

All Duolingo Esperanto Course Notes

Basics

TIPS AND NOTES

Grammar notes will be more helpful once you have a context for understanding them, so if you find you're having trouble with the lessons, these notes should be more helpful to you.

SOME SIMPLE ESPERANTO RULES

- Each letter has a unique and separate sound. For example: longa is pronounced "lon-ga". Both k and n are pronounced in knabo.
- The emphasis in every word is always on the next-to-last syllable. For example: all 2-syllable words have the emphasis on the first syllable, as in viro, and all 3-syllable words have the emphasis on the middle syllable, as in knabino.
- All present tense verbs end in -as, so there are no verb conjugations. Examples: estas, laboras. Yay!
- All singular nouns, such as knabo and virino, end in -o. This includes names of cities and countries, such as Francio (France).
- The definite article ("the" in English) is la in Esperanto. For example: la viro = the man.
- Indefinite articles ("a" and "an" in English) are not used in Esperanto. For example: viro = a man.
- -in is the feminine suffix: viro = man, virino = woman; knabo = boy, knabino = girl. Remember that all singular nouns end in -o, so the full ending is -ino.

ESPERANTO ALPHABET

The Esperanto alphabet has 28 letters. They include all the letters of the English alphabet, except for Q, W, X and Y. A few letters have accent marks.

If you are spelling an Esperanto word out loud, the name of each consonant is the sound that letter makes, followed by -o: B = bo, S = so etc. The name of each vowel is the sound that letter makes.

Here are approximate English equivalents for each vowel:

Esperanto	English equivalent
a	ah
e	eh

i	ee
o	oh
u	oo

The letters C and J

Esperanto	English equivalent	Esperanto example
c	ts (as in pets)	laca
j	y (as in yet)	kaj

Here are four of the accented letters:

Esperanto	English equivalent	Esperanto example
ĉ	ch (as in chair)	ĉu
ĝ	g (as in large)	ĝi
ŝ	sh (as in shoe)	ŝi
ŭ	w (as in wet)	aŭ

ESPERANTO KEYBOARD

To obtain an Esperanto keyboard that will allow you to easily type these special characters, please refer to our forum by following the link below:

[Esperanto keyboards: all systems go!](#)

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO INSTALL A KEYBOARD JUST FOR THIS COURSE?

Duolingo recognizes the x-system, an alternative method of entering the accented Esperanto characters. To use the x-system, simply type the letter that requires the accent followed by an x:

X-System	Letter
cx	ĉ
gx	ĝ
hx	ĥ
jx	ĵ
sx	ŝ

ux ŭ

Note that Duolingo will not convert accented characters entered via the x-system in the answer immediately when typed, but will recognize them when they are submitted for checking.

Basics 2

ESTAS

Estas means am, is, or are. It is the present tense of the verb esti, to be. It is used in sentences like La nokto estas varma. (The night is hot.) or Adamo estas viro. (Adam is a man.) to assign a property or identity to someone or something.

It can also be used to state the existence of someone or something: Estas viro en la parko. (There is a man in the park.), or Estas nokto. (It is night.) From these examples we can see that when it is the first word in a sentence, Estas means "There is" or "It is". In these cases the subject comes after esti and, in contrast to English, we don't use "ĝi" (it) because the verb already has a real subject after it:

Esperanto	English
La nokto estas varma.	The night is hot.
Estas viro en la parko.	There is a man in the park.
Estas varma nokto.	It is a hot night.

Note: Do NOT say "Ĝi estas varma nokto". Ĝi (it) in Esperanto always stands for a noun, but in this sentence it doesn't stand for anything at all. The subject of the sentence is varma nokto.

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are words like fast, good, or big, which modify a noun. Remember that a noun always ends in -o in Esperanto. Adjectives, on the other hand, end in -a:

rapida = fast, granda = big, bona = good

In Esperanto, the adjective may be placed either before or after the noun with no change in meaning. "Bona viro" and "viro bona" both mean "a good man" and both are correct. In practice, most people place the adjective before the noun.

AFFIXES

mal- is a prefix that means "the opposite of". Please note that while malbona means bad, mal- by itself does not mean bad (as it does in some other languages).

-ej is a suffix used to indicate a place:

kafo = coffee; kafejo = café (a place where you drink coffee, and other drinks.)

ADVERBS

Adverbs (usually -ly words in English) modify verbs and adjectives. In Esperanto they almost always end in -e. Examples:

rapide = quickly, malrapide = slowly, bone = well

PREPOSITIONS

The noun following a preposition normally takes a simple -o ending (-oj in the plural). Other endings will be explained later. For example:

La virino estas en la kafejo.

The woman is in the café.

Ni iras al la parko.

We go to the park.

ĈU

Ĉu introduces a yes/no question. Unlike in English, the subject and verb do not need to be inverted:

Statement

Question

La kafo estas varma.

Ĉu la kafo estas varma?

The coffee is hot.

Is the coffee hot?

EXPRESSIONS WITH ĈU

Ĉu ne? = Isn't it?

Ĉu? = Really?

Common Phrases

ĜIS

Note that the word for bye in Esperanto is ĝis. This is short for ĝis la revido, which literally means until the re-seeing. So, ĝis actually means until, but by itself means bye.

WHY IS IT "DANKON" AND NOT "DANKO"?

When you use an expression like "Thanks" in English you are actually shortening a full statement. As you will soon learn in Esperanto, -n indicates the object of the sentence as you can see in the examples below:

Dankon = Mi donas al vi dankon.

Thanks = I give you thanks. ("thanks" is the object of the sentence).

Saluton! = Mi donas al vi saluton.

Hi!/Hello!/Greetings! = I give you greetings. ("greetings" is the object)

Feliĉan novan jaron! = Mi deziras al vi feliĉan novan jaron! Happy new year! = I wish you a happy new year! ("happy new year" is the object)

QUESTION WORDS

Kiu means "which person or thing". When used in relation to a person, it usually translates to "who". Kiel means "in what manner", "how".

ESPERANTO NAMES

People who speak Esperanto generally use their own names, but sometimes choose a name that is easier to pronounce in Esperanto, or an Esperanto nickname. Names for men in Esperanto generally end in -o, and nicknames in -ĉjo. A man named David could decide to use David, Davido, or the nickname Daĉjo. For a woman, Esperanto names can end in -o or -a, and nicknames end in -njo. A woman named Susan could use Susan, Suzano, Suzana, or the nickname Sunjo.

Accusative

THE ACCUSATIVE ENDING: -N

Take a look at this English sentence: "The woman kisses the little boy." How do you know who is kissing, and who is being kissed? In English, you know by the word order. The woman comes before the verb, so she is doing the kissing (or to use the grammatical term, she is the subject of the sentence). The little boy comes after the verb, so he's the one being kissed (and he is the grammatical object of the sentence).

In Esperanto, you can tell who is the subject and who is the object of the sentence by the endings. The subject of the sentence, i.e. the one who is doing the kissing, ends in -o. The object of the sentence, the one who is being kissed, has -n added after the -o. This means that

you can always tell who or what is the subject, and who or what is the object, even if the sentence is switched around:

La virino kisas la malgrandan knabon.

The woman kisses the little boy.

La malgrandan knabon kisas la virino.

The woman kisses the little boy.

(Look for the -n ! This still means "The woman kisses the little boy", even though the word order has been changed.)

Note that the adjective (in this case malgranda) also takes the -n ending, the same as the noun it refers to: malgrandan knabon .

These sentences mean the same thing, and are all equally correct. They all mean: "The woman kisses the small boy.":

La virino kisas la malgrandan knabon.

La malgrandan knabon kisas la virino.

Kisas la virino la malgrandan knabon.

Kisas la malgrandan knabon la virino.

La virino la malgrandan knabon kisas.

La malgrandan knabon la virino kisas.

The -n ending in Esperanto is called the accusative. Be aware that the accusative ending -n is never used with the verb estas: Li estas knabo. (He is a boy.)

ACCUSATIVE AND PLURAL

If a word already ends in -j, the -n is added after it.

Mi manĝas bonajn kukojn.

I am eating good cakes.

Mi vidas la belajn virinojn.

I see the beautiful women.

PRONOUNS

Pronouns also get the -n ending. Note how regularly Esperanto pronouns change as compared to their English counterparts:

Esperanto Subject	Esperanto Object	English Subject	English Object
mi	min	I	me
vi	vin	you	you
li	lin	he	him
ŝi	ŝin	she	her
ni	nin	we	us

ili

ilin

they

them

PREPOSITIONS

The noun following a preposition normally takes a simple -o ending (-oj in the plural). Other endings will be explained later. For example:

La virino estas en la kafejo.

The woman is in the café.

Ni iras al la parko.

We go to the park.

Colors

ANKAŬ

Ankaŭ (also / too) is placed immediately before the word it refers to. It is never placed at the end of the phrase, as is common in English.

- Ankaŭ mi ludas multe = I play a lot, too. (Interpretation: Others play a lot, and I, too, play a lot.)
- Mi ankaŭ ludas multe = I play a lot, too. (There are other things that I do a lot, and I also play a lot.)

ESPERANTA

The adjective form of Esperanto is Esperanta. This can either be capitalized or not based on the preference of the author. Any word can be turned into an adjective by changing the ending to -a.

