

# ESPERANTO (FOR AN ENGLISH SPEAKER)

VAIBHAV KARVE

These notes were last updated July 19, 2018. They are notes taken from my reading of *Esperanto: A complete course for beginners (teach yourself series)* by John Cresswell, John Hartley and J. H. Sullivan.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- (1) Esperanto is an auxiliary language created by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof and first published in 1887.
- (2) Esperanto's spelling and pronunciation are absolutely phonetic.
- (3) Its grammar and syntax can be encoded in 16 short rules.

## 2. PRONUNCIATION

- (1) The accent always falls on the penultimate syllable and each vowel counts as one syllable. For example: ri-*ve*-ro, ko-smo-po-*li*-ta
- (2) There are no silent letters.
- (3) If two consonants appear next to each other, they must be pronounced separately.
- (4) The alphabet contains 28 letters (5 vowels and 23 consonants):
  - Aa as in *father* and spoken as (aa).
  - Bb as in *boat* and spoken as (bo).
  - Cc as in *hats* and spoken as (tso).
  - Ĉĉ as in *church* and spoken as (cho).
  - Dd as in *the* and spoken as (though).
  - Ee as in *there* and spoken as (e).
  - Ff as in *for* and spoken as (fo).
  - Gg as in *go* and spoken as (go).
  - Ĝĝ as in *gem* and spoken as (jo).
  - Hh as in *Hhat* and spoken as (ho).
  - Ĥĥ as in *Khan* and spoken as (khho).
  - Ii as in *family* and spoken as (ee).
  - Jj as in *yo-yo* and spoken as (yo).

Ĵĵ as in *pleasure* and spoken as (z(h)o).  
 Kk as in *kilo* and spoken as (ko).  
 Ll as in *halife* and spoken as (lo).  
 Mm as in *mother* and spoken as (mo).  
 Nn as in *no* and spoken as (no).  
 Oo as in *no* and spoken as (oh).  
 Pp as in *parent* and spoken as (po).  
 Rr as in *wrong* and spoken as (rro).  
 Ss as in *so* and spoken as (so).  
 Ŝŝ as in *she* and spoken as (sho).  
 Tt as in (soft **t** sound) and spoken as (toh).  
 Uu as in *moose* and spoken as (u).  
 Ŭŭ as in *water* and spoken as (woh).  
 Vv as in *venue* and spoken as (vo).  
 Zz as in *razor* and spoken as (zo).

- (5) *Diphthongs* are a pair of vowel sounds pronounced in one syllable. There are 6 in Esperanto:

aj as in *cry* and spoken as (aye).  
 ej as in *vein* and spoken as (aee).  
 oj as in *boy* and spoken as (oi).  
 uj as in *t oo young* and spoken as (uyi).  
 eŭ as in *neutral* and spoken as (eww).  
 aŭ as in *cow* and spoken as (ow).

- (6) Alphabet song (taken from American Esperantist's youtube channel):

Aa por arbo (a tree).  
 Bb por banano (a banana).  
 Cc por cepo (an onion).  
 Ĉĉ por ĉevalo (a horse).  
 Dd por domo (a house).  
 Ee por elefanto (an elephant).  
 Ff por fenestro (a window).  
 Gg por gitaro (a guitar).  
 Ĝĝ por ĝardeno (a garden).  
 Hh por hundo (a dog).  
 Ĥĥ por ĥameleono (a chameleon).  
 Ii por infano (a child).  
 Jj por jes (yes).  
 Ĵĵ por ĵazo (jazz).  
 Kk por kafo (coffee).  
 Ll por lakto (milk).  
 Mm por mano (a hand).  
 Nn por ne (no).  
 Oo por ombrello (an umbrella).  
 Pp por pomo (an apple).  
 Rr por rizo (rice).  
 Ss por seĝo (a chair).

Ŝŝ por ŝafo (*a sheep*).  
 Tt por tempo (*time*).  
 Uu por urso (*bear*).  
 Ŭŭ por aŭto (*a car*).  
 Vv por violono (*a violin*).  
 Zz por zebro (*a zebra*).

### 3. VOCABULARY WORDS

#### 3.1. Nouns.

- birdo (*a bird*).
- rivero (*a river*).
- mano (*a hand*).
- piede (*a foot*).
- familio (*a family*).
- Ameriko (*America*).
- arbo (*a tree*).
- banano (*a banana*).
- pomo (*an apple*).
- rizo (*rice*).
- cepo (*an onion*).
- domo (*a house*).
- elefanto (*an elephant*).
- ŝafo (*a sheep*).
- ĉevalo (*a horse*).
- urso (*bear*).
- zebro (*a zebra*).
- fenestro (*a window*).
- gitaro (*a guitar*).
- ĝardeno (*a garden*).
- hundo (*a dog*).
- ĥameleono (*a chameleon*).
- infano (*a child*).
- knabo (*a boy*).
- jes (*yes*).
- ne (*no*).
- ĵazo (*jazz*).
- kafo (*coffee*).
- lakto (*milk*).
- ombrello (*an umbrella*).
- seĝo (*a chair*).
- tempo (*time*).
- aŭto (*a car*).
- violono (*a violin*).
- kvalito (*a quality*).

- ekstra (*extra*).
- vetero (*weather*).

### 3.2. Adjectives.

- kosmopolita (*cosmopolitan*).
- pale (*pale*).
- longa (*long*).
- mallonga (*short*).
- sennacia (*great*).
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## 4. NUMBERS

To be continued ...