Declension and Conjugation

Declension

Czech nouns, adjectives. most pronouns and some numerals are dedined, i.e. they form cases. Cases are the word forms with specific endings. Czech is a synthetic language with flexible word order, and therefore it needs cases with their endings as "signals" that express grammatical relationships between words. Familiarize yourself with the basic meanings of cases:

The nominative is a vocabulary form. It expresses a subject in the sentence.

1st case, nominative   
2nd case, genitive   
3rd case, dative   
4th case, accusative   
5th case, vocative

Student je ve škole

The genitive expresses a possessive or partitive meaning.

Kniha studenta.

The dative expresses an indirect objed in the sentence.

Dám dárek studentovi

The accusative expresses a direct objed in the sentence.

Vidím studenta.

The vocative is a form with which we address people. In Czech if you want to address someone by name or call out to them by name you use the vocative case.

Adam —Adame! Eva — Evo!

The locative expresses a location.

6th case, locative 7th case, instrumental

Jsem ve škole.

The instrumental expresses a mean or instrument by which an activity is done.

Jedu autem.

These basic meanings are accompanied by other usage of cases. All verbs and prepositions in Czech have links with some case or cases. This part of the language students must learn through language exercises and drills. To understand better. you can imagine verbs and prepositions having a hook or hooks, which one or more cases can be hung from.

The summarizing case chart with detailed explanations can be found here (singular) and here (plural).

Conjugation

All Czech verbs are conjugated. The conjugation means that the verb changes its ending and thus expresses different persons. Personal pronouns (e.g. já. ty, on etc.) are in Czech. unlike many other languages. usually not used with verbs because the person's information is expressed by the verb ending. Personal pronouns are used with verbs only when we want to emphasize them (for example Já jsem doktor. ale ty ne.) = tma doctor. but not you.. or in a commonly spoken language. Note: In the expression To je.. /To není... = This is... /It's not... (for example when something or someone is pointed at), the demonstrative pronoun to = that is never omitted.

Forma) and Informal Addressing

Note the difference between addressing vy (= vykání) and addressing ty (= tykání):

* Odkud jste? (= forrnal singular or plural) x Odkud jsi? (= informal singular)
* Co děláte? (= forma) singular or plural) x Co děláš? (= informal singular)
* A vy? (= forma) singular or plural) x A ty? (= informal singular)

Foreign adults use the forma) way of addressing (= vykání). Relatives, friends. children (up to about 15 years) are addressed informally (= tykání). also young people of the same age use the informal way to address each other. The informal way of addressing is usually offered by a woman or order or a senior bussiness person in this way: Můžeme si tykat? The usual answer is: Ano, rád/ráda