

CZECH WORDS CONTAINING NUMBERS

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Editor's Note: Many English number-names can be imbedded in words (bONER, wEIGHT, asiNINE, atTEND) or split between two words (iT WOULD, boTH REEds, oF OUR, iF I'VE, iS EVENtually); Martin Gardner exploited the latter idea in a Kickshaws quiz. Alternatively, the sounds of number-names can be embedded (WONder, TOOt, beFORE, dictATE). Similar games can be played in Czech; in fact, writing short stories with numbers substituted in appropriate words is a common logological pastime. The following summary of Czech number-words was translated by Harry Partridge of Manhattan Beach, CA (translator notes in parentheses).

Many words and verbal compounds contain the letters of various numbers. These words may be presented so that at the appropriate place the symbol of the corresponding number is written instead of its letters. Examples:

1	JEDNAtel	1-tel	(manager, editor, agent)
			(jedna is the feminine form of jeden = 1)
2	meDVĚdi	me-2-di	(bears)
			(dvě is the feminine of dva = 2)
3	sTŘIk	s-3-k	(soda water)
4	(no examples given; however, it might be used by finding words to fit the patterns --č tyři-- or --čty ři--, possibly in dialect)		
5	zPĚT	z-5	(back, as in 'there and back')
	kouPĚ Tašky	kou-5-ašky	(the purchase of a bag, of luggage)
6	kaŠE STačí	ka-6-ačí	(the gruel is enough)
7	(an incorrect example was given in one of the accompanying stories: 7-nul for <u>sednul</u> , 'sat down'. Actually, <u>sedm</u> = 7)		
8	kOSMos	k-8-os	(cosmos)
9	buDE VĚTřík	bu-9-řík	(there will be a breeze)
10	buDE SE Tkát	bu-10-kát	(it will get woven)
0	pracovNICE	pracov-0-e	(worker)
	ohNU Lať	oh-0-t	(I bend the lath)
	jeZERO	je-0	(lake)
	paNIC KAšle	pa-0-šle	(the youth coughs)
100	STODola	100-dola	(barn)
	kuSTOD	ku-100-d	(custodian)
100s	příSTAV	pří-100 100-v	(port, harbor)