

**Feminine  
declension  
nouns**

**Masculine  
declension  
nouns**

**Neuter  
declension  
nouns**

**Adjectives**

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**Pronouns**

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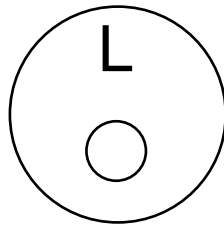
**Possessives**

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**Numerals**

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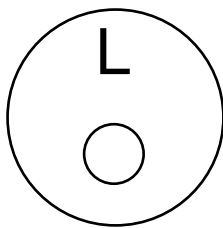
LOCATIVE:



A PLACE

## PROLOGUE

LOCATIVE: A PLACE is a setting, locating an item in space, time, or a metaphorical domain. The locative is the only case in Czech that always requires a preposition, and is therefore sometimes called the “prepositional case”. Five prepositions are associated with LOCATIVE: A PLACE: *na* ‘on; at’, *v* ‘in’, *při* ‘by, near; during; with’, *o* ‘about; leaning on; during; with’, and *po* ‘after; along, around; for; each’. The meanings of these prepositions are based on human experience of physical location in the domain of our three-dimensional environment. However, all of these prepositions are active in other domains, such as time, states of being, and quantification. We will look at each preposition in turn and discuss how LOCATIVE: A PLACE weaves its web of meaning.

LOCATIVE: A PLACE 1 — *na* ‘on; at’

An item (small circle) is in a  
LOCATIVE: A PLACE (circle labeled L)

In its most basic use in the domain of physical space, *na* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE refers to a location on an object that has a surface, such as a desk, chair, floor, cot, or tray — the surfaces that serve as *na* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE locations in the following three examples:

(1) Na **stole** byste měli mít svoji viditelnou vizitku, nebo stojánek se jménem, aby návštěvník věděl, s kým jedná.

[On **desk-LOC** should have own visible **business-card-ACC**, or **stand-ACC** with **name-INST**, so-that **visitor-NOM** knew with whom-INST deals.]

You should have a your business card visible on **the desk**, or a stand with your name, so that visitors will know who they are dealing with.

(2) Chlapec stojí na **židli**, jako stál prve na **podlaze**, a pozoruje střechy a věže města. [Little-boy stands on **chair-LOC**, like stood at-first on **floor-LOC**, and observes roofs-ACC and towers-ACC city-GEN.]

The little boy stands on **the chair** just as he stood before on **the floor** and observes the roofs and towers of the city.

(3) V malebných zátočinách odpočívají na **lehátkách** turisté, kteří chtějí pohodlí na **tácu** jako chlazené martini.

[In picturesque hideaways-LOC rest on **cots-LOC** tourists-NOM, who-NOM want comfort-ACC **on tray-LOC** like chilled martini-ACC.]

Tourists who want comfort on **a tray** like a chilled martini rest **on cots** in picturesque hideaways.

Since attachment is something that happens on a surface, *na* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE can also be used to express an attachment or connection to something; notice that English ‘on’ shares this capacity in these examples and their translations below:

- (4) Téměř každý návštěvník si z pouti na **provázku** odnáší balónek plněný plynem.  
[Almost every visitor-NOM self-DAT from fair-GEN on **string-LOC** takes balloon-ACC filled-ACC gas-GEN.]  
Almost every visitor takes home from the fair a helium balloon on **a string**.
- (5) Na **služebních vizitkách** není vhodné uvádět telefon a adresu do bytu.  
[On **business cards-LOC** is-not appropriate cite phone-number-ACC and address-ACC to apartment-GEN.]  
It is not appropriate to cite one’s home phone number and address on **business cards**.

The vast majority of locations in Czech are signalled by either *na* + LOC or *v* + LOC, but this distinction does not correlate to our distinction in English between *on*, *at*, and *in*, except when we are dealing with locations that are obviously surfaces (requiring *na*) or containers (requiring *v*). Unfortunately many locations are neither surfaces nor containers, and students are usually told that they will just have to memorize all the “*na*-words” in Czech. While it is true that there are no solid rules you can rely on to predict the use of *na* vs. *v* with 100% accuracy, we can offer some generalizations that work pretty well, and point out some glaring exceptions to watch out for.

Locations that can be thought of as surfaces, like islands and mountain ranges tend to use *na* + LOC. Locations that are regions or are associated with the countryside are not thought of as having tightly defined boundaries, and are used with *na* + LOC. The suffix *-iště* forms neuter nouns describing locations that are conceived of as surfaces, and all words with this suffix use *na* + LOC, as do points of embarkation for travel and all sorts of generalized locations lacking firm boundaries, like the points on a compass. Certain significant buildings and locations relating to administration, trade, and education use *na* + LOC. *Na* + LOC is also the norm for most organized events and many significant time junctures as well. The table below provides a representative sample of “*na*-words” of these types, plus important exceptions that use *v* + LOC instead. It is followed by examples to illustrate each grouping of “*na*-words”.

A Categorization of Common “*na-* words”

Locations that are islands, peninsulas, mountain ranges, clearings, and other places thought of as regions

|                                    |                           |                     |                          |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>na ostrově</i>                  | ‘on an island’            | <i>na Kubě</i>      | ‘in Cuba’                |
| <i>na Madagaskaru</i>              | ‘in Madagascar’           | <i>na Sicílii</i>   | ‘in Sicily’              |
| <i>na Hawaji</i>                   | ‘in Hawaii’               | <i>na Kypru</i>     | ‘in Cyprus’              |
| <i>na poloostrově</i>              | ‘on a peninsula’          | <i>na Floridě</i>   | ‘in Florida’             |
| <i>na Krymu</i>                    | ‘in the Crimea’           | <i>na Aljašce</i>   | ‘in Alaska’              |
| <i>na Kavkaze</i>                  | ‘in the Caucasus’         | <i>na Urale</i>     | ‘in the Urals’           |
| <i>na Šumavě</i>                   | ‘in the Šumava mountains’ | <i>na pasece</i>    | ‘in a clearing’          |
| <i>na mýtině</i>                   | ‘in a clearing’           | <i>na louce</i>     | ‘in a meadow’            |
| <i>na náměstí</i>                  | ‘on a square’             | <i>na hřbitově</i>  | ‘in a cemetery’          |
| <i>na stadióně/ů</i>               | ‘at a stadium’            | <i>na farmě</i>     | ‘on a farm’              |
| <i>na venkově</i>                  | ‘in the country’          | <i>na chalupě</i>   | ‘at a cottage’           |
| <i>na samotě</i>                   | ‘in a secluded spot’      | <i>na pláži</i>     | ‘on the beach’           |
| <i>na chatě</i>                    | ‘at a cabin’              | <i>na vesnici</i>   | ‘in a village’           |
| But note the use of <i>v</i> with: |                           |                     |                          |
| <i>v Japonsku</i>                  | ‘in Japan’                | <i>v Tatrách</i>    | ‘in the Tatra mountains’ |
| <i>v Alpách</i>                    | ‘in the Alps’             | <i>v Krkonoších</i> | ‘in the Giant mountains’ |
| <i>v Austrálii</i>                 | ‘in Australia’            |                     |                          |

Points of embarkation for travel and words ending in *-iště*

|                     |                              |                      |                         |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>na nádraží</i>   | ‘at the train station’       | <i>na nástupišti</i> | ‘on the train platform’ |
| <i>na letišti</i>   | ‘at the airport’             | <i>na stanici</i>    | ‘at the station/stop’   |
| <i>na hřišti</i>    | ‘at a playground’            | <i>na pracovišti</i> | ‘at the workplace’      |
| <i>na schodišti</i> | ‘on the stairs’              | <i>na smetišti</i>   | ‘at the dump’           |
| <i>na sídlišti</i>  | ‘in the housing development’ | <i>na pískovišti</i> | ‘in the sandbox’        |

Compass Points and Other Generalized Locations

|                   |                     |                            |                        |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>na východě</i> | ‘in the east’       | <i>na západě</i>           | ‘in the west’          |
| <i>na jihu</i>    | ‘in the south’      | <i>na severu</i>           | ‘in the north’         |
| <i>na hranici</i> | ‘on the border’     | <i>na mezi</i>             | ‘on the boundary line’ |
| <i>na slunci</i>  | ‘in the sun(shine)’ | <i>na čerstvém vzduchu</i> | ‘in the fresh air’     |
| <i>na místě</i>   | ‘in place’          | <i>na obloze</i>           | ‘in the sky’           |

