

Interlingua for Anglos: A quickie survey¹

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You already know a lot of Interlingua without even studying it. English contains thousands of words of the international vocabulary, which Interlingua is based on. For the most part, the international vocabulary consists of similar appearing words that occur with the same meanings in at least three of the major European languages: English, French, Italian, Spanish/Portugese (treated as a single language), German, and Russian. The form of an interlingua word is the prototype, the nearest theoretical or historical form from which each of the variants of the word deviate in ways characteristic of their languages, with etymological roots and affixes standardized across all variants of these in derivational series. These prototypes can be determined in most cases in an objective and systematic manner, using etymological entries in dictionaries. But we will not go into that here. But it pays to note that this makes Interlingua's vocabulary a scientifically developed vocabulary. Different linguists will arrive at the same international words and forms given the same linguistic evidence and methodology.

Now, before we go on we need to define an important term: cognate. Two words in different languages are cognate if they are spelled exactly the same and have the same meaning. For example, the Interlingua words *international*, *comical*, *expressive*, *standardization*, *scientific*, *fertilization*, and *fiducial* are cognate with the English words *international*, *comical*, *expressive*, *standardization*, *scientific*, *fertilization*, and *fiducial*.

There are thousands of words that are cognate between Interlingua and English. But there are even more words in Interlingua that are near cognates of English words. Near cognates have similar spellings and the same meanings. Examples are the pairs (Eng. *fertilize*, Int. *fertilizar*), (Eng. *disobedient*, Int. *disobediente*), (Eng. *current*, Int. *currente*), (Eng. *displacement*, Int. *displaciamento*), (Eng. *energy*, Int. *energia*), (Eng. *expunge*, Int. *expunger*), (Eng. *American*, Int. *americano*), etc. So, if a word in Interlingua looks like a word in English, your guess to that effect is probably correct 99% of the time. So, a first rule in reading Interlingua texts is, "If a word looks like an English word, it probably has the same meaning as the English word". This is not a foolproof rule, but it will get you rapidly on your way to reading Interlingua for 95% of Interlingua words. Some people will have more talent in recognizing similar words in English for the Interlingua words. But with practice and judging from the context in which the word is used, you can usually recognize the meaning.

But English is a Germanic language descended from the Germanic AngloSaxon language of the invaders and settlers of 5th century England who came from the area of southern Denmark and Northern Germany. Although since then English has borrowed thousands of words from Latin, Norman French and other languages so that it is almost a Romance language in its own right, its most frequently used words are particles of Germanic origin, like *a*, *the*, *but*, *not*, *when*, *where*, *how*, *as*, *about*, *on*, *over*, *above*, etc.. So, the first important things for an English speaker to learn in learning Interlingua are its particles.

The particles are the grammatical words that help to sew together words from the vocabulary into meaningful sentences. Interlingua has Romance particles because the Romance languages are the only languages among the European languages at the base of the international vocabulary that have cognates and near cognates for the particles that would be international and coherent with the rest of the Latinate international vocabulary. I have prepared a table of Interlingua particles and their English equivalents as follows:

Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English
a	at, to	cata	each	in fin	finally
le	the	cima	top, top part	foras	out
al altere	across	circa, circa de	around; about;	foras de	out of
latere de			near, nearly		
alcun	some	como;	as, like; how;	heri	yesterday
			tanto ... como	as ... as	
alcuno	someone	con	with	hodie	today
alcubi	somewhere	contra	against	il face ...(X annos, etc)	(X years, etc.) ago
alquanto	somewhat	cuje	whose	in	in
alque	something	-cunque	-ever as in whoever	infra	below
alora	then	de	of, from	insimul,	together
alte	high	deman	tomorrow	inter	between, among
alto	top, top part	de manera que	such that	interim	meanwhile

¹ Revised 2017

Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English
altere	other	depost	afterwards	intertanto	meanwhile
ante	before	depost de	after, since	circa in torno	around
a minus que	unless	depost que	since	de intro de	within
ancora	still	de retro	behind, at rear of	intro	inwardly
aquelle	that (adj)	desde	since; out from	ipse	-self
aquelle,a,o	that (pron)	durante	during	iste,	this (adj)
(aqueste)	this (adj)	durante que	while	iste,a,o	this (pron)
(aqueste,a,o)	this (pron)	e	and	jam, ja	already; indeed
aqui	here	e ... e	both ... and	jammais;	ever
				non jammais	never
assi	thus	equalmente	also	la	there
avante	before	a fin de	in order to	le qual	that which
basse	low	a fin que	in order that	loco	place
bastante	enough	fin a	until (prep)	longe	long, far
ben que	although	fin que	until (conj)	longitan	far-off, distant
lo que	that which	per	by, thru, per	re	re, in re
mais (ma)	but	plure	several	retro, de retro	back
				de retro de	behind
malgrado	in spite of	plus	more	salvo	save
melio	best	plus tosto	rather, sooner	satis	enough
melior	better	pauc (poc)	little, few	secundo	after, along; by;
					according to
mesme	-self, same	post	(1) behind, post	semper	always
		(pois)	(prep)	(sempre)	
mesmo	even	postea, depost	afterwards	si	yes; if; so, thus
		(depois)			
mintere	meanwhile	pot'esser	maybe	sia	be it
minus	less, minus	presso	near	sin	without
multe	many, much	pro	for, pro	sol	alone
multo	very	prope	near, close	sovente	usually
necun	not any	proque	why? because	sub	under
necuno	no one	proxime (a)	near to	subite, subito	sudden; suddenly
ni ... ni	neither... nor	qual	which, what	subto	below, beneath
nihil, nil	nothing	qualcunque	whatever	super	on, over
non	not	quando	when	supra	above
nonne?	no?	quante	how much/ many?	suso	above
nonobstante	however, nevertheless				
o	or	quasi	almost, quasi	tal	such
o ... o	either ... or	que (1)	what?	tante (adj)	so many;
		(2)	that (rel pron)	tanto (adv)	much; so
		(3)	that (conj)		
		(4)	than (conj)		
ora	now	qui	who	tanto ben;	as well, also
				(tamben)	
parve	small, little	quicunque	whoever	tosto	soon, promptly
tote (adj)	all, every	ubi	where	unde	where, whence
toto (adv)	totally				
toto (subs)	all				
totevia	yet, still, nevertheless	ubicunque	wherever	verso	towards
tunc	then	ubique	everywhere	via	via; way
(a) transverso	from side to side, across	ultra	beyond	vice	time(s); turn
				un vice	once
				in vice de	instead of
troppo	too, too much	un	a, one	vicin	near, neighboring

So, memorize this table!

© Or, at least look at it now and then as you read an Interlingua text. You will soon have it memorized.

Here are the pronouns:

	PERSONAL PRONOUNS			POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS		
	Subject case	Object of prep.object	Direct object	Form of reflexive	Before nouns	Complete form
1st pers sg.	io	.....	.me		mi	mie
2nd pers. sg.	tu	.....	te		tu	tue
1st pers. plur.	nos	.....			..... nostre.	
2nd pers. plur.	vos	.....			..... vostre.	
3rd sg. masc.	ille	.....	le	se	su	sue
3rd sg. fem.	illa	.....	la	:	:	:
3rd sg. neut.	illo	.....	lo	:	:	:
3rd pl. masc.	illes	.....	les	:	lor	lore
3rd pl. fem.	illas	.....	las :	:	:	:
3rd pl. neut.	illos	.....	los	:	:	:

Personal pronouns in the object case and reflexive pronouns precede the simple tense forms of the verb but follow the participles and the infinitive.

I surprised them => Io les sorprendeva. In order to surprise them I had to run => Pro sorprendere les io debeva currere.

Directing himself to the sun, he prayed => Dirigente se verso le sol, ille precava.

He directed himself to the sun and he prayed. Ille se dirigeva verso le sol e ille precava.

In a combination of two personal pronouns, one object of verb and the other reflexive, the reflexive precedes:

She shows herself to us => Illa se nos monstra. I tell it (to) myself => Io me lo dice. To tell it to me, she had to telephone me. => Pro dicer me lo, illa debeva telephoner me.

Now for some grammar: Interlingua has no inflected agreement between nouns, adjectives and articles in number or gender. *le bon vacca, le bon vaccas* (the good cow, the good cows). Interlingua has no grammatical gender at all, although it has inflections to indicate biological sex (-o for male and -a for female) when needed. However, that a noun ends in -o or in -a normally does not mean sex, but is just part of the international form of the word.

Adjectives end in a vowel (usually -e) or a consonant (usually one from the list of *c, l, n, or r*) and can precede or follow the nouns they modify. Usually the norm is to have the adjective follow. Adjectives that precede the noun usually represent essential features of the noun concept, e.g.: *le lingua international e le linguas national. Le parve femina es belle.* (The small woman is beautiful).

Comparatives use 'plus' (more) and 'minus' (less).

Tu fructo es plus bon que mi fructo. (Your fruit is better than my fruit).

