

# Free! Try our language challenge!

Esperanto words take on new meanings when you add special endings. That way, you can *multiply* the number of words you know! Less memorizing—less brain strain! We’ve done some of the words below; fill in the blanks.

| Root word                                                                                          | —ar ending (“group”)                                                                                  | —id ending (“offspring”)                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <i>dog</i> hundo |  <i>pack</i> hundaro |  _____         |
|  _____ rano       |  _____ ranaro        |  tadpole _____ |
|  _____ birdo      |  flock _____         |  _____ birdido |
|  _____ fiŝo       |  _____               |  _____ fiŝido  |
|  _____ arbo       |  forest _____        |  sapling _____ |

How many English words do you need in the table?      4      7      15  
 How many Esperanto roots and endings do you need?      4      7      15



The endings in Esperanto tell you how words are being used. The thing that is doing something ends in “o”; the thing that is the target of the action ends in “on.” Here are six ways to say “The dog flies a spaceship.” (Notice that there’s no word for “a.”)

  


  


La hundo flugas spacoŝipon.  
 Spacoŝipon la hundo flugas.  
 Flugas la hundo spacoŝipon.

La hundo spacoŝipon flugas.  
 Spacoŝipon flugas la hundo.  
 Flugas spacoŝipon la hundo.

Note: “ŝ” is pronounced like “sh” in “ship,” or “ti” in “nation,” or “ssi” in “fission.” (Only one way to spell that sound in Esperanto—no exceptions!) So “spacoŝipo” is pronounced “spots-o-sheep-o.” More examples:

La viro amas la hundon.  
 La viron amas la hundo.  
 Birdo trinkas kafon.  
 Birdo malamas akvon.

The man loves the dog.     
 The dog loves the man.     
 A bird drinks coffee.    
 A bird hates (“opposite-of loves”) water.   

Now, what do these sentences mean?

La viro flugas la spacoŝipon.  
 La hundon amas la spacoŝipo.  
 La viro spacoŝipon amas.  
 Akvon fiŝo amas.

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