

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	