

ELNA UPDATE

Esperanto League for North America, Inc. • Box 1129, El Cerrito, CA 94530 • (510) 653-0998

Issue 4, 1991

WORLD LANGUAGE & WORLD LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

LOST IN TRANSLATION

• A joke taken from a special English-language edition of *Sibirskaya Gazeta Weekly*, July 1991: "The tenth year of perestroika. A man is standing in the long line for canine meat. On his approaching the counter the shop assistant says loudly, 'Only the seventh sort of this meat remains on sale; the rest is sold out.' Poor buyer utters a sigh and asks to weigh out two kilograms, for there's nothing at home all the same. On his coming home his wife starts screaming, 'What is it you've brought? There are only wooden chips here!' Indignant, the man rushes back to the store. 'What have ye sold me?' 'Why, don't you know the seventh sort of canine meat is cut with kennel only?'"

• Translations from Japanese into English done in Japan every year cost \$1 billion, a figure which is expected to double in the next two years. But most of these translations are made by Japanese who do not speak English as a native language and have little contact with native English speakers, which often leads to very poor translations. This is not unusual in Japan (or other countries), where people who have studied English think they speak it well, but are unable to communicate with native English speakers when they meet them. (*Wall Street Journal*, Sep. 25, 1991)

ENGLISH NOT SPOKEN HERE

An advertising agency found out that the number of Europeans who understand English is lower than their most pessimistic estimates. Previous figures cited for the percentage of Europeans who speak or understand English have usually been higher, perhaps because people were simply asked if they understood English. The Lintas advertising agency tried something new—instead of just asking people how well they thought they spoke English, they tested people on their comprehension of some English sentences. Research done by Lintas showed that "the real correct understanding of English in all the (European) countries (examined) is noticeably inferior to the most pessimistic existing evaluations and our own guesstimates." The agency carried out the research because it wanted to advertise to all of Europe by satellite television and using only English seemed the easiest way to do this. (*Esperanto Teacher*, Autumn, 1991)

NIGERIA CUTS USE OF ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS

Nigeria's new Minister of Education, Professor Fafunwa, is moving Nigerian students away from an education dominated by English. Nigeria was a British colony, and English has been Nigeria's official language. But it is hardly anyone's first language there, since Nigerians speak a variety of African tongues. The new Minister of Education wants classes to be taught in indigenous languages. For example, at Fafunwa's behest, nearly 100,000 elementary school students in Oyo, one of Nigeria's states, are being taught mostly in Yoruba, one of the country's three major languages. Many English school textbooks are now being translated into the major languages of Nigeria: Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, Nupe, Ijaw, etc. (*Saluton*, from the *Chicago Tribune*, May 24, 1991)

WHICH ENGLISH DO YOU SPEAK?

George Bernard Shaw half-jokingly referred to English and the U.S. as "two countries divided by a common language." This is still true today. Below are just a few examples of differences in vocabulary between British and American English. Of course there are also differences in spelling and pronunciation.

British

nappies
courgettes
inverted commas
mac
ronmonger
crisps
pulses

American

diapers
Zucchini
quotation marks
raincoat
hardware store
potato chips
beans

Differences also exist between American and Australian English. Here are a few examples:

"Just put your cases in the boot" is Australian for "put your suitcases in the trunk of the car."

"We'll have to queue up for take away" = "line up for take-out food."

"Milk bar" = "corner drugstore." (*The Toastmaster*, Sep. 1991, Nov. 1991)

USE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES GROWING IN THE U.S.?

Use of foreign languages appears to be increasing in the U.S., spurred by immigration and tourism. But the use of foreign languages can lead to problems—

as well as business opportunities, as the following news items, which all occurred in the same city, San Francisco, show.

