

**Feminine  
declension  
nouns**

**Masculine  
declension  
nouns**

**Neuter  
declension  
nouns**

**Adjectives**

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**Pronouns**

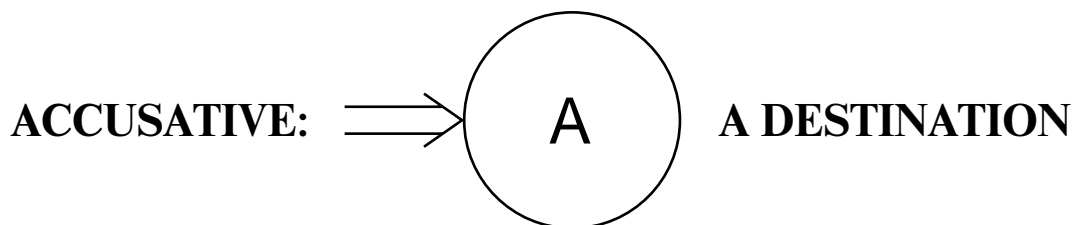
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**Possessives**

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**Numerals**

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The accusative network:



## PROLOGUE

The accusative case can do two things: it can take you to a place (= ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION), or it can take you through a space (= ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION).(mn0.1) Just as running onto a stage and jumping through a hoop can be all folded into one continuous action, the two meanings of the accusative are really two halves of a continuum without a precise boundary between them.

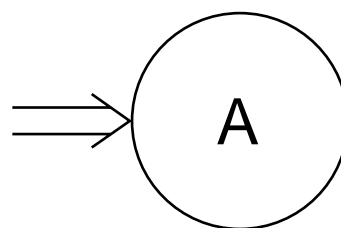
Above all else, the accusative describes a destination, and this is equally true for both of its meanings. The relationship between the two meanings of the accusative is noticeably different from those that we see in the other cases with multiple meanings (the nominative, instrumental, dative, and genitive). Rather than being relatively discrete and independent (but related), the meanings of the accusative are like the two ends of a megaphone. The basic meaning of ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is the biggest, least specific meaning; it does not analyze its object in any way(mn0.2). An item marked by ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is just a destination, its structure is of no particular interest. ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION, however, focuses on a destination extended through space, time, or some other dimension. The accusative operates on a scale from general to specific, and the boundary between the submeanings is rather diffuse.

Another hallmark of the accusative case is the way it deploys prepositions(mn0.3). With all other cases, each preposition is associated with only one submeaning. Not so the accusative. It is not uncommon for prepositions to be associated with both meanings of the accusative case. An important role of accusative prepositions is to identify the trajectory that is taken on the way to a destination or along a dimension. The table on the following page will give you some idea of how versatile prepositions are in the accusative case, and the individual uses of each will be discussed in the sections below.

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 1 —

### Destinations in various domains

ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION operates in four primary domains: space, time, action, and purpose. In the spatial domain, ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is a destination of physical motion, the point at which someone or something appears at the end of a journey. In terms of time, ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION expresses a temporal destination, the point at which



A force (arrow) arrives at an  
ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION  
(circle labeled A)

## Distribution of prepositions between the meanings of the accusative case

ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION		ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION	
na	'(on)to; for; at; toward'	na	'to; at; for; approximately'
v	'to; in; into; for; on ; at'		
o	'against; for'	o	'by (amount of difference)
po	'up to; for'	po	'all through'
pro	'for; due to; because of'		
před	'to a place in front of; before'		
za	'to a place behind; (catching) on, by; for'	za	'in; during'
nad	'to a place above; beyond'		
pod	'to a place under, below; less than'		
mezi	'to a place among, between'		
mimo	'past; outside of; besides; except'	mimo	'in spite of'
přes	'across; more than'	přes	'across; all through; avoiding; in spite of'
ob	'every other; one away'		
		skrz	'through'
		s	'measuring up to, capable of'

an event appears in the timeline. In the domain of action, ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is the destination of an activity — what we usually call the direct object. In the domain of purpose, ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION designates the target of some intention, and its meaning is roughly equivalent to the English word *for*.

The use of ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION that is easiest for us to grasp is spatial destinations because this is its most concrete meaning. We can think of all the other meanings as being based on or derived from spatial destinations via metaphor. Some secondary extensions are obviously closely linked to space, such as scales, lists, categorizations, and measurements, since all of these involve ordered arrangements of items, where some are closer together and others further apart. Evidence from many languages shows that time is usually understood as a kind of metaphorical space; in fact the timeline is itself a metaphorical model that uses spatial relations to describe relations in the domain of time. English is chock-full of expressions that bear witness to how we use space to understand time, in conventional phrases like *on Monday*, *in two weeks*, *through next Friday*, and in expressions like *summer is just around the corner* and *the holidays are coming up soon*. Although the details of how space is used as a model for time differ between Czech and English, the basic idea is the same.

Unfortunately we do not share with Czech the extension of the notion of a destination to the domains of action and purpose, so we have to stretch our imaginations in unfamiliar directions in order to understand these applications of ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION. In the domain of action, we can imagine a transfer of energy taking place, such that the energy goes from the subject to the direct object, its destination. In this sentence, the subject is the thieves, the action is stealing, and this action is directed toward the automated teller, which is the direct object expressed as ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION:

- (1) Lupiči ukradli **celý bankomat**.  
 [Thieves-NOM stole **whole automated-teller-ACC**.]  
 The thieves stole **a whole automated teller**.

In addition to directing an action toward something, one can also direct intention toward something, thus expressing ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION in the domain of purpose. This usually happens when we do something *for* someone, *for* a purpose, or *for* a reason.

The most common use of ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION is the direct object, which is expressed without a preposition. All other uses of ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION require the presence of a preposition, and most prepositions are active in more than one domain. The table presents an overview of the domains the prepositions operate in. Each preposition and its domains will be discussed in turn below.

The Domains of Prepositions Used with ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION

Domains		
space, purpose	<i>na</i>	‘(on)to; for; at; toward’
space, time, states of being,	<i>v</i>	‘to; in; into’
purpose		
space, endeavors	<i>o</i>	‘against; for’
space, time, scales, lists	<i>po</i>	‘up to; for’
purpose, cause	<i>pro</i>	‘for; due to; because of’
space, legal status	<i>před</i>	‘to a place in front of; before’
space, time, purpose, priorities,	<i>za</i>	‘to a place behind; (catching) on,
replacements		by; for’
space, measurement	<i>nad</i>	‘to a place above; beyond’
space, jurisdiction, amounts	<i>pod</i>	‘to a place under, below; less
		than’
space, categorization	<i>mezi</i>	‘to a place among, between’
space, lists	<i>mimo</i>	‘past; outside of; besides; except’
space, time, amounts,	<i>přes</i>	‘across; more than’
relationships		
space, time	<i>ob</i>	‘every other; one away’

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 2 — The direct object

As mentioned above, the destination of the activity expressed by a verb in a sentence is what we traditionally call the direct object. Many sentences have both an agent (something that does something) and a patient (something that has something done to it), and the patient, also known as the direct object, is in the accusative case because the action moves along an imaginary path from the agent to the patient. Actions of movement are directed at the telephone receiver and the furniture in the two examples below, and cleaning action is also directed at the apartment in Prague, motivating the expression of all of these items as ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION.

- (2) Položil se zaklením **sluchátko**, vrátil se do vyhřáté postele, ale usnout už nemohl. [Put-down with cursing-INST **receiver-ACC**, returned self-ACC to warmed bed-GEN, but fall-asleep already couldn’t.]  
He cursed and put down **the receiver** and went back to his warm bed, but he couldn’t fall asleep again.

- (3) **Byt** v Praze vyklidil, **nábytek** přestěhoval na chatu.  
 [Apartment-ACC in Prague-LOC cleaned-out, **furniture-ACC** moved to cottage-ACC.]  
 He cleaned out **the apartment** in Prague and moved **the furniture** to the cottage.

In addition to directing an action at something that already exists, we can bring something into existence, directing our energy toward the end product of some creative activity. The following two sentences contain examples of creation; in the first sentence (describing a woman's philanthropic efforts for the benefit of soldiers) the socks are produced by knitting, but of course the soldiers and shirts already exist, as do the snapshots when they are being sent (though they, too are direct objects here); the second sentence contains an idiom based on the fact that films are created by winding.

- (4) Fotografovala **je** a **snímky** posílala rodinám, pletla **ponožky** a zašívala **khaki košile**.  
 [Photographed **them-ACC** and **snapshots-ACC** sent families-DAT, knitted **socks-ACC** and mended **khaki shirts-ACC**.]  
 She photographed **them** and sent **the snapshots** to their families, knitted **socks**, and mended **khaki shirts**.
- (5) Ona působí nejčastěji jako výtvarnice, ale natáčí také **filmy**.  
 [She-NOM works mostly as graphic-artist-NOM, but winds also **films-ACC**.]  
 She works mostly as a graphic artist, but she also makes **films**.

This formula of agent + verb + patient/direct object, where the direct object is ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION will work for just about any verb (except the ones that govern the genitive, dative, or instrumental for some special reason explained in those chapters), and even for verbs that don't involve any real "action", as we see in these examples:

- (6) Přímo z okna ložnice mohu dalekohledem pozorovat **život** v lese.  
 [Directly from window-GEN bedroom-GEN can binoculars-INST observe **life-ACC** in forest-LOC.]  
 I can observe **life** in the forest through binoculars right from my bedroom window.
- (7) Nikdy jsem neměla **vysokého partnera**, ani **mě** nelákají klasičtí hezouni.  
 [Never AUX not-had **tall partner-ACC**, nor **me-ACC** not-attracted classic good-looking-men-NOM.]  
 I've never had **a tall partner**, nor do the classic good-looking men attract **me**.

Thanks to the fact that the direct object is marked with the accusative case (and thus usually distinct from the nominative agent/subject), the subject, verb, and direct object can be presented in just about any order. Here are a couple of examples of word orders that won't usually work in English (at least not with active verbs):

- (8) **Nobelovou cenu** získal objev přenosu signálů mezi buňkami.  
 [Nobel **prize-ACC** earned discovery-NOM transfer-GEN signals-GEN between cells-INST.]

The discovery of the transfer of signals between cells earned **the Nobel prize**.

- (9) **Půjčky** na školné by měl garantovat stát.  
 [Loans-ACC for tuition-ACC AUX had guarantee state-NOM.]  
 The state should guarantee tuition **loans**.

Even the direct object is not immune to idiomatic constructions. A very common idiom is modeled after German syntax, the expression *mít někoho/něco rád* [have **someone/something-ACC** glad-NOM] ‘like **someone/something**’. Here is an example:

- (10) Mám ráda **čokoládu**, naštěstí na mně není znát, kolik jí sním.  
 [Have glad-NOM **chocolate-ACC**, fortunately on me-LOC isn’t known, how-much-ACC it-GEN eat.]  
 I like **chocolate**, and fortunately you can’t tell by looking at me how much of it I eat.

The verb *mít* ‘have’ appears in an idiomatic construction with the neuter singular short form passive participle of verbs. The most common constructions of this type are *mít (něco) uděláno* ‘have (something) **done**’, *mít otevřeno/zavřeno* ‘be **open/closed** (store or building)’, *mít uklizeno* ‘be done **cleaning up**’, *mít zakázáno* ‘be **under orders not to**, be **forbidden to** (do something)’.