Languages

LANGUAGE NAMES

To name a language in Esperanto, the full expression is "la angla lingvo", "la franca lingvo" (the English language, the French language). However, people usually drop the word "lingvo" and just say "la angla" (English), "la franca" (French):

La itala estas bela lingvo.

Italian is a beautiful language.

Mi parolas la hispanan.

I speak Spanish.

Don't try this with Esperanto though! In theory you could say "la Esperanta lingvo", but in practice this form is never used. The language has always been known as Esperanto right from the start:

ONI

Oni is equivalent to "one" in English. It is used frequently in Esperanto, more often than the pronoun "one" is used in English. It is used to make general statements, as follows:

Oni diras, ke la angla estas malfacila lingvo.

One says that English is a difficult language. People say that English is a difficult language.

Oni parolas Esperanton en la domo. One speaks Esperanto in the house.

Esperanto is spoken in the house.

KE

Subordinate clauses are often introduced by ke ("that"): Li diras, ke vi parolas Esperanton. In English, it is possible to leave out "that", and say "He says you speak Esperanto", instead of "He says that you speak Esperanto." However, in Esperanto ke must always be included. Note also that there is always a comma before ke, though the English translation may not have one.

NEK ... NEK ...

Nek means both "neither" and "nor":

Mi parolas nek la francan nek la anglan.

I speak neither French nor English.

Li parolas nek Esperanton, nek la anglan.

He speaks neither Esperanto nor English.

Nek ni nek ili loĝas en Aŭstralio.

Neither we nor they live in Australia.

Plurals

PLURALS

In English, when there is more than one of something, we usually add -s to form the plural (more than one), for example dogs, houses, etc. But not always! There are some exceptions, like children, men, mice. In Esperanto, there are no exceptions. You always add -j to form the plural:

Esperanto	English	Esperanto Plural	English
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hundo	a dog	hundoj	dogs
viro	a man	viroj	men
tago	a day	tagoj	days
knabino	a girl	knabinoj	girls

In Esperanto the -j ending is even added to describing words (adjectives), such as bela (beautiful), and granda (big, large)

Examples

La viroj estas belaj.

The men are handsome.

La grandaj hundoj.

The big dogs.

La viro kaj la virino estas belaj.

(because belaj refers to both la viro and la virino)

The man and the woman are beautiful.

Note that "la" stays the same in front of plural nouns, and no endings are ever added to "la".

Pronunciation

-oj is pronounced like the English oy, and the pronunciation of -aj is like the English eye.

NUMBERS

Unlike adjectives and nouns, the cardinal numbers (one, two, three, etc.) do not take any endings.

English	Esperanto
one	unu
two	du
three	tri
four	kvar

Ni estas du virinoj. We are two women.

AFFIXES

-ej is a suffix used to indicate a place:

kafo = coffee; kafejo = café (a place where you drink coffee, and other drinks.)

laboras = works; laborejo = workplace

loĝas = lives/inhabits; loĝejo = apartment (a place you inhabit)

JEN

Jen means "here is" or "here are" like the following:

Jen la hundo. = Here is the dog.

Jen la hundoj. = Here are the dogs.

Although less common, Jen may be followed by estas and a noun, for example:

Jen estas la hundo. = Here is the dog.

Jen estas la hundoj. = Here are the dogs.

Da/De

DA AND DE

Although both da and de can be translated into English as of, they have different meanings:

Use da when you're talking about quantity.

Use de when talking about possession.

Note: the direct object -n ending (accusative) is not used after da or de.

For example:

Esperanto	English
glaso da vino	a glass of wine (quantity)
taso da teo	a cup of tea (quantity)
la patrino de la knabo	the mother of the boy /the boy's mother (possession)
la koloro de la lakto	the color of the milk / the milk's color (possession)

KIOM

Kiom means "how much" or "how many."

How much do you eat?

Kiom vi manĝas?

How much do you love me?

Kiom vi amas min?

How much is in the cup?

Kiom estas en la taso?

KIOM DA

When you ask "how much" or "how many" of a specific thing or things, the word "of" cannot be omitted as it is in English:

How much (of) bread do you eat?

Kiom da pano vi manĝas?

How many (of) apples do you eat?

Kiom da pomoj vi manĝas?

How much (of) tea is in the cup?

Kiom da teo estas en la taso?

MULTE DA

Multe da means a lot of, lots of, or many:

A lot of milk

Multe da lakto

Many (or a lot of) people

Multe da homoj

KIOM AĜAS

How old are you?

Kiom vi aĝas?

(Literally: How much you are-age?)

Kiom is used with age, since age is a quantity (of years).

Note: An alternative way to ask someone's age is Kiom da jaroj vi havas? (Literally "How many years do you have?")

MANKO DE

A lack of...

Manko de...

A lack of something is not considered a quantity, so one says manko de and never manko da.

For example:

A lack of money

Manko de mono

MORE ABOUT DA AND DE

When you're talking about a quantity of a specific thing or set of things, as opposed to a type of thing, you use de la. For example:

Mi bezonas 5 kilogramojn da sukero.

I need 5 kilograms of sugar.

Mi bezonas 5 kilogramojn de la sukero.

I need 5 kilograms of the sugar.

Mi volas aĉeti 10 botelojn da biero.

I want to buy 10 bottles of beer.

Mi volas aĉeti 10 botelojn de la plej bona biero.

I want to buy 10 bottles of the best beer.

Kiom da nigra pano vi aĉetas?

How much black bread are you buying?

Kiom de la nigra pano vi aĉetas?

How much of the black bread are you buying?

Another way of expressing this is that "da" connects two words, in which the first expresses a measurement (like kiom, boteloj, kilogramoj), and the second is a category (like sukero, biero, pano). "Bovloj" is a category, while "la bovloj" is not; it is a specific item.

A general rule you can remember is that "da" is never followed immediately by "la + X".

Animals

THE SUFFIX -ID (OFFSPRING)

-id is a suffix that refers to the young of an animal, or more rarely, of a plant.

kato (cat) + -id = katido (kitten)

hundo (dog) + -id = hundo (puppy)

DUO

Duo is the name given by Duolingo to its mascot, the green owl. It is not the word for owl in Esperanto. The Esperanto word for owl is strigo.

THE SUFFIX -IN (FEMALE)

When it comes to animals, the root form of the animal (i.e. bovo) is gender neutral. Therefore the word bovo does not specify whether the animal is a bull or a cow. A bovino is specifically a cow. To make this unambiguously male, you need to add vir- in front of it, thus virbovo is a bull.

Esperanto	English
bovo	bull or cow
bovino	cow (female)
virbovo	bull (male)

Possessives

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Possessive personal pronouns (also known as possessive adjectives) are words like "my" and "your" in English. Unlike in English, these words are completely regular in Esperanto. Just add -a to the end of a pronoun to turn it into its possessive form.

English pronoun	English possessive	Esperanto pronoun	Esperanto possessive
I	my	mi	mia
you	your	vi	via
he	his	li	lia
she	her	ŝi	ŝia
it	its	ĝi	ĝia
we	our	ni	nia
they	their	ili	ilia

Like other words ending in -a the possessives also take the -j (plural) and -n (accusative) ending when required.

Jen miaj gepatroj. Here are my parents.

Viaj ursoj trinkas mian bieron.

Your bears are drinking my beer.

DE

If you want to express that something belongs to someone, the key word is de. It corresponds to the English word "of", but it is also used when English would put 's on a word instead.

Jen mapo de la universitato.

Here is a map of the university.

Vi trinkas la bieron de mia patro.

You are drinking my father's beer. (the beer of my father)

Li estas la avo de Sofia.

He is Sofia's grandfather. (the grandfather of Sofia)

KIO, TIO

Kio = what? or what thing?.

Tio = that or that thing.

Kio and tio never take the ending -j (plural), but do take the ending -n (accusative) if they refer to a direct object.

Kio estas tio?

What is that?

Kion vi manĝas?

What are you eating?

Ni manĝas tion.

We are eating that.

Clothing

PANTALONO

Note that the word pantalono, which means "pants" (US) or "trousers" (UK) is singular in Esperanto. Thus pantalonoj refers to multiple pairs of pants.

ŜTRUMPO, ŜTRUMPETO

Esperanto	English
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ŝtrumpo	stocking (up to the knee or higher)
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ŝtrumpeto	sock (up to the ankle or calf)
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The suffix -et means "small", so a sock is a small stocking (ŝtrumpeto)!

MOJOSA

Mojosa (cool) is the most popular slang term in Esperanto. It originates from modern-jun-stila (modern-young-stylish). Reading out the first letter of each word gives Mo-Jo-So, which becomes mojoso (coolness). The adjective form is mojosa.

Countries and Nationalities

COUNTRY NAMES AND NATIONALITIES

Esperanto has a two-part system for naming countries and their inhabitants. This two-part system developed early in the history of Esperanto, and was based on the idea of a division of the world into "Old World" and "New World". The assumption was that the "Old World" countries took their names from the people who lived there. In contrast, "New World" countries consisted mainly of immigrants and their descendants, so their inhabitants were named after the countries they lived in.

So, for some "Old World" countries, mainly in Europe and Asia, the Esperanto root form gives the name of the inhabitant, and the name of the country is formed from it. For other "New World" countries, mainly in the Americas, Africa and Oceania, the Esperanto root form gives the name of the country, and the name of the inhabitant is formed from it.

