

# An Elementary Esperanto Primer

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## Enhavoj

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# Introduction

As the reader of this book has most likely already decided to take a course using it, it is not truly necessary here to extol its virtues or the virtues of taking this language over any other, but I shall for tradition's sake do so nonetheless. This textbook is one of approximately three or four easily available for English-speaking students of Esperanto, and it makes no pretense of being the best. In fact, I would recommend David Richardson's *Esperanto: Learning and Using the International Language* as being the best Esperanto textbook available for the English speaker. However, this textbook has at least one advantage over that one, and that is the fact that to all intents and purposes it is free...

The next question is why one should take Esperanto and not some other language. My response to that would be that one should take Esperanto *and* some other language(s), but that is not feasible for everyone. The question thus remains—why Esperanto. To answer it, let us look for a moment at the history and character of the language.

## The History and Character of Esperanto

Esperanto was created initially by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, a Polish oculist from Bialistok, and published by him in Warsaw in 1887. It was intended to become the second language of the world such that communications might be improved. In order to do this, it had to be politically neutral and easy to learn—two good reasons to learn it now. As a politically neutral language, Esperanto can be useful to the English speaker who wishes to avoid the current backlash against English that is prevalent in many countries. When two people from different linguistic backgrounds use Esperanto to communicate, neither will have the disadvantage of speaking the other's native language, and they will thus be able to converse more as equals. The second reason of the two is perhaps the stronger, and has many side-benefits. Esperanto is easy to learn since the pronunciation and spelling are consistent, the grammatical rules have no exceptions and are in addition quite simple, and the vocabulary is comprised of the most “international” words available.

Because the pronunciation is simple and consistent with the spelling, it is possible to learn Esperanto with an extremely small fraction of the resources required to learn many other languages such as English, for which the development of a good pronunciation is nearly impossible for people of many backgrounds. The sounds of Esperanto are in general much more phonetically simple than those of English, and thus much more easily learned by foreigners.

The grammatical rules of Esperanto are simple enough (they historically fit into about sixteen rules) that the grammar can be essentially learned in a few weeks of study, or for some, as little time as a few hours.

The vocabulary, then, will be the aspect of Esperanto which will take the longest time to master, but there are nice simplifications here, too. Because the rules of word-formation are regular in Esperanto, many words which require separate roots in ethnic languages can be expressed by adding affixes to one root in Esperanto, e.g. “patro” (“father”) vs. “patrino” (“mother”) and “bona” (“good”) vs. “malbona” (“bad”). Thus, one needs to learn about half as many roots in Esperanto as one would to achieve an equivalent level of fluency in an ethnic language. In addition to this, Esperanto words are selected in general on the basis of “internationality.” This means that if some word exists in many languages, it is probably the same in Esperanto. Thus, most people already know a large percentage of the vocabulary, and learning new

Esperanto vocabulary will probably help in learning the vocabulary of other languages.

In general, educational studies have shown that people can learn to speak Esperanto at a given level of proficiency about six to ten times faster than for an equivalent level of proficiency in some other language, e.g. English.

## How to Use This Book

This book has been organized into three distinct parts. The first consists of Lessons One through Five, and teaches the essentials of Esperanto grammar in a rapid, albeit somewhat summary fashion. The next part is a somewhat more relaxed nine lessons which are intended to improve the Esperanto learned in the first five, and finally there is a section containing appendices to be used as references while learning the language, or afterward when using it. Thus, the book presents a two-level course with appendices.

One thing should be noted about the treatment which you will find in this book—I have a slight tendency to use obscure linguistic terms when such will serve my own laziness. It is my opinion that the reader, as a student of language, should become accustomed to the use of a dictionary, and therefore I am leaving them in (and for the aforementioned reason that I am lazy...)

## Acknowledgements

This book is based primarily on the following sources (in order of decreasing influence): J. Cresswell and J. Hartley's *Teach Yourself Esperanto*, J. C. Wells' dictionary, Neal McBurnett's *La plej oftaj morfemoj de parolata Esperanto* (based on Z. Tišljár's *Frekvencmorfemaro de Parolata Esperanto*), and M. Stuttard's *The Esperanto Teacher*. My thanks to Jens Karlsson for some of the exercises and several useful suggestions, and to members of the M.I.T. Societo por Esperanto and of the classes for which this book was intended for their corrections and general editorial comments. Any errors are of course mine, except for those which are due to the International Anti-Esperantan Conspiracy.

# Leciono 1

## La Familio

### 1.1 Pronunciation

The first thing the student must learn about any spoken language is its pronunciation. This is in fact the most difficult aspect of many languages, but, as in many other respects, Esperanto is quite simple in this regard. There are twenty-eight phonemes, each represented by a single letter, and six diphthongs represented by two letters. Every word is pronounced exactly as it is spelled; the language lacks what is perhaps the most flawed feature of English: an inconsistent orthography.

#### 1.1.1 Consonants

The consonants which are exactly the same in Esperanto as in English are **b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, v,** and **z**, with the caveat that **s** is always voiceless. That is, **s** is always pronounced as in “Spam” rather than “Osmond.”

**R** is pronounced with a trill, as in Scottish English, Spanish, or Italian. This will perhaps need to be practiced, but if it is a sound of which you are incapable, an ordinary retroflex “r” will do.

The rest of the consonants are: **c**, which is pronounced somewhat like the “ts” in “Tsar” or the “z” in “pizza”; **ĉ**, which is pronounced as the “ch” in “church”; **g**, which is always pronounced hard as in “golly,” as opposed to **ĝ**, which is pronounced soft as in “gee”; **ĥ**, which is pronounced as the “ch” in “Bach,” “chutzpah,” or “loch”; **j**, which is pronounced as the consonantal “y” in “year”; **ĵ**, which is pronounced as the “z” in “azure” or the second “g” in “garage”<sup>1</sup>; **ŝ**, which is pronounced as the “sh” in “shogun”; and **ŭ**, which is pronounced as the “w” in “water,” although it is never used initially<sup>2</sup>.

#### 1.1.2 Vowels

The vowels of Esperanto are fairly simple, which makes them quite easy for those who are used to simple vowels (e.g., Spanish speakers, Italian speakers, et al.), but unfortunately a bit difficult for those who are accustomed to complex vowel systems like that of English. Esperanto has only five monophthongal vowel sounds: *a, e, i, o,* and *u*. These are pronounced as in the international phonetic alphabet:

- a** somewhat shorter than the “a” in *father*
- e** somewhat like the “e” in *get, there*
- o** somewhat like the “o” in *note*
- i** somewhat like the “i” in *machine*
- u** as in *moose*

---

<sup>1</sup>Some pronunciations

<sup>2</sup>except in some neologisms

### Notes on vowel pronunciation

These vowels should be “pure,” unlike their equivalents in English. The English “o” in *note* is really a diphthong — it has a sort of “w” at the end. Practice saying it without this “w”, perhaps replacing it with a slight “h” sound. Most of these vowels are a bit less drawn out than in English. Thus, **i** is sort of a mix between *machine* and *pin*, and **e** is like *air* without the following y-glide (say “air” slowly, and you will hear an “e” followed by an “ee”.) **U** never has a preceding “y” sound, as in *cute*.

In addition to the monophthongs, there are six common diphthongs:

- aj** like *like*
- ej** like *air*
- oj** like *boy*
- uj** like *gooey*, latin *huic*
- aŭ** like *House*
- eŭ** like an **e**, then a **ŭ**. . . Rare. As in Latin, Portugese, and Ancient Greek.

#### 1.1.3 Accent

The accent always falls on the penult—the second to last syllable. Thus:

esperanto, **Joĉjo**, rivero, **jam**

#### 1.1.4 More Notes

1. When two words come together such that the first ends in a vowel and the second begins with a vowel, they should be separated with a glottal stop: *la alia* /la<sup>ʔ</sup> alía/.
2. Make sure not to pronounce Esperanto words as if they are English:

pale, false, fine, pure

3. There are no double consonants in Esperanto. If you see two consonants together, pronounce both of them:

mallonga, sennacia

#### 1.1.5 The Alphabet

To name a letter of the alphabet, say the sound of the letter if it is a vowel, or follow the sound with an **o** if it is a consonant. Thus, the alphabet is:

a, bo, co, ĉo, do, e, fo, go, ĝo, ho, ĥo, i, jo, ĵo, ko, lo, mo, no, o, po, ro, so, ŝo, to, vo, u, ŭo, zo

#### 1.1.6 Ekzerco

Pronounce the following words<sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>3</sup>From *The Esperanto Teacher*, Mason Stuttard, 1989:LIBROSERVO de A.E.A., Australia

