IMPERFECTIVE x PERFECTIVE VERBS

**FUTURE TENSE in Czech (4 types)**

1. být: budu, budeš....
2. imperfective verbs: budu + infinitive: BUDU PSÁT
3. perfective verbs: one-word future: NAPÍŠU
4. verbs of motion : půjdu, pojedu, poletím

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|  | **INFINITIVE** | **PAST** | **PRESENT** | **FUTURE** | *CONTEXT* |
| **IMPERFECTIVE** | **psát****kupovat****brát** | **psal** | **Píše****Kupuje****bere** | **bude psát** | *každý den**často**vždycky**obvykle**Co rád děláš?* |
| **PERFECTIVE** | **napsat****koupit****vzít** | **napsal****koupil****vzal** | **---** | **napíše****koupí****vezme** | *už**za týden* |

The two verbs have (in most instances) identical lexical meaning.

* The imperfective verb views the action or a state as progressing. **Imperfective** verbs refer to actions in progress: *Uklízela celý byt.*
* The perfective verb views the action or a state as “global“, “complex“, “without duration“. **Perfective** verbs refer to completed actions: *Uklidila celý byt a pak šla do kina.*

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| It is only the imperfective verb that has all the three tenses.• For “topical present“ (i.e. states and events that refer to the “point now“)the only possible form is the imperfective verb!• The perfective verb has NO present tense. Its “present form“ refers to the future.• Don´t confuse the terminology:• **Never use the auxiliary “budu…“in connection with a perfective verb !!!** |

Compare the following examples in the past tense:

imperfective

Co jsi **dělal** včera? *What did you do yesterday? What were you doing yesterday?*

(i.e.: How did you spend your time?)

perfective

Co jsi **udělal** včera? *What did you do yesterday?*

(i.e.: What did you finish?)

imperfective

Včera jsem **psal** jeden článek. *I wrote a paper yesterday.*

*I was writing a paper yesterday.*

i.e.: (only the activities are mentioned, not the result)

perfective

Včera jsem **napsal** jeden článek. Už jsi **napsal** ten článek?

*I wrote a paper yesterday. Have you already written the article?*

(i.e.: the paper is finished)

Analogically, in the future:

imperfective

Zítra **budu psát** ten článek. *I am going to write the paper tomorrow.*

(i.e.: information about my intended activities, about the way I am going to spend the time)

perfective

Zítra **napíšu** ten článek. *I will write the paper tomorrow.*

(i.e.: I intend to write the whole paper.)

A perfective verb does not contain the connotation of any duration.

The question “how long?“ can only be answered by an imperfective verb, e.g.:

Jak dlouho **jsi psal** ten článek? *How long were you writing the paper?*

*(How much time did it take you to write the paper?)*

**Psal jsem** ten článek čtyři dny. *I was writing the paper for four days.*

*(It took me four days to write the paper.)*

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| IMPERFECTIVE | PERFECTIVE |
| Nalezený obrázek pro malíř maluje obraz**Malovala jsem obraz.** | Nalezený obrázek pro monet**Malíř Claude Monet namaloval obraz. Můžeme ho vidět v Národní galerii v Londýně.** |
| Budu malovat obraz. | Namaluju obraz. |
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| **BRÁT (lék, krev...)***Berete* nějaké léky? (present)*Bral* jste nějaké léky? (past)*Budete brát* antibiotika dvakrát denně. (future) | **VZÍT**-----Ráno mě bolela hlava, proto *jsem si vzal* Paralen. (past)*Vezmu* si Paralen, protože mě bolí hlava. (fut.) |
| **POMÁHAT**Fyzioterapeuti *pomáhají* pacientům. *(*typical activity, repeated action) | **POMOCT**Jak vám můžu *pomoct*? (How can I help you)?Děkuji vám, pane fyzioterapeute. Cítím se mnohem lépe, moc jste mi *pomohl*. |