

Czech in everyday situations

Module 2: The empty flat

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The empty flat

Czech

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Mluvím česky

Genitive: A form used after **bez, do, z** and in quantities.

Preposition: A linking word such as **v, na, s**, requiring a particular case.

Adverb: A word modifying an action, such as **často**.

Czech has no articles. Use **Jsem Němec** for a man and **Jsem Němka** for a woman. Learn **Jsem z Německa** as a whole expression for now. The preposition **z** needs a genitive form, which we practise more later.

Languages after speaking are adverbs: **mluvím česky, německy, anglicky**. After knowing, use noun objects: **znám češtinu, němčinu, angličtinu**. To ask for help, use **Nerozumím. Pomalu, prosím. Ještě jednou, prosím**.

Czech	Meaning
Mluvím česky.	I speak Czech.
Jsem z Německa.	I am from Germany.
Znám češtinu.	I know Czech.
Nerozumím. Pomalu, prosím.	I do not understand. Slowly, please.

Czech writing uses these letters (including letters used in foreign names): **a, á, b, c, č, d, d', e, é, ě, f, g, h, ch, i, í, j, k, l, m, n, ň, o, ó, p, q, r, ř, s, š, t, t', u, ú, ů, v, w, x, y, ý, z, ž**. The two letters **ch** form one alphabet entry after **h**. The letters **q, w, x** mainly appear in foreign words and names.

Long vowels have a mark: **á, é, í, ó, ú, ů, ý**. Long vowels are held longer; **ú** and **ů** have the same sound. Marks on consonants distinguish sounds, as in **c/č, s/š, z/ž, r/ř, d/d', t/t', n/ň**. Keep the marks when writing a name. The letter **ě** changes how the preceding consonant is pronounced and is not simply a long vowel.

Letter	Spelling name
a	á
b	bé
c	cé
č	čé
d	dé
d'	d'é
e	é
f	ef
g	gé
h	há
ch	chá
i	í
j	jé
k	ká
l	el

Letter	Spelling name
m	em
n	en
ň	eň
o	ó
p	pé
q	kvé
r	er
ř	eř
s	es
š	eš
t	té
ť	ťé
u	ú
v	vé
w	dvojité vé
x	iks
y	ypsilon
z	zet
ž	žet

Ten, ta, to

Czech nouns have three genders. Use **ten** with masculine nouns, **ta** with feminine nouns and **to** with neuter nouns: **ten dům, ta lampa, to okno**. These forms can mean that or the in context.

For one thing use **Tady je...;** for several use **Tady jsou....** Negation is **není** or **nejsou**. For objects after having or wanting, feminine **-a** often becomes **-u**: **mám lampu**. We practise this next.

Czech	Meaning
Ten dům je starý.	That house is old.
Ta lampa je moje.	That lamp is mine.
To okno je malé.	That window is small.
Tady jsou židle.	There are chairs here.

Nový, nová, nové

Hard adjectives usually end in **-ý** for masculine, **-á** for feminine and **-é** for neuter: **nový dům, nová lampa, nové okno**. Soft adjectives end in **-í** in all three genders: **cizí dům, cizí lampa, cizí okno**.

Colours follow the same agreement: **červený, červená, červené**. Common colours are **bílý, černý, červený, modrý, zelený, žlutý, hnědý, šedý, oranžový, růžový, fialový**.

Czech	Meaning
To je žlutá pohovka.	This is a yellow sofa.
To je zelená lampa.	This is a green lamp.
To je malé okno.	This is a small window.
To je velký dům.	This is a big house.

Stoly, židle a okna

Accusative: The form commonly used for the direct object.

Nominative: The dictionary form, commonly the subject.

Common nominative plurals are masculine inanimate **stůl/stoly**, feminine **lampa/lampy**, **židle/židle**, and neuter **okno/okna**.

Masculine animate plurals can change their consonant: **soused/sousedé**, **kamarád/kamarádi**. Learn each noun with its plural.

A direct object is commonly accusative. Singular feminine nouns in **-a** change to **-u**: **mám lampu**. Masculine inanimate and neuter nouns often stay unchanged: **mám stůl**, **mám okno**. Masculine animate nouns usually change: **mám kamaráda**.

Czech	Meaning
Tady jsou dva stoly.	There are two tables here.
Tady jsou dvě lampy.	There are two lamps here.
Mám jednu lampu.	I have one lamp.
Mám jednoho kamaráda.	I have one male friend.

