

Fact sheet ☆ Esperanto

What is Esperanto?

Esperanto is a language designed to be a second language for everyone. You can learn it *four times faster* than other languages. ☆

Why is it so much easier to learn?

Esperanto's grammar is much simpler, and the rules are very regular. For example, verbs have only 6 possible endings. (In French, they have 45.) So once you learn a rule, you can just start using it. Also, the suffixes multiply your vocabulary with less brain strain. And it's phonetic! ☆

How many people speak it?

World-wide, about two million people speak it, some in almost every country. It's particularly popular in Europe, China, and Brazil. ☆

How is Esperanto useful to me?

It's fun! You can actually share a language with people all over the world for international understanding, for travel, for pen pals, to learn about other cultures. ☆

Why is Esperanto neutral?

Esperanto doesn't come from a single country or group: it's never "someone else's" language. So you can use it to meet anyone half-way. ☆

How can I learn Esperanto?

Visit www.lernu.net or duolingo.com. EsperantoUSA sponsors a three-week intensive course every summer. Or visit EsperantoUSA's website for more resources. ☆

Who started Esperanto?

Ludovic Zamenhof, a teenaged boy in Russia, saw the fighting between different

language populations in his area, and felt that a neutral language could give people a way to communicate. He worked on Esperanto for several years and published a booklet about it in 1887. ☆

How do you say...

Hello Saluton ("sah-loo-tone")
Please Mi petas ("mee peh-tahs")
Thank you Dankon ("dahn-kone")
Good-bye Ĝis la ("jeese lah") ☆

What is Esperanto based on?

Esperanto's grammar combines the best features of several languages. For example, like English, nouns don't have a gender. The vocabulary is mostly from Romance, German, and Slavic roots. ☆

Why not use English?

English is a very difficult language to become fluent in. Many people don't want to stumble through someone else's language. With Esperanto you can meet people half-way! ☆

Where are Esperantists near me?

More info:

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1-800-ESPERANTO



Esperanto: the international language *that works!*