

# Word types

- 1 There are two types of words in Esperanto: [Words ending in a grammatical marker](#) and [particles](#)

## Words ending in a grammatical marker

- 2 The majority of words in Esperanto end in a grammatical ending. An "ending-word" consists of **a root** (or several roots)+ **grammatical ending**, e.g.: [patr/o](#), [roz/o](#), [sun/o](#), [am/o](#), [kol/tuk/o](#), [san/a](#), [verd/a](#), [hel/ruĝ/a](#), [eg/e](#), [aparten/i](#), [bril/as](#), [est/os](#), [rond/ir/as](#).
- 3 **Roots** express the most diverse things; animals, people, actions, qualities, abstractions, concrete matters etc. A root can not stand alone as a word, but needs an ending. There are nine word-creating **endings**: [O](#), [A](#), [E](#), [I](#), [AS](#), [IS](#), [OS](#), [US](#) and [U](#). When we add any one of these endings to the root it becomes a word. In principle any root can accept any of the endings: [hom/o](#), [hom/a](#), [hom/e](#), [hom/i](#), [hom/as](#) etc., [blu/o](#), [blu/a](#), [blu/e](#), [blu/i](#), [blu/as](#) etc., [kur/o](#), [kur/a](#), [kur/e](#), [kur/i](#), [kur/as](#) etc.
- 4 Some roots are used mainly to form compound words. They are called **affixes**: EBL, UL, MAL, GE etc.
- 5 A particle doesn't require an ending, but appears in the sentence as is. Particles are a limited group of words which present very basic ideas, grammatical relations etc. They are mainly [prepositions](#), e.g. [al](#), [de](#), [en](#); [personal pronouns](#), e.g. [mi](#), [vi](#), [ŝi](#); [noun-like particles](#) and [adjectival particles](#), e.g. [kiu](#), [tiu](#), [kio](#), [tio](#), [kia](#), [tia](#), [kies](#), [ties](#), [ambaŭ](#); [numerals](#), e.g. [unu](#), [du](#), [tri](#), [dek](#), [cent](#); [coordinating conjunctions](#), e.g. [kaj](#), [aŭ](#); [subordinate conjunctions](#), e.g. [ke](#), [ĉu](#), [se](#); [adverbial particles](#), e.g.: [kie](#), [tie](#), [for](#), [kiam](#), [tiam](#), [baldaŭ](#), [hodiaŭ](#), [kial](#), [tial](#), [kiel](#), [tiel](#), [kiom](#), [tiom](#), [ankaŭ](#), [eĉ](#), [jes](#), [ne](#); interjections e.g. [adiaŭ](#), [bis](#), [ho](#).
- 6 45 of the particles seem to have some kind of grammatical ending, and seem to be compounds, but they are not compounds: [tio](#), [tia](#), [kio](#), [kie](#), [iu](#), [iel](#), [ĉiam](#), [ĉiom](#), [nenial](#), [nenies](#) and others. These particles are called [correlatives](#).

# Sentence functions

- 7 A **Sentence** is a string of words which together express a thought. A **sentence element** is a word or group of words which acts as a unit in a sentence.
- 8 The most important sentence element is the **predicate**. It is a [verb](#) with one of the endings AS, IS, OS, US or U (normally not I): [iras](#), [sidis](#), [bato](#)s, [vidus](#), [pensu](#) etc.
- 9 The predicate is the center of the sentence. All other (main) parts of the sentence relate in various ways to the predicate. They have various **sentence functions**, e.g. [subject](#), [object](#), [circumstantial complement](#), [vocative](#), or [predicative](#).
- 10
- [La junulo legas libron.](#) - The young man is reading a book.  
The verb [legas](#) is the **predicate**. [La junulo](#) is the **subject**. [Libron](#) is the **object**. The sentence function of the subject is shown by omission of the role indicator (by the nominative). The sentence function of the object is shown by the accusative ending -N.
- [Ŝi veturis tutan tagon per sia aŭto.](#) - She travelled all day with her car.  
The sentence element [tutan tagon](#) is an [accusative circumstantial complement](#) which shows how long the action lasted. The sentence element [per sia aŭto](#) is a [prepositional circumstantial complement](#), which informs about the means used for the action. The sentence function of the first circumstantial complement is indicated by the accusative ending -N. The sentence function of the second circumstantial complement is the preposition [per](#).
- [Andreo, ĉu vi renkontis Paŭlon hodiaŭ?](#) - Andrew, did you meet Paul today?  
The sentence element [Andreo](#) is **vocative**.
- [La apartamento de Andreo estas malgranda.](#) - Andrew's apartment is small.  
The sentence element [malgranda](#) is a **predicate adjective**. It modifies (describes) the subject [la apartamento](#) by means of the predicate verb [estas](#):

- 11 There are three ways of showing sentence function: [nominative](#), [accusative ending N](#) and [preposition](#).

- 12 A sentence element consists of a **main word** to which various **descriptions** can be added:

- 13
- [Andreo loĝas en bela apartamento kun du ĉambroj.](#) - Andrew lives in a beautiful apartment with two rooms.  
In the circumstantial complement of location, the noun [apartamento](#) is the main word. In addition the circumstantial complement has an adjective, [bela](#), which is an **epithet** of the main word, and a sentence element [kun du ĉambroj](#), which is a **supplement** of the noun [apartamento](#). (The subordinate sentence element [kun du ĉambroj](#) does not relate directly to the predicate, but is only part of the circumstantial complement [en bela apartamento kun du ĉambroj](#).)

- 14 See also [the list of Grammatical Terms in the Introduction](#).