



## Chapter 2

# An Introduction to the Esperanto language

The alphabet .....	2
First words (nouns and adjectives).....	3
First sentences (verbs) .....	4
Longer sentences (with adverbs) .....	5
Three more verb endings .....	7
Summary of verb endings .....	8
Objects and other sentence components .....	8
Common parts of speech in Esperanto .....	9
Word-building .....	10
Morphemes – building blocks .....	13
Some advanced points .....	13
Useful phrases .....	14

The following pages give an overview of grammar and word-building in Esperanto. You'll find a number of grammatical words and concepts underlined. These terms aren't necessary for learning Esperanto or other languages, but you may find them helpful.

NB: This chapter covers a lot of new material very quickly. Don't worry if you don't understand everything at first glance! If you don't like this chapter, go on to the next. In the section "Basic Courses" you'll have a chance to get to know the language in a more hands-on, methodical way. But if you do read through this guide, you'll get a good introduction to the language and see which parts of Esperanto may be a little more difficult to learn at first. This guide will also serve as a reference that you can use in your later study of Esperanto if you're not sure about a particular point or rule.

## The alphabet

The Esperanto alphabet has 28 letters: five vowels (in bold) and 23 consonants:

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

Vowels (**aeiou**) are speech sounds that you produce by letting a stream of air flow through your mouth without any kind of blockage. The other sounds are called consonants and you form them by blocking the airflow in one way or another. For example, if you say the word *at* slowly, you can feel your tongue making a brief blockage against your teeth during the *t*. A vowel can be stressed to give emphasis to the syllable that contains it (see the next section).

### Pronunciation guide:

a	as in <i>father</i>
e	as in <i>let</i>
i	as in <i>machine</i>
o	as in <i>note</i>
u	as in <i>rude</i>
c	like <i>ts</i> in <i>sits</i>
ĉ	like <i>ch</i> in <i>church</i>
g	hard, as in <i>get</i>
ĝ	soft, as in <i>gem</i>
ĥ	like <i>ch</i> in <i>Bach</i> or <i>loch</i>
j	like <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i> ( <b>kaj</b> rhymes with <i>sky</i> ; <b>-oj</b> rhymes with <i>toy</i> )
ĵ	like <i>s</i> in <i>measure</i>
r	rolled ( <u>trilled</u> or <u>flapped</u> , as in Spanish or Italian)
ŝ	like <i>sh</i> in <i>she</i>
ŭ	like <i>w</i> in <i>now</i> ( <b>naŭ</b> sounds like <i>now</i> )

The other consonants are pronounced as in English.

Listen to the alphabet and other examples of Esperanto pronunciation at [www.lernu.net/alfabeto](http://www.lernu.net/alfabeto).

In Esperanto, every letter always has the same sound, no matter where in a word it appears. Minor variation is OK: for example, **n** followed by **g** or **k** can have the sound of *ng* in *sing*. But in principle, one letter has one sound in every word. This is a big advantage when learning a foreign language. You always spell a word the same way you pronounce it. And if you know how to pronounce a word, you also know how to spell it.

## First words (nouns and adjectives)

*hundo, tablo, birdo, floro, homo, bela, interesa, granda, longa, internacia*

You probably understand most of the words above. Zamenhof, Esperanto's initial creator, tried as far as possible to choose words that were already familiar in the large European languages.

Around 75% of words come from the Romance languages (such as Italian, French, Spanish), about 20% from the Germanic languages (such as German, English, Swedish) and approximately 5% from other languages like Russian and Polish. The grammar is not so European, since parts of it resemble features found in Turkish, Japanese, and Chinese, for instance.

The second-last syllable of every word is stressed (emphasized), e.g. *hundo, internacia, floro*.

In the list above, the first five words end in **-o** and the last five in **-a**. Can you guess what the **-o** and **-a** endings indicate?

The words *hundo* (dog), *tablo* (table), *birdo* (bird), *floro* (flower) and *homo* (human) are all nouns. Nouns are names for people, places and things.

