



Problem 3. Polish your Polish! (10 marks)

Polish is a [West Slavic language](#) spoken by about 50 million people in Poland, some bordering regions and in the Polish diaspora. The table on this page shows some Polish masculine nouns and adjectives in singular and plural.

singular	plural	meaning
<i>adwokat</i>	<i>adwokaci</i>	advocate (a person who supports a cause)
<i>ambaras</i>	<i>ambarasy</i>	problem
<i>autor</i>	<i>autorzy</i>	author
<i>biedny napis</i>	<i>biedne napisy</i>	poor subtitle
<i>blady indyk</i>	<i>blade indyki</i>	pale turkey
<i>blady optymista</i>	<i>bladzi optymiści</i>	pale optimist (with a positive outlook)
<i>ślotnisty artysta</i>	<i>ślotniści artyści</i>	muddy artist
<i>chiński antropolog</i>	<i>chińscy antropolodzy</i>	Chinese anthropologist
<i>cienki gnat</i>	<i>cienkie gnaty</i>	weak bone
<i>dochód</i>	<i>dochody</i>	income
<i>drobniuski granat</i>	<i>drobniuskie granaty</i>	tiny pomegranate
<i>dystrybutor</i>	<i>dystrybutorzy</i>	distributor
<i>egipski adwersarz</i>	<i>egipscy adwersarze</i>	Egyptian soothsayer (fortune teller)
<i>emir</i>	<i>emirowie</i>	emir (the ruler of a Muslim country)
<i>kacyk</i>	<i>kacykowie</i>	cacique (the chief of an indigenous tribe)
<i>kardynał</i>	<i>kardynałowie</i>	cardinal (official in the Church)
<i>kardynał</i>	<i>kardynały</i>	cardinal (the bird)
<i>kolega</i>	<i>koledzy</i>	colleague
<i>nijaki zasób</i>	<i>nijakie zasoby</i>	unremarkable resource
<i>notariusz</i>	<i>notariusze</i>	notary (who certifies legal documents)
<i>objazd</i>	<i>objazdy</i>	detour
<i>obojczyk</i>	<i>obojczyki</i>	collarbone
<i>odcinek</i>	<i>odcinki</i>	episode (of a TV show)
<i>pancerz</i>	<i>pancerze</i>	armor
<i>Polak</i>	<i>Polacy</i>	Pole (someone from Poland)
<i>szacunek</i>	<i>szacunki</i>	respect

Note that *sz*, *rz*, *cz*, *dz*, *ń*, and *ł* are consonants and that *q*, *ó*, and *y* are vowels.

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2019

Round 2



Q.3.1. The Polish word **darmozjad** means "a loafer," or a person who lives on others' expense. You might expect the plural to be **darmozjadzi**. However, the plural is actually **darmozjady**. Explain why this is the case in your answer sheets.

Q.3.2. The noun **wielkolud** ('giant') has two plurals. What are they, and when would each be used?

Q.3.3. Give the plural forms of the following phrases.

a. kalendar [should be kalendarz]	calendar	i. chybki pilot	swift pilot
b. jarski kapelusz	vegetarian hat	j. czepek	bonnet
c. łotr	villain	k. grzejnik	heater
d. robotnik	worker	l. rudy grób	red tomb
e. chorowity chirurg	sickly surgeon	m. szympans	chimpanzee
f. partner	partner	n. pan	lord
g. zwalisty golfista	stocky golfer	o. załóżek	seed
h. zachodnioeuropejski akordeonista	Western European accordionist		



Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 35)

- Q3.1: 1 point for the main idea. (max 1)
- Q3.2: 1 point for the forms, one for their meanings. (max 2)
- Q3.3: 1 point for each correct single word, so 2 for some items a-o (max 22)
 - ignore item (a)
 - pay attention to ó~o, ś~s, i~y+

Q.3.1.	<i>Loafers are classified as nonhuman due to their laziness.</i>	
Q.3.2.	<i>wielkoludy (a nonhuman giant, like in a fairy tale) and wielkoludzi (a tall person)</i>	
Q.3.3.	a. kalendarze [ignore – sing = kalendarz]	i. chybcy piloci
	b. jarskie kapelusze	j. czepek
	c. łotrzy	k. grzejniki
	d. robotnicy	l. rude groby
	e. chorowici chirurdzy	m. szympansy
	f. partnerzy OR partnerzy	n. panowie
	g. zwaliści golfiści	o. załężeki
	h. zachodnioeuropejscy akordeoniści	



Commentary

- ❖ **Nouns:** the masculine nouns in Polish language can be divided into several groups:
 - nouns (no matter **persons/nonpersons**) with a soft stem (excluding the ones which end in **-c/-ca/-ec**), i.e. **-ń/-ć/-sz/-rz/-l**
=> pl. := stem + **-e**;
 - **nonpersons** with a stem which ends in **-c/-ca/-ec**
=> pl. := stem + **-e**;
 - **persons** with a stem which ends in **-c/-ca/-ec**
=> pl. := stem + **-y**;
 - **persons** with a hard stem (excluding the ones which end in **-k/-g/-r**)
=> pl. := modified (softened) stem + **-i**; (!) For the softening see below!
 - **persons** with a (hard) stem which ends in **-k/-g/-r**
=> pl. := modified (softened) stem + **-y**; (!) For the softening see below!
 - **nonpersons** with a hard stem (excluding the ones which end in **-k/-g/-r**)
=> pl. := stem + **-y**;
 - **nonpersons** with a (hard) stem which ends in **-k/-g/-r**
=> pl. := stem + **-i**;
 - nouns (for **persons**) that mean titles/ranks/positions/kinship terms
=> pl. := stem + **-owie**;
 - **persons** who are treated as **nonpersons** (darmozjad/łotr/pijak/zabójca)
=> pl. := stem + **-y**.
- ❖ **Adjectives:** they can be formed in two ways:
 - if the adjective modifies a nonperson
=> pl. := stem + **-e** or pl. := stem + **-ie** (after **-g/-k**);
 - if the adjective modifies a person
=> pl. := modified (softened) stem + **-i** or
 pl. := modified (softened) stem + **-y** (after **-dz/-c/-rz**).



❖ Softening:

hard version	soft version
g	dz
k	c
r	rz
st	ść
zn	źń
t	ć
ch	ś
ł	l
sn	śń
sł	śl
zł	źl

❖ Additional rules (for the nouns):

- when a **vowel** is added to a soft stem which ends in **-ń/-ś/-ć/-ź**, the soft consonant should be replaced with its hard equivalent, i.e. **-n/-s/-c/-z** + **-i** + **the vowel**. If **the vowel** is **-i**, then the word ends in just one **-i**.
- Moving **-e**:
 - ✓ there are cases when
CeC + suffix = CC + suffix (C = consonant);
 - ✓ Ciec + suffix = Cc + suffix (C = consonant);
 - ✓ the rule above is satisfied for *szwagier* as well;
- the final **-a** which can be observed in some of the singular nouns is omitted when the plural form is formed;
- if the noun denotes a kinship term, but ends in **c/-ca/-ec**, then the rule for a person whose stem ends in **c/-ca/-ec** is used.

❖ Additional rules (for the adjectives):

the first rule from the ones stated above “*Additional rules (for the nouns)*”.