

**COMPREHENSIVE  
VOLAPÜK  
GRAMMAR**

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Comprehensive Volapük Grammar by Alfred A. Post

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**ALFRED A. POST**

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COMPREHENSIVE

# VOLAPÜK

GRAMMAR.

BY

ALFRED A. POST.



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## PREFACE.

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YOUNG as is Volapük it has obsolete forms. It has rejected of as the feminine prefix to nouns; no longer uses the hyphen after the feminine prefix, or before the mode terminals except that of the subjunctive; has substituted *an* for *el* as the terminal to denote an inhabitant of a country, and has given special significance to *iel* in word-formation. Such changes in the language justify a new grammar.

Moreover, the compiler has thought that the presentation of the general and essential rules of the language in a few pages, by themselves, with reference to more specific rules in a second part, would simplify the study of the language; hence this little work.

The presentation, throughout the book, of the roots of words in bold-faced type is intended to serve as a help to the student.

It is assumed that the student understands the following grammatical rules:—

1. The subject and the verb agree in person.
2. Nouns in apposition have the same number and case.
3. The direct object takes the accusative case, and the indirect object (if without a preposition) takes the dative case.
4. One noun governs another in the possessive case.

All other rules are explained in this grammar.

Instead of the usual practice-lessons there is given a narrative, with vocabulary and reference notes to the grammar, and this story will be found to embody all the forms in use in Volapük. This ingenious story is the work Mr. Bernard F. Supple, and the Volapük rendering the joint work of Mr. Supple, Dr. H. L. Smith and Mr. Fred. W. Mitchell, whose valuable aid in preparing this grammar the author gratefully acknowledges.

ALFRED A. POST.

*Boston, May 1, 1890.*

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## PART I.—GRAMMATICAL FORMS.

### ALPHABET.

Roman characters, and has 19 consonants, 8 vowels.

The consonants are the same as the English, but *q* and *w* are omitted. They are sounded as in English, except —

c	pronounced as is	j	in <i>jet</i> .
g		g	" <i>get</i> .
h		h	" <i>he</i> .
j		sh	" <i>she</i> .
x		gs	" <i>tagt</i> .
y		y	" <i>yes</i> .
z		dz	" <i>adze</i> .

The vowels are

a	pronounced as is	a	in <i>far</i> .
e		a	" <i>rate</i> .
i		ee	" <i>see</i> .
o		o	" <i>no</i> .
u		u	" <i>truth</i> .
ä		a	" <i>farv</i> .
ö		u	" <i>urn</i> .
ü		u	" <i>impugn</i> .

(See note 1, page 13.)

Every letter is sounded, and its sound is invariable and unaffected by associate letters. There are no diphthongs and no double consonants.

### ACCENT.

Is invariably on the final syllable, but non-coalescent endings are not regarded as word-syllables.

### ARTICLE.

Is not recognized in Volapük (see note 2, page 13), but the indefinite pronoun **sembal** (a certain) may be used, if needed to particularize a noun; thus —

**Man,** <sup>a</sup> <sub>the</sub> } *man*: **Man sembal,** *a certain man.*

### NOUN.

Is of one uniform declension in four cases: nominative (subject); genitive (possessive); dative (indirect objective); accusative (direct objective); thus —

	Singular.			Plural (see note 4, page 13).	
Nom.	<b>Dom</b>	<sup>a</sup> <sub>the</sub> } <i>house.</i>		<b>Doms</b>	<i>the houses.</i>
Gen.	<b>Doma</b>	<sup>a</sup> <sub>the</sub> } <i>house.</i>		<b>Domas</b>	<i>of the houses.</i>
Dat.	<b>Domc</b>	<sup>a</sup> <sub>the</sub> } <i>house.</i>		<b>Domes</b>	<i>to the houses.</i>
Acc.	<b>Domi</b>	<sup>a</sup> <sub>the</sub> } <i>house.</i>		<b>Domis</b>	<i>the houses.</i>

Every noun in the language follows this declension; i. e. the nominative is changed by *a*, *e*, and *i* to the genitive, dative, and accusative respectively, and *s* added to each case gives its plural.

(See page 33.)

### PRONOUNS.

#### (a) Personal.

Singular.			Plural.	
<b>Ob</b>	<i>I</i>		<b>Obs</b>	<i>We</i>
<b>OI</b>	<i>Thou (you)</i>		<b>OIs</b>	<i>You</i>
<b>Om</b>	<i>He</i>		<b>Oms</b>	<i>They (masc.)</i>
<b>Of</b>	<i>She</i>		<b>Ofs</b>	<i>They (fem.)</i>
<b>Ok</b>	<i>Self</i>		<b>Oks</b>	<i>Selves</i>
<b>On</b>	<i>One</i>		<b>Ons</b>	<i>You (form of etiquette, rarely used)</i>
<b>Os</b>	<i>It</i>			

(These follow the declension of nouns, and **oi** (thou) should be used when a single person is meant.)

#### (b) Possessive.

Is formed by adding **ik** to the personal pronoun; thus: **Obik, obsik.** *My, our,* etc. They are used adjectively (in which case they follow the noun and are not declined) and pronominally (in which case they are declined); thus —