

Verbs of MOTION in Czech

Basic verbs of GOING:

TYPE OF MOTION	NON-DETERMINED	DETERMINED	DETERMINED (FUTURE & PAST)
<i>going (on foot)</i>	chodit	jít	půjdu, půjdeš, ..., půjdou šel, šla, šlo, šli
<i>going by vehicle</i>	jezdit	jet	pojedu, pojedesh, ..., pojedou jel, jela, jelo, jeli

The determined verbs are used when the motion is directed towards a certain direction or destination at a particular time. In the present tense, this is motion going on right now, in the past tense, it is motion that was going on as a process (and maybe something else happened during the trip, as in: *Šli jsme do divadla, když jsme ho potkali.* ‘We were going to the theater when we met him.’).

The non-determined verbs are used for repeated or habitual actions or to express general motion, such as a like or dislike to go somewhere or the ability to walk, for instance. They may also express motion that has no specific direction or destination, motion that is random.

Vstávám v sedm (hodin) a chodím spát v jedenáct. ‘I get up at 7:00 and go to sleep at 11:00.

Chodíš rád na koncerty? ‘Do you like to go to concerts?’

Chodí do školy/do kostela/do práce. ‘They go to school/church/work.’

Tvoje miminko už umí chodit? ‘Can your baby already walk?’

Chodíme po Praze. ‘We’re walking around Prague.’

Pes chodí sem a tam. ‘The dog is walking here and there/back and forth.’

The future forms in *po-/pů-* are used only in the future, they don’t form an infinitive or past tense (actually, *pošel, pošla*, etc. do exist, but the meaning is ‘die, pass away’, not ‘went’!).

As you can see, the distinction between going on foot and going by vehicle is important in Czech and there is no simple verb corresponding to the uses of Engl *go*. However, *chodit/jít* is closer to a general verb of GOING when you don’t want to be specific about the means of travel and the distances are relatively short. So, you can say *Každý den chodím do práce.* ‘I go to work every day.’, even though you might drive yourself to work. However, when the destination is a significant distance away, the vehicle verbs must be used, reflective of the obvious fact that it’s too far to walk and some sort of transportation is necessary to make the trip. In a similar fashion for long trips, you may use the forms of *jezdit/jet* as general travel verbs even when the trip is by plane.

Czech makes further distinctions for additional types of MOTION:

TYPE OF MOTION	NON-DETERMINED	DETERMINED	DETERMINED (FUTURE & PAST)
<i>running</i>	běhat	běžet	poběžím, poběžíš, poběží
<i>flying</i>	létat (lítat)	letět	poletím, poletíš, poletí
<i>carrying (on foot)</i>	nosit	nést	ponesu, poneseš, ponese
<i>carrying by vehicle</i>	vozit	vézt	povezu, povezeš, poveze
<i>leading, guiding</i>	vodit	vést	povedu, povedeš, povedou

The same system holds for these additional motion verbs as the one described above for going on foot or by vehicle as regards the non-determined, determined, and past and future determined forms.

Some prefixes with the verb *jít* and *jet* ‘go’

PREFIX	IMPERFECTIVE	PERFECTIVE
<i>při-</i> ‘arrive, come’	přicházet	přijít
<i>od-</i> ‘from, away’	odcházet	odejít
<i>vy-</i> ‘out of’	vycházet	vyjít
<i>při-</i> ‘arrive, come’	přijíždět	příjet
<i>od-</i> ‘from, away’	odjíždět	odjet
<i>vy-</i> ‘out of’	vyjíždět	příjet

Odejdu z práce v půl šesté. ‘I’ll leave work at 5:30.’

Prijdu domů v šest. ‘I’ll arrive/come/get home at 6:00.’

Vyšel jsem z domu. ‘I left/came out of the house.’

All of the different types of motion described above can also be combined with various prefixes to further determine and define the nature of the motion. *Jít* forms imperfective/perfective pairs with *-cházet/-jít* and *jet* with *-jíždět/-jet* as shown in the table. For the other types of motion, prefixes may be added to the forms *-bíhat/-běhnout* ‘run’, *-létat/-letět* ‘fly’, *-nášet/-nést* ‘carry’, *-vážet/-vézt* ‘carry by vehicle’, *-vádět/-vést* ‘lead’.

Cvičení

I. Compare the following pairs of sentences telling the main difference in their meaning.

1. Jedu domů.

Jdu domů.

2. Jedu domů.

Pojedu domů.

3. Jedu domů.

Jezdím domů.

4. Jedu domů.

Přijíždím domů.

II. Fill in the blanks with the verb *jít* 'go' and the form of the genitive case.

1. Kam _____ (ty) ? _____ (já) do _____ (kino).

2. _____ (ona-past) na přednášku z _____ (biologie).

3. Nejdříve _____ (my-future) do _____ (restaurace), a potom _____ (my-future) do _____ (knihovna).

4. A kam _____ Ludmila a Jakub? _____ (oni) do _____ (knihkupectví).

5. Kam _____ (vy) v pátek dopoledne? _____ (my) do _____ (práce).

III. Fill in the blanks with the verb *jet* 'go' and the form of the genitive case.

Ex. já — Praha Jedu do Prahy.

1. já — Česká republika

6. Markéta a Robert — Anglie (future)

2. ty — Itálie (future)

7. paní profesorka — Čína

3. Marie — Francie

8. pan prezident — Mexiko (past)

4. my — Rakousko (past)

9. naši sousedé — Švédsko

5. vy — Japonsko

10. on — Londýn

IV. Give the genitive of the following phrases.

1. ten známý doktor/lékař

6. to staré nádraží

2. ta známá lékařka

7. ta velká americká loď

3. naše malá sestra

8. moje dobrá postel

4. její první film

9. vaše krásná země

5. jeho velký kufr

10. náš dobrý pes

V. Mám narozeniny prvního října. Kdy máte narozeniny?

Mám narozeniny _____.

VI. Choose the proper verb of motion for the following sentences.

1. _____ (my) po městě.
2. _____ (já) na hory každou sobotu.
3. _____ (oni) na operu v pátek.
4. V kolik hodin _____ (ty) do školy?
5. _____ (vy) letos do Kanady?

VII. Choose the proper type of motion verb for the following sentences.

1. Moje žena je sportovkyně. _____ (runs) každý den.
2. _____ (já — am running) na nádraží. Za dvacet minut mi jede vlak.
3. Mařenka dnes _____ (is flying) z Prahy do Chicaga.
4. _____ (my — fly) každé léto do Texasu.
5. Od pondělka do středy tatínek _____ (drives/takes) nás do školy, a ve čtvrtek a v pátek maminka _____ (leads/takes) nás pěšky.
6. Komu _____ (ty — carrying) ty květiny?
7. Vždycky _____ (on — carries) dárky domů pro děti.