- (11) Pro mnoho žen je stále hlavním cílem mít doma za každou cenu **uklizeno**.  
 [For many-ACC women-GEN is still main goal-INST have at-home for any price-ACC **cleaned-ACC**.]  
 Many women still see their most important goal as keeping the house **clean** at all costs.
- (12) Před Vánoci budou mít naše supermarketky **otevřeno** stejně jako loni 24 hodin denně.  
 [Before Christmas-INST will have our supermarkets-NOM **opened-ACC** same like last-year 24-ACC hours-GEN daily.]  
 Just like last year our supermarkets will be **open** 24 hours a day before Christmas.
- (13) Ale znáte děti, nejvíce je láká právě to, co mají **zakázáno**.  
 [But know children-ACC, most them-ACC attracts precisely that-NOM, what-NOM have **forbidden-ACC**.]  
 But you know how children are, they are most attracted precisely by what they are **forbidden** to do.

The verb *dělat* can also mean ‘work’, and it is possible to use it with the name of a profession expressed as ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION to say what kind of job a person has. Here is an example that shows how this works:

- (14) S tak výrazným talentem jsem se za celou dobu, co dělám **trenéra**, ještě nesetkal.  
 [With such remarkable talent-INST AUX self-ACC for all time-ACC, what-ACC work **trainer-ACC**, still not-encountered.]

I've never before encountered such remarkable talent in all the time I've worked **as a trainer**.

Bodily pain is usually expressed by saying that a body part hurts a person, marking the person as ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION; thus the following example literally means 'the tooth hurt **me**':

- (15) Rozbolel **mě** zub, já se na to soustředil a nemohl jsem usnout.  
 [Hurt **me-ACC** tooth-NOM, I-NOM self-ACC on that-ACC focused and couldn't AUX fall-asleep.]  
**My** tooth started to hurt, I focused on it and I couldn't fall asleep.

In Czech, ideas are said to fall upon people, who are the accusative direct objects of this experience, conveyed by the verb *napadat/napadnout* 'get an idea, occur to' (literally 'fall on; attack'). Here are two examples of how this works:

- (16) Pelikána bílého zná každý ze zoo a **málokoho** napadne, že ho může vidět i ve volné přírodě.  
 [Pelican white-ACC knows everyone-NOM from zoo-GEN and **hardly-anyone-ACC** falls-on, that it-ACC can see also in free nature-LOC.]  
 Everyone knows the white pelican from the zoo, and it hardly ever occurs **to anyone** that one can see it in the wild too.
- (17) Co **ho** to jen napadlo, taková nerozvážnost!  
 [What-NOM **him-ACC** that-NOM only fell-on, such imprudence-NOM!]  
 What's gotten into **him**? Such imprudence!

There is an unusual construction that has no subject, but uses ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION following the verbs *vidět* 'see' and *slyšet* 'hear', as in *Je vidět horu* [Is see **mountain-ACC**] 'The mountain is visible' or *Je slyšet hudbu* [Is hear **music-ACC**] 'Music can be heard'. The sense of the direct object is more potential than actual in these sentences (since there is no mention of the person who actually does the seeing or hearing), and it is possible to use NOMINATIVE: AN IDENTITY instead (so one can alternatively say *Je vidět hora* or *Je slyšet hudba*).

- (18) Šeřilo se brzy, mraky se spojovaly a za chvíli nebylo **vrcholky** kopců vůbec vidět.  
 [Got-dark self-ACC early, clouds-NOM self-ACC joined and in while-ACC not-was **tops-ACC** hills-GEN at-all see.]  
 It got dark early, the clouds came together and in a short time the **hilltops** could not be seen.
- (19) Nepodařilo se mu určit ani místo, ani směr, odkud bylo slyšet **hudbu**.  
 [Not-succeeded self-ACC him-DAT determine neither place-ACC, neither direction-ACC, from-where was hear **music-ACC**.]  
 He wasn't able to determine the place or the direction from which **the music** was heard.

Occasionally you will encounter ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION in the absence of any verb at all. Many greetings are simply words marked with the accusative case, as in the table below. Because these greetings are used so frequently, there is no need to repeat the entire sentence they belong in, which would be *Přeji Vám/Ti* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION [Wish you-DAT + ...-ACC] ‘I wish you **a/the...**’. The part that repeats is predictable, so it is deleted, and what we have left is just the content of the wish, itself always accusative:

Greetings Using ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION			
<i>Dobrou chut!</i>	‘Bon appetit!’	<i>Přijemnou zábavu!</i>	‘Have a good time!’
<i>Dobrou noc!</i>	‘Good night!’	<i>Šťastnou cestu!</i>	‘Bon voyage!’
<i>Dobré ráno/jitro!</i>	‘Good morning!’	<i>Šťastný Nový rok!</i>	‘Happy New Year!’
<i>Dobrý den!</i>	‘Good day!’	<i>Veselé Vánoce!</i>	‘Merry Christmas!’
<i>Dobrý večer!</i>	‘Good evening!’	<i>Všechno nejlepší!</i>	‘All the best!’

- (20) “**Dobrou noc**,” houkla svým hlubokým hlasem a otočila se ke mně zády.  
[“**Good night-ACC**,” boomed own deep voice-INST and turned self-ACC to me-DAT back-INST.]  
“**Good night**,” she boomed in her deep voice and turned her back on me.
- (21) **Dobrý večer**, vážení diváci, vítám vás v divadle Járy Cimrmana.  
[**Good evening-ACC**, dear viewers-VOC, welcome you-ACC in theatre-LOC Jára Cimrman-GEN.]  
**Good evening**, dear viewers, I welcome you to the Jára Cimrman theatre.

The interjection *na* ‘here, take this...’ (not to be confused with the preposition *na*) is also frequently followed by ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION even though there is no verb. Thus, if someone wanted to help you up a steep path they might hold out their hand and say: *Na, ruku!* ‘Here, take **my hand!**’.

- (22) Na, **ruku!** Chyt’ se jí a už se více neboj, já tě ochráním.  
[Here, **hand-ACC!** Grab self-ACC it-GEN and already self-ACC more not-fear, I-NOM you-ACC protect.]  
Here’s **my hand!** Grab onto it and don’t be afraid anymore, I’ll protect you.
- (23) Na, **míč!** A hod’ mi ho hezky nazpátek!  
[Here, **ball-ACC!** And throw me-DAT it-ACC nicely back!]  
Here’s **the ball!** And throw it back to me nicely!

### ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 3 — COMING AND GOING WITH CZECH PREPOSITIONS

There is a serious disconnect between Czech and English, because whereas in English people just go *to* a place (with the exception of a few situations like walking *into* a room), in Czech there are three options, depending upon the destination: *na* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION, *do* + GENITIVE:: A SOURCE, or *k* + DATIVE:: A COMPETITOR. This system of expressions for going *to* a place is paralleled by similar systems for being *at* a place and for coming *from* a

place, and it is worth looking at all three of these systems as a group, since they do a lot of work in Czech. One distinction is fairly easy to make: destinations that are human beings always use the series of constructions that begins with *k* + DAT. When a destination is understood as the upper surface of a solid object, the preposition will be *na* + ACC. When the destination is understood as a container that is entered, the preposition is *do* + ACC. However, most destinations are not people, the top surfaces of solids, or the interiors of containers, and this is where the trouble begins. Non-human destinations are either “*na* words” or they are “not *na* words” (meaning that they use *do* + GEN), and there is no easy way to tell which is which (though there are some guidelines on how to identify the “*na* words” in the chapter on the locative case). There is one thing you can count on: if you know which preposition is used for an item that is a destination, then you will also know what preposition is used for a location at the same item, as well as what preposition is used for movement from that item. So, if you have a “*na* word”, movement to is *na* + ACC, location at is *na* + LOC, and movement from is *z* + GEN. If what you have is **not** a “*na* word”, movement to is *do* + GEN, location at is *v* + LOC, and movement from is *z* + GEN. If your destination is a human being, movement to is *k* + DAT, location at is *u* + GEN, and movement from is *od* + GEN. This table presents the systematic relationships of prepositions, with *pošta* ‘post office’ serving as our example of a “*na* word”, *škola* ‘school’ as our example of a non-“*na* word”, and *lékař* ‘doctor’ as our example of a human destination:

## Prepositions Used for Movement and Rest

## GOING TO A PLACE

“ <i>na</i> words”: <i>pošta</i> <b><i>na</i> + ACC</b>	non-“ <i>na</i> words”: <i>škola</i> <b><i>do</i> + GEN</b>	human beings: <i>lékař</i> <b><i>k</i> + DAT</b>
<i>Dcera šla na poštu.</i> ‘My daughter went to the post office.’	<i>Děti šli do školy.</i> ‘The children went to school.’	<i>Otec šel k lékaři.</i> ‘Father went to the doctor.’

## BEING AT A PLACE

“ <i>na</i> words”: <i>pošta</i> <b><i>na</i> + LOC</b>	non-“ <i>na</i> words”: <i>škola</i> <b><i>v</i> + LOC</b>	human beings: <i>lékař</i> <b><i>u</i> + GEN</b>
<i>Dcera byla na poště.</i> ‘My daughter was at the post office.’	<i>Děti byly ve škole.</i> ‘The children were at school.’	<i>Otec byl u lékaře.</i> ‘Father was at the doctor’s.’

## COMING FROM A PLACE

“ <i>na</i> words”: <i>pošta</i> <b><i>z</i> + GEN</b>	non-“ <i>na</i> words”: <i>škola</i> <b><i>z</i> + GEN</b>	human beings: <i>lékař</i> <b><i>od</i> + GEN</b>
<i>Dcera přišla z pošty.</i> ‘My daughter came (back) from the post office.’	<i>Děti přišly ze školy.</i> ‘The children came (back) from school.’	<i>Otec přišel od lékaře.</i> ‘Father came (back) from the doctor’s.’

**ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 4 — *na* ‘(on)to; for; at; toward’**

As mentioned above, the primary spatial meaning of *na* + accusative: a destination refers to movement to the upper surface of something, to a position ‘on’ something, as in this sentence, where the lion has been put back on the top of the cupola:

- (24) \*Na **opravenou kupoli** věže chrámu svatého Víta se vrátil český lev.  
 [To **renovated cupola-ACC** tower-GEN cathedral-GEN St. Vitus-GEN self-ACC returned Czech lion-NOM.]  
 The Czech lion has returned to **the renovated cupola** on the tower of St. Vitus' cathedral.

*Na* + ACC is also used for all destinations that are “*na* words”, as we see in these examples:

- (25) Jeli jsme na **chalupu**, udělali táborák, a náš pes si k němu přitáhl mrtvého králíka.  
 [Went AUX to **cottage-ACC**, made bonfire-ACC, and our dog-NOM self-DAT to it-DAT dragged dead rabbit-ACC.]  
 We went to **our cottage**, made a bonfire, and our dog dragged a dead rabbit over to it.
- (26) Kdo dojde na **nádraží** vyzvednout babičku?  
 [Who-NOM goes to **train-station-ACC** pick-up grandmother-ACC?]  
 Who is going to go to **the train station** to pick up grandmother?

It doesn't matter how short the “trip” is; movements over very small distances can occasion the use of *na* + ACC, as we see in these examples:

- (27) Po půlhodině čtení pokládám knihu na **noční stůl** a usínám.  
 [After half-hour-ACC reading-GEN lay book-ACC on **night table-ACC** and fall-asleep.]  
 After reading for half an hour I put the book on **the night table** and fall asleep.
- (28) Sedl si na **kámen** u cesty a unavené nohy natáhl před sebe.  
 [Sat self-DAT on rock-ACC by road-GEN and tired legs-ACC stretched before self-ACC.]  
 He sat down on **a rock** by the road and stretched out his tired legs in front of him.

