

Polish is a member of the West Slavic group of Slavic languages. The Slavic languages belong to the *satem* division of Indo-European languages (characterized by initial *s* where *centum* I-E languages have *k*, e.g. Russian *sto* vs Latin *cent* /*kent*/.) Polish speakers number about 40 million and are found primarily in Poland. Several million Polish speaking immigrants are found in Canada, the US, and elsewhere in the world.

Polish is characterized by a rich consonant system with a number of non-continuent obstruent contrasts, notably among dentals, alveolopalatals, and palatoalveolars. There is also contrastive palatalization among the consonants and contrastive nasalization among some vowels.

The speaker in this recording is a male from Warsaw in his fifties.

Polish Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p	t		k
	p ^j			k ^j
	b	d		g
	b ^j			g ^j
Affricates:		ts	tʃ	
		dz	dʒ	
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	x
	f ^j			
	v	z	ʒ	
	v ^j			
Nasals:	m	n	ɲ	
	m ^j			
Liquids:		l	r	
Glides:			j	w

[w] was originally [tʃ], an allophone of /l/. There are varying degrees of devoicing word finally, and in other conducive environments. Syllabic /r/ weakens to [ɹ].

Polish Vowel Phonemes:

Vowels Encountered:

i	u	i	ɔ u
		ɪ	
ɛ ɛ̃	ɔ ɔ̃	ɛ ɛ̃	ɔ ɔ̃
a		a ɔ̃	ɑ

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Fricatives and Affricates:

1.	[ɔʃ]	oś	'axis'
2.	[bɪtɕ]	być	'be'
3.	[ʃanɔ]	siano	'hay'
4.	[ʒarnɔ]	ziarno	'grain'
5.	[ʒima]	zima	'winter'
6.	[tɕɪma]	ćma	'moth'
7.	[duʒi]	duży	'big (masc.pl)'
8.	[duʒɪ]	duży	'big (masc.sg)'
9.	[lɛpʃi]	lepsi	'better (masc.pl)'
10.	[lɛpɕɪ]	lepszy	'better(masc.sg)'
11.	[sɪn]	syn	'son'
12.	[ɕɪk]	szyk	'order'
13.	[ʃɛɲ]	sień	'hall'
14.	[zupa]	zupa	'soup'
15.	[ʒupa]	żupa	'saltworks'
16.	[ʒowo]	zióło	'herb'
17.	[tɕɛgwa]	cegła	'brick'
18.	[tʃɛk]	czek	'Czek'
19.	[tɕɛɕa]	cisza	'silence'
20.	[dʒɪv]	dziw	'wonder'
21.	[dʒɛm]	dżem	'jam'
22.	[dʒɪvɪ]	dziwny	'strange'
23.	[sɔsna]	sosna	'pine'
24.	[ɕɔstki]	szorstki	'rough'
25.	[ʃɔstra]	siostra	'sister'
26.	[zɛmsta]	zemsta	'revenge'
27.	[ʒɛʒba]	rzeźba	'sculpture'
28.	[zɛm'a]	ziemia	'earth'
29.	[tsɔrka]	córką	'daughter'
30.	[tʃawa]	czoło	'forehead'
31.	[tʃɔtka]	ciotka	'aunt'
32.	[dʒvan]	dzwon	'bell'
33.	[dʒuma]	dżuma	'plague'
34.	[dʒura]	dziura	'hole'
35.	[popɕɛdʒatʃ]	poprzedzać	'proceede'
36.	[tɕɛdʒɪtɕ]	cedzić	'filter'
37.	[ɕɪna]	szyna	'rail'
38.	[ʃtʃana]	ściana	'wall'
39.	[tʌptʃɪtɕ]	tańczyć	'dance'
40.	[ʃfɪsnɔtɕ]	świsnąć	'whistle'

Nasal Vowels:

1.	[xɔʒɛst]	chrzest	'baptism'
2.	[xɔʒɛst]	chrzęst	'rattle'
3.	[tʃɛstɔ]	często	'frequently'
4.	[tʃɛstɕ]	czesac	'to comb'

