

Read the essay below and complete the gaps with suitable prepositions and articles.

## What traits do Czech people have?

Being a Czech myself (thus biased about the question) I'll list what comes \_\_\_\_\_ my mind, in general comparison with members of other nations that I met (both to the East and to the West). I'll keep the number \_\_\_\_\_ positives and negatives balanced and will gradually expand it: Czechs are freedom-loving and open-minded (although this is somehow clouded recently by widespread and exaggerated fears of immigrants and anti-Muslim feelings).

Czechs are quite direct and frank, don't indulge \_\_\_\_\_ much politeness phrases, fake smiles, etc. Czechs are quite down-to-earth, realistic, frugal. Czechs are creative and skilled and there are a lot of various industries and businesses for such \_\_\_\_\_ small country (cars production, airplanes, top antivirus software, computer games, drones, tramways, guns, para-glides, ...). Czechs are \_\_\_\_\_ average well-educated as the educational institutions have \_\_\_\_\_ long tradition and stable quality (even though somewhat disconnected from business practice).

Czechs are quite industrious, hardworking in their work and take pride \_\_\_\_\_ it. Czechs generally like sport and are internationally outstanding in some disciplines (ice hockey, tennis, some athletics, skiing, not bad \_\_\_\_\_ soccer). They also enjoy nature with activities like hiking, camping, canoeing, mushroom finding, ... But: Czechs tend \_\_\_\_\_ be passive about their life and tend \_\_\_\_\_ complain about other people and the government instead \_\_\_\_\_ making an active change in their life. Czechs tend \_\_\_\_\_ be parsimonious and not generous. When buying stuff, we prefer cheap stuff and undervalue quality. Attitudes of service staff and officials tend \_\_\_\_\_ be impolite and irritable, especially for the older generation who grew during the communist era. Czechs tend \_\_\_\_\_ be overly critical about others as well \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.

Czechs tend \_\_\_\_\_ lack self-confidence. They are also not very good \_\_\_\_\_ **persuasive** communication, marketing, ... Czechs have a “small country mentality”, caring about their own problems and not much willing \_\_\_\_\_ contribute to the solution of global issues. Many Czechs lack many styles of dressing, many of them don’t care. And we take much pride \_\_\_\_\_ our beer, ice hockey, and our beautiful women.

*Adapted opinion essay by Vojta Havranek living in Hong Kong, trying to introduce Czechs to foreigners.*

**For each definition or synonym write the highlighted expressions from the text:**

1. convincing	
2. therefore	
3. giving or sharing as little as possible	
4. humble, practical and realistic	
5. prejudiced	
6. diligent, hardworking	
7. distinguished, notable	
8. thrifty, economical	
9. make something seem larger, more important, better, or worse than it really is:	
10. honest, sincere	
11. to become involved	
12. willing to consider new ideas; unprejudiced	
13. bad-tempered, grumpy, cranky	