Group 1 (mainly "New World")

The first group takes the name of the country as the root form (e.g. Brazil-o, Kanad-o) and an inhabitant of that country is formed by adding -an (member) in front of the ending -o. For example:

Brazilanoj loĝas en Brazilo.

Brazilians live in Brazil.

Kanadanoj loĝas en Kanado.

Canadians live in Canada.

Group 2 (mainly "Old World")

The second group takes the name of the inhabitant as the root form (e.g. ital-o, german-o) and its country name is formed by adding -uj in front of the ending -o. For example:

Italoj loĝas en Italujo.

Italians live in Italy.

Germanoj loĝas en Germanujo.

Germans live in Germany.

Many people prefer to use the ending -io for Group 2 names rather than the traditional ending -ujo. This is how we teach country names here on Duolingo:

Traditional	Alternative
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Italujo	Italio
---------	--------

Germanujo	Germanio
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ABOUT THE AMERICAS

Usono refers to the USA, while Ameriko refers to the entire American continent; so usonano is a US citizen, while amerikano is someone from North, Central, or South America.

MORE ACCENTED LETTERS

The following table shows the rest of the accented letters, which are also called *ĉapelitaj literoj* (literally, "letters with hats").

Esperanto	English equivalent	Esperanto example
ĥ	loch	ĉeĥa (Czech)
ĵ	pleasure	ĵaŭdo (Thursday)
ŭ	wet	aŭ (or)

Note: ĥ is pronounced as a strongly aspirated "h", like the "ch" in the Scottish word "loch" (not pronounced "lock"), while ŭ is normally only used after a and e, in the combinations aŭ and eŭ.

Food

MEAT DISHES

To talk about meat dishes, add -aĵ to the name of the animal that the dish is made from. For example, to talk about "pork" (meat from a pig), you use the word for pig (porko) and add the suffix -aĵ : porkaĵo. To say "I am eating pork", you would say Mi manĝas porkaĵon. The same sentence without -aĵ, Mi manĝas porkon would mean "I am eating a pig."

English Animal	Esperanto Animal	English Food	Esperanto Food
a cow	bovo	beef	bovaĵo
a pig	porko	pork	porkaĵo
a fish	fiŝo	fish	fiŝaĵo
a lamb	ŝafido	lamb	ŝafidaĵo

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

matenmanĝo = breakfast, the morning meal

tagmanĝo = lunch, the midday meal

vespermanĝo = dinner, the evening meal

PREPOSITIONS

So far we have learned several prepositions, including sur, por, sen, de, da and kun. Note that there is no accusative -n for nouns after prepositions except in specific instances, which will be introduced later.

SUBJECT OR OBJECT AFTER "OL"

Ol (than), is a conjunction (a connecting word like "and") that functions as a comparison word.

Either a subject or an object can follow it, just as in English:

Ni amas ŝin pli ol ilin.

We love her more than [we love] them.

(The object ilin follows ol.)

Li amas la hundon pli ol ili amas ĝin.

He loves the dog more than they love it.

(The subject ili follows ol.)

JEN

Jen means "here is" or "here are" like the following:

Jen la hundo. = Here is the dog.

Although less common, Jen may be followed by estas and a noun, for example:

Jen estas la hundo. = Here is the dog.

KUN AND KUNE

English	Esperanto
with	kun
together	kune (adverbial form)
together with	kune kun

CORRELATIVES

You may have noticed that all the question words start with ki-, except for ĉu. The letter or letters after ki- in the question word, i.e. the ending, indicates what kind of question it is.

English question	in other words	Esperanto question
what	what thing	kio
where	what place	kie

how	what way	kiel
who	what specific person	kiu
which	what specific thing	kiu
how much	what quantity	kiom

In this module we introduce the group of words ending in -om which relate to quantity.

English question	in other words	Esperanto question
how much [of it]	what quantity	kiom
that much [of it]	that quantity	tiom
some [of it]	some quantity	iom
all [of it]	the whole quantity	ĉiom
none [of it]	no quantity	neniom

All of these words in both tables are part of a group in Esperanto called correlatives. 5 beginnings and 9 endings can be combined logically together to form 45 (5x9) basic words.

USES OF DA AND DE AFTER THE -IOM GROUP OF CORRELATIVES.

Kiom, tiom, iom, and ĉiom are followed by da, when they refer to quantities that are indefinite:

Kiom da akvo vi trinkas?

How much water are you drinking?

Li manĝas iom da kuko.

He eats some cake.

When referring to amounts of a definite quantity, we use de:

Mi manĝas iom de la granda kuko.

I am eating some of the big cake.

Kiom de la sandviĉo li manĝas?

How much of the sandwich is he eating?

Neniom is usually used alone, since it describes the absence of a quantity. For example:

Mi havas neniom. = I have none.

Infinitive

INFINITIVE

The ending -i indicates the infinitive, for example ami (to love). This is the neutral form found in a dictionary. It is often used to complement the verbs povas (can), volas (want), devas (must), and ŝatas (like). For example:

- Mi volas danci. = I want to dance.
- Mi ŝatas manĝi. = I like to eat.
- Ĉu vi povas fari tion? = Can you do that?

NEK ... NEK ...

Nek means both "neither" and "nor" and follows English usage patterns. It is a conjunction like kaj and aŭ. For example:

Nek la rozo nek la pomo estas flava.

Neither the rose nor the apple is yellow.

Nek la rozon nek la pomon mi ŝatas.

I like neither the rose nor the apple.

La rozo estas nek rozkolora nek bela.

The rose is neither pink nor pretty.

SCII & KONI (TO KNOW)

Both scii and koni can be translated as "to know." While scii refers to intellectual knowledge, koni refers to knowing someone or something from experience.

Scii

Use scii when you know a specific fact :

Mi scias la respondon.

I know the answer.

Ĉu vi scias lian adreson?

Do you know his address?

Sentences that begin "I know that ..." will always be translated as "Mi scias, ke ..." as they are describing knowledge of a fact. For example:

Mi scias, ke Francio estas en Eŭropo.

I know that France is in Europe.

Mi scias, ke li ŝatas trinki kafon.

I know that he likes to drink coffee.

Koni

Typically, koni will be used to know a person or an animal. For example:

Ĉu vi konas mian patron?

Do you know my father?

Ŝi bone konas mian hundon.

She knows my dog well.

It can also be used to refer to a place or thing that one knows well from experience:

Mi konas Francion tre bone.

I know France very well. (Because I visited there often.)

Mi konas tiun libron

I know that book. (Because I already read it.)

Note: You will never use konas, ke because konas cannot be used to refer to knowing a fact. So you can say: Mi scias, ke Esperanto estas internacia lingvo. (I know that Esperanto is an international language.) But you cannot say: Mi konas, ke Esperanto estas internacia lingvo.

Here is an example of scii and koni in the same sentence:

Mi scias, ke vi konas ŝin.

I know that you know her.

Questions

ĈU

As covered in Basics 2, Ĉu is used to introduce a question. For example:

- Ĉu vi volas danci? = Do you want to dance?
- Ĉu vi amas ŝin aŭ min? = Do you love her or me?

In the middle of a sentence, ĉu means "whether". For example:

Ŝi demandas min, ĉu mi volas danci.

She asks me whether I want to dance.

(or: She asks me if I want to dance.)

Ŝi volas scii, ĉu mi parolas Esperanton.

She wants to know whether I speak Esperanto.

(or: She wants to know if I speak Esperanto.)

Note that in English we often use the word "if" interchangeably with "whether", as in the examples above, but in Esperanto this is not correct. We can never use the word se (if) in place of the word ĉu*.

CORRELATIVES ENDING IN -U

The correlatives ending in -u (kiu, tiu, etc.) usually come before a noun. Notice how they take -j and -n endings just like adjectives. For example:

Kiun libron vi legas?

Which book are you reading?

Mi volas legi tiujn librojn.

I want to read those books.

They appear without a noun only if the context makes what is being talked about clear. For example:

Jen kelkaj bonaj libroj. Kiun [libron] vi volas legi?

Here are some good books. Which [book] would you like to read?

Without other information, assume that kiu and tiu (and any other correlative ending in -u) refer to a person. For example:

Kiu venas? = Who is coming?

Esperanto	English
kio	what
tio	that
kiu	which/who
tiu	that one/that person

Kio estas tio? Tio estas libro.

What is that? That is a book.

Kiu estas via libro? Mia libro estas tiu.

Which is your book? My book is that one.

Kion vi volas? Mi volas tion.

What do you want? I want that.

Kiun vi volas? Mi volas tiun.

Which do you want? I want that one.

Kiujn vi volas? Mi volas tiujn.

Which ones do you want? I want those.

Ĉi

Ĉi expresses close proximity when used immediately before or after ti- words. For example:

Esperanto	English
tie	there
ĉi tie	here

tio	that
çi tio	this
tiu	that thing/that person
çi tiu	this thing/this person

Note: Since çi can go before or after ti- words, these are also valid: tie çi, tiu çi, tio çi.

KIEN? TIEN

Adding -n to kie or tie shows movement towards a place. For example:

Kie vi estas? Mi estas çi tie.

Where are you? I am here.

Kien vi iras? Mi iras tien.

To where are you going? I am going to there.

