspond to the English "thanks."

However, there is another slight difference in nuance between them.

While *díky* can be still used in semi-formal situations, such as the post office thanking for the service you used, *dík* is a much more colloquial phrase. It corresponds to the English "cheers" and is used exclusively among friends, family, or people who you are very familiar with.

There is another particular informal expression that includes *díky* and is used as an exclamation in situations where one feels grateful that something has finally happened because it was high time, that something has had a good ending, or that something has turned to the better.

The phrase is *Díky bohu!*, meaning "Thank God!" or "Thank Goodness!"

No, thank you (turning down an offer)

There will be times in the Czech Republic when you need to politely refuse something, such as an offer or another order in a restaurant. In such cases you need to place *ne* ("no") in front of *děkuji/ děkuju* ("thank you"). This phrase allows you to politely refuse anything offered to you.

For example:

1. *Ne, děkuji/děkuju.*
"No, thank you."

If you need to refuse something offered by your friend, for example, then all you need to do is to swap *děkuju* for *díky* or *dík* after saying *ne*.

1. *Ne, díky.*
"No, thanks."

For example, say your friend is offering you a ride by car back home, but you feel like walking back. The conversation might go something like...

1. *A: Svezu tě autem.*
"I'll take you by car."
B: Ne, díky moc. Dneska jdu pěšky.
"No thanks. Today I'll walk."

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jé, mockrát děkuju!*
"Oh, thank you very much!"
2. *Není zač.*
"You're welcome."

Sample Sentences

1. *Mockrát děkuju za návštěvu, přijďte zas!*
"Thank you very much for your visit, come again!"
2. *Není zač, bylo to fajn.*
"You're welcome, it was fun."
3. A: *Dáte si ještě něco?*
B: *Ne, děkuji.*
A: "Would you like anything else?"
B: "No, thank you."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Gestures and Etiquette when Thanking Others in Czech

Czech people definitely appreciate eye contact when they hear a "thank you" from somebody.

In formal situations, a handshake should take place.

In informal situations, a genuine smile or a hug (if appropriate and with people you are familiar with) is also welcome. It's a definitely a good idea to reciprocate such a present at some point in the future. It can be either with a present for a different occasion or reciprocation in another form, such as helping with something.

Useful expression:

1. *Revanšovat se*
"To reciprocate"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4 Offering Your Apologies in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 3 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

4

CZECH

1. Jana: Au! ...promiňte?
2. Michal: Ano?
3. Jana: Moje noha...
4. Michal: Aha, omlouvám se!

ENGLISH

1. Jana: Ouch! ...excuse me?
2. Michal: Yes?
3. Jana: My leg...
4. Michal: Oh, I'm sorry!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
au	ouch	interjection
prominout	to excuse	verb
ano	yes	adverb
můj	my, mine	possessive pronoun
noha	leg	noun
aha	ah I see	interjection
omlouvát se	to apologize	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Au! To bolí. "Ouch! It hurts."	Promiň, mám spoždění. "Sorry, I'm late."
Ano, mluvím německy. "Yes, I speak German."	Tohle je můj bratr. "This is my brother."
Bolí mě noha. "My leg hurts."	Aha, už to chápu. "I see, I understand it now."
Omlouvám se. "I apologize."	Omlouvám se. "I am sorry."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

au "ouch"

au = "ouch," an interjection of pain. Also often used as *auvajs* (very colloquial).

This is only used when you feel pain over something, or when sympathizing with somebody by saying *Au, to muselo bolet*. ("Ouch, it must have hurt.")

For example:

1. *Au, to bolí!*
"Ouch, it hurts! "

aha "I see, oh"

aha = "I see," "oh." This is an interjection of grasping or understanding something.

This is used at the beginning of a sentence, or just on its own. *Aha* is a conjugation by which we express that we are listening and understanding.

For example:

1. *Aha, on se ztratil?*
"Oh, I see, he got lost?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Saying "Excuse Me" and "I'm sorry" Au! Hm...promiňte? "Ouch! Umm...excuse me?"

How to Apologize in Czech

The infinitive form of "to apologize" in Czech is *omlouvát (se)*.

Omlouvat (se) is a reflexive verb that takes the accusative form of the reflexive pronoun *se* ("oneself") in order to express one's own apology for doing something wrong. *Omlouvám se* ("I apologize").

Here is the conjugation of *omlouvát se*:

(já) *omlouvám se* ("I apologize")

(ty) *omlouváš se* ("you apologize")

(Vy) *omlouváte se* ("you apologize"), formal honorific form

(on, ona, ono) *omlouvá se* ("he," "she," "it apologizes")

(my) *omlouváme se* ("we apologize")

(vy) *omlouváte se* ("you apologize")

(oni) *omlouvají se* ("they apologize")

The reflexive *se* is important here because if we take it away from the verb, the meaning of *omlouvát* is different. It turns into "to excuse, to justify, to give excuses, to excuse or justify something or somebody" for doing wrong.

For example:

Omlouvat se ("to apologize for oneself")

1. *Omlouvám se, že jdu pozdě.*
"I apologize (myself) for being late."
2. *Omlouváme se za tu chybu.*
"We apologize (ourselves) for the mistake."

Omlouvat ("to excuse," "to justify")

1. *Oni se to snaží omlouvat.*
"They are trying to make excuses."

2. *Ona jen omlouvá jeho špatné chování.*
"She's merely justifying his bad behavior."

Neomlouvat ("no excuse," "no justification")

1. *Neznalost zákona neomlouvá.*
"Ignorance of the law is no excuse."
2. *To tě nemlouvá!*
"This is no excuse!"

Common Apology Phrases

Omlouvat se ("to apologize") can be also expressed in another way corresponding to the English "to be sorry" for something. There are two versions of this, formal and informal.

The **formal** way is:

Promiňte ("I'm sorry.")

The **informal** way is:

Promiň ("I'm sorry.")

These two phrases are frequently used on a daily basis and they are easy to master for students of the Czech language because they don't involve complicated conjugation.

Say you accidentally run into an adult stranger in the street and you need to apologize. This situation requires formal language because you don't know this person. You can say:

1. *Promiňte, já nechtěl!*
"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to."
2. *Promiňte, já opravdu nechtěl!*
"I'm sorry, I really didn't mean to."

Say you accidentally knock down your friend's drink from his or her hand. This situation only requires informal language because you are friends. You say:

1. *Promiň, já nechtěl!*
"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to!"
2. *Promiň, já fakt nechtěl.*
"I'm sorry, I really didn't mean to!"
3. *Ježiš promiň!*
"Oh no, I'm so sorry!"

Note

Omlouvám se can be often translated as "I'm sorry" too, but its interpretation depends on the context and on the situation. When there is just a minor accident, such as stepping on somebody's foot, then *promiň* or *promiňte* is a sufficient apology. But if one feels that the situation requires a more sincere and thoughtful apology, then it is better to use *omlouvám se* ("I apologize"), or *moc se omlouvám* ("I really apologize").

There are moments when saying just *promiňte* sounds too light, especially in formal situations.

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Moje noha...*
"My leg..."
2. *Aha, omlouvám se!*
"Oh, I'm sorry!"

Sample Sentences

1. *Promiňte, nemáte drobný?*
"Excuse me, do you have small change?"
2. *Promiňte prosím, kde tu je lékárna?*
"Excuse me please, where is a pharmacy here?"
3. *Promiň, omlouvám se, že jdu pozdě.*
"I'm sorry. I apologize for being late."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Gestures and Etiquette when Saying Apologizing in the Czech Republic

A "sorry" can be simply translated as *promiňte* in the Czech language. Depending on the situation, a formal *promiňte* can be enough to apologize for a minor thing, such as stepping on a foot, bumping into somebody you did not see, or other minor accidents. A more sincere apology would be *omlouvám se*, or *moc se omlouvám*, meaning "I apologize" and "I really apologize."

Promiňte can also be used to ask somebody to let you go through, or when you pass by somebody in a narrow space.

Among friends you can say just *promiň* without the formal *te* at the end.

Teenagers often use the English "sorry" among themselves, or a very colloquial expression, *soráč*.

When taken by surprise that they have caused something to happen to another person, Czech people tend to use the exclamation *ježíš promiňte!* The translation of this is "Jesus, I'm sorry!" The meaning of it is more like "Oh my (God), I'm sorry!" There is no longer a religious meaning to it; instead *ježíš* has just become an expression of surprise in a negative sense.

Useful expression:

1. *Ježíš! Já nechtěl! Promiňte.*
"Oh my! I didn't mean to! I'm sorry."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5

Making Czech Requests

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

5

CZECH

1. Číšnice: Dobrý večer.
2. Tomáš: Promiňte, můžete mi dát jídelní lístek?
3. Číšnice: Ano, chvílinku prosím.
4. Tomáš: Promiňte, můžete mi také dát vodu?
5. Číšnice: Jistě.
6. Tomáš: Promiňte, už bych si chtěl objednat.
7. Číšnice: Dobře.

ENGLISH

1. Waitress: Good evening.
2. Tomáš: Excuse me, can I get a menu?
3. Waitress: Okay, just a moment please.
4. Tomáš: Excuse me, can I also get some water?
5. Waitress: Sure.
6. Tomáš: Excuse me, I'd like to order.
7. Waitress: Okay.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
večer	evening	noun
moci	can	modal verb
dát	to give, to put in	verb
ano	yes	particle
jídelní lístek	menu	phrase
chvilinka	moment	noun
chtít	to want	modal verb
jistě	surely, certainly	adverb
obědnat si	to order	reflexive verb
dobře	well, all right, OK, fine	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tenisový kurt je otevřený i večer.</p> <p>"The tennis court is open in the evening, too."</p>	<p>Za teplých letních večerů hrajeme často karty.</p> <p>"We often play cards on a warm summer evening."</p>
<p>Dobrý večer!</p> <p>Good evening!</p>	<p>Řekni, až budeš moct jít.</p> <p>"Let me know when you are ready to go."</p>
<p>Dám si polívku.</p> <p>"I will have soup."</p>	<p>Dal do něho moc koření a teď se to nedá jíst.</p> <p>"He put in too many spices and now it is not edible anymore."</p>
<p>Můžete mi dát tohle?</p> <p>"Can you give me this?"</p>	<p>Otec dává mince.</p> <p>"The father is giving coins."</p>

Ano, mluvím německy. "Yes, I speak German."	Podej mi prosím jídelní lístek. "Pass me the menu, please."
Čekali jsme jen chvíli. "We were waiting just a short moment."	Chtěla bych nové brýle. "I would like new glasses."
Jistě to nevěděl. "Surely he didn't know it."	Obědnáš si něco? "Will you order something?"
Dělá to moc dobře. "She is doing it well."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***jídelní lístek* "dining list," "menu"**

jídelní = "eating/dining," *lístek* = "list/menu."

Jídelní derives from the word *jídlo* meaning "food." A similar word is *jídelna*, a noun meaning "dining room."

This is used mainly to request a restaurant or pub menu. One will come across this terminology, especially in rural areas of the Czech Republic. *Jídelní lístek* is still widely used in many Czech restaurants, although at tourist places and in bigger cities the English loanword "menu" is commonly used, and often a translation of the menu is available to make it easily accessible to international guests.

For example..

1. *Tady je nový jídelní lístek.*
"Here is a new menu."

***objednat* "to order"**

Objednat can have two meanings. On its own it means "to order." For example, *objednat kávu* ("to order a coffee"). If we add the dative form of reflexive pronoun *si*, meaning "to or for oneself," then *objednat si* means "to order for oneself." For

example, *obědnám si kafe* ("I will order coffee for myself").

Depending on context, we use this word either in terms of ordering something somewhere, or ordering for somebody else, or ordering for yourself. If it's for somebody else, we need to add the preposition *pro* "(for)." For example, *Objednat pro Hanu*, ("to order for Hana").

For example:

1. *Obědnám si dort.*
"I will order a cake (for myself)."

Chvilinka "a moment"

Chvilinka is a diminutive form of the word *chvíle* ("a while"). Czech people often use the expression *dlouhá chvíle* ("long while") to mean "a boring time." For example, *Měl jsem dlouhou chvíli* literally translates to "I had a long while," but the meaning is "I was bored."

Depending on context, *chvilinka* can be used to ask somebody to wait for a moment before somebody can give them attention. You may hear *Počkejte chvilinku, prosím* ("Just a moment, please"). We can also use it to say something lasted just a little while, as in *čekal jsem jen chvilinku* ("I was waiting just a little while"), or that something will only be for a short time *jenom na chvilinku* ("only for a moment").

For example:

1. *Půjdu na chvilinku ven.*
"I will go out for a little while."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking for Something ***Promiňte, můžete mi dát jídelní lístek?*** **"Excuse me, can I get a menu?"**

While living or travelling in the Czech Republic, you will need to know how to ask for things.

There will be moments when you need somebody to get you something, to pass you something, or to assist you with something.

The best way is to start with the phrase *mocet* which translates as "can."

Moc is an infinitive that conjugates according to the person.

(já) *můžu* ("I can")

(ty) *můžeš* ("you can")

(Vy) *můžete* ("you can"), formal polite speech

(on, ona, ono) *může* ("he, she, it can")

(my) *můžem* ("we can")

(vy) *můžete* ("you can")

(oni) *můžou* ("they can")

For example:

1. *Můžete mi dát kafe prosím?*
"Can you get me coffee, please?"

Můžete is the formal polite form used when speaking with strangers and people in public. It translates as "can you." *Mi* simply means "to me" and *dát* is an infinitive meaning "to give."

1. *Můžete mi dát....?*
"Can you give me....?"

After saying *můžete mi* you can add any verb in its infinitive form plus a noun, which is placed last.

For example:

Můžete mi dát vodu ("to give water")

Můžete mi podat sůl ("to pass salt")

Můžete mi ukázat jídelní lístek ("to show a menu")

Můžete mi přidat pivo ("to add beer")

Můžete mi poradit? ("help me," "advise me")

Czech language distinguishes between formal speech called *vykání* and informal speech called *tykání*.

In the formal speech politeness is expressed by *te* at the end of the verb, as in

můžete. In informal speech, *te* is replaced by *š*.

Můžete? "can you?" (formal)

Můžeš? "can you?" (informal)

For example:

1. *Můžete mi zavolat?*
"Can you call me?"
2. *Můžeš mi podat tašku?*
"Can you pass me my bag?"

There are also other ways how to express wishes in a polite way when asking for something.

One is by using the **conditional tense** *byste* for formal speech or *bys* for informal speech. These correspond to the English "would" and "could."

For example:

1. *Mohl byste mi to přeložit?*
"Would you/ could you translate this for me?" formal
2. *Mohl bys mi to přeložit?*
"Would you/could you translate this for me?" informal
3. *Mohl byste mi to podržet?*
"Would you/could you hold this for me?" formal
4. *Mohl bys mi to podržet?*
"Would you/could you hold this for me?" informal

Conjugation of Conditional Tense in a Question

(já) *mohl bych?* ("could I?")

(ty) *mohl bys?* ("could you?")

(Vy) *mohl byste?* ("could you?") *formal polite speech*

(on, ona, ono) *mohl, mohla, mohlo by?* ("could he, she, it?")

(my) *mohli bychom?* ("could we?") Note that in spoken Czech this changes into

mohli bysme.

(vy) mohli byste? ("could you?")

(oni) mohli by? ("could they?")

Politeness in the Czech language is very often expressed by using **negative verbs** plus the **conditional tense**.

Nemohl byste počkat? ("Could you wait?")

Nemohl byste mi pomoci? ("Could you help me?")

Nemohla by to napsat? ("Couldn't she write it?")

Nemohli by to potvrdit? ("Couldn't they confirm it?")

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Ano, chvíli prosím.*
"Okay, just a moment please."
2. *Promiňte, už bych si chtěl objednat.*
"Excuse me, I'd like to order."

Sample Sentences

1. *Promiňte, můžu si tu sednout?*
"Excuse me, may I sit here?"
2. *Ano, můžete. Prosím sedněte si.*
"Yes, you can. Please sit down."
3. *Ne, je tu obsazeno. Promiňte.*
"No, this space is occupied. I'm sorry."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Restaurant Manners in the Czech Republic

The menu in Czech restaurants is sometimes found directly on the table, but sometimes you need to request it. Czech people do not commonly share their

food, everybody orders their own food. There are still many restaurants where smoking is allowed, although some might have a non-smoking policy at lunch time. Tips are usually not included in the total of the bill and Czech people tend to leave a 10% tip, especially if they were happy with the service. This is more relevant to dinner time than to the discounted lunch menu. It's also perfectly fine not to leave a tip if you considered the service to be very bad, or a better tip if you were very happy.

Useful expression:

1. *Prosím Vás, máte obědovou nabídku?*
"Excuse me, do you have a special lunch menu?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6

Catching Up with an Old Friend in the Czech Republic

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

6

CZECH

1. [na letisti]
2. Tomáš: Čau, Martine? Jsi to ty?
3. Martin: Tome! Nazdar, dlouho jsem tě neviděl!
4. Tomáš: No to jo, hodně dlouho! Jak se máš?
5. Martin: Jo, jo, dobře. Jen jsem unavenej. Byla to dlouhá cesta z Japonska sem.

ENGLISH

1. [at airport]
2. Tomáš: Hey, Martin? Is that you?
3. Martin: Tom! Hi, haven't seen you for a long time!
4. Tomáš: Yeah, a very long time! How are you doing?
5. Martin: Yeah, I'm fine, just tired. It was a long journey from Japan to here.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
Čau	Hello, Bye	interjection
nazdar	Hi, bye	interjection
dlouho	long, for a long time	adverb

vidět	to see	verb
hodně	a lot, many	adverb
unavený	tired	adjective
dlouhý	long	adjective
cesta	road	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Čau Martine! "Bye, Martin!"	Nazdar kluci. "Hi boys."
Jak dlouho to trvá do Brna? "How long does it take to get to Brno?"	Na viděnou. "See you later."
To je hodně peněz. "This is a lot of money."	Už jsem unavený. "I'm already tired."
Byl to dlouhý den. "I was a long day."	Je to dlouhý výlet. "It's a long trip. "
Dítě jde po cestě. The baby is walking on the road.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

hodně "a lot, many, plenty, much"

Meaning "a lot, many, much, or plenty." Unlike the English equivalent, *hodně* is not dependent on countable or uncountable nouns.

This is used when expressing that there is a lot of something. The "something" can be any substance, a countable or uncountable amount, touchable or untouchable. It

can be used for any amount of anything. *Hodně...vody* ("water"), *cukru* ("sugar"), *času* ("time"), *papíru* ("paper"), *vzduchu* ("air"), *lidí* ("people") etc.

For example:

1. *Hodně mlíka, prosím.*
"Lots of milk, please."

***no to jo* "yeah, that's right"**

No is a colloquial "yes," a way of agreeing with another person, *to* is "it/this," and *jo* is "yeah."

The actual meaning is "yeah, that's right," or "well, yeah."

This is used when agreeing with another person and what he or she is saying.

No to jo is also a confirmation with another person that the two of you have the same opinion. In other words, it's saying "you are right."

For example:

1. *No to jo, to máš pravdu.*
"Yeah, you are right."

***nazdar* "hey, hi"**

This is a casual greeting like "hi" or "hey," or "bye." Another function is as an exclamation or interjection, *no nazdar*. When somebody says *no nazdar*, it's like saying "oh dear," or "blimey," or "jesus."

It can be used for greeting someone upon meeting or upon leaving (note this is used only with friends or family, or with kids). This phrase can also be used when one feels surprised about something. For example, *no nazdar, co budeš dělat?* ("Oh dear, what will you do?")

For example:

1. *Nazdar, už jsem tady!*
"Hey, I'm here now."

GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is Saying "long time no see."
*Tome! Nazdar, dlouho jsem tě neviděl!***

"Tom! Hi, haven't seen you for a long time!"

The most common greeting when meeting somebody after a long time starts with:

1. *Ahoj, jak se máš?*
"Hi, how are you?"
2. *Ahoj, jak se daří?*
"Hi, how are you doing?"

Máš se is the infinitive of *mít se* meaning "to be doing."

Daří se is the infinitive of *dařit se* meaning "to do well, to flourish, to prosper, to thrive."

Se is the accusative form of reflexive pronoun meaning "oneself" which further corresponds to the English "myself, yourself, herself, himself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves."

Both expressions have exactly the same meaning in this context, which is asking "how are you?" or "how are you doing?"

Dařit se can further be applied to flowers, animals, or trees because of its broad meaning.

For example:

1. *Téhle kytce se daří dobře.*
"This plant is flourishing."
2. *Tomu psovi se daří dobře.*
"This dog is doing well."
3. *Tomu stromu se daří dobře.*
"This tree is growing well."

The next expression, "long time no see," has a few variations.

Informal *tě* ("you")-

Dlouho jsem tě neviděl ("[I] haven't seen you for a long time"). Male speech

Dlouho jsem tě neviděla ("[I] haven't seen you for a long time"). Female speech

Formal *Vás* ("you")-

Dlouho jsem Vás neviděl ("[I] haven't seen you for a long time"). Male speech

Dlouho jsem Vás neviděla ("[I] haven't seen you for a long time"). Female speech

If we want to emphasize the fact that it is this specific person that we haven't seen for a long time, we can emphasise the word *tebe* ("you") by putting it in the front of the sentence:

1. *Tebe jsem dlouho neviděl!*
"You, I haven't seen for a long time!"

These sentences omit the subject *já* ("I").

The subject is evident from the verb *jsem* as it is the singular first person conjugation of the verb *být* ("to be").

How to conjugate the verb *být* ("to be"):

Singular

já jsem ("I am")

ty jsi ("you are") informal

Vy jste ("you are") formal

on/ona je ("he/she is")

Plural

my jsme: ("we are")

vy jste: ("you are")

oni jsou: ("they are")

If we say, for example, *dlouho jsme se neviděli* ("We haven't seen each other for a long time"), *jme* applies to the plural *my* ("we"). Thus, from the context even without the subject *my* it becomes apparent that it can only be *my* because of the connection *jme*.

When agreeing with the other person that we haven't seen each other for a long time, we can say *No to jo* ("Yeah, that's right") or ("You are right").

No has the same meaning as "yeah" and *to jo* is "that's right." Both can also be used separately, with *no* as only "yes" and *to jo* as only "that's right."

This phrase is a casual phrase and can be used in informal and semi-formal situations. It is not appropriate to use it in highly formal situations, such as political meetings etc.

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *No to jo, hodně dlouho! Jak se máš?*
"Yeah, a very long time! How are you doing?"
2. *Jo, jo, dobře. Jen jsem unavenej. Byla to dlouhá cesta z Japonska sem.*
"Yeah, I'm fine, just tired. It was a long journey from Japan to here. "

Sample Sentences

1. *Tebe jsem dlouho neviděl.*
"I haven't seen you for a long time."
2. *Dlouho jsme se neviděli.*
"We haven't seen each other for ages."
3. *Kde jsi byl(a) tak dlouho?*
"Where have you been for so long?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Reunions in the Czech Republic

Czech people like to meet up with their friends and families. While meeting with friends often takes place outside in restaurants or bars, family reunions mostly happen at home.

The frequency of meeting up with family depends on how far from each other family members live. If it's not too far, weekly gatherings are not unusual. Birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, or general holidays like Christmas, Easter holidays, or children's school holidays are always good reasons to visit relatives.

Many people meet their friends on a weekly basis for a drink or dinner out. If such friends are coming from far away, they get often invited home.

Useful expression:

1. *Přijďte k nám na návštěvu!*
"Come visit us!"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

Introducing Your Friend in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 10 Cultural Insight

7

CZECH

1. Tomáš: Martine, tohle je moje žena Irena.
2. Martin: Irena? Těší mě, já jsem Martin.
3. Irena: Dobrý den, Martine. Vy jste Tomův kolega a kamarád, že? Ráda Vás poznávám.
4. Martin: Konečně jsme se taky poznali!

