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](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=6BrKIOKW&id=D81C557CF65756ECB34F4C1F0764324CDA0FE363&thid=OIP.6BrKIOKWwXCWjyrHAtyFqQD5D5&q=mal%c3%ad%c5%99+maluje+obraz&simid=608022875418395675&selectedIndex=16)  **Malovala jsem obraz.** | [Nalezený obrázek pro monet](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=3jBSrL1X&id=CECC9045669E97FD286F299374B8980E73D426A8&thid=OIP.3jBSrL1XwpbZortu8v0TmQDwEs&q=monet&simid=608021101552534189&selectedIndex=22)  **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*. |