

Prepositions

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I. English equivalents of the most common Czech prepositions

Below is an alphabetical list of Czech prepositions which may often have several equivalents in English and thus cause difficulties to Czech speakers. Use the list as preparation for the exercises and also for reference when writing.

během *during the experiment*
in a week's time (za)
within a week (za)
*to work **through** the lunch hour*

do *to go **to** work/school/England*
*to go **into** the building*
*to get **on** a train/a bus*
*to get **in/into** a car*
*to arrive **in** England/**in** London*
*he put the letter **in** the box*
*to translate a text **into** English*
*to invest money **in** stocks*
*we will be doing experiments **till/until** Monday*
*we will finish the experiment **by** Monday*
***to** a degree, **to** some extent, **to** a large extent*

jménem *I'd like to welcome you **on behalf of** the University*
*experiments carried out **in the name of** science*

k *she walked **to** the window*
***to** everybody's surprise*
*to arrive **at** a decision (dospět k)*

kromě *the University is open every day **except (for)** Sundays (s výjimkou)*
*everyone agreed **except (for)** Mary*
***in addition to/apart from** giving an introduction to computers, the course also provides practical experience (nejen)*
***besides** giving an introduction to computers, the course provides*

kvůli/pro *he couldn't come to the conference **because of/due to/owing to** ill health*
(but: he couldn't come because he was ill; because = conjunction)
*many accidents happen **through** human error*

- mezi** cooperation **between** these two universities
 I have a lot of work **between** now and Sunday
among friends, **among** other things (more than two)
 the problem is causing concern **among** scientists
 but: There is no difference/relationship **between** these three things
 The Czech Republic lies **between** Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary,
 and Austria
- mimo** everyone was there **except (for)** John
 we discussed the meeting **among other things** (mimo jiné)
- na** **at** the University, **at/in** the department
in a hall of residence
at the lecture, **at** the workshop, **at/in** the meeting, **at** the conference
on the surface
in this place
in Fig. 5
at the bottom/the top
 to arrive **at** a place/the station/the airport
 to welcome someone **to** the university
 to invite someone **to** a party
at the beginning/end of the academic year (čeho)
in the beginning (na začátku, ze začátku), **in** the end (nakonec)
on my supervisor's advice
 the examination can be taken **at** two levels
 they compete **at** international level
 the town is built **on** different levels
 to go **on** a business trip
 further information will be sent **on** request
 I did it **at** the request of my supervisor
 I did it **on** his advice
 the temperature dropped **to** 10°C, the price rose **to** 2,000 dollars
at first sight
at the first attempt
- nad** 10°C **above** zero
above average
 inflation has risen **beyond** the 5% level
 a sign **over** the door
- o** he spoke **about** his work/the meeting (informal)
 he gave a lecture/a presentation **on** renewable sources of energy (formal)
 they organized a conference **on solar energy**
 he is interested **in** mathematics
 energy consumption increased **by** 5%
 one meter **in** diameter

- od** *from the first of January, from Monday to Friday, from 2001*
since its foundation in 1991 the University has trained hundreds of electrical and mechanical engineers
a paper by a famous researcher (the researcher wrote it)
I got the paper from my supervisor (my supervisor gave it to me)
- po** *after the conference*
they stopped the machine after two hours
the method is named after its author
throughout/all over the world (po celém světě)
he remained silent throughout the discussion (po celou diskuzi)
- pod** *it is not suitable for children under five*
everything is under control
people under 60
5°C below zero
below average
- podle** *in my opinion (not: according to me)*
according to the author of the paper
everything went according to plan
by our standards this is not acceptable
- pomocí (čeho)** *to fasten it by means of/with the help of/with screws*
- pro** *for simplicity's sake, for simplification*
Mr X will not attend the conference due to/owing to/because of illness
(but: because he is ill)
the outcome of the discussion was important to me (I cared about it a lot)
the knowledge of maths is important for all fields of engineering (plays an important role)
- (o)proti, na rozdíl od** *contrary to our expectations, the experiment failed to prove our hypothesis*
this year our production increased by 5% in contrast with/to last year
unlike most workshops in our department, the last one was conducted in English
- proti** *he was sitting opposite me*
several people voted against the new proposal
- před** *before the summer holidays*
we received the grant two years ago
in front of our faculty
he defended his doctoral thesis before the Board of Examiners
- přes** *the first flight across the Atlantic*
a bridge over/across the river
in spite of/despite all our efforts the experiment failed (do not use "of" after "despite")

