

The Key to Bilingualism



THE KEY TO LANGUAGES

Bilingualism helps with
language comprehension,
tolerance and ability.

Esperanto is the easiest first step.

ESPERANTO **POCKET TEXTBOOK**

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Because exceptions and irregularities do not exist, this booklet contains most of the Esperanto grammar.

The vocabulary consists of a comparatively small number of roots, which, with the addition of prefixes and suffixes enables a vast number of words to be formed.

AUSTRALIAN ESPERANTO ASSOCIATION

aea.esperanto.org.au

Esperanto House

143 Lawson St Redfern NSW 2016

<http://esperantohouse.org.au/>

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ESPERANTO has had continuous usage by an estimated 2 million plus speakers, for more than a century. It is by far the most widely spoken constructed international auxiliary language in the world.

Esperanto words are derived by stringing together prefixes, roots, and suffixes. This process is regular, enabling people to create new words as they speak.

Compound words are formed with a modifier-first, head-final, order, the same as in English. “birdsong” vs. “songbird”.

What is a man eating shark?

(man eats.) **Viro manĝas ŝarkon.**

(shark eats.) **Viron manĝas ŝarko.**

The suffix **-n** is used to indicate the direct object, as well as showing movement towards.

4 ESPERANTO AT A GLANCE

The Alphabet of Esperanto

A a	B b	C c	Ĉ ĉ	D d
ah	ba	tso	cho	do
E e	F f	G g	Ĝ ĝ	H h
eh	fo	go	Joe	ho
Ĥ ĥ	li	J j	Ĵ ĵ	K k
hho	ee	yo	zho	ko
L l	M m	N n	O o	
lo	mo	no	oh	
P p	R r	S s	Ŝ ŝ	T t
po	ro	so	sho	toe
U u	Ŭ ŭ	V v	Z z	
oo	woe	vo	zo	

28 letters.

There is no Q, W, X or Y.

A, E, I, O, U have approximately the vowel sounds heard in:
Are, th**E**re, thr**EE**, **Or**, tw**O**.

C is not sounded like **S** or **K**, but like *ts* in *tsetse-fly*, *bits*.

J has the sound of *y* in *yes*.

The sounds of **Ĉ**, **Ĝ**, **Ĥ**, **Ĵ**, **Ŝ**, and **Ŭ** are heard in *leech*, *hedge*, *loch*, *leisure*, *leash*, and *leeway*.

ESPERANTO is PHONETIC.

All letters sounded: one letter, one sound.

ACCENT or **STRESS** falls on the last syllable but one.

NO IRREGULARITIES • NO EXCEPTIONS

The **GRAMMAR** is based upon **SIXTEEN FUNDAMENTAL RULES**, which have no exceptions.

The **PARTS OF SPEECH** are formed from root-words by the addition of appropriate letters.

O is the ending for all names of things (**NOUNS**)

fakto *gluo*
distanco *fajro*
piano *tasko*

ADJECTIVES

(descriptive words) end in **A**

evidenta *freŝa*
longa *furioza*
granda *simpla*

NOUNS and **ADJECTIVES** form **PLURALS** by adding **J**

evidentaj *longaj* *grandaj*
faktoj *distancoj* *pianoj* (*aj, oj* sound as in *my boy*)

THE SIMPLE **VERB** HAS ONLY **SIX ENDINGS**.

INFINITIVE	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE	CONDITIONAL	IMPERATIVE
I	AS	IS	OS	US	U
ESTI	<i>estas</i>	<i>estis</i>	<i>estos</i>	<i>estus</i>	<i>estu</i>
LERNI	<i>lernas</i>	<i>lernis</i>	<i>lernos</i>	<i>lernus</i>	<i>lernu</i>
HELPI	<i>helpas</i>	<i>helpis</i>	<i>helpos</i>	<i>helpus</i>	<i>helpu</i>

N marks the **ACCUSATIVE** (*direct object*). **ADVERBS** end in **E**

Mi (I) *helpas lin* (him)
Li (he) *helpas min* (me)
Ŝi lernas Esperanton
energie
entuziasme
diligente

CORRELATIVE WORDS

	INDEFINITE <i>Some, any</i>	K QUESTIONING RELATIVE <i>What, which</i>	T DEFINITE <i>That</i>	Ĉ INCLUSIVE <i>Each, every, all</i>	Non- NEGATIVE <i>No, none</i>
QUALITY Kind of	Ia Some kind Any kind	Kia What kind	Tia That kind Such	Ĉia Each kind Every kind	Nenia No kind
MOTIVE Reason Purpose	Ial For some reason For any reason	Kial For what reason Why	Tial For that reason Therefore	Ĉial For each reason For every reason	Nenial For no reason
TIME	Iam Sometime Anytime	Kiam At what time When	Tiam At that time Then	Ĉiam Each time Every time Always	Neniam At no time Never
PLACE	Ie In some place Somewhere Anywhere	Kie At what place Where	Tie At that place There	Ĉie At each place At every place Everywhere	Nenie At no place Nowhere

