The original 1887 Esperanto proposal,
back in print for a new millennium

Dr. Esperanto's International Language,

Introduction &
Complete Grammar

by Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof

por Angloj

English Edition
translated by
R.H. Geoghegan
Balliol College, Oxford
1889

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Berwick, Nova Scotia
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[Back cover]

In 1887, Warsaw was under the thumb of the Russian empire.
In that year, an obscure Polish eye-doctor,
Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof,
published identical pamphlets in
Russian, Polish, French, and German,
proposing

Esperanto

*the easy-to-learn neutral **second** language for every country.*

Today, Esperanto is alive and well around the world,
and throughout the Internet.
This is the 1889 English version of that "First Book" where it all began,
reprinted for a new millennium.

*"My whole grammar can be learned perfectly in **one hour**."*

[Inside front cover]

Permitted by the Censor
Warsaw 5 January 1889

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**For a language to be universal,
it is not enough to call it that.**

☞ An international language, like every national one, is the property of society, and the author renounces all personal rights in it forever.

1889

2000; 2006

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NB: Footnotes are gathered at the end, but hotlinked so that you can read each one in turn, then be hotlinked back to where you left off. Those with a single asterisk, e.g. (*1), and in plain type, are the originals; *those with a double*

*asterisk, e.g. (**2), and in italics, are my extra "GK" notes.*

Preface

Esperanto—the easy-to-learn international *second* language for every country—is alive and well around the world and throughout the Internet. When I first wrote this on September 9, 2000, Esperanto in Google yielded more than one million results. Now on November 28, 2006, Googling Esperanto gets over 31 million. (Google itself has an Esperanto interface.) The Esperanto version of Wikipedia, begun in November 2001, already has over 61,000 articles, ranking #15 among Wikipedia's 250 language-versions. At www.esperanto.net, Esperanto is introduced in any of 62 languages.

And here is the booklet where it all began. In July 1887, Esperanto made its debut as a 40-page pamphlet from Warsaw, published in Russian, Polish, French and German: all written by a Polish eye-doctor under the pen-name of Dr. Esperanto ("one who hopes"). Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof (1859-1917) had a gift for languages, and a calling to help foster world amity: by a neutral "Internacia Lingvo" that anyone anywhere could readily use as a *second* language: neither forsaking a mother tongue, nor imposing it.

In 1889 Zamenhof published an English translation by Richard H. Geoghegan, a young Irish linguist. All five are respectively considered the "First Book". *(**1)* This classic sets forth Esperanto pretty much as we know it today (except that we no longer use internal apostrophes for composite words). Its original repertoire of 900 root words has grown tenfold in the past century, but you can still almost make do with the vocabulary herein.

Just as a key aspect of the Industrial Revolution was *interchangeability of parts*, so Esperanto is built with a relatively small set of interchangeable root words, prefixes, and suffixes (plus 16 grammatical rules with no irregularities): in which any human nuance can be expressed, from *Winnie the Pooh* to the Bible. Zamenhof translated the entire Old Testament into Esperanto—see a bit of Genesis below. All of *La Sankta Biblio* appeared in 1926. Now it is on the Net: http://www.uni-leipzig.de/esperanto/texte/bibl/biblio/.

Since 1887, there have been thousands of books and periodicals in Esperanto: a vast library of original and translated literature: novels; poetry; song; theater; even Nobel Prize nominations for William Auld (1924-2006), a renowned writer in the world culture of Esperanto.

Of course, English (neither neutral nor easy) in some ways is surpassing Dr. Esperanto's dream of an international language. But that may not always be so: as journalist Harry Bruce points out, "English spins off so many weird but hardy variations of itself that, rather than becoming the language of universal communication, it's repeating the tower of Babel story." *(**2)*

Meanwhile, Esperanto has been slowly gathering strength over the decades. It has weathered deadly opposition from Hitler and Stalin, and too much indifference elsewhere. But the Internet has enabled Esperanto to spread its wings further and faster. The new Millennium is a good time to look back at the very first appearance of Zamenhof's social invention. A masterwork indeed.

Gene Keyes
Berwick, Nova Scotia, Canada
gene.keyes AT gmail.com
2000-09-09; updated 2006-11-28

Editorial Remarks

Many thanks are due to Dr. Stevens Norvell Jr., proprietor of North America's largest active Esperanto library, Libraro Ludovika, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where I obtained the source materials for this; and to Mary Jo Graça, who prodded me to do the online version, and helped a lot with the HTML formatting.

Oddly enough, this seminal pamphlet of the Esperanto movement—indeed, of world civilization—has long been out of print (except for the scholarly multivolume set of Zamenhof's works, *Ludovikologia Dokumentaro*, compiled by "ludovikito", cited in footnote **1.) I first read a photocopy of the English pamphlet itself in 1993, and decided to do a new edition rather than a facsimile. For instance, in the original, the vocabulary was printed in small type on a folded sheet (about 10" x 14"), and "ludovikito" reduces that to an illegible 75%.

Using the pamphlet photocopy, plus "ludovikito", I followed the original (Geoghegan) text and layout almost exactly as they were, with these exceptions:

- North American instead of European quotation marks;
- Inside front cover passages restored, from the other four editions;
- Improved spacing in the 16 rules of the grammar;
- A few obvious typos corrected (or new ones added);
- Four of Zamenhof's reply coupons included, not eight;
- Some "*GK"* footnotes and clarifications inserted (*mine are in italics*; others are not);
- A redesigned cover, identifying Zamenhof as the author;
- Increased type-size for the vocabulary: 11 pages in my print version, instead of the four in "ludovikito", or the eight-page equivalent of that original 10" x 14" sheet (which, as Zamenhof mentions, was intended to facilitate mailing to a pen-pal, or carrying in one's pocket in lieu of a dictionary).

I made two additional changes in the HTML version, besides updating the preface and footnotes:

- Still more spacing in the Vocabulary;
- Apostrophes instead of internal commas: at first, Zamenhof signified root-word combinations and affixes with an internal comma, e.g., frat,in,o (sister): a crutch for beginners which was soon to be dropped. Because that "internal sign" had to be smaller than a real comma, I chose another Zamenhof usage: internal apostrophes, e.g. frat'in'o, because they are more practical in HTML than a mini-comma. (His original pamphlet had mini-commas in the text part, apostrophes in the Vocabulary; this one has apostrophes in both sections. It's all moot anyway, since they are no longer used, but those separation-marks show Esperanto in its original form.)

My printed version was produced on a 1989 Macintosh IIcx computer with ClarisWorks 4, and an Esperanto font by Peter Hull, ISOTempoj. Website HTML version was produced on a 1998 OS 9.2 Mac G3 Beige, with Netscape 7 Composer, BBEdit Lite 3.5, and iCab 3.0, plus ClarisWorks 5, and Word 9.

More information

Websites:

http://www.esperanto-usa.org
http://esperanto.net
http://en.lernu.net
http://www.uea.org

Online books:

The Esperanto Book by Don Harlow (1993)
Esperanto: A Language for the Global Village by Sylvan Zaft, (1996)

Print books:*

Boulton, Marjorie, ***Zamenhof: Creator of Esperanto*** (London: Routledge, 1960) 223 p.
Mullarney, Máire, ***Everyone's Own Language*** (Ireland, 1999) 188 p.; orig. ***Esperanto for Hope*** (Dublin: Poolbeg, 1989) 184 p.

*Available from Esperanto League for North America
(via first website above, or snail mail:)
Box 1129, El Cerrito, CA 94530 USA
e-mail: info AT esperanto-usa.org

INTRODUCTION

The reader will doubtless take up this little work with an incredulous smile, supposing that he is about to peruse the impracticable schemes of some good citizen of Utopia. I would, therefore, in the first place, beg of him to lay aside all prejudice, and treat seriously and critically the question brought before him.

I need not here point out the considerable importance to humanity of an international language—a language unconditionally accepted by everyone, and the common property of the whole world. How much time and labour we spend in learning foreign tongues, and yet when travelling in foreign countries, we are, as a rule, unable to converse with other human beings in their own language. How much time, labour, and money are wasted in translating the literary productions of one nation into the language of another, and yet, if we rely on translations alone, we can become acquainted with but a tithe of foreign literature.

Were there but an international language, all translations would be made into it alone, as into a tongue intelligible to all, and works of an international character would be written in it in the first instance.

The Chinese wall dividing literatures would disappear, and the works of other nations would be as readily intelligible to us as those of our own authors. Books being the same for everyone, education, ideals, convictions, aims, would be the same too, and all nations would be united in a common brotherhood. Being compelled, as we now are, to devote our time to the study of several different languages, we cannot study any of them sufficiently well, and there are but few persons who can even boast a complete mastery of their mother-tongue; on the other hand, languages cannot progress towards perfection, and we are often obliged, even in speaking our own language, to borrow words and expressions from foreigners, or to express our thoughts inexactly.

How different would the case be, had we but two languages to learn; we should know them infinitely better, and the languages themselves would grow richer, and reach a higher degrees of perfection than is found in any of those now existing. And yet, though language is the prime motor of civilisation, and to it

alone we owe the having raised ourselves above the level of other animals, difference of speech is a cause of antipathy, nay even of hatred, between people, as being the first thing to strike us on meeting. Not being understood we keep aloof, and the first notion that occurs to our minds is, not to find out whether the others are of our own political opinions, or whence their ancestors came from thousands of years ago, but to dislike the strange sound of their language. Any one, who has lived for a length of time in a commercial city, whose inhabitants were of different unfriendly nations, will easily understand what a boon would be conferred on mankind by the adoption of an international idiom, which, without interfering with domestic affairs or the private-life of nations, would play the part of an official and commercial dialect, at any rate in countries inhabited by people of different nationalities.

The immense importance, which it may well be imagined, an international language would acquire in science, commerce, etc., I will not here expatiate on: whoever has but once bestowed a thought on the subject will surely acknowledge that no sacrifice would be too great, if by it we could obtain a universal tongue. It is, therefore, imperative that the slightest effort in that direction should be attended to. The best years of my life have been devoted to the momentous cause which I am now bringing before the public, and I hope that, on account of the importance of the subject, my readers will peruse this pamphlet attentively to the end.