- při** *at room temperature, at a temperature of 35°C, at 50°C*
at a speed of 200km, at the speed of light
at high frequencies, at a rate of ...
in our experiments
while analysing our results we noticed this error (při analýze, když jsme analyzovali)
on Professor X's visit to our Department
the conference will be held in Prague; I hope to meet you on that occasion
- s** *we cooperate with a number of foreign institutions*
I have no experience of/with giving presentations
- u** *he is with a foreign company*
he is staying with his friends
in this country (u nás)
with/for asynchronous motors the situation is different
- v(e)** *at present/in the past/in the future*
at this moment, at the same time (not: in)
at work, he is at school (attending a school), he is in the school (in the building)
in/at the library, in/at the office, in/at the institute, in/at the department
on the University campus
there were lots of people on the bus/train/tram/plane (= travelling)
at this point
at rest, at risk
in good condition, in/under normal conditions
on average, on a small scale, on the whole
in principle, this is a good idea
he has a lot of experience in many areas (but: experience of/with teaching)
changes in the management (some members were replaced)
but: a change of the management (there is now a new management)
I have never been to England
- z(e)** *he took the book off the table*
to get off a train/a bus
to get out of a car
he took the book out of the drawer
he has a degree from our University
Professor Brown of/from the University of Nottingham
the letter of October 13, 2010
one of the best, one of the students
one in/out of ten; it happens in two cases out of ten
an exam in mathematics
to translate from Czech into English

from my own experience
for this reason
 I don't do such things, **on** principle
 the box is made **of** metal (the substance does not change)
 the wine is made **from** French grapes (the substance changes)

za shut the door **behind** you
 the shop is just **round** the corner
 we are two years **behind** schedule
 we'll finish **in** two hours
in/under normal conditions, **in** some circumstances, **under** no circumstances
on the assumption that ...
under his leadership
 he speaks **for** all students in this Department

II. Examples of English prepositional phrases and their Czech equivalents

Where English has a prepositional phrase, Czech often uses other means. Below are some examples.

Czech	English: a prepositional phrase
koho/čeho	of <i>a good knowledge of English</i> <i>a profound understanding of the problem</i>
	on <i>on the first of January</i>
komu/čemu (pro koho)	<i>the library is open to the public</i>
kým/čím	by <i>the topic of the thesis was proposed by my supervisor (esp. with a passive verb to say who/what does/did it)</i> <i>divide/multiply 6 by 2</i> <i>he started by giving us an example (by + -ing)</i> <i>to go by car/train/bus</i>
	with <i>he cut it with a sharp knife (something is done with the help of an object/a tool)</i> <i>the tank was filled with water</i> <i>he started with an example (with + noun)</i>
	in <i>it can be done in different ways</i> <i>you can do it (in) this way</i> <i>they differ in size/colour</i> <i>in other words</i>

	through <i>the thief got in through the window</i> <i>the wiring runs through a tunnel</i> <i>it happened through an oversight</i>
an adverb	on + time <i>the lecture started on time (according to schedule)</i>
	in + time <i>we got there in time for the lecture (before it started)</i>

Prepositions/prepositional phrases expressing reference

in/with reference to = s odvoláním na

with regard to/with respect to/regarding/respecting = pokud jde o, co se týká, ohledně

as to/as for = pokud jde o, co se týká

*I'll be pleased to join your team; **as for/as to** my colleague, you'll have to ask him.*

(when starting to speak about something new that is connected with what you were talking about before)

*He's very uncertain **as to** whether it's the right job for him.*

(esp. when speaking of arguments/decisions; on the subject of, concerning)

regardless of = bez ohledu na

III. Notes on "as" versus "like" and on "in terms of"

- „jako“ is translated into English in two ways:

as: *She worked **as** a teacher.*

(in the capacity of a teacher, i.e. she was a teacher)

like: *She behaved **like** a teacher.*

(she was not a teacher but her behaviour was similar to that of a teacher)

- ***Like** other students, I'm looking forward to holidays.*

(similarly to)

- *She hates everyday home activities, **like** cooking, washing ...*

(such as)

In written English “for example”, “for instance”, “e.g.”, or “such as”

are preferred:

*packaging materials, **such as** paper, plastic*

- “in terms of” is translated into Czech in different ways depending on the context:

- ***In terms of** money there is no problem.* (co se týče ..., pokud jde o ...)

