

0. Identification code – your birthday (DD/MM) 18/8

1. What is your mother tongue?

2. What other languages have you learned and what level have you achieved?

Spanish ; intermediate

3. What is your opinion on learning foreign languages in general?

Very important. They should prioritize it more in American education.

4. What experience with Czech language did you have before you arrived here?

none

5. How would you describe your attitude to learning Czech?

nervous, excited, curious

6. What are your learning goals?

be able to ask basic questions.
Learn basic introductions, sayings

14/2/2019

This project is really cool. I hope I can keep this journal or at least a copy by the end. This week involved a lot of hours. I think I would learn the language better if the class was later in the day. I also think we should learn new topics at the beginning of each class, and review ~~from~~ ~~last~~ the material from the day before at the end of each class. Today we learned more about supermarket foods and went to a supermarket. I liked getting out of the classroom but I don't think it taught me anything. It did not help me memorize numbers (prices) or food names. Petra seems to know what she's doing, and she has a plan. Interesting activities keep the class going.

18/2/2019

Extremely tired. Cannot study language or anything this early in the morning. Why does every language require conjugations? I hate conjugations. Clearly getting frustrated with language learning and it's only the first week of school. Language hurts my brain. At least class went by fast today.

2/20/19

Týden 1

Today we learned verbs. I'm finding the conjugations very difficult and I keep getting confused with Spanish conjugations in my head. Czech is hard, but today we were reading a dialogue exercise and I felt like I could understand the frame and idea / or topic of it for the most part. That's the thing about language. It seems to just click at some point, even though you are still very confused, does that make sense?

2/25/19

Class still early. I'm motivated because this class is not high stakes. I don't feel a ton of pressure to learn a lot in a short amount of time, so learning a language in a relaxed setting is pleasant. It's definitely getting easier. My only de-motivator is that class is way too early. Pictionary, drawing & acting around helps me remember vocab words better.

3/4/18

Class is getting easier to absorb the language

3/10/18

Czech class is making me want to relearn Spanish. I feel like my Spanish is coming back to me, even though I'm learning a completely different language. It's interesting how my brain connects the two. The female, male, neutral and extra endings are getting confusing.

3/13/19

3/18/19

Verbs are getting more complicated. The conjugations do not make sense to me. I keep getting confused with Spanish. It's weird because Spanish conjugations make more sense to me, but only because that is the first language I learned that required it. If I learned Czech first I might think differently. I am more motivated to go to class. I feel like my brain is working in a way it does not normally, as if I am training a new muscle.

3/20/19

Today we did a family tree. It was my favorite activity we have done so far. ~~And~~ Everyone else had trouble with it and I do not know why. It was about logically looking at who said what about their relations. Family terms have been the easiest so far. I can't tell if it's because my Czech is getting better, and language learning is getting easier, or if the subject matter is just easier.

3/26/18

Walking around walks up my brain. I can remember things without even realizing that that's what I am doing. It's a mixture of memorization but also word and concept association. It's interesting that when Petra asks questions, it's to help us remember. Color coding works too. But I still find verb endings confusing with Spanish ones. For the online quiz, even when the answer is obvious, it helps to remember ~~what~~ the meanings

of correct words

4/1/19

Týden 2

We learned time, days of week and parts of the day today. It was interesting that she had us guess the days of the week and that we could guess them for the most part based on the numbers or other languages (Saturday sounds like it does in Spanish). The walking around the room exercise made me realize that I am absorbing more of the language than I thought. I am learning some things without even being aware of it!

4/3/19

Today we did a listening activity and listened to it multiple times both before and after we completed it.

It's interesting to see how many words and sentences you can understand with repetition.

My memory is getting better. I find it easier to understand ~~words that I hear~~ and remember new words.

4/15/19

I forgot to write the past two classes. Today we played Kahoot ~~and for some reason I did not~~ and I didn't consciously know the answers, but I guessed and got most of them right.

My brain knows more than I'm aware of. We also did another reading/translation exercise in order to see how much we know, and it's interesting to see how much you know ~~and~~, how much you remember, and what words you can guess. Is my memory improving or am I not getting more comfortable or intimate with the Czech language?

4/17/19 Today we continued learning past tense.

I hate ~~regular~~ ^{irregular} verbs. The "to be" and "I am" verbs are usually difficult for us to remember because in English we use these verbs without thinking about them. These verbs don't sound or feel like real verbs, so it's difficult to have to think about and realize that "to be" is a verb, in another language. We had a quiz today and spelling words is difficult. Pictures help me remember the words. Also, writing and re-writing the words help me remember.

4/29/19 I have forgotten a lot post-spring Break. I think it will slowly come back to me. You really have to keep it up in order to retain the language. We visited a school today, and 13 year olds have such good English! I can't tell if it's demoralizing, or ~~inspiring~~ incentivizing in terms of my personal motivation and skills to learn Czech.

5/6/19

W

Today we practiced a dialogue with different word tenses. I found it confusing. Everything together makes it difficult to remember the different topics we learned. I wrote Petra a nice review. She makes the class fun and easy. I have learned a lot, her positive attitude is very encouraging.

5/8/19

Last day of class. We did an exercise where each group of students gives a lesson. Teaching a concept makes it easier to understand, so I found this activity very helpful. It was also helpful to look at sample sentences and find the grammatical errors. This activity was particularly helpful because it took place right after we had learned all the rules. Definitely a good activity!