

PRESENT TENSE

Czech has only one present tense. The present tense is also often used in everyday speech to express a definite or planned future.

For example, *Zítra jsem doma. Co zítra děláš? V sobotu jedu na výlet.*

All Czech verbs use conjugation. This means that the verb changes its ending and thus expresses different persons. Personal pronouns (e.g. *já, ty, on*) are not usually used with verbs in Czech, unlike in many other languages, 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. Ona mluví, on piše.*), or in everyday spoken language. Note, however, that we never omit the demonstrative pronoun *to* in the expression *To je.../To není...* (e.g. when we point to something or someone).

All Czech verbs use conjugation. There are four types of this in the present tense. We assign verbs to them according to the first person singular ending (the form for the person *já*). The dictionary form (infinitive) usually ends in *-t* (e.g. *dělat, mluvit, studovat*).

	-ÁM	-ÍM	-U	-UJU
infinitive	<i>Dělat</i>	<i>rozumět</i>	<i>pít</i>	<i>pracovat</i>
<i>já</i>	<i>děl-ám</i>	<i>rozum-ím</i>	<i>pij-u</i>	<i>prac-uju</i>
<i>ty</i>	<i>děl-áš</i>	<i>rozum-íš</i>	<i>pij-eš</i>	<i>prac-uješ</i>
<i>on, ona, to</i>	<i>děl-á</i>	<i>rozum-í</i>	<i>pij-e</i>	<i>prac-uje</i>
<i>my</i>	<i>děl-áme</i>	<i>rozum-íme</i>	<i>pij-eme</i>	<i>prac-ujeme</i>
<i>vy</i>	<i>děl-áte</i>	<i>rozum-íte</i>	<i>pij-ete</i>	<i>prac-ujete</i>
<i>oni</i>	<i>děl-ají</i>	<i>rozum-í</i>	<i>pij-ou</i>	<i>prac-ujou</i>

Negation in the present tense

To form a negative, you add the prefix *ne-* before the verb, which we write together with the verb. For example, *Neplavu ani neběhám.*

Czech has double or multiple negatives, for example, *Co nikdy neděláš?* The meaning of the sentence remains negative.

	-ÁM	-ÍM	-U	-UJU
	<i>nedělat</i>	<i>nerozumět</i>	<i>nepít</i>	<i>nepracovat</i>
<i>já</i>	<i>neděl-ám</i>	<i>nerozum-ím</i>	<i>nepij-u</i>	<i>neprac-uju</i>
<i>ty</i>	<i>neděl-áš</i>	<i>nerozum-íš</i>	<i>nepij-eš</i>	<i>neprac-uješ</i>
<i>on, ona, to</i>	<i>neděl-á</i>	<i>nerozum-í</i>	<i>nepij-e</i>	<i>neprac-uje</i>
<i>my</i>	<i>neděl-áme</i>	<i>nerozum-íme</i>	<i>nepij-eme</i>	<i>neprac-ujeme</i>
<i>vy</i>	<i>neděl-áte</i>	<i>nerozum-íte</i>	<i>nepij-ete</i>	<i>neprac-ujete</i>
<i>oni</i>	<i>neděl-ají</i>	<i>nerozum-í</i>	<i>nepij-ou</i>	<i>neprac-ujou</i>

In Czech, a negative question is often used as a polite suggestion or offer.

For example: *Nechceš kávu? Nechceš jít na tenis?*



Questions in the present tense

To create a question, just change the intonation of the sentence. Note the two types of intonation:

1. If the question can be answered *ano* or *ne*, the intonation of the question rises:

To je tvůj kamarád?



Vy jste student?

2. If the question cannot be answered *ano* or *ne* the intonation of the question ascends and descends:

Odkud jsi?



Co děláš?