Czechs have grammaticalized the notion of seeing as a kind of virtual journey, understood as vision reaching out to places, using *na* + ACC with verbs like *dívat se* and *koukat* to mean ‘look at, watch’, as we see in these sentences:

- (29) Dívat se na **dva dvacetileté vedoucí** se za ruce je poněkud jiné než pohled na **dva šedesátníky**, kteří činí totéž.  
 [Look self-ACC at **two twenty-year-olds-ACC leading-ACC** self-ACC by hands-ACC is somewhat other-NOM than view-NOM on **two sixty-year-olds-ACC**, who-NOM do the-same-ACC.]  
 Looking at **two twenty-year-olds holding** hands is somewhat different than seeing **two sixty-year-olds** doing the same thing.
- (30) Příští čtyři dni ji nečeká nic jiného, než tady sedět a koukat na **televizi**.  
 [Next four days-ACC her-ACC not-waits nothing-NOM other-GEN, than here sit and look at **television-ACC**.]

For the next four days she'll have nothing to do except to sit here and watch **television**.

Many other kinds of actions can likewise be understood as being directed or focused toward some item, and a variety of verbs indicating gestures, attention, expectation, and emotion are commonly associated with *na* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION, as evidenced in this table:

Words Associated with <i>na</i> + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION			
<i>dát/dávat pozor na</i>	'pay attention to'	<i>soustředit/soustřeďovat se na</i>	'concentrate on'
<i>dbát na</i>	'pay attention to'		
<i>dorazit/dorážet na</i>	'attack'	<i>spolehnout/spoléhat se na</i>	'depend on'
<i>hněvat se na</i>	'be furious with'	<i>šklebit se</i>	'make a face at'
<i>kouknout/koukat (se) na</i> (CCz)	'look at'	<i>špulit se</i>	'pout at'
<i>mávnout/mávat na</i>	'wave at'	<i>těšit se na</i>	'look forward to'
<i>mrknout/mrkat na</i>	'wink at'	<i>usmát/usmívat se na</i>	'smile at'
<i>naříkat na</i>	'complain about'	<i>vzpomenout/vzpomínat si na</i>	'remember'
<i>navyknout/navykat si na</i>	'get used to; get addicted to'	<i>zapomenout/zapomínat na</i>	'forget'
<i>odpovědět/odpovídat na</i>	'give an answer to'	<i>za-útočit na</i>	'attack'
<i>počkat/čekat na</i>	'wait for'	<i>zeptat/ptát se na</i>	'inquire about'
<i>po-dívat se na</i>	'look at'	<i>zlobit se na</i>	'be angry with'
<i>po-sižovat si na</i>	'complain about'	<i>zvyknout/zvykat si na</i>	'get used to'
<i>reagovat na</i>	'react to'	<i>žalovat na</i>	'complain about'
<i>rozpomenout/rozpomínat se na</i>	'recollect'	<i>žárlit na</i>	'be envious of'

The concept of being directed toward something can be carried over to the domain of time, where we see various kinds of evidence of movement in time, as in phrases like *odložit/odkládat něco na zítřek* [postpone something-ACC to **tomorrow-ACC**] 'put something off until tomorrow', *táhne na devátou* [pulls to **ninth-ACC**] 'it will soon be **nine o'clock**', and *v noci na dnešek* [in night-LOC to **today-ACC**] 'last night (literally: in the night that led to **today**)'. This logic also applies to the use of *na* + ACC in telling time, so *čtvrť na pět* [quarter-NOM to **five-ACC**] 'a quarter past four' and *tři čtvrtě na deset* [three quarters-NOM to **ten-ACC**] 'a quarter to **ten**' are conceptually motivated as meaning "one quarter toward **five**" and "three quarters toward **ten**". Parting greetings like *Na shledanou!*, *Na viděnou!*, and *Na slyšenou!* (all of which can be used to say 'Goodbye!') depend on *na*'s ability to refer to some future time when we will see or hear each other again. In some time expressions *na* simply refers to a given time when something happens (rather than specifying something upcoming), as in: *na podzim* [to **autumn-ACC**] 'in **autumn**', *na den svatého Jana* [to **day-ACC** Saint John-GEN] 'on Saint John's day', and *na Velikonoce* [to **Easter-ACC**] 'at **Easter time**'.

- (31) “Brzy na **shledanou**,” rozloučila se a zavěsila.  
[“Soon to **see-ACC**,” took-leave self-ACC and hung-up.]  
“**See** you soon,” she took her leave and hung up.
- (32) Odjezd byl stanoven přesně na **osmou hodinu**.  
[Departure-NOM was set-NOM exactly for **eighth hour-ACC**.]  
The departure was set for exactly **eight o’clock**.
- (33) Na **Vánoce** se chystáme jako každoročně k rodičům na Šumavu.  
[For **Christmas-ACC** self-ACC plan like every-year to parents-DAT to Šumava-ACC.]  
We’re planning to go to see our parents in Šumava at **Christmastime**, like we do every year.

Movement in an direction can be interpreted as a reach toward something, and indeed the verb *sáhnout/sahat* (usually pronounced *šáhnout/šahat* in CCz) ‘reach’ is regularly associated with *na* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION. If something is within reach, we can use the expression *být na dosah (ruky)/na dostřel* [be to **reach-ACC** (hand-GEN)/to **shooting-range-ACC**] ‘be in **reach** (arm’s length away)/in **shooting range**’. This notion of reach can be applied in the visual domain, producing phrases like *vidět (až) na dno* [see (up-to) to **bottom-ACC**] ‘see (all the way) to **the bottom**’. If you get rained on, your clothes might get wet, but if you get caught in a downpour, you will ‘get drenched to **the skin**’, in Czech *promoknout na kůži* [drench to **skin-ACC**]. Extremely bad financial management can also ‘lead someone to **poverty**’, *přivést někoho na mizinu* [lead someone-ACC to **poverty-ACC**]. This notion of reaching an extreme limit motivates numerous phrases that can all be understood as ‘an X on the verge of Y’, for example *dům na spadnutí* [house-NOM to **collapsing-ACC**] ‘a house on **the verge of collapse**’ and *člověk na smrt nemocný* [person-NOM to **death-ACC** sick-NOM] ‘a sick person **on the verge of death**’. Taken one step further, we see utter completion of a trip in a metaphorical domain, as in *shořet na prach/popel* [burn-up to **dust/ash-ACC**] ‘burn to **the ground (so that nothing remains)**’, and *na vlas stejný* [to **hair-ACC** same-NOM] ‘perfectly identical (literally: the same down to a **hair**)’, which can also be used as an adverb written as one word: *navlas*. Cooking and coloring can also bring items to final states (here: softness and blackness) as their destinations, as we see in the expressions *vejce na měkko* [eggs-NOM on **soft-ACC**] ‘**soft-boiled** eggs’ (also written as one word: *naměkko*) and *obarvit na černo* [color on **black-ACC**] ‘color **black**’. The latter expression, *na černo* ‘illegally’ can be used idiomatically to describe shady operations on the black market. Here are some examples of various kinds of metaphorical reaches:

- (34) Kvido zdvořile šeptem poděkoval a přesunul se blíže k jevišti, aby na **písmena** lépe viděl.  
[Guido-NOM politely whisper-INST thanked and moved self-ACC closer to stage-DAT, so-that to **letters-ACC** better saw.]  
Guido politely whispered his thanks and moved closer to the stage so that he could see **the letters** better.

- (35) Stánek, který si pronajal vietnamský obchodník, shořel na **popel**, nic se nepodařilo zachránit.  
 [Stand-NOM, which-ACC self-DAT rented Vietnamese shopkeeper-NOM, burnt to **ash-ACC**, nothing-NOM self-ACC not-managed save.]  
 The stand which the Vietnamese shopkeeper had rented burnt to **the ground**, nothing could be saved.
- (36) Transplantace už byla téměř na **spadnutí**, našli jsme vhodného dárce.  
 [Transplant-NOM already was almost to **collapsing-ACC**, found AUX appropriate donor-ACC.]  
 The transplantation almost **fell through**, but we found an appropriate donor.

People don't go to destinations only in order to change their location; often there is something at that destination that they want, something that they go there *for*. This is certainly the case when Czechs use phrases like *jít na pivo/na houby* [go for **beer-ACC**/for **mushrooms-ACC**] 'go for **beer**/go **mushroom**-hunting'. Many items are designated for certain purposes, and this is also often expressed using *na* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION, so *kartáček na zuby* [brush-NOM for **teeth-ACC**] 'toothbrush' is literally a 'brush for **teeth**', and this pattern is quite productive, yielding phrases like *pytel na uhlí* [sack-NOM for **coal-ACC**] 'coal sack', *sklenice na víno* [glass-NOM for **wine-ACC**] 'wine-glass', *hon na lišku* [chase-NOM for **fox-ACC**] 'fox hunt', and *šaty na všední den* [clothes-NOM for **everyday day-ACC**] 'everyday clothes'. Just like English, if something is available for purchase, in Czech we say it is *na prodej* [for **sale-ACC**] 'for sale', and if something is offered as a model, we say *na příklad* [for **example-ACC**] 'for example'. Also parallel with English is *na svůj věk* [for **own age-ACC**] 'for his/her age', as in *Je na svůj věk čilý* [Is for **own age-ACC** agile-NOM] 'He's agile for his age'.

- (37) Na **houby** chodím na podzim v každé volné chvíli, ale musím říct, že je nerad jím.  
 [For **mushrooms-ACC** go on autumn-ACC in every free moment-LOC, but must say, that them-ACC not-glad eat.]  
 I go **mushroom**-hunting every chance I get in the fall, but I have to say that I don't like eating them.
- (38) U moře v každém případě musíte použít krém na **opalování** s vysokým ochranným faktorem.  
 [At sea-GEN in every case-LOC must use lotion-ACC for **tanning-ACC** with high protection factor-INST.]  
 At the sea you must always use **sun-tan** lotion with a high protection factor.
- (39) Japonci vystaví v Karviné závod na **výrobu** jízdních kol.  
 [Japanese-NOM exhibit in Karviná factory-ACC for **manufacture-ACC** riding wheels-GEN.]  
 The Japanese will exhibit a bicycle **manufacturing** factory in Karviná.

In designating purposes, *na* can indicate movement of the will to produce a desired effect. Here we see ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION fleshed out as an object toward which an agent directs its will, its sense of purpose. Usually this takes the form of somebody doing something *for something or somebody* (or perhaps *for a reason*). This kind of ‘for’ is most commonly expressed by the preposition *na*, though *v*, *o*, *pro*, and less frequently *za* are deployed for this purpose. The stock phrase *pít na zdraví někoho* [drink for **health-ACC** someone-GEN] ‘drink to someone’s **health**’ demonstrates how *na* operates in the domain of purpose, and here are some further examples:

- (40) Evropská unie přispěla na **vybudování** cyklostezky v Liberci 20 milionů korun.  
[European Union-NOM contributed for **construction-ACC** bike-path-GEN in Liberce-LOC 20-ACC million-GEN crowns-GEN.]  
The European Union contributed 20 million crowns for **the construction** of a bike path in Liberce.
- (41) Československá obchodní banka poskytne Českým drahám úvěr 900 milionů korun na **nákup** kolejových vozidel a na **opravy** tratí.  
[Czechoslovak Commercial Bank-NOM provides Czech Railways-DAT loan-ACC 900 million crowns-GEN for **purchase-ACC** railroad cars-GEN and for **repairs-ACC** rail-lines-GEN.]  
The Czechoslovak Commercial Bank will provide the Czech Railways with a 900 million crown loan for **the purchase** of railroad cars and for **repair** of the rail lines.
- (42) Prostředky na **hubení** mravenců poskytne obvodní úřad obyvatelům postižených domů zdarma.  
[Means-ACC for **killling-ACC** ants-GEN provides district office-NOM inhabitants-DAT affected houses-GEN free.]  
The district office will provide ant-**killling** substances to inhabitants of affected houses for free.

