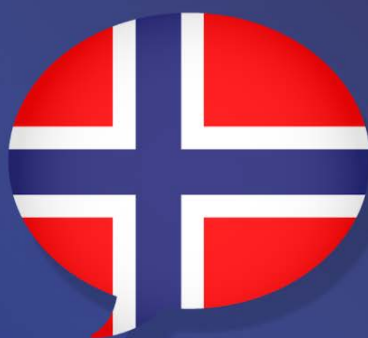




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Norwegian

Absolute Beginner



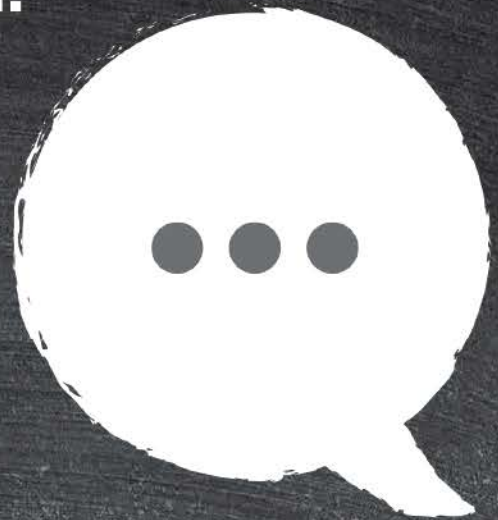
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LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1 A Gentle Introduction to Norwegian

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

#1

NORWEGIAN

1. Ola: Hei. Jeg heter Ola.
2. Kari: Hei. Mitt navn er Kari.
3. Ola: Hyggelig.
4. Kari: Hyggelig.

ENGLISH

1. Ola: Hi. I am called Ola.
2. Kari: Hi. My name is Kari.
3. Ola: Pleased to meet you.
4. Kari: Pleased to meet you.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
hyggelig	pleasant (Nice to meet you)	adjective
mitt	my	adjective
å hete	to be called	verb
jeg	I	pronoun
å være	to be (present 'is', 'are')	verb
Hei	Hi.	interjection

navn	name	noun
------	------	------

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hyggelig å møte deg. "Nice to meet you."	Husker du navnet mitt? "Do you remember my name?"
Jeg heter Arne. "My name is Arne."	Heter du Olav? "Are you Olav?"
Jeg er ikke hjemme nå. I am not at home now.	Jeg liker ikke servitøren. "I don't like the waiter."
Jeg kjenner ikke henne. "I don't know her."	Hva er klokken? "What time is it?"
Er du tørst? "Are you thirsty?"	Hei, Hvordan går det pronounced [gåre]? "Hi, how are you?" (informal)
Kan du skrive ned navnet ditt? "Can you write down your name?"	Har du skiftet navn? "Have you changed your name?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Heter

Norwegian is quite straightforward. There are seldom any pitfalls or complex mazes that prevent you from using the language skillfully. That said, Norwegians tend to take the shortest route possible to arrive at a point. Long sentences are therefore rarely found in spoken and, most often, written Norwegian as well. To accomplish this, Norwegian has certain words that

make up meanings that would take English several words to express. A word like this is *heter*. In English, this would commonly translate to "being called." We mostly only use *heter* for referring to people's names, as in *jeg heter* ("my name is" or "I am called"). Yet, *heter* can also take on other meanings pretty similar to the way we use "to be called" in English. We shall look at these uses in another lesson in a more advanced series.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Learn Two Ways of Conveying Your "Name."

Hei. Jeg heter Ola.

"Hi, I am called Ola."

Heter is the infinitive form of *å hete*. You will rarely have to use the infinitive form of this verb, so remembering *heter* is in itself enough.

Although both characters (Ola and Kari) use different greetings, there is no difference between male and female in Norwegian speech. Thus, the only difference between *jeg heter* ("name") and *mitt navn er* ("name") is that they look and sound different. Their meaning is exactly the same.

Exclusion of "Am"

Notice that we can directly translate *mitt navn er* in English as "my name is," while with *jeg heter*, you would have to add a verb to make even remote sense of the phrase. In Norwegian, we do not often use "am (adjective)" like in English. Without delving too deeply into why it is different, instead do yourself a favor and think twice before translating any phrases such as "I am...", "you are...", and so on directly to Norwegian.

Let's look at some concrete examples.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er tørst.* (with "am")
"I am thirsty." (with "am")
2. *Jeg drikker.* (without "am")
"I am drinking." (with "am")

1. *Hei. Jeg heter Ola.*
"Hi. I am called Ola."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Keep It Simple in Norwegian

As you can see, Norwegians like short, concise sentences. *Hyggelig* is one of those words that go with every conversation, whether what is implied is "Nice to meet you," "Nice meeting you again," or "(It was) nice of you." The best part of it is that *Hyggelig* is no less formal than the long version of each phrase, making it an essential word in your dictionary. Norwegians use this all the time along with other practical words like *takk* ("thank you") and *jepp* ("yes"/"correct"). It is these words that will, in the end, prove most handy during your Norwegian studies.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2

About the Norwegian Alphabet

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

2

NORWEGIAN

1. Lærer: Si etter meg. "E" "Elegant".
2. Student: E. Elegant.
3. Lærer: Si etter meg. "G" "glad".
4. Student: G. Glad.

ENGLISH

1. Teacher: Repeat after me. "E," "elegant."
2. Student: E. Elegant.
3. Teacher: Repeat after me. "G," "glad."
4. Student: G. Glad.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
elegant	elegant	
glad	happy	adjective
meg	me	pronoun
etter	after	preposition
å si	to say	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Du er så elegant! "You're so elegant!"	Det glade paret klemmer på stranda. "The happy couple is hugging on the beach."
Jeg er så glad! "I am so happy!"	Kan du se meg? "Can you see me?"
Ta etter meg. "Take after me."	Han kunne ikke si sannheten til henne. He couldn't tell her the truth.
Hva sier han? "What is he saying?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In contrast to English, a letter tends to only be pronounced one way no matter where in the word it is situated. In other words, in most cases when you can pronounce a word correctly, you could apply the same pronunciation of each letter in any new word you learn. To illustrate it, imagine an English word like "England." The "-e" has the same phonetic as an "i" in "interesting." However, when we say "elegant," we pronounce the "-e" differently, actually similar to the Norwegian pronunciation.

In Norwegian, there are only one or two words where "-e" changes phonetic from the common "-e," as in *heter*. In fact, I believe if you have been sharp, you would have caught that I am already setting a bad example here. In the word *hei*, which you should have heard several times by now, we say *haei* as in the English word "sad." Just be aware of the few words that change the common phonetics of certain letters. Remember them and you should be just fine.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Norwegian Vowels and Consonants.

Si etter meg. "E" "Elegant"

"Say after me. "E,"

While we won't go too deep into the explanation of each vowel and consonant in Norwegian, we have our own pronunciation series for that, which you should also take a look at. Let's only touch upon some simple and fast shortcuts to correct pronunciation of Norwegian. We assume you already know the English alphabet and the correct way to pronounce English letters. As explained earlier, Norwegian rarely has more than one phonetic for a letter, compared to English, which averages three to four phonetics per letter. With this in mind, think of how you pronounce vowels in Norwegian regardless of their placement in a word.

When pronouncing Norwegian vowels and consonants, it is good to know that most sounds you will hear in Norwegian will be found in English as well. In Norwegian, vowels and consonants most often sound like they do when they're the first letter in an English word. Let's look at some examples. (First, we list the letter we are focusing on and then an English word with the pronunciation of that letter. Following that, we have a Norwegian word containing the letter so you can try out your pronunciation.)

Letter	"English"	Norwegian
a	"arrive"	<i>Har</i>
g	"greet"	<i>Mage</i>
i	"invent"	<i>Ligge</i>
k	"kayak"	<i>Ilk</i>
l	"lie"	<i>Muskel</i>

Just to finish off...

There are some vowels that have a slightly different sound than their English counterpart:

We pronounce *-o* like [oe] in the name "Joel," and we pronounce *-u* like [oo] in "moot."

And not to forget, *-r* does not at all sound like the English [r] or [are] but more like a Spanish [rr]: it's rolling and might be a bit hard to get used to at first.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Why It's Important to Learn the Norwegian ABCs

Learning the alphabet might be a boring part of Norwegian, but imagine how it must sound to a Norwegian if you were to use the American phonetic of every letter in the alphabet when speaking Norwegian. Although Norwegians are quite good at understanding what we call broken Norwegian, having a more correct pronunciation of Norwegian words creates a better sentence flow and is sure to impress any Norwegian that listens to you speak. In fact, because of the number of immigrants in Norway, Norwegians are quite used to hearing pronunciation that is not too good in their daily life. To put it better, just like the English Punjabi accent or Chinese accent, Norwegian now has an array of accents that have become common due to the number of different influences foreign language has on Norwegian learners. It is now quite common to hear Middle Eastern accents, Polish accents, and American accents of Norwegian. That is why when we hear a foreigner speak with a perfect Norwegian accent, we end up somewhat revering that person for their skill.

More than any part of learning Norwegian, Norwegians tend to judge a person's skill as perfect when they have the pronunciation right.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3 More About the Norwegian Alphabet

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
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- 2 Sample Sentences
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3

NORWEGIAN

1. Ærling: Jeg liker servere, merke, og lærer.
2. Øivind: Jeg liker øre, kjøre, og løpe.
3. Åge: Jeg liker påske, sokker og måne.

ENGLISH

1. Ærling: I like the words "serve," "brand," and "teacher."
2. Øivind: I like the words "ear," "drive," and "run."
3. Åge: I like the words "Easter," "socks," and "moon."

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
sokker	socks	noun
måne	moon	noun
å løpe	to run	verb
merke	brand	noun
å kjøre	to drive	verb
øre	ear	noun
Påske	Easter	noun
servere	to serve	verb
lærer	teacher	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jeg bruker ikke sokker. "I don't wear socks."	Jeg vil til månen. "I want to go to the moon."
Jeg liker å løpe. "I like to run."	Merker er ut. "Brands are out."
I Norge kjører vi på høyre side. "In Norway, we drive on the right side."	Jeg har to ører. "I have two ears."
Påske betyr fjellet. "Easter means going to the mountain."	Serverer du maten snart? "Are you serving the meal soon?"
Hun er forelska i læreren. "She is in love with the teacher."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In Norwegian, it is common to find a lot of words containing the last three letters of the Norwegian alphabet, -Æ, -Ø, and -Å. However, it is also common to hear words that might sound like they contain the last three letters in the Norwegian alphabet, but they actually don't. This makes it sometimes a bit tricky to write Norwegian. Even Norwegians tend to miss sometimes: that is why linguists are working to make the written language more like the spoken language.

Some of the words in the vocabulary have this characteristic: they are written with -e or -o, but they are pronounced like -æ and -å, respectively.

