

VERBS

There are 3 types of verbs: Those ending in **-ar**, in **-er**, or **-ir**. Verb tenses are shown by suffixes, but there are no personal distinctive endings:

- r (infinitive): **parlar** to speak, **vider** to see, **audir** to hear
- (present): **parla** speak(s), **vide** see(s), **audi** hear(s)
- (imperative): **parla!** speak!, **vide!** see!, **audi!** hear!
- va (imperfect): **parlava** spoke, **videva** saw, **audiva** heard
- ra (future): **parlara** will speak, **videra** will see, **audira** will hear
 - The future can also be formed with **vader**: **io va dormir** I will sleep, **nos va continuar** **deman** we will continue tomorrow.
- rea (conditional): **parlarea** would speak, **viderea** would see, **audirea** would hear
 - io comprarea** un computer, **si io habeva moneta** I would buy a computer, **if i had the money**
- te (past participle): **parlate** spoken, **vidite** seen, **audite** heard
 - Verbs in **-er** (e.g. **vider**, **vader**, **voler**) change the vowel into **-ite**.
- nte (present participle): **parlante** speaking, **vidente** seeing, **audiente** hearing
 - illas** **cammina** **sibilante** they walk **whistling**. Verbs in **i** add an **-e**- before the final **-nte**.

The auxiliary verbs have a special and short present: **esser** – **es** to be – **am/are/is**, **haber** – **ha** have – **have/has**, **vader** – **va** willgo – willgo(es).

- io ha** notate que **ile** non veniva I've noticed that he didn't come, **ile es** in retardo **proque ile va lentamente** he's late because he is walking slowly.

ORDINALS

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| 1e prime | 4e quarte | 7e septime | 10e decime |
| 2e secunde | 5e quinte | 8e octave | 11e dece-prime |
| 3e tertie | 6e sexte | 9e none | 20e vintésime |
- Parts: 3/8 tres octavos, 2/5 duo quintos, 1% un pro cento.
 - Dates: **hodie es le vinti-un de augusto** today is August the 21st. "The first" (and only this day) can also be **le prime**: **le prime de maio es un die** feriate May 1st is a holiday.

WORD ORDER AND ACCENTUATION

- Normal word order is subject – verb – object: **un autor scribe libros** an author writes books. The negative is placed before the verb: **io non mangia plus** I do not eat any longer.
- Personal pronouns as object are placed before the verb when conjugated: **tu vide nostre amica** – **tu la vide** you see our girlfriend – you see her, **heri illa non me salutava** yesterday she did not greet me.
- In questions without an initial **esque** the verb is placed before the subject: **vide tu nostre amica?** do you see our girlfriend? **quando arriva le autobus?** when does the bus arrive?
- Conjunctions (e.g. **e**, **ma**, **proque**, **ben que** – and, but, because, even if) combine phrases. Like in English, the accent (voice pitch) goes upward at the end of a phrase and before a subordinate clause, and going down in other cases.
- Interlingua uses the 28 letters of the Latin alphabet without accents, except for some borrowed loanwords. The accentuation is on the vowel before the last consonant; plural does not change the accentuation. In this grammar the accented syllable is marked by underlining where it may be unclear.

INFLECTION OF ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

plus more, **-e/r**, **le plus most**, **-e/s** form comparative and superlative of adjectives and adverbs: **grande big**, **plus grande bigger**, **le plus grande biggest**; **rapide fast**, **plus rapide faster**, **le plus rapide fastest**; **un avion vola plus rapidamente** que **un ave a plane flies faster** than a bird. – Amplifying is done with **-issime** (adj.). **-issimo** (adv.) or **multo** very: **bellissime very/most beautiful**, **fortissimo very strong** or **strong-est**

PRONOUNS

Personal pronouns		Possessive pronouns	
subject	object		
io I	me me	mi my	
tu you	te you	tu your	
ille he	le him	su his	
illa she	la her	su her	
illo it	lo it	su its	
on you (unpersonal)	se -self	su his/her/its	
nos we	nos us	nostre our	
vos you	vos you	vostre your	
illes they (masculine)	les them	lor their	
illas they (feminine)	las them	lor their	
illos they (neuter)	los them	lor their	

Independent forms of **mi**, **tu**, **su**, **lor** end with **-e/s**: **lor papa e le mie** **joca al** **chacos** your father and mine are playing chess.

se -self (reflexive): **illa se lava** she washes herself.
on you (impersonal): **on audi nihil** you hear nothing.
il it/there (impersonal): **il ha vino** there is wine, **il pluve** it's raining.
Furthermore e.g.: **nihil nothing**, **qualcosa something**, **toto all**.
Pronouns cannot be omitted. After prepositions (e.g. **a**, **in**, **pro**, **sin**) the object form is used, except for the 3rd person: **veni tu con me?** are you coming with me? **nos entra sin illes** we enter without them.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

qui [ki] *who/which* (as a subject, about persons): **le damas qui canta es famose** the ladies, who sing, are famous.

que [ke] *which/that* (all other cases): **le libro que io lege es bon** the book, which I read, is good, **le senior que tu videva mangia** ora the gentleman, that you saw, is eating now, **le machina con que ille labora es german** the machine he works with is German.

le qual (in singular) *which/that*: **le casa vetera, le qual esseva renovate**, es micre the old house, which was renovated, is small.
le quales (in plural) *which/that*: **le paisas, in le quales on desira usar le medicina, debe acceptar lo** the countries, in which you wish to use the medicine, have to accept it.

lo *que* **what** (about an entire phrase): **le padre non sape ancora lo que su filio ha facite** the father still does not know what his son has done.

cuje *whose*: **un anglese, cuje nomine es un secreto**, parla in le **radio** an Englishman, whose name is a secret, talks on the radio.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Demonstrative pronouns are never declined.
iste this, these: **ille** *that/those*: **vole tu iste tassa o ille?** do you want this cup of that (one)?