Iste historia es le minus interessante que io ha legite. (This history is the least interesting that I have read).

Un homine es tanto bon como un altere e frequentemente mesmo un grande portion plus bon. (A man is as good as an other and frequently even a great deal better).

bon, melior, le melio (good, better, the best)

mal, peyor, le peyor (bad, worse, the worst)

parve, plus parve, le plus parve (small, smaller, the smallest)

parve, minor, le minor (or *le minime*) (small, smaller, smallest)

minus, minor, le minor (less, lesser, the least).

Adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding the suffix -mente to the adjective.

After a final -c, the vowel -a- is inserted.

natural : naturalmente

(natural, naturally)

franc : francamente

(frank, frankly)

clar : clarmente

(clear : clearly)

(remarcabile, remarcabilemente)

(remarkable, remarkably)

The adverb usually precedes the word it modifies as in English.

Ille es extremamente felice. He is extremely happy.

Felicemente illes esseva al casa quando le tempesta ha arrivate.

(Happily they were at the house when the storm arrived).

When an adverb (especially *non* (not) and a pronoun (which is not the subject) try to get near to a verb, the pronoun wins out:

Io non lo crede. (I don't believe it).
Ille non me lo dice. (He doesn't say it (to) me).

Some adverbs end in *-o*, as in *tanto* (as), *multo* (very), *mesmo* (even), *subite* (sudden) : *subito*, *subitamente* (suddenly).

The relative pronoun is *que*.

Le casa que tu ama es in le proxime strata.
 The house that you love is in the next street.

The relative adjective is *qual*.

Ille fuma marijuana, qual vitio ille ha acquirite in le universitate.
 He smokes marijuana, which vice he has acquired in the university.

le qual is pronominal and can be pluralized:

Le libros le quales contine le solutiones al problemas es in mi bureau.
 The books which contain the solutions to the problems are in my bureau.

The relative possessive adjective is *cuje*.

Le studentes cuje libros esseva oblitate al autobus ha retornate al autobus.
 The students whose books were forgotten at the bus have returned to the bus.

The relative pronoun for persons that serves as a subject or after prepositions is *qui*.

Le spia qui portava le libros ha celate un message secreta in illos.
De qui ha tu recipite aquelle libros?
 The spy who carried the books has hidden a secreta message in them.
 From whom have you received those books?

A relative pronoun is what is formed from the neutral definite article *lo* and the relative pronoun *que*. It can be translated as 'what': "What I love is ice cream". "We gave them what they wanted." What makes me mad is his lack of precaution."

Lo que io ama es crema gelato. Nos les dava lo que illes voleva.
Lo que me face irate es su manco de precaution.

VERBS: Because there is no inflection of verbs for person or number, each verb has to have an explicit subject, either a noun or a pronoun (as in English).

Verbs fall into one of three classes by the endings of their infinitives: *-ar*, *-er*, and *-ir*. There are several ways to use English words to decide which class an interlingua verb falls in. (1) There may be an English adjective related to the verb, ending in *-nt*, e.g. observant, current, obedient. The vowels preceding *-nt* indicate the verb class. Hence Interlingua has *observar*, *currer*, and *obedir*. English adjectives ending in *-nt* are derived from Latin present participle adjectives. Interlingua follows the Latin pattern for present participles. In Interlingua the present participle is obtained by stripping the *-r* from the infinitive of the verb and adding *-nte*. But if the verb ends in *-ir*, add *-ente* instead: *crear* : *creante*, (create, creating) *vider* : *vidente*, (to see, seeing), *audir* : *audiente* (to hear, hearing). In English the present participle adjective is formed from the verb by adding *-ing* to the verb. Thus Interlingua has *observar* : *observante*, *currer* : *currente*, *obedir* : *obediente*. (2) Look for a corresponding English word that ends in *-tion*. If the preceding vowel is *-a-*, then the Interlingua verb ends in *-ar*. If the preceding vowel is *-i-*, then 98% of the time the Interlingua verb ends in *-er*. (Latin had very few verbs in *-ire* and the same is true of Interlingua verbs in *-ir*). (3) Look for an English adjective related to the verb ending in *-ble*. If the vowel preceding *-ble* is *-i-*, then this verb in Interlingua ends in *-er* or, less likely, *-ir*. Otherwise it is an *-a-*, and it is 99% of the time indicative of a verb in the *i* class. (English was not always faithful to the Latin pattern). (4) If an English verb ends in *-ate* the Interlingua verb is formed by replacing *-ate* with *-ar*: Engl. generate corresponds to the infinitive *generar* in Interlingua. speculate = *specular*.

The verb forms in the three classes of verbs (*-ar*, *-er*, *-ir*):

infinitive	crear	vider	audir
present participle	creante	vidente	audiente
past participle	create	vidite	audite
present	crea	vide	audi
perfect (past)	creava	videva	audiva

future	creara, va crear	videra, va vider	audira, va audir
present perfect	ha create	ha vidite	ha audite
pluperfect	habeva create	habeva vidite	habeva audite
future perfect	habera create	habera vidite	habera audite
conditional	crearea	viderea	audirea
conditional perfect	haberea create	haberea vidite	haberea audite
pres. passive	es create	es vidite	es audite
passive perfect	esseva create	esseva vidite	esseva audite
futur passive	essera create va esser create	essera vidite, va esser vidite	essera audite/va esser vidite
conditional passive	esserea create	esserea vidite	esserea audite
cond. perfecte	haberea create	haberea vidite	haberea audite
pres. perf. passive	ha essite create	ha essite vidite	ha essite audite
pluperfect passive	habeva essite create	habeva essite vidite	habeva essite audite
future perfect passive	habera essite create	habera essite vidite	habera essite audite
cond. perfect passive	haberea essite create	haberea essite vidite	haberea essite audite

English forms past participles usually by adding -ed or -d to the stem of the infinitive: to create : created, to apprehend : apprehended. Interlingua forms past participles by adding -te after stripping the -r from the infinitive. If the verb is of the -er class, the -e- is changed to -i-. *crear* : *create*, *apprehender* : *apprehendite*, *obedir* : *obedite*. "The clone created was apprehended for going nude in the park. He had not obeyed the law." *Le clon create esseva apprehendite pro vader nude in le parco. Ille non habeva obedite le lege.*

The perfect and present perfect tenses in some Interlingua writing styles of native speakers of Germanic languages or French have the same meaning. He gave her a flower => *Ille la dava un flor* or *Ille ha date la un flor*.

There is no distinct inflected imperfect (progressive) past tense as in the romance languages. The imperfect tense can be replaced with the simple Interlingua past tense in -va, which just happens to be based on the regular form of the imperfect in some romance languages. But because all of the original source languages have a progressive mode using gerundios, derived from a Vulgar Latin confusion of Latin gerunds with Latin present participles, you can use a present participle with the verb *esser* to indicate a progressive aspect, much as you do in English with *to be + present participle*: He was walking in the street, when he met Mrs. Smith => *Ille esseva ambulante in le strata quando ille incontrava Sra. Smith*. He had been eating a sandwich when Robert came into the house => *Ille habeva essite mangiante un sandwich quando Roberto veniva in le casa*." In this case the present participle is simply an adjective and the verb *esser* is the copula that joins the adjective to the subject. Other forms for expressing the progressive mode are to use a phrase like in the act of => *in le acto de*. He was walking in the street when he met Mrs. Smith => *Ille esseva in le acto de ambular in le strata, quando ille incontrava Sra. Smith. Ille habeva essite in le acto de mangiar un sandwich quando Roberto veniva in le casa*.

If you have looked at the preceding table for inflecting tenses and moods of verbs in Interlingua, you should have seen the verbs *haber* (have), *esser* (to be, is), and *vader* (go). These are 'auxiliary verbs' (helping verbs). In the present tense they have shortened forms *ha*, *es*, and *va*. They help form tenses in a way very similar to the way English does it.

Le homine, vidente su inimico arriva in le distantia, ha prendite un position celate de retro de un petra gigante pro imboscar le.
(The man, seeing his enemy arrive in the distance has taken a hidden position behind a giant rock in order to ambush him.)