I shall not here enter upon an analysis of the various attempts already made to give the public a universal language, but will content myself with remarking that these efforts have amounted, either to a short system of mutually-intelligible signs, or to a natural simplification of the grammar of existing modern languages, with a change of their words into arbitrarily-formed ones. The attempts of the first category were quickly seen to be too complicated for practical use, and so faded into oblivion; those of the second were, perhaps, entitled to the name of “languages”, but certainly not “international” languages. The inventors called their tongues “universal”, I know not why, possibly, because no one in the whole world except themselves could understand a single word, written or spoken in any of them. If a language, in order to become universal, has but to be named so, then, forsooth, the wish of any single individual can frame out of any existing dialect a universal tongue. As these authors naively imagined that their essays would be enthusiastically welcomed and taken up by the whole world, and as this unanimous welcome is precisely what the cold and indifferent world declines to give, when there is no chance of realising any immediate benefit, it is not much to be marvelled at, if these brilliant attempts came to nothing. The greater part of the world was not in the slightest degree interested in the prospect of a new language, and the persons who really cared about the matter thought it scarcely worth while to learn a tongue which none but the inventor could understand. When the whole world, said they, has learnt this language, or at least several million people, we will do the same. And so a scheme, which had it but been able to number some thousands of adepts before its appearance in public, would have been enthusiastically hailed, came into the world an utter fiasco. If the “Volapük”, one of the latest attempts at a universal tongue, has indeed its adepts, it owes its popularity solely to the idea of its being a “universal language”, and that idea has in itself something so attractive and sublime, that true enthusiasts, leaders in every new discovery, are ready to devote their time, in the hope that they may, perchance, win the cause.

But the number of enthusiasts, after having risen to a certain number, will remain stationary (*3) and as the unfeeling and indifferent world will never consent to take any pains in order to speak with the few, this attempt will, like its predecessors, disappear without having achieved any practical victory.

I have always been interested in the question of a universal language, but as I did not feel myself better qualified for the work than the authors of so many other fruitless attempts, I did not risk running into print, and merely occupied myself with imaginary schemes and a minute study of the problem. At length, however, some happy ideas, the fruits of my reflections, incited me to further work, and induced me to essay the systematic conquest of the many obstacles, which beset the path of the inventor of a new rational universal language. As it appears to me that I have almost succeeded in my undertaking, I am now venturing to lay before the critical public, the results of my long and assiduous labours.

The principal difficulties to be overcome were:

1) To render the study of the language so easy as to make its acquisition mere play to the learner.

2) To enable the learner to make direct use of his knowledge with persons of any nationality, whether the language be universally accepted or not; in other words, the language is to be directly a means of international communication.

3) To find some means of overcoming the natural indifference of mankind, and disposing them, in the quickest manner possible, and *en masse,* to learn and use the proposed language as a living one, and not only in last extremities, and with the key at hand.

Amongst the numberless projects submitted at various times to the public, often under the high-sounding but unaccountable name of "universal languages", no has solved at once more than ***one*** of the above-mentioned problems, and even that but partially. (Many other problems, of course, presented themselves, in addition to those here noticed, but these, as being of but secondary importance, I shall not in this place discuss.)

Before proceeding to enlighten the reader as to the means employed for the solution of the problems, I would ask of him to reconsider the exact significance of each separately, so that he may not be inclined to carp at my methods of solution, merely because they may appear to him perhaps too simple. I do this, because I am well aware that the majority of mankind feel disposed to bestow their consideration on any subject the more carefully, in proportion as it is enigmatical and incomprehensible. Such persons, at the sight of so short a grammar, with rules so simple, and so readily intelligible, will be ready to regard it with a contemptuous glance, never considering the fact—of which a little further reflection would convince them—that this simplification and bringing of each detail out of its original complicated form into the simplest and easiest conceivable, was, in fact, the most insuperable obstacle to be coped with.

I

The first of the problems was solved in the following manner:

a) I simplified the grammar to the utmost, and while, on the one hand, I carried out my object in the spirit of the existing modern languages, in order to make the study as free from difficulties as possible, on the other hand I did not deprive it of clearness, exactness, and flexibility. *My whole grammar can be learned perfectly in* ***one hour***. The immense alleviation given to the study of a language, by such a grammar, must be self-evident to everyone.

b) I established rules for the formation of new words, and at the same time, reduced to a very small compass the list of words absolutely necessary to be learned, without, however, depriving the language of the means of becoming a rich one. On the contrary, thanks to the possibility of forming from one root-word any number of compounds, expressive of every conceivable shade of idea, I made it the richest of the rich amongst modern tongues. This I accomplished by the introduction of numerous prefixes and suffixes, by whose aid the student is enabled to create new words for himself, without the necessity of having previously to learn them, e.g.

1) The prefix *mal* denotes the direct opposite of any idea. If, for instance, we know the word for "good", *bon'a*, we can immediately form that for "bad", *mal'bon'a*, and hence the necessity of a special word for "bad" is obviated. In like manner, *alt'a*, "high", "tall"; *mal'alt'a*, "low", "short"; *estim'i*, "to respect", *mal'estim'i*, "to despise", etc. Consequently, if one has learned this single word *mal* he is relieved of leaning a long string of words such as "hard" (premising that he knows "soft"), "cold", "old", "dirty", "distant",

“darkness”, “shame”, “to hate”, etc., etc.

2) The suffix *in* marks the feminine gender, and thus if we know the word “brother”, *frat'o*, we can form “sister”, *frat'in'o*: so also, “father”, *patr'o*; “mother”, *patr'in'o*. By this device words like “grandmother”, “bride”, “girl”, “hen”, “cow”, etc., are done away with.

3) The suffix *il* indicates an instrument for a given purpose, e.g., *tranĉ'i*, “to cut”, *tranĉ'il'o*, “a knife”; so words like “comb”, “axe”, “bell”, etc., are rendered unnecessary.

In the same manner are employed many other affixes—some fifty in all—which the reader will find in the vocabulary at end of this tractate. (*4) Moreover, as I have laid it down as a general rule, that every word already regarded as international—the so-called “foreign” words, for example—undergoes no change in my language, except such as may be necessary to bring it into conformity with the international orthography *(**5)* , innumerable words become superfluous, e.g., “locomotive”, “telegraph”, “nerve”, “temperature”, “centre”, “form”, “public”, “platinum”, “figure”, “waggon”, “comedy”, and hundreds more.

By the help of these rules, and others, which will be found in the grammar, the language is rendered so exceedingly simple that the whole labour in learning consists in committing to memory some 900 words—which number includes all the grammatical inflexions, prefixes, etc. With the assistance of the rules given in the grammar, any one of ordinary intellectual capacity, may form for himself all the words, expressions, and idioms in ordinary use. Even these 900 words, as will be shown directly, are so chosen that the learning them offers no difficulty to a well-educated person.

Thus the acquirement of this rich, mellifluous, universally-comprehensible language, is not a matter of years of laborious study, but the mere light amusement of a few days.

II

The solution of the second problem was effected thus:

1) I introduced a complete dismemberment of ideas into independent words, so that the whole language consists, not of words in different states of grammatical inflexion, but of unchangeable words. If the reader will turn to one of the pages of this book written in my language, he will perceive that each word always retains its original unalterable form—namely, that under which it appears in the vocabulary. The various grammatical inflexions, the reciprocal relations of the members of a sentence, are expressed by the junction of immutable syllables. But the structure of such a synthetic language being altogether strange to the chief European nations, and consequently difficult for them to become accustomed to, I have adapted this principle of dismemberment to the spirit of the European languages, in such a manner that anyone learning my tongue from grammar alone, without having previously read this introduction—which is quite unnecessary for the learner—will never perceive that the structure of the language differs in any respect from that of his mother-tongue. So, for example, the derivation of *frat'in'o*, which is in reality a compound of *frat* “child of the same parents as one’s self”, *in* “female”, *o* “an entity”, “that which exists”, i.e., “that which exists as a female child of the same parents as one’s self” = “a sister”—is explained by the grammar thus: the root for “brother” is *frat*, the termination of substantives in the nominative case is *o*, hence *frat'o* is the equivalent of “brother”; the feminine gender is formed by the suffix *in*, hence *frat'in'o* = “sister”. (The little strokes, between certain letters, are added in accordance with a rule of the grammar, which requires their insertion between each component part of every complete word). Thus the learner experiences no difficulty, and never even imagines that what he calls terminations, suffixes, etc.,—are complete and independent words, which always keep their own proper significations, whether placed at the beginning or end of a word, in the middle, or alone. The result of this construction of the language is, that everything written in it can be immediately and

perfectly understood by the help of the vocabulary—or even almost without it—by anyone who has not only not learnt the language before, but even has never heard of its very existence. Let me illustrate this by an example: I am amongst Englishmen, and have not the slightest knowledge of the English language; I am absolutely in need of making myself understood, and write in the international tongue, maybe, as follows:

Mi ne sci'as ki'e mi las'is la baston'o'n; ĉu vi ĝi'n ne vid'is?

I hold out to one of the strangers an International – English vocabulary *(**6)*, and point to the title, where the following sentence appears in large letters: "*Everything written in the international language can be translated by the help of this vocabulary. If several words together express but a single idea, they are written as one word, but separated by [apostrophes]; e.g.,* frat'in'o, *though a single idea is yet composed of three words which must be looked for separately in the vocabulary"*. If my companion has never heard of the international language he will probably favour me at first with a vacant stare, will then take the paper offered to him, and searching for the words in the vocabulary, as directed, will make out something of this kind:

Mi	*mi*	=	I	I
ne	*ne*	=	not	not
sci'as	*sci*	=	know	do know
	as	=	sign of the present tense	
kie	*kie*	=	where	where
mi	*mi*	=	I	I
las'is	*las*	=	leave	have left
	is	=	sign of the past tense	
la	*la*	=	the	the
baston'o'n;	*baston*	=	stick	stick;
	o	=	sign of a substantive	
	n	=	sign of the objective case	
ĉu	*ĉu*	=	whether, if, employed in questions	whether
vi	*vi*	=	you, thou	you
ĝi'n	*ĝi*	=	it, this	it

	n	=	sign of the objective case	
ne	*ne*	=	not	not
vid'is?	*vid*	=	see	have seen?
	is	=	sign of the past tense	

And thus the Englishman will easily understand what it is I desire. If he wishes to reply, I show him an English – International vocabulary, on which are printed these words: "*To express anything by means of this vocabulary, in the international language, look for the words required, in the vocabulary itself; and for the terminations necessary to distinguish the grammatical forms, look in the grammatical appendix, under the respective headings of the parts of speech which you desire to express".* Since the explanation of the whole grammatical structure of the language is comprised in a few lines—as a glance at the grammar will show—the finding of the required terminations occupies no longer time than the turning up a word in the dictionary. *(**7)*

I would now direct the attention of my readers to another matter, at first sight a trifling one, but, in truth, of immense importance. Everyone knows the impossibility of communicating intelligibly with a foreigner, by the aid of even the best of dictionaries, if one has no previous acquaintance with the language. In order to find any given word in a dictionary, we must know its derivation, for when words are arranged in sentences, nearly every one of them undergoes some grammatical change. After this alteration, a word often bears not the least resemblance to its primary form, so that without knowing something of the language beforehand, we are able to find hardly any of the words occurring in a given phrase, and even those we do find will give no connected sense. Suppose, for example, I had written the simple sentence adduced above, in German:

"Ich weiss nicht wo ich den Stock gelassen habe; haben Sie ihn nicht gesehen?"