Compare these:

Påske

Sokker

and

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Norwegian Vowels Æ, Ø, and Å.

Hei, jeg heter Ærling.

"Hi, I'm called Ærling."

In the last lesson, we focused on the English or Roman alphabet-part of the Norwegian alphabet. That is, the letters from -a to -z. In this lesson, our focus will be on the last three letters unique to the Norwegian alphabet (okay and Danish as well). The letters are, as you probably know by now:

-Æ

-Ø

-Å

Many learners feel these three letters are hard to grasp and make Norwegian language look slightly outlandish. Well, don't despair. These three letters are all vowels. Better yet, the pronunciation of each letter is very easy because the sounds already exist within the English sound spectrum. Let's look at some English words that feature these three letters' sounds. They are listed by letter then example words, with the sound highlighted in red.

-Æ

1. "bad"
2. "sad"
3. "mad"

-Ø

1. "sun"
2. "mud"
3. "shudder"

-Å

1. "hold"
2. "god"
3. "doll"

See, by now you must be thinking of multiple more examples that could fit these letters.

Let's now look at some of the words that were in the vocabulary section that contain these letters.

Sample Sentences

Word	Norwegian	"English"
<i>Lærer</i>	<i>Hun er forelska i læreren.</i>	"She is in love with the teacher."
<i>Øre</i>	<i>Jeg har to ører.</i>	"I have two ears."
<i>Påske</i>	<i>Påske betyr fjellet.</i>	"Easter means going to the mountain."

One last thing to help you get over your possible fear of these letters is to reassure you that no matter in which word you find these letters, their sound will never change.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Similarities Between Norwegian and Other Languages

The -Æ, -Ø, and -Å aren't entirely exclusive to Norwegians. You will also find the -Æ, -Ø, and -Å in Danish and a similar version of the letters in Swedish as well.

In fact, the three languages are so alike that they are for the most part mutually intelligible. Well, almost. While Danish and Norwegian are practically the same language with only a few differences in vocabulary, Swedish and Norwegian might seem more similar to outsiders when spoken.

The thing is, however, that although the three languages are mutually intelligible, this is mostly only the case for the written language. Swedish speakers can understand those speaking Norwegian for the most part, but not entirely perfectly. But Swedish speakers are almost unable to understand Danish. The same goes for the Danish: they understand some Norwegian, but they have little to no clue about Swedish. On the other hand, Norwegians have few problems understanding both Swedish and Danish.

The reason people with backgrounds in Norwegian have an easier time understanding what Swedish and Danish talk about lies in the history of the Norwegian language.

Through history, Norwegian has been influenced by both Swedish and Danish through unions with both countries. However, Sweden and Denmark have no such relationship with each other. Furthermore, Norwegian has built upon a Swedish and Danish foundation, and the advantage lies in their understanding of their own language.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4

Starting your Holiday in Norway

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

4

NORWEGIAN

1. Flight attendant: Unnskyld, er du Kristian?
2. Mark: Nei, jeg er Mark.
3. Flight attendant: Å, beklager. Har du pass Mark?
4. Mark: Ja (Showing passport).
5. Flight attendant: Takk.

ENGLISH

1. Flight attendant: Excuse me, are you Kristian?
2. Mark: No, I am Mark.
3. Flight attendant: Oh, I'm sorry. Do you have your passport, Mark?
4. Mark: Yeah (Showing passport).
5. Flight attendant: Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
nei	no	adverb
du	you	pronoun
å være	to be (present 'is', 'are')	verb

Å beklage (beklager)	to be sorry	verb
unnskyld	Excuse me. / I'm sorry.	interjection
ja	yes	noun
å ha	to have	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Det er ikke mulig, nei. It's not possible, no.	Jeg liker ikke fotball "I don't like soccer."
Hei, Hvordan har du det? "Hi, how are you?"	Hva er klokken? "What time is it?"
Er du tørst? "Are you thirsty?"	Å, beklager så mye! "Oh, I'm so sorry!"
Unnskyld, hvor går du? Excuse me, where are you going?	Unnskyld, Hva er klokken? "Excuse me, what time is it now?"
Unnskyld jeg har glemt det. "Sorry, I forgot it."	Ja, jeg røyker. "Yes, I smoke."
Har du en katt? Do you have a cat?	Hun ville ha en dalmantiner. "She wanted to have a dalmatian."
Har du noe vin? "Do you have any wine?"	Jeg Skulle Gjerne hatt en hamburger med pommefrites. "I'd like a hamburger with fries."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In our vocabulary, we are encountering two words with the same meaning:

Unnskyld ("Excuse (me)") and *Beklager* ("to be sorry").

There is no difference between the two of these, but there is a reason for having both.

If you are using either of the words to say "excuse me," then it's better to use the other one to say "I'm sorry" while speaking to the same person. You don't have to do this, but it sounds better.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Learning How to Talk About "I."

Jeg er Mark.

"I am Mark."

As mentioned in lesson 1, *er* means "am." Using this method of introducing yourself, or just telling someone your name (as shown in the conversation with the flight attendant), is the easiest and most commonly used introduction in Norwegian. In lesson 1, and in many Norwegian lessons, you might find *Mitt navn er*. This is a very formal way of speaking, and we rarely use it even in formal conversations. In lesson 1, we also saw *jeg heter*. This is a little more formal than *jeg er*, but both are equally common. Just choose the one you prefer and stick to it, as they are nearly identical in meaning.

For Example:

Mark: *Hei, jeg er Mark.*

Kari: *Hei Mark. Jeg heter Kari.*

Mark: "Hi, I am Mark."

Kari: "Hi, Mark. My name is Kari."

In this example, Mark and Kari are both introducing themselves. Both ways of saying their name are the same, and we can use them in any situation. As mentioned, *jeg heter* is slightly more formal, but we can use it in informal speech as well.

We not only use *Jeg er* for names, but we can apply it to almost anything. That is why it will become one of the more important phrases you'll learn over these courses.

Using *Jeg er*, then adding anything from adverbs, adjectives, to nouns, is the most useful way of expressing yourself.

You should also know that it is not only "I am" that you can say, but also, unlike English, you can use *er* after any pronoun. That is, you don't change the verb like you do in English: "I am," "you are," "he/she is," etc.

To illustrate it, let's look at some examples.

For Example:

1. *Du er rar.*
"You are weird."
2. *Han er hjemme.*
"He is at home."
3. *Vi er i bilen.*
"We are in the car."

As you can see, the verb does not change depending on what the subject is. Being aware of it should make learning Norwegian a lot easier as well.

Examples from This Lesson

Mark: *Nei, jeg er Mark.*

Mark: "No, I am Mark."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Apologies in Norway

As you can see, we do apologize a lot in Norway. We sometimes apologize even if we don't have to, like apologizing on another's behalf, or just adding it for the sake of being polite. We mainly use three ways of excusing ourselves: *Unnskyld*, *Beklager*, and *Sorry*.

That's right, we have actually taken an English word and used it so much that it's become

normal in Norway as well. These three words have the exact same meaning, but we use them differently mostly because of preference. Although *beklager* and *unnskyld* are a lot more polite than "sorry," "sorry" is what you are most likely to hear from people. In Norwegian, people will use everyday speech even in the most formal of situations. We do have a "higher level" of politeness when it comes to some certain situations, but that is extremely rare.

In the conversation in the beginning of this lesson, you could see that the speakers used both *beklager* and *unnskyld*. The only reason for the use of both is that it sounds a lot more natural than to repeat the word the other person just said. They both mean "sorry" and "excuse me," so don't worry about which one you choose to use when you speak. Just try to use a different one than the person you are speaking with.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5

Asking Directions at a Norwegian Airport

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

5

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Unnskyld, Hvor er toalettet?
2. Staff: Der borte. (points to a toilet sign)
3. Mark: Takk skal du ha.
4. Staff: Bare hyggelig.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Excuse me, where is the toilet?
2. Staff: Over there. (points to a toilet sign)
3. Mark: Thank you.
4. Staff: You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
framover	forward	preposition
der	there	preposition
toalett	bathroom/restroom	noun
å være	to be (present 'is', 'are')	verb
venstre	left	adjective
Hvor	where	adverb

borte	away, over, gone	adverb
høyre	right	adverb
rett	straight	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bare gå rett fremover. "Just go straight ahead."	Toalettet er der borte. "The bathroom is over there."
Toalettet er der borte. "The bathroom is over there."	Hva er klokken? "What time is it?"
Er du tørst? "Are you thirsty?"	Han skriver med venstre. He writes with his left hand.
Aldri snu mot venstre her. Never turn left here.	Hvor skal du hen? "Where are you going?"
Hvor er sjefen? "Where is the boss?"	Jeg skal reise bort. "I am going away."
Det er et offentlig toalett der borte. "There is a public toilet over there."	Butikken ligger til høyre her. The shop lies to the right here.
I Norge kjører vi på høyre side. "In Norway, we drive on the right side."	Jeg gikk rett hjem i går kveld. "I went straight home last night."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's take a look at two phrases from the dialogue between Mark and "Staff":

Mark: Takk skal du ha.

Staff: Bare hyggelig.

The phrase *Takk skal du ha* is the Norwegian way of saying "Thank you very much." It is a lot more polite than the normal *takk*, or in English "thanks."

The phrase *bare hyggelig* means "no problem." In previous lessons, you might have seen *hyggelig* by itself. The use of both *hyggelig* and *bare hyggelig* is the same, with the only difference being that the latter one is slightly more polite.

Also note that using *Takk skal du ha* in situations where a more normal *takk* is okay can sometimes be mistaken for irony. Try to use it only in formal situations and when you truly are grateful.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask "Where Is Something?" and Use Noun Genders.

Hvor er toalettet?

"Where is the toilet?"

Hvor er...? is one of those phrases you will find immensely useful when traveling about in Norway.

It is built up quite similarly to the English equivalent of the question "Where is (noun)?"

Let's look at some examples.

For Example:

1. *Hvor er bilen?*
"Where's the car?"
2. *Hvor er sykehuset?*
"Where's the hospital?"

Noun Genders

The important part of a "where is?" question is the place or thing (noun) that you would be looking for. After *hvor er*, there will always be a defined noun. Let's look at how we make defined nouns out of their ordinary dictionary forms.

To change a noun to a defined noun, we have to add a letter to the end of the noun. The letter we add is decided by the gender of the noun. In Norwegian, we have three genders for nouns: masculine, feminine, and neuter. These nouns change endings when conjugated.

In Norwegian, we don't use "the"; we add letters to the end of a word instead. These letters will differ a little depending on the word. The letters in the end will depend on whether the noun we use is masculine, feminine, or neuter.

Let's look at some examples.

