

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 [y] 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	vermo	worm
	z	zeh	zebra	zebro	zebra

Useful Esperanto Tools and Words

Nouns - All of the Esperanto examples given above are all nouns, and as you probably noticed all of the base nouns end the letter 'o', and this is true for all base nouns all of the time. If it ends it on it is a noun. Now Esperanto's vocabulary is built with base words and then there are several ways usually via prefixes or suffixes to modify the word to have a slightly different though related meaning as I will show below.

- **Base Nouns** end in 'o': libro - book
- **Plural Noun** by adding 'j' to the end: libroj - books
- **Sentence Objects** end in n: libron - book
- **Plural Sentence Objects** end in 'ojn' which is a combo of the previous two - librojn
- **Smaller Noun** by adding 'et' at the end of a noun creates something smaller: libreto - booklet
- **Gender:** base word sets that have an implied gender such as those for parents - father and mother - use the male form as the base father - patro. To make a base word female you add the 'in' suffix. Mother would be patrino.

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

Articles, Conjunctions, and Others

- Article: 'la' - the (no associated gender)
- Comparison - 'ol': this is bigger 'than' that
- Conjunction - 'kaj' [kai] - and

Handy Conversational Words

- Hello - Saluton!
- Good bye - Adiaŭ
- Yes - Jes
- No - Ne

Verbs - Base verbs end in 'i': doni - 'to give'

- Present tense verbs end in: 'as': donas - give
- Past tense verbs end in: 'is': donis - gave
- Future tense verbs end in: 'os': donos - will give
- Conditional tense verbs end in: 'us': donus - would give
- Command tense verbs end in: 'u': donu - Give! (implied subject you)

Examples of intransitive verbs

- Estas - Am/is/are (present)
- Estis - Was/Were (past)
- Estos - 'will be' (future)

Adverbs - Adverbs are verbs that end in 'e': done - ? generously?

- Base - sano - health
- Adj - sana - healthy
- Verb - sani - to be healthy
- Adv - sane - healthily

Adjectives - Base Adjectives end with 'a'.

- bela - beautiful
- nova - new
- verda - green
- grand - big/large

Prefixes and Suffixes

- Opposite: by adding 'mal' to the beginning creates the negative: malbela - ugly
- Negative: by adding 'ne' prior to the word ne bela - not beautiful.
- Sentence Object add an 'n' to the end: malbelan
- Magnify Description one level by adding 'pli' : pli bela - very beautiful
- Greatly Magnify by adding 'plej' - plej bela - most (very, very) beautiful (or gorgeous)

Accent - on second to last vowel