

# **Polish Grammar in a Nutshell**

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2003**

This grammatical reference guide summarizes the information on Polish sounds and grammar which should be mastered by the intermediate-level student of the language.



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## THE POLISH ALPHABET AND SOUNDS

| LETTER | APPROXIMATE<br>ENGLISH SOUND | EXAMPLE  |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| a      | father                       | <b>tak</b> <i>thus, so, yes, raz</i> <i>once</i>   |
| ą      | dome                         | <b>są</b> <i>they are, wąż</i> <i>snake</i>  |
|        |                              | The sound ą is pronounced like <i>om</i> , except that the lips or tongue are not completely closed to pronounce the <i>m</i> , leaving a nasal resonance instead.   |
| b      | big                          | <b>bok</b> <i>side, aby</i> <i>so that</i>   |
| bi-    | beautiful                    | <b>bieg</b> <i>course, run, race</i>   |
| c      | fits                         | <b>co</b> <i>what, noc</i> <i>night</i>  |
| ch     | hat                          | <b>chata</b> <i>cottage, ucho</i> <i>ear</i>   |
|        |                              | The sound of <i>ch</i> is much raspier and noisier than English <i>h</i> .   |
| ci-    | cheek                        | <b>ciasto</b> <i>cake, cicho</i> <i>quiet</i>  |
| cz     | chalk                        | <b>czas</b> <i>time, graczy</i> <i>player</i>  |
| ć      | cheek                        | <b>choć</b> <i>although, nićmi</i> <i>thread (Inst. pl.)</i>   |
|        |                              | The letters ć and ci- are pronounced the same. The combination ci- is used before a vowel. The letter c before i is pronounced like ć/ci-. The sound of ć/ci-, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English (y), is different from that of cz, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English (r).           |
| d      | do                           | <b>data</b> <i>date, lada</i> <i>counter</i>   |
| dz     | odds                         | <b>cudzy</b> <i>foreign, wodze</i> <i>reins</i>  |
| dzi-   | jeans                        | <b>dziadek</b> <i>grandfather, kładzie</i> <i>puts</i>   |
| dż     | jeans                        | <b>wiedźma</b> <i>witch, łódź</i> <i>boat</i>  |
| dź     | jaw                          | <b>dżez</b> <i>jazz, radża</i> <i>raja</i>   |
|        |                              | The letters dż and dzi- are pronounced the same. The combination dzi- is used before a vowel. The letters dz before i are pronounced like dż/dzi-. The sound of dż/dzi-, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English (y), is different from that of dż, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English (r). |
| e      | ever                         | <b>ten</b> <i>this, that (masc.), dane</i> <i>data</i>   |
| ę      | sense                        | <b>gęś</b> <i>goose, tęsknić</i> <i>long for</i>   |
|        |                              | The sound ę is pronounced like <i>em</i> , except that the lips or tongue are not completely closed to pronounce the <i>m</i> , leaving a nasal resonance instead. At the end of a word, the letter ę is normally pronounced the same as e: <b>naprawdę</b> "naprawde".  |
| f      | felt                         | <b>farba</b> <i>paint, lufa</i> <i>rifle-barrel</i>  |
| g      | get                          | <b>guma</b> <i>rubber, nogi</i> <i>leg, foot</i>   |
| gi-    | bug you                      | <b>gielda</b> <i>stock-market, magiel</i> <i>mangle</i>  |
| h      | hat                          | <b>hak</b> <i>hook, aha</i> <i>aha!</i>  |
|        |                              | Pronounced the same as ch (see above), the letter h appears mainly in words of foreign origin.   |
| i      | cheek                        | <b>list</b> <i>letter, igła</i> <i>needle</i>  |
| j      | you, boy                     | <b>jak</b> <i>as, raj</i> <i>paradise</i>  |
| k      | keg                          | <b>kot</b> <i>cat, rok</i> <i>year</i>   |
| ki-    | like you                     | <b>kiedy</b> <i>when, takie</i> <i>such (neut.)</i>  |
| l      | love                         | <b>las</b> <i>forest, dal</i> <i>distance</i>  |
| ł      | wag, bow                     | <b>łeb</b> <i>(animal) head, był</i> <i>he was</i>   |
| mi-    | harm you                     | <b>miara</b> <i>measure, ziemia</i> <i>earth</i>   |

|            |        |  |
|------------|--------|--|
| <b>m</b>   | moth   | <b>mama</b> mama, <b>tom</b> volume            |
| <b>n</b>   | not    | <b>noc</b> night, <b>pan</b> sir               |
| <b>ni-</b> | canyon | <b>nie</b> no, <b>not</b> , <b>nigdy</b> never |
| <b>ń</b>   | canyon | <b>koń</b> horse, <b>hańba</b> disgrace        |

The letters **ń** and **ni-** are pronounced the same. The combination **ni-** is used before a vowel. The letter **n** before **i** is pronounced like **ń/ni-**.

|          |      |                                       |
|----------|------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>o</b> | poke | <b>pot</b> sweat, <b>osa</b> wasp     |
| <b>ó</b> | toot | <b>ból</b> pain, <b>ółówek</b> pencil |

The letter **ó** is pronounced the same as **u**.

|            |                |   |
|------------|----------------|---|
| <b>p</b>   | pup            | <b>pas</b> belt, strap, <b>łapa</b> paw       |
| <b>pi-</b> | stop you       | <b>piana</b> foam, <b>konopie</b> hemp        |
| <b>r</b>   | arriba (Span.) | <b>data</b> date, <b>rada</b> advice, counsel |

The sound **r** is pronounced by trilling the tip of the tongue, as in Spanish or Italian.

|           |          |                                      |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>rz</b> | pleasure | <b>rzeka</b> river, <b>morze</b> sea |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------|

The letter-combination **rz** is pronounced the same as **ż**; see below.

|            |       |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| <b>s</b>   | sad   | <b>sam</b> the same (masc.), <b>pas</b> belt |
| <b>si-</b> | sheep | <b>siano</b> hay, <b>sito</b> sieve          |
| <b>sz</b>  | shark | <b>szal</b> frenzy, <b>dusza</b> soul        |
| <b>ś</b>   | sheep | <b>ós</b> axle, <b>kwaśny</b> sour           |

The letters **ś** and **si-** are pronounced the same. The combination **si-** is used before a vowel. The letter **s** before **i** is pronounced like **ś/si-**. The sound of **ś/si-**, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English **(y)**, is different from that of **sz**, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English **(r)**.

|            |          |   |
|------------|----------|---|
| <b>t</b>   | top      | <b>tam</b> there, <b>kot</b> cat        |
| <b>u</b>   | toot     | <b>but</b> shoe, <b>tu</b> here         |
| <b>w</b>   | vat      | <b>wata</b> cotton wadding              |
| <b>y</b>   | ill      | <b>dym</b> smoke, <b>ty</b> you (sg.)   |
| <b>z</b>   | zoo      | <b>zupa</b> soup, <b>faza</b> phase     |
| <b>zi-</b> | azure    | <b>ziarno</b> grain, <b>zima</b> winter |
| <b>ź</b>   | azure    | <b>wyraźny</b> clear, distinct          |
| <b>ż</b>   | pleasure | <b>żaba</b> frog, <b>plaża</b> beach    |

The letters **ź** and **zi-** are pronounced the same. The combination **zi-** is used before a vowel. The letter **z** before **i** is pronounced like **ź/zi-**. The sound of **ź/zi-**, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English **"y"**, is different from that of **ż**, pronounced with the mouth in the position of English **"r"**.

#### NOTES ON SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

1. The Polish alphabet has no Q, V or X, although these letters may be found in transcriptions of foreign names, and in a few borrowed words, e.g. **video**, **pan** X Mr. X..

2. Polish vowels **a, e, i, y, o, u (ó)** are all pronounced with exactly the same short length, achieved by not moving the tongue or the lips after the onset of the vowel, as happens, for example, in English vowel-sounds **ee** (knee), **oe** (toe), **oo** (boot). Only the nasal vowels are pronounced long, the length being due to rounding the lips and pronouncing the glide "w" at the end: **sa**.

3. Polish consonant sounds may be pronounced slightly differently according to position in a word. Most importantly, voiced consonant sounds **b**, **d**, **dz**, **g**, **rz**, **w**, **z**, **ż**, **ź** are pronounced as unvoiced sounds (**p**, **t**, **c**, **k**, **sz**, **f**, **s**, **ś**, **sz**, respectively) in final position. For example, **paw** is pronounced "paf"; **chodź** is pronounced "choc".

|           |          |          |           |          |           |          |          |          |           |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| voiced    | <b>b</b> | <b>d</b> | <b>dz</b> | <b>g</b> | <b>rz</b> | <b>w</b> | <b>z</b> | <b>ż</b> | <b>ź</b>  |
| voiceless | <b>p</b> | <b>t</b> | <b>c</b>  | <b>k</b> | <b>sz</b> | <b>f</b> | <b>s</b> | <b>ś</b> | <b>sz</b> |

4. The letters **ą** and **ę** are usually pronounced like **on/om** or **en/em**, respectively, before consonants. For example, **ład** is pronounced "lont"; **dąb** is pronounced "domp"; **tępy** is pronounced "tempy"; **dęty** is pronounced "denty"; and so on. Before **ć** and **dź**, **ę** and **ą** are pronounced **eń/oń**: **cheć** "cheńc", **ładzie** "lońdzie". Before **k** and **g**, **ą** and **ę** may be pronounced as **o** or **e** plus the English **ng** sound: **mąka**, **potęga**. The vowels **ą** and **ę** are usually denasalized before **l** or **ł**: **zdjęli** "zdjeli", **zdjął** "zdjol".

5. The stress in a Polish word falls on the next-to-last syllable: **sprawa SPRA-wa**, **Warszawa War-SZA-wa**, **gospodarka go-spo-DAR-ka**, **zadowolony za-do-wo-LO-ny**. As these examples show, Polish syllables tend to divide after a vowel. Words in **-yka** take stress on the preceding syllable: **mateMAtyka**, **MU-zyka**. The past-tense endings **-yśmy/iśmy**, **-yście/-iście** do not cause a shift in place of stress: **BY-łyś-my**.

#### 6. Spelling rules:

a. So-called kreska consonants (**ć**, **dź**, **ń**, **ś**, **ź**) are spelled with an acute mark only at word-end and before consonants; otherwise, they are spelled as **c**, **dz**, **s**, **z**, **n** plus a following **i**: **dzień** "dzeń", **nie** "ńe". Before the vowel **i** itself, no extra **i** is needed: **ci** "ći" *to you*.

b. Certain instances of **b**, **p**, **w**, **f**, **m** are latently soft, meaning that they will be treated as soft (in effect, as kreska consonants) before vowels. In the spelling, they will be followed by **i**. Compare **paw** *peacock*, plural **pawie** (**paw'-e**) *peacocks*.

c. The letter **y** can be written only after a hard consonant (see below) or after **c**, **cz**, **dz**, **rz**, **sz**, **ż**. The letter **i** after the consonants **c**, **dz**, **n**, **s**, **z** always indicates the pronunciations **ć**, **dź**, **ń**, **ś**, **ź**, respectively. Only **i**, never **y**, may be written after **l** or **j**.

d. The letter **e** is usually separated from a preceding **k** or **g** by **i**, indicating a change before **e** of **k**, **g** to **k'**, **g'**: **jakie**, **drogie**.

e. The letter **j** is dropped after a vowel before **i**: **stoję** *I stand* but **stoisz** *you stand*.

#### SOUND CHANGES

1. When describing word formation, some consonants are counted as hard (H) and others as soft (S):

|    |           |           |           |           |           |          |           |          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |  |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| H  | <b>p</b>  | <b>b</b>  | <b>f</b>  | <b>w</b>  | <b>m</b>  | <b>t</b> | <b>d</b>  | <b>s</b> | <b>z</b> | <b>n</b> | <b>ł</b> | <b>r</b>  | <b>k</b>  | <b>g</b>  | <b>ch</b> |  |
| S1 | <b>p'</b> | <b>b'</b> | <b>f'</b> | <b>w'</b> | <b>m'</b> | <b>ć</b> | <b>dź</b> | <b>ś</b> | <b>ź</b> | <b>ń</b> | <b>ł</b> | <b>rz</b> | <b>c</b>  | <b>dz</b> | <b>sz</b> |  |
| S2 |           |           |           |           |           |          |           |          |          |          |          |           | <b>cz</b> | <b>ż</b>  |           |  |

Hard consonants can soften before certain endings. For example, **r** goes to **rz** before the Locative singular ending **-e**, as in **biur-e**: **biurze** office (from **biuro**).

The consonants **p, b, f, m, w** at the end of a word may turn out to be soft (**p', b', f', m', w'**, spelled **pi-, bi-, fi-, mi-, wi-**), when not at the end of a word; cf. **paw** peacock, pl. **pawie**.

2. One often observes vowel changes within Polish words depending on whether endings are added to them. The most important such changes involve an alternation between **o** and **ó**, **e** and **ą**, **io/ia** and **ie**, and between **e** and nothing (fleeting **e**). These changes may be observed in the singular and plural forms of the following nouns: **stół stoły** table-tables, **ząb zęby** tooth-teeth, **sąsiad sąsiedzi** neighbor-neighbors, **chłopiec chłopcy** boy-boys, **pies psy** dog-dogs.

#### SOME CLASSROOM EXPRESSIONS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>co to znaczy?</b> what does that mean?             | <b>proszę</b> please, you're welcome, here you are               |
| <b>czy są pytania?</b> Are there questions?           | <b>proszę czytać</b> please read                                 |
| <b>dobrze</b> fine                                    | <b>proszę odpowiedzieć na pytanie</b> please answer the question |
| <b>dziękuję</b> thank you                             | <b>proszę otworzyć książki</b> please open your books            |
| <b>świetnie</b> great                                 | <b>proszę pisać</b> please write                                 |
| <b>głośniej</b> more loudly, louder                   | <b>proszę posłuchać</b> please listen                            |
| <b>głośno</b> loud(ly)                                | <b>proszę tłumaczyć</b> please translate                         |
| <b>jak to się mówi?</b> how doe sone say that?        | <b>proszę to powiedzieć po polsku</b> please say that in Polish  |
| <b>jak to się mówi?</b> how does one spell that?      | <b>proszę zamknąć książki</b> please close your books            |
| <b>jeszcze mamy czas</b> we still have time           | <b>proszę powtórzyć</b> please repeat                            |
| <b>jeszcze raz</b> one more time                      | <b>proszę zacząć</b> please begin                                |
| <b>już nie mamy czasu</b> we don't have any more time | <b>rozumiem</b> I understand                                     |
| <b>lepiej</b> better                                  | <b>tak</b> yes   |
| <b>mam pytanie</b> I have a question                  | <b>taśmy</b> tapes   |
| <b>mówię</b> I speak                                  | <b>teraz dobrze</b> now it's right                               |
| <b>na pamięć</b> by heart                             | <b>to nie jest ważne</b> that's not important                    |
| <b>na przykład</b> for example                        | <b>to nic</b> that's nothing                                     |
| <b>następny</b> next (person)                         | <b>ustnie</b> orally   |
| <b>nie</b> no   | <b>wiem</b> I know   |
| <b>nie pamiętam</b> I don't remember                  | <b>w porządku</b> O.K., all right                                |
| <b>nie rozumiem</b> I don't understand                | <b>wyraźnie</b> clearly, distinctly                              |
| <b>nie wiem</b> I don't know                          | <b>z pamięci</b> from memory                                     |
| <b>niedobrze</b> not right                            | <b>zadanie na jutro</b> tomorrow's assignment                    |
| <b>niewyraźnie</b> indistinctly                       | <b>zeszyt(y)</b> notebook(s)                                     |
| <b>pamiętam</b> I remember                            | <b>zupełnie dobrze</b> completely right                          |
| <b>pisemnie</b> in writing                            |  |
| <b>po angielsku</b> in English                        |  |
| <b>po polsku</b> in Polish                            |  |
| <b>prawie dobrze</b> almost right                     |  |

# OUTLINE OF POLISH GRAMMAR

## NOUNS

LACK OF ARTICLES. Polish does not have elements corresponding to English indefinite and definite articles *a*, *an*, *the*. One interprets a noun as definite or indefinite on the basis of context. Hence **dom** may be interpreted as 'a house' or 'the house'.

NOUN GENDER. Polish nouns have three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter. Grammatical gender has nothing to do with natural gender (sex). It is mainly of importance for purposes of grammatical agreement. For example, feminine nouns require that a modifying adjective have 'feminine' endings, as in **dobra lampa** *a good lamp*; compare to masculine **dobry stół** *good table* or neuter **dobre drzewo** *good tree*. While names for males will be masculine in gender, and names for females will be feminine, other objects in the world are divided up according to gender in an arbitrary way. For example, **nos** *nose* is masculine in gender, and **głowa** *head* is feminine; **słońce** *sun* is neuter, while **księżyca** *moon* is masculine.

NOUNS STEMS. Nouns may end in a consonant or in a vowel; if in a vowel, the stem of the noun, to which endings are added, is obtained by subtracting the vowel. For example, the stem of **głowa** *head* is **głow-**, while the stem of **nos** *nose* is **nos-**.

MASCULINE NOUNS usually end in a consonant, for example: **nos** *nose*, **stół** *table*, **hotel** *hotel*, **piec** *stove*, **mąż** *husband*. Some masculine names of persons end in **-a**, for example, **kolega** *colleague*, and even **mężczyzna** *man*. Often masculine nouns show different stems before endings and when there is no ending, as **stół** *table*, **stoły** *tables*, or **mąż** *husband*, **mężowie** *husbands*.

PLURAL OF MASCULINE NOUNS. Masculine non-personal nouns ending in hard consonants usually form the plural in **-y**, for example **nos nosy** *nose(s)*, **stół stoły** *table(s)*. One writes **i** after **k** or **g**: **czek czeki** *check(s)*. Masculine nouns ending in soft consonants (see above under Sound Changes) usually form the plural in **-e**, for example **hotel hotele** *hotel(s)*, **piec piece** *stove(s)*.

MASCULINE PERSONAL NOUNS often take special endings in the plural. Usually the ending is **-i/y**, preceded by a softening of the preceding consonant: **student studenci** *student(s)*, **Polak Polacy** *Pole(s)*, and so on. With titles and relations, the ending **-owie** often occurs: **pan panowie** *sir(s)*, **profesor profesorowie** *professor(s)*, **mąż mężowie** *husband husbands*; **brat bracia** *brother(s)* is quite exceptional.

FEMININE NOUNS most often end in **-a**, for example, **lampa** *lamp*, **kobieta** *woman*, **krowa** *cow*, **siostra** *sister*, **mama** *mother*, **torba** *bag*, **ulica** *street*. Some feminine nouns end in a soft consonant, for example, **twarz** *face*, **kość** *bone*, **rzecz** *thing*. A few feminine personal nouns end in **-i**, as **gospodyn** *landlady*. The noun **osoba** *person* is feminine in gender, whether it refers to a man or a woman.

**PLURAL OF FEMININE NOUNS.** Feminine nouns follow approximately the same rules as masculine nouns when forming the plural. Nouns ending in a hard consonant take **-y**, for example **kobiety** *women*, **krowy** *cows*, **siostry** *sisters*, **torby** *bags*. One writes **i** after **k** or **g**: **noga nogi** *leg(s)*. Feminine nouns whose stem ends in a soft consonant usually take **-e**, although some take **-y/i**, for example **koleje** *rails*, **ulice** *streets*, **twarze** *faces*, **rzeczy** *things*, **kości** *bones*.

**NEUTER NOUNS** end in **-o** or (after soft consonants) **-e**, for example **mydło** *soap*, **koło** *wheel*, **piwo** *beer*, **morze** *sea*, **pole** *field*, **zdanie** *opinion*. Exceptional are nouns like **imię** *name* and **zwierzę** *animal*, which end in **ę**. Some neuter nouns, borrowed from Latin, end in **-um**, for example **muzeum** *museum*.

**PLURAL OF NEUTER NOUNS.** Neuter nouns form the plural in **-a**, for example: **koła** *wheels*, **piwa** *beers*, **morza** *seas*, **pola** *fields*, **zdania** *opinions*. Nouns like **imię** and **zwierzę** have plurals **imiona** *names*, **zwierzęta** *animals*. The plural of **muzeum** is **muzea**. The noun **dziecko** *child* is of neuter gender, even though it refers to a person. Its plural is **dzieci** *children*.

#### SUMMARY OF NAMES FOR PEOPLE AND THEIR PLURALS.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>babcia</b> <i>grandmother</i> , pl <b>babcie</b>       | <b>narzeczona</b> <i>fiancée</i> , pl <b>narzeczone</b>      |
| <b>brat</b> <i>brother</i> , pl <b>bracia</b>             | <b>narzeczony</b> <i>fiancé</i> , pl <b>narzeczeni</b>       |
| <b>chłopiec</b> <i>boy</i> , pl <b>chłopcy</b>            | <b>ojciec</b> <i>father</i> , pl <b>ojcowie</b>              |
| <b>ciocia</b> <i>aunt</i> , pl <b>ciocie</b>              | <b>osoba</b> <i>person</i> , pl <b>osoby</b>                 |
| <b>córka</b> <i>daughter</i> , pl <b>córki</b>            | <b>przyjaciel</b> m <i>friend</i> , pl <b>przyjaciele</b>    |
| <b>człowiek</b> <i>man, human</i> , pl <b>ludzie</b>      | <b>przyjaciółka</b> f <i>friend</i> , pl <b>przyjaciółki</b> |
| <b>dziadek</b> <i>grandfather</i> , pl <b>dziadkowie</b>  | <b>sąsiad</b> m <i>neighbor</i> , pl <b>sąsiedzi</b>         |
| <b>dziecko</b> <i>child</i> , pl <b>dzieci</b>            | <b>sąsiadka</b> f <i>neighbor</i> , pl <b>sąsiadki</b>       |
| <b>dziewczyna</b> <i>girl</i> , pl <b>dziewczyny</b>      | <b>siostra</b> <i>sister</i> , pl <b>siostry</b>             |
| <b>kobieta</b> <i>woman</i> , pl <b>kobiety</b>           | <b>syn</b> <i>son</i> , pl <b>synowie</b>                    |
| <b>koleżanka</b> f <i>colleague</i> , pl <b>koleżanki</b> | <b>ta pani</b> <i>that lady</i> , pl <b>te panie</b>         |
| <b>kolega</b> m. <i>colleague</i> , pl <b>koledzy</b>     | <b>ten pan</b> <i>that gentleman</i> , pl <b>ci panowie</b>  |
| <b>krewna</b> f <i>relative</i> , pl <b>krewnie</b>       | <b>wujek</b> <i>uncle</i> , pl <b>wujkowie</b>               |
| <b>krewny</b> m <i>relative</i> , pl <b>krewni</b>        | <b>znajoma</b> f <i>acquaintance</i> , pl <b>znajome</b>     |
| <b>mężczyzna</b> <i>man</i> , pl <b>mężczyźni</b>         | <b>znajomy</b> m <i>acquaintance</i> , pl <b>znajomi</b>     |
| <b>mąż</b> <i>husband</i> , pl <b>mężowie</b>             | <b>żona</b> <i>wife</i> , pl <b>żony</b>                     |
| <b>matka</b> <i>mother</i> , pl <b>matki</b>              |  |

## CASES AND CASE USE

Polish nouns have different case forms for expressing GRAMMATICAL CASE, related to the function of the noun in a sentence. There are forms for each gender for the Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Instrumental, Locative, and Vocative cases - seven cases in all. In general, the Nominative case is used to express the SUBJECT of a sentence, the Dative to express the INDIRECT OBJECT (to or for whom something is done), the Accusative the DIRECT OBJECT (the item perceived or acted on by the subject). The Instrumental expresses the MEANS BY WHICH something is done (for example, ride *by train*, write *with a pen*). The Genitive expresses POSSESSION and, in general, most meanings of 'of', for example *husband of my sister*, *top of the mountain*, *end of the film*, and so on. The Locative is used with certain prepositions, especially prepositions expressing the simple locational senses of 'in', 'at', 'on'; and the Vocative is occasionally used in direct address. Here is a summary of the main Polish case uses. The pronominal questions with the corresponding forms of **co** what and **kto** who are given next to the case-name.

NOMINATIVE (**co? kto?**) The Nominative case is used to express:

1. Subject of finite verb. **Jan kocha Marię** Jan-Nom. loves Maria. **Maria kocha Jana** Maria-Nom. loves Jan.
2. Subject of existential 'be': **Jan jest w domu** Jan-Nom. is at home. **Czy jest szynka?** Is there any ham-Nom?
3. Complement of the identifying phrase **to jest/są that is/those are**: **To jest nowe muzeum.** That is a new museum-Nom. **To są moje okulary** Those are my eyeglasses.
4. Complement of a naming phrase: **Jestem Adam Wolak.** I am Adam Wolak-Nom.

