

Slovak is a West Slavic language related to Czech, Polish, and Sorbian. It is most closely related to Czech and the two are mutually intelligible. Slovak is spoken by approximately 4.5 million people in Slovakia plus another 0.5 million in the Czech Republic. There are about another 1 million speakers in communities in Poland, Hungary, Romania, the former Yugoslavia, Canada, the U.S., and Argentina. The standard dialect is Central Slovak.

The speaker in this recording is a 27 year-old male, originally from Bratislava where a West Slovak dialect is spoken.

Slovak Consonant Phonemes:

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

A voiced palatal stop occurs in free variation with the voiced alveolo-palatal fricative. Although, traditionally, there is a phonemic contrast between the voiced and voiceless glottal fricatives, in this speaker they occur in complimentary distribution. There is not enough evidence to assert which is underlying so /h/ has been used merely as convention. /n/ assimilates to the velar position when preceding a velar. An alveolar flap occurs as an allophone of the trill. The voiceless stops are unaspirated in word initial and medial positions but are strongly released word finally. Generally, the literature on Slovak states that [v] does not occur and instead realizes as [w] or [ʋ]. However, this speaker consistently produces [v] in all environments. The palatal lateral that was traditionally contrastive, in this speaker, is only apparent in careful speech.

Slovak Vowel & Diphthong Phonemes:

i(:)	u(:)		ju		uj
ɛ(:)	ɔ(:)		je	wo	ej ow
	a(:)		ja		ɔj
				aw	a(:)j

There is rarely a quality difference between long and short vowels although [ɔ] occurs in free variation with [o] in both long and short forms and is unpredictable.

I. Spontaneous SpeechII. Word ListsConsonants:

1.	[p]	[peɲ]	peň	'trunk'
2.		[dɔpitɕ]	dopit'	'finish drinking'
3.		[ɔdstup]	odstup	'distance'
4.	[b]	[bitɕevni:]	bitevný	'battle'
5.		[riba]	ryba	'fish'
6.	[t]	[taʃka]	taška	'bag'
7.		[pota:patʃ]	potápač	'diver'
8.		[pru:t]	prút	'rod'
9.	[d]	[di:xatɕ]	dýchat'	'to breathe'
10.		[mɛdvɛdz]	medved'	'bear'
11.		[pru:d]	prúd	'stream'
12.	[k]	[kaʃɛl]	kašeľ	'cough'
13.		[pɔskɔk]	poskok	'leap'
14.		[jazik]	jazyk	'tongue'
15.	[g]	[gestɔ]	gesto	'gesture'
16.		[paga:tʃ]	pagáč	'bun'
17.		[trɛ:niŋg]	tréning	'training'

Nasal Stops:

24.	[m]	[meto:da]	metoda	'method'
25.		[ɔzna:mitɕ]	oznámit'	'to announce'
26.		[ɦa:dam]	hádam	'perhaps'
27.	[n]	[novi]	novy	'new'
28.		[pɔdzɛlɔk]	pondelok	'Monday'
29.		[ɔbtʃan]	občan	'citizen'
30.	[ɲ]	[ɲux]	ňuch	'scent'
31.		[pɔɲimatɕ]	ponímat'	'to understand'
32.		[ɦrebeɲ]	hrebeň	'comb'
33.	[ŋ]	[banʃka]	banka	'bank'

Fricatives:

34.	[f]	[farba]	farba	'colour'
35.		[kɔnfu:zni]	konfúzný	'confused'
36.		[biograf]	biograf	'cinema'
37.	[v]	[vɔzeɲ]	vozeň	'carriage'
38.		[sla:vni]	slávny	'famous'
39.		[pa:v]	páv	'peacock'
40.	[s]	[sirota]	sirota	'orphan'
41.		[prɔsitɕ]	prosit'	'to ask'
42.		[ɔpis]	opis	'description'

43.	[z]	[zi:vac̥]	zívat'	'to yawn'
44.		[poznac̥]	poznať	'to know'
45.		[maz]	maz	'wax'
46.	[ʃ]	[ʃkɔla]	škola	'school'
47.		[priʃit̥]	prišit'	'to sew on'
48.		[marʃ]	mars	'be off'
49.	[ʒ]	[ʒaba]	žaba	'frog'
50.		[skri:ʒit̥]	skřížit'	'to cross'
51.		[lɔʒ]	lož	'lie'
52.	[x]	[xixɔt]	chichot	'giggle'
53.		[ɔxɔta]	ochota	'willingness'
54.		[tʃux]	čuch	'smell'
55.	[fi]	[fiavkat̥]	havkat'	'to bark'
56.		[pɔɦib]	pohyb	'motion'
57.	[h]	[lahkɔ]	lahko	'easily'
58.		[na:vɾh]	návrh	'proposal'

Affricates:

59.	[ts]	[tsɔ:l]	cól	'inch'
60.		[butslati:]	buclatý	'chubby'
61.		[obets]	obec	'community'
62.	[dz]	[mɛdzi]	medzi	'between'
18.	[tɕ]	[tɕava]	t'ava	'camel'
19.		[tɕɛt̥ɛitʃka]	tetička	'auntie'
20.		[spɔʒit̥]	spojit'	'to connect'
21.	[dʒ]	[dʒivadlo]	divadlo	'theatre'
22.		[sɛdzɛm]	sedem	'seven'
23.		[spovɛdʒ]	spoved'	'confession'
63.	[tʃ]	[tʃin]	čin	'deed'
64.		[utʃit̥]	učit'	'to teach'
65.		[lu:tʃ]	luč	'ray'
66.	[dʒ]	[dʒban]	džban	'jug'

Liquids:

67.	[l]	[liʒɛ]	lyže	'skis'
68.		[ɦoli:]	holý	'bare'
69.		[pɔl]	pol	'pole'
70.		[lad]	l'ad	'ice'
71.		[nalavɔ]	na'avo	'on the left'
72.		[pɛl]	peľ	'pollen'
73.	[ʌ]	[ʌad]	l'ad	'ice'
74.		[naʌavɔ]	na'avo	'on the left'
75.		[pɛʌ]	peľ	'pollen'
76.	[l]	[dlʒina]	dĺžina	'length'
77.	[l:]	[dl:ʒka]	dĺžka	'span'
78.	[r]	[rani:]	rany	'early'
79.		[pa:r]	pár	'pair'

80.	[r]	[urezatɕ]	urezat'	'to cut off'
81.	[r]	[krmitɕ]	krmit'	'to feed'
82.		[kr̩m]	kr̩m	'food'

Glides:

83.	[j]	[jaskiɲa]	jaskiňa	'cave'
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Vowels:

84.	[i]	[istɕɛ]	iste	'certainly'
85.		[dix]	dych	'breath'
86.		[tota:lni]	totalny	'total'
87.	[i:]	[i:stɕ]	íst'	'to go'
88.		[di:xatɕ]	dýchat'	'to breathe'
89.		[totalitni:]	totalitný	'totalitarian'
90.	[ɛ]	[ɛra:r]	erár	'public treasury'
91.		[dzɛlenets]	delenec	'dividend'
92.		[sluʃɲɛ]	slušne	'decently'
93.	[ɛ:]	[ɛ:ra]	éra	'era'
94.		[dɛkrɛ:t]	dekrét	'decree'
95.	[a]	[azda]	azda	'perhaps'
96.		[rad]	rad	'row'
97.		[baba]	baba	'old woman'
98.	[a:]	[a:zja]	Ázia	'Asia'
99.		[ra:d]	rád	'gladly'
100.	[ɔ]	[otsɔt]	ocot	'vinegar'
101.		[pɔl]	pol	'half'
102.		[trubɔ]	trul'ɔ	'blockhead'
103.	[o:]	[po:l]	pól	'pole'
104.	[u]	[unavitɕ]	unavit'	'to tire'
105.		[puʃka]	puska	'gun'
106.		[kɛnguru]	kenguru	'kangaroo'
107.	[u:]	[u:nava]	únava	'weariness'
108.		[pu:ʃtɕ]	púst'	'desert'

Rising Diphthongs:

109.	[jɛ]	[djɛɔ]	dielo	'work'
110.		[pɛrjɛ]	perie	'plumage'
111.	[ja]	[pjatɔk]	piatok	'Friday'
112.		[diskuzja]	diskusia	'discussion'
113.	[ju]	[bɔʒju]	božiu	'God's'
114.	[wɔ]	[rwɔzni]	rôzny	'different'

Falling Diphthongs:

115.	[ej]	[dzej]	dej	'event'
116.	[aj]	[kajuta]	kajuta	'cabin'
117.	[a:j]	[ma:j]	maj	'May'
118.	[uj]	[kupuj]	kupuj	'buy!'
119.	[ow]	[peknoʷ ʒenow]	peknou ŷenou	'with a beautiful woman'
120.	[ɔj]	[pokɔj]	pokoj	'quiet'
121.	[aw]	[awtor]	autor	'author'
122.	[woj]	[mwoj]	môj	'my'

Consonant Clusters:

123.	[bzutʃatɕ]	bzučat'	'to buzz'
124.	[xmud]	čmud	'smoke'
125.	[tʃpjɛtɕ]	čniet'	'to stick out'
126.	[tʃpjɛtɕ]	čpjɛtɕ	'to smell'
127.	[gdzɛ]	kde	'where'
128.	[ktɔ]	kto	'who'
129.	[mdli:]	mdlý	'faint'
130.	[mɲiʃka]	mniška	'nun'
131.	[tmavi:]	tmavý	'dark'
132.	[dvɔr]	tvor	'creature'
133.	[vbɪtɕ]	vbit'	'to drive'
134.	[ftʃɛra]	včera	'yesterday'
135.	[vnuk]	vnuk	'grandson'
136.	[fstatɕ]	vstat'	'to stand up'
137.	[ftak]	vtak	'bird'
138.	[vzbuʃitɕ]	vzbudit'	'to awaken'
139.	[zbavitɕ sa]	zbavit' sa	'to get rid of'

References:

Labchuk, Tracey. 1995. MS A Phonetic Description of Slovak. University of Calgary, Linguistics 421, W95.