



ESPERANTO LESSON

Esperanto Grammar 1 • Chapter 8

• Putting It Together

Esperanto Grammar 1

Chapter 8 · Sentences and Putting It Together

❖ Putting It Together — Kunmetado

*The pieces are all on the table. This chapter joins them into sentences: the small words that link clauses, the way **ke** reports what someone said, how to negate, and how word order and emphasis work. It ends with a clinic on the mistakes learners make most, two short texts, and the Course Complete recap.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Build the sentence from the endings you know: noun **-o**, plural **-j**, object **-n**, adjective **-a**, adverb **-e**, verb **-as/-is/-os/-us/-u/-i**. Join clauses with a **comma plus a linking word** (**ke**, **kiu**, **ĉar**, **se**). Use **one** negative word, not two.

Linking words

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
kaj · sed · aŭ	and · but · or	Mi ŝatas teon, sed ne kafon. I like tea, but not coffee.
ĉar	because	Mi restas hejme, ĉar pluvas. I'm staying at home because it's raining.
se	if	Se pluvos, ni ne iros. If it rains, we won't go.
kvankam	although	Kvankam estas malvarme, mi iras. Although it's cold, I'm going.
tamen · do	however · so, then	Li estas laca, tamen li laboras. He's tired, yet he works.
dum · kiam	while · when	Dum mi legas, ŝi dormas. While I read, she sleeps.
antaŭ ol · post kiam	before · after (a clause)	Antaŭ ol mi foriras, mi trinkas teon. Before I leave, I drink tea.

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
por ke	so that	Mi parolas malrapide, por ke vi komprenu. I speak slowly so that you can understand.

In Esperanto, **every clause is set off by a comma**, which is stricter than English. The link word starts the clause, and the verb inside keeps the endings from Chapter 4, with no special subordinate-clause form.

The word ke, and reporting speech

ke means *that* after verbs of saying, thinking, knowing and hoping, and the comma before it is always written:

ESPERANTO	ENGLISH
Mi scias, ke li venos.	I know that he will come.
Mi pensas, ke ĝi estas bona.	I think that it is good.
Mi esperas, ke vi venos.	I hope you'll come.
Mi volas, ke vi venu.	I want you to come.

After *want*, the clause with **ke** takes the wish ending **-u** (Chapter 4). And in reported speech the tense stays the same as in the original words:

ORIGINAL WORDS	REPORTED
"Mi venos." (I will come.)	Li diris, ke li venos. He said he would come.
"Mi estas laca." (I am tired.)	Li diris, ke li estas laca. He said he was tired.

Watch out: no "backshift" as in English

English moves the tense back (*will* → *would*, *am* → *was*). Esperanto does not: it keeps the tense of the words as they were spoken. So *He said he would come* is **Li diris, ke li venos**, and *He said he*

was tired is **Li diris, ke li estas laca**. Writing **venus** or **estis** here is the commonest mistake English speakers make with **ke**.

Negatives

ESPERANTO	ENGLISH
Mi ne havas tempon.	I have no time.
Mi vidis neniun.	I saw nobody. (neniu is already negative: no <i>ne</i>)
Li neniam venas frue.	He never comes early.
Nek teo nek kafo.	Neither tea nor coffee.
Ne mi, sed li.	Not me, but him.

Rule: with one of the **neni-** words of Chapter 6 (**neniu**, **nenio**, **neniam**, **nenie**) you do **not** add **ne**. Esperanto has no double negative: one negative word is enough, and adding **ne** would be a mistake.

Word order, emphasis, elision

- **Normal order:** subject, verb, object, as in English. It is the safe default.
- **Free order:** because the object ends in **-n**, you can put it first for emphasis: **La katon vidas la hundo**. (It is *the cat* that the dog sees.)
- **Question words** and **ĉu** start the sentence. **ne** goes before the word it negates.
- **Adjectives** normally come before their noun; adverbs go next to the verb they describe.
- **Elision** (rule 16): the *a* of **la** and the final *o* of a noun may be dropped and replaced by an apostrophe, mostly in poetry and song: **l' amiko** for **la amiko** (check).
- **International words** (rule 15): words that exist in many languages are taken in with Esperanto spelling and endings: **telefono**, **hotelo**, **radio**, **komputilo**.



#	MISTAKE	CORRECT	WHY
1	Mi vidas la hundoj.	Mi vidas la hundojn.	The object needs <i>-n</i> (<i>-jn</i> in the plural).
2	La domo estas grandan.	La domo estas granda.	After <i>esti</i> the adjective does not take <i>-n</i> .
3	Mi estas bone.	Mi fartas bone.	After <i>esti</i> use an adjective; for "how you are" use <i>fartas</i> .
4	Mi ne vidis nenium.	Mi vidis nenium.	One negative word only.
5	Li estas pli alta kiel mi.	Li estas pli alta ol mi.	<i>pli</i> goes with <i>ol</i> ; <i>kiel</i> goes with <i>tiel</i> .
6	Kiu libron vi legas?	Kiun libron vi legas?	<i>kiu</i> agrees with the noun it asks about.
7	Mi loĝas en Edinburgon.	Mi loĝas en Edinburgo.	No movement, so no direction <i>-n</i> .
8	Li diris, ke li venus morgaŭ.	Li diris, ke li venos morgaŭ.	Reported speech keeps the original tense.
9	Mi donis la libron la knabo.	Mi donis la libron al la knabo.	The person who receives takes <i>al</i> .
10	La viro kiu loĝas tie estas mia amiko.	La viro, kiu loĝas tie, estas mia amiko.	Commas around the relative clause.