When one attempts to do something, one is directing energies toward something, and *na* + ACC can indicate various kinds of attempts, including attempts on someone’s life:

- (43) Rusko předalo Spojeným státům složku bývalé sovětské tajné služby KGB o stále ne zcela vysvětleném atentátu na **prezidenta Kennedyho**.  
[Russian-NOM handed-over United States-DAT file-ACC former Soviet secret service-GEN KGB about still not entirely explained assassination-attempt-LOC on **president Kennedy-ACC**.]  
Russia handed over to the United States a file of the former Soviet secret service KGB about the assassination attempt on **president Kennedy**, which still hasn’t been entirely explained.

The *na* + ACC prepositional phrase is an essential ingredient in numerous idiomatic phrases, all of which are motivated as metaphorical extensions of directed movement in various domains. In the realm of ideas, discussions, and convictions, we have the expressions *na*

*druhou stranu* [on **other side-ACC**] ‘on **the other hand**’ (but note in Czech this expression stands alone, it is not preceded by anything equivalent to English *on the one hand*), *vzít na vědomí* [take to **consciousness-ACC**] ‘take into **consideration**’, *přijít na něco* [come on **something-ACC**] ‘come to ... (**an idea/realization**)’. The domains of emotions and interpersonal relations exert their powers in phrases like *mít vliv na někoho* [have influence-ACC on **someone-ACC**] ‘have an influence on **someone**’, *mít/nechat si něco na památku* [have/leave self-DAT something-ACC to **memory-ACC**] ‘have/keep something **as a memento**’, *mít na někoho vztek* [have on **someone-ACC** fury-ACC] ‘be furious with **someone**’, and *vy-kašlat se na někoho/něco* [cough self-ACC on **someone/something-ACC**] ‘not give a damn about **someone/something**’. In the sphere of decision making and mental capacity we have the phrases *vzít si něco na starost* [take self-DAT something-ACC to care-ACC] ‘take responsibility for **something**’, *mít/být na vybranou* [have/be to **chosen-ACC**] ‘have **a choice**’, and *vědět jak na to* [know how to **that-ACC**] ‘know how to do (**something**)’.

- (44) Dostal jsem od dětí na **památku** polštářek a krásné keramické zvonečky.  
[Got AUX from children-GEN for **memento-ACC** little-pillow-ACC beautiful ceramic bells-ACC.]  
I got a little pillow and some beautiful ceramic bells from the children as **a memento**.
- (45) Měli jsme na **vybranou** buď přijmout nižší životní úroveň v Londýně, nebo zůstat na venkově.  
[Had AUX to **chosen-ACC** either accept lower life level-ACC in London-LOC, or stay at country-LOC.]  
We had **a choice** between accepting a lower standard of living in London or staying in the country.
- (46) Zkuste přijít na **lepší řešení**!  
[Try come to **better solution-ACC**!]  
Try to come up with **a better solution**!

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 5 — *v* ‘to; in; into; for; on; at’

The use of *v* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION to indicate physical movement in space is very limited, generally encountered only in fixed phrases, like *bít se v prsa* [beat self-ACC in **chest-ACC**] ‘beat **one’s chest**’ (where the chest is the destination of the beating) and *složit ruce v klín* [fold hands-ACC in **lap-ACC**] ‘fold one’s hands in **one’s lap**’ (where the lap is the destination of the folded hands). *V* + ACC is more active in metaphorical spaces, as in the phrases *vejít ve známost* [enter into **acquaintance-ACC**] ‘enter into **an acquaintance**’, *upadnout v zapomenutí* [fall into **oblivion-ACC**] ‘fall into **oblivion**’, and *vstoupit v platnost* [enter into **effect-ACC**] ‘go into **effect**’. Like *na*, *v* can sometimes indicate an activity that goes to an extreme, as in *rozpadnout se v prach* [disintegrate self-ACC into **dust-ACC**] ‘disintegrate into **dust**’ and *propuknout v smích* [burst into **laughter-ACC**] ‘burst into **laughter**’.

- (47) Herečka Lída Bárová neupadla v **zapomenutí**, přestože poslední film natočila v roce 1956.  
[Actress Lída Bárová-NOM not-fell into **oblivion-ACC**, in-spite-of-the-fact-that last film-ACC wound in year-LOC 1956.]  
The actress Lída Bárová has not fallen into **oblivion**, in spite of the fact that she made her last film in 1956.
- (48) Vyhláška o novém územním plánu vstoupí v **platnost** patrně až prvního ledna příštího roku.  
[Decree-NOM about new territorial plan-LOC enters into **effect-ACC** apparently only first-GEN January-GEN next year-GEN.]  
Apparently the decree about the new territorial plan will not go into **effect** until January first of next year.

In both Czech and English we think of states of being as locations, so a transformation is something that brings us *into* a new state, and a number of Czech verbs use *v* + ACC to describe these changes, such as: *měnit se v* ‘change into’, *obrátit/obracet (se) v* ‘turn (oneself) into’, and *proměnit/proměňovat (se) v* ‘transform (oneself) into’.

- (49) Princův polibek proměnil odpornou ropuchu v **překrásnou princeznu**.  
[Prince’s kiss-NOM turned disgusting toad-ACC into **beautiful princess-ACC**.]  
The prince’s kiss turned the disgusting toad into **a beautiful princess**.
- (50) Tlak na Tajwan se mění v **hrozby** vojenskou okupací.  
[Pressure-NOM on Taiwan-ACC self-ACC changes into **threats-ACC** military occupation-INST.]  
The pressure on Taiwan is changing into **threats** of military occupation.

The direction of hopes and beliefs follows the same pattern, as we see with the verbs *doufat v* ‘hope for’ and *věřit v* ‘believe in’. Also in the domain of mental activity, we can use the idiom *vzít/brát v úvahu* [take into **consideration-ACC**] ‘take into **consideration**’. And although the use of *v* in the domain of purpose is relatively rare, there one common phrase that operates in this domain, *ve prospěch* [for **benefit-ACC**] ‘for **the benefit** of’, which is of course followed by GENITIVE:: A WHOLE. Here are a few examples of *v* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION in the domains of mental activity and purpose:

- (51) Věřím v **očistnou sílu** bankrotů, nových začátků.  
[Believe in **cleansing power-ACC** bankruptcies-GEN, new beginnings-GEN.]  
I believe in **the cleansing power** of bankruptcies, of new beginnings.
- (52) V **úvahu** je třeba vzít také fakt, že kartáče v automatických myčkách na auto působí značnou silou.  
[Into **consideration-ACC** is necessary to take also fact-ACC, that brushes-NOM in automatic washers-LOC for car-ACC operate considerable force-INST.]  
It is also necessary to take into **consideration** the fact that the brushes in automatic car washes operate with considerable force.

The bulk of *v*'s work is done in the domain of time, where it is the most common preposition used to designate the temporal destinations of events that happen on given days and at given hours of the day, answering the question *Ve který den?* [On **what day-ACC?**] 'On **what day?**' and *V kolik hodin?* [At **how-many-ACC** hours-GEN?] 'At **what** time?'. If we are successful in our race with time, we are *včas* 'on time', an adverb likewise built on the concept of the temporal destination. In comparison with English, this combination of events with temporal destinations seems exotic, since we are accustomed to thinking of events as taking place in temporal locations instead (we say *on what day*, not *into what day* and *at what time*, not *into what time*). The presence of verbal aspect (perfective and imperfective verbs) may play a major role in this conceptualization of the relationship between events and times. In English we have merely verbs, indicating nothing more than mere action out of context, whereas in Czech, verbs come complete with aspect, which organizes action into events. It is as if action does not exist in the raw in Czech, but is always pre-packaged as events, be they perfective or imperfective. These events can be understood as metaphorical objects capable of metaphorical movement, objects with an existence prior to the timeline, which they then enter at given days and hours — their temporal destinations. Here are some examples of how *v* + ACC is used in the domain of time:

- (53) Svatba se koná na Staroměstské radnici **v sobotu v jedenáct** hodin dopoledne.  
[Wedding-NOM self-ACC takes-place at Old-Town town-hall-LOC on **Saturday-ACC** at **eleven-ACC** hours-GEN morning.]  
The wedding is taking place at the Old Town town hall on **Saturday** at **eleven** o'clock am.
- (54) Havárie se stala **v neděli v pět** ráno v ulici V zálesí u zastávky městské hromadné dopravy.  
[Accident-NOM self-ACC happened on **Sunday-ACC** at **five-ACC** in-morning in street-LOC V zálesí by stop-GEN municipal mass transit-GEN.]  
The accident happened on **Sunday** at **five** in the morning on V zálesí street near a municipal mass transit stop.

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 6 — *o* 'against; for'

*O* describes the point of impact when one item comes in contact with another; this preposition indicates the destination of collisions, both of physical objects and of wills. The following table gives a sampling of the verbs that use *o* to describe physical contact:

Words Associated with Physical Uses of <i>o</i> + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION			
<i>bouchnout/bouchat (se)</i>	'bang (oneself) against'	<i>praštit (se) o</i>	'bump (oneself) against'
<i>brknout/brkat o</i> (CCz)	'stumble over'	<i>škobrnout/škobrtat o</i> (CCz)	'stumble over'
<i>klopýtnout/klopýtat o</i>	'stumble over'	<i>třísknout/třískat o</i>	'slam against'
<i>mrštit o</i>	'fling against'	<i>udeřit (se) o; úder o</i>	'strike (oneself) against'
<i>opřít/opírat se o</i>	'lean on'	<i>uhodit (se) o</i>	'hit (oneself) against'
<i>s-/po-pálit se o</i>	'burn oneself on'	<i>zakopnout/zakopávat o</i>	'trip over'

Here are a few examples to give you a feel for how this works:

- (55) Při pádu se asi pořádně uhodila o **hranu** stolu.  
[During fall-LOC self-ACC probably hard hit against **edge-ACC** table-GEN.]  
When she fell she probably hit herself hard against **the edge** of the table.
- (56) Bezpečnostní ventil na sporáku zajistí, aby děti nemohly omylem pustit plyn či se popálit o **rozžhavené plotýnky**.  
[Safety valve-NOM on stove-LOC ensures, that children-NOM not-could by-mis-take turn-on gas-ACC or self-ACC burn against **red-hot burners-ACC**.]  
The safety valve on the stove ensures that children could not turn on the gas by accident or burn themselves on **red-hot burners**.
- (57) Opírala se o **bok** dodávkového forda a nastavila obličej paprskům poledního slunce.  
[Leaned self-ACC against **side-ACC** delivery Ford-GEN and set face-ACC rays-DAT midday sun-GEN.]  
She leaned against **the side** of the Ford truck and turned her face toward the rays of the midday sun.

