

BASIC NORWEGIAN – LEVEL A1 – CLASS 2

This is a free guide for learning basic Norwegian.

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THIS CLASS WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- Nouns
- Den, Det, De – Denne, Dette, Disse
- Placement of adverbs
- Question words overview
- Questions without Hv- words

NOUNS

Genders of nouns in one of the elements you will have to learn as quickly as possible. It is different from English and will have large consequences for adjectives.

There are three genders in Norwegian:

Hankjønn (male gender) with article "en"

Hunkjønn (female gender) with article "ei"

Intetkjønn (Neutral) with article "et".

Many Hunkjønn words can also be used as Hankjønn. In some dialects they do not the female gender. So you can ignore female gender and give them the male article "en" and conjugate them accordingly. E.g. you can change "ei kake" from the table below to "en kake" and "ei jente" to "en jente".

Entall ubestemt	Entall bestemt	Flertall ubestemt	Flertall bestemt
En bil (a car)	Bilen	Biler	Bilene
En stol (a chair)	Stolen	Stoler	Stolene
Ei kake (a cake)	Kaka	Kaker	Kakene
Ei jente (a girl)	Jenta	Jenter	Jentene
Et bilde (a picture)	Bildet	Bilder	Bildene
Et eple (an apple)	Eplet	Epler	Eplene
Et hus (a house)	Huset	Hus - NOTE1	Husene

Entall ubestemt = Singular indefinite e.g. a car, a house, an apple

Entall bestemt = Singular definite e.g. the car, the house, the apple

Flertall ubestemt = Plural indefinite e.g. cars, houses, apples

Flertall bestemt = Plural definite e.g. the cars, the houses, the apples

NOTE1 – In general plural indefinite ends in "-er". One notable exception is one syllable neutral words. Other examples are: "et barn" (a child); "et fjell" (a mountain) "et spill" (a game as in 'computer game').

As you see in the table above, the vast majority of nouns have similar ending in plural. The big difference is singular, and this is also where you will discover the gender of the noun.

DEN, DET, DE – DENNE, DETTE, DISSE

Now that you have looked through the main elements of nouns, this is something you will have to use in many contexts in Norwegian. First is when you want to say *it, that, they* and *those* in Norwegian.

Den – *It* for hunkjønn and hankjønn (female nouns and male nouns)

Det – *It* for hunkjønn and hankjønn (female nouns and male nouns)

De – *They* for flertall (plural nouns)

Jeg har en bil. Den er blå.

I have a car. It is blue.

Brødet er på bordet, og det er ferskt.

The bread is on the table and it is fresh.

Vi har to biler. De er gamle.

We have two cars. They are old.

Remember the above forms as "it" is a very common form in any language. Norwegian is no exception.

Another usage for *Den, Det* and *De* is the meanings "That" and "Those" for objects far away. The equivalent for close objects is *Denne, Dette, Disse*

Den bilen er blå (That car is blue)	Denne bilen er blå (This car is blue)	<i>Hankjønn/Male</i>
Den hylla er ny (That shelf is new)	Denne hylla er ny (This shelf is new)	<i>Hunkj./Female</i>
Det huset (That house)	Dette huset (This house)	<i>Intetkj./Neutral</i>
De koppene (Those cups)	Disse koppene (These cups)	<i>Flertall/Plural</i>

In these forms you will use the definitive form of the noun as you are speaking about particular object(s).

PLACEMENT OF ADVERBS

The adverbs are located after the verbs.

Jeg snakker **ikke** fransk.

*I do **not** speak French*

Vi reiser **alltid** hjem klokka 5

We **always** travel home at 5

Jeg spiser **aldri** fisk.

I **never** eat fish

Han snakker **mye**, men lytter **lite**

He speaks **a lot**, but listen **little**

QUESTION WORDS OVERVIEW

Hva (What) Hva heter du? (What is your name?)
Hva spiser du? (What are you eating?)

Hvem (Who) Hvem er det? (Who is that?)
Hvem bor her? (Who lives here?)

Hvor (Where) Hvor bor du? (Where do you live?)
Hvor er bilen? (Where is the car?)

Hvor + adjektiver (How + adjectives) Hvor stor er stolen? (How big is the chair?)
Hvor gammel er han? (How old is he?)
Hvor lang er veien? (How long is the road?)

In Norwegian we use "Hvor" in front of adjectives. In **these forms** it then turns into the equivalent of the English word "How".

Hvordan (How) Hvordan smaker det? (How does it taste?)
Hvordan har du det? (How are you?)

Hvorfor (Why) Hvorfor jobber du der? (Why do you work there?)
Hvorfor bor du med den idioten? (Why are you living with that idiot?)

