

APPENDIX

This chapter will provide you with information on how to spell the endings of all words that are marked with cases in Czech. This includes nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and numerals.

“Hard” stems and “Soft” stems

Hard and soft stems.

Czech has many different types of nouns and adjectives, and an important factor in this equation is the differences between so-called hard stems and soft stems. Often the endings in the soft paradigm are parallel to the endings in the hard paradigm, so it helps to know the correspondences between the two. All stems native to Czech end in a consonant. If you look at the dictionary form of a noun or adjective and a vowel appears at the end of it, that vowel is an ending. Remove it to find the stem. Hard stems can end in any of these consonants: *b, d, f, g, h, ch, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, z*. Stems ending in *c, č, d', j, ň, ř, š, t', ž* are always soft, but some soft stems may end in *b, d, l, m, n, p, s, t, v, z*, which are associated with both hard and soft stems.

The vowel in case endings associated with hard stems and soft stems

Vowel correspondences with hard/soft stems.

Frequently the case endings of hard stems will have a certain vowel, and we can predict that soft stems will have a corresponding vowel. In the list below, the vowel on the left is the one we find with hard stems, and the vowel on the right is the corresponding vowel for soft stems. Each pair of vowels is followed by a pair of examples showing where we find these correspondences for hard and soft stems. The uppercase letters refer to the cases (N=nominative, G=genitive, etc.), and the lower case letters tell you whether the ending is for singular (sg) or plural (pl), and may also indicate gender (m=masculine, f=feminine, n=neuter). The vowel *e/ě* is spelled *ě* after the labial (*b, f, m, p, v*) and dental (*d, n, t*) consonants, but *e* elsewhere:

<i>a</i> vs. <i>e/ě</i>	<i>moucha</i> ‘fly’ Nsg vs. <i>práce</i> ‘work’ Nsg <i>ta</i> ‘that’ Nsgf vs. <i>naše</i> Nsgf
<i>á</i> vs. <i>í</i>	<i>druhá</i> ‘second’ Nsgf vs. <i>první</i> ‘first’ Nsgf
<i>e/ě</i> vs. <i>i</i>	<i>mouše</i> ‘fly’ DLsg vs. <i>práci</i> ‘work’ DLsg
<i>o</i> vs. <i>e/ě</i>	<i>moucho</i> ‘fly’ Vsg vs. <i>práce</i> ‘work’ Vsg
<i>u</i> vs. <i>i</i>	<i>mouchu</i> ‘fly’ Asg vs. <i>práci</i> ‘work’ Asg <i>tu</i> ‘that’ Asgf vs. <i>naši</i> ‘our’ Asgf
<i>ou</i> vs. <i>í</i>	<i>mouchou</i> ‘fly’ Isg vs. <i>prací</i> ‘work’ Isg
<i>y</i> vs. <i>i</i>	<i>rozbory</i> ‘analysis’ Ipl vs. <i>koší</i> ‘basket’ Ipl
<i>ý</i> vs. <i>í</i>	<i>druhý</i> ‘second’ Nsgm vs. <i>první</i> ‘first’ Nsgm

Variations in vowels in the stems of nouns

Mobile *e* in nouns.

Many words in Czech have what we call “mobile *e*” (or “fleeting *e*”). This is an *e* that appears (usually before the last consonant in the stem) when there is no ending after the stem, but is absent when there is a case ending. Here are some examples: *pes* ‘dog’ Nsg : *psi* ‘dogs’ Npl, *otec* ‘father’ Nsg : *otce* ‘father’ Gsg, *deska* ‘board’ Nsg : *deseck* ‘boards’ Gpl. Unfortunately there is no easy way to know whether an *e* is mobile or not. The best thing to do is to look out for mobile *e* when you are learning words.

Sometimes the vowel in a stem will be long with some case endings and short with others. So, for example, we have *á* vs. *a* in *práce* vs. *prací* ‘work’ Nsg vs. Isg, *í* vs. *e/ě* in *sníh* vs. *sněhu* ‘snow’ Nsg vs. Gsg, and *ů* vs. *o* in *hůl* vs. *hole* ‘cane’ Nsg vs. Gsg. Again, there is no good way to predict these variations. The best strategy is to learn them as you learn vocabulary.

Long/short alternations in nouns.

Changes in consonants

When certain case endings are added to hard stems, the last consonant in the stem (or the last group of consonants) might change. This happens when we add the nominative plural ending for animate masculine nouns *-i* and the corresponding adjective ending *-í*, and we get the same effect from *-ich* in the locative plural of nouns. We also get changes in consonants when we add *-e/ě* in the locative singular endings of masculine/neuter nouns and the dative/locative singular endings of feminine nouns. Less frequently we see consonants change when we add *-e* in the vocative singular of masculine nouns, but this affects only *r* and *c* (and it does not always happen). Here are examples of all of the types of consonant changes you are likely to encounter:

Consonant changes with certain endings.

<i>r</i> vs. <i>ř</i>	<i>sestra</i> vs. <i>sestře</i> ‘sister’ Nsg vs. DLsg <i>Petr</i> vs. <i>Petře</i> ‘Peter’ Nsg vs. Vsg
<i>k</i> vs. <i>c</i>	<i>kluk</i> vs. <i>kluci</i> , <i>klucích</i> ‘boy’ Nsg vs. Npl, Lpl <i>jaký</i> vs. <i>jací</i> ‘what kind of’ Nsgm vs. Nplanim
<i>h</i> vs. <i>z</i>	<i>kníha</i> vs. <i>knize</i> ‘book’ Nsg vs. DLsg <i>drahý</i> vs. <i>drazí</i> ‘dear’ Nsgm vs. Nplanim
<i>g</i> vs. <i>z</i>	<i>Olga</i> vs. <i>Olze</i> ‘Olga’ Nsg vs. DLsg
<i>ch</i> vs. <i>š</i>	<i>Čech</i> vs. <i>Češi</i> , <i>Češich</i> ‘Czech’ Nsg vs. Npl, Lpl <i>tichý</i> vs. <i>tiší</i> ‘quiet’ Nsgm vs. Nplanim
<i>sk</i> vs. <i>št'</i>	<i>český</i> vs. <i>čeští</i> ‘Czech’ Nsgm vs. Nplanim
<i>ck</i> vs. <i>čt'</i>	<i>anglický</i> vs. <i>angličtí</i> ‘English’ Nsgm vs. Nplanim
<i>c</i> vs. <i>č</i>	<i>chlapec</i> vs. <i>chlapče</i> ‘boy’ Nsg vs. Vsg

Endings for Nouns

All nouns have grammatical gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter), and with very few exceptions (a handful of indeclinable borrowed words) all are declined for both number (singular, plural; though some words occur only in one of the numbers, e.g., *nůžky* ‘scissors’, which is plural only) and case. Each gender has its own set of characteristic paradigms, including hard stem types, soft stem types, and special types. Masculine paradigms in addition regularly signal animacy. The vocative has its own ending only in the singular. Below we discuss the paradigms for masculine, neuter, and feminine adding notes on those case and number endings that require commentary. The paradigms below are intended to be representative, but there is considerable variation in many paradigms, and it is often hard to establish a definitive norm.