MANNER	Iel In some way In any way Somehow, anyhow	Kiel In what way How As, like	Tiel In that way So	Ĉiel In each way In every way	Neniel In no way Nohow
POSSESSION	Ies Someone's Anyone's	Kies What person's Whose	Ties That one's	Ĉies Each one's Everyone's	Nenies No one's
THING	Io Something Anything	Kio What thing What	Tio That thing	Ĉio Everything	Nenio Nothing
QUANTITY	Iom Some (of the quantity)	Kiom What quantity How much	Tiom That quantity So much	Ĉiom Every quantity All of the quantity	Neniom None of the quantity
INDIVIDU- ALITY	Iu Someone Anyone	Kiu What person Which thing Who, Which	Tiu That person That (specified) thing	Ĉiu Each person <i>Ĉiu</i> <i>j</i> , all, all the Everyone	Neniu No one Nobody

FORMATION OF WORDS

If several roots (or roots with prefixes and suffixes) in combination express one idea, they are written as one word.

For the sake of greater clarity to learners, they are sometimes separated by small strokes: **mal-fort-ec-o**, **bedaŭr-ind-e**, **facil-ig-i**, **kre-int-o**.

Though forming one idea, these words are composed of several parts, each of which has a separate meaning.

You will quickly learn the grammatical endings, prefixes and suffixes by heart.

Then just take them away from the word to be deciphered, and consult the vocabulary for the fundamental root that is left.

Mal-fort-ec-o — **-ec-** denotes *abstract qualities*, **o** ending of a *noun*, **mal-** *opposite* and **fort-** *strong*. Therefore **forteco** = *strength*, **malforteco** = *weakness*.

Bedaŭr-ind-e — **-ind-** denotes *worthiness*, **e** ending of *adverb*, **bedaŭr-** *regret*. Therefore **bedaŭrinde** — *regrettably*.

Facil-ig-i — **-ig-** *to cause to be*, **i** ending of *infinitives*, **facil-** *easy*. Therefore **faciligi** = *to make easy*.



Kre-int-o krei- *to create*,
-int- *ending of past participle, active*,
o, **ending of nouns**. Therefore
kreinto = *creator*.

A few **roots** are complete words.
They can be used without the
addition of any grammatical endings.

These are conjunctions, adverbs,
prepositions, pronouns.

eg **kaj** = and, **en** = in,
ankaŭ = also, **ŝi** = she.

THE ELEMENTS OF ESPERANTO

a, b, c, ĉ, d, e, f, g, ĝ, h, ĥ, i, j, ĵ, k,
l, m, n, o, p, r, s, ŝ, t, u, ŭ, v, z.

All the letters are pronounced
as in English with the following
exceptions:-

a 'a' father, **ĝ** 'g' George, **o** 'o' for,
c 'ts' prince/bits, **ĥ** 'ch' loch,
s 's' see, **ĉ** 'ch' church, **i** 'i' sit,

ŝ 'sh' she, **e** 'e' there, **j** 'y' yes,
u 'u' rule, **g** 'g' go, **ĵ** 's' pleasure,
aŭ 'ow"power/ouch.

The letter **ŭ** (corresponding to the English 'w',) is actually a half-vowel, and only found after another vowel.

The vowels **a, e, i, o, u**, are pronounced: are there three or two?

The diphthongs **aŭ, eŭ, aj, ej, oj, and uj** are pronounced as a single syllable.

Every word is to be read as it is written. The accent always falls on the second last syllable. (Identifies individual words in speech, as do spaces between words when written.) "**vojo**", "**kantado**", "**interparolo**", **absoluta**.

o. a. e. By adding one of these letters to the root, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs are formed.

Nouns are formed with 'o',

adjectives with 'a', and adverbs with 'e'. **La patro**, *the father*. **patra**, *paternal*. **milito**, *war*. **milita**, *military* (adj). **feliĉo**, *happiness*. **feliĉa**, *happy*. **feliĉe**, *happily*. **bona**, *good*. **bone**, *well*.

There is no indefinite article "a", and only one definite article (**la**) for all genders numbers and cases.