|   |   |                              |  |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Significant Administrative, Trade, and Academic Buildings and Units |   |                              |  |
| <i>na poště</i>   | ‘at <b>the post office</b> ’                          | <i>na hradě</i>              | ‘in/at <b>the castle</b> ’                       |
| <i>na zámku</i>   | ‘in/at <b>the castle/estate</b> ’                     | <i>na faře</i>               | ‘in <b>the parish</b> ’                          |
| <i>na burze</i>   | ‘at <b>the</b><br>( <b>stock-</b> ) <b>exchange</b> ’ | <i>na trhu</i>               | ‘at <b>the market(place)</b> ’                   |
| <i>na univerzitě</i>  | ‘at <b>the university</b> ’                           | <i>na fakultě</i>            | ‘in <b>the school/unit</b> ’                     |
| <i>na oddělení</i>  | ‘in <b>the department</b> ’                           |                              |  |
| <i>na průmyslovce</i>   | ‘in <b>the technical</b><br><b>college</b> ’          | <i>na střední škole</i>      | ‘in <b>the high school</b> ’                     |
| But note the use of <i>v</i> with:                                  |   |                              |  |
| <i>ve škole</i>   | ‘in <b>the school</b> ’                               | <i>v továrně</i>             | ‘at/in <b>the factory</b> ’                      |
| <i>v ústavu</i>   | ‘in <b>the institute</b> ’                            | <i>v institutu</i>           | ‘in <b>the institute</b> ’                       |
| <i>ve skladu</i>  | ‘in <b>the warehouse</b> ’                            |                              |  |
| Events and Certain Significant Time Junctures:                      |   |                              |  |
| <i>na plesu</i>   | ‘at <b>a dance</b> ’                                  | <i>na bále</i>               | ‘at <b>a ball</b> ’                              |
| <i>na schůzi</i>  | ‘at/in <b>a meeting</b> ’                             | <i>na konferenci</i>         | ‘at <b>a conference</b> ’                        |
| <i>na zasedání</i>  | ‘at/in<br><b>meeting/session</b> ’                    | <b>a</b>                     |  |
| <i>na koncertě</i>  | ‘at <b>a concert</b> ’                                | <i>na představení</i>        | ‘at <b>a performance</b> ’                       |
| <i>na kongrese/u</i>  | ‘at <b>a congress</b> ’                               | <i>na exkurzi</i>            | ‘on <b>an excursion</b> ’                        |
| <i>na pouti</i>   | ‘at <b>a fair</b> ; on<br><b>pilgrimage</b> ’         | <b>a</b> <i>na slavnosti</i> | ‘at <b>a celebration</b> ’                       |
| <i>na mši</i>   | ‘at <b>mass</b> ’                                     | <i>na přednášce</i>          | ‘at <b>a lecture</b> ’                           |
| <i>na olympijských hrách</i>  | ‘at <b>the Olympic Games</b> ’                        |                              |  |
| <i>na procházce</i>   | ‘on <b>a walk</b> ’                                   | <i>na dovolené</i>           | ‘on <b>vacation</b> ’                            |
| <i>na obědě</i>   | ‘at <b>lunch</b> ’                                    | <i>na jaře</i>               | ‘in <b>the spring</b> ’                          |
| <i>na úsvitě</i>  | ‘at <b>dawn</b> ’                                     | <i>na sklonku</i>            | ‘at <b>the end/close</b> ’                       |
| <i>na začátku</i>   | ‘at <b>the beginning</b> ’                            | <i>na konci</i>              | ‘at <b>the end</b> ’                             |
| But note use of <i>v</i> with:                                      |   |                              |  |
| <i>v práci</i>  | ‘at <b>work</b> ’                                     | <i>v penzi</i>               | ‘on <b>a pension</b> ; in<br><b>retirement</b> ’ |
| <i>v zimě</i>   | ‘in <b>the winter</b> ’                               | <i>v létě</i>                | ‘in <b>the summer</b> ’                          |

- (6) Na **plážích** fouká vítr, který zvedá písek.  
[On **beaches-LOC** blows wind-NOM, which-NOM raises sand-ACC.]  
A wind that raises the sand blows on **the beaches**.
- (7) “Moji chlapi” si zajezdili na horských kolech z půjčovny hotelu, já jsem si raději poležela na **sluníčku**.  
[“My boys-NOM” self-DAT rode on mountain bikes-LOC from rental-office-GEN hotel-GEN, I-NOM AUX self-DAT rather lay on **sun-LOC**.]  
“My boys” went for a ride on mountain bikes from the hotel rental office, but I instead lay around in **the sun**.

- (8) Pracovní síla je v Česku pětikrát lacinější než na **Západě**.  
[Work strength-NOM is in Bohemia-LOC five-times cheaper-NOM than on **West-LOC**.]  
Labor in Bohemia is five times cheaper than in **the West**.
- (9) Na **pracovišti** přednostně platí pravidla podřízenosti a nadřízenosti.  
[On **workplace-LOC** primarily are-valued rules-NOM subordination-GEN and superiority-GEN.]  
The primary rules in **the workplace** are those of subordination and superiority.
- (10) Ono je lepší sedět na voze a přitom jet než sedět někde na **mezi** a přitom být pořád na **jednom místě**.  
[It-NOM is better-NOM sit on vehicle-LOC and at-the-same-time ride than sit somewhere on **boundary-LOC** and at-the-same-time be still on **one place-LOC**.]  
It is better to sit in a vehicle and be riding than to sit somewhere on **a boundary** and just be in **one place**.
- (11) Celý proces je pečlivě konzultován a promýšlen na **výročních zasedáních, konferencích a multilaterálních schůzkách** všech možných mezinárodních institucí.  
[Whole process-NOM is carefully dicussed-NOM and thought-through-NOM at **annual sessions-LOC, conferences-LOC, and multilateral meetings-LOC** all possible international institutions-GEN.]  
The whole process is carefully discussed and considered at **annual sessions, conferences, and multilateral meetings** of every kind of international institution.

Cities and countries are thought of as bounded spaces and therefore as metaphorical containers (remember that both city limits and country borders have been associated with walls in the past), so cities and countries are not “*na*-words”; they use *v* + LOC. Whereas most cities, and countries use *v* + locative: a place, some use *na*: *na Buchlově* ‘in **Buchlov**’, *na Kladně* ‘in **Kladno**’, *na Dobříši* ‘in **Dobříš**’, *na Moravě* ‘in **Moravia**’, *na Slovensku* ‘in **Slovakia**’, *na Ukrajině* ‘in **Ukraine**’, *na Smíchově* ‘in **Smíchov**’, *na Hradčanech* ‘on **the Castle grounds**’, *na Zvíkově* ‘in **Zvíkov**’, *na Haně* ‘in **Haná**’. Balconies and attics use *na*: *na balkóně* ‘on **the balcony**’, *na půdě* ‘in **the attic**’. Here are some others that are hard to explain, but happen to correspond to English ‘on’: *na poradě* ‘on **the agenda**’, *na cestě* ‘on **the way**’, *na rohu* ‘on **the corner**’.

*Na* + LOC is also evident in metaphorical uses, where we see that the notion of placement on a surface is extended to other domains. Buildings stand on foundations fashioned from stone, and metaphorically ideologies stand on conceptual foundations. Events can be understood as consisting of a beginning, middle, and end, each understood as an open spaces where people experiencing an event may be located. Here are examples of the metaphorical extension of *na* + LOC:

- (12) Každá ideologie musí stát na **nějakém reálném základě**.  
[Every ideology-NOM must stand on **some real foundation-LOC**.]  
Every ideology must stand on **some real foundation**.

- (13) Jsme zase jakoby na **počátku**.  
 [Are again as-if on **beginning-LOC**.]  
 It's as if we were at **the beginning** again.

Although the vast majority of words designating locations can be used only with *na* or only with *v*, there are a few words that can be used with both prepositions. These words can be grouped in two categories: for one set of words, the use of *na* or *v* seems to make no discernable difference in the meaning of the phrase; for the second set, although both prepositions are used, phrases with *na* are associated with a different meaning than correlated phrases with *v*. We will look at each set of words in turn, starting with those that do not show any significant difference in meaning with the two prepositions, a situation known as “free variation”.

Words that can use both *na* and *v* without Significant Difference in Meaning

|                     |                             |                       |  |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <i>na/v horách</i>  | ‘in <b>the mountains</b> ’  | <i>na/v poli</i>      | ‘in <b>the field</b> ’                   |
| <i>na/v zahradě</i> | ‘in <b>the garden</b> ’     | <i>na/v okrese</i>    | ‘in <b>the district/county</b> ’         |
| <i>na/v koleji</i>  | ‘in <b>the dormitory</b> ’  | <i>na/v podniku</i>   | ‘in <b>the company/at the business</b> ’ |
| <i>na/ve dvoře</i>  | ‘in <b>the courtyard</b> ’  | <i>na/ve vrátnici</i> | ‘at <b>the doorman’s post</b> ’          |
| <i>na/v závodě</i>  | ‘at/in <b>the factory</b> ’ |                       |  |

The following pairs of examples illustrate the synonymous meaning characteristic of “free variation” for three of these words: *na/v horách* ‘in **the mountains**’, *na/v zahradě* ‘in **the garden**’, and *na/ve vrátnici* ‘at **the doorman’s post**’. Czechs generally agree that *na* and *v* are interchangeable in these kinds of sentences.

- (14) Pamatuji si i na dobré časy, když jsme bydleli na **horách**, a na ty špatný se snažím zapomenout. (CCz)  
 [Remember self-DAT also on good times-ACC, when AUX lived on **mountains-LOC**, an on those bad-ACC self-ACC try forget.]  
 I remember the good times too, when we lived in **the mountains**, and I try to forget the bad ones.
- (15) V **horách** se pohybuji velmi nejistě, zimní radovánky a lyže mi nic neříkají.  
 [In **mountains-LOC** self-ACC move very uncertainly, winter festivals-NOM and skis-NOM me-DAT nothing-ACC not-say.]  
 I move very awkwardly in **the mountains**, winter festivals and skis do nothing for me.
- (16) Při práci na **zahradě** jsou nebezpečná hluboká a úzká poranění kůže.  
 [At work-LOC at **garden-LOC** are dangerous-NOM deep-NOM and narrow wounds-NOM skin-GEN.]  
 Deep and narrow skin wounds are dangerous when working in **the garden**.
- (17) Svěřte odborné firmě náročnější zásahy, které se v **zahradě** provádějí na jaře a na podzim.