Two short texts

Text 1: read it

Mi nomiĝas Filipino kaj mi loĝas en Edinburgo, la ĉefurbo de Skotlando. Mi laboras en teknika subteno: mi helpas homojn, kiuj havas problemojn kun siaj komputiloj. Nun mi lernas Esperanton, ĉar mi ŝatas lingvojn. Antaŭe mi lernis la hungaran kaj la germanan. Esperanto ŝajnas pli facila ol ili, ĉar la gramatiko estas tre regula, sed mi devas ankoraŭ lerni multajn vortojn. Mi esperas, ke mi iam parolos ĝin bone.

▼ Show the English

My name is Philip and I live in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. I work in technical support: I help people who have problems with their computers. Now I am learning Esperanto, because I like languages. Before, I learned Hungarian and German. Esperanto seems easier than they are, because the grammar is very regular, but I still have to learn many words. I hope that one day I will speak it well.

Text 2: find the four mistakes

Hieraŭ mi iris al la urbo kun mia amiko. Ni vidis tre bela kastelo. Ĝi estas pli granda kiel mia domo. Mi ne vidis nenium homon tie, ĉar estis malfrue.

▼ Show the corrections

1. **tre belan kastelon**: both the adjective and the noun are objects of *vidis*, so each needs *-n* (two mistakes). 2. **pli granda ol**, not *kiel*. 3. **Mi vidis nenium homon** (no extra *ne*), or **Mi ne vidis iun homon**.



Quick Reference — The whole course in one table

PART OF SPEECH	FORM	ADD
Noun	root + -o	-j plural · -n object or direction
Adjective	root + -a	copies -j -n from the noun
Adverb	root + -e	nothing
Verb	root + -i -as -is -os -us -u	nothing (no agreement)
Participle	root + -ant -int -ont -at -it -ot + ending	as noun, adjective or adverb
Pronoun	mi vi li ŝi ĝi ni ili oni si	-n object · -a possessive
Correlatives	5 beginnings × 9 endings	-j -n as the ending requires
Word-building	prefix + root + suffix + ending	main word last

Try It Yourself — Ekzercoj

Say the answer first, then click to check.

1. Translate "I know that he will come."

▼ Show answer

Mi scias, ke li venos.

2. Translate "I want you to come."

▼ Show answer

Mi volas, ke vi venu. (the wish ending -u)

3. Translate "He said that he was tired."

▼ Show answer

Li diris, ke li estas laca. The tense stays as in the original words.

4. Translate "Neither tea nor coffee."

▼ Show answer

Nek teo nek kafo.

5. Translate "If I had time, I would come."

▼ Show answer

Se mi havus tempon, mi venus.

6. Translate "Although it is cold, I am going."

▼ Show answer

Kvankam estas malvarme, mi iras.

7. Put "the cat" first in *La hundo vidas la katon* for emphasis.

▼ Show answer

La katon vidas la hundo.

8. Correct: *Mi ne havas neniun amikon.*

▼ Show answer

Mi havas neniun amikon. or Mi ne havas amikon.

9. Translate "I don't know whether he is at home."

▼ Show answer

Mi ne scias, ĉu li estas hejme.

10. Write three sentences about yourself in Esperanto, using at least one object with *-n*, one adjective and one past or future verb.

▼ Show a model

Mi loĝas en Edinburgo. Mi havas grandan libron. Morgaŭ mi laboros.

(Your own sentences will differ: check that the object ends in *-n*, the adjective copies it, and the verb has *-is* or *-os*.)

Course Complete — Gratulon!

You have worked through the sounds, the endings, the whole verb system, word-building, the correlative table, the participles, the prepositions and numbers, and the way sentences are joined. Here is what you can now do:

CHAPTER	YOU CAN NOW...
1	Read any Esperanto word aloud with the right stress, and type the accented letters.
2	Build nouns, plurals and objects, and use <i>la</i> correctly.
3	Describe, compare and add the right endings to adjectives and adverbs.
4	Use the pronouns and the six verb endings for any person.

CHAPTER	YOU CAN NOW...
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Build and decode words with prefixes, suffixes and compounds. |
| 6 | Use all 45 correlatives from the grid. |
| 7 | Use participles, prepositions, numbers, dates and the clock. |
| 8 | Join clauses, report speech, negate correctly and fix the usual mistakes. |

Course complete. Next: *Esperanto Basic Conversation 1* is planned but not outlined yet; ask for *esperanto_basic1-1* when you are ready. It will use the grammar from this course in everyday situations.