5.	[pəzɛswɔ]	przesło	'bay'
6.	[kəzɛswɔ]	krzesło	'chair'
7.	[klɛska]	kłeska	'defeat'
8.	[wɛska]	łezka	'tear'
9.	[sɛns]	sens	'sense'
10.	[zɛs]	zez	'cross-eye'
11.	[zɛmbɪ]	zęby	'teeth'
12.	[vɔski]	wąski	'narrow'
13.	[vɔsk]	wosk	'wax'
14.	[pɔs]	paś	'purple'
15.	[pɔst]	post	'fast'
16.	[dɔsatɕ ʃɛ]	dąsać się	'to frown'
17.	[dɔsɪtɕ]	dosyc	'enough'
18.	[vɔsɪ]	wąsy	'moustaches'
19.	[bɔsɪ]	bosy	'barefoot'
20.	[kɔnɕaxɪ]	konszachty	'intrigues'
21.	[kɔɕɛɲɛ]	koszenie	'cutting grass'
22.	[ʃɛ]	się	'self'
23.	[ʃanɔ]	siano	'hay'
24.	[tɛtʃa]	tęcza	'rainbow'
25.	[tatsa]	taca	'tray'
26.	[vɪrabʲatɕ]	wyrabiać	'make'
27.	[vɪrɔbatɕ]	wyrąbać	'cut'
28.	[ɔdrɔbatɕ]	odrąbać	'to cut out'

Dark vs. Light /l/:

1.	[lada]	lada	'counter'
2.	[waxa]	łacha	'branch of a river'
3.	[vada]	wada	'defect'
4.	[waska]	łaska	'weasel'
5.	[vas]	was	'you'
6.	[ʃito]	sito	'sieve'
7.	[łɔs]	łos	'destiny'
8.	[wɔʃ]	łos	'elk'
9.	[vɔsk]	wosk	'wax'
10.	[pɔlanɔ]	poleno	'log'
11.	[pɔwatɕ]	połac	'part of a forest'
12.	[bɪli]	byli	'are' (masc.)
13.	[bɪwɪ]	były	'are' (fem. pl.)
14.	[pwatʃɛ]	płacisz	'you are paying'
15.	[pwatʃɪli]	placili	'paid'
16.	[bʲawɪ]	biały	'white'
17.	[bʲɪʃɪ]	bielszy	'whiter'
18.	[wɛsɛɪɪ]	weseli	'merry' (masc. pl.)
19.	[wɛsɔwɛ]	wesołe	'merry' (fem. pl.)
20.	[kɔwɔ]	koło	'circle' (sing.)
21.	[kɔwɛm]	kółem	'circle' (inst.)

Palatalization:

1.	[pɛx]	pech	'bad luck'
2.	[pʲɛtɕa]	piecza	'protection'
3.	[pan:a]	panna	'miss'
4.	[pʲãtek]	piątek	'Friday'
5.	[bes]	bez	'without'
6.	[bʲɛs]	bies	'devil'
7.	[bitfa]	bitwa	'battle'
8.	[bije]	bije	'he beats'
9.	[mɔtil]	motyl	'butterfly'
10.	[mʲɔtatʃ]	miotac	'throw'
11.	[matka]	matka	'mother'
12.	[mʲastɔ]	miasto	'town'
13.	[fɔka]	foka	'seal' (animal)
14.	[fʲɔk]	fiok	'finery'
15.	[fasɔla]	fasola	'bean'
16.	[fʲaskɔ]	fiasko	'failure'
17.	[vɛlɔn]	welon	'veil'
18.	[vʲɛlu]	wielu	'many'
19.	[vewna]	welne	'wool'
20.	[vina]	wina	'fault, guilt'
21.	[kɔnar]	koner	'branch'
22.	[kɔɲ]	koń	'horse'
23.	[nɛgatsʲa]	negacje	'negation'
24.	[ɲɛgɔdzɪn]	niegodzien	'unworthy'
25.	[lʲitɕitʃ]	liczyć	'to count'
26.	[lada]	lada	'any'
27.	[lilʲa]	lilia	'lily'
28.	[lɛk]	lek	'medicine'
29.	[ʃɛtɕ]	sieć	'net'
30.	[ɕal]	szal	'shawl'
31.	[ʃatɕ]	siac	'to sow'
32.	[sɛtka]	setka	'a hundred of'
33.	[ɕɔstki]	szorstki	'rough'
34.	[ʃɔstra]	siostre	'sister'
35.	[tsal]	cal	'inch'
36.	[tʃad]	czad	'carbon monoxide'
37.	[tʃɛtɕ]	ciecz	'liquid'
38.	[tsɔʃ]	coś	'something'
39.	[zɛɲ]	zeń	'from him'
40.	[zɛka]	żeka	'river'
41.	[zdʒbwɔ]	żdźbło	'stalk' (n)
42.	[xɔdzɛ]	chodzę	'I am going'
43.	[(dʒ)dʒɪstɪ]	dźdzysty	'rainy'
44.	[dʒadɛk]	dziadek	'grandfather'
45.	[zɔstatɕ]	zostac	'remain'
46.	[ʒɔna]	żone	'wife'
47.	[ʒɔmek]	ziomek	'compatriot'