Note that the "to" is usually dropped in English, so this would be translated as "Where are you going? I am going there." Due to this lack of distinction in English, many English speakers have trouble remembering to add -n to tie and kie when talking about movement towards a place.

KIAM

Kiam means "when".

Verbs Present 2

VERB TYPES

Transitive verbs

Transitive verbs may take a direct object. For example:

Mi trinkas sukon. = I drink juice. Ŝi legas libron. = She reads a book.

Sometimes, although the verb is transitive, the direct object is not expressed, so we may say Mi trinkas or Ŝi legas, without naming the thing that the person is drinking or reading.

Intransitive verbs

Intransitive verbs never take a direct object. For example:

Mi sidas. = I am sitting. La knabino kuras. = The girl is running.

Differences between Esperanto and English

Please note that the rules concerning verbs and objects are stricter in Esperanto than in English. In English, we know a lot of verbs that can be used both with and without a direct object. In English we can say "He closes the door" and "The door closes", using the same verb, although the meaning is different. In the first example, someone performs the action of closing the door, while in the second, the door becomes closed. In Esperanto, there are two words for this:

Li fermas la pordon. = He closes the door.

La pordo fermiĝas = The door closes.

In the same way, Esperanto distinguishes between komenci (to start to do something) and komenciĝi (to start happening):

La instruisto komencas la lecionon = The teacher starts the lesson. La leciono komenciĝas. = The lesson is starting.

To use grammatical terms, fermi and komenci are transitive (take a direct object), while fermiĝi and komenciĝi are intransitive (cannot take a direct object).

ATENDI

Atendi can mean "to wait," "to wait for" or "to expect." For example:

Mi atendas. = I wait.

Mi atendas buson. = I wait for a bus.

Mi atendas profiton. = I am expecting a profit.

Note: Kion vi atendas? can mean either "What are you expecting?" or "What are you waiting for?" depending on the context.

Family

GE-

Most words relating to the family are male by default. The suffix -in (female) and the prefix ge- (both genders) can be added to change the meaning. For example:

Gender	Esperanto	English
male	patro	father
female	patrino	mother
both	gepatroj	parents

Gender	Esperanto	English
male	frato	brother
female	fratino	sister
both	gefratoj	siblings

Gender	Esperanto	English
male	avo	grandfather
female	avino	grandmother
both	geavoj	grandparents

The prefix pra- means long ago, in the distant past :

Gender	Esperanto	English
male	praavo	great-grandfather
female	praavino	great-grandmother
both	prageavoj	great-grandparents

AMIK(IN)O, KORAMIK(IN)O

Note that amiko and amikino are not equivalent to the English "boyfriend" and "girlfriend". To describe a romantic relationship, we use the terms koramiko and koramikino ("heart-friend").

SIA

The possessive pronoun sia means his own, her own, its own or their own. It always refers back to the subject.

Li vidas sian hundon.

He sees his [own] dog.

Li vidas lian hundon.

He sees his [someone else's] dog.

Ili nun estas en sia hejmo. They are now in their [own] home.

Ili nun estas en ilia hejmo. They are now in their [their friends'] home.

Note that sia is not used when the subject of the concerned clause is mi, ni, or vi. In these cases use its standard possessive pronoun:

Vi havas vian hundon.

You have your [own] dog.

Sia with multiple subjects

Li vidas, ke vi havas lian hundon.

He sees that you have his dog.

Notice that ke splits this sentence into two clauses. Each clause has its own subject: li and vi. In such cases, sia is only used if its subject is in the same clause, so in this example, sian is not possible, because li is in a different clause than hundon.

Karlo diras, ke la infanoj vizitas siajn geavojn.

Karlo says that the children are visiting their [own] grandparents.

In this example, "the children" is in the same clause as "grandparents," so siajn is used. Here is another similar example:

Ŝi vidas, ke hundo ludas per sia pilko.

She sees that a dog plays with its [own] ball.

KIOM AĜAS

How old are you?

Kiom vi aĝas?

(Literally: How much you are-age?)

Kiom is used with age, since age is a quantity (of years).

Note: An alternative way to ask someone's age is Kiom da jaroj vi havas? (Literally "How many years do you have?") .

Objects

PER

Per means "by means of", although the English translation may use "by" or "with". Use this when mentioning tools or methods of transportation. For example:

- per martelo – with a hammer
- per tranĉilo – with a knife
- per buso, per aŭto, per trajno, per ŝipo – by bus, by car, by train, by ship

Note that per is a preposition and so the following noun does not take the -n ending.

Numbers

THE PAST TENSE -IS ENDING.

For the past tense, use -is:

La arbo falas.

The tree is falling.

La arbo falis.

The tree fell.

ZERO

The word for the number zero in Esperanto is nul or nulo.

CARDINAL/ORDINAL NUMBERS

Cardinal numbers such as one, two and three never take any endings in Esperanto.

Ordinal numbers such as first, second and third end in -a and function as adjectives, so they also must agree with the nouns they modify: la unua tago (the first day); la unuaj tagoj (the first days).

Cardinal	Esperanto	Ordinal	Esperanto
one	unu	first	unua
two	du	second	dua
three	tri	third	tria
four	kvar	fourth	kvara

FRACTIONS

Fractions are made by adding the suffix -on to the base number. Fractions can be nouns (-o) or adjectives (-a) just like any other word in Esperanto. For example:

Fraction	Esperanto
a half	duono
a third	triono

two thirds du trionoj

duona tago / duontago

a half day

WRITING OUT NUMBERS

Numbers	Esperanto	How many words?
11, 12 ... 19	dek unu, dek du ... dek naŭ	two words
20, 30 ... 90	dudek, tridek ... naŭdek	one word
200, 300 ... 900	ducent, tricent ... naŭcent	one word
2000, 3000 ... 9000	du mil, tri mil ... naŭ mil	two words

Du mil okdek kvar

Two thousand eighty-four (2084)

Kvincent sesdek tri mil

Five hundred sixty-three thousand (563 000)

For ordinal numbers, use hyphens between all the words in the number: ducent-okdek-sepa. We do this because the adjective ending -a relates to the entire number (287), not just to the 7 at the end.

La du-mil-okcent-kvara tago

The two thousand eighty-fourth day

A MILLION AND BEYOND

English Esperanto

million miliono

billion miliardo

Note: It is advisable to avoid using the ambiguous word biliono, since this can either mean a billion or a trillion. In English also, these words can have different meanings, depending on the country where they are used.

THE -N ENDING AND QUANTITIES

Besides being used to indicate a direct object, the -n ending is also used to indicate length, quantities, price, distance and measures. For example:

La ŝtofo estas du metrojn longa.

The fabric is two meters long.

La domo kostas tricent mil eŭrojn.

The house costs three hundred thousand euros.

Ili marŝis dudek kilometrojn.

They walked twenty kilometers.

NOMBRO VS NUMERO

Esperanto distinguishes between nombro and numero although both are translated as "number" in English.

Nombro

Nombro is a number that signifies an amount or is used to express a mathematical relationship. For example:

la nombro de personoj
the number of people
4 estas pli granda nombro ol 3.
4 is a larger number than 3.

Numero

Numero is a number used for labelling items in a series:

la numero de la domo
the house number
telefonnumero
phone number
la lasta numero de la gazeto
the last number [edition] of the newspaper.

PO

There is no exact equivalent of the word po in English, which means approximately "at the rate of". It is used to indicate that a certain amount has been given to each of several recipients, or given at regular intervals over a certain period of time. Po introduces the amount that is given each time or to each recipient, not the total amount to be distributed. The word po will always be followed by some expression of quantity. In English translations of sentences with po, you will often find the word "each":

Mi donis al la infanoj po du pomoj.
I gave two apples to each child.
I gave each child two apples.
La amikoj trinkis po du glasoj da vino.
The friends each drank two glasses of wine.
The friends drank two glasses of wine each.
Po can also be used for prices.
La pomoj kostas po du dolaroj.
The apples cost two dollars each.

Note that po always refers to the quantity being distributed, and NOT to the number of people or the period of time among whom or which they are distributed.

La tri virinoj kantis po kvar kantoj.

The three women sang four songs each.

(i.e. each woman sang four songs, and a total of $3 \times 4 = 12$ songs were sung.)

La kvar pomoj kostas po du dolaroj.

The four apples cost two dollars each.

(i.e. each apple costs two dollars, for a total cost of $4 \times 2 = 8$ dollars.)

Po is a preposition, and so is not followed by an accusative, the same as al, de or da. However, these days many people treat po as an adverb and add the accusative ending where appropriate. Both ways are considered acceptable:

Mi donis al la infanoj po du pomojn.

Mi donis al la infanoj po du pomoj.

I gave the children two apples each.

I gave each of the children two apples.

Prepositions

PREPOSITIONS

The most literal sense of a preposition is generally the correct word to use in Esperanto. Thus, one rides "in the train," not "on the train." For example:

- antaŭ can mean "in front of" or "before", depending on the context. In conjunction with time it can mean "ago".
- kontraŭ means "against", but also "at the cost/price of"; and can be used in the context of taking a medicine in order to treat an illness ("against" an illness).

In general, nouns following a preposition do not take the -n ending.

