

1.2 - Co to je? Identifying Objects



In this lesson, we will learn how to ask what something is. For example, if you were looking at a pencil but didn't know the word in Czech, you could use this question:

[\(listen\)](#)

Co to je?

'What is this/that?'

The question consists of three words:

co - 'what'

to - 'this/that'

je - 'is'

The response is formed from some of the same words:

to - 'this/that'

je - 'is'



[\(listen\)](#)

Co to je? -To je kočka.



[\(listen\)](#)

Co to je? -To je město.



[\(listen\)](#)

Co to je? -To je telefon.



[\(listen\)](#)

Co to je? -To je tužka.

Now, let's imagine you are pretty sure you know what an object is, but you want to check to make sure. You can ask *Je to _____*? The response can either be:

Ano, to je _____.

'Yes, this is a _____.

OR

Ne, to není _____.

'No, this is not a _____.

The word *není* means 'isn't'. *To není* means 'This is not.'

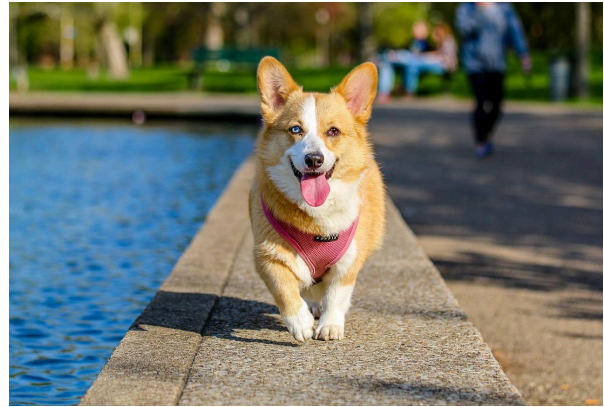


[\(listen\)](#)

Je to batoh?

Ano, to je batoh.

'Yes, this is a backpack.'



[\(listen\)](#)

Je to kočka?

Ne, to není kočka. To je pes.

'No, this is not a cat. This is a dog.'

In general, you use the word order *To je...* for statements, and invert the word order for questions *Je to..?* However, there is not a strict rule and you frequently will hear people use these two word orders interchangeably.

***tohle* - 'this (right here)'**

[\(listen\)](#)

Co je tohle?

'What is **this**'?

In addition to the question *co to je?* one can ask *co je tohle?* The word *tohle* means 'this thing (right here)'. It is used particularly when you are close of an object.

Images used in this document come from [these sources](#).