

Business English Magazine Language Guide

Dear Readers,

they say the only certainties in life are death and taxes. Whether you're a wage slave or a hot-shot business owner, taxation will have a profound impact on your life. Most of us complain about the government taking a cut of our hard-earned salaries, and the companies of the world have made paying minimal taxes in vogue. After all, people are still chattering about Amazon's 2018 tax payments – no federal income tax was paid on USD 11 bln in profits. Some of us put up a fuss, but Amazon is still one of the world's most beloved brands

We may want to hoard all of our earnings, but it's important to remember the social benefits taxes bring us. Our roads, schools, parks and hospitals all come from taxes. And therein lies the rub – we don't like taxes, but we recognise that they're necessary. Since we can't just do away with them, we might as well learn a thing or two about them, to feel more comfortable about them. Peruse BEM's guide to taxation vocabulary for the next time you need to fulfil your civic duty and file your taxes.

Happy reading.

Poradnik biznesowo-językowy jest bezpłatnym dodatkiem do Business English Magazine nr 76/2020 Autor Jonathan Sidor Zdiecie na okładce: depositphotos

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Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
abatement /əˈbeɪtmənt/	obniżka podatku	Reduction in the assessment of a tax
accounting period /əˈkaʊntɪŋ ˈpɪərɪəd/	okres obrachunkowy	A period of time used to determine tax liability
to accrue /tu əˈkruː/	zgromadzić (fundusze); narosnąć (o odsetkach)	To receive something in regular or increasing amounts over time
ad valorem /ˌad vəˈlɔːrem/	ad valorem (od wartości, łac.)	A tax on goods expressed as a percentage of the sales price or value
assessment /əˈsesmənt/	naliczenie (po- datku), wymiar (podatku)	Computing tax that is due
audit /ˈɔːdɪt/	audyt	Examination of a person's tax re- turns, either as a routine operation or when criminal activity is sus- pected
avoidance of tax /ə'vɔɪdəns əv tæks/	unikanie opodatko- wania, uchylanie się od obowiązku podatkowego	An unclear term that describes a situation in which a person tries to reduce their tax liability by using certain interpretations of a law

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
bad debt /,bæd 'det/	kredyt zagrożony, nieściągalna należność	Debt which is un- likely to be paid and can be treat- ed as a loss
balance sheet /'bæləns ʃi:t/	zestawienie bilansowe	A statement of a business's finan- cial position at a given time
book value /bʊk 'vælju:/	wartość księgowa	The value of an individual asset as recorded in a taxpayer's accounting records
capital /ˈkæpɪtəl/	kapitał	Wealth that a person or organi- sation owns that is available to be used
capital assets /ˈkæpɪtəl ˈæsets/	środki trwałe	All property that a taxpayer holds for investment
capital gain /ˈkæpɪtəl geɪn/	zysk kapitałowy	A gain on the sale of a capital asset
cash basis /kæʃ 'beɪsɪs/	metoda kasowa	An accounting method that rec- ognizes income and deductions when money is received or paid
commuter tax /kəˈmjuːtə(r) tæks/	podatek od osób dojeżdża- jących do pracy	A tax levied on people who work but don't live in a specific area

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
compensation /,kpmpen'seIſn/	świadczenie (np. pracowni- cze), wynagro- dzenie	Monetary and non-monetary re- wards to a com- pany's employ- ees
consolidated tax return /kən'sɒlɪdeɪtɪd tæks rɪ'tɜːn/	skonsolidowa- na deklaracja podatkowa	A combined tax return in the name of a parent company filed by smaller companies organised as a group
consumption tax /kən'sʌmpʃn tæks/	podatek konsumpcyjny	Tax that falls on the final con- sumption of goods and ser- vices
customs duties /'kʌstəmz 'dju:tɪz/	opłaty celne, należności celne	Taxes on goods imported into a country
death tax /de0 tæks/	podatek od spadku (w postaci nieruchomości)	A tax levied on the beneficiar- ies of a deceased person who re- ceived property
deductible /dɪˈdʌktəbl/	odliczenie (podatkowe)	Describes a pay- ment that can be deducted when filing taxes
deferral of taxes /dɪˈfɜːr əv ˈtæksɪz/	odroczenie zobowiązania podatkowego	The postponement of tax payments to a later year

