

TABLE 59.10: *Polish Alphabet*

Letter ^a	Phonetic Value ^b	Name
A	<i>a</i>	[a]
Ą	<i>a</i>	[õ]; [o] before <i>l, t</i> ; [o] + homorganic nasal before stop
B	<i>b</i>	[b]
C	<i>c</i>	[t͡s] (when palatalized, [t͡ɕ])
Ć	<i>ć</i>	[t͡ɕ]
D	<i>d</i>	[d]
E	<i>e</i>	[e]
Ę	<i>e</i>	[ẽ]; [e] before <i>l, t</i> and word-finally; [e] + homorganic nasal before stop
F	<i>f</i>	[f]
G	<i>g</i>	[g]
H	<i>h</i>	[x], archaic–regional [h]
I	<i>i</i>	[i]
J	<i>j</i>	[j]
K	<i>k</i>	[k]
L	<i>l</i>	[l]
Ł	<i>ł</i>	[w], archaic–regional [ɫ]
M	<i>m</i>	[m]
N	<i>n</i>	[n] (when palatalized, [ɲ])
Ń	<i>ń</i>	[ɲ]
O	<i>o</i>	[o]
Ó	<i>ó</i>	[u]
P	<i>p</i>	[p]
R	<i>r</i>	[r]
S	<i>s</i>	[s] (when palatalized, [ɕ])
Ś	<i>ś</i>	[ɕ]
T	<i>t</i>	[t]
U	<i>u</i>	[u]
W	<i>w</i>	[v]
Y	<i>y</i>	[ɨ]
Z	<i>z</i>	[z] (when palatalized, [ʐ])
Ż	<i>ż</i>	[ʐ]
Ź	<i>ź</i>	[ʑ]

a. The following digraphs are not considered single letters of the alphabet:

Ch	ch	[x]
Cz	cz	[t͡ɕ]
Dz	dz	[d͡z] (when palatalized [d͡ʑ])
Dź	dź	[d͡ʑ]
Dż	dż	[d͡ʑ]
Rz	rz	[ʐ]
Sz	sz	[ʃ]

b. Consonants are palatalized before *i* [i], and are represented as C + *i* before other vowels. The palatalized consonant symbols with acute accents are used only before consonants and word-finally.

SAMPLES OF SLAVIC AND BALTIC LANGUAGES

POLISH

1. *Polish:* Już w rękopisach wytworzył się swoisty
 2. *Transcription:* juʃ w reŋkopʲisax vʲtʃoʒʲw ɕe sʃojʲstʲi
 3. *Gloss:* already in manuscripts created self characteristic

1. typ ortografii,^a w szczegółach zaś wykrył się we
 2. tʲip ortografʲi f ʃtʲjeguwax zaɕ vʲkʲrʲstʲalʲizovaw ɕe ve
 3. type of.orthography in details however crystallized self in

1. wzorowych drukowniach krakowskich. Polega on na łączeniu
 2. vzorovʲix drukovʲnax krakofskʲix polega on na wontʲejnu
 3. leading printing-houses Cracowian relies it on combination

1. liter alfabetu łacińskiego i na użyciu litery i jako znaku
 2. ʲliter alfabetu waʲcijskʲiego i na uʒʲtʲcu ʲliterʲi i jako znaku
 3. of.letters of.alphabet Latin and on use of.letter i as sign

1. miękkości.^b Próby radykalnej zmiany minęły bez echa.
 2. mʲeŋkoɕʲci prubʲi radʲikalnej zmʲanʲi mʲinewʲi bez exa
 3. of.softness attempts of.radical change passed without echo

‘Already in the manuscripts there arose a characteristic type of orthography; however, it was crystallized in its details in the leading Cracow printing-houses. It is based on the combination of letters of the Latin alphabet and on the use of the letter *i* as a sign of softness. Attempts at radical change have passed by without trace.’
 — *Encyklopedia Powszechna 1975: 586.*

Notes:

^aThe word *ortografii* shows the letter *i* representing [j] before a vowel, a possibility found in loanwords.

^bThe adjective *miękki* ‘soft’ and its derivatives are spelled with double *k*, but pronounced with single [k].

BALTIC AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES

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