Masculine paradigms

Hard stems

Inanimate: *rozbor* ‘analysis’

	sg	pl
NV	<i>rozbor</i> (V <i>rozbole</i>)	<i>rozbor</i> y
A	<i>rozbor</i>	<i>rozbor</i> y
G	<i>rozbor</i> u	<i>rozbor</i> ů
D	<i>rozbor</i> u	<i>rozbor</i> ům
L	<i>rozbor</i> u	<i>rozbor</i> ech
I	<i>rozbor</i> em	<i>rozbor</i> y

Animate: *bratr* ‘brother’

	sg	pl
NV	<i>bratr</i> (V <i>bratře</i>)	<i>bratř</i> i
A	<i>bratra</i>	<i>bratry</i>
G	<i>bratra</i>	<i>bratř</i> ů
D	<i>bratřovi</i> - u	<i>bratř</i> ům
L	<i>bratřovi</i> - u	<i>bratřech</i>
I	<i>bratrem</i>	<i>bratry</i>

Animacy

If a masculine noun is inanimate, the nominative singular and accusative singular endings are the same. If a masculine noun is animate, the genitive singular and accusative singular endings are the same, and there are also special endings (-i, -é, -ové) for the nominative plural. Animacy can also affect the endings of the dative singular and locative singular. Animate nouns describe all male (or grammatically masculine) living creatures capable of motion (i.e., non-vegetable). In the case of very small creatures, such as *bacil* ‘bacillus’, *mikrob* ‘microbe’ animacy is open to interpretation. There are also a good number of nouns which refer to inanimate objects but display animate endings; this phenomenon is known as facultative animacy. Animal names used to refer to inanimates regularly produce this phenomenon: *koníček* ‘little horse; hobby’ is animate in both meanings. Most other facultative animates show some close connection to human males, in terms of appearance (*sněhulák* ‘snowman’, *maňásek* ‘puppet’), existence of homonyms referring to male humans (*talián* ‘Italian; Italian sausage’, which motivates facultative animacy for other sausages, such as *vuřt* ‘wurst’), and stereotypically male behavior and interests (drinking of alcohol: *panák* ‘shot’; smoking of cigarettes: *čmoud* ‘drag from a cigarette’; card-playing: *ferbl* ‘name of a card game’; sports: *kraul* ‘crawl (swimming)’; and mathematics: *násobenec* ‘multiplicand’). Facultative animacy primarily involves the AGsg and to a lesser extent the Npl, but does not always extend to the DLsg.

Other notes concerning masculine hard stems

Gsg: about 97% of inanimate masculine hard stem nouns have -u, 2% have -a, and 1% permit both endings. Nouns with -a include, obviously, all facultative animates, plus an assortment of common everyday words (*zákon* ‘law’, *oběd* ‘lunch’), some buildings (*kostel*

‘church’), locations (*Jičín, Tachov*), time periods (*dnešek* ‘today’, *leden* ‘January’), and shapes (*trojúhelník* ‘triangle’).

DLsg: most animate nouns in this paradigm admit both endings. *-ovi* tends to be favored for viriles (male human referents), with rare but notable exceptions (*člověk, člověku* ‘person’, *bůh, bohu* ‘god’), and can be used for most animals. In concatenations of titles and names, the last word will have *-ovi*, but all others will have *-u*: *panu doktoru Janu Novákovi* ‘Mr. Dr. Jan Novák’.

Lsg: 90% of inanimate masculine hard stem nouns have *-u*, less than 1% have *-e/ě*, and about 9% permit both endings. The ending *-e/ě* can cause the consonant changes listed above, but the tendency is to use the ending *-u* and thus avoid such changes. More than half of the stems that permit both desinences end in *-s*, and others end in *-z, -k, -l, -r, -ch*, or *-n*. Among nouns that permit both desinences *-e/ě* is typical in the expression of familiar, predictable concrete locations, whereas *-u* is the default for all other uses.

Vsg: We see consonant changes here for stems ending in *tr* and *c*: *mistr, mistře!* ‘master’, *otec, otče!* ‘father’. Stems ending in *k, h*, and *ch* tend to have *-u* instead (*kluk, kluku!* ‘boy’), thus avoiding consonant changes (but note these exceptions: *bůh, bože!* ‘god’; *člověk, člověče!* ‘person’).

Npl: *-i* is by far the most common ending for animates and causes consonant changes: *Polák, Poláci* ‘Pole’. The endings *-é -ové* are used primarily with certain words referring to male human beings: *soused, sousedé* ‘neighbor’; *syn, synové* ‘son’.

Lpl: in addition to *-ech*, the Lpl has the variants *-ích* (used with some stems ending in *-k, -h, -ch, -b, -p, -v, -s, -z, and -l*) and *-ách* (used with some stems in *-k, -h, -ch*). With *-k, -h, -ch*, the ending *-ích* causes consonant changes, although the tendency is to replace *-ích* with *-ách* to avoid these changes. Compare the following Nsg and Lpl forms: *práh, prazích* ‘threshold’; *les, lesích* ‘forest’; *hotel, hotelích* ‘hotel’; *plech, plechách* ‘metal plate’.

Soft stems

Inanimate: *koš* ‘basket’

	sg	pl
NV	<i>koš</i> (V <i>koší</i>)	<i>koše</i>
A	<i>koš</i>	<i>koše</i>
G	<i>koše</i>	<i>košů</i>
D	<i>koši</i>	<i>košům</i>
L	<i>koši</i>	<i>koších</i>
I	<i>košem</i>	<i>koši</i>

Animate: *malíř* ‘painter’

	sg	pl
NV	<i>malíř</i> (V <i>malíří</i>)	<i>malíři</i>
A	<i>malíře</i>	<i>malíře</i>
G	<i>malíře</i>	<i>malířů</i>
D	<i>malířovi/-i</i>	<i>malířům</i>
L	<i>malířovi/-i</i>	<i>malířich</i>
I	<i>malířem</i>	<i>malíři</i>

DLsg: the distribution of *-ovi* vs. *-i* is similar to that of *-ovi* vs. *-u* in the animate hard stems, although *-i* is somewhat more frequent in the soft paradigm than *-u* is in the hard paradigm.

Lpl: some nouns in this paradigm have the desinence *-ech*: *cíl*, *cílech* ‘goal’.

Stems alternating between hard and soft

There are a few masculine inanimate stems that show both the hard and the soft stem endings, like *kotel* ‘cauldron’, which has the following forms: Gsg *kotlu/-e*, DLsg *kotlu/-i*, Asg *kotel*, Vsg *kotlí*, Isg *kotlem*, NApl *kotle/-y*, Gpl *kotlů*, Dpl *kotlům*, Lpl *kotlech/-ich*, Ipl *kotli/-y*. Nearly all stems of this type end in *l* or *n* (*řemen* ‘strap’, *pramen* ‘source’, *kámen* ‘stone’); one ends in *t* (*loket* ‘elbow’).