- *Let's discuss the problem **in terms of** its impact on the environment.*

(z hlediska)

- ***In terms of** this hypothesis we can assume that* (podle, na základě)

32. I gained much knowledge from this area.
33. He left the University from no apparent reason.
34. In reply to your letter from October 7, 2010, I would like to inform you that, regretfully, I am not able to accept your offer.
- in**
35. We arrived in the same time.
36. We can't employ any more staff in the present.
37. In June 1, 2011.
38. The machine is now in rest.
39. He spends more than 10 hours in work every day.
40. I can't give you an answer in this moment.
41. The lectures always start in time.
42. We must stop these rumours. The reputation of the company is in risk.
43. He came in Japan after the war.
44. That paper gave me a good insight in the causes of pollution in our city.
45. This material melts in very high temperatures.
- of**
46. I am a student of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering.
47. The material must be heated to 70° of Celsius.
48. I have got basic skills of programming.
- on**
49. We can meet on a later date.
50. I work on the Department of Power Electronics.
51. He put the book on its place.
52. The values are shown on this figure.
53. This issue will be dealt with on my next lecture.
54. I didn't see him on Professor Hall's lecture.
55. The temperature rose on 30° C. (na)
56. The study was done on the request of the Chairman.
57. The results of our measurements are presented on Table 3.
58. On the beginning of my presentation I'll give an overview of the latest developments in this field.
59. On the beginning everything seemed easy.
60. I'll describe the experiment on the end of my presentation.
61. This requirement is on the top of the list.
62. You will find a picture on the bottom of the page.
63. We can see the difference on first sight.
64. On principle, this solution is possible.
- over**
65. 20°C over zero
- to**
66. Our goal is to finish the project to 2012.
- under**
67. The scores under 50 were classed as "failed".
- until/till**
68. All the required documents should reach us till March 1, 2011.

II. Complete with prepositions.

1. I am a student the University West Bohemia.
2. I have chosen this topic my supervisor's advice.
3. I am speaking all the PhD students in this department. (jménem)
4. The wheel is 70cm diameter.
5. He had no previous experience managing a big company.
6. simplicity's we have left out some of the details. (pro, kvůli)
7. some extent, this argument may be justified.
8. Cooperation our two universities is very successful.
9. He is interested graphic design.
10. this point, we should move on some practical experiments.
11. Students this secondary school are/ average in science. (nad/pod)
12. I visited Brunel University a week ago. that occasion we discussed our cooperation research.
13. There is very little difference these three parties green issues.
14. We organized a workshop ceramic materials.
15. This is Professor White the University York.
16. popular belief, winters can be very cold here. (oproti)
17. People 70 travel free trams and buses in this city.
18. other things, we discussed the changes to be made the Master study programme.
19. I got this book my friend.
20. Have you read the paper Professor Wilkie?
21. It's hard to believe but, most departments at this University, this department doesn't have any PhD students.
22. My calculations were based the assumption that prices would remain steady.
23. Don't worry, everything's control.
24. It is a large organization offices the world.
25. open days our University is open the public.
26. People choose jobs various reasons.
27. That's my understanding.
28. You can rewrite the equation this way.
29. His knowledge English is beginners' level.
30. Four ten students didn't pass the examination the first attempt.
31. students the first year the dropout rate is high.
32. The news report started time. (according to schedule)
33. We got home time for the evening news.
34. They filled the cracks plaster.
35. his young age he became the executive manager a big company.

III. Use prepositions and phrases from the list below to fill the gaps.

as to as for like with regard to in reference to regardless of as

1. There's no decision when the work might start.
2. I am writing to you the job opening in your department.
3. Speaking a researcher, I am in favour of the new rules of financing research at universities.
4. our future plans, we are not quite sure yet.
5. All our projects were rejected, their merits.
6. My experience was very much that described in that book.
7. your application, I am afraid I cannot offer you the job.

