

Using -isto

English	Esperanto
doctor	kuracisto
police officer	policisto
chef/cook	
musician	
photographer	
footballer	
shopkeeper/vendor	

Using -ilo

English	Esperanto
stove	kuirilo
musical instrument	muzikilo
camera	
medicine	
flipper	
item of cutlery	
▶ opener (e.g. for a bottle)	

Hint: you need to use one of your previous answers here

Verbs

English	Esperanto
she closes	ŝi fermas
he sold	li vendis
they will cook	ili kuiros
I love	
you ate	
he will help	
she photographs	
we swam	



# Introduction to Esperanto



Esperanto is usually found to be much easier to learn and use than other foreign languages, and this leaflet demonstrates some of the main reasons why this is, by teaching you how to translate many different words into Esperanto using only a small amount of information about the language.

You are given explanations of two elements of the language: the word-building structure and the verbs, along with a list of words in Esperanto with their English translations. There is then a short quiz in which you need to translate other words from English into Esperanto, which you can complete using only the explanations and the list of words.

## Explanations

### Word-Building Structure

In Esperanto it is often possible to create new words by combining existing ones together logically, and by adding on affixes (small parts added onto words).

This means that the amount of vocabulary that needs to be memorised in order to learn and use the language is significantly smaller than for other foreign languages. It also means that if you want to say something in Esperanto but haven't learnt the word for it, you can just create one logically using this system to give the meaning that you want.

This is an explanation of how four of the most common affixes are used:

**mal-**  
The opposite meaning

good = **bona** → bad = **malbona**  
to love = **ami** → to hate = **malami**  
victory = **venko** → defeat = **malvenko**  
common = **ofta** → rare = **malofta**

**-ejo**  
A place for something

to sell = **vendi** → shop = **vendejo**  
football = **futbalo** → football pitch = **futbalejo**  
to learn = **lerni** → school = **lernejo**  
horse = **ĉevalo** → stable = **ĉevalejo**

**-isto**  
A worker or professional

to cure = **kuraci** → doctor = **kuracisto**  
police = **polico** → police officer = **policisto**  
to repair = **ripari** → repairman = **riparisto**  
sheep = **ŝafo** → shepherd = **ŝafisto**

**-ilo**  
A tool or other object used for doing something

to cook = **kui** → stove = **kuirilo**  
music = **muziko** → musical instrument = **muzikilo**  
to cut = **tranci** → knife = **trancilo**  
to capture = **kapti** → trap = **kaptilo**

Each letter is always pronounced the same in Esperanto, and each sound is represented by a single letter, with no silent letters. Most letters are pronounced roughly the same as in English, and major differences have been shown on the next page

The accent in every word is on the second-to-last syllable, for example, *bona* is pronounced **bona** and *futbalo* is pronounced **futbalo**.

## Verbs

Another major reason why Esperanto is usually found to be very easy is that the verbs in the language are completely regular and very simple and easy to learn.

Each tense has the same ending for every verb and for every person, with no exceptions or irregular verbs. To change the tense of a verb, you simply have to change the ending.

Verbs in the infinitive ("dictionary form") end in **-i**

to be = **esti**  
to have = **havi**  
to cure = **kuraci**  
to run = **kuri**

To form the present tense, you change the ending to **-as**

I am = **mi estas**  
you are = **vi estas**  
she closes = **ŝi fermas**  
we laugh = **ni ridas**

To form the past tense, you change the ending to **-is**

I was = **mi estis**  
you were = **vi estis**  
he sold = **li vendis**  
it fell = **ĝi falis**

To form the future tense, you change the ending to **-os**

I will be = **mi estos**  
you will be = **vi estos**  
they will cook = **ili kurois**  
I will see = **mi vidos**

## Word List

These are the words you need to complete the quiz:

Adjectives have the ending **-a** added on

good = **bona**  
sharp = **akra**  
dense = **densa**  
big = **granda**  
common = **ofta**

g = g as in *girl*

Verbs

to love = **ami**  
to sell = **vendi**  
to photograph = **foti**  
to cook = **kui**  
to eat = **manĝi**  
to help = **helpi**  
to swim = **naĝi**  
to cure = **kuraci**  
to close = **fermi**

i = ee in English

ĝ = g as in *general*

c = ts in English

Nouns have the ending **-o** added on

football = **futbalo**  
police = **polico**  
friend = **amiko**  
music = **muziko**  
optimism = **optimismo**

The answers to the quiz can be found [here](#)

j = y in English

Pronouns

I = **mi**  
you = **vi**  
he = **li**  
she = **ŝi**  
it = **ĝi**  
we = **ni**  
they = **ili**

ŝ = sh in English



## Quiz

You can now translate all of these words into Esperanto using only the explanations and the list of words. The first answers have been shown as examples to follow.

### Using mal-

English	Esperanto
bad	malbona
to love	malami
small	
to open	
enemy	
sparse	
to hinder	
pessimism	

### Using -ejo

English	Esperanto
shop	vendejo
football pitch	futbalejo
kitchen	
swimming pool	
police station	
clinic	
canteen	

There are many other aspects of Esperanto which make it very easy to learn and use, including many other ways of constructing words as demonstrated here

More information about Esperanto:

[www.lernu.net](http://www.lernu.net)