[Entrust expert company-GEN more-demanding tasks-ACC, which-NOM self-ACC in **garden-LOC** carry-out at spring-LOC and to autumn-ACC.]

Entrust the more demanding tasks that are carried out in **the garden** in spring and autumn to an expert company.

- (18) Přejde návštěva, na **vrátnici** se zapíše a pak se může téměř nerušeně pohybovat po budově.

[Comes visitor-NOM, at **front-desk-LOC** self-ACC signs and then self-ACC can almost undisturbed move along building-LOC.]

A visitor comes and, signs in at **the front desk** and then that person can move about the building almost undisturbed.

- (19) Ve **vrátnici** byla práce zdánlivě lehčí, i když ji noční služby vysilovaly.

[In **front-desk-LOC** was work-NOM seemingly easier-NOM, even when it-ACC night duties-NOM depleted.]

Work at **the front desk** was seemingly easier, even though the night duties took much of one's strength.

For a larger group of words, the choice of *na* or *v* is not at all random, but brings with it a choice between different meanings. This table compares the meanings associated with *na* and *v*. In the case of some of these words, items can physically be either on the surface or within the confines of the location: *země* 'ground', *řeka* 'river', and *moře* 'sea'. However, the use of *na* vs. *v* with the remaining words does not follow any strict logic; it is simply an idiomatic distinction that must be learned. The table is followed by examples illustrating the distinct uses of *na zemi* 'on land, on the earth, on the ground' vs. *v zemi* 'in a country; in the ground' and *na ulici* 'outside, in the street' vs. *v ulici* 'on X street'.

Words That Can Use Both *na* and *v*, But Show Discernible Difference in Meaning

|                                      | when used with <i>na</i>               | when used with <i>v</i>             |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>na ulici</i> vs. <i>v ulici</i>   | 'outside, in the street'               | 'on X street'                       |
| <i>na světě</i> vs. <i>ve světě</i>  | '(first, best, etc.) in the world'     | 'in the world'                      |
| <i>na zemi</i> vs. <i>v zemi</i>     | 'on land, on the earth, on the ground' | 'in a country; in the ground'       |
| <i>na patře</i> vs. <i>v patře</i>   | 'on the Xth floor'                     | 'on the floor'                      |
| <i>na bytě</i> vs. <i>v bytě</i>     | '(tenants) at the apartment'           | 'at home, inside, in the apartment' |
| <i>na srdci</i> vs. <i>v srdci</i>   | 'on one's conscience'                  | 'in one's heart'                    |
| <i>na pokoji</i> vs. <i>v pokoji</i> | 'in one's room'                        | 'in the room'                       |
| <i>na řece</i> vs. <i>v řece</i>     | 'at/by/on the river'                   | 'in the river'                      |
| <i>na moři</i> vs. <i>v moři</i>     | 'at/by the sea, at sea'                | 'in the sea'                        |

- (20) Policisté vyslýchané osoby kromě jiného bili pěstí do břicha, na **zemi** do nich kopali a přikládali jim revolver k hlavě.

[Policemen-NOM interrogated persons-ACC except other-GEN beat fist-INST to stomach-GEN, on **ground-LOC** to them-GEN kicked and put them-DAT revolver-ACC to head-DAT.]

Among other things, the policemen beat persons under interrogation in the stomach with their fists, kicked them on **the ground**, and put a revolver to their head.

- (21) Provozovatelé obou mobilních sítí v **zemi** se snaží výhodnými nabídkami přilákat další zákazníky.  
 [Operators-NOM both mobile networks-GEN in **country-LOC** self-ACC try advantageous offers-INST attract further customers-ACC.]  
 The operators of both mobile telephone networks in **the country** are trying to attract more customers with advantageous offers.
- (22) Jako každý zahradkář jsem šťastný, mám-li na jaře všechny sazeničky a semínka v **zemi**.  
 [Like every gardener-NOM am happy-NOM have-whether on spring-LOC all seedlings-ACC and seeds-ACC in **ground-LOC**.]  
 Like every gardener, I'm happy when I have all the seedlings and seeds in **the ground** in the spring.
- (23) Na **ulici** poletovaly drobné sněhové vločky.  
 [On **street-LOC** fluttered little snow flakes-NOM.]  
 Little snowflakes fluttered **outside**.
- (24) Co já pamatuji, bydlel odjakživa v **naší ulici**.  
 [What-ACC I-NOM remember, lived always in **our street-LOC**.]  
 As far as I can remember, he always lived on **our street**.

A significant number of words in Czech are typically followed by the preposition *na* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE. Some of these words have obvious parallels to English phrases, but many do not and some might seem altogether counter-intuitive. Here is a list of *na* + LOC phrases you can expect to encounter:

Words that can trigger *na* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE

*jet/jezdit/jízda na koni; na kole*

'ride **a horse**; **a bike**'

*plout/plavba na lodi*

'sail on **a boat**'

*trvat na něčem; na svém*

'insist on **something**; on **having it one's own way**'

*šetřit na něčem*

'be frugal about **something**'

*vařit na plynu; na másle*

'cook with **gas**; fry in **butter**'

*psát na stroji; na počítači*

'type on **a typewriter**; on **a computer**'

*počítat na prstech*

'count on **one's fingers**'

*urážka na cti*

'slander (literally: offence on **honor**)'

*přibývat na váze*

'gain **weight**'

*pozbyvat na síle*

'lose **strength**'

*myšlenka/myslet na*

'thought/think about'

*práce/pracovat na*

'work on'

*závislost/zá-viset na*

'dependence/depend on'

*usnést/usnášet se na zákonu*

'pass **a law**'

*vynutit co na kom*

'force a thing out of **a person**'

*založit/zakládat (se) na*

'base (be based) on'

The following sentences demonstrate how these phrases behave in context:

- (25) Vyprávěla nám příběh prodavače kol, který neuměl jezdit na **kole**, protože neudržel rovnováhu.  
[Told us-DAT story-ACC salesman-GEN bicycles-GEN, who-NOM not-knew ride on **bicycle-LOC**, because not-kept balance-ACC.]  
She told us the story of a bicycle salesman who couldn't ride **a bicycle** because he couldn't keep his balance.
- (26) Vaření na **plynu** je až dvakrát rychlejší než na klasickém sporáku.  
[Cooking on **gas-LOC** is up-to twice faster-NOM than on traditional stove-LOC.]  
Cooking with **gas** is up to twice as fast as with a traditional stove.
- (27) S každým dítětem přibrala na **váze**.  
[With each child-INST added on **weight-LOC**.]  
She gained **weight** with each child.
- (28) Obviněný stále trvá na **tom**, že svědkova výpověď se nezakládá na **pravdě**.  
[Accused-NOM constantly insists on **that-LOC**, that witness' testimony-NOM self-ACC not-bases on **truth-LOC**.]  
The accused continues to insist that the witness' testimony is not based on **truth**.
- (29) Vše závisí na **výsledku** druhého utkání USA-Kuvajt.  
[All-NOM depends on **result-LOC** second match-GEN USA-Kuwait.]  
Everything depends on **the result** of the second match between the USA and Kuwait.

The verb *mít* 'have' combines with the preposition *na* + LOC in numerous idiomatic phrases, one of which is motivated by a physical location, that of clothes on one's body (note that our English idiom *have on* is based on the same logic): *mít na sobě (šaty)* [have on **self-LOC** (clothes-ACC)] 'have on, be wearing (clothes)'. Other *mít na* + LOC idioms are metaphoric, treating domains such as thought and control as locations: *mít něco na paměti* [have something-ACC on **memory-LOC**] 'remember something', *mít něco na mysli* [have something-ACC on **thought-LOC**] 'be **thinking** about something', *mít něco na starosti* [have something-ACC on **concern-LOC**] 'be **responsible** for something', *mít něco na háku* [have something-ACC on **hook-LOC**] 'find something **easy to do**, know something **well**', *mít podíl na něčem* [have share-ACC on **something-LOC**] 'have a share **of something**, take part **in something**'. Here are two examples, one to illustrate each type of idiom:

- (30) Ukradli mi novou zimní bundu, kterou jsem měl všeho všudy dvakrát na **sobě**.  
[Stole me-DAT new winter coat-ACC, which-ACC AUX had all-GEN everywhere twice on **self-LOC**.]  
They stole my new winter coat which I had only **worn** twice.

- (31) Stále mám na **paměti**, co mi řekl otec při mém odchodu z domova.  
 [Still have on **memory-LOC**, what-ACC me-DAT said father-NOM at my departure-LOC from home-GEN.]  
 I still **remember** what my father said to me when I left home.

