# 7.1 - *brzo/brzy*, *pozdě*...*dřív*, *později*

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Let’s first start out with the words *brzo/brzy* ‘early’ and *pozdě* ‘late’. In this unit they can be used with verbs such as *vstávat* ‘to get up’ or *chodit spát* ‘to go to sleep’.

*Chodíte spát brzo nebo pozdě*?

Do you go to sleep early or late?

But we can also talk about other activities:

*Ivana ráda cvičí brzo ráno.*

Ivana likes to exercise early in the morning.

The phrase *chodit/jít pozdě* means ‘to run late’

*Ten student vždycky chodí na přednášky pozdě.*

That student always comes to lectures late.

*Jdu pozdě? Omlouvám se, doufám, že jste na mě moc dlouho nečekali.*

Am I late? I am sorry, I hope you didn’t wait too long for me.

## *dřív* ‘earlier’, *později* ‘later’

These forms are comparatives of the words we just learned and can be used to compare two people. Remember to use the word *než* ‘than’, when comparing:

|  | **comparative form** |
| --- | --- |
| *brzo/brzy* ‘early’ | *dřív(e)[[1]](#footnote-0)* ‘earlier’ |
| *pozdě* ‘late’ | *později* ‘later’ |

*Jan vstává dřív než Lucie.*

Jan gets up earlier than Lucie.

*Zdeněk chodí spát později než Pavel.*

Zdeněk goes to sleep later than Pavel.

## \*Optional\*

Now something a little more advanced...

## brzo vs. brzy?

*brzo...brzy...*what’s the difference? It turns out that they have the same meaning, but *brzo* is used a lot more often in spoken language (*mluvený jazyk*), while *brzy* is used a lot more in written language (*psaný jazyk*). Just take a look at the following graphs:

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*brzo* is used way more often in spoken language, while the inverse is true in the written language, *brzy* is used with high frequency.

Graphs from <https://syd.korpus.cz>

Images used in this document come from [these sources](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nfosH9ZwNK_H4iHWw2J63Qma6zIRrp00sE9baE98rao/edit#heading=h.563pelpdjobt).

1. *dříve* is more characteristic of the written language (Spisovná čeština) or more formal speech, while *dřív* is what you’ll hear in everyday language. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)