

The Polish Alphabet

32 letters · capital letters in brackets mark the stressed syllable · **Learn Polish with Weronika**

A a	a, as in father	mama (MA-ma) – mum	M m	m	mleko (MLEH-ko) – milk
Ą ą	nasal on / om, a bit like French bon	ząb (zomp) – tooth	N n	n	noc (nots) – night
B b	b	brat (brat) – brother	Ń ń	ny, as in canyon	koń (kony) – horse
C c	ts, as in cats	co (tso) – what	O o	o, as in hot	okno (OK-no) – window
Ć ć	a soft ch	być (bihch) – to be	Ó ó	oo, as in book – the same sound as u	ósmy (OOS-mih) – eighth
D d	d	dom (dom) – house	P p	p	pies (pyes) – dog
E e	e, as in bed	ser (ser) – cheese	R r	a rolled r, like Spanish or Italian	ryba (RIH-ba) – fish
Ę ę	nasal en / em; at the end of a word just e	ręka (REN-ka) – hand	S s	s	sok (sok) – juice
F f	f	film (film) – film	Ś ś	a soft sh, said with a smile	śnieg (shnyek) – snow
G g	g, as in go	góra (GOO-ra) – mountain	T t	t	tata (TA-ta) – dad
H h	kh – the same sound as ch	herbata (kher-BA-ta) – tea	U u	oo, as in book	ucho (OO-kho) – ear
I i	ee, as in see	imię (EE-myeh) – first name	W w	v	woda (VO-da) – water
J j	y, as in yes	jajko (YAY-ko) – egg	Y y	short i, as in bit	my (mih) – we
K k	k	kot (kot) – cat	Z z	z	zupa (ZOO-pa) – soup
L l	l	lody (LO-dih) – ice cream	Ż ż	a soft zh	źle (zhleh) – badly
Ł ł	w, as in water	łóżko (WOOSH-ko) – bed	Ż ż	zh, like the s in pleasure	żaba (ZHA-ba) – frog

Letter pairs – one sound each

sz	sh, as in shop	szkoła (SHKO-wa) – school
cz	ch, as in chat	czas (chas) – time
rz	zh – the same as ż	rzeka (ZHEH-ka) – river
ch	kh – the same as h	chleb (khlep) – bread
dz	ds, as in adds	dzwon (dzvon) – bell
dż	j, as in jam	dżem (jem) – jam
dź / dzi	a soft j	dziecko (JETS-ko) – child

Three rules: stress is almost always on the second-to-last syllable (dzie-**KU**-ję) · si, ci, zi, dzi, ni = ś, ć, ź, dź, ń before a vowel · consonants lose their voice at the end of a word (z**ą**b = zomp). **Next step:** my A1 Polish course – Part 1 starts with these sounds and takes you to your first conversations: [learnpolishwithveronika.com/a1-part-1-eur/](https://www.learnpolishwithveronika.com/a1-part-1-eur/)