Another set of idiomatic expressions has the structure *být na* + LOC and refers primarily to states of being or times in which items are metaphorically located, such as: *být na odchodu* [be on **departure-LOC**] ‘be on **the way out**’, *být na živu* (also spelled as one word: *naživu*) [be on **living-LOC**] ‘be **alive**’, *být na tom dobře/špatně* [be on **that-LOC** well/badly] ‘be doing well/badly’, *být na něčím místě* [be on **someone’s place-LOC**] ‘be in **someone’s shoes**’, *být/žít na volné noze* [be/live on **free leg-LOC**] ‘be **free/freelancing**’, *být na čase* [be on **time-LOC**] ‘be **the time** (for something)’. Here are a few sentences to illustrate the *být na* + LOC idioms:

- (32) Zápasnických pravidel se tam nedostává, kdo je po boji na **živu**, ten prostě vyhrává.  
 [Competition rules-GEN self-ACC there not-gets, who-NOM is after battle-LOC on **life-LOC**, that-NOM just wins.]  
 There aren’t any rules to the game, who ever is **alive** after the battle is the one who wins.
- (33) Zdravotně je na **tom** dost špatně, neobejde se bez stálé pečovatelky.  
 [Healthwise is on **that-LOC** rather badly, not-manages self-ACC without constant nurse’s-aide-GEN.]  
 Healthwise he is **doing** rather badly, he cannot manage without a nurse’s aide at all times.
- (34) Mne by také nikdo nepřesvědčil, kdybych byl na **vašem místě**.  
 [Me-ACC would also no-one-NOM not-convince, if-AUX was on **your place-LOC**.]  
 Nobody would convince me either if I were in **your shoes**.
- (35) Začala na prknech hradeckého divadla, pak dva roky byla na **volné noze**.  
 [Started on boards-LOC castle theater-GEN, then two years-ACC was on **free leg-LOC**.]  
 She started on the stage of the castle theater, then did **freelance** work for two years.
- (36) Je nanejvýš na **čase** přiznat, že Německo je zemí imigrace.  
 [Is highest on time-LOC acknowledge, that Germany-NOM is country-INST immigration-GEN.]  
 It is high time to acknowledge that Germany is a country of immigration.

Finally, if you catch someone voicing unjustifiable complaints, you can respond by saying simply *Co na tom?* [What-NOM on **that-LOC**?] ‘What about **it/That** doesn’t matter’.

## LOCATIVE: A PLACE 2 — *v* ‘in’

In its basic sense, the preposition *v* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE ‘in’ identifies an enclosed place in three-dimensional space. This place can be defined by boundaries, such as the walls of a room, the fabric encasing a purse, or the sides of a box, as we see in this example:

- (37) V **předsíni** našla kabelku, v **kabelce** krabičku, v **krabičce** hodinky.  
 [In **foyer-LOC** found purse-ACC, in **purse-LOC** little-box-ACC, in **little-box-LOC** watch-ACC.]  
 In **the foyer** she found a purse, in **the purse** she found a little box, and in **the little box** she found a watch.

As this next example demonstrates, *v* + LOC is also the preposition of choice when the location is an enveloping substance (here it is blood where the lycopene is present):

- (38) Při vyšší spotřebě rajčat a račatových výrobků se zvyšuje koncentrace lykopenu v **krvi**.  
 [At higher consumption-LOC tomato products-GEN self-ACC rises concentration-NOM lycopene-GEN in **blood-LOC**.]  
 When large quantities of tomato products are consumed the concentration of lycopene in **the blood** goes up.

The use of *v* + LOC is considerably more prevalent than the use of *na* + LOC, and *v* is the preposition of choice for a vast number of locations that are not “*na*-words”, even though they may not look like containers to you or me. This includes all kinds of bounded spaces such as cities, countries, buildings, and forests, as demonstrated in these examples:

- (39) Mám sice ve **městě** nový ateliér, ale tady na Sázavě se snažím být co nejvíce.  
 [Have though in **city-LOC** new studio-ACC, but here on Sázava-LOC self-ACC try be what-NOM most.]  
 Though I do have a new studio in **the city**, I try to spend as much time as possible here in Sázava.
- (40) Hříby, které našel v **lese**, nasušil na zimu.  
 [Mushrooms-ACC, which-ACC found in **forest-LOC**, dried for winter-ACC.]  
 He dried the mushrooms which he found in **the forest** for winter use.
- (41) Pro chlapce nejspíš najdou místo v **některém dětském domově** v **Sovětském svazu**.  
 [For boy-ACC most-likely find place-ACC in **some orphanage-LOC** in **Soviet Union-LOC**.]  
 They will probably find a place for the boy in an orphanage in the Soviet Union.
- (42) V **Českých Budějovicích** nejsou v **lékárnách** k sehnání jodové tablety určené obyvatelstvu v **případě** jaderné havárie.

[In **České Budějovice-LOC** not-are in **pharmacies-LOC** to locating-DAT iodine tablets-NOM designated-NOM population-DAT in **case-LOC** nuclear disaster-GEN.] In **České Budějovice** there aren't any iodine tablets in **the pharmacies** for the population to use in **case** of a nuclear disaster.

The last sentence above contains a metaphorical use of *v* + LOC which has an exact equivalent in English: *v* **případě** 'in **case**'; other metaphorical uses of this preposition will be presented below.

Though it may seem counter-intuitive, heights are often expressed using *v* + LOC; two examples of this usage appear in the following sentence:

- (43) Ve **výšce**, kam dosahuje vrchol Mont Everestu, tedy v **necelých 9.000 metrech** nad mořem, nalévají stewardky šampaňské do plastových pohárků.

[In **height-LOC**, where reaches summit-NOM Mount Everest-GEN, that-is in **not-whole 9,000 meters-LOC** above sea-INST, pour stewardesses-NOM champagne-ACC to plastic cups-GEN.]

At **the height** reached by Mount Everest, that is **almost 9,000 meters** above sea level, stewardesses pour champagne into plastic cups.

The world is full of metaphorical locations that use the preposition *v* + LOC, including the domains of politics, areas of expertise, language, and states of being. As the following examples attest, there is a great deal of overlap in metaphorical imagination between Czech and English here, and the correspondence between *v* + LOC and *in* is pretty good:

- (44) V **politických kruzích** to sice už vřelo, ale život běžného člověka byl stejný jako dříve.

[In **political circles-LOC** that-NOM after-all already boiled, but life-NOM ordinary person-GEN was same-NOM as earlier.]

Yes, things were already cooking along in **political circles**, but the life of an ordinary person was the same as it had been before.

- (45) Vláda chce poskytnout pracovní povolení vysoce kvalifikovaným expertům v **oblasti** informatiky.

[Government-NOM wants provide work permit-ACC highly qualified experts-DAT in **area-LOC** information-science-GEN.]

The government wants to provide work permits to highly qualified experts in **the area** of information science.

- (46) Pták zmizí, ozve se klení v **andulčí řeči** a za pár minut vypočoduje vzteklé zvíře před nábytek.

[Bird-NOM disappears, resounds self-ACC cursing-NOM in **canary language-LOC** and in pair-ACC minutes-GEN marches out furious beast-NOM before furniture-ACC.]

The bird disappears, one hears some curses in **canary language**, and in a few minutes the angry beast marches out in front of the furniture.

- (47) Zeď, která je v **havarijním stavu**, bude ještě letos opravena na nejnutnějších místech.  
[Wall-NOM, which-NOM is in **disastrous state-LOC**, will-be still this-year repaired-NOM on most-necessary places-LOC.]  
The wall, which is in a **disastrous state**, will be repaired in the most necessary places this year.

A large number of words in Czech are typically followed by the preposition *v* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE. Some of them have obvious parallels to English phrases, but many do not, and some might seem rather surprising. Here is a list of *v* + LOC phrases you can expect to encounter, followed by illustrative examples of how they appear in context:

Words that can trigger *v* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE

|                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>lišit se v</i>                 | ‘differ in’                         |
| <i>rozdíl v</i>                   | ‘difference in’                     |
| <i>pokračovat/pokrok v</i>        | ‘make progress/progress in’         |
| <i>zvíťezit/vítězství v</i>       | ‘be victorious/victory in’          |
| <i>hledat štěstí/smysl v</i>      | ‘search for happiness/meaning in’   |
| <i>úspěch v</i>                   | ‘success in’                        |
| <i>zhlížet se v</i>               | ‘take a fancy to’                   |
| <i>odborník v</i>                 | ‘expert on’                         |
| <i>vyznat se v</i>                | ‘know (a lot) about’                |
| <i>záliba v</i>                   | ‘fondness for’                      |
| <i>zklámat se v</i>               | ‘be disappointed by’                |
| <i>u-slyšet v rozhlas</i>         | ‘hear on <b>the radio</b> ’         |
| <i>u-vidět v televizi</i>         | ‘see on <b>television</b> ’         |
| <i>turnaj v házené</i>            | ‘ <b>volleyball</b> tournament’     |
| <i>mistrovství světa v kopané</i> | ‘ <b>soccer</b> world championship’ |

- (48) Jeden chemický prvek se od druhého liší v **mnoha směrech**.  
[One chemical element-NOM self-ACC from other-GEN differs in **many directions-LOC**.]  
Each chemical element differs from any other one in **many ways**.
- (49) Kdo se v **tom** má vyznat?  
[Who-NOM self-ACC in **that-LOC** has make-sense?]  
Who is supposed to make any sense out of **that**?
- (50) Nejstarší dcera má zálibu v **hudbě**, prostřední výborně maluje.  
[Oldest daughter-NOM has fondness-ACC in **music-LOC**, middle-NOM excellently paints.]  
Our oldest daughter has a fondness for **music**, and our middle daughter is an excellent painter.
- (51) Jen co Bohoušek začne trénovat na zimní turnaj ve **vybíjené**, půjdou kila dolů.  
[Only what-NOM Bohoušek-NOM starts train for winter tournament-ACC in **dodgeball-LOC**, go kilograms-NOM down.]  
As soon as Bohoušek starts training for the winter **dodgeball** tournament, his weight will go down.

