



Polish

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

Acknowledgments

Associate Publisher Mina Patria

Managing Editor Brigitte Ellemor

Editors Kate Mathews, Mardi O'Connor

Series Designer Mark Adams

Managing Layout Designer Chris Girdler

Layout Designer Carol Jackson

Production Support Larissa Frost, Jacqui Saunders

Language Writer Piotr Czajkowski

Thanks

Ben Handicott, James Hardy, Sandra Helou, Annelies Mertens, Wayne Murphy, Naomi Parker, Trent Paton, Piers Pickard, Branislava Vladislavjevic

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

3rd Edition – March 2013

ISBN 978 1 74179 007 8

Text © Lonely Planet 2013

Cover Image Lazienki Park in winter snow, Warsaw, Poland.

Krzysztof Dydzinski / Lonely Planet Images ©

Printed in China 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contact lonelyplanet.com/contact

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trade marks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: www.lonelyplanet.com/ip

Although the authors and Lonely Planet try to make the information as accurate as possible, we accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone using this book.

Paper in this book is certified against the Forest Stewardship Council™ standards. FSC™ promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



acknowledgments

This 3rd edition of Lonely Planet's *Polish phrasebook* is based on the previous edition by the Lonely Planet Language Products team and Piotr Czajkowski, who provided the translations and pronunciation guides as well as cultural advice.

Piotr works in Lonely Planet's Melbourne office as a senior GIS analyst. He hails from Gliwice and Kraków and studied in Wrocław before migrating to Australia to further his education at the University of Melbourne and Swinburne University of Technology. He's adapted well to life in Australia but still pines for Polish *piwo* *pee-vo* (beer). Piotr would like the world to know that, contrary to popular opinion, Polish is not difficult to pronounce. It has, in fact, one more vowel than English.

Piotr would like to thank his wife Gosia and his daughter Aleksandra for their help, and little Karolinka for her patience.

Thanks also to James Howard, English teacher and long-time resident of Kraków, for contributing his insights into Polish language and culture, and to Yuki Yoshi Kamimura and Wendy Wright for the inside illustrations.

Thanks to the Lonely Planet Language Products team who produced the 2nd edition of the *Polish phrasebook* on which this one is based: Vanessa Battersby, Steven Cann, Francesca Coles, Adrienne Costanzo, David Kemp and Karin Vidstrup Monk.



make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside front cover of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

finding things in this book

For easy navigation, this book is in sections. The Basics chapters are the ones you'll thumb through time and again. The Practical section covers basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. The Social section gives you conversational phrases, pick-up lines, the ability to express opinions – so you can get to know people. Food has a section all of its own: gourmets and vegetarians are covered and local dishes feature. Safe Travel equips you with health and police phrases, just in case. Remember the colours of each section and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the two-way traveller's Dictionary for the word you need.

being understood

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language. Start with them to get a feel for how the language sounds. The pronunciation chapter in Basics will explain more, but you can be confident that if you read the coloured phrase, you'll be understood. As you become familiar with the spoken language, move on to using the actual text in the language which will help you perfect your pronunciation.

communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. 'Local talk' boxes show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. 'Listen for ...' boxes supply the phrases you may hear. They start with the script (so a local can find the phrase they want and point it out to you) and then lead in to the phonetic guide and the English translation.

about polish8

language map 8 introduction 9

basics 11

pronunciation 11

vowel sounds 11
nasal vowel sounds 12
consonant sounds 12
word stress 14
reading & writing 14

a-z phrasebuilder 15

contents 15
adjectives & adverbs 17
articles 18
be 18
case 19
demonstratives 21
gender 21
have 22
negatives 23
personal pronouns 23
plurals 24
possessive pronouns 24

prepositions 25

questions 26

verbs 26

glossary 29

language difficulties 31

numbers & amounts 33

cardinal numbers 33

ordinal numbers 35

decimals &

fractions 35

useful amounts 36

time & dates 37

telling the time 37

the calendar 38

present 41

past 41

future 42

during the day 42

money 43

practical 45

transport 45

getting around 45

tickets 47

luggage 49

plane 50

bus, coach, tram &

trolleybus 50

train 51

ferry 53

taxi 53

car & motorbike 54

bicycle 58

border crossing 59

border crossing 59

at customs 60

directions 61

accommodation 65

finding accommodation 65

booking ahead &

checking in 66

requests & queries 68

complaints 70

checking out 71

camping 72

renting 73

staying with locals 74

shopping 75

looking for 75

making a purchase.....	76
bargaining.....	78
books & reading.....	78
clothes.....	80
hairdressing.....	80
music & DVDs.....	81
video & photography.....	82
repairs.....	84
communications.....	85
the internet.....	85
mobile/cell phone.....	86
phone.....	87
post office.....	89
banking.....	91
sightseeing.....	93
getting in.....	94
tours.....	95
business.....	97
senior & disabled	
travellers.....	99
children.....	101
travelling with children.....	101
talking with children.....	103
talking about children.....	104