Anyone who did not speak or understand German, after searching for each word separately in a dictionary, would produce the following farrago of nonsense:

"I; white; not; where; I; — ; stick; dispassionate; property; to have; she, they, you; — ; not; — ?"

I need scarcely point out that a lexicon of a modern language is usually a tome of a certain bulk, and the search for any number of words one by one is in itself a most laborious undertaking, not to speak of the different significations attaching to the same word amongst which there is but a bare possibility of the student selecting the right one.

The international vocabulary, owing to the highly synthetic structure of the language, is a mere leaflet, which one might carry in one's note-book, or the waistcoat-pocket.

Granted that we *had* a language with a grammar simplified to the utmost, and whose every word had a definite fixed meaning, the person addressed would require not only to have beforehand some knowledge of the grammar, to be able, even with the vocabulary at hand, to understand anything addressed to him, but would also need some previous acquaintance with the vocabulary itself, in order to be able to distinguish between the primitive word and its grammatically-altered derivatives. The utility, again, of such a language would wholly depend upon the number of its adepts, for when sitting, for instance, in a railway-carriage, and wishing to ask a fellow-traveller, "How long do we stop at —?", it is scarcely to be expected that he will

undertake to learn the grammar of the language before replying! By using, on the other hand, the international language, we are set in possibility of communicating directly with a person of any nationality, even though he may never have heard of the existence of the language before.

Anything whatever, written in the international tongue, can be translated, without difficulty, by means of the vocabulary alone, no previous study being requisite. The reader may easily convince himself of the truth of this assertion, by experimenting for himself with the specimens of the language appended to this pamphlet. A person of good education will seldom need to refer to the vocabulary; a linguist, scarcely at all.

Let us suppose that you have to write to a Spaniard, who neither knows your language nor you his. You think that probably he has never heard of the international tongue— No matter, write boldly to him in that language, and be sure he will understand you perfectly. The complete vocabulary required for everyday use, being but a single sheet of paper, can be bought for a few pence, in any language you please, easily enclosed in the smallest envelope, and forwarded with your letter. The person to whom it is addressed will without doubt understand what you have written, the vocabulary being not only a clue to, but a complete explanation of your letter. The wonderful power of combination possessed by the words of the international language renders this lilliputian lexicon amply sufficient for the expression of every want of daily life; but words seldom met with, technical terms, and foreign words familiar to all nations, as, “tobacco”, “theatre”, “fabric”, etc., are not included in it. If such words, therefore, are needed, and it is impossible to express them by some equivalent terms, the larger vocabulary must be consulted.

2) It has now been shown how, by means of the peculiar structure of the international tongue, any one may enter into an intelligible correspondence with another person of a different nationality. The sole drawback, until the language becomes more widely known, is the necessity under which the writer is placed of waiting until the person addressed shall have analysed his thoughts. In order to remove this obstacle, as far as practicable, at least for persons of education, recourse was had to the following expedient. Such words as are common to the languages of all civilised peoples, together with the so-called “foreign” words, and technical terms, were left unaltered. If a word has a different sound in different languages, that sound has been chosen which is common to at least two or three of the most important European tongues, or which, if found in one language only, has become familiar to other nations. When the required word has a different sound in every language, some word was sought for, having only a relative likeness in meaning to the other, or one which, though seldom used, is yet well-known to the leading nations, e.g., the word for “near” is different in every European language, but if one consider for a moment the word “proximus” (nearest), it will be noticed that some modified form of the word is in use in all important tongues. If, then, I call “near”, *proksim*, the meaning will be apparent to every educated man. In other emergencies words were drawn from the Latin, as being a quasi-international language. Deviations from these rules were only made in exceptional cases, as for the avoidance of homonyms, simplicity of orthography, etc. In this manner, being in communication with a European of fair education, who has never learnt the international tongue, one may make sure of being immediately understood, without the person addressed having to refer continually to the vocabulary.

In order that the reader may prove for himself the truth of all that has been set forth above, a few specimens of the international language are subjoined. (*8)

Patr'o Ni'a.

Patr'o ni'a, kiu est'as en la ĉiel'o, sankt'a est'u Vi'a nom'o, ven'u reĝ'ec'o Vi'a, est'u vol'o Vi'a, kiel en la ĉiel'o, tiel ankaŭ sur la ter'o. Pan'o'n ni'a'n ĉiu'tag'a'n don'u al ni hodiaŭ, kaj pardon'u al ni ŝuld'o'j'n ni'a'j'n, kiel ni ankaŭ pardon'as al ni'a'j ŝuld'ant'o'j; ne konduk'u ni'n en tent'o'n; sed liber'ig'u ni'n de la mal'ver'a, ĉar Vi'a est'as la reg'ad'o, la fort'o, kaj la glor'o etern'e. Amen!

El la Bibli'o.

Je la komenc'o Di'o kre'is la ter'o'n kaj la ĉiel'o'n. Kaj la ter'o est'is sen'form'a kaj dezert'a, kaj mal'lum'o est'is super la profund'aĵ'o, kaj la anim'o de Di'o si'n port'is super la akv'o. Kaj Di'o dir'is: est'u lum'o; kaj far'iĝ'is lumo. Kaj Di'o vid'is la lum'o'n ke ĝi est'as bon'a, kaj nom'is Di'o la lum'o'n tag'o, kaj la mal'lum'o'n Li nom'is nokt'o. Kaj est'is vesper'o, kaj est'is maten'o —unu tag'o. Kaj Di'o dir'is: est'u firm'aĵ'o inter la akv'o, kaj ĝi apart'ig'u akv'o'n de akv'o. Kaj Di'o kre'is la firm'aĵ'o'n kaj apart'ig'is la akv'o'n kiu est'as sub la firm'aĵ'o; kaj far'iĝ'is tiel. Kaj Di'o nom'is la firm'aĵ'o'n ĉiel'o. Kaj est'is vesper'o, kaj est'is maten'o—la du'a tag'o. Kaj Di'o dir'is: kolekt'u si'n la akv'o de sub la ĉiel'o unu lok'o'n, kaj montr'u si'n sek'aĵ'o; kaj far'iĝ'is tiel. Kaj Di'o nom'is la sek'aĵ'o'n ter'o, kaj la kolekt'oj'n de la akv'o Li nom'is mar'o'j.

Leter'o.

Kar'a amik'o!

Mi prezent'as al mi kia'n vizaĝ'o'n vi far'os post la ricev'o de mi'a leter'o. Vi rigard'os la sub'skrib'o'n kaj ek'kri'os: “ĉu li perd'is la saĝ'o'n? Je kia lingv'o li skrib'is? Kio'n signif'as la foli'et'o, kiu'n li aldon'is al si'a leter'o?” Trankvil'iĝ'u, mi'a kar'a! Mi'a saĝ'o, kiel mi almenaŭ kred'as, est'as tut'e en ordo.

Mi leg'is antaŭ kelk'a'j tag'o'j libr'et'o'n sub la nom'o “Lingv'o inter'naci'a”. La aŭtor'o kred'ig'as, ke per tiu lingv'o oni pov'as est'i kompren'at'a de la tut'a mond'o, se eĉ la adres'it'o ne sol'e ne sci'as la lingv'o'n, sed eĉ ankaŭ ne aŭd'is pri ĝi; oni dev'as sol'e al'don'i al la leter'o mal'grand'a'n foli'et'o'n nom'at'a'n “vort'ar'o”. Dezir'ant'e vid'i, ĉu tio est'as ver'a, mi skrib'as al vi en tiu lingv'o, kaj mi eĉ unu vort'o'n ne al'met'as en ali'a lingv'o, tiel kiel se ni tut'e ne kompren'us unu la lingv'o'n de la ali'a. Respond'u al mi, ĉu vi efektiv'e kompren'is kio'n mi skrib'is. Se la afer'o propon'it'a de la aŭtor'o est'as efektiv'e bon'a, oni dev'as per ĉiu'j fort'o'j li'n help'i. Kiam mi hav'os vi'a'n respond'o'n, mi send'os al vi la libr'et'o'n; montr'u ĝi'n al ĉiu'j loĝ'ant'o'j de vi'a urb'et'o, send'u ĝin ĉiu'n vilaĝ'o'n ĉirkaŭ la urb'et'o, ĉiu'n urb'o'n kaj urb'et'o'n, kie vi nur hav'as amik'o'j'n aŭ kon'at'o'j'n. Est'as neces'e ke grand'eg'a nombr'o da person'o'j don'u si'a'n voĉ'o'n—tiam post la plej mal'long'a temp'o est'os decid'it'a afer'o, kiu pov'as port'i grand'eg'a'n util'o'n al la hom'a societ'o. *(**9)*

Mi'a pens'o.

Sur la kamp'o, for de l’mond'o,
Antaŭ nokt'o de somer'o
Amik'in'o en la rond'o
Kant'as kant'o'n pri l’esper'o
Kaj pri viv'o detru'it'a
Ŝi rakont'as kompat'ant'e, —
Mi'a vund'o re'frap'it'a
Mi'n dolor'as re'sang'ant'e

* * *

“Ĉu vi dorm'as? Ho, sinjor'o,
Kial tia sen'mov'ec'o?
Ha, kred'ebl'e re'memor'o
El la kar'a infan'ec'o?”
Kio'n dir'i? Ne plor'ant'a
Pov'is est'i parol'ad'o
Kun fraŭl'in'o ripoz'ant'a
Post somer'a promen'ad'o!

* * *

Mi'a pens'o kaj turment'o,
Kaj dolor'o'j kaj esper'o'j!
Kiom de mi en silent'o
Al vi ir'is jam ofer'o'j!
Kio'n hav'is mi plej kar'a'n —
La jun'ec'o'n — mi plor'ant'a
Met'is mem sur la altar'o'n
De la dev'o ordon'ant'a!

* * *

Fajr'o'n sent'as mi intern'e,
Viv'i ankaŭ mi dezir'as, —
Io pel'as mi'n etern'e,
Se mi al gaj'ul'o'j ir'as . . .
Se ne plaĉ'as al la sort'o
Mi'a pen'o kaj labor'o —
Ven'u tuj al mi la mort'o,
En esper'o — sen dolor'o!

