

Polish

Script

- In the Polish alphabet there are 32 letters, 9 vowels and 23 consonants:
- Letters q, v, x are not normally used in Polish
- Polish and English sound systems are different. The vowels are similar but not the same. The pronunciation of the vowels a, e, i, o, and u are similar to that of Spanish and Italian.

Sentence structure and word order

- The basic word order is the same as English - subject + verb + object.
- If the sentence contains a pronoun as a subject, it usually is omitted: "Mam kotka." instead of "Ja mam kotke." (meaning "I have a cat.")

Nouns and pronouns

- Nouns can be either masculine, feminine or neuter.
- There are no articles: a, an, the

Adjectives

- Decline for case, number and gender.
- Adjectives stand before the noun if they refer to an incidental feature of the noun. In case they refer to an intrinsic feature they follow the noun. Possessives, demonstratives, etc. always precede the noun:
To jest **niebieska** ksiazka. (This is a blue book.), To jest ksiazka **niebieska**. (This is the blue book.), To jest **moja** ksiazka. (This is my book.)

Verbs

- Verbs have personal and impersonal forms.
- Polish has a complex system of conjugation. Personal forms conjugate for person, number, tense, voice and mood. There are 15 different endings for infinitive verbs, for example.

Punctuation

- Direct speech is indicated by using dashes. They are only required in the beginning and when the narrator adds a comment:
-Gdzie jest ona - zapytala Ala - Nie ma jej tutaj.
"Where is she?" asked Ala. "She is not here."