

False Friends

The learner of Esperanto will often come across Esperanto roots identical in form and meaning with English words, e.g. **bird/o** *bird*, **help/i** *help*, **kork/o** *cork*, etc. Such words are "friends", because they make life easy for the learner, placing little or no burden on his memory. Then there are other roots in the vocabulary whose meanings have nothing to do with the English words they resemble in form, e.g. **aks/o**, **jug/o**, which have nothing to do with *axe* or *jug*.

Difficulty arises with an intermediate group of roots, whose meaning is similar to, but not identical with, that of the corresponding English word. Even where the meanings are related, they do not cover precisely the same range. Thus **grand/a** and *grand* are related, but not really synonymous: although it may occasionally be possible to translate **granda** as *grand*, more commonly the appropriate translation will be *large*, *big*, *great*, etc. Even worse, **aktuale** looks as if it ought to mean *actually*; but, in fact, it means *currently*, *topically*. Words like this are "false friends": the help they seem to give the learner proves on closer inspection to be unreliable.

Here are some Esperanto and English pairs, similar in appearance, but not identical in meaning.

Adekвата, appropriate, equal to (some requirement), corresponding, equivalent. *Adequate*, *sufica*.

Adepto, adherent, initiate. *Adept*, *lert-a*, *-ulo*.

Adjunkto, adjutant, aide. *Adjunct*, *akcesor-ajo*, *-ulo*, *adjekto*.

Adulta, adulterous. *Adult*, *plenaĝul-o*, *adolt-o*, *-a*.

Afekti, be affected, pose, make a show of, put on airs. *Affect*, *influi*, *koncerni*, *rilati*, *(kor)tuŝi*, *emocii*.

Agendo, diary, engagement-book. *Agenda*, *tagordo*.

Agonio, death-throes. *Agony*, *dolorego*, *(mental) angoro*.

Akto, deed, document; act (of a play). (*For occasional Zamenhofan use in the sense of oficiala grava faro aŭ decido, see PIV.*) *Act (other than theatrical)*, *ago*.

Aktuala, of present interest, present-day, topical. *Actual*, *efektiva*, *fakta*.

Akurata, punctual, prompt. *Accurate*, *ĝusta*, *preciza*, *senerara*.

Alarmi, rouse, sound an alarm (alert, danger-warning). *Alarm*, *timigi*.

Apologio, vindication, defence. *Apology*, *pardonpeto*, *bedaŭresprimo*.

Arbitr-a, arbitrary, capricious. *-o*, choice, good pleasure. *Arbitration (settlement by arbiter)*, *arbitracio*.

Argumento, point put forward, argument (in this sense). **Argumenti**, maintain, put forward arguments. *Argument (other senses)*, *disputo*, *diskuto*.

Atendi, wait. *Attend (meeting)*, *ĉeesti*; (*pay attention*), *atenti*.

Averti, warn, caution. *Avert*, *forteni*, *forturni*, *evitigi*.

Balanci, rock, swing (up and down), sway, nod. *Balance*, *kompensi*, *ekvilibro*, *pesilo*, *restaĵo*, *saldo*. *Balance-sheet*, *bilanco*.

Bedo, flower-bed. *Bed*, *fluujo*, *lito*, *tavolo*.

Benzino, petrol, US gasoline. Cp. **benzeno**, benzene (C₆H₆); and **benzolo**, benzol(e) (trade name for crude benzene).

Beto, beet, beetroot. *Bet*, *veto*.

Bordo, bank, shore, edge. *Board*, *departemento*, *direktistaro*, *komitato*, *mangado*, *tablo*, *tabulo*.

Brava, jolly (good), fine, gallant, worthy. *Brave*, *kuraĝa*.

Broŝuro, stitched or unbound book(let), paperback. *Brochure*, *prospekto*, *faldfolio*.

Brovo, eyebrow. *Brow (forehead)*, *frunto*.

Buklo, curl, lock, ringlet. *Buckle*, *buko*.

Cinika, shameless, brazen, obscene. *Cynical*, *skeptika*, *nekredema*, *seniluzia*.