When implemented in the domain of time, *v* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE tends to be associated with extended periods of time ‘in’ which events can be located, and the use is indeed very similar to the temporal use of *in* in English. Here are some representative examples:

- (52) V **září** uspořádali rakouští ekologičtí aktivisté tři blokády hranic.  
[In **September-LOC** organized Austrian ecological activists-NOM three blockades-ACC borders-GEN.]  
In **September** Austrian ecological activists organized three border blockades.
- (53) S kompletní rekonstrukcí radnice počítá až v **příštím roce**.  
[With complete reconstruction-INST town-hall-GEN counts only in **next year-LOC**.]  
The complete reconstruction of the town hall is not expected until **next year**.
- (54) Soubor Harmonia Mozartiana Pragensis hraje hudbu, která byla ve **své době** velice oblíbená ve šlechtických rezidencích.  
[Ensemble-NOM Harmonia Mozartiana Pragensis-NOM plays music-ACC, which-NOM was in **its time-LOC** very popular-NOM in aristocratic residences-LOC.]  
The Harmonia Mozartiana Pragensis ensemble plays music that was very popular in **its time** in aristocratic residences.
- (55) Lékaři doporučují výživu s nízkým obsahem alergenů i v **druhém půlroce** života.  
[Doctors-NOM recommend nourishment-ACC with low content-INST allergens-GEN in second **half-year-LOC** life-GEN.]  
Doctors recommend nourishment with low allergen content in the **second six months** of life.
- (56) Nikdo dnes neumí spolehlivě říct, zda informační technologie v **budoucnu** lidstvo zachrání anebo zničí. (CCz)  
[No-one-NOM today not-can dependably say, whether technology-NOM in **future-LOC** humanity-ACC saves or destroys.]  
Today nobody can say for sure whether technology will save or destroy humanity in **the future**.

In the course of a given length of time an action can be repeated numerous times; the Czech formula *X-krát v Y-LOC* expresses *X times a Y* (where *Y* is a period of time). Here is an example of how this formula is applied in a real context:

- (57) V letošním roce se poprvé hraje třikrát v **týdnu** a někteří hráči toho mají dost.  
[In this-year's year-LOC self-ACC for-the-first-time plays three-times in **week-LOC** and some players-NOM that-GEN have enough-ACC.]  
This year is the first time that they are playing three times **a week** and that's a lot for some of the players.

*V* + LOC can also be used to indicate the age at which a person achieves or experiences something, as we see in this sentence:

- (58) **Ve čtyřech letech** čtrnáctý tibetský dalajlama byl oficiálně prohlášen vůdcem tibetského národa.  
 [In **four years-LOC** fourteenth Tibetan Dalailama-NOM was officially proclaimed-NOM leader-INST Tibetan nation-GEN.]  
 At **the age of four** the fourteenth Tibetan Dalailama was officially proclaimed the leader of the Tibetan nation.

A number of adverbial expression and complex prepositions contain *v* + LOC. Here are the most common phrases of this type, along with a few examples to illustrate their usage:

Adverbs and complex prepositions

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| v protikladu k + DAT   | ‘in contrast with’   |
| v rozporu s + INST     | ‘contrary to’        |
| ve skutečnosti         | ‘actually’           |
| v podstatě             | ‘essentially’        |
| v důsledku + GEN       | ‘as a result of’     |
| ve srovnání s + INST   | ‘in comparison with’ |
| v souvislosti s + INST | ‘in connection with’ |
| v soulase s + INST     | ‘in accordance with’ |
| v hotovosti            | ‘(in) cash’          |

- (59) **V důsledku** náhodného vypadnutí zbraně došlo k výstřelu a zranění kolemjdoucího chodce.  
 [In **result-LOC** accidental falling-GEN firearm-GEN happened to shooting-DAT and wounding-DAT passing-by pedestrian-GEN.]  
 A firearm was accidentally dropped and as **a result** it went off and a passerby was wounded.
- (60) **Ve srovnání** se začátkem října se citelně ochladilo.  
 [In **comparison-LOC** with beginning-INST October-GEN self-ACC noticeably got-colder.]  
 In **comparison** with the beginning of October, it has gotten noticeably colder.
- (61) Muž přišel o milion korun **v hotovosti**.  
 [Man-NOM came against million-ACC crowns-GEN in **cash-LOC**.]  
 The man lost a million crowns in **cash**.

There are some fixed phrases that contain *v* + LOC, notably *v tom to vězí* [in **that-LOC** that-NOM sticks] ‘**that**’s just the point’ and *přijít ve věci* [come in **thing-LOC**] ‘to come in **connection** with (and issue)’. Here is an example of how the latter phrase is used:

- (62) **V jaké věci** přicházíte?  
 [In **what thing-LOC** come?]  
**What business** brings you here?

Like *na* + LOC, *v* + LOC plays a role in idioms with the verbs *mít* ‘have’ and *být* ‘be’; these include stock phrases like *mít někoho v lásce* [have someone-ACC in **love-LOC**] ‘be **fond** of someone’, *mít něco v úmyslu* [have something-ACC in **intention-LOC**] ‘**intend** to’, *mít něco ve zvyku* [have something-ACC in **habit-LOC**] ‘be in **the habit** of doing something’, *být v dobré náladě* [be in **good mood-LOC**] ‘be in **a good mood**’, *být v plné síle* [be in **full strength-LOC**] ‘be in **one’s prime**’, *být v teple* [be in **warmth-LOC**] ‘be in **a warm place**’. Additionally, *být v* can be combined with the locative forms of words denoting articles of clothing to express ‘be wearing’. Here are a few sentences containing idiomatic expressions built upon the construction *v* + LOC:

- (63) Tehdy jsem studovala na výtvarné škole, měla jsem totiž v **úmyslu** stát se sochařkou.  
[Then AUX at art school-LOC, had AUX since in **intention-LOC** become self-ACC sculptor-INST.]  
I was studying at an art school at the time because I **intended** to become an artist.
- (64) Má ve **zvyku** dělat věci podle svého, bez ohledu na názory ostatních.  
[Has in **habit-LOC** do things-ACC according-to own-GEN, without consideration-GEN for opinions-ACC others-GEN.]  
He has a **habit** of doing things his own way, without consideration for others’ opinions.
- (65) A zase hrajou Dvořáka a zpěvačka opět vykročí v **lodíčkách** na vyšším podpatku ke svému stanovišti.  
[And again play Dvořák-ACC and singer-NOM again steps-out in pumps-LOC on higher heel-LOC toward own post-DAT.]  
And they are playing Dvořák again and the singer steps out again toward her post in her high-heeled pumps.

### LOCATIVE: A PLACE 3 — *při* ‘by, near; during; with’

The sense of association that allows us to use *na* + LOC to describe a balloon on a string is very similar to the central idea of the preposition *při* ‘by; near’, and this idea of association gets extended to space, time, and metaphorical domains. Here are a couple of concrete examples illustrating the basic spatial meaning of *při*:

- (66) Z obou stran stojí při **silnici** dopravní značky se zákazem vjezdu.  
[From both sides-GEN stand by **road-LOC** traffic signs-NOM with prohibition-INST entry-GEN.]  
Traffic signs prohibiting entry stand on both sides of **the road**.
- (67) Mnozí houbaři neváhají i přes zákaz vjíždět do lesa autem, místo aby ho nechali stát někde při **kraji**.  
[Many mushroom-hunters-NOM not-hesitate even despite prohibition-ACC ride-in to forest-GEN car-INST, instead AUX it-ACC left stand somewhere by **edge-LOC**.]  
Many mushroom-hunters don’t hesitate to ride into the forest in their car in defiance of the prohibition instead of leaving it somewhere near **the edge**.

As we have seen elsewhere, speakers of both Czech and English can conceive of states of being as metaphorical spaces where people and other items are located. In these examples, being *při životě* and *při vědomí*, literally ‘in life’ and ‘in consciousness’ means that someone is in the state of being alive or conscious:

- (68) Při **životě** mě držela myšlenka na děti.  
[By **life-LOC** me-ACC held thought-NOM for children-ACC.]  
Thoughts of the children kept me **alive**.
- (69) Prezident je již opět při **plném vědomí** a komunikuje s okolím.  
[President-NOM is already again by **full consciousness-LOC** and communicates with surroundings-INST.]  
The president is now **fully conscious** again and communicating with those around him.