In the metaphorical spaces of human endeavors, *o* indicates items that people seek contact with, whether by competing, requesting, or simply caring. Here is a list of verbs, followed by some examples of metaphorical uses of *o* + ACC:

Words Associated with Metaphorical Uses of <i>o</i> + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION			
<i>bát se o</i>	‘be worried about’	<i>připravit/připravovat</i> <i>někoho o</i>	‘deprive a person of’
<i>bojovat o; boj o</i>	‘fight for’	<i>přít se o; pře o</i>	‘argue over; argument over’
<i>dbát o</i>	‘take care of’	<i>roz/po-dělit se s někým o</i>	‘share with someone’
<i>hádat se o; hádka o</i>	‘fight over’	<i>snažit se o</i>	‘try to get’
<i>hlásit se o</i>	‘claim’	<i>soudit se o</i>	‘go to court over’
<i>jít o</i>	‘concern’	<i>spor o</i>	‘argument over’
<i>nouze o</i>	‘need for, scarcity of’	<i>starat se o; starost o</i>	‘take care of; concern over’
<i>pečovat o; péče o</i>	‘take care of; care for’	<i>stát o</i>	‘care about’
<i>pokusit/pokoušet se o;</i> <i>pokus o</i>	‘attempt to get’	<i>strach o</i>	‘fear concerning’
<i>po-prosit o; prosba o</i>	‘ask for; request for’	<i>ucházet se o</i>	‘compete for’
<i>požádat o</i>	‘request’	<i>usilovat o; úsilí o</i>	‘attempt to get; efforts to get’
		<i>zajímat se o; zájem o</i>	‘be interested in; interest in’
		<i>za-žádat o; žádost o</i>	‘request’

- (58) Chcete se na kongresu znovu ucházet o **post** místopředsedy?  
[Want self-ACC at congress-LOC again compete for **post-ACC** vice-president-GEN?]  
Do you want to compete for **the post** of vice president again at the congress?

- (59) Obracím oči k nebi s němou prosbou o **pomoc**.  
[Turn eyes-ACC to heavens-DAT with mute request-INST for **help-ACC**.]  
I turn my eyes toward the heavens with a mute request for **help**.
- (60) Zájem o **hypotéky** v České Republice se za první pololetí meziročně zdvojnásobil.  
[Interest-NOM in **mortgages-ACC** in Czech Republic-LOC self-ACC during first half-year-ACC since-last-year doubled.]  
When compared with last year, during the first half of the year interest in **mortgages** in the Czech Republic doubled.
- (61) Americký imperialismus usiloval o **zničení** zemí tábora míru.  
[American imperialism-NOM attempted for **destruction-ACC** countries-GEN camp-GEN peace-GEN.]  
American imperialism attempted to **destroy** the countries of the peace camp.

The construction *jít o* can be variously translated as ‘concern’, ‘be about’, or even just ‘be’, as is the case in the following sentence:

- (62) Šlo o **největší pouliční bitvy** v Praze od 21. srpna 1968.  
[Went for **biggest street battles-ACC** in Prague-LOC from 21<sup>st</sup>-GEN August-GEN 1968.]  
They were **the biggest street battles** in Prague since August 21, 1968.

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 7 — *po* ‘up to; for’

*Po* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION (often used in combination with *až* ‘all the way’) usually means ‘up to’ a certain point. Some activity is progressing through some space, and the accusative item is its destination, the place where it stops. Activity can reach *up to* a certain point in space, time, and other domains, as these examples show:

- (63) Na cestě na tábořiště jsme se bořili po **kolena** do sněhu.  
[On way-LOC to campsite-ACC AUX self-ACC sank up-to **knees-ACC** to snow-GEN.]  
On the way to the campsite we were sinking up to **our knees** in the snow.
- (64) Je po **uši** zamilovaný do toho obrazu.  
[Is up-to **ears-ACC** in-love to that picture-GEN.]  
He is up to **his ears** in love with that picture.
- (65) Dokument se zabývá vývojem ekologické situace v Čechách v období od roku 1990 po **současnost**.  
[Document-NOM self-ACC concerns development-INST ecological situation-GEN in Bohemia-LOC in period-LOC from year-GEN 1990 up-to **present-time-ACC**.]  
The document is concerned with the development of the ecological situation in Bohemia for the period from the year 1990 up to **the present**.

Idiomatically, we use *po* in the fixed phrases *po prvé* [for **first-ACC**] ‘for **the first time**’, *po druhé* [for **second-ACC**] ‘for **the second time**’, etc., and *po každé* [for **each-ACC**] ‘**each time**’ (these phrases can be written as one word: *poprvé*, *podruhé*, *pokaždé*), as we see in these sentences:

- (66) Teprve **podruhé** v historii Wimbledonu prohrál nasazený muž číslo dvě už v prvním kole.  
[Only for-**second-ACC** in history-LOC Wimbledon-GEN lost seeded man-NOM number two-NOM already in first round-LOC.]  
It was only the **second** time in the history of Wimbledon that the number two seeded man lost in the first round.
- (67) Postupně se vloupal do dvou vozů, **pokaždé** vytrhal kabely a chtěl odjet.  
[Consecutively self-ACC broke-into do two cars-GEN, for-**each-ACC** tore-out cables-ACC and wanted ride-off.]  
He broke into two cars in a row, and **each** time he tore out the cables and wanted to ride off.

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 8 — *pro* ‘for; due to; because of’

The preposition *pro* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION operates primarily in the domain of purpose, and is the most common equivalent of English *for*.

- (68) Loni jsem pracoval **pro muzeum** v Sydney.  
[Last-year AUX worked for **muzeum-ACC** in Sydney.]  
Last yeat I worked for **a museum** in Sydney.
- (69) Armáda spásy provozuje v České Republice sedm azylových domů **pro bezdomovce**.  
[Army-NOM salvation-GEN runs in Czech Republic-LOC seven-ACC asylum homes-GEN for **homeless-people-ACC**.]  
The Salvation Army runs seven shelters for **the homeless** in the Czech Republic.
- (70) Darovali mu totiž mimo jiné staré rozbité rádio, které se podle jejich vlastních slov mělo stát “indikátorem synova smyslu **pro elektroniku**”.  
[Gave him-DAT you-see among other-ACC old broken radio-ACC, which-NOM self-ACC according-to their own words-GEN had become “indicator-INST son’s sense-GEN for **electronics-ACC**”.]  
Well among other things, they gave him an old broken radio, which they themselves said was supposed to be an “indicator of our son’s sense for **electronics**”.

Since things can be done for a reason, the concept of *pro* can be extended to the domain of causation, where it means ‘because of’, as in this example:

- (71) Pro **jeho zatvrzelost**, se kterou se pustí do řešení každého problému, mu přátelé začali říkat buldok.  
 [Because-of **his obstinacy-ACC**, with which-INST self-ACC lets to solution-GEN every problem-GEN, him-DAT friends-NOM started call bulldog-NOM.]  
 Because of **the obstinacy** with which he throws himself into the solution of every problem, his friends started to call him a bulldog.

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 9 — Proximate destinations

There are five prepositions in Czech that can be used with either INSTRUMENTAL:: A LAND-MARK OR ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION: *před* ‘before’, *za* ‘behind’, *nad* ‘above’, *pod* ‘below’, and *mezi* ‘between, among’. When these prepositions are used to describe proximate locations, they are used with the instrumental case, but when they are used in the context of movement, they are associated with the accusative case and in their spatial meanings indicate movement to a proximate location. Here are examples of how these prepositions are used in describing physical destinations:

- (72) Stoupl si před **obraz** a pečlivě si jej prohlížel.  
 [Stepped self-DAT before **picture-ACC** and carefully self-DAT it-ACC examined.]  
 He stepped up to **the picture** and examined it carefully.
- (73) Schoval se za **dveře** a ona, jakmile vešla, si ho vůbec nevšimla.  
 [Hid self-ACC behind **door-ACC**, and she-NOM, as-soon-as entered, self-DAT him-GEN at-all not-noticed.]  
 He hid behind **the door** and when she came in she didn’t notice him at all.
- (74) Ten obraz si dal zarámovat a pověsil si ho do pracovny nad **stůl**.  
 [That picture-ACC self-DAT gave frame and hung self-DAT it-ACC to study-GEN above **desk-ACC**.]  
 He had that picture framed and hung it above **the desk** in his study.
- (75) Schovala dopis a plyšového medvídka pod **polštář**.  
 [Hid letter-ACC and stuffed bear-ACC under **pillow-ACC**.]  
 She hid the letter and the stuffed bear under **the pillow**.
- (76) Pro dokonalé vylisování vložte čerstvý květ asi na týden mezi **stránky** starého telefonního seznamu nebo nějakého katalogu.  
 [For perfect pressing-GEN lay fresh flower-ACC about for week-ACC between **pages-ACC** old telephone list-GEN or some catalog-GEN.]  
 To do a perfect pressing, lay a fresh flower for about a week between **the pages** of an old telephone book or a catalog.

Of these five prepositions, *za* is the most frequent and most involved in various extensions and special phrases. Sitting down is of course a movement toward a destination, motivating

phrases like *sednout si za stůl/volant* [sit-down self-DAT behind **table-ACC/steering-wheel-ACC**] ‘sit down at a **table/at the wheel** of a vehicle’. We place our hands behind things when we wish to get a grip on them, and this notion is captured in phrases like *vzít za* ‘take by the’ and *chytit se za* ‘catch hold of, grasp’, illustrated in this example:

- (77) Měl jsem ho rovnou chytit za **límeček** a nepustit, dokud vše po sobě neuklidí.  
 [Had AUX him-ACC right-away grab by **collar-ACC** and not-let-go, until every-thing-ACC after self-LOC not-cleans-up.]  
 I should have grabbed him by **the collar** right away and not let him go until he cleaned up everything after himself.

The placement of one item behind another is also characteristic of how we accomplish replacements and substitutions, so it is no surprise that *za* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION turns up here as well, most frequently with words indicating transactions and exchanges, as in these two sentences:

- (78) Jeden Američan mu za **kytaru** nabídl tisíc dolarů.  
 [One American-NOM him-DAT for **guitar-ACC** offered thousand-ACC dollars-GEN.]  
 An American offered him a thousand dollars for **the guitar**.
- (79) Dvacáté století zaplatilo velkou cenu za **vyřešení** několika historických otázek.  
 [Twentieth century-NOM paid large price-ACC for **solution-ACC** several historical questions-GEN.]  
 The twentieth century paid a high price for **the solution** to several historical questions.

When we can't exchange money for goods, we might fight for what we want, and here Czech also uses *za* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION:

- (80) Pražské matky byly první nezávislou organizací, která bojovala za **čistější ovzduší** v hlavním městě.  
 [Prague mothers-NOM were first independent organization-INST, which-NOM fought for **cleaner air-ACC** in capitol city-LOC.]  
 The Prague mothers were the first independent organization which fought for **cleaner air** in the capitol city.

If one person replaces another by stepping into their shoes and representing them, we get a use of *za* + ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION translatable as *on behalf of*, or *for*, as in this sentence:

- (81) Za **stávkující studenty** promluvil při prvním setkání zástupců Občanského fóra Martin Mejstřík.  
 [For **striking students-ACC** spoke at first meeting-LOC representatives-GEN Civic forum-GEN Martin Mejstřík-NOM.]  
 At the first meeting of representatives of Civic forum Martin Mejstřík spoke on behalf of **the striking students**.

Representation entails the taking on of responsibility, a concept that appears in conjunction with *odpovídat za* ‘be responsible for’ as well as the idiom X-NOM *za Y-ACC nemoci* ‘X isn’t responsible for Y/can’t help **doing Y**’, as we see in the following two examples:

- (82) Kdo za **to** odpovídá?  
[Who-NOM for **that-ACC** answers?]  
Who is responsible for **that**?
- (83) Děti s lehkou mozkovou dysfunkcí nemohou za **své** často **hyperaktivní chování**.  
[Children-NOM with mild brain dysfunction-INST cannot for **their-ACC** often **hyperactive behavior-ACC**.]  
Children with mild brain dysfunction cannot help **their** often **hyperactive behavior**.

