

# ESPERANTO

## The international language *that works!*

Every year, our world seems smaller. Ships carry a thousand items between countries. Jets carry passengers across oceans and around the world. Satellites bring us live television coverage from Europe and Asia. Every year, Americans in every walk of life communicate more and more with people of other countries.

### One barrier remains...

As a result of this tremendous increase in contacts with the outside world, Americans are realizing that there is still a major barrier to international communication—the language barrier!

Americans have long heard the cliché that “Wherever you go, people speak English.” In fact, at most ten percent of the world speaks English! Often, in other countries, only people in the best hotels of the largest cities can use English, and even they are often not very fluent. Anyone who has visited a foreign country and struggled with the language barriers understands this. Americans are at last discovering what the rest of the world has long known: there is a real need for an international language.

### Fortunately, there is such a language...

Its name is Esperanto. It was created by Dr. Ludwig L. Zamenhof, a Polish physician, who published it in 1887. Since then, millions of people have learned Esperanto. Of the many projects and proposals for an international language over the centuries, Esperanto is the only one that has stood the test of time and is being spoken today. Many thousands of people all over the world use it every day, and the number is growing constantly.

Many international meetings are held in Esperanto. Books and magazines are published by the thousands to meet the demands of an international public. Some of the largest international firms put on special advertising campaigns in Esperanto. Hotels, restaurants and tourist resorts compete for the patronage of the Esperanto-speaking traveler.

Esperanto’s impressive success as the language of international communication is due to three basic advantages. It is easy to learn. It is politically neutral. And it has many practical uses.

### Esperanto is easy...

Esperanto is *much* easier to learn than any other language. In fact, you can learn it in a *quarter* of the time needed to learn a national language! The spelling is easy: each letter has exactly one sound. The pronunciation is easy: there are no strange combinations of letters to create new sounds, and the accent is always on the next to last syllable. The grammar is easy: there are only sixteen basic rules, with no exceptions. (That means, for example, that there are no irregular verbs.) The vocabulary is easy, too: it uses many international words, such as *telefono* (telephone), *biologio* (biology), and *matematiko* (mathematics). Esperanto gives a very “natural” impression in spoken or written use; and, because of its high ratio of vowels to consonants, it sounds much like Spanish or Italian.

Esperanto also uses prefixes, suffixes, and interchangeable endings to reduce the number of words to be learned. For example, in English we make the words *friendly*, *unfriendly*, and *friendship* from the root word *friend*. Esperanto carries this idea much further, making the vocabulary easier to learn.

In short, Esperanto has been rationally constructed for ease of learning. This has made it especially popular with busy men and women who cannot spend years learning a foreign language, which would be useful in only a single country. Because of these features, Esperanto is attractive as an introduction to other foreign language studies. In the Hawaiian schools, for example, the study of Esperanto is a basic part of that state’s innovative English program.

### Esperanto is neutral...

The second major reason for Esperanto’s success is that it is neutral. It belongs to no one country. Many people in America and England say that English is already spoken so widely and is such an “important” language in the world that it should be officially adopted by all na-

tions as the international language. This view is very unpopular in many countries.

This attitude is not merely because English is one of the most difficult languages to learn. The newer nations of Africa and Asia are very reluctant to accept English (or any major language) for international communication because of the political overtones. For example, the countries of the Soviet bloc would not want to use English as an official international language, just as we would be reluctant to accept Russian in that role (as some Soviet publicists have actually suggested).

The Western nations have also shown their sensitivity to questions of linguistic equality. Quebec has rejected English as its official language; the Common Market nations insist on using all their languages in Brussels; the UN spends tens of millions of dollars every year translating into five official languages and into fifteen for UNESCO!

Esperanto is not the property of any one nation, group of nations, or social class. It belongs to everyone. It has no political or historical implications to hinder its acceptance. Every person who uses Esperanto is on an equal linguistic footing with all other Esperantists. Esperanto’s popularity in smaller nations and in Asian countries, such as Japan, is largely due to this neutrality. This promotes a spirit of friendship and brotherhood among Esperantists which is quite impressive to everyone who sees it in use.