The central idea of association can be extended to refer to all kinds of accompaniment, motivating phrases like *pracovat při umělém světle/svíčce* [work by **artificial light-LOC/candle-LOC**] ‘work in **artificial light**/by **candlelight**’, *mít něco při sobě* [have something-ACC at **self-LOC**] ‘have something with **you**’, *přísahat při* [swear at] ‘swear by’. The next three sentences give you a flavor for how *při* + LOC can be used to indicate accompaniment:

- (70) Sedí při **svíčce** u stolku spisovatel a za zvuků hudby z Čajkovského Louskáčka kouří a píše.  
[Sits by **candle-LOC** by desk-GEN writer-NOM an during sounds-GEN music-GEN from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker-GEN smokes and writes.]  
The writer sits in **the candlelight** at his desk and smokes and writes to the sounds of music from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker.
- (71) Nezapomeňte však na to, že při **umělém světle** vypadají téměř všechny barvy jinak.  
[Not-forget however on that-ACC, that by **artificial light-LOC** look almost all colors-NOM otherwise.]  
Don’t forget however that in **artificial light** almost all colors look different.
- (72) Nemám při **sobě** momentálně dost peněz.  
[Not-have by **self-LOC** momentarily enough-ACC money-GEN.]  
I don’t have enough money with **me** at the moment.

Czech commonly uses *při* + LOC in the domain of time, where this preposition temporally associates two items, giving us to understand that they are simultaneous. This use of *při* can be variously translated as ‘when’, ‘while’ and ‘during’ in English, as we see in these sentences:

- (73) Při **vyšší spotřebě** rajčat a račatových výrobků se zvyšuje koncentrace lykopenu v krvi.  
[At **higher consumption-LOC** tomato products-GEN self-ACC rises concentration-NOM lycopene-GEN in blood-LOC.]  
When **large quantities** of tomato products **are consumed** the concentration of lycopene in the blood goes up.
- (73) Při **používání** komerčních výrobků je nutné pozorně číst složení a vybírat si.  
[At **use-LOC** commercial products-GEN is necessary-NOM carefully read composition-ACC and choose self-DAT.]  
When **using** commercial products it is necessary to read the ingredients carefully and be selective.
- (74) S ruměncem ve tváři přiznal, že je příliš citlivý, než aby mohl asistovat při **takové operaci**.  
[With blush-INST in cheek-LOC admitted, that is too sensitive-NOM, than so-that could assist during **such operation-LOC**.]  
With a blush in his cheek he admitted that he is too sensitive to be able to assist during **such an operation**.
- (75) Když člověk hodně chce, muži si školu dodělat i při **zaměstnání**.  
[When person-NOM much wants, can self-DAT school-ACC finish even during **employment-LOC**.]  
If a person really wants to, one can finish school while **working**.

The concept of simultaneity is so salient for this preposition that the phrase *při čemž*, which can also be written as one word, *příčemž*, functions as an adverb meaning ‘while’:

- (76) Uklonil se, při **čemž** smekl čepici.  
[Bowed self-ACC, during **what-LOC** took-off cap-ACC.]  
He bowed and at **the same time took** off his cap.

*Při* + LOC has its share of idioms and fixed phrases. Here is a table collecting some of the most prevalent expressions of this type, followed by a few examples:

| Idiomatic expressions using <i>při</i> + LOC |  |
|--|--|
| být při smyslech                             | ‘be in one’s right mind, sane’                   |
| být při síle                                 | ‘have one’s strength’                            |
| být při chuti                                | ‘have a good appetite’                           |
| být při všem                                 | ‘be present at everything’                       |
| být při ruce                                 | ‘be handy, nearby’                               |
| být při tom, když                            | ‘be there, when’                                 |
| být při starém                               | ‘be the same as before’                          |
| při nejlepší vůli                            | ‘with the best will; as much as I would like to’ |
| při této příležitosti                        | ‘given that opportunity’                         |
| při nejmenším/při nejmenším                  | ‘at the very least’                              |

- (77) V podstatě je vše při **starém**, jen se změnily jmenovky na dveřích.  
[In essence-LOC is everything-NOM by **old-LOC**, just self-ACC changed name-plates-NOM on doors-LOC.]  
Everything is basically **the way it was before**, just the names on the doors have changed.
- (78) Byla z toho láska na první pohled, při **první příležitosti** spolu uprchli a dali se oddat.  
[Was from that-GEN love-NOM at first sight-ACC, by **first opportunity-LOC** together ran-away and gave self-ACC marry.]  
It was love at first sight, at **the first opportunity** they ran away together and got married.
- (79) Včera dostal vysoké teploty a musí **přinejmenším** tři dny ležet v posteli.  
[Yesterday got high temperatures-ACC and must at-**least-LOC** three days-ACC lie in bed-LOC.]  
He spiked some high temperatures yesterday and must lie in bed for at **least** three days.

## LOCATIVE: A PLACE 4 — *o* ‘about; leaning on; during; with’

In the domain of space, *o* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE conveys a sense of support, an item upon which someone or something leans. The next three examples demonstrate some typical spatial uses of *o* + LOC: *chodit o holi/berlích* [walk leaning-on **cane-LOC/crutches-LOC**] ‘walk with a **cane**/on **crutches**’, *stoj o rukou* [stand on **hands-LOC**] ‘**handstand**’, *skok o tyči* [jump on **pole-LOC**] ‘**pole-vault**’:

- (80) Byli tam pacienti na vozících, jiní chodili o **berlích** a další se pohybovali pomocí chodítek.  
[Were there patients-NOM on wheelchairs-LOC, others-NOM walked on **crutches-LOC** and others-NOM self-ACC moved help-INST walkers-GEN.]  
There were patients there in wheelchairs, others walked on **crutches**, and still others moved with the help of walkers.
- (81) Jiný relaxuje při hudbě nebo tím, že udělá třeba stoj o **rukou**.  
[Other-NOM relaxes by music-LOC or that-INST, that does maybe stand on **hands-LOC**.]  
Someone else relaxes to music or perhaps by doing a **handstand**.
- (82) Skok o **tyči** jsem zvládl technicky dobře, ale skočil jsem málo.  
[Jump on **pole-LOC** AUX managed technically well, but jumped AUX little.]  
Technically I managed the **pole-vault** well, but I didn’t jump high enough.

Like *při*, *o* carries with it a strong sense of accompaniment (note that in English we say that someone walks *with* a cane, parallel to Czech *o holi*, for example). Unlike *při*, however, *o* can refer to composite features of an item, such as how many parts it has or what its weight or size is, since features can be understood as things that accompany an item. This idea motivates phrases such as *byl o dvou pokojích* [apartment-NOM with **two rooms-LOC**] ‘a **two-room** apartment’, *hra o pěti jednáních* [play with **five acts-LOC**] ‘a **five-act** play’, *knihy o váze 5 kg* [book-NOM with **weight-LOC 5 kg-GEN**] ‘a book **weighing 5 kg**’, *plátno o délce 1m* [canvas-NOM with **length-LOC 1m-GEN**] ‘a canvas **1m long**’. Here are a couple of authentic examples of how *o* + LOC can designate the features with which something is endowed:

- (83) Měl tehdy byt o **pěti pokojích, vysokých a světlých**, v pracovně nový psací stůl a knihovnu plnou knížek.  
[Had then apartment-ACC with **five rooms-LOC, tall-LOC and light-LOC**, in study-LOC new writing desk-ACC and bookcase-ACC full-ACC books-GEN.]  
At the time he had an apartment **with five rooms that were light with high ceilings**, in his study there was a new desk and a bookcase full of books.
- (84) Posbírali mnoho zlatých předmětů o **celkové váze** asi třiceti tun a odeslali je domů do Španělska.  
[Gathered many-ACC gold objects-GEN with **total weight-LOC** about thirty tons-GEN and send them-ACC home to Spain-GEN.]  
They gathered many gold objects **weighing altogether** about thirty tons and sent them home to Spain.

Occasionally *o* + LOC identifies accompanying situations rather than features. The two most common phrases of this type are *o hladu* [with **hunger-LOC**] ‘while going **hungry**’, and *o samotě* [with **seclusion-LOC**] ‘**alone**’. Here are some examples:

- (85) Kubelkovi shánějí krmivo pro dobytek, aby nezůstal přes zimu o **hladu**.  
[Kubelkas-NOM try-to-get fodder-ACC for livestock-ACC, so-that not-remained across winter-ACC with **hunger-LOC**.]  
The Kubelkas are trying to get fodder for the livestock so that it doesn’t go **hungry** over the winter.
- (86) Sedával o **samotě** a oddával se myšlenkám, s nimiž se nikomu nesvěřoval.  
[Sat with **seclusion-LOC** and gave self-ACC thoughts-DAT, with which-INST self-ACC noone-DAT not-confided.]  
He used to sit **alone** and indulge in thoughts which he never confided to anyone.