Special types

There are two types of masculine nouns that end with a vowel in the Nsg: the hard *-a* paradigm and the soft *-e* paradigm. Both are exclusively virile (designate male humans) and therefore animate.

Hard *-a* virile: *přednosta* ‘chief, head’

	sg	pl
NV	<i>přednosta</i> (V <i>přednosto</i>)	<i>přednostové</i>
A	<i>přednostu</i>	<i>přednosti</i>
G	<i>přednosti</i>	<i>přednostů</i>
D	<i>přednostovi</i>	<i>přednostům</i>
L	<i>přednostovi</i>	<i>přednostech</i>
I	<i>přednostou</i>	<i>přednosti</i>

Aside from the masculine DLsg *-ovi*, this paradigm has feminine endings in the singular, but masculine endings in the plural.

Gsg, Apl, and Ipl: some stems in this paradigm end in consonant letters that do not combine with *y*; these forms are then spelled with *i*, as in nicknames such as *Míša*, *Míši* ‘Mike’.

Npl: although most nouns in this paradigm use *-ové*, those ending in *-ita* and *-ista* use *-é* (*husita*, *husité* ‘Hussite’, *houslista*, *houslisté* ‘violinist’).

Lpl: stems ending in *-k*, *-h*, *-ch* will have the ending *-ich* and consonant changes: *sluha*, *sluzích* ‘servant’.

Soft *-e* virile: *zachránce* ‘savior’

	sg	pl
NV	<i>zachránce</i> (V <i>zachránce</i>)	<i>zachránci</i>
A	<i>zachránce</i>	<i>zachránce</i>
G	<i>zachránce</i>	<i>zachránců</i>
D	<i>zachráncovi/-i</i>	<i>zachráncům</i>
L	<i>zachráncovi/-i</i>	<i>zachráncích</i>
I	<i>zachráncem</i>	<i>zachránci</i>

DLsg: variation here parallels that of soft stem animate nouns.

Npl: some nouns also admit *-ové* (*soudce*, *soudci/-ové* ‘judge’).

Although a few borrowings are indeclinable (*atašé* ‘attaché’, *zebu* ‘zebu’, *tangens* ‘tangent’), most foreign words decline even if their stems are incongruous with the stem shape of native masculine nouns. Nouns ending in a vowel other than *i/y* will drop that vowel in all forms other than the Nsg (and Asg for inanimates) and treat the preceding consonant as stem final; *maestro* thus has a stem of *maestr-* to which desinences are added: AGsg *maestra*, DLsg *maestrovi*, Vsg *maestro*, Isg *maestrem*, Npl *maestrové*, Gpl *maestrů*, Dpl *maestrům*, Aipl *maestry*, Lpl *maestrech*. Following a similar strategy, foreign nouns ending in *-us*, *-es*, and *-os* usually drop those segments for all other forms in the paradigm (NAsg *komunismus*, GDLsg *komunismu*, Vsg *komunisme*, Isg *komunismem*; NAsg *hádes*, GDLsg *hádu*, Isg *hádem*; NAsg *kosmos*, GDLsg *kosmu*, Isg *kosmem*). Foreign nouns and names ending in *i/y* (*kivi* ‘kiwi (bird)’, *pony* ‘pony’, *Harry*) have a mixed declension, with adjective type endings (with short vowels) in the singular (GAsg *Harryho*, Dsg *Harrymu*, LIsg *Harrym*), but primarily noun-type endings in the plural (Npl *kiviové*, Gpl *kiviů*, Dpl *kiviům*, Apl *kivie*, Lpl *kiviech/-ích/-ch*, Ipl *kivii/-mi*).

Neuter paradigms

Aside from the nominative and accusative forms, the neuter endings are similar to masculine endings.

Hard stems

<i>město</i> ‘city’		
	sg	pl
NVA	<i>město</i>	<i>města</i>
G	<i>města</i>	<i>měst</i>
D	<i>městu</i>	<i>městům</i>
L	<i>městě</i>-u	<i>městech</i>
I	<i>městem</i>	<i>městy</i>

Nsg: a few nouns with stems ending in *-en* have a bookish variant Nsg form with an abbreviated stem: *břemeno/břímě* ‘burden’; these nouns also have alternate endings Gsg *břemena/břemene*, Dsg *břemenu/břemeni*, and Lsg *břemenu/břemeni/břemeně* (similar to the masculine *kotel* type above).

Lsg: many nouns use only *-e/ě* (with consonant changes): *okno*, *okně* ‘window’; some only *-u* (stems ending in *-k*, *-h*, *-ch* always use *-u*): *středisko*, *středisku* ‘center’.

Lpl: as in masculine nouns, *-ích* can appear after velars (with consonant changes), and is frequently replaced by *-ách*.

Nouns referring to paired body parts, such as *rameno/rámě* ‘shoulder’, *koleno* ‘knee’, and *prsa* ‘chest, breasts’ have GLpl forms *ramenou/ramen*, *kolenou/kolen*, and *prsou*. The words *lítka* ‘calf (leg)’ and *bedro* ‘hip’ and some plural-only nouns (*vrátka* ‘gate’) admit both neuter and feminine forms in the plural.

Soft stems

There are two types of neuter soft stems. One type involves a very small number of nouns with a paradigm of: NVAGsg/NApI *moře* ‘sea’, DLsg/Ipl *moří*, Isg *mořem*, Gpl *moří*, Dpl *mořím*, Lpl *mořích*. The other type involves a larger number of nouns all of which are derived with *-iště* and designate places, such as: NVAGsg/NApI *letiště* ‘airport’, DLsg/Ipl *letiští*, Isg *letištěm*, Gpl *letišt’*, Dpl *letištím*, Lpl *letištích*.

Special types

-ět-/at- type: *slůně* ‘baby elephant’

	sg	pl
NVA	<i>slůně</i>	<i>slůňata</i>
G	<i>slůněte</i>	<i>slůňat</i>
D	<i>slůněti</i>	<i>slůňatům</i>
L	<i>slůněti</i>	<i>slůňatech</i>
I	<i>slůnětem</i>	<i>slůňaty</i>

The *-ět-/at-* type is primarily associated with names of offspring (*kotě* ‘kitten’, *nemluvně* ‘infant’), although this paradigm is used for some inanimates (*koště* ‘broom’) and at least one virile (*kníže* ‘prince’).

