

Lesson 2. Esperanto U3A Box Hill – Term 1, 2018

To be discussed with examples in class: Naming and describing things. Actions and states in Esperanto. Some fully formed and fixed primary words. Some prefixes and suffixes.

1 Naming and describing things.

In English we call words that name things nouns. All Esperanto nouns have a final letter of “o” or “oj” if they refer to more than one thing. We will treat foreign (non-Esperanto) names of people and places, at this stage, as they are written in English: Charles rather than Karlo and Melbourne rather than Melburno: q, w, x and y may be used as needed. Some Esperanto nouns:

English	Esperanto
adjective	adjektivo
alphabet	alfabeto
board	tabulo
boy	knabo
brother	frato
card	karto
cat	kato
chair	seĝo (Hatted letters may be written as the letter followed by “x”, segxo.)
child	infano
colour	koloro
dog	hundo
father	patro
friend	amiko
love	amo
man	viro
name	nomo
noun	substantivo
number	nombro
orange	orangĝo
room	ĉambro
root	radiko
rose	rozo
son	filo
table	tablo
uncle	onklo
water	akvo

word letter litero, letero is one we write and send to someone.

word vorto

2. Adjectives are used to describe nouns and all Esperanto adjectives end with an “a” or “aj” if plural.

Some Esperanto adjectives:

English	Esperanto
beautiful	bela
big	granda

black	nigra
blue	blua
brown	bruna
easy	facila
full	plena
good	bona
happy	feliĉa
important	grava
new	nova
on the right	dekstra
red	ruĝa
tall	alta
white	blanka
yellow	flava
young	juna

3. Actions and states in Esperanto.

As in English, verbs are used to refer to actions and states. Est is the verb root for “be”. From this we get esti (to be), estas (is, are), estis (was, were), estos (will be), estus (would be), estu (must/should be). All verbs are conjugated in the same way. In other words, all verbs are limited to these five endings. For example, the root “am” (love) can take the following endings: ami (to love), amas (love; is, are loving), amis (was, were loving), amos (will love), amus (would love), amu (love! imperative). Esperanto does not allow a verb to be both transitive (able to take a direct object) and intransitive (not able to take a direct object). Direct objects are identified by adding “n” to a noun. Manĝi (to eat) normally takes a direct object, but sidi (to sit) does not. So, it is correct to say: Mi manĝas pomon. (I eat an apple.) It is wrong to say: Mi sidas infanon sur seĝon. (I sit a child on a chair.) But it is correct to say: Mi sidigas infanon sur seĝon. (I caused a child to sit on a chair. “N” is added to the indirect object seĝo to indicate movement to the chair. Although a verb may not normally take a direct object (it is intransitive), it can be made transitive by adding the suffix “ig” meaning “cause to”. Similarly, the verb suffix “iĝ” can be used to indicate “to come to be”. So, rather than saying bluntly: Sidu! (sit!), we can say sidiĝu! (be/become seated!). Try these words in conversation: diri (to say), aŭdi (to hear), aŭskulti (to listen), iri (to go), veni (to come), salti (to jump), mordi (to bite), morti (to die), paroli (to speak, to talk), doni (to give), demandi (to ask), respondi (to answer), meti (to put), preni (to take), and boli (to boil).

4. **Some fixed words in Esperanto:** la (the), al (to, towards), en (in), de (of, from), el (out of), ol (than), pri (about, concerning), pli (more), plej (most), sur (on), sub (under), apud (near, next to), antaŭ (in front of), for (away), kaj (and), sed (but), se (if), aŭ (or), ankaŭ (also), nur (only), nun (now), ke (that), kun (with).
5. **Important prefixes:** mal (opposite), ge (both sexes), bo (by marriage), sen (without) **and, suffixes:** in (female), ar (a collection), an (a member of), eg (intensive), et (diminutive), ul (a person with the characteristics of the stem), ej (the place associated with the stem), em (to have the propensity of the stem).