We can mentally categorize people and objects by assigning them to given groups. In Czech this is metaphorically accomplished by placing people behind designations, as evident in phrases like *pokládat/považovat někoho za + ACC* ‘consider someone to be’, *prohlásit/prohlašovat někoho za + ACC* ‘declare someone to be’, *uznat/uznávat někoho za + ACC* ‘recognize someone as’, as we see in these sentences:

- (84) Pokládali jsme ho za **přítele**, on však naší důvěry zneužil.  
[Considered AUX him-ACC for **friend-ACC**, he-NOM however our trust-GEN abused.]  
We considered him **a friend**, but he abused our trust.
- (85) Předseda ústřední volební komise prohlásil volby za **právoplatné**.  
[President-NOM central election committee-GEN declared election-ACC for **legal-ACC**.]  
The president of the central election committee declared the election **legal**.

Categorizations are essential to idiomatic phrases like *jít za svědka* [go behind **witness-ACC**] ‘serve as **a witness**’, *dát/přijmout za vzor* [give/accept behind **model-ACC**] ‘give/take as **a model**’, and *vzít si za muže/ženu* [take self-DAT behind **husband-ACC/wife-ACC**] ‘take to be one’s **husband/wife**’:

- (86) Požádal mě, abych mu šel za **svědka** na svatbu.  
[Asked me-ACC, so-that him-DAT went for **witness-ACC** to wedding-ACC.]  
He asked me to serve as **a witness** at his wedding.
- (87) Přicházeli další a další mládenci, kteří si ji chtěli vzít za **ženu**, ale princezna všem odpovídala stejně.  
[Came more-NOM and more young-men-NOM, who-NOM self-DAT her-ACC wanted take for **wife-ACC**, but princess-NOM everyone-DAT answered same.]  
There came more and more young men who wanted to **marry** her, but the princess gave everyone the same answer.

The preposition *před* ‘before’ is rarely extended to non-spatial uses, though it does appear in reference to the domain of legal responsibility, parallel to our English concept of responsibility *before* the law. Here is an example:

- (88) Podle důvěryhodných zdrojů bude brzy předvolán před **soud** a obviněn z korupce a padělání účetních knih.  
 [According-to trustworthy sources-GEN will-be soon summoned-NOM before **court-ACC** and accused-NOM from corruption-GEN and falsification-GEN accounting books-GEN.]  
 According to trustworthy sources, he will soon be summoned to **court** and accused of corruption and falsification of accounting books.

When the preposition *nad* ‘above’ is extended to non-spatial uses, it generally refers to something that exceeds a limit set by the item marked ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION, as in the title of a popular fairy tale, *Sůl nad zlato* [salt above **gold-ACC**] ‘Salt is more precious than **gold**’. Other typical expressions include: *to je nad lidské síly* [that-NOM is above **human strengths-ACC**] ‘that exceeds **human strength**’, *je to nad můj rozum* [is that-NOM above **my understanding-ACC**] ‘that’s beyond **my understanding**’, *není nad upřímnost* [not-is above **honesty-ACC**] ‘nothing’s better than **honesty**’, *je nad slunce jasnější* [is above **sun-ACC** brighter-NOM] ‘it’s brighter than **the sun**’, *nade vši pochybnosti* [above **all doubts-ACC**] ‘beyond **a doubt**’.

- (89) Stovky hodin ročně odslouží lékaři v Česku nad **rámec** svého úvazku.  
 [Hundreds-ACC hours-GEN yearly serve doctors-NOM in Czech-lands-LOC above **scope-ACC** own duty-GEN.]  
 Every year doctors in the Czech lands serve hundreds of hours beyond **the scope** of their duty.

The preposition *pod* ‘under’ is active in the domains of jurisdiction and quantity, both of which are paralleled by uses of English *under*, as demonstrated in these examples:

- (90) Pod **kompetenci** členských států spadají rozhodnutí v oblasti mzdové politiky.  
 [Under **jurisdiction-ACC** member states-GEN fall decisions-NOM in area-LOC wage policies-GEN.]  
 Decisions in the area of wage policies fall under **the jurisdiction** of the member states.
- (91) Počítejte s tím, že pod **sto šilinků** oběd či večeři v Rakousku nepořídíte.  
 [Count with that-INST, that under **hundred-ACC** shillings-GEN lunch-ACC or dinner-ACC in Austria-LOC not-buy.]  
 You can be sure that you won’t be able to buy lunch or dinner in Austria for under **one hundred** shillings.

When extended beyond spatial uses, *mezi* ‘between’ most frequently refers to the domain of relationships, as illustrated in this sentence:

- (92) Je v našem zájmu přát ruskému národu co nejrychlejší integraci mezi **ostatní evropské národy**.  
 [Is in our interest-LOC wish Russian nation-DAT EMPH swiftest integration-ACC among **other European nations-ACC**.]  
 It is in our interests to wish the Russian nation the swiftest possible integration with **other European nations**.

## ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION 10 — Destinations Reached by Passing and Crossing

The prepositions *mimo* ‘past; outside of; besides; except’, *přes* ‘across; more than’, and *ob* ‘every other; one away’ all describe paths that pass or cross a destination.

Although *mimo* can be used to describe movement ‘past’ some item, as in *prošel mimo naše okna* [went past **our windows-ACC**] ‘he went past **our windows**’, *mimo* is more used to describe a static location corresponding to English *outside of*, encountered in phrases like *žijou mimo Prahu* [live outside-of **Prague-ACC**] ‘they live outside of **Prague**’, and in this example:

- (93) Spoustu času stráví mimo **nemocnici** jako soudní znalkyně.  
 [A lot-ACC time-GEN spends outside **hospital-ACC** like court expert-NOM.]  
 She spends a lot of time outside of **the hospital** as an expert witness.

The use of *mimo* can be extended to describe non-spatial domains that do not contain an item, as in phrases like: *je mimo nebezpečí* [is outside-of **danger-ACC**] ‘s/he’s out of **danger**’, *to je mimo diskusi* [that-NOM is outside-of **discussion-ACC**] ‘that’s beyond the scope of **the discussion**’. In the domain of time, *mimo* describes a time when something does not happen, and corresponds best to English *except*, as in this example:

- (94) Muzeum je přístupné veřejnosti každý den mimo **pondělí**.  
 [Museum-NOM is accessible-NOM public-DAT every day-ACC except **Monday-ACC**.]  
 The museum is open to the public every day except **Monday**.

When used to describe motion through physical space, *přes* ‘across’ indicates that something has reached the opposite side of an item, as in this sentence:

- (95) Velké části aktivistů se nepodařilo projet přes **české hranice**.  
 [Large portion-DAT activists-GEN self-ACC not-succeeded ride across **Czech borders-ACC**.]  
 A large portion of the activists did not succeed in getting across **the Czech borders**.

In the domain of time, *přes* describes a limit that is exceeded, generally in terms of how long something lasts or how old someone is, as in this sentence:

- (96) Je mu přes **padesát**, ale občas se chová jako malý kluk.  
 [Is him-DAT across **fifty-ACC**, but sometimes self-ACC behaves like little boy-NOM.]  
 He's over **fifty**, but sometimes he behaves like a little boy.

This use of *přes* to identify a temporal limit has been conventionalized in the adverb *přesčas* 'overtime'. *Přes* can also be used to express competition in the metaphorical construction *jeden přes druhého* [one-NOM across another-ACC] 'each one [more] than the other, as we see in this sentence:

- (97) Skini házeli po policistech kameny a láhve a jeden přes **druhého** skandovali rasistická hesla.  
 [Skinheads-NOM threw at policemen-LOC rocks-ACC and bottles-ACC and one-NOM across **other-ACC** chanted racist slogans-ACC.]  
 The skinheads threw rocks and bottles at the policemen and chanted racist slogans, each one louder than **the other**.

Like *mimo* and *přes*, *ob* describes passing something, but with the added meaning that the item passed is actually skipped in order to proceed to the next item in a series. The best way to render the meaning of this word in English is with the phrase *every other*. Here is an example to demonstrate how this works:

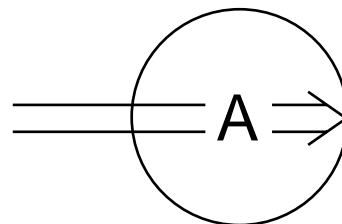
- (98) Celý rukopis byl číslován ob **stránku**, takže v nakladatelství došlo k chybnému řazení obrázků k příslušným textům.  
 [Whole manuscript-NOM was numbered-NOM against **page-ACC**, so in publishing-house-LOC happened to wrong arrangement-DAT pictures-GEN to appropriate text-DAT.]  
 The whole manuscript had been numbered only on every other **page**, so there was an error in arranging the pictures with the corresponding text at the publishing house.

*Ob* can be extended to the domain of time, where it indicates an interval of time that is commonly skipped between two events in a series. The next example illustrates *ob den* [every-other **day-ACC**], written here as a prepositional phrase; this collocation can also appear written as one word, *obden* 'every other **day**', which behaves like an adverb.

- (99) Manžel ob **den** zajede pro nákup a já musím vymyslet, jak všechny nakrmit.  
 [Husband-NOM against **day-ACC** goes for shopping-ACC and I-NOM must think, how everyone-ACC feed.]  
 My husband does the shopping every other **day**, and I have to think about how to feed everyone.

## ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION 1 — Measured domains

As we said at the outset, the accusative case is a relatively fluid concept. There is no clear boundary between ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION and ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION. There is a tendency, however, for the item marked by ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION to take on dimensions of its own, rather than being treated like an unanalyzed, uni-dimensional point, as is the case with ACCUSATIVE: A DESTINATION. The dimensions of the “dimensions” we will look at have a wide range of quantitative and qualitative measures, such as length, duration, number, cost, and amount. The hallmark of the ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION is that the action of the verb extends over some dimension of the item that it marks.



A force (arrow) moves through  
an ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION  
(circle labeled A)

In its bare usage, ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION can refer to the distance traveled or the length of time consumed by an activity, as in *ujet třicet kilometrů* [ride **thirty-ACC** kilometers-GEN] ‘ride **thirty** kilometers’ or *spát celou noc* [sleep **all night-ACC**] ‘sleep **all night**’. The following three examples illustrate these distance and duration uses of ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION:

- (100) Obdivuhodná jízda šlapacím autíčkem se podařila muži, který ujel **šest** set kilometrů z Mnichova do Drážďan.  
[Remarkable trip-NOM pedal car-INST self-ACC succeeded man-DAT, who-NOM rode **six-ACC** hundred-GEN kilometers-GEN from Munich-GEN to Dresden-GEN.]  
A remarkable pedal car trip was completed by a man who rode **six** hundred miles from Munich to Dresden.
- (101) Státní delegace uctila ve Varšavě památku židovských bojovníků, kteří téměř **měsíc** vzdorovali německým okupantům.  
[State delegation-NOM honored in Warsaw-LOC memory-ACC Jewish fighters-GEN, who-NOM nearly **month-ACC** defied German invaders-DAT.]  
In Warsaw the state delegation honored the memory of the Jewish fighters who defied the German invaders for nearly **a month**.
- (102) Přiznám se k tomu, že mě nebavilo chodit na povinné schůze a sedět tam **celou hodinu**.  
[Admit self-ACC to that-DAT, that me-ACC not-pleased go to mandatory meetings-ACC and sit there **whole hour-ACC**.]  
I admit that I didn’t like going to mandatory meetings and sitting there for **a whole hour**.

A variety of prepositions are employed with ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION to indicate the units of measurement or the domains for which something is valid: *na*, *za*, *po*, *skrz*, and *přes*, each of which will be discussed in turn below.