El Heine'.

En songĝ'o princ'in'o'n mi vid'is
Kun vang'o'j mal'sek'a'j de plor'o, —
Sub arb'o, sub verd'a ni sid'is
Ten'ant'e si'n kor'o ĉe kor'o.

* * *

"De l'patr'o de l'vi'a la kron'o
Por mi ĝi ne est'as hav'ind'a;
For, for li'a sceptr'o kaj tron'o —
Vi'n mem mi dezir'as, am'ind'a!"

* * *

— "Ne ebl'e!" ŝi al mi re'dir'as:
"En tomb'o mi est'as ten'at'a,
Mi nur en la nokt'o el'ir'as
Al vi, mi'a sol'e am'at'a!"

Ho, mi'a kor'.

Ho, mi'a kor', ne bat'u mal'trankvil'e.
El mi'a brust'o nun ne salt'u for!
Jam ten'i mi'n ne pov'as mi facil'e
Ho, mi'a kor'!

* * *

Ho, mi'a kor'! Post long'a labor'ad'o
Ĉu mi ne venk'os en decid'a hor'!
Sufiĉ'e! trankvil'iĝ'u de l'bat'ad'o
Ho, mi'a kor'!

~ ~ ~ ~<>~<>~<>~ ~ ~ ~

III

I have now completed my analysis of the more remarkable features of my international language. I have shown the advantages to be derived from a study of it, and proved that its ultimate success is altogether independent of the opinions that may be formed as to its right to the title "international". For even should the language never come into general use, it gives to every one who *has* learned it, the possibility of being understood by foreigners, if only they be able to read and write. But my tongue has yet another object; not content with internationality, it aims at universality, and aspires to being *spoken* by the majority of educated people. To count on the aid of the public in a scheme of this nature would indeed be to build on a tottering— nay, rather, an imaginary— foundation. The larger part of the public does not care to aid anyone, it prefers to have its wishes gratified without inconvenience to itself. On this account I made my best endeavours to discover some means of accomplishing my object, independently of the help of the public. One of my plans, of which I shall now speak more at large, is a kind of "universal vote".

If the reader consider all that has been said above, he must come to the conclusion that the study of the international language is practically useful, and completely remunerates the learner for the small amount of trouble he has to expend on it. For my own part, I am naturally wishful that the whole of mankind should take up my language, but I had rather be prepared for the worst, than form too sanguine anticipations. I suppose therefore, that, just at first, very few will consider my language worth the learning, so far as practical usefulness is concerned, and for abstract principles no one will lose even a single hour.

Most of my readers will, either pay not the slightest attention to my proposition, or, doubting whether the language be of any use, never "screw up their courage to the sticking-point" of learning it, fearing that they may be dubbed "dreamers", a sobriquet dreaded by most people more than fire. What, then, is to be done, to dispose this mass of indifferent and undecided beings to master the international language? Could we, in imagination, look for a moment into the mind of each of these indifferent ones, we should find their thoughts to be taking somewhat of the following form. In principle, no one has anything to oppose to the introduction of an international dialect; on the contrary, all would give it their fullest approval, but each wishes to see the greater part of the civilized world able to speak the language, and himself able to comprehend it, without any preliminary "wearisome bitterness of learning", on his own part. *Then*, of course, even the most indifferent would set to work, because to shirk the small amount of labour necessary for learning a language possessed of such valuable qualities, and above all, considered "*the thing"* by all the educated, would be regarded as simple stupidity.

In order to supply a language ready for immediate use, without any one having to initiate the study, and to see on every hand people either already proficient in the tongue, or having promised to take it up, we must proceed somewhat in the following manner. Doubtless this little book will be scattered through various countries, and fall into the hands of various readers. I do not ask any of my readers to spend time, labour, or money on the subject now brought to their notice. I merely beg of you, the present reader of the pamphlet, to take up your pen for a moment, fill in one of the appended "*Promes'o'j"* (below) and send it to me (Dr. Esperanto, c/o Dr. L. Samenhof, Warsaw, Poland). The "*Promes'o*" is to this effect:

“I, the undersigned, promise to learn the international language, proposed by Dr. Esperanto, if it shall be shown that ten million similar promises have been publicly given”.

If you have any objections to make to the present form of the language, strike out the words of the promise, and write “*kontraŭ”* (against), beneath them. If you undertake to learn the language unconditionally, i.e., without reference to the number of other students, strike out the latter words of the “Promes'o”, and write “*sen'kondiĉ'e”*, (unconditionally). On the back of the promise write name and address. The signing of this promise lays no obligations upon the person signing, and does not bind him to the smallest sacrifice or work. It merely puts him under an obligation to study the language, when ten million other persons shall be doing the same. When that time arrives, there will be no talking about “sacrifice”, everyone will be ready to study the language, without having signed any promises.

On the other hand, every person signing one of these “*Promes'o'j”*, will—without any greater inconvenience to himself than dipping a pen in ink—be hastening on the realization of the traditional ideal of mankind, the universal language. When the number of promises has reached ten millions, a list of the names of those who have signed will be published, and with it, the question of an international language—decided.

Nothing actually *prevents* people from inducing their friends and acquaintances to sign a promise in any cause, yet how few, as a fact, ever do sign anything, be the object ever so important and advantageous to mankind. More especially, when, as in the present instance, the act of signing, while contributing to the realization of a sublime ideal, at the same time requires no moral nor material sacrifice, can one see no very clear grounds for a refusal.

Doubtless, no one has anything to say, in general, against the introduction of an international language; but, if anyone does not approve of the present form of the language, by all means let him send me, instead of his “Promise”, his “Protest”. For it is, manifestly, the duty of every person able to read and write, of every age, sex, or profession, to give his opinion in this great undertaking; the more so, as it requires no greater sacrifice than that of a few moments for filling in the promise, and a few pence for sending it to me.

I would here beg of all editors of newspapers and magazines to make known the cause to their readers, and at the same time, I would request *my* readers to mention the subject to all their friends.

I need not say any more. I am not so conceited as to suppose that my language is so perfect as to be incapable of improvement, but I make bold to think that I have satisfied all the conditions required in a language claiming to be styled “international”. It is only after having solved successfully all the problems I had proposed to myself—concerning the more important of which only, I have been able to speak above, owing to the small compass of this pamphlet—and after many years spent in a careful study of the subject that I venture to appear in public. I am but human; I may have erred, I may have committed unpardonable faults. I may even have omitted to give to my language the very thing most important to it. *(**10)* For these reasons, before printing complete vocabularies and bringing out books and magazines, I lay my work before the public, for the space of one year, addressing myself to the whole intelligent world with the earnest request to send me opinions on the proposed international language. I invite everyone to communicate with me as to the changes, corrections, etc., which he deems advisable. All such observations sent to me, I will gratefully make use of, if they appear really advantageous, and at the same time, not subversive of the fundamental principles of the structure of the language—that is to say, simplicity, and adaptability to international communication whether adopted *universally* or not.

At the end of the alloted time, an abstract of the proposed changes will be published and the language will receive its final form. But if, even then, anyone should find the language not altogether satisfactory to himself, he should not forget that the language is by no means proof against all further changes, only that the right of alteration will be no longer the author’s personal privilege, but that of an academy of the tongue.

It is no easy task to invent an international language, but it is a still less easy one to persuade the public to

make use of it. Hence, it is of the utmost importance that every possible effort be made for its furtherance. When the form of the language has been decided, and the language itself has come into general use, a special academy can introduce—gradually and imperceptibly—all necessary changes, even should the result be a total alteration of the form of the language. On this account, I would pray those of my readers, who may be, for whatever reasons, dissatisfied with my language, to send in their protests only in the event of their having serious cause for it, such as the finding in the language objectionable features, unalterable in the future.

This little work, which has cost much labour and health, I now commend to the kindly attention of the public, hoping that all, to whom the public weal is dear, will aid me to the best of their ability. Circumstances will show each one in what way he can be of use; I will only direct the attention of all friends of the international languge, to that most important object, towards which all eyes must be turned, the success of the voting. Let each do what he can, and in a short time we shall have, that which men have been dreaming of so long—"*A Universal Tongue"*.

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NB: The author requests his reader to fill in one of the "Promises" on the following page, and send it to him, and to distribute the others amongst friends and acquaintances for the same purpose.

Author's Address:

Dr. Esperanto,

c/o Dr. L. Samenhof,

Warsaw,

Russ-Poland

~ ~ ~ ~<>~<>~<>~ ~ ~ ~

Promes'o. **Nom'o:**

Mi, sub'skrib'it'a, promes'as el'lern'i la propon'it'a'n de d-ro Esperanto lingv'o'n inter'naci'a'n, se est'os montr'it'a, ke dek milion'o'j person'o'j don'is publik'e tia'n sama'n promes'o'n. **Adres'o:**

Sub'skrib'o:

Promes'o. **Nom'o:**

Mi, sub'skrib'it'a, promes'as el'lern'i la propon'it'a'n de d-ro Esperanto lingv'o'n inter'naci'a'n, se est'os montr'it'a, ke dek milion'o'j person'o'j don'is publik'e tia'n sama'n promes'o'n. **Adres'o:**

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Adres'o:

Sub'skrib'o:

Complete Grammar

of the International Language

A. The Alphabet

A a	B b	C c	Ĉ ĉ	D d	E e
a as in “last”	*b* as in “be”	*ts* as in “wits”	*ch* as in “church”	*d* as in “do”	*a* as in “make” *e = **e** as in “**get**” —GK*

F f	G g	Ĝ ĝ	H h	Ĥ ĥ	I i
f as in “fly”	*g* as in “gun”	*j* as in “join”	*h* as in “half”	strongly aspirated h, “ch” as in “loch” (Scotch)	*i* as in “marine”

J j	Ĵ ĵ	K k	L l	M m	N n
y as in "yoke"	*z* as in "azure"	*k* as in "key"	*l* as in "line"	*m* as in "make"	*n* as in "now"

O o	P p	R r	S s	Ŝ ŝ	T t
o as in "not"	*p* as in "pair"	*r* as in "rare"	*s* as in "see"	*sh* as in "show"	*t* as in "tea"

*o = **o** as in "**note**" —GK*

U u	Ŭ ŭ	V v	Z z
u as in "bull"	*u* as in "mount" (used in dipthongs)	*v* as in "very"	*z* as in "zeal"

*u = **oo** as in "**too**" —GK.*

If it be found impracticable to print works with the diacritical signs (^ , ˘), the letter *h* may be substituted for the sign (^), and the sign (˘) may be altogether omitted ; but at the beginning of works so printed there should be this note: "NB: ch = ĉ; gh = ĝ; hh = ĥ; jh = ĵ; sh = ŝ." *(**11)*

When it is necessary to make use of the "internal" sign (,), care should be taken that it cannot be mistaken for a comma. Instead of (,), may be printed (') or (-), e.g., *sign,et,o*, *sign'et'o,* or *sign-et-o. (**12)*

B. Parts of Speech

1. There is no indefinite, and only one definite, article, *la*, for all genders, numbers, and cases.

2. Substantives are formed by adding *o* to the root. For the plural, the letter *j* must be added to the singular. There are two cases: the nominative and the objective (accusative). The root with the added *o* is the nominative, the objective adds an *n* after the *o*. Other cases are formed by prepositions; thus, the possessive (genitive) by *de*, "of"; the dative by *al*, "to"; the instrumental (ablative) by *kun*, "with", or other preposition as the sense demands. E.g., root *patr*, "father"; *la patr'o*, "the father"; *patr'o'n*, "father" (objective), *de la patr'o*, "of the father", *al la patr'o*, "to the father", *kun la patr'o*, "with the father"; *la patro'j*, "the fathers"; *la patro'j'n*, "the fathers" (obj.), *por la patr'o'j*, "for the fathers".