-í type: *nábřeží* ‘waterfront’

	sg	pl
NAV	<i>nábřeží</i>	<i>nábřeží</i>
G	<i>nábřeží</i>	<i>nábřeží</i>
D	<i>nábřeží</i>	<i>nábřežím</i>
L	<i>nábřeží</i>	<i>nábřežích</i>
I	<i>nábřežím</i>	<i>nábřežími</i>

The *-í* type paradigm includes many nouns derived from verbs (*placení* ‘paying’) and is otherwise often associated with collectives (*křoví* ‘bushes’) and nouns with abstract meaning (*zdraví* ‘health’); a particularly common source of neuter *-í* nouns are prepositional phrases (the head noun here, *nábřeží* is derived from the prepositional phrase *na břehu* ‘on the bank’).

Latin and Greek borrowings into the Czech neuter continue some aspects of their original declensions in Czech. Nouns ending in *-o*, *-on*, and *-um* drop those final segments in all forms but the NAsg and follow the standard hard declension (but those with a new “stem” ending in a vowel have some soft endings in the plural): NAVsg *enklitikon*, Gsg/NApI *enklitika*, DLsg *enklitiku*, Isg *enklitikem*, Gpl *enklitik*, Dpl *enklitikám*, Lpl *enklitikách*, Ipl *enklitiky*; NAVsg *rádio*, Gsg/NApI *rádia*, DLsg *rádiu*, Isg *rádiem*, Gpl *rádií*, Dpl *rádiím*, Lpl *rádiích*, Ipl *rádií*; NAVsg *muzeum*, Gsg/NApI *muzea*, DLsg *muzeu*, Isg *muzeem*, Gpl *muzeí*, Dpl *muzeím*, Lpl *muzeích*, Ipl *muzei*. Neuter nouns ending in *-ma* add *t* to form their stem: NAVsg *drama*, GDLsg *dramatu*, Isg *dramatem*, NApI *dramata*, Gpl *dramat*, Dpl *dramatám*, Lpl *dramatech*, Ipl *dramaty*. Some neuter borrowings do not decline: *klišé*, *taxi*, *tabu*.

Feminine paradigms

Hard stems

	žena	‘woman’	
		sg	pl
NV	žena	(V ženo)	ženy
A	ženu		ženy
G	ženy		žen
D	ženě		ženám
L	ženě		ženách
I	ženou		ženami

DLsg: the -e/ě ending causes consonant changes.

The word *ruka* ‘arm/hand’ has the form NApl *ruce* and shares with *noha* ‘leg’ special plural forms: GLpl *rukou*, *nohou* (but note also variants Gpl *noh* and Lpl *rukách*, *nohách*); Ipl *rukama*, *nohama*.

Soft stems

	ruže	‘rose’	
		sg	pl
NV	růže		růže
A	růží		růže
G	růže		růží
D	růží		růžím
L	růží		růžich
I	růží		růžemi

Gpl: as a rule, stems ending in -ic have a zero ending instead of -í: *ulice*, *ulic* ‘street’. Variation between zero and -í is not uncommon, particularly among nouns in -yně; *přítelkyně* ‘girlfriend’ admits both Gpl forms: *přítelkyň/přítelkyní*.

Feminine nouns ending in a consonant

Two types of feminine nouns end in a consonant. Both are soft stem types.

-e/ě type: *dlaň* ‘palm of hand’

	sg	pl
N	dlaň (V <i>dlaní</i>)	dlaně
A	dlaň	dlaně
G	dlaně	dlaní
D	dlaní	dlaním
L	dlaní	dlaních
I	dlaní	dlaněmi

<i>-i</i> type: <i>kost</i> ‘bone’		
	sg	pl
N	<i>kost</i> (V <i>kostí</i>)	<i>kosti</i>
A	<i>kost</i>	<i>kostí</i>
G	<i>kostí</i>	<i>kostí</i>
D	<i>kostí</i>	<i>kostem</i>
L	<i>kostí</i>	<i>kostečh</i>
I	<i>kostí</i>	<i>kostmi</i>

The *-e/ě* type and *-i* type paradigms are converging, resulting in frequent variations for words of both paradigms in the desinences that do not match, cf. *lod* ‘boat’, which admits all of the following forms Gsg *lodi/-ě*, NApI *lodi/-ě*, Ipl *loděmi/lod'mi*.

The word *paní* ‘Mrs.’ is indeclinable in the singular and has the following plural forms: NAGpl *paní*, Dpl *paním*, Lpl *paních*, Ipl *paními*.

Borrowed words ending in a vowel or *j + a* follow a mixed hard/soft declension, e.g.: Nsg *idea*, Gsg *idey/-je*, DLsg *ideji*, Asg *ideu*, Vsg *ideo*, Isg *ideou/-jí*, NApI *idey/-je*, Gpl *idejí*, Dpl *ideám/-jím*, Lpl *ideáčh-jích*, Ipl *ideami/-jemi*. There are a few borrowed feminine indeclinable nouns: *whisky*, *party*.

Nouns of variable or indeterminate gender

Three neuter nouns do not have neuter endings in the plural:

dítě ‘child’: NVAsg *dítě*, Gsg *dítěte*, DLsg *dítěti*, Isg *dítětem*, NApI *děti*, Gpl *dětí*, Dpl *dětem*, Lpl *dětech*, Ipl *dětmi*

oko ‘eye’ and *uchو* ‘ear’: both have a neuter hard stem singular (with Lsg *-u*) and the following plural: NApI *oči uši*, Gpl *očí uší*, Dpl *očím uším*, Ipl *očima ušima*.

Three words naming holiday days and their following seasons, *letnice* ‘Pentecost/Whitsunday’, *vánoce* ‘Christmas’, and *velikonoce* ‘Easter’, are always plural and listed in dictionaries as feminine, although they have Dpl *-ům*, which is characteristic of masculine and neuter paradigms: NApI *vánoce*, Gpl *vánoc*, Dpl *vánocům*, Lpl *vánocích*, Ipl *vánocem*. Although the vast majority of names for people and animals have separate feminine and masculine forms, there are some words that vary in gender and paradigm depending upon the given referent: *chot* ‘spouse’ declines as a soft stem masculine animate noun when referring to a husband, but as an *-i* type feminine noun when referring to a wife; *nešika* ‘clumsy person’ is an *-a* virile in reference to a male, but a hard stem feminine in reference to a female. Most other common gender words, such as *člověk* ‘person’ (masculine hard stem animate) and *osoba* ‘person’ (hard stem feminine) retain their paradigm and syntactic gender no matter whom they refer to. *Rukojmí* ‘hostage’ can be declined as an adjective or as an *-í* type neuter (Gsg *rukojmího/-í*). A few inanimate nouns have more than one paradigm: ‘potato’ exists as both *brambor* (hard stem masculine) and *brambora* (hard stem feminine), and *esej* ‘essay’ can be declined as either masculine or feminine.