IV. This exercise will help you revise prepositions of place. Fill in the gaps, using the Czech equivalents given in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. They went the library. | do |
| 2. They went the library. | dovnitř, do |
| 3. They are the library. | v |
| 4. They came the library. | z |
| 5. They are the library. | (venku) před/za |
| 6. He studies Oxford. | na |
| 7. He lives Oxford. | v |
| 8. They live 18 Victoria Street. | v |
| 9. The village lies 15km south Pilsen. | od |
| 10. Our library is the right the computer centre. | na(pravo), od |
| 11. The restaurant is just the street. | přes |
| 12. There's a postbox the corner of the street. | na |
| 13. They were standing the corner of the street. | na |
| 14. There's a restaurant the corner. | za |
| 15. Write your name the upper right-hand corner. | do |
| 16. The TV is the corner of the room. | v |
| 17. They walked the street. | po, ulicí |
| 18. He ran the street. | přes |
| 19. There was not enough leg space that plane. | v |
| 20. Did you manage to sleep the plane? | v |
| 21. He jumped the car. | do |
| 22. He jumped the platform. | na |
| 23. He jumped the bus. | do |
| 24. He put his shoes the bed. | pod |
| 25. Can you breathe water? | pod |
| 26. The photograph of his family hung his desk. | nad |
| 27. The author's name was printed the title. | pod |
| 28. The title was printed the author's name. | nad |
| 29. The Dean's office is our department. | nad |

V. Complete with prepositions. Choose from the list below. Some prepositions may be used more than once.

towards of in with between instead of for on since from

Amtrak's Beef-Powered Train

Compared 1. its ultramodern counterparts 2. Europe and Japan, Amtrak is not a miracle 3. innovation. But 4. its Heartland Flyer – a daily service 5. Oklahoma City and Ford Worth, Texas – Amtrak is taking steps 6. a greener, low-carbon future. 7. spring, the Heartland Flyer has been running 8. 20 % biodiesel 9. the carbon-heavy diesel fuel which, 10. the exception 11. the Electric Acela Express, Amtrak's other trains are currently using. The biodiesel reduces air pollution and helps Amtrak save 12. fuel. And appropriately 13. a train 14. cow country, the biodiesel is made 15. cattle fat.

Adapted from Time, November 22, 2010, p. 56

VI. Complete with prepositions.

The (Almost) Waterless Washing Machine

You probably don't think 1. this every time you put your laundry 2. the washing machine, but the U.S. uses more than 1 trillion litres 3. water 4. laundry every year, 5. a report 6. the British firm Xeros Ltd. The company is developing a machine that draws cleaning power 7. reusable, stain-absorbing beads. These beads reduce the amount 8. water 9. as much as 90 %, i.e. the new type 10. washing machine requires only 10 % 11. the water needed 12. a normal washing machine. A commercial version is expected next year: good news 13. conservation and your monthly bill.

Adapted from Time, November 22, 2010, p. 47

VII. Complete with prepositions.

Antro Electric Car

The car 1. the future is coming 2. Hungary. Yes, it sounds 3. communist propaganda 4. the 1960s, but the Hungarian designer Antro has just made a superefficient car. Compared 5. similar cars manufactured 6. the West, Antro's Solo car is also supercheap. It can hold 7. three people – a driver and two passengers - one 8. either side. They help to drive the car 9. pedalling. The rest 10. the forward motion comes 11. an electric motor that is partly powered 12. solar panels. 13. combining two Solo cars, Antro creates the family-friendly Duo. Look 14. it 15. 2012.

Adapted from Time, Nov. 22, 2010, p. 55

VIII. Complete with prepositions.

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IX. Complete with prepositions.

The field of interest 1. the Engineering Management Society (EMS) encompasses the management sciences and technology applicable 2. organizations engaged 3. research, development, design, evaluation, production, or operation 4. electrical equipment/systems. These areas of interest include characteristics 5. technical people and environments, relations 6. engineering and other functions 7. the organization, and techniques 8. program/project management. Also 9. concern are the socioeconomic impacts 10. technology 11. society. EMS seeks recognition 12. its members' contributions 13. the theory and practice 14. engineering management. Awards are given 15. the best papers and 16. outstanding performance as a manager. EMS sponsors sessions 17. general IEEE meetings 18. subjects 19. interest 20. engineering managers.

Adapted from Engineering Management Society (EMS) Information, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, August 2003, Volume 50, Number 3