

**THE AMERICAN ESPERANTO  
BOOK; A COMPENDIUM OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE ESPERANTO**

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The American Esperanto Book; A Compendium of the International Language Esperanto by  
Arthur Baker

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**ARTHUR BAKER**

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# THE AMERICAN ESPERANTO BOOK

A COMPENDIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE

## ESPERANTO

COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
ARTHUR BAKER, A. E. A., EDITOR OF "AMERIKA  
ESPERANTISTO," CHICAGO



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## PREFACE

The purpose of Esperanto is to be a *second* language for those persons who have relations with people whose native languages they do not know. This great need of humanity Esperanto supplies. By a few weeks of study, even without the aid of a teacher, one can qualify himself for conversation and correspondence with all the other Esperantists of the world, whatever their nationality. Their number is increasing by hundreds of thousands each year. These facts being established beyond doubt, it would be conferring an undeserved dignity upon those who oppose the language to reply to their arguments. "It has an artificial sound"—so has the voice in the telephone. "It is not artistic"—neither is a steam locomotive. The *usefulness* of Esperanto is so thoroughly established that the discussion of its artistic merits may well be dismissed, with perhaps the observation that the language is frequently mistaken by the uninitiated for Italian or Spanish, popularly supposed to be the most musical of languages.

The aim of this book is to provide, in one volume, the means of acquiring a thorough, practical knowledge of Esperanto. As suggested by its title, the contents are especially adapted to the

American student, due regard being paid to the Americanisms of our language.

### Sources of Authority

This volume is based upon the *Ekzercaro*, by Dr. Zamenhof. All the exercises are taken from it and are therefore absolutely authoritative. The notes and translations, with the discussion of the grammar, while containing much original work, are also indebted to the following sources: *The Standard Course of Esperanto*, by George W. Bullen, F. B. E. A.; *Esperanta Sintakso*, by Sro. Paul Fruictier; *Grammar and Commentary*, by Major-General George Cox. The Esperanto-English vocabulary is compiled from the second edition of the *Esperanto-English Dictionary*, by A. Motteau, and *Wörterbuch Esperanto-Deutsch*, by Hermann Jurgensen, the latter volume being preferred where the two are not in concord. Supplementing these, the *English-Esperanto Dictionary*, by J. C. O'Connor and C. F. Hayes, is drawn upon for the matter contained in the English-Esperanto vocabulary.

### How to Study

Read carefully the first part of the book, pages 7 to 76 inclusive. It is by no means desirable to attempt to assimilate everything set forth in these pages at once, but the student who has forgotten much of English grammar will find his memory refreshed, and the person who has considered him-

self a good grammarian will find that Esperanto may widen his knowledge of the subject.

Upon finishing this matter, return to page 7, and commit to memory the sounds of the Esperanto letters described on this and the four succeeding pages. Then take up, in their order, the exercises. Having finished these and memorized all the words contained in them, you will be able to read readily any ordinary correspondence and literature in the language. This book being a modest compendium of Esperanto material, it has seemed necessary to include in the Esperanto-English vocabulary many unusual words and technical terms, and the wise student will not attempt to burden his memory with such as are outside his own needs and uses.

You may put your knowledge of Esperanto to immediate practical use in reading, or in correspondence for any purpose whatever, with persons in any part of the world. Addresses may be obtained on request (with stamp), from *Amerika Esperantisto*, Chicago.



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### THE ALPHABET

The alphabet consists of twenty-eight letters, each representing one sound only:

Aa, Bb, Cc, Ĉĉ, Dd, Ee, Ff, Gg, Ĝĝ, Hh, Ĥĥ, Ii, Jj, Ĵĵ, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Oo, Pp, Rr, Ss, Ŝŝ, Tt, Uu, Ŭŭ, Vv, Zz.

The Names of the Letters A, E, I, O, U (vowels) are the sounds, and those of the consonants are formed by adding the Esperanto noun ending : **b** *bo*, **c** *tso*, **ĉ** *ĉo*, **d** *do*, **f** *fo*, **g** *go*, **ĝ** *jo*, **h** *ho*, **ĥ** *ĥo*, **j** *yo*, **ĵ** *ĵo*, **k** *ko*, **l** *lo*, **m** *mo*, **n** *no*, **p** *po*, **r** *ro*, **s** *so*, **ŝ** *ŝo*, **t** *toe*, **ŭ** *wo*, **v** *vo*, **z** *zo*.

### SOUNDS

The sound given each letter is the same as in English, with the following exceptions:

**A** is like *a* in *father*.

**C** is like *ts* in *hats*.

**Ĉ** is like *ch* in *chop*.

**E** is like *a* in *fate* (but not so long).

**G** is like *g* in *go*.

**Ĝ** is like *j* in *joy*, or *g* in *George*.

**Ĥ** is like *ch* in *loch* (See explanation).

**I** is like *ee* in *see*.

- J** is like *y* in *yet*.  
**Ĵ** is like *z* in *seizure*.  
**O** is like *o* in *roll*.  
**S** is like *s* in *so*.  
**Ŝ** is like *sh* in *show*.  
**U** is like *oo* in *soon*.  
**Ŭ** is like *w* in *how*.  
**Z** is like *z* in *zone*.

It will be observed that the letters bearing the supersign  $\hat{\ }^{\wedge}$  are pronounced *ch*, *gh*, *lh*, *jh*, *sh*. Printers unable to procure the special type may substitute these forms.

The Esperanto **E** is a matter of difficulty to writers of text-books, as there is no English vowel sound which exactly represents it. Authorities agree that it is approximately half-way between our *e* in *men* and *a* in *fate*. Inasmuch as **ej** exactly duplicates the English *a* in *fate*, it is considered best to advise the student to pronounce **e** like our long *a*, but to *cut it short*. Still, if pronounced long, it cannot possibly be misunderstood except in two or three words; e. g. **veno**, **vejno**.

**Trill the R.**—While not listed as an exception **r** is pronounced with the trill usually regarded as an affectation in America, but used by most of Europeans. Copy the *rrr* of your German, French or Bohemian friends.

**O** in Esperanto is not exactly as in English. Beginners should pronounce it as in *vote*, *roll*, etc., shortening the sound as much as possible.