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
delinquency /dɪˈlɪŋkwənsi/	zaległość (w opłaceniu podatku)	Tax which is due but not yet paid
domicile /ˈdɒmɪsaɪl/	miejsce stałego zamieszkania, siedziba	A person's permanent home
double dipping /ˈdʌbl ˈdɪpɪŋ/	podwójne pobieranie; podwójne odliczenie (ulgi podatkowej)	When companies that operate in different coun- tries can deduct the same ex- pense in two dif- ferent countries
double taxation /'d^bl tæk'seIfn/	podwójne opodatkowanie	When a taxpayer must pay income tax twice on the same source of income
earnings before taxes (EBT) /'ɜːnɪŋz bɪˈfɔː(r) 'tæksɪz ˌiː biː 'tiː/	zysk brutto, zysk przed opodatko- waniem	Sales revenue less cost of sales, operating ex- penses, and in- terest before taxes have been paid
effective tax rate /ɪˈfektɪv tæks reɪt/	rzeczywista/ efektywna stawka podatkowa	The rate at which a taxpayer would be taxed at if the tax liability were taxed at a constant rate instead of progressively

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
employment tax /ɪmˈploɪmənt tæks/	podatek od zatrudnienia (płatnikiem którego jest pracodawca), podatek od wy- nagrodzeń	Tax levied on business owners, their business- es and their em- ployees
environmental tax /In,vaɪərənˈmentl tæks/	podatek na ochronę środo- wiska	Tax imposed for environmental reasons
estate tax /ɪ'steɪt tæks/	podatek od nieruchomości (związany ze spadkiem), podatek spadkowy	A tax on the transfer of the estate of a de- ceased person
excise tax /'eksaız tæks/	podatek akcyzowy	A tax imposed on an act, job, privi- lege, production, sale or consump- tion
exemption /Ig'zempʃn/	zwolnienie (od podatku)	A situation in which somebody doesn't need to pay a tax; this can be given for social or econom- ic reasons
export duty /'ekspo:t 'dju:ti/	cło wywozowe, należności celne wywozowe	Tax levied on exported commodities entering into world trade

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
fair market value (FMV) /feə(r) 'mɑ:kɪt 'vælju: ˌef em 'vi:/	godziwa wartość rynkowa, uczciwa cena	The price a will- ing buyer would pay a willing seller in an open market transac- tion
fiscal tax year /ˈfɪskl tæks ˈjiə(r)/	rok podatkowy	Any 12-month period that is used to calculate taxes
flat (rate) tax /flæt reɪt tæks/	podatek liniowy	A tax applied at the same rate to all income levels
floor /flɔ:(r)/	dolna granica, minimum (podatkowe)	The lower limit on tax benefits and penalties
fraud /frɔ:d/	oszustwo	Illegal tax eva- sion that involves submitting false information or fake documents
gift tax /gɪft tæks/	podatek od darowizny	A tax applied to a person who gives anything of value to another person
grace period /greis 'piəriəd/	okres karencji	A period follow- ing the due date of taxes during which legal ac- tions will not be taken

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
gross income /grəʊs 'ɪŋkʌm/	dochód brutto	What a taxpayer has received, in the form of cash, property, or oth- er compensation, before paying tax
hidden tax /'hɪdn tæks/	ukryty podatek	An indirect tax a consumer pays without their knowledge
historical cost /hɪˈstɒrɪkl kɒst/	koszt historyczny	The amount spent to obtain an asset at the time of acquisition
imputed income /ɪmˈpjuːtɪd ˈɪŋkʌm/	dochód przypisany	The wealth that somebody gets by avoiding payment for services and providing the services themselves.
income tax /'ɪŋkʌm tæks/	podatek dochodowy	A tax levied on individuals that varies depend- ing on how much money they've earned
inheritance tax /ɪnˈherɪtəns tæks/	podatek od spadków i darowizn	Tax imposed on real property or personal prop- erty that is re- ceived by heirs

