

## PALATALIZATION Handout

Characteristics of Palatalization rules:

1. They apply before front vowels and the front glide [j].  
 Front vowels [i ε] and possibly other vowels, depending on the language [ɪ e æ].
2. The triggers as well as the results of Palatalization may be different in different languages. For example, in Polish, Palatalization applies before [i ε j], in Ukrainian we have Palatalization before [j] but not before [ε] and [j]. In English, Palatalization applies before [j], but not before [ɪ ɪ e].
3. There are two kinds of Palatalization: Surface Palatalization and Complex Palatalization.
4. **Surface Palatalization** merely softens the consonant (i.e. makes it [-back]). In Polish, Surface Palatalization applies before [i] and [j].

Surface Palatalization:  $C \rightarrow C' / \text{ — } i j$

Example: pirat 'pirate'      //pirat//  
    p'irat    Surface Palatalization  
    [p'irat]

5. Complex Palatalization causes a change in the place of articulation making the consonants postalveolar or palato-alveolar or prepalatal.
6. **English Palatalization** (phonostylistic)

$t d s z \rightarrow \text{ʃ dʒ ʒ} / \text{ — } j$

Don't you [dəʊnt ju:] → [dəʊntʃ ju:]

Did you [dɪd ju:] → [dɪdʒ ju:]

I miss you [mɪs ju:] → [mɪʃ ju:]

He knows you [nəʊz ju:] → [nəʊʒ ju:]

7. Polish **Coronal Palatalization** (dentals become prepalatals)

s z t d n → ɛ z ʦ dʒ ɲ / — i ɛ

Examples:

as ‘ace’ –	as+ie [aɛ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	as+ik [aɛ+ik] (dimin.)
mróz ‘frost’ –	mroz+ie [mrɔz+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	mroz+ik [mrɔz+ik] (dimin.)
bat ‘whip’ –	bac+ie [batɛ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	bac+ik [batɛ+ik] (dimin.)
lód ‘ice’ –	lodz+ie [lɔdʒ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	lodz+ik [lɔdʒ+ik] (loc.sg.)
wagon ‘car’ –	wagon+ie [vagɔŋ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	wagon+ik [vagɔŋ+ik] (dimin.)

Note: the context of [ɛ] is complicated because not every [ɛ] causes Palatalization, for example, the instr. sg. [ɛ] of *-em* does not cause Palatalization: as – *as+em* [as+ɛm].

8. Polish **First Velar Palatalization** (velars become postalveolars)

k g x → ɕ dʒ ʃ / — i ɛ

Examples:

bok ‘side’ –	bocz+ek [bɔɕ+ɛk] (dimin.)
mózg ‘brain’ –	móždź+ek [muʒdʒ+ɛk]
dach ‘roof’ –	dasz+ek [daʃ+ɛk]