GENITIVE (**czego? kogo?**). The Genitive case is used to express:

1. Almost all meanings of "of", including possession: **To jest dom mojego przyjaciela** That's the house of my friend-Gen. **To jest koniec pierwszej lekcji** That's the end of the first lesson-Gen.
2. After many prepositions, including **do to**, **bez without**, **dla for**, **z from**, **out of**, **od from**, **u at a person's place**, and others (for a fuller list, see further below under Prepositions). **Tu jest coś dla ciebie** Here is something for you-Gen. **Idę do kina bez was** I'm going to the movies without you-Gen. **On jest starszy od siostry** He is younger than (his) sister-Gen. **Wracam z Warszawy** I'm returning from Warsaw-Gen.
3. After negated transitive (Accusative-requiring) verbs. Compare: **Mam nowy telewizor.** I have a new television set-Acc. **Nie mam nowego telewizora** I don't have a new television set-Gen. **Już skończyłem drugą lekcję** I have already finished the second lesson-Acc. **Jeszcze nie zacząłem drugiej lekcji** I haven't begun the second lesson-Gen. yet.
4. Complement of negative existentials **nie ma** there isn't, **nie było** there wasn't, **nie będzie** 'there won't be'. **Nie ma masła** there is no butter-Gen. **Marii jeszcze nie ma** Maria-Gen. isn't here yet.
5. After many verbs, for example the verb **szukać**: **Szukam ciekawego prezentu** I'm looking for an interesting present-Gen. Here is a list of common verbs which take the Genitive case: **bać się** be afraid of, **napić się** have a drink of, **nienawidzić** hate, **pilnować** look after, tend, mind, **potrzebowa** need,  **słuchać** listen to, **spodziewać się**

*expect, szukać look for, uczyć się study, uczyć teach, używać use, make use of, wymagać require, demand, zapomnieć forget, życzyć wish, desire.*

6. After numbers 5 and above (Gen. pl.): Compare **jedno świeże jajko** one fresh egg, **pięć świeżych jajek** five fresh eggs-Gen.pl.; **jedna szeroka ulica** one wide street, **sześć szerokich ulic** six wide streets-Gen.pl.; **jeden nowy hotel** one new hotel, **siedem nowych hoteli** seven new hotels-Gen.pl.

7. After weights and measures and all kinds of quantifiers like **dużo, mało, trochę; trochę sera** a little cheese-Gen. **kieliszek wina** a glass of wine-Gen. **szklanka wody** a glass of water-Gen. **dużo domów** a lot of houses-Gen.pl. **mało mieszkań** not many apartments-Gen.pl.

8. To express the sense "some, a bit of": **Nalać ci herbaty?** Should I pour you some tea-Gen.?

9. Genitive of time: **tej nocy** on that night.

DATIVE (**czemu? komu?**). The Dative case is used to express:

1. Senses of 'to' and 'for' a person, especially the indirect object (naming the recipient or beneficiary, or sometimes the person negatively affected by, an action). **Kup mi coś.** Buy me-Dat. something. **Zepsułem ci samochód.** I've ruined your car for you-Dat.

2. After verbs of direct speech: **Powiedz mi coś.** Tell me-Dat. something.

3. In construction with certain verbs like **podoba się** be pleasing to, **pomóc pomagać** help, **powodzi się** be successful for, **smakować** taste (good) to, **dziwić się** be surprised at, and others: **Twój kolega podoba mi się.** Your colleague is attractive to me-Dat. **Dobrze mu się powodzi.** He-Dat. is doing very well. **Muszę mu pomagać.** I have to help him-Dat. **Dziwię się tobie.** I'm surprised at you-Dat. **Zdaje ci się** it seems that way to you.

4. As the subject of impersonal adverbs: **Jest mi zimno.** I-Dat. am cold (it's cold to me-Dat.), **Nam jest łatwo.** It's easy for us-Dat.

5. After the prepositions **dzięki** due to, **ku** toward, **przeciwko** against: **Wszystko, co wiem, to dzięki tobie.** Everything I know is thanks to you-Dat.. **Nie mam nic przeciwko temu.** I don't have anything against that-Dat..

ACCUSATIVE (**co? kogo?**). The Accusative case is used to express:

1. The complement after transitive verbs: **Mam brata i siostrę** I have a brother-Acc. and sister-Acc. **Chcę kupić ser, masło, i cytrynę** I want to buy cheese-Acc., butter-Acc., and a lemon-Acc. **Chciałbym poznać twoich przyjaciół** I'd like to meet your friends-Acc.. This use of the Accusative is called the direct-object use. In general, one chooses the Accusative after a verb unless there is a specific reason to use another case.

2. After the prepositions **przez** across, through, by (means of); **za** in the meaning in/after (a period of time) or in exchange for; after **na** in the meaning for or to; and after **w** in the meaning into: **Pan Józef został zaangażowany przez pana Kowalczyka.** Jozef was hired by Mr. Kowalczyk-Acc. **Będę gotowy za minutę.** I'll be ready in a minute. **Dziękuję za prezent.** Thanks for the present-Acc. **Idziemy do Warszawy na konferencję.** We're going to Warsaw to a conference-Acc. **Wchodzimy w las.** We're entering the forest-Acc.

3. In expressing duration of time. **Pracowałem tam jedną godzinę.** I worked there one hour-Acc.

INSTRUMENTAL (**czym? kim?**). The Instrumental case is used to express:

1. Predicate nouns (nouns after linking verbs like **być** *be*). **Jestem farmakologiem.** *I am a pharmacologist-Inst.* **Ona jest gwiazdą filmową.** *She is a movie star-Inst.*

2. Expressing "by means of": **Jedziemy tam moim samochodem.** *We're going there in my car-Inst.* **Piszę nowym długopisem.** *I'm writing with a new ball-point-Inst.* Here also goes the "Instrumental of Path": **Niech pan idzie tą ulicą do rogu.** *Go along this street-Inst. to the corner.*

3. Accompaniment of an action by a body movement: **Ona machnęła ręką.** *She waved (with) her hand.* **On zareagował uśmiechem.** *He reacted with a smile-Inst.*

4. Abstract causes: **Byłem zaskoczony jego szczerością.** *I was surprised by his sincerity-Inst.*

5. With respect to: **starszy wiekiem ale nie usposobieniem** *older with respect to age but not attitude.*

5. Certain time periods: **zimą** *in the winter*, **nocą** *at night*, **wieczorem** *in the evening.*

6. After the prepositions **między** *between*, **nad** *over*, **pod** *under*, **przed** *before*, **z** *with*, **za** *behind*. **Idę na koncert z moimi dobrymi przyjaciółmi** *I'm going to a concert with my good friends-Inst.*

7. After certain verbs, e.g. **interesować się** *be interested in*, **zajmować się** *be busy with*. **Interesuję się muzyką klasyczną.** *I'm interested in classical music-Inst.* **Matka zajmuje się domem i dziećmi.** *Mother takes care of the house-Inst. and children-Inst.*

LOCATIVE (**o czym? o kim?**). The Locative case is required after the prepositions **w** *in*, **na** *on, at*, **o** *about*, **po** *after*, **przy** *near, during, while*. **On jest teraz w domu** *He is at home-Loc. now.* **Po zajęciach idziemy na kolację** *After classes-Loc. we are going to supper.* **Muszę kupić znaczki na poczcie** *I have to buy stamps at the post-office-Loc.* **Biblioteka stoi przy ulicy Pięknej** *The library is next to Piekna Street-Loc.*

VOCATIVE. Usually, the Nominative case functions as a de facto Vocative: **Pawel, chodź tu!** *Pawel-Nom., come here!.* However, in conjunction with titles, the Vocative is obligatory: **Dzień dobry, panie profesorze!** *Hello, professor-Voc.!*

## SUMMARY: THE MAIN KINDS OF NOUN PHRASES IN A SENTENCE TOGETHER WITH THE CASES THEY USUALLY TAKE

SUBJECT OF VERB (NOMINATIVE CASE):

**Ewa uczy się.** *Ewa-Nominative is studying..*

SUBJECT OF EXISTENTIAL VERB (NOMINATIVE CASE, GENITIVE if negated):

**Ewa jest.** *Ewa is at home-Nominative.*

**Ewy nie ma.** *Ewa is not at home-Genitive.*

COMPLIMENT IN AN IDENTITY SENTENCE, after **to jest/są** (NOMINATIVE CASE):

**Ewa to jest moja dobra przyjaciółka.** *Ewa is my good friend-Nominative.*

PREDICATE NOMINAL - nominal complement of 'be' - (INSTRUMENTAL CASE):

**Ewa jest interesującą osobą.** *Ewa is an interesting person-Instrumental.*

DIRECT OBJECT OF VERB (ACCUSATIVE CASE, GENITIVE if negated):

**Ewa kupuje nową bluzkę.** *Ewa buys a new blouse-Accusative.*

**Ewa nie chce kupić tej bluzki.** *Ewa doesn't want to buy that blouse-Genitive.*

OBLIQUE (NON-ACCUSATIVE) OBJECT OF VERB:

a. of a bare verb (the case depends on the oblique-case verb):

**Ewa pilnuje dziecka.** *Ewa looks after the child-Genitive*

**Ewa pomaga Adamowi.** *Ewa helps Adam-Dative.*

**Ewa zajmuje się domem.** *Ewa takes care of the house-Instrumental*

b. of a verb plus preposition (the case depends on the verb and preposition):

**Ewa czeka na Adama.** *Ewa waits for Adam-Accusative*

**Ewa boi się ciemności.** *Ewa is afraid of the dark-Genitive*

**Ewa zastanawia się nad problemem.** *Ewa considers the problem-Instrumental*

**Ewa myśli o swoim psie.** *Ewa thinks about her dog-Locative.*

INDIRECT OBJECT (DATIVE CASE):

**Ewa coś mówi Adamowi.** *Ewa says something to Adam-Dative.*

PHRASE OF MEANS (INSTRUMENTAL CASE):

**Ewa jeździ do pracy autobusem.** *Ewa goes to work by bus-Instrumental*

COMPLEMENT OF LOCATIONAL PREPOSITION (preposition plus, usually, either

LOCATIVE or INSTRUMENTAL CASE, depending on the preposition):

**Ewa mieszka w Warszawie.** *Ewa lives in Warsaw-Locative*

**Ewa stoi przed domem.** *Ewa stands in front of the house-Instrumental*

With people, the locational preposition is **u** plus the Genitive:

**Byłem u lekarza.** *I was at the doctor's.*

COMPLEMENT OF VERB OF MOTION:

a. PLACE TO WHICH (usually **do** plus GENITIVE or **na** plus ACCUSATIVE CASE, depending on the kind of noun; see below under Prepositions):

**Ewa idzie do domu.** *Ewa goes home-Genitive*

Ewa idzie na **koncert**. *Ewa goes to a concert-Accusative*  
 Idę do **dentysty**. *I'm going to the dentist's.*

- b. PLACE FROM WHICH (usually **z** plus Genitive, **od** plus Genitive with people):  
*Ewa wraca z pracy. Ewa returns from work-Genitive.*  
*Wracam od mojego przyjaciela. I'm returnign from my friend's.*

POSSESSOR (GENITIVE CASE):

To jest dom **Ewy**. *That is Ewa's-Genitive house.*

HEAD OF A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE OF ACCOMPANIMENT (**Z** PLUS INSTRUMENTAL CASE):

*Ewa rozmawia z Adamem. Ewa talks with Adam.-Instrumental*

IDIOMATIC BARE-CASE PHRASES, IN GENITIVE, ACCUSATIVE, or INSTRUMENTAL CASE:

**następnego dnia** *next day-Genitive of time*  
**wieczorem** *in the evening-Instrumental of time*  
**cała noc** *all night long-Accusative of time*

#### CHART OF REGULAR NOUN ENDINGS

Here is a summary chart of regular noun endings. By **-0** is meant 'no ending'. For rules on the distribution of endings, see the followiong page.

|        | feminine                    |  | masculine                                 | neuter                 |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| Sg. N  | <b>-a (-i)</b> or <b>-0</b> |  | <b>-0</b>                                 | <b>-o</b> or <b>-e</b> |
| G      | <b>-y/i</b>                 |  | <b>-u</b> or <b>-a</b>                    | <b>-a</b>              |
| D      | <b>'e</b> or <b>-y/i</b>    |  | <b>-owi</b>                               | <b>-u</b>              |
| A      | <b>'e</b> or <b>-0</b>      |  | =N/G                                      | =N                     |
| I      | <b>-a</b>                   |  | <b>-em</b>                                | <b>-em</b>             |
| L      | =D                          |  | <b>'e</b> or <b>-u</b>                    | <b>'e</b> or <b>-u</b> |
| V      | <b>-o</b> or <b>-y/i</b>    |  | =L  | =N                     |
| Pl. NV | <b>-y/i</b> or <b>-e</b>    |  | ( <b>-y/i</b> or <b>'i</b> ) or <b>-e</b> | <b>-a</b>              |
| G      | <b>-0</b> or <b>-y/i</b>    |  | <b>-ów</b> or <b>-y/i</b>                 | <b>-0</b>              |
| D      | <b>-om</b>                  |  | <b>-om</b>                                | <b>-om</b>             |
| A      | =N                          |  | =N/G                                      | =N                     |
| I      | <b>-ami</b>                 |  | <b>-ami</b>                               | <b>-ami</b>            |
| L      | <b>-ach</b>                 |  | <b>-ach</b>                               | <b>-ach</b>            |

Consonants soften before **'e** (DLsg. feminine and LVsg. masculine and Lsg. neuter, and before **'i** (Npl. masculine persons). For cahrt of softenings, see earlier under SOUND CHANGES.

## DISTRIBUTION OF ENDINGS

### 1. FEMININE.

- a. Hard-stems in **-a**, like **kobieta** *woman*, take left-hand endings; soft-stems in **-0** (zero), like **twarz** *face*, take right-hand endings; soft-stems in **-a** (*ulica street*) or **-i** (*gospodyn* *landlady*) take italicized alternatives.
  - b. Soft-stem diminutive and affectionate names take Vsg. in **-u** (thus, **Basia** *Barb*, Vsg **Basiu**).
  - c. Before DLsg. **-e**, consonants soften; thus, **nog-e: nodze** *leg*-DLsg..

### 2. MASCULINE.

- a. Animate nouns take Gsg. in **-a**. Most inanimates take Gsg. in **-u**. There are many exceptions.
  - b. Animate nouns take Asg. like the Gsg. in **-a pies**, NAsg. **psa** *dog*. Inanimates take Asg.=Nsg. in **-0** (zero): **zeszyt**, NAsg. **zeszyt** *notebook*.
  - c. A handful of masculine nouns take Dsg. in **-u**, e.g., **pan panu**, **chopiec chłopcu**, **ojciec ojcu**, **pies psu**.
  - d. Velar and soft stems take LVsg. in **-u**: **hotel hotelu** *hotel*, **ręcznik ręczniku** *towel*. Others take LVsg. in **-e** preceded by consonant softening (thus, **zeszyt-e: zeszycie** *notebook-LVsg.*).
  - e. Hard-stem nouns take NVpl. in **-y/i**: **zeszyt zeszyty** *notebook*. Personal nouns soften the stem consonant (thus, **student-i: studenci** *students*). Soft-stems take **-e**: **kraj kraje** *country -ies*. Names for titles and relations tend to take NVpl. in **-owie**, as **syn synowie** *son(s)*, **ojciec ojcowie** *father(s)*, **mąż mężowie** *husband(s)*, and others.
  - f. Hard stems take Gpl. in **-ów**: **zeszyt zeszytów** *notebook*. Most soft-stems take Gpl. in **-y/i** (**hotel hoteli** *hotel*), although some, especially stems in **c**, **dz**, and **j**, take **-ów**: **kraj krajów** *country*.
  - g. Personal nouns take Apl.=Gpl, as **student**, *Gapl.* **studentów**. All others take Apl.=Npl., as **hotel**, *Napl.* **hotele**, **zeszyt**, *Napl.* **zeszyty**.

### 3. NEUTER.

- a. Soft-stems take NAVsg. in **-e**: **pole** *field*. hard stems take NAVsg. in **-o**: **drzewo** *tree*.
  - b. Velar and soft stems take LVsg. in **-u**: **polu**, **łóżku**. others take LVsg. in **-e** preceded by consonant softening (thus, **biur-e: biurze** *office-Lsg.*).
  - c. Some soft-stem neuters with a collective meaning, or naming areas or spaces, take Gpl. in **-y/i** (thus, **wybrzeże** *seacoast*, **narzędzie** *tool*, *Gpl narzędzi*).
  - d. A very few neuters, most importantly those in **-um**, do not decline in the sg. and take Gpl. in **-ów**. See **muzeum** in the illustrations to follow.
  - e. A few neuters have NAsg. in **-ę** and have soft stems in the sg., hard stems in the pl.; see **imię imienia** *name(s)*, **zwierzę zwierzęcia** *animal(s)* in the illustrations to follow.

THE MOST CHALLENGING POLISH CASE FORMS. The noun endings which are the most challenging to learn are those that depend on determining whether the stem consonant (the consonant before the ending) is 'hard' or 'soft'. Endings depending on this distinction are a) the Locative sg. of all nouns, b) the Dative sg. of feminine nouns, c) the Nominative/Accusative pl. of masculine and feminine nouns, and d) the Genitive plural of masculine nouns.

Here is the chart of Polish hard (or 'plain') and corresponding soft consonants:

|   |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| H | p  | b  | f  | w  | m  | t | d  | s | z | n | ł | r  |
| S | p' | b' | f' | w' | m' | ć | dź | ś | ź | ń | ł | rz |

|   |   |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    |   |   |  |
|---|---|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|---|---|--|
| H | k | g  | ch | st | zd  | sł | zł | sn |    |   |   |  |
| S | c | dz | sz | ść | źdź | śl | źł | śn | cz | ż | j |  |

#### A. THE LOCATIVE CASE.

1. Masculine and neuter nouns form the Locative sg. by adding **-e** to a softenable consonant and by softening the consonant: **zeszt** **zeszycie** *notebook*. Non-softenable consonants, including **k**, **g**, **ch**, take **-u**: **hotel** **hotelu** *hotel*, **mieszkanie** **mieszkaniu** *apartment*, **ręcznik** **ręczniku** *towel*, **pudełko** **pudełku** *box*. The adjective ending is **-ym** (**-im**): **dobrym** *good*, **drogim** *expensive*, **dear**, **moim** *my*. Irregular Locatives: **dom domu** *house*, **pan panu** *Sir*, **syn synu** *son*.
2. Feminine nouns form the Locative by adding **-e** to a softenable consonant, including **k**, **g**, **ch**) and softening the consonant: **kobieta** **kobiecie** *woman*, **książka** **książce** *book*. Non-softenable consonants take **-y** (**-i**): **ulica** **ulicy** *street*, **rzecz** **rzeczy** *thing*. The adjective ending is **-ej**: **nowej** *new*, **drogiej** *expensive*, **dear**, **mojej** *my*.
3. The Locative plural of all nouns, without exception, is **-ach**: **zesztytach** *notebooks*, **mieszkanach** *apartments*.The adjective ending is **-ych** (**-ich**): **nowych** *new*, **drogich** *expensive*, **dear**, **moich** *my*.

#### NOTES:

- a. Before the ending **-e** (**e** plus preceding softening), most nouns containing **ia** or **io/ió** in the root before **t**, **d**, **s**, **z**, change **ia** to **ie** and **io/ió** to **ie** (**sąsiad** LVsg. **sąsiedzie** *neighbor*, **kościół** LVsg. **kościele** *church*).
- b. The possible change of root **ą** and **ó** to **ę** and **o** in masculine nouns before all endings holds here too: **mąż** LVsg. **mężu** *husband*, **stół** LVsg. **stole** *table*. Mobile **e** occurs in many masculine noun stems, and is dropped before all endings: **budynek** GLVsg. **budynku** *building*.

#### B. THE DATIVE CASE.

1. For feminine nouns, the Dative sg. is like the Locative sg. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Neuter nouns always take **-emu** **-u**: **młodemu** **drzewu** *young tree-D*, **nowemu** **mieszkaniu** *new apartment-D*.
3. Masculine nouns usually take **-emu** **-owi**: **temu** **człowiekowi**. However, a few common masculine nouns take **-u**, for example, **pies psu** *dog*, **kot kotu** *cat*, **pan panu**

*Sir, ojciec ojcu father, chłopiec chłopcu boy* (but: **syn synowi son**). This is almost a complete list, so assume **-owi** for a masculine noun unless you know for sure the ending is **-u**.

4. The Dative plural is **-ym (-im) -om** for all adjectives and nouns: **dobrym studentom good students-D, szerokim ulicom wide streets-D, nowym mieszkaniom new apartments-D**. There are no exceptions.

C. THE NOMINATIVE PLURAL OF NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES. The Accusative pl. of all nouns (other than masculine-personal nouns) is like the Nominative pl.

1. All neuter nouns form the NApI in **-a**: **drzewo drzева tree(s), mieszkanie mieszkania apartment(s), muzeum muzea museum(s)**. Special types: **imię imiona name(s), zwierzę zwierzęta animal(s)**.

2. Masculine NON-PERSONAL and all feminine nouns, personal or otherwise, form the NApI by adding **-y/i** to hard consonants (choose **i** after **k** and **g**) and **-e** to soft consonants: **zeszyt zeszyty notebook(s), ołówek ołówki pencil(s), hotel hotele hotel(s), dziewczyna dziewczyny girl(s), książka książki book(s), ulica ulice street(s)**. Feminine nouns not ending in **-a** take either **-y/i** or **-e**: **rzecz rzeczy thing(s), powieść powieści novel(s), twarz twarze face(s)**.

3. The NApI ending of the adjective is **-e** (**ie** after **k** and **g**). This is the same ending as the neuter singular adjective ending: **dobre, drogie, moje**.

4. Masculine PERSONAL NOUNS take **y/i** as expected, but they soften the stem consonant before this ending. A modifying adjective takes the same ending and shows the same softening: **dobry student, dobrzy studenci good student(s), młody urzędnik, młodzi urzędnicy young clerk(s)**. Many masculine personal nouns, especially names for relations, take **-owie**: **pan panowie gentleman/-men, ojciec ojcowie father(s), syn synowie son(s)**. Irregular: **brat bracia brother(s), człowiek ludzie men/people**.

#### NOTES:

- With masculine personal nouns, **ch** softens to **ś** (not to **sz**): **Czech Czesi**.
- Adjectives whose stem already ends in a soft consonant still take **-y/i**: **interesujący człowiek, interesujący ludzie interesting man/people**.
- Adjectives (participles) in **-ony** change to **-eni**: **zmęczony zmęczeni tired**.

#### D. THE GENITIVE PLURAL

1. The Genitive plural of FEMININE and NEUTER nouns is usually **-0**, i.e., nothing: **kobieta kobiet woman, drzewo drzew tree**.

2. The Genitive plural of masculine nouns is usually: **-ów** after hard (plain) stems, and **-y/i** after soft stems: **student studentów student, hotel hoteli hotel**. However, many stems in **dz, c**, and **j** take **-ów** instead of expected **-y/i**: **kraj krajów country**.

3. The Gpl. adjective ending is **-y/i**: **dobrych, drogich**.

#### NOTES:

- With masculine persons, the Gpl. form is also used as the Accusative plural: **Widzę tych studentów. I see those students**.

- b. A few, but not many, soft-stem feminine-declension nouns take Gpl. in y/i: **skrzela skrzela** *gill*.
- c. A few soft-stem neuter nouns take Gpl. in y/i: **wybrzeże wybrzeży** *seacoast*.
- d. Masculine personal nouns with Npl. in -owie take Gapl. in -ów no matter what: **sędzia sędziowie** *Judge(s)*, hence Gpl. **sędziów**.
- e. With neuter and feminine nouns, the Gpl. ending in -o (zero) can prompt a mobile vowel e or the root-vowel changes e: a, o: ó: **książka książek** *book*, **ręka rąk** *hand*, **morze mórz** *sea*.

NOUN DECLENSIONS. For illustrative purposes, here are the full declensions (sets of case endings) of some representative Polish nouns of all three genders. Remember that:

- a. Masculine-gender animate nouns have the Accusative singular like the Genitive; inanimate nouns have the Accusative singular like the Nominative. In the plural, masculine personal nouns have the Accusative like the Genitive. All non-masculine personal nouns have the Accusative plural like the Nominative plural.
- b. Neuter-gender nouns have identical Nominative and Accusative forms in both singular and plural.
- c. Feminine nouns have identical Dative and Locative forms in the singular, and identical Accusative and Nominative forms in the plural.
- d. All nouns have the same Dative, Instrumental, and Locative forms in the plural. The Vocative plural of all nouns is like the Nominative plural.