The words *bela* (beautiful), *interesa* (interesting), *granda* (big), *longa* (long) and *internacia* (international) are adjectives. Adjectives are words that describe nouns:

<i>granda hundo</i>	= <i>a big dog</i>
<i>bela floro</i>	= <i>a beautiful flower</i>
<i>interesa homo</i>	= <i>an interesting person</i>
<i>longa tablo</i>	= <i>a long table</i>

In Esperanto all nouns have an **-o** ending and all adjectives have an **-a** ending.

As you see above, there is no *a/an* in Esperanto. In other words, Esperanto has no indefinite article. There is, however, a definite article: the word **la**, which means "the":

<i>la granda hundo</i>	= <i>the big dog</i>
<i>la bela floro</i>	= <i>the beautiful flower</i>
<i>la longa tablo</i>	= <i>the long table</i>

*interesa libro* = *an interesting book*  
*la interesa libro* = *the interesting book*

*interesaj libroj* = *interesting books*  
*la interesaj libroj* = *the interesting books*  
*la belaj floroj* = *the beautiful flowers*

In the last three examples, we see a new ending: **-j**. Esperanto uses the **-j** ending to show that there's more than one. This is the plural ending:

*libro* = *book*  
*libroj* = *books*  
*interesa libro* = *an interesting book*  
*interesaj libroj* = *interesting books*  
*la interesaj libroj* = *the interesting books*

## First sentences (verbs)

*Saluton!* = *Hello!*  
*Mia nomo estas ...* = *My name is ...*  
*Mi estas lernanto/studento/instruisto.* = *I am a student/teacher.*

*Mi estas homo.* = *I am a person.*  
*Vi estas homo.* = *You are a person.*

*Hundo ne estas homo.* = *A dog is not a person.*  
*Hundo estas besto.* = *A dog is an animal.*

*La libro estas interesa.* = *The book is interesting.*  
*La libro estas bona.* = *The book is good.*

As you may have guessed, **estas** means "am/is/are". The word **estas** is a very common verb. Verbs are words that indicate the occurrence of an action or an ongoing state. "Walked", "dance", "spoke" are examples of verbs that indicate actions. "Sleep", "rained", "was" are verbs that indicate states.

*La libro estas bona.* = *The book is good.*  
*Mi estas en la urbo hodiaŭ.* = *I am in the city today.*

*La libro estis bona.* = *The book was good.*  
*Mi estis en la urbo hieraŭ.* = *I was in the city yesterday.*

*La libro estos bona.* = *The book will be good.*  
*Mi estos en la urbo morgaŭ.* = *I will be in the city tomorrow.*

Now we've seen **est-** with three different endings, **-as**, **-is**, **-os**:

*estas* (is), *estis* (was), *estos* (will be)

We call **est-** a root, and **-as**, **-is**, **-os** are verb endings.

*Mi vidas.* = I see.  
*Mi vidis.* = I saw.  
*Mi vidos.* = I will see.

*Vi iras.* = You go.  
*Vi iris.* = You went.  
*Vi iros.* = You will go.

These are the same verb endings as before, but with the roots **vid-** (see) and **ir-** (go). The endings **-as**, **-is**, **-os** are used for all verbs. There are no irregular verbs in Esperanto.

We use **-as** to indicate an action or state in the present, **-is** for the past and **-os** for the future.

*Vi kantas.* = You sing. / You are singing.  
*Mi kantis.* = I sang. / I was singing.  
*Ŝi kantos.* = She will sing. / She will be singing.

*Mi pensas.* = I think. / I am thinking.  
*Mi pensis.* = I thought. / I was thinking.  
*Mi pensos.* = I will think. / I will be thinking.

*Ŝi parolas.* = She speaks. / She is speaking.  
*Ŝi parolis.* = She spoke. / She was speaking.  
*Ŝi parolos.* = She will speak. / She will be speaking.

*Li aŭskultas.* = He listens. / He is listening.  
*Li aŭskultis.* = He listened. / He was listening.  
*Li aŭskultos.* = He will listen. / He will be listening.

How do you think we say: "She thought", "He will speak", "I listened"?

