

POLISH

COUNTRY: Poland

POST: Warsaw

The Polish language belongs to the group of Slavonic languages. It uses the Latin alphabet. Polish orthography is strictly phonetic, consistent, relatively easy to learn. The Polish grammar is rather complicated although it is relatively regular. Polish is a highly inflected language. There are, for instance, different endings for verbs to indicate person, number, tense and mood. Nouns are inflected to indicate number and case, defining exactly its relationship to other words in the sentence. An adjective always changes endings to agree with the noun it qualifies. There are three genders of nouns and adjectives: masculine, feminine and neuter. There are three tenses: present, past and future. There are conditional and subjunctive moods.

An average bilingual student requires approximately three months of full time tuition, 20 hours per week, in order to acquire a basic grounding. The knowledge of another Slavic language is a considerable asset. Students who have studied Russian experience no difficulty in quickly attaining a working knowledge of Polish.