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
intangible assets /ɪn'tændʒəbl 'æsets/	wartości niematerialne i prawne	An asset that isn't physical in nature
Internal Revenue Service (IRS) / ɪn'tɜːnl 'revənju: 'sɜːvɪs ˌaɪ ɑː(r) 'es/	urząd podatkowy w USA	The agency of the US govern- ment that is re- sponsible for ad- ministering and collecting federal taxes
International Monetary Fund (IMF) /,ɪntəˈnæʃnəl ˈmʌnɪtri fʌnd ˌaɪ em ˈef/	Międzynaro- dowy Fundusz Walutowy (MWF)	An international organisation that promotes monetary cooperation, facilitates trade, and helps bring stability to foreign exchange
joint return /dʒɔɪnt rɪ'tɜ:n/	wspólne rozliczenie podatkowe	A single return made togeth- er by a husband and wife
kiddie tax /ˈkɪdi tæks/	podatek dochodowy od dochodów osób małoletnich (US)	An American tax that is levied on the unearned in- come of a child under 14
to levy /tə 'levi/	nałożyć, obłożyć (coś podatkiem)	To impose
liability /,laɪəˈbɪlɪti/	odpowiedzia- lność (np. prawna); obowiązek (np. podatkowy)	Being legally re- sponsible for something

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
lottery tax /ˈlɒtəri tæks/	podatek od wygranej w grach liczbowych lub loteriach fantowych	Tax on the sale of lots or on the re- ceipt of prizes af- ter drawing lots
luxury tax /ˈlʌkʃəri tæks/	podatek od towarów luksusowych	Taxes on supplies of non-essential goods that are normally expen- sive, like toilet- ries and jewellery
marginal tax rate /'mɑːdʒɪnl tæks reɪt/	marginalna stawka podatkowa	Tax rate applicable to the top bracket of a taxpayer's income
minimum tax credit /'mɪnɪməm tæks 'kredɪt/	minimalna kwo- ta opodatkowa- nia (dla firm)	A requirement that all compa- nies must pay a certain amount of tax, even if they didn't earn a profit
negative income tax /'negativ 'ɪŋkʌm tæks/	negatywny podatek dochodowy	An idea to give financial aid to impoverished groups; instead of paying a tax, poorer families would receive subsidies

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
offshore company /ˌɒf'ʃɔː(r) ˈkʌmpəni/	spółka zagraniczna, spółka offshore	A company registered in a country other than the one in which it does business to receive tax benefits
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) /,ɔ:gənaɪˈzeɪʃn fə(r) ,i:kəˈrɒmɪk kəʊˌɒpəˈreɪʃn ənd dɪˈveləpmənt ,əʊˌi:ˌsi: ˈdi:/	Organizacja Współpracy Gospodarczej i Rozwoju	The OECD works to coordinate global economic and social policies and plays a significant role in issues dealing with international taxes
original cost /əˈrɪdʒnəl kɒst/	koszt nominalny, kosz początkowy	The total price associated with the purchase of an asset
paid-in capital /'peɪd'ɪn 'kæpɪtəl/	kapitał wpłacony	The capital received by a corporation from investors for stock
payroll tax /ˈpeɪrəʊl tæks/	podatek od wynagrodzeń	Tax charged on an employer's salaries and wag- es to their em- ployees

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
pre-tax profits /'pri:'tæks 'profits/	zysk przed opodatko- waniem	Profit after de- ducting costs and depreciation but before deducting taxes
progressive tax /prəˈgresɪv tæks/	podatek progresywny	A tax that increases in percentage as a person's income level increases
property tax /'propeti tæks/	podatek od nieruchomości	Taxes imposed on property owned by indi- viduals and busi- nesses based on assessed value
realized gain /ˈrɪəlaɪzd geɪn/	zrealizowany zysk, zrealizo- wane zyski	A gain realized from the disposal of an asset
rebate /'ri:beɪt/	rekompensata podatku	A tax credit
refund /ˈriːfʌnd /	zwrot podatku	When taxes are repaid to a tax-payer
regressive tax /rɪˈgresɪv tæks/	podatek regresywny	A tax that takes a larger share of income from low- income earners that from high- income earners

