

## Basic Czech and Slovak Pronunciation

### Consonants

c	like the <b>z</b> in <i>Mozart</i>
č	like <b>ch</b> in <i>chase</i>
ch	like the <b>ch</b> in German <i>ach</i>
d', de, di, dí	approximated by articulating <b>d</b> with the tip of the tongue against the hard palate, followed by <b>y</b> . A very soft sound (see <b>n</b> , below.)
f	like the <b>f</b> in <i>father</i>
g	like the <b>g</b> in <i>give</i>
h	at the beginning of a syllable, like the <b>h</b> in <i>hand</i>
j	like the <b>y</b> in <i>yes</i>
ň, ne, ni, ní	like the <b>ny</b> in <i>canyon</i>
r	rolled, with the tip of the tongue
ř	rolled; it can be approximated by pronouncing the Czech <b>r</b> and <b>ž</b> simultaneously (think <i>Dvořák</i> )
s	like the <b>s</b> in <i>sun</i>
š	like the <b>s</b> in <i>shade</i>
te, ti, tí	like the Czech <b>d'</b> , but unvoiced
z	like the <b>zz</b> in <i>buzz</i>
ž	like the <b>s</b> in <i>measure</i>

All other Czech consonants are pronounced as in English, except that in Czech, **p**, **t** and **k** are not aspirated as strongly as in English.

### Vowels and Diphthongs

a	like the <b>a</b> in <i>father</i>	aj	like the <b>i</b> in <i>ice</i>
á	like the preceding, but more protracted	áj	like the preceding, but the first vowel sound is protracted
e or é	like the <b>e</b> in <i>met</i>	au	like the <b>ow</b> in <i>cow</i>
ě	like the <b>e</b> in <i>met</i> , preceded by <b>y</b>	ej or éj	like the <b>ay</b> in <i>day</i>
i or y	like the <b>i</b> in <i>sit</i>	ij or yj	like the <b>ee</b> in <i>green</i>
í or ý	like the <b>ee</b> in <i>green</i> (after <b>b</b> , <b>f</b> , <b>p</b> and <b>v</b> , pronounce like <i>ye</i> in <i>yes</i> )	íj or ýj	like the <b>ee</b> in <i>green</i> but more protracted
o	like the <b>aw</b> in <i>saw</i>	oj	like the <b>oy</b> in <i>boy</i>
ó	like the preceding, but protracted	ou	like the <b>ow</b> in <i>snow</i>
u	like the <b>oo</b> in <i>book</i>	uj	like the vowel sound in <i>phooey</i>
ú or ů	like the <b>oo</b> in <i>fool</i>		

**l** and **r** can also function as vowels, in which case they are pronounced like the final sounds in the English words *bottle* and *mother*