



Libera Esperanto-Libro

Version 1.0 (2010)

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Foreword

Libera Esperanto-Libro means “Free Esperanto Book”. The idea of the book is to teach the basics of the international language Esperanto. Those who have read through the book and done the exercises should have enough basic knowledge of Esperanto to read easy texts, participate in Esperanto events, and begin to use the language to correspond with people from other countries.

The first version of *Libera Esperanto-Libro* consists of 14 chapters. Each chapter has between 10 and 30 pages, and is contained in a separate PDF file. This arrangement makes it easy to download, print, and copy the chapters. As the title indicates, you may freely print, copy, and distribute the chapters of this book.

- *In the first part (Introduction – three chapters)* you will get an introduction to Esperanto and learn about its development and the ideas behind it. You will also learn a few basics of Esperanto grammar, including word-building. In addition, you’ll be able to read some personal stories of people who use Esperanto frequently.
- *In the second part (Basic courses – four chapters)* you will have a chance to begin learning the basics of Esperanto through a few short courses, which start out easy, and then become a bit more complicated.
- *In the third part (Grammar and word list – three chapters)* you will receive your first detailed overview of the language.
- *In the fourth part (Easy reading – four chapters documents)* you can practice your new knowledge of the language by reading stories written in easy language.

The book aims to help people who would like to learn Esperanto from a paper document – on the sofa, on a train, or in a location without easy computer or internet access. As you work through this book, it would be helpful if you also worked on some of the courses at www.lernu.net. The material available at *lernu!* is much more detailed and complete than the contents of this book, and *lernu!* offers a community of experienced Esperanto speakers and other Esperanto students who can assist you in your study of the language. You will achieve the best results if you combine online learning, book learning, listening and speaking (during Esperanto events, for example).

In a sense, Esperanto is a free language – it is not linked to any specific nation or culture, it was given to the world by its initiator without any copyrights, and its grammar is very flexible. Most importantly, Esperanto speakers feel free of limitations when using it to communicate with people from other parts of the world. Now there is also a free *book* about Esperanto. Hopefully, this book will gradually be translated into many languages, so that anyone who wants to learn the language will be able to do so easily and free of charge, simply by downloading a few PDFs.

We were inspired to assemble this book for two main reasons:

- 1) People who like open-source projects are used to having products available, free of charge, and easy to download. There are already many good books about Esperanto, but they are seldom available for download, and are seldom free of charge.
- 2) When we've taught Esperanto in different parts of the world, to groups with participants from several countries, we felt that we needed a free Esperanto learning text, in several languages, to distribute to the course participants.

If you'd like to comment on the contents of this book, or if you have any questions, you are welcome to write to libera@ikso.net. To download the chapters of the book in PDF format, go to www.ikso.net/libera.

Enjoy reading and learning about the fascinating language Esperanto!

- Hokan Lundberg, coordination and writing (also in the team of lernu.net)
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- Aaron Chapman, graphics editing and translation (former member of the *lernu!*-team)
- Simon Davies, advice and proof-reading
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The *Libera Esperanto-Libro* logo was designed by Katjo Mencanto.