ENGLISH

1. Tomáš: Martin, this is my wife Irina.
2. Martin: Irina? Hello, I'm Martin.
3. Irena: Hello, Martin. You are Tom's colleague and friend, right? Nice to meet you.
4. Martin: Nice to finally meet you too!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
tohle	this	pronoun
moje	my, mine	possessive pronoun
žena	woman	noun
kolega	colleague	noun
kamarád	friend, mate, pal, buddy	noun
rád	glad, pleased, delighted, happy	adjective

Vy	you (formal)	pronoun, personal pronoun
konečně	finally, at last, in the end	adverb
poznávat	get to know, to explore, become aware, to recognize	reflexive verb
setkat se	to meet, to meet up	reflexive verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tohle, prosím. "This please."	Tohle je moje manželka. "This is my wife."
Žena pije kávu. "A woman is drinking a cup of coffee."	Žena přemýšlí o odpovědi. The woman is thinking about the answer.
Žena drží globus. The woman is holding the globe.	Žena dělá domácí práci. The woman is doing housework.
Žena si čistí zuby. The woman is brushing her teeth.	Oliver je můj kolega. "Oliver is my colleague."
Řídící pracovnice firmy odchází s kolegou. The company executive is leaving with a colleague.	Dobrý kamarád vždy pomůže. "A good friend always helps."
Kamarád mi pomohl. "A friend helped me."	Rád jsem si s Vámi / s tebou dal oběd. "It was nice to have lunch together."

<p>To rád slyším. "I'm glad to hear that."</p>	<p>A jak Vy, pane Jůna? "And how about you, Mr. Juna?"</p>
<p>Žena se na vás usmívá. The woman is smiling at you.</p>	<p>Jmenuji se Adam, a Vy? "My name is Adam and yours?"</p>
<p>Konečně jsou tu všichni. "Finally, everybody's here. "</p>	<p>Poznávám tu nové lidi. "I'm getting to know new people here."</p>
<p>Můžeme se setkat zítra. "We can meet up tomorrow."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

kamarád "friend, mate"

kamarád = "friend (male)"

kamarádka = "friend (female)"

kamarádit (s) = "to be friends (with)"

These words are used only in terms of friendship with somebody, not in terms of an intimate relationship with a girlfriend or a boyfriend. Czech people don't say "this is my girlfriend," or "boyfriend," instead, they say *tohle je moje holka* ("this is my girl") or *tohle je muj kluk* ("this is my boy").

For example:

1. *Zuzka je moje věrná kamarádka.*
"Zuzka is my loyal friend."

konečně "finally, at least, after all"

This is derived from the word *konec* ("end"). *Konečně* means "finally," or "at last, after all." A similar word is *konečný*, meaning "final."

Use of this adverb is the same as in English when expressing something that

happened after certain time of waiting (i.e. that finally something happened), or in the same sense as the English "after all" (i.e. "After all, he's not alone"). *Konečně* is often used as an exclamation too, as in *No konečně!* ("Well, at last!"), used after having been made to wait for some time.

For example:

1. *Konečně přijeli!*
"They finally arrived!"

...že? "...isn't it?"

...že? corresponds to various questions that are asked at the end of a sentence, such as "aren't you?," "isn't he?," "Isn't it?," "won't we?," "can't they?" etc.

In this form it's used only at the end of a sentence when seeking confirmation from another person.

For example:

1. *Mohli by vyhrát, že?*
"They could win, couldn't they?"
2. *To je nuda, že?*
"It's so boring, isn't it?"
3. *Dnes je pěkná zima, že?*
"Today is really cold, isn't it?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Introducing Someone and Explaining Relations

Martine, tohle je moje žena Irena.
"Martin, this is my wife Irena."

When we are going to introduce somebody we can start with the phrase...

Tohle je... meaning "this is..." (or alternatively, *to je...* "this is") or *Tohle je můj/ moje...* ("this is my..."). After this phrase we can add any name or title to start the introduction of a person.

***Moje* ("my") refers to a female subject.**

Tohle je moje...

kolegyně ("female colleague")

maminka ("mum")

sestra ("sister")

dcera ("daughter")

etc...

Můj ("my") refers to a male subject.

Tohle je můj

kolega ("colleague")

bratr ("brother")

tatínek ("dad")

kamarád ("friend")

etc...

Family Members

First we'll give the formal and then the informal terminology (note that not all words for family members have an informal form).

Czech	English
<i>Rodiče</i>	Parents
<i>Matka:</i>	Mother
<i>Maminka:</i>	Mom
<i>Otec:</i>	Father
<i>Tatínek:</i>	Dad
<i>Sestra:</i>	Sister
<i>Ségra:</i>	Sis

<i>Bratr</i>	Bother
<i>Brácha</i>	Bro
<i>Syn</i>	Son
<i>Dcera</i>	Daughter
<i>Snacha</i>	Daughter-in-law
<i>Švagr</i>	Brother-in-law
<i>Prarodiče</i>	Grandparents
<i>Babička</i>	Grandmother, grandma, or granny
<i>Dědeček</i>	Grandfather
<i>Děda</i>	Grandpa
<i>Vnuk</i>	Grandchild (male)
<i>Vnučka</i>	Grandchild (female)
<i>Synovec</i>	Nephew
<i>Neteř</i>	Niece
<i>Sestřenice</i>	Cousin (female)
<i>Sestřenka</i>	
<i>Bratranec</i>	Cousin (male)
<i>Bratránek</i>	
<i>Teta</i>	Aunt
<i>Tetička</i>	Auntie
<i>Strýc</i>	Uncle
<i>Strejda</i>	

For any family member who is a step-dad, step-sister, or step-mom, etc. you can

use *nevlastní*.

Nevlastní otec ("step-dad")

Nevlastní sestra ("step-sister")

Nevlastní matka ("step-mother")

etc...

Possessive pronouns (*Even if they are acting as adjectives, in sentences where they are placed in front of a noun these words are actually possessive pronouns in the Czech grammar. If placed after a noun, they act as a noun.)

Já ("I")

Masculine: *Můj pes* ("my dog")

Feminine: *Moje kočka* ("my cat")

Neutral: *Moje morče* ("my guinea pig")

BUT....*Tohle je **moje*** ("this is **mine**")

Ty ("you")

Tvůj pes ("your dog")

Tvoje/tvá kočka ("your cat")

Tvoje/tvé morče ("your guinea pig")

BUT...*Tohle je **tvoje*** ("this is **yours**")

On ("he")

Jeho pes ("his dog")

Jeho kočka ("his cat")

Jeho morče ("his guinea pig")

*Tohle je **jeho**...* ("this is **his**...")

Ona ("she")

Její pes ("her dog")

Její kočka ("her cat")

Její morče ("her guinea pig")

BUT...*Tohle je její* ("this is **hers**")

My ("we")

Náš pes ("our dog")

Naše kočka ("our cat")

Naše morče ("our guinea pig")

BUT...*Tohle je naše* ("this is **ours**")

Vy ("you")

Váš pes ("your dog")

Vaše kočka ("your cat")

Vaše morče ("your guinea pig")

BUT...*Tohle je vaše* ("this is **yours**")

Oni ("they")

Jejich pes ("their dog")

Jejich kočka ("their cat")

Jejich morče ("their guinea pig")

BUT...*Tohle je jejich* ("this is **theirs**")

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Irena? Těší mě, já jsem Martin.*
"Irina? Hello, I'm Martin."
2. *Dobrý den, Martine. Vy jste Tomův kolega a kamarád, že? Ráda Vás poznávám.*
"Hello, Martin. You are Tom's colleague and friend, right? Nice to meet you."

Sample Sentences

1. *Tohle je náš dům.*
"This is our house."

2. *Tady je jeho maminka.*
"Here is his mom."
3. *Radka je moje spolužačka.*
"Radka is my classmate."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Making Friends in the Czech Republic

Czech people tend to be quite open even when meeting for the first time. They are happy to talk about their lives if they feel a new friendship clicks.

If you really want to be friends with someone, it's also good to start openly and to reach the point when you both feel comfortable with dropping formal language. This can sometimes happen very quickly, and sometimes conversation even starts without formal language. It all depends on the situation. Quite likely, if you are of a similar age, or if you are introduced through a friend, formalities will be dropped very soon.

Useful expression:

1. *Popovídáme si u kávy?*
"Shall we have a chat over coffee?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8

Receiving a Gift in the Czech Republic

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

8

CZECH

1. Martin: Tome a Ireno, tohle je pro vás suvenýr z Japonska.
2. Irena: Jé, moc děkujeme!
3. Martin: Vůbec není zač.

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Tom and Irina, this is a souvenir from Japan for you.
2. Irena: Wow, thank you very much!
3. Martin: Don't mention it.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
pro	for	preposition
suvenýr	souvenir	noun
jé	wow	interjection
moc	very	adverb
děkovat	to thank	verb, reflexive verb
vůbec	at all, whatsoever, by no means	particle
nebýt	not to be	negative verb
zač/ za co	what for, who	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Pro muže. "For men."	Suvenýr z ciziny. "A souvenir from abroad."
Moji kamarádi se naštvoú, jestli jim nepošlu žádné suvenýry. "My friends will get angry if I don't send them some souvenirs."	Jéé, to je milý! "Wow, that's so kind!"
Moc se nám to líbí. "We like this very much."	Tohle jídlo je moc dobré. "This dish is very delicious."
Děkovat je slušnost. "It is polite to say thanks."	Děkuji, Jano! "Thank you, Jana!"
Vůbec se nezlobím. "I'm not angry at all."	Dnes nejsem v práci. "Today I'm not at work."
Zač/ za co mě máš? "Who do you think I am?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

jé "wow"

This is an interjection and exclamation of pleasure, admiration, or surprise in both the negative and positive sense.

It's an exclamation of surprise in the negative sense such as when you have a small accident, like spilling a drink. It's an exclamation in the positive sense when you receive an unexpected gift. It can be used to express admiration when you see something or somebody you like a lot, and it can express pleasure when you feel good about something, for example receiving a massage which feels very relaxing.

For example:

1. *Jé, to je hezký.*
"Wow, that's nice."

není "is not, isn't"

Není ("is not") is the opposite of *je* ("is"). It is the negated conjugation of the verb *být* ("to be") in the singular form third person *on/ona není* ("he/she is not").

The singular conjugation is *Já nejsem* ("I'm not") *ty nejsi* ("you are not"), *on/ona není* ("he/she is not"), *to není* ("it is not"). Please note that in terms of negating verbs in Czech language, *ne* ("no") comes in front of the verb as a negative prefix.

In third person singular form *není* is used in connection with something, for example *něco* or *to* ("it"), *to není* ("it is not"), *něco není* ("something is not").

For example:

1. *To není problém.*
"It is no problem."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Phrases to Know When Giving Gifts to Someone

Tome a Ireno, tohle je pro vás suvenýr z Japonska.

"Tom and Irina, this is a souvenir from Japan for you."

In this lesson we will have a look at phrases to know when giving and receiving gifts.

Giving a Gift

Tohle je pro tebe ("This is for you.")—Giving a gift to one person, informal.

Tohle je pro vás ("This is for you.")—Giving to more than one person, formal and informal.

Tohle je suvenýr pro Vás ("This is a souvenir for you.")—Giving a gift to one person, formal.

Suvenýr can be replaced by any other noun, such as:

dárek ("present"), *květiny* ("flowers"), *něco malého* ("a little thing"), *něco pro tebe*

("something for you") etc.

For example:

1. *Tohle je bonboniéra pro tebe.*
"This is a box of chocolates for you."
2. *Tohle je obrázek pro vás.*
"This is a picture for you."

Frequently used phrases:

1. *Tady je taková maličkost.*
"Here is just a small thing."
2. *Tady je něco od cesty.*
"Here is something from my journey."
3. *Něco jsem vám přinesl/la.*
"Here, I got you something."

There is a difference in Czech grammar when speaking of a noun in a singular form or in a plural form. Some Czech nouns have only a plural form.

For example: *kalhoty* ("trousers"), *hodiny/hodinky* ("clock/ watch"), *nůžky* ("scissors"), *peníze* ("money").

When speaking of a singular noun, the sentence in Czech language starts with...

Tohle je meaning "This is"

When speaking in plural or about a noun with plural meaning, the sentence in Czech language starts with *Tohle jsou* ("These are").

Some examples of singular:

1. *Tohle je obrázek z Itálie.*
"This is a picture from Italy."
2. *Tohle je čaj z Mongolska.*
"This is tea from Mongolia."

Some examples of plural:

1. *Tohle jsou bonbóny z Belgie.*
"These are bonbons from Belgium."
2. *Tohle jsou kalhoty z Anglie.*
"These are trousers from England."
3. *Tohle jsou hodinky z Norska.*
"This is a watch from Norway."

Accepting a Gift

Common phrases:

1. *Mockrát děkuju.*
"[I] Thank you very much."
2. *Mockrát děkujeme.*
"[We] Thank you very much."
3. *To je milý, děkuju.*
"This is very kind, [I] thank you."
4. *To je milý, děkujeme.*
"This is very kind, [we] thank you."

Casual phrases:

1. *Jé, to jsi nemusel/la, děkuju!*
"Wow, you didn't need to, thank you!"
2. *Jé, díky moc!*
"Wow, many thanks!"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jé, moc děkujeme!*
"Wow, thank you very much!"
2. *Vůbec není zač."*
"Don't mention it."

Sample Sentences

1. *Tady máte něco od nás.*
"Here is something from us."
2. *Snad se ti to bude líbit.*
"Hopefully you will like it."
3. *Tady je nějaká maličkost z Asie.*
"Here is something small from Asia."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Popular Gifts in the Czech Republic

When it comes to souvenirs from a different country, sweets, tea, and interesting food or snacks make nice gifts.

When you visit someone for a house warming, for example, it's kind of a custom to bring a plant or flowers in a pot for either the balcony or living room.

Presents for Christmas or birthdays should suit the receiver's personal taste, and people give music, books, wall pictures, etc. If you're unsure, get something practical for the household or something of good quality that anyone could use.

In the recent years wedding presents are quite often chosen from a registry the bride and groom make for the guests. It has also become quite popular to give a voucher or a ticket to something the newlyweds can enjoy together as a couple, for example, a massage, a dinner, a wellness weekend or an adventure day.

Useful expression:

1. *Šťastné narozeniny!*
"Happy birthday!"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9 Unidentified Czech Objects

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

9

CZECH

1. Irena: Tohle je džem?
2. Martin: Jo, správně. To je sklenice japonskýho džemu. Jmenuje se "růže."
3. Irena: Růže? To je dobrý název.

ENGLISH

1. Irena: Is this jam?
2. Martin: Yes, that's right. This is jar of Japanese jam. It's called "rose" jam.
3. Irena: Rose jam? That's a good name.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
džem	jam	noun
jo	yeah, yup	particle
správně	correct, correctly, right, rightly	adverb
sklenice	drinking glass	noun
japonský	Japanese	adjective
růže	rose	noun
dobrý	good	adjective
název	name, title, designation, heading	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jahodový džem je nejlepší. "Strawberry jam is the best."	Jo, to zkusíme. "Yup, we shall try that."
Říkáš to správně. "What you are saying is correct."	Tahle sklenice je křehká. "This glass is fragile."
Je to japonský výrobek. "It's a Japanese product."	Voní to jako růže. "It smells like a rose."
Dobrý den! "Good day!"	Nemá to žádný název. "It has no title."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

růže "rose"

Růže is a flower, but because of its various color shades of red and pink, in Czech the word is often used referring to women's blush, the cosmetic product.

You'll hear this used when talking about real rose flowers, either rose blossoms or the whole plant, about cosmetic product blusher, and about women in the poetic phrase *jako růže* ("like a rose blossom"), meaning "beautiful." You'll even hear it in idiomatic phrases, such as *trpělivost růže přináší* ("patience brings roses") meaning "good things come to those who wait."

For example:

1. *Není růže bez trní.*
"There is no rose without a thorn." (idiom)

Jo, správně. "Yeah, that's right."

jo="yeah, yep, yup" *správně*="right, correct"

Jo is a colloquial expression for *ano* ("yes").

Jo can only be used in informal situations, as with friends, family, children or people we are familiar with. *Jo* is used to give approval, as in *jo, můžeš* ("yes, you can"), to show agreement on something, as in *tak jo* ("yes, agreed"). It can also be used to

ask a question in various contexts, as in *jo?* ("all right?," "really?," "no kidding?"), and to show understanding *A jo!* ("Oh, yeah!," "I see").

Správně ("right," "correct") is another common word with no restrictions on formal or informal language.

For example:

1. *A jo! Já zapomněl!*
"Oh yeah! I completely forgot!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking Whether A is B

Tohle je džem?

"Is this a jam?"

When sightseeing in the Czech Republic or talking to Czech people, you will for sure come across things, buildings, and names that you have never heard before. This lesson's questions are designed to help you fill in these cultural gaps and not only that, but much more!

Asking What Something Is

When you need to know what something is you can ask *co to je?* meaning "What is this?"

An answer to this question starts with *to je...* ("This is...")

For example, say you see a colorful box, but you don't know what it is.

You can ask *co to je?*

The answer would be *to je* ("this is"), plus a noun, in this case, *čaj* ("tea").

For example:

1. *To je čaj.*
"This is tea."

You can also guess what something is, in which case you can start the question by saying

Tohle je... ("This is...") and then add a noun or an adjective and use inflection to make it a question. *Tohle* means "this."

For example:

1. *Tohle je mýdlo?*
"This is soap?"
2. *Tohle je sladký?*
"This is sweet?"
3. *Tohle je ručně dělaný?*
"This is home-made?"

*In Czech, *to* ("it") and *tohle* ("this") both correspond to the English "this" or "that."

They are both demonstrative pronouns indicating that the nouns in question are not far away from the speakers.

Questions are made mainly by intonation and the word order doesn't necessarily stay the same.

For example, both...

Tohle je mýdlo? ("This is soap?")

and

Je tohle mýdlo? ("Is this soap?")

...are equally correct.

With the question mark at the end voice intonation goes up, which means the sentence expresses the same type of question regardless of the word order.

Asking Who Somebody Is

When you need to ask about a person and who he/she is, you simply swap the word *co* ("what") for *kdo* ("who").

1. *Kdo to je?*
"Who is it?" or "Who is that?"
2. *Kdo je to?*
"Who is it?" or "Who is that?"

An answer to this starts with...

To je... ("This is...")

Tohle je... ("This is") or ("This person is")

While in English using "that" in a question puts much more emphasis on the word itself, in Czech the same emphasis is achieved by stress, i.e., *Co **to** je?* ("What is this?," "What is that?").

Asking What Something is For

You may also want to ask what a thing or item is for.

This is expressed by asking...

Na co to je? This is literally "What for is this?" or "What is this for?"

Na co means "what for."

The answer to this starts with...

1. *To je na...*
"This is for...")

For example:

1. *Na co to je?*
"What is this for?"
2. *To je na ruce.*
"This is for hands."
3. *Na co to je?*
"What is this for?"
4. *To je na vlasy*
"That's for hair."

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jo, správně. To je sklenice japonskýho džemu. Jmenuje se "růže."*
"Yes, that's right. This is jar of Japanese jam. It's called "rose" jam."

2. *Růže? To je dobrý název.*
"Rose jam? That's a good name."

Sample Sentences

1. *Tohle je k jídlu?*
"Is this to be eaten?"
2. *Tohle je nějaký krém, ne?*
"This is some cream, isn't it?"
3. *Je tohle pravé zlato?*
"Is this real gold?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Common Things in a Czech Kitchen

There is always a small assortment of herbal teas to be found in a Czech kitchen. Czechs like to drink herbal tea with lemon and honey. Because of that, Czech women tend to be keen on having nice mugs and they often collect different varieties. Honey is a must have in any kitchen. Bread is another indispensable item in all households because it's one of the main foods consumed on the daily basis, especially for breakfast with jam and butter, or cheese and raw vegetables. Czech kitchens are most often equipped with an oven and a pressure cooker colloquially called a *papiňák*.

Useful expression

Tohle je tvá sbírka hrníčků?

"Is this your collection of mugs?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10 Who Does this Czech Item Belong To?

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

10

CZECH

1. Martin: To je tvůj dům, Tome?
2. Tomáš: Ano, pojd' dál.
3. Martin: Děkuju.
4. (Haf! Haf!)
5. Martin: Jé, tohle je tvůj pes, Ireno?
6. Irena: Jo, ten je můj.
7. (Haf! Haf!)

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Is this your house, Tomáš?
2. Tomáš: Yes, come on in.
3. Martin: Thank you.
4. (Woof! Woof!)
5. Martin: Oh, and this is your dog, Irina?
6. Irina: Yes, this is my dog.
7. (Woof! Woof!)

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
tvůj	your, yours	possessive pronoun
ano	yes	adverb
jít	to go, to enter	verb
dál	on, onward, further	adverb
haf, haf	woof	onomatopoeia
pes	dog	noun
jo	yeah, yup	particle
ten	the, that, this	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tady je tvůj mobil. "Here is your mobile phone."</p>	<p>Ano, mluvím německy. "Yes, I speak German."</p>
<p>Pojď dál! "Come in!"</p>	<p>Jen tak dál. "Just keep going."</p>
<p>Pes štěká haf, haf. "A dog is barking woof, woof."</p>	<p>To je tvůj pes? "Is this your dog?"</p>
<p>Tenhle pes kouše. "This dog bites."</p>	<p>Jo, to zkusíme. "Yup, we shall try that."</p>
<p>To je ten herec. "This is the actor."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Jít dál "To go further, to go in, to continue going/ walking"

Jít = "to go" or "to walk" *dál* = "further, in, on onward"

Jít dál ("to go in") is a fixed phrase that indicates the action for entering a house, for example, *Pojď dál* ("Come in!"). This phrase has also an alternative version, *Jít dovnitř*, meaning "to go inside," and you may hear *Pojď dovnitř* ("Come inside!").

It can also mean "to continue walking," as in *Můžem jít dál* ("We can go on, we can continue walking").

This is used when inviting somebody at your door to come into your home, or when encouraging someone to keep going or walking somewhere.

For example:

1. *Nepůjdete dál?*
"Won't you come in?"

dům "building, house, residence, centre"

Dům has several meanings because it covers different types of buildings. Some examples are *rodinný dům* ("family house"), *residenční dům* ("residency building"), *činžovní dům* ("low block of flats"), *panelový dům* ("high block of flats"), *nájemní dům* ("rental house"), *kulturní dům* ("culture and community centre"), *Bílý dům* ("White House"), *dům služeb* ("public services"), *obchodní dům* ("shopping mall, department store"), etc.

The word *dům* is a common word used on a daily basis, especially when talking about somebody's house or a public place. However, often in spoken language, some of the buildings that have *dům* in their official title are shortened to one word. For example, *Kulturní dům* ("culture center") becomes *kulturák*, *obchodní dům* ("department store") becomes *obchodák*, *činžovní dům* ("low block of flats") becomes *činžák*, *panelový dům* ("high block of flats") becomes *panelák*, etc.

For example:

1. *Oni bydlí v nájemním domě.*
"They live in a rental house."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Expressing Ownership with Possessive Pronouns

To je tvůj dům, Tome?

"Is this your house, Tomáš?"

Possessive pronouns in Czech language are subject to declension cases of singular and plural form.

Possessives in a sentence can have the same function as an adjective, either replacing it or adding to an existent adjective, for example, *můj dům* ("my house"), *můj věrný pes* ("my loyal dog").

Possessives can also act as a noun in sentences where they are at the end, for example, *ten mobil je můj* ("That mobile phone is mine.") The English "my" or "mine" has only one form in the Czech language and that is *můj*. *Můj* is therefore used for both of these English terms "my" and "mine," even at the end of a sentence. However, *můj* (as well as other Czech possessive pronouns) is subject to seven cases of declension and the form of these possessives changes according to each case and also gender.

The possessive *můj* correspond to the English "my" or "mine."

The possessive *tvůj* corresponds to the English "your" or "yours."

The English possessive "your" or "yours" has three different cases in the Czech language.

1. *tvůj* "your," "yours" for the singular form of the second person (informal).
2. *Váš* "your," "yours" for the singular form of the second person (formal speech).
3. *váš* "your," "yours" for the plural form of second person (informal or formal speech).

Conjugation of Possessive Pronouns

Singular

já = můj "I = "my-mine"

ty = tvůj "you = "your/yours"

Vy = Váš "you = "your/yours" formal, honorific speech

on = jeho "he" = "his"

ona = její "she" = "her/hers"

Plural

my = *naše* "we" = "our/ours"

vy = *vaše* "you" = "your/yours"

oni = *jejich* "they" = "their/theirs"

The exception is *Vy* with the capital V, which acts like the plural form *vy* ("you"), but is the form of formal speech addressing one person.

Because Czech nouns have three different genders (masculine, feminine and neuter) possessive pronouns are also divided by these genders.

*Please keep in mind that the gender depends on the owned things' noun's gender, not on the owner's gender.

