



BILINGUAL CLASSICS

THE SECRET OF CHIMNEYS

La Sekreto de Chimneys

Agatha Christie

ENGLISH
ESPERANTO

English • Esperanto Parallel Text Edition

Por Lernantoj de Esperanto

Read the classic novel side-by-side in both languages

A LANGUAGE LEARNER'S EDITION

Churvaness! The Secret of Chimneys — A Bilingual Edition (English → Esperanto)

Sentence-by-sentence bilingual reading for Esperanto learners

Churvaness! Team

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Esperanto Cheat Sheet

Pronunciation

Esperanto spelling is completely regular — every letter has exactly one sound, and every sound is written with exactly one letter.

Alphabet

Letter	Sound (English approximation)	Example
a	<i>a</i> as in f ather	a miko (friend)
b	<i>b</i> as in b oy	b ona (good)
c	<i>ts</i> as in bits	c ento (hundred)
ĉ	<i>ch</i> as in ch urch	ĉ ambro (room)
d	<i>d</i> as in d og	d omo (house)
e	<i>e</i> as in bet	e sti (to be)
f	<i>f</i> as in f ood	f acila (easy)
g	<i>g</i> as in g o	g randa (big)
ĝ	<i>g</i> as in g em	ĝ ojo (joy)
h	<i>h</i> as in h at	h omo (person)
ĥ	<i>ch</i> as in Scottish loch	ĥ aoso (chaos)
i	<i>ee</i> as in see	i ri (to go)
j	<i>y</i> as in y es	j una (young)
ĵ	<i>s</i> as in pleasure	ĵ urnalo (newspaper)
k	<i>k</i> as in k ing	k ato (cat)
l	<i>l</i> as in l ove	l ongo (long)
m	<i>m</i> as in m an	m ano (hand)
n	<i>n</i> as in n o	n ova (new)
o	<i>o</i> as in g o	o kulo (eye)
p	<i>p</i> as in sp in	p atro (father)

Letter	Sound (English approximation)	Example
r	r as in roll (lightly trilled)	rapida (fast)
s	s as in say	suno (sun)
ŝ	sh as in ship	ŝipo (ship)
t	t as in stop	tago (day)
u	oo as in fool	urbo (city)
ŭ	w as in wet	aŭ (or)
v	v as in very	vero (truth)
z	z as in zoo	zorgi (to care)

Stress

Stress **always** falls on the second-to-last syllable. No exceptions.

- **a-mi-ko**, **es-pe-ro**, **ba-le-no**
- In words ending with a consonant, the final *-o* may be dropped in poetry: *balen'* (still stressed on the *le*).

Typing Esperanto

If the accented letters aren't available, the *x-system* is widely used: type *cx*, *gx*, *hx*, *jx*, *sx*, *ux* for *ĉ*, *ĝ*, *ĥ*, *ĵ*, *ŝ*, *ŭ*. This book uses proper Unicode accents.

* * *

Basic Grammar

Word Order

Default order is **Subject-Verb-Object** (like English), but word order is flexible because the **-n** ending marks the direct object. The

sentence *La viro vidas la hundon* (The man sees the dog) can also be written:

- *La hundon vidas la viro.*
- *Vidas la viro la hundon.*

All three mean the same thing because *hundon* has the **-n** marker.

Articles

Only one article: **la** (the). There is no indefinite article (*a/an* is simply omitted).

- *la baleno* = the whale
- *baleno* = a whale

Nouns

All nouns end in **-o**. Plurals add **-j**. The object marker **-n** goes after any plural.

	Singular	Plural
Subject	baleno (whale)	balenoj (whales)
Object	balenon	balenojn

There is no grammatical gender. A female suffix **-in-** exists for living things: *patro* (father) → *patrino* (mother), *bovo* (ox) → *bovino* (cow).

Adjectives

All adjectives end in **-a**. They agree in number and case with the noun they modify.

	Singular	Plural
Subject	granda a baleno	granda j balenoj
Object	granda n balenon	granda jn balenojn

Adjectives can appear before or after the noun.

Adverbs

Adverbs end in **-e**. They don't change form.

