

Questionnaire to Dr. Rozsypal

Do you have English classes in Czech? If you have, from when did it start?

Yes, we have. When I was young it started on high school. Now it starts at elementary school but even some kindergartens teach English.

Do Czech people know the way to keep old buildings and cities in good condition?

I don't think we have any special know-how regarding this. As anywhere else the buildings must be maintained properly. Many old buildings are protected by law so any reconstruction must not change how the building looks like.

Have you ever seen a mummy in Brno?

Yes, several times.

The Capuchins is an order of monks who used to bury their members in the crypt under the church. Thanks to the ventilation system, the bodies desiccated and became mummies.

The Brno Ossuary is located under another church and was discovered relatively recently. There are bones of about 50 000 people which makes it second largest ossuary in Europe (after catacombs in Paris).

How is the taste of 'knedlik'?

It is difficult to tell. It might be like unsweetened cake not baked but boiled in water.

Have you ever experienced cultural shock in Japan?

Not a cultural but climatic. I spent almost three months in Japan in 2011. I arrived in late May and was "shocked" by the high air humidity which we don't have in Europe.

Is Japanese cuisine popular in Czech?

I am sure it would be if there were more Japanese restaurants. There are some restaurants in large cities which make Japanese dishes but most of them make only sushi (it is not bad but in Japan is much better).

I'd like to learn a few words of Czech language.

Czech is a Slavic language. It is closely related to Slovak (80% similarity) and less closely

to other Slavic languages like Polish (50%), Serbian (40%), Bulgarian (30%) or even Russian (20%)...

Czech alphabet uses some special characters: á, č, š, ř, ž, ě, ú, ů... It also uses grammatical genders (both living and nonliving objects are referred to as “he”, “she” or “it”) and has quite complicated grammar.

A few words:

Dobry den. “Good day” (can be used any time a day)

Na shledanou. See you. (exactly: meet you next time)

Ahoj. Hi/Bye. Informal (family, friends). Can be used both as “Hi” and “Bye”.

Děkuji. Thank you.

Ano (informal “Jo”). Yes.

Ne. No.

Voda. Water.

Pivo. Beer.

0 – **nula**

1 – **jeden** (he), **jedna** (she), **jedno** (it)

2 – **dva** (he), **dvě** (she, it)

3 – **tři** (he, she, it)

4 – **čtyři**

5 – **pět**

6 – **šest**

7 – **sedm** or **sedum**

8 – **osm** or **osum**

9 – **devět**

10 – **deset**

(I am sorry I am not sure how to explain the pronunciation.)

Robot is a Czech word!

It was first used by Czech writer Karel Čapek in 1920s. It originated from old expression for work “robota” (modern expression is “práce”). Robot means worker.

Counting beers (pivo is “it”):

Jedno pivo (one beer)

Dvě/tři/čtyři piva. (two/three/four beers)

Pět/šest/sedm... piv (five beers)

My advice: Don't lose your time learning Czech.

Where do you recommend to visit in Czech for tourists?

You can of course visit any of the places I mention in my presentation but **Praha** and **Český Krumlov** are the most popular (and most beautiful). To see Praha it may take from one day to one week depending on how much you want to see. Český Krumlov takes only one day or maybe two when you go there from Praha.

I recommend you to visit Czech Republic anytime from May (maybe April) to September. Winter is cold, ugly and dark. Days in summer are longer than in Japan (21 June: light from 4:30 to 21:30) but are shorter in winter (21 December: light from 7:30 to 16:00).

May and September are usually relatively warm with temperature about 20°C (but it can be less than 10°C during night). July is the warmest (30°C – 40°C during day, 18°C – 25°C during night).

I've heard the consumption of beer in Czech is the largest all over the world. Do Czech people have preference for beer? Are there many tasty beer in Czech? And do you like beer? It is truth. Czech people like beer, however the statistics are made by a small portion of population who drink a lot. Also tourists, especially from Germany or Scandinavian countries contribute to beer consumption.

There are many brands of beer in Czech Republic. It is difficult to tell which one is the best. I like most "Pilsner Urquell". This beer is the original pilsner type beer so it could be called the father (or mother?) of all beers. It is made in a city called Plzeň. The Germans call this city Pilsen. Pilsner thus means "from/of Pilsen". You can buy this beer in Japan.

How often do you feel it is nice of you to be a Czech?

I think such feelings are very rare. I believe that being Czech is as good as being of any other nation.