

**Czech possessive adjectives**

- There are several different possessive constructions in Czech (external possessives, possessive adjectives, genitive 'od' construction, etc.).
- In the possessive adjective construction (*Petrova čepice*, Peter's hat), the possessee (*čepice*, hat) is preceded by the possessor (*Petrova*, Peter + suffix) and assigns gender, case and number to it in accordance with adjective-noun agreement. č
- Nouns are made into possessive adjectives by adding on gender-specific possessive suffixes, based on the gender of the possessee noun.
- Each Czech noun belongs to one of three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine, or neuter. Animate nouns have a natural gender which usually matches their grammatical gender they are assigned. Thus, nouns denoting males are usually masculine and nouns denoting females are usually feminine. The rest of Czech nouns receive an arbitrary grammatical gender of either masculine, feminine, or neuter. Gender is an intrinsic property only of nouns: the gender of all modifying adjectives, pronouns and numerals depends on the gender of the modified noun.
- There are restrictions on which nouns can occur in the adjectival position. Your task is to determine which nouns can become possessive adjectives in Czech.

NOTE: The \* examples can never occur in the possessive adjective construction, no matter what the possessive suffix is.

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | <b>moje</b><br><i>my.FEM.NOM.SG</i><br>"my daughter"                                   | <b>dcera</b><br><i>daughter.FEM.NOM.SG</i>       |
| 2. | * <b>firma-(ino, ovo)</b><br><i>firm.FEM-poss.NEUT.NOM.SG</i><br>"the firm's decision" | <b>rozhodnutí</b><br><i>decision.NEUT.NOM.SG</i> |
| 3. | <b>Petr-ova</b><br><i>Petr.MASC-poss.FEM.NOM.SG</i><br>"Peter's hat "                  | <b>čepice</b><br><i>hat.FEM.NOM.SG</i>           |
| 4. | * <b>štěně-(ina, ova)</b><br><i>puppy.NEUT-poss.FEM.NOM.SG</i><br>"the puppy's toy"    | <b>hračka</b><br><i>toy.FEM.NOM.SG</i>           |
| 5. | <b>tatínk-ova</b><br><i>dad.MASC- poss.FEM.NOM.SG</i><br>"Dad's hat"                   | <b>čepice</b><br><i>hat.FEM.NOM.SG</i>           |
| 6. | <b>veverč-ino</b><br><i>squirrel.FEM-poss.NEUT.NOM.SG</i><br>"the squirrel's nest"     | <b>hnízd</b><br><i>nest.NEUT.NOM.SG</i>          |

11/16/00

HW assignment: Possessive adjectives in Czech

7.     **maminč-ina**                                    **čepice**  
*mom.FEM-poss. FEM.NOM.SG*                *hat. FEM.NOM.SG*  
 "Mom's hat"
8.     \* **miminko-(ina, ova)**                       **hračka**  
*baby.NEUT-poss.FEM.NOM.SG*                *toy.FEM.NOM.SG*  
 "the baby's toy"
9.     **jeho**    **hračka**  
*its.NEUT.NOM.SG*                                *toy.FEM.NOM.SG*  
 "its (the baby's) toy"
10.    **Tašk-ovo**                                    **auto**  
*Bag.proper.MASC-poss.NEUT.NOM.SG*        *car.NEUT. NOM.SG*  
 "Mr. Bag's car"
11.    \* **taška-ino**                                   **ucho**  
*bag.FEM-poss.NEUT.NOM.SG*                *handle.NEUT.NOM.SG*  
 "the bag's handle"
12.    **její**   **ucho**  
*her.FEM.NOM.SG*                                *handle.NEUT.NOM.SG*  
 "its (the bag's) handle"
13.    \* **stůl-ova**                                   **noha**  
*table.MASC-poss.FEM.NOM.SG*                *leg.FEM.NOM.SG.*  
 "the table's leg"
14.    \* **město-(ino, ovo)**                        **obyvatelstvo**  
*town.NEUT-poss.NEUT.NOM.SG*                *population.NEUT.NOM.SG*  
 "the town's population"