- *rapida* (quick) → *rapide* (quickly)
- *bona* (good) → *bone* (well)

Verbs

Verbs are completely regular — **zero irregular verbs** in the entire language.

Tense	Ending	Example	Meaning
Infinitive	-i	vid i	to see
Present	-as	vid as	see, sees, is seeing
Past	-is	vid is	saw, has seen, was seeing
Future	-os	vid os	will see
Conditional	-us	vid us	would see
Imperative	-u	vid u!	see! (command)

There is no distinction between *he sees* and *he is seeing* — both are *li vidas*.

Participles (for compound tenses):

	Active	Passive
Present	vid anta (seeing)	vid ata (being seen)
Past	vid inta (having seen)	vid ita (seen)
Future	vid onta (about to see)	vid ota (about to be seen)

Compound tenses use *esti* + participle: *mi estas vidinta* = I have seen, *ŝi estos vidata* = she will be seen.

The Accusative (-n) Beyond Objects

The **-n** ending has three uses:

1. **Direct object:** *Mi vidas la ŝipon.* (I see the ship.)
2. **Motion towards:** *Mi iras al la domo.* (I go to the house — already there.) vs *Mi iras al la domon.* (I go into the house — entering it.)
3. **Time expressions:** *lunde* (on Monday) vs *lunden* (next Monday)

Negation

Use **ne** before the word being negated.

- *Mi ne scias.* = I don't know.
- *Ne la baleno, sed la ŝipo.* = Not the whale, but the ship.

Questions

Use **ĉu** at the start of yes/no questions.

- *Ĉu vi vidas la balenon?* = Do you see the whale?
- The answer: *Jes* (yes) or *Ne* (no).

For wh-questions, use the correlatives table (see Function Words below).

Prepositions

Each preposition governs a specific case:

- Most prepositions take the **nominative** (no -n): *en la domo* (in the house), *sur la maro* (on the sea)
- Motion towards adds **-n**: *en la domon* (into the house)
- **No preposition + -n** means the same as English object: *Mi iras Parizon.* = I go to Paris.

* * *

Function Words

These words appear constantly and never get superscript numbers in the bilingual text.

Correlatives (Question-and-Answer Table)

Esperanto has a brilliant regular table of correlatives — learn the prefixes and suffixes and you can generate 45 words from 14 building blocks:

	-u	-o	-a	-e	-	-el	-al	-	-
	(one/thing/son)	(other/thing/son)	(kind)	(place)	(time)	(man/her)	(real/son)	(amount)	(whose)
ki- (what)	kiu	kio	kia	kie	kiam	kiel	kial	kiom	kies
ti- (that)	tiu	tio	tia	tie	tiam	tiel	tial	tiom	ties
i- (some)	iu	io	ia	ie	iam	iel	ial	iom	ies

-u	-o	-a	-e	-	-el	-al	-	-
(one/thing)	(thing)	(kind)	(place)	(time)	(man/her)	(reason)	(amount)	(those)
ĉi-	ĉiu	ĉio	ĉia	ĉie	ĉiam	ĉiel	ĉial	ĉiom ĉies
(every)								
neni-	neniu	nenio	nenia	nenie	neniam	neniel	nenial	neniom
(no)								

Examples: *kiu* = who/which, *tie* = there, *ĉiam* = always, *nenio* = nothing

Prepositions

Esperanto	English	Esperanto	English
al	to, towards	anstataŭ	instead of
antaŭ	before, in front of	apud	beside, next to
ĉe	at, with, by	ĉirkaŭ	around
da	of (quantity)	de	of, from, by
dum	during	ekster	outside
el	out of, from	en	in, into
ĝis	until, as far as	inter	between
je	(generic preposition)	kontraŭ	against
krom	except, besides	kun	with
laŭ	according to	malgraŭ	despite
per	by means of	po	per, at the rate of
por	for	post	after
preter	past, beyond	pri	about, concerning

Esperanto	English	Esperanto	English
pro	because of	sen	without
sub	under	super	above
sur	on	tra	through
trans	across		