Colloquial Czech endings for nouns

Colloquial Czech has an Ipl ending of -(V)*ma* for all three genders (replacing masculine and neuter endings in *-y/-i*, feminine endings in *-ami/-emi/-ěmi*, and yielding *-ma* for the *-i* type feminine nouns). Compare the literary and colloquial Czech Ipl forms for our head

nouns: LCz *bratry* vs. CCz *bratráma* ‘brothers’, LCz *koši* vs. CCz *košema* ‘baskets’, LCz *malíři* vs. CCz *malířema* ‘painters’, LCz *kotly*-*i* vs. CCz *kotlama*/-*ema* ‘cauldrons’, LCz *přednosti* vs. CCz *přednostama* ‘chiefs’, LCz *zachránici* vs. CCz *zachráncema* ‘protectors’, LCz *ženami* vs. CCz *ženama* ‘women’, LCz *růžemi* vs. CCz *růžema* ‘roses’, LCz *dlaněmi* vs. CCz *dlaněma* ‘palms of hand’, LCz *kostmi* vs. CCz *kostma* ‘bones’, LCz *městy* vs. CCz *městama* ‘cities’, LCz *nábřežími* vs. CCz *nábřežíma* ‘waterfronts’, LCz *sluňaty* vs. CCz *sluňatama* ‘baby elephants’. Other colloquial Czech features relate only to a given paradigm or group of nouns.

Masculine nouns ending in *-k*, *-h*, *-ch* may use the CCz Lpl ending *-ách* instead of the LCz Ipl *-ích*, thus avoiding consonant changes: LCz *o vojácích* vs. CCz *vo vojákách* ‘about the soldiers’. With some masculine hard stem nouns the expected Lpl *-ích* is regularized to *-ech*: LCz *v lesích* vs. CCz *v lesech* ‘in the forests’. In colloquial Czech there is some preference for DLsg *-ovi* over *-i*: LCz *holiči/-ovi* vs. CCz *holičovi/-i* ‘barber’. The CCz forms *chleba* ‘bread’ and *sejra* ‘cheese’, equivalent to the partitive Gsg forms LCz *chleba*, *sýra*, have spread to the NAsg in CCz. CCz is also characterized by sporadic differences in vowel length, particularly shortening of *ü* and *í* in endings. The neuter *-í* paradigm (see head noun *nábřeží* ‘waterfront’) tends to acquire adjectival endings in colloquial Czech, creating forms such as CCz Gsg *nábřežího*, Dsg *nábřežímu*, Gpl *nábřežích*, all of which are represented by LCz *nábřeží*. The two feminine paradigms with Nsg ending in a consonant, the *-e/ě* type (head noun: *dlaň* ‘palm of hand’) and the *-i* type (head noun: *kost* ‘bone’) have become to some degree intermingled in CCz, which tends to prefer the *-e/-ě* type endings for all nouns of both types, creating CCz forms such as Lpl *kostích* vs. LCz *kostečh* ‘bones’.

Endings for adjectives

Adjectives are declined to match the gender, case, and number of the nouns they modify. Participles are declined like adjectives.

Long form adjectives

Like nouns, adjectives have both hard and soft stem paradigms. Unlike nouns, adjectives do not have vocative case forms; when an adjective appears with a noun in the vocative, the adjective is in the nominative. In combination with the Ipl of feminine and variable gender nouns having a nominal desinence in *-ma*, the ending for demonstratives and adjectives is also *-ma* rather than the customary *-mi*: *těma špinavýma rukama* ‘with those dirty hands’. There are a few foreign borrowings that do not decline, such as *fajn* ‘fine’, but these are considered colloquial, and can have nativized declinable variants, such as *fajnový* ‘fine’.

Hard stems

druhý ‘second; other’

	singular			plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>druhý</i>	<i>druhá</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhé/druzí</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhá</i>
A	<i>druhý/</i>	<i>druhou</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhá</i>
	<i>druhého</i>					
G	<i>druhého</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhého</i>		<i>druhých</i>	
D	<i>druhémú</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhémú</i>		<i>druhým</i>	
L	<i>druhém</i>	<i>druhé</i>	<i>druhém</i>		<i>druhých</i>	
I	<i>druhým</i>	<i>druhou</i>	<i>druhým</i>		<i>druhými</i>	

Alternants listed after the slash are used with animate nouns. The Nplmasc animate ending *-í* is associated with the consonant changes listed at the beginning of this appendix.

Soft stems

první ‘first’

	singular		plural
	masculine & neuter	feminine	(all genders)
N	<i>první</i>	<i>první</i>	<i>první</i>
A	<i>první / prvního</i>	<i>první</i>	<i>první</i>
G	<i>prvního</i>	<i>první</i>	<i>prvních</i>
D	<i>prvnímú</i>	<i>první</i>	<i>prvním</i>
L	<i>prvním</i>	<i>první</i>	<i>prvních</i>
I	<i>prvním</i>	<i>první</i>	<i>prvními</i>

Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives formed from names of human males (with suffix *-ův*) and females (with suffix *-in*) use a combination of short and long endings:

<i>bratrův</i> ‘brother’s’						
	singular			plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>bratrův</i>	<i>bratrova</i>	<i>bratrovo</i>	<i>bratrový/bratroví</i>	<i>bratrový</i>	<i>bratrová</i>
A	<i>bratrův/bratrova</i>	<i>bratrovu</i>	<i>bratrovó</i>	<i>bratrový</i>	<i>bratrový</i>	<i>bratrová</i>
G	<i>bratrová</i>	<i>bratrový</i>	<i>bratrová</i>		<i>bratrových</i>	
D	<i>bratrovu</i>	<i>bratrově</i>	<i>bratrovu</i>		<i>bratrovým</i>	
L	<i>bratrově/-u</i>	<i>bratrově</i>	<i>bratrově/-u</i>		<i>bratrových</i>	
I	<i>bratrovým</i>	<i>bratrovou</i>	<i>bratrovým</i>		<i>bratrovými</i>	

Colloquial Czech endings for adjectives

The table below shows the CCz desinences that differ from their LCz equivalents in bold face:

<i>druhej</i> ‘second; other’				
	singular			
	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural (all genders)
N	<i>druhej</i>	<i>druhá</i>	<i>druhý</i>	<i>druhý</i>
A	<i>druhej/-ýho</i>	<i>druhou</i>	<i>druhý</i>	<i>druhý</i>
G	<i>druhýho</i>	<i>druhý</i>	<i>druhýho</i>	<i>druhejch</i>
D	<i>druhýmu</i>	<i>druhý</i>	<i>druhýmu</i>	<i>druhejm</i>
L	<i>druhým</i>	<i>druhý</i>	<i>druhým</i>	<i>druhejch</i>
I	<i>druhým</i>	<i>druhou</i>	<i>druhým</i>	<i>druhejma</i>

The soft stem adjectival paradigm distinguishes CCz from LCz forms only in the Ipl, where CCz *prvníma* corresponds to LCz *prvními* ‘first’. There is, however, one soft adjective that exhibits the change of *i* > *ej*, CCz *cizej* ‘foreign, strange’, with plural forms GLpl *cizejch*, Dpl *cizejm* and Ipl *cizejma* corresponding to LCz Nsg masc *cizí*, GLpl *cizich*, Dpl *cizím*, Ipl *cizími*.

