6.6 - 2nd-position Elements

The following words are all put into second position:

* Auxiliary (jsem, jsi - past tense; bych, bys… - conditional)
* Reflexive Pronouns
* Dative, Genitive, Accusative short form pronouns

However, we need to know what to do if a sentence has more than one of these elements. What ends up happening is that they are all put into a sub-order within 2nd position:

| **AUX + *se/si* + short form pronouns (DAT + GEN + ACC)** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AUX** | **se/si** | **DAT** | **ACC/GEN[[1]](#footnote-0)** |
| **past tense** - *jsem, jsi, jsme, jste...* | *se* - oneself  *si* - to oneself | *(já) - mi*  *(ty) - ti*  *(on, ono) - mu*  *(ona) jí*  *(my) - nám*  *(vy) - vám*  *(oni) - jim* | *(já) - mě*  *(ty) - tě*  *(on, ono) - ho*  *(ona) ji/jí*  *(my) - nás*  *(vy) - vás*  *(oni) - je/jich* |
| **conditional** - *bych, bys, by...* |

Most of the sentences you’ll be coming up with now will have just an AUX and *se/si*, but as we move on to express more complex things, we’ll need to know where to put the DAT and ACC/GEN pronouns as well.

| *Procházeli jsme se.* | *Chtěl bych se učit.* | *Pustila jsem si nový film.*  *pustit si* - to put on (film, song, etc.) |
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Remember that 2nd position does not mean 2nd word. There are many instances where words are counted together, e.g. - *Ten nový student* ***se*** *jmenuje Karel.*

**Finally, there are two words in Czech that you should ignore when figuring out 2nd position –** *a* ‘and’, *ale* ‘but’:

*Včera jsem nepracovala, ale učila jsem se.*

*Dneska jsem běhal a učil se.*

Note the position of the AUX and *se* in the sentences above and how they are not affected by *a* or *ale*.

Images used in this document come from [these sources.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zu04ewEVSZyzgeJP4UruSCuuT6cwPM-ukabQuZH2Y_I/edit#heading=h.bx6sn1v8ar9v)

1. Accusative and Genitive forms are largely identical. Where they diverge, the difference in forms is indicated by slashes. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)