

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ACTION FOR ADAPTING CROSS-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

WELCOME TO POLAND WELCOME TO WSEI UNIVERSITY - CHALLENGES OF POLISH LANGUAGE



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ABOUT POLISH LANGUAGE

Some theory :) Polish is a West Slavic language written in the Latin script. It is spoken primarily in Poland and serves as the native language of the Poles. In addition to being the official language of Poland, it is also used by the Polish diaspora and there are over 50 million Polish speakers around the world.

The Polish language ranks as the sixth most-spoken among languages of the European Union.

Is it (very) difficult? Maybe, but don't worry! It is so complicated, that even Polish people have many problems to speak and write 100% correctly. But some information can help you to understand it better.

The Polish language is a crazy creation of verb conjugation and noun inflexion. It uses seven cases what gives very complex grammar.

It has difficult pronunciation and many exceptions to every one rule. Remember! The same word in few sentences can take a different form depending on the number (singular or plural), cases and gender.



The Polish alphabet is based on the latin Script, extended by nine diacritical signs - ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź and ż.

Besides, there are seven digraphs, which are pronounced like one single letter/sound - ch, cz, dz, dź, dż, rz and sz.

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ABOUT POLISH LANGUAGE - PRONUNCIATION

Polish pronunciation is rather regular. Once you learn the rules, you should be able to guess how a word is pronounced and get it more or less right even if you've never heard it before (unlike English which is rather unpredictable). Step by step you will get familiar with the rules.

SPELLING TIPS:

ą sounds like 'on' in the French 'bon'

c like the 'ts' in 'bits'

e like the 'e' in 'bet'

ę like 'en' as in the French 'bien'

g like the 'g' in 'get'

i like the 'ee' in 'feet'

j like the 'y' in 'yeah'

ł like the 'w' in 'win'

ń like the 'ny' in 'canyon'

ó and u like 'oo' in 'boot'

w like the 'v' in 'very'

y like the 'i' in 'hit'

ch and h like the 'h' in 'his'

cz and ć like the 'ch' in 'beach'

dz like the 'ds' in 'beds'

dż like the 'g' in 'George'

rz, ż and ź like the 'su' in 'treasure'

sz and ś like the 'sh' in 'ship'



Vowels are pronounced similarly to their counterparts in most other European languages -not English though. But note, there are no long vowels.

In most cases, vowels are pronounced separately. b d f h k l m n p t z are pronounced as you'd expect them to be.

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MAIN VOCABULARY

Remember! People use only 20% of their vocabulary in 80% of daily conversations. It's true, it's called the Pareto Principle or otherwise known as the 80/20 rule. And you can use it to learn Polish faster by learning the most common Polish words and phrases.

Basic words

Yes - Tak (Tahk)

No - Nie (Nyah)

Please - Proszę (Prosheh)

Thank you - Dziękuję (Jen-koo-yeh)

Excuse me/Sorry - Przepraszam (Psheh-prasham)

How to greet?

Hi/Bye - Cześć (informal) (Cheshch)

Hello/Good day - Dzień dobry (formal) (Jen doh-bri)

Good evening - Dobry wieczór (formal) (Doh-bri vyeh-choor)

Good-bye - Do widzenia (Doh veet-zen-ya)

Good Night - Dobranoc (Doh-brah-no-ats)

While traveling

Airport - Lotnisko (Lot-nees-ko)

Train station - Dworzec PKP (Dvoar-jets Peh Kah Peh)

Bus station - Dworzec PKS (Dvoar-jets Peh Kah Ess)

One ticket to... - Jeden bilet do... (Yeh-den bee-let doh...)



If you are new in the city

What's your name? - Jak masz na imię? (Yak mash na ee-myeh?)

My name is... - Mam na imię... (Mam nah ee-myeh...)

I'm from England. - Jestem z Anglii. (Yehstem zanglee)

Do you speak English? - Czy mówisz po angielsku? (Che moo-veesh po an-gyel-skoo?)

Do you speak English? (formal) - Czy mówi pan/pani (male/female) po angielsku? (Che moo-vee pan/pan-ee po an-gyel-skoo?)

I don't speak Polish. - Nie mówię po polsku. (Nyah moo-vyeh po pol-skoo.)

I don't understand. - Nie rozumiem. (Nyah row-zoo-me-ehm.)

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ABOUT POLISH LANGUAGE - STUDENT DICTIONARY

Let's learn some words that are related to the university life and to studies.

