

# Esperanto

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## Esperanto



The [Esperanto flag](#)

**Pronunciation** [\[espeˈranto\]](#)

**Created by** [L. L. Zamenhof](#)

**Date** 26th July 1887<sup>[1]</sup>

**Setting and usage** [International auxiliary language](#)

**Users** [Native](#): 200 to 1,000 (1996)  
[L2](#) users: 10,000 to 2,000,000

[constructed language](#)

**Purpose**

- [International auxiliary language](#)
- Esperanto

**Early forms:** [Proto-Esperanto](#)

- Esperanto

**Writing system** [Latin](#) ([Esperanto alphabet](#))

**Sources** Vocabulary from [Romance](#) and [Germanic languages](#); phonology from [Slavic languages](#)

Esperanto is a [constructed language](#) that was designed to make international [communication](#) easier, and to be easy to learn. It was created in the nineteenth century by [Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof](#), a [Polish eye doctor](#).

At first, Zamenhof called the language "La Internacia Lingvo," which means "The International Language" in Esperanto. Soon, people began calling it the simpler name "Esperanto," which means "the hopeful person." That name comes from "Doktoro Esperanto" ("Doctor Hopeful"), which is what Zamenhof called himself in his first book about Esperanto.

A [minority](#) of people now speak Esperanto in many countries and in all the major continents. No one knows exactly how many people now speak Esperanto in the world. Most sources say that there are between several hundred thousand and two million Esperanto speakers.<sup>[2]</sup> A few people are alive who grew up speaking Esperanto as their [first language](#). There may perhaps be around 1000 of these people.

## Goals of the Esperanto movement

Zamenhof wanted to make an easy language to increase international understanding. He wanted

Esperanto to be a universal second language. In other words, although he did not want Esperanto to replace national languages, he wanted a [majority](#) of people around the world to speak Esperanto. Many Esperantists initially shared this goal. General Assembly of [UNESCO](#) recognized Esperanto in [1954](#). [\[22\]](#) Since then World Esperanto Association has got official relations with UNESCO. [\[23\]](#) However, Esperanto was never chosen by the United Nations or other international organizations and it has not become a widely accepted [second language](#).

Some Esperanto speakers appreciate Esperanto for reasons other than its use as an universal second language. Some people like the Esperanto community and culture. Developing the Esperanto culture is a goal for that people. This may be why there are bands that perform in Esperanto.

People who care more about Esperanto's current value than about its potential for universal use are sometimes called [raŭmistoj](#) in Esperanto. The ideas of these people can together be called raŭmismo, or "Raumism". The names come from the name of the town of [Rauma](#), in [Finland](#). The International Youth Congress of Esperanto met there in [1980](#) and made a big statement. They said that making Esperanto a universal second language was not their main goal.

People who have goals for Esperanto that are more similar to Zamenhof's are sometimes called finvenkistoj in Esperanto. The name comes from fina venko, an Esperanto phrase which means "final victory." It refers to a theoretical future in which nearly everyone on Earth speaks Esperanto as a second language.

The [Prague Manifesto](#) (1996) states the ideas of the ordinary people of the Esperanto movement and of its main organization, the World Esperanto Association ([UEA](#)).

[German](#) town [Herzberg am Harz](#) uses nickname die Esperanto-Stadt/la Esperanto-urbo ("the Esperanto town") since 12 July 2006. They also teach the language in the [elementary schools](#) and do some other cultural and educational events using the Esperanto language together with the [Polish twin town Góra](#).

Esperanto is the only constructed language, which [Roman Catholic Church](#) recognises as liturgical language. They allowed to do Masses in the language and [Radio Vaticana](#) broadcasts in Esperanto every week. [\[9\]\[10\]\[17\]](#)

## The language

- Ĉu vi parolas Esperanton? = Do you speak Esperanto?
- Jes, mi parolas Esperanton tre bone. = Yes, I speak Esperanto very well.
- Ne, mi estas komencanto. = No, I am a beginner.

## Example of text

Normal sample: Ĉiuj homoj estas denaske liberaj kaj egalaj laŭ digno kaj rajtoj. Ili posedas racion kaj konsciencon, kaj devus kondukti unu la alian en spirito de frateco.

Simple English translation: All people are free and equal in dignity and rights. They are reasonable and moral, and should act kindly to each other.