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# verbs in czech language

how to conjugate the verbs in present tense

# regular × somehow regular × irregular verbs

good for you, almost all the verbs are regular, except for few

- **irregular verbs:** býť (to be), chtít (to want) → whole set of forms must be learnt
- **somehow regular verbs:** mít (to have) and some other verbs → the infinitive & first person form must be learnt
- **regular verbs** (99 % of all the verbs you will ever need):

# regular verbs: step 1

start with the infinitive

The infinitive always ends with -T

- studovat**t**, telefonovat**t** (*to call*), pracovat**t** (*to work*), dělat**t** (*to work*),  
rozumě**t** (*to understand*), vaří**t** (*to cook*)

# regular verbs: step 2

observe how it looks before T

– stud**ovat**, telefon**ovat**, prac**ovat**, děl**at**, rozum**ět**, vař**it**

# regular verbs: step 3

3 possible groups

1. **-at**: dě**lat**

2. **-ět / it** : rozum**ět**, vař**it**

3. **-ovat**: stud**ovat**, telefon**ovat**, prac**ovat**

# verb in the infinitive and present tense

## form analysis

- |                       |               | the stem |     | type | ending   |   |          |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------|-----|------|----------|---|----------|
| – infinitive:         | děl <b>at</b> | =        | děl | +    | <b>a</b> | + | <b>t</b> |
| – present tense form: | děl <b>ám</b> | =        | děl | +    | <b>á</b> | + | <b>m</b> |

the stem

- the stem: it never changes (for regular verbs)
- type: this element tells you about what type of the verb it is
- ending: this identifies either: a) the infinitive (= T), or b) the subject (according to the personal ending)

# making present tense: step 1

remove the ending

1. **-at**: děl-
2. **-ět / it** : rozum-, vař-
3. **-ovat**: stud-

# making present tense: step 2

apply personal endings, textbook, p. 13



## Konjugace verb v přítomném čase (skloňování sloves v přítomném čase) • Verb conjugation in the present tense

In the texts on pages 9, 11 and 12 you can see: Rozumíte? Nerozumím. Co děláte? Co děláš? Pracuju tady ve škole. Most verbs in the present tense are regular and belong to one of four types of conjugation. This lesson will introduce you to the first three types of conjugation, the verbs known as -á, -í and -uj verbs:

personal pronouns	-á verbs	-í verbs	-uj verbs
	The infinitive ends in -at (except for -ovat)+ the verb mít to have	The infinitive ends in -et, -ět, -it + the verb jíst to eat, spát to sleep, stát to stand	The infinitive ends in -ovat
	dělat to do	rozumět to understand	pracovat to work
já	dělám	rozumím	pracuju (pracuji)
ty	děláš	rozumíš	pracuješ
on, ona, to	dělá	rozumí	pracuje
my	děláme	rozumíme	pracujeme
vy	děláte	rozumíte	pracujete
oni	dělají	rozumí (rozumějí)	pracují (pracují)

The forms in parentheses are only used in formal and written Czech. For an overview of all types of verb conjugations, see p. 210.  
Note: In Czech personal pronouns are not usually used with verbs because the verb's ending shows the person the verb refers to.



# making present tense: step 2

Adding something to the stem

1. **-at**: děl + **á** + [personal ending]
2. **-ět / it** : rozum- vař- + **í** + [personal ending]
3. **-ovat**: stud- + **uj** + [personal ending]

# making present tense: step 3/M

Applying personal endings

M in first person singular			
infinitiv	stem	type	infinitive ending
<b>Conjugated forms</b>			personal endings
<i>já = I, me</i>	stem	<b>á/í</b>	<b>m</b>
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	stem	<b>á/í</b>	<b>š</b>
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	stem	<b>á/í</b>	
<i>my = we</i>	stem	<b>á/í</b>	<b>me</b>
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	stem	<b>á/í</b>	<b>te</b>
<i>oni = they</i>	stem	<b>a/í</b>	<b>jí/-</b>

# making present tense: step 3/U

Applying personal endings

U in first person singular			
infinitiv	stem	ova	infinitive ending
<b>Conjugated forms</b>			personal endings
<i>já = I, me</i>	stem	uj	u
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	stem	uj	eš
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	stem	uj	e
<i>my = we</i>	stem	uj	eme
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	stem	uj	ete
<i>oni = they</i>	stem	uj	ou

# summary

1. find the infinitive
2. recognize the verb type
3. apply the personal endings

This works with any regular verb.

