

## VERBS

There are 3 types of verbs: Those ending in **-a**, in **-e**, or **-i**. Verb tenses are shown by suffixes, but personal endings aren't used:

- t** (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!, **audir!** hear!
- va** (imperfect): **parlava** spoke, **videva** saw, **audiva** heard
- rà** (future): **parlarà** will speak, **videra** will see, **audirà** will hear
  - The future can also be formed with **vader**: **io va dormir** I will sleep, **nos va continuar** deman we will continue tomorrow.

**-esa** (conditional): **parlarea** would speak, **viderea** would see, **audirea** would hear

- io comparara** 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 whispering. Verbs in **i** add an **-e** before the final **-nte**.

The auxiliary verbs have a special and short present: **esser** – **es** to be

- am/avis**, **haber** – **ha** have – **have/has**, **vader** – **va** will go – **will/go/es**.

- io ha notate** que **ille non veniva** I've noticed that he didn't come, **ille es in retardo** proque **ille 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

- Paris**: 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 26 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**, **-er**, **le plus most**, **-est** 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	object	Possessive pronouns
<b>io</b> I	<b>me</b> me	<b>mi</b> my
<b>tu</b> you	<b>te</b> you	<b>tu</b> your
<b>ille</b> he	<b>le</b> him	<b>su</b> his
<b>illa</b> she	<b>la</b> her	<b>su</b> her
<b>illo</b> it	<b>lo</b> it	<b>is</b> its
<b>on</b> you (impersonal)	<b>se</b> -self	<b>su</b> his/hers/its
<b>nos</b> we	<b>nos</b> us	<b>nostre</b> our
<b>vos</b> you	<b>vos</b> you	<b>vostre</b> your
<b>illes</b> they (masc./gen.)	<b>les</b> them	<b>lor</b> their
<b>illas</b> they (fem.)	<b>las</b> them	<b>lor</b> their
<b>illos</b> they (neut.)	<b>los</b> them	<b>lor</b> their

Independent forms of **mi**, **tu**, **su**, **lor** end with **-el-es**: **lor papa e le mie** **joca ai 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/there (impersonal): **il ha vino** there is wine, **il pluve** it's raining.  
Furthermore e.g.: **nihil nothing**, **quacos** 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 famosa** 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 renovata, 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.

**cuj** 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/-es** 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** [natsjɔn] 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 **-ite** use **-amente**: **practic** – **practicamente**, **energetic** – **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 we 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**  
**2 duo** 21 **vinti-un** 200 **duo centos**  
**3 tres** 30 **trenta** 1.000 **mille**  
**4 quatro** 40 **quaranta** 1963 **mille novem centos**  
**5 cinque** 50 **cinquanta**  
**6 sex** 60 **sexanta**  
**7 septa** 70 **septanta**  
**8 octo** 80 **octanta**  
**9 novem** 88 **octanta-sex**  
**10 dece** 90 **novanta**  
**11 dece-un** 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).



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