3. Adjectives are formed by adding *a* to the root. The numbers and cases are the same as in substantives. The comparative degree is formed by prefixing *pli* (more); the superlative by *plej* (most). The word "than" is rendered by *ol*, e.g., *pli blank'a ol neĝ'o*, "whiter than snow".

4. The cardinal numerals do not change their forms for the different cases. They are:

2	*du*
3	*tri*
4	*kvar*
5	*kvin*
6	*ses*
7	*sep*
8	*ok*
9	*naŭ*
10	*dek*
100	*cent*
1000	*mil*

The tens and hundreds are formed by simple junction of the numerals, e.g., 533=*kvin'cent tri'dek tri*.

Ordinals are formed by adding the adjectival *a* to the cardinals, e.g., *unu'a*, “first”; *du'a*, “second”, etc.

Multiplicatives (as “threefold”, “fourfold”, etc.) add *obl*, e.g., *tri'obl'a*, “threefold”.

Fractionals add *on*, as *du'on'o*, “a half”, *kvar'on'o*, “a quarter”. Collective numerals add *op*, as *kvar'op'e*, “four together”.

Distributives prefix *po*, e.g., *po kvin*, “five apiece”.

Adverbials take *e*, e.g., *unu'e*, “firstly”, etc.

5. The Personal Pronouns are *mi*, I; *vi*, thou, you; *li*, he; *ŝi*, she; *ĝi*, it; *si*, “self”; *ni*, “we”; *ili*, “they”; *oni*, “one”, “people”, (French “on”).

Possessive pronouns are formed by suffixing to the required personal, the adjectival termination. The declension of the pronouns is identical with that of substantives. E.g., *mi*, “I”; *mi'n*, “me” (obj.); *mi'a*, “my”, “mine”.

6. The verb does not change its form for numbers or persons, e.g., *mi far'as*, “I do”; *la patr'o far'as*, “the father does”; *ili far'as*, “they do”.

Forms of the Verb:

a) The present tense ends in *as*, e.g., *mi far'as*, “I do”.

b) The past tense ends in *is*, e.g., *li far'is*, “he did”.
c) The future tense ends in *os*, e.g., *ili far'os*, “they will do”.
ĉ) The subjunctive mood ends in *us*, e.g., *ŝi far'us*, “she may do”.
d) The imperative mood ends in *u*, e.g., *ni far'u*, “let us do”.
e) The infinitive mood ends in *i*, e.g., *far'i*, “to do”.

There are two forms of the participle in the international language, the changeable or adjectival, and the unchangeable or adverbial.

f) The present participle active ends in *ant*, e.g., *far'ant'a*, “he who is doing”; *far'ant'e*, “doing”.
g) The past participle active ends in *int*, e.g., *far'int'a*, “he who has done”; *far'int'e*, “having done”.
ĝ) The future participle active ends in *ont*, e.g., *far'ont'a*, “he who will do”; *far'ont'e*, “about to do”.

h) The present participle passive ends in *at*, e.g., *far'at'e*, “being done”.
ĥ) The past participle passive ends in *it*, e.g., *far'it'a*, “that which has been done”; *far'it'e*, “having been done”.
i) The future participle passive ends in *ot*, e.g., *far'ot'a*, “that which will be done”; *far'ot'e*, “about to be done”.

All forms of the passive are rendered by the respective forms of the verb *est* (to be) and the present participle passive of the required verb; the preposition used is *de*, “by”. E.g., *ŝi est'as am'at'a de ĉiu'j*, “she is loved by everyone.”

7) Adverbs are formed by adding *e* to the root. The degrees of comparison are the same as in adjectives, e.g., *mi'a frat'o kant'as pli bon'e ol mi*, “my brother sings better than I”.

8) All prepositions govern the nominative case.

C. General Rules

1) Every word is to be read exactly as written; there are no silent letters.

2) The accent falls on the last syllable but one (penultimate).

3) Compound words are formed by the simple junction of roots, (the principal word standing last), which are written as a single word, but, in elementary works, separated by a small line (,) or (’). Grammatical terminations are considered as independent words, e.g., *vapor'ŝip'o*, “steamboat”, is composed of the roots *vapor*, “steam”, and *ŝip*, “a boat”, with the substantival termination *o*.

4) If there be one negative in a clause, a second is not admissible.

5) In phrases answering the question “where?” (meaning direction), the words take the termination of the objective case; e.g., *kie'n vi ir'as*? “where are you going?” *dom'o'n*, “home”; *London'o'n*, “to London”; etc.

6) Every preposition in the international language has a definite fixed meaning. If it be necessary to employ some preposition, and it is not quite evident from the sense which it should be, the word *je* is used, which has no definite meaning; for example, *ĝoj'i je tio*, “to rejoice *over* it”; *rid'i je tio* “to laugh *at* it”; *enu'o je la patr'uj'o*, “a longing *(**13) for* one’s fatherland”. In every language different prepositions, sanctioned by usage, are employed in these dubious cases; in the international language, one word, *je*, suffices for all. Instead of *je*, the objective without a preposition may be used, when no confusion is to be feared.

7) The so-called “foreign” words, i.e., words which the greater number of languages have derived from the same source, undergo no change in the international language, beyond conforming to its system of orthography.—Such is the rule with regard to primary words; derivatives are better formed (from the primary word) according to the rules of the international grammar: e.g., *teatr'o*, “theater”, but *teatr'a*, “theatrical” (not *teatrical'a*), etc.

8) The *a* of the article, and the final *o* of substantives, may be sometimes dropped euphoniae gratia, e.g., *de l’mond'o* for *de la mond'o*; *Ŝiller’* for *Ŝiller'o*; in such cases an apostrophe should be substituted for the discarded vowel.

DR. ESPERANTO’S INTERNATIONAL – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Vortar'o por Angl'o'j

☞ *Everything* ☜

written in the international language can be translated by means of this vocabulary. If several words are required to express one idea they must be written in one, but separated by [apostrophes]; e.g., *frat'in'o,* though one idea, is yet composed of three words, which must be looked for separately in the vocabulary.

Editor’s notes:

(a) Over the past century, some of these words have acquired better or different translations, but I have not attempted to update them. This is the original 900-root Esperanto repertoire. (Nowadays 10 times larger.)

(b) By 1889 when Geoghegan’s translation appeared, Zamenhof had replaced the “n” in a set of time-correlative words with “m”, to avoid confusion with the accusative: ***iam****, sometime;* ***kiam****, what time;* ***tiam****, that time;* ***ĉiam****, always;* ***neniam****, never. Geoghegan had left “****ian****” etc. in parentheses; I have omitted them. —GK*

Top of vocabulary

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

A

a
: expresses an adjective, e.g., *hom'*—man, *hom'a*—human

acid'
: sour, acid

aĉet'
: to buy

ad'
: indicates the duration of an action; e.g., *ir'*—go; *ir'ad'*—to walk; *danc'*—a dance, *danc'ad'*—dancing

adiaŭ
: adieu, good-bye

aer'
: the air

afer'
: affair, business

agl'
: the eagle

agrabl'
: agreeable

aĝ'
: the age

ajn
: …ever; e.g., *kiu*—who, *kiu ajn*— whoever

aĵ'
: indicates a thing having some quality or peculiarity, or made of some particular thing; e.g., *mal'nov'*—old, *mal'nov'aĵ'*—old things; *frukt'*—fruit, *frukt'aĵ'*—made of fruits

akompan'
: to accompany

akr'
: sharp

akv'
: water

al
: to; e.g., *al li*—to him (indicates also the dative)

ali'
: other

almenaŭ
: at least

alt'
: high, tall

alumet'
: a match

am'
: to love, like

amas'
: a crowd, mass

amik'
: friend

an'
: a member, an inhabitant, an adherent; e.g., *regn'*—state, kingdom, empire, *regn'an'*—inhabitant of an empire, etc. *Paris'an'*—a Parisian

angul'
: an angle, a corner

anĝel'
: an angel

anim'
: the soul

ankaŭ
: also, too

ankoraŭ
: still, yet

anstataŭ
: instead of

ant'
: indicates the present participle (active)

antaŭ
: before

apart'
: separate

aparten'
: to belong

apenaŭ
: scarcely, hardly

apud
: near, nigh to

ar'
: indicates a collection of objects; e.g., *arb'*—a tree, *ar'bar'*—a forest; *ŝtup'*—step, stair, *ŝtup'ar'*—staircase, stairs, ladder

arb'
: a tree

arĝent'
: silver

as
: indicates the present in verbs

at'
: indicates the present participle (passive)

atend'
: to wait for, expect

aŭ
: or, either

aŭd'
: to hear

aŭskult'
: listen to

aŭtun'
: autumn

av'
: grandfather

avar'
: avaricious

azen'
: an ass, a donkey

Top of vocabulary

B

babil'
: to prate, to chatter, to prattle

bak'
: to bake

bala'
: to sweep

balanc'
: to nod, swing, sway

baldaŭ
: soon

ban'
: to bathe

bapt'
: baptize

bar'
: to bar (a door), to stop (a passage)