### Esperanto is practical...

Esperanto offers exceptional practical advantages. Coordinating these advantages is the worldwide organization, the Universal Esperanto Association.

The UEA, from its headquarters in Rotterdam, maintains a network of over 3,500 representatives in 66 countries, sponsors many international activities, and issues a Yearbook containing the addresses of its representatives and information on current international activities. There are more than a dozen international professional associations including, for example, teachers, scientists, journalists, doctors, and

lawyers. These groups sponsor meetings, publish journals, and otherwise promote the technical use of Esperanto. Other international organizations serve the interests of Esperantists who share the same religious affiliation—such as Catholics, Protestants, Quakers, Buddhists, Bahai’s—or who share a hobby, such as stamp collecting, bicycling, or chess.

### ...for travel

Travellers who know Esperanto are not confined to talking with a few people who cater to tourists. By writing to an Esperanto representative in each place they visit, they can be sure of being met and helped. Wherever they go, they know they will find friends who speak the same language and share common interests. They will meet and talk with the people of the country, instead of merely looking at its monuments. At international meetings where Esperanto is used, they can be sure of clear and animated discussions as well as friendly conversations in corridors, lobbies, and nearby cafes, free of ear-phones and interpreters.

### ...for correspondence

Through Esperanto you get to know other countries and their people without ever leaving home. Books and magazines in Esperanto bring the news and culture of other countries to your door. And, through friendly correspondence with people in other countries, you can broaden your horizons and learn more about the world. Many Esperantists correspond with those abroad who share their hobbies, others on topics of professional interest. Many seek to learn about foreign customs and how other people live.

### A scientifically constructed language

Some people ask, “But isn’t Esperanto an artificial language?” Of course it is. So is every language in the world. The word “artificial” means “made by human beings,” and every language has been created by human beings. The difference between Esperanto and other languages is that Esperanto was scientifically designed to do a special job—the job of international communication—and it does that job superbly.

## Esperanto and the UN

In October 1966, the UEA presented the Secretary General of the United Nations with a proposal recommending that the UN solve the language problem by supporting use of the International Language, Esperanto. Almost a million individuals and 3,843 organizations representing 71 million more people from all over the world signed the petition. Today, an Esperanto office operates across the street from the UN, staffed by a professional linguist and several volunteers.

## Esperanto and You

The national Esperanto group in the United States of America is the Esperanto League for North America (ELNA). In Canada, the Canadian Esperanto Association (CEA) performs the same tasks of providing information, assisting local groups, organizing classes and annual conventions, and cooperating with the UEA. For more information about books, records, membership, and classes, contact:

Esperanto League for North America, Inc.  
PO Box 1129, El Cerrito CA 94530  
(800) ESPERANTO (automated infoline)  
(510) 653-0998 (personal response)  
[www.esperanto-usa.org](http://www.esperanto-usa.org)  
[info@esperanto-usa.org](mailto:info@esperanto-usa.org)

In Canada, contact:

Canadian Esperanto Association  
Box 2159  
Sidney, BC V8L 3S6 CANADA  
[www.esperanto.ca/kea](http://www.esperanto.ca/kea)

On the Internet, start with:

Newsgroup: [soc.culture.esperanto](mailto:soc.culture.esperanto)  
Web site: [www.esperanto-usa.org](http://www.esperanto-usa.org)

Esperanto does not aim at replacing the existing national languages; but it overcomes the present linguistic chaos by serving as a neutral method of international communication for all.

**Structure:** The core grammar of Esperanto consists of only 16 rules, with no exceptions. In spite of this simplicity, Esperanto can express the finest shades of meaning.

**Vocabulary:** The word roots in Esperanto have been taken from many national languages according to the principle of maximum internationality. Thus, many of them are already known to people of all nations. You can make many words—an average of ten to fifteen, but sometimes as many as fifty—from one root. This makes Esperanto easier to learn.

