

CZECH

COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia

POST: Prague

Czech is one of the West Slavonic languages (together with Slovak, Polish and Lusatian) and is spoken in Czechoslovakia by some 9 million people, mainly in the western part (Bohemia) and central part (Moravia) of the republic. Czech is readily understood by Slovak speakers in eastern Czechoslovakia, where the chief language is Slovak, spoken by some 4 million people. Czech is also used outside Czechoslovakia and especially in the United States, Austria, the USSR and Poland.

Czech is reputedly a difficult language, with its case-system and verbal aspects, and it is true that the English or French-speaking learner of Czech has to discard a good many linguistic habits and prejudices. Yet it is a living language and is probably no harder to acquire than Latin or Greek.

Czech is written in the Latin and not the Cyrillic alphabet.