

9. Identification code - your birthday (DD/MM) 7/06

1. What is your mother tongue?

English

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

I took Spanish in elementary school and French in middle school and high school.

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

I've always been intimidated by foreign languages. They never came easy to me.

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

I've had no experience with Czech.

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

I'm very nervous about learning Czech. I struggled learning other languages and from what I've heard, Czech may be even more difficult.

6. What are your learning goals?

To learn enough Czech that when I talk to Czech people they appreciate my effort. I want to be respectful to the language and culture. I'd also like to learn enough to ~~be~~ be able to appreciate the language.

6/17/98

Czech Language Learning Journal

Spring 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 think it was a successful week in terms of learning Czech. I went into this week thinking I wasn't a good language learner. I still don't feel like a phenomenal language learner, but I feel much better than before. I think a lot of my struggles in the past relate to the teaching styles. My French teachers really focused on vocabulary and grammar memorization. I enjoyed these classes because ~~we~~ we were more focused on "usefulness" and communication. This helped me feel like I was still learning and getting better even when I wasn't perfectly pronouncing or spelling a word.

It was definitely hard restarting Czech after the weekend, ~~but~~ My plan was ~~to~~ to continue practicing by speaking Czech during the day at restaurants and shops, but I found myself just saying Dobry den, and dekuju but otherwise sticking to English. I'll make more of an effort now though since I think it will help me in class.

Today was a lot of vocabulary. I think this is pretty helpful given the frequency that I use words like gym, school, restaurant etc. I'm interested to see how much I retain over the weekend, especially given that I'll be travelling to a non-Czech speaking country w/out the ability to practice. I'll definitely spend some time reviewing on Sunday before class. I'm pretty excited to travel for the first time!

The directions were less enjoyable for me to learn I think it might have been the long break between last week's class and Monday class. Also it requires more grammar to give out directions, compared to the food when it's pretty easy to just memorize vocab. I'm looking forward to the field trip next class though, since the weather is supposed to be so nice. I'm also looking forward to the next section

Tyden 1

Today I think I experienced the most regression in terms of learning. When we spent time reviewing it took a while to remember a lot of the phrases. It can be frustrating when the memory isn't automatic. Sometimes it's just that my brain is slower in the morning, but I also think it's a difficult ~~thing~~ thing to remember after a long weekend in a Spanish speaking country. A lot of my old lower school Spanish was coming back to me and may have replaced Czech.

Recently we travelled to Dublin for St. Patrick's day. Nice to hear a little English, even not very normal English. I found the accents pretty hilarious. I also find that the Dubliners tended to play up their accents when they knew we were American.

My Czech is coming along alright. I'm pretty happy to be able to communicate beyond what my friends who visit I can at least encourage them to use basic Czech for all the cultural reasons that exist. It seems to help people's attitudes when I try to at least use a bit of Czech. A little is better than none I guess.

I've started to use my Czech a little more at the gym now. Still very basic hellos and goodbyes, nothing too crazy. ~~It's~~ It's a little hard because at this point they all know that I speak English and still seem surprised when I speak even a little Czech. Well see, maybe I should just go back to English.

I've also started making a conscious effort to use Czech in all of my short interactions I'm more comfortable when I can plan out the exact words I'm going to use rather than trying to speak off the cuff. It's really only possible to plan out my interactions when they are short like w/ cashiers.

I've persevered using my English at the gym. ~~The~~ It seems like some of the people are starting to get it that I'm going to use Czech, they still usually reply in English but I try to at least use my Czech in response. Hopefully it'll continue improving as I continue to improve as well.

My parents just visited and that made me realize how far along I've come in Czech. My parents are so so bad at Czech. They still struggle ~~with~~ pronouncing the basic few words. It almost seems worse for them to use Czech with really bad pronunciation than if they just spoke English. It makes me think about how bad I must've been when I first started.

I just visited France and I'm not totally through at all my progress. I took French in high school and I was surprised how quickly it came back to me when I was in an all-French environment. It also seems like the French put far less English translations around and so you're almost forced to speak French.

Returning to Prague made me realize how much English is actually around Prague. All my efforts to practice Czech have led me to ignore a lot of the English around. But now coming back from France I'm realizing that almost everything is translated. I'll need to try to still ignore that.

I think

I think I'm making progress w/ the gym. I'm now saying hi to almost everyone who works there. The best part is that I'm now on the "ciao" level w/ 2 of the trainers rather than Dobriden. That seems like an improvement to me!

I haven't been great about keeping the journal recently. I think it might actually be because I've fallen into a groove both w/ Czech and school in general. I really love Prague and I feel so lucky to be studying here starting to really feel like home.

I've started to have more conversations with my friend at the gym. He goes to Charles University and studies Economics. He also was excited to hear that I play football because he said he has a cousin who plays American football which is very cool. He's working as a trainer until he finishes school.

I also started having more conversations with the waitress at No Stress Cafe. She is Italian and moved to Prague when she was 6. She speaks Italian, Czech, and Spanish fluently which is pretty impressive. She's excited to help me w/ Czech and get a chance to practice her English.

wow I had the funniest conversation with an uber driver yesterday. She was a Czech language teacher who refused to let me speak english. It was very funny because even when I would get stuck and not know what to say, she just kept talking in Czech. I guess its good for me.

I finally got a job for this summer! I apologise since I know it's totally unrelated to Czech, but I'm so pumped. I'm going to be working as a Product Management Intern at the NFL in Los Angeles. I've been so stressed about jobs and it feels awesome to finally know where I'll be working this summer.