50 Basic Polish Words

The words and phrases to learn first – with simple pronunciation. CAPITAL letters mark the stressed syllable.

Learn Polish with Weronika
learnpolishwithweronika.com

#	POLISH	SAY IT LIKE	MEANING
THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT POLISH WORDS			
1	**cześć**	cheshch	hi / bye (informal)
2	**do widzenia**	do vee-DZEN-ya	goodbye
3	**tu / tutaj**	too / TOO-tie	here
4	**tam**	tam	there
5	**tak**	tak	yes
6	**nie**	nyeh	no / not
7	**dziękuję**	jen-KOO-yeh	thank you
8	**przepraszam**	psheh-PRA-sham	sorry / excuse me
9	**nie ma za co**	NYEH ma za tso	you're welcome
10	**proszę**	PRO-sheh	please / here you are
GREETINGS AND GOODBYES			
11	**dzień dobry**	jen DOB-rih	good morning / good afternoon (formal hello)
12	**dobry wieczór**	DOB-rih VYEH-choor	good evening
13	**dobranoc**	do-BRA-nots	good night
14	**na razie**	na RA-zheh	see you / bye for now (informal)
BEING POLITE			
15	**poproszę**	po-PRO-sheh	I'd like… / …, please (asking for something)
16	**smacznego**	smach-NEH-go	enjoy your meal
17	**na zdrowie**	na ZDRO-vyeh	cheers! / bless you
18	**pan / pani**	pan / PA-nee	sir, Mr / madam, Mrs – also the polite "you"
SMALL WORDS THAT DO A LOT OF WORK			
19	**dobrze**	DOB-zheh	OK / good / well
20	**bardzo**	BAR-dzo	very / very much
21	**może**	MO-zheh	maybe
22	**też**	tesh	also / too
QUESTIONS			
23	**co?**	tso	what?
24	**gdzie?**	gjeh	where?
25	**kiedy?**	KYEH-dih	when?
26	**ile?**	EE-leh	how much? / how many?
NUMBERS 1–10			
27	**jeden**	YEH-den	one
28	**dwa**	dva	two
29	**trzy**	tshih	three
30	**cztery**	CHTEH-rih	four
31	**pięć**	pyench	five

#	POLISH	SAY IT LIKE	MEANING
32	**sześć**	sheshch	six
33	**siedem**	SHEH-dem	seven
34	**osiem**	O-shem	eight
35	**dziewięć**	JEH-vyench	nine
36	**dziesięć**	JEH-shench	ten
FOOD AND DRINK			
37	**woda**	VO-da	water
38	**kawa**	KA-va	coffee
39	**herbata**	kher-BA-ta	tea
40	**piwo**	PEE-vo	beer
PLACES AND GETTING AROUND			
41	**toaleta**	to-a-LEH-ta	toilet
42	**dworzec**	DVO-zhets	station (train or bus)
43	**prosto**	PROS-to	straight ahead
44	**w lewo / w prawo**	v LEH-vo / f PRA-vo	left / right
TIME WORDS			
45	**dzisiaj**	JEE-shy	today (short form: dziś)
46	**jutro**	YOO-tro	tomorrow
47	**teraz**	TEH-ras	now
USEFUL SHORT PHRASES FOR BEGINNERS			
48	**nie rozumiem**	nyeh ro-ZOO-myem	I don't understand
49	**nie mówię po polsku**	nyeh MOO-vyeh po POL-skoo	I don't speak Polish
50	**mam na imię...**	mam na EE-myeh	my name is...

How to read Polish words

sz = sh, as in shop proszę (PRO-sheh)

cz = ch, as in chat cześć (cheshch)

rz / ż = zh, like the s in pleasure dobrze (DOB-zheh)

ś / si = a soft sh, said with a smile siedem (SHEH-dem)

ć / ci = a soft ch pięć (pyench)

ź / zi = a soft zh na razie (na RA-zheh)

dz = ds, as in adds bardzo (BAR-dzo)

dź / dzi = a soft j, as in jeep dziękuję (jen-KOO-yeh)

ń / ni = ny, as in canyon nie (nyeh), koń (kony) – horse

i before a vowel = a quick y – it only softens the letter before it kiedy (KYEH-dih)

ą = nasal on / om, a bit like French bon pociąg (PO-chonk) – train

ę = nasal en / em; at the end of a word just e dziękuję (jen-KOO-yeh)

w = v woda (VO-da)

y = short i, as in bit dobry (DOB-rih)

ł = w, as in water złoty (ZWO-tih) – zloty, the Polish currency

j = y, as in yes jutro (YOO-tro)

c = ts, as in cats co (tso)

ó = oo, as in book (the same sound as u) wieczór (VYEH-choor)

ch / h = kh, like the ch in Scottish "loch" herbata (kher-BA-ta)

Stress: almost always on the second-to-last syllable (dzię-KU-ję, prze-PRA-szam). Consonants lose their voice at the end of a word and before a voiceless one, so **też** sounds like "tesh", **chleb** (bread) like "khlep" and **w prawo** like "f PRA-vo".

Next step: my A1 Part 1 course takes you from zero in 86 video lessons (22 hours). From €137 – one-time payment or 3 instalments, lifetime access, 14-day money-back guarantee. **learnpolishwithweronika.com/a1-part-1-eur/**