



GRAMATYKA POLSKA

WYMOWA ~ PRONUNCIATION

Polish Alphabet

Letter	International Phonetic Alphabet	American English Approximation	American English Example	Polish Example
Aa	a	ah	as in <u>f</u> ather	fala (<i>wave</i>)
Aą	ɔ̃	on	(nasal vowel) as in the French word <u>b</u> on	są (<i>they are</i>)
Bb	b	b	as in <u>b</u> oy	banan (<i>banana</i>)
Cc	ʦ	ts	as in <u>b</u> ats or as in <u>n</u> otes	noc (<i>night</i>)
Ćć	tʃ	ch	soft/palatalized (tongue against roof of mouth), as in <u>ch</u> eer (same pronunciation as "ci")	robić (<i>to do</i>)
Dd	d	d	as in <u>d</u> og	dobry (<i>good</i>)
Ee	ɛ	eh	as in <u>m</u> et	tekst (<i>text</i>)
Eę	ɛ̃	en	(nasal vowel) as in the French word <u>f</u> in; when "ę" is the final letter of a word it tends to be pronounced like "e"	język (<i>language</i>)
Ff	f	f	as in <u>f</u> un	fajka (<i>pipe</i>)
Gg	g	g	as in <u>g</u> ood	góra (<i>mountain</i>)
Hh	x	kh	as in the Scottish word <u>l</u> och (same pronunciation as "ch")	handel (<i>commerce</i>)

Ii	i	ee	as in <u>see</u>	lis (<i>fox</i>)
Jj	j	y	as in <u>yes</u>	jutro (<i>tomorrow</i>)
Kk	k	k	as in <u>kite</u>	królik (<i>rabbit</i>)
Ll	l	l	as in <u>last</u>	lampa (<i>lamp</i>)
Łł	w	w	pronounced approximately like the English letter "w"	mały (<i>small</i>)
Mm	m	m	as in <u>may</u>	mapa (<i>map</i>)
Nn	n	n	as in <u>no</u>	noc (<i>night</i>)
Ńń	ɲ	ni	as in <u>onion</u> (same pronunciation as "ni")	koń (<i>horse</i>)
Oo	ɔ	o	as in <u>no</u>	noga (<i>leg</i>)
Óó	u	oo	as in <u>cool</u> (same pronunciation as "u")	ósmy (<i>eighth</i>)
Pp	p	p	as in <u>pan</u>	praca (<i>work</i>)
Qq	k	q	only in foreign words, as in <u>status quo</u>	<i>Quo vadis?</i> (a novel by Henryk Sienkiewicz)
Rr	r	r	as in <u>room</u>	rano (<i>morning</i>)
Ss	s	s	as in <u>sit</u>	sobota (<i>Saturday</i>)
Śś	ʂ	sh	soft/palatalized (tongue against roof of mouth), as in <u>sheet</u> (same pronunciation as "si")	środa (<i>Wednesday</i>)
Tt	t	t	as in <u>tap</u>	tam (<i>there</i>)
Uu	u	oo	as in <u>cool</u> (same pronunciation as "ó")	ulica (<i>street</i>)

Vv	v	v	only in foreign words, as in <u>via</u>	via, vice versa
Ww	v	v	as in <u>van</u>	wino (<i>wine</i>)
Xx	ks	x	only in foreign words, as in <u>Pax</u> Romana	Pax Romana
Yy	ɨ	ih	as in wh <u>im</u>	syn (<i>son</i>)
Zz	z	z	as in <u>zoo</u>	zupa (<i>soup</i>)
Żż	ʐ	zh	soft/palatalized (tongue against roof of mouth), as in <u>Indones</u> ia (same pronunciation as "zi")	późno (<i>late</i>)
źż	ʑ	zh	hard/unpalatalized, as in <u>meas</u> ure	życie (<i>life</i>)

Other Letter Combinations

Letters	International Phonetic Alphabet	American English Approximation	American English Example	Polish Example
ch	x	kh	as in the Scottish word <u>loch</u> (same pronunciation as "h")	chleb (<i>bread</i>)
ci	tʃ	ch	soft/palatalized (tongue against roof of mouth), as in <u>cheer</u> (same pronunciation as "ć")	ciało (<i>body</i>)
cz	tʂ	ch	hard/unpalatalized, as in <u>chair</u>	czas (<i>time</i>)
dz	dʑ	dz	as in <u>pads</u>	dzwon (<i>bell</i>)
dzi	dʒ	j	soft/palatalized, as in <u>jeans</u> (same pronunciation as "dź")	dziecko (<i>child</i>)
dź	dʒ	j	soft/palatalized, as in <u>jeans</u> (same pronunciation as "dzi")	dźwięk (<i>sound</i>)

dż	dz	j	hard/unpalatalized, as in <u>jam</u> (mainly found in words of foreign origin)	dżem (<i>jam</i>)
ni	ɲ	ni	as in <u>onion</u> (same pronunciation as "ń")	niebo (<i>sky</i>)
rz	ʐ	zh	hard/unpalatalized, as in <u>mea<u>s</u>ure</u> (same pronunciation as "z"); note: on rare occasion the "r" and "z" are pronounced separately (<u>marz</u> nać - <i>to freeze</i>)	morze (<i>sea</i>)
si	ʃ	sh	soft/palatalized (tongue against roof of mouth), as in <u>sh</u> eed (same pronunciation as "ś")	siedem (<i>seven</i>)
sz	ʂ	sh	hard/unpalatalized, as in <u>sh</u> ow	szynka (<i>ham</i>)
zi	ʑ	zh	soft/palatalized (tongue against roof of mouth), as in <u>Indone<u>s</u>ia</u> (same pronunciation as "ź")	zielony (<i>green</i>)