

THE VERB *TO BE*

All Czech verbs are conjugated. This means that the verb changes its ending and thus expresses different persons. In Czech, unlike in many languages, the personal pronouns (e.g. *já, ty, on*) are not usually used with the verbs because the information about the person is expressed by the ending of the verb. We use personal pronouns with verbs only when we want to emphasize them (e.g. *Já jsem doktor, ale ty ne*).

Note: In the expression *To je.../To není...* (e.g. when pointing at something or someone), we never omit the demonstrative pronoun *to*.

The verb *to be* has irregular conjugation in the present tense.

	být	
	positive form	negative form
já	<i>jsem</i>	<i>nejsem</i>
ty	<i>jsi</i> , in common Czech: <i>jseš</i>	<i>nejsi</i> , in common Czech: <i>nejseš</i>
on, ona, to	<i>je</i>	<i>není</i>
my	<i>jsme</i>	<i>nejsme</i>
vy	<i>jste</i>	<i>nejste</i>
oni	<i>jsou</i>	<i>nejsou</i>

Note the pronunciation: *jsem* [sem], *jsi* [si], *jseš* [seš], *je* [je], *jsme* [sme], *jste* [ste], *jsou* [sou].