The most common verbs in English are usually of Germanic origin and are not international in form. In interlingua the corresponding verbs are almost all of Latin origin. Thus a key to rapidly learning Interlingua is to learn the common Interlingua verbs. Here is a table of some of them:

Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English
acceptar	to accept	apparer	to appear	custodiar	to care for
esser	to be, is	demandar	to ask, demand	portar	to carry
poter	can	peter	to claim; ask for	complir	to accomplish
poterea	could	sufferer	to suffer, bear	compler	to complete
explicar	to explain	ganiar	to win, gain	causar	to cause
ager	to act	comenciar	to begin	facer	cause, to make
timer	to fear	creder	to believe	selectionar	to select
permitter	to permit	nascer	to be born	serrar	to close
responder	to answer	appellar	to call	venir	to come
haber	to have	formar	to form	retener	to retain, keep
vader	to go	trovar	to find	cognoscer	to know (someone)

Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English	Interlingua	English
concluder	to conclude	convenir	to convene; agree; suit	saper	to know (how to do)
continer	to contain	partir	to leave, depart	advenir	to come to pass
contar	to count	reciper	get, receive	prender	to take
coperir	to cover	caper	to grasp, seize; hold	apprender	to learn
transversar	to cross	ascender	to go up	jacer	to lie, rest
cortesar	to court	descender	to go down	lassar	to leave (alone)
critar	to cry	acompaniar	to accompany	quitar	to quit
morir	to die	conceder	concede	abandonar	to abandon
differer	to differ	guardar	to guard	viver	to live
diriger	to direct	occurrer	to occur, happen	habitar	to live at
decider	to decide	audir	to hear	elevar	to raise, elevate
desirar	to desire	vider	to see	amar	to love, like
dubitar	to doubt	sentir	to feel	semblar	to seem
conducer	to drive	toccar	to touch	reguardar	to look at
finir	to end	gustar	to taste	marcar	to mark
sufficer	to suffice	celar	to hide	significar	to mean
entrar	to enter	curre	to run	mancar (v int)	to lack (of)
expectar	to expect	tener	to hold	deber	must; to owe
esperar	to hope	levar	to raise	necessitar	to need
cader	to fall	junger	to join	offerer	to offer
sentir	to feel	jocar	to play	nominar	to name
posseder	to possess	demonstrar	to demonstrate	volver	to turn around
mitter	to place, put	seder se	to sit oneself	comprender	to understand, comprehend
poner	to put	parlar	to speak	intender	to intend, understand
traher	to draw, drag	star	to stand	unir	to unite
pagar	to pay	declarar	to declare	usar	to use
probar	to test, prove; rehearse	asserer	to assert	attender	to wait
tractar de	to treat of	cessar	to cease, stop	laborar	to labor
attinger	to attain, reach	supponer	to suppose	obrar	to work
restar	to remain, be left, stay	remover	to remove	scriber	to write
remaner	to remain	inseniar	to teach	leger	to read
rememorar	remember	recontar, relatar	to tell	ascoltar	to listen
dicer	to say	regratiar	to thank	luctar	to fight, struggle
separar	to separate	pensar	to think	prestar (a)	to lend (to)
monstrar	to show	pesar	to weigh	plenar	to fill
dar	to give	renunciar	to renounce	occider	to kill
basiar	to kiss	passar	to pass	ordinar	to order, put in order
preparar	to prepare	proponer	to propose	establi	to establish
rationar	to reason	surrider	to smile	rider	to laugh
rider se de	to laugh at	valutar	to value	estimar	to esteem, estimate
studiar	to study	recognoscer	to recognize	dormir	to sleep
resultar	to result	dubitar	to doubt	prevenir	to warn, prevent
mover	to move	cognoscer	to know (someone)		

Interlingua Sentences

Generally the interlingua sentence follows the order of subject (of verb), verb, object (of verb) (SVO). This is the typical pattern in English sentences: *The boy hit the ball => Le puero colpava le balla. John sees the flowers => Johannes vide le flores. The red flowers attracted his attention => Le flores rubie ha attrahite su attention.*

The exception to this rule concerns personal pronouns that are objects of the verb or reflexive pronouns, as described previously.

In the sentence long adjectives usually follow the nouns they modify (as in Spanish). But short adjectives can precede or follow the noun. *The international language and the national languages => Le lingua international e le linguas national. The tall boy => Le alte puero or Le puero alte.* Numerical adjectives precede the noun.

Word formation

We will now look at how words are formed in Interlingua from roots and affixes. You do not need know this to learn vocabulary. But the system we will describe is not unfamiliar to English speakers. It is a system already very much present in English words taken from Latin and the Romance languages. A big benefit you will get out of learning this is that it will help you not only to analyze the meanings of new words in Interlingua, but in English as well, because the affixes used in Interlingua are very similar to those in English.

An *affix* is an element added to a word, root, or base to make a new, derived word. A *suffix* is an affix added at the end of a word, root or base to make a new derived word. A *prefix* is an affix, added to the front.

For example, take the composite word *disaggregation* in both English and Interlingua. It means to separate into component parts. The prefixes in this word are *dis-* and *ag-* and the suffixes are *-at-* and *-ion*. The root is *greg-*. In Interlingua there is the noun *grege* which means basically flock or herd, but sometimes it also is extended to mean a crowd, troop, or band, which are all collections of things. The root in *grege* is *greg-* and *-e* is just a noun-forming suffix added to the root with no special meaning other than that it makes *grege* be a noun. From this noun, by adding the suffix *-ar* to the root of *grege*, we can make a verb in Interlingua, *gregar*.

The suffix *-ar* is a verb-forming suffix added to the roots of nouns and adjectives to form verbs. When added to the root of a noun it can mean to make, to cause to become, to cause to be modified or affected by, to make use of, to apply, to act on, to give— the thing designated by the noun. Now, we can take the verb *gregar* and form another Interlingua verb by adding the prefix *ad-* to it: *agregar*, which means, you guessed it, to aggregate, or to cause things to be joined into a mass or whole (metaphorically represented by the idea of a flock or herd) by adding them to the others. The prefix *ad-* means simply *to*, *toward*, *into*, and, by extension of the idea that moving toward something makes it loom bigger, to intensify, to make bigger or stronger.

But then maybe you are wondering how *ad-* became *ag-*. Well, originally when the Romans added the prefix *ad-* to words beginning with consonants other than *d*, *h*, *j*, *m*, or *v*, the *-d-* tended to be assimilated to the consonant following it. It was hard to keep the voiced *-d-* distinct from the voiced hard *g-* that followed it, so the *-d-* just blended into it. If the succeeding consonant was not voiced, like *p-* or *t-*, then it was assimilated to those consonants and became *ap-* or *at-*. Interlingua doesn't speak doubled consonants longer, but retains the etymological spelling to enhance recognition and make clearer derivational connections between words.

But now, if we add the prefix *dis-* in front of *agregar*, we get *disagregar*, which means to disaggregate, that is, to separate into component parts, in other words, to undo the aggregate. *Dis-* means opposite, contrary, not; it also means apart, separately, divided, scattered.

Let us now focus on the suffixes of *disaggregation*. These are *-at-*, and *-ion*. The suffix *-at-* is a suffix that changes a verb ending in *-ar* into the stem of its past participle, which is a verbal adjective. The past participle of verbs ending in *-ar* is formed by removing *-r* from the infinitive and adding *-t-* (to form the stem of the past participle) then following with *-e* to provide an adjective ending. (Some nouns end in *-e* and many adjectives end in *-e*, and which is which is determined 95% of the time from the context of the word in the sentence). *Le grege ha essite disaggregate*, means “The herd has been *disaggregated*”. In English *disaggregated* is a past participle. It can stand alone as an adjective in sentences like “The disaggregated herd was lost.” In Interlingua we could say “Le grege disaggregate esseva perditte”.

Why did we change the verb into a past participle? Well, that was because the suffix *-ion* is always added to the stem of a past participle. That's just the way it is with *-ion*, *-ive*, *-or*, *-ori*, *-orio*, *-ura*, and some nouns formed from verbs by adding *-o*, or *-a*. Interlingua is based on being as natural as possible by imitating what already exists latently in the modern languages, and thereby gains the order and regularity of the Latin derivational system. The Romans used almost identically the same suffixes by adding them to the past participle stems of verbs as a way of making adjectives or nouns from the root of the verb. So, what we are learning here is the Roman way of doing things, streamlined in modern form, as found in words derived in Latin and then borrowed or descended from Latin in the modern languages. These are the only suffixes for which this is the case, however, so don't panic.

Now, this brings up another point. Take the word *destruction*. The *de-* means “down from”. The verb, however, is *destruer*. Take something built up and take it down. The root verb is *struer* which means to put in order, arrange; to build. So, how do we get *destru-* and not *destruit-* as the stem of a past participle to which *-ion* is added? Well, note that *destruer* and *struer* are verbs ending in *-er*. Those verbs almost always have irregular stems for the past participles used in derivations and in adjectives. In antique Latin the early Romans had regular past participles somewhat like those in Interlingua, but over centuries, even before the time of Caesar, they had slurred their pronunciations of the past participles of those verbs ending in *-ere* so that irregular stems were formed. The ancient Romans also didn't use their past participles in conjugating the tenses and modes of verbs. They were simply verbal adjectives. Past participles in tenses came later as spoken Latin evolved into the Romance languages, which formed composite forms of the past tense and passive verbs with an auxiliary verb like *esse* or *habere* and the past participles. So a verb like *struere* formed a past participle *struetos*, and the *-uet-* gravitated to *-uct-*, and produced the irregular past participle *structus*.

