

Language

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ESTONIAN

Estonian belongs to the Baltic-Finnic branch of the Finno-Ugric languages. It's closely related to Finnish and distantly related to Hungarian. The complex grammar of Estonian makes it a difficult language to learn – try your luck with 14 cases, declining adjectives and no future tense. Added to this is a vocabulary with no link to any other language outside its own group, save recent borrowings.

A comprehensive and radical reform of the language was undertaken in the early 1900s by Johannes Aavik, somewhat de-Germanising the grammar and adding thousands of new terms. Another language reformer, Johannes Veski, criticised Aavik's liberal borrowing from Finnish, and proceeded to augment the vocabulary by using Estonian roots to create new words. It's a process that is continuing to this day as new Estonian words are invented to suit modern

needs. All the same, the last few years have seen an increase in the liberal use of English words in place of their more complicated Estonian translations, or adding Estonian verb endings to English words, eg if you want to *surfima* the Web or *e-mailima* your friends, you'll need to *klikima* the mouse often!

Most Estonians, especially younger people, understand some English and Finnish, but you'll find that Estonians are much more welcoming of visitors who make an effort to speak their language. So don't be shy – there's nothing to lose and much to gain. For trivia buffs, Estonian boasts the word with the most consecutively repeated vowel: *jäääär*, which means 'edge of ice'.

PRONUNCIATION Vowel & Vowel Combinations

Pronunciation Guide

a	ah	as in 'father'
ae	ae	as the 'ie' in 'diet' (two sounds)
ai	ai	as in 'aisle'
e	e	as in 'ten'
ea	ea	as in 'bear'
ee	eh	as the 'e' in 'ten' but longer
ei	ay	as in 'pay'
i	i	as in 'tin'
ii	ee	as the 'ee' in 'see'
o	o	as in British English 'hot'
oi	oy	as in 'ploy'
oo	aw	as in 'dawn'
u	u	as in 'put'
ui	uy	as the 'oui' in 'Louie', but shorter and clipped
uu	oo	as in 'zoo'
õ	y	roughly as the 'i' in 'girl' (without rounding the lips)
õi	yi	roughly as the word 'curly' leaving out the 'c', 'r' and 'l'
ä	a	as in 'act'
äe	aeh	as the 'ae' in 'aesthetic'
ää	aa	as in 'Aaron'
õ	er	as the 'ir' in 'girl' (rounding the lips)
öö	err	as the 'yrr' in 'myrrh' (rounding the lips)
ü	ü	as the 'oo' in 'too' said with a small, round opening of the lips

My name is ...
muhn-i sowts ... *Mani sauc ...*

Where are you from?
naw kur-ean-es *No kurienes jūs esat?*
yoos as-uht

I'm from ...
es as-mu naw ... *Es esmu no ...*

Emergencies

Help!
puh-lee-gah *Palīgā!*

Call a doctor!
iz-sowts-eat ahr-stu *Izsauciet ārstu!*

I'm ill.
es as-mu slim/slim-uh *Es esmu slim/slima. (m/f)*

Go away!
ay-eat praw-yam *Ejiet projam!*

I'm lost.
es as-mu uhp-muhl-dee-yeas *Es esmu apmaldījies. (m)*
es as-mu uhp-muhl-dee-yu-seas *Es esmu apmaldījusies. (f)*

Health
Where can I find a/an ...?
kur es vuh-ru uht-ruhst ... *Kur es varu atrast ...?*
doctor
ahr-stu *ārstu*
hospital
slim-neets-u *slimnīcu*

I'm allergic to penicillin.
es as-mu uh-ler-jyisks/uh-ler-jyis-kuh pret pen-its-i-lee-nu *Es esmu alerģisks/alerģiska pret penicilīnu. (m/f)*

Language Difficulties

Do you speak English?
vai yoos run-ah-yuht uhn-gli-ski *Vai jūs runājat angliiski?*

