

# Grammar for the Marček text, chapters 6-7

- The direct object marker (-n) with correlatives

Just as with nouns, **-n** is added to a correlative word that becomes a direct object.

		<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>
Kiun li vidas?	=	Li	vidas	kiun?
<i>Who does he see?</i>		<i>He</i>	<i>sees</i>	<i>who?</i>
Kiujn librojn ŝi legas?	=	Ŝi	legas	kiujn librojn?
<i>Which books does she read?</i>		<i>She</i>	<i>reads</i>	<i>which books?</i>

		<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Object</b>
Kion li havas?	=	Li	havas	kion?
<i>What does he have?</i>		<i>He</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>what?</i>
Kiajn leterojn ŝi skribas?	=	Ŝi	skribas	kiajn leterojn?
<i>What kind of letter is she writing?</i>		<i>She</i>	<i>is writing</i>	<i>what kind of letters?</i>

- The indirect object

We've talked about **-n** marking the direct object. But with some verbs (like *skribas*, for example) we not only write something; we can also write it *to someone*. This someone is called the *indirect object*:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Direct obj.</b>		<b>Indirect obj.</b>
Mi	skribas	leteron	al	ŝi.
<i>I</i>	<i>am writing</i>	<i>a letter</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>her.</i>

The indirect object may be placed before the direct object. In such cases the preposition “to” is usually omitted in English, but the preposition *al* is always included in Esperanto:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>		<b>Indirect obj.</b>	<b>Direct obj.</b>
Mi	skribas	al	ŝi	leteron.
<i>I</i>	<i>am writing</i>		<i>her</i>	<i>a letter.</i>

- New correlative word: **kiom** (“how much”)

The correlative word **kiom** asks: “how much?” or “what amount?”

**Kiom** estas tri kaj kvar?  
*How much is three plus four?*

Often **kiom** appears with the preposition **da** which means “of”, but in terms of quantity. We'll talk more about the differences between **da** and **de** later, but for now, just remember that **kiom da?** asks “How many (of something)?”

**Kiom da** arboj estas en la ĝardeno?  
*How many trees are in the garden?*

**Kiom da** jaroj vi havas?

*How many years do you have? ("How old are you?")*

- The past tense: **-is**

When an action or state has already occurred, the verb ends in **-is**:

Mi skrib**is** al vi hieraŭ.      *I wrote to you yesterday.*

Li parol**is** al ŝi hieraŭ.      *He spoke to her yesterday.*

La ĉokolado est**is** bona.      *The chocolate was good.*

As we saw with the present tense, English often uses *compound* past tenses formed with “has”, “have”, “was”, and “were” (e.g. “I have seen”, “I was reading” etc.) While Esperanto has similar compound tenses, (we’ll see them in a later chapter) the simple ending **-is** is more commonly used:

Ĉu vi vid**is** tiun libron?      *Have you seen that book?*

Mi leg**is** la libron.      *I have read the book.*

Maria sid**is** kaj leg**is**.      *Maria was sitting and reading.*

- The future tense: **-os**

When an action or state will occur in the future, the verb ends in **-os**:

Mi skrib**os** al vi morgaŭ.      *I will write to you tomorrow.*

Li parol**os** al ŝi baldaŭ.      *He will speak to her soon.*

La ĉokolado est**os** bona.      *The chocolate will be good.*

- Adverbs: **-e**

Words that describe the *manner* of an action (or state) are called adverbs. They express the *how*, *why*, *when* or *where* of a verb. Most adverbs are derived from adjectives. In English, adverbs often take the ending *-ly*. In Esperanto, they end in **-e**:

bela      *beautiful*      bele      *beautifully*

rapida      *fast, quick*      rapide      *quickly*

forta      *strong*      forte      *strongly*

bona      *good*      bone      *well*

- New correlative word: **kiel** (“how?”)

**Kiel** asks: “How? In what manner?” The answer to a question with **kiel** uses an adverb, ending in **-e**.

**Kiel** la hundo kuras? —Ĝi kuras rapide!

*How does the dog run? —It runs quickly!*

**Kiel** vi fartas? — Mi bone fartas, dankon.

*How do you do (“fare”)? —I’m well, thank you.*