In the Interlingua-English dictionary, every verb with an irregular second stem for forming past participles used as adjectives and in derivations, is shown with both stems: **struer** [stru-/struct-]. The first stem is the form used with the infinitive and other tenses, and the second is the stem for forming past participle adjectives by adding *-e* and derivatives with the suffixes *-o*, *-a*, *-ion*, *-ive*, *-or*, *-ori*, *-orio*, and *-ura*. These are almost always verbs ending in *-er*.

Now, don't worry that this will make it hard to learn these irregular stems, because you already know most of them or forms similar to them. You already know *-struct-* from *destruction* and *destructive*, *instruct* and *instruction*, *construct* and *construction*; *-duct-* from *conduction* and *conductor*; *-tract-* from *distraction*, *contraction*, *extractor*, *detractive*; etc.. A noun in English ending in *-ion* usually has the Latin past participle stem preceding it. So, what you have to learn are the

corresponding verbs used in verbal conjugations, which, as we have shown in Part I, are regular and simple to learn.

So, let's first look at those suffixes that are added to past participle stems of verbs to form nouns and adjectives:

Suffixes added to the stems of past participles to form nouns and adjectives
and if the verb has an irregular past participle to those

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Makes</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
-ion	-ion	noun	= action or result of ... -r .
-ive	-ive	adjective	= 1. tendency to... -r 2. having the function of ... r
-o, -a		noun	= 1. action of... -r . 2. result of ... -r . 3. place where ... -r is done. 4. Place or thing produced by ... r .
-or	-or	noun	= one who or thing that ... -r .
-rice	-rix	noun	= female who ...s
-ori	-ory	adjective	= pertinent to or serving the action of -r
-orio	-ory, -orium	noun	= place where ... -r occurs
-ura	-ure	noun	= action or result of action.

Examples: *crear, create, creation, creative, creator, creature*

vider [vid-/vis-/vist-] *vidite, vision, viso, visor, vista*

audir, audite, audita, audition, auditive, audito, auditor, auditori, auditorio.

scriber [scrib-/script-], *scribite/scripte, scripto, scriptor, scriptorio*

querer [quer-/quest-] *querite/queste, question, questa, questor, questura*

ager [ag-/act-], *agite/acte, action, active, acto, actor, actrice*

attribuer [-trib-/tribut-] *attribuite/attribute, attribution, attributive, attributo, attributor*

corriger [corrige-/correct-], *corrigit/correcite, correction, corrective, corrector, correctori*

facere [fac-/fact-] *facite/facte, faction, facto, factor, factura*

curre [curr-/curs-] *currite/curse, cursa, curso, cursive, cursor*

refranger [-frang-/fract-] *refrangite/refracte, refranction, refractive, refractor, refractori*

impeller, [-pel-/puls-] *impellit/impulse, impulso, impulsive, impulsion, impulsori, impulsor*

diriger [dirig-/direct-] *dirigit/directe, direction, directive, director, directori, directorio, directrice, directura*

deponer [-pon-/posit-] *deponite/deposite, deposito, deposition, depositor*

causar *causate, causa, causative, causation, causator*

In the following English suffixes appear in (). Italicized suffixes are not actively used to create new words, but are included to aid in analysis of words of Latin origin.

Suffixes added to stems of nouns to form nouns

-ada (-ade) = 1. product made of.... 2. series of.....

limon, limonada; columna, columnada

-age (-age) [-agi- before other suffixes] = collection of...

*folio, foliage; fructo, *fructage*

-alia (-alia) = collection of things without value

*ferro, ferralia; cosa, *cosalia*

-ano, -iano (-an, -ian) = native, language, inhabitant of, language spoken in, adherent of...

Atlanta, atlantano; African, africano; Italia, italiano; Wesley, wesleyano, Marte, martiano

-ario (-ary) = 1. person concerned with or characterized by

2. collection of 3. place where collection of ... is located

mission, missionario; vocabulo, vocabulario; herba, herbario, grano, granario

-astro, a (-aster) = 1. thing or person without value 2. persons related by marriage.

poeta, poetastro; juicio, judiciastro; padre, patraastro

-ata (-full) = contents of.... or quantity in....

*coclear, coclearata; calice, *caliciata.*

-ato (-ate) = function, state, range, jurisdiction, periodo of officie, or territory of a..." *duce, ducato; novicio, noviciato.*

-cula, o (-cle, -cule) = [diminutive from Latin]

parte, particula; lat. circus (circulo), circulo;

pede, pediculo; vaso, vasculo; rete, reticulo; cubo, cubiculo

-ella, o = [diminutive from Latin] *rastro, rastrello; cinere, Cinerella*

-illa, o (-il) = [diminutive from Latin] *pupo, pupillo*

-ennio (-ennium) = a period of years *biennio* duo annos,

millennio, mille annos.

-eria (-ry, -ery) =

1. place where... is made, fabricated or sold.
2. art, trade or practice of making.. or the product of such labor.
3. behavior of a ... or similar to that of a
lacte, lacteria; drappo, drapperia; diablo, diabolera.

-ero,a (-er) =

1. person or thing that works with or deals with ...
barba, barbero; banca, banchero, obra, obrero, balrna, balrnero infirme, infirmera; calde, caldera
2. that which contains, covers, protects or gives the...
sucro, sucrero; sal, salera, suppa, suppera; caffe, caffetera
(**-era** is more common).
3. field, mine or quarry where.... is cultivated or found
*ris, risera; diamante, *diamantera, gypso, gypsera*

-ero = tree, bush, or plant which produces ...

amandola, amandolero, orange, orangero

[Note: names of fruit in *-a* usually have trees in *-o*: *persica, persico; pira, piro*. In such cases *-o* is synonymous with *-ero*]

-ese (-ese) =

1. native or citizen or inhabitant of
2. language of.... *Francia, francese. Japon, japonese, Portugal, portugese.*

-essa (-ess) =

1. female....
2. wife of an
tigre, tigressa; conte, contessa; mayor, mayoressa.

-eto = grove of.... : *pino, pineto; ulmo, *ulmeto; *orangiero, orangiereto.*

-etto,a (-ette, -et) = diminutive of [the only diminutive in active new formations]. *hacha, hachetta; pacco, pacchetto; camion, camionetto.*

-ia (-y, -ia) = country, province, region of the.....*anos* o nominate pro le ...

*greco, Grecia; arabe, Arabia; tocharos, *Tocharia.*

-ia (-y) =

1. state, quality, stature or jurisdiction of a
2. art, science, practice, profession, establishment of a ...
abbate, abbazia, geologo, geologia; idolo, idolatra, idolatria; radiologo, radiologia; bottinero, bottineria.

-ica (-ics) = science or study of.... *electron, electronica.*

-ico (-ic) = an expert or one skilled in the art or science of

historia, historico; chimia, chimico;

-il (-ile, -el) = place where....s are maintained or kept. *campana, campanil; can, canil.*

-ina (-ine) = substance produced from, or characterizing or pertaining to

caseo, caseina; globulo, globulina, glandas adrenal, adrenalina

[Used usually in technical contexts of biochemistry and medicin].

-ismo (-ism) =

1. state or practica of being a.... *despota, despotismo*
2. [Med.] abnormal condition resulng from excess of
plumbo, plumbismo
3. doctrine o practice of or concerned with....
Marx, marxismo; cubo, cubismo; impression, impressionismo.

-ista (-ist) =

1. one who practices the art or science of
biologia, biologista; tympano, tympanista
2. adherent of the doctrine or practice of ...
Marx, marxista, Calvin, calvinista, evolution, evolutionista, creation, creationista.

-ita (-ite) =

1. inhabitant, citizen or native of
Neapole, neapolita; Israel, israelita

2. Partisan, adherent, member of....

Jacobo, jacobita [applicate a ambe sexos].

-ite (-ite) = rock or other mineral that contains ... or resembles ...

ligno, lignite; metoro, meteorite, pyr-, pyrite.

-itis (-itis) = inflammatory disease of the.... (organo).

appendice, appendicitis; esophago, esophagitis.

-oide (-oid) = something similar to or formed as a....

anthropo-, anthropoide; disco, discoide

-olo,a (-olus)= [diminutive from Latin] : *alveo, alveolo; capra, capreolo; gladio, gladiolo*

-ulo,a (-ule)= [diminutive from Latin]: *socco, socculo; vetere, vetula*

nodo, nodulo

-on =[augmentative from Latin]: *caldera, calderon; carta, carton;*

ave, avion

-osis (-osis) = abnormal or diseased condition or state of the... or caused by..., or characterized by....

neuro-, neurosis; tuberculo, tuberculosis, halito, halitosis,

brucella, brucellosis

-unculo (-uncle)= [diminutive from Latin]. *pede, pedunculo.*

Suffixes added to stems of nouns to form adjectives

-al (-al)=pertaining to ..., having the quality of ...

natura, natural; loco,local; radice, radical.

-an (-an) = pertaining to

urbe, urban, America, american, republic, republican.

-ari (-ary) = pertaining to. consisting of...

legenda, legendari, fragmento, fragmentari.

