

# Czech Language Learning Journal

Faculty of Humanities, Jinonice

Fall 2019



This journal is a part of data collection on the motivation and attitudes of students learning Czech during their study abroad. I am trying to discover what influences the students, what they think and how their motivation develops and changes. You can write in Czech or English regularly about your learning experience. Please write your comments and feelings in as much detail as possible, honestly and openly as if you were keeping your own personal, confidential diary. You will not be evaluated on the content of your journal and everything you write is confidential.

Here are some questions to ponder while writing your journal:

1. What are you learning, how are you learning, what do you think about it?
2. Describe experiences during the learning process both in class and outside.
3. How do you feel about learning Czech at each point of the semester? What makes you feel like that?
4. What do you enjoy about the learning process, the language and the use of it?
5. How would you describe your motivation? What motivates you to learn more?
6. Are there any factors that demotivate you? If so, what are they?
7. What aspects of the class would you like to comment on?

Initially, you will be given time at the end of each class. Later on, you should record the entries at a time and place convenient for you. If you hand in your complete journal at the end of the semester, you can receive as much as 5% extra in the final evaluation.

Research has shown (Brown, 1985) that journaling helps students reflect on their own language learning. As you write about what you think and feel as a language learner, you will understand yourself and your experience better. Secondly, by participating in this project, you contribute to the overall knowledge on the psychology of the language learner.

I speak German, English and a bit French. I want to learn a bit Czech to communicate in a supermarket, restaurant etc. If you live in another country for a short time, you should try to get some language skills. The first week was good to get into the basic things, for example the pronunciation. I liked it to be connected with pictures. 09.10.19

I liked the way we've learned the numbers, standing up, walking around and do it 'different'. The grammar is quite difficult, but at the moment I can deal with it. For the supermarket I use the first words, like doby den, Děkuju and Mě štedarou, people are happy about it. 11.10.19

I tried to use my small czech skills to use some words for my czech landlady, but it was too difficult. 16.10.19  
Otherwise i try to understand the metro-speaker, for some places or maybe numbers. In the supermarket i listen to the women at the cash and try to understand the numbers.

We learned the directions or how we get from one place to another. It is difficult to hear the differences between ě, š and ž, but we'll use it the next time. 18.10.19

Today we learned how to order in a restaurant, hope, i can use it in the next weeks. 30.10.19

Last week i ordered in a restaurant in czech. After the dinner i said to the waitress that we want to pay separately. After a few lessons learning words for food and drink, i feel a bit safer in it. ~~08.11.19~~  
08.11.19

We learned the standard phrases today to use for the supermarket, Café or hospital. The way we tried to remember it was effective, it helps to repeat them several times, Even if it's not possible yet to start a conversation, we can use some phrases. 08.11.19

13.11.19 We trained different phrases today and used different learning methods. It was difficult to describe some Czech words, we were a bit overwhelmed. Most of the phrases are in my mind now.

22.11.19 Last lesson we wrote the midweek-essay. It was not so difficult and good to see ~~we~~ how we get forward. Today we trained the conjugation of different verb-types. The game that we played was good to get into it. The days of the week I've already learned, but the parts of the day were new for me. I hope we'll learn the time next week.

29.11.19

We learned the time last class and did exercises with conjugation today. To practice it with games is a great thing, then the ~~we~~ forms are easier to remember.

03.12.19

We learned the difference between máže and mází and umín today. On the weekend I got a visit from a friend, I helped him with some Czech vocabularies and tried to show him some skills at the restaurant.

We trained the past tense today. It's not as  
difficult to learn as the present tense. For the exam  
next week i have to learn, especially for the oral part.  
The last days my father and brother was here, i ~~had~~  
taught them some cycle skills.

11.12.19

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### Czech Learner Survey

This survey is a part of research on the motivation to study Czech during Erasmus stay at the Charles University. It is anonymous, so be honest please. Read the following statements and write how much you agree or disagree with them. Please, do not leave out any items.

strongly disagree	disagree	not sure	agree	strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

1. I like learning new languages.	1	2	3	4	5
2. My university requires me to take a Czech language course.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I would have signed up for the course if it was optional only.	1	2	3	4	5
4. My university validates the Czech language course credits.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Learning the local language is important when you study abroad.	1	2	3	4	5
6. At the start, I was excited to start learning Czech.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I am learning Czech in order to understand Czech culture better.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I study hard because I am afraid of getting a bad mark.	1	2	3	4	5
9. At the beginning I thought learning Czech was important.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I felt uneasy at the start of the course.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Learning languages is a burden for me.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Learning Czech is important for living in the Czech Republic.	1	2	3	4	5
13. I like the atmosphere of my Czech classes.	1	2	3	4	5
14. I use Czech outside class.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I am good at learning languages.	1	2	3	4	5
16. I enjoy learning Czech.	1	2	3	4	5
17. The course meets the needs of the students.	1	2	3	4	5
18. I like the teaching method used in the Czech course.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I find Czech a hard language.	1	2	3	4	5
20. I often feel overwhelmed in class.	1	2	3	4	5
21. At the start of the course, I was afraid.	1	2	3	4	5
22. My final grade in the Czech course is important to me.	1	2	3	4	5
23. I look forward to my Czech classes.	1	2	3	4	5
24. I would like to be able to communicate with locals in Czech.	1	2	3	4	5
25. Having learnt Czech may be useful for me in the future.	1	2	3	4	5
26. I am glad that I have taken the course.	1	2	3	4	5
27. I like my Czech teacher.	1	2	3	4	5
28. I think that the Czech for beginners course should be mandatory.	1	2	3	4	5
29. Learning Czech enhanced my study abroad experience.	1	2	3	4	5
30. I plan to continue learning Czech after I leave the Czech Republic.	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide the following information:

Gender: male female

Erasmus student: yes no

Nationality: German

Mother tongue German

Age 23

Major: History

Czech is the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> or further foreign language I have taken up (please circle).

Did you have any contact with Czech prior to your arrival? No. Yes. Specify:

Thank you very much, your help is highly appreciated!