

The Esperanto Primer v2.0

Brought to you by James O'Neill:	www.ArionsHome.com/ www.ArionsHome.com/about
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I performed a lot of clean-up and some corrections on this primer from v1.0 and added some more content, which has this growing from 2 pages to 4 pages including this cover page, so only really 1 additional page of content.

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Esperanto's Alphabet

The 28 letter alphabet is sounded out just like English letters with a few new letters that, for me, seem very Czech or Russian in nature. The letters make the same sound each and every time you say them:

Letters: a b c [ts] ĉ [ch] d e f g ĝ [j] h ĥ [hard h] i j ĵ [zh] k l m n o p r [rr] s ŝ [sh] t u ŭ [w] v z

Not present in or different from English	Esperanto Letter	Sound	English Examples	Esperanto Noun Examples	English Translation
	a	ah	Arc	amiko	friend
	b	bah	Barber	birdo	bird
*	c	ts	bats	cimo	bug
*	ĉ	ch	chocolate	ĉapo	cap
	d	de	dog	dezerto	desert (as in a tasty desert)
	e	eh	echo	edzo	husband
	f	fa	fast	filo	son
	g	ga	garden	glaso	glass (for drinking)
*	ĝ	ja	jello	ĝino	gin (alcoholic drink)
	h	ha	had	heĝo	hedge
*	ĥ	h (hard h)	Bach	ĥoro	choir
	i	ee	three	ideo	idea
	j	y	yes	jako	jacket
*	ĵ	zh	pleasure	ĵurnalo	newspaper
	k	ka	cat	kato	cat
	l	la	lake	lupo	wolf
	m	ma	market	muso	mouse
	n	ne	November	nubo	cloud
	o	oh	glory	onklo	uncle
	p	pa	pastry	patro	father
*	r	rr (rolled like Russian or Spanish)	(no English equivalent)	rano	frog
	s	se	sent	sekretario	secretary
*	ŝ	sh	shambles	ŝinko	ham
	t	te	travel	tigro	tiger
	u	oo	too	urso	bear
*	ŭ	wuh	want	ŭato	watt
	v	va	van	viro	man
	z	zeh	zebra	zebro	Zebra

Vowel Combinations

There are a few vowel combinations with the letter **j** that need to be specifically addressed.

- aj – [ai] as in **eye**
- ej – [ay] as in **day**
- oj – [oy] as in **boy**
- uj – [yoo] as in **hallelujah**

There are a few combinations with the letter the **ŭ** that should be addressed

- aŭ – [aow] as in **Paolo, tao, or cow**.
- eŭ – [euw] as in **Europe or neural**

Basic Esperanto Word Formations

Nouns - base nouns end in 'o'; noun modification such as pluralization is done via suffixes

- **Base Nouns** - 'o': hundo - dog
- **Plural Noun** - 'j': hundoj - dogs
- **Sentence Objects** - 'n': hundon - dog
- **Plural Sentence Objects** - 'ojn': hundojn - dogs
which is a combo of the previous two suffixes
- **Smaller Noun** - 'et': hundeto - small dog
- **Larger Noun** - 'eg': hundego - large dog

Gender and Nouns - base words that have an explicit gender as a part of their definition such as for the words: father/mother or aunt/uncle, the base word is in the male/neuter form such as the base parent/father - patro, or uncle - onklo. To make a base word female you add the 'in' suffix. Mother would be patrino or aunt would be onklino. The neuter/male case is determined by context. This suffix can also be applied to other nouns whose base is assumed to be of the neuter gender. Example: hundo - hundino - female dog

Pronouns - pronouns are very short and end in 'i':

- mi - I
- vi - you
- li - he
- ŝi - she
- ĝi - it
- ni - we
- ili - they
- oni - indefinite pronoun - no gender, personhood, or numbers assumed

Adjectives - base adjectives end with 'a'.

- bela - beautiful, handsome
- nova - new
- verda - green
- granda - big/large
- sana - healthy

Adjective Modifiers

- **Opposite:** by adding 'mal' to the beginning creates the opposite: malbela - ugly
- **Magnify Description** one level by adding 'pli': pli bela - very beautiful
- **Greatly Magnify** by adding 'plej' - plej bela - most (very, very) beautiful (or gorgeous)

Verbs - base verbs end in 'i'; verb tensing is done via adding a suffix

- **Base Verbs** - 'i': doni - to give
- **Future Tense** - 'os': donos - will give
- **Present Tense** - 'as': donas - give
- **Past Tense** - 'is': donis - gave
- **Conditional Tense** - 'us': donus - would give
- **Command Tense** - 'u': donu - Give!

Intransitive verbs:

- estos - 'will' (future)
- estas - am/is/are (present)
- estis - was/were (past)

Adverbs - base adverbs end in 'e'

- amike - 'in a friendly manner'
- rapide - quickly
- silente - silently
- malafable - roughly
- subite - suddenly

Tool Words

- **Definite Article** - 'la' - the
- **Conjunction** - 'kaj' [kai] - and
- **Negative** - by adding 'ne' prior to the word ne bela - not beautiful.
- **Comparison** - 'ol': this is bigger 'than' that

Accent - on second to last vowel

- Saluton! - sa **lu** ton - (greetings)
- Letero - le **te** ro (a letter from envelope)
- Familio - fami **li** o (family)
- Knabino - kna **bin** o - girl

Handy Conversational Words or Phrases

- Hello - Saluton!
- Good bye - Adiaŭ or Ĝis Revido or just Ĝis
- Yes - Jes
- No - Ne
- How are you? - Kiel vi fartas?
- My name is... - Mia nomo estas ...

Esperanto Sentences and Vocabulary

Basic Sentence Typology (Sentence Word Order)

Esperanto follows the basic Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order like English does. Due to the way the language is put together you may use different sentence typologies (VSO, OVS, etc...) and still be understood.

Language	Subject	Verb	Object
Esperanto (future)	La knabo	manĝos	la sandviĉon.
English	The boy	will eat	the sandwich.
Esperanto (present)	La knabo	manĝas	la sandviĉon.
English	The boy	is eating	the sandwich.
Esperanto (past)	La knabo	manĝis	la sandviĉon.
English	The boy	ate	the sandwich.
Esperanto (conjunction)	La knabo kaj viro	manĝas	la sandviĉon.
English	The boy and man	are eating	the sandwich.
Esperanto (noun adjectives)	La bela knabino	manĝas	la grandan sandviĉon.
English	The beautiful girl	is eating	the big sandwich.
Language	Subject	Verb	Object

Words For Your Esperanto Vocabulary

Nouns are present on the alphabet table in the second page of this Esperanto Primer.

Base Verbs		Numbers		Other Words and Phrases	
to bake	baki	0	nul	Adjectives	
to eat	manĝi	1	unu	good	bona
to go (to)	veturi	2	du	bad	malbona
to learn	lerni	3	tri	easy	facila
to like	sati	4	kvar	difficult	malfacila
to love	ami	5	kvin	Noun	
to pick up	kolekti	6	ses	auto	car
<i>(an object)</i>		7	sep	city	urbo
to play	ludi	8	ok	day	tago
<i>(with something)</i>		9	naŭ	house	domo
to see	vidi	10	dek	Time	
to understand	kompreni	11	dek unu	today	hodiaŭ
to walk	marŝi	12	dek du	yesterday	hieraaŭ
to want	voli	21	dudek unu	tomorrow	morgaŭ
to work	labori	100	cent	morning	mateno
		321	tricent dudek unu	afternoon	posttagmezo
		1000	mil	evening	vespero