For Example:

Gender	Norwegian	"English"
Masculine	<i>bil, bilen</i>	"car," "the car"
Feminine	<i>trap, trappa</i>	"stairs," "the stairs"
Neuter	<i>toalett, toalettet</i>	"toilet," "the toilet"

Note, however, that in later years, the masculine and feminine nouns were merged since there wasn't much of a difference between them. You can say both *trappa* and *trappen*, and they have the same meaning and are both correct. It's more of a preference now than right or wrong. There are, however, some words that you need to be careful of since they can't possibly be feminine or the other way around. We say *bilen* ("the car"), but *bila* makes no sense. We normally use the merge from feminine to masculine, not the other way around.

Note also that the speaker does not affect the genders of nouns.

The following word endings are the Norwegian equivalent of "the" with nouns or defined nouns.

For Example:

Norwegian	"English"
-----------	-----------

<i>stolen</i>	"the chair"
<i>hunden</i>	"the dog"
<i>sola</i>	"the sun"
<i>huset</i>	"the house"

Examples from This Lesson

1. *Unnskyld, Hvor er toalettet?*
"Excuse me, where is the toilet?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Norwegian Survival Skills

Asking for directions for a toilet might seem like something unnecessary to study for, since there are signs and English translations pretty much everywhere nowadays. However, sometimes it's hard to find those signs, and sometimes you're not in an international location. Examples of this could be at a local restaurant or simply at someone's house.

Also just asking for directions in general nowadays is becoming something slightly awkward. Today, people can easily acquire maps from the airport, print them from the Internet, or just use a smartphone.

However, if you are in a situation where your phone has run out of battery or has no connection and you don't have a map, being able to go up to a random person and ask for help can be a lifesaver when abroad. Sometimes maps can be pretty hard to read as well, and if you don't have experience with them or don't see any landmarks, you'll be happy you learned how to survive in the old way.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6

First Encounters in Norway

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6

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Hei, du må være Espen? Jeg er Mark.
2. Espen: Hei, det stemmer. Espen, hyggelig å møte deg.
3. Mark: I like måte.
4. Espen: La meg hjelpe deg.
5. (helps Mark with his luggage)
6. Mark: Takk skal du ha.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Hello, you must be Espen? I'm Mark.
2. Espen: Hello, that's right. I'm Espen, nice to meet you.
3. Mark: Nice to meet you too. (Literally, "Likewise.")
4. Espen: Let me help you.
5. (helps Mark with his luggage)
6. Mark: Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
-----------	---------	-------

Hyggelig å møte deg. "Nice to meet you."	Det stemmer det du sier. "What you're saying is correct."
Det stemmer. "That's correct."	Jeg må på do. "I have to go to the toilet."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

I like måte

I like måte is a phrase that Norwegians often use, and they normally use it if someone is giving someone else a compliment.

For Example:

- A: *Så fint å se deg!*
 "How nice to see you!"
 B: *I like måte!*
 "Nice to see you too!"

In English, it's more normal to repeat what the other person said, but in Norwegian, you normally use this phrase instead. However, we do sometimes also repeat like in English.

For Example:

- A: *Så fint å se deg!*
 "How nice to see you!"
 B: *Fint å se deg også!*
 "Nice to see you too!"

Yet, *i like måte* is the most common phrase in this situation.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Basic Sentence Structure in Norwegian.

Hei, du må være Espen? Jeg er Mark.

"Hello, you must be Espen? I am Mark."

Norwegian is an SVO language. That means our sentences are normally made up of a subject, a verb, and an object. This is (luckily) the same as English sentence structure.

Let's look at some examples.

For Example:

1. Mark: *hei, du* [subject] *må være* [verb] *Espen* [object]?
Mark: "Hello, you [subject] must be [verb] Espen [object]?"

2. *Jeg* [subject] *er* [verb] *Mark* [object].
"I [subject] am [verb] Mark [object]."

As you can see, both the Norwegian and the English sentences are built the same way. If this always was the case, that would be great, but sadly that's not the reality. Norwegian changes a bit from English if you add an adverbial in the beginning of the sentence. When that happens, the sentence structure changes from SVO to VSO. As you might remember from our previous lesson, one example is when the flight attendant asks Mark, "Excuse me, are you Kristian?"

Let's dissect this sentence too like the one above.

For Example:

1. Flight attendant: *Unnskyld, er* [verb] *du* [subject] *Kristian* [object]?
Flight attendant: "Excuse me, are [verb] you [subject] Kristian [object]?"
2. Mark: *Nei, jeg* [subject] *er* [verb] *Mark* [object].
Mark: "No, I [subject] am [verb] Mark [object]."

The differences might not seem so obvious at this point, and it might even become a bit too advanced. However, here is an easy rule of thumb. If you are stating something, you would usually use the SVO structure: "I" "am" "hungry." However, if you want to ask a question, you would utilize the VSO structure: "Are" "you" "hungry?"

Norwegian and English are incredibly alike in those ways.

Examples from This Lesson

1. *Mark: hei, du må være Espen? Jeg er Mark.*
"Hello, you must be Espen? I am mark."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Polite Should You Be in Norway?

As you can see in the conversation at the beginning of this lesson, politeness is something that comes naturally with the Norwegian language. It is not considered being too formal even if you are polite to your friends and family; it's just how Norwegian is.

For example, it's not a rare thing to greet a stranger on the street, but of course, we don't greet everyone.

Let's say you walk in the park on a Sunday afternoon and you meet one person or maybe an old couple coming from the opposite direction. Smiling at them or just saying *god dag*, meaning "good day," is perfectly natural conduct in Norway. Usually, the ones you greet will greet you back, and in some cases comment on the weather or temperature...

A strange phenomenon that is...commenting on the weather. It's not just Norway; in many countries, it is natural to do this.

The strangers one most commonly greets in Norway are older people. It's a sign of respect for the elders and social conduct the elders are more used to than the youth. It is less common now than before to greet strangers, but it's still not considered uncommon.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

First Encounters in Norwegian, Part 2

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

#7

NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Så Mark, Hva driver du med?
2. Mark: Jeg jobber for Mercedes i New York.
3. Espen: Ja, jeg jobber også for Mercedes. Har du en hobby?
4. Mark: Åja, ja jeg liker å fiske. Hva med deg?
5. Espen: Jeg liker å se på fotball.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: So, Mark, what do you do?
2. Mark: I work for Mercedes in New York.
3. Espen: Yes, I work for Mercedes too. Do you have a hobby?
4. Mark: Oh, right. Yeah, I enjoy fishing. What about you?
5. Espen: I like watching football.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
med	with	conjunction
å se	to watch, to see, to look	verb
å drive	to do	verb

hva	what	adverb
å ha	to have	verb
så	so, how	adverb
å jobbe	to work	verb
også	too	adverb
like	to like	verb
å fiske	to fish	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Brødskive med hva? A slice of bread with what?	Jeg blir med! "I'm coming with you!"
Blir du med? "Are you joining?"	Den med hunden på, vær så snill. "The one with the dog (on it), please."
Jeg kan ikke se sjampo. "I can't see the shampoo."	Kan du se meg? "Can you see me?"
Hva driver du med? "What do you do for a living?"	Hva vil du gjøre? "What do you want to do?"
Har du en katt? Do you have a cat?	Hun ville ha en dalmantiner. "She wanted to have a dalmatian."
Har du noe vin? "Do you have any wine?"	Jeg Skulle Gjerne hatt en hamburger med pommefrites. "I'd like a hamburger with fries."

Så fin den ser ut. How nice it looks.	Så... hva er til middag? "So... what's for dinner?"
Jeg må jobbe. "I have to work."	Ta med deg denne også. "Bring this one too."
Jeg vil også dra. "I also want to go."	Jenta liker valpene kjempegodt. "The girl really likes the puppies."
Den lille jenta liker valpene kjempegodt. "The young girl really likes the puppies."	Jeg liker tysk øl. "I like German beer."
Jeg skal fiske. "I'm going fishing."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

We have a couple of words in the vocabulary that are essentially interjections used heavily by Norwegians when chatting. Let's have a look at them:

så

"so"

åja

"Oh, right"

Neither of these two are strictly necessary to have in a sentence, but they can still be good to know. They have no grammatical point, but they can help you make a smoother and more natural sentence while speaking with friends.

Most languages have interjections that we use as conversation fillers. Norwegian has many of these. However, one of these two does have more uses than most other interjections. Let's

take a closer look at them both individually.

så

"So"

We use *så* in the start of a question in the same way as English. We often use it to "break the silence" before starting to talk.

åja

"Oh, right"

We use *åja* to express a sudden understanding. For example, when Espen asks Mark what he does, Mark answers that he is working for Mercedes in New York. Apparently, Espen wanted to know about Mark's hobby, so he asked specifically about that. Mark then understands that Espen meant "hobby" not "work" and responds with a "oh, right" to indicate he grasped what Espen meant.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Ask "What Do You Do?" in Norwegian.

Så Mark, Hva driver du med?

"So, Mark, what do you do?"

In this lesson, we will take a look at how to expand your self-introduction by adding things you like to do and also ask people about what they like to do or what they do for a living.

Let's take a look at the sentence Espen uses when asking Mark *Hva driver du med?* ("What do you do?") However, when literally translated, the question becomes "What engaging you with?"

As you can see, the literal translation doesn't make much sense in English, even though the structure is the same. We can also translate the question *Hva driver du med* as "What are you doing?" which makes a lot more sense in translation. The meaning depends a lot on the context of the situation. Let's see some examples of both.

In one situation, Espen and Mark are talking about each other.

For Example:

1. *Så Mark, Hva driver du med?*
"So, Mark, what do you do for a living?"

In another situation, Espen and Mark are walking around in Oslo. All of a sudden, Mark sees a pigeon in front of him and starts running after it down the street.

For Example:

1. *Mark, hva driver du med?*
"Mark, what are you doing?"

In the vocabulary, we have the words *å like*. By adding them to an SVO or a VSO sentence, you can make a sentence saying you like something or ask whether the other person likes something.

For Example:

1. *Jeg liker deg.*
"I like you."
2. *Liker du meg?* "Do you like me?"

If you wish to say the opposite, "I don't like," simply add *ikke*, meaning "not," before the object in the sentence.

For Example:

1. *Jeg liker ikke deg.*
"I don't like you."
2. *Liker du ikke meg?*
"Don't you like me?"

Examples from This Lesson

1. *Så Mark, Hva driver du med?*
"So, Mark, what do you do?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Do You Spend Your Free Time in Norway?

In this lesson, Espen is asking Mark about what he is doing during his free time. This is a pretty common question to ask strangers since most people have spare time on their hands.

Working hours in Norway are about eight hours a day, five days a week. Most people have spare time from about four or five p.m. and more than enough time to enjoy their hobbies or sports. Most people in regular jobs also have weekends off as well, so pastimes are an important part of life in Norway.