Debito, (ready) sale, (good) market, demand. *Debit*, *debeto*.

Dedukti, deduce. *Deduct*, *depreni*, *subtrahi*.

Defii, challenge. *Defy*, *spiti*. (*Exceptionally, the Esperanto sense is found in the English usage "I defy you to . . ."*.)

Degradi, demote, downgrade, reduce in rank. *Degrade*, *malnobligi*, *parte dis-igi*, *-igi*.

Demandi, ask a question (for information), enquire. *Demand*, *postuli*.

Devizo, watchword, motto; currency, (foreign) exchange. *Device*, *rimedo*, *aparato*.

Diboĉi, live loosely, revel. *Debauch*, *malĉastigi*.

- Digo**, dike, dam, embankment, breakwater. *Dig*, fosi.
- Disponi**, have at one's disposal, have available. *Dispose*, aranĝi, dispozicii. *Dispose of*, forigi, forĵeti.
- Domaĝi**, grudge, spare, wish to keep intact (whole, unspoiled); think it would be a pity to damage, spoil, or lose. *Damage*, difekti, malutili, damaĝi.
- Dragono**, dragoon. *Dragon*, drako.
- Dresi**, train, break in. *Dress*, vesti, bandaĝi, pansi.
- Drinki**, drink (alcohol), booze. *Drink* (normally), trinki.
- Drivi**, drift, be carried passively by current, etc. *Drive*, devigi, peli, veturi, veturigi.
- Efektiva**, real, actual, acting, in fact. *Effective*, efika.
- Ekzalti**, elate, fire (with enthusiasm). *Exalt*, altigi, laŭdegi.
- Enketo**, investigation, (judicial, official) enquiry, survey. *Enquiry* (question), demando. *Inquest*, mortenketo.
- Erodi**, wear down, grind down, run in (engine). *Erode*, erozii, forŝlifi.
- Eventuala**, possible (in the future), any (that may occur), that may arise, contingent. *Eventuale*, in case of need, as the case arises, etc. *Eventual*, fina.
- Fabriko**, factory. *Fabric*, teksaĵo, strukturo.
- Fatala**, fateful, inevitable, of fate, (fig.) disastrous. *Fatal*, pereiga, mortiga.
- Favorata**, favoured. *Favourite* (book, etc.), preferata, plejamata, plejŝatata.
- Festo**, festival, celebration, fête, feast. *Feast* (banquet), festeno.
- Firsto**, ridge, coping. *First*, unua, premiero.
- Foldo**, groove, slot. *Fold*, faldo.
- Foresto**, absence. *Forest*, arbarego, forsto.
- Frazo**, sentence. *Phrase*, esprimo, frazero, vortgrupo, sintagma.
- Fundo**, bottom, ground. *Fund*, kaso, fondaĵo, provizo.
- Geranio**, cranesbill. *Geranium*, pelargonio.
- Gimnazio**, grammar school, high school. *Gymnasium*, gimnastikejo.
- Gipso**, gypsum, plaster of paris. *Gipsy*, cigano.
- Granda**, great, large, big. *Grand*, grandioza, glora, impona, majesta.
- Guverni**, (act as) tutor, educate privately. *Govern*, direkti, regi.
- Ĝenerala**, in general, relating to most or all. *General* (habitual, usual), kutima, ordinara, (mil.) generalo.
- Ĝentila**, polite, genteel. *Gentle*, milda, dolĉa.
- Ĝusta**, correct, as it should be, just right. *Just*, justa, nur, precize, tuj, ĵus, apenaŭ.
- Idiomo**, tongue, language, vernacular, form of speech. *Idiom*, idiotismo.
- Imponi**, impress, make an impression on. *Impone*, impresive. *Impose*, altrudi, trompi.
- Indulgi**, bear with, be lenient to, spare, have mercy on. *Indulge*, dorloti, favori.
- Infano**, child. *Infant*, infaneto, (in arms) bebo.
- Instanco**, authority (with power of decision), court. *Instance*, ekzemplo, okazo.
- Insulti**, scold, rail at, be abusive, revile, upbraid. *Insult*, malhonori, ofendi.
- Invalida**, disabled, incapacitated. *Invalid*, malsana, nevalida.
- Ĵurnalo**, newspaper. *Journal* (diary), taglibro, (magazine) revuo.
- Kapo**, head. *Cap*, ĉapo.
- Kardo**, thistle. *Card*, karto, kartono.
- Karto**, card. *Cart*, ĉaro.
- Karuselo**, merry-go-round, roundabout. *Carousal*, drinkado, drinkorgio.
- Kasko**, helmet. *Cask*, barelo.
- Kaŭcio**, security, bail. *Caution*, singardo, averto.
- Kojno**, wedge. *Coin*, monero.
- Komforta**, comfortable. *Comfort*, konsoli.
- Kompaso**, (mariner's) compass. *Compasses*, cirkelo.
- Kompetenta**, properly qualified, possessing appropriate expert knowledge, competent (in legal sense). *Competent*, kapabla.
- Kondiĉo**, condition, stipulation. *Condition* (state), stato.
- Konfekcio**, off-the-peg clothing, ready-made clothes. *Confection*, sukeraĵo.
- Konkrete**, concrete (opp. abstract). *Concrete*, betono.
- Kontroli**, check, verify, supervise, keep check on, audit, monitor. *Control*, regi, direkti, komandi.
- Konvena**, suitable, proper, fitting, seemly, appropriate, becoming. *Convenient*, oportuna.
- Kopio**, reproduction, imitation, copy (in that sense). *Copy* (single item, e.g. a copy of a book), ekzemplero.
- Krajono**, pencil. *Crayon*, paŝtelo.
- Krano**, tap, cock, faucet. *Crane*, gruo, argano.
- Kriketo**, cricket (game). *Cricket* (insect), grilo.
- Krispa**, crinkled, frilled, wavy. *Crisp*, facilrompa.
- Larĝa**, wide, broad. *Large*, granda, vasta.
- Libelo**, dragon-fly. *Libel*, kalumnio, paskvilo.
- Likvidi**, liquidate, wind up. *Liquid*, likvaĵo.
- Lokusto**, grasshopper. *Locust*, akrido.
- Lucerno**, hanging lamp. *Lucerne*, medikago.
- Lustro**, chandelier, etc. *Lustre*, brilo.
- Magazeno**, stores. *Magazine*, revuo.
- Magistrato**, town council, magistracy. -ano, Councillor. *Magistrate*, (loka) juĝisto.
- Marĉo**, marsh, swamp. *March*, marŝi.
- Medio**, environment, sphere. *Medium*, medio, meza, perilo, rimedo.

