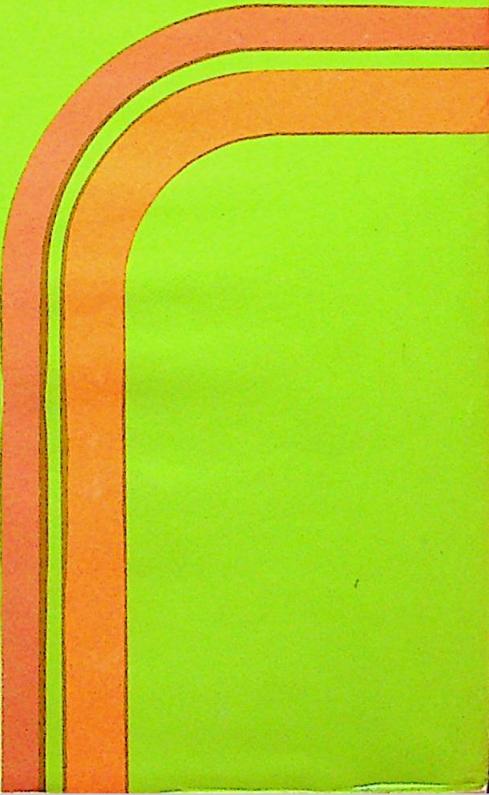


JOZEF MISTRÍK

BASIC SLOVAK

SLOVENSKÉ PEDAGOGICKÉ NAKLADATEĽSTVO



This textbook of Slovak is for English-speaking students. It is a modern textbook and was elaborated on the basis of a statistical research of the word stock of the standard Slovak language. From texts containing 1 000 000 words the author chose only the 800 most frequent words, which represent about 80 per cent of any Slovak text (J. Mistrik, *Frekvencia slov v slovenčine*, Bratislava 1969). Besides, only those grammatical phenomena are employed which are the most important in communication and their methodical ordering follows their frequency (J. Mistrik, *Frekvencia tvarov a konštrukcií v slovenčine*, Bratislava 1985).

In 15 lessons the student can master the Slovak language to such an extent that he can quite easily make himself understood in common situations and fairly well communicate on various topics. The textbook contains study passages, a rich series of exercises and revisions, synoptic grammatical tables, and a list of the 800 most frequent words, which are employed in the book.

The author is a linguist and university professor. He spent several years working in the universities of Oxford, Sheffield, Cologne and Moscow. He also lectured in the universities or international congresses in the U.S.S.R., Poland, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Italy, U.S.A., Egypt etc. He published hundreds of scientific papers in Czechoslovakia and abroad and more than 30 monographs out of which the most important are: *Slovosled a vetrosek v slovenčine* (1965), *Frekvencia slov v slovenčine* (1969), *Exakte Typologie von Texten* (1973), *Zánre vecnej literatúry* (1975), *Retrográdny slovník slovenčiny* (1976), *Stylistika slovenského jazyka* (1977), *Dramatický text* (1979), *Učebník slovackého jazyka* (1981), *A Grammar of Contemporary Slovak* (1983), *Jazyk a reč* (1984), *Moderná slovenčina* (1984).

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BRATISLAVA 1991

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Methodical notes. (1) Do not learn the declension and conjugation paradigms mechanically from the tables. That is to say, the tables are included merely for the purpose to help the reader grasp how a particular phenomenon is linked to the grammatical system. The meaning and form of a word should only be learned in context. (2) It is recommended that the texts in Slovak be always read aloud and also be copied out frequently. (3) It is not sufficient only to understand a rule or the meaning of a word – it must be practised, and therefore it is necessary to repeat some exercises several times.

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Štvrté vydanie

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Distinguish:

lavica (bench) – lavica (left hand); hlad (hunger) – hľad (look);
hladi (he caresses) – hľadí (he looks); lad (tune) – lād (ice); lak
(varnish) – lák (scare); rola (role) – roľa (field); uhol (angle)
– uhof (coal); sila (power) – sila (she sew); brat (brother) – brať
(to take); nás (us) – náš (our); sud (barrel) – súd (court); vecný
(factual) – večný (eternal); rad (line) – rád (gladly); hodit (to
throw) – chodiť (to walk).

