

Easy Ido/Lesson one

Unesma leciono

Lesson two

Alphabet

The alphabet is the same as English: a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z.

Pronunciation

Vowels

There are five vowels. Remember to say vowels short. Don't say things like o^w, and so on. Just say o, a.

letter	pronunciation	gloss
a	IPA: /a/	bah
e	IPA: /ɛ/	met
i	IPA: /i/	mean
o	IPA: /o/	mow
u	IPA: /u/	moo

When two vowels go together we can have these two possibilities. They can be pronounced together, as a diphthong:(there are only two):

- au - ow - **ow**
- eu - e + oo -**e-oo** spoken very quickly

Or they can be pronounced separately each vowel sound fully enunciated (like **basis**):

Consonants

Most are the same as English. But:

letter	pronunciation	gloss
c	IPA: /t͡s/	rats (soft c)
r	IPA: /ɾ/	ratón <i>tapped r</i>
g	IPA: /g/	get (hard g)
j	IPA: /ʒ/	mea sure
s	IPA: /s/	say never like <i>nose</i> nor <i>ears</i>
x	IPA: /ks/	six never like <i>xylophone</i>

Accent

All words have an accent on the second-last sound, except *infinitives*, which are verbs that end in -ar. They have an accent on the last sound.

mea, libro, amiko, jupo, sinistre.

But:

irar, facar, dommar, manjar.

Words having two consecutive vowels in the last syllable (the first being *i* or *u*) take the accent on the previous syllable, if there is one:

aquo, manui, Wikipedio.

However, if there is no other syllable, then it is the second to last vowel that takes the accent:

dio, sua, tui.

Except that an *u* right after a *q* can never take the accent. The stress vowel is then the last one in:

quar, quo, quin.

'The' and 'a'

These are called 'articles'. Ido has the word **la** for "the". But Ido does not have a word for "a". That means that "amiko" can mean "friend" or "a friend". **La amiko** means "the friend".

Nouns

- All singular nouns end with -o. **Domo** (house), **skolo** (school), **urbo** (city).
- All plural nouns end with -i. **Domi** (houses), **skoli** (schools), **urbi** (cities).
- You don't need an -o on people's names and names of places. These are 'proper nouns'. But don't forget that some spellings may be different; for instance if the words *America* and *Canada* existed in Ido, they would sound like *Ameritsa* and *Tsanada*, so we write them as *Amerika* and *Kanada* instead. For less common names it is favourable not to alter the spelling, otherwise the original spelling could be difficult to retrieve.

Adjectives

- All adjectives end with -a. **vera** (true), **simpla** (simple), **bona** (good).
- You can make comparisons and say 'the most' and 'the least' with the words **plu**, **min**, **maxim**, and **minim**. **Plu vera** (truer), **plu simpla** (simpler), **min bona** (less good), **min simpla** (less simple), **maxim bona** (best), **minim simpla** (least simple).
- To say something has a certain quality more or less than something else use **kam**, as in **plu simpla kam** (simpler than).
- To say something has a certain quality the most or least out of a group, use **de**, as in **maxim bona de** (best of).
- You can compare things as being similar and say **tam ... kam** meaning 'as ... as'. For example **tam simpla kam** (as simple as).
- You can put adjectives before the noun like in English (**bona skolo**), or after the noun like in French (**skolo bona**).

Adverbs

Adverbs usually come from adjectives. Just replace the -a with -e. **Vere** (truly), **simple** (simply), **bone** (well).

As in English, there are adverbs that don't come from adjectives, mostly relating to time and place. These include **ibe** (there), **ante** (before), **seque** (afterwards), **lore** (then, at that time), **sempre** (always), **anke** (also).

