

# ESPERANTO (FOR AN ENGLISH SPEAKER)

VAIBHAV KARVE

These notes were last updated August 10, 2018. They are notes taken from my reading of *Esperanto: A complete course for beginners (teach yourself series)* by John Cresswell, John Hartley and J. H. Sullivan.

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Pronunciation	1
3. Vocabulary words	2
3.1. Nouns	2
3.2. Adjectives	3
4. Numbers	3
4.1. Phrases	3

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- (1) Esperanto is an auxiliary language created by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof and first published in 1887.
- (2) Esperanto's spelling and pronunciation are absolutely phonetic.
- (3) Its grammar and syntax can be encoded in 16 short rules.

## 2. PRONUNCIATION

- (1) The accent always falls on the penultimate syllable and each vowel counts as one syllable. For example: ri-*ve*-ro, ko-smo-po-*li*-ta
- (2) There are no silent letters.
- (3) If two consonants appear next to each other, they must be pronounced separately.
- (4) The alphabet contains 28 letters (5 vowels and 23 consonants):

Aa as in <i>father</i> and spoken as ( <i>aa</i> ).	Kk as in <i>kilo</i> and spoken as ( <i>ko</i> ).
Bb as in <i>boat</i> and spoken as ( <i>bo</i> ).	Ll as in <i>halife</i> and spoken as ( <i>lo</i> ).
Cc as in <i>hats</i> and spoken as ( <i>tso</i> ).	Mm as in <i>mother</i> and spoken as ( <i>mo</i> ).
Ĉĉ as in <i>church</i> and spoken as ( <i>cho</i> ).	Nn as in <i>no</i> and spoken as ( <i>no</i> ).
Dd as in <i>the</i> and spoken as ( <i>though</i> ).	Oo as in <i>no</i> and spoken as ( <i>oh</i> ).
Ee as in <i>there</i> and spoken as ( <i>e</i> ).	Pp as in <i>parent</i> and spoken as ( <i>po</i> ).
Ff as in <i>for</i> and spoken as ( <i>fo</i> ).	Rr as in <i>wrong</i> and spoken as ( <i>rro</i> ).
Gg as in <i>go</i> and spoken as ( <i>go</i> ).	Ss as in <i>so</i> and spoken as ( <i>so</i> ).
Ĝĝ as in <i>gem</i> and spoken as ( <i>jo</i> ).	Ŝŝ as in <i>she</i> and spoken as ( <i>sho</i> ).
Hh as in <i>Hhat</i> and spoken as ( <i>ho</i> ).	Tt as in (soft <b>t</b> sound) and spoken as ( <i>toh</i> ).
Ĥĥ as in <i>Khan</i> and spoken as ( <i>khho</i> ).	Uu as in <i>moose</i> and spoken as ( <i>u</i> ).
Ii as in <i>family</i> and spoken as ( <i>ee</i> ).	Ŭŭ as in <i>water</i> and spoken as ( <i>woh</i> ).
Jj as in <i>yoyo</i> and spoken as ( <i>yo</i> ).	Vv as in <i>venue</i> and spoken as ( <i>vo</i> ).
Ĵĵ as in <i>pleasure</i> and spoken as ( <i>z(h)o</i> ).	Zz as in <i>razor</i> and spoken as ( <i>zo</i> ).

(5) *Diphthongs* are a pair of vowel sounds pronounced in one syllable. There are 6 in Esperanto:

aj as in <i>cry</i> and spoken as ( <i>aye</i> ).	uj as in <i>too young</i> and spoken as ( <i>uyi</i> ).
ej as in <i>vein</i> and spoken as ( <i>ae</i> ).	eŭ as in <i>neutral</i> and spoken as ( <i>eww</i> ).
oj as in <i>boy</i> and spoken as ( <i>oi</i> ).	aŭ as in <i>cow</i> and spoken as ( <i>ow</i> ).

(6) Alphabet song (taken from American Esperantist's youtube channel):

Aa por arbo ( <i>a tree</i> ).	Kk por kafo ( <i>coffee</i> ).
Bb por banano ( <i>a banana</i> ).	Ll por lakto ( <i>milk</i> ).
Cc por cepo ( <i>an onion</i> ).	Mm por mano ( <i>a hand</i> ).
Ĉĉ por ĉevalo ( <i>a horse</i> ).	Nn por ne ( <i>no</i> ).
Dd por domo ( <i>a house</i> ).	Oo por ombrello ( <i>an umbrella</i> ).
Ee por elefanto ( <i>an elephant</i> ).	Pp por pomo ( <i>an apple</i> ).
Ff por fenestro ( <i>a window</i> ).	Rr por rizo ( <i>rice</i> ).
Gg por gitaro ( <i>a guitar</i> ).	Ss por seĝo ( <i>a chair</i> ).
Ĝĝ por ĝardeno ( <i>a garden</i> ).	Ŝŝ por ŝafo ( <i>a sheep</i> ).
Hh por hundo ( <i>a dog</i> ).	Tt por tempo ( <i>time</i> ).
Ĥĥ por ĥameleono ( <i>a chameleon</i> ).	Uu por urso ( <i>bear</i> ).
Ii por infano ( <i>a child</i> ).	Ŭŭ por aŭto ( <i>a car</i> ).
Jj por jes ( <i>yes</i> ).	Vv por violono ( <i>a violin</i> ).
Ĵĵ por ĵazo ( <i>jazz</i> ).	Zz por zebro ( <i>a zebra</i> ).

