

Everyone makes language mistakes, both foreigners just trying to learn new language, and the native speakers. The difference lies only in the type of mistake. Even if you are not a native speaker of Polish, you can still learn proper forms and maybe one day you will even be able to correct Poles... To start with, here are some of the words and phrases that are most often pronounced and spelt incorrectly.



Poszedłem – it means just ‘I went’ in the masculine form, but is often pronounced as ‘poszłem’, which is kind of simplification and just sounds terrible! Remember that ‘pójść’ (go) in past tense is an irregular verb, so the proper form is always ‘poszedłem’. Boys – if you remember to always say it right, you will win the heart of every educated Polish girl.

W każdym razie – the phrase, meaning ‘anyway’, with some people becomes ‘w każdym bądź razie’ which is just a mixture of ‘w każdym razie’ and another phrase – ‘bądź co bądź’ (‘however’).

Perfumy – you probably know the meaning, because it’s so similar to English – ‘perfume’. Watch out – this noun occurs only in the plural; sometimes in the shop you can hear people trying to buy ‘perfum’ or ‘perfuma’, a word that is an awkward attempt to make it singular.

Po linii najmniejszego oporu – another phrase, meaning, more or less: ‘the low hanging fruit’, something done with the least possible effort. It is not so easy to hear this phrase said correctly, even though it is really popular. Often people say ‘po najmniejszej linii oporu’, changing the order of words and turning into something illogical.

Wziąć – the simplest and the most common mistake is connected with this word. It's a very important verb meaning just 'to take', but it is so often pronounced and spelt in a wrong way, mostly as a 'wziąć'. Look at the picture: there is the wrong way of saying 'wziąć' and the answer is based on the same mistake – adding the suffix '-ść'. Learn how to use this basic word properly and your Polish will be appreciated.

These are just a few examples of the mistakes, which you have definitely heard in Poland before, in the streets, in bars, during shopping. But be mislead – the knowledge of errors is to point out to what you should be careful, in order to make your Polish just perfect 😊