CCz avoids short form adjectives (except *rád* ‘glad’), using only long forms for adjectives and passive participles, and appending long form endings to all but the Nsg masc and neut forms of the possessive adjectives. Thus LCz *nemocen* ‘ill’ has the CCz counterpart CCz *nemocnej*, with a paradigm like *druhej* above, and the same goes for passive participles, e.g., LC *napsán*, *napsaný* vs. CCz *napsanej* ‘written’. Aside from Nsg masc *bratrův* ‘brother’s’ (sometimes shortened in CCz to *bratrův* and occasionally realized as *bratrovej*) and neut *bratrovo* (sometimes CCz *bratrový*), which are the same in both registers, CCz adds the endings from the *druhej* paradigm to *bratrov-* ‘brother’s’ and *sestrin-* ‘sister’s’.

Pronouns

Personal, reflexive, and interrogative pronouns

All pronouns are inflected for case. Personal and reflexive pronouns can occur as enclitics, and the singular and reflexive pronouns have for the genitive, dative, and accusative cases two forms; a “long” one restricted to non-enclitic uses, and a “short” stressless enclitic one.

First person ‘I, we’

	singular		plural
	“long”	“short”	
	non-enclitic	enclitic	
N	já		my
A	mne	mě	nás
G	mne	mě	nás
D	mňe	mi	nám
L	mně		nás
I	mnou		námi

Second person ‘you’

	singular		plural
	“long”	“short”	
	non-enclitic	enclitic	
N	ty		vy
A	tebe	tě	vás
G	tebe	tě	vás
D	tobě	ti	vám
L	tobě		vás
I	tebou		vámi

Third person ‘he, she, it, they’

	singular		feminine		plural
	masculine	neuter	“long”	“short”	
	“long”	“short”	“long”	“short”	
N	on	ono			oni, ony, ona
A	jeho, jej	jej, ho, -ň	je	jí	je
G	jeho	ho	jeho	ho	jí
D	jemu	mu	jemu	mu	jí
L	ném		ném		ní
I	jím		jím		jí

The initial *j-* of the genitive, dative, accusative, and instrumental is replaced by *ň-/n-* whenever the form is preceded by a preposition; because the locative case appears only with prepositions, pronouns are cited only in their *n-* forms. Masculine accusative *jej* can serve in both enclitic and non-enclitic roles; *-ň* is uncommon and restricted only to position after prepositions ending in a vowel: *naň* ‘onto him/it’. In the plural, gender is distinguished only in the nominative: *oni* masculine animate, *ony* masculine inanimate + feminine, *ona* neuter.

Reflexive pronoun ‘oneself’

	“long”	“short”
N	—	—
A	<i>sebe</i>	<i>se</i>
G	<i>sebe</i>	<i>sebe</i>
D	<i>sobě</i>	<i>si</i>
L	<i>sobě</i>	<i>sobě</i>
I	<i>sebou</i>	<i>sebou</i>

Since the reflexive pronoun typically refers to a nominative subject, it does not have a nominative (or vocative) form.

Interrogative pronouns: *kdo* ‘who’ and *co* ‘what’

N	<i>kdo</i>	<i>co</i>
A	<i>koho</i>	<i>co, -č</i>
G	<i>koho</i>	<i>čeho</i>
D	<i>komu</i>	<i>čemu</i>
L	<i>kom</i>	<i>čem</i>
I	<i>kým</i>	<i>čím</i>

Like *-ň*, *-č* appears only after prepositions ending in a vowel: *Není zač* ‘Don’t mention it (lit: There is not for what)’. Syntactically *kdo* is always masculine animate singular and *co* is neuter singular.

Possessive pronouns

Můj ‘my’, *tvůj* ‘your’ and *svůj* ‘one’s own’ share one declension type, and *náš* ‘our’ and *váš* ‘your’ share another declension type. *Jeho* ‘his/its’ and *jejich* ‘their’ are indeclinable. *Její* ‘her’ and *čí* ‘whose’ decline like soft stem adjectives.

můj ‘my’ (*tvůj* ‘your’ and *svůj* ‘one’s own’ have the same endings)

	singular			plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>můj</i>	<i>má, moje</i>	<i>mé, moje</i>	<i>mé, moje/</i>	<i>mé, moje</i>	<i>má, moje</i>
				<i>mí, moi</i>		
A	<i>můj/</i>	<i>mou, moji</i>	<i>mé, moje</i>	<i>mé, moje</i>	<i>mé, moje</i>	<i>má, moje</i>
	<i>mého</i>					
G	<i>mého</i>	<i>mé</i>	<i>mého</i>		<i>mých</i>	
D	<i>mémú</i>	<i>mé</i>	<i>mémú</i>		<i>mým</i>	
L	<i>mém</i>	<i>mé</i>	<i>mém</i>		<i>mých</i>	
I	<i>mým</i>	<i>mou</i>	<i>mým</i>		<i>mými</i>	

In the nominative and accusative cases for feminine and neuter in the singular and all genders in the plural, there are variant contracted (consisting of a single long vowel) and uncontracted (consisting of *oj* + short vowel) forms; these forms are in free variation, although the contracted forms are more frequent in writing and uncontracted ones are encountered more often in speech.

náš ‘our’ (*váš* ‘your’ has the same declension)

		singular		plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>náš</i>	<i>naše</i>	<i>naše</i>	<i>naše/naší</i>	<i>naše</i>	<i>naše</i>
A	<i>náš/naše</i> ho	<i>naši</i>	<i>naše</i>		<i>naše</i>	
G	<i>naše</i>ho	<i>naši</i>	<i>naše</i>ho		<i>našich</i>	
D	<i>naše</i>mu	<i>naši</i>	<i>naše</i>mu		<i>našim</i>	
L	<i>naše</i>m	<i>naši</i>	<i>naše</i>m		<i>našich</i>	
I	<i>naše</i>im	<i>naši</i>	<i>naše</i>im		<i>našimi</i>	

Demonstrative pronoun
ten ‘this, that, the’

		singular		plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>ten</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>ty/tí</i>	<i>ty</i>	<i>ta</i>
A	<i>ten/toho</i>	<i>tu</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>ty</i>	<i>ty</i>	<i>ta</i>
G	<i>toho</i>	<i>té</i>	<i>toho</i>		<i>těch</i>	
D	<i>tomu</i>	<i>té</i>	<i>tomu</i>		<i>těm</i>	
L	<i>tom</i>	<i>té</i>	<i>tom</i>		<i>těch</i>	
I	<i>tím</i>	<i>tou</i>	<i>tím</i>		<i>těmi</i>	

Ten participates in various compounds with affixed *-to* ‘here’, *tam-* ‘there’, *-hle* ‘look’ (emphatic), in which *ten* is declined as expected, among them: *tento* ‘this (...here)’, *tamten* ‘that (...there)’, *tenhle* ‘this/that’ , *tamhle* ‘that (there emphatic)’. *Ten* can also be reduplicated (in which case it is declined in both positions), as in *tenhle* ‘this/that (emphatic)’.