- work placement
 - praktyka zawodowa
- laboratory classes
 - laboratoria
- graded credit
 - zaliczenie na ocenę
- student ID
 - legitymacja studencka
- workshops - warsztaty
- examination - egzamin
- credit - zaliczenie
- classes - ćwiczenia
- dean - dziekan
- dean's office - dziekanat
- scholarship - stypendium
- lecturers - wykłady



GRADING SCALE

- very good
 - bardzo dobry
- good plus
 - dobry plus
- good
 - dobry
- satisfactory plus
 - dostateczny plus
- satisfactory
 - dostateczny
- unsatisfactory
 - niedostateczny
- to obtain credit
 - uzyskanie zaliczenia

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TIPS ON HOW TO LEARN POLISH LANGUAGE

Nowadays learning a language is not difficult thanks to educational materials available on the Internet. We have a few suggestions for you to check out.

- ★ Project **"We love Lublin"** combines elements of the Polish Language course at the B1 + / B2 level with the opportunity to learn about the potential of Lublin.
- ★ The entire language course: textbook in PDF format, 10 videos on various topics related to Lublin, as well as instructions are free.
- ★ The textbook allows you to do lexical exercises, reading comprehension tasks and tasks dedicated to developing speaking and writing skills. Try to have fun, learn language and gain knowledge about Lublin at the same time!

We love Lublin:



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TIPS ON HOW TO LEARN POLISH LANGUAGE

Nowadays learning a language is not difficult thanks to educational materials available on the Internet. We have a few suggestions for you to check out.

Free platform "**Mówić po polsku**"

It is addressed at beginners and intermediate learners and provides hands-on language skills which can be used immediately.

Videos and Podcasts help you learn pronunciation and new vocabulary, even while you're on the move because it can be used comfortably on smartphones and tablets.

Check it out using the QR code.

There are many free apps you can use. One of the most world's popular is **Duolingo** which combines fun and learning. It reminds you about lessons, uses funny ways to keep you motivated, offers upgraded version of app - SUPER DUOLINGO, if you don't mind paying a little. You can learn more about it by checking the QR code.

Duolingo:



Mówić po polsku:



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TIPS ON HOW TO LEARN POLISH - FREE POLISH CLASSES

Learn Polish for free - use free apps, watch Polish movies and TV series, listen to Polish music and make new Polish friends.



The best ways to reach your language learning goals:

- start with pronunciation rules
- don't be scared of verb conjugation
- don't worry about sentence structures
- use Polish language whenever you can
- expose yourself to the language.

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- listen to radio, audiobooks and podcasts like Real Polish, PolishPod101, Fun-KidsLive
 - Play Polish video games.

You may not know it, but Poland has an exceptional reputation for producing popular the video games like "The Witcher," which have has become a global phenomenon.

Apply the language through daily practice - put stickers with Polish names of the objects, read signs, posters on the street, in stores, buses

- join groups for study Polish in Facebook
- watch Youtube courses
- buy a textbook.

Although books may seem old-fashioned, they are a great language-learning resource too.

Remember! The best way to learn Polish is by doing a little bit every day. You don't have to spend hours on studying Polish daily - even 20 minutes of Polish exercises can have amazing benefits. Be prepared to make mistakes ;)

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POLISH LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES

All foreigners and Polish citizens permanently residing abroad may take the examination regardless if, where, how and how long they have prepared for the examination.

First state certificate examinations in Polish as a foreign language were administered in Poland and internationally in 2004. Since that time 267 of examination sessions were organized, 11 697 examinees took the exam on B1, B2, C1 and C2 levels.

Proficiency in Polish is defined as the ability to understand modern written and spoken Polish and use Polish speaking and writing skills.

For more information on the certificate in Polish as a foreign language go to website: www.certyfikatpolski.pl

For what (besides everyday life in Poland) is knowledge of Polish useful? There are situations in which you must have a certificate certifying that you have passed the state exam of proficiency in Polish.

This is necessary if:

- you want to obtain Polish citizenship
- you apply for a job in public institutions in Poland.
- you apply for studies conducted in Polish language.

Apart from these situations, in most cases it is enough that you can communicate freely in Polish. If you have been here for a short time, it is worth taking care of at least the basics.

The fact that you make an effort to speak Polish will undoubtedly win you the hearts of the people of Lublin.

Certyfikat polski:



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LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES RECOGNISED IN POLAND

Foreign students applying for studies conducted in English must provide English language certificate as part of their application. It is good to know which certificates are accepted in Poland.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is probably the best known and most widely used English language proficiency test.

The other is The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) which is an English language test for study, migration or work. Over three million people take this test every year. You can get more details using QR code.



The Cambridge exams are not as common globally as the TOEFL or IELTS. They are often required for admission to UK universities and they are accepted in European Union countries.

The most popular Cambridge certificates are:
First Certificate in English (FCE)
Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
Business English Certificates (BEC)

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No. 2020-1-PL01-KA203-082267



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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This project has been funded with the support from the European Commission (project no: 2020-1-PL01-KA203-082267). This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.