

CZECH WORDS WITH DIACRITICAL MARKS

STANISLAV TVRDIK
Prague, Czechoslovakia

Editor's Note: Few English words contain letters with diacritical marks (accents, umlauts, tildes, cedillas, circumflexes and the like), most of these being foreign borrowings. Hence, the following bit of Czech wordplay is impossible to duplicate in English. This translation was provided by Harry Partridge of Manhattan Beach, CA (translator notes in parentheses).

This article lists words in Czech having a diacritical mark over every letter -- that is, the little line, the little hook, or the little circle. There are fifteen different letters that can be used:

á č ď é ě í ň ó ř š ť ú ů ý ž

Examples of such words are:

3-letter	čís říš šír číz	(goblet) (poetical form) (empire) (rare form) (width) (literary form of <u>čížek</u> , 'siskin')
4-letter	číší říší šíří	(it is blowing; there is a draft) (apparently the adjectival form of <u>říš</u>) (he/she/it enlarges/dilates/expatiates)
5-letter	čízčí šíříš	(apparently the adjectival form of <u>čížek</u>) (thou enlargest/dilatest/expatiatest)
6-letter	Žďaríš	(the name of a forest)
7-letter	Řícičár	(sievemaker) The word is derived from <u>řícice</u> (sieve) which, to be sure, does not fully meet the conditions of this article because the short <u>i</u> is the normal letter instead of <u>í</u> ; however, <u>í</u> is said to be very common here and there as a family name - Rudé právo, 1964

Can you discover more such words?