

0. Identification code - your birthday (DD/MM) 3/16

1. What is your mother tongue?

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

Spanish, moderate level

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

I think it is extremely important and wish I took it more seriously (as I took more classes than required in school).

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

None

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

extremely excited to learn and very curious about the language. Excited to be able to converse w/ people here! NOT JUST in English.

6. What are your learning goals?

Be able to speak enough Czech to fit in and not seem like a tourist everywhere

I do. To speak & understand the basics for now and hopefully beyond that as well.



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.

~~last~~ last entry (ran out of space)

last ←

Living in Prague 2 has been a very awkward experience (compared to Prague 7). Last weekend I was going to Germany on train, but I got stopped in Pilsen, Czech Republic. The train had problems so I had to get off and NO ONE spoke English out there at this station. It was scary because I was told I had to get off the train but I could not understand why. I was put in a very stressful situation where I had to rely on my Czech abilities to figure it out - and I did

14/2

This was week 4 of Czech and I loved it. I was so excited to start learning so I could fit in to the culture and communicate using their native tongue. We did a ton of fun and helpful activities this week. I thought going to the restaurant as a class was massively helpful, and I already feel a little more comfortable with the language (even though there is a lot more learning to be done).

18/2

I am starting to get more and more comfortable with Czech the more I practice in class and the more I practice outside the classroom. I left the Czech Republic this weekend and was shocked at how inclined I was to greet people in Czech and practice Czech mannerisms. I also felt guilty for not knowing the language of their country which of course is silly, but again made me appreciate learning Czech.

20/2

I am continuing to get more and more comfortable with Czech. This morning I went in to Café Milano, and I said my entire order in Czech: "Dám si cappuccino doppio s mlékem." The entire exchange was done in Czech and this was the first time I was able to order and communicate with no trouble. Again I am very happy to be taking this course and I can clearly see progress being made.

Týden 1

25/2

After traveling again this weekend, it was comforting to come back to Prague. I was in a taxi yesterday and was able to have a full conversation in Czech, including giving the driver my address (and he dropped me off at the right place so I know I said it correctly ☺). I like walking into a restaurant and being greeted in Czech. People no longer just resort to English, they actually uphold the convo in Czech and I can understand it!

4/3

I am still loving Czech. I have definitely noticed some animosity towards English speakers, especially in restaurants. The cafe I go to everyday, the people are usually nice, but occasionally get upset and frustrated when I can't respond in Czech. I am still having trouble with some conjugations, but the basic vocabulary is definitely sticking and becoming routine.

6/3

I am enjoying learning more and more about Czech. I like the activities where we have to step outside our comfort zone, like taking the tram or subway all the way to the end. They make me more confident in my Czech abilities and make me want to continue immersing myself in the Czech culture.

11/3

I had a very successful interaction in a restaurant. Typically I order and that is all, but I was able to order and converse with the waiter all in Czech. At the end when I asked for the ~~check~~ check (zaplatím), I said to je věčnno, and I paid in cash handing over the exact amount of the number said in Czech.

13/3

I had a friend visit who knew no Czech. It was interesting hearing how people responded to her immediately speaking English wherever we went. Most Czech people did not like it. Throughout her time here I started ordering and communicating in Czech for her which really boosted my confidence. It also made me think about how to conjugate verbs since I was no longer speaking for just myself.

15/3

I was in a taxi and had a very successful conversation with the driver. I explained that I was a student in Prague staying here for a couple of months, and the driver was so surprised and impressed because he said I spoke the letters as if I had been living in Prague for several years. My vocabulary at this point is also dumb enough to hold a conversation.

20/3

I took the metro for the first time and found it much easier than I was expecting. I actually went the wrong way initially but quickly realized I was on the wrong track. It is somewhat difficult because everything in the station is written in Czech.

27/3

I tested myself and ordered with a Czech menu. Most restaurants that I have been to I have realized have an English menu. I wanted to see if I could recognize what I was ordering. I got my order but the waiter brought me over 2 meals instead of the 7 I ordered. I asked for his recommendation between the 2 meals, and I have since realized people don't ask for recommendations here so the waiter must have been confused.

1/4

I got checked on the tram by a control officer. This was the 3rd time I have been checked. Not everyone in my tram car got checked though, so I was wondering if I stand out as a foreigner? I thought I started to blend in well especially since I can get by speaking, but now I wonder if it is extremely obvious that I am not Czech with hearing me speak.

3/4

As it is getting warmer I have noticed more and more people congregating outside. Prague is becoming more and more lively. I had to move apartments just last week, and I realized now that I do not live in the city center there are way more Czech people. The restaurants are more authentic and the food is cheaper. I find myself speaking even more Czech out here than had before ^{when} living in Prague 1.

8/4

I went to my first beer garden. I noticed there were many English speakers, but I know it is a very popular activity in the Czech culture. One of my teachers has taken our class there. I enjoyed it.

15/4

I went to Budapest, which some people say is similar to Prague. However, everyone there spoke English, whereas way less people here choose to speak English. Makes me realize Prague is very rich in culture.

29/4

I went to Italy over spring break. Of course Italy is completely different than Prague, so the cultural as well as language experience was different. I noted that I spoke no Italian. While I enjoyed seeing the country, I was comforted upon my arrival in Prague. I felt the most comfortable speaking Czech than I had all semester. It also made me realize I know so much more Czech than I thought.

1/5

My friend came to visit and was surprised that people noted talking to her in English. It was interesting b/c I had not had that experience since the beginning of the semester.