<b>a</b>	afabla, agrabla, barata, anasa, frata, patra, klara, palata
<b>e</b>	bela, letere, necese, legende, serene, vereme, beleta, estas
<b>i</b>	imiti, insisti, inviti, dividi, skribi, ili, fieri, aviado
<b>o</b>	honoro, kolombo, rozo, popolo, odoro, leono, bono, kohero
<b>u</b>	suno, rulu, insultu, sur, murmuru, fluas, surtuto, brulu
<b>aj</b>	ajn, fajro, rajto, ajlo, tajloro, rajdi, fajli, riĉaj
<b>ej</b>	trejni, vejno, hejmo, plej, kuirejo, lernejo
<b>oj</b>	sojlo, kojno, knaboj, konkoj, gargojlo, fojno
<b>uj</b>	Anglujo, tuja, tiuj, rozujo, monujo
<b>aŭ</b>	laŭbo, laŭro, fraŭlino, kaŭzo, aŭdi, aŭskulti
<b>eŭ</b>	Eŭropo, neŭralgio, neŭtrala, reŭmatismo, Eŭkarista
<b>c</b>	laca, facila, cedi, cento, ofico, ciro, colo, unco
<b>ĉ</b>	ĉe, ĉambro, riĉa, laĉo, lunĉo, pasteĉo, kapuĉo
<b>g</b>	longa, lango, ligi, grati, gento, gruo, granda
<b>ĝ</b>	larĝa, ĝentila, ĝardeno, ĝis, reĝimo, ĝiro
<b>h</b>	haro, himno, histo, heredi, hardi, herbo, hurli
<b>ĥ</b>	eĥo, monaĥo, ĥimero
<b>j</b>	jaro, Rejno, jes, juna, sinjoro, justa, jen
<b>ĵ</b>	ĵaluza, ĵeti, dolĉaĵo, ĵurnalo, ĵongli, ĵus
<b>s</b>	sata, ses, sidi, sono, suverena, salti, sendi
<b>ŝ</b>	ŝatas, ŝelo, ŝildo, groŝo, ŝtupo, ŝvitas

## 1.2 Gramatiko

Now that we have the orthography down, let us move on to the actual grammar of Esperanto. In Esperanto, as in English, there are eight parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, and pronouns. First, we shall discuss nouns, or more properly *substantives*. Esperanto nouns end in **o**, thus:

rivero	river	birdo	bird	viro	man	patro	father
besto	animal	muro	wall	kusenveturilo	hovercraft	angilo	eel

Plural nouns add **-j** to the end of the noun. Thus, *viro* means “man,” and *viroj* means “men.”

### 1.2.1 Sufiksoj

Suffixes are added to nouns just before the final **o**, and are used much more regularly than in English, with the result that the student of Esperanto must learn a much smaller set of words in order to express ideas. For example, the suffix **-in-** causes a noun to become explicitly female. Thus,

patro	father	patrino	mother
frato	brother	fratino	sister
knabo	boy	knabino	girl
viro	man	virino	woman

### 1.2.2 Prefiksoj

As in English, Esperanto prefixes are placed before the root. For example, the Esperanto prefix **ge-** causes a word to be of indeterminate gender, and is almost always used in the plural:

patro	father	patrino	mother	gepatroj	parents
frato	brother	fratino	sister	gefratoj	siblings
sinjoro	Mr.	sinjorino	Mrs.	gesinjoroj	Mr. and Mrs.
	Gentleman		Lady		Ladies and Gentlemen



### 1.2.3 Articles

One note is necessary here: whereas English has both an indefinite article (“a/an”) and a definite article (“the”), Esperanto has only *la*, a definite article. Thus “a man” would be translated as *viro*, and “the man” would be translated as *la viro*.

### 1.2.4 The Conjugation of Verbs in the Present Tense

To conjugate a verb in the present tense, add **-as** to the root. This is independent of person or number.  
Roĉjo estas = Bob is

### 1.2.5 Vocabulary

homo	human being	estas	is, am, are
infano	child	la	the
persono	person	kaj	and
sinjoro	Mr., gentleman	ankaŭ	also, too
amiko	friend	aŭ	or
knabo	boy	sidas	sits, is sitting
viro	man	ludas	plays, is playing
edzo	husband	kuiras	cooks, is cooking
familio	family	ploras	cries, is crying
frato	brother	ridas	laughs, is laughing
simsalabimo	a magic word...	jen	behold, lo (lat. <i>ecce</i> )
patro	father	Roĉjo	Bob
paĉjo	Daddy	Vilhelmino	Wilhelmina
panjo	Mommy	Maria	Mary
fraŭlo	bachelor	Petro	Peter
fraŭlino	Miss	solvo	answer, solution
hundo	dog	tradukas	translates
kato	cat	Simsalabimo	(The cat’s name)
rivero	river	do	so (“I did that, <b>so</b> he...”)

### 1.2.6 Exercises

1. Translate into English:

- Jen la familio Frogmorton
- Roĉjo, aŭ Roberto, estas la patro, kaj Vilhelmino estas la patrino.
- Roĉjo estas Sinjoro Frogmorton, kaj Vilhelmino estas Sinjorino Frogmorton.
- Maria estas Fraŭlino Frogmorton, kaj Petro estas Fraŭlo Frogmorton, aŭ Sinjoro Frogmorton.
- La hundo estas Barfo, kaj la kato Simsalabimo<sup>4</sup>.
- Maria ploras, kaj Petro ridas.
- Petro kaj Maria sidas kaj ludas, kaj Roberto tradukas.

2. Translate into Esperanto:

- Bob and Wilhelmina are also husband and wife.

<sup>4</sup>This is, astoundingly enough, apparently one of the 700 most frequently used morphemes in spoken Esperanto, and therefore by the philosophy under which this book is being written it had to be included. However, it didn’t fit into any of the book’s themes, so now it’s the cat’s name.

- (b) Mary and Peter are children, but Mary is a girl and Peter is a boy.
- (c) Bob, Wilhelmina, Mary, and Peter are human beings and people—Bob and Peter are men, and Wilhelmina and Mary are women.
- (d) Mary and Peter are brother and sister, but not friends.
- (e) The answer is 42.
- (f) Wilhelmina is cooking.

### 1.2.7 Adjectives

Adjectives in Esperanto all end in **-a**:

bona	good	stulta	stupid	riĉa	rich
plena	full	ĝentila	polite	granda	large

Plural adjectives also add **-j** to the end, and are used whenever a plural noun is being modified:

bona viro	bonaj viroj	viroj	bonaj
plena kusenveturilo	a full hovercraft		
grandaj eraroj	big goofs		

### MAL-

The prefix *mal-* causes the word to which it is attached to mean the opposite of what it would otherwise mean:

bona	good	malbona	bad
granda	large	malgranda	small

### 1.2.8 Questions

English uses several rather odd syntactic maneuvers in order to form questions, including inversion, the creation of helping verbs for the purpose of inversion, and the use of question words; Esperanto uses only question words, thus leaving its word order fairly intact. In this lesson, we shall confine ourselves to the types of questions which employ inversion in English—that is, “yes or no” questions. In Esperanto, a special question word—*ĉu*—is employed to create this sort of question:

La hundo estas mortinta.	The dog is dead.
Ĉu la hundo estas mortinta?	Is the dog dead?

Thus the “classic” foreign-language question, “Do you speak *Language*,” translates in Esperanto as “Ĉu vi parolas *Language*?”<sup>5</sup>. This sort of question may be answered by *jes* or *ne*.

Ĉu vi parolas Esperanton? Ne, mi parolas la anglan.

*Ne* also doubles as the English “not,” “non-,” and “un-.” Thus:

La hundo ne ludas	The dog isn’t playing
La birdo ne flugas	The bird isn’t flying/doesn’t fly
Ne, mi ne parolas la anglan	No, I don’t speak English
neforgesebla	unforgettable
nemovigita	unmoved

---

<sup>5</sup>More on this later

### 1.2.9 Vocabulary

ne	not, no, non	pensas	thinks
ĉu	Question Particle	lingvo	language
ke	that	bela	beautiful
jes	yes	juna	young
bona	good	tro	too (as is “too many”)
ĉar	because	mankas	is missing
scias	knows	konsentas	agrees
iras	goes	tradukas	translates
scivolas	wonders	vorto	word
esperanto	Esperanto	piediras	walks
parolas	speaks	hejma	at home
vera	real	alta	high, tall
nova	new	flugas	flies
tre	very	Superviro	Superman
granda	large	stulta	stupid, dumb
simpla	simple	opinias	thinks (opines)
riĉa	rich	plena	full
forgesas	forgets		

### 1.2.10 Exercises

#### 1. Translate from Esperanto to English

- Vilhelmino estas tre bela, sed ne tre juna.
- La familio parolas Esperanton.
- Esperanto estas simpla lingvo, kaj la Frogmortonoj opinias, ke Esperanto estas bela.
- La kato estas nova, sed maljuna.
- Barfo ankaŭ estas stulta.
- Petro opinias, ke Maria estas stulta, sed Maria ne konsentas.
- Roĉjo ne estas sola, ĉar li estas edzo.
- Petro kaj Maria pensas, ke Vilhelmino estas “Panjo” kaj Roberto estas “Paĉjo.” Petro kaj Maria estas pravaj.
- La patro ne staras—la patro estas tro alta.
- Superviro flugas, sed Roĉjo ne flugas—li piediras.