When used independently, they are declined in singular/plural, used as personal pronouns: **interlingua es comprensibile per milliones**, **sin que istes lo ha studiate** *interlingua* is understandable for millions, without these having studied it, **ille amava historias** – **istos esseva parve reportos** con photos he loved stories – these were small reports with photos.

ARTICLES

un a, **an** (indefinite article, without any change in gender of number): **un libro a book**, **un femina a woman**, **un infante a child**.

le the (definite article, without any change in gender or number, like in English): **le libro**, **le infante**, **le casa**.
In plural: **le libros** the books, **le infantes** the children, **le casas** the houses.

NOUNS

-s makes the plural:
-s is used after a vowel: **un auto**, **multe autos a car**, **many cars**
-es is used after a consonant: **un nation** [næʃənm] a nation, **le Nationes Unite** The United Nations (UN).

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are not declined in gender or number: **Un bon libro a good book**, **bon libros** good books, **un femina intelligente an intelligent woman**, **feminas intelligente** intelligent women.
Adjectives are normally placed after nouns. Short and frequently used adjectives can, however, be placed before.

ADVERBS

-mente (in English: -ly) is the ending for adverbs based on adjectives:
un auto rapide a fast car, **le auto va rapidamente** the car goes fast.
Adjectives ending in **-ic** use **-amente**: **practic** – **practicamente**, **energic** – **energicamente**, **specific** – **specificamente**

- There are a few, short adverbs, often ending in **-o**: **ben well**, **mal bad**, **poco little**, **multo very**, **solo only**.
- Some frequent adverbs for time, space, etc., are: **hodie today**, **deman tomorrow**, **tosto soon**, **ora now**, **ci here**, **foras outside**, **forsan maybe**.

INTERROGATIVES

esque (meaning "is it that" but often not translated) begins a question: **esque tu vide mi nove auto?** do you see my new car? You can also say: **vide tu mi nove auto?**

que? *what*, *which* (about things): **que event?** *what's happening?*
qui? *who*, *which* (about persons): **qui es la?** *who's there?*
de *qui es* le cavallo? *whose* is the horse?

qual? *which*: **qual libro vole tu leger?** **Un libro interessante** which book will you read? **An interesting** book.

quando? *when* (what time): **quando arriva le traino?** *when* does the train arrive?

como? *how* (about the way): **como parla ille?** *how* does he speak? **como sta tu?** *how* are you?

ubi? *where*: **ubi habita vos?** *where* do you live? **de ubi veni vos?** *where* do you come from? **a ubi nos va ora?** *where* are vi going now?

proque? *why* (about cause): **proque plora le infante?** *why* is the child weeping?

quanto? *how much* (quantity, quantitate): **quanto costa un camera pro un nocte?** *how much* does a room cost for one night?

quante...? *how many...?* **quante personas vide tu?** *how many* persons do you see? **quante tempore dura le film?** *how much* time does the film run for?

Like in English, the perfect and the pluperfect are made by using the auxiliary verb **haber** (**ha** *have/has*, **habeva** *had*) + the **-te** form: **le rege ha** (**habeva**) **parlate** the king has (had) spoken.

The passive is made by using a form of **esser** + the **-te** form: **le libro es vendite** the book is sold, **le libro esseva vendite** the book was sold, **le libro ha essite vendite** the book has been sold.

Sia is a special subjunctive form of **esser**; it can as well be used as an imperative: **sia felice!** be happy!

NUMBERS

0 zero	12 dece-duo	199 cento novanta-novem
1 un	20 vinti	200 duo centos
2 duo	21 vinti-un	1.000 mille
3 tres	30 trenta	1963 mille novem centos
5 cinque	40 quaranta	seaxanta-tres
6 sex	50 cinquanta	2.001 duo milles e un
7 septe	60 sexanta	8.347 octo milles tres
8 octo	70 septanta	centos quaranta-septe
9 novem	80 octanta	1.000.000 un million
10 dece	88 octanta-sex	
11 dece-un	90 novanta	
	100 cento	

10.987.654.321 dece miliardos novem centos octanta-septe milliones sex centos cinquanta-quatro milles tres centos vinti-un
• Decimals: 34,79 trenta-quatro comma septanta-novem
• Arithmetical operations: 3*2+4 = 10 tres vices duo plus quatro es dece. 12/4 = 3 dece-duo dividite per quatro es tres.
• Time: Il es octo (horas) minus un quarto it is a quarter to eight, il es vinti horas e dece it is 20.10 (ten minutes past eight), veni a un hora e medie arrive at half past one (= one hour and a half).

