

WELCOME

Are you interested in learning Polish and developing your language skills – **listening, speaking, reading** and **writing**? Would you like to gain language confidence in everyday situations?

Beginner's Course will not only introduce you to the language quickly, but it will also do it in an entertaining and motivating way. It will give you a vivid image of contemporary Polish. Additionally, you will learn a lot of useful and interesting facts about the country, people and culture.

This course has grown from the experience and findings of the "Learning Lusatia" project, that was supported and carried out by a combination of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research along with the European Social Fund within the scope of the "Learning Regions" programme.

HOW TO WORK ON OUR COURSE

Each of the 10 Lessons consists of four double pages that systematically cover four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking.

- **LISTEN** – The first double page of each Lesson concentrates on listening comprehension.
- **READ** – You practise the comprehension of written Polish in real-life situations.
- **WRITE** – You develop your writing skills here.
- **SPEAK** – Short dialogues in Polish from everyday life situations are covered here.

Practice makes perfect

- After Lessons 5 and 10, there is a Revision Unit consisting of four pages. In this part, you can systematically check, brush up and improve your abilities.

The most efficient way of learning languages

- Learn regularly and in short stages. It is better to practice several times a week for fifteen minutes than only once in that time for two hours.

INTRODUCTION

- Do not dwell on one subject for too long. You will see even if you have not understood every point, your doubts disappearing as you move on.
- Listen to each recording more than once and keep listening to it. You do not have to understand every single word immediately. What important is that you can understand the main idea of the text.

Appendix

In the Appendix, you will find a lot of useful information.

- The Lesson vocabulary, including the pronunciation of more difficult words as well as the English translation, will help you improve your Polish vocabulary.
- **Answer key** Here you will find the answers to all the exercises on the course.
- **Script** Here you can find all the recordings from **CD 1** and **CD 2**, unless they are already included in the Lesson. There is also an English translation of all the dialogues.
- **Grammar overview** Here you can quickly find answers to your questions connected with grammar.
- **Polish-English Wordlist** Have you forgotten a Polish word? With this list, you can find the Lesson it was covered in.
- **Polish-English Wordlist** Would you like to know the Polish equivalent of an English word? Just check this list.

The following icons will lead you quickly from the Exercise to suitable extras.



1.2 It is a link to the grammar overview.



01 Listen to the audio track.



02 The phonetic symbol indicates a pronunciation Exercise.



Here you will learn about Poland and the Poles.

CD 1 – contains all the dialogues and listening tasks in the order in which they appear in each Lesson. Each track is introduced in Polish: "Lesson numer ..., ćwiczenie ..." (*Lesson number ..., Exercise number ...*).

CD 2 – contains the essential vocabulary covered in the course as well as systematic pronunciation and vocabulary training.

Have fun and good luck

How to convert audio files for a MP3 Player

To convert the audio files to the MP 3 format, you need software such as, e.g., iTunes that changes the data from audio CDs into MP3 files. Put the audio CD to the disk drive in your computer and start the software. Choose the files from the audio CD you would like to convert and start the conversion process. You can find more information about converting audio CD files to MP3 format in the help menu of the particular software.

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Map of Europe



Welcome



1

01 Urszula Nowakowska from the „Transbut” company and Łukasz Belka from the „Bas” company meet at a conference in Warsaw. It is their first meeting. Listen to the way they greet each other and introduce themselves.

Tip

The forms **pan** (Mr) and **pani** (Mrs) are used in formal contacts. They are followed by a verb in the 3rd person singular.

Tip

The sound for **dzi** can also be represented by the letter combination **dź**, like in the *dźwięk* – sound
The sound for **ń** can also be represented by the letter combination **ni**, as in **nic** – nothing



2



02 You must have heard a couple of unusual sounds while listening to the dialogue. Listen to some other words with on usual sounds and repeat them. Check their spelling, too.

sz	as in ash	U rsz ula wsz ystko War sz awa
dzi	as in gene , but softer	dzie ń dzie kuję gdzie
ł	as in win	miło śły chać śły cham
ń	soft n, as in mignonette	dzie ń pa ń stwo Pozna ń
ż	as in ash when in final position	też już gara ż

3



03 In Polish the stress usually falls on the last but one syllable. Listen to the following words, mark the stress and repeat them.

