

ŜPELDEMÜNT

Introduction

Are you a(n) Esperantist/Volapükist and wish to communicate with a(n) Volapükist/Esperantist, but oh no! You guys have no language in common, or simply refuse to speak it? Then Ŝpeldemünt is the solution for you! Literally meaning “hope of the World”, — or Worldhope, if you will — it is an auxlang... between auxlangs, and perhaps, even a possible IAL considering the fact that its sources are!

I tried my best to mediate the differences between Volapük and Esperanto, treating this as a fun exercise and as a way to learn more about both of them. I also designed a flag for it, which is essentially a merge of the two flags of its sources.

In this document, I'll dive into my idea by transcribing what I've written on paper, in the order I've written it in.



Phonemes

I decided to first of all isolate all sounds in common and start from there, scratching some away and adding umlauts.

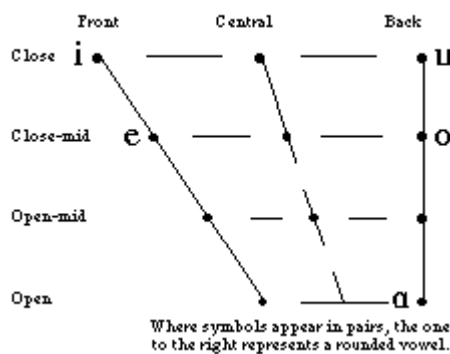
Esperanto's phonemic inventory:

CONSONANTS
(PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retrolflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			
Nasal	m			n							
Trill				r							
Tap or Flap											
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ			x			h
Affricate				ts	tʃ dʒ						
Lateral fricative											
Approximant							j				
Lateral approximant				l							

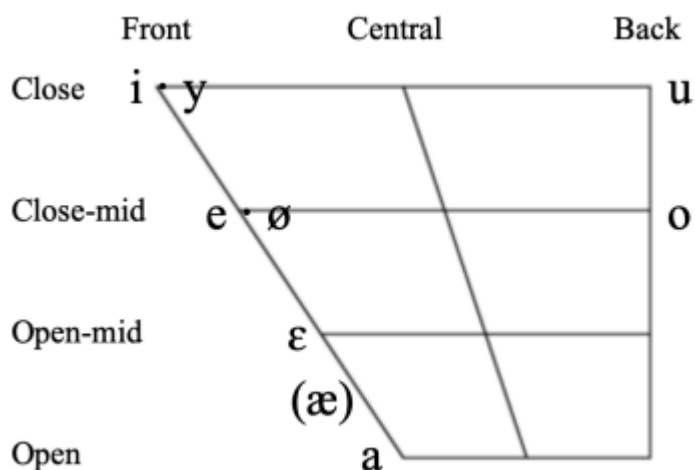
Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

VOWELS



Volapük's phonemic inventory:

	Bilabial	Labial-dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			g k		
Nasal	m		n					
Trill			r				(ʀ)	
Fricative		f v	(s) z	(ʃ) ʒ			(ʁ)	h
Affricate			(ts) dz	(tʃ) dʒ				
Approximant			(ɹ)		j			
Lateral approximant			l					



Špeldemünt's phonemic inventory:

Consonants	Bilabial		Labio-dental	Alveolar		Post-Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal		m			n			
Plosive	p	b		t	d			g
Fricative			f	v	s	ʃ		
Lateral approximant					l			
Approximant							j	
Trill					r			

Vowels	Front		Back	
Close	i	y		u
Close-mid	e	ø		o
Open	a			

There are reasons as to why I scratched some phonemes away:

- [t͡s] bad sound for Z; one of too many sounds for C
- [t͡ʃ] one of too many sounds for C
- [d͡ʒ] no need for soft G

- [h] can be difficult to pronounce
- [x] even worse to pronounce
- [ʒ] too rough
- [z] best sound for Z, but Z is absent
- [ks] worst sound for X
- [dz] eh sound for Z
- [ɛ] sorry but an umlaut has to go
- [æ] same as above
- [w] not really needed

Alphabet

A [a]; B [b]; D [d]; E [e]; F [f]; G [g]; I [i]; J [j]; K [k]; L [l]; M [m];
N [n]; O [o]; Ö [ø]; P [p]; R [r]; S [s]; Š [ʃ]; T [t]; U [u]; Ü [y]; W [v]

Verbs and conjugation

The infinitive of a verb ends in -in. To conjugate a verb, one has to remove the ending and replace it with its respective conjugation. There are four tenses, their respective passive forms, and the imperative mood.

Basic conjugation chart:

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
FIRST PERSON (SINGULAR)	- mi	- mir
SECOND PERSON (SINGULAR)	- oli	- olir
THIRD PERSON (SINGULAR)	- lo (standard); - ši (optional feminine); - om (optional masculine); - sö (impersonal)	- lor; - šir; - ör; - sör

FIRST PERSON (PLURAL)	- mis	- mirs
SECOND PERSON (PLURAL)	- olis	- olirs
THIRD PERSON (PLURAL)	- los	- lirs

The tense endings are -i- for past; -ö- for future; -ü- for conditional. The passive is marked by -r. To form conjugations in tenses other than present, put the tense marker between the root and the conjugation (eg: bedemi, I need; bederimi, I needed; bederömi, I will need; bederümi, I would need).

