

1.2 - "soft" pronunciations

writing the sounds **t'**, **d'**, **ň**

A lot of times you'll see the letters **t'**, **d'** and **ň** written just as you see them here (with an apostrophe or háček over them to indicate their soft pronunciation). This is the case before the vowels **a/á**, **o/ó**, **u/ú**, and at the end of the word, e.g. -

t'

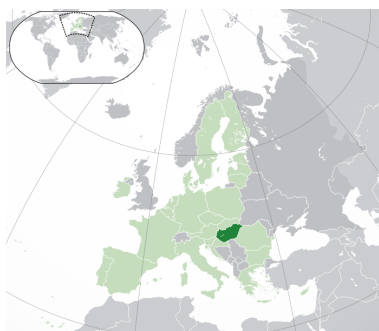


koťata 'kittens' ([listen](#))



ťuknout 'to tap' ([listen](#))

d'



Maďarsko 'Hungary' ([listen](#))

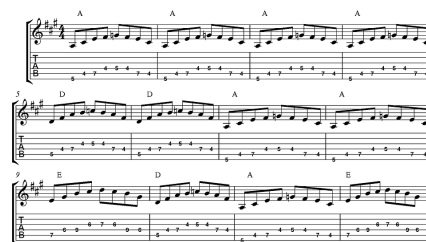


Vláďovi 'to Vláďa' ([listen](#))

ň



koňak ([listen](#))



píseň 'song' ([listen](#))

before *i, í, or ě*

However, when followed by the vowel letters *i, í, or ě*, they are written without the háček. In other words, *d, t, n + i, í or ě* are pronounced *d', t', ň*

+ ě

t'



tělo 'body' ([listen](#))

+ i



studenti 'students' ([listen](#))

d'



dělat 'to do' ([listen](#))

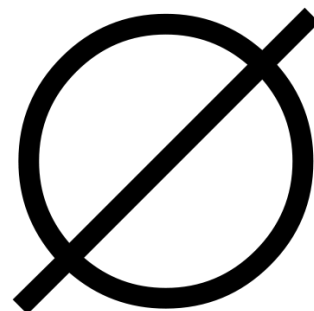


kamarádi 'friends' ([listen](#))

ň



něco 'something' ([listen](#))



nic 'nothing' ([listen](#))

p, b, v, m + ě

When these consonants are followed by ě, they are pronounced with a *j* sound. The one exception is *m + ě*, which is pronounced with *ň* sound after the *m* (i.e. *mě* is pronounced [mně]).

	Is pronounced as if it were spelled...	Example word
p + ě	[pje]	 pěna 'foam' (listen) ¹
b + ě	[bje]	 běhat 'to run' (listen)

¹ This might seem like a strange word to know, but Czechs actually value the foam on the top of a beer more than you might expect. It is a sign that the beer was freshly poured and also contributes to aromatic qualities of the beer. In fact, receiving a beer without a foaming head at the top is almost unheard of in any decent establishment.

v + ě	[vje]	 Věra 'Vera' (listen)
m + ě	[mně]	 město 'city' (listen)

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