CZECH WORDS CONTAINING NUMBERS

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Editor's Note: Many English number-names can be imbedded in words (bONEr, wEIGHT, asiNINE, atTEND) or split between two words (iT WOuld, boTH REEds, OF OUR, IF I'VE, is EVENtually); Martin Gardner exploited the latter idea in a Kickshaws quiz. Alternatively, the sounds of number-names can be embedded (WON­der, TOOt, beFORE, dictATE). Similar games can be played in Czech; in fact, writing short stories with numbers substituted in appropriate words is a common logological pastime. The following summary of Czech number-words was translated by Harry Par­ridge of Manhattan Beach, CA (translator notes in parentheses).

Many words and verbal compounds contain the letters of various numbers. These words may be presented so that at the appropriate place the symbol of the corresponding number is written instead of its letters. Examples:

1 JEDNAtel 1-tel (manager, editor, agent)
   (jedna is the feminine form of jeden = 1)
2 meDVědi me-2-di (bears)
   (dvě is the feminine of dva = 2)
3 sŤřik s-3-k (soda water)
4 (no examples given; however, it might be used by finding words to fit the patterns --ť tyř-- or --ťy řy--, possibly in dialect)
5 zPET z-5 (back, as in 'there and back!')
   kouPE Taňky kou-5-aňky (the purchase of a bag, of luggage)
6 kašE Stači ka-6-ači (the gruel is enough)
7 (an incorrect example was given in one of the accompanying stor­ies: 7-nul for sednul, 'sat down'. Actually, sedm = 7)
8 kOSMos k-8-os (cosmos)
9 buDE vĚţřik bu-9-řík (there will be a breeze)
10 buDE SE Tkát bu-10-kát (it will get woven)
0 pracovNICE pracov-0-e (worker)
   ohNU Lař oh-0-t (I bend the lath)
   jeZERO je-0 (lake)
   paNIC Kašle pa-0-šle (the youth coughs)
100 STOdola 100-dola (barn)
   kuSTOd ku-100-d (custodian)
100s přISTAv př-100 100-v (port, harbor)