Compound words are formed by simple junction of roots and are written as single words. For the sake of euphony the grammatical endings **o**, **a** and **e** (according to sense) may be inserted between the roots. **akvofalo**, *a waterfall*. **noktomezo**, *midnight*. **ĝustatempe**, *at the right time*. **senpage**, *gratuitously*.

The so-called foreign words, which different languages have taken from the same source

and which therefore are already internationally understood and used, undergo no change in Esperanto beyond conforming to the system of spelling. **Telegrafi**, *to telegraph*. **telegrafa**, *telegraphic*. **parko**, *a park*. **teatro**, *a theatre*. **teatra**, *theatrical*.

The plural is formed by adding the letter 'j' to the ending of the noun 'o' 'oj' (boy), or adjective 'a'. 'aj' (eye). Adjectives agree with their nouns as regards number and case. **bona domo**, *a good house*. **bonaj domoj**, *good houses*.

There are only two cases in Esperanto, the non-inflected one (or nominative) and the inflected one (or objective / accusative) which is formed by adding the letter 'n' to the nominative singular or plural. **La filo amas sian patron**, *the son*

loves his father. Mi vidas arbojn, I see trees. Mi amas ŝin, I love her.

Every preposition in Esperanto has a *definite fixed meaning*. All prepositions govern the nominative case.

The genitive is formed by the preposition **de**. **de la patro**, *of the father, the father's*.

The dative is formed by the preposition **al**. **al la patro**, *to the father*.

If it is necessary to employ a preposition, and if it is not quite clear from the sense, “**je**” should be used. If it is not ambiguous we may use instead of **je** the ‘**n**’ ending without a preposition. **Ridi je la kantado**, *to laugh at the singing*. **je la tria tago**, or **la trian tagon**, *on the third day*.

Ĉu is a verbal question mark for all yes/no questions **Ĉu vi sidas?**

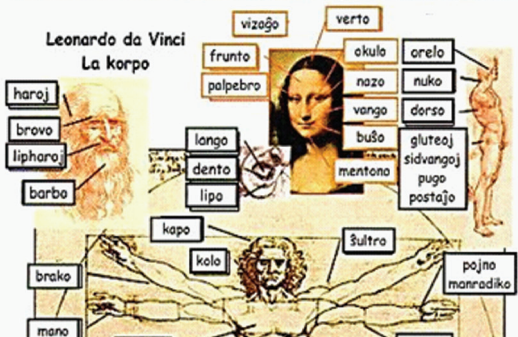
Are you sitting? Ĉu ne? No? Isn't it? Aren't you? Didn't they? etc.

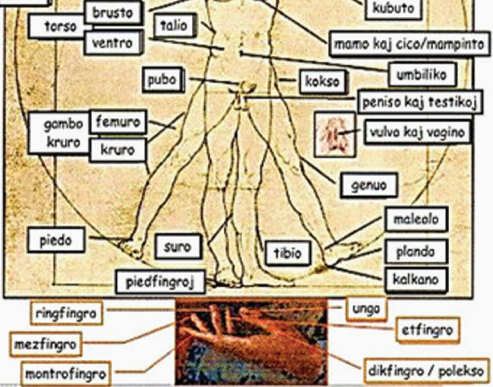
In questions answering a question *where to?* (meaning *whither?*), the word indicating the direction takes the accusative termination 'n'. **Kie? where? Kien vi iras? Where are you going to? hejme, at home. hejmen, homewards. iri Parizon, to go to Paris. la birdo flugas en la ĉambron, the bird flies into the room. la birdo flugas en la ĉambro, it flies in the room. (Not into the room.)**

The comparative degree is formed by **pli more**, and the superlative by **plej, most. la pli alta knabo, the taller boy. la plej alta virino, the tallest woman.**

The word '*than*' is rendered by **ol. Pli blanka ol neĝo, whiter than snow.**

Korpopartoj





THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

mi, *I*. **ci**, *thou, thee*. **li**, *he*. **ŝi**, *she*. **ĝi**, *it*. **ni**, *we*. **vi**, *you*. (sing. and plural.) **ili**, *they*, **si** is the reflexive pronoun, ie *himself, herself, itself, oneself, themselves*. **oni**, *one, people, they*. (the French 'on'.)

Add adverbial ending 'a' to make adjectives. **mia**, *my*. **via**, *your, yours*. **ŝia**, *her, hers*. **ĝia**, *its*. **liaj libroj**, *his books*.

The objective case takes the ending 'n'. **Mi amas ŝin**, *I love her*. **Min ŝi amas / Ŝi amas min**, *She loves me*.

NUMBERS

The cardinal numbers never change their form. **1 unu. 2 du. 3 tri. 4 kvar. 5 kvin. 6 ses. 7 sep. 8 ok.**

9 naŭ. 10 dek.