## Longer sentences (with adverbs)

*Vi kantas bele.* = You sing beautifully.  
*Vi kantas bone.* = You sing well.

*Ŝi pensis longe.* = She thought for a long while.  
*Li parolos interese.* = He will speak in an interesting way.

Here we have a new ending: **-e**. As you can see above, the words **bele**, **bone**, **longe**, and **interese** describe the various verbs. Words that describe verbs in this way are called adverbs. The adverb ending in Esperanto is **-e**.

*la granda hundo* = *the big dog*  
*La granda hundo kuras.* = *The big dog runs.*  
*La granda hundo kuras rapide.* = *The big dog runs fast.*

<i>La</i>	<i>granda</i>	<i>hundo</i>	<i>kuras</i>	<i>rapide.</i>
article	adjective	noun	verb	adverb

Adverbs aren't quite as simple as adjective and nouns that always end in **-a** and **-o** respectively. Some adverbs can stand on their own and don't need the **-e** ending. Furthermore, an adverb in Esperanto can describe not only a verb, but also an adjective, another adverb or a whole sentence.

*La hundo estas tro granda.* = *The dog is too big.*  
*Vi kantas tre bone.* = *You sing very well.*  
*Kompreneble mi iros.* = *Of course I will go.*

The adverb **tro** (too) in the first example describes the adjective **granda** – **tro granda** (too big). In the second example, the adverb **tre** describes the adverb **bone** – **tre bone** (very well). In the third example, **kompreneble** (of course) describes the whole sentence **mi iros** (I will go).

*La tre granda hundo estas hejme.* = *The very big dog is at home.*  
*La granda hundo kuras tre multe.* = *The big dog runs a lot.*

The difference between **tre** and **multe** can be a little difficult at first. **Multe** indicates a large amount, while **tre** denotes a high degree:

*Mi kuras tre rapide.* = *I run very fast.*  
*Hieraŭ mi kuris multe.* = *Yesterday I ran a lot.*

The words **tre** (very) and **hieraŭ** (yesterday) are adverbs, even though they don't have the adverb ending **-e**. (The word **tre** happens to end in the letter **e**, but this is just coincidence. **Tre** is a root.)

Sometimes we distinguish between:

- derived adverbs = with the **-e** ending, e.g. **bele**, **bone**, **multe**
- root adverbs = without the **-e** ending, e.g. **tre**, **tro**, **hieraŭ**

There are several different types of adverb, such as the following:

- time (When? How often? How long?) *Mi kantis hieraŭ.*
- manner (How? In what way?) *Mi kantas bone.*
- place (Where?) *Mi kantas hejme.*
- amount/degree (How much?) *Mi kantas multe.*

## Three more verb endings

The verb ending **-u** forms the imperative, used for commands or requests:

<i>Kantu!</i>	= <i>Sing!</i>
<i>Kuru rapide!</i>	= <i>Run fast!</i>
<i>Estu bona hundo!</i>	= <i>Be a good dog!</i>
<i>Estu silenta!</i>	= <i>Be quiet!</i>
<i>Aŭskultu!</i>	= <i>Listen!</i>
<i>Pensu!</i>	= <i>Think!</i>

The verb ending **-us** forms the conditional, which indicates that an action is imaginary:

<i>Estus bone.</i>	= <i>It would be good.</i>
<i>Estus bone, se vi kantus.</i>	= <i>It would be good if you sang.</i>
<i>Mi parolus, se mi povus.</i>	= <i>I would speak if I could.</i>
<i>Se mi estus riĉa, mi ne laborus.</i>	= <i>If I were rich, I wouldn't work.</i>

It is also one of several polite ways to give commands:

<i>Bonvolu aŭskulti.</i>	= <i>Please listen.</i>
<i>Aŭskultu, mi petas.</i>	= <i>Listen, please.</i>
<i>Mi volas, ke vi aŭskultu.</i>	= <i>I want you to listen.</i>
<i>Estus bone, se vi aŭskultus.</i>	= <i>It would be good if you listened.</i>
<i>Mi ĝojus, se vi aŭskultus.</i>	= <i>I'd be happy if you listened.</i>

Now there's just one verb ending left:

<i>kanti</i>	= <i>to sing</i>
<i>iri</i>	= <i>to go</i>
<i>labori</i>	= <i>to work</i>
<i>ĝoji</i>	= <i>to be glad</i>

The **-i** ending forms the infinitive, the neutral verb form listed in dictionaries.