Pronouns

Person	Subject	Object	Possessive
1st sing.	mi (I)	min (me)	mia (my)
2nd sing.	vi (you)	vin (you)	via (your)
3rd sing.	li (he), ŝi (she), ĝi (it)	lin, ŝin, ĝin	lia, ŝia, ĝia
1st plural	ni (we)	nin (us)	nia (our)
2nd plural	vi (you all)	vin (you all)	via (your)
3rd plural	ili (they)	ilin (them)	ilia (their)
Impersonal	oni (one, people)	onin	onia
Reflexive	si (self)	sin (self)	sia (one's own)

Conjunctions

kaj (and), *aŭ* (or), *sed* (but), *ke* (that), *ĉar* (because), *se* (if), *kvankam* (although), *dum* (while), *nek* (nor), *do* (so, therefore), *tamen* (however)

Common Particles

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
ne	not, no	jes	yes
tre	very	tro	too (much)
pli	more	plej	most
ankoraŭ	still, yet	jam	already
nur	only	eĉ	even
ankaŭ	also	ĵus	just (now)
baldaŭ	soon	tuj	immediately
hodiaŭ	today	hieraŭ	yesterday
morgaŭ	tomorrow	ĉiam	always
neniam	never	ofte	often
almenaŭ	at least	preskaŭ	almost
mem	-self (emphasis)	eble	perhaps

Numbers 1-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
unu	du	tri	kvar	kvin	ses	sep	ok	naŭ	dek

Higher numbers: *dek unu* (11), *dudek* (20), *cent* (100), *mil* (1,000).

* * *

Common Phrases

English	Esperanto
Hello	Saluton
Good morning	Bonan matenon
Good evening	Bonan vesperon
Goodbye	Ĝis revido
Yes / No	Jes / Ne
Please	Bonvolu
Thank you	Dankon
You're welcome	Nedankinde
Excuse me / Sorry	Pardonu
How are you?	Kiel vi fartas?
Very well	Tre bone
Oh!	Ho!
Alas!	Ve!
Well!	Nu!
Hurrah!	Hura!
Ah!	Ha!
What!	Kio!
God! (exclamation)	Dio!
By God!	Je Dio!
The devil!	Diable!

* * *

Language Notes

Esperanto is Agglutinative

Words are built from roots + affixes. A small set of regular prefixes and suffixes dramatically expands vocabulary:

Affix	Meaning	Example
mal-	opposite	mal bona = bad (opposite of good)
-et-	small, diminutive	dom eto = cottage (small house)
-eg-	large, augmentative	vent ego = gale (big wind)
-ej-	place	lern ejo = school (place of learning)
-il-	tool	tond ilo = scissors (cutting tool)
-ist-	profession	mar isto = sailor (sea professional)
-ul-	person	jun ulo = young person
re-	again	re vidi = to see again
ek-	sudden/begin	ek vidi = to catch sight of

This means you will encounter compound words in the translation that have no direct English cognate. The superscript numbers link the root meaning; the affixes add nuance.

No Irregularities

Esperanto has zero irregular verbs, zero irregular plurals, and zero silent letters. If you can pronounce a word, you can spell it. If you know the root, you know every form it can take. This makes it an ideal bridge language — once you internalize the patterns, you can read with a dictionary.

Word Building in This Translation

You will see words like *balen¹ĉasado* (whaling — literally “whale-hunting”) and *ŝipopere²o* (shipwreck). These are transparent compounds: *baleno* + *ĉasi* + *-ado* = whaling, and *ŝipo* + *perei* + *-o* = shipwreck. The superscript numbers mark the meaningful roots within these compounds.

False Friends

A few Esperanto words look like English words but mean something different:

- *akiri* = to acquire (not “a choir”)
- *demandi* = to ask (not “to demand” — that’s *postuli*)
- *flava* = yellow (not “flavor”)
- *lasi* = to leave, let (not “lasso”)

Poetic Contraction

The final *-o* of a noun can be dropped in poetry and for rhythm, replaced with an apostrophe: *balen'* instead of *baleno*. The stress stays on the same syllable. You’ll see this throughout the book, especially in dialogue and sea shanties.

* * *

Now turn to Chapter 1 and begin reading.

CHAPTER 1. Anthony Cade Signs on

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