



Lesson 3: Please

Proszę

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson, we will look at the word "Please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Polish, "Please" is "Proszę."

The easiest way to use "Please" is to point at something while saying "Proszę," but let's try to build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression "This, please," which in Polish is "To, proszę." In English, "this" comes before "please." In Polish, the order is the same. So we have "To, proszę."

Let's look at the word for "this." In Polish, "this" is "to."

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that," which is "tamto." The phrase "That, please," is "Tamto, proszę."

If you forgot or don't know the name of the object you're asking for, it's okay to point at it and say "To, proszę," or "Tamto, proszę." However, it sounds a little unnatural. The best way to ask for something would be "proszę" and then the name of the object you want to buy. For example, you could say, "Proszę gazetę" ("A newspaper, please") or "Proszę chleb" ("Bread, please").

Please bear in mind that the sentence order of "Proszę chleb" is different from that in English.

VOCABULARY

Polish	English
please	proszę
this	to
that	tamto

QUICK TIP

In Polish, we can use the word "Proszę" in many different situations. We have already mentioned "Proszę" as "You're welcome" in the previous lesson and "Proszę" in today's lesson as "Please."

However, there are other meanings to "Proszę:"

- When we address someone politely or we want to attract someone's attention, we can for example say "Proszę Pani" meaning, "Excuse me, Miss" or "Proszę Państwa" meaning, "Ladies and Gentlemen."
- When someone knocks on the door, saying "Proszę" would mean, "Please come in."
- Also "Proszę" is widely used at stores. For example, when the shop assistant addresses the customer, he or she can say "Proszę" meaning, "Can I help you?"
- If we did not understand something and we want the interlocutor to repeat it, it's absolutely proper to say "Proszę?" as "Excuse me".
- In the situation when we are giving something to someone, "Proszę" would mean, "Here you are."

QUICK TIP 2

Pointing at people is considered very rude in Poland. However, if one points at an object in order to explain what one wants, that is perfectly fine.