100 cent. 1000 mil. –miliono.

The tens and hundreds are formed by simple junction of the numerals:

117 — cent dek sep.

533 — kvincent tridek tri.

Ordinals are formed by adding the adjectival **a** to the cardinals — **unua**, *first*. **dua**, *second*. **tria**, *third*.

Multiples are formed by 'obl'. **kvarobla**, *fourfold*. **dekobla**, *tenfold*.

Fractionals are formed by 'on'. **duono**, *a half*, **tri kvaronoj**, *three quarters*.

Collective numerals are formed by the use of **op**. **okope**, *by eights*. **dekduope**, *by dozens*.

To form distributives the proposition 'po' is used: **po ses**, *at the rate of six, six at a time*;
po naŭdek, *at the rate of ninety*.

Firstly, secondly, thirdly, etc. are rendered by the adverbial form **unue, due, trie**, etc

VERBS

as. is. os. us. u. i.

ant. int. ont. at. it. ot.

By means of these twelve syllables and the auxiliary verb **esti** we are able to render all voices, moods and tenses of the conjugation.

The verb never changes its form as regards number and person.

The first three fundamental endings for tenses are **as, is, os**.

Present — **mi skribas**, *I write*.

Past — **mi skribis**, *I wrote*.

Future — **mi skribos**, *I will write*.

The next three, **us, u, i**, help to form the conditional, imperative, and infinitive moods:

Conditional — **mi skribus**, *I would write.*

Imperative — **skribu**, *write.*

Infinitive — **skribi**, *to write.*

By adding the personal pronoun to the imperative, one expresses wish, intention, or will. **(ke) li skribu**, *let him write, (that) he may write.* **ni skribu**, *let us write.*

Verbs are transitive (take a direct object) or intransitive (take no object).

The suffix **-ig-** (make, cause to be, etc) when necessary, forms a transitive verb. The suffix **-iĝ-** (become, etc) when necessary, forms an intransitive verb.

Simple verbs are used, whenever possible, rather than compound forms.

The syllables **'ant'**, **'int'**, **'ont'**,

with the adjectival 'a' form the active participles

Present — **skribanta**, *writing*.

Past — **skribinta**, *having written*.

Future — **skribonta**, *about to write*.

By adding the grammatical ending 'o', they become nouns; and by adding 'e', they obtain an adverbial character.

La leganto, *the reader*; **la pasinta nokto**, *the past night*; **instruante ni lernas**, *by teaching we learn*.

The passive participles are formed by the syllables 'at', 'it', 'ot', with the addition of the adjectival 'a'.

Present — **amata**, *being loved*.

Past — **amita**, *having been loved*.

Future — **amota**, *about to be loved*.

These also can be turned into nouns and adverbs. **La amato**, *the person loved*; **presita libro**, *a printed book*; **vundite li revenis el la batalo**, *(having been) wounded, he returned from the battle*.

By the help of the auxiliary **esti**, *to be*, the compound tenses are formed.

vi estas petata, *you (singular) are requested*. **ni estos skribintaj**, *we shall have written*. **ŝi estus laboranta**, *she would be working*. **li estis dormonta**, *he was about to sleep*. **mi estas amita**, *I have been loved*. **estu benata**, *be blessed*.

N.B. the verb **havi**, *to have*, *to possess*, is never used as an auxiliary verb.

PREFIXES

bo- denotes relation by marriage. **patro**, father; **bopatro**, father-in-law.

dis- denotes separation. (as in English). **ĵeti** to throw, **disĵeti** to throw about. **semi**, to sow, **dissemi**, to disseminate.

ek- denotes beginning or momentary action. **brili**, to shine.

ekbrili, to flash. **kanti**, to sing, **ekkanti**, to start singing.

eks- denotes ex-, former. **eksreĝo**, former king. **eksprezidanto**, ex-president.

fi- denotes shameful. **firakonto**, a low/dirty story. **fikomercio**, shady/dirty business.

ge- denotes persons of both sexes, taken together. **geamikoj**, male and female friends, **geonkloj**, uncles and aunts. **gepatroj**, parents.

mal- denotes *opposite* ideas.
malalta, *low*. **malgranda**, *small*.
malriĉa, *poor*.
mis- denotes *mis-*, *amiss*.
misuzi, *to misuse*.
misprezenti, *misrepresent*.
pra- denotes *distance in time*.
pranepino, *great grand-daughter*.
pra-uloj, *ancestors*.
pratempo, *the distant past*.
re- denotes *repetition (the same thing)*, *again*; **reiri**, *to go again*;
represi, *to print again, reprint*.
retro- denotes *going the opposite way, back*; **retroiri**, *to go back*;
retropreni, *to take back (where it was originally)*, *retake*.