Norwegians are usually active and healthy people. During their spare time, many enjoy different sports or go to the gym to work out. Running or walking is also a popular activity among both youth and elders. During winter, when it's snowing and using your feet for transportation can be hazardous, many people, especially in the countryside, tend to ski instead of walking. Most of them don't ski to the supermarket, but of course, even those types of people do exist. Most Norwegian families are equipped with skis, and many families also have a holiday home somewhere in the mountain ranges. Norwegians really enjoy vacations in the mountains during winter.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8 Norwegian Greetings and Farewells

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Takk for at du fulgte meg til hotellet.
2. Espen: Bare hyggelig, vi sees i morgen. God natt.
3. Mark: God natt. (Faces staff) God kveld.
4. Staff: God kveld, kan jeg hjelpe deg?
5. Mark: Ja, jeg har reservert et rom.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Thanks for accompanying me to the hotel.
2. Espen: No problem, I'll see you tomorrow. Good night.
3. Mark: Good night. (to staff) Good evening.
4. Staff: Good evening, can I help you?
5. Mark: Yes, I have booked a room.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
Vi sees	I'll see you around	phrase
God dag	Good day, hello	expression
God Morgen.	Good morning.	expression

Bare hyggelig.	No problem / My pleasure	phrase
å følge	to follow, to take someone somewhere	verb
God kveld.	Good evening.	expression
å kunne	to be able to, to be willing to	verb
for at	that, for	interjection
i morgen	tomorrow	expression
God natt.	Good night.	expression
å hjelpe	to help	verb
reservere	to reserve, book	noun
rom	room	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vi sees senere. "I'll see you later."	Ha en god dag! "Have a nice day!"
God Morgen, hvordan går det? "Good morning, how are you?" (formal)	Bare hyggelig. "My pleasure."
Kan du følge meg? "Can you keep me company?"	God kveld, for to, er du snill. "Good evening, for two people please."
Hun kunne ikke finden hunden sin. She couldn't find her dog.	Mannen kunne ikke gjøre mer. The man couldn't do anymore.
Kunne du hjulpet meg? Could you help me?	Jeg kan komme i dag. "I can come today."

Kan du si det en gang til "Can you say it again?"	Du kan kjøpe tannkrem på apoteket. "You can buy toothpaste at the pharmacy."
Unnskyld meg for at jeg er sen. "Excuse me for being late."	Jeg skulle ha sendt denne i morgen. "I would like to send this tomorrow."
God natt og tusen takk. "Good night and thank you very much."	Han skulle bare hjelpe til. He was just going to help.
Kan du hjelpe til? "Can you help out?"	Jeg trenger hjelp her. "I need some help here."
Du må reservere bord på forhånd "You must reserve your table in advance."	Dette er mitt rom. "This is my room."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

As you can see from the vocabulary in this lesson, there are some big differences between Norwegian and English words. Some English words have to be made from two combined words in Norwegian, and sometimes it is the other way around. In some cases, we use different words in both languages to describe the same meaning. Here are some examples from the dialogue.

For Example:

1. *I morgen*
"in the morning" (tomorrow)
2. *bare hyggelig*
"my pleasure" (literally, "just nice")

Explanation of

As you also might have noticed, we have a few words that are shuffled around a bit in our conversation when we translate them. Let's take a look at the word *at*.

For Example:

1. *Mark: Takk for at du fulgte meg til hotellet.*

"Mark: Thank you for following me to the hotel."

We can roughly translate *at* into English as "that." In this sentence, we use it to specify that you are thankful to the other person for keeping you company. In English, "thank you" indicates very clearly who is being thanked. In Norwegian, however, not adding *at* would remove all indication of who the thanks are for, rendering the whole sentence a bit plain.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Change Verbs in the Past Tense.

Jeg har reservert et rom.

"I have booked a room."

In the dialogue, you saw two examples of verbs changed to the past tense. Can you guess which? *Fulgte* ("followed," "took") and *reservert* ("reserved," "booked"): we changed each to two different types of past.

For Example:

1. *Takk for at du fulgte meg...*

"Thanks for taking me..." (showing me the way)

We changed the verb to the recent past, although it could really have been anywhere between a second ago and "the big bang."

The second word, however, is talking about something that has already happened and is finished, done, or looked at in retrospect.

For Example:

1. *Jeg har reservert...*
"I have booked..."

It might be hard to grasp it at first, and for those of you who are more familiar with linguistics, we refer to these two types of pasts as "simple past" and "past perfect," respectively. And luckily for you, these behave exactly the same as in English. So no more explanation would actually be needed but for the sake of learning:

In Norwegian, we change (conjugate) verbs by adding or changing their endings. As you might remember, most present tense verbs would end in *-er* or *-r*. Now, the past tense is much the same.

In the simple past tense, we usually conjugate a verb by ending its dictionary form in *-te*, *-de*, *-ne*, *-le*, *-et* or many other endings.

It might not be easy to tell which verb has which ending at first, but don't worry: it is all quite natural.

For Example:

1. *kjøre* becomes *kjørte*
2. *følge* becomes *fulgte*
3. *skal* becomes *skulle*

The ending is different for several words. However, common for all of these is that they end in an *-e*.

Now, for the second word. *Reservert* follows the same rules as English in that it needs a "have" or "has" in front of it. In Norwegian, there is only one "has" or "have": *har*. You might have noticed it came before *du* ("you") in the dialogue. The reason is because it is a VSO sentence, if you remember our small talk on sentence structure. Without confusing you too much about these two, let's leave the more thorough explanation of our past perfect way of changing words for later.

Instead, remember to look out for ways that our simple past verbs can end. As mentioned, the most common endings are *-te*, *-le*, *-de*, *-ne*, and *-et*. Yet there are a lot more ways they can end.

1. *Mark: Takk for at du fulgte meg til hotellet.*
"Mark: Thanks for taking me to the hotel."
Mark: Ja, jeg har reservert et rom.
"Mark: Yes, I have booked a room."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sending Greetings from Norway

Much like other languages, Norwegian has several greetings for different times of the day. Counting the most used greetings, we have seven greetings. But if we count the others as well, there are over ten. Note that these are all greetings used in everyday life, not counting dialects or regional variants.

The different greetings have their times of the day. However, this will be slightly different from person to person since people wake up at different times and have different ideas of what is early and what is late. An example of this is the Norwegian saying *syvsover*. This is said of people who sleep in and are having a hard time getting out of bed. The direct meaning of it is "seven sleeper," meaning you are sleeping until seven in the morning. Now this might sound early to you, but back in the day, people would be up around five to start their daily chores.

Another example is that twelve o'clock is regarded from old times as midday in Norway; however, especially among young people, it's now regarded as morning.

So you will have to decide which greeting to use when. Of course, this is with certain limitations: you can't walk around telling people "good morning" at nine in the evening.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9

Unidentified Norwegian Objects

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Mark, kom og se.
2. Mark: Hva er det?
3. Espen: Det er røkt laks.
4. Mark: Hvordan sier jeg "how much are these" på norsk?
5. Espen: "Hvor mye koster disse".
6. Mark: Takk Espen. (to shopkeeper) unnskyld, hvor mye koster denne?

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Mark, come and look.
2. Mark: What is that?
3. Espen: It's smoked salmon.
4. Mark: How do I say "How much are these?" in Norwegian?
5. Espen: "Hvor mye koster disse."
6. Mark: Thanks, Espen. (to shopkeeper) Excuse me, how much are these?

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class	Gender
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å røyke	to smoke	verb	
hvordan	how	adverb	
denne	this	pronoun	
på	in, on	preposition	
det	that	pronoun	
å komme	to come	verb	
laks	salmon	noun	masculine
disse	these	pronoun	
å si	to say	verb	
hvor	where	adverb	
mye	much, a lot	adjective	
å koste	to cost	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Pipen røyket. "The pipe was smoking."	Konen min røyker ikke. "My wife doesn't smoke."
Hvordan kom du deg hjem? "How did you get home?"	Hvordan går det? "How goes it?"
Hei, hvordan går det Maria? "Hello, how are you Maria?"	Denne boken, vær så snill. "This book, please."

Ta på deg lua! "Put on your hat!"	Jeg må på do. "I have to go to the toilet."
Ole, jeg er lei for det. "Ole, I am sorry about that."	Fikk du med deg det? "Did you get all of that?"
Legen kom etter en time. "The doctor came after an hour."	Jeg kommer hjem nå. "I'm coming home now."
Kom over. "Come over."	Fire stykker kom ikke. "Four people did not come."
Jeg fisker laks. "I'm fishing salmon."	Disse skoene er mine. "These shoes are mine."
Han kunne ikke si sannheten til henne. "He couldn't tell her the truth."	Hva sier han? "What is he saying?"
Hvor skal du hen? "Where are you going?"	Hvor er sjefen? "Where is the boss?"
Det er mye. "That's a lot."	Hvor mye koster vassen? "How much is that vase?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

First of all, let's list the words and sentences we are focusing on:

1. *Å røyke*
"to smoke"

2. *Hvordan gikk det?*
"Are you all right?"
3. *Det*
"that"/"it"

The most important one to explain is *å røyke*. In this form, it means "to smoke" as in to smoke a cigarette. But *røkt* means "smoked" as in smoked fish. You can also write this word as *røyk*, meaning "smoke" as in smoke from a chimney.

Our next one is the sentence *hvordan gikk det*, meaning "Are you all right?" It literally translates as "How went it?" which also makes sense in English, but it is not grammatically correct. It can translate to "How did it go?" which is a better translation.

Last, we have *det*, meaning "it" or "that." Its meaning depends on your question, so let's see examples of both.

For Example:

1. *Hvor mye koster det?*
"How much is it?"
2. *Hvor mye koster det?* (pointing at an object)
"How much is that?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Ask "What Is [Something]?" in Norwegian.

Hvordan sier jeg "how much are these" på norsk?

"How do I say "how much are these" in Norwegian?"

In this lesson, we will focus on how to ask what things are in Norwegian. This will probably become one of the most useful tools you will ever have in learning Norwegian. Let's look at what Mark is asking Espen: *Hvordan sier jeg "how much are these" på norsk?* ("How do I say 'how much are these' in Norwegian?")

In this sentence, Mark is using *jeg*, but you can also ask like this: *Hvordan sier man* "how much are these" *på norsk*? ("How do you say 'how much are these' in Norwegian?" or "How does one say 'how much are these' in Norwegian?")

Saying *på norsk* at the end is optional. Both persons in the conversation will know that it is Norwegian, and not, say, Finnish. So you can choose whether you wish to add it. The same goes for English.

This question follows the exact same structure as in English. Most questions in both English and Norwegian normally do.

Questions in General

Now let's take a look at how question sentences are normally made. Remember, we talked about the SVO and the VSO sentence structures in lesson 6? Asking questions in Norwegian will often follow a VSO sentence structure. Let's see a SVO sentence being converted into a VSO sentence taking on the form as a question.

For Example:

1. *Du er en snill venn.*
"You are a kind friend." (SVO)
2. *Er du en snill venn?*
"Are you a kind friend?" (VSO)

Examples from This Lesson

Mark: *Hvordan sier jeg* "how much are these" *på norsk*?