barb'
: the beard

barel'
: barrel, cask

baston'
: stick

bat'
: to beat, to flog

batal'
: to fight, to struggle

bedaŭr'
: to pity, to regret, to repent

bel'
: beautiful, handsome

ben'
: to bless, consecrate, hallow

benk'
: a bench

best'
: an animal, a beast

bezon'
: to want

bier'
: beer

bind'
: to bind

bird'
: a bird

blank'
: white

blov'
: to blow

blu'
: blue

bo'
: relation by marriage (own or other people's); e.g., *patr'*—father, *bo'patr'*—father-in-law; *frat'*—brother, *bo'frat'*—brother-in-law

boj'
: to bark

bol'
: to boil

bon'
: good

bord'
: the shore (of the sea), the bank or side (of a river)

bot'
: a boot

botel'
: a bottle

bov'
: an ox

branĉ'
: a branch

brand'
: brandy

bril'
: to shine, to sparkle, to glitter

bros'
: a brush

bru'
: to make a noise, to bawl

brul'
: to burn one's self

brust'
: the breast, bosom

brut'
: brute

buŝ'
: the mouth

buter'
: butter

buton'
: a button

Top of vocabulary

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

C

cel'

to aim

cent
a hundred

cert'
certain, sure, known

ceter'
the remainder, the following, rest

cigar'
a cigar

cigared'
a cigarette

citron'
a lemon, citron

Top of vocabulary

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

Ĉ

ĉagren'
to grieve, to vex

ĉambr'
a chamber, a room

ĉap'
a cap, a bonnet

ĉapel'
a hat

ĉar
because

ĉe
near, by, at, beside

ĉemiz'
a shirt, a chemise

ĉen'
a chain

ĉeriz'
a cherry

ĉerk'
a coffin

ĉes'
to cease, to leave off

ĉeval'
a horse

ĉi
the nearest (person, thing, etc.); e.g., *tiu*—that one, *tiu ĉi*, this one; *tie*—there, *tie ĉi*, here

ĉia
every

ĉiam
always, ever

ĉie

everywhere

ĉiel'
heaven, heavens, sky

ĉio
all, everything

ĉirkaŭ
around, round about

ĉiu
every one

ĉj'
added to the first 2–5 letters of a masculine proper name makes it a diminutive, caressing; e.g., *Miĥael'—Mi'ĉj'; Aleksandr'—Ale'ĉj'*

ĉu
or, if; is employed in questions, e.g., *mi ne sci'as, ĉu vi am'as*—I don't know, if you love

Top of vocabulary

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

D

da
supplies the genitive (after words, expressing measure, weight, etc.); e.g., *kilogram'o da viand'o*—a kilo of meat; *glas'o da te'o*— a cup of tea

danc'
to dance

danĝer'
danger

dank'
to thank

daŭr'
to endure, to last

de
from, of; supplies also the genitive

decid'
to decide

defend'
to defend

dek
ten

dekstr'
right (adj.)

demand'
to ask

dens'
dense, thick

dent'
a tooth

detru'
to demolish, to destroy, to ruin

dev'

must, ought, to be obliged

dezert'
a desert, a wilderness

dezir'
to desire

Di'
God

dik'
big, thick, stout

diligent'
diligence, assiduity

dimanĉ'
Sunday

dir'
to tell, to say

dis'
dis-, asunder, into parts, e.g., *ŝir'*—to pull, *dis'ŝir'*—to pull asunder

disput'
to contend for, to quarrel, to dispute

divid'
to divide

dolĉ'
sweet

dolor'
ache, pain, affliction

dom'
house

don'
to give

donac'
to make a present of

dorm'
to sleep

dors'
the back

du
two

dum
while, whilst

Top of vocabulary

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

E

e
the ending of adverbs; e.g., *bon'e*—well

eben'
even, smooth

ebl'

possible

ec'
: indicates abstract ideas; e.g., *bon'*—good, *bon'ec'*—goodness; *infan'*—child, *infan'ec'*—childhood

eĉ
: even (adv.) also

eduk'
: to educate

edz'
: the husband

efektiv'
: real, effective

eg'
: indicates enlargement or entensity of degree; e.g., *man'*—hand, *man'eg'*—paw; *varm'*—warm, *varm'eg'*—hot

egal'
: equal, like

ej'
: indicates the place of an action etc.; e.g., *kuir'*—to cook, *kuir'ej'*—kitchen; *preĝ'*—to pray, *preĝ'ej'*—the church

ek'
: indicates the beginning or the short duration of an action etc.; e.g., *kant'*—to sing; *ek'kant'*—to begin to sing; *kri'*—to cry, *ek'kri'*—to cry out, to exclaim

eks'
: formerly; placed before an official or professional designation, shows that a person has given up his office or profession

ekster
: on the outside of, outwardly, without, out of

ekzempl'
: example

el
: from, out of

elekt'
: to choose, to elect

em'
: inclined, disposed, accustomed

en
: in

enu'
: to be weary, annoyed

envi'
: to envy

er'
: indicates a thing, taken as a separate unity; e.g., *sabl'*—sand, *sabl'er'*—a grain of sand

erar'
: to err, to be wrong, to be mistaken

escept'
: to exclude, to except

esper'
: to hope

esprim'
: to express, to declare by words

est'
: to be

estim'
: to esteem, to prize

esting'
: to extinguish

estr'
: the chief, the superior

et'
: indicates diminution or decrease; e.g., *rid'*—to laugh, *rid'et'*—to smile; *mur'*—a wall, *mur'et'*—a little wall, chamber wall

etaĝ'
: a floor, a story

etern'
: eternal

Top of vocabulary

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

F

facil'
: light, easy

faden'
: thread

fajf'
: to pipe, to whistle

fajr'
: fire

fal'
: to fall

fald'
: to fold

famili'
: family

far'
: to do, to make, to act; *far'iĝ'*—to become, to turn, to grow

fart'
: to live, to be (well or ill)

feliĉ'
: happy

fend'
: to split, to chop

fenestr'
: window

fer'
: iron

ferm'
: to shut

fest'
: to feast, to hold a feast

fianĉ'

one who is betrothed, the bridegroom

fidel'
faithful, true

fier'
proud, haughty

fil'
a son

fin'
to finish

fingr'
a finger

firm'
firm, solid

fiŝ'
a fish

flank'
side, flank

flar'
to smell

flav'
yellow

flor'
flower

flu'
to flow

flug'
to fly

fluid'
liquid, fluid

foj'
times (e.g., “four times”)

fojn'
hay

foli'
a leaf (of a tree), a sheet (of paper etc.)

fond'
to found, establish

font'
a fountain

for
away

forges'
to forget

forĝ'
to forge

fork'
a fork

forn'
a stove

fort'
strong, vigorous

fos'
to dig

frap'
: to hit, to beat

frat'
: brother

fraŭl'
: bachelor, single man

freŝ'
: fresh

fromaĝ'
: cheese

frost'
: frost, coldness

frot'
: to rub

fru'
: early

frukt'
: fruit

frunt'
: forehead

fulm'
: lightning

fum'
: the smoke

fund'
: the bottom

Top of vocabulary

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

G

gaj'
: gay

gajn'
: to win, to gain

gant'
: a glove

gard'
: to guard, to keep

gast'
: guest

ge
: of both sexes; e.g., *patr'*—father, *ge'patr'o'j*—parents; *mastr'*—master, *ge'mastr'o'j*—both the master and the mistress of the house

genu'
: knee

glaci'
: ice

glas'

a glass, cup

glat'
smooth, even

glav'
sword

glit'
to slide, to glide along (on ice)

glor'
to glorify

glut'
to swallow

gorĝ'
throat

grand'
great

gras'
fat, grease

grat'
scratch

gratul'
to congratulate

grav'
grave, important

griz'
gray

gust'
the taste

gut'
to drop; *gut'o*—a drop

Top of vocabulary

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

Ĝ

ĝarden'
a garden

ĝem'
to groan

ĝentil'
genteel

ĝi
it

ĝis
to, till, up to

ĝoj'
to rejoice, to be glad

Top of vocabulary

H

ha!
: ha! ah!

hajl'
: the hail

haladz'
: bad exhalation

halt'
: to stop, to make a stay

har'
: a hair

haring'
: a herring

haŭt'
: skin, hide

hav'
: to have

hejt'
: to heat, to make a fire

help'
: to help, to aid

herb'
: herb, grass

hered'
: to inherit

hieraŭ
: yesterday

ho!
: oh!

hodiaŭ
: today

hom'
: man (human beings in general)

honest'
: honest

hont'
: shame

hor'
: an hour

horloĝ'
: a clock

hotel'
: inn, hotel

humil'
: humble

hund'
: dog

Top of vocabulary

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

I

i
: indicates the infinitive in verbs; e.g., *laŭd'i*—to praise

ia
: some

ial
: by whatever cause

iam
: sometime

id'
: child, descendent; e.g., *bov'*—ox, *bov'id'*—calf

ie
: somewhere

iel
: in some manner

ies
: someone’s

ig'
: to cause anything to be in a certain state; e.g., *pur'*—pure, clean, *pur'ig'*—to purify, to cleanse; *brul'*—to burn one’s self, *brul'ig'*—to burn some one (some thing); *sid'*—to sit, *sid'ig'*—to seat

iĝ'
: to become, to turn, to compel one’s self, e.g., *pal'*—pale, *pal'iĝ'*—to turn pale; *sid'*—to sit, *sid'iĝ'*—to seat one’s self

il'
: an instrument for a given purpose; e.g., *tond'*—to shear, *tond'il'*—scissors; *paf'*—to shoot, *paf'il'*—a gun, a musket, a firelock

ili
: they

in'
: indicates the feminine; e.g., *patr'*—father, *patr'in'*—mother; *kok'*—cock, *kok'in'*—a hen

ind'
: worthy

infan'
: child

ing'
: a thing into which something else is put, a holder; e.g., *kandel'*—a taper, a candle, *kandel'ing'*—a candlestick

ink'
: ink

instru'
: to teach

insul'
: island

insult'
: to insult, to outrage

int'

indicates the past participle (active)

intenc'
to intend

inter
between

intern'
inwardly, internally

invit'
to invite

io
somewhat, something

iom
any, some

ir'
to go

is
indicates the past (in verbs)

ist'
occupied with…, e.g. *bot'*—boot, shoe, *bot'ist'*—shoemaker; *mar'*—sea, *mar'ist'*—a seaman, a sailor

it'
indicates the past participle (passive)

iu
someone

Top of vocabulary

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

J

j
indicates the plural

ja
however, nevertheless

jam
already

jar'
year

je
may be translated by various prepositions; its signification depends on the general sense of the phrase

jen
there, here

jes
yes

ju—des
the—the

juĝ'
to judge

jun'
young

just'

just, equitable

Top of vocabulary

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

Ĵ

ĵaŭd'
Thursday
ĵet'
to throw, to cast
ĵur'
to swear

Top of vocabulary

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

K

kaf'
coffee
kaj
and
kajer'
stitched book of writing paper, a copy book (in schools)
kaldron'
kettle, caldron
kaleŝ'
cab, a light cariage
kalkul'
to count, to reckon
kamen'
chimney, fireplace
kamp'
a field
kanap'
a sofa
kandel'
a candle
kant'
to sing
kap'
head
kapt'
to seize, to catch
kar'
dear
karb'

coal

kares'
to caress

kaŝ'
to hide, to conceal

kat'
a cat

kaŭz'
to cause, to occasion

ke
that (conj.)

