

FORMAL AND INFORMAL ADDRESS

Note the difference between saying *vy* (= *you* formal singular or any plural) and saying *ty* (= *you* informal singular):

Odkud jste? (= formal singular or plural) x *Odkud jsi?* (= informal singular)

Co děláte? (= formal singular or plural) x *Co děláš?* (= informal singular)

A vy? (= formal singular or plural) x *A ty?* (= informal singular)

Adults who are strangers to each other use the formal *vy* form. Relatives, friends, children (up to about 15 years of age) use the informal *ty* form, as do people of the same age group at times. An offer to use the informal *ty* form of address can be made, for example, by a woman to a man, or a senior to a younger person, or a higher-ranking person to a lower one, usually as follows: *Můžeme si tykat?* (Can we use the *ty* form?) The usual answer is: *Ano, já jsem Marie.* (Yes, I'm Marie.)

Similarly, formal and informal communication is manifested in the use of greetings and introductory phrases. In formal communication, we use the following:

Dobrý den! Dobrý večer! Děkuju! Jak se máte? Odkud jste? Jak se jmenujete? etc.

When communicating informally, we use the following greetings and phrases:

Ahoj! Čau! Nazdar! Díky! Jak se máš? Odkud jsi/jseš? Jak se jmenuješ? etc.