This verb form can be used for the second of two consecutive verbs:

<i>Mi volas veni.</i>	= <i>I want to come.</i>
<i>Ŝi ŝatis kanti.</i>	= <i>She liked to sing.</i>
<i>Li povos skribi.</i>	= <i>He will be able to write.</i>
<i>Vi povus iri al la urbo.</i>	= <i>You could go to the town.</i>
<i>Bonvolu veni.</i>	= <i>Please come.</i>

## Summary of verb endings

Ending	Name	Examples
<b>-i</b>	infinitive	<i>esti</i> = to be <i>skribi</i> = to write
<b>-as</b>	present tense	<i>estas</i> = am/is/are <i>skribas</i> = write(s)
<b>-is</b>	past tense	<i>estis</i> = was/were <i>skribis</i> = wrote
<b>-os</b>	future tense	<i>estos</i> = will be <i>skribos</i> = will write
<b>-us</b>	conditional	<i>estus</i> = would be <i>skribus</i> = would write
<b>-u</b>	imperative	<i>estu silenta!</i> = be quiet! <i>skribu!</i> = write!

Complex verbs consist of a main verb followed by another verb in the infinitive with the same subject:

<i>Mi volas manĝi.</i>	= I want to eat.
<i>Mi ne povis veni.</i>	= I couldn't come.
<i>Mi devos labori.</i>	= I have to work.

## Objects and other sentence components

<i>Mi vidas vin.</i>	= I see you.
<i>Vi vidas min.</i>	= You see me.
<i>Ŝi vidas lin.</i>	= She sees him.
<i>Li vidas ŝin.</i>	= He sees her.

The **-n** ending is used to mark the object of a sentence. Not all sentences have an object, but if there is one, it must have the **-n** ending in Esperanto. But what is an object?

Sentences often involve two main people or things, connected by the action of the verb. For example, in "I see you", the action is "see", and the two people directly involved in the action are "I" and "you". Since I'm the one doing the seeing, "I" is termed the subject, leaving "you" as the object.

To figure out the subject and object in a sentence, you can ask:

- Who (or what) is doing the action? That's the subject.
- Who (or what) is on the other end of the action, "receiving" it? That's the object.

I	see	you.
Mi	vidas	vin.
subject	verb	object

A few more sentences with subjects and objects:

<i>Li ŝatas ŝin.</i>	= <i>He likes her.</i>
<i>Ŝi ŝatas lin.</i>	= <i>She likes him.</i>
<i>Vi havas monon.</i>	= <i>You have money.</i>
<i>Mi ne havas monon.</i>	= <i>I don't have money.</i>
<i>Ŝi ŝatas hundojn.</i>	= <i>She likes dogs.</i>
<i>Li ne ŝatas grandajn hundojn.</i>	= <i>He doesn't like big dogs.</i>

If you have both **-j** and **-n** endings, the **-j** always comes before the **-n**.

Sometimes we refer to direct objects to distinguish them from indirect objects:

<i>Ŝi donis monon al mi.</i>	= <i>She gave me money.</i>
<i>Mi prenos la hundon de li.</i>	= <i>I'll take the dog from him.</i>

In the example above, **monon** and **la hundon** are direct objects, while **al mi** and **de li** are sometimes called "indirect objects". In Esperanto, direct objects take **-n** but indirect objects don't. Instead, indirect objects are introduced by various prepositions, e.g. **al** (to) and **de** (from).