Mark: "How do I say 'how much are these' in Norwegian?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Popularity of Fish in Norway

In our conversation with Mark and Espen, Espen wants Mark to check out some smoked salmon. Now this has nothing to do with the language itself, but salmon is a big part of Norway and Norwegian culture.

Salmon from Norway is known worldwide for its fine quality, and maybe the smoked salmon in particular. Thousands of food enthusiasts visit Norway each year to get a taste of it, and it's used a lot in Norwegian cuisine. Salmon is also, unsurprisingly I might add, one of Norway's largest exports, and huge quantities are sent around the world, especially to Japan.

Norway is known for fish in general, and it's being joked about between the Scandinavian countries that Norwegians eat nothing but fish. Though this is not true, parts of Norway, especially the western coast, eat a lot of fish. There, the proportion of fish in meals will probably equal or be higher than the proportion of meat in other parts of Norway, such as Oslo. Although people from the inland, especially the Oslo region, aren't known for eating that much fish, they still tend to have at least two meals a week including fish.

Recently, sushi has also brought a new interest for seafood and fish in central parts of Norway.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10

How Many Beers Should we get Tonight in Norway?

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Hei Mark, hvor mange øl trenger vi?
2. Mark: Vel, hvor mange trenger du?
3. Espen: En six-pack kanskje?
4. Mark: Jeg trenger ikke så mange. Fire er OK.
5. Espen: Ti øl altså.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Hey, Mark, how many beers do we need?
2. Mark: Well, how many do you need?
3. Espen: A six-pack maybe?
4. Mark: I don't need that many. Four is OK.
5. Espen: Ten beers then.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class	Gender
vi	we	pronoun	
øl	beer	noun	male

Å trenge	to need	verb
fire	four (4)	numeral
mange	many	adjective
vel	well	expression
six-pack	six-pack	noun
ti	ten (10)	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vi har poteter i kjøleskapet. "We have potatoes in the fridge."	Skal vi gå sammen? "Shall we go together?"
Jeg liker tysk øl. "I like German beer."	Er dette norsk øl? "Is this Norwegian beer?"
Vi trenger alle sollys for å overleve. "We all need sunlight to survive."	Jeg trenger papir. "I need paper."
Jeg skal være i Oslo i fire dager. "I'll stay in Oslo for four days."	Fire stykker kom ikke. "Four people did not come."
Det var mange grunner til å fortsette å skrive for avisen. "There were numerous reasons to keep writing for the newspaper."	Jeg har mange hester. "I have many horses."
Vel... ikke egentlig... "Well... not really..."	Kan du kjøpe en six-pack? "Can you buy a six-pack?"

Jeg tar ti oliven er du snill.

"I would like ten olives please."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's take a look at the sentence *Hvor mange er det*. We can translate it into two different sentences in English. The word *det* can have many meanings in Norwegian. We have already gone through many different ways to use it, but you can still get surprised sometimes. In this situation, *det* can mean either "it" or "there."

Let's also take a look at a couple of numbers that can be confusing when translating between Norwegian and English. The reason there's up to one trillion is not to scare you off. Just for convenience's sake, since as you can see, Norwegian and English are a bit different from one million and upward.

Number	Norwegian	"English"
1,000,000,000	<i>milliard</i>	"billion"
1,000,000,000,000	<i>billion</i>	"trillion"

As you can see, this could become slightly confusing at some point.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Count Numbers in Norwegian.

Jeg trenger ikke så mange. Fire er OK.

"I don't need that many. Four is OK."

Here are the numbers from zero to one trillion... Well, almost all the numbers.

Number	Norwegian	"English"
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0	<i>null</i>	"zero"
1	<i>en/ett</i>	"one"
2	<i>To</i>	"two"
3	<i>tre</i>	"three"
4	<i>fire</i>	"four"
5	<i>fem</i>	"five"
6	<i>seks</i>	"six"
7	<i>sju/syv</i>	"seven"
8	<i>åtte</i>	"eight"
9	<i>ni</i>	"nine"
10	<i>ti</i>	"ten"
11	<i>elve</i>	"eleven"
12	<i>tolv</i>	"twelve"
13	<i>tretten</i>	"thirteen"
14	<i>fjorten</i>	"fourteen"
15	<i>femten</i>	"fifteen"
16	<i>seksten</i>	"sixteen"
17	<i>søtten</i>	"seventeen"
18	<i>atten</i>	"eighteen"
19	<i>nitten</i>	"nineteen"
20	<i>tjue</i>	"twenty"

30	<i>tretti</i>	"thirty"
40	<i>førti</i>	"forty"
50	<i>femti</i>	"fifty"
60	<i>seksti</i>	"sixty"
70	<i>søtti</i>	"seventy"
80	<i>åtti</i>	"eighty"
90	<i>nitti</i>	"ninety"
100	<i>hundre</i>	"hundred"
1,000	<i>tusen</i>	"thousand"
1,000,000	<i>million</i>	"million"
1,000,000.000	<i>milliard</i>	"billion"
1,000,000.000,000	<i>billion</i>	"trillion"

Counting in Norwegian and English is a very similar process. Apart from the name of the numbers, it's almost the same system. The numbers from 11 to 19 are different from the rest in the 10 to 100 category in both languages, and the characteristics are the same in both Norwegian and English. Let's take a look at both:

Number	Norwegian	"English"
11	<i>elve</i>	"eleven"
12	<i>tolv</i>	"twelve"
13	<i>tretten</i>	"thirteen"
14	<i>fjorten</i>	"fourteen"

15	<i>femten</i>	"fifteen"
16	<i>seksten</i>	"sixteen"
17	<i>søtten</i>	"seventeen"
18	<i>atten</i>	"eighteen"
19	<i>nitten</i>	"nineteen"

The only difference here is that in English we use the same root numbers 3 to 9 in the 13 to 19 system, but in Norwegian, the system the root numbers are altered slightly. However, in both languages you can see that they have indications of the number 10 in the end: the Norwegian *ten* meaning 10, and the English "ten" also meaning 10. Also in English, counting from 20 to 90 follows the same system, but in Norwegian 20 is a little different from the rest:

Number	Norwegian	"English"
20	<i>tjue</i>	"twenty"
30	<i>tretti</i>	"thirty"
40	<i>førti</i>	"forty"
50	<i>femti</i>	"fifty"

Just like the numbers from 13 to 19, the ending of the numbers has a relation to 10, the only difference being that it's multiplied by 10, not added to 10.

The following counting system is more or less the same in both languages, except for the big numbers we looked at in the vocabulary section.

Let's take a look anyway though just to see it for ourselves:

Number	Norwegian	"English"
41	<i>førti en</i>	"forty-one"
52	<i>femti to</i>	"fifty-two"

Now when we get to a hundred, the systems also the same for both languages.

Number	Norwegian	"English"
120	<i>(ett) hundre undre og tjue</i>	"(one) hundred and twenty"
250	<i>to hundre og femti</i>	"two hundred and fifty"
775	<i>syv hundre og søtti fem</i>	"seven hundred and seventy-five"

So as you can see, except for the pronunciation of the two languages' numbers, the systems are almost the same.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Borrowed English and Norwegian Words

As you can see in the vocabulary in this lesson, we have an English word in the Norwegian box. Norwegian makes use of a lot of words that we borrow from English. It's not always because we don't have words for it ourselves, but it's often more natural or cool to use the English word for something.

The linguistics department in Norway will each year ready a list of English loan words they propose to convert to Norwegian. However, this is often met with a bit of humor, since some of the translations are rather funny and less practical in ways. Many are worried that English will take over too much of the Norwegian language, but the fact of the matter is that English is actually borrowing a lot of old Norwegian or "Norse" words.

In the days of the Vikings, Norway invaded England for a short period of time. During this time, the Vikings influenced the Anglo-Saxons' language, and some of the Norse language still remains today. Many of these words are now words Norwegian has "loaned" from English as well, so in a way we are not borrowing words: we are taking them back. Some examples of words that originates from Norwegian are "bag," "father," "ski," "fjord," and "church."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11

Talking Time in Norwegian

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

11

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Espen, hvor mye er klokken?
2. Espen: Den er syv.
3. Mark: Takk. Jeg drar i møte klokken halv ni
4. Espen: Det er om en og en halv time.
5. Mark: Riktig!

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Espen, what time is it?
2. Espen: It's seven.
3. Mark: Thanks. I am going to a meeting at half past eight.
4. Espen: That's in an hour and a half.
5. Mark: Right!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
riktig	correct	adjective
den	that	pronoun
time	hour	noun

klokken	time (clock)	noun
mye	much, a lot	adjective
hvor	how	pronoun
å dra	to leave	verb
møte	meeting	noun
halv	half	adjective
om	in	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Svaret er riktig! "The answer is correct!"	den skjorten vær så snill "That shirt, please."
Det er om en time. "That's in an hour."	Jeg drar om en time. "I am leaving in an hour."
Klokken er åtte. "It's eight o'clock."	Hva er klokken? "What time is it?"
Det er mye. "That's a lot."	Hvor mye koster vassen? "How much is that vase?"
Hvor langt dro du? "How far did you go?"	Jeg drar om en time. "I am leaving in an hour."
Skal du på møte i dag? "Are you going to a meeting today?"	En halv kylling takk. "Half a chicken please."

Jeg drar om en time.

"I am leaving in an hour."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

om

You might be wondering how the word *om* works, and fear not, as I shall explain it briefly.

Om means "in" as "in twenty minutes." But it can also mean "if," as in "if you do that, then..." These are the two main usages for the word.

In this lesson's dialogue, you saw *om* used in relation to time. Let's look at some examples of this word with the two different meanings.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er der om tjue minutter.*
"I'll be there in twenty minutes."
2. *Vet du om du kan komme?*
"Do you know whether you can come?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Read Time in Norwegian.

Espen, hvor mye er klokken?

"Espen, What time is it?"

In this lesson, we'll learn how to talk about the time of the day.

The most important thing is remembering how to count in Norwegian...well, at least up to sixty. Twelve might be enough to if you are willing to round up or down to the nearest ten minutes or quarters.

To ask "What time is it?" you simply use the phrase *hvor mye er klokken?* It's a simple phrase that literally means "How much is the clock?"

Now, there is another phrase that is just as common as the first one, so it doesn't at all matter which one you use. However, the first one will give you better practice in learning Norwegian. The alternative phrase is somewhat of a shortcut, and let me point it out early that it is also slightly grammatically incorrect. It is *hva er klokken*, and it literally translates as "What is the clock?"

Obviously, the alternative is much simpler without the "how much..." part, and I guess most of you will end up using it. Yet, I encourage you to use the original phrase from the dialogue.

Now, if you need to tell someone what time it is, there are two common ways. One in response to the question above and another that you can use regardless of context.

