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# Language basics

# Timeline

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Eiffel 1 1986

Eiffel 2            1988 (OOSC 1<sup>st</sup> edition)

Eiffel 3            1990-1991 (*Eiffel: The Language*)

Eiffel 4            1997 ("Precursor" mechanism, agents)

ECMA                2005

ECMA/ISO 2006 (revised) <http://www.ecma-international.org/publications/standards/Ecma-367.htm>

See roadmap:

[http://eiffelsoftware.origo.ethz.ch/index.php/Language\\_road\\_map](http://eiffelsoftware.origo.ethz.ch/index.php/Language_road_map)



- Classes, objects, ...
- Single and multiple inheritance
- Inheritance facilities: redefinition, undefinition, renaming
- Genericity, constrained and unconstrained
- Safe covariance
- Disciplined exception handling, based on principles of Design by Contract
- Full GC
- Agents (power of functional programming in O-O!)
- Unrestricted streaming: files, databases, networks...