The Gender Possessive Pronouns

Masculine	Feminine	Neutral
<i>já</i> "I"	<i>můj</i> "my, mine"	<i>moje</i> "my, mine"
<i>ty</i> "you"	<i>tvůj</i> "your, yours"	<i>tvoje</i> "your, yours"
<i>Váš</i> "your, yours"	<i>vaše</i> "your, yours"	<i>Vaše</i> "your, yours"
<i>on</i> "he"	<i>jeho</i> "his"	<i>jeho</i> "his"
<i>ona</i> "she"	<i>její</i> "her, hers"	<i>její</i> "her, hers"
<i>ono</i> "it"	<i>jeho</i> "its"	<i>jeho</i> "its"
<i>my</i> "we"	<i>náš</i> "our, ours"	<i>naše</i> "our, ours"
<i>vy</i> "you"	<i>váš</i> "your, your"	<i>vaše</i> "your, yours"
<i>oni</i> "they"	<i>jejich</i> "their, theirs"	<i>jejich</i> "their, theirs"

Possessive *svůj* ("one's own")

This possessive is related to "oneself" when the possessor of the thing in question is the subject of the sentence. The conjugation of the word *svůj* depends on the gender of the noun.

For example:

1. *Já nemám svůj kabát.*
"I don't have *my* coat."
2. *Ty nemáš svoje boty.*
"You don't have *your* shoes."
3. *On nemá svou šálu.*
"He doesn't have *his* scarf."
4. *Ona nemá své naušnice.*
"She doesn't have *her* earrings."
5. *My nemáme svůj barák.*
"We don't have *our own* house."
6. *Vy nemáte svoje auto.*
"You don't have *your own* car."
7. *Oni nemají svou zahradu.*
"They don't have *their own* garden."

The Interrogative Pronoun *čí* ("whose")

To ask a question "whose is the..." you use the interrogative pronoun *čí*.

An interrogative pronoun is a pronoun used in order to ask a question. There are five basic interrogative pronouns in the Czech language- *kdo* ("who"), *co* ("what"), *který* ("which"), *jaký* ("what kind of"), *čí* ("whose").

The pronoun *čí* ("whose") is used to find out the owner of an object.

Singular form:

Masculine: *Čí je to pes?* ("Whose dog is this?")

Feminine: *Čí je to čepice?* ("Whose hat is this?")

Neutral: *Čí je to kolo?* ("Whose bike is this?")

Plural form:

Masculine: *Čí jsou to psi?* ("Whose dogs are these?")

Feminine: *Čí jsou to čepice?* ("Whose hats are these?")

Neutral: *Čí jsou to kola?* ("Whose bikes are these?")

The singular form is **čí je** ("whose is...").

The plural form is **čí jsou** ("whose are...")

Čí does not change its form with the gender of a noun. It remains the same for all three genders (masculine, feminine, neuter).

However, differences in the question for each gender sentence occur in cases where we use the demonstrative pronoun **ten** for masculine nouns, **ta** for feminine nouns, or **to** for neuter nouns, instead of just *to* which means "this." All three correspond to the English "that/those."

The changes are as follows.

Singular demonstrative pronouns:

1. *Čí je **ten** pes?*
"Whose dog is that?"
2. *Čí je **ta** čepice?*
"Whose hat is that?"
3. *Čí je **to** kolo?*
"Whose bike is that?"

Plural demonstrative pronouns:

1. *Čí jsou **ti** psi?*
"Whose dogs are these?"
2. *Čí jsou **ty** čepice?*
"Whose hats are these?"
3. *Čí jsou **ta** kola?*
"Whose bikes are these?"

Note: In colloquial language, the plural forms **ti** and **ta** are likely to be replaced by **ty**.

For example:

1. *Čí jsou **ty** psi?*
"Whose dogs are these?"

2. *Čí jsou **ty** kola?*
"Whose bikes are these?"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jé, tohle je tvůj pes, Irina?*
"Oh, and this is your dog, Irina?"
2. *Jo, ten je můj.*
"Yes, this is my dog."

Sample Sentences

1. *Tohle je jeho deštník.*
"This is his umbrella."
2. *Ta taška je její.*
"This bag is hers."
3. *Tamhle je jejich dítě.*
"Over there is their child."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Pet Ownership in the Czech Republic

According to a 2014 research conducted by a Czech company GFK (focusing on market and consumers analysis), every second household in the Czech Republic has a pet. Within Europe, the Czech Republic has the highest number of dogs and cats.

Stray dogs and cats are taken care of in the Czech Republic. When found, they are taken into an animal shelter where their health and condition is checked by a veterinarian. Great effort is made to find the owners. If an owner is not found, the animal is taken care of until there is a new owner. The new owner has to sign an agreement to take care of and full responsibility for the animal. An animal cannot be taken from the shelter as a present for somebody. In the case of cats, if there is no owner found and it becomes obvious the cat was living wild, the animal gets treated to ensure it's in good health and is released back into its territory as cats

can live as wild animals.

Useful expression:

1. *Pozor na psa.*
"Beware of the dog."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11

Enjoying a Delicious Czech Meal

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

11

CZECH

1. (zazvoní kuchyňský budík)
2. Irena: Tady to je, posluž si!
3. Martin: Jé, to vypadá úžasně.
4. Tomáš: Jdeme jíst!
5. Martin: (mlask mlask) Mňam. Výborný! Ireno, díky, že jsi uvařila.

ENGLISH

1. (timer goes off)
2. Irena: Here, help yourself!
3. Martin: Oh, that looks delicious.
4. Tomáš: Let's eat!
5. Martin: (munch munch) Yum. Delicious! Irena, thank you for making the dish.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
kuchyňský budík	kitchen timer	noun
posloužit si	to help oneself	verb
vypadat	to look like, to appear	verb

úžasný	amazing	adjective
jít	to go, to walk, to leave, to depart	verb
jíst	to eat	verb
mňam	yummy	interjection
výborný	excellent	adjective
uvařit	to cook up, to make, to prepare	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tenhle kuchyňský budík je hlučný.</p> <p>"This kitchen timer is very noisy."</p>	<p>Posloužil si dobrým vínem.</p> <p>"He helped himself to a good wine."</p>
<p>Vypadá to, že bude zítra celý den sněžit.</p> <p>"It looks like it will snow all day tomorrow."</p>	<p>Vypadá velmi mladě.</p> <p>"(She) looks very young."</p>
<p>Ten herec je úžasný.</p> <p>"The actor is amazing."</p>	<p>Musím jít k doktorovi.</p> <p>"I have to go to the doctor."</p>
<p>Jdeme do školy.</p> <p>"We are going to school."</p>	<p>Měli bychom jíst aspoň třikrát denně.</p> <p>"We are supposed to eat at least three times a day."</p>
<p>Měl bys něco jíst.</p> <p>"You should eat something."</p>	<p>Rodina jí snídani.</p> <p>"The family is eating breakfast."</p>

Mňam, to je dobrý.

"Yummy, this is tasty. "

To je výborný způsob, jak představit naši firmu zákazníkům.

"This is an excellent way to introduce our company to the customers."

Uvařím vám oběd.

"I will cook you lunch."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***mlask* "the sound for noisy eating"**

mlask is the onomatopoeia that refers to the sound produced when somebody is eating noisily. There is no direct translation into English, only a description "to eat noisily," for which there is a specific Czech verb, *mlaskat*.

The verb *mlaskat* ("to eat noisily") is conjugated just like any other verb in the Czech language. It is a common word used when talking about people and the way they eat. The word *mlaskat* can be also a noun, *mlaskání*, which means "noisy eating." In fact, according to Czech table etiquette *mlaskání* is considered impolite when eating. Children are often told *nemlaskej*, which translates as "Stop eating noisily" and means "Eat quietly."

For example:

1. *U jídla se nemlaská.*
"Eating should not be noisy."

***uvařit* "to cook up a meal," "to finish cooking"**

Uvařit ("to cook up a meal, to finish cooking") belongs to the group of perfective verbs. "Perfective" means that the action expressed by the verb has been or will be finished. *Uvařit* thus literally means that the action of cooking is done and finished or will be done and finished.

This verb is used depending on the context of the sentence we want to make. The verb *uvařit* has a prefix, *u*, which indicates the end of an action, in this case cooking. We can also just say *vařit* ("to cook"), but this verb does not indicate that the action is or will be finished. It could be used to say that somebody cooks

dinner every day, for example *Každý den vařila večeři* ("She cooks dinner every day"). The difference between the two verbs is that one is perfective and one imperfective. For example, compare *Uvařila večeři* ("She cooked dinner and the dinner is now ready"), and *vařila večeři* ("She cooked dinner," or "She was cooking dinner," but it is not clear if the dinner is ready yet).

For example:

1. *Uvaříme si něco dobrého.*
"We shall cook up something tasty."

***budík* "alarm clock, timer"**

The word *budík* ("alarm clock," "timer") derives from verb *budit* ("to wake somebody up"). *Budík* is any type of alarm clock or a timer. In this form it has no other meaning except for an alarm clock or a timer. On the other hand, the diminutive form of *budík*, which is *budíček* means "wake-up signal," such as a morning wake-up call in the army, at a summer camp, or in a hotel.

For example:

1. *Vstávejte! Ranní budíček!*
"Wake up! Morning wake up call!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Czech Words and Expressions for the Dinner Table

Tady to je, posluž si!
"Here, help yourself!"

Basic Phrases

1. *Dobrou chuť!*
"Bon Appetit! Enjoy your meal."
2. *Nechte si chutnat.*
"Enjoy your meal."
3. *Posluž/te si.*
"Help yourself/yourselves."

4. *Vypadá to výborně.*
"It looks delicious."
5. *Je to výborné.*
"It is delicious."
6. *Na zdraví!* "Cheers!"

Dobrou chuť! is a general phrase used before you eat. *Dobrou* means "good" and *chuť* means "taste, appetite." Literally it's "have a good appetite", but in loose translation the meaning is "enjoy your meal." An alternative to this phrase is *dobré chutnání*, which translates in the same way as the first phrase. *Chutnání* is a noun meaning "tastiness" and is hardly ever used outside of this phrase.

Nech/te si chutnat is another phrase that is used before eating. The meaning of this phrase is more like "may you enjoy your meal" or "let yourself/yourself enjoy your meal." This phrase is used as frequently as the abovementioned *dobrou chuť*. Both are interchangeable and which one is used is up to the speaker.

Posluž/te si is another phrase used before meal. It invites a person or people to start taking food from the table and start eating. *Posloužit si* is the infinitive of "to help oneself to something," *si* is the dative form of the reflexive pronoun *si* ("to/for oneself"). So *posluž si*, or *poslužte si* means "help yourself" or "help yourselves."

Vypadá to výborně is a phrase used before eating. It praises the prepared meals for looking good and tasty.

Vypadá to means "it looks, it appears." *To* is a demonstrative pronoun which has the same meaning as the English "it" or "this." In the context of food, *výborně* means "great," "tasty," or "delicious."

Je to výborné is a phrase used at the time of eating. It expresses that the meal or food you are eating is well prepared and tastes good. *Je to* literally means "it is" and *výborné* means "delicious," "great."

Before drinking and when lifting up your glass, you can say *Na zdraví!* which means "Cheers!" although its literal translation is "to good health." *Na* is a preposition meaning "on" or "to," and *zdraví* means simply "health." This phrase is expressing that you are lifting your glass in order to wish everybody good health.

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jdeme jíst!*
"Let's eat!"

2. *(mlask mlask) Mňam. Výborný! Ireno, díky, že jsi uvařila.*
"(munch munch) Yum. Delicious! Irina, thank you for making the dish."

Sample Sentences

1. *Dobrou chuť!*
"Bon appetit! Enjoy your meal!"
2. *Nechte si chutnat.*
"Enjoy your meal."
3. *Na zdraví!* "Cheers!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Czech Dinner Table

The main meals for Czech people are breakfast, lunch, and dinner, out of which lunch is the biggest meal of the day. Traditionally, lunch consists of three courses: a starter (usually a soup), the main meal, and a dessert or coffee. In a restaurant, you will first be asked about a drink before a waitress takes your meal order. If your course contains soup, eat your soup first. Your main meal will come after that. It is also fine to request both at the same time, but you need to specify that you'd like them together. When dining, try to avoid putting your elbows on the table or making loud sounds whilst eating. Slurping or eating loudly is not considered polite. Soup is not to be drunk from the bowl, but spooned into one's mouth.

Czech people don't normally share their food in the middle of the table; everyone eats their own food that they ordered. The only exception would be certain Asian restaurants with "family-style" dining.

Useful expression:

1. *Na zdraví!* "Cheers!"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

What is this Czech Dish?

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

12

CZECH

1. Martin: Co je tohle?
2. Irena: To je Koleno.
3. Martin: Co?.. Koleno?
4. Irena: Jo. Je to udělaný z vepřovýho kolena. Jíš vepřové, Martine?
5. Martin: Jo! (mlask mlask), hm, je to výborný.

ENGLISH

1. Martin: What's this?
2. Irena: That's Koleno.
3. Martin: Oh.. Koleno?
4. Irena: Yes. It's made of pork knee. Do you eat pork, Martin?
5. Martin: Yes! (munch munch) Mmm, it's delicious!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
koleno	knee	noun
co	what	expression
udělat	to do, to get something done	verb

z	from	preposition
vepřové	pork	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Bolí mě koleno. "My knee hurts."</p>	<p>Co dáš mamince? "What will you give to your mom?"</p>
<p>Co budeš dělat? "What will you do?"</p>	<p>Co si dáte? "What will you take?"</p>
<p>Co to je? "What is this?"</p>	<p>Udělám ti čaj. "I'll make you tea."</p>
<p>Jsem z Kanady. "I am from Canada."</p>	<p>Nejím vepřové. "I don't eat pork."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***koleno* "knee," "bend," "generation"**

Koleno ("knee") in Czech has several meanings. It can be the part of a human or animal leg, it can be a bend in a road, path, river, or a pipe, or it can mean a generation in the family tree.

In terms of food, we use this word in, for example, *uzené koleno* ("ham hock") which is a smoked pork knee. In terms of generations, we use this word to say somebody is *druhé, třetí, koleno* meaning the person is already in the "second" or "third" generation. In terms of roads, rivers, or pipes, *koleno* means the bend, for example *koleno řeky* ("the river bend"), or *koleno trubky* ("the pipe elbow" i.e. "bend").

For example:

1. *Nechat si vrtat koleno.* (idiom)
Lit. "To have one's knee drilled," meaning "to be stingy"

vepřové "pork"

This derives from the word *vepř*, meaning a "hog/pig." *Vepřové* is the meat from a pig, i.e. pork. Another similar word is *vepřík*, meaning a "piglet."

This term is used mostly in terms of food, *vepřová pečeně* ("roast pork"), *vepřový bok* ("pork belly"), *vepřové kotlety* ("pork chops"). If used as the noun *vepř* ("pig") when talking about a person, this word has the offensive meaning of "fat" or "fatty."

For example:

1. *Špinavý jako vepř.*
"As dirty as a pig."

udělaný z..."made from..."

udělaný means "made" and *z* is a preposition meaning "from," "of," "off," or "out of." For example something can be *udělaný z papíru* ("made from paper"), or *udělaný ze dřeva* ("made from wood"). The preposition *z* also becomes *ze* with certain words for the sake of easier pronunciation. For example, saying *z stolu* ("off the table") is difficult, so if we make it *ze stolu* ("off the table"), the pronunciation becomes easier. This change happens mainly if the word following the preposition starts with the same or similar consonant. For example, in *ze střechy* ("from the roof"), *ze země* ("out of the ground").

Used in the following ways, the phrase ***udělaný z...*** in Czech correspond to all three English patterns using "made"—"made from, made of, made out of." For example, we have *zálivka udělaná z oleje a koření*, ("a dressing made from oil and spices"), *stůl udělaný ze dřeva* ("a table made of wood"), and *svícen udělaný z láhve* ("candleholder made out of a bottle").

One exception is the fourth English pattern using "made," "made with," used mainly in terms of food preparation. Here Czech uses the preposition *s* or *se* ("with") or *na* ("on"). Some examples are *maso s rýží* ("meat made with rice"), or *kuře na smetaně* ("chicken with cream sauce").

For example:

1. *Je to udělaný ze skla.*
"It's made of glass."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Inquiring About Things and Learning Someone's Dining Preferences

Co je tohle?

"What's this?"

There might be times in the Czech Republic when you need to ask what something is, perhaps food or something else you are not familiar with. For that you need to know how to ask about things.

When inquiring about what something is, there are two ways to ask:

1. *Co to je?* or *Co je to?* both meaning "What's this?"
2. *Co je tohle?* or *Tohle je co?* both literally meaning "This is what?"

co means "what."

to or *tohle* means "it, this, that"

je means "is."

If you need to ask in a formal way, you just need to add *prosím Vás* before *co to je?* to any of the other questions mentioned above. *Prosím Vás* means "excuse me."

1. A: *Prosím Vás, co je tohle?*
"Excuse me, what is this?"
B: *To je mýdlo.*
"This is soap."

When we want to know what something is made from, made of, or made out of:

In Czech, you only need to know one expression. The expression has a short and a long version.

1. *Z čeho to je?*
"What is this from?" meaning what is the item is made of, made from, or made out of.
2. *Z čeho to je udělaný?*
"What is this made from?" meaning what is the item made of, made from, or made out of.

Z is a preposition meaning "out of," "from," "of," or "out of."

čeho is genitive case of the interrogative pronoun *co* ("what").

to or *tohle* means "it, this, that."

je means "is."

When asking "what's it made from?" it's translated as *z čeho* but the word order in Czech is the opposite of English. The literal meaning is "From what is this made?"

If you happen to host your friends for dinner either at your home or at a restaurant, you may need to find out their food preferences, things they do or don't like, and if they have any allergies.

When asking if somebody likes or doesn't like something:

Unfortunately, there isn't one universal phrase for this; instead, there are several ways to ask such a question.

Mít rád ("to like") is subject to conjugation with personal pronouns (I, you, he, they...etc), and we also need to make a distinction between male speech and female speech.

1. *Máš rád sladký?*
"Do you like sweet things?"
2. *Mají rádi brambory?*
"Do they like potatoes?"

Máš rád? - "Do you like?" male speech

Máš ráda? - "Do you like?" female speech

mají rádi? - "Do they like?"

Sladký "sweets" or "sweet things"

Brambory "potatoes"

Asking if somebody can eat or cannot eat something:

Moci ("can, to be able to") **is** subject to conjugation with personal pronouns (I, you, he...etc).

1. *Můžeš jíst maso?*
"Can you eat meat?," "Are you able to eat meat?"

2. *Může pít alkohol?*
"Can he/she drink alcohol?," "Is he/she able to drink alcohol?"

Let's look at some common words.

můžeš? means "can you?" or "are you able to?"

může? means "can he/she?" or "is he/she able to?"

jíst means "to eat."

pít means "to drink."

maso means "meat."

alkohol means "alcohol."

Asking about allergies (*alergie*):

"To be allergic to something" in Czech is *být alergický na něco*.

Na něco means "to something." The preposition always needs to be **na** ("to").

Alergický na ořechy - "allergic to nuts"

Alergická na rajčata - "allergic to tomatoes"

Other questions include:

1. *Jsi alergický?*
"Are you allergic?" for a male
2. *Jsi alergická?*
"Are you allergic?" for a female
3. *Nemáš alergii na něco?*
"Do you have an allergy to something?"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Co?... Koleno?*
"Oh... Knee?"
2. *Jo. Je to udělaný z vepřového kolena. Jíš vepřové, Martine?*
"Yes. It's made of pork knee. Do you eat pork, Martin?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Můžeš jíst sladký?*
"Can you eat sweet stuff?"
2. *Máš ráda ryby?*
"Do you like to eat fish?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What exactly is *vepřové koleno*?

The so called *koleno* is the meat and bone from the back and front of a pig's knee. The front is smaller but more lean, and the back tends to be bigger and succulent. *Koleno* is the best part of a pig, because the skin of the knee protects the meat during grilling so that it doesn't get dry but remains succulent and soft. From this meat you can make great goulash or *Moravský Vrabec* (a traditional Czech dish with pork meat, bread dumplings and red cabbage). It can be prepared with a gravy or smoked.

Why would you want it?

First, the price! A kilogram of *koleno* is inexpensive and easily made into two portions. Also, for its universality. It's suitable for grilling, goulash, or making an aspic. It is a good option for parties where people drink beer and need something to eat. There will be plenty for all the guests and it won't cost a fortune.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13

Where's the Nearest Bathroom in the Czech Republic?

CONTENTS

2	Czech
2	English
2	Vocabulary
3	Sample Sentences
3	Vocabulary Phrase Usage
4	Grammar
10	Cultural Insight

13

CZECH

1. Tomáš: Bylo to výborný!
2. Martin: Už jsem plnej. Omluvte mě. Kde je toaleta?
3. Irena: Ta je támhle.
4. Martin: Támhle? Díky.

ENGLISH

1. Tomáš: It was very delicious!
2. Martin: I'm full now. Umm, excuse me. Where's the bathroom?
3. Irena: The bathroom is over there.
4. Martin: Over there? Thanks.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
bylo to	it was	phrase
už	already, yet	adverb
plná	full, filled, crowded, corpulent	adjective
omluvit	to excuse, to apologise	reflexive verb
toaleta	toilet, lavatory, bathroom, closet, make- up table, evening gown, dress	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bylo to lehký. "It was easy."	Už to stačí. "That is already enough."
Tramvaj plná lidí. "A tram full of people."	Musíš se omluvit. "You have to apologize."
Támhle je telefonni budka. "Over there is a phone booth."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***plnej* "full," "filled," "crowded," "corpulent"**

Plnej is a spoken form, while *plný* is a written form. *Plnej* can have several meanings, such as "full of something," "filled with something," "full," "complete," or "corpulent," "plump" when speaking about the body (e.g. *plná postava*, "corpulent body").

This can be used in many different ways, for example when something is full of something, like *plná tramvaj* (a crowded tram, "full of people"), when something is filled with something, like *plná pneumatika* (a solid tire, "filled with air"), *plnej nos* (stuffy, "full nose"), when something is full and complete, like *plné jízdné* ("full fare"), *plná moc* ("power of attorney"), and even *plný úvazek* ("full-time job"). Lastly, when speaking about a body that is corpulent or plump you would say *plná postava* ("corpulent body").

For example:

1. *Práce na plný úvazek.*
"A full-time job."

***už* "already," "yet," "longer," "any more," "as early," "as far back as"**

Už can act as an adverb and has various meanings in different sentences, such as

"already," "yet," "any longer," "as early," or "far back as." In positive sentences, *už* usually means "already." In negative sentences, *už* means "any more," "longer," but in questions *už* means "yet." Speaking in terms of time, *už* can mean "as far as," "as early as," or "as late as." In Czech grammar, *už* can also act as a particle in various phrases, such as *Dost už!* ("That's enough!").

This word is used as "already" in positive sentences. For example, *už jsem tam byl* ("I've been there already"), *už jsem tady!* ("I'm here already"). It's used as "anymore," "any longer" in negative sentences. For example, *už mě to nebaví* ("I don't enjoy it anymore"), *už to neudržím* ("I can't hold it any longer"). It's used as "yet" in questions, such as *už to je hotový?* ("Is it done yet?"), *už jsi tam byla?* ("Have you been there yet?"). It's used as "as late as" in terms of time, as in *To už je osm hodin?* ("Is it eight already?" "Is it as late as eight?"), and is used as "far back as" in terms of time, for example, *už v roce 1820...* ("as far back as in 1820...").

For example:

1. *Už toho mám dost!*
"I've had enough of this!"

***toaleta* "toilet," "lavatory," "bathroom," "closet," "make-up table," "evening gown or dress"**

Toaleta is a noun that has several meanings in the Czech language. The first one is taking care of one's appearance by washing, combing hair, and dressing. The second is a *toilet* as in a restroom, the place, and there is one other meaning that's similar referring to the actual toilet itself. The opposite of this would be a latrine, or dry toilet, which in Czech is *suchá toaleta*.

Another meaning is "evening gown" or "evening dress." *Toaleta* or *toaletka* can also mean a room table with a mirror and compartment for make-up and other toiletries (a dressing table).

Some related words derive from *toaletní* which is an adjective meaning "toilet" plus a noun, such as *toaletní mýdlo* ("toilet soap"), or *toaletní papír* ("toilet paper") etc.

