

Future Tense

How is the future tense formed in Czech?

How can it be translated into English?

Czech has **two possibilities for future tense** statements. These two possibilities are **formed differently** and are **correlated to aspectual usage**.

Aspectually **imperfective futures** – formed with the future of the verb *být* combined with the **imperfective infinitive** of the main verb — **denote a future process** or durative activity. These can be translated into English by the simple future *will X something* but can also be rendered by the durative paraphrases *will be X-ing something* or *going to be X-ing something*.

Dnes večer půjdeme do klubu a **budeme tancovat** celou noc.
Tonight we're going to a club and **we'll dance** [**we will be dancing**] the whole night long.

Už víš, co **budeš dělat** v létě?
Do you already know what **you'll be doing** in the summer?

Rodina vám pomůže ve všem, co **budete potřebovat**.
Your family will help you with everything that **you will need** [**you'll be needing**].

Nebudu psát pro bulvár!
I will not write [**will not be writing**] for the tabloids!

Budu kupovat nový PC a tak bych potřeboval poradit.
I'm going to be buying a new PC and so I need some advice.

Tentokrát jsme prohráli, ale **budeme hrát** dál.
This time we lost, but **we will play** on.

Gambrinus je pivo piv: **budu ho pít**, co budu živ.
Gambrinus is the beer of beers: **I will drink** it as long as I'm alive.

Klidně **si budu kupovat** české výrobky — pokud budou srovnatelné s jinými.
I will happily buy Czech products — if they're comparable to others.

Aspectually perfective futures — formed simply by conjugating a perfective verb as if it were a present-tense verb — **indicate a perfective event in the future** — that is, an event that has an inherent result which is being profiled by the future statement.

Udělám, co budeš chtít.
I will do what you (will) want.

Kdy **se vrátí** táta?
When **will** dad **return**?

Fakt **nevypiju** za hodinu celou láhev.
I really won't drink the whole bottle in an hour.

Příští týden **si koupím** nové kolo.

Next week **I'm going to buy myself** a new bike.

Vždycky mě zajímalo jen to, co **napíšu** zítra.
Only one thing has ever interested me: what **I will write** tomorrow.

Titul **vyhraje** Sparta.
Sparta **will win** the title.

Because **perfective futures usually concretize an event, they often require specificity while imperfective futures tend to be more general.** Note the difference in usage in the following questions: the first is general, and the second is concrete. The first uses an imperfective future, and the second a perfective future with a direct object that gives the inquiry a definite grounding in a specific future event.

Co **budeš dělat**?
What **will you do** [will you be doing]?

Uděláš to?
Will you do it?

Below is a **comparison of the future-tense possibilities using the verb *dělat* (imperfective) / *udělat* (perfective).**

	<i>Imperfective future</i>	<i>Perfective future</i>
(já)	budu dělat	udělám
(ty)	budeš dělat	uděláš
(on/ona)	bude dělat	udělá
(my)	budeme dělat	uděláme
(vy)	budete dělat	uděláte
(oni/ony)	budou dělat	udělají

Note that **future forms of *být*** (*I will be, you will be, s/he will be...*) only require the future conjugation of *být* (*budu, budeš, bude...*) — that is, they **do not require an infinitive.**

Budeme doma za půl hodinky.
We'll be home in a half-hour.

Budeš ve škole nebo v práci?
Will you be at school or work?

Modal verbs — like *moci/moct* (to be able to, can), *muset* (must, need to), *chtít* (want), *mít* (should, have to) — **only take imperfective future forms.**

Nevím, co **budeš moct** dělat.
I don't know what **you will be able** to do.

Dám ti to, co **budeš chtít**.
I'll give you what **you (will) want**.

Dneska se **budu muset** učit.
Today **I'll have** to study.