Når (When) Når kommer du? (When do you come?)
Når starter filmen? (When does the movie start?)

Hvilken, Hvilket, Hvilke (Which)

These question words are different in that you have to conjugate them based on the noun. The conjugation follows much the same pattern as the noun conjugation, as well as the conjugation of adjectives which we will look at in class A1-4.

Hvilken: Is used for male and female nouns (Hankjønn og Hunkjønn)

Hvilket: Is used for neutral nouns (Intetkjønn)

Hvilke: Is used for plural (Flertall)

Hvilken by er det? (Which city is that?) en by = a city
Hvilken bok leser du? (Which book are you reading) ei bok = a book

Hvilket hus? (Which house?) et hus = a house

Hvilke kopper er dine? (Which cups are yours?) en kopp = a cup

Other versions of this question form are "Hva for en/ei/et" and "Hva for noe/noen". I would recommend you to just avoid using them for now, just recognizing them.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT HV- WORDS

When asking a question without a "Hv-" word like Hva (what), Hvor (where) and Hvem (who) etc. The verb is located in the beginning of the phrase. Norwegian doesn't have an equivalent of "To do" in questions. Instead, you only use the main verb.

Snakker du norsk?
Do you speak Norwegian?

Kommer du?
Are you coming?

Something you will notice more about later. When we are talking about the verb being moved, we are meaning just that. For example, consider when we turn the following phrases below to a question.

Han snakker ikke med Mark --> Snakker han ikke med Mark? (Doesn't he speak with Mark?)
Han kjenner Morten --> Kjenner han Morten? (Does he know Morten?)

As you see, in Norwegian the subject can be immediately followed by the object. This can naturally be somewhat confusing when trying to understand basic Norwegian phrases.

A SHORT TEXT AND VOCABULARY

Erik har gjester senere og lager mat. Han koker suppe med grønnsaker. Han serverer den først, og så serverer han kjøttkaker med poteter og salat. Kjøttkakene er fra butikken. Gjestene er venner han jobber med.

Erik: Velkommen.

Morten: Takk, beklager vi er tidlig. Dette er min kone Marit.

Erik: Jeg heter Erik. Hyggelig å treffe deg.

Marit: I like måte. Det er en vakker leilighet du har. Leier du den?

Erik: Takk. Nei, jeg eier den, dessverre. Naboen er en idiot.

Morten: Jeg dekker bordet. Hva trenger vi.

Erik: 6 tallerkener, kniver, gaffler, glass og servietter. Er dere sulten?

Marit: Det lukter godt.

Det ringer på døra.

Erik: Hyggelig å se deg igjen.

Trond: I like måte. Hei, jeg heter Trond.

Marit: Hyggelig å hilse på deg. Jeg heter Marit. Jobber du med Erik og Morten?

Trond: Ja, er du her med Morten?

Marit: Ja. Der kommer det noen.

De andre kollegaene kommer, og besøket begynner. De spiser, snakker sammen, og drikker alt fra brus til vin og øl.

å ha = to have	en gjest = a guest	senere = later
å lage mat = to cook	å koke = to boil	en suppe = a soup
med = with	en grønnsak = a vegetable	å servere = to serve
først = first	og så = and then	en/ei kjøttkake = a meatball
ei potet = a potato	en salat = a salad	en butikk = a store
en venn = a friend	velkommen = welcome	beklager = sorry
tidlig = early	en/ei kone = a wife	hyggelig = nice
å treffe = to meet	i like måte = you too – Usual way of returning a compliment	å leie = to rent
en leilighet = an apartment	vakker = beautiful	en nabo = a neighbor
å eie = to own	dessverre = unfortunately	å trenge = to need
en idiot = an idiot	å dekke bordet = set the table	et glass = a glass
en tallerken = a plate	en gaffel = a fork ¹	å lukte = to smell
en serviett = a napkin	sulten = hungry	her = here
å ringe = to ring	å se = to see	andre = other
der = there	noen = someone	å spise = to eat
en kollega = a colleague	et besøk = a visit	en vin = a wine
alt = everything	en brus = a soft-drink	
en øl = a beer		

FINAL WORDS

In the last text all words in the vocabulary are not conjugated. You should now know why the conjugation is as it is in the text. To get the correct gender of the noun in Google-translate, you only need to put the article "a" or "an" in front of the English word. You can also use this dictionary:

<http://www.nob-ordbok.uio.no/perl/ordbok.cgi>

To get the correct conjugation from this dictionary, just click on the "m"-link in the definition of the word.

For a private tutor helping you with your Norwegian:

<http://www.norwegianlearning.com>

¹ Nouns ending in -el has irregular endings in plural. Hence: en gaffel – gaffelen - gafler - gaflene