

# THE CHEST GAZETTE

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## Esperanto - A language to unite all Nations

Esperanto was created in the late 1870s and early 1880s by L. L. Zamenhof, a Polish-Jewish ophthalmologist from Białystok, According to Zamenhof, he created the language to reduce the “time and labor we spend in learning foreign tongues and to foster harmony between people from different countries and all nations would be united in a common brotherhood.”

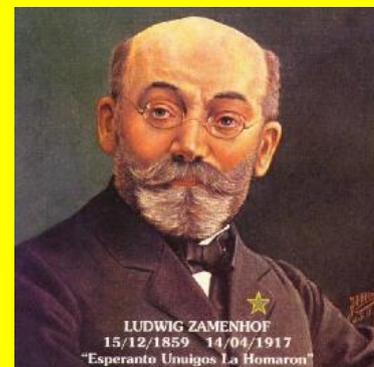
Zamenhof’s idea was to provide an alternative for international communication that was neutral, not belonging to any particular nation or ethnic group, but to everyone at the same time, becoming a bridge between peoples, in a climate of respect for languages and to local and regional cultures. After the publication, the language started to be studied and practiced by people in different parts of the planet.

Some of its features:

- it uses international vocabulary;
- its alphabet is phonetic (each letter corresponds to a sound, each sound corresponds to a letter);
- it shows flexibility in word formation (from the stems, using a system of prefixes and suffixes, you can build a large number of words. For example: **alta** means “high”; with the prefix **mal-** we can give the opposite notion that of the original word, so **malalta** means “down”);
- it has regular grammar (for example, when you learn to conjugate a verb in Esperanto, you can conjugate ALL verbs in the language).

Through Esperanto, you can access cultural events from the most diverse regions of the world (thousands of books have already been translated into Esperanto, ranging from novels from Brazil, poems from Estonia, tales from Macedonia and even fables from China). The Esperanto community has also developed its own cultures, which are reflected in original literature, plays, radio programs, films and music. You can even browse the internet using the Esperanto version of Mozilla.

Nowadays Esperanto is used by approximately one 1000 or more native speakers and about 30,000–180,000 speakers as a second language.



Lazar Ludwik Zamenhof born Eliezer Levi Samenhof, December 15, 1859 was an ophthalmologist, philologist, and the inventor of Esperanto, a constructed language designed for international communication. Zamenhof was born on December 15, 1859 in the town of Białystok in the Russian Empire (now part of Poland). He considered his native language to be his father’s Russian, but he also spoke his mother’s Yiddish natively; as he grew older, he spoke more Polish, and that became the native language of his children. His father was a teacher of German and he also spoke that language fluently, though not as comfortably as Yiddish. Later he learned French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and English, and had an interest in Italian, Spanish and Lithuanian.



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