THE DIRECTIONAL -N

In addition to its use for the direct object, the -n ending is also used to show direction:

- Ŝi saltas sur la tablo. = She jumps (up and down) on the table.
- Ŝi saltas sur la tablon. = She jumps onto the table (from another location).

PRO VS POR

- Pro = because of, on account of
- Por = for

Mi parolas Esperanton pro vi.

I speak Esperanto because of you.

La donaco estas por vi.

The gift is for you.

KROM

Krom can mean either "except (for)" or "in addition to" depending on the context. For example:

Mi ŝatas ĉion, krom araneoj.

I like everything except spiders.

Krom araneoj, ŝi ankaŭ amas abelojn.

In addition to spiders, she also loves bees.

MANKO DE

A lack of...

Manko de...

A lack of something is not considered a quantity, so one says manko de and never manko da.

For example:

A lack of money

Manko de mono

VERŜI AND ŜUTI

Verŝi means to pour a liquid such as water or oil, while ŝuti means to pour a non-liquid such as sand or sugar.

TERO AND TERO

Tero is the word for the planet Earth. We omit the article la when we speak of it in that context:

Tero moviĝas ĉirkaŭ la suno.

(The) Earth moves around the sun.

La Tero is the term for the Earth we live on:

Kie ni vivos, kiam la Tero estos tro varma?

Where will we live, when the Earth is too hot?

For earth or soil that plants grow in, we use tero without capitalization:

En la tero kreskas plantoj.

Plants grow in the earth.

Verbs: Past & Future

VERBS: PAST & FUTURE

The following endings change the tense of a verb:

-is = past

-os = future

Past	Present	Future
La kato dormis.	La kato dormas.	La kato dormos.
The cat slept.	The cat sleeps.	The cat will sleep.

There are no exceptions to this rule!

Note: In English, sometimes part of a sentence is expressed in the present tense, even though the event actually takes place in the future. In Esperanto, both parts of the sentence are in the future tense, since they happen then. For example:

Kion vi faros, kiam vi estos gepatroj?

What will you do when you are parents?

Ni iros al la drinkejo ĉi-vespere.

We are going to the bar tonight.

.

POST KIAM/ANTAŬ OL

The preposition post means "after" and is usually followed by a noun:

post la matenmanĝo

after breakfast

post la oka horo

after eight o'clock

However, if you want to use post with a verb phrase, you have to use post kiam:

Post kiam ni matenmanĝis...

After we [had] had breakfast...

Post kiam mi laboris, mi dormis.

After I [had] worked, I slept.

In the same way, antaŭ ol needs to be used before verbs.

Ni manĝis, antaŭ ol li alvenis.

We ate before he arrived.

Dates and Time

SPECIAL CONVENTIONS TO EXPRESS TIME

Esperanto	English
dimanĉo	Sunday

dimanĉon next Sunday/ last Sunday

dimanĉe every Sunday / next Sunday/ last Sunday, depending on context.

The -e ending may be used when talking about a reoccurring event or a specific event.

- La renkontiĝo okazas sabate.
- The meeting happens on Saturdays / every Saturday.
-
- La renkontiĝo okazos sabate.
- The meeting will take place on Saturday (this Saturday).

The -n ending is used only when talking about the upcoming or recent past occurrence of a specific event:

- Mi alvenos sabaton. = I will arrive (on) Saturday.
- Ni venos la dek-kvinan de oktobro. = We will come (on) the 15th of October.

The -n ending is also used to express duration:

- Mi restis unu horon (= dum unu horo). = I stayed for one hour.
- Li vojaĝos la tutan tagon (= dum la tuta tago). = He will travel all day (the whole day).

SPELLING CONVENTIONS FOR MONTHS AND DAYS OF THE WEEK

Upper Case or Lower Case?

Months can either start with a lower case or capital letter: januaro, februaro; Januaro, Februaro.

In this course, we have chosen to present the lowercase form.

Days of the week always are in lower case: lundo, mardo.

THE 24-HOUR CLOCK

In many countries, a 24-hour clock is often used. In that system, all times after 12 noon are formed by adding 12 to the clock time, so "am" and "pm" are not needed:

12-hour clock system	24-hour clock system
11:00 am	11:00
1:30 pm	13:30
11:00 pm	23:00
12 midnight	24:00

TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

A transitive verb (transitiva verbo) is a verb that requires a direct object. An intransitive verb (netransitiva verbo) is a verb that does not take an object. Komenci and komenciĝi, below, are examples of transitive and intransitive verbs

Komenci, komenciĝi: what is the difference?

Komenci (transitive) means to start or begin something, and takes a direct object with an -n ending:

- Mi komencas la manĝon. = I am starting/beginning the meal.

Komenciĝi (intransitive) includes the -iĝ affix and means to begin or start on its own. It does not take a direct object:

- La manĝo komenciĝas. = The meal is starting/beginning.

A more detailed explanation of transitive / intransitive verbs can be found in the notes for the module Verbs Present. You will learn more about the -iĝ affix in a module dedicated to both the -iĝ and the -ig affix.

CORRELATIVES (TABELVORTOJ)

All the question words we have learned so far start with ki-, which has the general meaning of "what":

Esperanto	English
kiam	at what time, when
kio	what
kie	at what place, where
kiel	in what way, how
kiu	what specific person or thing, who or which
kiom	what amount, how much

Similar words starting with ti- (general meaning of "that") are related to the question words:

Esperanto	English
tiam	at that time, then
tio	that thing
tie	that place, there
tiel	in that way
tiu	that person or specific thing
tiom	that quantity, that much

And words starting with ĉi- (general meaning of "all") are also related:

Esperanto	English
-----------	---------

ĉiam	at all times, always
ĉio	everything
ĉie	in all places, every place, everywhere
ĉiom	all of it, the whole amount

All of these words (and more that we will learn as the course progresses) are part of a group of words in Esperanto called Correlatives (Eo: korelativoj). In Esperanto they are also called tabelvortoj because they can easily be arranged in one big table / chart.

In this module we learn iam (at any time, sometimes, ever) and neniam (at no time, never) to round out the words ending with -am that relate to time.

Esperanto	English	English paraphrase
kiam	when	at what time
tiam	then	at that time
iam	sometime	at some/any time
ĉiam	always	at all times
neniam	never	at no time

Finally, here's an overview of all the correlatives that you have learned so far:

_	-U	-O	-E	-EL	-AM	-OM
KI-	kiu	kio	kie	kiel	kiam	kiom
TI-	tiu	tio	tie	tiel	tiam	tiom
I-					iam	iom
ĈI-		ĉio	ĉie		ĉiam	ĉiom
NENI-					neniam	neniom

Imperative

IMPERATIVE: THE -U ENDING.

The -u ending is used when ordering / inviting someone else to do something -- or when telling or suggesting to ourselves what to do!

Esperanto	English
Manĝu!	Eat!
Iru!	Go!
Ni iru!	Let's go!
Ni vidu!	Let's see!
Mi pensu!	Let me think!

IMPERATIVE + INFINITIVE

An imperative may be followed by an infinitive:

Bonvolu manĝi!

Please eat!

(NOT: Bonvolu manĝu. Do not use two imperatives one after the other in that way).

QUESTIONS WITH -U

In questions, the -u ending generally means "shall" ; it can also be translated as "should":

Ĉu ni iru?

Shall we go?

Should we go?

Ĉu mi legu tiun libron?

Shall I read that book?

Should I read that book?

THE -U ENDING IN SUBORDINATE PHRASES

We also use the -u ending in subordinate phrases (clauses) starting with ke, when the verb in the preceding, main part of the sentence expresses a want, desire, demand or preference:

Esperanto	English
Mi volas, ke vi iru.	I want you to go.
Li preferas, ke mi ne donu al vi monon.	He prefers that I do not give you money.
Ŝi postulas, ke la infanoj studu.	She insists that the children study.

Occupations

GENDER MARKERS RELATED TO PROFESSIONS:

As mentioned in the Family lesson notes, nouns not relating to family have no base gender:

aktoro : a male or female actor

dentisto : a male or female dentist

In these cases, you may choose to explicitly make a noun feminine by adding -in :

aktorino = a female actor

dentistino = a female dentist

Be aware that in some Esperanto settings, when you use a term like aktoro or dancisto, people may assume that you are talking about a man. In this course, we will not routinely present the feminine form of professions. However your responses using the feminine form when appropriate will be accepted as correct.

STUDENTO AND LERNANTO

Studento - a student enrolled in a college or university, or an adult learner.

Lernanto - a pupil, a student in a primary school, middle school or high school.

FARIĜI

Fariĝi (to become) contains the -iĝ affix, so nouns following it do not take the -n ending, as they are not considered direct objects. We will learn more about the -iĝ affix in later lessons.

ŜAJNAS, KE ...

Ŝajnas, ke ... means "It seems, that ..."

Adjectives 1

ADJECTIVES

An adjective takes the -a ending and has to agree in number with the noun it modifies:

- bona homo = a good person
- bonaj homoj = good people
- Homoj estas bonaj. = People are good.

An adjective that modifies an object also takes the -n (direct object) ending:

Mi manĝas belajn kukojn. = I eat beautiful cakes.

In summary, an adjective's ending must match the ending of the noun it modifies.

WORD ORDER

Word order in Esperanto is flexible. Most people place adjectives before the noun, but they may also be placed after the noun. Both of the following sentences are correct:

Ŝi estas bona instruisto.