NB: **-n** is not usually used after prepositions:

<i>Mi pensas pri vi.</i>	= <i>I'm thinking of you.</i>
<i>Li iros al ŝi.</i>	= <i>He will go to her.</i>
<i>Mi iros kun li.</i>	= <i>I will go with him.</i>

But, to indicate motion towards a place, **-n** is used after some prepositions such as **en** (in) and **sub** (under):

<i>Mi promenas en la ĝardeno.</i>	= <i>I'm walking around in the garden.</i>
<i>Mi promenas en la ĝardenon.</i>	= <i>I'm walking into the garden.</i>
<i>La muso kuras sub la lito.</i>	= <i>The mouse runs around under the bed.</i>
<i>La muso kuras sub la liton.</i>	= <i>The mouse runs under the bed.</i>

## Common parts of speech in Esperanto

Each word belongs to a category, called a part of speech, that determines what slots the word can fill in the structure of a phrase or part of a phrase.

nouns	<b>-o</b>	denote people and things
adjectives	<b>-a</b>	describe nouns
adverbs	<b>-e</b>	describe words other than nouns
verbs	<b>-i, -as, -is, -os, -us, -u</b>	denote actions and states
personal pronouns	<b>mi, vi, ŝi, li, ĝi</b> (it), <b>ni</b> (we), <b>vi</b> (you), <b>ili</b> (they)	
possessives	<b>mia</b> (my), <b>via</b> (your), <b>ŝia</b> (her), etc	
prepositions	<b>sur</b> (on), <b>sub</b> (under), <b>en</b> (in) etc	
conjunctions	<b>kaj</b> (and), <b>aŭ</b> (or), <b>sed</b> (but) etc	
numerals	<b>unu, du, tri, kvar, kvin, ses, sep, ok, naŭ, dek</b>	

The verb phrase is always built around a verb. But the other phrase components can use various parts of speech.

La knabino ŝatas la knabon. (subject verb object)

Both **la knabino** (the girl) and **la knabon** (the boy) are noun phrases, but they play different roles in the sentence above: one is the subject, the other the object.

## Word-building

By adding various prefixes and suffixes to a single Esperanto root, we can build lots of different words. This means you don't have to learn as much vocabulary as in other languages.

One possibility is to use the endings for the various parts of speech:

### **skrib-**

<i>skribo</i>	= <i>writing</i>
<i>skriba</i>	= <i>written</i>
<i>skribi</i>	= <i>to write</i>
<i>skribe</i>	= <i>in writing</i>

### **interes-**

<i>intereso</i>	= <i>interest</i>
<i>interesa</i>	= <i>interesting</i>
<i>interesi</i>	= <i>to interest</i>
<i>interese</i>	= <i>interestingly</i>

With the help of different prefixes and suffixes, many words can be created from the same root. There are 10 prefixes and 31 suffixes in Esperanto. Here are some examples:

**mal-** indicates an opposite meaning:

<i>bona</i>	<i>malbona</i>	( <i>good – bad</i> )
<i>juna</i>	<i>maljuna</i>	( <i>young – old</i> )
<i>fermi</i>	<i>malfermi</i>	( <i>close – open</i> )

**-ej-** indicates a place:

<i>lerni</i>	<i>lernejo</i>	(to learn – school)
<i>loĝi</i>	<i>loĝejo</i>	(to live – home/lodging)
<i>vendi</i>	<i>vendejo</i>	(to sell – store)

**-in-** indicates a female (most roots are gender-neutral):

<i>knabo</i>	<i>knabino</i>	(boy – girl)
<i>aktoro</i>	<i>aktorino</i>	(actor – actress)
<i>ĉevalo</i>	<i>ĉevalino</i>	(horse – mare)

**-ul-** indicates a person:

<i>juna</i>	<i>junulo</i>	(young – young person)
<i>grava</i>	<i>gravulo</i>	(important – dignitary, important person)
<i>stulta</i>	<i>stultulo</i>	(stupid – fool, dummy)

Several prefixes and suffixes can be used as independent words by just adding an ending for the appropriate part of speech:

<i>male</i>	= <i>conversely</i>
<i>ejo</i>	= <i>place</i>
<i>ina</i>	= <i>feminine</i>

Prefixes and suffixes are extremely important in Esperanto. You may need some time to learn them, but once you've mastered them, they make things much easier by giving you access to a large vocabulary without needing to learn lots of separate roots.

