

## Polish

# Polski

**Spoken in:** Poland (38 million), also about 6 million speakers in the USA, Lithuania, Belarus, France, Germany, Ukraine and other countries.

**Total speakers:** 44 million

**Genetic Classification:** Indo-European Balto-Slavic group Slavic West Slavic Lekhitic Polish

**Official language of:** Poland

The Polish language is written in the Roman alphabet augmented by the use of diacritical marks. It is extremely rich phonetically, having 10 vowels and 35 consonants.

The vocabulary of Polish is basically Slavic, but it has been enriched by borrowings from German in the Middle Ages, from Italian during the Renaissance, from French in the 17th and 18th centuries, and also from English, Russian, and Ukrainian.

The letters q, v and x are used only in foreign words.

Polish is often said to be one of the most difficult languages for non-native speakers to learn. It has a complex gender system with four genders: neuter, feminine and two masculine genders (animate and inanimate). There are 7 cases and 2 numbers.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 FTE Polish interpreters and 5 sessional interpreters.

### Polish alphabet:

Upper case	A	Ą	B	C	Ć	D	E	Ę	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Ł	M	N	Ń	O	Ó	P	R	S	Ś	T	U	W	Y	Z	Ż	Ź
Lower case	a	ą	b	c	ć	d	e	ę	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	ł	m	n	ń	o	ó	p	r	s	ś	t	u	w	y	z	ż	ź

The letters Q, V and X do not belong to the Polish alphabet but they are used in some commercial names and foreign words.

