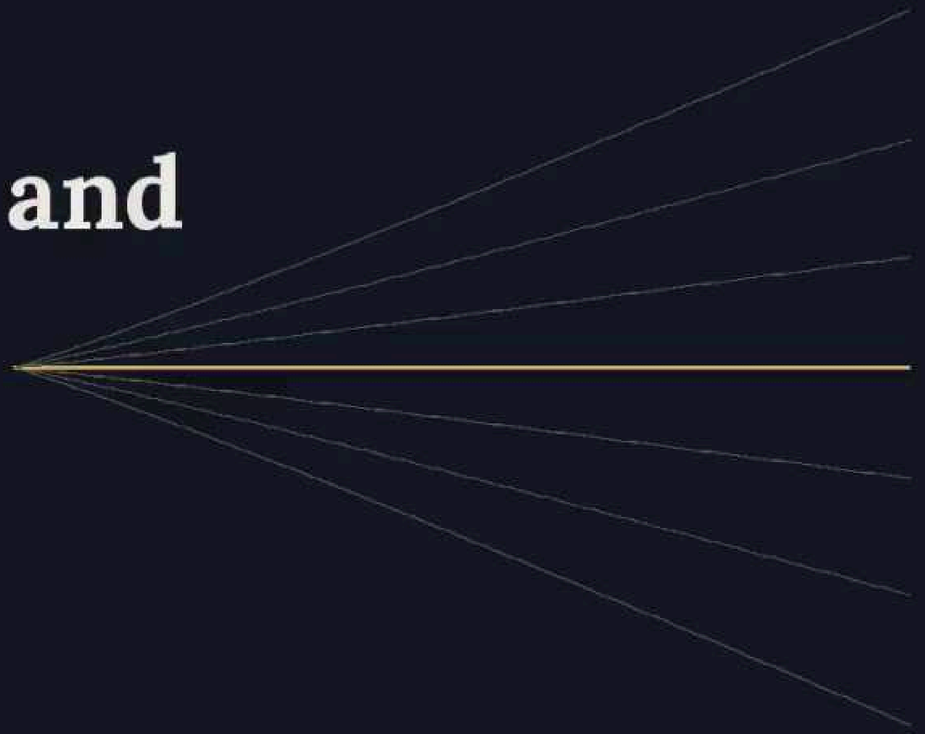
ANDERSON ACADEMY

ESPR 101 B · Introduction to Esperanto (Brief course)

Lecture 4 · about 6 min

Word Building with Affixes and Compounds



A library of university-level courses

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

This lecture

- Roots and endings
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Compounds

¶ 4.1

Combined freely and logically, they multiply your vocabulary many times over.

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Changing the ending

Esperanto	English
bela	beautiful
bele	beautifully
beleco	beauty
lerni	to learn

¶ 4.2

From lern come lerni, to learn, and lerna, studious.

The prefix mal

Word	Opposite
bona	malbona, bad
granda	malgranda, small
varma	malvarma, cold
fermi	malfermi, to open

¶ 4.3

This single prefix halves the number of adjectives a learner must memorise,

More mal words

Word	Opposite
sana	malsana, ill
nova	malnova, old
amiko	malamiko, enemy

¶ 4.4

Some speakers prefer separate roots for very common opposites, such as olda for old,

Smaller and bigger

et	eg
dometo	cottage
rideti	to smile
domego	mansion
ridegi	to roar with laughter

¶ 4.5

Ridi, to laugh, gives rideti, to smile, and ridegi, to roar with laughter.

Male, female, both

Root

- patro
- knabo
- patrino

Derived

- knabino
- gepatroj, parents
- geamikoj, friends

¶ 4.6

The prefix ge makes a word cover both sexes: gepatroj means parents, and geamikoj means friends of both sexes.

Places and tools

ej: place

- lernejo, school
- manĝejo, dining room
- laborejo, workplace

il: tool

- trancilo, knife
- skribilo, pen
- ŝlosilo, key

¶ 4.7

The suffix il makes a tool: tranĉi, to cut, gives trancilo, knife; skribi, to write, gives skribilo, pen.

People

Example	Suffix
instruisto, teacher	ist: profession
junulo, young person	ul: person with a quality
klubano, club member	an: member

¶ 4.8

An marks a member: klubano, club member.

Groups and pieces

ar: collection

- arbaro, forest
- vortaro, dictionary
- ŝiparo, fleet

er: piece

- neĝero, snowflake
- monero, coin
- sablero, grain of sand

¶ 4.9

The suffix er does the opposite, naming a single piece: neĝo, snow, gives neĝero, snowflake, and mono, money, gives monero, coin.

More suffixes

Suffix	Example
ebl: manĝebla, edible	ad: kantado, singing
ind: laŭdinda, praiseworthy	aĉ: domaĉo, hovel
ec: amikeco, friendship	id: katido, kitten

¶ 4.10

Aĉ makes something poor or ugly: domaĉo, hovel.

More prefixes

Prefix	Example
re: relegi, to reread	dis: disdoni, to hand out
ek: ekdormi, to fall asleep	eks: eksedzo, ex-husband

¶ 4.11

Eks means former: eksedzo, former husband.

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Affixes as words

Esperanto	English
ejo	place
ilo	tool
ero	piece
eble	perhaps
ega	huge

¶ 4.12

Ega means huge, and mala means opposite.

Compounds

Esperanto	English
vaporŝipo	steamship
akvofalo	waterfall
poŝtkarto	postcard

¶ 4.13

The main word comes last, and the first part describes it.

Changing word class

Esperanto	English
kafo	coffee
kafejo	café
paroli	to speak
parolema	talkative

¶ 4.14

From the verb paroli, to speak, comes parolo, speech, and parolema, talkative, with the suffix em for tendency.

Building long words

Parts	Meaning
lern ej estr in o	female head teacher
mal san ul ej o	hospital

¶ 4.15

Malsanulejo is a hospital: mal, opposite; san, healthy; ul, person; ej, place: a place for unhealthy people.

Using the system well

- Not every combination is common
- Prefer established words
- Consult a good dictionary
- Most words are understood at sight

¶ 4.16

But the system means you can understand most new words the first time you see them, which saves enormous effort.

Practice

Esperanto	English
malgranda	small
arbaro	forest
patrino	mother
librejo	bookshop

¶ 4.17

Then build your own: what would a place for books be? Librejo, a bookshop.