There may not be many occasions when you need to use the word *dámská toaleta* referring to a ladies' dressing table with a mirror, but if you are a lady who needs to use a toilet, you can ask for *dámská toaleta* which is like the polite euphemism "powder room." Please remember that in spoken, colloquial Czech language *toaleta* becomes *záchod*.

For example:

1. *Jít na záchod.*
"To go to the toilet."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Mastering the Basic WH-questions in Czech

Kde je toaleta?

"Where's the bathroom?"

Asking questions is one of the most important things to know how to do in a foreign language. When you want to know where something is, what time it is, someone's opinion on something-you can achieve all of these by asking questions!

Asking About Location Using Where (*kde?*) or Where (*kam?*)

In the Czech language, location **kde** ("where") and the direction of motion **kam** ("where") are expressed differently.

While a question about location, *kde* ("where"), is connected to static verbs (to be, to work, to study, to live, to reside, to wait, etc), the question word *kam* ("where to") is connected with dynamic verbs (to go on foot, to go by vehicle, to go by boat, to fly). This is the main difference between the two words in terms of location or motion toward something, but it doesn't mean that other verbs cannot be used. Please see the examples below.

Question About Location Using *kde* ("where")

Kde? ("where?") is the question word for locations.

je ("is") is the conjugated singular form of *být* ("to be")

jsou ("are") is the conjugated plural form of *být* ("to be")

1. *Kde je toaleta prosím?*
"Where is the toilet please?"
2. *Kde jsou toalety?*
"Where are the toilets here?"
3. *Kde je tady banka?*
"Where is a bank here?"
4. *Kde je tady bankomat?*
"Where is an ATM here?"

kde means "where."

je means "is" as used with single nouns.

jsou means "are" as used with plural nouns.

tady means "here."

Note: As a bonus, you may add *nejbližší* ("the closest") to get "Where is the closest post office/bank/ATM?" as below:

1. *Kde je tu nejbližší pošta?*
"Where is the closest post office?"

Other questions with different verbs:

1. *Kde prodávají známky?*
"Where are stamps sold?"
2. *Kde koupím lístek na tramvaj?*
"Where can I buy a tram ticket?"
3. *Kde si můžu omýt ruce?*
"Where can I wash my hands?"

Question About Direction Using *kam* ("where to")

Kam is the question of direction ("where to"). After *kam* comes a dynamic verb or a reflexive verb.

***Kam* + dynamic verbs**

1. *Kam chodíte na oběd?*
"Where do you usually go for lunch?"
2. *Kam půjdem na procházku?*
"Where shall we go for a walk?"
3. *Kam pojeděš autem?*
"Where will you go by car?"
4. *Kam poletíš v létě?*
"Where will you fly in summer?"
5. *Kam pluje tahle loď?*
"Where is this boat sailing?"

Kam + other verbs

1. *Kam odložit kufry?*
lit. "Where to put luggage?"
2. *Kam vložit lístek?*
lit. "Where to insert the ticket?"
3. *Kam hodit odpad?*
lit. "Where to dispose of rubbish?"

Kam + reflexive verbs with se/ si ("oneself/ to oneself")

1. *Kam si mám sednout?*
"Where shall I sit(myself)?"
2. *Kam si můžu odložit?*
"Where can I put my clothes (myself)?"
Odložit si literally means "to undress, to take off clothes."
3. *Kam se díváš?*
"Where are you looking (yourself)?" This means "in which direction are you looking?"
4. *Kam se schováme?*
"Where shall we hide (ourselves)?"

Question About Time Using kdy/v kolik hodin ("when/at what time")

V kolik/v kolik hodin ("at what time"). Both sentences have the same meaning, but the word *hodin* ("time") can often be omitted in Czech sentences because the phrase *v kolik* already indicates time.

For example:

1. *V kolik hodin se setkáme? or V kolik se setkáme?*
"What time do they open?"
2. *V kolik hodin se sejdem? or V kolik se sejdem?*
"What time shall we meet?"
3. *V kolik hodin pojeděš domů? or V kolik půjdeš domů?*
"What time will you go home?"

Other uses of kdy (when), speaking of time such as days, weeks, months etc.

For example:

- *Kdy to bude hotové?*
"When will it be done/ ready?"

Possible answers:

- *Příští týden.*
"Next week."

- *V pondělí.*
"On Monday."

- *Za čtrnáct dní.*
"In fourteen days."

Bude ("will be") is the future form of the verb *být* ("to be"). *Hotové* means "ready" or "done." The answer to the sentence might be *zítra* ("tomorrow"), *příští týden* ("next week"), *za čtrnáct dní* ("in fourteen days"), etc.

Kdy to bude? "When will it be?"

This sentence can be used, for example, when asking about an event. If your friends tell you there will be a concert in town soon and you want to know when exactly, you can ask *kdy to bude?* ("When will it be?"). The answer to the sentence might be *příští týden* ("next week"), *za čtrnáct dní* ("in fourteen days"), *za měsíc* ("in a month time"), etc.

Other WH Questions

"what" (co, jaký)

"What" can have two different meanings in Czech. One is **co** ("what") and the other is **jaký, jaká, jaké** ("what...it is like").

Please compare:

Co je to? ("What is it?") = *To je sýr* ("It's cheese.")

Jaký je? ("What is it like?") = *Je dobrý* ("It's tasty.")

Please note that *jaký, jaká, jaké* are adjectives thus need to take masculine, feminine, and neuter forms.

masculine: *Jaký je ten sýr?* ("What is the cheese like?")

feminine: *Jaká je ta limonáda?* ("What is the lemonade like?")

neuter: *Jaké je to jablko?* ("What is the apple like?")

"who" (kdo)

To ask "who," use the interrogative pronoun *kdo*. According to Czech grammar, *kdo* has a masculine form.

Kdo je to? ("Who is it?")

Kdo tam byl? ("Who was there?")

Kdo has to be declined according to the declension cases in order to create other questions, such as "**who** are you talking about?"

1. nominative *kdo*

2. accusative *koho*

3. genitive *koho*

4. dative *komu*

5. locative (*o*) *kom*

6. instrumentative *kým*

For example:

1. *O **kom** mluvíte?*

"Who are you talking about?"

2. *S **kým** půjdeš?*

"Who will you go with?"

3. ***Komu** to dáš?*

"Who will you give it to?"

4. *Pro **koho** to je?*

"Who is it for?"

Please note that the Czech language does NOT use prepositions, such as the English "about," "for," "with," and "to" at the end of sentences.

Why (*proč*)

Proč is an adjective and can be translated in a few ways. *Proč* usually translates as "why," but can also have other contexts. Please compare the sentences below.

Why (for what reason)

1. ***Proč** brečíš?*

"**Why** are you crying?"

2. *Ty myslíš, že to bylo snadné... Proč?*

"You think it was easy ... **Why?**"

3. *Chtěl jsi se mnou mluvit. O čem?*

"You wanted to talk to me. **Why** was that?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Kde je tady pošta, prosím?*

"Where is the post office, please?"

2. *Kdy zavírají krám?*

"When does the shop close?"

Kam si tady můžeme dát zavazadla?

"Where can we put our luggage?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding the Bathroom in the Czech Republic

In day-to-day spoken Czech language, *toaleta* ("toilet") is often replaced by a more casual word, *záchod* (something like "loo"), or just simply "WC," pronounced as *Vé Cé*. *Záchod* can be freely used among friends, family, or at a friend's house, and also in public. However, sometimes it is better to use *toaleta* at places like restaurants, hospitals, or any other public place where it is more fit and proper.

Public toilets are always marked as "WC" or *Toaleta*, or with a male or female picture. It may also be written in English. On written Czech signs you may see *Dámy* ("ladies") or *ženy* ("women") for women and *Páni* ("gentlemen") or *muži* ("men") for men.

Public toilets, especially permanent ones, are often separated into men's and women's, but the sink area may be used by both genders. Some toilets are mobile and can be moved according to where they are needed; for example, you may find portable toilets used for a weekend event being held outdoors, or in large parks.

Also, some public toilets may require payment, while others are free. Paid toilets have the following systems:

- Money is put into a small container found inside unsupervised toilets

- Money is inserted into a small box with a slot for coins in unsupervised toilets
- Money is put into a small container found inside in supervised toilets
- Money is handed directly to the person who provides cleaning
- Money is inserted into a slot at the automated toilet gates inside

There is a peculiar cultural habit in the Czech Republic connected with public toilets. This includes making specific decorations such as putting stickers on them, attaching various notices, and even pornography, but most of all public toilets are a target for graffiti artists, a phenomenon that has become a topic for linguistic and sociological research.

Useful expression:

1. *veřejné toalety, or veřejné záchody*
"public toilets"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 It's No Problem in the Czech Republic

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

14

CZECH

1. (mytí nádobí)
2. Irena: Martine, díky moc!
3. Martin: Není zač. Ježiš! (zvuk prasklýho skla) Promiň!
4. Irena: Neni ti nic?
5. Martin: Ne! Ale...ta sklenička...
6. Irena: To nevadí.
7. Martin: Moc mě to mrzí.

ENGLISH

1. (washing dishes)
2. Irena: Martin, thank you very much!
3. Martin: It's nothing. Oh! (sound of glass breaking) I'm sorry!
4. Irena: Are you okay?
5. Martin: I'm fine! But...the glass...
6. Irena: It's okay.
7. Martin: I'm really sorry.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
mýt	to wash	reflexive verb
zvuk	sound	noun
prasklý	cracked	adjective
sklo	glass	noun
není	is not	verb
nic	nothing, anything, nil, zilch, no	pronoun
sklenička	glass	noun
nevadit	not to mind	verb
mrzet	to feel sorry about something	verb
nádobí	dishes, cookware	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mýt si ruce před jídlem.</p> <p>"To wash (one's) hands before a meal."</p>	<p>Slyším divný zvuk.</p> <p>"I can hear some strange sound."</p>
<p>Chlapec poslouchá zvuk oceánu.</p> <p>The boy is listening to the sound of the ocean.</p>	<p>Ten hrneček je prasklý.</p> <p>"The mug is cracked."</p>
<p>Pozor na sklo.</p> <p>"Mind the glass."</p>	<p>Nikdo tam není.</p> <p>"Nobody is there."</p>
<p>Nic není ztraceno.</p> <p>"Nothing is lost yet."</p>	<p>Tohle je nová sklenička.</p> <p>"This is a new glass."</p>

To mi nevadí.

"I don't mind this."

To tě musí mrzet.

"You must feel very sorry about it."

Je tu hromada nádobí.

"There is a pile of dishes here."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***nic* "nothing," "anything," "nil," "zilch," "no"**

Nic is a pronoun meaning "nothing" but it also functions as the English "anything" in negative sentences. Unlike in English, Czech sentences can have a double negative and it is common to come across sentences such as, *nic tam není* ("there isn't nothing there"), or *nemám nic* ("I don't have nothing"). When we speak about an amount of something, then *nic* has the same meaning as "absolutely nothing," "nil," or "zilch." For example, *Nic tam nezůstalo* ("Absolutely nothing was left there").

Nic can be also found in the following sentences:

1. *Nemůžeme nic dělat.*
"There is nothing we can do."
2. *Nic si z toho nedělej.*
"Don't worry about it/ Take it easy."
3. *Nedá se nic dělat.*
"It can't be helped."
4. *On nic neví.*
"He knows nothing."
5. *Vůbec nic.*
"Nothing at all."
6. *Z ničeho nic .*
"All of a sudden/ suddenly/ out of thin air."
7. *Nic moc*
"Nothing special."

8. (colloquial) *Ani za nic.*
"Not for all the tea in China/ No way."
9. (o) *Nic míň.*
"No less."

nevadit "not mind, not bother, not obstruct"

Nevadit is the negation of *vadit* ("to bother, to mind something, to annoy, to obstruct, to be in the way"). *Ne* functions as the negator of verbs.

Nevadit has also a function in courtesy questions, which makes them sound polite and apologetic. I.e. *Nevadí Vám, když si přisednu?* ("Would you mind if I sit next to you?"), *Nevadí, když...* ("Would you mind if...").

It's used when asking polite questions about whether somebody minds something (in order not to bother them), when talking about something that we don't find annoying, i.e. *Křik dětí mě nevadí* ("Yelling children do not annoy me"), when something is not a problem, i.e. *To nevadí* ("That is no problem") or *To by nevadilo* ("That shouldn't be a problem"), or when we talk about an obstruction, i.e. *'ta židle ti noutevadí?* ("You don't mind the chair in your way?")

For example:

1. *Pavouci mi nevadí.*
"I don't mind spiders."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Apologizing and Confirming That There is No Problem or Asking Whether Something is Okay

Není zač. Ježiš! Promiň!

"It's nothing. Oh! I'm sorry!"

How to Apologize

***Promiňte* - "I'm sorry, Excuse me"**

1. In Czech we don't differentiate between "I'm sorry" and "excuse me." We have just one word, *promiňte*, which can be used in both situations, when we want to apologize or get someone's attention.

2. An exception is when we need to pass by somebody, then we can also use *s*

dovolením, which literally translates as "with your allowance," but means the same as "excuse me."

3. There's is a difference between a formal and informal apology. For informal situations we use *promiň*, for formal ones *promiňte*.

4. There's also a very colloquial word used to apologize among young people. It's almost the same as English "Sorry" - *Sory*. It's ok to use it among friends, but only in case of a small mistake or something not very serious, for example, when you step on your friend's foot, when you want to turn down an invite to go out, etc.

More Complex Apologies

***Promiň, omlouvám se.* - "I'm sorry, I apologize." informal**

***Promiňte, omlouvám se.* - "I'm sorry, I apologize." formal**

There are more ways to apologize with more depth. If you want to make your apology more complex you could use this phrase- *Promiňte, omlouvám se* (I'm sorry, I apologize). This is a formal way to apologize somebody who is a stranger to us. The informal way is *Promiň, omlouvám se* ("Sorry, I apologize"). Both sentences can be used by men and women since they don't indicate a gender.

An alternative to the above is *Moc se omlouvám* ("I apologize very much"). This sentence is informal as well as formal. It can be used both ways. *Moc* means "very" or "very much."

If we are apologizing for a previous wrong, we can use this type of apology:

***Dlužím ti omluvu* - "I owe you an apology." informal**

***Dlužím ti omluvu* - "I owe you an apology." formal**

Dlužít means to "owe" something to somebody. *Dlužím* is then the conjugated form for first person *já* ("I").

Já dlužím is "I owe." The subjects, such as *já* ("I"), *ty* ("you"), *on* ("he"), etc. are often omitted in Czech and used only when emphasis is needed on the person.

Usually after saying this, you're expected to explain what you did wrong, or the reason why you think you owe someone an apology.

Language Tip

Making an apology in Czech can be very easy, it's enough to just say *omlouvám se*. Here you don't have to worry about speaking formally or informally, or the age and gender of the person you're talking to.

Expressing Regret or Feeling Sorry About Something

For a regret or feelings of sorry about something, we use the word *mrzet* ("to feel sorry about something"), which is a verb that we conjugate according to person:

Moc mě to mrzí. (lit."To me the thing feels like sorry.") "I'm really sorry about that."

Mrzí mě, že jsi nemocná. (lit."To me it feels sorry that you are ill.") "I feel sorry about your illness."

The infinitive verb is *mrzet** meaning is "to feel sorry about" something. It can also mean "to regret" something, depending on context. When we say *moc mě to mrzí* right after we did something wrong, the meaning is that we are sorry about it. But if we say, for example, *moc mě mrzí, že jsem nejel* ("I regret that I didn't go"), the meaning is more of a simple regret rather than sorry:

Mrzí mě, že jsem jí nakonec neviděl.- "I regret that I didn't get to see her."

Mrzet is always used with *co* ("what") and *kdo* ("who"). The exact use in Czech language is as follows.

The pattern is "it" feels sorry or regretful "to me, to you, to her, to him, to us" etc, about something.

The conjugation of regret:

Singular form

1. *Mrzí mě*
"I feel sorry/I regret"
2. *Mrzí tě*
"you feel sorry/you regret" (informal)
3. *Mrzí Vás*
"you feel sorry/you regret" (formal)
4. *Mrzí ho*
"he feels sorry/he regrets" (masculine)
5. *Mrzí jí*
"she feels sorry/she regrets" (feminine)
6. *Mrzí ho*
"it feels sorry/it regrets" (neuter)

Plural form

1. *Mrzí nás*
"we feel sorry/ we regret"
2. *Mrzí vás*
"you feel sorry/ you regret"
3. *Mrzí je*
"they feel sorry/ they regret"

**Mrzet* is a verb that has no direct translation in English and can be only described. *Mrzet* is particularly used in sentences about a regret, somebody feeling sorry about something, or somebody feeling bad about something.

Asking if Somebody is All Right

You may also need to ask if somebody is all right after an accident. In Czech, the closest expression is *jsi v pořádku?* ("Are you all right?") or *jsi OK?* ("Are you okay?"). These are informal questions.

As a formal question, you will need to ask *Jste v pořádku?* ("Are you all right?"), or *není Vám nic?* ("Is there something wrong?," lit."Isn't there something with you?"). This can be asked especially in situations where it looks like someone might be hurt. Translated freely, they both mean "Are you all right?" or "Are you not hurt?".

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Moc mě to mrzí.*
"I'm really sorry."

Sample Sentences

1. *Nevadí vám, když si přisednu?*
"Do you mind if I sit next to you?"
2. *Ježiš, omlouvám se, to jsem nechtěla!*
"I apologize, I really didn't mean to."
3. *Nebude vadit, když si zakouřím?*
"Is it okay if I smoke?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Who Does the Housework in the Czech Republic?

There are different opinions among people about who should be doing what at home. Most people think that bringing up children, cleaning, and the financial security of the family should be split equally.

In reality, however, it works a little differently. According to a survey by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in 2011 in 84% of households cooking is still purely a woman's task and women still spend nearly twice as much time as men on household chores while still going to work. Fortunately with modern technology such as dishwashers, washing machines etc, the time spent on these chores has decreased since the olden times. Czech men are willing to help out in the household, but sometimes don't know how, so their wives need to invite them. On the other hand, men often perceive work such as gardening, decorating, or fixing things their job.

Nowadays men are more involved in helping with their children and spend time with them. About one third of Czech men look after their children the same amount of time as women.

Useful expression:

1. *Pomůžeš mi uklidit?*
"Will you help me with cleaning?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15 Talking About the Weather in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

15

CZECH

1. Martin: Včera bylo pod mrakem, ale dneska už je slunečno. Ale je děsný vedro! Léto v Čechách je horký, že?
2. Irena: Je léto v Tokiu taky horký?
3. Martin: Jo. Léto v Tokiu je horký a dusný.
4. Irena: A dusný?

ENGLISH

1. Martin: It was cloudy yesterday, but it's sunny today. But it's so hot! Summer in the Czech Republic is hot, isn't it?
2. Irena: Is summer in Tokyo hot too?
3. Martin: Yeah. Summers in Tokyo are hot and humid.
4. Irena: And humid?

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
včera	yesterday	adverb
mrak	cloud	noun
slunečno	sunny	adverb
vedro	hot	adverb
léto	summer	noun
horký	hot, burning, scorching	adjective

dusný	sticky, sultry, stuffy, tense	adjective
pod	under, below, underneath, beneath, less than	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Včera přišla návštěva. "Yesterday we had visitors."</p>	<p>Včera bylo stašné vedro, ale dneska to není špatné. "It was very hot yesterday, but today it's not bad."</p>
<p>Na obloze je černý mrak. "There is a black cloud in the sky."</p>	<p>Zítřa bude slunečno. "Tomorrow will be sunny."</p>
<p>Když je slunečný den, chodím často na piknik. "I often go on a picnic on a sunny day."</p>	<p>Dnes je strašné vedro. "Today is terribly hot."</p>
<p>Těším se na léto. "I look forward to the summer. "</p>	<p>Ten čaj je stále horký. "The tea is still hot. "</p>
<p>Venku je dusno. "It feels sultry outside. "</p>	<p>Teplota je pod nulou. "The temperature is below zero. "</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

dusný "sultry," "sticky," "stuffy," "tense"

Dusný ("sultry," "sticky") is an adjective describing the air in a hot weather. *Dusno* is the noun for the same word. *Dusný* or *dusno* can have three meanings, one is

referring to weather, the second for air in a room (stuffy air), and the third for mood and atmosphere (as in a tense atmosphere).

Use this word when talking about hot weather as in *venku je dusno* ("It is sultry outside," or "It's hot and humid"), when talking about bad air inside a room i.e. *je tady dusný vzduch* ("The air here is so stuffy"), and lastly when talking about a bad atmosphere or mood at a place, especially when somebody creates a fuss over something as in *udělal tam hrozný dusno* ("He kicked up a massive fuss there"). This expression is colloquial and used only in informal situations.

For example:

1. *Tady je ale dusno!*
"It's so stuffy in here!"

pod "under," "underneath," "below," "beneath," "less than"

pod is a preposition of several meanings. It can express a physical placement or level of something, it can express an extent of something, or amount of something in numbers, and lastly it can indicate the circumstances of something. See examples below.

You can use preposition *pod* when talking about the physical placement or level of things such as *pod stolem* ("under the table"), *pod tím novinovým článkem* ("underneath the newspaper article"), *pod zemí* ("below the ground, underground"). When we want to express an extent of something, or amount of something usually in numbers, such as *venku je pět pod nulou* ("It is five degrees below zero outside"), or *přišlo pod deset lidí* ("Less than 10 people came"). And lastly, we use *pod* when talking about circumstances, such as *pod nátlakem* ("under pressure"), *pod podmínkou, že...* ("on the condition that...", "providing that..."), or *pod přísahou* ("under oath").

For example:

1. *Pod svícnem bývá největší tma.* (idiom)
"The greatest darkness is under the candlestick." (idiom)

horký "hot," "burning," "scorching"

Horký is an adjective that describes something that is "hot" in temperature. It can describe weather and also a situation when used figuratively. A situation can be regarded as "hot," which in other words means "serious."

It's used when talking about food or liquid temperature as in *jídlo je ještě horký* ("The food is still hot"), or *je to horký, ale ne vařící* ("It's hot, but not boiling."). Similarly, you can talk about a hot spring's water, *horký pramen* ("a hot spring").

Horký is also used for weather *máme horký léto* ("We have had a very hot summer," "scorching summer"), or situational and colloquial use such as *to nebude tak horký* ("It won't be so hot") meaning the situation is not as bad as it is described, or as it looks.

For example:

1. *Dát si horkou vanu.*
"To have a hot bath."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Describing Weather Using Adjectives.
Včera bylo pod mrakem, ale dneska už je slunečno. Ale je děsný vedro! Léto v Čechách je horký, že?
"It was cloudy yesterday, but it's sunny today. But it's so hot! Summer in the Czech republic is hot, isn't it?"

This lesson will be a good chance for you to revise everything you've learned so far about Czech adjectives.

In the dialogue, Martin and Irena are talking about weather in the Czech Republic. Martin said that summer in the Czech Republic seems to be hot. The Czech phrase goes like this: *Léto v Čechách je horký, že?* The first component of the sentence is the noun *léto*, which means "summer" in English. It is followed by the verb *je* ("it is"), which is the verb *být*, conjugated in the third person singular here. Next comes the neuter adjective *horký*, which means "hot" and then *že?*, which means "isn't it?" All together, we have, *Léto je horký, že?* ("Summer is hot, isn't it?"). So why is the adjective in the neuter form? It's because the noun it describes, *léto* ("summer") is a neuter noun. Adjectives and nouns have to agree when it comes to gender, which means that if , for example, the noun is masculine, the adjective describing it also has to be in the masculine form. In the table below, you will find the names of seasons in Czech.

Czech	"English"
<i>jaro</i>	"spring"
<i>léto</i>	"summer"
<i>podzim</i>	"autumn"
<i>zima</i>	"winter"

Here are some adjectives connected to the weather.

Czech	English
<i>pěkný</i>	"fine"
<i>slunečný</i>	"sunny"
<i>pochmurný *</i>	"cloudy"
<i>zachmuřený **</i>	"cloudy"
<i>větrný</i>	"windy"
<i>teplý</i>	"warm"
<i>horký</i>	"scorching"
<i>studený</i>	"cold"
<i>chladný</i>	"cool"
<i>mrazivý</i>	"frosty"
<i>příjemný</i>	"fine, nice"

* *Pochmurný* can be used to describe a day or weather.

** *Zachmuřený* can be used to describe weather or sky.

Let's practice.

