

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #1

Meeting Your New Neighbor in Poland

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POLISH

1. Kasia: Dzień dobry! Nowy lokator?
2. Felipe: Może pani powtórzyć?
3. Kasia: Lokator. Mieszka pan tutaj?
4. Felipe: Tak.
5. Kasia: Nazywam się Katarzyna Kowalczyk. A pan?
6. Felipe: Nazywam się Felipe Rossi.
7. Kasia: Miło mi pana poznać, Felipe. Skąd pan jest?
8. Felipe: Jestem z Brazylii.
9. Kasia: Uczy się pan tutaj?
10. Felipe: Nie, pracuję dla firmy handlowej.

ENGLISH

1. Kasia: Good Morning! Are you a new tenant?
2. Felipe: Can you repeat that, ma'am?
3. Kasia: Tenant. Do you live here, sir?
4. Felipe: Yes.

CONT'D OVER

5. Kasia: My name is Katarzyna Kowalczyk. And yours, sir?
6. Felipe: My name is Felipe Rossi.
7. Kasia: Nice to meet you, Felipe. Where are you from?
8. Felipe: I'm from Brazil.
9. Kasia: Do you study here?
10. Felipe: No, I'm working for a trading company.

VOCABULARY

Polish	English	Class	Gender
nowy	new	adjective	
lokator	tenant	noun	masculine
powtórzyć	to repeat	verb	
mieszkać	to live	verb	
tutaj	here	pronoun	
nazywać się	to be called	verb	
poznać	to meet, to get to know	verb	
skąd	where...from	pronoun	
być	to be	verb	
uczyć się	to study, to learn	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jutro zaczynam nową pracę.</p> <p>Tomorrow, I'm starting a new job.</p>	<p>Czy to jest nowy kubek?</p> <p>Is it a new mug?</p>
<p>To nasz nowy lokator.</p> <p>This is our new tenant.</p>	<p>Proszę powtórzyć.</p> <p>Repeat that, please.</p>
<p>Proszę to powtórzyć jeszcze raz.</p> <p>Repeat that once again, please.</p>	<p>Proszę powtórzyć.</p> <p>Can you repeat that, please?</p>
<p>Mężczyzna mieszka w Sydney, w Australii.</p> <p>The man lives in Sydney, Australia.</p>	<p>Mieszkasz z rodzicami?</p> <p>Do you live with your parents?</p>
<p>Mężczyzna mieszka w Sydney, w Australii.</p> <p>The man lives in Sydney, Australia.</p>	<p>Mieszkam tutaj.</p> <p>I live here.</p>
<p>Nazywam się Tomasz Brzozowski.</p> <p>My name is Tomasz Brzozowski.</p>	<p>Nazywam się Tomasz Król.</p> <p>My name is Tomasz Krol.</p>
<p>Bardzo mi miło pana poznać.</p> <p>It's very nice to meet you, sir.</p>	<p>Poznał Anię na studiach.</p> <p>He met Ann at the university.</p>
<p>Skąd pochodzisz?</p> <p>Where are you from?</p>	<p>Nie wiem, skąd jest John.</p> <p>I don't know where John is from.</p>
<p>Jestem Tomek.</p> <p>I am Tom.</p>	<p>To jest moja książka.</p> <p>This is my book.</p>

Licealiści uczą się w bibliotece.

The high school students study in the library.

Chłopiec uczy się grać na saksofonie.

The boy is learning the saxophone.

Licealiści uczą się w bibliotece.

The high school students study in the library.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Może pani powtórzyć? "Can you repeat that, ma'am?"

Może is conjugated form of the infinitive verb *móc*, and means "can, to be able to," and here it's in the third person singular. The next word in the phrase is *pani*, meaning "ma'am" (or, in other kind of sentences, "Ms"). The last word is *powtórzyć* meaning "to repeat."

Its literal meaning is "Can you repeat, ma'am?"

We use this phrase when we want a woman we're talking with to repeat what she has just said. If we're talking to a man, then we need to replace the word *pani* ("ma'am," "Ms") with *pan* ("sir," "Mr"). That's how the sentence will look like: *Może pan powtórzyć?*

We use this sentence in a formal situation, like when we're talking to a stranger or a person we are not close enough to to address by first name. In more casual settings it's a better idea to use *Możesz powtórzyć?* It literally means "Can you repeat?"

For example:

1. *Przepraszam, nie usłyszałem. Może pani powtórzyć?*
"I'm sorry, I didn't hear. Can you repeat, ma'am?"

poznać "to meet"

The Polish verb *poznać* translates into English as "to meet," however, it can be used only when we talk about meeting someone for the first time. It's similar to the English "to get to know someone."

It's commonly used in the phrase *miło mi pana poznać*, which was used in the dialogue. It means "it's nice to meet you, sir." Of course if we're speaking to a lady, we change *pana* into *panią*. If we're talking to a young person, we can skip *pan* and *pani* and say *miło mi cię poznać*, literally "nice to meet you."

For example:

1. *Miło mi cię poznać.*
"Nice to meet you."

A pan? "And you, sir?"

A pan? literally translates into "And you, sir?" Again, it's reserved for formal situations, because we're addressing the man we're talking to with *pan*. Just as before we can replace that word with *pani* if we're speaking to a woman. The third option is the casual *A ty?*, equivalent to the English "And you?"

We use this kind of question when we give some information and we want the person we're speaking to to give us the same, just like Kasia in the dialogue. First she gave her name and then said *a pan?* instead of saying *A jak się pan nazywa?*, which would be repeating basically the same sentence. Let's have a look at another example. You could say *Mieszkam w Polsce. Gdzie mieszkasz?* meaning "I live in Poland. Where do you live?," but it sounds boring and is a bit long. A better way to say it is *Mieszkam w Polsce. A ty?*, meaning "I live in Poland. And you?"

