

Locative Case

What are the main contexts in which the locative case is used?

What are the forms of the locative case for nouns in the singular and plural?

The locative case **expresses the location** of someone or something **in space, in time, or in an abstract domain**. The locative is the **only Czech case that cannot be used without a preposition**. The prepositions that take the locative include: **na** (on, at), **v(e)** (in, at), **o** (about), and **po** (after).

Neznáte levné hotely v <u>Praze</u> a v <u>Brně</u> ? cheap	nom: Praha, Brno
Byla jsem celý den na <u>semináři</u> . I-was all	nom: seminář
Bude Nadal hrát letos ve <u>Wimbledonu</u> ? will play this-year	nom: Wimbledon
Americký Den děkování je v <u>listopadu</u> . thanksgiving November	nom: listopad
Zavede Česká republika euro v <u>roce</u> 2012? will-adopt year	nom: rok
Po <u>práci</u> jdu do posilovny. I-go gym	nom: práce
Byty ve <u>většině</u> měst zlevnily. majority of-towns got-cheaper	nom: většina
Koho volíš v <u>eurovolbách</u> ? who vote-for EU-elections	nom pl: eurovolby
Kdo ví víc o <u>pivě</u> : Češi nebo Němci? more	nom: pivo
Na <u>hodině</u> češtiny často mluvíme o <u>pádech</u> . cases	nom: hodina, pád

The preposition **na + locative means on a surface** of something:

Tady se nesmí tancovat na <u>stole</u> . is-not-allowed to-dance	nom: stůl
Dobré nápady existují jen na <u>papíře</u> . ideas	nom: papír
Dali jsme si rande na <u>střeše</u> školy. we-had date roof	nom: střecha
Málokdo má tetování na <u>hlavě</u> . few-people tattoo head	nom: hlava

Píšeme o globálním oteplování.
warming nom: globální oteplování

Profesorka přednášela o Evropské unii.
lectured union nom: Evropská unie

In its temporal meaning, *po + locative means after*:

Po dokončení školy jsem se vrátil do Evropy.
finishing-up I-returned nom: dokončení

Po práci jsme šli do hospody.
we-went pub nom: práce

Po tréninku si dá potréinkový nápoj.
workout will-have drink nom: trénink

Kam jdeme po kině?
where we-go movies nom: kino

Endings for the locative case

Below are the locative endings for the following noun declensions: **Masculine inanimate** and **Masculine animate**, **Neuter**, **Feminine**, and **Neuters in -í**. (There are more declensional types in Czech, but the others — for example, feminine nouns with nominative endings in a consonant — are more complicated and will be treated elsewhere as will adjective and pronoun declensions.) There are **complications in the locative endings that make this case the most tricky of all Czech cases in terms of endings**— which is why the remarks are so lengthy.

Singular	Hard	Soft	Plural
M inanim	stol <u>e</u> , hrad <u>ě</u> , park <u>u</u>	pokoji, počítači	stol <u>ech</u> , hrad <u>ech</u> , parc <u>ích</u> ; pokoj <u>ích</u> , počítač <u>ích</u>
M anim	student <u>ovi</u> , ps <u>ovi</u>	učitel <u>í</u> , češtinář <u>í</u> (-ovi)	student <u>ech</u> , pse <u>ch</u> ; učitel <u>ích</u> , češtinář <u>ích</u>
N	měst <u>ě</u> , okn <u>ě</u>	moř <u>í</u> , letiš <u>tí</u>	měst <u>ech</u> , okn <u>ech</u> ; moř <u>ích</u> , letiš <u>tích</u>
F	tříd <u>ě</u> , tužc <u>e</u>	tabul <u>í</u> , zem <u>í</u>	tříd <u>ách</u> , tužk <u>ách</u> ; tabul <u>ích</u> , zem <u>ích</u>
-í		nádraž <u>í</u> , náměst <u>í</u>	nádraž <u>ích</u> , náměst <u>ích</u>

Some remarks:

1. For **M inanim nouns** in the **locative singular**, there are **two possible endings: -u and -e/-ě**. The **great majority** of these nouns (90% according to Janda and Clancy, p. 225) **take -u**: these include **abstract nouns**, recent **borrowings** (*hotel* > *v hotelu*, *klub* > *v klubu*...), most—but not all—**nouns endings in -k, -g, -h, -ch, or -r** (*taxík* > *v taxíku*, *Haag* > *v Haagu*, *roh* < *na rohu*, *vzduch* > *ve vzduchu*, *sever* > *na severu*...). Many nouns, however, favor the **-e/-ě** ending: *stol* > *na stole*, *strop* > *na stropě*, *dům* > *v domě*, *hrad* > *na hradě*... Even some nouns ending in **-k** or **-r** favor the **-e** ending: *rok* > *v roce*, *jazyk* > *v jazyce*, *jezero* > *na jezeře*... **Some nouns**, especially those ending in **-s**, **admit either ending**: *v dopise* ~ *v dopisu*, *v autobuse* ~ *v autobusu*... Among

these nouns, **-e is favored for concrete locative meanings** (with the prepositions *v* and *na*) while **-u is preferred in other contexts** (with, for example, the preposition *o*).

2. The **locative pl endings for M nouns** are *-ech* (hard) and *-ích* (soft). The *-ích* ending is also used with certain nouns ending in *-s*, *-l*, or *-z*: *les > v lesích*, *kostel > v kostelích/kostelech...* In addition, ***-ích* is added to stems ending in -k, -g, -h, and -ch, which causes consonant changes**: *park > v parcích*, *kluk > o klucích*, *Čech > o Češích...* Sometimes, especially in colloquial Czech and with words that are more conversational in nature, **the feminine *-ách* ending** (without consonant changes) **is used with these stems**: *taxík > v taxíkách*, *kluk > o klukách...*

3. The **locative pl ending for N nouns with stems ending in -k, -g, -h, or -ch is *-ách*** (without consonant changes): *jablko > o jablkách*.

4. **M anim nouns**, especially names, **sometimes take the hard ending *-ovi*** in the locative sg: *Tomáš > Tomášovi*.

5. **M anim nouns that consist of a series** of words follow a **special pattern in the locative sg**: the last word in the series (hard or soft) takes the ending *-ovi* while the preceding words take either *-u* or *-i* (as appropriate): *pan profesor Havránek > o panu profesoru Havránkovi*, *pan Miloš Forman > o panu Miloši Formanovi*.

6. **M anim nouns with grammatically feminine endings always take *-ovi*** in the locative sg: *Honza > o Honzovi*.

7. **F nouns ending in -k, -g, -h, or -ch** undergo **consonant changes** with the addition of the *-e* ending **in the locative sg**: *dívka > o dívce*, *Praha > v Praze*, *střecha > na střеше...*

Question words for locative: *O kom? O čem?*

* Analysis of the locative case presented here is drawn from the highly recommended book by Laura Janda and Steven Clancy, *The Case Book for Czech* (Slavica Publishers, 2006). More analytic details and examples are available in Janda and Clancy's book.