FIRST-YEAR CZECH AT OXFORD: A READING LIST

Our beginners’ textbook is James Naughton, Colloquial Czech (Routledge) – obtain the newest revised edition, 2011, preferably with its CDs. Try to study several of the units before coming up to Oxford (if you are a beginner).

Also to be obtained during the first year: James Naughton, Czech: an Essential Grammar (Routledge, 2005), a concise reference book for learners.

Some recommended dictionaries (of varying sizes):

Ivan Poldauf, Velký česko-anglický slovník, WD Publications, Čelákovice / Hippocrene Books, New York, 1188 pp., various printings, large, gives the aspectual pairs of verbs
Josef Fronek, Velký česko-anglický slovník, Praha: Leda, 2000, 1597 pp., easier to use
Josef Fronek, Velký anglicko-český slovník, Praha: Leda, 2006, similar in size to the above
Josef Fronek, English-Czech Czech-English Dictionary (Anglicko-český a česko-anglický slovník), Prague: Leda, 1998 etc., a bulky but more concise two-way version, popular
Ivan Poldauf et al., Anglicko-český česko-anglický slovník, various editions, 1073 pp., older two-way dictionary, concise, gives the aspectual pairs of verbs
Josef Filipce et al., Slovník spisovné češtiny pro školu a veřejnost, Prague: Academia, 1994 etc. (2nd ed.), one-volume monolingual dictionary

When obtainable at all in this country, these dictionaries may unfortunately be somewhat overpriced, so obtain in the Czech Republic if possible. Some phrase-books etc. may also be useful, e.g. Berlitz, Rough Guide; Oxford Photo Dictionary. The freely available Lingea online dictionary is also very helpful: http://slovniky.lingea.cz/Home.aspx?set=encz&w=

First-year texts:

These may be hard to obtain in the original outside the Czech Republic, but sufficient copies of the plays will be available for borrowing in the Taylor Slavonic Library, and copies of the short stories and the longer poem will be supplied in class during the year. For some online texts and other reading see: http://users.ox.ac.uk/~tayl0010/czech.html


Plays: Karel Čapek, R.U.R. (many editions) and Václav Havel, Vyrozměnění (e.g. in volume Hry).


Various translations and other suggestions for preparatory reading:


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