1. *Podzim je deštivý a větrný.*
"Autumn is rainy and windy."
2. *Léto v Čechách je slunečné.*
"Summer in the Czech Republic is sunny."
3. *Dneska je pěkné počasí.*
"It's a fine day today."

The above sentence pattern is as follows:

Something is + adjective.

Attention needs to be paid to genders. The adjective takes the same gender as the noun.

Feminine gender adjectives ending with á:

zima je studená ("winter is cold")

voda je ledová ("water is icy cold")

ulice je mokrá ("the street is wet")

Masculine gender adjectives ending with ý:

sníh je měkký ("snow is soft")

děšť je teplý ("rain is warm")

vítr je silný ("wind is strong")

Neuter gender adjectives ending with é:

léto je horké ("summer is hot")

jaro je voňavé ("spring is sweet-smelling")

údolí je zelené ("valley is green")

Please note that in spoken Czech language the neuter gender adjectives take the ý at the end instead of é.

léto je horký ("summer is hot")

jaro je voňavý ("spring is sweet-smelling")

údolí je zelený ("valley is green")

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Je léto v Tokiu taky horký?*
"Is summer in Tokyo hot too?"
2. *Jo. Léto v Tokiu je horký a dusný.*
"Yeah. Summers in Tokyo are hot and humid."

Sample Sentences

1. *Loni bylo parné léto.*
"It was a sweltering summer last year."
2. *Očekáváme tuhý mráz.*
"We are expecting severe frost."
3. *Podzim je mokrý a studený.*
"Autumn is wet and cold."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Weather in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has relatively cold winters, and the temperature often drops below zero.

The coldest time is January and February with snow in higher areas. It is possible to ski in the Czech mountains or ice skate at ice rinks or even on frozen ponds and reservoirs.

Summers are warm but not extremely hot. There are often showers in summer. The temperature gets up to 30 degrees and sometimes even a few degrees higher.

Autumn usually starts in September and the temperature goes down quickly, especially at night. But it is also not rare to experience the warm days of so called *babí léto* ("Indian summer") even into the fall.

Useful expression:

1. *Leje jako z konve.*
(Idiom, used at a time of heavy rain.)
The literal translation is "It's pouring like from a watering can," which is the idiomatic equivalent to the English "It's raining cats and dogs."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16 This is...umm...a Czech Lesson About Interjections!

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

16

CZECH

1. Martin: Tohle je moje rodinný foto album.
2. Irena: Ty jo. (obrací stránky) Kdo je tohle?
3. Martin: To je moje mladší sestra.
4. Irena: Aha, ta je hezká! Kdo je tohle?
5. Martin: Ehm,...to jsem já.
6. Irena: Fakt? Ty seš roztomilej!

ENGLISH

1. Martin: This is my family's photo album.
2. Irena: Wow. (turns pages) Who's this?
3. Martin: This is my younger sister.
4. Irena: Hmm, she's cute! Who's this?
5. Martin: Oh, uhh...that's me.
6. Irena: Really? You're so cute!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
rodinný	family, familial	adjective

album	album	noun
ty jo	wow	interjection
obracet	to turn	verb
mladší	younger	adjective
sestra	sister	noun
aha	I see, oh	interjection
hezkej	nice, fair, good, pretty, good looking, handsome	adjective
fakt	fact, truth, really, for real	particle
roztomilej	adorable, cute, sweet	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jedem na rodinný výlet. "We are going on a family trip."</p>	<p>Podívám se na tvé album. "I will have a look at your album."</p>
<p>Ty jo, to je pěkný. "Wow, this is nice."</p>	<p>Obracet stranky v knize. "Turning pages in a book. "</p>
<p>To je moje mladší sestra. "This is my younger sister."</p>	<p>Sestry nacházejí květiny. "The sisters are looking for some flowers."</p>
<p>Aha, už tomu rozumím. "I see, I understand now. "</p>	<p>To je ale hezkej pejsek. "What a nice doggie. "</p>
<p>Promiň, ale dneska fakt nemůžu. "We are really sorry, but you cannot go out tonight."</p>	<p>Fakt? To mě překvapuje. "Really? That surprises me. "</p>

Ten je moc roztomilej.

"This one is really cute. "

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

rodinný "family," "familial," "domestic," "homey," "cozy," "friendly"

This derives from the word *rodina* meaning "family." *Rodinný* is an adjective, describing either something related to family, such as *rodinný lékař* ("family doctor"), *rodinné balení* ("family-size package"), or *z rodinných důvodů* ("for family reasons"). Other meanings are related to friendliness or coziness. The word is also subject to conjunction according to the gender. They are *rodinný* (masculine), *rodinná* (feminine), and *rodinné* (neuter). *Rodinný* can also mean "familial," or a "homey" place, or "friendly" atmosphere.

For example:

1. *Byla tam rodinná atmosféra.*
"There was a homey atmosphere."

sestra "sister"

Used in three different contexts, *sestra* ("sister") as a sibling can be also *starší sestra* ("older sister") or *mladší sestra* ("younger sister"). In terms of medical staff *sestra* is "a nurse." At church, the religious meaning of *sestra* is "a nun." Similarly the word *sesterský* can be used in terms of something that is affiliated, for example cities can have a *sesterské město* ("sister city").

For example:

1. *Moje maminka je zdravotní sestra.*
"My mum is a nurse."

roztomilý "cute," "adorable," "sweet," "charming," "lovable"

This is an adjective that describes something that is cute, adorable or lovable. Usually this refers to children, animals, or a character.

When used to talk about the looks of people or animals you might say *roztomilé dítě* ("a cute/adorable child") or *roztomilé kotě* ("a cute/adorable kitten"). When talking about character or behavior you may say *roztomilá dívka* ("a

sweet/charming girl") or *roztomilý chlapec* ("a sweet/charming boy"), and it also means an "endearing girl or boy."

For example:

1. *To je ale roztomilá panenka!*
"What a cute doll this is."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making your Conversation Sound Even More Natural

Ty jo. Kdo je tohle?

"Wow. Who's this?"

In Czech conversation, it's common to respond to or acknowledge what the other person is saying by using certain words and phrases. In many ways these are similar to English, but the variety in Czech expressions is broader. You'll find that conversations in Czech go a lot smoother when using these words and phrases!

***Jo* "yeah," "yep"**

The most common one that is used instead of the standard form *ano* ("yes") is *jo*.

Jo is used to agree, to show understanding, or to show you are listening. It can also be used as a question, *jo?*, to react to a surprising thing somebody is talking about etc. The most common forms containing *jo* are the following.

Jo - "Yep / Yeah."

Jo? - "All right? / really? / No kidding?"

Tak jo. - "OK/ all right/ agreed."

A jo! Chápu. - "Oh yeah, I understand."

A jo! - "Ah!" - used when you forget something and recall it, or somebody reminds you.)

To jo... - "Yeah/ right/ you are right."

To jo, že? - "Yeah, that's right/ it is, isn't it?"

***Jasně* "Sure thing," "I understand,"**

"right"

Another expression that shows agreement or understanding and is widely used in spoken language is *jasně* or *jasně, chápu*. *Jasně* on its own means "sure" and the second part means "yeah, I understand."

1. *Jasně, tak půjdem...*
"Sure thing, let's go!"
2. *Jasně, to chápu....*
"Yeah, I can understand that..."
3. *Jasně, to není problém...*
"All right, that's no problem."

Fakt "Really, truth, data"

Fakt? "Really?"

Fakt jo? "Really? No way, No kidding."

Fakt is a Czech expression of surprise meaning "Really? No way!" and is used when people are trying to find out whether what they have just heard is true or not. (Native English speakers often misunderstand this word for the rude word they know and to which the Czech *fakt* sounds so similar. But it is not the same word!) The actual translation of this word is just like the English "fact" or "data" but the meaning in colloquial Czech is "really?" and Czechs use it very often!

1. *Ty jo, fakt?*
"No way, really?"
2. *Hele, fakt nejdu.*
"Look, I'm *really* not going"
3. *Fakt se vážně zranila?*
"Did she *really* get an injury?"

Ty jo "Wow"

Ty jo, is another expression you can hear often whilst in the Czech Republic. The

meaning is just like "wow" in English, it has a sense of surprise to it.

Responding to Someone in a Conversation

Let's look at some words and phrases we commonly use in response to what someone says in a conversation.

Purpose	Czech	"English"
Used when thinking	<i>hm....</i>	"umm," "uhh"
Used when thinking	<i>nó...</i>	"umm," "uhh" "well..."
Used when you find something interesting	<i>je, ty jo</i>	"Nice!" or "Wow!" (informal)
Used to agree with someone	<i>jo... to jo....</i>	"yep,," "yeah," "that's right" (informal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	<i>jo, jo... aha, aha</i>	"yes," "I see" (informal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	<i>ano, hm, hm</i>	"yes," "right" (formal)

For Example:

- A: *To je dnes vedro!*
"It's so hot today!"
B: *To jo, že?*
"It is, isn't it?"
- A: *A co je tohle?*
"And what's this?"
B: *Nó, v tom je led.*
"Umm...there is ice inside."

Examples from the dialogue:

- Fakt? Ty seš roztomilej!*
"Really? You are so cute!"

2. *Aha, ta je hezká! Kdo je tohle?*
"Hmm, she's cute! Who's this?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Jo, přesně tak.*
"Yep, that's right."
2. *Ach jo, co budeš dělat?*
"Oh dear, what will you do?"
3. *No nazdar, tys tomu dala.*
"Woah, you've really done it now!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Taking Pictures in the Czech Republic

Czech people definitely like to take photos of their activities and family. Interest in professional photography has been growing and many people have photography as their hobby now. Recent trends include photographing urban spaces and nature, landscapes, or catching interesting moments and details. Czech people also like to photograph themselves or their children.

These days, traditional photo albums are usually made only for weddings, newborn babies, or other such special moments.

Useful expression:

1. *Fotim, řekněte "sýr"!*
"Taking a shot now, say 'cheese!'"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17

Asking About Ages in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

17

CZECH

1. Martin: Hele, Ireno, kde máš malou Sáru?
2. Irena: Ta je tady.
3. Martin: (tichým hlasem) Jé, ta je roztomilá! Taková malinká, že? Kolik jí je?
4. Irena: Zatím jen jeden rok. (Sara začne plakat)
5. Martin: Ježiš, promiň! Jsme moc hlučný? To mě mrzí!

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Hey, Irina, where's your little baby Sarah?
2. Irena: She's over here.
3. Martin: (in a soft voice) Ah, how cute! She's so small, isn't she. How old is she?
4. Irena: She's one year old. (Sarah starts to cry)
5. Martin: Oh, I'm sorry, so sorry! Are we loud? I'm sorry!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
hele	hey, look	interjection
kde	where	adverb

mít	to have, to possess, to carry, to hold	imperfective verb
malinkej	tiny, very small	adjective
kolik	how much, how many, what time	counter
zatím	while, meantime, so far, for the time being, till now	adverb
začít	to start, to begin, to commence, to embark	verb
plakat	to cry, to weep	verb
hlučný	noisy, loud	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hele, loď! "Look, there is a boat."</p>	<p>Kde jsi včera byl? "Where have you been yesterday?"</p>
<p>Kde je záchod? "Where is the bathroom?"</p>	<p>Máte doma zvíře? "Do you have a pet at home?"</p>
<p>Dívka má pokladničku. "The girl has a piggy bank."</p>	<p>Ano, máme stůl pro dvě osoby. "Yes, we do have a table for two people"</p>
<p>To je ale malinkej pejsek. "What a tiny dog. "</p>	<p>Kolik lidí je tu? "How many people are here?"</p>
<p>Kolik je hodin? "What time is it?"</p>	<p>Stůl pro kolik osob? "A table for how many people?"</p>
<p>Zatím tu počkej. "Meanwhile, wait here. "</p>	<p>Můžeme začít? "Can we start?"</p>

Plakat radostí.

"To weep for joy. "

To je hlučná ulice.

"This street is noisy. "

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

zatím "in the mean time," "meanwhile," "while," "for the time being," "so far," "till now," "as yet"

This is an adverb that expresses time. *Zatím* can have many different time meanings depending on context. The word can appear in sentences expressing "bye," "later," "while," "so far," or "not yet."

Used when talking about a later time, such as leaving someone in a casual way with *tak zatím...* ("bye for now, see you, so long"). It's also used in terms of talking about "a while" or "meanwhile," as in *I když byly zprávy zatím dobré* ("While the news has been good..."). When expressing something has been good or bad until now you can say *Zatím je to dobrý* ("So far so good"). And when expressing something has not yet been finished, or done, or happening etc you can say *Zatím ne* ("Not yet").

For example:

1. *Zatím si tu odložím.*
"Meanwhile I'll take off my coat."

hlučný "noisy, loud"

This is an adjective describing that something is making a noise or being loud and therefore noisy. The noun is *hlučnost* ("noisiness").

This is used when talking about somebody or something being too loud, i.e. *Máme hlučné sousedy* ("We have noisy neighbors"), or *ta hudba z ulice je moc hlučná* ("The music from the street is too loud"). When talking about noise level, however, the word used needs to be a noun, *hlučnost*, i.e. *nadměrná hlučnost* ("noise pollution").

For example:

1. *To je strašně hlučná motorka.*
"That's a terribly noisy motorbike."

***plakat* "to cry, to weep, to sob"**

Plakat is an imperfective verb. It's imperfective in the sense that the verb does not refer to the completion of crying. *Plakat* is an action in progress. *Plakat* in a sentence can be to "cry or weep" over something or somebody, or because of something or somebody. This word appears in some Czech idioms too. Here are some examples of how it's used.

When crying due to something, you may see *plakala bolestí* ("She was crying out of pain") or *plakat radostí* ("cry for joy"). When crying over something you may see *plakat sám nad sebou* ("cry over oneself"). Some idioms are *plakat nad rozlitym mlékem* ("crying over spilt milk") and *plakat na špatném hrobě* translates as "weeping on the wrong grave," but means "barking up the wrong tree."

For example:

1. *Tak už neplač!*
"C'mon, stop crying!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using Numbers in Context—Revealing Your Age

Jé, ta je roztomilá! Taková malinká, že? Kolik jí je?

"Ah, how cute! She's so small, isn't she. How old is she?"

Kolik ti je roků?

"How old are you?"

Here is a good question for you: who likes to talk about their age? Well, let's be realistic and honest, not that many people. In our opinion, however, you should always have an ace up your sleeve and be ready for whatever situation you might find yourself in while in the Czech Republic. That's why we would like to teach you today how to ask for people's ages and how to give your age.

Asking a Person's Age

There are two ways to ask the age in **in spoken Czech language**:

Kolik ti je let?

Kolik ti je roků?

Both of them mean "How old are you?," literally "How many (years) are there to you?"

The question consists of *kolik* which means both "how many" and "how much," of *ti je*, which is the dative case of the the second-person singular and the verb *být* ("to be") conjugated, and the noun *roků* or *let* ("years").

In our dialogue, Martin asked about a third party, Irena's daughter, using the question *Kolik je jí let?* ("How old is she?"). He started the question with *kolik*, then he used *je* ("is") the third person of the verb *být* ("to be"), and after that the personal pronoun *ona* (she) in its declined dative case *jí* ("to her") and he finished the question with the noun *let* ("years").

To make our question formal, the best way is to use the polite form *Vám* ("to you"), and we can add formal forms of address such as *pán* ("sir"), *paní* ("madam"), *pánové* ("gentlemen"), *dámy* ("ladies"). If you would like to ask a man about his age in a formal setting, you would say *Pane, kolik je Vám let?* ("How old are you, sir?"). If it's a woman, the question would be *Paní, kolik je vám let?* ("How old are you, ma'am?").

Here are some other possible questions.

Czech	"English"
<i>Kolik je jí let?</i> <i>Kolik je mu let?</i>	"How old is she?" "How old is he?"
<i>Kolik je ti let?</i>	"How old are you?" (informal)
<i>Kolik je Vám let?</i>	"How old are you?" (formal)
<i>Kolik je jim let?</i>	"How old are they?"

Giving Your Age

To give your age in Czech, use the expression *mě je*, literally meaning "to me it is," and then your age. *Mě je dvacet osm roků*, "to me it is twenty eight years." The structure is always the same, for example, *mě je sedm roků* "I'm seven years old," *mě je dvanáct roků* "I'm twelve years old" etc.

With Czech numbers, however, the use of the word "years" differs according to the number of years.

In Czech language when you express your age, you can either use the form *rok* or *roků* or the form *let*. We have a special chart that will help you determine what form to use.

jeden rok - "one year"

dva, tři, čtyři roky - "two, three, four years"

pět (and more) roků - "five years"

Additionally *roků* ("years") is often replaced by the word *let* ("years") when we count from five and up.

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 *let* - ("5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 years")

Adding *rok* ("year") or *roků* ("years"), or *let* ("years") at the very end is optional. It doesn't have to be used and the sentence is still complete and understandable. For example, Martin asked about Irena's daughter how old she is with *Kolik jí je?* ("How old is she?") The literal translation is "how many is to her?", meaning "how old is she?" The word *roků* ("years") or *let* ("years") can be omitted in the sentence and it is still perfectly clear that we are talking about age.

In terms of formal Czech language, in news and newspapers etc is preferably used "let", but the grammatical rule remains the same that with the lower numbers 1-4 cannot be used "let", but has to be used "rok, roky".

Here are some sample sentences for asking somebody's age.

1. *Kolik mu je (roků/ let)?*
"How old is he?"
2. *Kolik ti je (roků/ let)?*
"How old are you?"
3. *Kolik jí je (roků/ let)?*
"How old is she?"
4. *Kolik jim je (roků/ let)?*
"How old are they?"

or telling one's or somebody's age...

1. *Mě je dvacet čtyři (let/ roků.)*
"I'm twenty four (years old)."
2. *Už mě bylo osmnáct (let/ roků.)*
"I was already eighteen (years old)."
3. *To dítě má jeden (rok.)*
"The child is one (year old)."

4. *Mě je devatenáct (let/roků).*
"I'm nineteen (years old)."
5. *Mě je dvacet tři (let/roků.)*
"I'm twenty three (years old)."
6. *Mě je šedesát (let.)*
"I'm sixty (years old)."

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Zatím jen jeden rok.*
"She's one year old."

Sample Sentences

1. *Kolik let je tvému synovi?*
"How old is your son?"
2. *Mamince je sedmdesát sedm let.*
"My mum is seventy seven."
3. *Nedávno mi bylo osmnáct let.*
"I was eighteen just recently."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Family Sizes in the Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic the typical family has only two children. For years this has been a tradition in most families. However, since the beginning of the twenty-first century the trend has been dropping. According to the statistics on families in the Czech Republic, the number of children per family has dropped to 1.5 on average. This has been happening due to the increasing age of first time mothers and the tendency among young people to postpone having a family. The probability of giving birth to a third or even fourth child in the Czech Republic seems to be extremely low.

Useful expression:

1. *Blahopřejeme k narození dítěte.*
"Congratulations to the newborn baby."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18

Talking About Likes and Dislikes in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

18

CZECH

1. Irena: Sarah miluje "baf!" Podívej. Baf! Vidíš, a už se směje.
2. Martin: A jo! Dobře, tak teda....baf! Já..ted' brečí. Fakt promiň! Já se omlouvám!
3. Irena: Sára nemá ráda mužský.

ENGLISH

1. Irena: Sarah loves "Peek-a-boo." Look at her. Peek-a-boo! See, now she's laughing.
2. Martin: Oh, really! Okay then... peek-a-boo! Oh.. she's crying. Ahhh! I'm sorry, I'm sorry!
3. Irena: Sarah doesn't like men.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
milovat	to love somebody or something, to be in love	verb
podívat se	to take a look, to see	reflexive verb
tak	so, well then	adverb
teda	then, quite, really	particle
smát se	to laugh	reflexive verb
baf	peek-a-boo	onomatopoeia
brečet	to cry, to weep, to be in tears	verb

rád	glad, pleased, delighted, happy	adjective
mužský	male, man, men's, guy, masculine	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Miluju své děti. "I love my children."	Podívat se z okna. "To look out of the window. "
Tak, a jsme tu sami. "Well, now we are here alone."	Tak zase příště. "Well then, next time. "
Tak teda začnem. "We shall start then."	Pár se směje fotografii. "The couple is laughing at the picture."
Nesměj se mi! "Stop laughing at me!"	Baf! Tady jsem. "Peek-a-boo! I'm here."
Já snad budu brečet. "I think I'll cry."	Rád jsem si s Vámi dal oběd. "It was nice to have lunch together."
To rád slyším. "I'm glad to hear that."	Petr je hodný mužský. "Peter is a good guy."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

podívat (se) "to look," "to take a look," "to see," "to visit"

Podívat se is a reflexive verb that takes the accusative form of the reflexive pronoun *se*. This verb is subject to conjugation according to personal pronouns (I,

you, he, she, it, etc). *Se* ("oneself") has to be always attached.

The only exception is when using the imperative form of the verb, *Podívej!* ("Look!"), which can stand on its own without *se*. When *se* is used in the imperative sentence as *podívej se!*, the meaning is emphasized ("Look for yourself!").

Podívat se is a verb categorized as a "perfective" verb. That means the action of this verb is considered completed, as in *podíval se do dálky* ("He looked at a faraway place"). This verb cannot be used for a continuous action of looking; instead, *dívat se* needs to be used, as in *Díval se do dálky* ("He was looking at a far away place").

For example:

1. *Podívám se do schránky.*
"I'll have a look into the letter box."

vidět "to see," "to consider," "to regard"

Vidět is used when talking about the ability to see something, as in *vidím letadlo* ("I can see a plane") or *vidím tě* ("I can see you"). When talking about considering something you may say *vidím, že to není lehký* ("I consider this to be difficult"), or when talking about something or somebody you may say *vidím, že je to zlý člověk* ("I regard him as a bad person").

Vidět can be also a reflexive verb which can take the accusative form of the reflexive pronoun *se* ("oneself") depending on context. While *vidět* on its own means "to see something or somebody, to consider, to regard," *vidět se* can two different meanings. The first one is "to see oneself in a mirror," or as a reflection, second one is to "envision oneself," for example, *vidím se v zrcadle* ("I can see myself in the mirror"), and *už se vidím na té dovolené* ("I can already see myself at the holidays").

For example:

1. *Vidím, že se máš dobře.*
"I (can) see you are doing well."

teda "then, quite, really"

Teda can be a little tricky to use for a non-native speaker of Czech, because of its various meanings in English. Although the translation of this single word is straightforward, translation into English from a Czech sentence is hardly equivalent. Keeping on listening and practicing is the best way to master it.

See the examples below:

- used as "then" when inviting someone to do something, as in *tak teda začneme* ("Let's start then");
- used as "quite, really" when we want to say something is "quite" something as in *to je teda těžký!* ("That's quite hard!");
- or even when using sarcasm as in *to je teda výborný* ("Well, that's really great").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Discussing Preferences

Sarah miluje "baf!"

"Sarah loves "Peek-a-boo"!"

How to express your likes

In Czech language, we can say that we like something or someone through the expression *mít rád*, "to like, to love." The pattern used is *mít rád* + noun.

Furthermore, *mít rád* has to be conjugated according to the personal pronoun (I, you, he, she, it, etc) and change the ending of the verb according to the gender and the number.

For example:

Singular

(já) mám **rád** ... - "I like/ love..." **masculine speech**

(já) mám **ráda**... - "I like/ love..." **feminine speech**

(ty) máš **rád**... - "you like/ love..." **about something in the masculine form**

(ty) máš **ráda**... - "you like/ love..." **about something in the feminine form**

(Vy) máte **rád**... - "you like/ love..." *formal polite speech* toward a **man**

(Vy) máte **ráda**... - "you like/ love..." *formal polite speech* toward a **woman**

(on) má **rád** - "he likes/ loves..." **about something in the masculine form)**

(ona) má **ráda** - "she like/ loves..." **about something in the feminine form**

(to/ ono) *má rádo*... - "it likes/ loves..."

Plural

(my) *máme rádi*... - "we like/ love..."

(vy) *máte rádi*... - "you like/ love..."

(Oni) *mají rádi*... - "they like/ love..."

*It needs to be noted here that in Czech language, the expression *mít rád* can be only used with **people or objects, not activities**.

mít rád in conjugated form + noun

(ona) *má ráda plavání* - "She likes swimming."

(on) *má rád sport* - "He likes sports."

(oni) *mají rádi tenis* - "They like tennis."

(my) *máme rádi čtení* - "We like reading."

