

SCENE 39 • GRAMMAR

Vstal jsem a vstala jsem

The past tense

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

A bad day

Czech

Read & listen online



The past tense

Past tense uses an **-l** form plus present **být** in the first and second persons: **vstal jsem/vstala jsem, vstal jsi/vstala jsi, vstal/vstala, vstali jsme/vstaly jsme, vstali jste/vstaly jste, vstali/vstaly**. A neuter singular uses **vstalo**, and neuter plural **vstala**.

A group with a masculine animate member usually takes **-li**; all-female or masculine-inanimate groups use **-ly**. Polite one-person **vy** is **vstal jste** for a man or **vstala jste** for a woman. Place short auxiliaries after the first phrase: **Dnes jsem vstal**. Third person has no auxiliary: **Jan vstal**.

Useful past forms include **dal/dala, vzal/vzala, koupil/koupila**. Czech aspect distinguishes a process from its completion: **kupovat/koupit**. Learn these pairs through situations rather than changing endings mechanically.

Czech	Meaning
Dnes jsem vstal.	I got up today.
Jan vstal v pět.	Jan got up at five.
Petra koupila mléko.	Petra bought milk.
Už jste vstal?	Have you got up? (polite)

Dnes jsem vstala (vstal).

I got up today.

Jan vstal v pět.

Jan got up at five.

Petra koupila mléko.

Petra bought milk.

Už jste vstala (vstal)?

Have you got up? (polite)

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Dnes jsem vstala.

Meaning: I got up today.

2 Jan vstal v pět.

Meaning: Jan got up at five.

- 3 Petra koupila mléko.

Meaning: Petra bought milk.

- 4 Už jste vstala?

Meaning: Have you got up? (polite)

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

- 1 Dnes jsem _____.

- ☐ A vstaly
- ☐ B vstali
- ☐ C vstala

Meaning: I got up today.

- 2 Jan _____ v pět.

- ☐ A vstal
- ☐ B vstala
- ☐ C vstaly

Meaning: Jan got up at five.

3 Petra _____ mléko.

- ☐ A koupil
- ☐ B koupili
- ☐ C koupila

Meaning: Petra bought milk.

4 Už jste _____?

- ☐ A vstaly
- ☐ B vstala
- ☐ C vstali

Meaning: Have you got up? (polite)

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

vstala vstali

Dnes jsem _____.

Meaning: I got up today.

vstal vstala

Jan _____ v pět.

Meaning: Jan got up at five.

koupila koupil

Petra _____ mléko.

Meaning: Petra bought milk.

vstala vstali

Už jste _____?

Meaning: Have you got up? (polite)

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 vstala. Dnes jsem

Meaning: I got up today.

- 2 vstal pět. v Jan

Meaning: Jan got up at five.

- 3 mléko. Petra koupila

Meaning: Petra bought milk.

- 4 Už vstala? jste

Meaning: Have you got up? (polite)

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I got up today. You say:

- ☐ A Dnes jsem vstala.
- ☐ B Dnes jsem vstali.

2 Jan got up at five. You say:

- ☐ A Jan vstal v pět.
- ☐ B Jan vstala v pět.

3 Petra bought milk. You say:

- ☐ A Petra koupila mléko.
- ☐ B Petra koupil mléko.

4 Have you got up? (polite) You say:

- ☐ A Už jste vstali?
- ☐ B Už jste vstala?

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ① Jan vstal v pět. | ④ I got up today. |
| ② Petra koupila mléko. | ⑤ Petra bought milk. |
| ③ Už jste vstala? | ⑥ Jan got up at five. |
| ⑦ Dnes jsem vstala. | ⑧ Have you got up? (polite) |