Read aloud:

forma, farba, treba, robiť, orgán, fosfor, gaštan, akoby, vlast,
nos, možno, mesto, vláda, nový, hlava, nech, hlas, jeho, koho,
acho, trocha, hádže, hrdza, medzi, cesta, vec, mládza, práca, noc,
číslo, vaš, život, duša, dúcha, chlap, hrach, hrachu, hrachom, trhať,
vraťať, mrhať, držím, pršať, strkať, hlboko, dlho, dĺžim, slnko,
vrták, vŕta, hŕba, mŕtvy, mŕkvky, hľbat, okolo, veľa, slnko, veľmi,
hlenat, hladný, chladný, chvíla, miľa, tŕpne, vždy, ukázať, ukáže,
ostatný, šaty, ruka, ručit, rúčka, posledný, aspoň, peň, kameň, kto,
nejmä, vojna, džbán, ďalší, ďakovať, mladosť, radosť, mláda,
hrdza, vŕba, gajdy, choroba, horí, chorý, hoď, chod, chlad, hlad,
hlad, hľadať, nech, chut, cíť, čaša, taxa, prax, vysoký, výšava, štava,
oprásť, prší, trčí, hrčať, plný, vlna, žltý, žltok, pŕhľava, kŕmiť,
ďalší, džavot, medzi, džbán, jama, prísť, stípnut, zhrnúť, vlk, stílp,
popýchať, rásť, právo, dar, darovať, remeslo, slovenský, česko-
slovenský, slovenčina, Angličan, Anglicko, prameň, dúfať,
očislovať, organ.

PALATALISATION

In writing *i*, *í* or *e* following after *d*, *l*, *n*, *t* usually mark the soft
form of the consonants. It means:

in writing:

di, li, ni, ti
di, li, ni, tí
de, le, ne, te

in pronunciation:

di, li, ni, ti
di, li, ni, tí
de, le, ne, te

(Contrary to: dy, ly, ny, ty; dý, lý, ný, tý; dé, lé, né, té)
E.g. deťi is pronounced as [detí], nikto as [níkto], ticho as
[ticho], sedí as [sedí], nelení as [ňelení] etc.

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Read aloud:

len, ani, alebo,
chodíť, chodím, ch-
hned, nikdy, vráti-
otec, nejaký, necha-
telo, ulica, nijaký,
desať, robotník, les-
tisíc, pekne, jednot

Exceptions : *ten*,
without palatalisati-

Dopravný podnik
Bratislava, š. p.
Cestovný lístok
po označení plá-
ti vo vozidlách
mestskej hromad-
nej dopravy na
jednu cestu na
linkách Doprav-
ného podniku
Bratislav, š. p.

áni, nech, ďalej, posledný,
odíte, jediný, jedine, stále,
ráti, hľadí, dedina, hodina,
cítis, ďaleko, ležať, vlastne,
t, platidlo, stratil, letí, iste,
iť sa, všade, blízky, ďaleký,
totiž, neskoro.

vtedy, odísť are pronounced

9	8	7
6	5	4
3	2	1

3S

Slovak has three diphthongs with *i* as the first element (*ia*, *ie*, *iu*) plus diphthong *ô* [uo]. The element *i* is pronounced more sharply and clearly than the second element (*a*, *e*, *u*). The diphthong *ia* is pronounced as [ia], *ie* as [ie], *iu* as [iu]. Diphthong *ô* as [uo].

E.g.: *viac* – [vias], *miesto* – [miesťo], *cudziu* – [cudzju], *kôň* – [kuoň]. Or *nie* – [ňie], *vedieť* – [vedieť], *mysliet* – [mysljet], etc.