Medicino, (science of) medicine. *Medicine*, kuracilo, medikamento.

Mendi, order (goods), give an order for. *Mend*, plibonigi, ripari.

Mirtelo, bilberry. *Myrtle*, mirto.

Mistifiki, hoax, fool. *Mystify*, scivoligi, perpleksigi.

Mosko, musk. **Musko**, moss. *Mosque*, moskeo.

Nasturcio, watercress. *Nasturtium*, tropeolo.

Negoco, business affair, transaction, deal. *Negociate*, intertrakti, aranĝi.

Novelo, tale, novelette, short story. *-eto*, very short story. *Novel*, romano.

Oferi, sacrifice, offer up. *Offer*, proponi, prezenti.

Okaze, by chance, accidentally. *Occasionally*, iufoje, laŭokaze, de tempo al tempo.

Oportuna, convenient, handy, opportune (in this sense). *Opportune*, ĝustatempa. *Opportunity*, okazo.

Pamfleto, satirical or libellous pamphlet or treatise, lampoon. *Pamphlet*, broŝuro.

Parafino, (a) (chem) general name for hydrocarbons of the series C_nH_{2n+2} , and especially (b) paraffin wax, solid paraffin (*parafina vakso*). *Paraffin oil* (*kerosene*), lampa petrolo, keroseno.

Parcelo, allotment, holding, lot (of land). *Parcel*, pako.

Parento, relative, relation. *Parent*, patro, patrino.

Patosa, impassioned, fervid, with an excited expression of feeling. *Pathetic*, kortuŝa.

