

## Building Blocks of Esperanto

Following is a list of Esperanto building blocks. Along with a list of word stems, it should help to interpret and construct Esperanto words. I should note that some of the prefixes and suffixes quoted here are rather loose in their definition and may also appear in word stems on occasion without the cited meaning. Where an affix is actually a word stem itself I have attempted to list that word stem underneath.

I might also add, that this summary is not intended to teach Esperanto, but to serve as a useful reference for those of us who are learning. Many things are left unsaid.

### Grammatical Endings

One of these grammatical endings should appear on the end of most words, and defines that words role in a sentence. Other suffixes and prefixes may precede this final identifier.

-o	noun	amo	"love"
-a	adjective	ama	"loving"
-e	adverb	ame	"lovingly"
-n	direct object of a verb	amon	"love"
-j	plural	amoj	"loves"
-jn	plural of the direct object	amojn	"loves"
-i	verb, infinitive	ami	"to love"
-u	verb, imperative	amu	"love!"
-is	verb, past tense	amis	"loved"
-as	verb, present tense	amas	"loves"
-os	verb, future tense	amos	"will love"
-us	verb, conditional	amus	"would love"

### Prefixes

All the prefixes precede the stem of the word, many are in fact word stems themselves. Many may be compounded with other prefixes and suffixes. Many are rather flexible in their definition.

al-	approach, towards, bringing closer
al	"towards"
veni	"to come" > alveni "to arrive"
iri	"to go" > aliri "to approach"
porti	"to carry" > alporti "to bring"
paroli	"to speak" > alparoli "to address"
	See also: for-
bo-	relative by marriage
patro	"father" > bopatro "father-in-law"
cxef-	chief
cxefo	"a chief" > cxefurbo "capital city"
urbo	"town" > cxefministro "prime minister"
ministro	"minister" > cxefministro "prime minister"
dis-	separation, dispersal
doni	"to give" > disdoni "to distribute"
sendi	"to send" > dissendi "to transmit"
ek-	commencement, suddenness
ek!	"commence!"
brili	"to shine" > ekbrili "to flash"
iri	"to go" > ekiri "to set off"
sidi	"to sit" > eksidi "to sit down"
	See also: -ad- re-
eks-	former
eksa	"former" > eksprezidanto "ex-president"
prezidanto	"president" > eksprezidanto "ex-president"
fi-	shameful or immoral
fi!	"shame!"
viro	"man" > fiviro "scoundrel"
for-	away
for	"away" > foriri "to go away"
iri	"to go" > foriri "to go away"
esti	"to be" > foresti "to be absent"
	See also: al-
ge-	both sexes together
frato	"brother" > gefratoj "siblings"
patro	"father" > gepatroj "parents"
sinjoro	"Mister" > gesinjoroj "Mr and Mrs"
	See also: vir- -in-
mal-	opposite
malo	"opposite"
alta	"high" > malalta "low"
vero	"truth" > malvero "falsehood"
ami	"to love" > malami "to hate"
forta	"strong" > malforta "weak"
	See also: mis- "ne"
mis-	wrongly
kompreni	"to understand" > miskompreni "to misunderstand"
pasxo	"a step" > mispasxo "a blunder"
	See also: mal- "ne"
pra-	of great antiquity, remoteness of relationship
praa	"primitive" > pratempo "the ancient past"
tempo	"time" > pratempo "the ancient past"
nepo	"grandson" > pranepo "great-grandson"
	See also: -id-
re-	repetition, return
ree	"again" > sxi vidas "she sees" > sxi revidas "she sees again"
sxi	vidas "she sees" > sxi revidas "she sees again"
ni	venas "we're coming" > ni revenas "we're coming back"
	See also: ek- -ad-
sen-	without
sen	"without" > senkora "heartless"
koro	"heart" > senkora "heartless"
forta	"strong" > senforta "strengthless"
helpa	"helpful" > senhelpa "helpless"
kompata	"merciful" > senkompata "merciless"
	See also: -acx- -eg- -et-

vir-	masculine
viro	"man" > virbovo "bull"
bovo	"ox" > virbovo "bull"
porko	"pig" > virporko "boar"
cxevalo	"horse" > vircxevalo "stallion"

See also: ge- -in- -icx-

### Suffixes

All these suffixes follow the stem of the word and precede the grammatical ending, which defines the role the word will play. Many may be compounded with other suffixes and prefixes. Some are in fact words stems themselves.

