# 6.10 - Verbal Nouns

In the *Reality Czech* video Martin answers the question easier than anyone else with just one word:

|  | *Jaké máte koníčky?* | *-Cestování* |
| --- | --- | --- |

This form *cestování* is a verbal noun, in other words a noun that has been created from a verb. Well, take a look at the following examples:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Odpočívání na chatě je velmi populární aktivita v České republice.*  Relaxing at the cottage is a very popular activity in the Czech Republic. | *Honza má rád fotografování.*  Honza likes photography (photographing). |

Here you basically take the verb and make a noun out of it (like a [gerund in English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerund)). Here you’ll see a few examples, but we’re not going to worry too much about when and how to use them right now. It is better to get to know how to use them by seeing them in action.

However, knowing how to form them (or at least recognize them) is important:

Regular Rules

| ***-ání***  verbs ending in -*at* (including -*ovat*) | | ***-ení***  verbs ending in -*et* (-*ět*) or -*it* | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *cestovat* | *cestování* | *vařit* | *vaření* |
| *programovat* | *programování* | *uklízet* | *uklízení* |
| *koupat se* | *koupání se* | *cvičit* | *cvičení* |
| *malovat* | *malování* | *kreslit* | *kreslení* |
| *pracovat* | *pracování* | *tančit* | *tančení / tanec* |
| *sbírat* | *sbírání* | *smažit* | *smažení* |
| *odpočívat* | *odpočívání* | *slavit* | *slavení* |

Some complexities:

| ***-aní***  some monosyllabic verbs get the ending[[1]](#footnote-0) *-aní* | | ***-ení***  but with somewhat unpredictable (i.e. sometimes) consonant mutations:  *d → z, t → c*, *s → š, z → ž,* *sl → šl, zd → žd, st → šť* | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *psát* | *psaní* | *chodit* | *chození* |
| *hrát* | *hraní* | *fotit* | *focení* |
| *spát* | *spaní* | *čistit* | *čištění* |
|  |  | *nosit* | *nošení* |
|  |  | *prosit* | *prošení* |
|  |  | *jezdit* | *jízda / ježdění* |
|  |  | *číst* | *čtení / četba* |

Additionally, as you see in the chart above, sometimes Czechs will opt for a separate noun such as *jízda* instead of *ježdění*, though both are possible (*jízda na koni* and *ježdění na koni*). The same goes for words *tanec* (alongside *tančení*) or *četba* (alongside of *čtení*).

| **Some Irregular Forms** | |
| --- | --- |
| *pít* | *pití* |
| *mýt* | *mytí* |

Verbal Noun + Genitive

You’ll also find that they can be followed by the genitive case (the grilling OF meat, collecting OF mushrooms):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Grilování masa je hodně populární na americký Den nezávislosti.*  Grilling meat (lit. grilling of meat) is very popular for the Fourth of July. | *Sbírání hub[[2]](#footnote-1) je velmi populární v Česku.*  Mushroom collecting (lit. collecting of mushrooms) is very popular in the Czech Republic. |

Other combinations with a genitive are:

*poslouchání hudby*

*sbírání starožitností*

*sbírání komiksů*

*skládání puclí*

*cvičení jógy*

*chytání ryb*

*venčení psa*

*luštění křížovek*

*čtení románů*

*dělání domácích úkolů*

*plánování dovolené*

*pití piva*

*mytí rukou[[3]](#footnote-2)*

Images used in this document come from [these sources.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zu04ewEVSZyzgeJP4UruSCuuT6cwPM-ukabQuZH2Y_I/edit#heading=h.pxs9cm290zj)

1. though there are exceptions, such as *přát* → *přání*, *vstát* → *vstání*. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. *hub* is the genitive plural of *houba* ‘mushroom’ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. the word *ruka* has an irregular genitive plural form *rukou*. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)