The most versatile preposition used for identifying relevant domains is *na*, which might be variously translated as ‘to, in, for, by, in, on, at, from’. Perhaps its most basic use involves units of measurement in constructions such as: *vážit něco na kila* [weigh something-ACC in **kilos-ACC**] ‘weigh something in **kilos**’, *prodávat něco na metry/na váhu* [sell something-ACC by **meters-ACC/by weight-ACC**] ‘sell something by **the meter/by weight**’, *šít něco na míru* [sew something-ACC to **measure-ACC**] ‘sew something to **measure**’, *práce na týden* [work-NOM for **week-ACC**] ‘**a week**’s worth of work’. Thus kilos are the units of the domain relevant for weighing, meters and weight are the domains of measurement used for selling goods, measurements provide the domain for sewing, and the time period of one week is the domain that explains how much work there is. Here are some authentic examples of how phrases like this are used:

- (103) Zákon o podnikání právnických osob byl “šitý na **míru**” podnikání malých firem.  
[Law-NOM about business-activities-LOC legal persons-GEN was “sewn-NOM on **measure-ACC**” business-activities-DAT small companies-GEN.]  
The law about the business activities of legal persons was **tailored** to the business activities of small companies.
- (104) Měl jsem práci na **týden** a kvůli dvoudenní dovolené jsem musel pracovat i po večerech.  
[Had AUX work-ACC for **week-ACC** and due-to two-day holiday-DAT AUX had work also during evenings-LOC.]  
I had **a week**’s worth of work and due to the two-day holiday I had to work in the evenings too.

An idiom that works this way is *běžet na plné obrátky* [run on **full revolutions-ACC**] ‘run at **full speed**’.

Units of measurement represent series of items, and *na* can be used to indicate other kinds of serialized domains, such as the mathematical series of numbers taken to various exponents, the serializing of payments or chapters into installments, and the serializing of actions that can be done two or more times, as we see in these examples:

- (105) Matematický výraz  $a$  krát  $a$  můžeme vyjádřit jako  $a$  na **druhou**, zapsáno  $a^2$ .  
[Mathematical expression-ACC  $a$  times  $a$  can state as  $a$  to **second-ACC**, written-NOM  $a^2$ .]  
We can state the mathematical expression  $a$  times  $a$  as  $a$  to **the second power**, written as  $a^2$ .
- (106) Moldavské ministerstvo školství koupilo do škol počítače na **výhodné splátky**.  
[Moldavian ministry-NOM education-GEN bought to schools-GEN computers-ACC for **advantageous installments-ACC**.]  
The Moldavian Ministry of Education bought computers for the schools on an **advantageous installment** plan.

- (107) Jana Svobodová vydává třetí část románu na **pokračování** o životě císaře Ferdinanda I. Štaufského.  
 [Jana Svobodová-NOM publishes third part-ACC novel-GEN to **continuation-ACC** about life-LOC emperor Ferdinand I. Štaufský-GEN.]  
 Jana Svobodová is publishing the third part of her **serialized** novel about the life of emperor Ferdinand I. Štaufský.
- (108) Těsto můžete použít na **dvakrát**, stačí uložíte-li nepoužitou část těsta v pevně uzavřené nádobě do chladničky.  
 [Dough-ACC can use to **twice**, is-enough put-whether unused part-ACC dough-GEN in firmly closed container-LOC to refrigerator-GEN.]  
 You can use the dough **twice**, all you have to do is to put the unused part of the dough into a firmly closed container in the refrigerator.

The human body provides various domains where characteristics can be realized, such as: *slepý na jedno oko* [blind in **one eye-ACC**] ‘blind in **one eye**’, *kulhat na levou nohu* [limp on **left leg-ACC**] ‘limp on **the left leg**’, *nemocný na plíce* [sick on **the lungs-ACC**] ‘sick in **the lungs**’, *nastydnout na ledviny* [catch-cold on **kidneys-ACC**] ‘get chilled in **the kidneys**’, *je mi zima na nohy* [is me-DAT cold-NOM on **legs-ACC**] ‘**my legs** are cold’, *padlý na rozum* [fallen on **reason-ACC**] ‘out of his **mind**’, *vidět na vlastní oči* [see on **own eyes-ACC**] ‘see with **one’s own eyes**’, *hezký na pohled* [pretty on **appearance-ACC**] ‘pretty to **look at**’. Here are some representative examples:

- (109) Při chůzi nepatrně kulhal na **levou nohu**, a když stál na jedné noze, trochu se předkláněl dopředu.  
 [At walk-LOC slightly limped on **left leg-ACC**, and when stood on one leg-LOC, a-little self-ACC leaned forward.]  
 When walking he limped slightly on **his left leg**, and when he stood on one leg, he leaned forward a bit.
- (110) Byla na **pohled** hezká, ale takových bylo všude dost.  
 [Was on **look-ACC** pretty-NOM, but such-GEN was everywhere enough-NOM.]  
 She was pretty to **look at**, but there were plenty like that everywhere.
- (111) Policie hledá svědky, kteří na **vlastní oči** viděli dopravní nehodu, která se stala včera na křižovatce ulic Moskevská a Slovinská.  
 [Police-NOM looks witnesses-ACC, who-NOM on **own eyes-ACC** saw traffic accident-ACC, which-NOM self-ACC happened yesterday at intersection-LOC streets-GEN Moskevská-NOM and Slovinská-NOM.]  
 The police are looking for **eye-witnesses** to the traffic accident that took place yesterday at the intersection of Moskevská and Slovinská streets.

In combination with adjectives (usually accompanied by the word *příliš* ‘too, excessively’), *na* can mean ‘too X for Y’, as in this example where the pants are ‘too big for **me**’:

- (112) I prodavač nesměle naznačoval mé matce, že ty kalhoty jsou na **mě** příliš velké, ale ona jako by neslyšela.  
 [Even salesman-NOM gingerly hinted my mother-DAT, that those pants-NOM are for **me-ACC** too big-NOM, but she-NOM like AUX not-heard.]  
 Even the salesman gingerly hinted to my mother that those pants were too big for **me**, but she acted like she didn't hear.

The verb *hrát* 'play' can be applied to various domains. When music is involved, *na* + ACC identifies the instrument that is played; in conjunction with *si*, *hrát* describes imaginative play, and *na* + ACC tells us the domain of imaginative characters that is targeted in play. Here is one example of each use of *hrát* with *na*:

- (113) Od šesti let hraje na **klavír**.  
 [From six years-GEN plays on **piano-ACC**.]  
 He has been playing **the piano** since age six.
- (114) Hráť si na **policajty** a **zloděje** patřilo k jeho nejoblíbenějším činnostem v dětském domově.  
 [Play self-DAT on **cops-ACC** and **robbers-ACC** belonged to his most-favorite activities-DAT in children's home-LOC.]  
 Playing **cops** and **robbers** was one of his favorite things to do at the orphanage.

*Na* + ACC can be used to describe causes in cause-and-effect situations, where desires, orders, or advice serve as causes inspiring in turn various actions that serve as effects. There is a sense of balance here, such that the effect (response) applies to the domain of the cause (request). If the person who makes the request is expressed, they appear in the genitive case. Typical constructions with *na* + cause are: *udělat něco na přání/rozkaz/radu rodičů* [do something-ACC on **wish-ACC/command-ACC/advice-ACC** parents-GEN] 'do something in response to one's parents' **wish/command/advice**', *vaříme na přání* [cook on **wish-ACC**] 'we cook to **order**', *na objednávku* [on **order-ACC**] 'on/to **order**'. Here are a couple of examples:

- (115) Na **rozkaz** prezidenta může být armáda uvedena do stavu bojové pohotovosti.  
 [At **order-ACC** president-GEN can be army-NOM led-NOM to state-GEN battle readiness-GEN.]  
 The army can be put in a state of battle readiness at the president's **order**.
- (116) Na **přání** posluchačů opakujeme nyní záznam silvestrovského pořadu "Pojďte se s námi zasmát".  
 [At **wish-ACC** listeners-GEN repeat now recording-ACC New-Year's-Eve program-GEN "Come self-ACC with us-INST laugh".]  
 At **the request** of our listeners we will now rebroadcast a recording of the New Year's Eve program "Come laugh with us".

Diseases are the most common cause of death, and *na* + ACC is commonly used to mark causality in this way, in phrases such as *zemřít na infarkt/rakovinu* [die on **heart-attack-ACC/cancer-ACC**] ‘die from a **heart attack/cancer**’. Here is an example of this usage:

- (117) Američanovi nepomohl ani rychlý převoz do nemocnice, kde skonal na **krváčení** do mozku.  
 [American-DAT not-helped even rapid transportation-ACC to hospital-GEN, where died on **hemorrhage-ACC** to brain-GEN.]  
 Not even rapid transportation to the hospital could help the American who died there from a brain **hemorrhage**.

The idea of cause-and-effect evokes a transaction, where one item triggers another. There are numerous give-and-take transactions that play on a similar theme and also use *na* + ACC, such as: *na stvrzenku* [on **receipt-ACC**] ‘in exchange for a **receipt**’, *na kauci* [on **bail-ACC**] ‘on **bail**’, *na zástavu* [on **security-ACC**] ‘on **security** (of)’. The following two sentences illustrate give-and-take transactions, where the items offered in order to achieve a goal (the receipt needed to return something at a store, or the bail needed to get out of jail) are marked by *na* + ACC:

- (118) Vydal jí peníze na **stvrzenku**, netušíc, že je falešná.  
 [Gave her-DAT money-ACC on **receipt-ACC**, not-suspecting, that is forged-NOM.]  
 He issued her the money according to **the receipt**, and did not suspect it was a forgery.
- (119) Žádost jednoho z Francouzů, aby byl propuštěn na **kauci** dvou milionů korun, nedávno městský soud zamítl.  
 [Request-ACC one-GEN of Frenchmen-GEN, so-that was released-NOM on **bail-ACC** two million crowns-GEN, recently municipal court-NOM rejected.]  
 The municipal court recently rejected the request of one of the Frenchmen that he be released on a **bail** of two million crowns.

The preposition *za* continues the theme of exchange, and can be used to express ratios, for example, how many units of distance can be traveled in a given time, where the time appears as *za* + ACC, best translated as ‘per’. Here a number of units in one domain (time in this example) corresponds to a number of units in another domain (distance):

- (120) Po dokončení koridoru Praha-Břeclav budou České dráhy dosahovat vyšší traťové rychlosti, počítá se až se 160 km za **hodinu**.  
 [After completion-LOC corridor-GEN Prague-Břeclav-NOM will Czech railways-NOM attain higher rail speed-GEN, counts self-ACC up-to with 160 km-INST for **hour-ACC**.]  
 After the completion of the Prague-Břeclav corridor, the Czech railways will attain a higher rail speed, expected to go as high as 160 km per **hour**.

Other kinds of measures can be accumulated over time as well, as we see in this example, where economic indicators are measured for the duration of a month:

- (121) Obchodní bilance České Republiky vykázala za **srpen** schodek 15,6 miliardy korun.  
[Trade balance-NOM Czech Republic-GEN showed for **August-ACC** deficit-ACC 15.6 billion crowns-GEN.]  
The trade balance for the Czech Republic for **August** showed a deficit of 15.6 billion crowns.

The preposition *za* can also refer to a period of time that must be completed before something can take place, as in this sentence, where a century must pass before UN representatives can be directly elected:

- (122) Václav Havel navrhl, že za **sto** let by mohlo existovat jakési shromáždění OSN, přímo volené všemi obyvateli zeměkoule.  
[Václav Havel-NOM suggested, that in **hundred-ACC** years-GEN would could exist some-sort-of assembly-NOM UN-GEN, directly elected-NOM all inhabitants-INST globe-GEN.]  
Václav Havel suggested that in **a hundred** years there might exist an assembly of the UN directly elected by all the globe's inhabitants.

