

Getting started in Esperanto

Your guide to Esperanto resources and how to use Esperanto

Interested in learning more about Esperanto and how to use it? This information sheet provides useful information on resources available to you and practical ways in which you can use Esperanto.

Learning Esperanto

There are various ways in which you can learn Esperanto. For example, you can:

- buy a teach-yourself book, get one out from the library, or obtain resources from the New Zealand Esperanto Association (NZEA) – in many cases we can provide resources for free
- come along to a local club meeting in Christchurch, Wellington, Masterton, or Auckland
- attend a conference or 'summer school' in New Zealand or Australia
- enrol in our correspondence course
- learn from the Internet.

Most people nowadays prefer to learn Esperanto at their own pace over the Internet. There are numerous courses. We recommend <http://en.lernu.net>.

Belonging to an association

You can become a member of NZEA. A membership form is available from www.esperanto.org.nz/pdf/ordinary_member_form.pdf. The annual membership fee is \$40 (or \$10 for young people and students). NZEA organises an annual conference for its members, publishes a regular newsletter, and provides services such as book orders and a correspondence course. Your membership also supports us in promoting Esperanto in New Zealand.

You can also join the World Esperanto Association (UEA – Universala Esperanto-Asocio). Information on UEA is available from www.uea.org. Your membership in UEA supports the main organisation that promotes Esperanto worldwide. You can also get access to the book service offered by UEA and attend international conferences organised by UEA.

UEA also has a directory known as the 'delegita reto' ('delegate network') which has addresses for Esperanto-speakers in over 100 countries. You can freely contact them to ask for assistance, for example if you plan to visit a city and want practical information, or if you want to ask 'specialists' questions about their subject areas such as beekeeping, jazz or tourism.

Ordering books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs

You can order material through UEA and also through the Australian Esperanto Association. Refer to the catalogues at <http://katalogo.uea.org> and <http://libroservo.esperanto.org.au>.

Books range from detective novels to volumes of Esperanto poetry, and everything in between! Regular magazines include everything from Esperanto in general to specialist publications on a wide range of topics, for example ecology, economics, and Scouting. CDs of Esperanto music and pronunciation are available, while DVDs include films made in Esperanto.

In all cases, contact NZEA first and we can help you with your order and handle payment for you in \$NZ.

Attending conferences

NZEA organises a conference annually. Sometimes this may occur in Australia. In January 2009 we intend to combine our conference with a 'summer school' to be held in Sydney. This will be a chance to take part in an intensive Esperanto course with experienced Esperanto teachers brought in from overseas.

There are literally hundreds of conferences held worldwide every year, including special events for children and young people and for people with special interests (eg cycling, business, literature etc). Extensive lists of upcoming events can be found at <http://www.eventoj.hu/2008.htm> or <http://www.esperantoland.org/renkontigoj/>.

Using Esperanto to contact people around the world

Once you're under way to learning Esperanto, why not chat with other people who speak Esperanto – or even start your own blog? A good site to start is www.amikumu.com. If you prefer putting pen to paper, a special service called the 'Koresponda Servo Mondskala' ('Global Correspondence Service') can match you with a penfriend of similar interests in the country of your choice (<http://membres.lycos.fr/kosomo/>).

Travelling the world

A special service known as the 'Pasporta Servo' ('Passport Service') allows members to stay at each other's home for a short period at no charge (or sometimes a modest amount). The current directory has addresses in 92 countries. Refer www.tejo.org/eo/ps. This is a great way to travel the world at low cost and to meet other speakers of Esperanto in their homes.

NZEA is able to help with all your queries about Esperanto resources and how to use Esperanto. Contact nzea@esperanto.org.nz or 0800 350 781.