Ŝi estas instruisto bona.

She is a good teacher.

ADJECTIVES INTO VERBS

In Esperanto, adjectives are easily transformed into verbs, and are frequently used that way in conversations and in written texts :

Mi estas preta. = Mi pretas. = I am ready.

Mi estas malsana. = Mi malsanas. = I am sick.

You may also hear:

La ĉielo bluas. = La ĉielo estas blua. = The sky is blue.

La hundo grandas = La hundo estas granda.= The dog is big.

MAL-

The prefix mal- simply means "opposite". It does not mean "bad" as in some romance languages.

granda = big, large

malgranda = small, little

fermi = to close

malfermi = to open

PAIRED CONJUNCTIONS:

Esperanto	English
kaj....kaj....	both....and.....
nek....nek....	neither....nor.....
aŭ....aŭ....	either....or.....

CORRELATIVES WITH -IA

Correlatives ending in -ia refer to a kind, sort, or type of something. They are adjectives and take the -j and -n endings where needed:

Kiajn librojn vi ŝatas legi?

What kinds of books do you like to read?

Esperanto	English
kia(j)(n)	what kind(s) of
tia(j)(n)	that/those kind(s) of
ia(j)(n)	some kind(s) of
ĉia(j)(n)	every kind of/all kinds of
nenia(n)	no kind of

Affixes

AFFIXES

One of the greatest advantages of Esperanto is its flexible system of word particles that can be attached either in front of a word (prefixes) or at the end of a word (suffixes). There are 10 prefixes and 31 suffixes, which can be used to modify any word, as long as the result makes sense. When you finish the Affixes 3 module, you will know all of them! In this lesson, you'll review one prefix (mal-) and learn many suffixes:

Affix	Definition	Example	Translation
mal-	opposite	malfacila	difficult
-eg	big	bonega	excellent
-et	little	dormeti	to nap
-uj	container	sapujo	soapbox
-ej	place	lernejo	school
-ul	person	riĉulo	rich person
-il	tool	fotilo	camera
-ebl	possible	komprenebla	understandable
-estr	leader	laborestro	boss
-an	member	klubano	club member
-ar	group	arbaro	forest

See how these affixes affect the word varma:

Esperanto	English
varma	hot
varmega	very hot
varmeta	warm
malvarma	cold
malvarmega	ice cold
malvarmeta	cool

Affixes as roots

Note that even though affixes in Esperanto are usually attached to a root word, they can also be used as roots themselves, for example:

Esperanto	English
la ejo	the place
tiuj iloj	those tools
la mala direkto	the opposite direction
la etulo	the little person
ĉu eblas?	is it possible?

Home

COMPOUND WORDS

Combining two words to make a new word is very common in Esperanto. The vowel ending of the first word may be dropped, or it may be retained if that makes the word easier to pronounce:

Eo lito + tuko = litotuko (or: littuko)

En bed + cloth = sheet

Eo vesto + ŝranko = vestoŝranko

En garment + cabinet/cupboard = clothes closet

Eo lito + kovrilo = litkovrilo (or: litokovrilo)

En bed + cover = bedspread

Eo bano + tuko = bantuko

En bath + cloth = towel

Also note that a hyphen may be added:

Esperanto + klubo = Esperantoklubo or Esperanto-klubo.

PURIGI

Pur-ig-i means to clean (to make something clean), and comes from the adjective pura (clean). We will learn more about the affix -ig in future modules.

MANĜILARO

This is an example of a word with two affixes, and illustrates how easy and straightforward it is to build words in Esperanto:

Manĝ + -il + -aro = manĝilaro

Eat + tool + group = silverware

LOĜI AND VIVI

Esperanto	English
-----------	---------

loĝi	to live, to reside, to dwell (in a specific place)
------	--

vivi	to live, to be alive (the state of being)
------	---

English speakers usually use the verb “to live” for both meanings. However you should aim to make the distinction and use loĝi and vivi correctly in Esperanto, so that you will be reliably understood.

MEM

Mem means [my,your,his,her]-self, or [our, them]-selves.

It is used for emphasis:

Esperanto	English
-----------	---------

mi mem	I myself
--------	----------

vi mem	you yourself, you yourselves
--------	------------------------------

li mem	he himself
ŝi mem	she herself
ni mem	we ourselves
ili mem	they themselves

Verbs: Conditional

THE CONDITIONAL

Use the verb ending -us to talk about non-real, imagined situations, or to make polite requests.

Non-real situations

Non-real situations are the topic of "if...then" sentences, like this one:

- Se mi estus sana, mi laborus. = If I were healthy, I would work.

Notice that Esperanto, unlike English, uses the -us form in both parts of the sentence - since both parts are non-real.

We also talk about non-real situations when we express our wish for something to be different from what/how it actually is:

- Se li nur estus iom pli bela! = If only he were a bit more handsome!

The -us ending does not carry any temporal information. Thus, it is possible to use the -us ending for events in the past as well. When doing so, context usually indicates that we are talking about the past:

- Se Zamenhof scius la ĉinan, Esperanto estus malsama. = If Zamenhof had known Chinese, Esperanto would be different.
- Se vi dirus tion al mi jam hieraŭ, mi ne farus la eraron. = If you had told me this already yesterday, I would not have made the mistake.

Polite requests

The -us form can also be used to express polite requests.

- Ĉu vi povus doni al mi la buteron? = Could you pass me the butter?
- Mi ŝatus iom pli da sukero. = I would like a little more sugar.

REVIEW OF -N FOR DIRECTION

Remember to use the -n ending when talking about a movement towards a certain place. For example

- Metu la dosierojn en dosierujon! = Put the files into a folder!

RETPOŜTO VS. RETMESAĜO

Retpoŝto means email in general; the service that allows you to send and receive electronic messages. A message sent by retpoŝto (email) is most often called retmesaĝo (email).

Adverbs

ADVERBS : THE -E ENDING

Adverbs typically end in -e. An adverb describes or modifies a verb. We have already seen several examples of adverbs:

Esperanto	English
bone	well
nokte	nightly, at night
multe	a lot
rapide	rapidly, quickly, fast
malrapide	slowly
kune	along with
ofte	often

ADVERBS CAN MODIFY ADJECTIVES

Tio estas vere bela : That is truly beautiful.

ADVERB AFTER ESTAS

After estas, when there is no subject of the sentence, use an adverb, not an adjective.

Esperanto	English
Hodiaŭ estas varme, kaj la suno brilas.	Today it is warm, and the sun is shining.
Estas bone, ke vi jam finis la lecionon.	It is good that you have already finished the lesson.

Feelings

TIEL...KIEL

Tiel...kiel is a way of expressing a comparison:

Esperanto	English
Li estas tiel laca kiel mi.	He is as tired as I (am).
Ŝi estas tiel kontenta kiel ili.	She is as content as they (are).

REFLEXIVE VERB: SENTI

Please note that senti [to feel] in Esperanto is reflexive. For example:

- Mi sentas min feliĉa. = I feel happy.
- Kia vi sentas vin? = How do you feel?

People

CORRELATIVES WITH -U

-u words relate to a particular person or thing.

Esperanto	English
kiu	who; which
tiu	that (particular) person or thing
iu	someone, somebody; some particular thing
ĉiu	every person or every particular thing
neniu	no one, nobody; no particular thing

CORRELATIVES WITH -ES

-es words relate to possessing something.

Esperanto	English
-----------	---------

kies	whose
ties	that person's
ies	someone's
ĉies	everyone's
nenies	no one's

Ties does not have a one word translation in English and means "that person's" or "that one's". It can be used to clarify a sentence that might be ambiguous in English. "He went to a restaurant with his cousin and his wife." Whose wife was it, the cousin's or his own?

- Li iris al la restoracio kun sia kuzo kaj sia edzino = He went to the restaurant with his cousin and his own wife.
- Li iris al la restoracio kun sia kuzo kaj ties edzino. = He went to the restaurant with his cousin and his cousin's wife.

Places

THE -N ENDING FOR DIRECTION

The -n ending is used to show direction, when describing movement toward something or some place. However, it is not used after the prepositions ĝis, al or el, as they already show direction:

Esperanto	English
Ni vojaĝu norden al Kanado!	Let's travel north to Canada!
Mi iras ien, sed kien?	I am going somewhere, but where?
La birdo flugis en la arbon.	The bird flew into the tree.
Ni iru al Londono!	Let's go to London!
Mi kuris de la lago al la montoj.	I ran from the lake to the mountains.
Mia filino marŝis ĝis la fino de la strato.	My daughter walked to the end of the street.

ENIRI, ELIRI

Eniri and eliri are good examples of a common way to build new verbs in Esperanto: combine a preposition with an existing verb:

Esperanto	English
-----------	---------

en + iri = eniri into + to go = to enter
el + iri = eliri out of/from + to go = to exit

AJN

Ajn means any or ever, and may be combined with various ki- and i- correlatives, usually for emphasis:

Esperanto	English
Mi volas iri ien.	I want to go somewhere.
Mi volas iri ien ajn.	I want to go anywhere at all.
Kien vi iros, mi iros.	Where you go, I will go.
Kien ajn vi iros, mi iros.	Wherever you go, I will go.

