

WORD ORDER 2 – PAST TENSE

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

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

	The second logical position				
The beginning of the sentence...	Past tense auxiliary verb	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>Koupil</i>	<i>jsem</i>	<i>si</i>	---	---	<i>televizi.</i>
<i>Bál</i>	<i>jsem</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>mu</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>dát.</i>

Note: the conjunctions *a*, *ale* at the beginning of a sentence do not affect the word order, for example:

Včera dopoledne jsem se učil, psal jsem projekt. = *Včera dopoledne jsem se učil a psal jsem projekt.*

Včera dopoledne jsem se učil, nepracoval jsem. = *Včera dopoledne jsem se učil, ale nepracoval jsem.*