VOICED AND VOICELESS CONSONANTS

Most consonants are paired in respect to whether they are voiced or voiceless. The place of articulation is the same for both consonants. With voiced consonants the vocal cords vibrate, while with voiceless consonants they remain motionless.

PAIRS OF CONSONANTS

Voiced b d ð dz dž g h v z ž

Voiceless p t f c č k ch f s š

The consonants *j*, *I*, *I'*, *m*, *n*, *ň*, *r* are voiced, but have no voiceless correspondents.

When a voiced (paired) consonant is at the end of the word, it becomes voiceless :

10°C = 50°F
20°C = 68°F
30°C = 86°F
S: Bola to hra,
vám.

hral so záujmom. Ďakujem



Vocabulary

anglický (anglicky) – E

celok – whole

centimeter (cm) – centimeter

Česká a Slovenská Federatívna Republika (ČSFR) — Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (C.S.F.R.)

Česko-Slovensko — Czecho-Slovakia

slovenský, á, é — Slovak

český, á, é — Czech

halier — heller

hora (les) — forest

inak — otherwise, else

jaskyňa — cave

kilogram (kg) — kilogram (kilogramme)

liter (l) — liter

meter (m) — metre

možnosť — possibility, chance, opportunity

možnosti — facilities, possibilities

nakoniec — finally, at last

národ, ný, ná, né — nation, national

nula (0) — zero, nought

odkedy — since

okrem — besides, except

orgán — organ, authority

plocha — area, surface

počet — number

pokus — attempt, experiment

nie — uprising

české národné povstanie (SNP)

— Slovak National Uprising

prameň, voda: minerálne pramene

(vody) — mineral springs;

termálne pramene (vody) — thermal springs

pýtať sa i — to ask (a question)

rozdiel — difference

rozvoj — development

spomenúť p, spomínať i — to remember, to recall

stav — state, condition

stavať i — to build, to construct

storočie — century

stupeň — degree

štát — state

štvorcová mila (kilometer) — square mile

Tatry: Vysoké Tatry — the High Tatras;

Nízke Tatry — the Low Tatras

určiť p, určovať i — determine, appoint

uviesť p — to say

územie — territory

vlast — country, home, native land

vraj — they say, it is said

vrch — hill, mountain

vyjadrovať (sa) i — to express

GRAMMAR

1. Cardinal numerals:

1 jeden, jedna, jedno	11 jedenásť
2 dva, dve, dvaja	12 dvanásť
3 tri, traja	13 trinásť
4 štyri	14 štrnásť
5 päť	15 pätnásť
6 šesť	16 šestnásť
7 sedem	17 sedemnásť
8 osem	18 osemnásť
9 deväť	19 devätnásť
10 desať	20 dvadsať

} -násť

Cardinals *dva, tri, štyri* also have forms: *dvaja, dve, traja, štyria*. Cardinals from *päť* upwards also have the forms with the ending *-i*: *piati, desiat*.

20 dva	-dsat	dvadsať	100 sto
30 tri		tridsať	200 dvesto
40 štyri		štyridsať	500 päťsto
50 päť		päťdesiat	1000 tisíc
60 šesť	-desiat	šesťdesiat	2000 dvetisíc
70 sedem		sedemdesiat	10 000 desatisíc
80 osem		osemdesiat	1 000 000 milión
90 deväť		deväťdesiat	

1982 tisíc deväťsto osemdesiatdva

2 800 456 dva milióny osemsto tisíc štyristo päťdesiatšesť

2,54 2 celé 54 stotín

2,205 2 celé 205 tisícin

Numeral *jeden* as adjective, declined like *ten*.

Numerals from 2 to 4 are used with the nominative and the accusative plural of nouns. Numerals from 5 upwards and indefinite numerals are followed by the genitive plural of nouns, pronouns and adjectives: 5 rokov, 10 litrov, 70 000 štvorcových kilometrov.

In constructions of verbs with numerals from 5 upwards the verbs are used in the singular. E.g. na stole je šesť kníh, tu žije 300 000 ľudí etc.