Ur-szu-la • War-sza-wa • No-wa-kow-ska • do-bry • pań-stwo • wszys-tko • mi-ło

Welcome

4

Robert Bartkowiak and Katarzyna Zielińska are both students. They have just met in a cafe. Listen to the way they greet each other and introduce themselves.

**Tip**

The form **ty** is used in informal contacts. It is followed by a verb in the 2nd person singular.

5

There are some words in Exercise 4 that may be difficult to spell and pronounce. Listen to some other examples now and repeat them. Be careful with the stress.



cz	as in ch ocolate	C zechy s erdecznie K rawczyk
z	as in z ebra	n azwisko m uzyka D rezno
ć	and ci as in ch ease, but softer	c ześć b yć p oznać ci ę M aciej b ocian
ś	as in sh e, but softer	j esteś my j esteś ś wietnie
ę	as in French Gaugu in , but more like in y es when in the final position	ci ę r ęka si ę

6

Unscramble these dialogues and put the phrases in the correct order.

- a) ☐ Bardzo mi miło.
☐ Dzień dobry! Jestem Robert Bartkowiak.
☒ Dzień dobry! Jestem Urszula Nowakowska. A pan?
☐ Mnie też!
- b) ☐ Cześć! Jestem Katarzyna.
☐ Mnie też!
☐ Cześć! Jestem Łukasz!
☐ A ty?
☐ Miło cię poznać!



Welcome

Vocabulary

ul. is the abbreviation of **ulica** and means **street**.

Tip

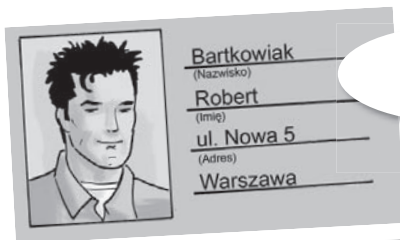
You can answer the question **Kto to jest?** (*Who is this?*) in three ways, depending on how familiar you are with the person.

Formal: **To jest pan Bartkowiak.** (*This is Mr. Bartkowiak.*)
 Informal: **To jest Robert.** (*This is Robert.*)

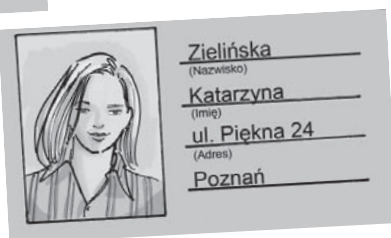
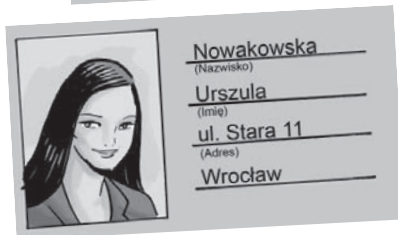
In a typically Polish in-between way: **To jest pan Robert.** (*This is Mr. Robert.*)

7

Take a look at these ID cards of Katarzyna, Robert and Urszula. Is there any information that you don't understand?



Kto to jest? -
Who is this?



Try to find Polish equivalents for the following English words, using the IDs above.

- 1) Surname _____ 2) First name _____
 3) Address _____

8

Find the cities of Warszawa, Poznań and Wrocław on the map on page 9. Then find the Polish names for the following cities and countries

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Poland _____ | 2) Germany _____ |
| 3) Austria _____ | 4) France _____ |
| 5) England _____ | 6) Russia _____ |
| 7) Warsaw _____ | 8) Cracow _____ |
| 9) Poznań _____ | 10) Wrocław _____ |
| 11) Berlin _____ | 12) Munich _____ |
| 13) Vienna _____ | 14) Paris _____ |
| 15) London _____ | |

Now listen to the pronunciation of the Polish names of cities and countries. Repeat the words you hear.



07

Welcome

9

Polish nouns can be masculine, feminine or neuter. Note that there are no articles in Polish.

First, read the grammar box below and, then, complete the table naming each column with the appropriate gender.

_____	_____	_____
Polska	Opole	Gdańsk
Rosja	Zakopane	Rzym
Francja	Monachium	Berlin
Gdynia	Berno	Poznań
Legnica	Leszno	Kraków
Bruksela	Oslo	Paryż

You can recognize the gender of the noun by its ending in the nominative singular. Most nouns ending in a **consonant** are masculine, the majority of those ending in **-a** or **-i** are feminine and those ending in **-e**, **-ę**, **-o** or **-um** are neuter.