#### MASCULINE NOUNS:

##### Masculine Non-Personal

| Sg.   | Pl.             | Sg.   | Pl.             |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>sklep</b> <i>store</i> (masc. hard-stem) |                 | <b>hotel</b> <i>hotel</i> (masc. soft-stem) |                 |
| N <b>sklep</b>                              | <b>sklepy</b>   | <b>hotel</b>                                | <b>hotele</b>   |
| G <b>sklepu</b>                             | <b>sklepów</b>  | <b>hotelu</b>                               | <b>hoteli</b>   |
| D <b>sklepowi</b>                           | <b>sklepom</b>  | <b>hotelowi</b>                             | <b>hotelom</b>  |
| A <b>sklep</b>                              | <b>sklepy</b>   | <b>hotel</b>                                | <b>hotele</b>   |
| I <b>sklepem</b>                            | <b>sklepami</b> | <b>hotelem</b>                              | <b>hotelami</b> |
| L <b>sklepie</b>                            | <b>sklepach</b> | <b>hotelu</b>                               | <b>hotelach</b> |
| V <b>sklepie</b>                            | <b>sklepy</b>   | <b>hotelu</b>                               | <b>hotele</b>   |

**stół** *check* (hard-stem, ó: o)

|   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| N | stół    | stoły   |
| G | stolu   | stolów  |
| D | stolowi | stolom  |
| A | stół    | stoły   |
| I | stołem  | stołami |
| L | stole   | stołach |
| V | stole   | stoły   |

**gołąb** *pigeon* (animate, soft labial stem)

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
|  | gołąb     | gołębie   |
|  | gołębia   | gołębi    |
|  | gołębiowi | gołębiom  |
|  | gołębia   | gołębie   |
|  | gołębiem  | gołębiami |
|  | gołębiu   | gołębiach |
|  | gołębiu   | gołębie   |

**pies** *dog* (mobile e, animate, Dsg. in -u)

|   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| N | pies | psy   |
| G | psa  | psów  |
| D | psu  | psom  |
| A | pies | psy   |
| I | psem | psami |
| L | psie | psach |
| V | psie | psy   |

**kot** *cat* (animate, Dsg. In -u)

|  |       |        |
|--|-------|--------|
|  | kot   | koty   |
|  | kota  | kotów  |
|  | kotu  | kotom  |
|  | kota  | koty   |
|  | kotem | kotami |
|  | kocie | kotach |
|  | kocie | koty   |

**dzień** *day* (soft-stem with mobile e)

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| N | dzień  | dni(e) |
| G | dnia   | dni    |
| D | dniowi | dniom  |
| A | dzień  | dni(e) |
| I | dniem  | dniами |
| L | dniu   | dniach |
| V | dniu   | dni(e) |

**tydzień** *week* (soft-stem, irregular stem)

|  |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
|  | tydzień   | tygodnie   |
|  | tygodnia  | tygodni    |
|  | tygodniu  | tygodniom  |
|  | tydzień   | tygodnie   |
|  | tygodniem | tygodniami |
|  | tygodniu  | tygodniach |
|  | tygodniu  | tygodnie   |

**rok** *year* (exceptional plural)

|   |        |             |
|---|--------|-------------|
| N | rok    | lata        |
| G | roku   | lat         |
| D | rokowi | latom       |
| A | rok    | lata        |
| I | rokiem | laty (-ami) |
| L | roku   | latach      |
| V | roku   | lata        |

**miesiąc** *month* (irregular Gpl.)

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
|  | miesiąc    | miesiące   |
|  | miesiąca   | miesięcy   |
|  | miesiącowi | miesiącom  |
|  | miesiąc    | miesiące   |
|  | miesiącem  | miesiącami |
|  | miesiącu   | miesiącach |
|  | miesiącu   | miesiące   |

## Masculine Personal

**student** *student* (masc. personal)

|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| N | student    | studenci   |
| G | studenta   | studentów  |
| D | studentowi | studentom  |
| A | studenta   | studentów  |
| I | studentem  | studentami |
| L | studencie  | studentach |
| V | studencie  | studenci   |

**lekarz** *doctor* (m. pers. soft stem)

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
|  | lekarz    | lekarze   |
|  | lekarza   | lekarzy   |
|  | lekarzowi | lekarzom  |
|  | lekarza   | lekarzy   |
|  | lekarzem  | lekarzami |
|  | lekarzu   | lekarzach |
|  | lekarzu   | lekarze   |

**brat** *brother* (special declension)

|   |        |         |
|---|--------|---------|
| N | brat   | bracia  |
| G | brata  | braci   |
| D | bratu  | braciom |
| A | brata  | braci   |
| I | bratem | braćmi  |
| L | bracie | bratach |
| V | bracie | bracia  |

**mąż** *husband* (masc. pers.)

|  |        |         |
|--|--------|---------|
|  | mąż    | mężowie |
|  | męża   | mężów   |
|  | mężowi | mężom   |
|  | męża   | mężów   |
|  | mężem  | mężami  |
|  | mężu   | mężach  |
|  | mężu   | mężowie |

**przyjaciel** *friend* (masc. pers. special decl.)

|   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| N | przyjaciel    | przyjaciele   |
| G | przyjaciela   | przyjaciół    |
| D | przyjacielowi | przyjaciołom  |
| A | przyjaciela   | przyjaciół    |
| I | przyjacielem  | przyjaciółmi  |
| L | przyjacielu   | przyjaciołach |
| V | przyjacielu   | przyjaciele   |

**syn** *son* (masc. pers. special decl.)

|  |        |         |
|--|--------|---------|
|  | syn    | synowie |
|  | syna   | synów   |
|  | synowi | synom   |
|  | syna   | synów   |
|  | synem  | synami  |
|  | synu   | synach  |
|  | synu   | synowie |

**człowiek** *man* (suppletive pl.)

|   |             |          |
|---|-------------|----------|
| N | człowiek    | ludzie   |
| G | człowieka   | ludzi    |
| D | człowiekowi | ludziom  |
| A | człowieka   | ludzi    |
| I | człowiekiem | ludźmi   |
| L | człowieku   | ludziach |
| V | człowieku   | ludzie   |

**ojciec** *father* (irregular stem, Dsg., Vsg.)

|  |        |         |
|--|--------|---------|
|  | ojciec | ojcowie |
|  | ojca   | ojców   |
|  | ojcu   | ojcom   |
|  | ojca   | ojców   |
|  | ojcem  | ojcami  |
|  | ojcu   | ojcach  |
|  | ojcze  | ojcowie |

## FEMININE NOUNS:

**kobieta** *woman* (fem. hard-stem)

|   |          |           |
|---|----------|-----------|
| N | kobieta  | kobiety   |
| G | kobiety  | kobiet    |
| D | kobiecie | kobietom  |
| A | kobietę  | kobiety   |
| I | kobiętą  | kobietami |
| L | kobiecie | kobietach |
| V | kobieto  | kobiety   |

**ulica** *street* (fem. soft-stem)

|  |       |         |
|--|-------|---------|
|  | ulica | ulice   |
|  | ulicy | ulic    |
|  | ulicy | ulicom  |
|  | ulicę | ulice   |
|  | ulicą | ulicami |
|  | ulicy | ulicach |
|  | ulico | ulice   |

**noga** *leg, foot* (velar-stem)

|   |         |        |
|---|---------|--------|
| N | noga    | nogi   |
| G | kobiety | nóg    |
| D | nodze   | nogom  |
| A | nogę    | nogi   |
| I | nogą    | nogami |
| L | nodze   | nogach |
| V | nogo    | nogi   |

**ręka** *hand, arm* (velar-stem, irreg. pl.)

|  |             |        |
|--|-------------|--------|
|  | ręka        | ręce   |
|  | ręki        | rąk    |
|  | ręce        | rękom  |
|  | rękę        | ręce   |
|  | ręką        | rękami |
|  | ręce (ręku) | rękach |
|  | ręko        | ręce   |

**rzeka** *river* (velar stem)

|   |       |         |
|---|-------|---------|
| N | rzeka | rzeki   |
| G | rzeki | rzek    |
| D | rzece | rzekom  |
| A | rzekę | rzeki   |
| I | rzeką | rzekami |
| L | rzece | rzekach |
| V | rzeko | rzeki   |

**kość** *bone* (fem. in -0)

|   |        |          |
|---|--------|----------|
| N | kość   | kości    |
| G | kości  | kości    |
| D | kości  | kościom  |
| A | kość   | kości    |
| I | kością | kościami |
| L | kości  | kościach |
| V | kości  | kości    |

**noc** *night* (fem. in -0)

|  |      |        |
|--|------|--------|
|  | noc  | noce   |
|  | nocy | nocy   |
|  | nocy | nocom  |
|  | noc  | noce   |
|  | nocą | nocami |
|  | nocy | nocach |
|  | nocy | noce   |

**gospodynī** *landlay* (fem. in -i)

|  |            |              |
|--|------------|--------------|
|  | gospodynī  | gospodynīe   |
|  | gospodynī  | gospodynī    |
|  | gospodynī  | gospodynīom  |
|  | gospodynīę | gospodynīe   |
|  | gospodynīą | gospodynīami |
|  | gospodynī  | gospodynīach |
|  | gospodynī  | gospodynīe   |

## NEUTER NOUNS:

**miasto** *town* (neut. hard-stem)

|   |         |          |
|---|---------|----------|
| N | miasto  | miasta   |
| G | miasta  | miast    |
| D | miastu  | miastom  |
| A | miasto  | miasta   |
| I | miastem | miastami |
| L | mieście | miastach |
| V | miasto  | miasta   |

**oko** *eye* (neut., unique pl.)

|   |       |        |
|---|-------|--------|
| N | oko   | oczy   |
| G | oka   | oczu   |
| D | oku   | oczom  |
| A | oko   | oczy   |
| I | okiem | oczami |
| L | oku   | oczach |
| V | oko   | oczy   |

**muzeum** *museum* (-um type)

|   |        |         |
|---|--------|---------|
| N | muzeum | muzea   |
| G | muzeum | muzeów  |
| D | muzeum | muzeom  |
| A | muzeum | muzea   |
| I | muzeum | muzeami |
| L | muzeum | muzeach |
| V | muzeum | muzea   |

**zdanie** *opinion* (neut. soft-stem)

|  |         |          |
|--|---------|----------|
|  | zdanie  | zdania   |
|  | zdania  | zdań     |
|  | zdaniu  | zdaniom  |
|  | zdanie  | zdania   |
|  | zdaniem | zdaniami |
|  | zdaniu  | zdaniach |
|  | zdanie  | zdania   |

**uchō** *eye* (neut., unique pl.)

|  |       |        |
|--|-------|--------|
|  | uchō  | uszy   |
|  | ucha  | usu    |
|  | uchu  | uszom  |
|  | UCHO  | uszy   |
|  | uchem | uszami |
|  | uchu  | uszach |
|  | UCHO  | uszy   |

**dziecko** *child* (neuter, unique pl.)

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
|  | dziecko   | dzieci    |
|  | dziecka   | dzieci    |
|  | dziecku   | dzieciom  |
|  | dziecko   | dzieci    |
|  | dzieckiem | dziećmi   |
|  | dziecku   | dzieciach |
|  | dziecko   | dzieci    |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>zwierzę</b> <i>animal</i> (-ę -ęcia type) | <b>imię</b> <i>first name</i> (-ę -enia type) |
| N <b>zwierzę</b>                             | <b>imię</b>                                   |
| G <b>zwierzęcia</b>                          | <b>imienia</b>                                |
| D <b>zwierzęciu</b>                          | <b>imieniu</b>                                |
| A <b>zwierzę</b>                             | <b>imię</b>                                   |
| I <b>zwierzęiem</b>                          | <b>imieniem</b>                               |
| L <b>zwierzęciu</b>                          | <b>imieniu</b>                                |
| V <b>zwierzę</b>                             | <b>imię</b>                                   |

#### DAYS OF THE WEEK

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>poniedziałek</b> <i>Monday</i> . | <b>w poniedziałek</b> <i>on Monday</i> |
| <b>wtorek</b> <i>Tuesday</i>        | <b>we wtorek</b> <i>on Tuesday</i>     |
| <b>środa</b> <i>Wednesday</i>       | <b>w środę</b> <i>on Wednesday</i>     |
| <b>czwartek</b> <i>Thursday</i>     | <b>w czwartek</b> <i>on Thursday</i>   |
| <b>piątek</b> <i>Friday</i>         | <b>w piątek</b> <i>on Friday</i>       |
| <b>sobota</b> <i>Saturday</i>       | <b>w sobotę</b> <i>on Saturday</i>     |
| <b>niedziela</b> <i>Sunday</i>      | <b>w niedzielę</b> <i>on Sunday</i>    |

#### MONTHS

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>styczeń</b> <i>January</i>     | <b>w styczniu</b> <i>in January</i>     |
| <b>luty</b> <i>February</i>       | <b>w lutym</b> <i>in February</i>       |
| <b>marzec</b> <i>March</i>        | <b>w marcu</b> <i>in March</i>          |
| <b>kwiecień</b> <i>April</i>      | <b>w kwietniu</b> <i>in April</i>       |
| <b>maj</b> <i>May</i>             | <b>w maju</b> <i>in May</i>             |
| <b>czerwiec</b> <i>June</i>       | <b>w czerwcu</b> <i>in June</i>         |
| <b>lipiec</b> <i>July</i>         | <b>w lipcu</b> <i>in July</i>           |
| <b>sierpień</b> <i>August</i>     | <b>w sierpniu</b> <i>in August</i>      |
| <b>wrzesień</b> <i>September</i>  | <b>w wrześniu</b> <i>in September</i>   |
| <b>październik</b> <i>October</i> | <b>w październiku</b> <i>in October</i> |
| <b>listopad</b> <i>November</i>   | <b>w listopadzie</b> <i>in November</i> |
| <b>grudzień</b> <i>December</i>   | <b>w grudniu</b> <i>in December</i>     |

#### COMPASS DIRECTIONS

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>północ</b> <i>north</i>   | <b>na północy</b> <i>in the north</i>  |
| <b>wschód</b> <i>east</i>    | <b>na wschodzie</b> <i>in the east</i> |
| <b>południe</b> <i>south</i> | <b>na południu</b> <i>in the south</i> |
| <b>zachód</b> <i>west</i>    | <b>na zachodzie</b> <i>in the west</i> |

## PRONOUNS

### PERSONAL PRONOUNS

|                     |                                  |                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| singular:           | plural:                          | also:              |
| <b>ja I</b>         | <b>my we</b>                     | <b>co what</b>     |
| <b>ty you (sg.)</b> | <b>wy you (pl.)</b>              | <b>nic nothing</b> |
| <b>on he</b>        | <b>oni they (masc. pers.)</b>    | <b>kto who</b>     |
| <b>ona she</b>      | <b>one they (non-masc.pers.)</b> | <b>nikt no one</b> |
| <b>ono it</b>       |                                  |                    |

The pronoun **oni** is used for both all-male and mixed male and female groups; **one** is used for groups not containing any male persons. Personal pronouns, especially first- and second-person pronouns, are normally not used as the subjects of verbs unless they are emphasized; hence one usually says **robię I do** instead of **ja robię I do**. The pronoun **kto** always takes masculine agreement: **Kto jest głodny? Who is hungry.** The pronouns **nic** and **nikt** take a negative verb: **Nic nie rozumiem. I don't understand anything.** **Nikt tu nie mieszka. No one lives here.**

Pronouns of polite, formal address:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| singular:   | plural:                                    |
| <b>pan sir, you, Mr.</b>                          | <b>panowie sirs, you (masc. pers. pl.)</b> |
| <b>pani madam, you,</b>                           | <b>panie madams, you (fem. pl.)</b>        |
| <i>Mrs., Miss, Ms.</i>                            |  |
| <b>państwo ladies and gentlemen, Mr. and Mrs.</b> |  |

The pronouns of polite, formal address show respect and distance. They are used when addressing a stranger, a person one does not know well, or a person of authority or status. The informal **ty you** (plural **wy**), conveys friendliness, closeness and familiarity. They are used to address family members, pets, and close friends. Its use with strangers or superiors is apt to sound rude.

CASE FORMS OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS. Personal pronouns show a full range of case forms, summarized in the following chart. Longer forms **jego, jemu ciebie, tobie, mnie** are emphatic, and occur automatically after prepositions. Also after a preposition, forms beginning in **i** or **j** lose **j** and take a preceding **ni-**: **bez + jej = bez niej, dla + ich = dla nich.**

| Nominative         | Genitive                | Dative         | Accusative    | Instrumental  | Locative      |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>co what</b>     | <b>czego</b>            | <b>czemu</b>   | <b>co</b>     | <b>czym</b>   | <b>czym</b>   |
| <b>kto who</b>     | <b>kogo</b>             | <b>komu</b>    | <b>kogo</b>   | <b>kim</b>    | <b>kim</b>    |
| <b>nic nothing</b> | <b>nic,<br/>niczego</b> | <b>niczemu</b> | <b>nic</b>    | <b>niczym</b> | <b>niczym</b> |
| <b>nikt no one</b> | <b>nikogo</b>           | <b>nikomu</b>  | <b>nikogo</b> | <b>nikim</b>  | <b>nikim</b>  |

|                                  |                       |                       |                       |          |         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| <b>ja I</b>                      | mnie                  | mi,<br>mnie           | mnie                  | mna      | mnie    |
| <b>ty you sg</b>                 | ciebie,<br>cię        | ci,<br>tobie          | cie,<br>ciebie        | tobą     | tobie   |
| <b>on he</b>                     | go,<br>jego,<br>niego | mu,<br>jemu,<br>niemu | go,<br>jego,<br>niego | nim      | nim     |
| <b>ono it</b>                    | go,<br>jego,<br>niego | mu,<br>jemu,<br>niemu | je,<br>nie            | nim      | nim     |
| <b>ona she</b>                   | jej,<br>niej          | jej,<br>niej          | ja,<br>nia            | nia      | niej    |
| <b>pan you<br/>m.form.</b>       | pana                  | panu                  | pana                  | panem    | panu    |
| <b>panowie pl. of<br/>pan</b>    | panów                 | panom                 | panów                 | panami   | panach  |
| <b>pani you f.form.</b>          | pani                  | pani                  | panią                 | panią    | pani    |
| <b>panie pl. of<br/>pani</b>     | pań                   | paniom                | panie                 | paniami  | paniach |
| <b>państwo you<br/>mp.pl.</b>    | państwa               | państwu               | państw<br>a           | państwem | państwu |
| <b>my we</b>                     | nas                   | nam                   | nas                   | nami     | nas     |
| <b>wy you pl</b>                 | was                   | wam                   | was                   | wami     | was     |
| <b>oni they m.p.pl.</b>          | ich,<br>nich          | im,<br>nim            | ich,<br>nich          | nimi     | nich    |
| <b>one they non-<br/>m.p.pl.</b> | ich,<br>nich          | im,<br>nim            | je,<br>nie            | nimi     | nich    |
| <b>reflexive</b>                 | siebie, się           | sobie                 | sie,<br>siebie        | sobą     | sobie   |

**POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS.** Possessive pronouns 'my/mine', 'your/yours', 'our/ours' take a full set of agreeing endings. By contrast, the possessive pronouns 'his', 'her/hers', and 'its' do not take endings. The abbreviation m.p. below means 'masculine personal':

*my, mine*  
sg. **mój** (m.)  
pl. **moi** (m.p.)

**moja** (f.)  
**moje** (f., n.)

**moje (n.)**

*your, yours (informal)*  
sg. **twój** (m.)  
pl. **twoi** (m.p.)

**twoja** (f.)  
**twoje** (f., n.)

**twoje** (n.)

*your, yours (formal)*

sg. **wasz** (m.)  
pl. **wasi** (m.p.)

**wasza** (f.)  
**wasze** (f., n.)

**wasze** (n.)

*our, ours*

sg. **nasz** (m.)  
pl. **nasi** (m.p.)

**nasza** (f.)  
**nasze** (f., n.)

**nasze** (n.)

*its, his*

*her, hers*

*their, theirs*

*your, yours (m. formal)*

*you, yours (f. formal)*

**jego** (no case forms)

**jej** (no case forms)

**ich** (no case forms)

**pana** (no case forms)

**pani** (no case forms)

The reflexive possessive pronoun **swój swoja swoje swoi** *one's own*, with endings like **mój**, is used instead of any of the other possessive pronouns when modifying a noun in the complement of a sentence when the possessor is the subject of the sentence: **On idzie ze swoją narzeczoną** *He is coming with his fiancée*. Here are the complete declensions of **mój moja moje my, mine** and **nasz nasza nasze our(s)**.

### **mój moje moja my, mine**

| masc. | neut. | fem. | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl. |
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|

|                 |               |              |              |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| N <b>mój</b>    | <b>moje</b>   | <b>moja</b>  | <b>moi</b>   | <b>moje</b>  |
| G <b>mojego</b> | <b>mojego</b> | <b>mojej</b> | <b>moich</b> | <b>moich</b> |
| D <b>mojemu</b> | <b>mojemu</b> | <b>mojej</b> | <b>moim</b>  | <b>moim</b>  |
| A ɼN/G          | <b>moje</b>   | <b>moją</b>  | <b>moich</b> | <b>moje</b>  |
| I <b>moim</b>   | <b>moim</b>   | <b>moją</b>  | <b>moimi</b> | <b>moimi</b> |
| L <b>moim</b>   | <b>moim</b>   | <b>mojej</b> | <b>moich</b> | <b>moich</b> |

### **nasz nasze nasza our, ours**

| masc. | neut. | fem. | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl. |
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|

|                  |               |               |                |                |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| N <b>nasz</b>    | <b>nasze</b>  | <b>nasza</b>  | <b>nasi</b>    | <b>nasze</b>   |
| G <b>naszego</b> | <b>nasz</b>   | <b>naszej</b> | <b>naszych</b> | <b>naszych</b> |
| D <b>naszemu</b> | <b>naszem</b> | <b>naszej</b> | <b>naszym</b>  | <b>naszym</b>  |
| A ɼN/G           | <b>nasze</b>  | <b>naszą</b>  | <b>naszych</b> | <b>nasze</b>   |
| I <b>naszym</b>  | <b>naszym</b> | <b>nasz</b>   | <b>naszymi</b> | <b>naszymi</b> |
| L <b>naszym</b>  | <b>naszym</b> | <b>naszej</b> | <b>naszy</b>   | <b>naszych</b> |

## DEMONSTRATIVE AND RELATIVE PRONOUNS

*this*

|                      |                    |                |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| sg. <b>ten</b> (m.)  | <b>ta</b> (f.)     | <b>to</b> (n.) |
| pl. <b>ci</b> (m.p.) | <b>te</b> (f., n.) |                |

*which*

|                          |                       |                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| sg. <b>który</b> (m.)    | <b>która</b> (f.)     | <b>które</b> (n.) |
| pl. <b>którzy</b> (m.p.) | <b>które</b> (f., n.) |                   |

*what*

|                        |                       |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| sg. <b>jaki</b> (m.)   | <b>jaka</b> (f.)      | <b>jakie</b> (n.) |
| pl. <b>jacy</b> (m.p.) | <b>jakie</b> (f., n.) |                   |

Polish does not have indefinite and definite articles analogous to English *a*, *an*, *the*. One concludes from the context whether or not a given noun is definite or indefinite. Thus, **stół** may mean either )a table) or )the table). Demonstrative and relative pronouns have full case-and-number declensions. Here are some illustrations:

**ten to ta this, that**

| masc.         | neut.       | fem.       | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl.  |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| N <b>ten</b>  | <b>to</b>   | <b>ta</b>  | <b>ci</b>      | <b>te</b>   |
| G <b>tego</b> | <b>tego</b> | <b>tej</b> | <b>tych</b>    | <b>tych</b> |
| D <b>temu</b> | <b>temu</b> | <b>tej</b> | <b>tym</b>     | <b>tym</b>  |
| A =N/G        | <b>to</b>   | <b>tę</b>  | <b>tych</b>    | <b>te</b>   |
| I <b>tym</b>  | <b>tym</b>  | <b>tą</b>  | <b>tymi</b>    | <b>tymi</b> |
| L <b>tym</b>  | <b>tym</b>  | <b>tej</b> | <b>tych</b>    | <b>tych</b> |

**który która które which, who**

| masc.            | neut.          | fem.          | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl.     |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| N <b>który</b>   | <b>które</b>   | <b>która</b>  | <b>którzy</b>  | <b>które</b>   |
| G <b>którego</b> | <b>którego</b> | <b>której</b> | <b>których</b> | <b>których</b> |
| D <b>któremu</b> | <b>któremu</b> | <b>której</b> | <b>którym</b>  | <b>którym</b>  |
| A =N/G           | <b>które</b>   | <b>która</b>  | <b>których</b> | <b>którye</b>  |
| I <b>któzym</b>  | <b>któzym</b>  | <b>która</b>  | <b>którymi</b> | <b>którymi</b> |
| L <b>któzym</b>  | <b>któzym</b>  | <b>której</b> | <b>których</b> | <b>których</b> |

**jaki jaka jakie what , what kind**

| masc.            | neut.          | fem.          | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl.    |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| N <b>jaki</b>    | <b>jakie</b>   | <b>jaka</b>   | <b>jacy</b>    | <b>jakie</b>  |
| G <b>jakiego</b> | <b>jakiego</b> | <b>jakiej</b> | <b>jakich</b>  | <b>jakich</b> |
| D <b>jakiemu</b> | <b>jakiemu</b> | <b>jakiej</b> | <b>jakim</b>   | <b>jakim</b>  |
| A =N/G           | <b>jakie</b>   | <b>jaką</b>   | <b>jakich</b>  | <b>jakie</b>  |
| I <b>jakim</b>   | <b>jakim</b>   | <b>jaką</b>   | <b>jakimi</b>  | <b>jakimi</b> |
| L <b>jakim</b>   | <b>jakim</b>   | <b>jakiej</b> | <b>jakich</b>  | <b>jakich</b> |

## INTENSIVE PRONOUN

**sam samo sama** *self, same, very*

| masc. | neut. | fem. | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl. |
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|

|          |        |       |        |        |
|----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| N sam    | samo   | sama  | sami   | same   |
| G samego | samego | samej | samych | samych |
| D samemu | samemu | samej | samym  | samym  |
| A =N/G   | samo   | samą  | samych | same   |
| I samym  | samym  | samą  | samymi | samymi |
| L samym  | samym  | samej | samych | samych |

The intensive pronoun is used in expressions like the following:

Czy robisz **to sam?** *Are you doing that yourself?*

Czy mieszkasz **sama?** *Do you live alone?*-

To jest ten sam człowiek. *That is the same man.*

## DISTRIBUTIVE PRONOUNS

The disbrutive pronoun **każdy każda każde each, every** is matched in the plural by **wszyscy wszystkie all:**

| masc. | neut. | fem. | masc. pers.pl. | other. pl. |
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|
|-------|-------|------|----------------|------------|

|           |         |        |            |            |
|-----------|---------|--------|------------|------------|
| N każdy   | każde   | każda  | wszyscy    | wszystkie  |
| G każdego | każdego | każdej | wszystkich | wszystkich |
| D każdemu | każdemu | każdej | wszystkim  | wszystkim  |
| A =N/G    | każde   | każdą  | wszystkich | wszystkie  |
| I każdym  | każdym  | każdą  | wszystkimi | wszystkimi |
| L każdym  | każdym  | każdej | wszystkich | wszystkich |

The negative of **każdy -a -e** is **żaden żadna żadne no, none, not any, always** accompanied by **nie**:

Każdy stół jest zajęty. *Every table is occupied.*

Żaden stół nie jest zajęty. *No table is occupied.*

## REFLEXIVE PRONOUN

The reflexive pronoun means 'oneself', 'each other', 'one another', as in

Rozmawiają ze sobą. *They are talking with one another.*

Nie zapominaj o sobie. *Don't forget about yourself.*

This pronoun has no Nominative case form.

