

WORD ORDER 1 - PRESENT TENSE

Czech word order is flexible. The information that has been mentioned before or is otherwise known usually appears at the beginning of a sentence in Czech. New information usually comes at the end of a sentence.

The second position rule in a Czech sentence

There are a few short unstressed words that cannot be at the beginning of a sentence. These are placed in the second logical position in the sentence (i.e. not necessarily after the first word, but after the first complete piece of information).

	The second logical position	
The start of the sentence...	a reflexive pronoun <i>se</i> or <i>si</i>	...end of sentence.
<i>Dívá</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>na televizi.</i>
<i>Hraješ</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>venku?</i>
<i>Dnes</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>učím.</i>
<i>Zítra ráno</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>půjčím tvoje auto.</i>
<i>Ve škole</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>neučíme anglicky.</i>

In the event that multiple unstressed words "meet" at the same time in the second position, they are ordered as follows:

	The second logical position			
The start of the sentence...	Reflexive pronoun <i>se</i> or <i>si</i>	Short forms of personal pronouns in the dative case	Short forms of personal pronouns in the accusative and the pronoun <i>to</i>	...end of sentence.
<i>Učím</i>	<i>se</i>	---	<i>ji</i>	<i>každý den.</i>
<i>Směje</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>Mu</i>	---	<i>pořád.</i>
<i>Koupím</i>	---	<i>Ti</i>	---	<i>auto.</i>
<i>Koupím</i>	---	<i>Ti</i>	<i>ho</i>	<i>zítra.</i>
<i>Zítra</i>	---	<i>Ti</i>	<i>ho</i>	<i>koupím.</i>

Attention: the conjunctions *a*, *ale* at the beginning of a sentence do not affect the word order.

For example:

Zítra jedu do Prahy, koupím si boty. = *Zítra jedu do Prahy a koupím si boty.*

Zítra jdu do školy, neučím se matematiku. = *Zítra jdu do školy, ale neučím se matematiku.*