Pego, woodpecker. *Peg*, najlo, keĵlo, stifto.

Pelto, made up fur, fur coat or fur piece. *Pelt*, felo.

Pesto, plague, pestilence. *Pest*, malutila besto, damaĝbesto.

Petrolo, petroleum (in widest sense), oil; in particular, (a) crude mineral oil (*kruda petrolo*, *nafto*); (b) paraffin, kerosene (*lampa petrolo*, *keroseno*). *Petrol*, benzino.

Pigo, magpie. *Pig*, porko.

Placo, public square. *Place*, loko.

Planko, floor. *Plank*, tabulo.

Plato, tray, salver. *Plate*, telero, plato, kliŝo, lameno, arĝentajaro, plako.

Porko, pig. *Pork*, porka viando, porkaĵo.

Praktiki, exercise, carry on (profession, trade, etc.), put into practice (as opposed to theory). *Practise* (*piano*, etc.), ekzerciĝi, sin ekzerci.

Pramo, ferry-boat. *Pram* (*perambulator*), (infan)ĉareto, "puŝilo".

Presi, print. *Press*, premi, instigi; gazetaro.

Pretendi, claim, maintain, assert a right to. *Pretend*, ŝajnigi, preteksti.

Prezenti, proffer, introduce, represent. *Present*, donaci, ĉeestanta, nun(temp)a, prezenca.

Proceso, law-suit, case. *Process*, procedo, agmaniero, procezo.

Propra, one's own, personal. *Proper*, deca, konvena, ĝusta, prava, taŭga.

Protokolo, minutes (of a meeting). *Protocol*, etike'o, proceduro.

Prudenta, reasonable, sensible, sane, common-sense. *Prudent*, singarda, diskreta.

Pruno, plum. *Prune*, sekigita pruno, sek-pruno.

Punto, lace. *Punt*, prameto.

Ravi, delight, enrapture, ravish. *Rave*, frenezi, deliri, furiozi.

Referi, make a (scholarly) report, read a paper (on a subject). *Refer*, aludi, resendi, direkti, (sin) turni, rilati.

Rento, (unearned) income (from property), returns. *Rent*, lupago, luprezo; fendo, ŝiro.

Resumi, summarize, sum up, précis. *Resume*, rekomenci, repreni. *Resumé*, resumo.

Rezigni, give up claim to, relinquish, renounce, waive. *Resign* (*post*, etc.), ekŝigi. *Resignation* (*state of mind*), rezignacio.

Ribo, currant. *Rib*, ripo.

Rimarki, notice, observe, note. *Remark*, (ek)diri, atentigi.

Rimedo, means, expedient, way, resource. *Remedy*, rebonigilo, kuracilo, korektilo.

Riverenci, bow, curtsy, make obeisance (do reverence) to, salute. *Reverence*, respekto.

Sentenco, short pithy wise saying, proverb (in this sense). La -oj de Salomono. *-a*, sententious. *Sentence*, frazo, juĝo, kondamno.

Simpatio, liking, affinity. *Simpatia*, congenial, having tastes or opinions in common, kindred-souled (Li estas por mi simpatia = I like him). *Sympathy*, kun-sento, kompatio.

Sindikato, (trade) union. *Syndicate* (*ring*), kartelo, trusto.

Smokingo, dinner-jacket. *Smoking*, fumado.

Snobo, slavish follower of fashion, someone always too determinedly with-it. *Snob*, (klas)afektulo.

Sorto, lot, fate, destiny. *Sort*, speco, klaso.

Spleno, melancholy, low spirits, depression, boredom, "blues". *Spleen*, lieno; malico, sarkasmo.

Splito, splinter, chip. *Split*, fendo, skismo.

Stablo, trestle, etc. *Stable*, stalo, stabila.

Stamino, bunting. *Stamina*, eltenkapablo.

Statuto, rules, regulations, articles (of a society, etc.). *Statute*, leĝo. *Status*, rango, statuso.

Stipendio, scholarship, bursary. *Stipend*, salajro.

Strikta, tight, close-fitting, stringent. *Strict*, rigora, severa, preciza.