G siebie, się

D sobie

A siebie, się

I sobą

L sobie

## ADJECTIVES

Adjectives have different gender-forms corresponding to the genders of nouns, as well as a full set of case endings. The masculine singular ending is **-y**, as in **dobry** *good*, **ładny**, *pretty*, **miły** *nice, kind*. This ending is spelled **-i** after **k** and **g**: **wielki** *great*, **drogi** *dear, expensive*. The feminine singular ending is **-a**, as in **dobra**, **ładna**, **miła**. The neuter singular ending is **-e**, as in **dobre**, **ładne**, **miłe**, spelled **-ie** after **k** and **g**: **wielkie**, **drogie**. The masculine personal plural ending is **-y/i**, before which a hard-to-soft consonant change occurs: **dobrzy**, **ładni**, **mili**, **wielcy**, **drodzy**. The feminine and neuter plural ending is **-e (-ie)**, for example **dobre**, **ładne**, **miłe**, **wielkie**, **drogie**. Hence, one says:

**dobry chłopiec** *good boy*  
**dobra dziewczyna** *good girl*  
**dobre dziecko** *good child*  
**dobrzy mężczyźni** *good men*  
**dobre kobiety** *good women*.

Here is the adjective **dobry** *good* declined in all gender, number, and case forms:

masc.            neut.            fem.            masc. pers. pl.    other pl.

|                  |                |               |                |                |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| NV <b>dobry</b>  | <b>dobre</b>   | <b>dobra</b>  | <b>dobrzy</b>  | <b>dobre</b>   |
| G <b>dobrego</b> | <b>dobrego</b> | <b>dobrej</b> | <b>dobrych</b> | <b>dobrych</b> |
| D <b>dobremu</b> | <b>dobremu</b> | <b>dobrej</b> | <b>dobrym</b>  | <b>dobrym</b>  |
| A =N/G           | <b>dobre</b>   | <b>dobra</b>  | <b>dobrych</b> | <b>dobre</b>   |
| I <b>dobrym</b>  | <b>dobrym</b>  | <b>dobra</b>  | <b>dobrymi</b> | <b>dobrymi</b> |
| L <b>dobrym</b>  | <b>dobrym</b>  | <b>dobrej</b> | <b>dobrych</b> | <b>dobrych</b> |

Here is the adjective **drogi** *dear, expensive*:

masc.            neut.            fem.            masc. pers. pl.    other pl.

|                   |                 |                |                |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| NV <b>drogi</b>   | <b>drogie</b>   | <b>droga</b>   | <b>drodzy</b>  | <b>drogie</b>  |
| G <b>drogiego</b> | <b>drogiego</b> | <b>drogiej</b> | <b>drogich</b> | <b>drogich</b> |
| D <b>drogiemu</b> | <b>drogiemu</b> | <b>drogiej</b> | <b>drogim</b>  | <b>drogim</b>  |
| A =N/G            | <b>drogie</b>   | <b>droga</b>   | <b>drogich</b> | <b>drogie</b>  |
| I <b>drogim</b>   | <b>drogim</b>   | <b>droga</b>   | <b>drogimi</b> | <b>drogimi</b> |
| L <b>drogim</b>   | <b>drogim</b>   | <b>drogiej</b> | <b>drogich</b> | <b>drogich</b> |

**ADJECTIVE-NOUN ORDER.** As in English, Polish adjectives are usually placed before the modified noun: **pracowity urzędnik** *hard-working clerk*, **ciężka walizka** *heavy suitcase*, **wysokie drzewo** *tall tree*. However, if the adjective designates the type of a thing, rather than some characteristic, the adjective often goes behind the noun: **Bank Handlowy Trade Bank**, **roślina wodna** *aquatic plant*. Adjectives may also follow the noun in set expressions like **dzień dobry** *hello*, **język polski** *the Polish language*.

**COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES.** Comparative forms of adjectives are obtained by adding the suffix **-szy** (masculine), **-sza** (feminine), and **-sze** (neuter) to the adjective

stem. The superlative form is created by adding the prefix **naj-**. Comparative and superlative adjectives take a full set of endings, like any adjectives.

**milny** *nice, kind*

|              |               |               |                  |                |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| masc.:       | <b>milszy</b> | <i>kinder</i> | <b>najmilszy</b> | <i>kindest</i> |
| fem.:        | <b>milsza</b> |               | <b>najmilsza</b> |                |
| neut.:       | <b>milsze</b> |               | <b>najmilsze</b> |                |
| pl. (m.p.)   | <b>milsi</b>  |               | <b>najmilsi</b>  |                |
| pl. (f., n.) | <b>milsze</b> |               | <b>najmilsze</b> |                |

Adjectives ending in consonants plus **-ny** use the suffix **-iejszy**:

**ładny** *pretty*

|            |                   |                   |                      |                  |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| masc.:     | <b>ładniejszy</b> | <i>prettier</i> , | <b>najładniejszy</b> | <i>prettiest</i> |
| and so on. |                   |                   |                      |                  |

Irregular: **dobry** *good*, **lepszy** *better*, **najlepszy** *best*; **zły** *bad*, **gorszy** *worse*, **najgorszy** *worst*.

ADJECTIVES, OPPOSITES, AND COMPARATIVES. Here is a list of common adjectives, arranged into pairs of opposites. To the right are given the comparative forms, meaning 'prettier', 'uglier', 'larger', etc. The abbreviation **b.** stands for **bardziej**.

|                  | positive:                | comparatives:                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| beautiful, ugly  | <b>piękny, brzydki</b>   | <b>piękniejszy, brzydszy</b>           |
| big, little      | <b>duży, mały</b>        | <b>większy, mniejszy</b>               |
| clean, dirty     | <b>czysty, brudny</b>    | <b>czystszy, brudniejszy</b>           |
| deep, shallow    | <b>głęboki, płytka</b>   | <b>głębabszy, płytbszy</b>             |
| dense, sparse    | <b>gęsty, rzadki</b>     | <b>gęstszy, rzadszy</b>                |
| diligent, lazy   | <b>pracowity, leniwy</b> | <b>bardziej pracowity, b. leniwy</b>   |
| dry, wet         | <b>suchy, mokry</b>      | <b>bardziej suchy, mokrzej</b>         |
| early, late      | <b>wczesny, późny</b>    | <b>wczesniejszy, późniejszy</b>        |
| easy, hard       | <b>łatwy, trudny</b>     | <b>łatwiejszy, trudniejszy</b>         |
| expensive, cheap | <b>drogi, tani</b>       | <b>droższy, tańszy</b>                 |
| far, near        | <b>daleki, bliski</b>    | <b>dalszy, bliższy</b>                 |
| fast, slow       | <b>szynki, wolny</b>     | <b>szysbszy, wolniejszy</b>            |
| first, last      | <b>pierwszy, ostatni</b> | <b>(no comparative)</b>                |
| flat, steep      | <b>płaski, stromy</b>    | <b>bardziej płaski, b. stromy</b>      |
| free, busy       | <b>wolny, zajęty</b>     | <b>(no comparative)</b>                |
| frequent, rare   | <b>częsty, rzadki</b>    | <b>częstszy (częściejszy), rzadszy</b> |
| full, empty      | <b>pełny, pusty</b>      | <b>pełniejszy, bardziej pusty</b>      |
| funny, sad       | <b>śmieszny, smutny</b>  | <b>śmiesznieszy, smutniejszy</b>       |
| good, bad        | <b>dobry, zły</b>        | <b>lepszy, gorszy</b>                  |
| great, small     | <b>wielki, mały</b>      | <b>większy, mniejszy</b>               |
| happy, sad       | <b>wesoły, smutny</b>    | <b>weselszy, smutniejszy</b>           |
| hard, soft       | <b>twardy, miękki</b>    | <b>twardszy, miększy</b>               |
| heavy, light     | <b>ciężki, lekki</b>     | <b>cięższy, lżejszy</b>                |
| high, low        | <b>wysoki, niski</b>     | <b>wyższy, niższy</b>                  |

|                     |                       |                                  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| hot, cold           | gorący, zimny         | gorętszy, zimniejszy             |
| interesting, boring | ciekawy, nudny        | ciekawszy, nudniejszy            |
| light, dark         | jasny, ciemny         | jaśniejszy, ciemniejszy          |
| long, short         | długi, krótki         | dłuższy, krótszy                 |
| new, old            | nowy, stary           | nowszy, starszy                  |
| young, old          | młody, stary          | młodszy, starszy                 |
| open, shut          | otwarty, zamknięty    | (no comparative)                 |
| past, future        | przeszły, przyszły    | (no comparative)                 |
| public, private     | publiczny, prywatny   | (no comparative)                 |
| rich, poor          | bogaty, biedny        | bogatszy, biedniejszy            |
| right, correct      | słuszny, błędny       | słuszniejszy, błędniejszy        |
| right (hand)        | prawy, lewy           | (no comparative)                 |
| sharp, dull         | ostry, tępły          | ostrzejszy, bardziej tępły       |
| sick, well          | chory, zdrowy         | bardziej chory, zdrowszy         |
| simple, complex     | prosty, skomplikowany | prostszy, bardziej skomplikowany |
| smart, stupid       | mądry, głupi          | mądrzejszy, głupszy              |
| smooth, rough       | gładki, szorstki      | gładzy, bardziej szorstki        |
| straight, crooked   | prosty, kręty         | prostszy, bardziej kręty         |
| strong, weak        | silny, słaby          | silniejszy, słabszy              |
| sweet, bitter       | słodki, gorzki        | słodszy, bardziej gorzki         |
| sweet, sour         | słodki, kwaśny        | słodszy, kwaśniejszy             |
| tall, short         | wysoki, niski         | wyższy, niższy                   |
| thick or fat, thin  | gruby, cienki         | grubszy, cieńszy                 |
| thick, thin         | gęsty, rzadki         | gęstszy (gęściejszy), rzadszy    |
| urban, rural        | miejski, wiejski      | (no comparative)                 |
| warm, cool          | ciepły, chłodny       | cieplejszy, chłodniejszy         |
| wide, narrow        | szeroki, wąski        | szerszy, węższy.                 |

Many adjective opposites are formed with the prefix **nie-** 'un-':

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| discriminating, undisc.    | wybredny, niewybredny     |
| distinct, indistinct       | wyraźny, niewyraźny       |
| exact, inexact             | ścisły, nieścisły         |
| gracious, ungracious       | łaskawy, niełaskawy       |
| honest, dishonest          | uczciwy, nieuczciwy       |
| intentional, unintentional | umyślny, nieumyślny       |
| interesting, uninteresting | ciekawy, nieciekawy       |
| lucky, unlucky             | szczęśliwy, nieszczęśliwy |
| polite, impolite           | grzeczny, niegrzeczny     |
| and so on.                 |                           |

Adjectives or lesser comparison are created with **mniej** *less* and **najmniej** *least*: **interesujący** *interesting*, **mniej interesujący** *less interesting*, **najmniej interesujący** *least interesting*.

## ADVERBS

Adverbs formed from adjectives end in **-o** or **-e** (**e** preceded by softening), for example **gęsto** *thickly* from **gęsty** *thick*, **tanio** *cheaply* from **tani** *cheap*, **drogo** *dearly* from **drogi** *dear* **dobrze** *well* from **dobry** *good*, **źle** *badly* from **zły** *bad*. Generally speaking, adjectives whose stems end in a soft consonant (see above under Sound Changes) or in **k**, **g**, **ch** take the ending **-o**; most others, especially adjectives with stems ending in a consonant plus **-ny**, take **-e**. However, many or even most common adjectives form adverbs in **-o** regardless of the general pattern. Adverbs have comparative and superlative forms in **'ej** and **naj-** + **'ej**, respectively, as in

**ciepły** *warm*    **ciepło** *warmly*    **cieplej** *more warmly*    **najcieplej** *most warmly*.

Some formations are irregular. Here are the positive and comparative adverbial forms of some common adjectives:

| Adjective                             | Adverb              | Comparative            | Superlative        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>biedny</b> <i>poor</i>             | <b>biednie</b>      | <b>biedniej</b>        | <b>najbiedniej</b> |
| <b>błędny</b> <i>erroneous, wrong</i> | <b>błednie</b>      | <b>błedniej</b>        |                    |
| <b>bliski</b> <i>near</i>             | <b>blisko</b>       | <b>blizej</b>          | etc.               |
| <b>bogaty</b> <i>rich</i>             | <b>bogato</b>       | <b>bogaciej</b>        |                    |
| <b>brudny</b> <i>dirty</i>            | <b>brudno</b>       | <b>brudniej</b>        |                    |
| <b>brzydki</b> <i>ugly</i>            | <b>brzydko</b>      | <b>brzydziej</b>       |                    |
| <b>chłodny</b> <i>cool</i>            | <b>chłodno</b>      | <b>chłodniej</b>       |                    |
| <b>chorzy</b> <i>sick</i>             | <b>choro</b>        | <b>bardziej choro</b>  |                    |
| <b>ciekawy</b> <i>interesting</i>     | <b>ciekawie</b>     | <b>ciekawiej</b>       |                    |
| <b>ciemny</b> <i>dark</i>             | <b>ciemno</b>       | <b>ciemniej</b>        |                    |
| <b>cienki</b> <i>thin</i>             | <b>cienko</b>       | <b>cieniej</b>         |                    |
| <b>ciepły</b> <i>warm</i>             | <b>ciepło</b>       | <b>cieplej</b>         |                    |
| <b>ciężki</b> <i>heavy, difficult</i> | <b>ciężko</b>       | <b>ciężej</b>          |                    |
| <b>częsty</b> <i>frequent</i>         | <b>często</b>       | <b>częściej</b>        |                    |
| <b>czysty</b> <i>clean</i>            | <b>czysto</b>       | <b>czyściej</b>        |                    |
| <b>daleki</b> <i>far, distant</i>     | <b>daleko</b>       | <b>dalej</b>           |                    |
| <b>długi</b> <i>long</i>              | <b>długo</b>        | <b>dłużej</b>          |                    |
| <b>dobry</b> <i>good</i>              | <b>dobrze</b>       | <b>lepiej</b>          |                    |
| <b>drogi</b> <i>dear, expensive</i>   | <b>drogo</b>        | <b>drożej</b>          |                    |
| <b>duży</b> <i>large, big</i>         | <b>dużo</b>         | <b>więcej</b>          |                    |
| <b>gęsty</b> <i>thick</i>             | <b>gęsto</b>        | <b>gęściej</b>         |                    |
| <b>gładki</b> <i>smooth</i>           | <b>gładko</b>       | <b>gładziej</b>        |                    |
| <b>głęboki</b> <i>deep</i>            | <b>głęboko</b>      | <b>głębiej</b>         |                    |
| <b>głupi</b> <i>stupid</i>            | <b>głupio</b>       | <b>głupiej</b>         |                    |
| <b>gorący</b> <i>hot</i>              | <b>gorąco</b>       | <b>gorecej</b>         |                    |
| <b>gorzki</b> <i>bitter</i>           | <b>gorzko</b>       | <b>bardziej gorzko</b> |                    |
| <b>gruby</b> <i>thick, fat</i>        | <b>grubo</b>        | <b>grubiej</b>         |                    |
| <b>jasny</b> <i>clear</i>             | <b>jasno/jaśnie</b> | <b>jaśniej</b>         |                    |
| <b>krótki</b> <i>short</i>            | <b>krótko</b>       | <b>krócej</b>          |                    |
| <b>kwaśny</b> <i>sour</i>             | <b>kwaśnie</b>      | <b>kwaśniej</b>        |                    |
| <b>lekki</b> <i>sour</i>              | <b>lecko</b>        | <b>lżej</b>            |                    |

|                                  |              |                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| leniwy <i>lazy</i>               | leniwie      | leniwiej            |
| łatwy <i>easy</i>                | łatwo        | łatwiej             |
| mały <i>small, little</i>        | mało         | mniej               |
| mądry <i>wise</i>                | mądrze       | mądrzej             |
| miękkii <i>soft</i>              | miękko       | bardziej miękko     |
| młody <i>young</i>               | młodo        | młodziej            |
| mokry <i>wet</i>                 | mokro        | bardziej mokro      |
| niski <i>low, short</i>          | nisko        | niżej               |
| nowy <i>new</i>                  | nowo         | bardziej nowo       |
| nudny <i>boring</i>              | nudno        | nudniej             |
| ostry <i>sharp</i>               | ostro        | ostrej              |
| otwarty <i>open</i>              | otwarcie     | bardziej otwarcie   |
| płaski <i>flat</i>               | płasko       | bardziej płasko     |
| płytki <i>shallow</i>            | płytko       | pływcej             |
| pełny <i>full</i>                | pełno        | pełniej             |
| piękny <i>beautiful</i>          | pięknie      | piękniej            |
| późny <i>late</i>                | późno        | później             |
| pracowity <i>hard-working</i>    | pracowicie   | bardziej pracowicie |
| prosty <i>simple</i>             | prosto       | prościej            |
| prywatny <i>private</i>          | prywatnie    | prywatniej          |
| publiczny <i>public</i>          | publicznie   | publiczniej         |
| pusty <i>empty</i>               | pusto        | puścięj             |
| rzadki <i>rare</i>               | rzadko       | rzadziej            |
| silny <i>strong</i>              | silno/silnie | silniej             |
| słaby <i>weak</i>                | słabo        | słabiej             |
| słodki <i>sweet</i>              | słodko       | bardziej słodko     |
| słuszny <i>right, correct</i>    | słusznie     | słuszniej           |
| smutny <i>sad</i>                | smutno       | smutniej            |
| stary <i>old</i>                 | staro        | starzej             |
| stromy <i>steep</i>              | stromo       | stromiej            |
| suchy <i>dry</i>                 | sucho        | bardziej sucho      |
| szeroki <i>wide</i>              | szeroko      | szerzej             |
| szorstki <i>rough</i>            | szorstko     | bardziej szorstko   |
| szybki <i>quick, fast</i>        | szynko       | szyciej             |
| śmieszny <i>funny, ludicrous</i> | śmiesznie    | śmieszniej          |
| tępy <i>dull</i>                 | tępo         | tępiej              |
| tani <i>cheap</i>                | tanio        | taniej              |
| trudny <i>difficult</i>          | trudno       | trudniej            |
| twardy <i>hard</i>               | twardo       | twardziej           |
| wąski <i>narrow</i>              | wąsko        | wężej               |
| wczesny <i>early</i>             | wczesnie     | wczesniej           |
| wesoły <i>merry, gay, happy</i>  | wesoło       | weselej             |
| wielki <i>great</i>              | wielce       | (więcej)            |
| wolny <i>slow</i>                | wolno        | wolniej             |
| wysoki <i>tall, high</i>         | wysoko       | wyżej               |
| zły <i>bad</i>                   | źle          | gorzej              |
| zdrowy <i>healthy</i>            | zdrowo       | zdrowiej            |
| zimny <i>cold</i>                | zimno        | zimniej             |

It is helpful to think of adjectival adverbs as being the gender-neutral form of the adjective used when there is no specific noun with which the adjective agrees. This includes instances where reference is to the weather or general surroundings:

**Jest tu bardzo duszno.** It's very muggy here.

**Zawsze jest przyjemnie z tobą rozmawiać.** It's always nice to chat with you.

**Łatwiej jest jechać samochodem.** It's easier to go by car.

The verbs **czuć się** feel and **wyglądać** look, appear takes the adverb:

**Bardzo źle się czuję.** I feel very bad.

**Ona wygląda bardzo młodo.** She looks very young.

Words often occurring with comparatives, both adjectival and adverbial, are **jeszcze** even more, **coraz** more and more, and **o wiele** by a lot:

**Ten dom jest duży, ale tamten jest jeszcze większy.** That house is big, but that other one is even bigger.

**Ona wygląda coraz młodziej.** She looks younger and younger.

**Ten nóż jest o wiele ostrzejszy, niż tamten.** That knife is a lot sharper than that other one.

**NON-ADJECTIVAL ADVERBS.** Non-adjectival adverbs play an important role in speech. Here is a list of important non-adjectival adverbs and adverbial phrases:

|                  |                   |                   |                      |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| already          | już               | rather            | dość                 |
| always           | zawsze            | right away        | zaraz, od zaraz, już |
| before, earlier  | przedtem          | since when?       | od kiedy?            |
| everywhere       | wszędzie          | so many, so much  | tyle                 |
| for how long?    | na jak długo?     | somehow           | jakoś                |
| for how much     | za ile            | sometime, once    | kiedyś               |
| for some reason  | z jakiegoś powodu | sometimes         | czasami              |
| for what reason? | po co?            | soon              | niedługo, niebawem   |
| from there       | odtąd             | sooner or later   | przedzej czy później |
| from where?      | skąd?             | still             | jeszcze              |
| hardly ever      | rzadko kiedy      | that way          | tamtedy              |
| here             | tu, tutaj         | then              | wtedy                |
| how              | jak               | then, later       | potem                |
| how come?        | Czemu?            | there             | tam                  |
| how many/much?   | ile?              | this way          | tędy                 |
| how often?       | jak często?       | to here, to there | dotąd                |
| in a moment      | chwileczkę        | too, too much     | zbyt                 |
| never            | nigdy             | usually           | zwykle               |
| no one           | nikt              | what for          | po co                |
| nothing          | nic               | when?             | kiedy?               |
| now              | teraz             | whenever          | kiedykolwiek         |
| nowhere          | nigdzie           | where?            | gdzie?               |
| often            | często            | where to?         | dokąd?               |
| once             | raz, kiedyś       | which way?        | któredu?             |
| rarely           | rzadko            | why?              | dlaczego?            |

Notes:

The negative forms **nigdzie** and **nigdy** require a negated verb:  
**On nigdy mnie nie rozumie.** *He never understands me.*

The adverbs **jeszcze** *still, yet* and **już** *already, yet* function opposite each other, according to whether or not they are negated:

**Czy jeszcze pracujesz?** *Are you still working?*  
**Nie, już nie pracuję.** *No, I'm not working any more.*

**Czy już jesteś gotowy?** *Are you ready yet?*  
**Nie jeszcze nie jestem gotowy.** *No, I'm not ready yet.*

Similarly, **dość** *rather* and **nie zbyt** *not too often* work opposite each other:

**Ona jest dość miła.** *She is rather nice.*  
**Ona nie jest zbyt miła.** *She is not especially nice.*

## NUMERALS

CARDINAL NUMERALS. The Polish numeral system strikes most people by its complexity. The number 1 takes the same endings as **ten** **ta** to *this/that*, hence **jeden koń** *one horse*, **jedna krowa** *one cow*, **jedno drzewo** *one tree*. In Nominative-case uses the numbers 2 (**dwa**, f. **dwie**, mp **dwaj**), 3 (**trzy**, mp **tzej**), 4 (**cztery**, mp **czterej**) take the plural of the noun: **dwa konie** *two horses*, **dwie krowy** *two cows*, **cztery drzewa** *four trees*, **dwaj chłopcy** *two boys*.

|   | m./n. fem.    | male                          | male examples:   |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 2 | <b>dwa</b>    | <b>dwie</b> <b>dwaj/dwóch</b> | <b>dwaj mężczyźni /dwóch mężczyzn</b> <i>2 men</i>       |
| 3 | <b>trzy</b>   | <b>trzej/trzech</b>           | <b>trzej urzędnicy/trzech urzędników</b> <i>3 clerks</i> |
| 4 | <b>cztery</b> | <b>czterej/czterech</b>       | <b>czterej chłopcy/czterech chłopców</b> <i>4 boys</i> . |

Numbers five and above are followed by the Genitive plural of the counted noun, as though one were saying ‘five of horses,’ and so on. See **pięć koni** *five horses*, **sześć krów** *six cows*, **siedem zesztów** *seven notebooks*. The male versions of numbers 5 and above end in **-u**:

|    | masc.-fem.-neut. | males             | male examples:                              |
|----|------------------|-------------------|---|
| 5  | <b>pięć</b>      | <b>pięciu</b>     | <b>pięciu mężczyzn</b> <i>5 men</i>         |
| 10 | <b>dziesięć</b>  | <b>dziesięciu</b> | <b>dziesięciu chłopców</b> <i>10 boys</i> . |

|    |                                     |                      |  |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 0  | <b>zero</b>                         | <b>26</b>            | <b>dwendzieścia sześć</b>              |
| 1  | <b>jeden</b>                        | <b>27</b>            | <b>dwendzieścia siedem</b>             |
| 2  | <b>dwa, f. dwie</b>                 | <b>28</b>            | <b>dwendzieścia osiem</b>              |
| 3  | <b>trzy</b>                         | <b>29</b>            | <b>dwendzieścia dziewięć</b>           |
| 4  | <b>cztery</b>                       | <b>30</b>            | <b>trzydzięści trzydziestu</b>         |
| 5  | <b>pięć pięciu</b>                  | <b>40</b>            | <b>czterdzięści czterdziestu</b>       |
| 6  | <b>sześć sześciu</b>                | <b>50</b>            | <b>pięćdziesiąt pięćdziesięciu</b>     |
| 7  | <b>siedem siedmiu</b>               | <b>60</b>            | <b>sześćdziesiąt sześćdziesięciu</b>   |
| 8  | <b>osiem ósmiu</b>                  | <b>70</b>            | <b>siedemdziesiąt siedemdziesięciu</b> |
| 9  | <b>dzieięć dziewięciu</b>           | <b>80</b>            | <b>osiemdziesiąt osiemdziesięciu</b>   |
| 10 | <b>dziesięć dziesięciu</b>          | <b>90</b>            | <b>dzieięćdziesiąt -dziesięciu</b>     |
| 11 | <b>jedenaście jedenastu</b>         | <b>100</b>           | <b>sto stu</b>                         |
| 12 | <b>dwanaście dwunastu</b>           | <b>200</b>           | <b>dwieście dwustu</b>                 |
| 13 | <b>trzynaście trzynastu</b>         | <b>300</b>           | <b>trzysta trzystu</b>                 |
| 14 | <b>czternaście czternastu</b>       | <b>400</b>           | <b>czterysta czterystu</b>             |
| 15 | <b>piętnaście piętnastu</b>         | <b>500</b>           | <b>pięćset pięciuset</b>               |
| 16 | <b>szesnaście szesnastu</b>         | <b>600</b>           | <b>sześćset sześciuset</b>             |
| 17 | <b>siedemnaście siedemnastu</b>     | <b>700</b>           | <b>siedemset siedmuset</b>             |
| 18 | <b>osiemnaście osiemnastu</b>       | <b>800</b>           | <b>osiemset osiemset</b>               |
| 19 | <b>dzieciętnaście dziewiętnastu</b> | <b>900</b>           | <b>dziecięciestem dziewięciuset</b>    |
| 20 | <b>dwendzieścia dwudziestu</b>      | <b>1000</b>          | <b>tysiąc</b>                          |
| 21 | <b>dwendzieścia jeden</b>           | <b>10,000</b>        | <b>dziesięć tysięcy</b>                |
| 22 | <b>dwendzieścia dwa</b>             | <b>1,000,000</b>     | <b>milion</b>                          |
| 23 | <b>dwendzieścia trzy</b>            | <b>1,000,000,000</b> | <b>miliard</b>                         |
| 24 | <b>dwendzieścia cztery</b>          |                      |  |
| 25 | <b>dwendzieścia pięć</b>            |                      |  |

When enumerating a series, the word **raz** *once* is used instead of **jeden**: **raz**, **dwa**, **trzy**, etc.

