

Grammar for the Marček text, chapter 8

The prefix **ge-**

ge- is used to denote people of both genders taken together:

patro	<i>father</i>	ge patroj	<i>parents</i>
frato	<i>brother</i>	ge fratoj	<i>brother(s) and sisters(s)</i>
filo	<i>son</i>	ge filoj	<i>son(s) and daughter(s)</i>
knabo	<i>boy</i>	ge knaboj	<i>boy(s) and girl(s)</i>
sinjoro	<i>Mr.; gentleman</i>	ge sinjoroj	<i>Mr. and Mrs.; Ladies and gentlemen</i>

Kial (*why, for what reason*), **tial** (*therefore, so, for that reason*) and **ĉar** (*because*)

Kial li skribis leteron?

Why did he write a letter?

Tial mi skribis al li.

Therefore (for that reason) I wrote to him.

Mi pensas, **tial** mi ekzistas.

I think, therefore I exist.

Note: don't confuse **tial** (*for that reason*) with **ĉar** (*because*).

Mi manĝos, **ĉar** mi estas malsata.

I will eat because I am hungry.

Mi manĝis, **tial** mi ne estas malsata.

I ate, therefore I am not hungry.

The ending **-u**

When giving commands, the verb ends in **-u**:

Iru al la pordo! *Go to the door!*

Donu al mi akvon! *Give me water!*

As in English, the person addressed is not usually named:

Venu rapide! = (Vi) venu rapide!

Come quickly! = (You) come quickly!

We can't give commands to ourselves or directly to a third party, but we can use **-u** to express our will, wish, or desire. In English, we use the verb "let" for this: "Let me do it", "Let him wait", etc.:

Ni **iru** al la urbo. *Let's go to the city.*

Li **atendu**. *Let him wait.*

Ili **venu** al ni. *Let them come to us.*

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

Ĉu li atend <u>u</u> ?	<i>Shall he wait?</i>
Ĉu ili komenc <u>u</u> ?	<i>Shall they begin?</i>
Ĉu ni danc <u>u</u> ?	<i>Shall we dance?</i>
Ĉu mi send <u>u</u> ĝin?	<i>Shall I send it?</i>
Ĉu ni ir <u>u</u> al la urbo?	<i>Shall we go to the city?</i>

The ending **-i**

To name an action or state without reference to time, we use the infinitive. In English, infinitives are often expressed with “to” (e.g., “to be”, “to eat”, “to speak”), but in Esperanto the infinitive has a distinctive ending, **-i**:

esti	<i>to be</i>	paroli	<i>to speak</i>
manĝi	<i>to eat</i>	sidi	<i>to sit</i>
labori	<i>to work</i>	stari	<i>to stand</i>

*Note: do not confuse this “to” with **al**, which expresses direction. Don’t say “al manĝi” for “to eat”!*

In general, when two verbs come together, the second one will be infinitive: it will end in **-i**.

Ili volis iri kun vi.
They wanted to go with you.

Ŝi ŝatas manĝi ĉokoladon.
She likes to eat chocolate.

Ni povos trinki bieron en la trinkejo.
We’ll be able to drink beer in the bar.

The suffix **-ej**

-ej is used to denote a *place* for the verb indicated by the root:

lerni	<i>to learn</i>	lernejo	<i>school (a place where one learns)</i>
manĝi	<i>to eat</i>	manĝejo	<i>dining room, cafeteria (a place where one eats)</i>
loĝi	<i>to live (reside)</i>	loĝejo	<i>a residence (a place where one lives)</i>

If the root is not a verb but a noun, **-ej** denotes a place it characterizes:

kafo	<i>coffee</i>	kafejo	<i>café, coffee-house</i>
hundo	<i>dog</i>	hundejo	<i>kennel, dog-house</i>
aŭto	<i>car</i>	aŭtejo	<i>garage</i>

The suffix **-ist**

-ist is used to denote a person who is occupied—either professionally or as a hobby—with the thing named in the root:

dento	<i>tooth</i>	dent isto	<i>dentist</i>
labori	<i>to work</i>	labor isto	<i>worker</i>
arto	<i>art</i>	art isto	<i>artist</i>
instrui	<i>to teach</i>	instru isto	<i>teacher</i>
scienco	<i>science</i>	scienc isto	<i>scientist</i>
muziko	<i>music</i>	muzik isto	<i>musician</i>

The suffix **-ant**

Like **-ist**, the suffix **-ant** can make nouns for a person performing an action. But while **-ist** conveys habitual or professional dedication to something, an **-anto** is just a person performing an action in a given situation.

For example, a *laboranto* (someone who's doing work) is not necessarily a *laboristo* (someone who works for a living). A *skribanto* could be someone who's writing a letter, for example. But a *skribisto* isn't just writing a letter—he's a professional scribe. Some other **-ant** words:

ami	<i>to love</i>	am anto	<i>lover</i>
helpi	<i>to help</i>	help anto	<i>helper</i>
komenci	<i>to begin</i>	komenc anto	<i>beginner</i>
legi	<i>to read</i>	leg anto	<i>reader</i>
loĝi	<i>to live, dwell</i>	loĝ anto	<i>dweller, inhabitant</i>
venki	<i>to conquer</i>	venk anto	<i>conqueror, victor</i>
vendi	<i>to sell</i>	vend anto	<i>seller, vendor</i>

This is how Esperanto got its name, by the way. Zamenhof originally published the beginnings of the language under the pseudonym *Doktoro Esperanto*. The verb *esper* means "to hope". Zamenhof's hope was that his language could serve as a bridge between cultures.

The pseudo-suffix **-nj**

Unlike "normal" Esperanto suffixes, **-nj** modifies the word to which it is attached. We use **-nj** with the first few letters of a feminine name (dropping the rest) to form an affectionate name, or nickname:

patrino	<i>mother</i>	pan jo	<i>mommy, mom</i>
onklino	<i>aunt</i>	on jo	<i>auntie</i>
avino	<i>grandmother</i>	avin jo	<i>granny, grandma</i>
Elizabeto	<i>Elizabeth</i>	Elin jo	<i>Liz, Beth, etc.</i>

The pseudo-suffix **-ĉj**

-ĉj is used in the same way with masculine names:

patro	<i>father</i>	paĉ jo	<i>daddy, dad</i>
Johano	<i>John</i>	Joĉ jo	<i>Johnny</i>
Vilhelmo	<i>William</i>	Vilĉ jo	<i>Bill, Billy</i>