For example:

1. *Studiuję historię. A ty?*
"I'm studying history. And you?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Basic Introduction Phrases

Nazywam się Katarzyna Kowalczyk. A pan?

"My name is Katarzyna Kowalczyk. And yours, sir?"

Introducing Yourself Using *nazywać się*

The verb *nazywać się*, meaning "to be called" is used to introduce yourself in Polish. It's usually used in official settings, however, that's not the only time you would use this phrase. Something to remember is that when you use *nazywać się* you should give both your first and last name or last name only; just like Felipe did in the dialogue. Let's have a look at a few examples and the conjugation of the verb.

1. *Nazywam się Nowak.*
"My name is Nowak."
2. *Nazywam się Robert Kowalski.*
"My name is Robert Kowalski"

* The verb *nazywać* can also occur without *się*, but then the meaning changes into "to name," for example, *Gosia nazwała swojego psa Lolek* ("Gosia named her dog Lolek").

Singular Form

Polish	"English"
<i>(ja) nazywa-m się</i>	"my name is"
<i>(ty) nazywa-sz się</i>	"your name is"
<i>on nazywa-Ø się</i>	"his name is"
<i>pan nazywa-Ø się</i>	"your name, sir, is"
<i>ona nazywa-Ø się</i>	"her name is"
<i>pani nazywa-Ø się</i>	"your name, ma'am, is"
<i>ono nazywa-Ø się</i>	"its name is"

Plural Form

Polish	"English"
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<i>(my) nazywa-my się</i>	"our names are"
<i>(wy) nazywa-cie się</i>	"your names are"
<i>oni nazywa-ją się</i>	"their names are"
<i>państwo nazywa-ją się</i>	"your names, ladies and gentlemen, are"
<i>panowie nazywa-ją się</i>	"your names, gentlemen, are"
<i>one nazywa-ją się</i>	"their names are"
<i>panie nazywa-ją się</i>	"your names, ladies, are"

Talking About Yourself Using *być* Followed by the Genitive

- Using *Jestem z* followed by the genitive case
"I am from..."

In the dialogue of this lesson you heard the question *skąd pan jest?* ("where are you from, sir?"), and the more casual version of the same question, without the word *pan* ("sir"), *skąd jesteście?* meaning "where are you from?" Please note that in Polish we rarely use pronouns like *ja* ("I"), *ty* ("you") or *my* ("we"), because the form of the verb expresses the pronoun. That's why we won't say *skąd ty jesteście?*, we will just say *skąd jesteście?*

To answer the question you need to use the verb *być* which means "to be" in English, followed by the preposition *z* ("from") and name of the country you come from in the genitive case. Let's have a look at a few examples.

- A: *Skąd jesteście?*
"Where are you from?"

B: *Jestem z Australii.*
"I'm from Australia"

2. A: *Skąd pan jest?*
 "Where are you from, sir?"
 B: *Jestem z Holandii.*
 "I'm from Holland."
3. A: *Skąd pani jest?*
 "Where are you from, ma'am?"
 B: *Jestem z Francji.*
 "I'm from France."

In the table below, we have the names of countries in their dictionary form as well as English translations. And on the right, there are forms that have to be used whenever we use the preposition *z*, which means "from" in English. In Polish, the forms are a little bit different, so please pay attention to the endings.

Polish Nominative case	English	Z... (Polish Genitive case)
<i>Stany Zjednoczone</i>	"the United States"	<i>Stanów Zjednoczonych</i>
<i>Japonia</i>	"Japan"	<i>Japonii</i>
<i>Hiszpania</i>	"Spain"	<i>Hiszpanii</i>
<i>Anglia</i>	"England"	<i>Anglii</i>
<i>Szwajcaria</i>	"Switzerland"	<i>Szwajcarii</i>
<i>Dania</i>	"Denmark"	<i>Danii</i>
<i>Holandia</i>	"Holland"	<i>Holandii</i>
<i>Chiny</i>	"China"	<i>Chin</i>
<i>Ukraina</i>	"Ukraine"	<i>Ukrainy</i>
<i>Francja</i>	"France"	<i>Francji</i>

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Nazywam się Felipe Rossi.*
"My name is Felipe Rossi."
2. *Jestem z Brazylii.*
"I'm from Brazil."

Sample Sentences

1. *Nazywamy się Kowalscy.*
"Our name is Kowalski."
2. *On nazywa się Smith i jest ze Stanów Zjednoczonych.*
"His name is Smith and he's from the United States."

CULTURAL INSIGHT**Meeting Someone in Poland for the First Time—Dos and Don'ts**

First of all, when we meet someone for the first time we have to introduce ourselves, at the same time extending our hand for a handshake. You can start with *witam*, literally meaning "welcome" but commonly used as a greeting, just like the English "hello." You can use other greetings like *Cześć* ("Hi"), *Dzień dobry* ("Good morning"), or *Dobry wieczór* ("Good evening"), depending on the time of the day and the formality level. After that you should give your name, and to do that there are a few options. For example, with our character from the dialogue, he might say:

- Felipe or Felipe Rossi (yes, you can say ONLY your name; using your full name in more formal situations)

- *Jestem Felipe.* ("I'm Felipe.")
- *Mam na imię Felipe.* ("My name is Felipe.")
- *Nazywam się Felipe Rossi* ("My name is Felipe Rossi.")

It's very important to remember the handshake, which is done by both men and women, in both casual and formal settings. Make sure your grip is firm and confident. Poles often get a slightly negative impression of someone if their grip is soft, or non-existent.