**COMPOUND NUMBERS.** Compound numerals follow the lead of the final number. Numbers ending in 2, 3, 4 take the Nominative plural; while numbers ending in 5, 6, 7, 8, 0 take the Genitive plural: **dzwadzieścia trzy zeszyty** 23 *notebooks*, **dzwadzieścia pięć zesztów** 25 *notebook*. Compound numbers ending in 1 always end in **jeden**, no matter what the gender of the noun, and take the Genitive plural: **dzwadzieścia jeden zeszytów** 21 *notebooks*. One does not often use **dwaj**, **trzej**, **czterej** in compound numerals; hence **dzwudziestu dwóch chłopców**, not usually **dzwadzieścia dwaj chłopcy**.

**CARDINAL NUMERAL DECLENSION.** The number one, **jeden jedna jedno**, is declined like a pronominal adjective. It agrees with the modified noun in gender, number, and case: **jeden kot** *one cat*, Gsg. **jednego kota**; **jedno dziecko** *one child*, Gsg. **jednego dziecka**; **jedna krowa** *one cow*, Gsg. **jednej krowy**; and so on. The plural form **jedne** is used with plural-only nouns: **jedne drzwi** *one door*. The word **jeden jedna jedno** is also used in the sense ‘a certain’: **jeden człowiek** *a certain man*.

### 3. Numbers 2, 3, 4, ‘both’

**dwa, f. dwie two**

**trzy three**

|    | M., N.       | F.                     | M.p.pl.      | M., N., F.     | M.p.pl.       |
|----|--------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| NV | <b>dwa</b>   | <b>dwie</b>            | <b>dwaj</b>  | NV <b>trzy</b> | <b>trzej</b>  |
| GL |              | <b>dwoch, dwu</b>      |              | GL             | <b>trzech</b> |
| D  |              | <b>dwom, dwóm, dwu</b> |              | D              | <b>trzem</b>  |
| A  | <b>dwa</b>   | <b>dwie</b>            | <b>dwóch</b> | A <b>trzy</b>  | <b>trzech</b> |
| I  | <b>dwoma</b> | ( <b>dwiema</b> )      | <b>dwoma</b> | I              | <b>trzema</b> |

(or, in all Inst. uses, **dwu**)

**cztery four**

**oba both**

|    | M., N., F.    | M.p.pl.         | M., N.         | F.            | M.p.pl.      |
|----|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| NV | <b>cztery</b> | <b>czterej</b>  | NV <b>oba</b>  | <b>obie</b>   | <b>obaj</b>  |
| GL |               | <b>czterech</b> | GL             | <b>obu</b>    |              |
| D  |               | <b>czterem</b>  | D              | <b>obu</b>    |              |
| A  | <b>cztery</b> | <b>czterej</b>  | A <b>oba</b>   | <b>obie</b>   | <b>obu</b>   |
| I  |               | <b>czterema</b> | I <b>oboma</b> | <b>obiema</b> | <b>oboma</b> |

(or, in all Inst. uses, **obu**)

Notes on **dwa, trzy, cztery, oba**:

- a. The forms **dwaj, trzej, czterej** are male-only forms, as are the Accusatives **dwóch, trzech, czterech, obu**. When referring to male-female combinations, the collective numeral is commonly used; see further below.
- b. The form **dwu** is a possible form in the GDLI, and it is optional in the Accusative of masc. persons alongside **dwóch**.
- c. **dwom** is the recommended written Dative form of **dwa** (in all genders), but **dwóm** also frequently occurs, and **dwu** is also acceptable.
- d. **dwiema** and **obiema** are usual in the feminine Instrumental, alongside optional **dwoma, oboma** and **dwu, obu**.
- e. In Nominative-case functions, the forms **dwóch** (or **dwu**), **trzech, czterech** plus the Genitive case may be used as alternatives to **dwaj, trzej, czterej**; hence either **dwaj chłopcy** or **dwóch (dwu) chłopców** *two boys*. The forms **dwaj, trzej, czterej** tend to be used more in writing.
- f. **obydwa obydwie** may be used instead of **oba obie**.

Numbers 5-90

**pięć** *five*

|     |             |                          |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------|
|     | M., N., F.  | M.p.pl.                  |
| NV  | <b>pięć</b> | <b>pięciu</b>            |
| GDL |             | <b>pięciu</b>            |
| A   | <b>pięć</b> | <b>pięciu</b>            |
| I   |             | <b>pięcioma (pięciu)</b> |

Like **pięć** are declined **sześć sześciu** *six*, **siedem siedmiu** *seven*, **osiem ośmiu** *eight*, **dziewięć dziewięciu** *nine*, **dziesięć dziesięciu** *ten*.

**jedenaście** *eleven*

|     |                   |                                |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|
|     | M., N., F.        | M.p.pl.                        |
| NV  | <b>jedenaście</b> | <b>jedenastu</b>               |
| GDL | <b>jedenastu</b>  |                                |
| A   | <b>jedenaście</b> | <b>jedenastu</b>               |
| I   |                   | <b>jedenastoma (jedenastu)</b> |

**dwanaście** *twelve*

|     |                  |                              |
|-----|------------------|------------------------------|
|     | M., N., F.       | M.p.pl.                      |
| NV  | <b>dwanaście</b> | <b>dwunastu</b>              |
| GDL | <b>dwunastu</b>  |                              |
| A   | <b>dwanaście</b> | <b>dwunastu</b>              |
| I   |                  | <b>dwunastoma (dwunastu)</b> |

Note the change of **dwa-** to **dwu-** in oblique case-forms of **dwanaście** (and of **dwadzieścia** *twenty* described below). Like **jedenaście** are declined **trzynaście** *thirteen*, **czternaście** *fourteen*, **piętnaście** *fifteen*, **szesnaście** *sixteen*, **siedemnaście** *seventeen*, **osiemnaście** *eighteen*, **dziewiętnaście** *nineteen*.

**dzwadzieścia** *twenty*

|     |   |                   |            |   |
|-----|---|-------------------|------------|---|
|     | M., N., F.                                  | M.p.pl.           | M., N., F. | M.p.pl.                                     |
| NV  | <b>dzwadzieścia</b>                         | <b>dwudziestu</b> | NV         | <b>trzydzięści</b>                          |
| GDL | <b>dzwudziestu</b>                          |                   | GDL        | <b>trzydziestu</b>                          |
| A   | <b>dzwadzieścia</b>                         | <b>dwudziestu</b> | A          | <b>trzydzięści</b>                          |
| I   | <b>dzwudziestoma</b> ( <b>dzwudziestu</b> ) |                   | I          | <b>trzydziestoma</b> ( <b>trzydziestu</b> ) |

**trzydzięści** *thirty*

Like **trzydzięści** **trzydziestu** is declined **czterdzięści** **czterdziestu** *forty*.

**pięćdziesiąt** *fifty*

|     |   |                       |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
|     | M., N., F.  | M.p.pl.               |
| NV  | <b>pięćdziesiąt</b>                               | <b>pięćdziesięciu</b> |
| GDL |   | <b>pięćdziesięciu</b> |
| A   | <b>pięćdziesiąt</b>                               | <b>pięćdziesięciu</b> |
| I   | <b>pięćdziesięcioma</b> ( <b>pięćdziesięciu</b> ) |                       |

Like **pięćdziesiąt** are declined **sześćdziesiąt** “sześćdziesiąt” **sześćdziesięciu** *sixty*, **siedemdziesiąt** **siedemdziesięciu** *seventy*, **osiemdziesiąt** **osiemdziesięciu** *eighty*, **dziewięćdziesiąt** **dziewięćdziesięciu** *ninety*.

Numbers 100–900.

**sto** *hundred*

|      |            |                               |            |                                     |
|------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
|      | M., N., F. | M.p.pl.                       | M., N., F. | M.p.pl.                             |
| NAV  | <b>sto</b> | <b>stu</b>                    | NAV        | <b>dwieście dwustu</b>              |
| GDIL |            | <b>stu</b> ( <b>I stoma</b> ) | GDIL       | <b>dwustu</b> ( <b>I dwustoma</b> ) |

**dwieście** *two hundred*

**trzysta** *three hundred*

|      |                |                                       |            |   |
|------|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---|
|      | M., N., F.     | M.p.pl.                               | M., N., F. | M.p.pl.                                   |
| NAV  | <b>trzysta</b> | <b>trzystu</b>                        | NAV        | <b>czterysta</b>                          |
| GDIL |                | <b>trzystu</b> ( <b>I trzystoma</b> ) | GDIL       | <b>czterystu</b> ( <b>I czterystoma</b> ) |

The Instrumental forms in **-oma** above are optional alongside forms in **-u**. **Czterysta** has the accent on the first syllable: “CZTE-ry-sta”.

**pięćset** *five hundred*

|      |                |                  |
|------|----------------|------------------|
|      | M., N., F.     | M.p.pl.          |
| NAV  | <b>pięćset</b> | <b>pięciuset</b> |
| GDIL |                | <b>pięciuset</b> |

Note that the I of **pięćset** is not \***pięciomaset**: z **pięciuset** **pasażerami** with *five hundred passengers*. The item **-set** does not trigger stress advancement to the next-to-last syllable; see **pięciuset** “PIEÙ-ciу-set”, **siedemset** “SIE-dem-set”, and so on. Similarly to **pięćset** are declined **sześćset** **sześciuset** *six hundred*, **siedemset** **siedmiuset** *seven hundred*, **osiemset** **ośmiolet** *eight hundred*, **dziewięćset** **dziewięciuset** *nine hundred*.

| <b>tysiąc</b> <i>thousand</i> |                  | <b>milion</b> <i>million</i> |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
|                               | Sg.              | Pl.                          | Sg.              |
| NV                            | <b>tysiąc</b>    | <b>tysiące</b>               | <b>milion</b>    |
| G                             | <b>tysiąca</b>   | <b>tysięcy</b>               | <b>milionu</b>   |
| D                             | <b>tysiącowi</b> | <b>tysiącom</b>              | <b>milionowi</b> |
| A                             | <b>tysiąc</b>    | <b>tysiące</b>               | <b>milion</b>    |
| I                             | <b>tysiącem</b>  | <b>tysiącami</b>             | <b>milionem</b>  |
| L                             | <b>tysiącu</b>   | <b>tysiącach</b>             | <b>milionie</b>  |

Notes on Numbers 5 and above:

- a. With numbers 5-900, the Nominative-case function of masculine-personal gender combinations is expressed with a construction that is identical to the Genitive-Accusative. The ending is always **-u**. The quantified noun occurs in the Gpl., and verb agreement is neuter-singular: **Pięciu chłopców bawiło się.** *Five boys were playing.*
- b. The numbers 1,000, 1,000,000, and so on are declined as regular masculine nouns in both singular and plural, including when reference is to a masculine-personal group: **dwa tysiące zeszytów** *2000 notebooks*, **pięć milionów ludzi** *5,000,000 people*. In oblique cases, **tysiąc** and **milion** as head numerals always take the Gpl.: **Ta książka wyszła w kilku tysiącach egzemplarzy.** *That book came out in several thousand copies-Gpl.*

COLLECTIVE NUMERALS. A set of collective numerals is used to refer to animal young and to mixed male-female groups. Most frequently used are the collective numerals 2-12:

|   |                 |      |                  |                     |      |                     |                     |      |
|---|-----------------|------|------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|---------------------|------|
| 2 | <b>dwoje</b>    | 6    | <b>sześcioro</b> | -rga                | 10   | <b>dziesięcioro</b> | -rga                |      |
| 3 | <b>troje</b>    | -rga | 7                | <b>siedmioro</b>    | -rga | 11                  | <b>jedenaścioro</b> | -rga |
| 4 | <b>czworo</b>   | -rga | 8                | <b>ośmioro</b>      | -rga | 12                  | <b>dwanaścioro</b>  | -rga |
| 5 | <b>pięcioro</b> | -rga | 9                | <b>dziecięcioro</b> | -rga |                     |                     |      |

and so on. See: **pięcioro dzieci** *five children*, **czworo ludzi** *four people*.

Here is the declension of **dwoje** and **pięcioro**:

|    |                 |                    |
|----|-----------------|--------------------|
| NV | <b>dwoje</b>    | <b>pięcioro</b>    |
| G  | <b>dwojga</b>   | <b>pięciorga</b>   |
| D  | <b>dwojgu</b>   | <b>pięciorgu</b>   |
| A  | <b>dwoje</b>    | <b>pięcioro</b>    |
| I  | <b>dwojgiem</b> | <b>pięciorgiem</b> |
| L  | <b>dwojgu</b>   | <b>pięciorgu</b>   |

REIFIED NUMERALS. Reified numerals, which are feminine nouns ending in **-ka**, are used to refer to items by numerical designation:

|   |                |   |                 |    |                   |
|---|----------------|---|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | <b>jedynka</b> | 5 | <b>piątka</b>   | 9  | <b>dziewiątka</b> |
| 2 | <b>dwójka</b>  | 6 | <b>szóstka</b>  | 10 | <b>dziesiątka</b> |
| 3 | <b>trójka</b>  | 7 | <b>siedemka</b> | 11 | <b>jedenastka</b> |
| 4 | <b>czwórka</b> | 8 | <b>ósemka</b>   | 12 | <b>dwunastka</b>  |

and so on. For example, **dziesiątka** could be used to refer to room number 10; a 10-millimeter wrench; a bus number 10; **polska jedenastka** *the Polish eleven* refers to a soccer team; and so on. Reified numerals may be used colloquially in place of collective numerals: **dwójka dzieci** *a couple of kids*.

COUNTING PEOPLE. Of most use is learning to count groups of people in the Nominative case. There are three options: a) the group is all-male; b) the group is all non-male; c) the group is mixed male and female. Here are illustrations with numbers 2 and 5, using **student(ka)**:

|   | All-male   | All non-male          | Mixed Male and Female      |
|---|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 | <b>dwaj studenci</b><br>( <b>dwoch studentów</b> ) | <b>dwie studentki</b> | <b>dwoje studentów</b>     |
| 5 | <b>pięciu studentów</b>                            | <b>pięć studentek</b> | <b>pięcioro studentów.</b> |

ORDINAL NUMBERS. Ordinal numbers are used in telling time, for referring to floors in buildings, and for other things that occur in series. They take regular adjective endings, e.g. **pierwszy pociąg** *1st train*, **pierwsza noc** *1st night*, **pierwsze piętro** *1st floor*. Most important are the ordinal numbers 1st through 31st (this covers all possible days of the month):

|      |                   |      |                             |
|------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 1st  | <b>pierwszy</b>   | 17th | <b>siedemnasty</b>          |
| 2nd  | <b>drugi</b>      | 18th | <b>osiemnasty</b>           |
| 3rd  | <b>trzeci</b>     | 19th | <b>dziewiątnasty</b>        |
| 4th  | <b>czwarty</b>    | 20th | <b>dwudziesty</b>           |
| 5th  | <b>piąty</b>      | 21st | <b>dwudziesty pierwszy</b>  |
| 6th  | <b>szósty</b>     | 22nd | <b>dwudziesty drugi</b>     |
| 7th  | <b>siódmy</b>     | 23rd | <b>dwudziesty trzeci</b>    |
| 8th  | <b>ósmy</b>       | 24th | <b>dwudziesty czwarty</b>   |
| 9th  | <b>dziewiąty</b>  | 25th | <b>dwudziesty piąty</b>     |
| 10th | <b>dziesiąty</b>  | 26th | <b>dwudziesty szósty</b>    |
| 11th | <b>jedenasty</b>  | 27th | <b>dwudziesty siódmy</b>    |
| 12th | <b>dwunasty</b>   | 28th | <b>dwudziesty ósmy</b>      |
| 13th | <b>trzynasty</b>  | 29th | <b>dwudziesty dziewiąty</b> |
| 14th | <b>czternasty</b> | 30th | <b>trzydziesty</b>          |
| 15th | <b>piętnasty</b>  | 31st | <b>trzydziesty pierwszy</b> |
| 16th | <b>szesnasty</b>  |      |                             |

Note that both members of the compound go in the ordinal form, as though one were saying "twentieth first".

Also: **czterdziesty** 40th, **pięćdziesiąty** 50th, **sześćdziesiąty** 60th, **siedemdziesiąty** 70th, **osiemdziesiąty** 80th, **dziewięćdziesiąty** 90th, **setny** 100th, **tysięczny** 1000th.

Among other things, ordinal numerals are used in combination with **godzina hour, o'clock** for telling time: **godzina pierwsza** *one o'clock*; and for giving dates: **pierwszy maja** *the first of May*; see below.

**TIME OF DAY.** One expresses 'at' a given time of day with the preposition **o** plus the Locative case of **godzina hour**, which may be omitted, followed by the ordinal number: **o (godzinie) pierwszej** *at one o'clock*. Minutes after the hour are expressed with the help of **po** plus the Locative case of the hour: **pięć po piątej** *five past five*. Minutes before the hour are expressed with **za** plus the Accusative case of the minutes, followed by the Nominative case of the hour: **za dziesięć siódma** *ten till seven*. Half hours are expressed with **wpół do** *half till* plus the Genitive case of the hour: **wpół do dziewiątej** *half till nine*, 8:30. Quarter-hours may be expressed with **kwadrans**: **kwadrans po trzeciej** 3:15, **za kwadrans czwarta** 3:45. The notions A.M and P.M. are rendered with the phrases **rano** *in the morning*, **po południu** *in the afternoon*, **wieczorem** *in the evening*, and **nocą** *at night*:

*Jest godzina druga po południu. It's 2:00 A.M.*

*Film się zaczyna o siódmej wieczorem. The film begins at 7:00 P.M.*

**DATES.** A date by itself is expressed with the masculine form of the ordinal numeral, followed by the Genitive of the month: **pierwszy maja** *May 1<sup>st</sup>*, **jedenasty grudnia** *December 11<sup>th</sup>*. 'On the date' is expressed by putting the entire expression in the Genitive. If the number is compound (20 or above), both numerals appear in the ordinal form: **dwudziętego drugiego listopada** *on November 21<sup>st</sup>*, **trzydziestego sierpnia** *on August 30<sup>th</sup>*.

**YEARS.** Years are expressed in the following way:

The year itself: **rok tysiąc dziewięćset sześćdziesiąty drugi** 1962.

In the year: **roku tysiąc dziewięćset sześćdziesiątego drugiego** *in 1962*; alternatively: **w roku tysiąc dziewięćset sześćdziesiątym drugim**. One uses the Genitive construction more for historical events. In giving the year of one's birth, one would tend to use the Locative:

**Urodziłem (urodziłam) się w roku tysiąc dziewięćset siedemdziesiątym czwartym.** *I was born in 1974.*

The year 2000 is **rok dwutysięczny**. 2001 is **rok dwa tysiące pierwszy**; and so on.

**EXPRESSING 'HOW OLD'.** In Polish one asks 'How many years do you have?': **Ille masz lat?** (formal, **Ille pan(i) ma lat?** and answers 'I have so many years': **Mam osiemnaście lat.** *I am 18 years old.* **Mam sześćdziesiąt jeden lat.** *I am 61 years old.*

## PREPOSITIONS

The letter next to the preposition refers to the case required on the following noun: G-Genitive D-Dative A-Accusative I-Instrumental L-Locative. Prepositions with optional **e**, as in **bez(e)**, **od(e)**, **pod(e)**, **przez(e)**, and so on, show **e** before certain consonant clusters, especially before the cluster **mn-** in oblique forms of **ja:** **beze mnie** without me, **pode mną** beneath me, and so forth. Here are some common prepositions:

**ENGLISH-TO-POLISH:**

- about **o** +L
- according to **według** +G
- after, along, up to **po** +L
- against, opposed to **przeciw(ko)** +D
- against, up against **o** +A
- alongside, next to **obok** +G
- among **wśród** +G
- around, about **około** +G
- as far as **po** +A
- at **przy** +L, **u** +G, **na** +L
- before, in front of **przed** +I
- besides **oprócz** +G, **poza** +I
- between, among **miedzy** +I
- beyond, behind **za** +I
- despite, in spite of **mimo** +G
- due to, thanks to **dzięki** +D
- during **w czasie** +G, **podczas** +G
- for (the benefit of) **dla** +G
- for, in favor of **za** +I
- for, in exchange for **za** +A
- for (a time) **na** +A
- from, since, than **od(e)** +G
- from, out of **z(e)** +G
- in view of **wobec** +G
- in **w(e)** +L
- instead of **zamiast** +G
- near **blisko** +G
- near, at **przy** +L
- off, down from **z** +G
- on, at **na** +L
- out of, from **z(e)** +G
- over, above **nad(e)** +I
- through, across **przez(e)** +A
- to, until **do** +G
- toward(s) **ku** +D (rare)
- under, beneath **pod(e)** +I
- with, together with **z** +I
- without **bez(e)** +G

**POLISH-TO-ENGLISH**

- bez(e)** +G without
- blisko** +G near
- dla** +G for (the benefit of)
- do** +G to, as far as, until
- dzięki** +D due to, thanks to
- ku** +D rare toward(s)
- miedzy** +I between, among
- mimo** +G despite, in spite of
- na** +A for (a time)
- na** +L on, at
- nad(e)** +I over, above,
- o** +L about
- o** +A against, up against
- obok** +G alongside, next to
- od(e)** +G from, since, than
- około** +G around, about
- oprócz** +G besides
- po** +A as far as, up to
- po** +L after, along
- pod(e)** +I under, beneath
- podczas** +G during
- poza** +I besides, beyond
- przeciw(ko)** +D against, opposed to
- przed(e)** +I before, in front of
- przez(e)** +A through, across, due to
- przy** +L at, near, next to **u** +G, **na** +L at
- przy** +L near, at
- w** +L in, at
- w czasie** +G during
- według** +G according to
- wśród** +G among
- wobec** +G in view of, toward(s)
- z(e)** +G from, out of, off, down from
- z(e)** +I with, together with, along with
- za** +A for, in exchange for
- za** +I beyond, behind, for, in favor of
- zamiast** +G instead of

## PREPOSITIONS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE CASE THEY REQUIRE

+GENITIVE ONLY: Almost all prepositions which take the Genitive case take this case only. Genitive-requiring prepositions include:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>bez(e)</b> <i>without</i>                | <b>mimo</b> <i>despite</i>                                  |
| <b>blisko</b> <i>near</i>                   | <b>naokoło</b> <i>all around</i>                            |
| <b>dla</b> <i>for (the good of)</i>         | <b>naprzeciw(ko)</b> <i>across from</i>                     |
| <b>do</b> <i>to, up to, until</i>           | <b>spośród</b> <i>from among, out of</i>                    |
| <b>dokoła (dookoła)</b> <i>(all) around</i> | <b>u</b> <i>at (someone's), near</i>                        |
| <b>koło</b> <i>around, about</i>            | <b>według</b> <i>according to</i>                           |
| <b>obok</b> <i>next to, alongside</i>       | <b>wobec</b> <i>regarding, in the face of</i>               |
| <b>od(e)</b> <i>from, away from, than</i>   | <b>wokół, wokoło</b> <i>round, about</i>                    |
| <b>oprócz, prócz</b> <i>besides</i>         | <b>wskutek</b> <i>as the result of</i>                      |
| <b>podczas</b> <i>during</i>                | <b>wśród</b> <i>among, in the midst of</i>                  |
| <b>podług</b> <i>according to</i>           | <b>z(e)</b> <i>out of, from, down from, off, because of</i> |
| <b>pośród</b> <i>amongst</i>                | <b>za</b> <i>in the sense during the time or reign of</i>   |

+DATIVE ONLY:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>dzięki</b> <i>thanks to, due to</i> | <b>przeciw, przeciwko</b> <i>against</i> |
| <b>ku</b> <i>toward (infrequent)</i>   | <b>wbrew</b> <i>despite.</i>             |

+ACCUSATIVE ONLY:      **przez(e)** *through, across, by (the agency of).*

+INSTRUMENTAL ONLY:

**poza** *besides,*      **z(e)** *(together) with.*  
The Instrumental preposition **z** is not to be confused with its homonym **z+G** *out of, off.*

+LOCATIVE ONLY:      **przy** *while, during, at, next to.*

+LOCATIVE OR ACCUSATIVE, depending on whether the verb expresses state or motion:

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
|             | +Locative (state):                                   | + Accusative (motion)                    |
| <b>w(e)</b> | <i>in, at</i>  | <i>into (a large area)</i>               |
| <b>na</b>   | <i>on, at</i>  | <i>onto, to (a meeting place)</i>        |
| <b>po</b>   | <i>after, over (the surface of)</i>                  | <i>for, after (to get, fetch), up to</i> |
| <b>o</b>    | <i>about, at (a time), with<br/>a characteristic</i> | <i>against, for (as in 'fight for')</i>  |

+INSTRUMENTAL OR ACCUSATIVE, depending on whether the verb expresses state or motion:

|                 |                                   |   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
|                 | + Instrumental (state):           | + Accusative (motion)                                 |
| <b>pod(e)</b>   | <i>under, beneath, below</i>      | <i>to under, beneath, below, during</i>               |
| <b>przed(e)</b> | <i>before, in front of</i>        | <i>to before, in front of</i>                         |
| <b>nad</b>      | <i>over, above, on top of</i>     | <i>to over, above, on top of</i>                      |
| <b>za</b>       | <i>behind, in back of, beyond</i> | <i>to behind, in back of, beyond, in exchange for</i> |

**między**      *between, among*                          *to between, among.*

The Instrumental-requiring prepositions form Genitive-requiring compounds with **z-**/**s-** to express motion-from: **spod** *from below*, **sprzed** *from in front*, **znad** *from above*,  **zza** *from behind*, **spomiędzy** *from among*.

