

Pasporto al la tuta mondo, lecionoj du kaj tri

Adjectives and plurals

We've already seen how we can make plural nouns by adding the ending **-j**:

Jen unu pomo. Jen du bananoj.
Here's one apple. Here are two bananas.

In Esperanto, adjectives are said to “agree” with the nouns they describe. If a noun (or pronoun) is plural, then its adjective must also take the **-j** ending:

Jen bela bildo. Ĝi ne estas multekosta.
Here is a pretty picture. It is not expensive.

Jen belaj kolĉenoj. Ili estas multekostaj.
Here are beautiful necklaces. They are expensive.

Remember that possessives (e.g. **mia**, **ĝia**, **nia**) are also adjectives, so they follow the same rule:

La ŝafo estas via, sed la libroj estas miaj.

Kia

This is a question word meaning “what kind?” We'll talk about **kia** in more detail later, but for now, just note how it's used in the first few episodes of *Pasporto*:

Kia bela ruĝa pomo!
What a pretty red apple!

Kia bela bildo!
What a beautiful picture!

Just like adjectives, **kia** takes **-j** when it describes plural nouns:

Kiaj belaj ruĝaj pomoj!
What pretty red apples!

Asking yes/no questions

Yes/no questions are formed by placing **ĉu** at the beginning of a statement:

Statement	→	Question
Mi manĝis.		Ĉu mi manĝis?
Ŝi kuros.		Ĉu ŝi kuros?
Georgo legas.		Ĉu Georgo legas?

Note that in English, we sometimes change the word order of a statement when making it into a question. In Esperanto,

no change in word order is necessary; just add **ĉu**:

Ŝi estas laca.	<i>She is tired.</i>
Ĉu ŝi estas laca?	<i>Is she tired?</i>
Li ŝvitas.	<i>He is sweating.</i>
Ĉu li ŝvitas?	<i>Is he sweating?</i>

Answering yes/no questions

jes means *yes*. **ne** means *no* or *not*.

Ĉu vi fumas?	<i>Do you smoke?</i>
Ne. Mi ne fumas.	No. I do not smoke.
Ĉu Helena laboras?	<i>Is Helena working?</i>
Jes, ŝi laboras.	Yes, she is working.

The past participle **-ita**

-ita is the ending that makes a (passive) past participle. It's an adjective (note the **-a** ending) formed from a verb, with the meaning “(having been) -ed”.

fermi <i>to close</i>	fermita <i>closed</i>
legi <i>to read</i>	legita <i>read</i>
manĝi <i>to eat</i>	manĝita <i>eaten</i>

Lunde la vendejo estas fermita.
On Mondays the shop is closed.

Miaj vazoj estas rompita!
My vases are broken!

More about adverbs

Esperanto is rich in adverbs; any root can be made into an adverb with the **-e** ending, provided the result makes sense. We can use adverbs to express ideas that often require two or three words in English. Generally speaking, an adverb in Esperanto can replace *a preposition and a noun* in English:

Ŝi laboras lunde .	She works on Mondays .
Li parolas saĝe.	<i>He speaks wisely (with wisdom).</i>
Mi dormas nokte.	<i>I sleep at (during the) night.</i>
matene	<i>in the morning</i>
vespere	<i>in the evening</i>
fakte	<i>in fact; as a matter of fact</i>
ekzemple	<i>for example</i>

Affixes

► -ej

The suffix **-ej** is used to denote a *place* designated for the subject of the root:

vendi *to sell*
vendejo *a store (a place where one vends/sells)*

informi *to inform*
informejo *an information center*

kuri *to run*
kurejo *a track (a place where one runs)*

Like many affixes, **-ej** can act as a root by itself:

Parko estas **ejo** kun arboj kaj floroj.
A park is a place with trees and flowers.

► -ebl

The suffix **-ebl** is used to denote *possibility* (like English *-able* or *-ible*). In lesson two we see it in **kompreneble**, formed from the root **kompreni** (“to understand”):

Kompreneble estas vekhorloĝoj en Nov-Zelando!
Of course there are alarm clocks in New Zealand!

As with **-ej**, the suffix **-ebl** can function as a root, too:

Eble la mono estas en la dormoĉambro.
Perhaps the money is in the bedroom.

► ek-

ek- is a prefix added to denote *suddenness*, or the *start* of an action. We’ll see more of it later. For now, it appears as a stand-alone word meaning something like “get going!” or “start moving!”:

Ek, sinjoro! Ek al la vendejo!
Let’s go! On to the shop!

► mal-

The prefix **mal-** is one of the most useful affixes in Esperanto — it makes an *opposite*:

rapida <i>rapid, fast</i>	mal rapida <i>slow</i>
bela <i>beautiful</i>	mal bela <i>ugly</i>
granda <i>big, large</i>	mal granda <i>little, small</i>
plaĉa <i>pleasant</i>	mal plaĉa <i>unpleasant</i>
ofte <i>often, frequent</i>	mal ofte <i>rarely, seldom</i>

The “imperative” verb ending -u

When giving a direct command, use the **-u** verb ending:

Ĝuu!	<i>Enjoy!</i>
Rigardu!	<i>Look!</i>
Ne estu stulta, Georgo!	<i>Don’t be stupid, Georgo!</i>

We can also give “commands” to ourselves:

Ni manĝu je la sesa horo.
Let’s eat at six o’clock.

We can even ask for commands for ourselves and others. In formal English we usually use “shall” for this; in Esperanto we use **Ĉu ... -u**:

Ĉu ni dancu?	<i>Shall we dance?</i>
Ĉu ni iru nun?	<i>Shall we go now?</i>
Ĉu mi kuru en la parko?	<i>Shall I run in the park?</i>

Esprimoj (expressions)

► ___ plaĉas al mi. (“I like ___”)

In English we use the transitive verb **like** in phrases of the form “*I like (something)*.” The equivalent verb in Esperanto is the intransitive **plaĉi** (“to be pleasing”), so we need to arrange our sentences differently:

I like apple juice.
Plaĉas al mi pom-suko.
(Literally: “Apple juice is pleasing to me.”)

Georgo likes to read and think.
Al Georgo plaĉas legi kaj pensi.
(“To Georgo, to read and think are pleasant.”)

► _____ mankas al ni. (“We’re out of ___”)

A similar case is the verb **manki** (“to be lacking, missing, insufficient”):

Mankas al mi mono hodiaŭ.
I’m short on money today.

Mankas al ni orangĝ-suko!
We’re out of orange juice!

► ____, mi petas. (“____, please.”)

The verb **peti** means “to request, to ask for.” A polite way of saying something is to add **mi petas**, like so:

Aŭskultu, mi petas! *Listen, please!*
Literumu, mi petas. *Spell (it), please.*