The common answer to the question *Hvor mye er klokken?* is *Den er...* ["the time, usually a number between one and twelve"]. This translates as "it is...[time]."

We can use the other way of saying what time it is in any context, without any question precluding it. It is *klokken er...* ("the time of the day").

Quite simple, right? You might have noticed that we do not use AM or PM or anything expressing whether it is night or day. That is usually because it is considered already understood.

Last but not least, if you want to be slightly more punctual than whole hours, there are a few words you can add. Let's use the example "It is ten o'clock" and modify it from there.

For Example:

1. *Klokken er ti.*
"It is ten PM/AM."
2. *Klokken er halv ti.*
"It is half past nine" (literally, "it is half ten") (In Norwegian, we count up to the closest whole hour, and not from it)
3. *Klokken er kvart på ti.*
"It's a quarter to ten."

4. *Klokken er kvart over ti.*
"It's a quarter past ten."

Examples From This Dialogue

1. *Mark: Espen, hvor mye er klokken?*
"Mark: Espen, what time is it?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Time From Someone in Norway

As you might remember from an earlier lesson, Norwegians are quite social...well not in that way. Yet, at least call us polite. We usually say hello to someone we meet on the street if there are few people around us and generally try to seem pleasant to others.

To foreigners wanting to learn Norwegian, that is the perfect characteristic to exploit. As you learned in this lesson to ask what time it is, the question poses the perfect phrase to confront strangers with, and knowing Norwegians try their best to be nice, diligent people, they will usually stop to have a look at their watch and tell you what time it is.

Learning by hearing is also the best way to learn another language. And undoubtedly you'll hear a lot of different accents from different places in Norway, especially if you were to practice your Norwegian in Oslo. Just remember that asking people on the street of Karl Johann, the busiest street in Oslo, might not be as good an idea as asking someone down by the docks or somewhere less busy. Busy people tend to care more about how much time it takes them to get from A to B than about being polite to passers-by.

Take care of yourself and make sure you don't overdo it so much that you get on other people's nerves.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

A Norwegian Shopping Trip

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

12

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Hvor mye koster denne boken?
2. Shop staff: Den koster 250 kroner.
3. Mark: Det var billig.
4. Shop staff: Ja, den er på tilbud. Akkurat nå er den til halv pris.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: How much is this book?
2. Shop staff: It's 250 kroner.
3. Mark: That's cheap.
4. Shop staff: Yes, it's on sale right now. It's currently half price.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
boken	the book	noun
kroner	Norwegian kroner (currency)	noun
billig	cheap	adjective
tilbud	on sale, discounted	noun
akkurat	exactly	adverb
nå	now	adverb

pris	price	noun
koste	to cost	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Denne boken, vær så snill. "This book, please."	Jeg har tjue kroner. "I have twenty Norwegian Kroner."
Masse billige klær. "A lot of cheap clothes."	Alt er på tilbud. "Everything is on sale."
Jeg kan ikke gjøre det akkurat nå. "I can't do it right now."	Kan du gå nå? Can you go now?
Det går bra nå. It's ok now.	Nå må du høre! "Now listen to me!"
Jeg liker å prute på priser. "I like to bargain prices."	Den koster 3000 kroner. "It costs 3000 kroner."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Regarding **Akkurat**, the use of the word is slightly hard to grasp at first. It is one of those words you wouldn't think translated so directly from English, but that actually does.

It can be used as a confirmational interjection. Like "right!" or "Exactly!" But also like "I see." Which suddenly makes this word very practical to know.

Apart from a standalone interjection, *akkurat* can mean everything from "correct" to "right," or "exactly" followed by "now."

Another popular way of using *akkurat* is putting the negative *ikke* in front, creating *ikke akkurat* which in English translates directly as "not exactly."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask the Price of Something in Norwegian.

Hvor mye koster denne boken?

"How much is this book?"

In Norwegian, asking the price of something is no harder than doing so in English. We basically build up the sentence the same way as we do in English.

For Example:

1. *Hvor mye koster denne.*
"How much is this?"

The only difference is that in Norwegian we would use the verb *koster* ("to cost") instead of asking "how much one thing is"... Understanding what the reply is shouldn't be too hard either.

The staff at the shop will usually reply to a question about price with a number. In Norwegian, like English, there's little fuss with necessary words or formalities needed to tell simple things.

Like in the dialogue though, the staff might add *den er* or *den er på tilbud*, which means "it's on sale."

Although it was not in the dialogue, saying that you want an item is just as easy as well. Just say *Jeg tar denne*, which literally means "I'm taking this." It should be sufficient to tell the seller that you want that item.

But back to asking the price. As you can see from the dialogue above, Mark asks *Hvor mye koster denne boken?* which essentially means "How much does this book cost?"

In Norwegian, you just append the name of the thing you want to ask the price of after *denne* and it becomes "How much does this...cost?"

Better yet, you can also say *Hvor mye koster...*(defined noun)?

And it will be the same as asking "How much does the...cost?" Using this question, you don't need to be holding or pointing at whatever you are talking about; if you know the merchant has the item in the inventory, you can just ask the price like that.

Again, if saying you would like something, say a bun at the bakery...no, say you'd like four buns at the bakery, a way you could phrase it is using *Kan jeg få fire boller*. Translated, this sentence would look like "Can I please have four buns?"

Essentially, we build the phrase like this: *Kan jeg få* [number] [item in single for one or plural].

For Example:

1. *Hvor mye koster denne?*
"How much is this?"
2. *Jeg tar denne.*
"I'll buy (take) this."
3. *Hvor mye koster denne boken?*
"How much is this book?"
4. *Hvor mye koster bollene?*
"How much is it for the buns?"
5. *Kan jeg få fire boller?*
"Can I please have four buns?"

Examples From the Dialogue

1. *Hvor mye koster denne boken?*
"How much is this book?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Can You Talk Your Way Into a Bargain in Norway?

In Norway, it's not common to barter. It has more or less disappeared as a form of trade. Even

at markets you'll rarely see any bartering.

However, it is worth trying, although you'll look a bit weird to others as they aren't used to seeing people bartering. That said, not all shop owners will accept bartering either.

It's not possible to, for example, barter a price at H&M or Zara, or, for that matter at a supermarket when buying food. However, if you want to barter, the best places would be at markets or at privately owned shops. Out in the countryside, it's also possible to barter.

Lately, bartering has become more prevalent online as shops and auction sites like finn.no and qxl.no have become more prominent. For example, a lot of Norwegians trade used and new things at finn.no, which is an online marketplace. The best place for a good barter would probably be there.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13

Talking About Your Feelings and Opinions in Norwegian

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

13

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Jeg er litt sulten, hva med deg?
2. Espen: Jeg er også sulten. La oss gå å spise et sted.
3. Mark: Supert, jeg er sliten av å gå.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: I'm a bit hungry, what about you?
2. Espen: I'm hungry too. Let's go eat somewhere.
3. Mark: Great, I'm tired of walking.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
sted	place	noun
supert!	Great!	interjection
sliten	tired / exhausted	adjective
av	from, of	adverb
å gå	to go	verb
også	too	adverb
sulten	hungry	expression
litt	a bit	adverb
å spise	eat	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Har du funnet et sted å bo? "Have you found a place to stay?"	Supert at du kunne komme! "Great that you could come!"
Jeg er sliten. "I am tired."	Gå av nå! Get off now!
Jeg har fått nok av dette! "I have had enough of this!"	Jeg må gå snart "I have to go soon."
Jeg går på videregående. "I am in middle school."	Jeg liker å gå i skogen. "I like to take a walk in the woods."
Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien. "Please go to the other side of the road."	Ta med deg denne også. "Bring this one too."
Jeg vil også dra. "I also want to go."	Kvinnen er sulten. Den sultne mannen er på jakt etter mat i kjøleskapet. "The woman is hungry. The hungry man is looking for food in the refrigerator."
Jeg er sulten. "I'm hungry."	Jeg er litt sulten. "I am a bit hungry."
Litt saktere, er du snill. "Slow down a bit, please."	Vi er litt slitne. "We're a bit tired."
Jeg spiser mye til frokost. "I eat a lot for breakfast."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

There are two parts of this lesson's vocabulary that might not be that easy to grasp: *la oss...* and *Jeg er også*.

In the case of *la oss...*, the English equivalent has the same structure: "let us ..." or "let's" Like English, *la oss...* is followed by a verb in dictionary form.

For Example:

1. *La oss kjøre snart.*
"Let's get driving soon."
2. *La oss finne et sted å bo.*
"Let us find a place to live."

On the other hand, *jeg er også...* has a slightly different structure than English "I am ... too." In Norwegian, "too" comes right after "I am," which makes the resulting sentence get a whole new meaning in English: "I am too hungry." In Norwegian, *også* will always follow *jeg er*.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er også interessert!*
"I am interested as well!"
2. *Jeg er også helt utkjørt!*
"I am exhausted too!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Say "I am + adjective" in Norwegian.

Jeg er litt sulten...

"I'm a bit hungry."

As you have learned earlier, *Jeg er* is a very practical starting point of any sentence you want to say when talking about yourself. As you may remember from earlier, we have *Jeg er* and a noun with its article, as in *jeg er en advokat* ("I am a lawyer"), or we could use it with an adjective, as in *jeg er sliten* ("I am tired"). Now, let's one-up this by adding a modulator in between the pronoun *jeg*, *han*, *hun* and the adjective. In this case, let's use *sulten* ("hungry")

and *tørst* ("thirsty"). The modulators we will use are *veldig* ("very"), *litt* ("a little"), *ganske* ("quite"), and *utrolig* ("incredibly"). So let's look at some examples with these modulators.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er veldig sulten.*
"I am very hungry."
2. *Jeg er ganske tørst.*
"I am quite thirsty."
3. *Jeg er litt tørst.*
"I am a bit thirsty."
4. *Jeg er utrolig sulten.*
"I am incredibly hungry."

As you can see, there's no secret behind how this works as it's all pretty straightforward like English. You can use any of these as they are, meaning that if you are "really hungry," you would say *jeg er veldig sulten*!

Of course, you could substitute any other adjective for *sulten* and *tørst* that we would normally add "very" "a bit" or "quite" to in English. It is that simple.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er utrolig glad i deg!*
"I am really fond of you!"
2. *Er du litt sliten kanskje?*
"Maybe you're a bit tired."
3. *Han er ganske kjekk!*
"He is pretty handsome!"
4. *Hun er veldig pen!*
"She is very beautiful!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Telling Tall Tales in Norway

In Norway, it is common to use hyperbole. That means when expressing our feelings or thoughts, we usually exaggerate a lot. It is nice to know some words that help with the exaggeration, as it will make you sound more native! Some of the most common phrases used *inmari* ("incredibly"), *sykt* ("sick"), and *skikkelig* ("really"). The usage of these isn't that hard either. Just exchange the *veldig* and *utrolig* that you learned in this lesson with the hyperbole words, and you'll be speaking in proper Norwegian slang. For example, writing this lesson made me *sykt sliten* ("sickly tired").