TROVIĜI

Troviĝi means to be found or located. It comes from the verb trovi, to find. Because it contains the -iĝ affix, it is intransitive and does not take an object:

Ilia domo troviĝas en bela kvartalo.

Their house is located in a beautiful neighborhood.

CORRELATIVES WITH -IE AND -IEN

Here is a chart which lists all the correlatives ending in -ie and -ien:

Eo	English	Eo	English
kie	where, what place	kien	(to) where
tie	there, that place	tien	(to) there
ie	somewhere, some place	ien	(to) somewhere
ĉie	everywhere, all places	ĉien	(to) everywhere
nenie	nowhere, no place	nenien	(to) nowhere

Medical

ROMPI AND ROMPIĜI, OKUPI AND OKUPIĜI

We have already encountered the intransitive -iĝ affix when learning fariĝi and komenciĝi. Similarly, rompi means to break something, while rompiĝi means to become or get broken. And okupi means to occupy something, while okupiĝi means to become occupied.

Esperanto	English	Esperanto	English
fari	to do or make	fariĝi	to become
komenci	to start something	komenciĝi	to begin
rompi	to break something	rompiĝi	to get broken
okupi	to occupy something	okupiĝi	to become occupied

KIEL EBLE PLEJ

Kiel eble plej..... followed by an adverb is an expression similar to the English expression "as as possible." For example:

Esperanto	English
kiel eble plej multe	as much as possible
kiel eble plej baldaŭ	as soon as possible
kiel eble plej ofte	as often as possible
kiel eble plej rapide	as rapidly/fast as possible

DOLORI AL IU....

In Esperanto, we use dolori al to say that a particular part of the body hurts a person: Doloras al mi la kapo. OR "La kapo doloras al mi. OR Doloras min la kapo. OR La kapo doloras min.

My head hurts. (Head is the subject)

La brako doloras al ŝi. OR La brako doloras ŝin.

Her arm hurts. (Arm is the subject).

It is also possible to say Mia kapo doloras. (My head hurts.) or Ŝia brako doloras. (Her arm hurts) as we do in English.

KONTRAŬ

Here we learn another setting for the word kontraŭ, previously taught in its primary meaning of "against" or "opposite". In a medical setting, kontraŭ means "for the purpose of treating or curing":

Mi prenis medikamenton kontraŭ febro.

I took a medication for fever.

CORRELATIVES WITH -IAL

-ial words refer to a reason or motive for doing something.

English	Esperanto
---------	-----------

kial	why, for what reason
------	----------------------

tial	that's why, for that reason
------	-----------------------------

ial	for some reason
-----	-----------------

ĉial	for every reason
------	------------------

nenial	not for any reason
--------	--------------------

KIALO

Kialo means "a reason", and comes from the correlative kial, why:

Li faris tion sen bona kialo.

He did that without a good reason.

EKZERCI SIN : THE REFLEXIVE FORM

In English, we use special pronouns, the so-called reflexive pronouns, if the object of a phrase refers to the same person(s) as the subject.

- I see you (you is a regular pronoun)
- You see yourself (yourself is a reflexive pronoun - it is used here because the person being seen is the same as the person who is seeing.)

Esperanto doesn't have reflexive pronouns for I/me, you or we/us.

Non-reflexive	Reflexive
---------------	-----------

Ŝi vidas min - She sees me	Mi vidas min - I see myself
----------------------------	-----------------------------

Ŝi vidas nin - She sees us	Ni vidas nin - We see ourselves
----------------------------	---------------------------------

Ŝi vidas vin - She sees you	Vi vidas vin - You see yourself
-----------------------------	---------------------------------

Esperanto only has one reflexive pronoun, si, used for he/him, she/her, and they/them.

Ŝi vidas sin ("She sees herself"; the person who is being seen is the same as the person who is seeing.) -Ŝi vidas ŝin ("She sees her"; the person being seen is not the same as the person who is seeing.)

Si is gender-neutral and works for both singular and plural.

Non-reflexive

Reflexive

Ŝi vidas ŝin - She sees her (another female person)

Ŝi vidas sin - She sees herself

Li vidas lin - He sees him (another male person)

Li vidas sin - He sees himself

Ili vidas ilin - They see them (another group of people)

Ili vidas sin - They see themselves

Verbs: Infinitive 2

-IG AND -IĜ

The -ig and -iĝ suffixes express a change of state. -ig means to cause a change, while -iĝ means to experience a change, or change from one state to another:

Esperanto

English

ruĝa

red

ruĝigi

to make something red

ruĝiĝi

to become red, to blush

bela

beautiful

beligi

to make something beautiful

beliĝi

to become beautiful

The above example show how the -ig and -iĝ suffixes can be used with adjectives. They can also be used with verbs:

Esperanto

English

manĝi

to eat

manĝigi

to make someone eat, to feed

morti

to die

mortigi

to make someone die, to kill

levi	to lift, to raise
leviĝi	to rise
veki	to wake someone up
vekiĝi	to wake up

As you can see in the examples above, verbs ending in -ig always require an object, while those ending in -iĝ never do. In grammatical terms, the -ig verbs are transitive, while the -iĝ verbs are intransitive.

Many verbs in English can be both transitive and intransitive, but this is not possible in Esperanto, in which verbs are normally either transitive or intransitive, but not both. In English, we can say "The girl closed the window" and "The window closed" using the same verb, even though the meaning is slightly different: in the first sentence the girl is acting on the window, while in the second the window became closed by itself. Examples of English words that can be both transitive and intransitive include "to open", "to close", "to start", "to finish", "to change" and "to move". These verbs in Esperanto-- malfermi, fermi, komenci, fini, ŝangi, movi--are all transitive, and to make them intransitive you must add the suffix -iĝ:

English	Transitive	Intransitive
to close	fermi	fermiĝi
to open	malfermi	malfermiĝi
to start,begin	komenci	komenciĝi
to finish,end	fini	finiĝi
to change	ŝanĝi	ŝanĝiĝi
to move	movi	moviĝi

Here are some example sentences using words from the two charts above:

Esperanto	English
Ŝi ruĝiĝis.	She blushed.
Ŝi beligis mian vivon.	She made my life beautiful.
Ĉu vi manĝigis la infanojn?	Did you feed the children?
La suno leviĝas.	The sun is rising.
Mia hundo provas vekti min, sed mi ne volas vekiĝi	My dog is trying to wake me up, but I don't want to wake up.
La knabo fermis la fenestron.	The boy closed the window.

La fenestro fermiĝis.

The window closed (by itself).

La studentoj komencis la lecionon.

The students started (doing) the lesson.

La leciono komenciĝas je la naŭa.

The lesson starts at 9 (o'clock).

It is also possible to add the -iĝ ending to intransitive verbs like *sidi* (to sit, be sitting) and *kuŝi* (to lie, be lying down). In this setting the addition of -iĝ indicates a change of position to achieve a new state:

- Li sidiĝis sur la sofo.
- He sat down on the sofa. (He "became sitting" on the sofa.)
-
- La hundo kuŝiĝis sur la planko.
- The dog lay down on the floor. (The dog "became lying" on the floor.)

Affixes 2

Now let's add more affixes to the mix to multiply your vocabulary even further! You can add an affix to any Esperanto word as long as the result makes sense.

Affix	Definition	Example	Translation
ek-	start	ekdormi	to fall asleep
mis-	wrongly	miskompreni	to misunderstand
re-	again	relerni	to relearn
-aĉ	awful	domaĉo	a shack
-ad	continual	paroladi	to talk for a long time, continuously talk, keep talking
-aĵ	thing	manĝaĵo	a food
-em	inclination	ludema	playful
-ind	worthy	fidinda	trustworthy

Travel

JU (MAL)PLI...DES (MAL)PLI

This is an expression equivalent to "the more... the more" or "the less...the less" in English. Ju always comes before des :

- Ju pli da mono, des pli da zorgo. (The more money, the more worry.)
- Ju pli frue, des pli bone. (The earlier, the better.)
- Ju malpli mi laboras, des malpli mi volas labori. (The less I work, the less I want to work.)
- Ju pli li atentas, des malpli li komprenas. (The more he pays attention, the less he understands.)
- Ju malpli da vortoj, des pli bone. (The fewer words, the better.)

CORRELATIVES WITH -IEL

-iel words refer to "how" or "in what way".

English	Esperanto
kiel	how, in what way
tiel	so, in that way
iel	in any way
ĉiel	in every way
neniel	in no way

TIEL...KIEL

When paired, tiel and kiel can mean as...as:

Vi estas tiel inteligenta kiel ŝi.

You are as intelligent as she (is).

Tiel alone can also be used for emphasis, as "so":

Kial vi estas tiel kolera?

Why are you so angry?