For example, look at these words that can be built from the root **san-**:

<i>sana</i>	= <i>healthy</i>
<i>sano</i>	= <i>health</i>
<i>sane</i>	= <i>healthily</i>
<i>saneco</i>	= <i>health</i>
<i>sanigi</i>	= <i>to cure</i>
<i>saniga</i>	= <i>healthy</i>
<i>sanigisto</i>	= <i>healer, health professional</i>
<i>saniĝi</i>	= <i>to get well</i>
<i>resaniĝi</i>	= <i>to recover</i>
<i>resanigi</i>	= <i>to cure</i>
<i>nesana</i>	= <i>not healthy</i>
<i>malsana</i>	= <i>sick, ill</i>
<i>malsaneta</i>	= <i>poorly, under the weather</i>
<i>malsanega</i>	= <i>gravely ill</i>
<i>malsani</i>	= <i>to be feeling sick</i>
<i>malsanoj</i>	= <i>diseases</i>

<i>malsanegoj</i>	= <i>serious diseases</i>
<i>malsanulo</i>	= <i>ill person</i>
<i>malsanulejo</i>	= <i>hospital</i>
<i>malsaniĝi</i>	= <i>to fall ill</i>
<i>malsaniĝema</i>	= <i>sickly, disposed to illness</i>
<i>remalsaniĝi</i>	= <i>to relapse</i>
<i>sanigilo</i>	= <i>cure</i>
<i>sanulo</i>	= <i>healthy person</i>

“The system of affixes in Esperanto is one of Zamenhof’s greatest inventions.”  
*(John Wells, professor of phonetics)*

In his book *Lingvistikaj aspektoj de Esperanto* (Linguistic Aspects of Esperanto), Professor Wells gives a thoughtful comparison between learning English and learning Esperanto. He takes two students: one familiar with the basics of English, and the other with the the same level of Esperanto. He has them learn the word “eat” and other words associated with eating. Because of the prefixes and suffixes that the second student already knows, it’s a relatively simple task to learn the new words in Esperanto, but for the student learning English, it’s a bit more complicated...

Esperanto	English
<i>manĝi</i>	<i>to eat</i>
<i>manĝas</i>	<i>eats</i>
<i>manĝis</i>	<i>ate</i>
<i>manĝos</i>	<i>will eat</i>
<i>manĝo</i>	<i>a meal</i>
<i>manĝaĵo</i>	<i>food</i>
<i>manĝado</i>	<i>eating</i>
<i>manĝejo</i>	<i>dining hall/room</i>
<i>manĝujo</i>	<i>container for food</i>
<i>manĝiloj</i>	<i>silverware</i>
<i>manĝebla</i>	<i>edible</i>
<i>manĝinda</i>	<i>worth eating</i>
<i>manĝeti</i>	<i>to snack</i>
<i>manĝegi</i>	<i>to feast</i>
<i>manĝaĉi</i>	<i>to eat badly</i>
<i>manĝema</i>	<i>interested in eating</i>
<i>manĝanto</i>	<i>eater, diner</i>

## Morphemes – building blocks

As we saw above, many words in Esperanto are made up of various parts – roots, prefixes, affixes, and endings. Each one of these word parts is called a morpheme. A morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning in a language:

*La knab-in-o-j ŝat-eg-as ir-i al la lern-ej-o kaj babil-ad-i kun si-a-j ge-amik-o-j.*  
*The girl-s real-ly like to go to school and chat with their friend-s.*

(The morphemes in those two sentences have been separated by hyphens.)

Morphemes are found in all languages. In many languages, some morphemes change form (e.g. “go” becomes “went”), but in Esperanto this never happens; a morpheme is invariable regardless of the context in which it’s used. This makes it much easier to learn the language and was a conscious choice by Zamenhof when he created the Esperanto.