- Thousands of immigrants in California are on waiting lists for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. In San Francisco 12,000 recent immigrants who don't speak English are on waiting lists to get into ESL classes; in Los Angeles the number is 30,000. Educators say they are unable to meet the need because of budget cuts and the large number of immigrants who need to learn English. (San Francisco *Chronicle*, Nov. 5, 1991)

- When an organization recently wanted to build an AIDS hospice in a San Francisco neighborhood, language difficulties led to misunderstanding. An organizer for the hospice came to a neighborhood meeting to allay fears about the facility, but he was unable to communicate with the residents. Most of the local residents speak only Chinese; the organizer speaks only English, and the flyers he had about AIDS were all in English. Another hospice organizer later explained that there is little information available in Chinese about the disease, which led to fears among Chinese-speaking residents that the disease can be spread by casual contact. (Compiled from television broadcasts)

- TV stations in the San Francisco area now offer news broadcasts in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog and Spanish. Other programs are available in at least three more languages—Greek, Italian and Farsi. (San Francisco *Chronicle*, Sep. 16, 1991)

- Tourists who go on ferry tours of the San Francisco Bay can now use headsets to hear recorded tour information in four languages. Until now tours were given only in English, which sometimes led to complaints by foreign tourists. Now tourists will be able to listen to the guided tour in English, French, German and Japanese. (San Francisco *Chronicle*, July 12, 1991)

NEW VATICAN LATIN DICTIONARY

The Vatican recently published a new Latin dictionary. What makes this dictionary different is that it includes Latin terms for many modern concepts, such as "disco," "motorcycle," "cover girl" and "Amnesty International." Work on the dictionary was done by the Vatican's Latin foundation, set up by Pope Paul VI to keep Latin a living language, at least in the church. But the declining role of Latin, even in the Catholic Church, is highlighted by an increasing number of mistakes in Latin usage in documents written at the Vatican. (San Francisco *Chronicle*, Sep. 12, 1991)

INTERNATIONAL ESPERANTO NEWS

TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD WITH ESPERANTO

A new edition of *Pasporta Servo* (Passport Service) was published on June 19th by the World Esperantist Youth Organization (TEJO). This handbook lists the names and addresses of Esperanto speakers throughout the world who will provide fellow Esperantists with lodging in their houses or apartments overnight or for a few days, usually for a nominal fee or even free of charge. Travelers can select from any of 59 countries. Users of the service are simply requested to write well in advance to their hosts to make sure that lodging will be available on the dates requested.

Pasporta Servo has existed in its present form for 18 years. Little by little the service has become a famous and accepted institution in the Esperanto community, where anecdotes about experiences of hosts and guests abound. The low cost of the service has allowed many Esperantists to travel to foreign countries for the first time. (*Internaciaj novaĵoj*, UEA, Bulteno 10, Jun. 26, 1991)

NATIONAL ESPERANTO NEWS

NUMBER OF COLLEGE CLASSES IN ESPERANTO GROWING

The University of Hartford (CT) recently joined a growing list of American colleges and universities which offer Esperanto classes on a regular basis. The university offered beginning and intermediate courses in the International Language from Aug. 12 to Aug. 17. Classes were taught by William F. Orr, a professor at Hofstra University, and John C. Wells, professor of phonetics at the University of London and president of the World Esperanto Association (UEA).

The President of the University of Hartford, Humphrey Tonkin, is an Esperantist himself. He is a former president of the World Esperanto Association, current president of the Esperantic Studies Foundation, and a member of the academy of Esperanto along with Prof. Wells.

Other colleges and universities which now offer Esperanto courses include the University of California at Berkeley and San Diego, Stanford, San Francisco State University, Hofstra, Western Michigan, Wilmington and Gastonia.

The annual three-week sessions at San Francisco State, which attract students from around the world, are still the most popular Esperanto courses for American students. 1991 marked the 22nd year that Esperanto has been offered at San Francisco State. (University of Hartford *Observer*, Aug. 29, 1991)

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Ideal for

the beginner...

Each month covers a different aspect of the language – supplementing your regular study and allowing you to progress at a steady pace.

Topics include pronunciation, word parts, verb tenses, numbers, and more!!

