



Quick-Start Guide: Fluent in The Past Tense

Learn how to talk about what already happened - the Czech way.

The Basic Rule:

To form the **past tense** in Czech, use the **past participle** of the verb + the **present tense of “být”** (to be) as a personal ending.

Even when you're describing the past, “to be” still matters.

Forming the Past Participle

Take the infinitive, remove **-t** or **-ti**, and add the correct gendered ending:

- **masculine: -l** (dělal – he was doing)
- **feminine: -la** (dělala – she was doing)
- **neuter: -lo** (dělalo – it was doing)
- **plural forms: -li (M an/M an + F) / -ly (M in / F) / -la (N)** (dělali / dělaly / dělala – they were doing)

Examples:

mít (to have, irregular) → sg. měl / měla / mělo

pl. měli / měly / měla

kreslit (to draw) → sg. kreslil / kreslila / kreslilo

pl. kreslili / kreslily / kreslila

Personal Endings (from “být”)

💡 The verb “být” is only added in the 1st and 2nd person forms. In 3rd person, it’s omitted.

DĚLAT

(já) dělal/a jsem	(my) dělali/y jsme
(ty) dělal/a jsi	(vy) dělali/y jste (Vy) dělal/a jste
(on / ona / to) dělal / dělala / dělalo	(oni / ony / ona) dělali / dělaly / dělala

Examples:

- Jela **jsem** do školy. = I went to school.
- Oni chtěli hračku. = They (masc.) wanted a toy.
- Psal / psala **jsi** test. = You wrote the test.
- Děti si hrály venku. = The children played outside.
- Včera **jsem** si hrála venku. = Yesterday you (pl) played outside.
- Viděla **jste** ten nový film, paní Nováková? = Have you seen the new movie, Mrs Nováková?

Don't Forget The Word Order!

Auxiliary verbs like *jsem, jsi, jsme, jste* always go in the second position in the sentence – even if that's not directly after the subject.

Correct:

- Já **jsem** včera psala dopis.
- Včera **jsem** psala dopis.

Incorrect:

- Včera psala jsem dopis.

 **Tip:** Think of the auxiliary verb as needing to follow the first “idea chunk” in your sentence.

Want to Practise?

If you're ready to stop just memorizing and start **actually using** the past tense in your Czech conversations, I'm here to help.

In my lessons, you'll:

- Practice real-life Czech through guided conversation,
- Get clear feedback on your grammar and pronunciation,
- Learn to sound natural, not textbook-robotic.

👉 LESSONS

Let's make Czech click - one verb at a time.

You can also check out these links and practise on your own:

🌐 [Čeština A1 - minulý čas](#)

🌐 [Čeština pro cizince- minulý čas věty](#)

🌐 [Minulý čas](#)

Pa pa!