Dělám, mluvím, pracuju

Present tense: A verb form for now, habits or scheduled future events.

Learn the full present patterns: **dělám, děláš, dělá, děláme, děláte, dělají**; **mluvím, mluvíš, mluví, mluvíme, mluvíte, mluví**.

For **pracovat**, natural spoken forms are **pracuju, pracuješ, pracuje, pracujeme, pracujete, pracují**. The forms **pracuji** and **pracují** are also standard. The pattern is not **pracovám**. Subject pronouns can be omitted because the ending shows the person. Polite **vy** takes **děláte, mluvíte, pracujete**.

Czech	Meaning
Já dělám kávu.	I am making coffee.
Ty mluvíš česky.	You speak Czech. (familiar)
My pracujeme doma.	We work at home.
Vy děláte snídani.	You are making breakfast. (polite)

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Mluvím česky.

Meaning: I speak Czech.

- 2 Ten dům je starý.

Meaning: That house is old.

- 3 To je žlutá pohovka.

Meaning: This is a yellow sofa.

- 4 Tady jsou dva stoly.

Meaning: There are two tables here.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

- 1 Mluvím _____.

- ☐ A čeština
- ☐ B češtinu
- ☐ C česky

Meaning: I speak Czech.

- 2 _____ dům je starý.

- ☐ A Ta
- ☐ B To
- ☐ C Ten

Meaning: That house is old.

3 To je _____ pohovka.

- ☐ A žlutá
- ☐ B žlutý
- ☐ C žluté

Meaning: This is a yellow sofa.

4 Tady jsou dva _____.

- ☐ A stoly
- ☐ B stolu
- ☐ C stůl

Meaning: There are two tables here.

5 Já _____ kávu.

- ☐ A děláš
- ☐ B dělám
- ☐ C dělají

Meaning: I am making coffee.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

čeština česky

Mluvím _____.

Meaning: I speak Czech.

Ta Ten

_____ dům je starý.

Meaning: That house is old.

žlutý žlutá

To je _____ pohovka.

Meaning: This is a yellow sofa.

stůl stoly

Tady jsou dva _____.

Meaning: There are two tables here.

děláš dělám

Já _____ kávu.

Meaning: I am making coffee.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1 dům starý. Ten je

Meaning: That house is old.

2 žlutá pohovka. To je

Meaning: This is a yellow sofa.

3 jsou Tady dva stoly.

Meaning: There are two tables here.

4 kávu. Já dělám

Meaning: I am making coffee.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I speak Czech. You say:

- ☐ A Mluvím čeština.
- ☐ B Mluvím česky.

2 That house is old. You say:

- ☐ A Ta dům je starý.
- ☐ B Ten dům je starý.

3 This is a yellow sofa. You say:

- ☐ A To je žlutá pohovka.
- ☐ B To je žlutý pohovka.

4 There are two tables here. You say:

- ☐ A Tady jsou dva stoly.
- ☐ B Tady jsou dva stůl.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ① Mluvím česky. | ① I speak Czech. |
| ② To je žlutá pohovka. | ② That house is old. |
| ③ Tady jsou dva stoly. | ③ I am making coffee. |
| ④ Já dělám kávu. | ④ There are two tables here. |
| ⑤ Ten dům je starý. | ⑤ This is a yellow sofa. |

G7) FORMS FOR YOUR OWN VOICE

Choose the form for Lukas or Lena.

1 Lukas: Jsem _____ soused.

- ☐ A nové
- ☐ B nový
- ☐ C noví

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

2 Lena: Jsem _____ sousedka.

- ☐ A nové
- ☐ B noví
- ☐ C nová

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

3 Lukas: Jsem _____.

- ☐ A hladové
- ☐ B hladoví
- ☐ C hladový

Meaning: I am hungry.

4 Lena: Jsem _____.

- ☐ A hladové
- ☐ B hladoví
- ☐ C hladová

Meaning: I am hungry.

5 Lukas: Jsem _____.

- ☐ A unavené
- ☐ B unavení
- ☐ C unavený

Meaning: I am tired.

6 Lena: Jsem _____.

- ☐ A unavená
- ☐ B unavení
- ☐ C unavené

Meaning: I am tired.

7 Lukas: Jsem _____ v domě.

- ☐ A nové
- ☐ B noví
- ☐ C nový

Meaning: I am new in the building.

8 Lena: Jsem _____ v domě.

- ☐ A noví
- ☐ B nová
- ☐ C nové

Meaning: I am new in the building.