

*Introduction to the course:* The structure of each chapter is ordered in a manner to be a supplement to the free videos on our site. The aim here is therefore to be more structured than what you will find in a typical textbook. This is in order for you, as a self-study student, to easily identify what elements you should learn or don't completely master.

Even though these texts are built on the videos, they are extended and also include the vocabulary needed for achieving the A1 level in Norwegian.

For a dictionary I recommend Google Translate: <http://translate.google.com>  
Dictionary for info on word conjugations: <http://www.nob-ordbok.uio.no/perl/ordbok.cgi>

## BASIC NORWEGIAN – LEVEL A1 – CLASS 1

This is a free guide for learning basic Norwegian.

Visit the site <http://www.norwegian-course.com> to take our online tests and watch the videos.

### THIS CLASS WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- Basic Pronunciation
- Present tense
- Placement of verb
- Vocabulary - Pronouns and basic verbs

### BASIC PRONUNCIATION - ALPHABET

The three extra letters, Æ [æ] Ø [ø] Å [å], are vowels. Be particularly aware of the sound of the Ø [ø]. This is one that many people have problems with. You should also pay attention to the pronunciation of the "o" and the "u". Listen to the video or to audio files while repeating the letters of the alphabet.

A [a] B [be] C [se] D [de] E [e]

F [eff] G [ge] H [hå] I [i] J [je/jodd]

K [kå] L [ell] M [emm] N [enn] O [o]

P [pe] Q [ku] R [err] S [ess] T [te]

U [u] V [ve] W [dobbeltve] X [eks] Y [y]

Z [sett] Æ [æ] Ø [ø] Å [å]

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## BASIC PRONUNCIATION - SHORT AND LONG VOWELS

Norwegian has two lengths of vowels - Long and short. The length of the vowels is usually not a big problem for beginner learners. This should, however, be learned from the start since change of length can change the meaning of the word.

The basic rule is that the vowel is short if it is followed by 2 consonants and long if it is followed by one or no consonant.

Consider these words below. Where in some cases it is the length of the vowel that makes it clear to the listener what you mean. (Don't bother to translate the words as many of them are rather uncommon).

<u>Vowel</u>	<u>Short vowel</u>	<u>Long vowel</u>
a	takk	tak
e	legge	lege
i	finne	fine
o	komme	skole
u	ull	ulykke
y	lyst på	lys
æ	færre	lære
ø	ørken	øl
å	ånd	ål

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## BASIC PRONUNCIATION - SPECIAL SOUNDS

These letter combinations are common and are one of many reasons it might be a good idea to have a teacher to study with. The sounds are not that difficult to remember, but easy to forget while reading. Norwegians will understand you if you mispronounce the words but they are errors that are easily spotted. The combinations are:

Sj, ski, skj, sky Sound: ʃ (ship)  
Examples: Sjelden, ski, skyer

Ky, ki, kj Sound: ç  
Examples: Kyst, kino, kjøre

Ng Sound: ŋ (ring)  
Examples: Mange, lang

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## BASIC PRONUNCIATION - SILENT LETTER

Another difficulty is the silent letters. Have someone correct you when you are reading texts loud.

Words ending in -lig Silent "g" (Vanlig, merkelig)

G and H in front of J (Gjelder, hjul)

Often silent -d in end of words (Bord, råd til)

Silent h in words starting with hv- (hva, hvor, hvem)

Silent -t in nouns in the definite form of the words (Huset, beltet)

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## PRESENT TENSE IN NORWEGIAN

Present tense is used about actions that either currently or regularly happens.

In Norwegian you simply add -r to the infinitive, for regular verb. Yes, it is that simple and it doesn't change based on who does the action as in English. Just look at the examples below.

å spise - Jeg spiser (I eat)

å drikke - Du drikker (You drinks)

å lese - Han leser (He reads)

å bo - Hun bor (She lives/dwells)

å snakke - Vi snakker (we talk)

å se - Dere ser (You see)

å gå - De går (They walk)

As you see above – Norwegian adds "å" in front of the verb in the infinitive, which replaces "to" in the English infinitive.

Unfortunately not all verbs are regular. Norwegian has its share of irregular verbs and two worth mentioning already in the first lesson are:

Infinitive	Present Tense	English
Å være	er	to be
Å gjøre	gjør	to do

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## VERB IN 2<sup>ND</sup> LOCATION

This rule is one of the most difficult to master and you will probably not master it fully after you have completed this course, or even after you have started to study at an intermediate level. The simple rule is that in a main clause the verb is located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position. What this means is that it matters, in Norwegian, whether you say – I work today vs. Today I work. Look at the examples below:

Jeg leser en bok - Nå leser jeg en bok  
(I'm reading a book – Now I'm reading a book)

Jeg ser på tv i kveld - I kveld ser jeg på tv  
(I watch tv this evening - This evening I watch tv)

Først spiser vi middag, så ser vi på tv  
(First we eat dinner, then we watch tv)

This will particularly cause problems when you speak Norwegian and also have to think about numerous other grammatical elements like conjugation of nouns etc.