### 3. VOCABULARY WORDS

#### 3.1. Nouns.

- birdo (*a bird*).
- rivero (*a river*).
- mano (*a hand*).
- piede (*a foot*).
- familio (*a family*).
- Ameriko (*America*).
- arbo (*a tree*).
- banano (*a banana*).
- pomo (*an apple*).
- rizo (*rice*).
- cepo (*an onion*).
- domo (*a house*).
- elefanto (*an elephant*).
- ŝafo (*a sheep*).
- ĉevalo (*a horse*).
- urso (*bear*).
- zebro (*a zebra*).
- fenestro (*a window*).
- gitaro (*a guitar*).
- ĝardeno (*a garden*).
- hundo (*a dog*).
- ĥameleono (*a chameleon*).
- infano (*a child*).
- knabo (*a boy*).
- jes (*yes*).
- ne (*no*).
- ĵazo (*jazz*).
- kafo (*coffee*).
- lakto (*milk*).
- ombrello (*an umbrella*).
- seĝo (*a chair*).
- tempo (*time*).
- aŭto (*a car*).
- violono (*a violin*).
- kvalito (*a quality*).
- ekstra (*extra*).

- vetero (*weather*).
- patro (*a father*).
- besto (*an animal*).
- filo (*a son*).
- meblo (*a piece of furniture*).
- viro (*a man*).
- pupo (*a doll*).
- vorto (*a word*).
- vento (*wind*).

**3.2. Adjectives.**

- kosmopolita (*cosmopolitan*).
- pale (*pale*).

- longa (*long*).
- mallonga (*short*).
- sennacia (*great*).
- la (*the*).

**3.3. Verbs.**

- estas (*is*).

- staras (*stands*).
- sidas (*sits*).
- legas (*reads*).

**3.4. Pronouns.**

- mi (*I*).

**3.5. Conjunctions.**

- kaj (*and*).

**3.6. Phrases.**

- dankon (*thank you*).
- 

**4. NUMBERS**

0: nulo	28: dudek ok	56: kvindek ses	84: okdek kvar
1: uno	29: dudek nau	57: kvindek sep	85: okdek kvin
2: du	30: tridek	58: kvindek ok	86: okdek ses
3: tri	31: tridek uno	59: kvindek nau	87: okdek sep
4: kvar	32: tridek du	60: sesdek	88: okdek ok
5: kvin	33: tridek tri	61: sesdek uno	89: okdek nau
6: ses	34: tridek kvar	62: sesdek du	90: naudek
7: sep	35: tridek kvin	63: sesdek tri	91: naudek uno
8: ok	36: tridek ses	64: sesdek kvar	92: naudek du
9: nau	37: tridek sep	65: sesdek kvin	93: naudek tri
10: dek	38: tridek ok	66: sesdek ses	94: naudek kvar
11: dek uno	39: tridek nau	67: sesdek sep	95: naudek kvin
12: dek du	40: kvardek	68: sesdek ok	96: naudek ses
13: dek tri	41: kvardek uno	69: sesdek nau	97: naudek sep
14: dek kvar	42: kvardek du	70: sepdek	98: naudek ok
15: dek kvin	43: kvardek tri	71: sepdek uno	99: naudek nau
16: dek ses	44: kvardek kvar	72: sepdek du	100: cent
17: dek sep	45: kvardek kvin	73: sepdek tri	101: cent uno
18: dek ok	46: kvardek ses	74: sepdek kvar	102: cent du
19: dek nau	47: kvardek sep	75: sepdek kvin	103: cent tri
20: dudek	48: kvardek ok	76: sepdek ses	104: cent kvar
21: dudek uno	49: kvardek nau	77: sepdek sep	105: cent kvin
22: dudek du	50: kvindek	78: sepdek ok	106: cent ses
23: dudek tri	51: kvindek uno	79: sepdek nau	107: cent sep
24: dudek kvar	52: kvindek du	80: okdek	108: cent ok
25: dudek kvin	53: kvindek tri	81: okdek uno	109: cent nau
26: dudek ses	54: kvindek kvar	82: okdek du	110: cent dek
27: dudek sep	55: kvindek kvin	83: okdek tri	111: cent dek uno

- (1) 200 gets written as ducent.
- (2) 1000 as mil.

## 5. FAMILIO KAJ DOMO

- (1) All nouns in the singular end in **-o**.
- (2) The word *a* or *an* is omitted in Esperanto.
- (3) For nouns in the plural, add **-j** to the **-o**. For example, patroj (*fathers*), tabloj (*tables*). Recall that the **-oj** is sounded **oy** as in *boy*.
- (4) **La** (*the*) is used with nouns both in the singular and the plural without change. For example, la patro (*the father*), la patroj (*the fathers*).
- (5) Kay means *and*. Patro kay filo (*a father and a son*), patro kaj filoj (*a father and sons*).
- (6) Present tense verbs end in **-as**. This works generally for both simple (sits, stands) and continuous (sitting, standing) tenses.
  - tablo estas meblo (*a table is a piece of furniture*).
  - vortoj estas vento (*words are wind*).
  - hundoj estas bestoj (*dogs are animals*).
  - la patro staras (*the father stands, or is standing*).
  - la filoj sidas (*the sons sit, or are sitting*).
  - la viroj legas (*the men read, or are reading*).
  - mi legas (*I read, or I am reading*).
  -
- (7) Estas is never to be put in front of another verb. Hence, sidas means *is sitting* and one must never use estas sidas as this is redundant and wrong.

To be continued ...