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Easy Ido/Lesson two

Duesma leciono

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Verbs

- Infinitives (to go, to walk) end in -ar:**vidar** (to see), **facar** (to do), **flugar** (to fly).
- The present tense ending is -as:**vidas** (I, you, he, she, sees), **facas** (do, does), **flugas** (fly, flies).
- The past tense ending is -is:**vidis** (saw), **facis** (did), **flugis** (flew).
- The future tense ending is -os:**vidos** (will see), **facos** (will do), **flugos** (will fly).
- The conditional mood ending is -us: (would, as in "I would like to go")**vidus** (would see), **facus** (would do), **flugus** (would fly).
- The imperative (or command form) ending is -ez:**videz!** (look!), **facez!** (do!), **fluencez!** (fly!). You can also use this form to say "let's". **Ni flucez** - let's fly.
- There are also past and future infinitives, ending in -ir and -ovidir (to have seen), **vidor** (to be going to see). Note the correspondence between the infinitives and the simple tenses.

The verb "to be"

- The verb "to be" is **esar**. **Me esas** (I am), **Me esis** (I was), **Me esos** (I will be).
- You can just say **es** instead of **esas** if you feel like it. You use this verb all the time and that's why it has a short form.

Negative

To make a negative, just put **ne** before the verb. **Me ne esas** (I am not), **ne flugas** (doesn't fly), **ne vidos** (will not see).

Describing things with verbs

Active

- Replacing -ar with -anta turns the verb into an adjective describing the thing that's *doing* an action. **Fluganta uceli** - flying birds. **Kantanta viro** - a singing man.
- Replacing -ar with -inta turns the verb into an adjective describing the thing that's *done* an action. **Fluginta uceli** - birds that have flown. **Kantinta viro** - a man that has sung.
- Replacing -ar with -onta turns the verb into an adjective describing the thing that's *going to do* an action. **Flugonta uceli** - birds that are going to fly **Kantonta viro** - a man that is going to sing.

Passive

- Replacing -ar with -ata turns the verb into an adjective describing the thing that's *having* something done to it. **Drinkata aquo** - water being drunk. **Manjata pano** - bread being eaten.

- Replacing -ar with -ita turns the verb into an adjective describing the thing that *had* something done to it. **Drinkita aquo** - water that was drunk. **Manjita pano** - bread that was eaten.
- Replacing -ar with -ota turns the verb into an adjective describing the thing that *is going to have* something done to it. **Drinkota aquo** - water that is going to be drunk. **Manjota pano** - bread that is going to be eaten.

Had and have

- When saying things like "I have eaten," "I had gone," and "I will have sung," you use the endings -abas, -abis, and -abos. **Me manjabas la pano** (I have eaten the bread), **me manjabis la pano** (I had eaten the bread), **me manjabos la pano** (I will have eaten the bread).

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Easy Ido/Lesson three

Triesma leciono

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Pronouns

These are words like I, you, he, she, and so on.

- **me** - I, me
- **tu** - you (use this with a friend)
- **vu** - you (use this with a person you don't know)
- **ilu** or **il** - he, him
- **elu** or **el** - she, her
- **olu** or **ol** - it
- **lu** - he, she or it. Can be used in place of **il(u)**, **el(u)** or **ol(u)**, e. g. when gender is not known or not relevant.
- **ni** - we, us
- **vi** - you (plural of **vu** or **tu**)
- **ili** - they, them (when speaking only of males)
- **eli** - they, them (when speaking only of females)
- **oli** - they, them (when speaking only of inanimate things)
- **li** - they (plural of **lu**, can be used to replace, and usually does so **ili**, **eli** or **oli**)
- **onu** or **on** - one, like in the sentence "One never knows".
- **su** - oneself, himself, herself, itself, themselves.

Ownership

Just put an -a on the end to show ownership.

- **mea** - my, mine
- **tua** - your, yours (one person, a friend)
- **vua** - your, yours (one person)
- **ilua** - his
- **elua** - her, hers
- **olua** - its
- **lua** - his, her, hers, its
- **nia** - our, ours
- **via** - your, yours (more than one person)
- **ilia** - their, theirs (of males)
- **elia** - their, theirs (of females)
- **olia** - their, theirs (of inanimate things)
- **lia** - their, theirs
- **onua** - one's
- **sua** - one's own, his own, her own, its own, their own.