#### 2. Translate from English to Esperanto

- Mary and Peter are young.
- Children are young.
- Esperanto is a simple language, because the words are smart [the opposite of stupid].
- Is the dog new?
- No, Barfo is old. [not in age]
- The dog is large, but the cat is small.
- Does Barf know that Simsalabim is a cat?
- Yes, but Barf doesn’t know that Barf is a dog.
- Robert wonders if Robert is a real man, but Wilhelmina knows.

## Leciono 2

# La Familio Frogmorton

### 2.1 Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns of Esperanto are much like those of English:

mi	I	ni	we
vi	you	vi	you
li	he	ili	they
ŝi	she		
ĝi	it		

These are used essentially in the same manner as nouns. E.g., *mi estas* = “I am”, etc.

### 2.2 The Possessive

There are three types of possessives in English: “my cat,” “Bob’s cat,” and “the cat of Bob.” In Esperanto, only the first and last of these types are used. The first is the *possessive pronoun*, and is much simpler in Esperanto than in English, being the personal pronoun made into an adjective by the addition of “-a.” As an Esperanto adjective, the possessive pronoun must agree with the noun it modifies—*mia kato*, but *miaj katoj*. The second type of possessive is handled by means of “de”:

my aunt’s pen	la plumo de mia onklino
the dog’s dish	la plado de la hundo

### 2.3 More Suffixes

There are several suffixes in Esperanto which convert words from adjective to noun, noun to verb, etc. Some of these are:

-ul-	a person with the quality of: bonulo = a good person
-ec-	-ness: boneco = goodness
-ad-	-tion, -ing: parolado = speaking, movado = motion
-aĵ-	makes concrete: manĝas = eats, manĝaĵo = food

### 2.4 Pejorative Affixes

There are three affixes which make an otherwise ordinary word into an insult. These are: **-aĉ**, which means essentially “contemptible,” “abhorrible”; **fuŝ-**, which means “bungling”; and **fi-**, which means “morally impure.”

aĉulo	frowzy person	fuŝulo	clutz	fiulo	scoundrel
virinaĉo	hag	fuŝviro	oaf	fivirino	slut
gazetaĉo	bad magazine	fuŝgazeto	misprinted magazine	figazeto	smutty magazine

## 2.5 Tenses other than the present

These are simple. To form the past tense, use “-is” instead of “-as.” To form the future tense, use “-os.” The imperative (e.g., “Get out!”) is formed by adding “-u.” Thus:

movu	move!
movis	moved
movas	moves
movos	will move

## 2.6 Non-affirmation questions

The question-words other than *Ĉu* all begin with “ki-” and will be introduced slowly throughout this book, along with their friends, the other correlatives. Some of them are: *kiam* (“when”), *kiu* (“who”), and *kio* (“what”). These are used essentially as in English:

Kiam vi iros?	When will you go?
Kiu vi estas?	Who are you?
Kio ĝi estas?	What is it?

### Vocabulary

kIU	who (what person, one)	kIal	why (what reason)
kIo	what (what thing)	kIam	when (what time)
kIel	how (what manner)		

## 2.7 The Accusative

Unlike English, which distinguishes the subject of a sentence from its direct object only by word order, Esperanto changes the word itself a bit such that a direct object may be placed almost arbitrarily in a sentence (although word order in Esperanto tends to be pretty similar to that in English normally). That is, Esperanto adds an “-n” to the end of nouns and adjectives that are in the “accusative,” or direct object, case. Thus:

Mi parolas Esperanton.	I speak Esperanto.
Ŝi amas min.	She loves me.
La kato batis la hundon.	The cat hit the dog.
La hundon batis la kato.	The cat hit the dog.
La bonaj katoj batis la malbonajn hundojn.	The good cats hit the bad dogs.
Mi vidis la belan bildon.	I saw the beautiful picture.

## Vocabulary

mortas	dies	porko	pig	manĝas	eats
movas	moves	porkaĵo	pork	manĝaĵo	food
movadas	moves continually	saltas	jumps	flava	yellow
krajono	pencil	saltadas	jumps up and down	flaveco	yellowness
hazarda	random	birdo	bird	kantas	sings
blua	blue	onklo	uncle	kantaĉas	murders (a song)
verda	green	plumo	pen	havas	has
batas	hits	alia	other	sperta	expert
bataĉas	hits foully	aliulo	another (person)	spertulo	an expert
ĉevalo	horse	pomo	apple	telero	plate
ŝafo	sheep	vino	wine	botelo	bottle
domo	house	ovo	egg	korbo	basket
bildo	picture	salo	salt	plado	dish
tablo	table	malsata	hungry	kulero	spoon
ĉambro	room	banano	banana	pokalo	cup, goblet
salono	drawing-room	teo	tea	aparato	apparatus
lito	bed	fiŝo	fish	miksi	to mix
planko	floor	batalas	fight	maŝino	machine
trinkas	to drink	koloro	color	filo	son
oni	one, you	amas	loves	venas	comes
vidas	comes	venkas	conquers	trafas	hits

## 2.7.1 Exercises

- Translate from Esperanto to English.
  - Simsalabimo manĝadas birdojn. Ĝi estas fikato.
  - Barfo ne manĝas birdojn. Ĝi manĝas hundmanĝaĵon.
  - Superviro bataladas niajn malamikojn, sed Lekso Lutor batalas lin.
  - Kiu batas Superviron?
  - Kiujn batis Superviro?
  - Ŝi miksadas la teon, sed la ŝafo ne trinkas ĝin.
  - Ŝi havas botelon de vino, sed aliulo trinkas ĝin.
- Translate from English to Esperanto.
  - What is it? It is a blue bird.
  - Is your pork good?
  - It is good, but I am full (*not plena!*).
  - Why does he have a pencil, but not a pen?
  - Bob's sister is his children's aunt.
  - Peter and Maria also have an uncle.
  - He is the brother of their father.
  - How did they move their big dog?
  - They didn't move it. It jumped.



## Leciono 3

# La Mondo

### 3.1 Prepositions

One of the most difficult aspects of Esperanto is its prepositions—not because they are more difficult in Esperanto than in any other given language, but because they are not, and probably could not be, any simpler than those found in other languages. The student of Esperanto, as of any foreign language with prepositions, must be very careful with their use, as prepositions are used differently in every language. It is anyone’s guess whether this book will succeed in using Esperanto prepositions correctly, in fact...

At any rate, prepositions in Esperanto are utilized in approximately the same manner as in English:

La kato estas sur la tablo	The cat is on the table
La hundo staras sub la tablo	The dog is standing under the table
Mi loĝas en puto	I live in a well
La kusenveturilo estas plena de angiloj	The hovercraft is full of eels.

Note that these prepositions govern the nominative (that is, the *subject* case) rather than the accusative (that is, the *object* case) as in English. There are some cases where the object of a preposition will have an **-n** ending, but these are special cases which will be discussed in the section which is coming up.

#### Vocabulary

en	in	inter	between, among
ĉe	at, chez	sur	on
ekster	outside of	sub	under
trans	across	al	to
dum	during, while	tra	through

#### 3.1.1 Indirect Objects

In English there exist sentences such as “He gave me the ball.” In these sentences, “me,” or whatever, is known as the *indirect object*. In Esperanto, this function is filled by *al*:

Li donis al mi la bildon. He gave me the picture.

### 3.2 Various and Sundry Uses for the Accusative

There are several instances in which the accusative case is used in Esperanto where there does not seem to be, and indeed often there is not, a direct object present. Some of these will be discussed here<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>Most of the information in this section was taken from *Teach Yourself Esperanto*, J. Cresswell and J. Hartley, 1987:Great



### 3.2.1 Elliptical Usage

The student of Esperanto will often come across instances of the accusative where it would seem more natural to find a simple noun. These are sometimes explained by supposing that there is an assumed sentence for which the accusative phrase is a completion. For example, the standard way of saying “Good morning” in Esperanto is *bonan matenon*. This is explained by hypothesizing that the original sentence was “I wish you a good morning,” or the like. Thus:

Saluton	Hello
Bonan vesperon	Good Evening
Bonan nokton	Good Night
Bonvenon	Welcome
Dankon (por)	Thanks (for)
Kion vi batis? —	La hundon.

### Vocabulary

ha	ah	tago	day
ho	oh	vespero	evening
nu	well	mateno	morning
saluton	hello	nokto	night
dankon	thanks	dankas	thanks

### 3.2.2 Time

Another use for the accusative is in expressions of time, but to well explain these, we shall first need to make a small excursion and discuss enumeration in Esperanto, as well as adverbs.