SUFFIXES

-aĉ- denotes *contempt* or *disgust*.

hundo, a dog. **hundaĉo**, a cur.

-ad- denotes *action*, *frequency*, or *continuation of action*. **kanto**, a song. **kantado**, singing. **diri**, to say. **diradi**, to keep on saying. **rapidado**, hurrying.

-aĵ- denotes *concrete ideas*: **mola**, soft, **molaĵo**, soft material; **heredi**, to inherit, **heredaĵo**, heritage.

-an- denotes *an inhabitant*, *member* or *adherent*. **Kanado**, Canada.

Kanadano, a Canadian. **kolegio**, a college. **kolegiano**, a collegian.

Kristano, a Christian.

-ar- denotes *a definite collection of things*. **libro**, a book. **libraro**, library. **homo**, human being. **homaro**, mankind.

-ĉj- denotes *masculine affectionate diminutives*. **Jozefo**, Joseph,

Joêjo, *Joe*.

-nj- denotes *feminine affectionate diminutive*. **Anjo**, *Annie*.

-ebl- denotes (English *-able, -ible*). **vidi**, *to see*. **videbla**, *visible*. **kredi**, *to believe*. **kredebla**, *credible*.

-ec- denotes *abstract ideas*. **mola**, *soft*. **moleco**, *softness*. **amika**, *friendly*. **amikeco**, *friendship*.

-eg- denotes *enlargement, intensity of degree*. **vento**, *a wind*. **ventego**, *a gale*. **varma**, *warm*. **varmega**, *hot*.

-ej- denotes *place allotted to*. **lerni**, *to learn*, **lernejo**, *school*; **baki**, *to bake*, **bakejo**, *a bakery*.

-em- denotes *propensity or disposition*. **babili**, *to chatter*. **babilema**, *loquacious*. **kredo**, *to believe*. **kredema**, *credulous*.

-end- *that has to be (must be) —ed*. **solvenda problemo**, *a problem to be solved*.

-er- denotes *one unit of a collection*.
mono, *money*. **monero**, *a coin*.

sablo, *sand*, **sablero**, *grain of sand*.

-estr- denotes *a chief or leader*.

ŝipo, *ship*. **ŝipestro**, *captain*.

regno, *a State*; **regnestro**, *ruler of a State*.

-et- denotes *diminution of degree*, etc. **floro**, *a flower*. **floreto**, *a floret*.

varma, *warm*. **varmeta**, *lukewarm*.

-id- denotes *the young of, the descendent of*. **kato**, *cat*, **katido**, *a kitten*. **hundido**, *a puppy*.

-ig- denotes *causing something to be*. **blanka**, *white*, **blankigi**, *to whiten*. **bruligi**, *to set on fire*.

-iĝ- denotes *the action of becoming*.

pala, *pale*. **paliĝi**, *to turn pale*.

fluida, *fluid*. **fluidiĝi**, *to become fluid*.

-il- denotes *a tool or instrument*.

ĉizi, *to chisel*. **ĉizilo**, *a chisel*;

razi, to shave. **razilo**, a razor.

-ind- denotes *worthiness*. **admiri**, to admire. **admirinda**, worthy of admiration. **memori**, to remember. **memorinda**, memorable.

-ing- denotes *holder into which the object is put*. **glavo**, a sword. **glavingo**, a scabbard. **kandelo**, candle, **kandelingo**, a candlestick.

-in- denotes *feminine*. **onklo**, uncle. **onklino**, aunt. **heroo**, a hero, **heroino**, a heroine. **patrino**, a mother.

-ism- denotes *'ism', theory, system*. **Sociala**, social. **socialismo**, socialism. **utila**, useful, **utilismo**, utilitarianism.

-ist- denotes *trade, profession or occupation*. **dento**, a tooth. **dentisto**, a dentist.

-uj- denotes *that which contains*. **mono**, money. **monujo**, purse.

Anglo, *an Englishman*, **Anglujo**, *England*.

-ul- denotes *one characterised by some quality*. **krimo**, *a crime*. **krimulo**, *a criminal*. **belulino**, *a beauty* (feminine).

-um- *indefinite suffix* (playing a similar role in forming words to that of 'je' amongst the prepositions).

plena, *full*. **plenumi**, *to fulfil*.

vento, *wind*. **ventumilo**, *a fan*.

kruco, *cross*. **krucumi**, *to crucify*.

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*The cat is out of
the bag.*



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