An accompanying situation like hunger or seclusion can be understood as part of the setting of an event. Settings also include times when events take place, and *o* + LOC is sometimes used to describe the times that serve as the backdrop for actions, primarily when these times are either major seasonal landmarks, such as holiday or vacation time, or an hour of the day (although in the case of times of day the use of *v* + ACC is much more frequent). Thus we

encounter phrases such as *o Vánocích* [during **Christmastime-LOC**] ‘at **Christmastime**’, *o prázdninách* [during **vacation-LOC**] ‘over **vacation**’, *o šesté hodině* [during **sixth hour-LOC**] ‘at **six o’clock**’, *o půlnoci* [during **midnight-LOC**] ‘at **midnight**’. Here are a couple of complete sentences for good measure:

- (87) Rodinná pohoda a atmosféra nám nejvíce chyběly **o Vánocích**.  
[Family comfort-NOM and atmosphere-NOM us-DAT most lacked during **Christmastime-LOC**.]  
We missed the comfort and atmosphere of family most at **Christmastime**.
- (88) Čaj se podával skutečně **o páté hodině**.  
[Tea-NOM self-ACC served really at **fifth hour-LOC**.]  
Tea really was served at **five o’clock**.

Perhaps the most common use of the preposition *o* + LOC is usually translated as ‘about’, and refers to the domain of topics for oral and written communication and thought. In this connection *o* + LOC is associated with a wide variety of words that identify thinking, talking, reading, and writing. Here is a table of these words, followed by some example sentences:

Words Associated with *o* + LOCATIVE: A PLACE ‘about’

|                               |                            |   |                             |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <i>číst o</i>                 | ‘read about’               | <i>přednášet; přednáška o</i>           | ‘lecture on’                |
| <i>dozvědět se o</i>          | ‘find out about’           | <i>předpokládat něco o</i>              | ‘assume something about’    |
| <i>hovořit; hovor o</i>       | ‘talk; conversation about’ | <i>přemýšlet o</i>                      | ‘think about’               |
| <i>jednat o</i>               | ‘deal with’                | <i>přesvědčit/přesvědčovat někoho o</i> | ‘convince somebody about’   |
| <i>lhát o</i>                 | ‘lie about’                | <i>psát o</i>                           | ‘write about’               |
| <i>mlčet o</i>                | ‘keep silent about’        | <i>uvažovat o</i>                       | ‘consider, think about’     |
| <i>mluvit o</i>               | ‘talk about’               | <i>vědět o</i>                          | ‘know about’                |
|                               |                            | <i>vyjádřit/vyjádřovat se o</i>         | ‘express one’s views about’ |
| <i>pochybovat; pochyby o</i>  | ‘have doubts about’        | <i>vyprávět/vypravovat o</i>            | ‘tell a story about’        |
| <i>povědět/povídat (si) o</i> | ‘talk about’               | <i>vyslovit se o</i>                    | ‘give one’s opinion of’     |
| <i>po-radit se o</i>          | ‘take counsel on’          | <i>zpráva o</i>                         | ‘news about’                |

- (89) Měl jsem přednášet **o jaderné energii**.  
[Had AUX lecture about **nuclear energy-LOC**.]  
I was supposed to lecture about **nuclear energy**.
- (90) Chci se **o tom klukovi** aspoň něco dozvědět.  
[Want self-ACC about **that boy-LOC** at-least something-ACC find-out.]  
I want to find out something about **that boy**.

- (91) Legenda vypráví o **misce**, která byla čirou náhodou nalezena v písku.  
 [Legend-NOM tells-story about **bowl-LOC**, which-NOM was sheer chance-INST found-NOM in sand-LOC.]  
 The legend tells about **a bowl** found in the sand by sheer chance.

### LOCATIVE: A PLACE 5 — *po* ‘after; along, around; for; each’

of uses. *Po* is active in the domains of space, time, quantification, desire, and causation, and has its share of idioms as well. In its basic spatial meaning, *po* corresponds best to English *along* or *around*, designating an item that serves as a path determining where something moves. Here are some concrete examples from the domain of space:

- (92) Jděte rovně **po této cestě** a za lesem se dejte do prava.  
 [Go straight along **this path-LOC** and beyond forest-INST self-ACC give to right-GEN.]  
 Go straight along **this path** and on the other side of the forest take a turn to your right.
- (93) Přijeli do Frankfurtu už ve středu a večer šli na procházku **po městě**.  
 [Arrived to Frankfurt-GEN already in Wednesday-ACC and evening-ACC went on walk-ACC along **city-LOC**.]  
 They arrived in Frankfurt on Wednesday and in the evening they went for a walk around **the city**.
- (94) Sprintoval **po žulové dlažbě** náměstí, naplněn hněvivou láskou.  
 [Sprinted along granite pavement-LOC square-GEN, filled-NOM furious love-INST.]  
 He sprinted along the granite pavement of the square, filled with furious love.
- (95) Apaticky pozorovala mouchu lezoucí **po stole**.  
 [Apathetically observed fly-ACC crawling-ACC along **table-LOC**.]  
 She apathetically observed a fly crawling along **the table**.

Alternatively, *po* + LOC can indicate the part of the body along which motion is realized. This is particularly common when the motion is somehow atypical (i.e., not walking along on your feet, but using other body parts to effect motion). Standard phrases of this type include: *jít po špičkách/kolenou/čtyřech* [go along **tips-LOC/knees-LOC/four-LOC**] ‘go on **tip-toe/one’s knees/all fours**’, *plazit se po bříše* [crawl self-ACC along **belly-LOC**] ‘crawl along on **one’s belly**’, *skákat po jedné noze* [jump along **one leg-LOC**] ‘hop on **one leg**’, *skočit po hlavě* [jump along **head-LOC**] ‘dive **head-first**’.

- (96) Plížila se **po kolenou**, aby ji snad nezasáhla oknem zbloudilá kulka.  
 [Crawled self-ACC along **knees-LOC**, so-that her-ACC probably not-struck window-INST stray bullet-NOM.]  
 She crawled on **her knees** so as not to be hit by a stray bullet coming in through the window.

- (97) Neskákejte **po hlavě** do neznámé vody, nikdy nevíte, co se skrývá pod hladinou.  
[Not-jump along **head-LOC** to unknown water-GEN, never not-know, what-NOM self-ACC hides under surface-INST.]  
Don't jump **head-first** into unknown waters, you never know what is hiding beneath the surface.
- (98) Šeptá, jde **po špičkách**, šaty si nadzvedla, aby nešustily.  
[Whispers, goes along **tips-LOC**, dress-ACC self-DAT lifted, so-that not-rustled.]  
She whispers, walks on **tiptoe** with her dress lifted so it won't rustle.

A desired destination likewise determines the path one must take to attain it, and *po* can be used to mean that someone is reaching out after an item, going for it. As the table and following examples show, this can involve both physical reaching as well as the metaphorical equivalents of searching, longing, desire, and demand. Notice that the item sought after can be either something someone wants or a person or group they are going after in order to get what they want.

Words associated with *po* + locative: a place meaning 'reach, desire'

|                                  |                                     |                            |                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>dychtit po</i>                | 'crave'                             | <i>sáhnout po</i>          | 'reach for'         |
| <i>chňapat po</i> (CCz)          | 'grab at'                           | <i>shánět se/sháňka po</i> | 'search for'        |
| <i>chtít po</i>                  | 'want, expect from'                 | <i>slídit po</i>           | 'track; search for' |
| <i>lapat po</i> ( <b>dechu</b> ) | 'grab at (gasp for <b>breath</b> )' | <i>toužit/touha po</i>     | 'desire'            |
| <i>pátrat po</i>                 | 'search for'                        | <i>volat po</i>            | 'demand'            |
| <i>poptat se/poptávka po</i>     | 'inquire/inquiry about'             | <i>žádat po</i>            | 'demand'            |
| <i>prahnout po</i>               | 'pine for'                          | <i>žízeň po</i>            | 'thirst for'        |
|                                  |                                     | <i>vymáhat po</i>          | 'demand from'       |

- (99) V chladnoucí vodě se otřeše a začne se shánět **po osušce**.  
[In cooling water-LOC self-ACC shakes and begins self-ACC search along **towel-LOC**.]  
He shakes in the cooling water and begins to search for **a towel**.
- (100) Policie dosud bezvysledně pátrá **po pachatelích** ozbrojené loupeže v Plzni.  
[Police-NOM until-now without-result searches along **perpetrators-LOC** armed robbery-GEN in Plzeň-LOC.]  
The police are still searching unsuccessfully for **the perpetrators** of an armed robbery in Plzeň.
- (101) Dobře znáte touhu našich národů **po svobodě, humanitě a spravedlnosti**.  
[Well know desire-ACC our nations-GEN along **freedom-LOC, humanity-LOC, and justice-LOC**.]  
You know well our nations' desire for **freedom, humanity, and justice**.

- (102) Vyčíslenou předběžnou ztrátu 700 tisíc korun budou ČSA vymáhat po **výtržníkovi**.  
[Calculated anticipated loss-ACC 700 thousand crowns-GEN will ČSA-NOM demand along **trouble-maker-LOC**.]  
ČSA will demand the calculated anticipated loss of 700 thousand crowns from **the trouble-maker**.
- (103) Nemůžete po **úřadech** chtít, aby během roku snížily o padesát procent svoje rozpočty.  
[Not-can along **offices-LOC** want, so-that during year-GEN reduced by fifty-ACC percent-GEN own budgets-ACC.]  
You can't expect **the offices** to reduce their budgets by fifty percent in the course of a year.
- (104) Netrpělivé volání po **změnách** může naši společnost vrátit o deset (a více) let zpátky.  
[Impatient calling along **changes-LOC** can our society-ACC return by ten-ACC (and more) years-GEN backwards.]  
Impatient demands for **changes** can set our society back by ten (or more) years.

