GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION AS IN COMMON, EVERYDAY SPEECH

POGONOWSKI PHONETIC NOTATION

POLISH PRONUNCIATION FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Pronunciation related to familiar English sounds
Pronunciation explained with speech organ diagrams

The phonetic transcription follows all entries. It is subdivided into syllables.

In multi-syllable words the stressed syllables are printed in bold letters.

Polish vowels are pure and consist of one sound only.

Note: Polish vowels are never drawled as often happens in English.

Schematic Ellipse of the
Tip of the Tongue Positions
Of Six Basic Polish Vowels

Polish nasalized vowels "_" and "_" are discussed on the next page

POLISH VOWELS

A, a as in: father, car;
in the phonetic guide: ah

E, e, as in: let, met, get; -"- : e

I, i, as in: feel, keel; -"- : ee

O, o, as in: bought, not; -"- : o

U, u, as in: hook, too; -"- : oo

Y, y, as in: it, big, bib; -"- : i

Note:
The two Polish nasalized vowels can not be exactly described by English sounds.

The Two Polish Nasalized Vowels

_ , _ shown in the phonetic guide as: own =
French sound of "on"
it is a single nasalized sound composed of:
a clear "o" as in "bought" followed by "w" and the ending with a trace of "n"

_ , _ shown in the phonetic guide as: an =
French sound in "vin"
it is a single nasalized sound composed of:
a clear "e" as in "pen" and the ending with a trace of "n"
**POLISH CONSONANTS**

Most Polish consonants are to be read as in English. However, voiced consonants often become unvoiced at the end of a Polish word and immediately in front or behind of any unvoiced consonant. Phonetic guide at each entry shows this feature of Polish language.

There are **no silent** Polish letters, except "c" in "ch" which is pronounced as [kh].

### UNVOICED CONSONANTS:

(without sounding the vocal cords)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>ts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sz</td>
<td>sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rz</td>
<td>zh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>dzh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VOICED CONSONANTS:

(with sounding the vocal cords)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g in gie</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d in d h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dzh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GLIDES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NASALS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ni</td>
<td>ñ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRONUNCIATION OF POLISH CONSONANTS SPELLED OR VOICED DIFFERENTLY THAN IN ENGLISH**

- **cz** = *ch* in the phonetic guide - it is pronounced exactly like "ch" in English.
- **sz** = *sh* in the phonetic guide - it is pronounced exactly like "sh" in English.
- **szcz** = *shch* pronounced exactly like in "fresh cheese" in English.
- **h & ch** = *kh* pronounced like in Scottish "loch."
- **_ & ni** = _ with an apostrophe - a nasal consonant as in "onion," or Spanish "n" as in "manana." It also occurs in Polish when "n" is followed by the vowel "i."
- **ni** = _ when the "i" is followed by a vowel
- **ni** = _ + "ee" when the "i" is followed by a consonant.
- **j** = *y* - a gliding consonant - pronounced exactly like "y" in the English word "yes."
- **_ = w** - a gliding consonant - pronounced like "w" in English.
- **r** = *r* - a gliding consonant - it is trilled with the tip of the tongue
- **g** = *g* - in Polish it is always pronounced as in the English word "good."
- **gie = g** underlined indicates a trace of an "e" sound after "g" and before the sound of "c" as in "let."
hie = kh underlined indicates a trace of an "ee" sound after "kh" and before the "e" sound, as in "get."
kie = k underlined indicates a trace of an "ee" sound after "k" and before the "e" sound, as in "pet."

PRONUNCIATION OF POLISH PALATAL CONSONANTS

Polish palatal consonants are pronounced by touching the upper palate with the tongue.

They are:

_ = _h with an apostrophe over the "c"
.ci = _h when the "i" is followed by a vowel
.ci = _+ "ee" when the "i" is followed by a consonant
_ = ts, it is pronounced like "t" in nature.
d_ = d_h with an apostrophe over the "z" - pronounced like "dz" while touching the tooth ridge.
d_ = dzh - pronounced like "dzh" while touching the upper palate.
_ = _h with an apostrophe over the "s" - pronounced like "sh" while touching the tooth ridge.
si = _h when the "i" is followed by a vowel
.si = _+ "ee" when the "i" is followed by a consonant
_ = _h with an apostrophe over the "z" - pronounced like "zh" while touching the upper palate.
zi = _h when the "i" is followed by a vowel
.zi = _+ "ee" when the "i" is followed by a consonant
(_ = rz) = zh (note: a dot over the "z"). It is pronounced like the "s" in measure.
_ = _h_h with apostrophes over "s" and "c" - two consonants produced by touching the ridge of the teeth ridge with the tongue while pronouncing each consonant separately.

SPEECH ORGAN DIAGRAMS
for Polish palatal consonants not used in the English language.

Explosives: air compressed behind lips and teeth, then suddenly released:
d_, dzi, [d_h] and _, ci, [c_h]

Fricatives: air flow with a continuous friction:
_zi, [z_h], and _si, [s_h].
The tip of the tongue is at the tooth ridge.

POLISH SOUND "R"
is fluttered and may be pronounced like the Scottish "r"
Mouth is slightly open; tip of the tongue is raised; it vibrates on the exhaling impulse and strikes the tooth-ridge; sides of the tongue touch back teeth. The tongue does not glide as far back as is needed in the English "r."

HIPPOCRENE PHRASE BOOK

CHAPTER ONE

AIRPORT, CUSTOMS, BANK, POST, NUMBERS, DIFFICULTIES

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

WYRAZENIA PRZYDATNE

VI-RAH-ZHE-NAH PSHI-DAHT-NE

Attention! Yes. No.

Uwaga! Tak. Nie.

OO-VAH-GAH TAHK NE

[Usually, in the Polish language, the gender and the degree of familiarity with the addressed person are recognized. For this reason the following picture code is used in this book (singular forms only):

= an unfamiliar man

= an unfamiliar woman

= boy or a very familiar man.

= girl or a very familiar woman.]

Good day.

Dzie dobry.

DZHE DOB-RI

Good day to you.

[A morning and an afternoon greeting used in Poland.]

Dzie dobry panu.

DZHE DOB-RI PAH-NOO

Dzie dobry pani.

DZHE DOB-RI PAH EE
Dzieś dobry ci.

Good evening to you.

Dobry wieczór panu.

Dobry wieczór pani.

Dobry wieczór ci.

Good night to you.

Dobranoc panu.