Examples

- **Oi esas mea libro.** - it is my book.
- **Ni havas libro.** - we have a book.
- **El havas sua ucelo.** - she has her (own) bird.
- **El havas elua ucelo.** - she has her (some other girl's) bird.
- **Me ne flugis.** - I didn't fly.

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Easy Ido/Lesson four

Quaresma leciono

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Note: This section has a lot of information, so go slowly!

Changing verbs to nouns, nouns to verbs, and others

- You can turn any adjective into an adverb by replacing -a with -e. **mala** (bad), **male** (badly).
- You can turn verbs into nouns by replacing the -ar with an -o. Remember that because verbs are action words, the noun will only be about the action itself, not the thing you use to do it. **vidar** (to see) - **vido** (seeing or sight); **promenar** (to walk) - **promeno** (a walk).
- You can change the -a on an adjective to -o which gives you a noun of the thing that the adjective symbolizes. **giganta** (gigantic) - **giganto** (a giant). **yuna** (young) - **yuno** (a young person, a youth).
- Don't forget that the verbs we turned into adjectives before can turn into nouns in the same way. **drinkar** (to drink) - **drinkanta** (drinking) - **drinkanto** (someone or something drinking, a drinker) **flugar** (to fly) - **fluganta** (flying) - **fluganto** (flier, the thing doing the flying).
- If you change the -o to an -a, you get a direct adjective. This means that **metalo** (metal) turns to **metala** (of metal), as in **metala telefono** (a metal telephone). Don't forget that this doesn't mean "metallic"! If it did, you could turn it back into **metalo** with the meaning "metal-like", and the word **metalo** would have two meanings. In the same way **papero** (paper) turns into **papera** as in **papera ucelo** (a paper bird), and doesn't mean a "paper-like bird". This point is very important.
- The usual way to make an adjective from a noun is to replace the -o with -ala. Now the word **papero** turns into **paperala** (of paper), and we get the word **paperala industrio** (paper industry). **Papera industrio** would be an industry made of paper, so don't say that. Words like **lego** (law) turn into **legala** (legal) and **manuo** turns into **manuala** (manual, by hand).

Turning adjectives into verbs

- There are some ways of turning adjectives into verbs. If you replace -a with -igar you have a verb that means to turn something into the adjective. For example **kolda** (cold) becomes **koldigar** (to make cold).
- To make a verb that shows something turning into the adjective, replace -a with -eskar. **kolda** becomes **koldeskar** (to become cold).
- Don't forget that now that they are verbs, don't worry and just use them in the same way as the other. **Me koldigis tu** (I made you cold), **Elu koldeskos** (she will get cold).

Turning nouns into verbs

- To derive a verb from a noun the appropriate suffix must be used, according to the intended meaning of the verb.
- Nouns can turn into verbs by replacing -o with -agar. The suffix -agar comes from the word **agar** which means "to act", so -agar means "to act with a tool". This means that **martelo** (a hammer) becomes **martelagar** (to act with a hammer, that is, to hammer).
- You can do the same thing to make a verb with the meaning "to add" by replacing -o with -izar. That means that **salo** (salt) becomes **salizar** (to salt, or to add salt).
- Once you have a verb, you can turn it into a noun again, but remember that the meaning is about the action not the object. So **martelagar** (to hammer) becomes **martelago** (the act of using a hammer or hammering), and **salizar** becomes **salizo** (the act of salting, or adding salt).

- If you use the wrong ending you'll have a different meaning. If you put -izar on **martelo** for example, you will have the verb **martelizar** which means "to add hammer", which doesn't make much sense.

Okay, that's enough for this lesson. Make sure to read this one a few times to remember. Try finding some words of your own, change the endings and see if you can find them in real Ido sentences on Google.

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Easy Ido/Lesson five

Kinesma leciono

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Compound words

- You can create compound words by combining two (or more) words. Like so: **maro-salo** for sea salt. The preceding word changes the meaning of the following. Just like in English, the first word describes the second one, **salo-mar** would be a salt sea instead of sea salt. The hyphen between the words is not necessary, **marosalo** would also be correct, but it can be easier to read with the hyphens. The way you would do it in English, **maro salo** is, however, not correct. If you have two nouns and it is easier to pronounce, you can take the -o from the first one, so **mar-salo** would be correct as well. You don't want to make a word that's impossible to say though, so you would say **letro-buxo** instead of **letr-buxo** for postbox.