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## VOCABULARY

### Pronomen (Pronouns)

Jeg - I

Du - You

Han/hun - He/She

Vi - We

Dere – You (Plural)

De - They

### Spørreord (Question words)

Hva - What

Hvor - Where

### Verb - infinitiv.

Å Hete – to be called

Å Komme – to Come

Å Bo – to Live

Å Gjøre – to do

Å Snakke – to speak

Å Skrive – to write

Å Drikke – to drink

Å Lese – to read

Å Spise – to eat

Å Se – to see

Å Vaske – to wash

Å Gå – to walk

Å Sove – to sleep

Og - And

Men – But

Nå - At the moment

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## A SHORT DIALOG

Tore kommer fra Bergen, og Lise kommer fra Oslo.  
Nå er de på kongress i Kristiansand.

Tore: Hei. God morgen. Jeg heter Tore. Hva heter du?

Lise: Jeg heter Lise. Hvor kommer du fra?

Tore: Jeg er fra Bergen. Hvor er du fra?

Lise: Jeg kommer fra Oslo, men nå bor jeg i Arendal.

Tore: Hyggelig å treffe deg. Hva gjør du?

Lise: Jeg er lærer. Hva er du?

Tore: Jeg jobber i butikk. Hva gjør du her?

Lise: Jeg er her på kurs i pedagogikk.

Tore: Mitt kurs begynner nå. Ha det.

Lise: Ha det bra.

### **New vocabulary:**

Hei – hi

God morgen – good morning

Fra – from

På – On (*Prepositions in Norwegian doesn't always follow the same pattern as in English*)

Kongress – congress

Hyggelig – nice

å treffe = to meet

lærer – teacher

butikk – store

kurs – course

pedagogikk - pedagogy

mitt – my (this changes based on gender of the noun – see next chapters)

ha det (bra) – bye (literal meaning is more – “be well” but used automatically as “bye”)

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## FINAL WORDS

Before watching the next video – write down and remember all the vocabulary from this class. Also remember two other central elements: The “-r” in present tense of regular verbs, and verb in second location in phrases. If you have understood those three elements you are one step further for basic Norwegian.

**EXERCISES FOR CLASS 1 IN A1:**

- Present tense
- Placement of verb
- Vocabulary - Pronouns and basic verbs

1.

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Sett inn: **Jeg – Du**

Erik: Velkommen. \_\_\_\_ heter Erik, hva heter \_\_\_\_?

Lisa: \_\_\_\_ heter Lisa. \_\_\_\_ kommer fra Oslo. Hvor er \_\_\_\_ fra?

Erik: \_\_\_\_ er fra Bergen.

2.

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Sett inn: **De - Han – Hun**

Erik kommer fra Bergen. \_\_\_\_ er fra Bergen.

Lisa er fra Oslo. \_\_\_\_ kommer fra Oslo.

Lise og Erik er fra Norge. \_\_\_\_ kommer fra Norge.

3.

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Oversett setningene (Translate the phrases):

Tom comes from England, but now he lives in Norway. \_\_\_\_\_

Lisa lives in Norway, but she comes from Wales. \_\_\_\_\_

Her name is Tina and his name is Leroy. They talk and they are eating.

\_\_\_\_\_

4.

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Svar på spørsmålene (answer the questions)

Hva heter du?

Hvor kommer du fra?

Hvor bor du nå?

Hva gjør du?

5.

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Sett ordene i riktig rekkefølge (Put the words in the right order):

***bor i han Norge nå***

Nå \_\_\_\_\_

***England fra hun kommer***

\_\_\_\_\_

***hun hun heter bor og hva hvor***

Hva \_\_\_\_\_, og \_\_\_\_\_?

6.

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Lytteoppgave – Skriv hva du hører (Listening task – Write what you hear) – **AUDIO 1-1**

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ANSWER KEY FOR - EXERCISES CLASS 1 - A1:

1. jeg du jeg jeg du jeg
2. han hun de
3. Tom kommer/er fra England, men nå bor han i Norge;  
Lisa bor i Norge, men hun kommer fra Wales;  
Hun heter Tina og han heter Leroy. De snakker og de spiser
5. Nå bor han i Norge; hun kommer fra England; hva heter hun, og hvor bor hun
6. Nå bor Mark i Norge, men han kommer fra USA. Han er lærer. Han snakker og leser.  
Lise jobber i butikk, nå ser hun på tv og spiser.