*If people want to say that they **like or dislike doing something**, they use a different expression.

This expression uses the following pattern.

rád + conjugated verb (doing something)

(Ona) *ráda plave* - "She likes swimming/ to swim."

(On) *rád sportuje* - "He likes doing sports/ to do sports."

(Oni) *rádi hrají tenis* - "They like playing tennis/ to play tennis."

(My) *rádi čteme knihy* - "We like reading books/ to read books."

How to express your dislikes

To say that we do **not** like something or somebody, we just have to negate the verb *mít*. In fact, this pattern is applicable to all verbs. Negating verbs in Czech is quite simple, just adding **ne** in front of the verb.

mít rád becomes **nemít rád** "to not like" male speech

mít ráda becomes **nemít ráda** "to not like" female speech

For example:

1. **Nemám rád hranolky.**
"I don't like chips."
2. **Nemám ráda výšky.**
"I don't like heights."
3. **Nemám ráda zimu.**
"I don't like cold."
4. **Nemám rád naše sousedy.**
"I don't like our neighbors."
5. **Nemám ho rád.**
"I don't like him."

To say that we **don't like doing something**, we use *rád* that changes into *nerad* for male speech or *nerada* for female speech. It means both, "to not like (doing something)" and "dislike (doing something)."

For example:

nerad lyžuju - "I don't like skiing."

nerad chodím do školy - "I don't like going to school."

nerada piju alkohol - "I don't like drinking alcohol."

nerada jsem doma - "I don't like being at home."

Strong likes or dislikes

Czech has a few ways to express likes or dislikes strongly.

Milovat "to love"

Zbožňovat "to love," "to adore"

Nesnášet "to hate"

Nenávidět "to detest," "to loathe"

1. *Miluju čokoládu.*
"I love chocolate."

2. *Miluje mě.*
"She loves me."
3. *Zbožňuju čokoládu.*
"I love chocolate."
4. *Zbožňuju ho.*
"I adore him."
5. *Nesnáším ostrá jídla.*
"I hate spicy dishes."
6. *Nenávidím plesnivý sýr.*
"I detest moldy cheese."

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Sára nemá ráda mužský.*
"Sarah doesn't like men."

Sample Sentences

Tohle nemusím. ("Not my cup of tea.") The literal translation is "I don't need this," but in strength it's comparable to the English idiom "not my cup of tea."

1. *Nesnáším teplý mlíko.*
"I hate warm milk."
2. *Miluju teplý počasí.*
"I love warm weather."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Czech Onomatopoeia and Interjections

Every language has its own onomatopoeia and interjections. Let's see what the Czech equivalent for the most common interjections and onomatopoeia are. That way you won't be caught by surprise when you hear them!

baf - "peek-a-boo"

hurá - "hurray/ yahoo"

jupí - "yahoo"

psst - "shush"

au! - "ouch!"

šup - "whoosh"

bzz - "buzz"

fuj! - "yuck!"

mňam - "yum"

Useful expression:

1. *Fuj, to mi nechutná.*
"Yuck, this doesn't taste good."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19

What Time is it in the Czech Republic?

CONTENTS

2	Czech
2	English
2	Vocabulary
3	Sample Sentences
4	Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5	Grammar
10	Cultural Insight

19

CZECH

1. Irena: Tome, v kolik hodin přesně se máme sejít s Martinem?
2. Tomáš: V 10.30.
3. Irena: A kolik je teď hodin?
4. Tomáš: Teď je 10.25. Tak rychle, nebo tam přijdem pozdě.
5. Irena: Hele, támhle je!

ENGLISH

1. Irena: Tom, what time exactly was the meeting with Martin?
2. Tomáš: It's at 10.30.
3. Irena: And what's the time now?
4. Tomáš: It's 10.25 now. Hurry up so that we won't be late.
5. Irena: Oh, there he is!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
kolik	how much, how many, what time	counter
hodina	hour	noun

přesně	exactly, precisely, accurately, spot on, punctually	adverb
sejít se	to meet up, to get together, to coincide	perfective verb
ted'	now	adverb
tak	so, well then	adverb
rychle	fast, quickly, rapidly, swiftly, promptly, hastily	adverb
přijít	to come	verb
pozdě	late, tardily	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kolik lidí je tu? "How many people are here?"	Kolik je hodin? "What time is it?"
Stůl pro kolik osob? "A table for how many people?"	Autobus jede za hodinu. "The bus goes in one hour."
Internet na hodinu. "Internet for one hour."	Je přesně 5 hodin. "It's five o'clock precisely."
Sejdeme se zítra. "Let's meet tomorrow."	Ted' mě prosím poslouchejte. "Now, please listen to me."
Ted' už jdi! "Now off you go!"	Tak, a jsme tu sami. "Well, now we are here alone."
Tak zase příště. "Well then, next time. "	Rychle se vrať. "Come back quickly."

<p>Vím, že nechceš, abych přišel na párty.</p> <p>"I know you don't want me to come to the party."</p>	<p>Rád bych zítra přišel znovu, jestli by to bylo možné.</p> <p>"I would like to come again tomorrow, if possible."</p>
<p>Přijdeme na oběd</p> <p>"We'll come for lunch."</p>	<p>Jdeme tam pozdě.</p> <p>"We are going to be late."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***rychle* "fast," "quickly," "rapidly," "speedily," "swiftly," "promptly"**

This is an adverb describing speed.

Used when talking about rate of speed, motion or pace, *rychle* means "fast, quickly, rapidly, swiftly, speedily." You may hear *vyrostl velmi rychle* ("He grew up quickly") or *rychle obracet stránky* ("to flip pages quickly"). When talking about the reaction of somebody to something, *rychle* is used as "swiftly, without delay, promptly, immediately, at once." For example, *rychle odpovědět* ("reply promptly"), *rychlým pohybem* ("in a swift move"), or *pojd' sem, rychle!* ("Come here at once!").

For example:

1. *Snadno a rychle.*
"Quickly and easily."

***přijít* "to come," "to arrive," "to get," "to reach," "to be delivered," "to figure out"**

Přijít is a perfective verb, which describes an activity with a reference to its completion. The main meaning is "to come, to arrive, to get somewhere, reach, be delivered" and "to figure out something." It occurs in many different contexts and can have various translations in English. See the examples below:

1. *přijít na návštěvu* - "to come over for a visit"
2. *přišly noviny* - "the newspapers have been delivered"

This verb has also a situational use, which in English can be translated as "to come

in handy."

1. *Přijít vhod někomu* - "to come in handy to somebody."

It can also be "to become" something,

1. *přijít do módy* - "to become a fashion"

or "to come up with something,"

1. *přijít s nápadem* - "to come up with an idea."

One more meaning is "to appear" as nice, good, or bad, as in

1. *přijde mi to hrozný* - "It seems terrible to me.."

For example:

1. *Přišel jsem na to!*
"I have figured it out!"

pozdě "late," "tardily"

This is an adverb that expresses a late time, lateness, or delay.

Used in terms of delay, you may see *Promiňte, že jdu pozdě* ("I'm sorry I'm late") or *platba proběhla pozdě* ("The payment was delayed"). In terms of late time, some examples are *Je pozdě, půjdeme* ("It's late now, let's go"), and *pozdě odpoledne* ("In the late afternoon").

For example:

1. *Nikdy není pozdě.*
"It's never too late." (a quote)

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Inquiring About the Time
Tome, v kolik hodin přesně se máme sejít s Martinem?
"Tom, what time exactly was the meeting with Martin?"

Kolik je hodin?

The literal translation of *kolik je hodin?* is "How many hours it is now?"

Kolik means "how many" or "how much" in Czech language.

It corresponds to "what time is it?" or "what's the time?" in English.

We can also ask *Kolik je teď hodin?*, meaning "what is the time now?" or "what's the time right now?"

1. *Ted' je 10 hodin.*
"It is now ten o'clock."
2. *Už je půlnoc!*
"It's midnight already!"

Let's see now more closely these expressions.

When asking about time in Czech, the verb *být* ("to be") is very important. As already mentioned in a previous lesson, *být* has to be conjugated according to the personal pronoun. The conjugation is as follows.

já jsem - "I am"

ty jsi (colloquially *seš*) - "you are"

ten/ ta/ to je - "he/ she/ it is" (This form is used for time in *je deset hodin*, "It is ten o'clock," etc.)

my jsme - "we are"

vy jste - "you are"

oni jsou - "they are"

In the dialogue, Irena is asking Tomas about time by using the question, *kolik je teď hodin?*

The first component of the question is the counter *kolik*, which literally means "how much" or "how many" in English, but in this case, we can translate it as "what." Next, there is the verb *je* ("it is") in its third person singular form of the infinitive *být* ("to be"). Next in line is *ted'*, which simply means "now" or "right now," and lastly, we have the noun *hodin*, which literally means "hours" in English. *Hodin* is the plural form of *hodina* meaning "hour." Altogether we have *Kolik je hodin?* ("What time is it?").

If you find yourself in an informal setting, asking with *Kolik je hodin?* or *Kolik je?* is also perfectly fine, but please remember that these two options are reserved for friends only.

In a formal setting, it's enough to just add *promiňte* at the beginning of the question: *Promiňte, kolik je hodin?*, meaning "Excuse me, what time is it?"

For example:

1. A: *Kolik je hodin?*
"What time is it?"
B: *Je 12:20. (dvanáct dvacet)*
"It's 12:20 pm."
2. A: *Kolik je?*
"What time is it?"
B: *Je 13:00 (třináct)*
"one o'clock in the afternoon using the 24h frame"
jedna (*this can also refer to one a.m)
3. A: *Promiňte, kolik je hodin?*
"Excuse me, what time is it?"
B: *Je 21:15 (dvacet jedna patnáct/devět patnáct)*
"It's 9:15 p.m."

As you can see, there are two ways of answering the question about time: you can state **the time only**, or start with **je ("it is") and then say the time**. It's completely up to you.

Vocabulary:

dopoledne - "(before midday) a.m."

odpoledne - "(afternoon) p.m."

den - "day"

noc - "night"

ráno - "morning"

večer - "evening"

v noci - "at night"

poledne - "midday/ noon"

půlnoc - "midnight"

In the Czech Republic, both the twelve hour and twenty-four hour systems are used. In the table below, you can see the twenty-four hour system.

Unlike English, in Czech when saying time, **the form of the hour is different depending on the singular or plural number**, but in the case of minutes, there's no change, so as long as you master numbers in their plain forms and the nouns referring to the hours, you will have no problem talking about time.

Hodina ("hour") or *hodin* ("hours"), and *minuta* ("minute") or *minuty* ("minutes") are used as follows.

1 - *hodina*/*minuta* ("one hour/one minute")

2, 3, 4 - *hodiny*/*minuty* ("2, 3, 4 hours/minutes")

5 and above - *hodin*/*minut* ("5 and more hours/minutes")

Czech time	English time	Czech time	English time
<i>jedna hodina</i>	"one a.m."	<i>třináct hodin</i>	"one p.m."
<i>dvě hodiny</i>	"two a.m."	<i>čtrnáct hodin</i>	"two p.m."
<i>tři hodiny</i>	"three a.m."	<i>patnáct hodin</i>	"three p.m."
<i>čtyři hodiny</i>	"four a.m."	<i>šestnáct hodin</i>	"four p.m."
<i>pět hodin</i>	"five a.m."	<i>sedmnáct hodin</i>	"five p.m."
<i>šest hodin</i>	"six a.m."	<i>osmnáct hodin</i>	"six p.m."
<i>sedm hodin</i>	"seven a.m."	<i>devatenáct hodin</i>	"seven p.m."
<i>osm hodin</i>	"eight a.m."	<i>dvacet hodin</i>	"eight p.m."
<i>devět hodin</i>	"nine a.m."	<i>dvacet jedna hodin</i>	"nine p.m."
<i>deset hodin</i>	"ten a.m."	<i>dvacet dva hodin</i>	"ten p.m."
<i>jedenáct hodin</i>	"eleven a.m."	<i>dvacet tři hodin</i>	"eleven p.m."
<i>dvanáct hodin</i>	"noon"	<i>dvacet čtyři hodin</i> <i>půlnoc</i>	"midnight"

Let's go through a few examples.

6:20 a.m. - *šest dvacet odpoledne* or *osmnáct dvacet*

10:05 a.m. - *deset hodin dopoledne*

10:10 p.m. - *deset deset večer* or *dvacet dva deset*

4:16 p.m. - *čtyři šestnáct odpoledne* or *šestnáct šestnáct*

6:04 p.m. - *šest nula čtyři odpoledne* or *osmnáct čtyři*

Reviewing numbers

<i>nula</i>	"zero"
<i>jedna</i>	"one"
<i>dva</i>	"two"
<i>tři</i>	"three"
<i>čtyři</i>	"four"
<i>pět</i>	"five"
<i>šest</i>	"six"
<i>sedm</i>	"seven"
<i>osm</i>	"eight"
<i>devět</i>	"nine"
<i>deset</i>	"ten"
<i>jedenáct</i>	"eleven"
<i>dvanáct</i>	"twelve"
<i>třináct</i>	"thirteen"
<i>čtrnáct</i>	"fourteen"
<i>patnáct</i>	"fifteen"

<i>šestnáct</i>	"sixteen"
<i>sedmnáct</i>	"seventeen"
<i>osmnáct</i>	"eighteen"
<i>devatenáct</i>	"nineteen"
<i>dvacet</i>	"twenty"

<i>dvacet</i>	"twenty"
<i>dvacet jedna</i>	"twenty-one"
<i>dvacet dva</i>	"twenty-two"
<i>dvacet tři</i>	"twenty-three"
<i>dvacet čtyři</i>	"twenty-four"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *A kolik je teď hodin?*
"And what's the time now?"
2. *Teď je 10*
"It's ten."

Sample Sentences

1. *Kolik je?*
"What's the time?"
2. *Brzo bude deset (hodin).*
"Soon it will be ten (o'clock)."
3. *Na kolik hodin tam máme být?*
"What time will we be there?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Are Czech People Punctual?

Generally speaking, Czech people like to be on time. If they set up a meeting with somebody, they won't fail to get there as promised. The maximum difference is about 10-15 minutes. People don't tend to come with an hour delay, it would be perceived as really rude. If they need to be late for some reason, or if they can't make an appointment for a valid reason, they'll get in touch to explain.

Useful expression:

1. *Budu mít spoždění deset minut.*
"I will be late by ten minutes."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20 Talking About Your Allergies in Czech

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

20

CZECH

1. (v autě)
2. Tomáš: Mám hlad..
3. Martin: Aha, tamhle je malá restaurace... Máš rád smažené kuře?
4. Irena: Smažené...kuře...
5. Martin: To nemáš ráda?
6. Irena: Mám alergii...
7. Martin: Alergii na kuře?
8. Irena: Jo, bohužel.
9. Tomáš: Martine, pozor; na silnici je pes!
10. Martin: Ježiš, ajo! Dík.

ENGLISH

1. (On a drive)
2. Tomáš: I'm hungry...
3. Martin: Oh, there's a small restaurant over there... Do you like fried chicken?
4. Irena: Fried...chicken...

CONT'D OVER

5. Martin: You don't like it?
6. Irena: I'm allergic...
7. Martin: Allergic to chicken?
8. Irena: Yes, unfortunately.
9. Tomáš: Martin, be careful; there's a dog in the road!
10. Martin: Oh, yes! Thanks.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
hlad	hunger	noun
smažený	fried	adjective
kuře	chicken	noun
alergie	allergy	noun
bohužel	unfortunately	particle
pozor	attention, care, heed, beware	noun
silnice	road, street	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mám velký hlad. "I'm very hungry."</p>	<p>Obědnám smažené hranolky. "I'll order fried chips."</p>
--	---

<p>Kuchař griluje kuře.</p> <p>"The cook is barbecuing the chicken."</p>	<p>Má alergii na pyl.</p> <p>"He has a pollen allergy."</p>
<p>Bohužel nepřišla.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, she didn't come."</p>	<p>Pozor na psa!</p> <p>"Beware of the dog!"</p>
<p>Silnice je uzavřena.</p> <p>"The road is closed."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***hlad* "hunger," "starvation," "famine," "thirst"**

Hlad is a noun of masculine gender, meaning "hunger, starvation, famine," or "thirst." *Hlad* can occur in many different sentences with similar context but various translation into English. Please see examples below.

Hlad can be found in these phrases: *dostat hlad* ("to get hungry"), *mít hlad* ("to be hungry"), *mít hrozný hlad* ("to be starving"), *mít pocit hladu* ("to feel hungry"), *mít trošku hlad* ("to feel/ be peckish"), and *mít ukrutný hlad* ("to feel/ be ravenous").

A Czech idiom is *mám hlad jako vlk* which translates to "I'm hungry as a wolf" and is equivalent to the English "I could eat a horse."

Interestingly, when talking about the English phrase "hunger strike" this phrase is translated into Czech in one word, *hladovka*, which is a noun deriving from the word *hlad* ("hunger, starvation"). "To go on hunger strike" is translated as *držet hladovku*, which literally means "to sustain hunger."

When hungry because of fasting for health or religious reasons, the act of such hunger is called *půst* in Czech. In both cases the verb *držet* ("to sustain, to keep, to maintain") is used. It is *Držet půst* ("to fast") or *držet hladovku* ("to go/ to be on hunger strike").

For example:

1. *Hlad je nejlepší kuchař.*
"Hunger is the best spice." (idiom)

The literal translation is "hunger is the best chef."

***bohužel* "unfortunately," "regrettably," "unhappily"**

Bohužel in Czech is classified as a "particle" and not as an "adverb" like in English. Particles are the ninth category of parts of speech (the Czech language has ten, while English has only eight) and belongs to the group of uninflected words, which means these words do not decline or conjugate. They further divide into subgroups according to function. *Bohužel* belongs to the group of "adverbial" particles, and it usually opens a sentence or can be found in the middle. Through particles we can also recognise types of sentences such as wishes, exclamations, or commands, and they have the ability to show the speaker's stance in the sentence.

For example:

1. *Otec bohužel není doma.*
"My father is unfortunately not at home."

***pozor* "attention," "care," "head," "beware"**

Pozor in Czech is a masculine noun, but can also be used as an interjection if it becomes an exclamation, as in *pozor!*

It's used when talking about attention in terms of focus, for example at school a student might be reminded *dávat pozor* ("to pay attention"). It may be attention in terms of alertness, as in *Dávej pozor!* ("Be careful!"), *Pozor schod!* ("Mind the step!" or "Watch your step!"), and *Pozor pes!* ("Beware of the dog!").

Pozor is also often used in terms of taking care of something or somebody, as in *Dávej na sebe pozor* ("Take care of yourself").

For example:

1. *Pozor na jazyk!*
"Watch your language!"
2. *Připravit, pozor, teď!*
"Ready, steady, go!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking if Someone is Allergic to Something

Mám alergie...

"I'm allergic..."

In this lesson we will cover a phrase that will be essential for those of you who are allergic to something. Letting other people know about your allergy is vital to a fun and healthy trip. We'll go over "I'm allergic to [something]."

Let's start with how to ask about someone else's allergy.

There are two ways to ask about an allergy:

1. **Máš alergii na..?** ("Do you have an allergy to...") + add a noun.

For example, *Máš alergii na pyl?* ("Do you have an allergy to pollen?")

In Czech, asking if somebody is allergic to something requires a preposition, which is *na*, "to."

Alergický na... means "allergic to...."

2. **Jsi alergický/ alergická na....?** ("Are you allergic to...?") + add a noun

For example, *Jsi alergický/ alergická na kočky?* ("Are you allergic to cats?")

Explaining allergies

To explain allergies, we'll need something that we're allergic to. In some cases peanut allergies can be extremely dangerous, so let's start from there.

In Czech "I am allergic to peanuts" is *Mám alergii na burské oříšky*. The first word, **mám**, means "I have." Then we have **alergie** ("allergy"). To recap here, we have *Mám alergii*. Literally, this means "I have an allergy." Then comes the word **na**, which means "to." This is followed by **burské oříšky**, which in English is only one word, "peanuts."

Now let's go over some other common allergies. Let's try shrimp. The Czech word for "shrimp" is *krevety*. Therefore, "I am allergic to shrimp" is *Mám alergii na krevety*. Notice that the only thing that changes here is the noun of the allergen, *krevety*, in place of *burské oříšky*, while the rest is the same.

Let's try with "eggs," which in Czech are *vejce*. "I am allergic to eggs" is *Mám alergii na vejce*.

Let's try with "milk," which in Czech is *mléko*. "I am allergic to milk" is *Mám alergii na mléko*. (Please note that *mléko* in spoken Czech becomes *mlíko*.)

At the hospital

In case you have to go to the doctor or to the hospital during your trip to the Czech Republic, you might be asked about your condition. If you have allergies, make sure to get the right treatment.

"Do you have any allergies?" in Czech is *Máte nějaké alergie? Máte*, the formal polite form of *mít* ("to have") can replace the address "Sir" or "Madam," and can be translated as "do you have." Then we have *nějaké* ("any/ some"). The last component is *alergie* meaning "allergies."

All together, we have *Máte nějaké alergie?* "Do you have any allergies?"

The noun *alergie* ("an allergy" or "one allergy") sounds the same in its plural form *alergie* meaning ("allergies"). The change from singular to plural is only notable through the declension cases (there are seven in the Czech language) when applied in sentences. For example:

1. *Máte nějakou alergii?*
"Do you have an allergy?"
2. *Máte nějaké alergie?*
"Do you have any allergies?"

The last sentence we want you to know is "I am having an allergic reaction."

In Czech, this is *Mám alergickou reakci*. This is nearly the same as in English, *mám* means "I have" or "I'm having," *alergickou* is an adjective that takes the feminine form here and the fourth accusative case because of the following noun, *reakce*, ("reaction") is a feminine noun.

Adjectives with a hard ending in the nominative singular form

Masculine: *Alergický kašel* - "allergic cough"

Feminine: *Alergická reakce* - "allergic reaction"

Neuter: *Alergické dítě* - "allergic child"

Czech adjectives change their form according to the declension table and gender.

Saying you don't have an allergy

To say you have no allergies or no allergy, you just add *ne* to the word *mám*, which negates the sentence. For example:

Singular form: **Nemám žádnou alergii.** - "I have no allergy/ I don't have any allergy."

Plural form: **Nemám žádné alergie.** - "I have no allergies/ I don't have any allergies."

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Alergii na kuře?*
"Allergic to chicken?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Můj bratr má astma.*
"My brother has asthma."
2. *Dcera má alergii na hmyzí bodnutí.*
"My daughter has an allergy to insect bites."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Driving in the Czech Republic

Czech people use cars as their main means of transportation. The official driving age is eighteen.

To drive on motorways in the Czech Republic the purchase of a special sticker is needed. The sticker needs to be fixed to the front window of the car.

In cities there are usually park and pay machines installed, but it is not uncommon to have a person at designated parking places to collect parking fees, especially around tourist destinations, such as castles etc. Parking has to be paid for nearly wherever you are in the Czech Republic except in very small towns and villages.

Since joining the EU, speed cameras at the entrances of towns and motorways have become very common. It is important to watch one's speed if you want to avoid a ticket. Traffic police in the Czech Republic work actively on streets as well.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21 A Banana-Loving Czech Baby

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

21

CZECH

1. (Sára pláče)
2. Martin: Jé, Sáro, máš hlad? Ireno, jí Sára banány?
3. Irena: Jo, jí. Sára zbožňuje banány!
4. Martin: jo, fakt? Dobře, Sáro. Tady máš.
5. (Sára se směje)
6. (pes kňučí)
7. Martin: Irena, a tvůj pes jí banány?

ENGLISH

1. (Sarah cries)
2. Martin: Oh, Sarah, are you hungry? Irena, does Sarah eat bananas?
3. Irena: Yes, she does. Sarah loves bananas!
4. Martin: Oh, really? Okay, Sarah. Here you go.
5. (Sarah laughs)
6. (Dog whines)
7. Martin: Irena, does your dog eat bananas?

