Word Order

The Czech word order is flexible. The information already mentioned or obvious stands usually at the beginning of the sentence in Czech. New information is usually placed at the end of the sentence.

The Second Position Rule in the Czech Sentence

There are several short unstressed words (called enclitics) which cannot stand at the beginning of the sentence. Enclitics are placed in the so-called second stressed position in the sentence (it means not always after the first word but after the first complete information). In case there are more unstressed words fitting to the second position at once, they are ordered as follows:

|  | **2nd Logical Position** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **The beginning of the sentence...** | **Auxiliary verbs of past tense** | **Reflexive se and si** | **short forms of the personal pronouns in the dative** | **short forms of the personal pronouns in the accusative and the pronoun to** | **...the end of the sentence.** |
| Díval | jsem | se | - | - | na televizi. |
| Bál | jsem | se | mu | to | dát. |

Note: the conjunctions a and ale at the beginning of the sentence are not taken in account, for example:
Včera dopoledne jsem se učil a pak jsem psal projekt.
Včera dopoledne jsem se učil, ale pak jsem pracoval.