kelk'
some, certain

kest'
box, chest

kia
what; e.g., *kia hom'o*—what man; *kia tag'o*—what day

kial
why, wherefore

kiam
when

kie
where

kiel
how

kies
whose; e.g., *kies libr'o*—whose book?

kio
what, that which

kiom
how much, how many

kis'
to kiss

kiu
who

klar'
clear

knab'
boy, lad

kok'
cock

kol'
neck

koleg'
a colleague

kolekt'
to collect, to gather

koler'
to be angry

kolon'
column, pillar

kolor'
a colour

komb'
: to comb

komenc'
: to begin

komerc'
: to trade, to traffic

kompat'
: to compassionate, to bear with

kompren'
: to understand, to conceive

kon'
: to know

kondiĉ'
: condition

konduk'
: to conduct, to lead

konfes'
: to avow, confess

konsent'
: to consent

konserv'
: to preserve, to keep

konsil'
: to counsel, to advise

konsol'
: to console, to comfort

konstant'
: constant, steadfast

konstru'
: to construct, to build

kontent'
: content, satisfied

kontraŭ
: against

konven'
: to suit, to agree

kor'
: the heart

korn'
: a horn

korp'
: the body

kort'
: the court, courtyard

kost'
: to cost

kovr'
: to cover

kraĉ'
: to spit

krajon'
: a pencil, a crayon

kravat'

a cravat, neckcloth

kre'
: to create

kred'
: to believe

kresk'
: to grow, to wax

kret'
: chalk

kri'
: to cry

kron'
: a crown, a garland

kruc'
: a cross

kudr'
: to sew

kuir'
: to cook

kuler'
: a spoon

kulp'
: culpable, guilty

kun
: with; *kun'e*—together

kupr'
: copper

kur'
: to run

kurac'
: to cure, heal

kuraĝ'
: courageous, resolute, bold

kurten'
: curtain

kusen'
: a cushion

kuŝ'
: to lie (e.g. in bed)

kutim'
: to accustom one’s self to

kuz'
: a cousin

kvankam
: though, although

kvar
: four

kvin
: five

Top of vocabulary

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

L

l'
: the

la
: the

labor'
: to labour, to work

lac'
: weary, tired

lakt'
: milk

lam'
: lame

lamp'
: lamp

land'
: land, country

lang'
: the tongue

lantern'
: a lantern

larĝ'
: large, broad

larm'
: a tear

las'
: to let, to permit, to allow, to leave

last'
: last, latest

laŭ
: in conformity with, conformably, according to

laŭd'
: to praise, to commend

laŭt'
: aloud, loudly

lav'
: to wash

lecion'
: a lesson

leg'
: to read

leĝ'
: law

leon'
: a lion

lern'
: to learn

lert'
: dexterous, skilful

leter'
: letter, epistle

lev'
: to lift (up), to raise

li
: he

liber'
: free

libr'
: book

lig'
: to bind

lign'
: wood

lingv'
: speech, language, tongue

lip'
: lip

lit'
: bed

liter'
: a letter (of the Alphabet), a type

loĝ'
: to dwell, to lodge

lok'
: place, spot

long'
: long

lud'
: to play

lum'
: to light, to shine

lun'
: the moon

lund'
: Monday

Top of vocabulary

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

M

maĉ'
: to chew

magazen'
: store, a shop

makul'
: a spot, a speck

mal'
: indicates opposites, e.g., *bon'*—good; *mal'bon'*—bad; *estim'*—to esteem; *mal'estim'*—to despise, to disdain

malgraŭ

in spite of, notwithstanding

man'
hand

manĝ'
to eat

mar'
the sea

mard'
Tuesday

mastr'
master

maten'
the morning

matur'
ripe, mature

mem
self

memor'
to remember, to keep in mind

merit'
to merit, to deserve

merkred'
Wednesday

met'
to put

mez'
the middle

mezur'
to measure

mi
I

miks'
to mix, to mingle

mil
thousand

milit'
war

mir'
to be astonished, to wonder

mizer'
misery, poverty, wretchedness

moder'
moderate, temperate

modest'
modest

mol'
soft, tender

mon'
money

monat'
month

mond'
world

mont'
: mountain

montr'
: to show

mord'
: to bite

morgaŭ
: tomorrow

mort'
: to die

moŝt'
: highness, majesty, etc. (is generally added to titles) e.g. *Vi'a reĝ'a moŝt'o*— Your (Royal) Majesty; *Vi'a general'a moŝt'o; vi'a episkop'a moŝt'o* etc.

mov'
: to move, to stir (up)

mult'
: much

mur'
: wall

murmur'
: to murmur

muŝ'
: a fly

Top of vocabulary

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

N

n
: indicates the objective (accusative) case; also direction; e.g. *mi ir'as dom'o'n*—I am going home

naĝ'
: to swim

najbar'
: neighbour

nask'
: to bear a child, to bring forth, to give birth to

naŭ
: nine

naz'
: nose

ne
: no, not

nebul'
: mist, fog

neces'
: indispensable, necessary

neĝ'
: snow

nek—nek

neither—nor

nenia
not any

neniam
never

nenie
nowhere

neniel
by no means, in no wise

nenies
nobody’s

nenio
nothing

neniu
nobody, no one

nep'
grandchild

nev'
a nephew

ni
we

nigr'
black

nj'
added to the first 2–5 letters of a feminine proper name makes it a diminutive, caressing; e.g., *Mari'—Ma'nj'*; *Emili'—Emi'nj'*

nobl'
noble

nokt'
night

nom'
name

nombr'
number

nov'
new

nub'
cloud

nud'
naked

nuks'
nut

nun
now

nur
only

nutr'
to nourish, to nurse (a child)

Top of vocabulary

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

O

o
: indicates a substantive (noun)

obe'
: to obey

objekt'
: an object

obl'
: indicates a numeral in multiplicative form; e.g., *du*—two, *du'obl'*—twofold, double, of two different sorts

obstin'
: obstinate, stubborn

odor'
: to exhale fragrance, to smell

ofend'
: to offend, to wrong

ofer'
: to offer

oft'
: often

ok
: eight

okaz'
: to happen

okul'
: eye

okup'
: to occupy

ol
: than, as

ole'
: oil

ombr'
: shadow, shade

ombrel'
: parasol, umbrella

on'
: makes fractions out of numerals; e.g., *kvar*—four; *kvar'on'*—fourth part

ond'
: the wave

oni
: (pron. indef. plur.) one, they, people, man

onkl'
: uncle

ont'
: indicates the future participle (active)

op'
: indicates collective numerals; e.g., *du*—two, *du'op'*—two together

oportun'
: opportune, convenient

or'

gold

ord'
order

ordinar'
ordinary, common, usual

ordon'
to order, to command

orel'
the ear

os
indicates the future

ost'
a bone

ot'
indicates the future participle (passive)

ov'
an egg

Top of vocabulary

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

P

pac'
peace

paf'
to shoot

pag'
to pay

paĝ'
a page

pajl'
straw

pal'
pale

palac'
a palace

palp'
to feel, to handle gently

palpebr'
eyelid

pan'
bread

pantalon'
trousers

paper'
paper

pardon'
to pardon, to forgive

parenc'

relation

parker'
by heart, by memory

parol'
to speak, to talk

part'
part, portion, share

pas'
to pass, to go by

pastr'
priest, clergyman

paŝ'
to step, to stride

patr'
father; *patr'uj'*—fatherland

pec'
a morsel

pel'
to pursue, to chase

pen'
to endeavour, to do one's best

pend'
to hang

pens'
to think

pentr'
to draw

per
through, by, by means of

perd'
to lose

permes'
to permit, to allow

pes'
to weigh (someone or something)(vb. act.)

pet'
to pray, to beg

pez'
weigh (some number of pounds) (vb. neut.)

pi'
pious

pied'
foot

pik'
to prick, to sting

pilk'
a ball (to play with)

pingl'
a pin

pir'
a pear

plac'
a place, a square

plaĉ'
: to please

plafon'
: ceiling

plank'
: floor (of a room)

plej
: most (adv.)

plen'
: full

plend'
: to complain

plezur'
: pleasure

pli
: more

plor'
: to weep, to shed tears

plum'
: pen; feather

pluv'
: rain

po
: forms distributive numerals; e.g., *kvin*—five; *po kvin*— five apiece

polv'
: dust

pom'
: apple

pont'
: a bridge

popol'
: people, nation

por
: for

pord'
: door

pork'
: swine, pig, hog

port'
: to carry, to wear

post
: after (prep.)

postul'
: to require, to call for

poŝ'
: a pocket

poŝt'
: post, post-office

pot'
: a pot

pov'
: to be able, can

prav'

being right

preĝ'

to pray, to say prayers

prem'

to press, to oppress

pren'

to take

prepar'

to prepare

pres'

to print

preskaŭ

almost, nearly

pret'

ready

prezent'

to present, to represent, to introduce

pri

concerning, on, of, about

printemp'

the spring

pro

for the sake of

profund'

deep, profound

proksim'