I don't understand.
es ne-suh-praw-tu *Es nesaprotu.*

Please write that down.
loo-dzu pea-ruhk-steat taw *Lūdzu pierakstiet to.*

SHOPPING & SERVICES

Where's the ...?
kur uht-raw-duhs ... *Kur atrodas ...?*

bank
buhn-kuh *banka*
chemist/pharmacy
uhp-tea-kuh *aptiēka*

city/town centre
pil-saa-tuhs tsent-rs *pilsētas centrs*
currency exchange booth
vuh-loo-tuhs mai-nyuh *valūtas maiņa*
... embassy
... vehst-nea-tsee-buh *... vēstniecība*
market
tir-gus *tirgus*
post office
puhsts *pastas*

How much is it?
tsik tuhs muhk-sah *Cik tas maksā?*

Can I pay by credit card?
vai es vuh-ru muhk-saht uhr kred-eet-kuhr-ti *Vai es varu maksāt ar kredītkarti?*

I'd like to change a travellers cheque.
es vaa-laws iz-mai-neet tsely-aw-yum-uh che-ku *Es vēlos izmainīt ceļojuma čeku.*

I need to check my email.
es vaa-laws pah-rov-deet suh-vu e-puhst-u *Es vēlos pārbaudīt savu e-pastu.*

What time does it open?
naw tsik-eam ir uht-vaarts *No cikiem ir atvērts?*

What time does it close?
tsik-aws slaadz *Cikos slēdz?*

Where are the toilets?
kur ir tu-uh-le-tes *Kur ir tualetes?*

condoms
prez-er-vuh-tee-vi *prezervatīvi*
sanitary napkins
bin-des *bindes*

sunblock cream
sow-les krehms *saules krēms*

tampons
tuhm-po-ni *tamponi*

TIME, DATES & NUMBERS

What time (is it)?
tsik (ir) pulk-sten-is *Cik (ir) pulkstenis?*

It's ...
two o'clock di-vi *divi (lit: it's two)*
five o'clock peats-i *pieci*

today shaw-dean *šodien*
tomorrow reet *rīt*
morning reets *rīts*
afternoon pehts-pus-dea-nuh *pēcpusdiēna*
night nuhkts *nakts*

Monday pirm-dea-nuh *pirmdienā*
Tuesday aw-tr-dea-nuh *otrdiena*
Wednesday tresh-dea-nuh *trešdiena*
Thursday tsat-urt-dea-nuh *ceturtdiena*
Friday peakt-dea-nuh *piektdiena*
Saturday sast-dea-nuh *sestdiena*
Sunday sveht-dea-nuh *svētdiena*

January yuhn-vah-ris *janvāris*
February feb-ru-ah-ris *februāris*
March muhrts *marts*
April uhp-ree-lis *aprīlis*
May maijs *maijs*
June yoo-nyis *jūnijs*
July yoo-liys *jūlijs*
August ow-gusts *augusts*
September sep-tem-bris *septembris*
October ok-to-bris *oktobris*
November no-vem-bris *novembris*
December det-em-bris *decembris*

0 nul-le *nulle*
1 veans *viens*
2 di-vi *divi*
3 trees *trīs*
4 chet-ri *četri*
5 peats-i *pieci*
6 sesh-i *seši*
7 sep-ti-ny *septiņi*
8 uhs-taw-ny *astoņi*
9 de-vi-ny *deviņi*
10 des-mit *desmit*
11 vean-puhds-mit *vienpadsmit*
12 div-puhds-mit *divpadsmit*
13 trees-puhds-mit *trīspadsmit*
14 chet-r-puhds-mit *četrpadsmit*
15 peats-puhds-mit *piecpadsmit*
16 sesh-puhds-mit *sešpadsmit*
17 sep-tiny-puhds-mit *septiņpadsmit*
18 uhs-tawny-puhds-mit *astoņpadsmit*
19 de-viny-puhds-mit *deviņpadsmit*
20 div-des-mit *divdesmit*
21 div-des-mit-veans *divdesmitviens*
30 tres-des-mit *trīsdesmit*
40 chet-r-des-mit *četrdesmit*
50 peats-des-mit *piecdesmit*
60 sesh-des-mit *sešdesmit*
70 sep-tiny-des-mit *septiņdesmit*
80 uhs-tawny-des-mit *astoņdesmit*
90 de-viny-des-mit *deviņdesmit*
100 simts *simts*
200 di-vi sim-ti *divi simti*
1000 tooks-tawts *tūksts*