When used metaphorically, *po* + LOC identifies an item according to which an activity is realized. For example, *chutnat po česneku* [taste along **garlic-LOC**] 'taste like **garlic**' describes a taste experience that parallels the experience of tasting garlic; *poznat po hlase* [recognize along **voice-LOC**] 'recognize by **one's voice**' describes a recognition that follows the contours of a familiar voice; and *dělat něco po starém způsobu* [do something-ACC along **old way-LOC**] 'do something **the old way**' describes an activity that follows an established pattern. Here are some authentic Czech sentences, involving a smell that parallels that of hot almonds, decoration according to an English model, and a life style that follows one's own wishes:

- (105) Kůra po rozetření voní po **hořkých mandlích**.  
[Bark-NOM after rubbing-LOC smells along **hot almonds-LOC**.]  
When rubbed, the bark smells like **hot almonds**.
- (106) Prostějovské domy s prostornou vstupní halou po **anglickém vzoru** byly zařízeny kompletně podle jeho návrhu.  
[Prostějov houses-NOM with spacious entrance hall-INST according-to **English style-LOC** were outfitted-NOM completely according-to his design-GEN.]  
The houses of Prostějov with the **English-style** spacious entrance halls were completely outfitted according to his design.
- (107) Od sedmnácti jsem z domova, jsem zvyklá žít po **svém**.  
[From seventeen-GEN am from home-GEN, am used-NOM live according-to **own-LOC**.]  
I've been away from home since I was seventeen, I'm used to living **my own way**.

Let us return for a moment to the domain of space, in which an item serves as a path for movement. If instead of just one item, we have several, and they are discontinuous, then we

wind up with movement involving a number of paths from one item to another. In the next example, the item marked by *po* + LOC is *stores*, which are located in various places, thus determining an overall path consisting of shorter paths from one store to the next. In this way we get a distributed movement, something like a connect-the-dots pattern:

- (108) Zatímco žena chodí po **obchodech**, čekám v parku na lavičce a v klidu si přečtu noviny.  
 [While wife-NOM walks along **stores-LOC**, wait in park-LOC on bench-LOC and in peace-LOC self-DAT read newspaper-ACC.]  
 While my wife is walking from **store to store**, I wait on a bench in the park and read the newspaper in peace.

This distributional meaning can be extended to quantitative domains, where a given numeral designates a group of something, and an activity proceeds from one such grouping to another. Here a phrase like *umírat po tisících* [die along **thousands-LOC**] has a meaning best translated as ‘die by **the thousands**’; conceptually it is as if we imagine one set of a thousand dying, then the next, then the next, etc., similar to the stores that were visited in a series in the preceding example. The use of *po* + LOC with numerals is quite common; here is a sample sentence:

- (109) Ryby po **stovkách** až **tisících** vyplavaly na hladinu břichami vzhůru.  
 [Fish-NOM along **hundreds-LOC** up-to **thousands-LOC** rose-up on surface-ACC bellies-INST up.]  
 Fish in **the hundreds** and **thousands** rose to the surface belly-up.

If an activity is performed on a series of items, we can also interpret this as being an activity that happens at each item, thus suggesting distributed amounts (generally translated as ‘apiece’) or rates of activity. Here are two examples of this type:

- (110) Koupili jsme po **čtyřech stovkách** akcie Buzuluku Komárov.  
 [Bought AUX along **four hundreds-LOC** stocks-ACC Buzuluk-GEN Komárov-NOM.]  
 We bought Buzuluk Komárov stocks for **four hundred** apiece.
- (111) Půjčku od spořitelny by spláceli po **sedmi tisících** měsíčně tři roky.  
 [Loan-ACC from bank-GEN AUX paid-off along **seven thousand-LOC** monthly three years-ACC.]  
 They would pay off the loan from the bank at a rate of **seven thousand** per month for three years.

In both spatial and other domains, *po* + LOC signals an item which has a given shape or other feature that is used as a pattern, or followed. This sense of following transfers quite logically to the domain of time, where something that follows an event is something that takes place *after* that event. The use of *po* + LOC to mean ‘after’ in the domain of time is extremely common; here are some examples:

- (112) Cítím se utahaný, už si také nemohu zdřímnout po **obědě**.  
[Feel self-ACC exhausted-NOM, already self-DAT also not-can nap after **lunch-LOC**.]  
I feel exhausted, I can't take a nap after **lunch** anymore.
- (113) Tablety je nutno užívat po **jídle**.  
[Tablets-ACC is necessary use after **food-LOC**.]  
The tablets must be taken after **eating**.
- (114) Po **bohoslužbě** v místním kostele bude celý den probíhat lidová veselice.  
[After **service-LOC** in local church-LOC will-be all day-ACC take-place folk merry-making-NOM.]  
After the service in a local church, a traditional party will take place, lasting a whole day.

The meaning of temporal sequencing has become conventionalized in the adverbs *potom* and *poté*, both of which mean 'afterward; then' and both of which are built from prepositional phrases which would be literally translated as 'after **that**'. Here is an example sentence for each word:

- (115) Zajde si k holiči, **potom** do čistírny vyžehlit šaty a může vyrazit.  
[Goes self-DAT to barber-DAT, after-**that-LOC** to cleaners-GEN iron clothes-ACC and can leave.]  
He'll go to the barber and **then** to the cleaners to get his clothes ironed and he can leave.
- (116) Požár vypukl několik hodin **poté**, co FBI, která farmu od února obléhala, zaútočila.  
[Fire-NOM broke-out several-ACC hours-GEN after-**that-LOC**, what-NOM FBI-NOM, which-NOM from February-GEN surrounded, attacked.]  
The fire broke out several hours **after** the FBI, which had surrounded the farm since February, attacked.

After an event has taken place, we can say that it is over, that we are done with it, and Czechs can use *po* + LOC to fill this role as well, motivating idiomatic phrases like: *už je po všem* [already is after **everything-LOC**] 'it's **all** over now', *je po něm* [is after **him-LOC**] 'he's done for (dead)', *mít po vojně/zkouškách* [have after **army-LOC/exams-LOC**] 'be done with **one's army service/exams**'. Here is an example of an idiomatic use of *po* + LOC:

- (117) Žádný strach, už je po **všem**.  
[No fear-ACC, already is after **everything-LOC**.]  
Don't be afraid, it's **all** over now.

Some words are strongly associated with the sequencing of events, particularly with the notion of one event taking place after or following from another, especially *zbýt/zbývat po* 'remain, be left over after', *následovat po* 'follow, happen after', and *nastoupit po* 'succeed

(someone to a post)’. Human beings tend to associate the sequence of events with their causation, assuming that prior events cause the things that follow them to happen. This fact motivates the use of *po* + LOC to identify the cause or source of something, making it possible to say things like: *zhubnout po nemoci*, *bylo mu špatně po salámu*, *dolíčky po neštovicích*, *smutek po matce*, *dům po rodičích*, *zdědit po*, *jmenovat se po*, *být po někom*. In phrases like this there is no sharp distinction between the meaning ‘after’, and the sense of causation — both meanings are present.

- (118) Každá návštěva Karlštejna končila stejně, vždycky nám bylo špatně po **párcích**, všichni zvraceli.  
 [Every visit-NOM Karlštejn-GEN ended same, always us-DAT was badly after **hotdogs-LOC**, everyone-NOM threw-up.]  
 Every visit to Karlštejn ended the same way, we always got sick from **the hotdogs** and everyone threw up.
- (119) Mohlo to být i horší, říkal si. Mohla mít například dolíčky po **neštovicích**.  
 [Could that-NOM be even worse-NOM, said self-DAT. Could have for-example pock-marks-ACC after **smallpox-LOC**.]  
 It could be worse, he told himself. She could have pock-marks from **smallpox**, for example.
- (120) A co jste zdědil po **rodičích**?  
 [And what-ACC AUX inherited after **parents-LOC**?]  
 And what did you inherit from **your parents**?

## EPILOGUE

Czech tends to view locations as surfaces (with *na*) or as containers (with *v*). However, since even in physical space many locations are not unambiguously either surfaces or containers, Czech uses conceptual conventions to choose between these two options. Thus any location that is unbounded and/or has some vertical elevation can be construed as a surface. Any location that is understood as bounded is a potential container. Time is often understood as a container, whereas events are surfaces (at least when we attend them — however, we can talk about their contents with *v*). The nearby location of *při* suggests a close association, which can involve the duration something occupies or a state of being it is in. The preposition *o* reminds us that thinking and talking have their own domain, with topics serving as locations for pondering and discussing, and Czechs lump this concept together with the notions of leaning upon an item for support, the constituent parts of something, and the presence of major landmarks in the calendar. With the preposition *po*, we take the idea of motion following the contours of a path and extend that to other activities following the contours of features of sounds, smells, and ways of doing things. Following in the domain of time of course means happening after, and we tend to presume that a prior state causes one that follows after, recognizing the former as a source. The locative case demonstrates very clearly how agile Czech is in taking locational concepts derived from spatial relations and implementing them in other domains. Indeed, this is a recurrent theme all through the case system.