

Czech pronunciation guide

A	a	á	u in but, a in father	pravá	truth
B	b		b (unaspirated, as in French)	nebe	sky
C	c		ts in bits	svíce	candle
Č	č		ch in church	brouček	ladybug/beetle
D	d		d (dental)	dnes	today
Ď	ď		d in English dew	rdění	reddening
E	e		e in met, e in there	jeden	one
	ě	é	ye in yes	svět	world
F	f		f in far (usually in foreign words)		
G	g		g in go (only in foreign words)		
H	h		voiced, somewhat as h in inhale or aha	pohár, hledá	chalice, search
Ch	ch		ch in loch	chvěje	quivering
I	i	í	i in French vif, i in machine	svítání	dawn
J	j		y in yes or (after a vowel) boy	objetí	embrace
K	k		k (unaspirated), or g in Gdansk before voiced consonant	párku, kdo	pair, who
L	l		l in last or apple (can be used as a vowel)	lesy, slza	woods, tear(s)
M	m		m in middle (occasionally used as a vowel)	mušky	flies (noun)
N	n		n (alveolar)	nenadání	sudden
Ň	ň		n in English new	piseň, písň	song, songs
O	o	ó	o in for, o in door	vody, voní	water, is fragrant
P	p		p (unaspirated as in French)	pláč	weeping
Q	q		kv in kvetch (only in foreign words)		
R	r		r (rolled as in Scots, can be used as a vowel)	rdění, srdce	reddening, heart
Ř	ř		simultaneously sound rolled r and sh (or s in pleasure)	do kořán, otevřena	wide (as a window), opened
S	s		s in see	slast	joy
Š	š		sh in shall	všehomíru	in all the world
T	t		t (dental)	struna, tančí	string, dance
Ť	ť		t in English tune (as in the name Kat' a)	letí	flies (verb)
U	u	ú/ů	u in put, oo in boot	duše	soul
V	v		v in violin, or f before unvoiced consonant	tvorstvo, všecko	creatures, everything
W	w		v (only in foreign words)		
X	x		ks (only in foreign words)		
Y	y	ý	pronounced as long or short i	když	when
Z	z		z in zebra	zněni	sound
Ž	ž		s in pleasure	boží	blessed

diphthongs -- occur only with pairs of letters, or with ě, or after d, ň, or t

There are no special rules for diphthongs as there are in many languages, such as with eu in German. All diphthongs are consist simply of the two vowels sounding in the order written. Except with ď, ě, ň, and ť, each vowel gets the same stress.

aj,áj	like the word eye	zda jsou	whether they are
ej	ai in bait		
ěj	like the word yea	chvěje	quivering
ij,íj,yj	ee with audible final y		
oj	oy in boy		
uj,új	ouy in bouy or ouie in Louie	ohlašuje	announce
au	ow in now (only in foreign words)		
eu	eu in Latin deus (only in foreign words)		
ou	ow in show -- frequent in Czech words	brouček	ladybug/beetle