TRANSPORT
Where's the ...?
kur uht-raw-duhs ... *Kur atrodas ...?*
airport lid-aw-stuh *lidosta*
bus station ow-to-aws-tuh *autoosta*
ferry terminal puh-suh-zhea-ru aw-stuh *pasaziēru osta*
train station dzelz-ce-lyuh stuhts-i-ya *dzelzceļa stacija*
tram/trolleybus stop truhm-vuh-yuh/ *tramvaja/ trol-ey-bu-suh* *pea-tu-ruh* *trolejbusa pietura*

I want to buy a ... ticket.
es vaa-laws naw-pirkt ... *bi-lyet-i* *Es vēlos nopirkt ... biļeti.*
one-way vean-virz-ean-uh *vienvirziena*
return turp uht-puh-kuhly *turp-atpakaļ*

How much does it cost (to go to ...)?
tsik muhk-sah (aiz-vest leedz ...) *Cik maksā (aizvest līdz ...)?*

boat (ship) ku-gyis *kuģis*
platform pe-ravn *perons*

ticket office(s) bi-lye-shu kuh-ses *biļešu kases*
timetable vilts-ean-nu suh-ruhkst *vilcienu saraksts*

Directions
How do I get to ...?
kah es tea-ku leedz ... *Kā es tieku līdz ...?*
Is it far from here?
vai tuhs uht-raw-duhs tah-lu *Vai tas atrodas tālu?*

Could you show me (on the map) please?
loo-dzu puh-ah-deat muhn (uz kuht-es) *Lūdzu parādiet man (uz kartes)?*

Go straight ahead.
uz preak-shu *Uz priekšu.*

Turn left/right (at the ...)
puh kray-si/luh-bi (pea ...) *Pa kreisi/labi (pie ...)*

LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE

How much is it?

keahk kai-nu-aw-yah

*Kiek kainuoja?***What time does it open/close?**

kal-in-tah vah-lahn-dah aht-si-dah-raw/uzh-si-dah-raw

*Kelintą valandą atsidaro/užsidaro?***I need to check my email.**

mahn rayk-yah pah-si-tik-rin-ti al-ak-tron-i-ni pahsh-tah

*Man reikia pasitikrinti elektronini pašta.***condoms**

pre-zer-vah-tee-vai prezervatyvai

credit card

kra-di-taw kor-ta-leh kredito kortelė

sanitary napkins

bin-tai bintai

sunblock cream

sow-lehs kram-ahs saulės kremas

tampons

tahm-pon-ai tamponai

TIME, DATES & NUMBERS**What time is it?**

keahk dah-bahr lai-kaw

*Kiek dabar laiko?***It's ... (o'clock).**

dah-bahr ... (vah-lahn-dah)

Dabar ... (valanda).

two o'clock	ahn-trah	antra
5.30	pu-seh shash-yew	pusė šešių

today	shan-deahn	šiandien
tomorrow	ree-toy	rytoj
morning	ree-tahs	rytas
afternoon	paw-peah-teh	popietė
night	nahk-tis	naktis

Monday	pir-mah-deah-nis	pirmadienis
Tuesday	ahn-trah-deah-nis	antradienis
Wednesday	trach-ah-deah-nis	trečiadienis
Thursday	kat-vir-tah-deah-nis	ketvirtadienis
Friday	pank-tah-deah-nis	penktadienis
Saturday	shash-tah-deah-nis	šeštadienis
Sunday	sak-mah-deah-nis	sekmadienis

January	sow-sis	sausis
February	vah-sah-ris	vasaris
March	kaw-vahs	kovas
April	bah-lahn-dis	balandis
May	gag-uzh-is	gegužis
June	bir-zhal-is	birželis
July	leah-pah	liepa

August	rug-pew-tis	rugpiūtis
September	rug-seh-yis	rugsėjis
October	spah-lis	spalis
November	lahp-krit-is	lapkritis
December	gru-aw-dis	gruodis