48.	[dʒvig]	dźwig	'lift'
49.	[zāb]	zęb	'tooth'
50.	[ʒāb]	zięb	'chill'
51.	[kēdɪ]	kędy	'where'
52.	[kēdɪ]	kiedy	'when'
53.	[kēpa]	kępa	'islet'
54.	[kēpski]	kiepski	'poor'
55.	[ganek]	ganek	'balcony'
56.	[gātɕ]	gięć	'to bend'
57.	[gēba]	gęba	'mouth of an animal'
58.	[gētɕɔʃtɕ]	giętkość	'flexibility'

Vowels:

1.	[atak]	atak	'attack'
2.	[baba]	baba	'old woman'
3.	[bɔ]	bo	'for, because'
4.	[bɔk]	bok	'side'
5.	[bɔl]	ból	'ache'
6.	[krɔl]	król	'king'
7.	[grunt]	grunt	'ground'
8.	[mus]	mus	'necessity'
9.	[ix]	ich	'them'
10.	[nits]	nic	'nothing'
11.	[sɪn]	syn	'son'
12.	[tɪw]	tył	'rear'
13.	[hɛrb]	herb	'coat of arms'
14.	[defekt]	defekt	'defect'
15.	[dosɪtɕ]	dosyc	'enough'
16.	[sɔʃad]	sąsied	'neighbor'
17.	[wɛx]	węch	'sense of smell'
18.	[tɕɛɕki]	ciężki	'heavy'
19.	[gɔʒmɔt]	grzmot	'thunder'
20.	[krak]	krok	'step'
21.	[bur]	bor	'forest'
22.	[but]	but	'shoe'
23.	[bitɕ]	bić	'to hit'
24.	[bɪk]	byk	'bull'
25.	[ɕtʃɛʃtʃɛ]	szczęście	'happiness'
26.	[xudɪ]	chudy	'thin'
27.	[xɔd]	chod	'walk'
28.	[xɔtɕ]	choć	'although'
29.	[tʃapka]	czapka	'cap'
30.	[tʃɔwɔ]	czoło	'forehead'
31.	[mɔts]	moc	'power'
32.	[mɔts]	móc	'to be able'
33.	[gawɔz]	gałąź	'branch'
34.	[gɔwɪ]	goły	'naked'
35.	[grɛtski]	grecki	'Greek'

36.	[gɛ̃ʃ]	gęś	'goose'
37.	[tʃɛski]	czeski	'Czechoslovakian'
38.	[tʃɛstɔ]	często	'often'
39.	[jɛgɔ]	jego	'his'
40.	[jɛzɨk]	język	'language'
41.	[pʲɛɲɔdze]	pieniądze	'money'
42.	[pɔnad]	ponad	'above'
43.	[mɛta]	mete	'goal'
44.	[mɛ̃ka]	męka	'torture'
45.	[mɛ̃ski]	męski	'masculine'
46.	[mɔda]	mode	'fashion'
47.	[majɔ]	mają	'they have'
48.	[mɔka]	mąka	'flour'
49.	[mɔɕ]	mąż	'husband'
50.	[mɛ̃za]	męża	'husband' (gen).

III. Reading Sample

References:

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