

# Klub Dialogu Newsletter

- *Polish? We make it possible!* -

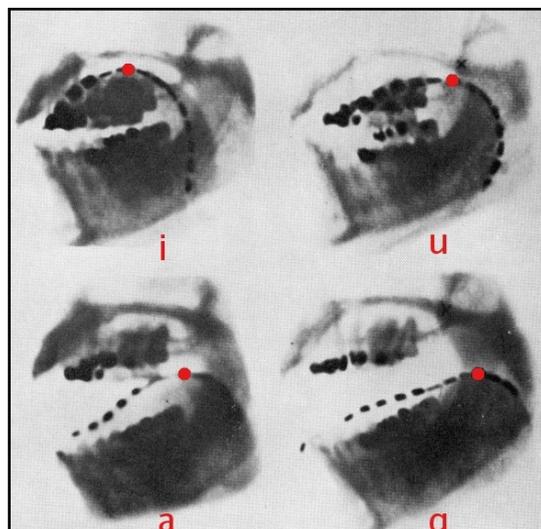
## Polish Phonetics - just a bit of a tongue twister!

As a learner of a foreign language, we all know that pronunciation can be one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome in order to sound convincing to a native speaker (always the dream!), and Polish is no exception. In fact, Polish language is said to be one of the hardest in the world, not only due to grammar, but the pronunciation and Polish phonology is undoubtedly a challenge.

The phonological system of Polish is similar in many ways to those of other Slavic languages, meaning that for Slavs it isn't as difficult to grasp, but for those, for example, from English-speaking or Asian countries, it can be one of the biggest problems. Having said that, Polish has some characteristic features found only in a few other languages of the family, for example, nasal vowels. The vowel system is rather simple, whereas the consonant system shows more complexity.

This being said, once one learns the Polish alphabet and how to pronounce each letter and cluster of letters, pronunciation from reading is rather simple due to the fact that everything is pronounced as it is written and following the rules.

At KLUB DIALOGU, we specialise in phonetics classes for those students who require it and for those who decide they'd like to really learn the art of Polish pronunciation; these classes are lead by our Polish teachers who are also qualified logopedists. It's a great opportunity and a lot of our students have expressed their positive feedback regarding these classes, saying they promote speaking in Polish but really focusing on the pronunciation and accent, as opposed to grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading and going through a course book. X-rays are shown, the articulation of all Polish sounds is explained, and then we have fun and play games.



### Phonetics classes at KLUB DIALOGU:

Our specialist classes and program for phonetics is precisely designed to accommodate all our student's needs, and perfected during lessons by our highly qualified and trained teachers who are likewise logopedists. These are classes that are for those who require extra help with Polish pronunciation and are proven to make a difference.



"Klub Dialogu language school was an essential bridge between our family and Polish language, culture and Poles when we were living in Poland."

- Ana



- Interview with long-term student, Rob from England! -

**Rob, going from A0 to B2 level is a huge achievement!**

**What has helped you in your Polish fluency?**

Thanks! It's not been easy - sometimes I think 'Why am I doing this?', but then I remember why I like Poland and want to stay here long term. I try do as much as possible in Polish every day - ordering a coffee, supermarket shopping, restaurants. At the start I would have to switch to English after only a couple of words, but every time I would try to get further. Now I'm at the point where I can have a conversation without too much help from the other person.

**I know that being from England can be a challenge in terms of Polish phonetics and a foreign accent is inevitable. What're your tips for speaking without being ashamed?**

I think Polish pronunciation is tough, but a lot of the sounds exist in English, we just don't have a standard way of writing them down. I practiced a lot by talking to Google Translate until it could understand the words I was saying - it doesn't matter what you think the sounds 'should be', you have to do it the Polish way if you want it to sound right and be understandable.

**What is your favourite Polish word and favourite Polish sound (eg rz, sz, ś...) and why?**

Żądło - I like that it's short but uses so many of the Polish letters.

**How have our phonetics classes at Klub Dialogu helped you to overcome pronunciation obstacles?**

The classes helped me a lot because they didn't just cover sounds in isolation - it also helped the rhythm and intonation of my speech. In English you can pause or slow down in the middle of a word, but in Polish you have to say the whole thing in one go.

## - COME ALONG TO OUR MONTHLY EVENT - FILMOWY PIĄTECZEK -

Once a month in KLUB DIALOGU, we are arranging a special event - Filmowy Piątek - where we watch a Polish movie with English subtitles with a discussion afterwards. It's already proven to be a success and what's more, is a really good way to practise listening to Polish pronunciation with the help of subtitles. See for yourself (next meeting is 15th November!) and enjoy an evening with fellow students, teachers and friends. All information can be found on our Facebook page and on email. See you there soon!!

FILMOWY PIĄTECZEK