

MUNI
CJVI

verb *to be* (být)

how to work with this verb

1 | the infinitive

what you can find in dictionaries

- the basic dictionary form of a verb when used non-finitely

bydlet
byt
být
bývalý

live
apartment
be
ex

Czech-English Dictionary

být [bi:t] *impf*
be
phr
být po kom take after *sb*
Co je vám/s vámi? What's the matter with you?
Co je? What's the matter?, What's going on?, (inform.) What's up?
Co ti je? What's ailing you?, What's wrong with you?
Je horko. It's hot. (weather)
Je mi zima. I am cold.
Je mu 25 let. He is 25 (years old).
Je několik možností. There are several possibilities.
Je tady někde pošta? Is there a post office around here?
Kde je to? Where is it?
Kdo jste? Who are you?

2 | finite verbs

different (= conjugated) forms

- finite verb = a form of a verb that has a subject (expressed or implied)

jsem = I am
jsi = you are
je = he/she/it is

jsme = we are
jste = you are
jsou = they are

3 | negative forms

simply put NE to the beginning, with ONE (!) exception*

nejsem = I am **not**

nejsi = you are **not**

není * = he/she/it is **not**

nejsme = we are **not**

nejste = you are **not**

nejsou = they are **not**

* really, **the only** exception for negative form in the whole czech language

3 | pronouns & verbs

needed in English, not that important in czech

já = I

ty = you (singular, informal)

on / ona / to = he/she/it is

my = we

vy = you (plural, or formal)

oni = they

when (not) to use pronouns

simply: do not use them

- using a pronouns = strong(er) emphasis on the subject
- each form is different in its ending, no need to use pronouns

jsem = I am
jsi = you are
je = he/she/it is

jsme = we are
jste = you are
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- with pronouns

já jsem = **me**, I am (and not David, e. g.)

Basic phrases with *být*

something you may already know

- Jsem [name]. *I am [name].*
- Jsem student. *I am a student.*
- Odkud jste? *Where are you from?*
- Jsem z ... *I am from.*
- Co je to? *What is it?*
- To je dobře. *It/that is good.*