### Numbers

The numbers of Esperanto are as follows:

1	unu	6	six
2	du	7	sep
3	tri	8	ok
4	kvar	9	naŭ
5	kvin	10	dek
100	cent	1000	mil

From these, all numbers below one million (American) can be formed in a very logical fashion similar to that employed by Chinese. Esperanto uses each word for each place, i.e. each digit, in a given number. Thus,

11	dek unu	99	naŭdek naŭ
12	dek du	100	cent
13	dek tri	101	cent unu
	⋮	112	cent dek du
19	dek naŭ	120	cent dudek

20	dudek	200	ducent
21	dudek unu	234	ducent tridek kvar
	⋮	1971	mil naŭcent sepdek unu
29	dudek naŭ	1020	mil dudek
30	tridek	1066	mil sesdek ses
40	kvardek	1865	mil okcent sesdek kvin
	⋮	2001	dumil unu
90	naŭdek	1992	mil naŭcent naŭdek du
239,185	ducent tridek naŭ mil cent okdek kvin		

### Adverbs

Adverbs in Esperanto are quite simple—either find a ready-made one like *morgaŭ* (“tomorrow”) (most of this sort end in **aŭ**) or add **-e** to the root of an adjective (this is comparable to **-ly** in English, although may be used *much* more extensively). Thus,

bona	good	bone	well
bela	beautiful	bele	beautifully
unua	first	unue	firstly
rapida	fast	rapide	quickly

Notice that ordinal numbers (“first,” “second,” etc.) are formed by the addition of **-a** to numbers in exactly the same fashion as the creation of possessive pronouns from personal pronouns. The third type of numbers, “once,” “twice,” etc., are formed by adding **foje** to numbers: *unufoje* = *once*, *dufoje* = *twice*, etc. *Fojo* refers to an occasion when something happens.

### Vocabulary

hodiaŭ	today	fojo	time, occurrence
hieraŭ	yesterday	frue	early
morgaŭ	tomorrow	nun	now
kutime	usually	kvazaŭ	as if ( <i>not</i> an adv.)

Now that that is out of the way, we can discuss the measurement of time. First, dates: if one wished to say “I shall arrive on Monday,” one would say “Mi alvenos lundon.” One would first, however, need to know the days of the week:

lundo	Monday
mardo	Tuesday
merkredo	Wednesday
ĵaŭdo	Thursday
vendredo	Friday
sabato	Saturday
dimanĉo	Sunday

As an extra, we’ll throw in the months of the year as well:

januaro	January	julio	July
februaro	February	aŭgusto	August
marto	March	septembro	September
aprilo	April	oktobro	October
majo	May	novembro	November
junio	June	decembro	December

To ask the time, one should say:

Kioma horo estas?

To answer this, one says:

Estas la dua (horo) — It is two o'clock

This only works if the time is an even hour, however. Some other cases are as follows:

2:10 La dua (kaj) dek (minutoj)  
 7:15 La sepa (kaj) dek kvin (*or...kaj* kvarono)  
 3:30 La tria (kaj) tridek (*or...kaj* duono)  
 4:45 La kvara (kaj) kvardek kvin  
 12:50 La dek-dua (kaj) kvindek

Now here begins the magic of the accusative: to say “at three thirty,” one would say *la trian kaj duono*. This is actually short for *je la tria kaj duono*, but the accusative can be used to substitute for the preposition *je*, which is a rather odd preposition which is used whenever no other preposition conveys the meaning intended. Thus:

Mi alvenos la okan kaj kvarono. — I shall arrive at 8:15.

As mentioned before, “on Monday” is translated as *lundon*. “On Mondays,” is however expressed by *lunde*:

Mi iris lundon, sed kutime mi iras ĵaŭde. — I went on Monday, but I usually go on Thursdays.

Dates are expressed by some variant of *Sabaton la trian de februaro* (with the appropriate information filled in, of course...). “I awaited her for three months” would be translated as *Tri monatojn mi atendis ŝin*, or the like.

### Vocabulary

jaro	year	okazas	occurs, happens
tempo	time	je	indefinite preposition
komencas	begins	finas	stops (something)
minuto	minute	tuj	immediately
momento	moment	atendas	awaits
horo	hour	numero	number
semajno	week	monato	month

### 3.2.3 Motion towards

#### With prepositions

The accusative is also used to indicate motion towards some destination. Just as the accusative was shown to replace *je* above, it here replaces the preposition *al* (“to”). Thus,

Mi iras al Novjorko I am going to New York  
 Mi iras Novjorkon I am going to New York

The accusative is also used with prepositional phrases if there is motion which would not otherwise be indicated:

La hundo saltas sur la tablon The dog jumps on to the table  
 La hundo saltas sur la tablo The dog is jumping while on the table  
 La birdo flugas trans la riveron The bird flies **to** the other side of the river  
 La birdo flugas trans la rivero The bird flies **on** the other side of the river

But notice that the accusative is not used with prepositions which already show motion:

Mi iros al la urbo.            I shall go to the town.  
 Mi iris ĝis la marbordo.    I went up to the seashore.

### With adverbs

If an adverb specifies a place, motion towards that place is indicated by the addition of **-n** after the final **e** of the adverb:

La homo restis hejme.        The person stayed at home.  
 La homo venis hejmen.        The person came home.

Such an adverb is normally employed to express the English ending “-ward(s).”:

norden	northwards	antaŭen	forwards
orienten	eastwards	malantaŭen	backwards
suden	southwards	supren	upwards
okcidenten	westwards	malsupren	downwards

An **-n** can also be placed after *kie*, *tie*, etc. in order to express “to where” (“whither”) and “to there” (“thither”):

Kien vi iras?    Where are you going?  
 Mi iras tien.    I am going there.

### Vocabulary

tie	there	kie	where
trovas	finds	for	away
restas	stays, remains	loĝas	lives, dwells
lasas	leaves	proksima	near
vojaĝas	travels	kuras	runs
veturas	travels by vehicle	naĝas	swims
vojo	way, path		

#### 3.2.4 Motion from

Motion *away from* some place is *not* described by means of the accusative, but rather by means of the preposition *de*:

Li saltis de sur la seĝo            He jumped out of the chair  
 La hundo kuris de sub la viro    The dog ran out from under the man

There is a special preposition *el* for *de en*:

La edzo kuris el la domo            The husband ran out of the house  
 La viro saltis el la aeroplano    The man jumped out of the airplane

## 3.3 Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Some verbs take direct objects, and others do not. The former are known as *transitive*, and the latter *intransitive*. In Esperanto, any given verb starts out as one or the other, and may be transformed into the other by means of **-ig-** or **-iĝ-**.

### 3.3.1 Transitivity

The suffix **-ig-** essentially means “to cause to [whatever].” Thus, it may be used to transform an intransitive verb into a transitive<sup>2</sup>:

morti	to die	mortigi	to kill
timi	to fear	timigi	to frighten
iri	to go	irigi	to propel
miri	to be amazed	mirigi	to astonish
fali	to fall	faligi	to fell
droni	to be drowning	dronigi	to drown (some one)
boli	to be boiling	boligi	to boil (something)
bruli	to be burning	bruligi	to burn (something)
ruĝa	red	ruĝigi	to redden
nigra	black	nigrigi	to blacken
bona	good	bonigi	to cause to be good, to better
granda	large	grandigi	to enlarge

### 3.3.2 Intransitivity

The suffix **-iĝ-** performs the opposite function of **-ig-**: it transforms transitive verbs into intransitive, and can be approximately translated as “to become [whatever].”:

fini	to finish (something)	finiĝi	to come to an end
naski	to bear, give birth to	naskiĝi	to be born
nomi	to name	nomiĝi	to be named
ruĝa	red	ruĝiĝi	to blush
edzo	husband	edziĝi	to get married (become a husband)
edzino	wife	edziniĝi	to get married (become a wife)

## 3.4 Suffixes of Place, and Geography

The suffix **-ej-** signifies “place.” This can be more effectively shown by example than by explanation:

kui	to cook	kuirejo	kitchen
dormi	to sleep	dormejo	bedroom
infano	child	infanejo	nursery
aŭtomobilo	car	aŭtomobilejo	garage
hundo	dog	hundejo	kennel
trinki	to drink	trinkejo	bar
lerni	to learn	lernejo	school
necesa	necessary	necesejo	bathroom

The suffix **-uj-** signifies a container for something. Thus, a *monujo* is a wallet, an *inkujo* is an inkwell, and a *karbujo* is a coal-skuttle. This suffix was also originally used to signify a country in which a certain race dwells:

anglo	an Englishman	anglujo	England
dano	a Dane	danujo	Denmark
svedo	a Swede	svedujo	Sweden

Less homogeneously populated countries were signified either by a simple name or the suffix **-i-**:

<sup>2</sup>The addition of **-i** produces the infinitival form of a verb

Algerio	Algeria
Ĉeĥoslovakio	Czechoslovakia
Aŭstralio	Australia
Usono	The U.S.A.
Kanado	Canada

In addition, some countries are named by *-lando*:

Irlando	Ireland
Finlando	Finland
Islando	Iceland

Thus, there are essentially three (or two) types of country names. The first type of country is named after its inhabitants, so naming an inhabitant of such a country is as simple as removing the **-uj-** ending. For the other types of country, one adds **-an-** to the name of the country:

irlandano	an Irishman
usonano	an American
islandano	an Icelander
aŭstraliano	an Australian

There has been a movement for greater standardization of these names within the Esperanto community, with the result that those names which formerly used an **-ujo** ending now normally take an **-io** ending: *Anglio*, *Svedio*, etc.