(adj.) near, nigh

promen'

to walk, to take a walk

promes'

to promise

propon'

to propose

propr'

one’s own

prov'

to try, to essay

prudent'

prudent, reasonable

prunt'

to borrow, to lend

pulv'

gun-powder

pulvor'

powder

pun'

to punish

pup'

a doll

pur'

pure, clean

puŝ'

to push

putr'
to rot, to putrify, to grow putrid

Top of vocabulary

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

R

rad'
a wheel
radi'
a ray, a beam, a spoke of a wheel
radik'
root
rakont'
to relate, to tell
ramp'
to creep, to crawl
rand'
the bank, shore, edge, border
rapid'
rapid, swift
raz'
to shave
re'
again, back, re-
reg'
to reign, to govern
regn'
kingdom, realm
regul'
a rule
reĝ'
a king
rekt'
straight
rekompenc'
to recompense, to reward
renkont'
to meet (with)
renvers'
to overthrow, to pull down
respond'
to answer
rest'
to remain
ricev'
to receive
riĉ'
rich

rid'
: to laugh

rigard'
: to look at, regard

ring'
: a ring

ripet'
: to repeat

ripoz'
: to repose, to take rest

river'
: a river

romp'
: to break

rond'
: circle

rost'
: to fry, to roast

roz'
: a rose

ruĝ'
: red

Top of vocabulary

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

S

sabat'
: Saturday

sabl'
: sand

saĝ'
: wise, sage

sak'
: a sack, a bag

sal'
: salt

salt'
: to spring, to jump

salut'
: to salute, to hail

sam'
: same

san'
: sound, sane, healthy

sang'
: blood

sankt'
: holy, sacred

sap'
: soap

sat'
: satiate, full

sav'
: to save

sci'
: to know

se
: if

sed
: but

seĝ'
: a chair, a seat

sek'
: dry

sem'
: to sow

semajn'
: a week

sen
: without

senc'
: sense, meaning

send'
: to send

sent'
: to feel, perceive

sep
: seven

serĉ'
: to look for, to search

serpent'
: serpent, snake

serur'
: to lock

serv'
: to serve

ses
: six

sever'
: severe, sharp

si
: one’s self, himself, themselves, etc.

sid'
: to sit

sigel'
: to seal

sign'
: a sign

signif'
: to signify, to mean

silent'

to be silent

simil'
resembling, similar, like

simpl'
simple, common

sinjor'
lord, master

skrib'
write

sku'
to shake, to jog

sobr'
sober

societ'
society

soif'
to be thirsty

sol'
sole, only, unique

somer'
summer

son'
to sound

songˆ'
to dream

sonor'
to buzz, to hum

sort'
lot, chance, destiny, fate

sovagˆ'
savage, wild

spec'
a species, kind

spegul'
mirror, looking-glass

spir'
to respire, to breathe

sprit'
witty

stal'
stable, stall

star'
to stand

stel'
star

stomak'
stomach

strat'
a street

sub
under, beneath

subit'
sudden

suĉ'
: to suck

sufer'
: to suffer

sufiĉ'
: sufficiently, enough

suk'
: the juice

suker'
: sugar

sun'
: sun

sup'
: soup

super
: above (prep.)

supr'
: above (adv.), at the top

sur
: on, upon

surd'
: deaf (adj.)

surtut'
: coat

Top of vocabulary

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

Ŝ

ŝajn'
: to seem, appear

ŝancel'
: to totter, to stagger

ŝanĝ'
: to change

ŝaŭm'
: foam, scum

ŝel'
: shell

ŝerc'
: to jest, joke

ŝi
: she

ŝip'
: ship

ŝir'
: to tear

ŝlos'
: lock

ŝmir'
: to smear, to spread

ŝpruc'
: to spout, to sprinkle

ŝnur'
: a rope, a string, a cord

ŝpar'
: to spare

ŝrank'
: cupboard, clothespress

ŝtal'
: steel

ŝtel'
: to steal

ŝtof'
: stuff

ŝton'
: stone

ŝtop'
: to stop, to cork

ŝtrump'
: stocking

ŝtup'
: step; *ŝtup'ar'*—staircase, stairs, ladder

ŝu'
: shoe

ŝuld'
: to owe, to be indebted

ŝut'
: to empty out (corn, etc.)

ŝvel'
: to swell

ŝvit'
: to sweat

Top of vocabulary

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

T

tabl'
: table

tabul'
: a board

tag'
: day

tajlor'
: tailor

tamen
: yet, however

tapiŝ'
carpet
taŭg'
to be of use, to be fit for
te'
tea
tegment'
roof
teler'
plate
temp'
time
ten'
to hold
tent'
to tempt
ter'
earth
terur'
terror
tia
such
tial
therefore, for this reason
tiam
then, at that time
tie
there
tiel
so, in such a manner
tim'
to fear
tio
it, this, that
tiom
so, as much or many
tir'
to draw, to pull
tiu
that
tol'
linen
tomb'
a grave, a tomb
tond'
to shear, to cut the hair
tondr'
to thunder
tra
through
traduk'
translate
tranĉ'

to cut

trankvil'
tranquil, quiet

trans
over, across

tre
very greatly, exceedingly

trem'
to tremble, to shake, to shiver

tren'
to draw, to drag, to trail

tri
three

trink'
to drink

tro
too

tromp'
to deceive

trov'
to find

tru'
a hole

tuj
immediately

tuk'
a handkerchief

tur'
a tower

turment'
to torment

turn'
to turn

tus'
to cough

tuŝ'
to touch, to lay one's hand on

tut'
whole, total, complete

Top of vocabulary

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

U

u
indicates the imperative (in verbs)

uj'
bearing, containing (i.e., a thing, containing or bearing something, as a tree bearing fruits, a country with inhabitants); e.g., *cigar'*—a cigar, *cigar'uj'*—a cigar-box; *pom'*—an apple, *pom'uj'*—apple-tree;

Turk'—a Turk, *Turk'uj'*—Turkey.

ul'
: a man, possessing some quality; e.g., *riĉ'*—rich, *riĉ'ul'*—a rich man

um
: an affix without definite meaning; it may be translated by various words

ung'
: nail

unu
: one

urb'
: town, city

urs'
: a bear

us
: indicates the conditional (subjunctive)

util'
: useful

uz'
: to make use of

Top of vocabulary

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

V

vaks'
: wax

van'
: vain, fruitless

vang'
: cheek

vapor'
: vapour

varm'
: warm

vast'
: vast, spacious

vaz'
: vessel

vek'
: to awake

velk'
: to fade, to wither

ven'
: to come

vend'
: to sell

vendred'
: Friday

venen'

poison, venom

venĝ'

to revenge, to avenge

venk'

to vanquish

vent'

wind

ventr'

belly

ver'

truth, verity

verd'

green

verk'

to write, to invent, to make (as an author)

verm'

worm

verŝ'

to pour

vesper'

evening

vest'

to clothe; *vest'o*—clothes

veter'

the weather

vetur'

to journey (in a carriage, in a ship, etc.)

vi

you, thou

viand'

meat, flesh

vid'

to see

vilaĝ'

village

vin'

wine

vintr'

winter

violon'

violin

vir'

a man, a male

viŝ'

to wipe

vitr'

glass

viv'

to live

vizaĝ'

face, visage

voĉ'

voice

voj'
: way

vok'
: to call

vol'
: to wish

vort'
: a word

vost'
: a tail

vund'
: to wound

Z

zorg'
: to take care of, to provide for, to be solicitous.

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Top of vocabulary

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

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Footnotes

Clicking on "Back" will return you to the text at the point that refers to this footnote. Those with a single asterisk, e.g. (*1), and in plain type, are the originals; *the ones with a double asterisk, e.g. (**2), and in italics, are my extra "GK" notes.*

*(**1) In 1889 a similar translation by Henry Phillips, Jr. of the American Philosophical Society, also appeared, but Geoghegan's is a bit better. [Phillips: **An Attempt Towards an International Language by Dr. Esperanto** (N.Y.: Henry Holt, 1889); reprinted in v. 2, of **Ludovikologia Dokumentaro**, compiled by "ludovikito" (Kyoto, Japan: Eldonejo Ludovikito). p. 90-146.] Volume I, **Unuaj Libroj** (1991, 483 p.) has facsimile reprints of rare editions of these "First Books", including the Russian, Polish, German, French, English and Swedish versions. Despite some plusses noted below for Phillips, the Geoghegen version is more akin to the other four **Unuaj Libroj** pamphlets: all five published by Zamenhof himself. An online version [2002, Jesuo de las Heras] of Phillips' has been available at http://thor.prohosting.com/jesuo/grammar.htm in three parts, but its Vocabulary link appears to be dead.—GK* Back

*(**2) "Purists Better Learn to Talk the Talk" (Halifax Herald, 1997-09-12).—GK* Back

(*3) One cannot, of course, reckon the number of those who learned the language as equal to the number of instruction-books sold. Back
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(*4) To facilitate the finding of these affixes they are entered in the vocabulary as separate words. Back

*(**5) "international orthography" = "Esperanto spelling": see footnote (**6) below.—GK* Back

*(**6) Note that the name "Esperanto" did not yet apply to what Zamenhof calls the "International Language"; so the "International – English Vocabulary" in this pamphlet is an "**Esperanto** – English Vocabulary". Likewise, "international orthography" (**5 above) means "Esperanto spelling".—GK* Back

*(**7) The original pamphlet contained the "International [Esperanto] – English Vocabulary" (herein), but not vice versa; such compilations for many languages were soon to follow. For example, unlike Geoghegen, Henry Phillips, Jr. in his version [see (**1) above] had himself compiled an English – International Vocabulary, besides the other one. —GK* Back

(*8) In correspondence with persons who have learnt the language, as well as in works written for them exclusively, the [apostrophes], separating parts of words, are omitted. Back

*(**9) In his American translation [see (**1) above], Henry Phillips, Jr. added a remarkable footnote here:* "The Translator wrote a letter in this language to a young friend who had previously never seen nor heard of it, enclosing the printed vocabulary; he received an answer in the same tongue, with no other aid. This was a crucial test." *(p.13)—GK* Back

*(**10) Yes—he omitted giving it a name! (A one-word proper name, that is.) And so his pseudonym soon came to fill that gap.—GK* Back

*(**11) In recent years, this fundamental "h" rule has been violated on the Internet by over a dozen different improvisations which ignore both the letter and spirit of Esperanto's phonetic alphabet. According to the "untouchable" **Fundamento de Esperanto**, adopted at the first* Universala Kongreso *in 1905, one must either use the circumflex letters, or an "h". "**No person and no society can have the right to arbitrarily make in our Fundamento even the very smallest change!"** [Translated; italics in original; 1963 ed., p. 43-44: actually the first page of the **Fundamento** itself. (Marmande: Esperantaj Francaj Eldonoj)]—GK* Back

*(**12) The internal-sign was dropped in the early days and not included in the **Fundamento**.—GK* Back

*(**13) A mistranslation, because **enu'** in the vocabulary herein is "to be weary, annoyed". The Esperanto word for "longing" is **sopir'**, but that was not available until Zamenhof's **Universala Vortaro** of 1894, an updated Vocabulary, with each Esperanto word in five languages on the same line: part of the **Fundamento**, op.cit., (**11). From the prior list, perhaps one could have said **dezir'**.—GK* Back