-ate (-ate) = possessing one or many, formed as a ... [Coincides with the perfect participle of verbs in -ar, *annellar annellate*]. *barba, barbate; folio, foliate.*

-esc (-esc)= 1. similar to, or characteristic of a*gigante, gigantesc.*

2. in the manner or style of *arabe, arabesc,*

Chopin, Chopinesc.

-ese (-ese) =pertaining to, especially to a native of a country.

China, chinese; Portugal, portugese.

-ic (-ic)= of, pertinent to, characterized by...:

cyclo, cyclic; historia, historic; cubo, cubic; calor, caloric.

-ifere (-ferous) = producing, rendering

cono, conifere; carbon, carbonifere.

-ific (-ific) = making or causing *pace, pacific; scientia, scientific*

-in (-ine) = of or pertaining to something. *can, canin; vacca, vaccin;*

femina, feminin.

-ista (-ist) = pertaining to (doctrine, idea, practice) .

evolution, evolutionista; marxismo, marxista; cubismo, cubista.

-oide (-oid) = similar to or formed as a

ellipse, ellipsoide; negro, negroide; cubo, cuboide.

-ose (-ous) = plen de, abundante in, caracterizate per

joco, jocose; religion religiose; avantage, avantagiose;

pavor, pavorose.

-otic (-otic) = pertinente al ...*osis. neurosis, neurotic; necrosis, necrotic.*

Suffixes added to stems of nouns, verbs and adjectives

to form verbs

-ar = 1. make use of ..., or apply ..., or give ...

flecha, flechar; sal, salar

2. to make or render *folio, foliar; flor, florar; sic, siccar; cena, cenar; pan, panar; frigide, frigidar; lubric,*

lubricar; selection, selectionar; collection, collectionar; approxime, approximar

3. [applied to stems of perfect participles] (frequentatives)

a. to repeat action or apply with intense force:

ager, agitate, agitar; ceder, cesse, cessar; caper, capte, captar

b. [many verbs of this type replaced the original latin verbs because they were more compatible with the emotional and dramatic force favored in popular speech.

*can-, *cante, cantar; salir, salte, saltar].***-iar** = to cause or make more of, to intensify, *acute, acutiar* (sharpen); *alte, altiar* raise, *simile, similiar se a* (resemble)**-ificar** (-ify) = to make, render, convert to....*ample, amplificar; petra, petrificar.*[this suffix applied to nouns is equivalent to **-ific + -ar**].

[to make something into something new and different]..

*ample, amplificar; petra, petrificar; ver, verificar; forte, fortificar, classe, classificar; signo, significar.***-icar** (-icate) = to cause, make ...: *commun, comunicar; extra, extricar***-igar** (-igate) = to cause, make ...[< lat. agere] *caste, castigar, fuste, fustigar, fumo, fumigar; mitis (blande), mitigar; nave, navegar.***-izar** (-ize) = 1. to make into a new state without losing the previous identity*pulvere, pulverizar; energia, energizar; autor, autorizar, cannibal, cannibalizar; central, centralizar; carbon, carbonizar*2. to become *crystallo, crystallizar***-scer** (-sce) = To begin the action or to be in the process of becoming[added to the stem of infinitive after removing *-r* . Not actively used in formation of new words].*florer, florescer; cup-, concupiscer; ferver, effervescer.***Suffixes added to stems of verbs or to the past participle to form adjectives.****-ace** (-aceous) =inclined to, tending to. *caper, capace; lat. audere, audace;**faller, fallace; effic-, efficace; tener, tenace***-bile** (-ble) = susceptible to the action of or capable of action of ...*culpar, culpabile; leger, legibile; audir, audible; mover, movibile*When the verb has an irregular past participle whose stem ends after a vowel with *-s-*, *-pt-*, *-ct-*, *-st-*, o *-x-* you add**-ibile** to the stem: *perciper, percepte, perceptibile; deducte, deductibile;**flexe, flexible; funder, fuse, fusibile.*(But not *absorber, absorpte, *absorptibile: absorber, absorbibile*).**-bunde** (-bund) = adjective of imminent condition: *morir, moribunde; nausear, nauseabunde; vagar, vagabunde***-cunde** (-cund) = adjective of imminent condition *ruber, rubicunde***-ide** (-id) = being in the condition or state of; possessing the quality of: *caler, calide; valer, valide; torper, torpide; languer, languide;**liqu-, liquide; liv-, livide; lucer, lucide; rab-, rabide;**rig-, rigide; timer, timide; stuper, stupide***-ile** (-ile) = susceptible al o capace del action de ...: *fra(n)ger, fragile;**ager, agile; facer, facile; reptar, reptile; ut-, utile***-ule** (-ulous) = inclined to, tending to *biber, bibule; pender, pendule, garr-, garrule***-ue** (-uous)= inclined to; possessing the property of...*conti(n)g-, contigue; superfluer, superflue; nocer, nocue;*lat. *ambigere (ambi- + agere), ambigue***Suffixes added to roots or stems of verbs to form nouns****-ada** = continuing or prolonged action of :*promenar, promenade; cavalcar, cavalcada; cannonar, cannonada***-age**= action or process of... -r. *acierar, acierage, lavar, lavage; equipar, equipage.***-atro** = an instrument, means, or place of action: *arar > aratro***-bulo** = an instrument, means, or place of action: *star > stabulo; vestir > vestibulo; infunder > infundibulo; vocar > vocabulo***-cro** = an instrument, means, or place of action: lat. *fulcere > fulcro***-eria** =1. Place where ...-r is performed: *distillar, distilleria; piscar, pischeria; robar, roberia.*2. art, trade, or practice of ... -r: *brodar, broderia.*

- (a/i)cula,o** = an instrument, means, or place of action: *spec-*, *speculo*; *recept-*, *receptaculo*; *coperir*, *coperculo*; *obstar*, *obstaculo*; *veher*, *vehiculo*; *curre*, *curriculo*
- mento** = action of or an instrument, means, result, or product of the action: *governar*, *governamento*; *abolir*, *abolimento*; *fulger*, *fulgimento*; *pagar*, *pagamento*; *altiar*, *altiamiento*; *avantior*, *avantiamento*.
- or** = activity, condition or sentiment of ...: *amar* > *amor*; *caler* > *calor*; *arder* > *ardor*; *pav-* > *pavor*; *doler* > *dolor*; *tremere* > *tremor*; *valer* > *valor*; *errar* > *error*; *torper* > *torpor*; *splender* > *splendor*; *rancer* > *rancor*; *rig-* > *rigor*; *viger* > *vigor*; *ruber* > *rubor*; *timer* > *timor*; *stupere* > *stupor*.
- nte** = agent who ... [= **-or** added to the past participle].
- ula,o** = an instrument, means, or place of action: *reger*, *regula*, *coager*, *coagulo*, *coagular*.

Suffixes added to stems of adjectives

to form nouns

- icia** = state or quality of being *juste*, *justicia*; *mal*, *malicia*
- essa** = state or quality of being *large*, *largessa*; *polite*, *politessa*, *ric*, *ricchezza*
- ia** = state or quality of being *efficace*, *efficacia*; *felice*, *felicia*; *fraudente*, *fraudentia*
- ia** = state or quality of being *zelose*, *zelosia*, *endemic*, *endemia*
hydrocephale, *hydrocephalia* (usate in terminos medic o technic).
- ismo** = 1. state or quality of being...” *provincial*, *provincialismo*;
2. doctrine or practice which concerns what is *social* > *socialismo*; *paupere*, *pauperismo*; *mute*, *mutismo*
3. what is characteristic of the people of o r their language: *german*, *germanismo*; *russe*, *russismo*.
- itate** = state or quality of being: *lucide*, *luciditate*; *instabile*, *instabilitate*; *familiar*, *familiaritate*.
[a synonym of **-itute**, but preferred when the base is already a derivative]. Before other suffixes which begin with -
- a- -itate** is abbreviated to **-it-**: *autoritate* > *autoritari*
- itute** = state or quality of being.... *certe*, *certitude*; *infinite*, *infinitude*;
recte, *rectitude*; *exacte*, *exactitude*; *alte*, *altitude*; *apte*, *aptitude*; *grate*, *gratitude*; *sol*, *solitude*. (**-itudin-** when additional suffixes are added.)

Suffixes added to adjectives to form new adjectives.

- ista** = adherent of the doctrine or practice concerned with what is....
social, *socialista*; *monarchic*, *monarchista*; *pragmatic*, *pragmaticista*.
- ette** = (diminutive) quasi, somewhat... *belle*, *bellette*; *blanc*, *blanchette*
- issime** = (superlative) very, the most.... *belle*, *bellissime*, *excellente*, *excellantissime*.
- ista** = pertinent to -ismo or to -istas. *socialismo*, *socialista*; *comunismo*, *comunista*.