### Vocabulary

lando	land	germano	a German
Jugoslavio	Yugoslavia	lago	lake
loko	place, location	mondo	world
franko	a franc	kampo	a field
urbo	town	nacio	nation
sviso	a Swiss	ekskurso	a trip
Eŭropo	Europe	japano	a Japanese
Nederlando	Holland	Finlando	Finland
Irano	Iran	regiono	region
adreso	address	aŭtobuso	bus
dano	a Dane	franco	a Frenchman
italo	an Italian	Parizo	Paris
strato	a street	ŝipo	a ship
Afriko	Africa	akvo	water
Ameriko	America (continent)	Skandinavio	Scandinavia
svedo	a Swede	anglo	an Englishman
Bulgario	Bulgaria	centro	a center
kilo-	kilo-	metro	meter
mapo	a map	maro	a sea
Usono	The U.S.	monto	a mountain
nivelo	level	ruso	a Russian
tereno	terrain	ĉino	a Chinese person
viziti	to visit	multaj	many
faras	makes		

### 3.4.1 Exercises

Translate into English:

1. La Frogmortonoj loĝas en Esperantio, sed ili faris vojaĝon al Eŭropo.
2. Esperantio ne estas vera lando.
3. Ili vizitis multajn landojn, kaj vidis multajn belajn urbojn.
4. Kien ili iris? Ili iris al Francio.
5. Kie ili restis en Francio? Ili restis en Parizo.

## Leciono 4

# Mostly Verbs

### Vocabulary

pri	about	por	for	kun	with
farti	to fare	ebla	possible	post	after
preni	to take	antaŭ	before	kompreni	to understand
nomo	name	antaŭ	in front	ĝis	until, up to
aŭdi	to hear	skribi	to write	aĉeti	to buy
libro	book	rapida	quick	facila	easy
funkcii	to function	mezo	middle	dankon	thanks
aĝo	age	sen	without	deziri	to want
kara	dear	atenti	to await	stari	to stand
legi	to read	dormi	to sleep	nepre	w/o fail
tuŝi	to touch	supre	above	diskuti	to discuss
krom	besides	naskiĝi	to be born	rompi	to break
gvidi	to guide	atingi	to attain	anstataŭ	instead of
kvankam	although	ofte	often	interpreti	to interpret
super	beyond	informo	information	kompleta	complete
lui	to rent	se	if	konscii	to be aware of
tuta	whole	doni	to give	ankoraŭ	still
nur	only	afero	thing	jam	already
vivi	to live	eĉ	even	certa	certain
kelkaj	some	sufiĉa	enough	laŭ	according to
tamen	however	ricevi	to receive	per	by means of
interesi	to interest	sama	same	koni	to be familiar with
preskaŭ	almost	porti	to carry	propono	proposal
ŝati	to like	pro	because of	grava	weighty
ja	indeed	pupo	doll	memori	to remember
vendi	to sell	helpi	to help	ekzisti	to exist
agi	to act	aperi	to appear	montri	to show
kreski	to grow	elekti	to choose	sukcesi	to succeed
kapabla	capable	maniero	manner	almenaŭ	at least
kapti	to catch	mano	hand	serĉi	to look for
sendi	to send	daŭri	to last	fermi	to close
provi	to try	aŭskulti	to listen	zorgi	to care for
utila	useful	formi	to form	klara	clear
membro	member	ideo	idea	kontraŭ	against
pluraj	several	celo	goal	skatolo	box



sperta	expert	ĉefa	main	akcepti	to accept
pura	clean	perdi	to lose	plaĉi	to please
rakonto	story	uzi	to use	prezidi	to preside

## 4.1 The Infinitive

The infinitival form of a verb, expressed in English as, e.g. “to be,” may be formed in Esperanto by the addition of **-i** at the end of the root. Esperanto does *not* use a preposition, as English does: “to be” would be translated by *esti* rather than *al esti* or some other such monstrosity.

The infinitive comes into use mainly when naming verbs and employing auxiliary verbs, but also when expressing concepts which would be expressed by a preposition plus the “-ing” form of an English verb.

The first use mentioned above requires no elucidation, but for the second we shall provide a few examples, after presenting some necessary vocabulary:

### Vocabulary

povi	to be able to, can	devi	to have to, must
bezoni	to need (to)	rajti	to be allowed to, may
deziri	to want (something)	voli	to want (to)
decidi	to decide	klopodi	to take steps to, endeavor
peni	to try		

### 4.1.1 Examples of the use of auxiliary verbs

Mi povas piediri	I can walk
La hundoj devis atendi la knabojn	The dogs had to await the boys
La knabo ne rajtis manĝi la kukon	The boy was not allowed to eat the cake
La knabo ne rajtas fumi	The boy is not allowed to smoke
Mi <b>volas</b> manĝi multajn kukojn	I want to eat many cakes

### 4.1.2 The infinitive with prepositions

The infinitive may be used with only three prepositions: *anstataŭ*, *krom*, and *por*. For example:

Anstataŭ iri hejmen, mi iris en la trinkejon.

*Instead of going home, I went into the bar.*

Krom bati Lekson Lutor Superviro volis vidi Luizon Lane.

*Besides hitting Lex Luthor Superman wanted to see Lois Lane.*

Mi iris por aĉeti porkaĵon.

*I went (in order) to buy pork.*

Note that *por* plus an infinitive is used to express the idea of “in order to.” The word *por* must be included in such expressions, no matter tempting it may be to omit it.

### 4.1.3 Exercises

- Translate into English
  - Mi trinkos lakton (milk), kaj mi povos kreski!
  - Superviro klopodis trovi la domon de Lekso Lutor.
  - Krom esti stulta, vi ankaŭ estas tre malbela.

2. Translate into Esperanto

- (a) I can sing if I want to.
- (b) I must demand that you close the box.

## 4.2 Relative Pronouns

In Esperanto, relative pronouns (“The dog, **who** chased the cat, is sick”) are relatively simple, a trait about which the reader is probably tired of hearing. In English, the word “who” is used, with its variations; Esperanto uses *kiu* in a similar fashion. As with adjectives, it is important that the relative pronoun agree in person and number with the noun it governs:

Superviro, kiu ofte flugas, ankaŭ povas piediri.  
*Superman, who often flies, can also walk.*

La knaboj, kiuj falis sur la seĝon, estis malpuraj.  
*The boys, who fell onto the chair, were dirty.*

La hundoj, kiujn la aŭtomobilo trafis, estos mortintaj.  
*The dogs, which the car hit, will be dead.*

La knabinon, kiu staras sur la strato, aŭdas mi  
*I hear the girl who is standing on the street.*

### 4.2.1 Exercises

Translate into Esperanto:

1. Billy Jean is she who thinks the child is my son.
2. You are the dirty rat (*rato*) who killed my brother.
3. Those are the dirty rats my brother killed.

## 4.3 More correlatives

In addition to all the **ki-** words which have been presented heretofore, there exist corresponding words beginning with **ti-**, **i-**, **neni-**, and **ĉi-**. Some examples:

### Vocabulary

tio	that (thing)	io	something
tiu	that (one)	iu	someone
tie	there	ie	somewhere
nenio	nothing	ĉio	everything
neniu	no one	ĉiu	everyone
nenie	nowhere	ĉie	everywhere

By the use of the word *ĉi*, one may express proximity: *ĉi tio* means “this (thing),” *ĉi tiu* means “this (one),” and *ĉi tie* means “here.” The *ĉi* may be placed before or after the **ti-** word.

### 4.3.1 Exercises

Translate into Esperanto:

1. That is the place (loko) where I live.
2. Those are the birds that flew somewhere yesterday.
3. Something is wrong (*malbona*) with you.

## 4.4 Participles

Since verbs have been maintaining the appearance of relative simplicity up to this point, it now becomes appropriate to shatter this illusion, although not too badly. In addition to the simple tenses (*-as*, *-is*, and *-os*), Esperanto boasts an extremely flexible system of participles, which by virtue of its logical nature is sometimes confusing to English speakers.