Smaller particles

- Use **di** to show who owns or belongs to something **libro di John** is "John's book".
- Use **de** to show where something is from. **libro de John** means "John's book" (the book you got from John).
- Use **da** to show what something is by **libro da John** means "a book by John", (John wrote the book).
- Use **pri** to show what something is about. **libro pri John** means "a book about John", (John is the subject of the book).
- Use **a** or **ad** for the English word "to" when talking about direction **De Francia a Rusia**- "From France to Russia", **il parolis ad el** - "he spoke to her".
- Use **per** to show what you are using to do something **Li voyajas per aviono**- "They travel by aeroplane".
- Use **kun** to show that one thing is in company with something else **El iris kun sua spozo**- "She went with her husband (spouse)".
- Use **ek** for the word "out", as in made out of something **shuo facita ek ledro**- "a shoe made out of leather".
- Use **en** for the word "in". **en mea chambro**- "in my room".
- Use **aden** (to + in) to mean "into". **aden mea chambro**- "into my room".
- Use **sur** to mean "on". **Pozes ol sur la lito**- "Place it on the bed".
- Use **adsur** to mean "up onto". **la kato saltis adsur la tablo**- "the cat jumped up onto the table".
- Use **alonge** in the same way you use English "along" **Irez alonge la rivero**- "Go along the river".

Word order

- You will have no problems following English word order when you write in Ido, but you can change things around a bit.
- As said before, adjectives can go before or after a noun, like in French.
- Adverbs go anywhere as long as the meaning is clear
- The subject goes before the object, but you can put the subject after if you want by putting an -n on the object **me manjas pano** - "I eat bread", but: **Men manjas pano**- "(A) bread eats me". Of course you could just change the order and say **Pano manjas me**

Questions

- Ask yes or no questions by using **ka** or **kad** before a sentence. **Vu iris a la urbo** - "You went to the city". **Ka vu iris a la urbo?** - "Did you go to the city?" (NOTE: The choice between **ka** and **kad** is only about euphony Just choose the one you think sounds better in each particular case).
- You don't change the word order when asking a question like in English.
- Other words: **kande** (when), **quale** (how), **ube** (where), **quo** (what), **qua** (who).

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Easy Ido/Lesson six

Sisesma leciono

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Prefixes

These are small words you put on the front of other words to change the meaning, like the "im" in "impossible". You can use these to make all new words of your own if you know how they work.

- **des** makes things opposite. **facila** (easy), **desfacila** (hard).
- **ex** is the same as in English. **ex-prezidanto** (ex-president).
- **mi** gives the meaning of half. **mi-cirklo** (semicircle).
- **mis** is when something is done wrong. **mis-uzar** (to misuse).
- **ne** makes something negative. **ne-posibla** (impossible).
- **par** goes on a verb to show that it was done well, or completely. **par-lektar** (to read thoroughly).
- **pre** means "before". **pre-nomo** (first name).
- **pseudo** is the same as in English. **pseudo-religioza** (pseudo-religious).
- **retro** gives the meaning of "backward". **retro-irar** (to go back).
- **ri** is like the English "re", meaning to do again. **ri-facar** (to do over again).
- **sen** gives the meaning of "without". **sen-denta** (toothless).

Suffixes part one

These are the same as prefixes except that they go on the end. Remember to take the last -o, -a, or other ending off the word before you put a suffix on.