# examples: observe

playing with verbs

- how the stems are different for different verbs
- how the stems remain the same through the whole conjugation
- how the personal endings for each person are the same for different verbs
- how the personal endings are different for each person

# examples: Á verbs (M in the first person)

M in first person singular				
AT verbs (regular)			Examples	
infinitiv	děl a t			
<b>Conjugated forms</b>	= endings			
<i>já = I, me</i>	děl <b>á m</b>	dělat	<i>to do</i>	
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	děl <b>á ť</b>	poslouchat	<i>to listen</i>	
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	děl <b>á</b>	používat	<i>to use</i>	
<i>my = we</i>	děl <b>á me</b>	počítat	<i>to count</i>	
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	děl <b>á te</b>			
<i>oni = they</i>	děl <b>a jí</b>			

# examples: Í verbs (M in the first person) 1

M in first person singular				
ET/IT verbs (non-AT-verbs) (regular)			Examples	
infinitiv	rozum	ě t		
<b>Conjugated forms</b>	=	endings		
<i>já = I, me</i>	rozum	í m	rozumě t	<i>to understand</i>
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	rozum	í š	vidě t	<i>to see</i>
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	rozum	í	myslet	<i>to think</i>
<i>my = we</i>	rozum	í me		
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	rozum	í te		
<i>oni = they</i>	rozum	í		

# examples: Í verbs (M in the first person) 2

M in first person singular				
ET/IT verbs (non-AT-verbs) (regular)			Examples	
infinitiv	vař <b>í</b> t			
<b>Conjugated forms</b>	=	endings		
<i>já = me</i>	vař <b>í m</b>		vařit	<i>to cook</i>
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	vař <b>í š</b>		kouřit	<i>to smoke</i>
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	vař <b>í</b>			
<i>my = we</i>	vař <b>í me</b>			
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	vař <b>í te</b>			
<i>oni = they</i>	vař <b>í</b>			



# examples: Í verbs (M in the first person) 2

M in first person singular			
partially irregular verbs		Examples	
infinitiv	jíst		
<b>Conjugated forms</b>	≠ endings		
<i>já = I, me</i>	j <b>í</b> m	jíst, jí <b>m</b>	<i>to eat</i>
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	j <b>í</b> š	spát, spí <b>m</b>	<i>to sleep</i>
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	j <b>í</b>	stát, stoj <b>m</b>	<i>to stand, to cost</i>
<i>my = we</i>	j <b>í</b> me		
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	j <b>í</b> te		
<i>oni = they</i>	j <b>í</b>		

# examples: OVAT verbs (U in the first person)

U in first person singular					
OVAT verbs (regular)			Examples		
infinitiv	studovat				
<b>Conjugated forms</b>	=	endings			
<i>já = I, me</i>	stud <u>uj</u> u		studovat	<i>to study</i>	
<i>ty = you (sing.)</i>	stud <u>uj</u> eš		pracovat	<i>to work</i>	
<i>on/ona/to = he/she/it</i>	stud <u>uj</u> e		sportovat	<i>to play sports</i>	
<i>my = we</i>	stud <u>uj</u> eme		telefonovat	<i>to call</i>	
<i>vy = you (pl./formal)</i>	stud <u>uj</u> ete		analyzovat	<i>to analyse</i>	
<i>oni = they</i>	stud <u>uj</u> ou				

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# 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; or use them 😊

- using a pronouns = strong(er) emphasis on the subject
- without pronouns: normal speaking

**jsem** student = I am a student

- with pronouns

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

# Děkuju za pozornost.

Thank you for your attention.

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