

2.11 - Languages we know...



A lot of the verbs we have learned can be used to talk about your skills with other languages:

<i>číst (čt-)</i>	to read
<i>mluvit</i>	to speak
<i>psát (píš-)</i>	to write
<i>rozumět</i>	to understand
<i>učit se</i>	to study, learn
<i>umět</i>	to know a skill

These verbs can be used with various languages (see table below) to create sentences in Czech.

Mluvím česky.
I speak Czech.

Božena rozumí francouzsky.
Božena understands French.

Učíme se rusky.
We're studying Russian.

Mluvíte anglicky?
Do you speak English?

Učíme se česky.
We're learning Czech.

Language Adverbs

<i>anglicky</i>	English
<i>francouzsky</i>	French
<i>italsky</i>	Italian
<i>japonsky</i>	Japanese
<i>německy</i>	German
<i>polsky</i>	Polish
<i>portugalsky</i>	Portuguese
<i>rusky</i>	Russian
<i>slovensky</i>	Slovak
<i>česky</i>	Czech
<i>čínsky</i>	Chinese
<i>španělsky</i>	Spanish

These forms are slightly different from the adjectives we've learned so far (adjectives would end with a long -ý). Technically speaking, these are adverbs (in that they describe how we speak). Just know the difference between *anglický slovník* (adjective used to describe a noun) and *mluvím anglicky* (what language you speak).

Adverbs denoting how well you speak/understand/write a language:

<i>plynně/plynule</i>	fluently
<i>výborně</i>	excellent
<i>docela dobře</i>	quite well
<i>dobře</i>	well
<i>trochu</i>	a little
<i>málo</i>	very little

Examples:

Mluvím dobře česky.
I speak Czech well.

Kdo rozumí dobře španělsky?
Who understands Spanish well?

Sára a Bedřich umějí málo německy.
Sára and Bedřich know little German.

Už mluvím plyně česky.
I (can) already speak fluent Czech.

Note: the difference between *trochu* and *málo* is similar to the following in English: I speak a little (trochu) Czech **vs.** I speak little (málo) Czech. In the case of *trochu*, you are focusing on the fact that you do know some Czech, on the other hand with *málo* you are saying that you don't know much Czech.

umět + infinitive

You can use the verb *umět* + the infinitive of another verb to talk about things you know how to do. In this sense, it often has the meaning of *can* in English. See the following examples:

Umím psát česky.

I know how to/can write in Czech.

Neumíme tančit.

We don't know how to dance / We can't dance.

Umíš lyžovat?

Do you know how to ski?

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