Each day teaches you a new word – handy word list in the back of the calendar makes looking up meanings simple!

the experienced Esperantist...

Help spread the word about Esperanto – this useful wall calendar is an excellent gift for friends, students, family, business associates and yourself. Display it in your home or office as a conversation starter!

LIMITED QUANTITIES EXIST – ORDER TODAY TO ASSURE DELIVERY FOR THE NEW YEAR.

PRONUNCIATION

Esperanto Letter	Spelling Pronunciation	Pronunciation Key	Esperanto Letter	Spelling Pronunciation	Pronunciation Key
A	ah	Paŭzo	K	ka	ka
B	bo	Paŭzo	L	lo	lo
C	co	Paŭzo	M	mo	mo
Ĉ	ĉo	ĉo	N	no	no
D	do	Paŭzo	O	o	o
E	eh	Paŭzo	P	po	po
F	fo	Paŭzo	R	ro	ro
G	go	Paŭzo	S	so	so
Ĝ	ĝo	ĝo	Ŝ	ŝo	ŝo
H	ho	Paŭzo	T	to	to
I	ih	Paŭzo	U	uo	uo
J	yo	yo	O	oo	oo
Z	zo	zo	V	vo	vo
Ŝ	ŝo	ŝo	Z	zo	zo

1. The middle column above indicates one of the most popular pronunciation methods used when spelling out words in Esperanto. Practice saying your "ABC's" with the pronunciation guide above every day during this month.

2. All Esperanto letters have only one correct and exact way pronounced as in American English. Of the consonants, pay attention to Ĉ, Ĝ, Ĥ, Ĵ, Ķ and Ĵ. Also, vowels in Esperanto are pure and are similar to Italian or Spanish in pronunciation.

3. Esperanto has diphthongs (combinations of two vowels that "slide into each other" in a way). There are six Esperanto diphthongs:

aj (aj)	aj (aj)
aj (aj)	aj (aj)
aj (aj)	aj (aj)
aj (aj)	aj (aj)

4. In Esperanto, each vowel counts as one syllable. For example, Paŭzo has two syllables, Paŭzo has three syllables. No two vowels together. Stress is always placed on the second-to-last syllable. For example, Paŭzo, Paŭzo.

JANUARO 1992

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- Features include ...**
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 (per calendar)

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1	\$1.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED		

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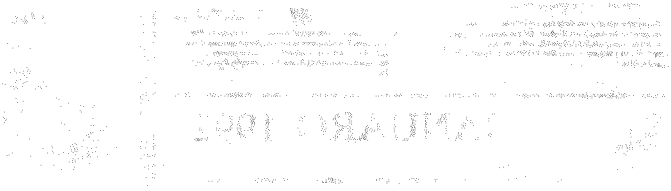
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Learn Esperanto in the convenience of your own home through ELNA's self-paced Home Study Program!

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LEVEL ONE—Using the textbook and cassette tape for the popular *Jen Nia Mondo 1* radio course, this twelve-lesson course will quickly guide you to mastery of basic Esperanto. COURSE MATERIALS: *Jen Nia Mondo 1* book (66 pages), *Jen Nia Mondo 1* audio cassette, and workbook.

Course Number 101 \$36.00*

LEVEL TWO—As a continuation of Level One, this thirteen-lesson course focuses on a more detailed analysis of Esperanto as a language in its own right. This course is recommended for the serious student as a follow-up to Level One. COURSE MATERIALS: *Jen Nia Mondo 2* book (89 pages), *Jen Nia Mondo 2* audio cassette, and workbook.

Course Number 201 \$45.00**

Note: Levels Three and Four are scheduled for release in 1992.

*&**: If you already have the book and tape set for *Jen Nia Mondo 1*, you may subtract \$12.00 from the price of the course; and similarly for *Jen Nia Mondo 2*, you may subtract \$15.50.

ELNA CORRESPONDENCE COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

Return this form with check or money order payable to ELNA to:
ELNA, P.O. Box 1129, El Cerrito, CA 94530-1129

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

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