Like *za*, the preposition *po* is frequently used in the domain of time to describe durations, temporal dimensions that are filled with an activity. In the following two examples, the duration of a trip is filled with laughter, and the duration of years is filled with puppetry:

- (123) Otec se po **celou dobu** jízdy smál podivným smíchem.  
[Father-NOM self-ACC during **whole time-ACC** trip-GEN laughed strange laugh-INST.]  
Father laughed a strange laugh **the whole** trip.
- (124) V Praze zemřel Luboš Homola, který po **léta** vodil loutku Špejbla.  
[In Prague-LOC died Luboš Homola-NOM, who-NOM during **years-ACC** led marionette Špejbl-ACC.]  
Luboš Homola, who for **years** performed with the marionette Špejbl, has died in Prague.

When a dimension has to be negotiated, it can serve as a barrier through which an item moves, and Czech uses the preposition *skrz* 'through' to describe this sort of interaction with an intervening object. Physical motion through space can be described this way, as in expressions like *jít skrz les* [walk through **forest-ACC**] 'walk through **the forest**', or the popular tongue-twister *Strč prst skrz krk!* [Stick finger-ACC through **neck-ACC!**] 'Stick your finger through **your neck!**'. Visual voyages can also involve barriers or intervening objects, as in phrases like *dívat se na někoho skrz prsty* [look self-ACC on someone-ACC through **fingers-ACC**] 'look at someone through **one's fingers**', and *dívat se na něco skrz brýle/lupu* [look self-ACC on something-ACC through **glasses-ACC/magnifying glass-ACC**] 'look at something through **one's glasses/a magnifying glass**'. The next two examples describe a metaphorical journey through the legal domain and a visual journey reaching from a hunter's eyes to his prey:

- (125) Právníci to nemají lehké, k jejich profesi patří prodírat se skrz **houštiny** zákonů, z nichž některé si dokonce protiřečí.  
 [Lawyers-NOM that-ACC not-have easy-ACC, to their profession-DAT belongs force-way self-ACC through **thickets-ACC** laws-GEN, from which-GEN some-NOM self-DAT even contradict.]  
 Lawyers don't have it easy, their profession entails forcing one's way through **thickets** of laws, some of which are even contradictory.
- (126) Seděl nehnutě v houští a skrz **mlází** pozoroval statného jelena.  
 [Sat motionlessly in thicket-LOC and through **undergrowth-ACC** observed robust stag-ACC.]  
 He sat motionlessly in the thicket and observed the robust stag through **the undergrowth**.

When an item is traversed but not actually penetrated, we use the preposition *přes* '(all) across' to indicate that the expanse of a domain is affected by an activity. This preposition frequently appears when some kind of punishment is delivered to a body part, as in the common phrase *dostat přes ruku* [get across **hand-ACC**] 'get slapped on **the hand**'. Here is an example containing a variation on this theme:

- (127) Když si bral již čtvrtý kousek dortu, matka nevydržela a plácla svého cvalíka přes **ruku**.  
 [When self-DAT took already fourth piece-ACC cake-GEN, mother-NOM not-resisted and slapped own tubby-boy-ACC across **hand-ACC**.]  
 When he took a fourth piece of cake, mother couldn't hold off any longer and slapped her tubby boy's **hand**.

## ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION 2 — COST, COMPARISON, AND APPROXIMATION

The accusative case comes in handy for describing costs, comparisons, and approximations. Cost is a dimension that is fully engaged (since the full price must be paid), and similarly, comparisons and approximations require measurement along a domain, rather than a mere endpoint.

Like distance and duration, cost can be measured without any preposition at all, and the verb *stát* 'cost' typically appears with the amount marked in the bare accusative case, as in these two examples:

- (128) Měsíční jízdenka na MHD stojí **dvěstě deset** korun.  
 [Month ticket-NOM on municipal-mass-transit-LOC costs **two-hundred ten-ACC** crowns.]  
 A one-month municipal mass-transit ticket costs **two hundred ten** crowns.

- (129) Nový dům stál Pospíšilovy **balík** peněz, ale štěstí v něm stejně nenašli.  
 [New house-NOM cost Pospíšil-family-ACC **package-ACC** money-GEN, but happiness-ACC in it-LOC still not-found.]  
 The new house cost the Pospíšil family **a heap** of money, but they didn't find happiness in it anyhow.

The preposition *o*, in combination with ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION, describes an amount by which an item changes or differs. In the domain of space, this construction can be used when an item has moved from an original position, with *o* + ACC marking the distance of the shift in location, as in this example, where the difference in position equals one step:

- (130) Musím ustoupit **o krok** dozadu, jinak mě tančící dvojice porazí.  
 [Must step-away by **step-ACC** backward, otherwise me-ACC dancing couple-NOM knock-down.]  
 I must take **a step** backward, otherwise the dancing couple will knock me down.

We can use the same preposition in the domain of time to describe events that are shifted from one place to another along the timeline, whether forward or backward. Thus, if an event actually took place a day earlier than expected, one could say that it *happened o den dříve* [by **day-ACC** earlier] ‘**a day** earlier’. Postponement, which moves planned events in the opposite direction along the timeline, also uses the preposition *o*, as in this sentence:

- (131) Původní termín operace musí být odložen **o den**.  
 [Original date-NOM operation-GEN must be postponed-NOM by **day-ACC**.]  
 The original date of the operation must be postponed by **a day**.

The preposition *o* ‘by’ can operate in the metaphorical spaces created by scales and measures, where it describes the amount by which given measurements differ, such as when a phenomenon increases or decreases. In this example, the amount of criminal activity rises, and *o* marks the amount by which the new measurement differs from the previous one:

- (132) Na Olomoucku stoupla hospodářská kriminalita až **o sto** procent.  
 [On Olomouc-area-LOC went-up economic criminal-activity up-to by **hundred-ACC** percent-GEN.]  
 In the Olomouc area economic criminal activity has increased by as much as **one hundred** percent.

The measurement of differences along scales is an essential ingredient in the making of comparisons, and for this reason the preposition *o* ‘by’ is frequently associated with comparative forms in Czech, marking the amount by which an item is measured as being more or less on a given scale, as in phrases like *sestra je o rok starší, než já* [sister-NOM is by **year-ACC** older-NOM, than I-NOM] ‘my sister is **a year** older than I am’ and *ty šaty jsou o deset dolarů dražší* [that outfit-NOM is by **ten-ACC** dollars-GEN more-expensive-NOM] ‘that outfit is **ten** dollars more expensive’. Here’s a real example to try on for size:

- (133) Nadechla se a do tváří se jí vracela o **něco** zdravější barva.  
 [Inhaled self-ACC and to cheeks-GEN self-ACC her-DAT returned by **something-ACC** healthier color-NOM.]  
 She took a deep breath and a **somewhat** healthier color returned to her cheeks.

Two prepositions, *mimo* and *přes*, can be used to mean ‘in spite of’. Here the item marked as ACCUSATIVE:: A DIMENSION has some essential mass, something that must be reckoned with, a dimension to deal with. One has to overcome this entity in order to arrive at a contrary outcome, and this implies a comparison between the accusative entity and the actual result. For *mimo* ‘in spite of’, the most typical domain is that of anticipation, with the common phrase *mimo očekávání* [in-spite-of **expectation-ACC**] ‘in spite of/contrary to **expectation**’, which appears in this example:

- (134) Zcela mimo **očekávání** se na tribuně objevil i prezident Václav Havel.  
 [Entirely in-spite-of **expectation-ACC** self-ACC at tribunal-LOC appeared also president Václav Havel-NOM.]  
 Against all **expectation**, president Václav Havel also appeared at the tribunal.

The preposition *přes* ‘in spite of’ tends to operate in domains of limiting factors and prohibitions, motivating uses like *přes své stáří je čilý* [in-spite-of **own age-ACC** is agile-NOM] ‘he’s agile in spite of **his age**’, and *přes zákaz* [in-spite-of **prohibition-ACC**] ‘in spite/defiance of **the prohibition**’. The prepositional phrase *přes to* [in-spite-of **that-ACC**] ‘in spite of **that/anyway**’ can also be written as one word: *přesto*, and can be enlarged in the phrase *přesto přese všecko* ‘for **all that**’. Here is an example of how *přes* is used:

- (135) I přes **zákaz** používat mobilní telefon při řízení motorového vozidla je stále mnoho řidičů, kteří telefonují za jízdy  
 [Even in-spite-of **prohibition-ACC** use mobile telephone-ACC during driving-LOC motor vehicle-GEN is still many-NOM drivers-GEN, who-NOM telephone during ride-GEN.]  
 In spite of **the prohibition** on using mobile telephones while driving motor vehicles, there are still many people who make telephone calls while driving.

Approximations involve a comparison of an actual amount with a nearby round figure or familiar value. The preposition *na* can be used to mean ‘approximately’, in phrases like *na prst silný* [approximately **finger-ACC** thick] ‘about the thickness of **a finger**’, and with numerals, as in these examples:

- (136) V Severní Bosně působí na **šest** set českých vojáků.  
 [In Northern Bosnia-LOC are-engaged approximately **six-ACC** hundred-GEN Czech soldiers-GEN.]  
 Approximately **six** hundred Czech soldiers are engaged in Northern Bosnia.
- (137) Týden lyžování v Rakousku vás v hlavní sezóně přijde až na **deset** tisíc.  
 [Week-NOM skiing-GEN in Austria-LOC you-ACC in main season-LOC comes up-to approximately **ten-ACC** thousand-GEN.]

A week of skiing in Austria during the peak season will run you up to about **ten** thousand.

The preposition *s* can be used to express approximate capacity or capability as measured against another item. This preposition usually appears when we are considering whether someone is ‘up to’ a certain task or able to compete with another person, as in the common phrases *být s to něco udělat* [be up-to **that-ACC** something-ACC do] ‘be up to doing something’ and *kdo s koho* [who-NOM up-to **who-ACC**] ‘who is as good as (or better than) **who**’. Here are some examples of how these phrases behave in real contexts:

- (138) Premiér Miloš Zeman nebyl s **to** odpovědět na otázky novinářů.  
 [Prime-minister Miloš Zeman-NOM not-was capable **that-ACC** answer to questions-ACC journalists-GEN.]  
 Prime Minister Miloš Zeman was’t able to answer the journalists’ questions.
- (139) Volby rozhodnou kdo s **koho**.  
 [Election-NOM decides who-NOM capable **who-ACC**.]  
 The election will decide who is as good as (or better than) **who**.

## EPILOGUE

The word *accusative* is not very helpful in summing up this case, although you can think of the parallel between the force of an accusation being released upon the accused and the force of a verb being released upon an object. Accusation is indeed one kind of directed activity, and the accusative case is all about directed activity, particularly motion. Directed motion occupies a prominent place in the linguistic imagination of Czechs, and they make a much crisper distinction between motion and location than we do in English. It doesn’t matter how short the trip is: even the travel of our backside to a seat or the travel of a book to the place we lay it on our night table is described as a movement with a destination. Just looking at something constitutes a visual voyage. Our understanding of time is patterned after how we perceive space, motivating the conclusion that if a journey has a spatial destination, then an event has a temporal destination as well. Change to a new state is comprehended as movement to a new location. Although one may merely go to a destination, alternatively one may also travel through a dimension, measuring and comparing the extent of phenomena in a variety of domains. The accusative case gets us through difficulties, past obstacles, all the way to our ultimate goals.