Suffixes for deriving adverbs from adjectives

- mente** = in the manner of, from the point of view of, with respect to, to specified degree of: *lente*, *lentamente*, *rapide*, *rapidamente*, *relative*, *relativamente*; *extreme*, *extremamente*, *annual*, *annualmente* After -c the vowel **-a-** is inserted: *telepathic*, *telepathicamente*
- o** = certain adjectives have corresponding adverbs obtained by adding **-o** to the stem of the adjective: *certe*, *certo*; *expresse*, *expresso*, *juste*, *justo*; *multe*, *multo*, *preste*, *presto*; *quante*, *quanto*; *subite*, *subito*, *tante*, *tanto*, *tote*, *toto*. Adjectives in *-issime* can form adverbs by adding **-o** to the stem: *bellissime*, *bellissimo*; *brave*, *bravissimo*.

Prefixes from Latin

Many prefixes have origins as prepositions in Old Latin. They were used in their prepositional sense or as intensifiers of verbs.

a- = with verbs, and in combination with verbal suffixes with nouns and adjectives to indicate to, toward, change to, and augmentation of intensity: *bassar*, *abassar*; *batter*, *abatter*. [Not used actively in new formations].

a- = not, without, lacking: [**an-** before **-h-** and vowels] with nouns and adjectives: *gnostic*, *agnostic*; *theista*, *atheista*; *alphabete*, *analphabete*.

ab- [before vowels **e, d, g, l, n, r, s**] = away from, separation, origin of action: *ducer*, *abducer*; *errar*, *aberrar*; *breve*, *abbreviar*; *sorber*, *absorber*. **abs-** [before **-c- e -t-**] *ceder*, *absceder*; *cinder*, *abscinder*; *tener*, *abstiner*; *truder*, *abstruder*, *traher*, *abstraher*, *abstracto*. [Not in new formations].

ad- = to, toward, into, and, by the metaphor of motion, toward something **ad-** expresses change or augmentation of intensity: *judicar*, *adjudicar*, *sorber*, *adsorber*; *mitter*, *admitter*; *orar*, *adorar*, *ornar*, *adornar*. **ad-** is assimilated to consonants other than *d, h, j, m,* and *v*: *prender*, *apprender*, *commodar*, *accommodar*; *copular*, *accopular*, *salir*, *assalir*; *scriber*, *ascriber*; *cender*, *ascender*; *sumer*, *assumer*; *tender*, *attender*; *tanger* [-ting-/-tact-] *attinger*.

- ante-** = preceding in time or space. In substantives, adjectives and verbs: *camera, antecamera; diluvio, antediluvio; ceder, anteceder, antecedente; poner, anteponer, anteposition.*
- anti-** = opposed to against, opposite of. In nouns and adjectives.
Christo, Antichristo; aeree, antiaeree; septic, antiseptic
- [**ant-** before vowels and *h*]: *artic, antartic; helminth, anthelminth.*
- auto-** = self. In nouns and adjectives. *biographia, autobiographia; didactic, autodidactic.*
- auto-** = abbreviation of automobile: *strata, autostrata; dromo, autodromo.*
- circum-** = around, in the vicinity of, to go around something. With verbs and adjectives: *navigar, circumnavigar; volver, circumvolver; star, circumstar; cider, circumcider, circumcision; scriber, circumscriber.* [**circu-** before *-i-*]. *ir, circuir, circuito.*
- co-** = companion, complement, jointly, union. With nouns and adjectives: *adjuvante, coadjuvante; existente, coexistente; idealista, coidealista, naufrago, conafrago.*
- con-** = with, together, jointly, mutually, union. Augmentation of the meaning. With nouns, adjectives and verbs: *latere, collateral; formar, conformar; fronte, confrontar, fluente, confluyente.*
co- before vowels and *h*; **col-** before *l*; **com-** before **b, m, p**; **cor-** before *r*; **co-** coincides with **co-** above.
- contra-** = against, in opposition to nouns and verbs: *balancia, contrabalanca; dicer, contradicer; facer, contrafacer; mandar, contramandar; signo, contrasigno; venir, contravenir.*
- de-** = from high to low, deviating from rectitude, removal of, away from; fortifies action indicated by a verb: *componer, decomponer; clinar, declinar; -scender, descender; traino, detrainar; traher, detraher; crepitar, decrepitar; pender, depender; primer, deprimer; ducer, deducer; fraudar, defraudar; legar, delegar; crescer, decrescer; fenestrar, defenestrar; fluer, defluer; formar, deformar; foresta, deforestar; moral, demoralizar; bassar, debassar; militar demilitarizar; mobilizar, demobilizar; merito, demerito; centralizar, decentralizar; throno, dethronar; poner, deponer; construir, deconstruir, deconstruction; contaminar, decontaminar; energizar, deenergizar.*
Sometimes synonym of **dis-**.
- de-** = possessing a molecule characterized by the removal of one or more atoms of some element. International Chemical Nomenclature.
- dis-** = 1. apart, separately; divided, dispersed: *rumper, disrumper.*
2. not ..., contrary to or opposite to...: *contente, discontente; harmonia, disharmonia; accordo, disaccordo; creder, discredere; acido, disacidificar*
- ex-** = previously, anteriorly. With nouns: *presidente, ex-presidente; sposa, ex-sposa; convicto, ex-convicto.*
- ex-** = (to go) out of, at times accompanied by altering itself and change of condition. In verbs and their derivatives.
acerbar, exacerbar; cider, excider; ceder, exceder; crescer, excrescer; haurir, exhaurir; ir, exir, exito; peller, expeller; plano, explanar; primer, exprimer; purgar, expurgar; -stinguer, extinguer; torquer, extorquer; traher, extraher, extraction, extracto.
e- = **ex-** before **b, d, g, l, m, n, r, j, v**: *bullir, ebullir; dicer, edicto; facer, efficer; feminar, effeminar, effeminate; grege, egregie; laborar, elaborar; levar, elevar; leger, eliger; mitter, emitter; mover, emover, emotion; norme, enorme; jac-, ejicer, ejecte; volver, evolver, evolution.*
- extra-** = 1. out of, outside the scope of... 2. very, unusually, highly.
territorio, extraterritorial; marital, extramarital; mural, extramural; ordinari, extraordinari; special, extraspecial.
- extro-** = within, to the outside or exterior, in contrasts with **intro-** *extroverte, extrovertite, extroversion,*
- gran-** = 'grande' (in names of relatives): *patre, granpatre, matre, granmatre; nepto, grannepto; oncle, granoncle.*
- in-** = 1. in, into. In verbs and their derivatives: *ducer, inducer; capsula, incapsular; secar, insecar; jac-/jic-, injicer; ir, initiar; gerer, ingerer; gorga, ingorgar; -herer, inherer; spirar, inspirar; stillar, instillar; fluer, influer; formar, informar.*
2. not, negation, absence, lacking: *coherente, incoherente; apabile, incapabile; certe, incerte; delicate, indelicate; efficace, inefficace; grate, ingrate; nocer, nocente, innocente.*
- il-** before **l**, **im-** before **b, m, p**, **ir-** before **r**.
- inter-** = between. In nouns, adjectives and verbs: *acto, interacto; linea, interlinear; racia, interracial; nation, international.*
- intra-** = within, inside of. In adjectives: *venose, intravenose; mural, intramural; dorso, intradorsal.*
- intro-** = toward the interior. In verbs and their derivatives: *ducer, introducir; spec-, introspecer, introspection; mitter, intromitter.* In antonyms of words in **extro-** *introverte, introvertite, introversion*
- juxta-** = next to, near to, along side of. *poner, juxtaponer.*
- mis-** = 1. badly. In verbs: *conciper, misconciper; interpretar, misinterpretar; usar, misusar.*