#### PREPOSITIONS EXPRESSING 'AT', 'TO', 'FROM'

|                                   | location:        | motion to:       | motion from:      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| with people                       | <b>u+G</b>       | <b>do+G</b>      | <b>od(e) +G</b>   |
| with containers                   | <b>w(e) +L</b>   | <b>do+G</b>      | <b>z+G</b>        |
| with surfaces,<br>bodies of water | <b>na+L</b>      | <b>na+A</b>      | <b>z+G</b>        |
|                                   | <b>nad(e) +I</b> | <b>nad(e) +A</b> | <b>znad(e) +G</b> |

Examples:

**u dentysty, do dentysty, od dentysty** *at/to/from the dentist's*

**w biurze, do biura, z biura** *in/to/from the office*

**na koncercie, na koncert, z koncertu** *at /to/from the concert*

**nad morzem, nad morze, nad morza** *at/to/from the sea-side*

#### EXPRESSIONS OF TIME

**rok** (bare Accusative) *for a year ('s length of time).* **Byłem w Polsce jeden rok.** *I was in Poland a year.*

**do roku<sub>1</sub>** (**do+G**) *up to the (specific) year.* **Do zeszłego roku mieszkałem u rodziców.** *Up until last year I lived with my parents.*

**do roku<sub>2</sub>** (**do+G**) *up to a year ('s length of time).* **Dostał do roku więzienia.** *He got up to a year in prison.*

**na rok<sub>1</sub>** (**na+A**) *for a year (looking ahead).* **Wyjeżdżam do Polski na rok.** *I'm going to Poland for a year.*

**na rok<sub>2</sub>** (**na+A**) *exactly a year before.* **Zbieramy się na rok przed obchodami.** *We're gathering a year before the commemoration.*

**o rok** (**o+A**) *by a year.* **Przegapiliśmy jubileusz o cały rok.** *We missed the anniversary by an entire year.*

**od roku<sub>1</sub>** (**od+G**) *for the year (just past).* **Od roku pracuję jako kelner.** *For the past year I've been working as a waiter.*

**od roku<sub>2</sub>** (**od+G**) *since the (specific) year.* **Pracuję tam od zeszłego roku.** *I've been working there since last year.*

**po roku** (**po+L**) *after a year (usually looking back).* **Po tylko jednym roku mówisz zupełnie dobrze po polsku.** *After only one year you speak Polish quite well.*  
Compare with **za+A.**

**przed rokiem<sub>1</sub>** (**przed+I**) *a year ago.* **Przeprowadziliśmy się tu przed rokiem.** *We moved here a year ago.*

**przed rokiem<sub>2</sub>** (**przed+I**) *before the (specific) year.* **Przed rokiem siedemdziesiątym szóstym nie pracowałem.** *Before 1976 I didn't work.* More or less the equivalent of: **do zeszłego roku** *up to last year.*

**przez rok** (**przez+A**) *through the course of a year.* **Byłem chory przez cały rok.** *I was sick the whole year through.* This construction usually amounts to an emphatic version of the bare Accusative.

**w rok** (**w+A**) *in the space of a year.* **Wszystko zdążyłem zrobić w rok.** *I managed to do everything in the space of a year.* More frequently used in about the same meaning is **w ciągu roku** *in the course of a year.*

**w roku** (**w+L**) *in the (specific) year.* **Mam pojechać do Polski w tym roku.** *I'm supposed to go to Poland this year.*

**za rok** (**za+A**) *after a year (looking ahead).* **Za jeszcze jeden rok będziesz już mówił po polsku zupełnie płynnie.** *After one more year you will speak Polish completely fluently.*

#### POLISH TRANSLATIONS OF 'FOR'

The English preposition *for* has a wide variety of translations into Polish, using various prepositions, several cases, and even the conditional of the verb. The most important correspondences of English *for* are given below:

1. **dla+G** 'for the benefit of': **Czy te kwiaty są dla mnie?** *Are those flowers for me?;* 'easy/hard for': **To łatwe dla mnie.** *That's easy for me.;* 'for the sake of': **sztuka dla sztuki** *art for art's sake.*
2. **za+A** 'in exchange for': **Ile zapłaciłeś za ten zegarek?** *How much did you pay for that watch?, Sprzedałem za grosze.* *I sold it for pennies.;* 'responsible for': **Nie odpowiadam za jego zachowanie.** *I'm not responsible for his behavior; 'in place of': Niech ja to zrobię za ciebie.* *Let me do that for (instead of) you.;* 'on behalf of': **za wolność** *for freedom; 'mistake for': Wziąłem go za lekarza.* *I took him for a doctor. Uchodził za akrystokrata.* *He tried to pass for an aristocrat; 'thank for, ask pardon for': Dziękuję za pomoc.* *Thanks for the help., Przepraszam za kłopot.* *Excuse me for the bother.*
3. **na+A** 'intended for': **bilet na samolot** *ticket for the airplane, podręcznik na użytku cudzoziemców* *textbook for the use of foreigners, 'desire for': Mam ochotę na coś zimnego.* *I feel like having something cold.;* 'for naught': **To wszystko pójdzie na nic.** *That'll all go for nothing.;* 'for an event or time': **bilet na godzinę ósmą** *ticket for 8 o'clock, spóźniać się na przedstawienie* *be late for the performance; 'for a time yet to come': Wyjeżdjam na rok.* *I'm leaving for a year. Rozstajemy się na zawsze.* *We're parting forever. Also see exclamations like na miłość boską* *for God's sake!*
4. **od+G** 'for (a time just past)': **Mieszkam w Warszawie od siedmiu lat.** *I've been living in Warsaw for the past seven years'.*

5. **przez+A** 'for a period of time': **Przez ostatnie miesiące pracujemy pełną parą.** *We've been working at full steam for the last (several) months.* This sense of 'for' may also be expressed by the bare Accusative case: **Noszę ten kapelusz już jedenaście lat.** *I've been wearing that hat for eleven years already.* The expression 'for periods of time on end' can be expressed by the bare Instrumental: **całymi dniami** *for days on end*, although **całe dnie** or **przez całe dnie** is also correct.
6. **po+A** 'go for': **Wyskoczę po piwo.** *I'll dash out for some beer.* **Zajadę po ciebie o ósmej.** *I'll drop by for you at eight o'clock.*
7. **do+G** 'for (of specific application)': **woda do picia** *water for drinking*, **maszynka do ogolenia** *machine for shaving*, **electric razor**, **pasta do zębów** *paste for teeth*, *toothpaste*.
8. **o+A** '(ask, fight) for': **prosić o pomoc** *ask for help*, **walczyć o istnienie (równouprawnienie)** *fight for existence (equality)*.
9. **u+G** 'for (be employed by a person)': **Ona pracuje u dentysty.** *She works for a dentist.* 'Work for a company or firm' is translated by **w+L:** **Pracuję w banku.** *I work for a bank.*
10. **jak na+A** 'for (of belittling comparison)': **On nieźle mówi jak na cudzoziemca.** *He speaks not badly for a foreigner.*
11. **z(e)+G** 'known for': **On jest znany ze swoich wcześniejszych prac.** *He is known for his earlier works.*
12. **za+I** 'long for': **Tęsknię za tobą.** *I miss you, long for you.* In older Polish, **po + L:** **Tęsknię po tobie.**
13. **jeśli chodzi o+A, co do+G** 'as for': **Jeśli chodzi o brata, to on jest jeszcze w szkole.** *As for my brother, he is still in school.* **Co do twojego pomysłu, on jest zupełnie nerealny.** *As for your idea, it is totally impractical.*
14. The conditional. The English use of *for* after a verb of request has a correspondent in the Polish conditional: **Prośili, żebyśmy mniej hałasowali.** *They asked for us to make less noise.*

## CONJUNCTIONS

Some important conjunctions are **a** *and/but*, **i** *and*, **i... i** *both... and*, **ale** *but*, **albo...** *either... or*, **ani...** *neither... nor*; 'English 'and' is usually translated by **i**; however, if there is any contrast, i.e. if 'and' can alternately be translated as 'but', it is translated by **a**.

**Marek jest studentem, a Maria już pracuje.** *Marek is a student, but Maria is already working.*

**Warszawa i Kraków są dość duże.** *Warsaw and Krakow are rather large.*

**Jan jest i inteligentny i przystojny.** *Jan is both smart and good-looking.*

**To jest muzeum, ale nie jest zbyt ciekawe.** *That's a muzeum, but it's not too interesting.*

**To jest albo szpital, albo hotel.** *That's either a hospital or a hotel.*

**To nie jest ani szpital, ani hotel.** *That's neither a hospital or a hotel.*

Important conjunctions introducing subordinate clauses include **chociaż** *although*, **bo** *because*, **ponieważ** *since*, **jeśli** *if*, **to** *then*. The most important subordinating conjunctions are **że** *that* and **czy** *whether*. The conjunction **że**, always preceded by a comma, may never be deleted, as it may be in English:

**Słyszałem, że masz nową pracę.** *I heard (that) you have a new job.*

The distinction between 'whether' and 'if' is carefully maintained:

**Nie wiem, czy on jest zajęty.** *I don't know whether (not jeśli if) he is busy.*

Questioning adverbs may serve as subordinating conjunctions:

**Czy pamiętaś, gdzie ona mieszka?** *Do you remember where she lives?*

**Nie wiem, jak to powiedzieć.** *I don't know how to say that.*

Here is a list of major conjunctions and connectives:

|                     |                        |                      |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| although            | <b>chociaż</b>         | only just            | <b>co dopiero</b>            |
| and                 | <b>i, a</b>            | or                   | <b>albo</b>                  |
| as... as...         | <b>tak, jak...</b>     | since, as long as    | <b>skoro</b>                 |
| as though           | <b>jak gdyby</b>       | since, for           | <b>ponieważ</b>              |
| as soon as          | <b>jak tylko</b>       | that                 | <b>niz</b>                   |
| at the time when    | <b>wtedy, kiedy...</b> | so that, in order to | <b>żeby</b>                  |
| because             | <b>dlatego, że...</b>  | that (subord. conj.) | <b>że</b>                    |
| before              | <b>zanim...</b>        | the way that         | <b>tak, jak...</b>           |
| both... and...      | <b>i... i...</b>       | then                 | <b>to, wtedy</b>             |
| but                 | <b>ale. a</b>          | therefore            | <b>dlatego; zatem</b>        |
| either... or...     | <b>albo... albo...</b> | until                | <b>dopóki nie; zanim; aż</b> |
| for, because, since | <b>bo</b>              | whether              | <b>czy</b>                   |
| if                  | <b>jeśli</b>           | whether... or...     | <b>czy... czy...</b>         |
| if... then...       | <b>jeśli... to...</b>  |                      |                              |
| neither... nor...   | <b>ani... ani...</b>   |                      |                              |

## VERBS

THE INFINITIVE. The infinitive, or dictionary form of the verb is translated as "to ask", "to write", and so on. Most Polish infinitives end in **-ć**, for example **pisać** *to write*, although a few end in **-ć**, for example, **móc** *be able*. Some verbs always occur together with the particle **się** *self*, for example **myć się** *wash oneself*. Here is a list of some common Polish verbs, given in the infinitive, followed by the 1st person singular "I" and the 2nd person singular "you". Other forms may be derived from these two (see further below). The verbs below are Imperfective, meaning that they refer to on-going, general, or habitual action. For Perfective partners of these verbs, see further below under 'Perfective and Imperfective Verbs'.

|               | infinitive         | 1st p.sg.          | 2nd p. sg.          |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| agree         | <b>zgadzać się</b> | <b>zgadzam się</b> | <b>zgadzasz się</b> |
| ask           | <b>pytać</b>       | <b>pytam</b>       | <b>pytasz</b>       |
| be            | <b>być</b>         | <b>jestem</b>      | <b>jesteś</b>       |
| be able       | <b>móc</b>         | <b>mogę</b>        | <b>możesz</b>       |
| be afraid     | <b>bać się</b>     | <b>boję się</b>    | <b>boisz się</b>    |
| be glad       | <b>cieszyć się</b> | <b>cieszę się</b>  | <b>cieszysz się</b> |
| be surprised  | <b>dziwić się</b>  | <b>dziwię się</b>  | <b>dziwisz się</b>  |
| begin         | <b>zaczynać</b>    | <b>zaczynam</b>    | <b>zaczynasz</b>    |
| build         | <b>budować</b>     | <b>buduję</b>      | <b>budujesz</b>     |
| buy           | <b>kupować</b>     | <b>kupuję</b>      | <b>kupujesz</b>     |
| carry         | <b>nieść</b>       | <b>niosę</b>       | <b>niesiesz</b>     |
| close, shut   | <b>zamykać</b>     | <b>zamykam</b>     | <b>zamykasz</b>     |
| cook          | <b>gotować</b>     | <b>gotuję</b>      | <b>gotujesz</b>     |
| cost          | <b>kosztować</b>   | <b>kosztuję</b>    | <b>kosztuje</b>     |
| cry           | <b>plakać</b>      | <b>placzę</b>      | <b>placzesz</b>     |
| dance         | <b>tańczyć</b>     | <b>tańczę</b>      | <b>tańczysz</b>     |
| do            | <b>robić</b>       | <b>robię</b>       | <b>robisz</b>       |
| doubt         | <b>wątpić</b>      | <b>wątpię</b>      | <b>wątpisz</b>      |
| drink         | <b>pić</b>         | <b>piję</b>        | <b>pijesz</b>       |
| eat           | <b>jeść</b>        | <b>jem</b>         | <b>jesz</b>         |
| earn          | <b>zarabiać</b>    | <b>zarabiam</b>    | <b>zarabiasz</b>    |
| exist         | <b>istnieć</b>     | <b>istnieję</b>    | <b>istniejesz</b>   |
| find          | <b>znajdować</b>   | <b>znajduję</b>    | <b>znajdujesz</b>   |
| finish        | <b>kończyć</b>     | <b>kończę</b>      | <b>kończysz</b>     |
| fly           | <b>lecieć</b>      | <b>leczę</b>       | <b>lecisz</b>       |
| get           | <b>dostawać</b>    | <b>dostaję</b>     | <b>dostajesz</b>    |
| give          | <b>dawać</b>       | <b>daję</b>        | <b>dajesz</b>       |
| go (on foot)  | <b>iść</b>         | <b>idę</b>         | <b>idziesz</b>      |
| go (often)    | <b>chodzić</b>     | <b>chodzę</b>      | <b>chodzisz</b>     |
| go, ride      | <b>jechać</b>      | <b>jadę</b>        | <b>jedziesz</b>     |
| have          | <b>mieć</b>        | <b>mam</b>         | <b>masz</b>         |
| hear          | <b>słyszeć</b>     | <b>słyszę</b>      | <b>słyszysz</b>     |
| help          | <b>pomagać</b>     | <b>pomagam</b>     | <b>pomagasz</b>     |
| know (info.)  | <b>wiedzieć</b>    | <b>wiem</b>        | <b>wiesz</b>        |
| know (person) | <b>znać</b>        | <b>znam</b>        | <b>znasz</b>        |

|                |            |            |              |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| know how       | umieć      | umiem      | umiesz       |
| laugh          | śmiać się  | śmieję się | śmiejesz się |
| lie            | leżeć      | leżę       | leżysz       |
| like           | lubić      | lubię      | lubisz       |
| listen to      | słuchać    | słucham    | słuchasz     |
| live, be alive | żyć        | żyję       | żyjesz       |
| live, reside   | mieszkac   | mieszkam   | mieszkasz    |
| look, appear   | wyglądać   | wyglądam   | wyglądasz    |
| look for       | szukać     | szukam     | szukasz      |
| lose           | gubić      | gubię      | gubisz       |
| love           | kochać     | kocham     | kochasz      |
| meet           | spotykać   | spotykam   | spotykasz    |
| must, have to  | musieć     | muszę      | musisz       |
| open           | otwierać   | otwieram   | otwierasz    |
| pay            | płacić     | płacę      | płacisz      |
| play           | grać       | gram       | grasz        |
| prefer         | woleć      | wolę       | wolisz       |
| read           | czytać     | czytam     | czytasz      |
| remember       | pamiętać   | pamiętam   | pamiętasz    |
| return         | wracać     | wracam     | wracasz      |
| ruin, spoil    | psuć       | psuję      | psujesz      |
| say            | mówić      | mówię      | mówisz       |
| see            | widzieć    | widzę      | widzisz      |
| sell           | sprzedawać | sprzedaję  | sprzedajesz  |
| send           | posyłać    | posyłam    | posyłasz     |
| sing           | śpiewać    | śpiewam    | śpiewasz     |
| sit            | siedzieć   | siedzę     | siedzisz     |
| sleep          | spać       | śnię       | śpisz        |
| speak          | mówić      | mówię      | mówisz       |
| stand          | stać       | stoję      | stoisz       |
| take           | brać       | biorę      | bierzesz     |
| thank          | dziękować  | dziękuję   | dziękujesz   |
| think          | myśleć     | myślę      | myślisz      |
| understand     | rozumieć   | rozumiem   | rozumiesz    |
| wait           | czekać     | czekam     | czekasz      |
| want           | chcieć     | chcę       | chcesz       |
| wash (self)    | myć się    | myję się   | myjesz się   |
| watch          | oglądać    | oglądam    | oglądasz     |
| work           | pracować   | pracuję    | pracujesz    |
| write          | pisać      | piszę      | piszesz      |

FINITE VERB CATEGORIES. Here is a chart of the Polish finite verb categories, i.e. the categories characterized by tense and person. The verb of illustration is **pisać** (impf.) **nаписаć** (pf.) *write*:

|            | imperfective              | perfective                    |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| present    | <b>piszę</b>              |                               |
| past       | <b>pisałem f. pisałam</b> | <b>napisałem f. napisałam</b> |
| future     | <b>będę piszą -a</b>      | <b>napiszę</b>                |
| imperative | <b>pisz</b>               | <b>napisz</b>                 |

PRAGMATIC PERSONAL VERB CATEGORIES. Polish uses the 3rd-person titles **pan**, **pani**, and **państwo** as de facto 2nd-person forms of polite address, or what may also be called 'titled address'. The pragmatic Polish conjugational system looks as follows. The illustration is in the present tense, but analogous observations hold for the past and future tenses as well. The verb of illustration below is **czytać -am -asz** *read*:

|                | singular                    | plural                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st p.         | <b>(ja) czytam</b>          | <b>(my) czytamy</b>       |
| 2nd p.informal | <b>(ty) czytasz</b>         | <b>(wy) czytacie</b>      |
| 2nd p. titled  | <b>(pan, pani) czyta</b>    | <b>(państwo) czytają</b>  |
| 3rd p.         | <b>(on, ona, ono) czyta</b> | <b>(one, oni) czytają</b> |

LACK OF AUXILIARY VERBS. Polish lacks any correspondent to the English auxiliary or 'helping' verbs *be*, *have*, *do*, *used to* which, in English, are used to make compound verb expressions of the sort *I am asking*, *I have been running*, *do you smoke*, *we used to live*, and so on. In all such instances, Polish uses a single verb form. One interprets the nuance of the Polish verb on the basis of context. Thus, **pytam** could be interpreted as 'I ask', 'I do ask', 'I am asking', 'I have been asking'; **mieszkaliśmy** could be interpreted as 'we lived', 'we were living', 'we used to live'; and so on.

### PRESENT TENSE

The citation form of the verb (the form used by dictionaries) is the infinitive. One must learn, for each infinitive, what the 1st person and 2nd person singular forms are. The other forms of the present tense may be predicted from these two forms. There are four classes (conjugations) of verbs. The present endings are as follows:

Class 1. Verbs in **-ę -esz**:

|           | singular    | plural       |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1st pers. | <b>-ę</b>   | <b>-emy</b>  |
| 2nd pers. | <b>-esz</b> | <b>-ecie</b> |
| 3rd pers. | <b>-e</b>   | <b>-ą</b>    |

Example:

**chcieć** want

chcę I want  
chcesz you want  
chce he, she wants

chcemy we want  
chcicie you want  
chcą they want

If there is a change in the stem between the 1st person and the 2nd person, then the 3rd person plural will have the same stem as the 1st person singular:

**iść** go (on foot)

idę I go  
idziesz you go  
idzie he, she, it goes

idziemy we go  
idziecie you go  
idzą they go

**móc** be able

mogę I can  
możesz you can  
może he, she, it can

możemy we can  
możecie you can  
moga they can

**brać** take

biore I take  
bierzesz you take  
bierze he, she, it takes

bierzemy we take  
bierzecie you take  
biorą they take.

Class 2a. Verbs in -ę -isz:

|           | singular | plural |
|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1st pers. | -ę       | -imy   |
| 2nd pers. | -isz     | -icie  |
| 3rd pers. | -i       | -ą     |

Example:

**lubić** like

lubię I like  
lubisz you like  
lubi he, she, it likes

lubimy we like  
lubicie you like  
lubią they like

If there is a change in the stem between the 1st person and the 2nd person, then the 3rd person plural will have the same stem as the 1st person singular:

**musieć** have to

muszę I have to  
musisz you have to  
musi he, she, it has to

musimy we have to  
musicie you have to  
muszą they have to.

Here, the stem alternates between sz in the 1st pers. sg. and 3rd pers. pl. to ś (si-) in the other forms.

Class 2b. Verbs in **-ę -ysz:**

|           | singular    | plural       |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1st pers. | <b>-ę</b>   | <b>-y my</b> |
| 2nd pers. | <b>-ysz</b> | <b>-ycie</b> |
| 3rd pers. | <b>-y</b>   | <b>-ą</b>    |

Example:

**słyszeć** hear

**słyszę** I hear

**słyszysz** you hear

**słyszy** he hears

**słyszymy** we hear

**słyszycie** you hear

**słyszą** they hear

Class 3. Verbs in **-am -asz:**

|           | singular    | plural       |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1st pers. | <b>-am</b>  | <b>-amy</b>  |
| 2nd pers. | <b>-asz</b> | <b>-acie</b> |
| 3rd pers. | <b>-a</b>   | <b>-ają</b>  |

Examples:

**czekać** wait

**czekam** I wait

**czekasz** you wait

**czeka** he, she, it waits

**czekamy** we wait

**czekacie** you wait

**czekają** they wait

**mieć** have

**mam** I have

**masz** you have

**ma** he, she, it has

**mamy** we have

**macie** you have

**mają** they have

Irregular in the 3.p.pl.: **dać** **dam** **dasz** **dadzą** *give*.

Class 4. Verbs in **-em -esz:**

|           | singular    | plural       |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1st pers. | <b>-em</b>  | <b>-emy</b>  |
| 2nd pers. | <b>-esz</b> | <b>-ecie</b> |
| 3rd pers. | <b>-e</b>   | <b>-eją</b>  |

Example:

**umieć** know how

**umiem** I know how

**umiesz** you know how

**umie** he, she, it knows how **umieją** they know how

**umiemy** we know how

**umiecie** you know how

Irregular in the 3rd pers. pl.:

**wiedzieć** know (information)

**wiem** I know

**wiesz** you know

**wie** he, she, it knows

**wiemy** we know

**wiecie** you know

**wiedzą** they know

Similarly: powiedzieć powiem powiesz powiedzą say  
jeść jem jesz jedzą eat.

