

### 3.5 - *chtěl bych / chtěla bych* - ‘I would like...’



We've already learned how to order using *dát si* 'to have (for oneself)'. However, you can also say what you “would like” using the forms below:

***chtěl / chtěla bych*** ‘I would like’

*chtěl / chtěla bys* ‘you would like’

*chtěl / chtěla by* ‘he/she would like’

*chtěli / chtěly bychom* ‘we would like’

*chtěl / chtěla byset* ‘you (formal) would like’

*chtěli / chtěly byste* ‘you (plural) would like’

*chtěli / chtěly by* ‘they would like’

You really will need to use just the forms **chtěl / chtěla bych** “I would like...” at this point. However, the rest of the paradigm (you, he/she, we, you all, they...) are given in the chart as well. For all of these, the form of *chtěl* (*chtěla*, *chtěli*, etc.) depends on the gender and number of the subject of the sentence. In other words, Eva and Jolana below would each say *chtěla bych*, while Jáchym and Michal would each say *chtěl bych*.



*chtěla bych...*



*chtěl bych...*

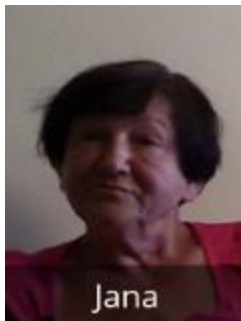


*chtěla bych...*



*chtěl bych...*

In groups, they would use the forms *chtěli / chtěly* in the plural (*chtěly* would be reserved for groups consisting exclusively of females):



*chtěli bychom...*



Josef



Rozálie



Petra

*chtěly bychom...*

Finally, when you are ordering using these phrases, make sure you put whatever follows in the accusative case:



*Chtěl bych vodu.*  
'I'd like water'



*Chtěla bych smažený sýr.*  
'I'd like fried cheese'



*Chtěli bychom dvě piva.*  
'We'd like two beers'

### Note on word order:

This won't come up a lot now, but technically the forms *bych*, *bys*, *by...* all are in 2nd position (just like *se* and *si*, see [2.5 - Reflexive se and si and 2nd position](#)), so if something comes first in the sentence, the order will be switched around, e.g. - *Chtěl bych čaj* vs. *Já bych chtěl čaj*; *Chtěli by pivo* vs. *Petr a Sára by chtěli pivo*.

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