

Czech in everyday situations

Module 1: Arrival

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Arrival

Czech

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Být a pozdravy

In Czech, **být** means "to be". In everyday speech, subject pronouns are often optional: **jsem** can mean "I am" without **já**. In this module, you hear both full forms and shorter natural forms.

Useful greetings are **Dobrý večer!**, **Dobré ráno!**, **Ahoj!** and **Dobrou noc!** Czech has no articles, so **To je dům** means "This is a house / the house" depending on context.

The full present forms are **jsem, jsi, je, jsme, jste, jsou**. With polite **vy**, Czech uses plural verb forms: **Vy jste...** But adjectives and past forms still match one person, so later you will say things like **Vy jste nový** or **Vy jste nová**.

Neighbour words change by gender: **nový soused** for a male learner and **nová sousedka** for a female learner.

A pronoun stands in for a person or thing: **já, ty, on, ona**. Czech often omits it when the verb ending already makes the person clear. Plural means more than one person or thing.

Gender is a noun class: masculine **soused** and **klíč**, feminine **sousedka**, neuter **okno**. Masculine nouns distinguish animate (living beings) and inanimate (things). An adjective describes a noun and matches its gender, number and case. A case is a form showing the noun's role; learn the early short phrases before

studying all endings.

An article is a word like English a or the. Czech has no articles; context tells you whether something is a house or the house.

Form	Example	Meaning
jsem	Jsem v Lipově.	I am in Lipov.
jsi	Jsi Eliška?	Are you Eliška?
je	To je můj klíč.	That is my key.
jsme	Jsme doma.	We are at home.
jste	Vy jste nový soused.	You are the new neighbour.
jsou	Oni jsou nahore.	They are upstairs.

Otázky a zápor

Simple yes/no questions can be made just with intonation: **Vy jste nový soused?** There is no extra word like "do".

Very common question words are **kdo** (who), **co** (what), and **kde** (where): **Kdo je to? Co je to? Kde je kavárna?**

Negative forms of **být** are **nejsem, nejsi, není, nejsme, nejste, nejsou**. These are one-word forms, not two words.

Use **To je...** for identification, like **To je Mourek**. Use **Tady je...** for "here is...", like **Tady je váš klíč**.

Form	Example	Meaning
nejsem	Nejsem doma.	I am not at home.
nejsi	Ty nejsi Jan?	You are not Jan?
není	To není můj dort.	That is not my cake.
nejsme	Nejsme nahoře.	We are not upstairs.
nejste	Vy nejste Petra?	You are not Petra?
nejsou	Oni nejsou tady.	They are not here.

Rod a hlad

Czech nouns have gender: masculine animate, masculine inanimate, feminine, and neuter. At this stage, just notice some examples: **soused** is masculine animate, **dům** is masculine inanimate, **kavárna** is feminine, and **ráno** is neuter.

Some adjectives change with the speaker's gender. A male learner says **jsem hladový**; a female learner says **jsem hladová**.

Czech also often uses **mám hlad** for "I am hungry". Both **jsem hladový / hladová** and **mám hlad** are useful early chunks.

The word **prosím** is very useful. It can mean "please" in requests: **Kávu, prosím**. It can also mean "here you are" or "yes?" in other situations later.

Form	Example	Meaning
soused	To je nový soused.	male neighbour
dům	To je můj dům.	house
kavárna	Tady je kavárna.	café
ráno	Dobré ráno!	morning
hladový / hladová	Jsem hladový. / Jsem hladová.	hungry
prosím	Čaj, prosím.	tea, please

Pracovat, dělat a místo

The noun form showing its role in the sentence.

A very common verb is **dělat** — "to do, make". Its present forms are **dělám, děláš, dělá, děláme, děláte, dělají**.

Another common verb is **pracovat** — "to work". Even though many verbs in Czech have **-ám** patterns, this verb is not **pracovám**. The correct present is **pracuji, pracuješ, pracuje, pracujeme, pracujete, pracují**.

Some very useful early location chunks are fixed phrases: **v práci** (at work), **na stole** (on the table), **dole** (downstairs), **nahoře** (upstairs). You do not need full case grammar yet; learn them as chunks.

These chunks help you say simple things fast: **Jsem v práci. Klíč je na stole. Jan bydlí nahoře**.

Form	Example	Meaning
pracuji	Pracuji v Lipově.	I work in Lipov.
pracuješ	Pracuješ doma?	Do you work at home?
dělám	Co dělám?	What am I doing?
dělá	Co dělá Jan?	What is Jan doing?
v práci	Jsem v práci.	at work
na stole	Klíč je na stole.	on the table

Jmenuji se a moje

Possessive: An ownership form agreeing with the owned noun:
můj, moje.