social.....105

meeting people.....	105
basics.....	105
greetings & goodbyes.....	105
addressing people.....	107
making conversation.....	108
nationalities.....	110
age.....	110
occupations & studies.....	111
family.....	113
farewells.....	114
interests.....	115
common interests.....	115
music.....	117
cinema & theatre.....	118
feelings & opinions.....	121
feelings.....	121
opinions.....	122
politics & social issues.....	123
the environment.....	126
going out.....	127
where to go.....	127
invitations.....	129
responding to	
invitations.....	130
arranging to meet.....	131
drugs.....	132
romance.....	133
asking someone out.....	133
pick-up lines.....	133
rejections.....	134
getting closer.....	135
sex.....	136
love.....	138
problems.....	138
beliefs & cultural	
differences.....	139
religion.....	139
cultural differences.....	140
art.....	143
sport.....	145
sporting interests.....	145
going to a game.....	147
playing sport.....	147
skiing.....	149
soccer/football.....	151
outdoors.....	153
hiking.....	153
beach.....	155
weather.....	156
flora & fauna.....	157

food159

eating out 159

- basics..... 159
- finding a place to eat 160
 - at the restaurant 161
 - at the table..... 165
- talking food 166
- methods of preparation.... 167
- nonalcoholic drinks 168
- alcoholic drinks 169
 - in the bar 170

drinking up 171

self-catering 173

- buying food 173
- cooking utensils 176

vegetarian &

special meals 177

- ordering food..... 177
- special diets &
 - allergies..... 178

menu decoder 179

safe travel.....187

essentials..... 187

- emergencies..... 187
- police 188

health..... 193

- doctor 193
- symptoms & conditions 196

women's health..... 199

allergies..... 200

alternative treatments..... 201

parts of the body 202

pharmacist..... 203

dentist..... 204

dictionaries205

**english-polish
dictionary.....205**

**polish-english
dictionary.....233**

index247

finder.....253

polish



- official language
- generally understood (areas are approximate only)
- minority language



For more details, see the **introduction**.

Ask most English speakers what they know about Polish and they will most likely dismiss it as an unpronounceable language. Who could pronounce an apparently vowel-less word like *szczyt* (meaning 'peak'), for example? To be put off by this unfairly gained reputation, however, would be to miss out on a rich and rewarding language. The mother tongue of illustrious personalities such as Copernicus, Chopin, Joseph Conrad, Marie Curie and Pope John Paul II has a fascinating and turbulent past and symbolises the resilience of the Polish people in the face of domination and adversity.

The story of Polish begins with the arrival of the Polish tribes who occupied the basins of the Oder and Vistula rivers in the 6th century AD. These tribes spoke a range of West Slavic dialects, which over time evolved into Polish. The closest living relatives of Polish are Czech and Slovak, which also belong to the wider West Slavic family of languages.

Polish reached the apex of its influence during the era of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, which was formed in 1569

at a glance ...

language name:

Polish

name in language:

język polski *jen-zik pol-skee*

language family: Slavic

key country: Poland

approximate number of

speakers: 45 million

close relatives:

Czech, Slovak

donations to English:

horde, mazurka, vodka

and lasted until 1795. The Commonwealth covered a swath of territory from what are now Poland and Lithuania, through to Belarus, Ukraine and Latvia and part of Western Russia. Polish became a lingua franca throughout much of Central and Eastern Europe at this time due to the Commonwealth's political, cultural, scientific and military might.

When Poland was wiped off the map of Europe from 1795 to 1918 after three

successive partitions in the second half of the 18th century (when it was carved up between Russia, Austria and Prussia), the language suffered attempts at both Germanisation and Russification. Later, after WWII, Poland became a satellite state of the Soviet Union and it came under the renewed influence of Russian. Polish showed impressive resistance in the face of this oppression. The language not only survived but enriched itself by borrowing many words from both Russian and German. The works of Poland's greatest literary figures who wrote in exile – the Romantic poet Adam Mickiewicz, and, during Communist rule, the Nobel Prize winner Czesław Miłosz – are testament to this fact.

Today Poland is linguistically one of the most homogeneous countries in Europe – over 95% of the population speaks Polish as their first language. There are significant Polish-speaking minorities in the western border areas of Ukraine, Belarus and in southern Lithuania, with smaller populations in other neighbouring countries.

Getting acquainted with Polish is easy. It's not difficult to pronounce and the coloured pronunciation guides in this book are designed to help you say any Polish word with ease. This book gives you all the practical phrases you need to get by, as well as all the fun, spontaneous phrases that will lead to a better understanding of Poland and its people. Local knowledge, new relationships and a sense of satisfaction are on the tip of your tongue. So don't just stand there – say something!

abbreviations used in this book

a	adjective	loc	locative
acc	accusative	m	masculine
adv	adverb	m pers pl	masculine personal
dat	dative		plural
f	feminine	n	neuter
gen	genitive	nom	nominative
general pl	general plural	perf	perfective
imp	imperfective	pl	plural
inf	informal	pol	polite
inst	instrumental	sg	singular
lit	literal	v	verb
	translation	voc	vocative