-acx-	disparagement
acxa	"awful" > domacxo "hovel"
domo	"house" > domacxo "hovel"
hundo	"dog" > hundacxo "cur", "mongrel"
ridi	"to laugh" > ridacxi "to sneer"
	See also: -eg- -et- sen-
-ad-	action, particularly prolonged or repeated
paroli	"to speak" > paroladi "to make a speech"
penso	"thought" > pensado "(the process of) thinking"
memoro	"memory" > memorado "the fact of remembering"
	See also: ek- re-
-ajx-	A thing, having the quality or substance of ...
ajxo	"a thing" > novajxo "news", "novelty"
nova	"new" > novajxo "news", "novelty"
okazi	"to happen" > okazajxo "event"
arto	"art" > artajxo "objet d'art"
porko	"pig" > porkajxo "pork"
	See also: -ec- -a -em-
-an-	member of a group, inhabitant
ano	"member" > urbano "townsman"
urbo	"town" > urbano "townsman"
Novjorko	"New York" > novjorkano "New Yorker"
polico	"police" > policano "member of the police force"
lando	"country" > landano "citizen"
	See also: -ar- -ul-
-ar-	collective, group
aro	"group", "set" > vortaro "dictionary", "vocabulary"
vorto	"word" > vortaro "dictionary", "vocabulary"
homo	"human being" > homaro "mankind"
studento	"student" > studentaro "the student body (of a school)"
kuracisto	"doctor" > kuracistaro "the medical profession"
	See also: -an-
-ebl-	possibility
ebla	"possible" > havebla "available"
havi	"to have" > havebla "available"
ami	"to love" > amebla "possible to love"
	See also: -ind-
-ec-	having the characteristics of ...
eco	"a quality", "a characteristic" > infaneco "childhood"
infano	"child" > infaneco "childhood"
sola	"alone" > soleca "lonely" > soleco "loneliness"
rugxa	"red" > rugxeca "reddish"
libera	"free" > libereco "freedom"
viro	"man" > vireco "virility"
unu	"one" > unueco "unity"
	See also: -ajx- -a -em-
-eg-	augmentative
ega	"huge" > bonega "excellent"
bona	"good" > bonega "excellent"
bela	"beautiful" > belega "splendid"
urbo	"town" > urbejo "a large city"
labori	"to work" > laboregi "to work hard"
	See also: -et- -ecx- sen-
-ej-	place (often collective)
ejo	"a place" > dormejo "dormitory"
dormi	"to sleep" > dormejo "dormitory"
lerni	"to learn" > lernejo "school"
-em-	tendency
emi	"to be inclined to" > parolema "talkative"
paroli	"to speak" > parolema "talkative"
agi	"to act" > agema "active", "enterprising"
timi	"to be afraid" > timema "fearful", "timid"
	See also: -a -ec- -ajx-
-end-	passive obligation
enda	"that must be" > pagenda "payable"
pagi	"to pay" > pagenda "payable"
solvi	"to solve" > solvenda "that must be solved"
-er-	small particle of a whole
ero	"a particle" > panero "crumb"
pano	"bread" > panero "crumb"
cxeno	"chain" > cxenero "link"
pluvo	"rain" > pluvero "raindrop"
-estr-	leader
estro	"leader" > staciestro "station master"
stacio	"station" > staciestro "station master"
urbo	"town" > urbestro "mayor"
lerni	"to learn" > lernestro "schoolmaster"
-et-	diminutive
eta	"tiny" > virineto "little woman"
virino	"woman" > virineto "little woman"
bela	"beautiful" > beleta "pretty", "cute"
	See also: -eg- -ecx- sen-
-icx-	male
icxo	"a male" > instruisto "teacher" > instruisticxo "male teacher"
instruisto	"teacher" > instruisticxo "male teacher"
	See also: vir- -in- ge-
-id-	descendant of
ido	"offspring"

koko "rooster" > kokido "chick"  
 porko "pig" > porkido "piglet"  
 bovo "ox" > bovido "calf"  
 cxevalo "horse" > cxevalido "colt"  
 regxo "king" > regxido "prince"

oni one  
 ci thou (archaic)  
 si reflexive - refers back to subject  
 ri he or she (genderless)

See also: pra-

-ig- causative  
 igi "to make"  
 granda "big" > grandigi "to enlarge"  
 forta "strong" > fortigi "to strengthen"  
 facila "easy" > faciligi "to facilitate"  
 scii "to know" > sciiigi "to inform", "to make known"  
 stari "to stand" > starigi "to set up"  
 kontenta "glad" > kontentiga "satisfactory"

See also: -igx-

-igx- become ...  
 igxi "to become"  
 proksima "near" > proksimigxi "to draw nearer"  
 stara "standing" > starigxi "to stand up"  
 viro "man" > virigxi "to become a man"  
 rapida "quick" > rapidigxo "acceleration"

See also: -ig-

-il- implement, tool  
 ilo "a tool"  
 labori "to work" > laborilo "tool"  
 veturi "to travel" > veturilo "vehicle"

-in- female  
 ino "a female"  
 knabo "boy" > knabino "girl"  
 viro "man" > virino "woman"  
 patro "father" > patrino "mother"  
 instruisto "teacher" > instruistino "female teacher"

See also: vir- ge- -icx-

-ind- worthiness  
 inda "worthy"  
 ami "to love" > aminda "deserving love"  
 vidi "to see" > vidinda "worth seeing"  
 havi "to have" > havinda "worth having"

See also: -ebl-

-ing- holder  
 ingo "a holder", "a socket"  
 glavo "sword" > glavango "scabbard"  
 plumo "pen" > plumingo "pen-holder"