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
jíst	to eat	verb
banán	banana	noun
zbožňovat	to adore, to love, to worship	imperfective verb
smát se	to laugh	reflexive verb
pes	dog	noun
kňučet	to whine, to whimper, to yowl	imperfective verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Měli bychom jíst aspoň třikrát denně.</p> <p>"We are supposed to eat at least three times a day."</p>	<p>Měl bys něco jíst.</p> <p>"You should eat something."</p>
<p>Rodina jí snídani.</p> <p>"The family is eating breakfast."</p>	<p>Chtěl bys banán?</p> <p>"Would you like a banana?"</p>
<p>Já ho zbožňuju.</p> <p>"I adore him."</p>	<p>Pár se směje fotografii.</p> <p>"The couple is laughing at the picture."</p>
<p>Nesměj se mi!</p> <p>"Stop laughing at me!"</p>	<p>To je tvůj pes?</p> <p>"Is this your dog?"</p>
<p>Tenhle pes kouše.</p> <p>"This dog bites."</p>	<p>Pes začal kňučet.</p> <p>"The dog started whining."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

kňučet "to whine," "to whinge," "to yowl," "to whimper"

This is an imperfective verb, which means that it describes a general or ongoing activity without reference to its completion. The meaning of the verb is to describe the sound of somebody or something whining, moaning, crying, etc. over something, making a loud wailing cry. It also describes an animal's cry, or a person making a series of low, feeble sounds expressive of fear, pain, or unhappiness or complaint.

For example:

1. *Pod oknem kňučí pes*
"A dog is yowling outside the window"
2. *Kňučela nad těžkou prací*
"She was whining/ moaning about her hard work"
3. *Kňučíš jako pes.*
"You are whining like a dog."

zbožňovat (něco/ někoho) "to adore," "to love," "to worship"

This is an imperfective verb which describes a general or ongoing activity without reference to its completion. *Zbožňovat* means to worship as God or God, to love deeply and devotedly, or to like very much.

For example:

1. *Zbožňuju našeho dědu.*
"I just love/adore our grandpa."
2. *Zbožňuju tvoje boty.*
"I adore your new shoes."
3. *Zbožňuje toho zpěváka jako boha.*
"He worships the singer just like God."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Inquiring About Someone's Habits
Jé, Sáro, máš hlad? Ireno, jí Sára banány?
"Oh, Sarah, are you hungry? Irena, does Sarah eat bananas?"

To ask a habitual question in Czech language, you have to know the basic

conjugation of verbs by which we can create sentences. In the dialogue, Martin is asking Irena if little Sarah eats bananas. Let's conjugate the verb "eat" (which is irregular in Czech) according to the personal pronouns.

Jíst, "to eat"

*This is also an imperfective verb. *Jíst* means "to eat" without an indication of the action of eating to be completed. When we add the prefix *na* in front of the verb, we get *najíst*, a perfective verb indicating the action of eating and its end. It can be translated just as "to eat" or is comparable with the English "to eat up."

Singular

I: *já jím* - "I eat"

you: *ty jíš* - "you eat"

he/she/it: *on/ ona jí* - "he/ she eats"

Plural

we: *my jíme* - "we eat"

you: *vy jíte* - "you eat"

they: *oni jedí* - "they eat"

Creating a question with the verb *jíst*

Singular

I: *jím (já) banány?* - "Do I eat bananas?"

jím (já) banány každý den? - "Do I eat bananas every day?"

you: *jíš (ty) banány?* "Do you eat bananas?"

jíš banány každý den? - "Do you eat bananas every day?"

she: *jí (ona) banány?* - "Does she eat bananas?"

jí (ona) banány každý den? - "Does she eat bananas every day?"

Plural

we: *jíme banány?* - "Do we eat bananas?"

jíme banány každý den? - "Do we eat bananas every day?"

you: *jíte banány?* - "Do you eat bananas?"

jíte banány každý den? - "Do you eat bananas every day?"

they: *jedí banány?* - "Do they eat bananas?"

jedí banány každý den? - "Do they eat bananas every day?"

Let's also add some frequency vocabulary and phrases to the pattern above, especially those with the pronoun *každý*, meaning "every."

Creating a statement

1. *Čtu knihy denně.*
"I read books every day."

The first component of the sentence is *čtu*, which is the first person singular form of the verb *číst* ("to read"). Then there's the plural noun *knihy*, meaning "books" and at the end the adverb *denně*, meaning "every day." Altogether, it makes *čtu knihy denně* ("I read books every day").

Another way of saying the same thing is *čtu knihy každý den*. *Každý den* also means "every day." In English it doesn't make a big difference since it's still "every day," but as you can see in Czech, those are two completely different words, yet with the same meaning: *denně* and *každý den*.

Frequency expressions

Now let's go through all the expressions that are useful for talking about frequency.

Denně

- an adverb meaning "every day"
- derives from the adjective *denní* ("every day")

For example:

1. *Čtu knihy každý den/Denně čtu knihy.*
"I read books every day."
2. *Denně nakupuji v supermarketu.*
"I do shopping at the supermarket every day."

Co..., ... co ... (e.g. Večer co večer)

The word *co* creates a phrase that can also be used to talk about frequency. Words that can follow *co* are *večer* ("evening"), *noc* ("night"), *týden* ("week"), *měsíc* ("month"), and *rok* ("year").

When talking about a day, you can be more specific and use the exact name of the day. All the forms go as follows: *co pondělí* ("every Monday"), *co úterý* ("every Tuesday"), *co středu* ("every Wednesday"), *co čtvrtek* ("every Thursday"), *co pátek* ("every Friday"), *co sobotu* ("every Saturday"), *co neděli* ("every Sunday").

Here are some sample sentences using this word:

1. *Večer co večer spolu mluvíme.*
"We talk together every evening."
2. *Týden co týden se to mění.*
"It changes every week."
3. *Co dva roky jezdíme na dovolenou.*
"We go on holiday every two years."

Každé ráno

The pronoun *každý* means "every" in English. It can be used with the words naming time of the day in their genitive form: *ráno* ("morning"), *odpoledne* ("afternoon"), *večer* ("evening"), *noc* ("night"). When put together with a name of the day of the week, it requires changing the forms of days of the week and *každý* into accusative form, for example: *každou sobotu* (literally "every Saturday").

Here are some sample sentences:

1. *Každé ráno chodím se psem na procházku.*
"Every morning I go for a walk with my dog."
2. *Moje sestra učí angličtinu na střední škole každou středu a pátek.*
"My sister teaches English in high school every Wednesday and Friday."
3. *Moje rodina jí společně oběd každou neděli.*
"Every Sunday my family eats dinner together."

Language Expansion

Každý is a very useful pronoun and can come in handy in many other situations, not only when talking about frequency. To be able to use it freely you need to learn all

the forms of this pronoun, which include all case forms for all genders. You will find them in the table below (we'll skip the English translation, because for all the forms it's the same: "every").

Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
nominative	<i>každý</i>	<i>každá</i>	<i>každé</i>
genitive	<i>každého</i>	<i>každé</i>	<i>každému</i>
dative	<i>každému</i>	<i>každé</i>	<i>každému</i>
accusative	<i>každého</i>	<i>každou</i>	<i>každé</i>
instrumental	<i>každém</i>	<i>každé</i>	<i>každém</i>
locative	<i>každým</i>	<i>každou</i>	<i>každým</i>

Now let's have a look at a few sample sentences with some of the forms from the table above.

1. *Každá žena je pěkná.*
"Every woman is beautiful."
2. *Vypadáš dobře v každém oblečení.*
"You look good in any clothes."
3. *Mám rád každou čokoládu, ale tu hořkou nejvíc.*
"I like every kind of chocolate, but the bitter kind the most."

Here are some verbs related to everyday routines.

vzbudit se - "to wake up"

vstávat - "to get up"

čistit zuby - "to brush teeth"

česat se - "to comb (oneself)"

česat vlasy - "to comb hair"

holit se - "to shave"

vysprchovat se - "to take a shower"

obléct se - "to get dressed"

dělat snídani - "to make breakfast"

jíst snídani - "to eat breakfast"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Jo, jí. Sára zbožňuje banány!*
"Yes, she does. Sarah loves bananas!"
2. *Irena, a tvůj pes jí banány?*
"Irena, does your dog eat bananas?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Chodíš běhat každou sobotu?*
"Do you go jogging every Saturday?"
2. *Pije kávu každý den?*
"Does he drink coffee every day?"
3. *Čistíte si zuby dvakrát denně?*
"Do you brush your teeth twice a day?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Popular Fruits in the Czech Republic

Although now supermarkets in the Czech Republic offer a year-round supply of exotic fruit, it appears that Czechs still prefer apples above all. According to a survey by Tesco, 74% of Czech people buy apples regularly. In winter, customers also often buy bananas and citrus fruit.

Apples are eaten raw soon after buying them, or Czech people like to use them for making *štrúdl*, which is a sort of apple pie, that is popular in Germany also and known as "strudel."

Other ways of using apples include making a compote, fresh juice, or baby food.

Useful expression:

1. *Jablko nepadá daleko od stromu.* (Czech idiom)
The literal translation is "the apple does not fall far from the tree." It's the same as the English idiom and means "Like father like son."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22 What's Your Favorite Czech Drink?

CONTENTS

2	Czech
2	English
2	Vocabulary
3	Sample Sentences
4	Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5	Grammar
10	Cultural Insight

22

CZECH

1. (V samoobsluze)
2. Martin: Tome, co budeš pít? Sodovku nebo kafe?
3. Tomáš: Dám si kolu.
4. Martin: Koupim teda kolu. A co ty, Ireno? Budeš taky něco pít?
5. Irena: Jo, jsou tam nějaké džusy?

ENGLISH

1. (At the supermarket)
2. Martin: Tomas, what will you have to drink? Soda or Coffee?
3. Tomáš: I'll have Coke.
4. Martin: I'll buy some Coke then. What about you, Irena? Will you drink something too?
5. Irena: Yes, are there some juices?

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
pít	to drink	imperfective verb
sodovka	soda	noun
kafe	coffee	noun

dát (si)	to have, to take	reflexive verb
kola	coke	noun
koupit	to buy	verb
co	what	expression
něco	something	pronoun
nějaký	some, any, kind of, sort of, certain, around, about	pronoun
džus	juice	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Žena pije vodu. "The woman is drinking water."</p>	<p>Sodovka je perlivá voda. "Soda is a sparkling water."</p>
<p>Piju kafe bez kofeinu. "I drink decaffeinated coffee."</p>	<p>Dám si dnešní polévku. "I'll have today's soup."</p>
<p>Kola je velmi sladká. "Coke is very sweet."</p>	<p>Koupí pro svého psa dům u řeky. "He will buy a house next to the river for his dog."</p>
<p>Abyste dostala slevu, musíte koupit tři. "You have to buy three if you want to get the discount."</p>	<p>Proč si příště nekoupíš víc jídla? "Why don't you buy more groceries next time?"</p>
<p>Musíme koupit mlíko. "We have to buy milk."</p>	<p>Chce si koupit rychlé auto. "He wants to buy a fast car."</p>

<p>Když mám hlad, vždycky koupím příliš mnoho potravin.</p> <p>"I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry."</p>	<p>Co dáš mamince?</p> <p>"What will you give to your mom?"</p>
<p>Co budeš dělat?</p> <p>"What will you do?"</p>	<p>Co si dáte?</p> <p>"What will you take?"</p>
<p>Co to je?</p> <p>"What is this?"</p>	<p>Něco dalšího?</p> <p>"Anything else?"</p>
<p>Na stole jsou nějaké staré knihy.</p> <p>"There are some old books on the table."</p>	<p>To je nějaký nesmysl.</p> <p>"This is some nonsense."</p>
<p>Dáte si džus?</p> <p>"Will you have juice?"</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***nějaký* "some," "any," "kind of," "sort of," "somehow," "certain "**

nějaký is a pronoun that is conjugated according to gender. The masculine is *nějaký*, the feminine is *nějaká*, and the neuter is *nějaké*.

This word generally occurs in five different contexts.

1. talking about something unknown/unspecified:

Je vůbec nějaký řešení? ("Is there any solution at all?")

2. as "kind of" or "sort of":

To je nějaký druh kytky. ("This is some kind of plant.")

3. as "somehow":

Vypadá nějaký smutný. ("He looks somehow sad.")

4. as "certain":

Přišel za tebou nějaký pan Janda. ("There is certain Mr. Janda to see you.")

5. as "some" or an unspecified amount or "around/some.":

Nějaký dvě lžíce soli ("around two spoons of salt")

Dát si... "to have, to take"

Dát si literally means "to give oneself," but in a restaurant the meaning becomes "to have/to take something." The verb is a reflexive verb which means it is always accompanied by the reflexive pronoun *si* ("to oneself"). The conjugation of this verb is as follows:

dám si - "I'll have"

dáš si - "you'll have"

dá si - "he/ she'll have"

Please note that the reflexive pronoun *si* always takes second position in a sentence and cannot be used at the beginning.

It's used in the following patterns- *Co si dáte?* ("What will you have?"), *Dám si jablečný džus* ("I'll have an apple juice"), *Co si dáme k večeři?* ("What shall we have for dinner?")

For example:

1. *Dát si sprchu.*
"To take a shower."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking What Someone is Going to Do
Tome, co budeš pít? Sodovku nebo kafe?
"Tomáš, what will you have to drink? Soda or coffee?"

The focus of this lesson is learning about the future tense in Czech with which we express what someone is going to do. There are three ways to express the future tense.

1. Present tense

This is typically used in everyday spoken language through expressions such as *zítra* ("tomorrow"), *pozítrí* ("after tomorrow"), *příští týden* ("next week"), *příští měsíc* ("next month"), *příští rok* ("next year") etc.

1. *Zítřa jsem doma.*
"Tomorrow I'm at home."
2. *Co zítra děláš?*
"What are you doing tomorrow?"
3. *Příští týden je test.*
"Next week is a test"
4. *Příští rok jsem v Americe.*
"Next year I'm in America."

2. Perfective verbs

Expressing future is possible through perfective verbs because perfective verbs refer to completed actions in the past or the completion of acts in the future.

Perfective verbs cannot express present tense.

What distinguishes perfective verbs (indicating completed acts or acts to be completed in the future) from the imperfective verbs (verbs that do not indicate a completion of action) is their prefixes.

These prefixes have so called perfective function. One can create a perfective verb from an imperfective verb by adding such a prefix. Examples are listed below.

Imperfective verbs | Perfective verbs

číst "to read" - ***přečíst*** "to finish reading"

hrát "to play"- ***dohrát*** "to finish playing"

psát "to write" - ***napsat*** "to finish writing"

dělat "to be doing"- ***udělat*** "to finish doing"

letět "to fly"- ***uletět*** "to fly away"

sekat "to cut, to chop" - ***nasekat*** "to finish cutting, chopping"

volat "to call" - ***zavolat*** "to finish calling"

jít "to go" - ***přijít*** "to have come"

zpívat "to sing" - ***zazpívat*** "to finish singing"

lít "to pour" - ***nalít*** "to finish pouring"

jíst "to eat" - ***najíst se*** "to eat up, finish eating"

mýt "to wash" - ***umýt*** "to finish washing"

nést "to fetch, to get something" - ***přinést*** "to finish getting something"

There are many more perfective verbs and these above are just a short list to give some examples.

Let's have a look at some sentences using *perfective* verbs:

Napsat - "to finish writing"

1. *Napíšu dopis.*
"I'll write a letter."

Nakoupit - "to finish shopping/ buying"

1. *Nakoupím nějaké ovoce.*
"I'll buy some fruit."

Udělat "get something done/ to finish doing"

1. *Udělám to později.*
"I'll do it later."

Zavolat "to finish calling"

1. *Zavolám babičce.*
"I'll call grandma."

3. Imperfective verbs + future tense of *být* ("to be")

The Czech verb *být*, meaning "to be" is very special. The future form plays an important role in expressing future actions. They also have quite a few meanings and usages, one of which we could observe in the dialogue of this lesson.

1. *Buděš něco pít?*
"Will you drink something?"

But before we move on to the sentences from the dialogue, let's check the conjugation of the future form of *být* .

Singular

	Czech	English
<i>já</i>	<i>budu</i>	"I shall/ will"
<i>ty</i>	<i>budeš</i>	"you will"
<i>on, ona, ono</i>	<i>bude</i>	"he/she/it will"

Plural

	Czech	English
<i>my</i>	<i>budem/ budeme</i>	"we shall/ will"
<i>vy</i>	<i>budete</i>	"you will"
<i>oni</i>	<i>budou</i>	"they will"

To make a *future* tense through *imperfective verbs*, we need to add an infinitive form of any verb after the personal form of *budu* ("I shall/ I will").

(já) budu bydlet - "I shall/ will live"

(ty) budeš bydlet - "you shall/ will live"

(on/ ona) bude bydlet - "he/ she shall/ will live"

(my) budem bydlet - "we shall/ will live"

(vy) budete bydlet - "you shall/ will live"

(oni) budou bydlet - "they shall/ will live"

Please note that the future tense of *být* is always followed by a verb in its infinitive form, but never followed by the infinitive *být* ("to be")!

More examples in first and second person singular:

Perfective verbs:

1. *Pojedu domů.*
"I will go home."
2. *Pojedeš domů.*
"You will go home."
3. *Namaluju obrázek.*
"I will draw a picture."
4. *Namaluješ obrázek.*
"You will draw a picture."
5. *Vyfoťím si to.*
"I will take a picture of it."
6. *Vyfoťíš si to.*
"You will take a picture of it."
7. *Vysprchuju se.*
"I shall take a shower."
8. *Vysprchuješ se.*
"You shall take a shower."
9. *Omyju nádobí.*
"I will wash the dishes."
10. *Omyješ nádobí.*
"You will wash the dishes."

Imperfective verbs plus future form *budu/budeš*:

1. *Budu víc cvičit.*
"I will exercise more."
2. *Budu se těšit.*
"I shall look forward to it."
3. *O víkendu budu pracovat.*
"I will work at weekend."

4. *Za rok budu promovat.*
"I will graduate in a year's time."
5. *Budeš pít sodovku?*
"Will you drink soda?"
6. *Co budeš dělat?*
"What will you do?"
7. *Jak budeš pracovat?*
"How will you work?"
8. *Budeš zítra doma?*
"Will you be at home tomorrow?"

Please note that the personal pronouns in the above Czech sentences are omitted because they can be recognized through the future tense *budu* or *budeš* ("I will be" or "you will be").

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Koupím teda kolu. A co ty, Ireno? Budeš taky něco pít?*
"I'll buy some Coke then. What about you, Irena? Will you drink something too?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Budu na tebe čekat.*
"I will be waiting for you."
2. *Počkám na tebe.*
"I will wait for you."
3. *Budeš ještě hrát?*
"Will you continue playing?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Popular Drinks in the Czech Republic

Tea and coffee are the main drinks when Czechs socialize during the day.

It's popular to have a large selection of tea, and some cafés and restaurants can offer a whole box of different types. Herbal and fruit teas are traditionally served with honey and lemon.

Beer and wine are the main drinks when socializing at night.

The Czech Republic is famous for its production of beer and there is a large variety of beer one can choose from. The most internationally known beer is Budějovický Budvar. The Czech Republic also produces its own wine and there are some popular types available, for example Müller Thurgau.

At Christmas time, red wine is boiled to make *svařák* ("hot wine") that is further flavoured with spices (cinnamon, star anise, cloves, and nutmeg) which produce a beautiful sweet aroma. This drink is part of the Christmas atmosphere in the streets.

Useful expression:

1. *Dáš si kávu horkou nebo studenou?*
"Will you take your coffee hot or cold?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23

Visiting a Czech Bar

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

23

CZECH

1. Martin: Ireno, co je tohle?
2. Irena: Ah, to je bar. Chodíš rád do barů?
3. Martin: Jo, jasně!
4. Irena: Dobře, tak půjdem dneska večer do baru?
5. Martin: Jo, to zní dobře!
6. Irena: Tome, dnes večer Martin a já jdeme do baru. Půjdeš s náma?
7. Tomáš: Jasně. Půjdem všichni spolu. Ale kdo bude hlídat naše dítě?

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Irena, what's that?
2. Irena: Oh, that's a bar. Do you like going to bars?
3. Martin: Yes, I do!
4. Irena: Well then, shall we go to the bar tonight?
5. Martin: That sounds good!
6. Irena: Tom, tonight Martin and I are going to the bar. Will you come with us?
7. Tomáš: Sure. Let's go together. But who's going to take care of our baby?

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
bar	bar	noun
chodit	to walk, to go, to stroll	imperfective verb
dneska	today	noun
večer	evening	noun
my	we	pronoun
jít	to go, to walk, to leave, to depart	verb
všichni	everybody, everyone, all	zájmeno
spolu	together, jointly, with each other	adverb
hlídat	to guard, to watch, to look after, to babysit, to patrol	imperfective verb
dítě	baby, child	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ve městě je nový bar.</p> <p>"There is a new bar in town."</p>	<p>Brzy budu chodit do školy.</p> <p>"I will soon start going to school."</p>
<p>Dneska byla velká zima.</p> <p>"Today was very cold."</p>	<p>Přehlídka je dneska.</p> <p>"The parade is today."</p>
<p>Dneska byl mimořádně horký letní den.</p> <p>"Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day."</p>	<p>Tenisový kurt je otevřený i večer.</p> <p>"The tennis court is open in the evening, too."</p>

<p>Za teplých letních večerů hrajeme často karty.</p> <p>"We often play cards on a warm summer evening."</p>	<p>Dobrá večer!</p> <p>Good evening!</p>
<p>My spolu zrovna nemluvíme.</p> <p>"We are not on speaking terms currently."</p>	<p>Musím jít k doktorovi.</p> <p>"I have to go to the doctor."</p>
<p>Jdeme do školy.</p> <p>"We are going to school."</p>	<p>Všichni to ví.</p> <p>"Everybody knows that."</p>
<p>Mluvili spolu včera.</p> <p>"They spoke with each other yesterday."</p>	<p>Hlídat si tělesnou váhu.</p> <p>"Watch one's weight."</p>
<p>Jako dítě jsem každý den jezdíval do školy na kole.</p> <p>"When I was a child I used to ride my bike to school every day."</p>	<p>Učit dítě psát.</p> <p>"To teach a child writing."</p>
<p>Lidé ráno dojíždějí do práce.</p> <p>"The people are commuting to work in the morning."</p>	<p>Dítě jde po cestě.</p> <p>The baby is walking on the road.</p>

Dítě spí na přikrývce.

The baby is sleeping on the blanket.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

spolu "together," "jointly," "with each other," "each other"

This is an adverb expressing something being done or happening together, jointly,

with each other etc. *Spolu* can also be a prefix changing the meaning of the original noun, such as in *spolujezdec* ("front seat passenger," as *jezdec* means "driver"), *spolužák* ("classmate," as *žák* means "student"), or *spolubydlící* (roommate, as *bydlící* means "resident").

For example:

1. *Vycházet spolu dobře nebo špatně.*
"To get on well or badly."

***hlídat* "to watch over somebody," "to look after somebody," "to keep an eye," "to babysit," "to monitor," "to guard," "to patrol"**

This is an imperfective verb that does not indicate the end of the action. Its main meaning is to look after something or somebody. Depending on context, this verb is translated into many various words and sentences in English.

Let's see some examples:

hlídaný objekt - "a protected property"

hlídací pes - "property guard dog"

hlídat někomu děti - "to baby-sit children for somebody,"

hlídat si váhu - "to monitor one's weight."

For example:

1. *Hlídat si tašku.*
"To keep an eye on one's bag."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making Suggestions ("Shall we," "Let's").
Dobře, tak půjdeme dneska večer do baru?
"Well then, shall we go to the bar tonight?"

If we make a suggestion, it means that we are mentioning a possible course of action to someone.

There are a number of expressions which we can use to make suggestions.

Making a suggestion to go somewhere through a positive question, *půjdeme?* ("Shall we go?") or a negative question, *nepůjdeme?* ("Shall we

Positive sentences:

1. **Půjdem** spolu ven?
"Shall we go out together?"
2. **Půjdem** dneska na kafe?
"Shall we go for a coffee today?"
3. **Půjdem** se podívat pouť?
"Shall we go have a look at the fair?"

In Czech language, politeness is better expressed through negative questions.

Negative sentences:

1. **Nepůjdem** do kina?
"Shall we go to the cinema?"
2. **Nepůjdem** na kafe?
"Shall we go for coffee?"
3. **Nepůjdem** do parku?
"Shall we go to the park?"

Nepůjdem? although literally meaning "won't we go?," translates in English as "shall we?" Negative questions in Czech language have a function of politeness.

There is also another form *pojdme* directly translated as "let's go," but it is used in written form rather than spoken.

1. **Pojdme** do kina.
"Let's go to the cinema."
2. **Pojdme** na kafe.
"Let's go for coffee."
3. **Pojdme** do parku.
"Let's go to the park."

