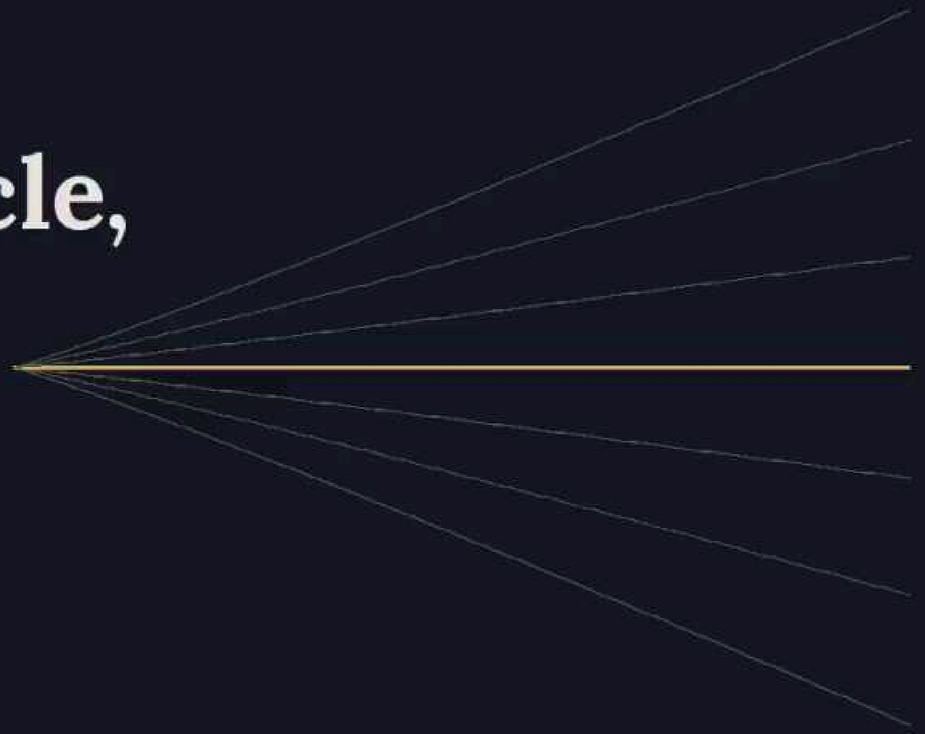
ANDERSON ACADEMY

ESPR 101 B · Introduction to Esperanto (Brief course)

Lecture 2 · about 7 min

Nouns, Adjectives, the Article, and Pronouns



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Questions or feedback: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com · @garyanderson

This lecture

- Nouns and adjectives
- The article la
- Plural and accusative
- Pronouns and possessives

¶ 2.1

You will learn just three endings, o, j, and n, plus the adjective ending a,

Nouns end in o

Esperanto	English
domo	house
hundo	dog
kato	cat
floro	flower

¶ 2.2

even if you have never seen the root before.

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Adjectives end in a

Esperanto	English
bela	beautiful
granda	big
bona	good

¶ 2.3

Adjectives usually come before the noun, as in English: bela floro, a beautiful flower; granda domo, a big house.

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The article

Esperanto	English
la domo	the house
la floroj	the flowers
domo	a house
floro	a flower

¶ 2.4

So la domo is the house, and domo is simply a house.

Using la

- Like English the
- Not with most names
- l' in poetry
- General statements without it

¶ 2.5

And when speaking of things in general, Esperanto often uses no article where English also uses none:

The plural

Singular	Plural
domo	domoj
floro	floroj
bela floro	belaj floroj

¶ 2.6

Adjectives agree, so they take j as well: bela floro, a beautiful flower, becomes belaj floroj, beautiful flowers.

The accusative

- Marks the direct object
- Ending: n
- La hundo vidas la katon
- The dog sees the cat

¶ 2.7

The dog, hundo, is the subject; the cat, katon, is the object, and the n tells you so.

Word order

Esperanto	English
La hundo vidas la katon	The dog sees the cat
La katon vidas la hundo	The dog sees the cat
La kato vidas la hundon	The cat sees the dog

¶ 2.8

To say the cat sees the dog, you write la kato vidas la hundon.

Agreement in the object

Esperanto	English
belan floron	a beautiful flower, as object
belajn florojn	beautiful flowers, as object

¶ 2.9

In the plural, both endings stack in a fixed order, j then n: mi vidas belajn florojn, I see beautiful flowers.

Remembering the n

- English marks objects only in pronouns
- Find the verb
- Ask what receives the action
- Give it and its adjectives n

¶ 2.10

Whatever receives the action gets the n, along with any adjectives describing it.

Place and direction

Esperanto	English
en la domo	in the house
en la domon	into the house

¶ 2.11

The accusative also marks dates and measures, but its main uses are the object and direction.

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Personal pronouns

Esperanto	English
mi	I
vi	you
li	he
ŝi	she
ĝi	it

¶ 2.12

There is also oni, one or people in general, and si, the reflexive pronoun for the third person.

Using ĝi

- For things and animals
- Also for babies, sometimes
- Old general use of li
- The newer pronoun ri

¶ 2.13

Some speakers use li in the old general sense, some use ĝi,

More pronouns

Esperanto	English
ni	we
ili	they
oni	one, people
si	oneself

¶ 2.14

Oni means one, as in oni diras, people say.

Pronouns as objects

Esperanto	English
min	me
vin	you
lin	him
ŝin	her
nin	us

¶ 2.15

Because the n is always there, you never need separate words like him and her:

Possessives

Esperanto	English
mia	my
via	your
lia	his
nia	our
ilia	their

¶ 2.16

Like other adjectives, they agree: miaj libroj, my books, and mi legas mian libron, I am reading my book.

One part, one job

- Root: meaning
- o: noun
- a: adjective
- j: plural
- n: object

¶ 2.17

Linguists call this kind of language agglutinative: words are built by gluing on parts that never change.

Practice

Esperanto	English
la granda hundo	the big dog
belaj floroj	beautiful flowers
mi vidas la katon	I see the cat

¶ 2.18

Then make your own sentences with mi, vi, li, and ŝi.