10

Łukasz and Katarzyna have just met in a chat room on the Internet. Read this dialogue and try to understand what they are writing about. Just a hint: **Skąd jesteś?** means *Where are you from?*

Katarzyna:	Cześć! Jestem Katarzyna. Moje hobby to muzyka i teatr.
Łukasz:	Hej Katarzyna! Miło mi. Jestem Łukasz. Muzyka to też moje hobby. Skąd jesteś?
Katarzyna:	Jestem z Poznania. A ty?
Łukasz:	Jestem z Krakowa.

Tip

Moje hobby **to (jest)** muzyka. (*literally: My hobby, it is music*). This construction is typical Polish. The word **to (it)** is obligatory, the verb **jest (is)** is very often left out. This structure requires a noun in the nominative case.

Have you noticed that the names of the cities have different forms in Exercises 9 and 10?

The **preposition z (from)** is used when talking about the origin and is followed by a noun in the genitive case. You will learn more about the genitive in Lesson 6.





11

1.6 Compare these forms of the countries and the cities in the nominative and the genitive case. You will get more information about the genitive in Lesson 6.

Niemcy	z Niemiec	Polska	z Polski	Rosja	z Rosji
Londyn	z Londynu	Warszawa	z Warszawy	Anglia	z Anglii
Bruksela	z Brukseli	Kraków	z Krakowa	Litwa	z Litwy
Paryż	z Paryża	Poznań	z Poznania	Rzym	z Rzymu
Monachium	z Monachium	Opole	z Opola	Czechy	z Czech



12

08 Where are these people from? Listen to three short dialogues and complete these four sentences.

- 1) Łukasz jest z _____ 2) Robert jest z _____
 3) Marion jest z _____ 4) Piotr jest z _____

13

You must have noticed that the Polish verb **być** (to be) is irregular. You are going to use this verb quite often, so it is worth remembering. Now you can fill in these gaps with the forms you already know.



6.7

The present tense of *być*

singular

1. person (ja) _____
 2. person (ty) _____
 3. person (on, ona, ono) _____

plural

1. person (my) **jesteśmy**
 2. person (wy) **jesteście**
 3. person (oni, one) **są**

Now, you have also learnt the **personal pronouns**. They are only used in Polish when emphasis or contrast is intended and, therefore, they appear in brackets. Note that there are two personal pronouns in the 3rd person plural. **Oni** refers to *masculine personal nouns* or groups of people with at least one male person. **One** is used for all other nouns (*masculine non-personal, feminine and neuter*). Hint: **ja** (I) is spelt with a small letter.

Welcome

14

Check the grammar box to the right and complete the gaps with suitable forms of the verb **być** in the formal register.

(Ja) _____ Ula. To _____
państwo Belka. Kto to _____?
To _____ pani Teresa a to _____
pan Zawacki. Skąd wy _____?
_____ z Krakowa.

The formal forms of the verb **być** are as follows:

Singular: **pan** or **pani** + verb in the 3rd person singular

Plural: **państwo** + verb in the 3rd person plural



6.14

15

Katarzyna has just logged in a chat room. Why don't you join her?

imię:	Katarzyna
nazwisko:	Zielińska
kraj:	Polska
miasto:	Poznań
hobby:	sport, poezja
e-mail:	kasia105@onet.pl

imię: _____
nazwisko: _____
kraj: _____
miasto: _____
hobby: _____
e-mail: _____

Vocabulary

Hobbies:

literatura - *literature*
kino - *cinema*
teatr - *theatre*
taniec - *dancing*
gotowanie - *cooking*
czytanie - *reading*
ogród - *gardening*

16

Katarzyna and Łukasz meet again in the chat room. Read their conversation below.
Łukasz starts with a casual "How are you?"

Łukasz:	Cześć Kasia! Jak leci?
Katarzyna:	O! Łukasz! Witam. U mnie wszystko w porządku.
Łukasz:	U mnie też wszystko w porządku!

Do you remember how to say „How are you?” in Polish?
Write the phrase in the bubble.



Diminutives

Diminutives are often used instead of full first names.

Katarzyna → Kasia
Urszula → Ula
Robert → Robercik
Łukasz → Łukaszek