

Czech

čeština

Spoken in: Czech Republic

Region: Central Europe

Total speakers: 12 million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Slavic West Czech-Slovak Czech

Official language of: Czech Republic, European Union

The Czech language is one of the West Slavic languages spoken by most people in the Czech Republic and by Czechs all over the world. Czech is very close to Slovak and Polish; Czech and Slovak speakers are usually able to understand each other.

Czech has been influenced by a number of languages, especially Old Church Slavonic, Latin, and German. From the 14th century on, Czech has been the language of a continuous stream of literary production, although - as a consequence of the defeat of the Protestant Czech Forces and the integration of the Czech provinces into the Habsburg Empire - for the most part of the 18th century the Czech language was used rather infrequently for higher literary purposes. The language has been recorded, described, and analysed in a number of grammars and dictionaries.

Czech has seven cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative, instrumental, and vocative) for nouns, pronouns, and adjectives. It is not necessary to use personal pronouns with verbs since person and number are clearly shown by the verb endings; however, personal pronouns may be used for emphasis. In the pronunciation of Czech the stress always falls on the first syllable of a word, but this accentuation is not shown by diacritical marks such as accents.

Czech alphabet:

The Czech alphabet consists of 42 letters:

A, Á, B, C, Č, D, Ď, E, É, Ě, F, G, H, Ch, I, Í, J, K, L, M, N, Ň, O, Ó, P, Q, R, Ř, S, Š, T, Ť, U, Ú, Ů, V, W, X, Y, Ý, Z, Ž

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Czech sessional interpreter.