The verb **być** *be* is irregular in the present:

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>być</b> be       |                   |
| jestem I am         | jesteśmy we are   |
| jestes̄ you are     | jesteście you are |
| jest he, she, it is | są they are.      |

**być** is the only verb with a specific future tense:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| będę I will             | będziemy we will   |
| będziesz you will       | będziecie you will |
| będzie he, she, it will | będą they will.    |

SUMMARY OF VERB THE CLASSES. From the point of view of the present tense as it relates to the infinitive, the Polish verbs may be classified as follows:

An infinitive marked

pis | ać  
da | wać  
dzięk | ować  
dokon | ywać  
mdle | ē -j-  
dzia | ē -j-  
my | ē  
pi | ē  
żu | ē  
ciąg | nać  
pleść -t-  
wieść -d-  
paść -dn-  
nieść -s-  
gryźć -z-  
piec -k-  
ciec -kn-  
strzyc -g-  
biec -gn-  
piąć -n-  
dąć -m-  
umrzeć -r-  
pleć -l-  
kup | ic

Implies:

piszę, piszesz, pisze  
daję, dajesz, daje  
dziękuję, dziękujesz, dziękuję  
dokonuję, dokonujesz, dokonuje  
mdleję, mdlejesz, mdleje  
dzieję, dziejesz, dzieje  
myję, myjesz, myje  
piję, pijesz, pije  
żuję, żujesz, żuje  
ciągne, ciagniesz, ciagnie  
plotę, pleciesz, plecie  
wiadzę, wiedziesz, wiedzie  
padnę, padniesz, padnie  
niosę, niesesz, niesie  
gryzę, gryziesz, gryzie  
piekę, pieczesz, piecze  
cieknę, ciekniesz, cieknie  
strzyzę, strzyżesz, strzyże  
biegnę, biegnesz, biegnie  
pnę, pniesz, pnie  
dmę, dmiesz, dmie  
umrę, umrzesz, umrze  
pielę, pielesz, piele  
kupię, kupisz, kupi

słysz | eć  
stać -oj-  
czeka | ē  
umie | ē

słyszę, słyszysz, słyszy  
stoję, stoisz, stoi  
czekam, czekasz, czeka  
umiem, umiesz, umie.

A number of unique verbs do not fit within this system, for example **brać**, **biorę bierzesz, stać stanę stanieś, znaleźć znajdę znajdziesz**, and others

#### IMPERATIVE

The imperative or command form of the verb is usually equivalent to the stem of the 3rd pers. sg. present tense form of the verb, obtained by dropping **-e**, **-ie**, **-y**, **-i**, or by adding **j** to **-a**:

**pisać piszę piszesz pisze**, imperative **pisz** *write!*  
**iść idzę idziesz idzie**, imperative **idź** *go!*  
**kończyć kończę kończysz kończy**, imperative **kończ** *finish!*  
**kupić kupię kupisz kupi**, imperative **kup** *buy!*  
**czekać czekam czekasz czeka**, imperative **czekaj** *wait!*

These are singular forms. The plural is formed from the singular by adding the ending **-cie**: **idźcie** *go!* (2nd p. pl.). The ending **-my** can be added to form a first-person plural form of exhortation: **czekajmy** *let's wait!*

Exceptional imperative forms include verbs in **-awać -aję -ajesz**, whose imperatives end in **-awaj**, e.g., **wstawać wstawę**, imper. **wstawaj** *get up*, and the following:

**jeść jem jesz**, 3.pl. **jedzą**, imperative **jedz** *eat!*  
**powiedzieć powiem powiesz**, 3.pl. **powiedzą**, imperative **powiedz** *say!*  
**rozumieć rozumiem rozumiesz**, 3.p.pl. **rozumieją**, imperative **rozum**  
**wziąć wezmę weźmiesz**, imperative **weź** *take!*

The imperative is often accompanied by the word **proszę please**: **Proszę wejdź** *Please come in.* The formal imperative (see below under Formal Speech) is formed with the particle **niech** *let* plus the 3rd pers. form of the verb: **Niech pani usiądzie**. *Why don't you sit down (madam)? Niech pan się nie śmieje* *Don't laugh, sir!*

When forming the imperative, positive commands usually occur in the perfective aspect, while negative commands occur in the imperfective (regarding aspect, see further below):

**Otwórz okno.** *Open-perfective. the window*  
**Nie otwieraj okna.** *Don't open-imperfective the window.*

THE PRAGMATIC IMPERATIVE SYSTEM. The system of actual pragmatic implementation of the imperative differs from what is suggested by formal charts. Because of the use of the hortative particle **niech** with 3rd-person pronouns, and occasionally with 1st-person pronouns, the system can be considered to consist of eight forms instead of only three:

Formal system:

|            | singular        | plural                  |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1st person | —               | <b>zróbmy</b> let's do! |
| 2nd person | <b>zrób</b> do! | <b>zróbcie</b> do!      |
| 3rd person | —               | —                       |

Pragmatic system:

|                 | singular               | plural                      |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st person      | <b>niech zrobię</b>    | <b>zróbmy</b>               |
| 2nd p. informal | <b>zrób</b>            | <b>zróbcie</b>              |
| 2nd p. formal   | <b>niech pan zrobi</b> | <b>niech państwo zrobią</b> |
| 3rd person      | <b>niech on zrobi</b>  | <b>niech oni zrobią</b>     |

Constructions using **niech** often translate into English as 'Why don't...': **Niech to zrobię.** Why don't I do that? **Niech pani to kupi.** Why don't you buy that, madam, and so on.

#### PAST TENSE

The 3rd person past tense is formed from the infinitive by dropping -ć and adding -ł, (masculine) -ła (feminine) -ło (neuter), -li (masculine personal plural), or -ły (other plural). One then uses the 3rd person past tense forms together with the endings of the present forms of the verb **być** be in order to form the 1st and 2nd person past forms. The past-tense endings are as follows:

|           | singular | plural |
|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1st pers. | -(e)m    | -śmy   |
| 2nd pers. | -(e)s    | -ście  |
| 3rd pers. |          |        |

For example, here is the past tense of **dać** give :

singular:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>dałem</b> (m.)  | <b>dałam</b> (f.) I gave                      |
| <b>dałeś</b> (m.)  | <b>dałaś</b> (f.) you (sg.) gave              |
| <b>dał</b> he gave | <b>dała</b> she gave <b>dało</b> it gave (n.) |

plural:

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>daliśmy</b> (m.p.)  | <b>dalyśmy</b> (f.) we gave         |
| <b>daliście</b> (m.p.) | <b>dalyście</b> (f.) you (pl.) gave |
| <b>dali</b> (m.p.)     | <b>daly</b> (f., n.) they gave.     |

Verbs ending in **-eć** change **e** to **a** in all forms other than the masc. persl. pl.; for example, **mieć** have:

singular:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>miałem</b> (m.)  | <b>miałam</b> (f.) I had                      |
| <b>miałeś</b> (m.)  | <b>miałaś</b> (f.) you (sg.) had              |
| <b>miał</b> he gave | <b>miała</b> she had <b>miało</b> it had (n.) |

plural:

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>mieliśmy</b> (m.p.)  | <b>miałyśmy</b> (f.) we had         |
| <b>mieliście</b> (m.p.) | <b>miałyście</b> (f.) you (pl.) had |
| <b>mieli</b> (m.p.)     | <b>miały</b> (f., n.) they had      |

Verb endings in **-ać** change **a** to **ę** in all forms other than the masc. sg., e.g. **zacząć** begin:

singular:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>zacząłem</b> (m.)  | <b>zaczęłam</b> (f.) I began                          |
| <b>zacząłeś</b> (m.)  | <b>zaczęłaś</b> (f.) you (sg.) began                  |
| <b>zaczął</b> he gave | <b>zaczęła</b> she began <b>zaczęło</b> it began (n.) |

plural:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>zaczęliśmy</b> (m.p.)  | <b>zaczęłyśmy</b> (f.) we began         |
| <b>zaczęliście</b> (m.p.) | <b>zaczęłyście</b> (f.) you (pl.) began |
| <b>zaczęli</b> (m.p.)     | <b>zaczęły</b> (f., n.) they began.     |

Verbs with infinitives in **-ść** and **-ć** add past-tense endings to stems found in the 1st pers. sg. present. For example, here are the past tense forms of **nieść** niosę niesiesz carry and **móc** mogę możesz can, be able:

singular:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>niosłem</b> (m.)  | <b>niosłam</b> (f.) I carried                           |
| <b>niosłeś</b> (m.)  | <b>niosłaś</b> (f.) you (sg.) carried                   |
| <b>niósł</b> he gave | <b>niosła</b> she carried <b>niosło</b> it carried (n.) |

plural:

|                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>nieśliśmy</b> (m.p.)  | <b>niosłyśmy</b> (f.) we gave     |
| <b>nieśliście</b> (m.p.) | <b>niosłyście</b> (f.) you gave   |
| <b>nieśli</b> (m.p.)     | <b>niosły</b> (f., n.) they gave. |

singular:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>mogłem</b> (m.)   | <b>mogłam</b> (f.) I could                        |
| <b>mogłeś</b> (m.)   | <b>mogłaś</b> (f.) you (sg.) could                |
| <b>mógł</b> he could | <b>mogła</b> she could <b>mogło</b> it could (n.) |

plural:

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>mogliśmy</b> (m.p.)  | <b>mogłyśmy</b> (f.) we could         |
| <b>mogliście</b> (m.p.) | <b>mogłyście</b> (f.) you (pl.) could |
| <b>mogli</b> (m.p.)     | <b>mogły</b> (f., n.) they could.     |

These verbs have an irregular past-tense formation:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| iść, idę, idziesz go-det.               | szedł, szła, szli, szły                |
| jeść, jem, jesz, jedzą eat.             | jadł, jadła, jedli, jedły              |
| usiąść, usiądę, usiądziesz sit down-pf. | usiadł, usiadła, usiedli, usiadły      |
| znaleźć, znajdę, znajdziesz find-pf.    | znalazł, znalazła, znalazły, znalazły. |

#### FUTURE TENSE

The future tense is formed with the auxiliary verb **będę, będziesz, będzie, będziemy, będącie, będą**, plus the 3rd pers. past form of the verb. For example, here is the future of the verb **czytać** *read*:

singular:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| będę czytał (m.),    | będę czytała (f.) I am going to read        |
| będziesz czytał (m.) | będziesz czytała (f.) you are going to read |
| będzie czytał (m.)   | będzie czytała (f.) he/she is going to read |

plural:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| będziemy czytali (m.p.)  | będziemy czytały (f.) we are going to read         |
| będziecie czytali (m.p.) | będziecie czytały (f.) you (pl.) are going to read |
| oni będą czytali (m.p.)  | one będą czytały (f.) they are going to read       |

Instead of the past-tense forms, one may also use the infinitive; hence also **będę czytać** *I am going to read*. The use of the past-tense forms is more colloquial, and is practically obligatory with males. The construction with **będę** is only possible with imperfective verbs; see immediately below.

#### PERFECTIVE AND IMPERFECTIVE ASPECT

The future-tense construction with **będę** is formed only from IMPERFECTIVE verbs (verbs naming an on-going activity). With PERFECTIVE verbs (verbs naming an accomplishment), which have no present-tense meaning, the present-tense form by itself expresses future meaning. For example, the verb **kupić** *buy* is perfective, hence its present forms have future meaning:

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| kupię I will buy          | kupimy we will buy         |
| kupisz you (sg.) will buy | kupicie you (pl.) will buy |
| kupi he, she, it will buy | kupią they will buy.       |

Verbs that are perfective will have a related imperfective verb in order to express present meaning. With the perfective verb **kupić** *buy*, the corresponding imperfective verb is **kupować**, whose present-tense forms are the following:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| kupuję I am buying, I buy                 | kupujemy we are buying, we buy             |
| kupujesz you (sg.) are buying,<br>you buy | kupujecie you (pl.) are buying,<br>you buy |
| kupuje he/she buys, he/she buys           | kupują they are buying, they buy.          |

Perfective (pf.) verbs are often formed from imperfective verbs by adding a prefix. Here are some common simplex verbs with their primary perfective prefix:

|                       |                     |              |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>budować</b>        | <b>zbudować</b>     | build        |
| <b>chcieć</b>         | <b>zechcieć</b>     | want         |
| <b>cieszyć się</b>    | <b>ucieszyć się</b> | be glad      |
| <b>czekać</b>         | <b>zaczekać</b>     | wait         |
| <b>czytać</b>         | <b>przeczytać</b>   | read         |
| <b>dziękować</b>      | <b>podziękować</b>  | thank        |
| <b>dziwić się</b>     | <b>zdziwić się</b>  | be surprised |
| <b>gotować</b>        | <b>przygotować</b>  | prepare      |
| <b>gotować</b>        | <b>ugotować</b>     | cook         |
| <b>grać</b>           | <b>zagrać</b>       | play         |
| <b>iść/chodzić</b>    | <b>pójść</b>        | go (on foot) |
| <b>jeść</b>           | <b>zjeść</b>        | eat          |
| <b>jechać/jeździć</b> | <b>pojechać</b>     | go, ride     |
| <b>kończyć</b>        | <b>skończyć</b>     | finish       |
| <b>leżeć</b>          | <b>poleżeć</b>      | lie          |
| <b>lecieć</b>         | <b>polecieć</b>     | fly          |

|                    |                    |             |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>myć się</b>     | <b>umyć się</b>    | wash (self) |
| <b>mylić się</b>   | <b>pomylić się</b> | err         |
| <b>nieść/nosić</b> | <b>odniesić</b>    | carry       |
| <b>płacić</b>      | <b>zapłacić</b>    | pay         |
| <b>plakać</b>      | <b>zapłakać</b>    | cry         |
| <b>pić</b>         | <b>wypić</b>       | drink       |
| <b>pisać</b>       | <b>napisać</b>     | write       |
| <b>pytać</b>       | <b>zapytać</b>     | ask         |
| <b>robić</b>       | <b>zrobić</b>      | do          |
| <b>rozumieć</b>    | <b>zrozumieć</b>   | understand  |
| <b>słyszeć</b>     | <b>usłyszeć</b>    | hear        |
| <b>siedzieć</b>    | <b>posiedzieć</b>  | sit         |
| <b>śmiać się</b>   | <b>zaśmiać się</b> | laugh       |
| <b>śpiewać</b>     | <b>zaśpiewać</b>   | sing        |
| <b>tańczyć</b>     | <b>zatańczyć</b>   | dance.      |

Imperfective verbs in new meanings are typically formed from prefixed perfective verbs by adding a suffix. Here are some examples:

|                    |                      |              |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Perfective</b>  |                      |              |
| <b>otworzyć</b>    | <b>-rzę -rzysz</b>   | open         |
| <b>pokazać</b>     | <b>-żę -żesz</b>     | show         |
| <b>pomóc</b>       | <b>-mogę -możesz</b> | help         |
| <b>poznać</b>      | <b>-am -asz</b>      | meet         |
| <b>przypomnieć</b> | <b>-nę -nisz</b>     | remind       |
| <b>spotkać</b>     | <b>-am -asz</b>      | meet         |
| <b>użyć</b>        | <b>-yję, -yjesz</b>  | use          |
| <b>wygrać</b>      | <b>-am -asz</b>      | win          |
| <b>zacząć</b>      | <b>-nę -niesz</b>    | begin        |
| <b>zamknąć</b>     | <b>-nę -niesz</b>    | close, shut  |
| <b>zamówić</b>     | <b>-wię -wisz</b>    | order        |
| <b>zaprosić</b>    | <b>-szę -sisz</b>    | invite       |
| <b>zdarzyć się</b> | <b>-y</b>            | occur        |
| <b>zostawię</b>    | <b>-wię -isz</b>     | leave behind |

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Derived Imperfective</b> |                        |
| <b>otwierać</b>             | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>pokazywać</b>            | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>pomagać</b>              | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>poznawać</b>             | <b>-znaję -znajesz</b> |
| <b>przypominać</b>          | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>spotykać</b>             | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>używać</b>               | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>wygrywać</b>             | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>zaczynać</b>             | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>zamykać</b>              | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>zamawiać</b>             | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>zapraszać</b>            | <b>-am -asz</b>        |
| <b>zdarzać się</b>          | <b>-a</b>              |
| <b>zostawiać</b>            | <b>-am -asz.</b>       |

A few verbs have irregular aspect partners:

|                      |                          |                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Imperfective:</b> |                          |                  |
| <b>brać</b>          | <b>biorę, bierzesz</b>   | take             |
| <b>dawać</b>         | <b>daję, dajesz</b>      | give             |
| <b>kłaść</b>         | <b>kładę kładziesz</b>   | put, place, lay  |
| <b>kupować</b>       | <b>puję -pujesz</b>      | buy              |
| <b>mówić</b>         | <b>wię -wisz</b>         | say, speak, talk |
| <b>oglądać</b>       | <b>am -asz</b>           | view, watch      |
| <b>widzieć</b>       | <b>-dzę -dzisz</b>       | see              |
| <b>znać</b>          | <b>znajdę znajdziesz</b> | find             |

|                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Perfective:</b> |                             |
| <b>wziąć</b>       | <b>wezmę, weźmiesz</b>      |
| <b>dać</b>         | <b>dam, dasz, dadzą</b>     |
| <b>położyć</b>     | <b>-żę -żysz</b>            |
| <b>kupić</b>       | <b>-pię -pisz</b>           |
| <b>powiedzieć</b>  | <b>-wiem -wiesz -wiedzą</b> |
| <b>obejrzeć</b>    | <b>-rzę -rzysz</b>          |
| <b>zobaczyć</b>    | <b>-czę -czysz</b>          |
| <b>znajdować</b>   | <b>-duję -dujesz</b>        |

SUMMARY: THE POLISH TENSE-ASPECT SYSTEM  
 Imperfective      Perfective

|         |                      |                 |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|
| present | <b>robię</b>         |                 |
| past    | <b>robilem</b>       | <b>zrobilem</b> |
| future  | <b>będę robił(a)</b> | <b>zrobię</b>   |

VERBS OF MOTION

Polish distinguishes between movement on foot and movement by conveyance. In either case, the simple verbs for motion distinguish on-going (determinate) activity from frequentative (indeterminate) activity. This distinction holds in the imperfective aspect only. Here are the most important verbs concerned:

|                     | determinate)                 | indeterminate                   |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| go on foot          | <b>iść idę idziesz</b>       | <b>chodzić -dzę -dzisz</b>      |
| go by conveyance    | <b>jechać jadę, jedziesz</b> | <b>jeździć jeżdżę, jeżdzisz</b> |
| carry on foot       | <b>nieść niosę, niesiesz</b> | <b>nosić noszę, nosisz</b>      |
| carry by conveyance | <b>wieźć wiozę, wieziesz</b> | <b>wozić wożę, wozisz</b>       |

See:    **Gdzie teraz idziesz?** *Where are you going now?*  
**Czy często chodzisz do kina?** *Do you go to the movies often?*

**Jadę do Warszawy pociągiem.** *I'm going to Warsaw by train.*  
**Zwykle jeżdżę do Warszawy pociągiem.** *I usually travel to Warsaw by train.*

When prefixed, motion verbs lose the on-going vs. frequentative distinction. Here are the most important prefixed forms of **iść** and **jechać**:

|                       | Perfective     | Imperfective       |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| arrive, come on foot  | <b>przyjść</b> | <b>przychodzić</b> |
| leave, depart on foot | <b>wyjść</b>   | <b>wychodzić</b>   |
| approach, come up to  | <b>podejść</b> | <b>podchodzić</b>  |

|                       | Perfective        | Imperfective               |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| arrive by vehicle     | <b>przyjechać</b> | <b>przyjeżdać -am -asz</b> |
| leave by vehicle      | <b>wyjechać</b>   | <b>wyjeżdać -am -asz</b>   |
| approach, drive up to | <b>podjechać</b>  | <b>podjeżdać -am -asz</b>  |

## CONDITIONAL MOOD

The conditional mood is used to express the conditional sense which in English is expressed with )would, could, should, might). It is also used to refer to contrary-to-fact situations, and is required after indirect commands and requests. The conditional is formed by using the 3rd-person past-tense forms of the verb in conjunction with the conditional particle **by**, which is either attached to the verb or, preferably, to some item occurring earlier in the sentence. Personal endings are attached to the particle **by**. Here are the conditional forms of **pomóc pomogę pomożesz help (pf.):**

### Singular

|      | masc.            | fem.              |                    |
|------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1.p. | <b>pomógłbym</b> | <b>pomogłabym</b> | I would help       |
| 2.p. | <b>pomógłbyś</b> | <b>pomogłabyś</b> | you-sg. would help |
| 3.p. | <b>pomógłby</b>  | <b>pomogłaby</b>  | he/she would help  |

### Plural

|      | masc. pers. pl.      | other pl.            |                    |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1.p. | <b>pomoglibyśmy</b>  | <b>pomogłybyśmy</b>  | we would help      |
| 2.p. | <b>pomoglibyście</b> | <b>pomogłybyście</b> | you-pl. would help |
| 3.p. | <b>pomogliby</b>     | <b>pomogłyby</b>     | they would help    |

When **by** is attached to another word, it is usually to a subordinating conjunction such as **że** that or **gdy** if:

### Singular

|      | masc.                | fem.                  |                        |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1.p. | <b>gdybym pomógł</b> | <b>gdybym pomogła</b> | if I would help        |
| 2.p. | <b>gdybyś pomógł</b> | <b>gdybyś pomogła</b> | if you -sg. would help |
| 3.p. | <b>gdyby pomógł</b>  | <b>gdyby pomogła</b>  | if he/she would help   |

### Plural

|      | masc. pers. pl.          | other pl.                |                       |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.p. | <b>gdybyśmy pomogli</b>  | <b>gdybyśmy pomogły</b>  | if we would help      |
| 2.p. | <b>gdybyście pomogli</b> | <b>gdybyście pomogły</b> | if you-pl. would help |
| 3.p. | <b>gdyby pomogli</b>     | <b>gdyby pomogły</b>     | if they would help    |

The conditional is primarily used:

a) In contrary to fact clauses:

**Pomögłabym ci, gdybym nie była tak zajęta.** *I would help you if I were not so busy.*

b) After verbs of request, command, desire, when the subject of the incorporated clause is different from the person doing the requesting, commanding, desiring:

**Proszę cię, żebyście nie robili takiego hałasu.** *I'm asking that you not make such a racket.*

c) To discuss hypothetical possibilities:

**Czy mógłbyś mi pomóc?** *Could you help me?*

## PARTICIPLES, GERUNDS, VERBAL NOUNS

Polish has a well developed system of verbal adjectives (participles), verbal adverbs (gerunds), and verbal nouns, in both Perfective and Imperfective aspects. The verb of illustration in the chart below is **czytać -am -asz** (impf.), **przeczytać** (pf.) read.

|                    | imperfective     | perfective           |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| gerund             | <b>czytając</b>  | <b>przeczytawszy</b> |
| active participle  | <b>czytający</b> |                      |
| passive participle | <b>czytany</b>   | <b>przeczytany</b>   |
| verbal noun        | <b>czytanie</b>  | <b>przeczytanie</b>  |

1. A GERUND is a verb form without personal endings, the person of the verb being inferred from context. The IMPERFECTIVE GERUND can often be translated as 'while doing something'; thus **czytając** means 'while reading'. The PERFECTIVE GERUND usually means 'after having done something'; thus **przeczytawszy** means 'after having read'. Gerunds are used to incorporate one sentence into another when the subject of both sentences is the same: **Czytając gazetę, palił fajkę** While reading the paper, he smoked a pipe. **Zjadłszy kolację, on wstał i wyszedł** Having finished supper, he stood up and left. Gerunds do not take any endings.

The IMPERFECTIVE GERUND may be formed by adding **-c** to the 3.pers.pl. of an Imperfective verb: **czytają**, hence **czytając** (while) reading; **idą**, hence **idąc** (while going).

The PERFECTIVE GERUND may be formed from the 3.pers.sg.masc. past tense of a Perfective verb. After vowel+**I**, replace **I** with **-wszy**: **przeczytał**, hence **przeczytawszy** having read; **zrobił**, hence **zrobiwszy** having done. After consonant+**I**, add **-szy**: **wyszedł**, hence **wyszedłszy** having left, **wyniósł**, hence **wyniósłszy** having carried out. The Perfective Gerund is going out of use. It is hardly ever used in speech.

2. A PARTICIPLE is an adjective derived from a verb, which still retains many of the properties of the verb, for example, the ability to take a complement. The imperfective active participle is often translated as a relative clause: "who is doing", and it is often separated from the noun it modifies by its complement: **Czytający gazetę człowiek nic nie zauważał**. The man reading the paper noticed nothing. Participles take a full set of gender-number-case endings.

The IMPERFECTIVE ACTIVE PARTICIPLE may be formed by adding adjective endings to the Imperfective gerund: **czytając**, hence **czytający -a -e** (who is) reading; **idąc**, hence **idący -a -e** (who is) going.

