

## 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)

p = p  
t = t  
k = k  
k in kie = k  
f = f  
s = s  
\_ = \_h  
sz = sh  
(sz = sh  
c = ts  
\_ = \_h  
cz = ch  
h & ch = kh  
h in hie = kh  
l = l

### VOICED CONSONANTS: (with sounding the vocal cords)

b = b  
d = d  
g = g  
g in gie = g  
w = v  
z = z  
\_ = \_h  
\_ = zh  
rz = zh)  
dz = dz  
d\_ = d\_h  
d\_ = dzh

### GLIDES:

r = r  
j = y  
\_ = w

### NASALS:

m = m  
n = n  
\_ & ni = ñ

## 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 "e" as in "let."

hie = kh indicates a trace of an "ee" sound after "kh" and before the "e" sound, as in "get."  
kie = k 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:

ch = h with an apostrophe over the "c"  
ci = ch when the "i" is followed by a vowel  
ci = ch + "ee" when the "i" is followed by a consonant  
ts = t, it is pronounced like "t" in nature.  
dz = dz with an apostrophe over the "z" - pronounced like "dz" while touching the tooth ridge.  
dz = dzh - pronounced like "dz" while touching the upper palate.  
sz = sh with an apostrophe over the "s" - pronounced like "sh" while touching the tooth ridge.  
si = sh when the "i" is followed by a vowel  
si = sh + "ee" when the "i" is followed by a consonant  
z = zh with an apostrophe over the "z" - pronounced like "zh" while touching the upper palate.  
zi = z when the "i" is followed by a vowel  
zi = z + "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.  
sc = shch 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:

dz, dzi, [dzh] and ch, ci, [ch]

Fricatives: air flow with a continuous friction:

z, zi, [zh], and sh, si, [sh].

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



Dzie\_ dobry ci.

D\_HE\_ **DOB-RI** \_HEE

Good evening to you.

**Dobry wieczór panu.**

**DO-RI VYE-CHOO** **PAH-NOO**

**Dobry wieczór pani.**

**DOB-RI VYE-CHOO** **PAH-EE**

**Dobry wieczór ci.**

**DOB-RI VYE-CHOO** \_HEE

Good night to you.

**Dobranoc panu.**

**DOB-RAH-NOTS** **PAH-NOO**