In case a conjugation ending begins with a consonant, one has to recede further until they find a vowel, unless said vowel is found by adding a tense marker.

Negation

It is formed by adding “ne” in front of the verb.

Cases

Ŝpeldemünt uses three cases: nominative, accusative, and dative. As nominative is the “standard form” in many languages, including Esperanto and Volapük, it is going to stay like that here too.

Accusative is marked by -n

Dative is marked by -e

If a noun that needs to be marked with accusative ends with a consonant, one may add an -e- before -n.

Proper nouns are marked with case as any other noun would. The order for cases is always nominative, accusative, dative.

Possession

It's marked by either possessive pronouns or by using the particle "de".

Possessive adjective chart

	NOMINATIVE	ACCUSATIVE	DATIVE
MI	mia	mian	mie
OLI	olia	olin	olie
LO	lia	lian	lie
ȘI	șia	șian	șie
OM	omia	omian	omie
SÖ	sia	sian	sie
MIS	mias	mians	mies
OLIS	olias	olians	olies
LORS	lias	lians	lies

Possessive adjectives and pronouns take on the same form.

Articles

There are no articles, except there is. La is the only one, and it's used with loan words only.

Plural

To form it, add -s after whatever needs to be pluralized. Accordance applies, if what's surrounding what's pluralized is tied with it. It is always marked last.

Conjunctions and prepositions

- ke(d) (and)
- in (in)
- kon (with)
- sur (on)
- pro (about)
- por (for)
- le (out)

Pronouns

Pronoun chart

	NOMINATIVE	ACCUSATIVE	DATIVE
1ST PERSON (S)	mi	min	mie
2ND PERSON (S)	oli	olin	olie
3RD PERSON (S)	lo/ŝi/om/sö	lon/ŝin/on/sön	lö/ŝie/ome/se
1ST PERSON (P)	mis	mins	mies
2ND PERSON (P)	olis	olins	olies
3RD PERSON (P)	los	lons	les

The feminine and masculine forms of the singular third person pronoun are completely optional, meaning that, unless you want to use them for whatever reason, they're not really the standard.

Questions

-To ask a yes/no question, put the particle li at the beginning of the sentence.

-To ask a specific question, use question markers

The questions markers are:

- kü? (who?)
- kün? (whom?)
- ke? (to whom?)
- ki? (what?)
- kimo? (where?)
- kido? (why?)
- klio? (how?)
- kie? (to who?)
- kimö? (to what place?)

Ke, kie, and kimö refer to the question version of the dative case, but respectively refer to a person, an object, or a place.

Courtesy form

To be more polite, use the third person pronoun in its singular form. To be overly polite, do the same but with the second person pronoun in its plural form. Also remember to add honorifics.

The honorifics are:

- linu (gender neutral, standard)
- lina (feminine, optional)
- lino (masculine, optional)

They translate to Mx, Ms/Mrs, and Mr respectively.

Imperative

It is impersonal, unless one wants to specify who it is directed to. In that case, put a pronoun (second person pronouns only) before the verb, or specify the individual's name.

It's formed by simply removing the infinitive's ending.

Adverbs

They are formed by adding -ö.

Adjectives

They're formed by adding the suffix -kli to the noun they come from.

Numeric system

It works the same way it does in Esperanto and in Volapük.

- ubo (one)
- de (two)
- kil (three)
- kwol (four)
- win (five)
- sel (six)
- set (seven)
- jök (eight)
- nū (nine)
- dek (ten)
- sent (hundred)
- mil (thousand)
- milio (million)

- milia (billion)
- trilio (trillion)

20 > dedek > 2×10

42 > kwoldekde > $4 \times 10 + 2$

Orthography

- If o or u are followed by e in any way, replace with umlaut variant. If the same happens with a, omit it and only put e.
- lu, ie, ia, io, are diphthongs. li is not allowed.
- More than two vowels in a row are not permitted. if this happens, the first one is omitted.

Syntax

- SVO structure
- adjectives after nouns

VOCABULARY

A

adaro: thing

B

banen: banana

bederin: to need

D

undo: dog

E

F

fleko: friend

foragin: to delete, erase

forago: erasure, deletion

formöni: to forget

G

getrül: parent

glido: greetings; hello

I

iam: always

J

K

kawin: can (ability and permission)

kilno: child

L

M

modrikli: cool; awesome

möltak: many; möltakli if used as an adjective

münt: world; Earth if capitalized

N

O

Ö

P

pardönin: to forgive

plikli: more (adj)

R

S

stüt: street

Ŝ

T

to: this

U

Ü

W

wigin: to see

wör: word