2. not: *anthrope, misanthrope; creder, miscredentia.*

- non-** = not, lack of. In nouns and adjectives: *sensu, nonsensu; conformista, nonconformista; usator, nonusator; credibile, noncredibile.* Synonym of **dis-** and **in-**.
- ob-** = toward, against, in the way of, over, facing toward. *jacer, objicer, ligar, obligar; struer, obstruer; claude, occluder.*
- oc-, of-, om-, op-** before c, f, m, and p, respectively.
- per-** = 1. through, throughout. In verbs: *forar, perforar; vader, pervader; venir, pervenir.*
2. completely, totally: *leger, perleger; orar, perorar; -querer, perquirer.*
- post-** = after, after in time, location or order. In nouns, adjectives and verbs: *poner, postponer; glacie, postglacial; moderne, postmoderne; scripto, postscripto; meridie, postmeridie.*
- pre-** = before in time, position, rank or order. In nouns, adjectives and verbs: *dominar, predominar; -cider, precider; ceder, preceder; definir, predefinir; dicer, predicar; existentia, preexistentia; judicar, prejudicar; occupar, preoccupar.*
- re-** = 1. back. In verbs and their derivatives: *flecter, reflecter; ager, reager; action, reaction; tornar, retornar; tener, retener.*
2. again. *novar, renovar; producer, reproducer; scriber, rescriber; construer, reconstruer.*
- retro-** = back. In verbs: *ceder, retroceder; ducer, retroducer; gradar, retrogradar; -spic-, retrospectic-, retrospection. ager, retroager.*
- sub-** =
1. under, underneath. In substantivos, verbos e adjectivos: *lingua, sublingual; corrente, subcorrente; camisa, subcamisa; jacer, subjacer; linear, sublinear; levar, sublevar; mar, submarin.*
2. subordinate of, subdivision of: *division, subdivision; chef, subchef; locotenente, sublocotenente.*
3. minimally: *bullir, subbullir*
- assimilated to c, f, g, m, p, r:** *ceder, succeder; currer, succurrer; cubo, succubo; fixar, suffixo; gerer, suggerer; primer, supprimer; rogar, surrogar; sus-* before **-ci-**, **-sp-**, **tener:** *-cip-/cept-, suscip-, susception; spectar, suspectar; -spic-, suspicionar; tener, sustener.*
- super-** =
1. above, up high. In adjectives, nouns and verbs: *poner, superponer, superposition; viver, superviver; vider, supervider; facie, superface.*
2. very, excessively, too much of: *abundante, superabundante; pagar, superpagar; producer, superproducer; excitar, superexcitar; fin, superfin; saturar, supersaturar.*
- trans-** = 1. across, beyond, surpassing. In nouns, adjectives and verbs: *portar, transportar; Alpes, transalpin; ration, transrational; mitter, transmitter; parer, ir, transir, transito; figurer, transfigurar.*
2. through *parer, transparer; poner, transponer.*
- ultra-** = beyond, in excess, extreme. In nouns, adjectives and verbos: *passar, ultrapasar; violette, ultraviolette; mar, ultramar; radical, ultraradical.*
- vice-** = one who replaces In nouns: *rege, vicerege; director, vicedirector; conte, viceconte; presidente, vicepresidente.*

Technological prefixes originating in Greek

- a-, an-** = not, without, lacking. *esthesia, anesthesia; gnostic, agnostic, anabolic.*
- amphi-** = 1. both, on both sides. *bio- vita, amphibie* 2. circa. *theatro, amphitheator.*
- ana-** = again. *baptismo, anabaptismo.* Syn. of **re-**.
- apo-** = 1. off, away: *geo(earth), apogee.* 2. formed from, pertinent to: *morphina, apomorphina.*
- cata-** = 1. down, downward. *rhino- nase, catarrhin.. cata + ballein (to throw), catabolismo; cataplexia, (cata + plexe > apoplexia) cat-* before **h** and vowels.
2. against; reflected. *-optro-, catoptric.*
- dia-** = 1. through. *metro, diametro; therm- calor, diathermia.*
2. away, apart. *dia- + legein to speak, dialogue; speirein disperger, diaspora.* Syn. **dis-**, **per-**
di- before vowels.
- dys-** = bad, badly. *pepsia digestion, dyspepsia* Syn. **mis-**.
- ecto-** = external. *derma skin, ectoderma.* Syn. **extra-**.
- en-** = in, into *demos people, endemic em-* before **b, m, p, ph.**

- endo-** = inside *derma pelle, endoderma*
- ento-** = in, inward. *-zoon* animal, *entozoon* parasite of the intestine.
ent- before **vocales**.
- epi-** = over *-tapho-* tomb, *epitaphio*.
- exo-** = outside. *gamo-* marriage, *exogame*; *skeleto*, *exoskeleto*.
- hyper-** = over, beyond, too. *critic*, *hypercritic*; *troph-* nutrimento, *hypertrophia*.
- hypo-** = under, beneath, of lesser degree of. *derma* skin, *hypodermatic* under the skin, hypodermic. *therm-* (*heat, warm*) *hypothermia* much below normal temperature
- meta-** = 1. behind. *carpo*, *metacarpo*.
2. beyond, transcending, higher. *physica*, *metaphysica*; *mathematica*, *metamathematica*.
3. after, subsequent to. *zoon*, *metazoon*.
4. derived, metameric. *globulina*, *metagobulina*.
5. across, *metaphor*, transfer, carry across, Greek
- para-** = 1. beside, at the side of. *sito-* food, *parasito*.
2. bad *-dox-* opinion, *paradoxe*; typhoide, paratyphoide.
par- ante **vocales e h**. *parhelion* <Grk, beside the sun.
- peri-** = around, about. *metro* misura, *perimetro*.
- syn-** = with, together, similar. *phon-* voice, *synphone*. *these*; to put, *synthese*. **syl-** before **l**, **sym-** before **b, m, p, ph**. Syn. **con-**

Prefixes in composites from the Greek.

- aero-** = air. *aeroplano*, *aerodynamic*, *aerophobia*, *aerotrasmorto*.
- archi-** = chief, principal, what rules. *archiepiscopo*; *archangelo*.
- archo-** = old, original, primitive. *archozoon*, *archoeologia*. **archo-**
- electro-** = electric, electricity. *electromotor*, *electrotherapia*.
- equi-** = equal, equally. *equilateral*; *equivaler*; *equilibrio*.
- hemi-** = half. *hemisphero*, *hemicyclo*, *hemitrope*. Syn. **semi-**
- helio-** = the sun. *heliocentric*, *heliotrope*, *heliostato*, *heliogravure*.
- hem-** = blood. *hemoglobina*, *hemophilia*, *hemostato*, *hemorrhagia*
- hetero-** = different. *heterosexual*, *heterogenee*.
- hier-** = sacred. *hierarchia*, *hieratic*, *hierologia*, *hieroglyphico*
- homo-** = the same. *homosexual*, *homogenee*, *homozygote*
- homeo-** = similar. *homeopathic*, *homeostasis*.
- hydr-** = water. *hydrante*, *hydroelectric*, *hydrocephalo*, *hydrophobic*.
- iso-** = equal. *isometric*, *isotonic*, *isobaro*, *isotopo*.
- macro-** = long, large, grand. *macroscopic*, *macrocephal*, *macroeconomic*.
- micro-** = small, tiny. *microscopic*, *microeconomica*, *microbio*
- neo-** = new, modern. *neolatino*, *neonato*, *neologismo*, *neokantian*.
- omni-** = all. *omnivore*, *omnipotente*, *omnisciente*, *omnividente*.
- paleo-** = old, ancient, in contrast with **neo-**. *paleozoic*, *paleontologia*, *paleohistoria*.
- pan-** = all inclusive. *panamerican*, *paneuropee*, *panarchia*, *pantheismo*.
- photo-** = 1. light. *photochimia*, *photosynthese*, *photoanalyse*.
2. photography. *photogravura*, *photogenic*, *photomontage*.
- proto-** = first, primitive, prototypal. *prototipo*, *protoromance*, *protoplasma*, *protozoon*.
- pseudo-** = false. *pseudonymo*, *pseudointellectual*, *pseudopodio*.
- quasi-** = somewhat, quasi. *quasidelicto*, *quasicomplete*, *quasicontracto*.
- radio-** = 1. ray (of light, x-ray, etc.). *radiographia*, *radiologia*, *radiotherapia*. 2. radio (communication). *radiodiffunder*, *radiogramma*, *radiotelephonia*
- semi-** = half, quasi. *semicirculo*, *semifluido*, *semilunar*, *semiofficial*.
- tele-** = 1. distant. *telescopio*, *television*, *telegrapho*, *telemetro*, ```` telepathic, *telephono*, *telephoto*.
2. pertinent to television. *telespectar*

Suffixes from Greek in composites.

Note: The initial vowels of suffixes as indicated below are the typical form. In combinations with the preceding elements

which have a normal scheme of composition, the usual vowel can disappear or be reimplaced by another. P.e. **tele- + -ometro > telemetro.**

-icida = killer. *mataricida, patricida, bufonicida, draconicida.*

-cidio = killing. *matricidio, homocidio, patricidio, genocidio.*

-omane = mad, insane. *megalomane.* **-omano** = one who is so afflicted. *megalomano.*

-ometro = instrument for measuring *aerometro, cardiometro, barometro.*

-graphia = system or technique of writing. *telegraphia.*

-ographo = 1. instrument which writes or records: *seismographo, telegrapho.*
2. one who writes: *biographo, telegrapho.*

-ologia = science of. *biologia, histologia, physiologia, psychologia.*

-ologo = one who practices the science of. *biologo, psicologo, fisiologo.*

-ophile = one who loves the.... *anglophile, francophile, cattophile.*

-o man who loves... *francophilo* **-ia** woman who loves... *cattophilia.*

-ophilia = tendency to love the.... *pedophilia, cattophilia.*

-ophobe = who fears or is adverse to.... *claustrophobe, musophobe, hydrophobe.* **-o** homine qui..., **-a** femina qui....

