

## READING

### THE ENDINGS OF THE VOCATIVE CASE FOR MALE GENDER

Read the informative text and examples.

In Polish, nouns have grammatical gender: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Identifying masculine nouns is fairly straightforward — most masculine nouns end with a **consonant**, for example: **dom** (house), **pies** (dog), or **student** (student). These nouns usually refer to male beings or objects perceived as masculine.

Some masculine nouns, however, end in the typically feminine suffix **-a**. These are usually loanwords from other languages and refer to male beings, such as: **dentysta** (dentist), **artysta** (artist), **poeta** (poet), or **idiota** (idiot).

In the vocative case – the form used for directly addressing someone or something – masculine nouns often change their endings. Interestingly, the vocative form for masculine nouns is almost identical to the locative form.

VOCATIVE MASCULINE = LOCATIVE MASCULINE

#### PALATALIZATION OF HARD CONSONANT ENDINGS

Just like in the locative, the consonant often softens in the vocative.

For many masculine nouns ending with a hard consonant, the vocative (like the locative) takes the ending **-ie** or **-e**:

Nominative ending	Example (nominative)	Vocative (ending: <b>-ie</b> )
-b	Jakub	Jakubie
-f	szef	szefie
-m	Adam	Adamie
-n	pan	panie
-p	biskup	biskupie
-s	Zeus	Zeusie
-w	Zdzisław	Zdzisławie
-z	Francuz	Francuzie
-t → c	student	studencie
-d → dz	Szwed	Szwedzie
Nominative ending	Example (nominative)	Vocative (ending: <b>-e</b> )
-r → rz	doktor	doktorze
-ł → l	Paweł	Pawle

## SOFT, FUNCTIONALLY SOFT CONSONANTS, AND -k, -g ENDINGS

If a masculine noun ends in a soft consonant, a functionally soft consonant, or the letters *-k* or *-g*, the vocative typically ends in **-u**:

Nominative ending	Example (nominative)	Vocative (ending: <b>-u</b> )
<b>-k</b>	Jare <b>k</b>	Jark <b>u</b>
<b>-g</b>	psycholog <b>g</b>	psycholog <b>u</b>
<b>-ch</b>	Czech <b>ch</b>	Czech <b>u</b>
<b>-c*</b>	sportow <b>ie</b> c	sportow <b>cu</b>
<b>-dz</b>	w <b>ó</b> dz	w <b>o</b> dz <b>u</b>
<b>-sz</b>	Klaudius <b>z</b>	Klaudius <b>zu</b>
<b>-rz, -ż</b>	pisar <b>z</b> , str <b>ó</b> ż	pisar <b>z</b> u, str <b>ó</b> ż <b>u</b>
<b>-cz</b>	panic <b>z</b>	panic <b>zu</b>
<b>-l</b>	Samuel	Samuel <b>u</b>
<b>-j</b>	wuj	wuj <b>u</b>
+ wszystkie spółgłoski miękkie	goś <b>ć</b> kon <b>ń</b> miś	gości <b>u</b> koni <b>u</b> misi <b>u</b>

**\*NOTE:** For nouns ending in *-iec*, the vocative often changes to **-cze**. Sometimes two vocative forms exist: one with **-u** and one with **-cze**.

Example:

obcokrajow**ie**c → obcokrajow**cu** / obcokrajow**cze**

## NOUNS ENDING IN -iec

If a masculine noun ends in *-iec*, the vocative typically ends in **-cze**:

Nominative ending	Example (nominative)	Vocative (ending: <b>-cze</b> )
<b>-iec</b>	ojcie <b>c</b> chłopie <b>c</b>	oj <b>cz</b> e chłopc <b>z</b> e

## MASCULINE NOUNS ENDING IN -a

Masculine nouns ending in *-a* decline like feminine nouns:

Nominative ending	Example (nominative)	Vocative (ending: <b>-o</b> )
<b>-a</b>	koleg <b>a</b> dentyst <b>a</b> idiot <b>a</b>	koleg <b>o</b> („Hej, kolego!”) dentyst <b>o</b> („Panie dentysto!”) idiot <b>o</b> („Ty idioto!”)

## EXCEPTIONS

Some masculine nouns have irregular vocative forms.

Here is a list of words that must be memorised, as they do not follow the rules above.

NOMINATIVE	VOCATIVE
<b>Bóg</b> Jezus ksią <b>dz</b> ksią <b>żę</b> syn dziad lud dom goł <b>ą</b> b, jastrz <b>ą</b> b paw, n <b>ów</b>	<b>Boże</b> Jezu ksią <b>że</b> ksią <b>żę</b> (as in the neuter form) syn <b>u</b> dziad <b>u</b> lud <b>u</b> dom <b>u</b> goł <b>ę</b> biu, jastrz <b>ę</b> biu paw <b>iu</b> , now <b>iu</b>

## ADJECTIVES

Adjectives in the vocative case remain the same as in the nominative:

- **drogi** ojciec → **drogi** ojcie ("dear father")
- **sympatyczny** kolega → **sympatyczny** kolego ("friendly buddy")
- **szanowny** dyrektor → **szanowny** dyrektorze ("esteemed director")



ADJECTIVE IN VOCATIVE = ADJECTIVE IN NOMINATIVE

Although in modern spoken Polish people often use the nominative instead of the vocative, correctly using the vocative sounds more natural and polite, especially in formal situations!