## Some advanced points

When you learn any foreign language, it takes some time to scratch the surface, to build a basic vocabulary, and to get an overview of the grammar and a sense of what can cause difficulties. Here we’ll mention a few points that are sometimes seen as difficult when learning Esperanto.

NB: The intent isn’t for you to learn all this now. We just want you to be aware that there may be challenges you’ll encounter when learning Esperanto.

### Many small words

Esperanto has a lot of very useful short words that make the language easier to learn in the long term. But in order to read and speak Esperanto well, you do have to master the differences between them.

### Choosing between the adjective ending and the adverb ending

The difference between adjectives and adverbs is that an adjective describes a noun, while an adverb does not:

*Ŝia rakonto estas interesa.* = *Her story is interesting.*  
*Ŝi rakontas interese.* = *She tells the story interestingly (in an interesting way).*

*La ĉambro estas varma.* = *The room is warm.*  
*En la ĉambro estas varme.* = *It’s warm in the room.*

### Transitive and intransitive verbs

Verbs require special care in Esperanto, as some are transitive and others are intransitive.

Transitive verbs are those which *can* have a direct object, e.g. **vidas** (see) and **havas** (have):

*Ŝi vidas vin.* = *She sees you.*  
*Li havas monon.* = *He has money.*

Intransitive verbs are those which *cannot* have a direct object:

*Li kuras.* = *He runs.*  
*Ŝi dormas.* = *She sleeps.*

When you learn a new verb, you should also learn whether it's transitive or intransitive. If you don't know, then it's difficult to use the important suffixes **-ig-** (cause to ...) and **-iĝ-** (become ...) correctly.

### Using -n

In Esperanto the **-n** ending has several uses.

1. To mark a direct object:

*Mi havas malgrandan domon.* = *I have a small house.*

2. To show direction or goal of movement:

*Li kuras hejmen.* = *He's running home.*  
(*Li kuras hejme.*) = *He's running at home.*)

3. To show time or measurement without a preposition:

*La 3-an de decembro ŝi venos.* = *She's coming on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.*  
(*En la 3-a de decembro ŝi venos.*)  
*Ili dormis tutan horon.* = *They slept for a whole hour.*  
(*Ili dormis dum tuta horo.*)

The **-n** ending often poses problems at first. It's easy to forget, and it can sometimes be hard to see where it should be used.

## Useful phrases

Here are some phrases that can be useful if you meet someone who's interested in Esperanto. Try learning a few of them.

Saluton! = Hello!  
Mia nomo estas ... = My name is ...  
  
Kio estas via nomo? = What is your name?  
  
Kiel vi fartas? = How are you?  
Mi fartas bone. = I'm well.  
  
De kiu lando vi estas? = What country are you from?

Kie vi loĝas?	= Where do you live?
Bonan apetiton.	= Bon appetit.
Dankon.	= Thank you.
Kioma horo estas?	= What time is it?
Dek post la tria.	= Ten past three.
Kiam vi venos?	= When will you come?
Mi venos baldaŭ.	= I'm coming soon.
Eble.	= Maybe.
Kio okazas?	= What's happening?
Kiom kostas la kuko?	= How much does the cake cost?
Kion vi faras?	= What are you doing?
La suno brilas.	= The sun is shining.
Mi amas vin.	= I love you.
Mi estas laca.	= I am tired.
Mi estas malsata.	= I am hungry.
Mi ne komprenas.	= I don't understand.
Mi pensis pri vi.	= I thought of you.
Neĝas.	= It's snowing.
Pluvas.	= It's raining.
Povas esti.	= Could be.
Tre bone!	= Very good!
Vi estas bela.	= You are beautiful.
Vi pravas.	= You're right.
Ĝis!	= Bye!

If you'd like to listen to these sentences, go to [www.ikso.net/libera](http://www.ikso.net/libera).

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Learning a new language is never quick and easy. In this chapter we've covered many points in just a few pages. In the chapters under "Basic Courses" we'll take it in smaller steps. You can always go back to the start of this chapter to review the basics. Repetition is key when learning something new!



In the next chapter, you'll see how Esperanto is used by some of its speakers.