Here is the system:

Non-participial	Active	Passive
-as	-ant	-at
-is	-int	-it
-os	-ont	-ot

Now, here is an example with the verb *atingi* (“to attain.”):

atingas	attains	atinganta	attaining	atingata	being attained
atingis	attained	atinginta	having attained	atingita	attained
atingos	will attain	atingonta	about to attain	atingota	about to be attained

Examples:

La hundo mortis	The dog died
la mortinta hundo	the dead dog
La hundo mortas	The dog is dying
la mortanta hundo	the dying dog
La hundo mortos	The dog will die
la mortonta hundo	the dog, who is about to die
La mortontoj vin salutas	<i>Morituri te salutant</i>
Mi rompas la pladon	I am breaking the bowl
la rompata plado	the bowl that is being broken
Mi rompis la pladon	I broke the bowl
la rompita plado	the broken bowl
Mi rompos la pladon	I shall break the bowl
la rompota plado	the bowl that is about to be broken

### 4.4.1 Participles as nouns and adverbs

Participles are not confined to adjectival form in Esperanto. Here are some examples of nominal and adverbial participles:

esperas	hopes
esperanto	one who hopes
gvidas	guides
gvidanto	a guide (amateur)
parolas	speaks
parolanto	a speaker
parolis	spoke
parolinto	he who has just spoken
parolos	will speak
parolonto	he who is about to speak
amas	loves
amato	a loved one

Dezirante paroli al li, mi batis lin sur la kapo.  
*Wishing to speak to him, I hit him on the head.*

Skribinte la libron, mi vendis ĝin.  
*After writing the book, I sold it.*

Venkonte Azion, Aleksandro venkis Grekion.  
*Just before conquering Asia Alexander conquered Greece.*

#### 4.4.2 Compound Tenses

Rather surprisingly, compound tenses are perhaps the least common use for the participles. Esperanto stylists tend to see them as inelegant and use whatever tricks they need in order to avoid them. However, the Esperantist should know them nonetheless.

As has been the case throughout this chapter, I shall resort to endless examples in lieu of any explanation:

Ĝi estas manĝanta	It is eating
Ĝi estas manĝinta	It has eaten
Ĝi estas manĝonta	It is about to eat
Ĝi estas manĝata	It is eaten
Ĝi estas manĝita	It has been eaten
Ĝi estas manĝota	It is about to be eaten
Ĝi estis manĝanta	It was eating
Ĝi estis manĝinta	It had been eating
Ĝi estis manĝonta	It had been about to eat
Ĝi estis manĝata	It was being eaten
Ĝi estis manĝita	It was eaten
Ĝi estis manĝota	It was about to be eaten
Ĝi estos manĝanta	It will be eating
Ĝi estos manĝinta	It will have eaten
Ĝi estos manĝonta	It will be about to eat
Ĝi estos manĝata	It will be being eaten
Ĝi estos manĝita	It will be eaten
Ĝi estos manĝota	It will be about to be eaten

Note that *estas -int* corresponds to our present perfect, *estis -int* corresponds to our past perfect, and *estos -int* corresponds to our future perfect.

### 4.4.3 Exercises

Translate into Esperanto:

1. Billy Jean is not my lover; she is just (*nur*) a girl who says that I am the one.
2. The dog shall have been dead in the room for three weeks when we eat it.

## 4.5 Indirect speech

Indirect speech is very logical in Esperanto, which renders it a bit difficult for English speakers. That is, it uses logical tenses, as opposed to the semi-archaic pseudo-subjunctives of English. The trick to becoming familiar with the Esperanto method of relating indirect speech is to use the same tense that direct speech would:

Li diris, “Mi aĉetos bananon”	He said, “I shall buy a banana”
Li diris, ke li aĉetos bananon	He said that he would buy a banana
Li diris, “Mi aĉetas bananon”	He said, “I am buying a banana”
Li diris, ke li aĉetas bananon	He said that he was buying a banana
Li diris, “Mi aĉetis bananon”	He said, “I bought a banana”
Li diris, ke li aĉetis bananon	He said that he had bought a banana

## 4.6 Indirect commands

In indirect speech Esperanto uses the imperative after verbs such as *want*, *wish*, *order*, *advise*, *tell*, etc. where English uses the infinitive:

Mi volas ke vi iru al Kanado	I want you to go to Canada
Mi volas ke li flugu	I want him to fly
Mi diris ke Superviro prenu tri saltojn kaj flugu	I told Superman to take three jumps and fly
Mi ordonis ke li iru hejmen	I ordered him to go home

### Vocabulary

Good verbs for indirect speech and indirect commands:

inviti	to invite	respondi	to respond	rekomendi	to recommend
rimarki	to notice	imagi	to imagine	supozi	to suppose
preferi	to prefer	protesti	to protest	decidi	to decide
diri	to say	senti	to sense	kredi	to believe
postuli	to demand	ŝajni	to seem		

### 4.6.1 Exercises

Translate into Esperanto:

1. I thought I told you to go to school! (This one’s tricky...)
2. I asked the dog to sit.
3. The Lord (*Sinjoro*) told Mary to bear a son.

## 4.7 The Reflexive

The reflexive is used when a subject refers back to itself in sentences such as “I hid myself” and “He rented his (own) car.” In Esperanto, the first and second person reflexive pronouns are the same as the personal pronouns, and the third person reflexive pronoun is *si*. *Si* can only be used in the object position,

never as a subject; thus, it is always either preceded by a preposition, or suffixed with the **-n** ending. Some examples of the reflexive:

Mi donis al mi la bildon	I gave myself the picture
Ni devas suprenigi nin	We must raise ourselves up
Vi zorgas nur por vin	You care only for yourself
Mi havis mian kukon, kaj ankaŭ manĝis ĝin	I had my cake and ate it, too
Li perdis sian edzinon en la ĉambro	He lost his (own) wife in the room
Li perdis lian edzinon	He lost his (someone else's) wife
Ŝi zorgis por si	She took care of herself
Ŝi estis sola, en ĉambro nur kun si	She was alone, in a room only with herself
Ĝi batalis kontraŭ si	It fought against itself
Ili lavis sin	They washed themselves

Note that this is *not* the same as the English emphatic use of the reflexive pronoun in “I myself shot him,” or “He bought the car himself.” In Esperanto, this sort of thing is covered by the word *mem*:

Mi mem estas samideano  
*I myself am a member-of-the-same-idea (an Esperantist)*

Homo saĝa portas ĉion sian kun si mem  
*Homo sapiens omnia sua secum fert*

Tion ordonis la reĝo mem  
*The king himself ordered that*

#### 4.7.1 Exercises

Translate into Esperanto:

1. He himself lives in Ireland.
2. Nixon wrote many books about himself.
3. She almost liked him herself.
4. I gave myself a picture of an eel.



## Leciono 5

# Esperanto: The Final Chapter, Part I

### 5.1 Vocabulary

Sort this out as you can<sup>1</sup>...

sorĉi	to bewitch	fakto	fact	labori	to work
plu	further	ĝusta	correct	ekzemple	for example
temo	subject	rigardi	to look at	pagi	to pay
verki	to compose	parto	part	eventualo	eventuality
problemo	problem	diversa	varied	teni	to hold
meti	to put	mono	money	kovri	to cover
kosti	to cost	ŝanĝi	to change	rilati	to relate to
lasta	final	ordinara	ordinary	ĝenerala	general
estro	leader	teatro	theater	prezenti	to introduce
kulturo	culture	teruro	terror	diablo	devil
raporto	report	sekvi	to follow	pardoni	to pardon
scienco	science	situacio	situation	forta	strong
grupo	group	longa	long	punkto	point
serio	series	amaso	pile, heap	aranĝi	to arrange
kontakti	to contact	papero	paper	programo	program
publika	public	bedaŭri	to regret	prelegi	to lecture
ŝlosi	lock	ĵeti	to throw	konkreta	concrete
plani	to plan	relativo	relative	korespondi	to correspond
pasi	to pass	ordo	order	speciala	special
ŝanco	chance	flanko	side	lavi	to wash
preciza	precise	kontroli	to check	normala	normal
okupi	to occupy	trajno	train	prezo	price
sistemo	system	ĉarma	charming	aparta	separate
bazo	basis	oficiala	official	levi	to lift
libera	free	prepari	to prepare	konstanta	constant
regulo	rule	marŝi	to march	reklamo	advertisement
voĉo	voice	ŝiri	to tear	senco	sense (mng.)
bileto	ticket	difini	to define	gratuli	to congratulate
kazo	case	pendi	to hang ( <i>it.</i> )	perfekta	perfect
populara	popular	produkto	product	rekta	direct
volvi	to wind	marko	mark	konservi	to conserve