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 At A Norwegian Restaurant

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

14

NORWEGIAN

1. Waiter: God dag, hva skal det være?
2. Mark: Jeg vil gjerne ha en dagens suppe, takk.
3. Espen: Jeg tar en sandwich, og to øl, er du snill.
4. Waiter: Er det alt?

ENGLISH

1. Waiter: Good day, what can I offer you two?
2. Mark: I'd like to have the soup of the day, thanks.
3. Espen: I'll take a sandwich and two beers, please.
4. Waiter: Is that all?

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
sandwich	sandwich	noun
suppe	soup	noun
dagens	- of the day / today's	adjective
å være	to be	verb
gjerne	with pleasure / please	

å skulle	to go to, will	verb
God dag	Good day, hello	expression
alt	everything, all	pronoun
snill	kind, good	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

En sandwich takk! "A sandwich please!"	Vil du ha litt suppe? "Do you want some soup?"
Er det dagens avis? "Is that today's newspaper?"	Hva er klokken? "What time is it?"
Er du tørst? "Are you thirsty?"	Du må gjerne ta litt mat. "Please, feel free to eat some."
Hvor skal du? "Where are you going?"	Skulle ikke du komme i går? "Weren't you supposed to come by yesterday?"
Jeg skal besøke deg i morgen. "I'll pay you a visit tomorrow."	Skal ikke du komme snart? "Aren't you coming soon?"
Jeg skal avgårde i morgen. "I'm going to leave tomorrow."	Ha en god dag! "Have a nice day!"
I dag kan alt resirkuleres. "Today almost everything is recyclable."	Alt er på tilbud. "Everything is on sale."

Være snill nå. "Be kind now."	Det var veldig snillt av deg. "That's very kind of you."
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

gjerne

The use of *gjerne* in Norwegian might not be entirely easy to understand. We use it quite often when one would naturally use "please" in English. In the dialogue above, we use it right after *vil* "want (to)." Translating the sentence directly would yield something like this "I want to please have today's soup, thank you." Another time we often use *gjerne* is after *ja* ("yes"). If someone asks you "Do you want some tea?" you'd respond *ja gjerne* ("Yes, please"). Let's look at some more examples.

For Example:

1. *Jeg tar gjerne litt kaffe, hvis du har.*
"I'll have some coffee, please, if you have it."
2. *Jeg kan gjerne hjelpe deg!*
"I'll help you, if you please."
3. *Du må gjerne bli med hvis du vil!*
"Feel free to join if you want!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Say "I'd Like to" Using the Phrases *Hva skal det være?*, *Jeg vil gjerne ha....*, and *jeg tar...*

Jeg vil gjerne ha....

"I would like...please."

What we will look at is how a waiter would usually ask "Shall I take your order?" and how to respond to that question. In essence, there are many ways a waiter might ask "What do you

want to eat?" but the most common one is *hva skal det være?* ("What shall it be?") Other variations can be *Hva kan jeg friste med?* ("What can I tempt you with?") and *Skal du ha noe?* ("Do you want anything?").

In the responses to this question, there are all degrees of politeness and length. However, the most common way again is what we saw in the dialogue.

Jeg vil gjerne ha... (noun).

"I would like... (noun) please." AND

Jeg tar... (noun).

"I'll take... (noun)."

Or just stating the items directly.

For Example:

1. *En stekt kylling og poteter takk.*
"A roast chicken and potatoes, please."

As you can see above, adding an *og* ("and") after each dish will connect them, just like English.

Ordering food in Norway could not be simpler than actually knowing how to pronounce the words for the dishes you want to order; saying "that dish, that dish, and that dish, please" is more than enough and also one of the most common ways we Norwegians order too.

When you are finished ordering, the waiter will usually ask whether you are finished ordering, to which a nod or *ja* ("yes") should be enough.

For Example:

1. *Jeg tar gjerne en røkt laks med gratinerte poteter.*
"I'll take a smoked salmon with oven-baked potatoes."
2. *Jeg vil ha en hambruger med pommes frites.*
"I want a hamburger with fries."

Examples From This Dialogue

-
1. *Jeg vil gjerne en dagens suppe takk.*
"I would like the soup of the day."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Are You an Adventurous Eater?

There are a lot of interesting traditional Norwegian dishes. Some of them are more suitable for brave people and not those faint of heart. *Smalahove*, *blodpudding*, and *lungemos* are three quite extraordinary dishes that you should try, if your stomach can take it. In order, they are the smoked head of a lamb, with eyes, ears, tongue, and brain still intact; a mash of intestines usually baked in a water bath; and the last one is mashed lungs baked in an oven, often eaten with a cabbage stew and potatoes. If that sounded like something you might never indulge in, then there are of course a few other dishes that are worth trying: the ever-famous smoked salmon, meatballs in sauce, and shrimp with white bread. If none of those suit your tastebuds, then I am not sure whether you'll like Norway at all.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15

A Trip to the Norwegian Doctor

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

15

NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Mark, går det bra med deg? Du ser litt blek ut...
2. Mark: Jeg har litt vondt i hodet.
3. Espen: Du burde ta en tur til legen, du er veldig varm.
4. Mark: Hva om legen ikke snakker engelsk?
5. Espen: Jeg blir med.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Mark, are you OK? You look a little pale...
2. Mark: I've got a slight headache.
3. Espen: You should go to the doctor; you're very warm.
4. Mark: What if the doctor doesn't speak English?
5. Espen: I'm coming with you.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class	Gender
bra	good	adjective	
blek	bleak / white	adjective	

vondt	hurt	verb	
å gå	to go	verb	
å se	to watch, to see, to look	verb	
snakke	to speak	verb	
ut	out	preposition	
hode	head	noun	neutral
legen	the doctor	noun	
varm	warm	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bra du kunne komme. "Good of you to come."	Jeg har det bra. "I'm good."
Han er blek som et spøkelse. "He is white as a ghost."	Jeg har vondt i ribbeinet. "My rib aches."
Jeg må gå snart. "I have to go soon."	Jeg går på videregående. "I am in middle school."
Jeg liker å gå i skogen. "I like to take a walk in the woods."	Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien. "Please go to the other side of the road."

Vanligvis ser jeg ikke på noen sport, men igår gjorde jeg et unntak. Usually, I don't watch any sports but I made an exception yesterday.	Jeg snakker ikke med deg lenger. "I'm not talking to you anymore."
Skal du gå ut? "Are you going out?"	Ballen traff hodet hans. "The ball hit his head."
Legen jobbet dag og natt. "The doctor worked day and night."	Du er veldig varm. "You are very warm."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

There are a few words in the vocabulary that might need some explanation here too. ...*ser ... ut, ta en tur*.

To start off with, [pro/noun] *ser* [adjective] *ut* is a phrase similar to English "[pro/noun] looks [adjective]." In that sense, it is also pretty easy to remember. Just remember that in Norwegian, we add the *ut* ("out") at the end of the sentence to give *ser* the meaning similar to the English "looks." Without *ut*, the phrase has a totally different meaning.

For Example:

1. *Jeg ser død.*
"I see death."
2. *Jeg ser død ut.*
"I look dead."

Next, *ta en tur* literally means "take a trip" in Norwegian, but it actually means "to go to." It's common to use this phrase when talking about going somewhere for a short while. Let's look at some examples.

For Example:

1. *Jeg tar en tur til Spania neste uke.*
"I am going on a short vacation to Spain next week."
2. *Ta deg en tur ut du!*
"I think you should go outside for a bit!"
3. *Han tok seg en tur til butikken*
"He went to the supermarket."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Say "I Have" in Norwegian

Jeg har litt vondt i hodet

"I have a small headache."

To express pain or illness in Norwegian, we use *jeg har* ("I have") and then an adjective like *vondt* ("pain") or *betennelse* ("inflammation"), after which we add the preposition *i* ("in") and finally the place on your body that hurts.

For Example:

1. *Jeg har betennelse i foten.*
"I have an inflammation in my foot."
2. *Jeg har vondt i magen.*
"I have a stomachache."
3. *Jeg har vondt i halsen.*
"My throat hurts."

Basically, any description of pain follows that pattern. For illness, you would use only the *jeg har* ("I have") and then the name of illness you have.

For Example:

1. *Jeg har feber.*
"I have a fever."
2. *Jeg har influensa.*
"I have an influenza."
3. *Jeg har pollenallergi.*
"I have hay fever."

Finally, to explain some other symptoms like feeling warm, cold, or exhausted, we can use the pattern we learned two lessons ago: *Jeg er* ("I am") and add an adjective.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er varm.*
"I am warm."
2. *Jeg er kald.*
"I am cold."
3. *Jeg er sliten.*
"I am exhausted."
4. *Jeg er søvnig.*
"I am sleepy."

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg har litt vondt i hodet.*
"I have a small headache."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Do You Have to Grin and Bear It in Norway?

In Norway, we aren't that often at the hospital. And most of the time, we would be explaining our symptoms to a friend or relative. We are inherently bad at visiting the hospital if we get sick. Instead, we would have that friend or relative buy some painkillers and possibly a fever-reducing drug. It is definitely a stubborn attitude, but it seems to work out fine in most cases. If you go to Norway and you find yourself getting ill, unless it is a chronic illness or something you are familiar with, there shouldn't be any reason to panic, as Norway does not have any deadly pandemics or tropical diseases. That said, if you feel really ill, it is always best to go visit a doctor or the emergency department.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

Talking about the Weather in Norwegian

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

16

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Så fint vær det er i dag.
2. Espen: Ja, nyt det mens du enda kan.
3. Mark: Å? Hva er værmeldingen for i morgen?
4. Espen: Det skal regne en god del.
5. Mark: Igjen?
6. Espen: Jepp, det er faktisk mer regn enn sol her.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: What nice weather it is today.
2. Espen: Yeah, enjoy it while you still can.
3. Mark: Oh? What's the weather forecast for tomorrow?
4. Espen: It's going to rain quite a bit.
5. Mark: Again?
6. Espen: Yeah, there is in fact more rain than sun here.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
-----------	---------	-------

vær	weather	noun
nyte	to enjoy	verb
mens	while	
enda	still	
værmelding (værmeldingen)	weather forecast (the weather forecast)	noun
regn	rain	noun
en god del	quite a bit	phrase
faktisk	actually/ in fact	filler
sol	sun	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Det er dårlig vær... "It's bad weather..."	Familien nyter et festmåltid. "The family is enjoying a holiday meal."
Jeg nyter den friske luften her. "I'm enjoying the fresh air here."	Vent her mens jeg går inn. "Wait here while I go in."
Alle liker å dra på sightseeing mens man er på ferie. "Everyone likes to go sightseeing while on vacation."	Er du her enda? "Are you still here?"
Hva er værmeldingen for i morgen? "What is the weather forecast for tomorrow?"	Regnet faller på gata. "The rain is falling on the street."

