

What is Esperanto?

Esperanto is a language specially planned and created as a neutral second language acceptable to the people of all nations. It has nothing to do with Spanish even though its name sounds Spanish to some people. Many of its words come from Latin, French and other European languages, but its grammar is very different and has similarities with Chinese, for example.

In Australia, there is the Australian Esperanto Association which organises yearly Esperanto summer schools. The next one will be held in Sydney in January 2010. AEA publishes a newsletter called *Esperanto sub la Suda Kruco* and sells lots of books through their book service.

Internationally there is a yearly Esperanto world conference with well over 1000 Esperanto speakers attending from many different countries. There are lots of smaller conferences too.

The next world conference will be held in Poland in 2009. There is a yearly world congress specifically for young people too.

Music

Quite a lot of groups sing in Esperanto, like the Brazilian group Merlin and the Swedish group Persone. To listen to Esperanto music, go to:

<http://esperanto-panorama.net/unikode/muziko.htm>

Translations...

Many well known books have been translated from their original text into Esperanto, for example *The Lord of the Rings*. There are also lots of authors who choose to write their books directly in Esperanto. The original literature is quite impressive and includes several Australian authors like Trevor Steele and Ronald Gates. Poets like to write in Esperanto too. William Auld was nominated several times for the Nobel prize in literature for his work in Esperanto, which includes poetry.

About the language

Esperanto is based upon 16 fundamental rules.

- Nouns end in "o"
- Adjectives end in "a"
- Nouns form plurals by adding "j"
- Verbs end in "as" in the present tense, "is" in the past and "os" in the future

Prefixes are used to reduce the vocabulary that needs to be memorised. For example the prefix "mal" means the opposite

bela = beautiful malbela = ugly

granda = big malgranda = small

sana = healthy malsana = sick

fermi = to close malfermi = to open

Books & Magazines

There are currently thousands of books in print A very big range is available online through UEA at <http://katalogo.uea.org/>

Hundreds of books including textbooks and dictionaries can be bought directly in Australia through the book service of the Australian Esperanto Association. There is already a big range available online, but not all the available books have yet been put online.

Subscription to Esperanto magazines is a valuable way to both learn what's happening in other parts of the world (not only about Esperanto but also about world issues) and improve your reading skills.

Why not use English?

It is not fair to use a national language as an international language as it gives a very unfair advantage to native English speakers. People who have studied English for 10 years still feel at a disadvantage when they have to communicate with an English native speaker.

English is a rich language, but it is very time-consuming to master it as a second language. People like scientists have better things to do than spend hours and hours studying English

Who created the language?

Dr. L. Zamenhof created Esperanto in Poland just over 100 years ago. Zamenhof was upset at seeing people fighting because they spoke different languages and couldn't understand each other. He wanted to create a neutral language that can be mastered in a reasonable amount of time

Why learn Esperanto?

Learning Esperanto is great fun. You don't have to memorise any irregular verbs at all. Spelling is phonetic, so you don't have to worry about how to spell a word. Many words come from Latin, French and therefore are easily recognisable.

Once you have mastered speaking Esperanto, you are able to use it travelling throughout the world. You don't have to rely on chance to meet other Esperanto speakers. A yearly address book is published listing names and addresses of Esperantists who are happy to give you information or even for you to stay with them.

Even though Esperanto is sometimes called an artificial language it feels very natural. A few children speak it as their first language because their parents had no other common language.

For more info...

Check the Internet: there are many very interesting sites, just type Esperanto in your search engine or you could try: www.esperanto.net

To start learning Esperanto, go to the free online course at www.lernu.net or download the free course at:

<http://www.cursodeesperanto.com.br/bazo/index.html?en>

For information about pronunciation, look at <http://www.esperantoeducation.com/track1.html> and listen to the CD online

If you live in Sydney you can study Esperanto at the University of NSW (evening course 2 hours/week)

Or buy a textbook like Teach yourself Esperanto from the Australian Esperanto Association.

For more information, email Nicole at nicole@cryogenic.net

World Esperanto organisations

The biggest Esperanto organisation is the Universala Esperanto Asocio with its headquarters in The Netherlands. For more information see <http://www.uea.org/>

Esperanto

THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE



A SECOND LANGUAGE
FOR ALL

Do you know...

that Esperanto is not just a code, but a whole language that allows you to express anything. It is spoken by some people in over 100 countries

You can use Esperanto...

for travel, information, friendship, hobbies, reading, browsing the Internet, even to exercise your brain.