<sup>1</sup>*it.* stands for intransitive, and *tr.* for transitive



tasko	task	tranĉi	to cut	ĉirkaŭ	around
vesto	garment	ĝeni	to disturb	aspekti	to look, seem
vasta	vast	ekzemplero	copy	biblioteko	library
evolui	to develop	fako	subject	profesoro	professor
freneza	crazy	kaŝi	to hide	koncerni	to concern
stato	condition	kruela	cruel	konsisti el	to consist of
ponto	bridge	strukturo	structure	periodo	period
precipa	main	principo	principle	simila	similar
speco	kind, sort	suki	to suck	teksto	text
tajpi	to type	varma	warm	trakti	to deal with
vetero	weather	cetera	remaining	debato	debate
feliĉa	happy	ĝiĉeto	box-office	inteligenta	intelligent
karto	card	koncepto	concept	kompliki	to complicate
konsilo	advice	lanĉi	to launch	lerta	clever
tabulo	board	listo	list	letero	letter (post)
nuda	bare	minimumo	minimum	litero	letter (alph.)
oferti	to offer	paĝo	page (bk.)	paŝo	step
premi	to press	profesio	profession	renkonti	to meet
sireno	siren	skii	to ski	specifa	specific
tuko	cloth	valora	valuable	ŝtelo	star
ĝojo	joy	absoluta	absolute	amplekso	extent
amuzi	to amuse	bendo	tape	anonco	announcement
dividi	to divide	donaco	gift	instrui	to teach
krii	to shout	konkurso	contest	kompetenta	competent

## 5.2 The Subjunctive

Even with all the verbiage concerning verbs, we still have one other type: the subjunctive. These end in **-us**, and are used to express unreal conditions, polite enquiry, and wishful thinking:

Se mi estos riĉa, mi havos monon.  
*If I will be rich, I shall have money.*

Se mi estus riĉa, mi havus monon.  
*If I were rich, I would have money.*

Se ili estus alportintaj armilojn, ili povus esti gajnintaj la batalon.  
*If they had brought weapons, they might have won the battle.*

---

Se mi nur estus riĉa!  
*If only I were rich!*

Se la fiulo nur ne estus manĝinta mian katon!  
*If only the villain had not eaten my cat!*

---

Ĉu vi povus alporti al mi la kapon de Johano Baptista?  
*Could you bring me the head of John the Baptist?*

Ĉu vi donus al mi la salon, mi petas.  
*Would you please pass the salt.*

## 5.3 The comparative and the superlative

In English, one may use either “-er” or “more,” depending on circumstances, in order to form the comparative. Esperanto utilizes the latter option, using the word *pli*. The superlative is formed by means of

the word *plej* (“most”), and equality is denoted by the use of *tiel . . . kiel*:

Mi estas pli bela ol li.	I am more handsome than he.
Li estas pli stulta ol hundo.	He is dumber than a dog.
Li estas la plej stulta ulo en la mondo.	He’s the dumbest guy in the world.
Li estas tiel stulta kiel hundo.	He’s as dumb as a dog.

## 5.4 ajn

*Ajn* is used with correlatives in order to “generalize” them: with **ki-** correlatives it translates as **-ever** (whoever, whatever, etc.), and with **i-** correlatives, it changes the meaning from “something,” etc., to “anything,” etc:

Kiu ajn loĝus ĉi tie estas stulta.	Whoever would live here is dumb.
ie ajn krom Bostono	anywhere but Boston

## 5.5 Indeterminate subjects

Many sentences in English begin with “it is...”, as in “It is raining” or “It normally rains here on Tuesdays”, or with “there is,” as in “There is a big dog in that plant stand.” Both of these types of sentences are translated in Esperanto by leaving out the subject:

Estas varme hodiaŭ.	It is warm today.
Kutime pluvas marde ĉi tie.	It normally rains here on Tuesdays.
Estas granda hundo en la domo.	There is a big dog in the house.

## 5.6 Still more suffixes

**-et-** diminishes that to which it is attached: *viro*—man, *vireto*—dwarf. In counterpoint to this is **-eg-**: *virego*—giant.

**-ar-** signifies a group of objects: *ŝafo*—sheep, *ŝafaro*—herd; *homo*—human, *la homaro*—humanity.

## 5.7 And a prefix

**Ek-** acts as an inchoative—that is, it signifies the beginning of some action or the suddenness of said action:

aŭdi	to hear	ekaŭdi	to get wind of
vidi	to see	ekvidi	to catch sight of
dormi	to sleep	ekdormi	to fall asleep
brili	to shine	ekbrili	to flash
flugi	to fly	ekflugi	to take flight

### 5.7.1 Exercises

1. Translate from Esperanto to English

- Se la fino venus kaj vi estus la sola virino en la mondo, mi eble amus vin.
- Ĉu estus tro malfacila, ke vi portu miajn librojn?
- La amplekso de lia stulteco estas tiel, ke li estas facile la plej stulta viro ĉe MIT.
- Mi surbendigis la debaton inter la preziduntojn, kaj pensis ke ili estis tiel stulta kiel kutime.
- Kiu ajn tuŝos mian donacojn estos instruita lecionon, kiun li ne forgesos!

2. Translate from English to Esperanto

- (a) Where are the remaining letters I wrote?
- (b) There is one, which I hid under my clothing.
- (c) I gave her a card and wished her a happy new year.
- (d) It is warm, and the weather is great!
- (e) Bob is constantly drinking out of the boards which one finds under bridges in bad structural condition.
- (f) The crazy little-rabbit (kuniklo) launched a period of vast extent, during which the stars fell and anyone who wanted could seem to follow advice.

# Appendix A

## Key to Exercises

### Exercises 1.2.6

1. Translated from Esperanto.
  - (a) Here is the Frogmorton family.
  - (b) Bob, or Robert, is the father, and Wilhelmina is the mother.
  - (c) Bob is Mr. Frogmorton, and Wilhelmina is Mrs. Frogmorton.
  - (d) Mary is Miss Frogmorton, and Peter is Master Frogmorton, or Mr. Frogmorton.
  - (e) The dog is Barf, and the cat Simsalabim.
  - (f) Mary is crying, and Peter is laughing.
  - (g) Peter and Mary are sitting and playing, and Robert is translating.
2. Translated from English.
  - (a) Roĉjo kaj Vilhelmino ankaŭ estas geedzoj.
  - (b) Maria kaj Petro estas infanoj, sed Maria estas knabino kaj Petro estas knabo.
  - (c) Roĉjo, Vilhelmino, Maria, kaj Petro estas homoj kaj personoj—Roĉjo kaj Petro estas viroj, kaj Vilhelmino kaj Maria estas virinoj.
  - (d) Maria kaj Petro estas gefratoj, sed ne amikoj.
  - (e) La solvo estas 42.
  - (f) Vilhelmino kuiras.

### Exercises 1.2.10

1. Translated from Esperanto
  - (a) Wilhelmina is very beautiful, but not very young.
  - (b) The family speaks Esperanto.
  - (c) Esperanto is a simple (uncomplicated) language, and the Frogmortons think that Esperanto is beautiful.
  - (d) The cat is new, but old.
  - (e) Barf also is stupid.
  - (f) Peter thinks that Mary is dumb, but Mary does not agree.

- (g) Bob is not alone, because he is a husband.
- (h) Peter and Mary think that Wilhelmina is “Mommy” and Robert is “Daddy.” Peter and Mary are right.
- (i) The father does not stand—the father is too tall.
- (j) Superman flies, but Bob does not fly—he walks.

2. Translated from English

- (a) Maria kaj Petro estas junaj.
- (b) Infanoj estas junaj.
- (c) Esperanto estas simpla lingvo, ĉar la vortoj estas malstultaj.
- (d) Ĉu la hundo estas nova?
- (e) Ne, Barfo estas malnova.
- (f) La hundo estas granda, sed la kato estas malgranda.
- (g) Ĉu Barfo scias, ke Simsalabimo estas kato?
- (h) Jes, sed Barfo ne scias, ke Barfo estas hundo.
- (i) Roberto scivolos, ĉu Roberto estas vera viro, sed Vilhelmino scias.

## Exercises 2.7.1

1. Translated from Esperanto

- (a) Simsalabim habitually eats birds. It is a nasty cat.
- (b) Barf does not eat birds. It eats dogfood.
- (c) Superman fights our enemies, but Lex Luthor fights him.
- (d) Who is hitting Superman?
- (e) Who (pl.) is Superman hitting?
- (f) She continually mixes the tea, but the sheep does not drink it.
- (g) She has a bottle of wine, but another drinks it.

2. Translated from English.

- (a) Kio estas ĝi? Ĝi estas blua birdo.
- (b) Ĉu via porkaĵo estas bona?
- (c) Ĝi estas bona, sed mi estas sata.
- (d) Kial li havas krajonon sed ne plumon?
- (e) La fratino de Roĉjo estas la onklino de liaj infanoj.
- (f) Petro kaj Maria ankaŭ havas onklon.
- (g) Li estas la frato de ilia patro.
- (h) Kiel ili movis ilian grandan hundon?
- (i) Ili ne movis ĝin. Ĝi saltis.