3. PASSIVE PARTICIPLES describe objects on which an action has been carried out. The imperfective passive participle **czytany** means 'being read'. The perfective passive participle **przeczytany** means 'having been read'. The latter is the more frequently used, often in construction with the verb **zostać**: **Ta książka została już przeczytana.** *That book has already been read.*

The Passive Participle is formed on the basis of the infinitive.

a. Verbs with infinitives in **-ać** and **-eć** form the Passive Participle in **-any (-a -e)**: **napisać**, hence **napisany -a -e written**; **widzieć**, hence **widziany -a -e seen**.

b. Verbs with infinitives in **-ić** and **-yć** form the Passive Participle in **-ony -a -e**, added to a stem like that of the 1.pers.sg. present: **zawstydzić**, hence **zawstydzony -a -e embarrassed**. Monosyllabic verbs in **-ić** and **-yć** like **pić, myć**, and their derivatives like **wypić** and **umyć**, do not follow this rule.

c. Verbs with infinitives in **-ść, -źć, or -ć** form the Passive Participle in **-ony (-a -e)**, added to a stem like that of the 2.pers.sg. present: **wynieść**, hence **wyniesiony -a -e carried out; przegryźć**, hence **przegryziony -a -e bitten through; upiec** *bake* hence **upieczony -a -e baked**. Irregular: **znaleźć** *znajdę, znajdziesz, znaleziony found*.

d. Verbs with infinitives in other vowels plus **ć**, and monosyllabic verbs in **-ić** and **-yć** drop **ć** and add **-ty (-ta -te)**: **zepsuć**, hence **zepsuty -a -e spoiled; użyć**, hence **użyty -a -e used**. Verbs in **-nąć** form the Passive Participle in **-nięty (-a -e)**: **zamknąć**, hence **zamknięty -a -e locked, shut, closed**. Other verbs in **-ąć** form the Passive participle in **-ęty**: **zacząć**, hence **zaczęty begun**.

4. A VERBAL NOUN is a noun derived from a verb, which still retains many of the properties of the verb, for example, aspect. Both **czytanie** and **przeczytanie** are usually translated as 'reading', the first referring to the action, the second to the accomplishment. Verbal Nouns often occur with the prepositions **przy** while, during, **przed** before, and **po** after, and they are often followed by a noun in the Genitive case: **Po przeczytaniu tej książki pójdę spać** *After reading that book-Gen. I'll go to bed.* Additionally, verbal nouns often occur in phrases following the preposition **do**, as in **woda do picia** *drinking water*, **nic do zrobienia** *nothing to do*, and so on.

The Verbal Noun is formed on a stem like that of the masc.pers.pl. of the passive participle. This means that participles in **-ony** form the Verbal Noun in **-enie**: **podniesiony**, hence **podniesienie** *elevation*. Participles in **-ty** form the Verbal Noun on **-cie**: **zatrutty**, hence **zatrucie** *poisoning*.

Note that gerunds and participles formed from verbs in **się** retain **się**, while verbal nouns formed from verbs in **się** sometimes lose the **się**: **golić się** *shave oneself*, **golić się** *while shaving oneself*, but usually **golenie** *shaving* (although **golenie się** is not wrong).

## PASSIVE VOICE

An active-transitive sentence (a sentence with a subject, verb, and direct object) can be transformed into the passive voice, using a passive participle, which presents the action from the point of view of the direct object. Compare English John is frying an egg (active) vs. An egg is being fried by John (passive). In this sentence, fried is the passive participle, linked to the object with the verb be. In Polish, the link verb is **być** with Imperfective verbs, and **zostać (zostanę zostaniesz)** with Perfective verbs:

|       | Imperfective  |
|-------|---|
|       | active:   |
| pres. | <b>Jan czyta książkę.</b><br><i>Jan reads (is reading) a book.</i>                      |
| fut.  | <b>Jan będzie czytał książkę.</b><br><i>Jan is going to read the book.</i>              |
| past  | <b>Jan czytał książkę.</b><br><i>Jan read (was reading) a book.</i>                     |
|       | passive   |
|       | <b>Książka jest czytana przez Jana.</b> <i>The book is read (is being read) by Jan.</i> |
|       | <b>Książka będzie czytana przez Jana.</b> <i>The book is going to be read by Jan.</i>   |
|       | <b>Książka była czytana przez Jana.</b> <i>The book was (was being) read by Jan.</i>    |
|       | Perfective  |
|       | active:   |
| fut.  | <b>Jan przeczyta książkę.</b><br><i>Jan will read the book.</i>                         |
| past  | <b>Jan przeczytał książkę.</b><br><i>Jan read the book.</i>                             |
|       | passive   |
|       | <b>Książka zostanie przeczytana przez Jana.</b> <i>The book will be read by Jan.</i>    |
|       | <b>Książka została przeczytana przez Jana.</b> <i>The book was read by Jan.</i>         |

Observe that the original subject may be preserved by placing it after the preposition **przez +A: przez Jana** by Jan. The practical effect of passive voice is often expressed by reversing the order of subject and object. For example, **Książkę czyta Jan** book-Acc. reads Jan-Nom. has about the same effect as **Książka jest czytana przez Jana.**

## IMPERSONAL VERBS

There is a difference in Polish between a verb which has a definite subject which is simply not expressed, and a verb which has no subject in the first place. The Polish impersonal verb system is well developed. For the most part it is based on the third-person neuter forms of the finite verb, with the particle **się** functioning as the de facto subject:

|                                     |                                   |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| present 'one reads'                 | <b>czyta się</b>                  |   |
| past 'one read', 'one used to read' | <b>czytało się or<br/>czytano</b> | <b>przeczytało się or<br/>przeczytano</b> |
| future 'one will read'              | <b>będzie się czytało</b>         | <b>przeczyta się</b>                      |

The construction **czyta się** means 'one reads, reading is going on'. A form like this takes direct objects the same as a personal verb: **Czyta się książki.** *One reads books, books are being read.* In the past tense, the forms based on **się** plus the past tense are

usually replaced with forms based on the passive participle: **Czytano książki.** *One read books; books were being read.*

#### REFLEXIVE VERBS

By 'reflexive verbs' in a broad sense are meant verbs occurring with the reflexive particle **się**. This particle can never occur in initial position in a clause; hence one says:

**Bardzo się spieszę.** I'm in a big hurry.  
but: **Śpieszę się.** I'm in a hurry.

Here are the most important functions of the particle **się**:

1. LITERAL REFLEXIVE USE. The basic meaning of the reflexive particle **się** is 'oneself' in literal reflexive uses (where the action comes back upon the actor). This is not necessarily the most frequent usage of this particle, but it is the one on which most other uses are based. Frequently encountered are verbs of personal grooming:

**czesać (się)** *czeszę, czeszesz* comb (oneself)  
**kąpać (się)** *kąpię, kąpiesz* bathe (oneself)  
**myć (się)** *myję, myjesz* wash (oneself)  
**golić (się)** *gole, golisz* shave (oneself).

Compare the two sentences:

**Muszę umyć ręce.** I have to wash my hands. Transitive without **się**.  
**Muszę się umyć.** I have to wash up. Intransitive reflexive with **się**.

Verbs of this sort occur with **się** more often than not:

**Codziennie się kapię.** *I take a bath every day.*  
**Gole się przedśniadaniem.** *I shave before breakfast.*

2. RECIPROCAL USE. The reflexive particle **się** can be used with any verb where the action can be considered reciprocal (back and forth), in which case the particle **się** takes on the sense 'each other,' 'one another':

**Dobrze się znamy.** *We know each other well.*  
**Bardzo się lubimy (kochamy).** *We like (love) each other a lot.*  
**Często się spotykamy.** *We met each other often.*

The verb must have Accusative syntax for the **się** construction to be possible. Otherwise, one uses the appropriate case-form of the reflexive pronoun. For example, since **pomagać -am -asz** 'help' takes the Dative case, one expresses 'help one another' with the Dative reflexive **sobie**:

**Często sobie pomagamy.** *We often help one another.*

3. INTRANSITIVE FORM OF TRANSITIVE VERB. Polish is sensitive to whether a given verb is used transitively (with a direct object), or intransitively (without a direct object). If a verb can be used transitively in its basic sense, its intransitive counterpart will be formed with **się**. Three

subtypes of such use may be distinguished, consisting of uses with persons, things, and events.

a. with persons

transitive:

**nazywać -am -asz** call, name

**śpieszyć -szę -szysz** hurry (someone)

intransitive:

**nazywać się** be called

**śpieszyć się** be in a hurry.

**Jak oni nazywają swoją łódkę?** *How are they calling their boat?*

**Jak ich łódka się nazywa?** *What's their boat called?*

b. with things

transitive:

**otwierać -am -asz** open

**zamykać -am -asz** close

intransitive:

**otwierać się**

**zamykać się**

**Zamykamy książki.** We are closing (our) books.

**Drzwi się zamykają.** The door is (lit. doors are) closing.

c. with events

transitive:

**kończyć -czę -czysz** end, finish

**zaczynać -am -asz** begin

intransitive:

**kończyć się**

**zaczynać się**

**Zaczynamy (kończymy) lekcję.** We are beginning (ending) the lesson.

**Lekcja się zaczyna (kończyły).** The lesson is begining (ending).

4. DEPERSONAL USE. With the 3rd pers. sg. form of the verb, the particle **się** can express the idea of impersonal 'one', as though it were the subject of the sentence. Its occurrence in this use is frequent, much more so than the corresponding use of one in English.

**Jak to się mówi (pisze)?** *How does one say (write) that?*

**Jak tam się idzie (jedzie)?** *How does one go there?*

**Tam zawsze długo się czeka.** *One always waits a long time there.*

Impersonal verbs take the Accusative of a direct object the same way as other verbs:

**Kiedy się ma temperaturę, trzeba zostać w domu.** *When one has a temperature, one should stay at home.*

A sentence can often be depersonalized by adding **się** and putting the subject in the Dative:

**Przyjemnie mi się z tobą rozmawia.** *It's pleasant talking with you.*

In English the 2nd pers. sg. form of the verb is often used impersonally, as in How do you say that? The comparable use should not be used in Polish, since it is apt to be taken for informal speech. Hence it is safest to express the phrase 'How do you get to Lodz?' as **Jak się jedzie do Łodzi?**

5. IMPERSONAL VERBS. The particle **się** is used with some verbs to derive impersonal verbs (verbs which in English have as subject an empty 'it'):

**wydawać się wydaje się +D** it seems

**chcieć się chce się +D** it feels like to me, I feel like

**rozumieć się rozumie się** it is understood.

and others. Such verbs often take Daative complements:

*Wydaje mi się, że skądś znam tę panią.* *It seems to me I know that lady from somewhere.*

**Nie chce mi się iść do miasta.** *I don't feel like going to town.*

6. REFLEXIVE VERBS OF EMOTION. A number of verbs of emotion take **się**, a use which has no good translation into English. Among such verbs are:

**bać się** *boję się, boisz się* be afraid  
**bawić się** *-wię -wisz* play. **dobrze się bawić** have a good time  
**cieszyć się** *-szę -szysz* się be glad  
**denerwować się** *-wuję -wujesz* be upset  
**dziwić się** *-wię -wisz* be surprised  
**martwić się** *-wię -wisz* worry  
**nudzić się** *-dzę -dzisz* be bored  
**przejmować się** *-muję -mujesz* be upset  
**wstydzić się** *-dzę -dzisz* be embarrassed

The following negated imperative forms of reflexive verbs of emotion are common:

**nie bój się** "nie BÓJ się" don't be afraid  
**nie martw się** "nie MARTW się" don't worry  
**nie denerwuj się** don't be upset  
**nie przejmuj się** don't be concerned  
**nie wstydz się** don't be embarrassed.

7. REFLEXIVE-ONLY VERBS. Some verbs occur only with **się**, at least in the given meaning, for example,

**bać się** *boję się, boisz się* be afraid, fear  
**dziać się** *dzieje się* go on, happen  
**podobać się** *-a +D* be pleasing  
**starać się** *-am -asz* try  
**śmiać się** *śmieję się, śmiejesz się* laugh  
**wydawać się** *wydaje się* seem  
**zdarzyć się** *zdarzy się* happen, occur (pf.)

## IMPORTANT SENTENCE CONSTRUCTIONS

CONSTRUCTIONS WITH THE INFINITIVE. A number of common verbs form useful phrases in construction with the infinitive. One of the most useful such verbs is the verb **chcieć** want, especially when used in the conditional in the sense 'I'd like', as in  
**Chciał(a)bym zamówić rozmowę.** *I'd like to place a call.*

Some other common verbs followed by the infinitive include **chcieć, chceć, chcesz** want, **mieć, mam, masz** be supposed to, **musieć, muszę, musisz** must, have to, **starać się, staram się, starasz się** try, **umieć, umiem, umiesz** know how, **woleć, woleć, wolisz** prefer. Three other useful words, **można** one may, **trzeba** one ought, and **wolno** it is permitted, are also followed by the infinitive of the verb and can be used to form a wide variety of impersonal statements and questions:

**Można tu usiąść?** *May one sit down here?*

**Tu nie można palić.** *One may not smoke here.*

**Trzeba to zrobić.** *It's necessary to do that.*

MODAL EXPRESSIONS. The most important modal correspondences (items referring to duty, need, obligation) are the following. All of these items are followed by the infinitive of the main verb.

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 'must', 'have to'    | musieć, muszę, musisz or mieć, mam, masz |
| 'need', 'should'     | musieć, muszę, musisz or trzeba          |
| 'supposed to'        | mieć, mam, masz                          |
| 'ought to', 'should' | powinienem, powinnam, powinniśmy         |

The full conjugation of the last item is as follows:

|                        | masc.                   | fem. | masc. pers. pl.    | fem. pl.           |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1.p. <b>powinienem</b> | <b>powinnam</b>         |      | <b>powinniśmy</b>  | <b>powinnyśmy</b>  |
| 2.p. <b>powinieneś</b> | <b>powinnaś</b>         |      | <b>powinniście</b> | <b>powinnyście</b> |
| 3.p. <b>powinien</b>   | <b>powinna (n. -no)</b> |      | <b>powinni</b>     | <b>powinny</b>     |

Examples:

**Muszę się uczyć.** *I have to study.*

**Trzeba go zapytać.** *One should ask him.*

**Powinnas się śpieszyć.** *You-fem. ought to hurry.*

**Mam być w domu o ósmej.** *I'm supposed to be at home by 8:00.*

'INTRODUCING' SENTENCES. One introduces an identity-noun into conversation with the expression **to jest** that/this is-sg. or **to są** those are, followed by the noun being introduced:

**To jest mój kolega.** *This is my colleague.*

**To jest dobra książka.** *That's a good book.*

**To są moje okulary.** *Those are my eyeglasses.*

The expression **tu jest** here is (pl. **tu są**) is also often used:

**Tu jest dobra nowa książka.** *Here is a good new book.*

**Tu są nasi nowi sąsiedzi.** *Here are our new neighbors.*

EXPRESSING 'THERE IS'. The verb jest is often used by itself to express whether someone is (there) or whether an item is stock:

**Czy jest Marta?** Is Marta there?  
**Czy jest sok?** Is there any juice?

These questions would be answered affirmatively by **Jest** there is or **Nie ma** there isn't. **nie ma** takes the Genitive case: **Nie ma soku** there is no juice-Gen. **Nie ma Marty** Marta-Gen is not here.

PREDICATE NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES. A predicate noun or adjective is a noun or adjective linked to the subject with a form of the verb 'be' (być). In Polish, predicate nouns are expressed in the Instrumental case, while predicate adjectives are expressed with the Nominative case:

**Janek jest dobrym studentem.** Janek is a good student-Inst.  
**Ewa jest wymagającą nauczycielką.** Ewa is a demanding teacher-Inst.

**Adam jest chory.** Adam is sick-Nom.  
**Marysia jest zdenerwowana.** Marysia is worried-Nom.

YES-NO QUESTIONS. Polish often forms questions to be answered by **tak** yes or **nie** no with the help of the question-word **czy** (literally, 'whether'), placed at the beginning of the sentence:

**Czy pan jest gotowy?** Are you ready?  
**Czy to jest dobry film?** Is that a good movie?  
**Czy to nie jest Jan?** Isn't that Jan?

When a yes-no question revolves around a verb, it is often answered with the verb, not with **tak** or **nie**:

-**Czy wypiłeś mleko?** Did you drink the milk?  
-**Wypiłem.** I drank it.

## NEGATION

a. When a verb is negated, the negative particle **nie** is always placed immediately in front of it:

**Nie mam czasu.** I don't have time.  
**Nie kupię tego.** I won't buy that.

When placed before one-syllable verbs, the particle **nie** takes the stress: **NIE chce**, **NIE wiem**.

b. When using words like "nothing", "never", "nowhere", and so on, Polish also uses **nie** before the verb, creating the impression of a "double negation": **Nic nie mam** I don't have anything **Nikt tu nie mieszka.** No one lives here. **Nikt nic nikomu nie mówi.** No one says anything to anyone. Another common word that occurs together

with **nie** is **żaden żadna żadne** none, not any, as in **Żaden stół nie jest wolny** no table is free.

c. Verbs which ordinarily take the Accusative case take the Genitive case when negated:

**Oglądam telewizję.** I'm watching television-Accusative.

**Nie oglądam telewizji.** I'm not watching television.

d. The negation of 'be' in its existential sense of 'there is/are' is expressed by **nie ma** (past **nie było**, future **nie będzie**) plus the Genitive case:

**W sklepie jest piwo.** There is beer in the store.

**W sklepie nie ma piwa.** There is no beer in the store.

WORD ORDER. Word order in Polish tends to reflect the increasing informational prominence of the elements in a sentence as one proceeds from left to right. Items placed at the end carry logical stress and respond to the implicit question a sentence answers. For example, in

**Jan kocha Marię** Jan-nom. loves Maria-Acc.,

the sentence answers the question 'Whom does Jan love?' (Maria). The same sentence with the subject and object reversed,

**Marię kocha Jan** (in effect, 'Maria is loved by John')

answers the question 'Who loves Maria?' (John). Polish often makes use of the device of subject-object reversal to express what is equivalent to passive voice:

**Obudził mnie telefon.** I-Acc. was awakened by the telephone-Nom..

Background information is typically placed in the first part of a sentence. Note the difference between Polish and English in this regard:

**Jutro wieczorem w tej sali odbędzie się zebranie studentów.** There

will be a meeting of students tomorrow evening in this room.

Manner adverbs in Polish tend to be placed earlier in a sentence rather than later. Note here too the difference between Polish and English:

**On dobrze mówi po polsku.** He speaks Polish well.

**SENTENCE INTONATION.** Sentence intonation refers to the slight rise or fall in pitch of the voice while speaking. Polish sentences utilize three levels of intonation: mid, high, and low. Sentences can end on a rise, on a fall, or be level at the end. High and low intonation is not radically different from mid intonation. Polish creates the impression of a moderately intoned language.

1. **STATEMENT INTONATION.** A typical Polish declarative sentence opens at mid level, possibly rises slightly just before the end, but then drops to low level at the very end:

**On nie jest tak miły, jak się wy-da-je.**

2. **YES-NO QUESTIONS**, that is, questions expecting an answer of either 'yes' or 'no', usually begin at mid level and end on a rise to high:

**Czy je-steś za-do-wo-lo-ny?**

**Czy pa-ni mie-szka w War-sza-wie?**

3. **WH QUESTIONS**, that is, questions asking 'how', 'why', 'when', 'where', 'who', 'what', 'what kind', 'which' typically begin with high level on the question word, and then fall to a low level for the remainder of the question.

**Gdzie pa-ni mieszka?**

**Jak się pa-ni na-zy-wa?**

For a more emphatic question, high level may be maintained until the end of the sentence, with a slight rise on the next to last syllable, then a dip to low:

**Dlaczego pani tak się śpie-szy?**

It is important not to give WH questions the intonation of a Yes-No question by ending on a high pitch. Aside from needing to learn this one rule, speakers of English are inherently predisposed to have natural-sounding intonation in Polish.

4. **MANNER ADVERBS.** Adverbs of manner do not usually occur at the end of a sentence, but rather before the verb, where they are emphasized intonationally:

**On dobrze mówi po polsku.**

## APPENDIX: PARTICLES, FILLERS, AND COMMON ADVERBS

|                      |                              |                     |                               |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| above all            | <b>nade wszystko</b>         | finally             | <b>nareszcie</b>              |
| absolutely           | <b>absolutnie</b>            | fortunately         | <b>na szczęście</b>           |
| actually             | <b>właściwie</b>             | fundamentally       | <b>zasadniczo</b>             |
| admittedly           | <b>wprawdzie</b>             | generally           | <b>na ogół</b>                |
| after all            | <b>przecież</b>              | here is             | <b>oto</b>                    |
| all kinds of         | <b>różnego rodzaju</b>       | however             | <b>jednak</b>                 |
| almost               | <b>prawie</b>                | in a word           | <b>jednym słowem</b>          |
| almost, nearly       | <b>bez mała; o mało nie</b>  | in advance          | <b>z góry</b>                 |
| already              | <b>już</b>                   | in any case         | <b>w każdym razie</b>         |
| also                 | <b>też</b>                   | in general, at all  | <b>w ogóle</b>                |
| among other things   | <b>miedzy innymi</b>         | in other words      | <b>innymi słowy</b>           |
| and so on            | <b>i tak dalej (itd.)</b>    | in the end          | <b>w końcu</b>                |
| and things like that | <b>i tym podobnie (itp.)</b> | in the meantime     | <b>tymczasem</b>              |
| any moment           | <b>lada chwila</b>           | in turn             | <b>z kolei</b>                |
| any old              | <b>byle</b>                  | indeed, actually    | <b>rzeczywiście</b>           |
| as, so               | <b>tak</b>                   | just                | <b>tylko</b>                  |
| as it were           | <b>niby</b>                  | just a minute       | <b>chwileczkę</b>             |
| at all               | <b>wcale</b>                 | less                | <b>mniej</b>                  |
| at last              | <b>wreszcie; nareszcie</b>   | let                 | <b>niech</b>                  |
| at least (of amount) | <b>co najmniej</b>           | likewise            | <b>również</b>                |
| at least             | <b>przynajmniej</b>          | maybe, perhaps      | <b>może; być może</b>         |
| barely               | <b>zaledwie; ledwie</b>      | more (of degree)    | <b>bardziej</b>               |
| basically            | <b>w zasadzie</b>            | more (of amount)    | <b>więcej</b>                 |
| better not           | <b>lepiej nie</b>            | more and more       | <b>coraz</b>                  |
| briefly put          | <b>krótko mówiąc</b>         | more or less        | <b>mniej więcej</b>           |
| but, why             | <b>przecież; wszak</b>       | more than           | <b>przeszło</b>               |
| but after all        | <b>przecież</b>              | moreover            | <b>na dodatek</b>             |
| by no means          | <b>bynajmniej</b>            | namely              | <b>mianowicie</b>             |
| completely           | <b>zupełnie</b>              | necessarily         | <b>koniecznie</b>             |
| continually          | <b>ciągle; nadal</b>         | next, subsequently  | <b>następnie</b>              |
| downright            | <b>wręcz; zgoła</b>          | no, not             | <b>nie</b>                    |
| especially           | <b>zwłaszcza</b>             | no doubt            | <b>zapewne</b>                |
| essentially          | <b>istotnie</b>              | nonetheless         | <b>tym niemniej jednak</b>    |
| even                 | <b>nawet</b>                 | not at all          | <b>wcale</b>                  |
| evidently            | <b>widocznie</b>             | not completely      | <b>niezupełnie</b>            |
| exceedingly          | <b>nadzwyczaj</b>            | not necessarily     | <b>niekoniecznie</b>          |
| excessively          | <b>zbytnio</b>               | not quite           | <b>niespełna, niezupełnie</b> |
| exclusively          | <b>wyłącznie</b>             | of course           | <b>oczywiście; owszem</b>     |
| finally              | <b>wreszcie; nareszcie</b>   | of course not       | <b>oczywiście, że nie</b>     |
| first of all         | <b>najpierw</b>              | o.k.                | <b>w porządku</b>             |
| for all that         | <b>zresztą</b>               | only just           | <b>dopiero co</b>             |
| for example          | <b>na przykład</b>           | only                | <b>tylko</b>                  |
| for sure             | <b>na pewno</b>              | or, in other words  | <b>czyli</b>                  |
| for the moment       | <b>na razie</b>              | over and above that | <b>ponadto</b>                |
|                      |                              | overly              | <b>nader</b>                  |

|                    |                           |                 |                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| particularly       | <b>szczególnie</b>        | surely          | <b>pewnie</b>           |
| please             | <b>proszę</b>             | thank you       | <b>dziękuję</b>         |
| possibly           | <b>ewentualnie</b>        | that is         | <b>to jest</b>          |
| precisely, just so | <b>właśnie; akurat</b>    | that means      | <b>to znaczy</b>        |
| predominantly      | <b>przeważnie</b>         | to boot         | <b>na dodatek; i to</b> |
| primarily          | <b>przede wszystkim</b>   | too, too much   | <b>zbyt; za</b>         |
| probably           | <b>chyba; prawdo-</b>     | too bad         | <b>szkoda</b>           |
|                    | <b>podobnie</b>           | totally         | <b>całkowicie;</b>      |
| rather             | <b>raczej</b>             | undoubtedly     | <b>niewątpliwie</b>     |
| rather, quite      | <b>dość</b>               | unfortunately   | <b>niestety</b>         |
| really             | <b>naprawdę; doprawdy</b> | upwards of      | <b>z górami</b>         |
| simply             | <b>po prostu</b>          | very            | <b>bardzo</b>           |
| so                 | <b>tak</b>                | well, yeah      | <b>no</b>               |
| so, well           | <b>otóż</b>               | what a...       | <b>co za...</b>         |
| so-called          | <b>tak zwany</b>          | whatever        | <b>bądź co bądź</b>     |
| solely             | <b>jedynie</b>            | what's worse... | <b>co gorsza...</b>     |
| sort of, rather    | <b>raczej</b>             | why yes         | <b>owszem</b>           |
| still              | <b>jeszcze; nadal</b>     | yes             | <b>tak</b>              |
| superfluously      | <b>zbytecznie</b>         | yet             | <b>jeszcze; już</b>     |
| supposedly         | <b>podobno</b>            | you're welcome  | <b>proszę</b>           |