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
repressive tax /rɪˈpresɪv tæks/	prewencyjny podatek; podatek na używki	Tax designed to discourage a spe- cific activity, like smoking
safe harbour /seɪf 'hɑːbə(r)/	obszar "bezpiecznej przystani" (podatkowej) (UK)	A place where tax authorities use general guidelines to interpret tax laws, meaning taxpayers often pay lower taxes
sales tax /seɪlz tæks/	podatek od sprzedaży	Tax imposed as a percentage of the price of goods and services
self-employed /,self ɪm'plɔɪd/	osoba samozatru- dniona, osoba pracująca na własny rachunek	Describes peo- ple who work for themselves and aren't employed by others
severance pay /'sevərəns peɪ/	odprawa	Payment made as a result of a person's employ- ment getting ter- minated
shell company /ʃel 'kʌmpəni/	firma fasadowa, firma- przykrywka	A company set up by fraudulent operators to hide a tax evasion scheme

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
sin tax /sɪn tæks/	akcyza na wyroby alkoholowe i tytoniowe	A tax on things like alcohol and tobacco
sinking fund /ˈsɪŋkɪŋ fʌnd/	powierniczy fundusz/ rachunek rozliczenia zobowiązania	A fund made by periodically set- ting aside money to gradually re- pay a debt
standard deduction /'stændəd dɪ'dʌkʃn/	znormalizo- wane potrącenie	In the USA, a dol- lar amount that represents the portion of one's income that is not subject to tax
surtax /ˈsɜːtæks/	podatek wyrównawczy	An additional tax on something that is already taxed
tangible assets /'tændʒəbl 'æsets/	rzeczowe aktywa trwałe, majątek trwały	An asset that has a finite monetary value and usually a physical form
tariff /ˈtærɪf/	taryfa (celna)	A tax imposed by a country on for- eign trade trans- actions, especial- ly imports
tax /tæks/	podatek	A compulsory unrequited pay- ment to the gov- ernment

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
tax base /tæks beɪs/	podstawa opodatkowania	The thing or amount on which a tax is applied, like personal in- come or real property
tax credit /tæks 'kredɪt/	ulga podatkowa	A sum that can be offset against a tax liability
tax-deductible /tæks dr'dʌktəbl/	uzyskania przychodu/ przychodów (np. koszty)	Able to be deducted from taxable income or the amount of tax to be paid
tax evasion /tæks ɪ'veɪʒn/	oszustwo podatkowe, uchylanie się od (płacenia) podatków	Illegal activity where liability to tax is hidden or ignored
tax foreclosure /tæks fɔ:'kləʊʒə(r)/	zastaw w wyniku niespłacenia zaległych podatków od nieruchomości	Enforcing a lien against a prop- erty for non- payment of past property taxes
tax haven /tæks 'heɪvn/	"raj" podatkowy	A country that imposes little or no taxes
tax lien /tæks Iɪən/	zastaw podatkowy	Right to keep possession of an- other person's property until they pay their taxes

Vocabulary Term	Translation	Definition
taxpayer /'tækspeɪə(r)/	podatnik	A person who pays taxes
tax return /tæks rɪ'tɜːn/	zeznanie podatkowe, deklaracja	A form a taxpay- er fills out to re- port their income and send to tax authorities to as- sess tax liability
tax threshold /tæks 'Oreſhəʊld/	próg podatkowy	The income level that person starts paying income tax at
transfer tax /'trænsf3:(r) tæks/	podatek od transferu (np. nieruchomości)	A tax on moving a piece of proper- ty from one per- son to another
value added tax (VAT) /'vælju: 'ædɪd tæks ˌvi: eɪ 'ti:/	podatek od wartości dodanej (podatek VAT)	A tax levied at each stage of the production and distribution pro- cess
winding up /ˈwɪndɪŋ ʌp/	likwidacja (spółki)	The process of liquidating a corporation
withholding tax /wɪð'həʊldɪŋ tæks/	podatek u źródła	Tax on income that is imposed at source

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