0	nul-is	nulis
1	veah-nahs	vienas
2	du	du
3	trees	trys
4	kat-u-ri	keturi
5	pan-ki	penki
6	shash-i	šeši
7	sap-tee-ni	septyni
8	ahsh-tu-aw-ni	aštuoni
9	dav-ee-ni	devyni
10	dash-imt	dešimt
11	veah-naw-lik-ah	vienuolika
12	dvee-lik-ah	dvylika
13	tree-lik-ah	trylika
14	kat-u-raw-lik-ah	keturiolika
15	pank-yaw-lik-ah	penkiolika
16	shash-yaw-lik-ah	šešiolika
17	sap-teen-yaw-lik-ah	septyniolika
18	ahsh-tawn-yaw-lik-ah	aštuoniolika
19	dav-een-yaw-lik-ah	devyniolika
20	dvi-dash-imt	dvidešimt
21	dvi-dash-imt veah-nahs	dvidešimt vienas
30	tris-dash-imt	tridešimt
40	kat-ur-as-dash-imt	keturiasdešimt
50	pank-as-dash-imt	penkiasdešimt
60	shash-as-dash-imt	šešiasdešimt
70	sap-teen-as-dash-imt	septyniasdešimt
80	ahsh-tu-aw-nas-dash-imt	aštuoniasdešimt
90	dav-een-as-dash-imt	devyniasdešimt
100	shim-tahs	šimtas
101	shim-tahs veah-nahs	šimtas vienas
500	pan-ki shim-tai	penki šimtai
1000	tooks-tahn-tis	tūkstantis

TRANSPORT**Where's the ...?**

kur ee-rah ... Kur yra ...?

airport aw-raw u-aws-tahs oro uostas**bus stop** ow-taw-bu-saw autobuso stotelė

staw-ta-leh

ferry terminal kal-taw staw-tis kelto stotis**train station** gal-azh-in-kal-yaw geležinkelio stotis

staw-tis

When does the ... arrive?

kah-dah aht-plowk-yah ... Kada atplaukia ...?

boat lai-vahs laivas**ferry** kal-tahs keltas**hydrofoil** rah-kat-ah raketa**I'd like (a) ...**

ahsh naw-reh-chow ... Aš norėčiau ...

one-way ticket

bil-eah-tah i veah-nah bilietą į vieną galą

gah-lah

return ticket

bil-eah-tah i ah-bu bilietą į abu galus

gah-lus

I want to travel to ...

ahsh naw-ryu nu-vah-zhu-aw-ti i ...

*Aš noriu nuvažiuoti į ...***How much does it cost to go to ...?**

keahk kai-nu-aw-yah nu-vah-zhu-aw-ti i ...

*Kiek kainuoja nuvažiuoti į ...?***Directions****How do I get to the ...?**

prah-shom pah-sah-kee-ti kaip pah-tak-ti i ...

*Prašom pasakyti, kaip patekti į ...?***Is it far?**

ahr taw-li

*Ar toli?***Can you show me (on the map)?**

gah-leh-tu-met mahn pah-raw-dee-ti

*(zham-eh-lah-pee-ya)**Galėtumėt man parodyti (žemėlapyje)?***Turn left (at the ...)**

su-ki-ta i kai-ra (preah ...)

*Sukite į kairę (prie ...)***Turn right (at the ...)**

su-ki-ta i dash-na (preah ...)

*Sukite į dešinę (prie ...)***straight ahead**

teah-say

tiesiai

Glossary

See the individual destination chapters for some useful words and phrases dealing with food and dining; see the Language chapter for other useful words and phrases. This glossary is a list of Estonian (Est), Finnish (Fin), German (Ger), Latvian (Lat), Lithuanian (Lith), and Russian (Rus) terms you might come across during your time in the Baltics.