## Exercises 3.4.1

1. Translated from Esperanto.

- (a) The Frogmortons live in Esperantio, but they are taking (“making”) a trip to Europe.
- (b) Esperantio is not a real country.
- (c) They visited many lands, and saw many beautiful towns.
- (d) Whither did they go? They went to France.
- (e) Where did they stay in France? They stayed in Paris.

### Exercises 4.1.3

1. Translated from Esperanto.
  - (a) I shall drink milk, and I shall be able to grow!
  - (b) Superman endeavored to find Lex Luthor’s house.
  - (c) Besides being stupid, you are also very ugly.
2. Translated from English.
  - (a) Mi povas kanti, se mi volas.
  - (b) Mi devas postuli, ke vi fermu la skatolon.

### Exercises 4.2.1

1. Translated from English.
  - (a) Vilnjo Jean estas ŝi, kiu opinias, ke la infano estas mia filo.
  - (b) Vi estas la rataĉo, kiu mortigis mian fraton.
  - (c) Tiuj estas la rataĉoj, kiujn mia frato mortigis.

### Exercises 4.3.1

1. Translated from English.
  - (a) Tiu estas la loko, kie mi loĝas.
  - (b) Tiuj estas la birdoj, kiuj flugis ien hieraŭ.
  - (c) Io estas malbona pri vi.

### Exercises 4.4.3

1. Translated from English.
  - (a) Vilnjo Jean ne estas mia amanto; ŝi nur estas knabino, kiu diras, ke mi estas tiu.
  - (b) La hundo estos mortinta en la ĉambro dum tri semajnoj, kiam ni manĝos ĝin.

### Exercises 4.6.1

1. Translated from English.
  - (a) Mi pensis, ke mi diris al vi, ke vi iru al la lernejo!
  - (b) Mi petis la hundon, ke ĝi sidu.
  - (c) La Sinjoro diris al Maria, ke ŝi nasku filon.

### Exercises 4.7.1

1. Translated from English.
  - (a) Li mem loĝas en Irlando.
  - (b) Nixon skribis multajn librojn pri si mem.
  - (c) Al ŝi mem preskaŭ plaĉis li.
  - (d) Mi donis al mi bildon pri angilo.

### Exercises 5.7.1

1. Translated from Esperanto.
  - (a) If the end came and you were the only woman in the world, I might love you.
  - (b) Would it be too difficult for you to carry my books?
  - (c) The extent of his stupidity is such that he is easily the dumbest man at MIT.
  - (d) I taped the debate between the would-be-presidents and thought that they were as stupid as usual.
  - (e) Whoever touches my gifts will be taught a lesson he will never forget!
2. Translate from English to Esperanto
  - (a) Kie estas la ceteraj leteroj, kiujn mi skribis?
  - (b) Tie estas unu, kiun mi kaŝis sub miajn vestojn.
  - (c) Mi donis al ŝi karton kaj diris al ŝi, ke mi volas, ke ŝi havu feliĉan novan jaron.
  - (d) Estas varme, kaj la vetero estas bonega!
  - (e) Roĉjo konstante trinkadas el la tabuloj, kiujn oni trovas sub pontoj, kiuj estas en malbonaj strukturaj statoj.
  - (f) La freneza kunikleto lanĉis periodon de vasta amplekso, dum kiu la ŝteloj falis, kaj iu ajn kiu volis, povis sxajni kvazaŭ sekvanta konsilon.

# Appendix B

## Tables

		(stress)	-s	+s	-s	+s	-s	+s	-s	+s		
			labial		coronal		palatal		velar		glottal	
-sonor	-cont	-voice	p		t	c		ĉ	k			
		+voice	b		d		ĝ	g				
	+cont	-voice		f		s		ŝ	ĥ			
		+voice		v		z		ĵ				
+sonor	+nasal		m		n							
	-nasal				r	l						
		(lateral)	-l	+l	-l	+l	-l	+l	-l	+l	-l	+l
glides			ŭ		j						h	

Tabelo B.1: Phonetical Analysis of Consonants in Esperanto



	INDEFINITE <i>Some, any</i>	<b>K-</b> QUESTIONING RELATIVE <i>What, which</i>	<b>T-</b> DEFINITE <i>That</i>	<b>Ĉ-</b> INCLUSIVE <i>Each, every, all</i>	<b>Nen-</b> NEGATIVE <i>No, none</i>
QUALITY Kind of	<b>Ia</b> Some kind Any kind	<b>Kia</b> What kind	<b>Tia</b> That kind Such	<b>Ĉia</b> Each kind Every kind	<b>Nenia</b> No kind
MOTIVE Reason Purpose	<b>Ial</b> For some reason For any reason	<b>Kial</b> For what reason Why	<b>Tial</b> For that reason Therefore	<b>Ĉial</b> For each reason For every reason	<b>Nenial</b> For no reason
TIME	<b>Iam</b> Sometime Any time	<b>Kiam</b> At what time When	<b>Tiam</b> At that time Then	<b>Ĉiam</b> Each time Every time Always	<b>Neniam</b> At no time Never
PLACE	<b>Ie</b> In some place Somewhere Anywhere	<b>Kie</b> At what place Where	<b>Tie</b> At that place There	<b>Ĉie</b> At each place At every place Everywhere	<b>Nenie</b> At no place Nowhere
MANNER	<b>Iel</b> In some way In any way Somehow, anyhow	<b>Kiel</b> In what way How As, like	<b>Tiel</b> In that way So	<b>Ĉiel</b> In each way In every way	<b>Neniel</b> In no way Nohow
POSSESSION	<b>Ies</b> Someone's Anyone's	<b>Kies</b> What person's Whose	<b>Ties</b> That one's	<b>Ĉies</b> Each one's Everyone's	<b>Nenies</b> No one's
THING	<b>Io</b> Something Anything	<b>Kio</b> What thing What	<b>Tio</b> That thing	<b>Ĉio</b> Everything	<b>Nenio</b> Nothing
QUANTITY	<b>Iom</b> Some	<b>Kiom</b> What quantity How much	<b>Tiom</b> That quantity So much	<b>Ĉiom</b> Every quantity All of the quantity	<b>Neniom</b> None of the quantity
INDIVIDU- ALITY	<b>Iu</b> Someone Anyone	<b>Kiu</b> What person Which thing Who Which	<b>Tiu</b> That person That (specified) thing	<b>Ĉiu</b> Each person Everyone <i>Ĉiuj</i> , all, all the	<b>Neniu</b> No one Nobody

Tabelo B.2: Correlative Pronouns, from *The Esperanto Teacher*

Sufiksoj			
-aĉ	contemptible, disgusting	-ad	frequent or continuous action
-aĵ	substance, concreteness	-an	inhabitant, member, adherent
-ar	collection, set of	-ebl	possibility
-ec	abstract quality	-eg	great size, intense degree
-ej	place	-em	propensity, tendency
-end	'which must be done'	-er	single unit, item
-estr	leader, manager	-et	smallness, small degree
-id	offspring	-ig	causing something to be
-iĝ	becoming something	-il	tool, instrument
-ind	worthy of	-ing	holder for one object
-in	feminine	-ist/m	as in English
-obl	-fold	-op	in a group of
-on	-th (fractions)	-uj	container
-ul	person possessing a certain quality	-um	no fixed meaning
-ĉjo	male diminutive	-njo	female diminutive
Prefiksoj			
bo-	relation by marriage	dis-	separation, scattering
ek-	sudden or momentary action	eks-	former, ex-
fi-	shameful, nasty	ge-	both sexes together
mal-	opposite	mis-	mis-, wrongly
pra-	of great antiquity; great-	re-	over again, re-

Tabelo B.3: Affixes

# Prepozicioj

<b>al</b>	to
<b>anstataŭ</b>	instead of
<b>antaŭ</b>	before (time), in front of (location)
<b>apud</b>	beside
<b>ĉe</b>	at (location)
<b>ĉirkaŭ</b>	around
<b>da</b>	of [with expressions of quantity]
<b>de</b>	of, from, by
<b>dum</b>	during
<b>ekster</b>	outside
<b>el</b>	out of, from
<b>en</b>	in
<b>ĝis</b>	until (time), up to (location)
<b>inter</b>	between
<b>je</b>	[no fixed meaning], at (time)
<b>kontraŭ</b>	against
<b>krom</b>	besides, apart from
<b>kun</b>	with
<b>laŭ</b>	according to, along
<b>malgraŭ</b>	notwithstanding
<b>per</b>	by means of
<b>po</b>	at the rate of,
<b>por</b>	for, in order to
<b>post</b>	after (time), behind (location)
<b>preter</b>	beyond, past
<b>pri</b>	about, concerning
<b>pro</b>	because of, on account of
<b>sen</b>	without
<b>sub</b>	under
<b>super</b>	above
<b>sur</b>	on
<b>tra</b>	through
<b>trans</b>	across

Tabelo B.4: The prepositions. A few others may be formed by the addition of an affix.