Singular: One person or thing.

To say your name, use **jmenuji se**: **Jmenuji se Lukas.** or **Jmenuji se Lena.** In natural speech, Czech often keeps the little word **se** in second position: **Jak se jmenuješ?**

For possession, early useful forms are **můj** (my, masculine), **moje** (my, feminine/neuter), **váš** (your, polite), and **tvůj** (your, familiar singular). Learn them in chunks: **můj klíč, moje kavárna, váš dům, tvůj klíč.**

For place, use simple words and chunks: **Kde je...?, doma, nahoře, dole.** Example: **Kde je Mourek? Je nahoře.**

Czech can omit pronouns, but they are often used for contrast: **Moje babička... a tvůj klíč...**

Form	Example	Meaning
jmenuji se	Jmenuji se Eliška.	My name is Eliška.
můj	To je můj klíč.	my
moje	To je moje babička.	my
váš	Tady je váš klíč.	your (polite)
tvůj	To je tvůj klíč.	your (familiar singular)
doma	Jsem doma.	at home

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Já jsem nový soused.

Meaning: I am the new male neighbour.

- 2 Kdo je to?

Meaning: Who is that?

3

Meaning: I am hungry. (male speaker)

4

Meaning: I work in Lipov.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 **Já** _____ **nový soused.**

- ☐ A jsi
- ☐ B je
- ☐ C jsem

Meaning: I am the new male neighbour.

2 **Kdo** _____ **to?**

- ☐ A jsem
- ☐ B jsou
- ☐ C je

Meaning: Who is that?

3 Já jsem _____.

- ☐ A hladový
- ☐ B hladová
- ☐ C hlad

Meaning: I am hungry. (male speaker)

4 Já _____ v Lipově.

- ☐ A pracuješ
- ☐ B pracuji
- ☐ C pracují

Meaning: I work in Lipov.

5 Jak se _____?

- ☐ A jmenuješ
- ☐ B jmenujete se
- ☐ C jmenuji se

Meaning: What's your name?

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

je jsem

Já _____ nový soused.

Meaning: I am the new male neighbour.

jsem je

Kdo _____ to?

Meaning: Who is that?

hladová hladový

Já jsem _____.

Meaning: I am hungry. (male speaker)

pracuješ pracuji

Já _____ v Lipově.

Meaning: I work in Lipov.

jmenuji se jmenuješ

Jak se _____?

Meaning: What's your name?

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

Já

jsem

nový

soused.

Meaning: I am the new male neighbour.

2 je Kdo to?

Meaning: Who is that?

3 jsem Já hladový.

Meaning: I am hungry. (male speaker)

4 pracuji Lipově. Já v

Meaning: I work in Lipov.

5 jmenuješ? Jak se

Meaning: What's your name?

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I am the new male neighbour. You say:

- ☐ A Já jsem nový soused.
- ☐ B Já je nový soused.

2 Who is that? You say:

- ☐ A Kdo je to?
- ☐ B Kdo jsem to?

3 I am hungry. (male speaker) You say:

- ☐ A Já jsem hladový.
- ☐ B Já jsem hladová.

4 I work in Lipov. You say:

- ☐ A Já pracuji v Lipově.
- ☐ B Já pracovám v Lipově.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ① Jak se jmenuješ? | Ⓐ I am hungry. (male speaker) |
| ② Kdo je to? | Ⓑ What's your name? |
| ③ Já pracuji v Lipově. | Ⓒ Who is that? |
| ④ Já jsem hladový. | Ⓓ I work in Lipov. |
| ⑤ Já jsem nový soused. | Ⓔ I am the new male neighbour. |

G7) FORMS FOR YOUR OWN VOICE

Choose the form for Lukas or Lena.

1 Lukas: Jsem _____ soused.

- ☐ A nové
- ☐ B noví
- ☐ C nový

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

2 Lena: Jsem _____ sousedka.

- ☐ A nová
- ☐ B nové
- ☐ C noví

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

3 Lukas: Jsem _____.

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

Meaning: I am hungry.

4 Lena: Jsem _____.

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

Meaning: I am hungry.

5 Lukas: Jsem _____.

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

Meaning: I am tired.

6 Lena: Jsem _____.

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

Meaning: I am tired.

7 Lukas: Jsem _____ v domě.

- ☐ A noví
- ☐ B nový
- ☐ C nové

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.