**Technical vocabularies:** More than 125 technical dictionaries and vocabularies in some fifty branches of science, philosophy, technology, and handicrafts have been published in Esperanto.

**Literature:** Esperanto literature includes translated and original novels, short stories, plays, poems, scientific works and dissertations. The library of the British Esperanto Association contains over 30,000 items.

**UNESCO:** The UEA has consultative relations with UNESCO. By the Resolution of December 10th, 1954, the General Conference of UNESCO recognized that the results achieved by Esperanto in intellectual exchanges and in bringing people together are in accordance with the aims and ideals of UNESCO; that is, Esperanto contributes to international cooperation in the fields of education, science, and culture.

**Magazines:** Various magazines and literary, scientific, professional and religious reviews in Esperanto are published regularly in all parts of the world.

**Radio:** Over a dozen radio stations, including stations in Peking, Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Valencia, Warsaw, and Zagreb, regularly broadcast in Esperanto, for a total of over fifteen hundred hours a year.

**Conventions and conferences:** Every year an increasing number of conventions, conferences, courses and study groups use Esperanto as their working language. In 1983 about 12,000 people attended international meetings using Esperanto exclusively.

**Esperanto organizations:** The Universala Esperanto Asocio (World Esperanto Association) has members in over a hundred countries, and has 44 affiliated national organizations; 22 professional associations; and more than 1250 clubs and societies in the world. Moreover, 3,500 delegates and specialty delegates in all countries are at the service of Esperantists.

**Local groups:** If you live in a large city, check your phone book for a nearby Esperanto association. These groups can provide lessons, books, and practice sessions. Many cities and regions have local groups.

## Test your language ability

Inteligenta persono lernas la lingvon Esperanto rapide kaj facile. Esperanto estas la moderna, kultura lingvo por la tuta mondo. Simpla, fleksebla, belsona, ĝi estas la praktika solvo de la problemo de universala interkompreno. Esperanto meritas vian seriozan konsideron. Lenu la internacian lingvon Esperanto.

## Check your translation

An intelligent person learns the language Esperanto rapidly and easily. Esperanto is the modern, cultural language for the whole world. Simple, flexible, musical, it is the practical solution for the problem of universal mutual understanding. Esperanto deserves your serious consideration. Learn the international language Esperanto.

## Esperanto at a glance

The alphabet: A B C Ĉ D E F G Ĝ H Ĥ I J Ĵ K L M N O P R S Ŝ T U Ŭ V Z

Every letter has only one sound and is always pronounced. Accent is always on the next-to-last syllable. All are pronounced as in English except:

A as in "father"	I as in "machine"
C as "ts" in "bits"	J as "y" in "yes"
Ĉ as "ch" in "church"	Ĵ as "s" in "measure"
E as in "get"	O as in "mote"
G as in "get"	S as in "said"
Ĝ as "j" in "jet"	Ŝ as "sh" in "shed"
H as in "hat"	Ŭ as "oo" in "boot"
Ĥ as "ch" in "loch"	Ŭ as "w" in "water"

Parts of speech are formed by adding endings to root words.

**O** is the **noun** ending      **adjectives** end in **A**  
instruisto (teacher)      nova (new)

**J** is added to form **plurals**      **direct object** adds **N**  
Inteligentaj personoj lernas la internacian lingvon.  
(Intelligent people learn the international language.)  
Esperanto havas facilajn regulojn.  
(Esperanto has easy rules.)

The ending of an adjective always agrees with the ending of the noun that it modifies.

## Verb endings

Infinitive	Present	Past	Future	Imperative	Conditional
<b>I</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>IS</b>	<b>OS</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>US</b>
vidi	vidas	vidis	vidos	vidu	vidus
to see	sees	saw	will see	see!	would see

The ending is the same regardless of number or gender.

**Adverbs** end in **E** libere (freely)

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A second language for everyone