Relative and other pronouns

Jenž ‘which, that, who’ is a bookish relative pronoun which, except for the nominative forms, is declined like the third person ‘he, she, it, they’ personal pronouns with a final *-ž* appearing after the endings. The adjective *který* ‘which, that, who’ is usually used in place of *jenž*:

jenž ‘which, that, who’

		singular		plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>jenž</i>	<i>jež</i>	<i>jež</i>	<i>jež/jíž</i>	<i>jež</i>	<i>jež</i>
A	<i>jenž/jehož</i>	<i>jíž</i>	<i>jež</i>	<i>jež</i>	<i>jež</i>	<i>jež</i>
G	<i>jehož</i>	<i>jíž</i>	<i>jehož</i>		<i>jichž</i>	
D	<i>jemuž</i>	<i>jíž</i>	<i>jemuž</i>		<i>jimž</i>	
L	<i>němž</i>	<i>níž</i>	<i>němž</i>		<i>nichž</i>	
I	<i>jímž</i>	<i>jíž</i>	<i>jímž</i>		<i>jimiž</i>	

Sám ‘oneself’ is declined as a hard stem adjective (with a stem of *sam-*) in the genitive, dative, locative, and instrumental cases and has the following endings in the nominative and accusative:

		singular			plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter	
N	sám	sama	samo	samy/sami	samy	sama	
A	sám/sama, -ého	samu	samo	samy	samy	sama	

Všechnen ‘all’ has a larger and unique paradigm (note the *e* > *i* vowel shift in the Nplmasc animate):

		singular			plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter	
N	všechen	všechna	všechno/vše	všechny/	všechny	všechna	všichni
A	všechen	všechnu	všechno/vše	všechny	všechny	všechna	
G	všeho	vší	všeho		vše		
D	všemu	vší	všemu		vsem		
L	všem	vší	všem		vsech		
I	vším	vší	vším		všemi		

The following forms in the paradigm have alternates (used more frequently in speech) in *-cek*, *-ck-*: *všechen* > *všecek*, *všechna* > *všecka*, *všechno* > *všecko*, *všechnu* > *všecku*, *všechny* > *všecky*, *všichni* > *všicci*.

Colloquial Czech endings for pronouns

The paradigm of the first person singular pronoun *já* ‘I’ is considerably simpler in CCz, since all forms, except the nominative *já* and instrumental *mou*, can be realized as AGDL *mně*, with no distinction between ‘short’ enclitic and ‘long’ stressed forms (though the dative enclitic form *mi*, standard for LCz, also appears frequently in CCz). The CCz replacement of Ipl *-mi* by *-ma* is carried out for all plural personal pronouns, yielding CCz Ipl forms *náma* ‘us’, *váma* ‘you’ and *jíma* ‘them’. The nominative forms of third person pronouns start with *v-* and the plural (as in the adjectival paradigm) shows no gender distinctions: *von* ‘he’, *vono* ‘it’, *vona* ‘she’, *voni* ‘they’. Although they are different in the nominative case, the third singular masculine and neuter pronouns *von* ‘he’ and *vono* ‘it’ share a collapsed and simplified CCz paradigm of AG *jeho/ho*, D *jemu/mu*, L *něm*, I *jím* (where this last form can also be shortened to *jim*). After a preposition, CCz uses only AG *něj* (never *něho*), and uses only the accusative enclitic pronoun *ho* (never *jej*), although all variants coexist in LCz. CCz frequently lengthens the the feminine accusative 3sg pronoun to CCz *jí* (cf. LCz *ji*), yielding a single form (alternating with *ní*) for the entire paradigm (except the nominative *vona* ‘she’).

Possessive pronouns and the demonstrative *ten* ‘this’ display the same CCz correspondences characteristic of adjectival paradigms, with *é* > *ý*, *ý* > *ej* (except in the Isg), loss of gender distinctions in the plural, and replacement of Ipl *-mi* with *-ma*. For the pronouns *můj* ‘my’, *tvůj* ‘your’, and *svůj* ‘one’s own’ there is a strong CCz preference for uncontracted over contracted forms; thus CCz uses *moje* for Nsg neut/fem, Asg neut, Npl, Asg masc, and Apl, and *mojí* for Isg fem. The sole CCz NApL form for ‘these’ is *ty*; note also the CCz GDLsg fem *tý* and Ipl *těma*.

Numerals

Cardinal numerals

All cardinal numerals are inflected for case. ‘One’ and ‘two’ also mark gender, and ‘one’ has endings for both the singular and the plural (with a meaning ‘one pair or set of’).

jeden ‘one’

		singular		plural			
		masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
N	<i>jeden</i>		<i>jedna</i>	<i>jedno</i>	<i>jedny/jedni</i>	<i>jedny</i>	<i>jedna</i>
A	<i>jeden/jednoho</i>		<i>jednu</i>	<i>jedno</i>	<i>jedny</i>	<i>jedny</i>	<i>jedna</i>
G	<i>jednoho</i>		<i>jedné</i>	<i>jednoho</i>		<i>jedněch</i>	
D	<i>jednomu</i>		<i>jedné</i>	<i>jednomu</i>		<i>jedněm</i>	
L	<i>jednom</i>		<i>jedné</i>	<i>jednom</i>		<i>jedněch</i>	
I	<i>jedním</i>		<i>jednou</i>	<i>jedním</i>		<i>jedněmi</i>	

dva ‘two’

	masculine	feminine + neuter
NA	<i>dva</i>	<i>dvě</i>
GL	<i>dvou</i>	
DI	<i>dvěma</i>	

Oba ‘both’ shares this paradigm.

tři ‘three’ and *čtyři* ‘four’

NA	<i>tři</i>	<i>čtyři</i>
G	<i>tří</i>	<i>čtyř</i>
D	<i>třem</i>	<i>čtyřem</i>
L	<i>třech</i>	<i>čtyřech</i>
I	<i>třemi</i>	<i>čtyřmi</i>

Two-digit numerals above the teens can be expressed either by listing the tens (twenties, etc.) plus ones (twos, etc.) or by use of an inverted compound consisting of ‘one’ through ‘nine’ + *-a-* + ‘twenty’ through ‘ninety’; thus ‘twenty-three’ can be realized as *dvacet tři* or *třiadvacet*. The numerals ‘five’ - ‘nineteen’; the eight multiples of ‘ten’, ‘twenty’ - ‘ninety’ and all inverted (one-word) numerals have no ending in the nominative and accusative and *-i* for all other cases (GDLI). Non-inverted (two-word) numerals ending in *-1*, *-2*, *-3*, and *-4* have the same endings as those numerals would have individually. Here are some examples:

	NA	GDLI
5	<i>pět</i>	<i>pěti</i>
8	<i>osm</i>	<i>osmi</i>
9	<i>devět</i>	<i>devítí</i>
10	<i>deset</i>	<i>deseti/desítí</i>
11	<i>jedenáct</i>	<i>jedenácti</i>
18	<i>osmnáct</i>	<i>osmnácti</i>

20	<i>dvacet</i>	<i>dvaceti</i>
80	<i>osmdesát</i>	<i>osmdesáti</i>
25 (inverted)	<i>pětadvacet</i>	<i>pětadvaceti</i>
25	<i>dvacet pět</i>	<i>dvaceti pěti</i>
86 (inverted)	<i>šestaosmdesát</i>	<i>šestaosmdesáti</i>
86	<i>osmdesát šest</i>	<i>osmdesáti šesti</i>
21 (inverted)	<i>jednadvacet</i>	<i>jednadvaceti</i>
21	<i>dvacet jedna</i>	<i>dvaceti jedn-(endings as above)</i>
32 (inverted)	<i>dvaatřicet</i>	<i>dvaatřiceti</i>
32	<i>třicet dva</i>	<i>třiceti dv- (endings as above)</i>

The following four numerals have other declensions:

sto ‘hundred’ is a hard stem neuter noun; note *dvě stě* ‘two hundred’;

tisíc ‘thousand’ is a soft stem masculine noun with alternate Gpl forms *tisíc* and *tisíců*;

milión ‘million’ is a hard stem masculine noun;

milarda ‘billion’ is a hard stem feminine noun.

Ordinal numerals

All ordinal numerals are declined like adjectives; three are of the soft stem type: *první* ‘first’, *třetí* ‘third’, and *tisící* ‘thousandth’. Aside from the suppletive *první* ‘first’ and *druhý* ‘second’, all cardinals are formed by adding -ý, but cardinals in -e/ět have ordinals in -átý. With compound numerals all items are ordinal: *stý sedmdesátý pátý* ‘one hundred seventy fifth’, however this usage is quite bookish and it is more normal to use cardinal forms for numerals above ninety, followed by ordinal forms for the final two digits: *sto sedmdesátý pátý*. As with cardinal numerals, two-digit numerals between 21 and 99 (excluding the even tens, which consist of only one word) have two possibilities: both *dvacátý třetí* and *třiadvacátý* express ‘twenty-third’.

Indefinite numerals

Kolik ‘how many’, *několik* ‘several’, *tolik* ‘so many’, and *mnoho* ‘much, many’ all follow the same paradigm, with GDLI -a. Other indefinite numerals, such as *málo* ‘little, few’, *trochu* ‘some’, *hodně* ‘a lot’, are adverbial and uninflected.

Colloquial Czech endings for numerals

Jeden ‘one’ is declined in CCz like *ten*, indicated above, however in counting and in compound numerals, it most frequently appears as CCz *jedna*: CCz *jednadvacet let*, *dvacet jedna let* vs. LCz *jad(e)nadvacet let*, *dvacet jeden rok*. CCz has a tendency to spread the *ou* diphthong throughout the paradigm of *dva/dvě* ‘two’, yielding GL *dvouch*, D *dvoum*, and I *dvouma* as alternates to LCz forms GL *dvou* and DI *dvěma*. The replacement of Ipl -mi by -ma motivates CCz *třema* ‘three’ and *štyřma* ‘four’, and there is a tendency to merge the genitive and locative forms of these two numerals, yielding GL *třech*, *štyřech*. Ordinal numerals exhibit the same variations in CCz that are characteristic of adjectives.

FURTHER READINGS

This is a list of particularly useful reference and theoretical materials that have inspired the *Case Book for Czech*, which interested students might wish to consult, but not a comprehensive bibliography on the topics of case meaning and morphology.

On case meanings:

Brecht, Richard D. and James S. Levine, eds. 1986. *Case in Slavic*. Columbus: Slavica. [This is a compendium of articles on case in Slavic languages by leading scholars. In addition to the articles, there is a very useful introduction on Case and Meaning by the editors and a thorough, if now somewhat outdated bibliography.]

Jakobson, Roman. 1984. “Contribution to the General Theory of Case: General Meanings of the Russian Cases”, in *Roman Jakobson. Russian and Slavic Grammar. Studies 1931-1981*, ed. by Waugh, Linda R. and Morris Halle. Berlin/New York/Amsterdam: Mouton, pp. 59-103. [This is a translation from the German of the original article which was published in 1936 by the Prague Linguistic Circle and then again in 1971 in volume 2 of Jakobson’s Selected Writings. This visionary article remains a landmark in the field of Russian case semantics, much of which is relevant for Czech case semantics as well.]

Wierzbicka, Anna. 1980. *The Case for Surface Case*. Ann Arbor: Karoma. [This book is devoted to the Russian instrumental as an illustration of Wierzbicka’s reasons for objecting to certain aspects of Fillmore’s theoretical writings — see Fillmore’s “The Case for Case” cited below.]

On meaning and metaphor in grammar:

Dahl, Osten. 1985. *Case Grammar and Prototypes*. Duisburg: L.A.U.D. [A brief and insightful work, much ahead of its time.]

Fillmore, Charles J. 1968. “The Case for Case”, in: Emmon Bach and Robert T. Harms (eds.), *Universals in Linguistic Theory*. New York: Reinhart & Winston, pp. 1-88. [This work is widely regarded as a pathbreaking article on case semantics. Fillmore revisited this topic in 1977, in “The Case for Case Reopened”, in: Peter Cole and Jerrold M. Saddock (eds.), *Grammatical Relations. Syntax & Semantics 8*. New York: Academic Press, pp. 59-81 and also in 1982 in “Frame Semantics”, in: *Linguistic Society of Korea* (eds.), *Linguistics in the Morning Calm. Seol: Hanshin*, pp. 111-138.]

Johnson, Mark. 1987. *The Body in the Mind*. Chicago/London: U of Chicago Press. [This book deals with the way in which perceptual experience serves as source material for deriving abstract relationships in human cognition. Chapters 2, 4, and 5 are particularly relevant to the relationships encoded in case.]

Lakoff, George. 1987. *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things*. Chicago/London: U of Chicago Press. [This book explores the relevance of metaphor, metonymy, and semantic category structure to grammar. It rambles quite a lot, but establishes the principles according to which the Case Book for Russian seeks to explain the cases as coherent semantic wholes.]

Langacker, Ronald. W. 1987. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar: Theoretical Prerequisites*, Vol. 1, and 1991. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar: Descriptive Application*, Vol. 2. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [This work fleshes out the ideas suggested by Lakoff in serious detail, but is rather difficult to wade through.]

Talmy, Leonard. 2000. *Toward a Cognitive Semantics*. (2 vols.) Cambridge, MA and London: The MIT Press.