

Wherever they go, they know they will find friends who speak the same language and share common interests. They will meet and talk with the people of another country like friends would.

At international meetings where Esperanto is used, participants will have clear and animated discussions as well as friendly conversations in homes, lobbies and cafes, free of interpreters and translation books.

... for association

You can join with other Esperantists to help promote the language, or to concentrate on specific interests of your own, through a network of local, national and international organizations devoted to promoting and/or using Esperanto.

Esperanto-USA is the national organization for the United States.

The **Universal Esperanto Association** (info@www.uea.org/), headquartered in Rotterdam, Netherlands, maintains a network of several thousand representatives in almost a hundred countries, sponsors many international activities, and issues a **Yearbook** containing a list of its representatives and information about itself and other Esperanto-using organizations. There are many of these, some professional, some religious, some political in nature, many devoted to various special interests.

Esperanto's intent is not to replace the world's existing languages. It is to serve as an: easily learned, politically and socially neutral, second language equally useful to everyone in the world.

Esperanto-USA is the U.S. national association for promoting Esperanto and helping those who want to learn and use it.

Website: <http://www.esperanto-usa.org>

E-mail: info@esperanto-usa.org/

Local:

ESPERANTO AT A GLANCE

ALPHABET

A B C Ĉ D E F G Ĝ H Ĥ I J Ĵ K L M N O P
R S Ŝ T U Ŭ V Z

Every letter has only one sound and is always pronounced. Accent is always on the next-to-last syllable in the word. All are pronounced as in English with a few exceptions:

A as "a" in *father*

C as "c" as in *fence*

Ĉ as "ch" in *church*

E as "e" in *get*

G as "g" in *get*

Ĝ as "j" in *jet*

H as "h" in *hat*

Ĥ as "ch" in *loch*

I as "i" in *machine*

J as "y" in *yes*

Ĵ as "s" in *measure*

O as "o" in *forty*

S as "s" in *said*

Ŝ as "sh" in *shed*

U as "oo" in *boot*

Ŭ as "w" in *water*

PARTS OF SPEECH

Words used in a sentence are formed by adding endings to word roots.

O for nouns

E for adverbs

N for direct objects

A for adjectives

J for plurals

The ending of an adjective always agrees with the ending of the noun that it modifies.

VERB ENDINGS

Infinitive Present Past Future Imperative Conditional

I	AS	IS	OS	U	US
vidi	vidas	vidis	vidos	vidu	vidus
to see	sees	saw	will see	see!	would see

Example: Esperanto havas facilajn regulojn.

(Esperanto has easy rules.)

NUMBERS

0 nul	1 unu	2 du
3 tre	4 kvar	5 kvin
6 ses	7 sep	8 ok
9 naŭ	10 dek	100 cent
1000 mil	1,000,000	miliono

Examples: 12 = dekdu 278 = ducent sepdek ok

ESPERANTO

The International Second Language For Everyone

Our world is becoming more international every day. There is more international: travel, commerce, phone calls and Internet usage.

There are 6,500 languages in the world. To name a few, in millions of speakers, there are: **Chinese** (with 13 derivations): 1,197; **English**: 520; **Hindi**: 490; **Spanish**: 420; **Russian**: 255; **Arabic**: (with 18 derivations): 255; **German**: 229; **Bengali**: 215; **Portuguese**: 213; **French**: 130; **Japanese**: 127 and **Italian**: 61.

There are too many national languages of the countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America to learn even a few. And, many times we do not want to be limited to talk to the people of just one or two other countries. Also, other languages are difficult to learn.

There is one language that can be used in most countries of the world and is easier to learn - **ESPERANTO**.

Esperanto has been designed to eliminate inconsistencies. It has 28 letters in its alphabet. Each has a unique sound that never changes. Each letter in a word is pronounced. The words have no gender. It has only 16 basic grammar rules that have *no exceptions*. It can be learned quicker than any national language. The language is sophisticated enough to translate the world's literary masterpieces, religious holy texts and be able to create original prose, poetry, songs and technical publications.

ESPERANTO: The International Language

We in the United States are under the impression that English already is *the* International Language. If it ever was, it is not now. In non-English speaking countries, it is spoken primarily by a part of the social and academic elite and by some (not all, not by any means) workers in commerce and the tourist industry. Anyone who has visited a foreign country and struggled with the language barrier has already experienced this. Americans are discovering what the rest of the world has long known: there is a real need for an authentic, truly international language.