In day-to-day conversation the phrase *pojdme* is replaced by the above negative

question *nepůjdem?* ("shall we go?") or when addressing more than one person, a frequently used phrase is *pojdte*, which translates in English as "let's go," but is actually a form of addressing in plural second person "you," as if saying "let you go."

1. **Pojďte do kina.**
"Let's go to the cinema."
2. **Pojďte na kafe.**
"Let's go for a coffee."
3. **Pojďte do parku.**
"Let's go to the park."

Making a suggestion about eating food using conjugated *dát si*

1. **Dáme si něco k jídlu?**
"Shall we have something to eat?"
2. **Dáme si spolu kafe?**
"Shall we have some coffee together?"

There is another form of suggestion, **dejme si**, which is suggesting something to eat or drink ("**let's have** something to eat or drink"), but just like the previously mentioned form *pojdme*, **dejme si** is a written form and rarely used in day-to-day conversations. In this form, the question changes into a proposition and question mark is dropped. For example:

1. **Dejme si něco k jídlu.**
"Let's have something to eat."
2. **Dejme si polívku, ne.**
"Let's have some soup."
3. **Dejme si spolu kafe.**
"Let's have some coffee together."

Making suggestions using *mám?* and *máme?* ("shall I?" "shall we?")

We use *mám?* ("shall I?") and *máme?* ("shall we?") to make offers and

suggestions

offer

Mám ti vzít tašku? "Shall I take your bag?"

suggestion

Máme zavolat zase v úterý? "Shall we call on Tuesday again?"

Making suggestions using *proč ne* ("why not," "why don't")

We can use *proč ne* to make a general suggestion. We often find it in advertising.

1. **Proč nezavítat** do Českého ráje?
"Why not visit Český ráj?"
2. **Proč si nedat** občerstvení u nás?
"Why not to have refreshments with us?"

Please note that *dát si* is a specific phrase used for having a meal ("to have/ to take a meal for oneself"), usually in a restaurant. The verb is conjugated according to each person, *dám si, dáš si, dá si..etc.*

We can use *proč ne...?* to make a specific suggestion.

1. *Jsi unavený. Proč si neodpočineš?*
"You are tired. Why don't you take a rest?"
2. *Už je pozdě. Proč to neskončíme?*
"It's late. Why don't we stop for now?"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Tome, dnes večer Martin a já jdeme do baru. Půjdeš s náma?*
"Martin, tonight Tom and I are going to the bar. Will you come with us?"
2. *Jasně. Půjdem všichni spolu. Ale kdo bude hlídat naše dítě?*
"Yes. Let's go there together. But who's going to take care of our baby?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Nepůjdem tam spolu?*
"Won't we go together?/Shall we go together?"

2. *Pojďme se tam podívat.*
"Let's have a look over there."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What People Do at Nights in the Czech Republic

Many Czech people use their time after work for sport activities. Fitness, squash, tennis, badminton, pilates, or collective sports, such as football, are very popular.

Other people like to spend their time doing cultural and social activities such as going to the cinema and theater, or meeting friends in restaurants, bars and evening cafés.

Families with children often spend their time helping children to do their homework or prepare for next school day.

Reading is a frequent activity too.

Useful expression:

1. *Nekouknem se na nějaký film?*
"Shall we watch a movie?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24 Did You Leave Your Wallet At Home in the Czech Republic?

CONTENTS

- 2 Czech
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

24

CZECH

1. Martin: Aa!
2. Irena: Co je? Co se děje?
3. Martin: Nepřinesl jsem si kreditku. Můžu si od tebe půjčit peníze?
4. Irena: Jasně. Tady máš. Pak mi to dáš.
5. Martin: Díky moc!

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Ah!
2. Irena: Why? What's wrong?
3. Martin: I didn't bring my credit card. Can I borrow some cash from you?
4. Irena: Sure. Here it is. Just pay me back later.
5. Martin: Thank you so much!

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
nepřinést	not to bring	perfective verb
kreditka	credit card	noun
moc	can, to be able to	verb

ty	you (informal)	pronoun
půjčit (si)	borrow, lend, rent, hire, take out a loan	reflexive verb
peníze	money, cash	noun
později	later, at a later time	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Nepřinesl si peněženku. "He didn't bring his wallet."</p>	<p>Ztratit kreditku. "To lose a credit card."</p>
<p>To se nemůže. "It is not allowed."</p>	<p>Může se tady kouřit? "Is it allowed to smoke here?"</p>
<p>Ty jsi teď doma? "Are you home now?"</p>	<p>Dovol mi představit mého kamarád. "Let me introduce you my friend."</p>
<p>Půjčím si tvůj foťák. "I'll borrow your camera."</p>	<p>Vem si nějaké peníze. "Take some money with you."</p>
<p>Muž dostává peníze. "The man is receiving money."</p>	<p>Stavím se později. "I'll pop in later."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

dít se "to happen," "to be going on," "to occur"

This is an imperfective verb. It is also irregular and reflexive. *Se* in this case is a part of the reflexive verb and means "it is," thus *se* is the conjugated verb *být* ("to be") in its conjugated third form "(it) is" happening.

When used in terms of the meaning something is going on you may hear *co se*

děje? ("What's going on?") or *něco se děje?* ("Is something going on?"). When used in terms of something being wrong, an example is *co se s ním děje?* ("What's wrong with him?"). When used in the sense of a happening or occurrence you may hear *děje se to každý den* ("It's happening every day").

For example:

1. *Co se děje ve světě?*
"What's happening in the world?"

dát "to give," "to hand over," "to deliver," "to put," "to insert"

This is a perfective verb, indicating the completion of the action. Its main meaning is "to give," "to put," or "to insert," but also "to let know" or "to make, to do, to perform" something. This verb is not to be confused with *dát si*, which means "to have or to take" food/drink (in a restaurant etc). *Si* refers to "oneself." For example, look at *Dám si polévku* ("I will have a soup") versus *dám to opravit* ("I will have it repaired"/"I will take it for repairs.")

When talking about giving you may hear *musím ti něco dát* ("I have to give you something") or *dát to mamince* ("give it to mom"). When talking about placing something somewhere, an example is *dát to na stůl* ("put it on the table") or *dát to do tašky* ("put it into a bag"). When talking about doing, making, or performing something some examples are *dám ti vědět* ("I will let you know"), *Dát přednost* ("to prefer something" or "give way to somebody"), *dát někoho k telefonu* ("pass somebody the phone"), and *Dát vyčistit kabát* ("have one's coat cleaned").

For example:

1. *Dát přednost chodcům.*
"Pedestrians have right of way." (lit."Give way to pedestrians.")

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Ask to Borrow Things ***Můžu si od tebe půjčit peníze?*** **"Can I borrow some cash from you?"**

In this lesson you will learn how to borrow, lend, or rent something.

Borrowing and lending

The first important thing to know is that unlike in English, where a distinction is made between "to borrow" and "to lend," in Czech the word *půjčit* ("to borrow/to

lend") works for both sides. One can *půjčit* something to somebody, but also *půjčit (si)* something from somebody. Please note that *půjčit si* comes always with the reflexive *si* (to oneself), E.g. *Půjčit si něco* literally means "to borrow something from somebody for myself."

For example:

1. *Půjčím si tvoje pero.*
"I'll borrow your pen."
2. *Půjčíš mi tvoje pero?*
"Will you lend me your pen?"
3. *Můžu si půjčit dvě stě korun?*
"Can I borrow two hundred Koruna?"
4. *Můžeš mi půjčit dvě stě korun?*
"Can you lend me two hundred Koruna?"

(Note: in spoken Czech, the letter *j* in the word *půjčit* is not pronounced and the long *ů* is shortened into *u*. Thus, *půjčit* becomes **pučit**.)

Asking to borrow something

The English "can" or "could" in Czech is expressed through the modal verb *moc* which needs to be conjugated according to personal pronouns.

Singular *moc*

já mohu (spoken *můžu*): "I can"

ty můžeš: "you can"

on/ona/ono může: "he/ she/ it can"

Plural

my můžem: "we can"

vy můžete: "you can"

oni mohou (spoken *můžou*): "they can"

To ask if you can borrow something:

"Can I borrow...?" in Czech is *můžu si půjčit...?*

For example:

Informal

1. *Můžu si půjčit tvůj deštník?*
"Can I borrow your umbrella?"
2. *Můžu si půjčit drobné?*
"Can I borrow some small change?"
3. *Můžem si půjčit auto?*
"Can we borrow a car?"
4. *Můžem si půjčit kola?*
"Can we borrow bicycles?"

Formal (in a rental place etc.)

1. *Je možné si půjčit kolo?*
"Is it possible to borrow/ rent a bicycle?"
2. *Mohli bychom si půjčit kola?*
"Could we borrow/rent bicycles?"

To ask if somebody can lend you something

"Can you lend me...?" in Czech language is:

singular "you" - *můžeš mi půjčit...?*

plural and formal "you" - *můžete mi půjčit...?*

1. *Můžeš mi půjčit deštník?*
"Can you lend me your umbrella?"
2. *Můžeš mi půjčit drobné?*
"Can you lend me some small change?"
3. *Můžeš mi půjčit auto?*
"Can you lend me your car?"
4. *Můžete mi půjčit kolo?*
"Can you lend us/ rent us bicycles?"

5. *Můžete mi půjčit auto?*
"Can you lend/ rent me a car?"

When something is "**yours**" and somebody wants to borrow it from you, in Czech this possessive pronoun is **tvůj** ("yours") for masculine words, **tvoje** or **tvá** ("yours") for feminine words, and **tvoje** ("yours") for neuter words.

masculine: **tvůj** deštník ("your umbrella")

feminine: **tvoje/ tvá** autosedačka ("your car seat") *tvá* is a written form

neuter: **tvoje/ tvé** kolo ("your bicycle") *tvé* is a written form

In Czech exists one possessive pronoun, **svůj**, meaning "one's own," which refers to possession by the subject. The meaning is the same as "**your** or **yours**" if the subject is "you," or it means "**my** or **mine**" if the subject is "I."

For example:

1. *Půjčíš mi svůj deštník?*
"Will you lend me **your** umbrella?"
2. *Půjčím to svou autosedačku.*
"I'll lend you **my** car seat."
3. *Půjčím to svoje/ své kolo.*
"I'll lend you **my** bicycle." (*své* is a written form.)

Svůj is conjugated the same way according to gender.

masculine: **svůj**

feminine: **svoje/ svá** (*svá* is a written form)

neuter: **svoje/ své** (*své* is a written form)

Possessive personal pronouns:

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	English
I (<i>já</i>)	<i>můj</i>	<i>moje/ má</i>	<i>moje/ mé</i>	("my, mine")
you (<i>ty</i>)	<i>tvůj</i>	<i>tvoje/ tvá</i>	<i>tvoje/ tvé</i>	("your, yours")

he (<i>on</i>)	<i>jeho</i>	<i>jeho</i>	<i>jeho</i>	("his")
she (<i>ona</i>)	<i>její</i>	<i>její</i>	<i>její</i>	("her, hers")
it (<i>ono</i>)	<i>jeho</i>	<i>jeho</i>	<i>jeho</i>	("its")
we (<i>my</i>)	<i>náš</i>	<i>naše</i>	<i>naše</i>	("our, ours")
you (<i>vy</i>)	<i>váš</i>	<i>vaše</i>	<i>vaše</i>	("your, yours")
they (<i>oni</i>)	<i>jejich</i>	<i>jejich</i>	<i>jejich</i>	("their")

When asking for something, **politeness** is expressed through conjugated imperfective verb 'mocht' + conditional tense "would or could" which in Czech is **bych** and its other conjugated forms by person.

Mohl bych...? - ("Could I...?")

Mohl bys...? - ("Could you...?")

Mohl/mohla by...? - ("Could he/ she...?")

Mohli bysme/bychom...? - ("Could we...?") *Bychom* is very formal.

Mohli byste...? - ("Could you...?")

Mohli by...? - ("Could they...?")

For example:

1. *Mohl bych si půjčit tvoje pero?*
"Could I borrow your pen?"
2. *Mohl by si půjčit tvoje pero?*
"Could he borrow your pen?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Můžu si půjčit tvoji tužku?*
"Can I borrow your pen?"
2. *Můžu si půjčit drobné?*
"Can I borrow some small change?"

3. *Můžu si půjčit na chvíli tvoje kolo?*
"Can I borrow your bike for a while?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Payment Methods in the Czech Republic

It is now a norm to be able to pay by a debit or credit card at most places in the Czech Republic, especially department stores, restaurants, or grocery stores. Exceptions are markets or very small shops, or shops in villages.

Cash is usually needed for bus rides (except on city buses that use a prepaid ticket system) and the post office. Very often cash is also needed for purchasing items over the Internet because some companies have made it a rule that it is not possible to pay for their products online with a credit or debit card. You can order the product and pay in cash upon delivery or at the nearest post office.

Other payment options include bank transfer or Internet banking.

Useful expression:

1. *Dá se tu platit kreditní kartou?*
"Is it possible to pay with a credit card?"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25 A Change of Plans in the Czech Republic

CONTENTS

2	Czech
2	English
2	Vocabulary
3	Sample Sentences
4	Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5	Grammar
10	Cultural Insight

25

CZECH

1. Irena: Martine, jaký máš plány až se vrátíš do Japonska?
2. Martin: Já se tam vlastně nevracím.
3. Irena: Proč ne?
4. Martin: Chyběli mi kamarádi z Čech. V Japonsku jsem neměl moc známých. Taky jsem neměl práci, protože nemluvím japonsky.
5. Irena: Aha...
6. Martin: To je v pohodě. Teď jsem tady a budu hledat práci.

ENGLISH

1. Irena: Martin, what's your plan after going back to Japan?
2. Martin: Actually, I'm not going back there.
3. Irena: Why not?
4. Martin: I missed my friends in the Czech Republic. In Japan, I couldn't make many friends. I also didn't have a job because I don't speak any Japanese.
5. Irena: Oh..
6. Martin: It's okay. I'm back here. I'm going to look for a job.

VOCABULARY

Czech	English	Class
plán	plan	noun
vrátit se	to return, to come back, to get back, to be restored	reflexive verb
proč	why, what for, for what reason	adverb
chybět	to lack, to miss, to be absent, to be short of	imperfective verb
kamarád	friend, mate, pal, buddy	noun
mít	to have, to possess, to carry, to hold	imperfective verb
známý	friend, acquaintance	noun
práce	work, job, labor, employment	noun
pohoda	well being, ease, peace, contentment	noun
hledat	to look for, to search for, to seek	imperfective verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mít plán na večer. "To have a plan for tonight."</p>	<p>Vrátit se domů. "To return home."</p>
<p>Proč jsi přišel pozdě? "Why did you come late?"</p>	<p>Chybí tu dvě písmena. "Two letters are missing here."</p>
<p>Můj nejlepší kamarád a já chodíme všude spolu. "My best friend and I go everywhere together."</p>	<p>Dobrý kamarád vždy pomůže. "A good friend always helps."</p>

Kamarád mi pomohl. "A friend helped me."	Máte doma zvíře? "Do you have a pet at home?"
Dívka má pokladničku. "The girl has a piggy bank."	Ano, máme stůl pro dvě osoby. "Yes, we do have a table for two people"
Je to můj známý z práce. "He's my acquaintance from work."	Moje práce mě baví. "I enjoy doing my work."
Na horách je vždy pohoda. "It's always peaceful in the mountains."	Hledám svoje klíče. "I'm looking for my keys."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

známý "acquaintance," "friend"

Známý is a masculine noun with the meaning of "good friend" or "acquaintance." The word is conjugated according to gender, and the masculine is *známý*, the feminine *známá*, and the neuter *známé*. This word can also become an adjective when talking about familiarity, such as "well known, famous, or popular."

For example:

1. *Tohle je náš známý.*
"This is an acquaintance of ours." (masculine)
2. *známá restaurace*
"a well-known restaurant"

pohoda "well-being," "ease," "contentment," "peace"

This is a feminine noun mostly associated with life and well-being, a status of calm or peace, satisfaction, contentment, or something that is going well and is easy.

The phrase *v pohodě* is used very frequently by Czech people to mean "ok," "no

problem," "without worries," "take it easy," and "don't worry." This phrase is informal and can be used in reply to somebody you are familiar with or with young people, in the same way that "Don't worry about it" or "It's okay!" are used in English.

For example:

1. *Duševní pohoda.*
"Peace of mind."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making Negative Sentences

Já se tam vlastně nevracím.

"Actually, I'm not going back there."

In this lesson, the theme is how to make a negative sentence.

Making a negative sentence in Czech language is relatively easy because we only need to negate the verb.

Negating verbs in Czech is done by prefixing them with *ne*.

For example:

Infinitive form of verbs X negative verbs:

dělat X ***nedělat*** ("to do" X "not to do/ don't do")

vědet X ***nevědět*** ("to know" X "not to know"/"don't know")

líbit X ***nelíbit*** ("to like" X "not to like/dislike")

chodit X ***nechodit*** ("to go" X "not to go/ don't go")

mocet X ***nemocet*** ("to have" X "not to have/ don't have")

Conjugated forms:

já vím X ***já nevím*** ("I know" X "I don't know")

ty chodíš X ***ty nechodíš*** ("you go" X "you don't go")

on/ona může X ***on/ ona nemůže*** ("he/she can" X "he/she can't")

my chceme X ***my nechceme*** ("we want" X "we don't want")

vy znáte X vy **neznáte** ("you know" X "you don't know")

oni jsou X oni **nejsou** ("they are" X "they aren't")

Negative forms of basic verbs

1. **Rád lyžuješ? - Ne, nerad.**
"Do you like skiing? - No, I don't."

This time we will learn about using three basic verbs in their negative forms. Creating negative forms in the Czech language is very easy since it requires adding just one word to the verb, and that word is *ne*. It translates into English as "no" or "not."

být - "to be" X *nebýt* - "not to be" or "don't be"

mít - "to have" X *nemít* - "to have" or "don't have"

rád - "to like" X *nerad* - "not to like" or "don't like"

Nebýt - "not to be"

Singular

<i>já</i>	<i>nejsem</i>	"I am not"
<i>ty</i>	<i>nejsi/ nejseš</i>	"you are not"
<i>on</i>	<i>není</i>	"he is not"
<i>ona</i>	<i>není</i>	"she is not"
<i>ono</i>	<i>není</i>	"it is not"

Plural

<i>my</i>	<i>nej sme</i>	"we are not"
<i>vy</i>	<i>nej ste</i>	"you are not"
<i>oni</i>	<i>nejsou</i>	"they are not"

Please note that in second person *nejseš* ("you are not") is a spoken form whilst *nejsi* is a written form.

Let's practice simple sentences with the verb *nebýt* ("not to be").

1. *Nejsem hladový.*
"I'm not hungry."
2. *To není Robert.*
"This isn't Robert."
3. *Oni nejsou doma.*
"They are not at home."
4. *Nejseš malý.*
"You are not small."

Nemít - "don't have"

Singular

<i>já</i>	<i>nemám</i>	"I don't have"
<i>ty</i>	<i>nemáš</i>	"you don't have"
<i>on</i>	<i>nemá</i>	"he doesn't have"
<i>ona</i>	<i>nemá</i>	"she doesn't have"
<i>ono</i>	<i>nemá</i>	"it doesn't have"

Plural

<i>my</i>	<i>nemáme</i>	"we don't have"
<i>vy</i>	<i>nemáte</i>	"you don't have"
<i>oni</i>	<i>nemají</i>	"they don't have"

Now let's practice the negation of the verb *nemít* ("don't have").

1. A: *Nemáš náhodou stan?*
"Do you possibly have a tent?"
B: *Nemám.*
"I don't have one."

2. A: *Nemáš zítra čas?*
 "Do you have time tomorrow?"
 B: *Nemám.*
 "I don't have any."

Nerad - "don't like"

Singular

<i>já</i>	<i>nerad</i>	"I don't like"
<i>ty</i>	<i>nerad</i>	"you don't like"
<i>on</i>	<i>nerad</i>	"he doesn't like"
<i>ona</i>	<i>nerada</i>	"she doesn't like"
<i>ono</i>	<i>nerado</i>	"it doesn't like"

Plural

<i>my</i>	<i>neradi</i>	"we don't like"
<i>vy</i>	<i>neradi</i>	"you don't like"
<i>oni</i>	<i>neradi</i>	"they don't like"

Now let's practice the negation of the verb *nerad* ("not to like").

1. *Nerad si čistím zuby.*
 "I don't like to brush my teeth."
2. *Chodí běhat, ale nerada.*
 "She goes running, but doesn't like it."
3. *Neradi se stěhují.*
 "They don't like moving."
4. *Nerad píše dopisy.*
 "He doesn't like to write letters."
5. *Ty nerad spíš dlouho?*
 "You don't like to sleep until late?"

6. *Vracíme se tam neradi.*
"We don't like going back there."

Multiple negative:

Unlike English, the Czech language frequently uses multiple negatives.

In Czech, it is almost rule to have a double or triple negative, although sentences with only one negative are not uncommon.

Some sentences may even have four negatives, though it is not very common.

For example:

1. *Nikdy nedělám*
("I never don't...") meaning "I never do..."
2. *Nemám nic*
("I don't have nothing") meaning "I have nothing."
3. *Nedělám nic*
("I don't do nothing") meaning "I don't do anything."
4. *Nechci nic*
("I don't want nothing") meaning "I want nothing."
5. *Nikdo nepřijde*
("Nobody don't come") meaning "Nobody comes."
6. *Nikdo tu není*
("Nobody isn't here") meaning "Nobody is here."
7. *Nic nevím*
("I don't know nothing") meaning "I don't know anything." or "I know nothing."
8. *Nic nečekám*
("I don't expect nothing.") meaning "I don't expect anything." or "I expect nothing."

Three negations:

1. *Nikdy nemám žádné peníze*
("I never don't have no money") meaning "I never have money."

Four negations (not frequent):

1. *Nikdy nemám žádné nevhodné chování* ("I never don't have no improper behavior") meaning "I never have an improper behavior."

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Chyběli mi kamarádi z Čech. V Japonsku jsem neměl moc známých. Taky jsem neměl práci, protože nemluvím japonsky.*
"I missed my friends in the Czech Republic. In Japan, I couldn't make many friends. I also didn't have a job because I don't speak any Japanese."

Sample Sentences

1. *Nechodím brzo spát.*
"I don't go to bed early."
2. *Nepiju alkohol.*
"I don't drink alcohol."
3. *Neumím zpívat.*
"I cannot sing."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Job Market in the Czech Republic

Compared to other EU states, the rate of employment in the Czech Republic is above average.

The capital, Prague, probably offers the best jobs in the labor market, but generally speaking the market depends greatly on the region of the Czech Republic. These regions have been catching up, but despite the growth in tourism, there is still lack of jobs in rural areas due to the decline of the leatherworking and textile industries and agriculture.

Work shortages can also be found among IT specialists, engineers, skilled manual workers including craftsmen, machine workers, and assemblers.

The major industries in the Czech Republic are the automotive industry, the leisure and lifestyle sector, IT/telecommunications/electronics, financial services, the

construction and engineering industries, and the tourist industry.

The average working hours are typically forty hours per week and workers receive four weeks of holiday per year.

Useful expression:

1. *Práce na částečný úvazek.*
"A part-time job."



- Intro
- 1 Greeting People in Czech
- 2 Introducing Yourself in the Czech Republic
- 3 Expressing Your Gratitude in Czech
- 4 Offering Your Apologies in Czech
- 5 Making Czech Requests
- 6 Catching Up with an Old Friend in the Czech Republic
- 7 Introducing Your Friend in Czech
- 8 Receiving a Gift in the Czech Republic
- 9 Unidentified Czech Objects
- 10 Who Does this Czech Item Belong To?
- 11 Enjoying a Delicious Czech Meal
- 12 What is this Czech Dish?
- 13 Where's the Nearest Bathroom in the Czech Republic?
- 14 It's No Problem in the Czech Republic
- 15 Talking About the Weather in Czech
- 16 This is...umm...a Czech Lesson About Interjections!
- 17 Asking About Ages in Czech
- 18 Talking About Likes and Dislikes in Czech
- 19 What Time is it in the Czech Republic?
- 20 Talking About Your Allergies in Czech
- 21 A Banana-Loving Czech Baby
- 22 What's Your Favorite Czech Drink?
- 23 Visiting a Czech Bar
- 24 Did You Leave Your Wallet At Home in the Czech Republic?
- 25 A Change of Plans in the Czech Republic