Studento, university student, undergraduate. *Student* (*other than in higher education*), lernanto, studanto, kursano.

Subskribi, sign. *Subscribe*, aboni, kotizi, konsenti.
Subskripcio, advance order (for a book, shares, etc.). *Subscription*, kotizo, abono, kontribuo.
Svingi, wave, brandish, fling. *Swing*, balanc-i, turn-i, -iĝi.
Ŝelo, any natural integument: peel (of orange), bark (of tree), shell (of egg). *Shell*, konko, karapaco, ŝelo, obuso, kartoĉo.
Ŝovi, slide (tr.), push along. *Shove*, puŝi.
Ŝtrumpeto, sock. *Strumpet*, ĉiesulino, putino.
Taksi, estimate, appraise, assess, value (rate) at, put a price on. *Tax*, akuzi, imposti, trouzi.
Tarifo, list or scale of charges. *Tariff*, doganimposto, impostaro.
Tento, temptation. *Tent*, tendo.
Tino, tub, vat. *Tin*, lado, ladskatolo, stano.
Triviala, vulgar, common, low. *Trivial*, bagatela, malgrava.
Verso, (line of) verse, verse (of Bible). *Verse* (of poetry), strofo.
Vikario, curate. *Vicar*, paroĥestro.
Vulgara, widespread, common, general, everyday, usual, popular ("en la vulgara lingvo", "vulgarigo de scienco"). *Vulgar*, triviala, kruda, maldelikata, vulgaraĉa, maldeca.

OTHER WORDS whose Esperanto meaning coincides only partially with the English meaning include the following. For details, see *Plena Ilustrita Vortaro* or other dictionaries.

Alternativo, anticipi, aparta, asisti, aŭdienco, aventuro, bando, bilo, branĉo, busto, deca, diskonto, dispensario, distrikto, diveni, editoro, efekto, embaraso, erekti, etoso, evakui, familiara, fanfaro, fantazio, farmi, flano, fungo, garaĝo, grundo, ĝermo, haloo, haro, inciti, intervjuo, ĵaluzio, kanalo, karavano, karitato, katarakto, klaŭzo, koncerni, konekti, kongregacio, konjunkcio, konkludi, kontingento, kontrakti, korespondi, kupo, kvieta, lardo, manifestacio, marmelado, materialo, matrono, minora, motivo, mutuala, nervoza, notico, objekto, obligacio, originala, persekuti, perturbi, pilono, plago, pledi, popolo, populara, poto, precioza, prefekto, preventi, pudingo, puzzle, rajdi, reflektoro, rektoro, relativa, reprezenti, respekto, scienco, serĉi, servico, sparko, standardo, ŝveli, tanko, tenera, tereno, torfo, translacio, transmisio, trunko, truso, trusto, urĝi, vehiklo, virtuala, vitala.

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The following is a list of the chief Esperanto verbs whose English equivalents are used both transitively and intransitively. (E.g., *wakes*, in *he wakes her*, is transitive; in *she wakes* it is intransitive.) Esperanto gives such verbs one meaning only, either transitive or intransitive.

TRANSITIVE VERBS (can be used in the passive, and with **-ebla**, **-inda**; may be used intransitively with **-iĝ-**):—

Apliki, balanci, bani, ĉagreni, detrui, eksciti, etendi, fendi, fermi, fini, flari, fleksi, izoli, klini, kolekti, komenci, levi, mezuri, montri, movi, naski, paŝti, renversi, rompi, ruli, renkonti, skui, spliti, svingi, sufoki, ŝanceli, ŝanĝi, ŝiri, treni, turni, veki, vendi, verŝi, vesti, vundi.

INTRANSITIVE VERBS (cannot be used in the passive, nor with **-ebla**, **-inda**, unless made transitive by **-ig-**):—

Boli, bruli, ĉesi, daŭri, degeli, dolori, dormi, droni, eksplodi, fali, gliti, halti, kreski, krevi, kuri, kuŝi, lumi, miri, odori, okazi, pasi, pendii, pensi, sidi, soni, sonori, stari, suferi, ŝpruci, ŝrumpi, ŝveli, velki.