

Books and magazines

Esperanto serves as a bridge between different cultures. One example of this is the thousands of books that have been translated into Esperanto from national or ethnic languages. They include the great classics (such as Plato's *Republic*, *Hamlet*, *Pinocchio*, and *Tao Te Ching*), as well as more obscure works written in minority languages.

Monato is a monthly magazine about world events and issues. Its articles are not written by foreign correspondents but by the very people who live in those countries and have directly experienced the events they describe.

Music

Every year new Esperanto songs and albums by artists in various genres are released. You can find Esperanto radio programs and podcasts online.

There are regular cultural festivals where people can enjoy various aspects of Esperanto culture. To listen to some Esperanto music, go to www.vinilkosmo.com.

Social media

Esperanto is well represented in social media, including a number of groups on Facebook, one of which has over 22 000 members. Esperanto is also widely used on other platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Skype and Telegram.

Esperanto worldwide

Google Translate, Facebook, Firefox and Linux all support Esperanto.

The Esperanto version of Wikipedia has over 250 000 articles (more than the Hebrew version, for example).

China publishes news in Esperanto almost every day.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) publishes its magazine, *The UNESCO Courier*, in Esperanto.

Hungary has had state-recognised examinations in Esperanto since 2001.

For more information

Esperanto: The international language
www.esperanto.net

Free online courses:
www.lernu.net
www.duolingo.com/course/eo/en

Australian Esperanto Association:
esperanto.org.au



Esperanto House
143 Lawson Street, Redfern NSW 2016
esperantohouse.org.au

Esperanto

The language for world citizens



What is Esperanto?

Esperanto is a language specially planned and created as a neutral second language for people of all nations. Its purpose is to make communication easier between those with different mother tongues.

Originally developed in the 1880s, Esperanto has gained acceptance worldwide and more and more people are now discovering and learning it online.

Esperanto is...

- Easier to learn than any national language
- Regular: there are virtually no exceptions
- Modular: like building blocks that fit into each other – once you know a few words and basic rules of grammar you can start to create real sentences – this lets you advance very quickly
- Phonetic: if you see a word, you know how to pronounce it; if you hear a word, you know how to spell it
- Familiar (to anyone with any connection to a European language, including English)
- A real language (not a code): it has the same expressive power as any national language.

Who speaks it?

Esperanto is spoken in over 100 countries and there are thousands of Esperanto clubs worldwide. There are even people whose first language is Esperanto.

You can use Esperanto...

for travel, information, friendship, hobbies, business. The internet makes it easy to connect to Esperanto speakers in any country.

Who created it?

Dr Ludwik Zamenhof created Esperanto in Poland over 100 years ago.

Esperanto has been developing and is constantly changing with the addition of modern words as the needs arise. This keeps Esperanto alive. Many people use it as their daily language.

Isn't English enough?

National languages like English give an unfair advantage to their native speakers. People who have studied English for over ten years still feel at a disadvantage when they are talking with a native speaker.

English is rich and expressive, but is very time-consuming to master as a second language. Although a superficial knowledge of English is fairly common throughout the world, it is only the fourth most common native language.

Why learn Esperanto?

Learning Esperanto is great fun. Because of the elegance of the language, the simplicity of the grammar and many recognisable words, you will soon be able to communicate with other Esperanto speakers.

And once you speak Esperanto, you can use it travelling throughout the world. The World Esperanto Association publishes a list of names and addresses of people who are happy to have you stay with them for free if you speak Esperanto.

Many people of different nationalities have met and started families through Esperanto. Although it is sometimes called an artificial language it feels very natural. An adult can learn it and become fluent in a very reasonable time.

A bit of grammar

Esperanto is based on sixteen fundamental rules. The parts of speech are formed from root words by adding appropriate letters. E.g. nouns end in 'o'; adjectives end in 'a'; nouns and adjectives form plurals by adding 'j'; verbs are easily formed and never irregular.

Word order is not critical and even beginners can put together sentences that are easily understood.

Some examples:

Nouns	Viro (man) Kato (cat) Hundo (dog)
Verbs	Havi (to have) Ludi (to play) Kanti (to sing)
Adjectives	Blua (blue) Laca (tired) Bona (good)

Esperanto estas tre bona lingvo por internacia komunikado inter homoj, kiuj interesiĝas pri aliaj landoj kaj kulturoj.

(Esperanto is a very good language for international communication between people who are interested in other countries and cultures.)