- Use **-ach-** when you don't like something or when you look down on it. **infanto** (child), **infantacho** (brat).
- Use **-ad-** after taking the **-ar** off of a verb to show repeated action. **Parolar** (to talk), **parolado** (a speech).
- Use **-aj-** to show something that is made out of that word. **bela** (beautiful), **belajo** (something beautiful), **manjar** (to eat), **manjajo** (food).
- Use **-an-** when you are talking about someone that belongs to a certain group. **klubo** (club), **klubano** (club member), **Kristo** (Christ), **Kristano** (Christian). You also use this as an adjective for talking about people from different lands. **Japonia** (Japan), **japoniana** (Japanese).
- Use **-ar-** when you want to talk about a large collection of the first word. **Homo** (person), **homaro** (humanity). **Libro** (book), **libraro** (library).
- Use **-atr-** when you want to say that something is similar to, or has similar qualities to the root. **sponjo** (sponge), **sponjatra** (spongy).

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Easy Ido/Lesson seven

Sepesma leciono

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Verb + Infinitive

The English sentence 'I need to go home' is in the form Verb ('I need') + Infinitive ('to go'). Ido uses the same construction. Here are some verbs which can be found in sentences like this:

- **povar** - to be able (to do something)
- **mustar** - to have to (by necessity)
- **bezonar** - to need (to)
- **volar** - to want (to)
- **devar** - to have a duty (to), 'should'

Times

One can talk about time using words such as the following:

- **hiere** - yesterday
- **hodie** - today
- **morge** - tomorrow
- **horo** - hour
- **kloko** - o'clock
- **dio** - day
- **semano** - week
- **monato** - month
- **yaro** - year

Short words

Like in many languages, the hardest to learn can be the short words. To make matters worse, some words in Ido are very similar while their translations in English are quite different. The converse can also be true. Here are a few sets of words which need special attention.

That

- **ta** - used when 'that' is an adjective, e.g. it precedes a noun **Ta libro esas granda** 'That book is big'.
- **to** - used when 'that' is a pronoun, e.g. it precedes a verb **To esas libro**, 'That is a book'.
- **ke** - used when 'that' is a conjunction, e.g. it joins two clauses **Me pensas ke hundi esas animalj** 'I think that dogs are animals'.

N words

- **nek** - neither and nor. **Me manjas nek frukti nek legumj** 'I eat neither fruits nor vegetables'.
- **nur** - only. **Me havas nur un frato** 'I have only one sibling'.
- **nun** - now. **Me mustas irar nun** 'I must go now'.
- **nam** - for, since. **Me skribis la vorto, nam me ne savis olu** 'I wrote the word, for I did not know it'.

Ul words

- **ulo** - something. **Forsan ulo plu bona venos**, 'Perhaps something better will come.'
- **ulu** - anyone, someone. **Kad ulu savas ube ol esas?** 'Does anyone know where it is?'
- **ula** - any, some. **Kad vu havas ula libri pri scienco?** 'Do you have any books about science?'

Tr words

- **tra** - through. **Me marchis tra la parko**, 'I walked through the park.'
- **tro** - too. **Mea libro esas tro olda**, 'My book is too old.'
- **tre** - very. **Ta libro esas tre interesanta**, 'This book is very interesting.'

Others

Once you have mastered the words above, try learning these last few. Also, try using them in sentences.

- **dum** - during
- **yen** - here is/are, there is/are (as in 'There is the train!')
- **do** - so, consequently
- **ma** - but
- **ja** - already
- **se** - if
- **ya** - indeed, truly
- **tante** - so (as in 'so big', 'so quickly')

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Easy Ido/Lesson eight

Suffixes part two

- Use **-e-** to describe tint or colour **rozea** (rose-coloured), **oranjea** (orange-coloured)
 - Use **-ebl-** to indicate that something is possible. **videbla** (visible), **kredebla** (believable)
 - Use **-ed-** to show quantity held by something. **manuedo** (handful)
 - Use **-eg-** to indicate largeness. **domego** (mansion), **pluvego** (downpour)
 - Use **-et-** to indicate smallness.
 - Use **-em-** to say that someone or something is inclined to something. **laborema** (industrious), **ociema** (lazy)
 - Use **-end-** to express something to be done. **solvenda** (which must be solved)
 - Use **-er-** to indicate customary but not professional activity or occupation for a person, or a characteristic action by an animal or even a thing. **fotografero** (amateur photographer), **reptero** (reptile), **dansero** (dancer)
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