aikštē (Lith) – square
aludē (Lith) – beer cellar
alus (Lat, Lith) – beer
apteek (Est) – pharmacy
aptieka (Lat) – pharmacy
Aukštaitija (Lith) – Upper Lithuania
autobusu stotis (Lith) – bus station
autoosta (Lat) – bus station

baar (Est) – bar
baar (Est) – pub, bar
babushka (Rus) – grandmothers/pensioner ladies in berets
bagāžas glabātava (Lat) – left-luggage room
bagāžinē (Lith) – left-luggage room
bāka (Lat) – lighthouse
Baltic glint – raised limestone bank stretching from Sweden across the north of Estonia into Russia
baras (Lith) – pub, bar
baznīca (Lat) – church
bažnyčia (Lith) – church
brokastis (Lat) – breakfast
bulvāris (Lat) – boulevard
bussijaam (Est) – bus station

ceļš (Lat) – railway track, road
centras (Lith) – town centre
centrs (Lat) – town centre
Chudkoye Ozero (Rus) – Lake Peipsi
Courland – Kurzeme

daina (Lat) – short, poetic oral song or verse
datorsalons (Lat) – Internet café
Dievs – sky god
dzintars (Lat) – amber

ebreji (Lat) – Jews
Eesti (Est) – Estonia
ežeras (Lith) – lake
ezerpils (Lat) – lake fortress
ezers (Lat) – lake

gatvē (Lith) – street
geležinkelio stotis (Lith) – train station

hommikusöök (Est) – breakfast

ieļa (Lat) – street
iezis (Lat) – rock
informācija (Lith) – information centre
internetas kavinē (Lith) – Internet café
interneti kohvik (Est) – Internet café

jārv (Est) – lake

kalnas (Lith) – mountain, hill
kalns (Lat) – mountain, hill
kāmping (Est) – camp site
katedrāle (Lat) – cathedral
kelias (Lith) – road
kempingas (Lith) – camp site
kempings (Lat) – camp site
kepta duona (Lith) – deep-fried, black-bread garlic sticks
kino (Est, Lat, Lith) – cinema
kirik (Est) – church
krogs (Lat) – pub, bar
Kursių marios (Lith) – Curonian Lagoon

laht (Est) – bay
laipa (Lat) – boardwalk, plank way
LAL – Lithuanian Airlines
Latvija (Lat) – Latvia
Latvijas Ceļš (Lat) – Latvian Way; centre-right political party
laukums (Lat) – square
lidosta (Lat) – airport
Lietuva (Lith) – Lithuania
looduskaitseala (Est) – nature/landscape reserve
loss (Est) – castle, palace

māgi (Est) – mountain, hill
Metsavennad (Est) – Forest Brothers resistance movement
midus (Lith) – mead
muuseum (Est) – museum
muzejs (Lat) – museum
muziejus (Lith) – museum

nacionālais parks (Lat) – national park

parkas (Lith) – park
parks (Lat) – park
pastas (Lith) – post office

pasts (Lat) – post office
Peko (Est) – pagan god of fertility in Setu traditions
perkēla (Lith) – port
Pērkons (Lat) – god of thunder
Perkūnas (Lith) – god of thunder
piletid (Est) – tickets
pilies (Lith) – castle
pils (Lat) – castle, palace
pilsdrupas (Lat) – knights' castle
piļskalns (Lat) – castle mound
plats (Est) – square
plentas (Lith) – highway, motorway
postkontor (Est) – post office
prospektas (Lith) – boulevard
prospekts (Lat) – boulevard
pubi (Est) – pub
puistee (Est) – boulevard

raekoda (Est) – town/city hall
rahvuspark (Est) – national park
Reval (Ger) – Tallinn
rezervāts (Lat) – reserve
Riigikogu (Est) – Parliament
rotušē (Lith) – town/city hall
rūmai (Lith) – palace

Saeima (Lat) – Parliament
Seimas (Lith) – Parliament

Setu (Est) – ethnic group of mixed Estonian and Orthodox traditions
Setumaa (Est) – territory of the Setu people in southeastern Estonia and Russia
sild (Est) – bridge
smuklė (Lith) – tavern
stacija (Lat) – station

Tallinna (Fin) – Tallinn
tānav (Est) – street
tee (Est) – road
tiltas (Lith) – bridge
tilts (Lat) – bridge
tirgus (Lat) – market
trahter (Est) – tavern
turg (Est) – market
turgus (Lith) – market

vaistinē (Lith) – pharmacy
vāļjak (Est) – square
vanalinn (Est) – Old Town
Vanemuine (Est) – ancient Estonian song god
Vecrīga (Lat) – Old Riga
via Baltica – international road (the E67) linking Estonia with Poland

žydu (Lith) – Jews

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