-ophobia = the fear of or aversion toward. *claustrophobia, musophobia.*

-osco = one who uses an instrument to visualize.... *cranioscopo, röntgenosco.*

-oscopio = instrument used by the ... -oscopio: *cranioscopio, röntgenoscopio.*

-oscopia = the study of the use of the...-oscopio. *cranioscopia, röntgenoscopia*

Composition with roots and affixes is at times new and not always based on previous composites.

Infiltrar is not derived by adding *in-* to a previous verb *filtrar*, but is a composite of *in-* + *filtr-* + *-ar*.

heliocentric is not derived from a previous *heliocentro* (which does not exist) but is a composite of *helio-* + *centro* + *-ic*.

uni- + later- + -al = unilateral

re- + fresc- + -ar = refrescar

ad- + commode + -ar = accommodar

semi- + tropico + -al = semitropical

neo- + litho- + -ic = neolithic

inter- + linea + -al = interlineal

inter- + lingua + -ista = interlinguista

semi- + legion + -ario = semilegionario

ex- + margine + -ar = emarginar

proto- + ceramo + graphia = protoceramographia

etc.

Composites from nouns and verbs to make adjectives

Replace **-e** or **-y** of the adjective with a transitional **-i-** and the ending of the noun **-a**, **-o**, **-e** with the adjectival ending **-e** or nothing. Replace the verb's ending of **-ar**, **-er**, **-ir** with **-e**

late (spisse) + **collo** = **laticolle**

albe (blanc) + **flor** = **albiflor**

cruce + **forma** = **cruciforme**

mixte + **linea** = **mixtilinee**

crasse + **lingua** = **crassilingue**

poly- + **syllabo** = **polysyllabe**

melle + **fluer** = **melliflue**

saxo + **franger** = **saxifrage**

ventre + **loquer** = **ventriloque**

igne + **vomir** = **ignivome**

carne + **vorar** = **carnivore**

A transitional vowel **-i-** joins the components of the composite.

Grammatical particles cannot form new composites.

More than one preposition can be used together:

Ille vade a in le foresta. (Ille vade in le foresta). Illo cadeva a inter le libros.

Illa te accompaniara fin a trans le montanias.

You normally do not have to construct your own vocabulary using the preceding word-formation rules. Consider that the Romans and Romance languages have already done much of the work for us. Just consult an Interlingua dictionary for the word. But if the dictionaries don't have the word in question (it is a new word in a source language), then you may use the

rules of word formation to create the word in Interlingua. The value of knowing the word-formation rules is that it helps you to understand a newly encountered word in Interlingua, because you can analyze it into its suffixes and roots and work out the meaning. This will carry over into English too, which will be a benefit of knowing Interlingua.

Interlingua alphabet, vocabulary and grammar

Origin

The orthography of Interlingua is based on the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet with no diacritical or accent marks. There are several digraphs, mostly in words of French, English, Spanish and Greek origin. Their occurrence helps in reading to maintain recognition and distinguish words of different meanings but with the same sounds, owing to their different etymological origins. The pronunciation of letters is 'fluid' within type limits.

Interlingua is an international auxiliary language developed by the International Auxiliary Language Association with financing from the Rockefeller Foundation, The Carnegie Corporation, the Research Corporation and principally the family of the heiress Alice Vanderbilt Morris and her husband and children, who were deeply interested in the problem of international communication.

The idea of Interlingua is that its vocabulary is not an invention but an objective extraction and standardization of the international vocabulary in the major European languages. English, French, Italian, and Spanish/Portuguese were initially chosen as sources for international words because these languages are major centers of radiation and absorption of words to and from other languages and are extensively involved in economic, scientific and cultural exchange between nations in the world. German and Russian were later added as alternative sources. Words were deemed international if they occurred in similar forms and with the same meanings in at least three of these languages. The form by which a word was standardized in the international vocabulary was the nearest etymological prototype. This was the theoretical or historical ancestor common to all its variants as well as the stems of its derivatives in the contributing languages, from which the variants deviate as monolingual transformations characteristic of their respective languages. The resultant form also could not be conditioned by a trait restricted to one contributing variant.

The work at IALA of compiling the international vocabulary was begun under the direction of the English Esperantist and German philologist, William E. Collinson, at the University of Liverpool between 1936 and 1939. E. Clark Stillman assumed direction of the project when it was moved to New York in 1939 at the outbreak of World War II. He was mandated by IALA's *Committee for Agreement* to begin work on objective means of establishing the international vocabulary. In New York Stillman assembled a team of linguists who had no prior involvement with any constructed language to perform the work. Together they worked out an objective methodology for compiling and standardizing the vocabulary. Dr. Alexander Gode was hired in 1939 onto the linguistic staff to assist Mr. Stillman at the recommendation of Helen Eaton. He succeeded Stillman in 1942 as acting director during the war. In 1946 the French linguist André Martinet was brought in to direct completion of the dictionary, but he left to join the faculty of Columbia University in 1948. Dr. Gode was brought back as Director of Research and in 1951, because of his experience as an editor of language reference works while working full time at T. Y. Crowell Company, completed the *Interlingua-English Dictionary* (IED), which contains over 27,000 words. The dictionary was accompanied by publication of the *Interlingua Grammar* by Alexander Gode and Hugh E. Blair.

The grammar of Interlingua is a minimum grammar for use of the international vocabulary of the dictionary as a language. The idea of the grammar was that no grammatical feature of its contributing languages would be suppressed if it were found in all of the grammars of the contributing languages and was reflected in the forms of the international vocabulary. Conversely, no grammatical feature was retained if it were missing from at least one of the contributing languages. Hence Interlingua has no grammatical gender, no agreement between nouns and adjectives in gender and number, no personal inflections of verbs. Verb tenses are similar to those in English. Grammatical particles are essentially Romance. Affixes are prototypic forms of affixes in the contributing languages, and are often, by reason of the history of these languages, of Latin or Greek form. Word derivations with roots and affixes follow closely the natural forms in the contributing languages. The result is a language that is easy for speakers of European languages to learn and even understand, sometimes at first-sight. Interlingua can also serve as a bridge to the Romance languages, or from these and other languages to English. Considerable transfer of training occurs from Interlingua to the contributing languages. Swedish children who were taught Interlingua were able, after a year, to translate Spanish, Italian and Portuguese newspaper texts at sight with excellent comprehension, without dictionaries, although they never had a course in these languages. Dr. Gode often described Interlingua as "Standard Average European". Since 1951 continuing work of various individuals has expanded the standardized international vocabulary to over 60,000 words, and the number continues to grow. Dictionaries are now available in all the contributing languages and in other languages as well. Several books, essays, and poetical works are now available in Interlingua. Interlingua represents the common lexical heritage of the European languages and is immediately comprehensible to millions, and is easily learned. Many now use it on the internet to exchange messages with speakers of Romance languages.

The Interlingua alphabet

A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h	I i
a	be	ce	de	e	ef	ge	ha	i
[A]	[b]	[k],[ts]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]
J j	K k	L l	M m	N n	O o	P p	Q q	R r
jota	ka	el	em	en	o	pe	qu	er
[dZ]	[k]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[o]	[p]	[k]	[r]
S s	T t	U u	V v	Ww	X x	Y y	Z z	
es	te	u	ve	duple ve	ix	ypsilon	zeta	
[s],[z]	[t]	[u]	[v]	[w]	[ks]	[i]	[z]	

c before *e* and *i* is [ts], otherwise [k].

s is optionally [z] between vowels, otherwise it is [s].

g is always [g] as in 'good', but before *e* or *i* is optionally [dZ], as in 'George', in *-age*, *-agi-*, and *-egi-*: *message*, *viagiar*, *legier*

t is generally [t] but *ti* is [tsi] in *-antia*, *-entia*, *-tia*, *-tie*, *-tio* and *-tion* except after *-s-* as in *sacristia* or when stressed as in *garantia*.

q is always followed by *u*; *qu-* is pronounced [kw] or [k] and always precedes a vowel.

Unassimilated words of foreign origin in the contributing languages retain the spelling and pronunciation and plurals of the original languages in the international vocabulary: *affaire*, *bureau*, *software*, *interview*, *cheque*, *standards*, *tests*, *shizzo*, *rancho*, *kümmel*.

Double consonants need not be distinguished from single consonants in pronunciation.

-ss- is always voiceless as [s].

The sounds of *g* and *k* assimilate a preceding *n* as in English *-ing*, *ink*.

Digraphs

ch is [k] in words of Greek origin like *Christo*, *chloro*, *chirurgia*

ch is [S] in a few words of French, Spanish and English influence like *choc*, *chenille*, *chef*, *chimpanze*, *chocolate*, *cheque*, and *China*.

ch is [tS] in *Chile*.

c pronounced [k] is changed to *ch* [k] in derivatives that follow with an *e* or *i*, to preserve the [k]: *banca* > *banchero*, *blanc* > *blanchir*.

h is mute in *rh* and *th* (in words of Greek origin): *rhapsodia*, *athleta*, *throno*, *rhythmo*.

ph in words of Greek origin is [f].

sh is [S] but rare.