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have now learned all of the correlatives! Here is a complete chart:

	KI-	TI-	I-	ĈI-	NENI-
-A	KIA(J)(N)	TIA(J)(N)	IA(J)(N)	ĈIA(J)(N)	NENIA(J)(N)

-AL	KIAL	TIAL	IAL	ĈIAL	NENIAL
-AM	KIAM	TIAM	IAM	ĈIAM	NENIAM
-E	KIE	TIE	IE	ĈIE	NENIE
-EL	KIEL	TIEL	IEL	ĈIEL	NENIEL
-ES	KIES	TIES	IES	ĈIES	NENIES
-O	KIO(N)	TIO(N)	IO(N)	ĈIO(N)	NENIO(N)
-OM	KIOM	TIOM	IOM	ĈIOM	NENIOM
-U	KIU(J)(N)	TIU(J)(N)	IU(J)(N)	ĈIU(J)(N)	NENIU(N)

VETURI AND VOJAĜI

Vojaĝi means to travel, and is a general term. Veturi is more specific, and means to travel by any means of transportation other than your own feet:

- Kiam vi vojaĝos al Ĉinio? = When will you travel to China?
- Ni preferas veturi al Berlino per aŭto. = We prefer to travel to Berlin by car.
-

Note: Veturilo means vehicle. Any mobile machine that transports people or cargo is a veturilo, for example: aviadilo (aircraft), motorciklo (motorcycle), aŭto (car).

-N AFTER TRANS AND TRANSIRI

Trans means "across, on the far side." When movement is involved, don't forget to add -n to the noun. Compare these two examples:

- Mia domo troviĝas trans la strato.
- My house is located across the street.
-
- La infano kuras trans la straton.
- The child is running across the street (to the other side of the street).
-

Transiri means "to go across":

Kial la koko transiris la vojon?

Why did the chicken cross the road?

VENDEJO AND BUTIKO

Vendejo is a more general term than butiko as it can mean any place where anything is sold, including a wholesale warehouse. Butiko refers to a retail store. However they are often used interchangeably when referring to retail locations.

PASPORTA SERVO

Pasporta Servo is a hospitality network founded in 1966 and published by the Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo (TEJO). Free lodging is offered by over a thousand hosts in over 90 countries. Some Esperanto speakers use this network to travel cheaply while others use it to meet interesting people from around the world by hosting them in their own home. In 2009, this service made its transition online and can be found at www.pasportaservo.org.

Education

PARTICIPLES

This is an introduction to participles, which are important to recognize and start to learn, but which are not needed for most everyday interactions in Esperanto.

Participles are formed from verbs. There are two categories of participles: active and passive. Each category has present, future and past tenses.

Tense	Active participle ending	Passive participle ending
past	-int	-it
present	-ant	-at
future	-ont	-ot

Active participles

Active participles present an action or state as a description of its subject. Let's take the example of a sleeping cat: La kato (subject) dormas (verb).

Tense	Example (Eo)	Translation
present = during the act	kato dormanta	a sleeping cat
past = after the act	kato dorminta	a cat who has slept
future = before the act	kato dormonta	a cat who will sleep

Passive participles

Passive participles present an action or state as a description of its object. As we don't have an object in our sleeping cat, let's imagine that the cat is reading a book now: La kato (subject) legas (verb) libron (object).

Tense	Example (Eo)	Translation
present = during the act	libro legata	a book that is being read
past = after the act	libro legita	a book that has been read
future = before the act	libro legota	a book that will be read

Participles are like adjectives

Participles end in -a like adjectives. In fact, they are used in the same way as adjectives, which means that they agree in number and case with the noun that they belong to:

- Mi estas skribanta. = I am (in the process of) writing.
- Ni estas skribantaj. = We are (in the process of) writing.
- La libro estas legita. = The book has been read.
-
- La libroj estas legitaj. = The books have been read.
- Mi vidis viron kuran. = I saw a man who was running / I saw a running man.
- Mi trovis du poŝtelefonojn rompita. = I found two mobile phones that had been broken / I found two broken mobile phones.

Participles can be combined with past, present and future tenses of esti to more precisely define the time of the action.

Participles + -o ending

An o-ending on an active participle signifies the person performing the action:

- la leganto - the reader
- la skribanto - the writer
- la gvidanto - the future guide
-

SPECIAL GUEST EXPLANATION OF PARTICIPLES

Although we haven't taught many of the words he uses, we can't resist including Lee Miller's creative examples:

Participles ending in -e always modify the subject of the sentence:

Elirante el la domo, ŝi lasis fali la kadavron.

While leaving the house, she dropped the cadaver.

Pensante pri partecipoj, mi trinkis bieron.

As I was thinking about participles, I drank a beer.

Vangofrapite, la gorilo ekploris.

Having been slapped on the cheek, the gorilla burst out in tears.

Participles ending in -a are always adjectives. They describe the state or action of something at some point in time:

La promenanta mortinto ridis gaje.

The walking dead [one] laughed happily.

Mi estis ironta al la elefant-vendejo.

I was [in a state of] going to go to the elephant store.

La koto-tortoj estis aparte bone bakitaj hodiaŭ.

The mud pies were particularly well baked today.

Participles ending in -o almost always refer to persons, or person-like things, with a few traditional exceptions (like "Esperanto", for instance).

La kuranto ne vidis la arbon, ĉar li rigardis la poŝtelefonon.

The runner didn't see the tree because he was looking at his phone.

La amanto bedaŭrinde ne estis la amato.

The lover unfortunately was not the beloved.

La kondamnito flugis el prizono sur drako.

The convict flew out of the prison on a dragon.

LA CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

When talking about relatives, la can take the place of a possessive pronoun—for example:

- La bebo imitas la gefratojn. = The baby imitates [his/her/its] siblings.

Abstract Objects 1

SUFFIX -ECO

English uses various suffixes to create abstract nouns which in Esperanto end in -eco:

- boneco - goodness
- patrineco - motherhood
- libereco - freedom
- amikeco - friendship
- egaleco - equality
-

English also has abstract words where it is no longer obvious that part of the word is or was a suffix:

- saneco - health (from hale)
- riĉeco - wealth (from weal)

LA BEFORE SOME ABSTRACT NOUNS

When we speak of some normally specific or concrete nouns in the abstract sense, we use the definite article la, though it is not required:

- la amo - not one specific person's love for another, but love in the abstract sense

- la kulturo - not one specific culture, but culture in the general or abstract sense
- la espero - not my hope to receive a gift tomorrow, but the idea of hope in the abstract

DEPENDAS DE...

To depend on... is translated in Esperanto as *dependi de* (io).

LABORI PRI...

To work on... is translated in Esperanto as *labori pri* (io) or *prilabori* (ion).

Affixes 3

Congratulations, after this lesson, you'll know all of Esperanto's 10 prefixes and 31 suffixes! With a little practice, you'll be able to combine these affixes into words with ease, giving you an amazing ability to express yourself unlike any other foreign language.

Since this is the most advanced affixes lesson, you'll also end up learning some lesser-used affixes, so definitely don't feel like you need to use them all in everyday conversation!

Affixes	Definition	Example	Translation
dis-	dispersal	dissendi	broadcast
eks-	former	eksedzo	ex-husband
fi-	immoral	fipolitikisto	corrupt politician
pra-	ancient	prahomo	caveman
-er	tiny piece of	panero	breadcrumb
-um	(no definite meaning)	brakumi	to hug
-end	must be done	lernenda	must be learned
-ing	holder	kandelingo	candlestick
-obl	multiplication	duobla	double
-op	group	triopo	trio

Sports

IRI, MARȘI, PAȘI

There is some overlap in meaning between these three verbs. Here is a table to help clarify the differences:

verb	primary meaning	secondary meaning
iri	to go	to walk
marși	to walk	to march
pași	to step	to walk

REVIEW OF THE CORRELATIVES

	KI-	TI-	I-	Î-	NENI-
-A	KIA(J)(N)	TIA(J)(N)	IA(J)(N)	ÎIA(J)(N)	NENIA(J)(N)
-AL	KIAL	TIAL	IAL	ÎIAL	NENIAL
-AM	KIAM	TIAM	IAM	ÎIAM	NENIAM
-E	KIE	TIE	IE	ÎIE	NENIE
-EL	KIEL	TIEL	IEL	ÎIEL	NENIEL
-ES	KIES	TIES	IES	ÎIES	NENIES
-O	KIO(N)	TIO(N)	IO(N)	ÎIO(N)	NENIO(N)
-OM	KIOM	TIOM	IOM	ÎIOM	NENIOM
-U	KIU(J)(N)	TIU(J)(N)	IU(J)(N)	ÎIU(J)(N)	NENIU(N)

Abstract Objects

USE OF ADVERB AFTER INFINITIVE OR INFINITIVE PHRASE

Lasi la hundon en la aŭto estas krule. (NOT kruela)

To leave the dog in the car is cruel.

Lerni lingvojn ne devas esti malfacile. (NOT malfacila) Learning languages does not need to be difficult.

-N ENDING AFTER RILATE, INKLUZIVE

Instead of rilate al, one can use the -n ending on the object. Instead of inkluzive de, one can also use the -n ending on the object:

Mi ŝatas manĝi fruktojn, inkluzive oranĝojn. Mi ŝatas manĝi fruktojn, inkluzive de oranĝoj.

I like to eat fruits, including oranges.

Kion vi sentas rilate min?

Kion vi sentas rilate al mi?

What do you feel about me?

CONGRATULATIONS!

You've reached the final skill of Duolingo's Esperanto course! For ideas on how to continue using the language after finishing this course, please see:

[Finished the Esperanto tree, now what?](#)

Communication

ĴURNALO, REVUO, GAZETO, ETC

Esperanto	English
ĵurnalo	daily newspaper
gazeto	newspaper, magazine, review
revuo	magazine, periodical
gazetaro	the press
ĵurnalisto	journalist

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