

Polish



Polish is a West Slavic language and is spoken by about 45 million people in the world.

It is spoken in Poland and is the official language of the Poles. Around 38 million Polish speakers live in Poland. Outside of Poland there are a large number of Polish-speaking people living in Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus and the USA. In 2011, according to Census data, Polish became the 2nd most spoken language after English in the UK.

First words

Welcome	Witam
Hello	Cześć
Goodbye	Do widzenia
Yes	Tak
No	Nie
Thank you	Dziękuję
Please	Proszę
Sorry	Przepraszam
Good Morning	Dzień dobry
Good afternoon	Dzień dobry
Come here	Podejdź tutaj
Well done	Dobrze

Try and guess how to pronounce these words.

Listen to these words on the recording. Now practice saying them.

Numbers 1 to 10

One - Jeden

Two - Dwa

Three - Trzy

Four - Cztery

Five - Pięć

Six - Sześć

Seven - Siedem

Eight - Osiem

Nine - Dziewięć

Ten - Dziesięć

Practice counting to 10.

Can you count backwards from 10 to 1

Questions and answers

What is your name?	Jak masz na imię?
My name is ...	Mam na imię ...

How old are you?	Ile masz lat?
I am five years old.	Mam pięć lat.

How are you?	Jak się masz?
Very well.	Bardzo dobrze.

What is this?	Co to jest?
This is a pencil.	To jest ołówek.

Do you understand?	Czy rozumiesz?
I do not understand.	Nie rozumiem.

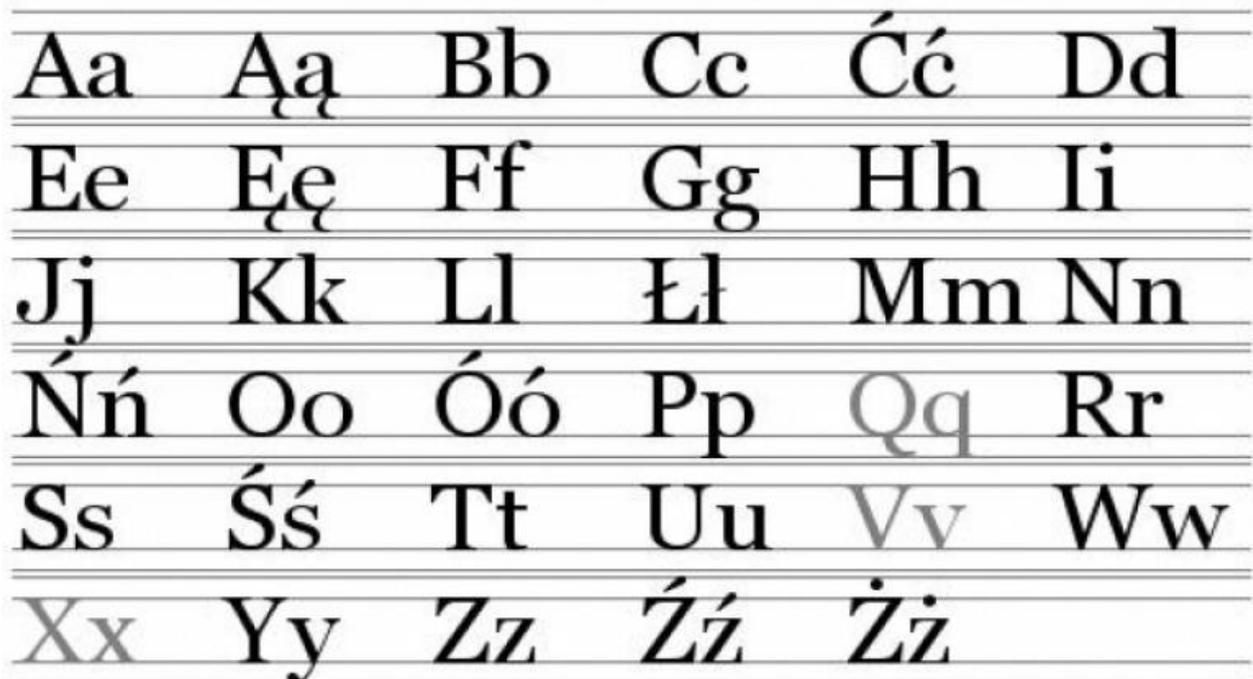
Can you try to find how you might reply to these questions with different answers?

Alphabet

The Polish alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet but also includes certain letters with diacritics:

- the kreska or acute accent (ć, ń, ó, ś, ź)
- the overdot or kropka (ż)
- the tail or ogonek (ą, ę)
- the stroke (ł)

The letters q, v and x, are used only in foreign words. For this reason, they are usually absent from the Polish alphabet (in grey below). However, before the standardization of the Polish language, the letter "x" was sometimes used in place of "ks".



Fun Facts

There are 9 letters in Polish that English does not have. They look like English letters with marks above or below them.

The Polish language is thought to be one of the more difficult languages to learn, with tongue-bending pronunciation and complex grammar.

The stress of a word is always on the penultimate syllable.

The longest Polish word contains 54 letters.

Dziewięćsetdziewięćdziesięciodziewięcionarodowościowego is the longest Polish word. It roughly stands for "of nine-hundred and ninety-nine nationalities".

Polish is also the second most spoken Slavic language after Russian.

Polish shares similarities with other Slavic languages such as Belorussian, Serbian, Russian and Ukrainian.

Many English words of Polish origin are related to Polish cuisine. Such loanwords include *bigos* (a Polish hunter's stew), *kielbasa* (a spicy smoked sausage), *paczki* (a doughnut filled with jam), and *pierogi* (popular Eastern European filled dumplings).

The shortened version of the names *Alexandra* or *Alexander* is *Sasha*. *Sasha* can be used for a boy or a girl.