-ism- pattern or system  
 ismo "an ism"  
 protekti "to protect" > protrektismo "protectionism"  
 alkoholo "alcohol" > alkoholismo "alcoholism"

-ist- habitual occupation, profession  
 isto "professional"  
 instrui "to teach" > instruisto "teacher"  
 labori "to work" > laboristo "worker"  
 polico "police" > policisto "policeman"

See also: -ul-

-obl- multiple  
 oble "-fold"  
 du "two" > duobla "double"  
 kvar "four" > kvaroble "fourfold"

-on- fraction  
 ono "a fraction"  
 du "two" > duoni "to halve"  
 ses "six" > sesono "a sixth"

-op- collective numeral  
 tri "three" > triopo "triplet"  
 unu "one" > unuope "one by one", "in the manner of one-ness"

-uj- container  
 ujo "receptacle"  
 sukero "sugar" > sukerujo "sugar basin"  
 papero "paper" > paperujo "wallet"  
 mono "money" > monujo "purse"

-ul- a person  
 ulo "fellow", "chap"  
 juna "young" > junulo "a youth"  
 forta "strong" > fortulo "a hefty guy"  
 drinko "alcoholic drink" > drinkulo "drunkard"  
 trinko "drink" > trinkulo "one who drinks"

See also: -ist- -an-

-um- related to in some way (no fixed meaning though)  
 malvarma "cold" > malvarmumi "to catch a cold"  
 plena "full" > plenumi "to fulfill"  
 plando "sole of foot" > plandumo "sole of shoe"  
 cerbo "brain" > cerbumi "to puzzle over"

Participles

This is a very brief summary. The participles can form compound verbs when they follow the helper "esti" (where they take the adjectival suffix), or they can take adjectival, adverbial or noun forms on their own (with the appropriate grammatical ending).

	PASSIVE	ACTIVE
PAST	-it-	-int-
PRESENT	-at-	-ant-
FUTURE	-ot-	-ont-
CONDITIONAL	-ut-	-unt-

Pronouns

A complete list of pronouns. As in English, the plural "you" is identical to the singular and does not take the plural suffix. Possesives take the adjectival form by adding the -a suffix.

mi	I
vi	you
li	he
sxi	she
gxi	it
ni	we
ili	they

Correlatives

Any combination of the prefix and suffix will form a small word describing something. Remember that movement towards a place is indicated by using the accusative (-n) suffix.

		-o	thing
		-u	person
		-a	kind
indefinite (some-)	i-	-es	possession
demonstrative (that-)	ti-	-e	place
interrogative (what-)	ki-	-am	time
collective (every-)	cxl-	-om	quantity
negative (no-)	neni-	-al	reason
		-el	way, manner

Numbers

Numbers follow a consistent pattern, best illustrated by example.

nulo	zero	dek unu	eleven
unu	one	dek du	twelve
du	two	dek tri	thirteen
tri	three	dek kvar	fourteen
kvar	four	dek kvin	fifteen
kvin	five	dek ses	sixteen
ses	six	dek sep	seventeen
sep	seven	dek ok	eighteen
ok	eight	dek naŭ	nineteen
naŭ	nine	dek dek	twenty
dek	ten	dek dek dek	thirty
cent	hundred	dek dek dek dek	forty
mil	thousand	dek dek dek dek dek	fifty
miliono	million	dek dek dek dek dek dek	sixty
miliardo	billion (thousand million)		seventy

Prepositions, Conjunctions and other words with no grammatical ending

Short words which do not have any grammatical ending are used very often. They are prepositions, conjunctions, interjections and even adverbs, and a real pain to always be looking up in a dictionary. Here is a fairly complete list of all you will likely meet.

ajn	-ever (with a correlative)
al	to (wards)
almenaŭ	at least
ankaŭ	also
ankoraŭ	still, yet
anstataŭ	instead of
antaŭ	before
apenaŭ	scarcely
apud	beside, near
baldaŭ	soon
cxar	because
cxe	at, by, in case of
cxl	this- (with a correlative or noun)
cxirkaŭ	around
da	of (quantity)
de	of, from
des	so much the
do	then, thus, therefore
dum	during
ecx	even
ekster	outside of
el	out of
en	in
for	away
gxis	until
inter	between
ja	indeed
jam	already
je	indefinite preposition
jen	hereis, behold
jes	yes
ju	so much the
jxus	just
kaj	and
ke	that
kontraŭ	against
krom	except, apart from
kun	with
kvankam	although
kvazaŭ	as if
laux	according to, along
malgraŭ	in spite of
mem	-self (with a pronoun)
ne	no
nu	well
nun	now
nur	only
ol	than
per	by means of
plej	most
pli	more
po	at the rate of
por	for
post	after
preter	past, by, beyond
pri	concerning, about
pro	on account of, owing to, because of
sed	but
sen	without
sub	under
super	above
sur	on
tamen	however
tra	through
trans	across
tre	very
tro	too
tuj	immediately

Credits

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