Fortunately, there is such a language!

Esperanto was created by **Dr. Ludwig L. Zamenhof**, a Polish physician, who published it in 1887. Since then, Esperanto has been learned by millions. It is in *daily* use by many thousands of people around the world, and the number is growing constantly.

Many international meetings are held in Esperanto. Books and magazines are published by the thousands to meet the demands of an international public. Some of the largest international firms put on special advertising campaigns in Esperanto. Hotels, restaurants and tourist resorts compete for the patronage of the Esperanto-speaking traveler.

Esperanto's impressive success as the language of international communication is due to three basic advantages. It is **easier** to learn, is politically and socially **neutral** and has many **practical** uses.

Esperanto is easier to learn...

In fact, it can be learned in a *fraction* of the time needed to learn any ethnic language! **Spelling**: each letter corresponds to exactly one sound. **Pronunciation**: each letter in a word is pronounced with the accent on the next-to-last vowel of the word. **Grammar**: there are only a few rules, with no exceptions. (For example, there are *no* irregular verbs to learn.) Even **vocabulary**: because of Esperanto's grammar system and its method of creating new words by combining basic words with affixes and each other, a relatively small number of words will provide the speaker with a much larger usable vocabulary. This allows the student to use Esperanto for writing and speaking early in the learning process.

In short, Esperanto has been rationally constructed for ease of learning and use. This has made it especially popular with busy people and students who cannot afford to spend years learning a foreign language, which in any case would be useful in only a small part of the world.

There are a number of Esperanto textbooks: **Teach Yourself Esperanto** and **Esperanto: Learning and Using the International Language** are two popular ones. Learning on the Internet can be fun and free. Here are two sites: <https://Lernu.net/en> and www.Duolingo.com.

Esperanto is neutral...

Unlike most languages, Esperanto does not belong to any country or ethnic group; it is **politically** and **socially neutral**.

Many people, particularly in the West, believe that English is neutral, since it is spoken throughout the world to a limited extent. But in fact, a majority of native English speakers are found in only a few countries: the United States and the British Commonwealth. In neutral venues such as the United Nations, multiple languages must be used. The UN has six official languages; UNESCO uses fifteen (including Esperanto); the European Union has, as of 2013, more than *twenty-four*. English is widely used in these organizations, but that is more a reflection of the global military, economic and political clout of the United States than of a genuine international desire to use English. Most people cannot learn English to a desirable level of competence and it is not a preferred language to learn.

Esperanto is not the property of any nation, national group, political party, or social class. It belongs to everyone because it is not a national language of any country or people. It carries with it no political or historical baggage that might hinder its acceptance. Every person who uses Esperanto is on an equal linguistic footing with all other users of the language. Esperanto's popularity in smaller nations and in non-European countries, such as Japan and China, is largely due to this neutrality. The result is a spirit of friendship quite impressive to those who see it in actual use.

Esperanto is practical...

Esperanto offers *exceptional practical advantages* to the knowledgeable speaker.

...for reading

You can use Esperanto to get to know other countries and their people without ever leaving home. Books and magazines in Esperanto bring the news and culture written by people of that country.

...for correspondence

Esperanto is used for friendly correspondence with people in other countries and can broaden horizons and awareness of the world. Many Esperanto speakers connect with others who share their hobbies and professional interests, and foreign customs.

...for listening

A number of radio stations around the world have regular broadcasts in Esperanto, many of them now available as on-demand transmissions over the Internet. Check out Esperanto on the radio at Esperanto-USA.

...for the Internet

As the Internet becomes more international, it becomes less English-oriented. In 2001 English speakers lost their majority on the net for the first time, and it's now expected that in the near future the dominant language on the net will be speakers of Chinese. You can understand the growing importance of Esperanto in this medium. All sorts of material in and about Esperanto are available online. There are several hundred mailing lists where discussions are conducted in Esperanto. And there are millions of web pages in and about Esperanto; for starters, Google "Esperanto."

...for travel

Travelers can have a friendly face, by writing or e-mailing ahead to an Esperanto speaking person in each place they plan to visit or using a network of Esperanto speaking hosts such as **Pasporta Servo** when they travel.