Jeg har en god del penger. "I have quite a bit of money."	Jeg er faktisk svensk. "I'm actually Swedish."
Du er solen min. "You are my sun." (catchphrase)	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

There isn't too much to look into in this lesson, but mentioning a little bit about a couple of things can still be helpful. First, let's take a look at this:

En god del

En god del is more a statement or a sentence than a word really, but picking these words apart will make it lose all meaning. It translates as "quite a bit," or we can also directly translate it as "a good deal," as in the previous "quite a bit" and not "a good bargain."

Another thing worth mentioning is this word:

regn ("rain")

We used this word as a verb in the dialogue but wrote it as a noun in the vocabulary list. This is simply for the reason that we use it in noun form more often than the dictionary form *å regne* ("to rain").

You simply add letters to the end of this noun to make it a verb:

1. *regn*
"rain"
2. *(å) regne*
"(to) rain"
3. *regner*
"raining"

4. *regnet*
"rained"

As you can also see here, the function of both the Norwegian and the English is very similar. Here are a few example sentences of this.

For Example:

1. *Jeg hater regn!*
"I hate rain!"
2. *Regner det nå?*
"Is it raining now?"
3. *Nei, men det regnet i går.*
"No, but it rained yesterday."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using Adjectives with Nouns.

Så fint vær det er i dag.

"What nice weather it is today."

As mentioned, we are looking at using adjectives and nouns together in this lesson. This is an important step to further advance what you have already learned so far. We will start by listing some easy sentences with nouns and some adjectives separately, and then join them together afterward.

Sentences with nouns:

For Example:

1. *Jeg har en bil.*
"I have a car."

2. *Han er en gutt.*
"He is a boy."
3. *Jeg har en katt.*
"I have a cat."

Adjectives:

For Example:

1. *grønn*
"green"
2. *god*
"good"
3. *sort*
"black"

Let's now put these together and expand the sentences and give them a more detailed description:

1. *Jeg har en grønn bil.*
"I have a green car."
2. *Han er en god gutt.*
"He is a good boy."
3. *Jeg har en sort katt.*
"I have a black cat."

And it's that easy. In some cases, the sentence makes no sense without adding an adjective in front of the noun. An example of this is the sentence used in our dialogue in the beginning of this lesson: *Så fint vær det er i dag* ("What nice weather it is today.").

Removing the adjective here will result in a sentence that makes no sense, so in some cases, you need to use adjectives and nouns as a default. These cases will be about the same in

both English and Norwegian, so it's not too hard to know when you need to use an adjective and a noun together as a rule. And also, adding adjectives will further detail the action or statement, so using it as often as possible is a good thing.

Let's have some more examples of combining adjectives and nouns. The following examples are a little more complicated than the above.

For Example:

1. *Jeg synes det er trist med dårlig vær.*
"I think it's sad with bad weather."
2. *Sorte katter betyr ulykke.*
"Black cats means bad luck."
3. *Det er kjedelig på jobb...*
"It's boring at work..."

Sample Sentences

Mark: *Så fint vær det er i dag.*

Espen: *Ja, nyt det mens du enda kan.*

Mark: "What nice weather it is today."

Espen: "Yeah, enjoy it while you still can."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How to Strike Up a Conversation in Norwegian

As mentioned in lesson 6's cultural insight, a lot of small talk is based on the weather in Norway. This is not a phenomenon only seen in Norway, it is in fact common in most countries.

So why talk about the weather? Well, regardless of whether you know the other person, the

state of the weather is something both individuals are in. Weather is also a big part of our daily life. If the weather is good, business is also normally well. If the weather is bad, not so much. Good weather will make us happy, and sharing the enthusiasm is nice. However, bad weather makes us uncomfortable, but we still exchange words about it because of its heavy effect on things.

On TV, more people watch the weather than the news, so the interest is clearly high among most of us. It's therefore safe to assume the individual you wish to speak with will also have an opinion on the matter, so it is an easy way to "break the ice."

Weather in Norway is also often extreme. Some parts of Norway have up to 100 days straight with rain in just one year. The coastline also has heavy storms, especially during autumn. Inland areas near mountains sometimes have problems with landslides or floods. This happens mostly up north. Heavy snow is also a weather phenomenon related with Norway. Parts of the northern country have snow banks on the sides of the roads as high as five meters and higher! Cold temperatures are also a common thing in Norway, but well-insulated houses make it very survivable. Don't let it scare you though; Norway has a lot of nice weather as well.

A famous Norwegian proverb is also attributed to the weather in Norway: *Det finnes ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlig klær!* ("There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing!")

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17

Experience Nature in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

17

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Så dette er Jotunheimen.
2. Espen: Det stemmer. En av Norges største naturreservater.
3. Mark: For en fantastisk utsikt!
4. Espen: Noe annet enn bylandskap, eller hva?
5. Mark: det er sikkert og visst!

ENGLISH

1. Mark: So this is Jotunheimen.
2. Espen: That's right. One of Norway's biggest nature reserves.
3. Mark: What a fantastic view!
4. Espen: Quite a change from the city landscape, huh?
5. Mark: That's for sure!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
sikkert	sure	preposition
reservat	reserve	noun
natur	nature	noun

stor (største)	large (largest)	adjective
utsikt	vantage, view	noun
å stemme	to be correct (correct)	verb
fantastisk	fantastic	adjective
annet	other, else	pronoun
by	city	noun
landskap	landscape	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Det er ikke sikkert... "It's not for sure..."	Dette er et ulvereservat. "This is a wolf reserve."
Det er mye natur i Norge. "There is a lot of nature in Norway."	Jeg er stor i Japan! "I'm big in Japan!"
Utsikten her er utrolig! "The view here is unbelievable!"	Fra hennes utsiktspunkt kunne hun ikke se nøyaktig hva som skjedde. "From her vantage point, she could not see exactly what happened."
Det stemmer det du sier. "What you're saying is correct."	Det stemmer. "That's correct."
Så fantastisk! "How fantastic!"	Vil du bestille noe annet? "Do you want to order anything else?"
Legg dokumentene dine et annet sted. "Keep your documents somewhere else."	Denne byen er liten... "This city is small..."

Denne byen er trehundre år gammel. "This city is three hundred years old."	Jeg er en landskapsarkitekt. "I'm a landscape architect."
--	---

Landskapene var vakre, fulle av blomster og utrolige farger.

"The landscapes were beautiful, full of flowers and incredible colors."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In the dialogue for this lesson, the English and Norwegian sentence pattern is almost the same, with the exception of the last line: **det er sikkert og visst** ("That's for sure.").

The meanings are the same, but the sentences are a little different. If you wanted to make these the same, you could also write *Det er sikkert*. The only problem is that the meaning of this sentence is more a "it's secure/safe" than "that's for sure." Adding the *og visst* changes the meaning from being "safe" to "for sure." There is no grammatical reason for this; it's more a socially decided case. It's one of the things you need to remember as a whole and not word for word.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Decline Adjectives.

En av Norges største naturreservater.

"One of Norway's biggest nature reserves."

As you could see in the dialogue between Mark and Espen in the beginning of this lesson, the declined version of "big" appeared. In this lesson, we are therefore going to look closer at declining adjectives for use in different settings.

Let's first see a few adjectives and look at how they change as they get declined:

Norwegian	"English"
<i>*lang - lengre - lengst</i>	"long" - "longer" - "longest"

<i>kort - kortere - kortest</i>	"short" - "shorter" - "shortest"
<i>*stor - større - størst</i>	"big" - "bigger" - "biggest"
<i>*liten - mindre - minst</i>	"small" - "smaller" - "smallest"

As you can see here, both English and Norwegian are very similar when declining adjectives. There are some differences, but patterns are more or less the same. In the case of *lang - lengre - lengst*, the second letter in stage one is different from the two others. This is simply because it sounds better. As you can also see, there are some adjectives that we alter completely when declined in Norwegian. This is one of the cases where you just have to remember which these are. All languages have irregular words, and there is no way around them unfortunately.

In the case of English declension, the pattern is the same in all examples but not in Norwegian. Norwegian sometimes makes small changes depending on what sounds best. Let's take a look at the patterns of both languages:

Norwegian: *-re/-ere, -st/-est*

English: *"-er" - "-est"*

In the second stage, where the adjective is declined to mean "more," the English and Norwegian are just switched around: *-er* becomes *-re*.

In the third stage, where the adjective is conjugated to mean "most," both Norwegian and English are the same, except for some cases where Norwegian will skip the *-e* in *-est*.

The reason for this is strictly what sounds best pronunciation-wise.

You might ask yourself why there is an *-e* at the end of *størst(e)* in the dialogue but not in the explanation?"

Well, in English you don't have to add anything even if there is more after the adjective, but in Norwegian you do. Norwegian is all about the flow, and to make this happen, we add an *-e* to the end of the third stage (most of something). This is only in cases where the sentence continues after the adjective:

For Example:

1. *Jeg er størst.*
"I am biggest."
2. *Jeg er den største i klassen.*
"I am the biggest in the class."

This is, as shown above, only in cases where the sentence continues and only for the sake of giving flow to the sentence.

Examples From This Dialogue

Let's see a couple of sentences where we use the different conjugations:

For Example:

1. *Jeg er god til å stå på ski, men bedre til å svømme.*
2. "I'm good at skiing but better at swimming."

Sample Sentences

Mark: *Så dette er Jotunheimen.*

Espen: *Det stemmer. En av Norges største natur reservater.*

Mark: "So this is Jotunheimen."

Espen: That's right. It's one of Norway's largest nature reserves.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Can You Hike Across Norway?

Norway is an enormous country for the amount of people. The total area of Norway is 385,252 square kilometers, with a population that exceeded five million in 2012. This means a lot of

space per citizen, but a lot of that space is not inhabitable. Norway has a lot of mountains, so people mass together in the cities. This results in enormous areas with few to no people living in them. Some of these are national parks and reserves and very popular tourist attractions for both foreigners and Norwegians.

Norwegians are fond of their nature, and mountain hiking is a popular activity. In recent years, this interest has also grown, and routes are made for hikes just about everywhere. Some of the more famous natural reserves are Jotunheimen, Finnmarksvidda, and Hardangervidda. Access to these places is easy to find, but it takes time to get there.

Norway is world-famous for these areas, though, and perhaps especially for the fjords. Fjords are long canals carved by nature into the country where seawater mixes with water from the mountains. In the case of Norway, the mountains will rise up like sharp walls on each side of the canal, giving it a spectacular look. The great mountain planes are also a look to behold at any season. Glaciers are also a phenomenon viewable in Norway. Though there are many, the mountains in Norway aren't that high, where the highest is 2,469 meters over sea level. The difference, however, is that you can see mountains rising up over one thousand meters in a steep curve from the sea.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18

In a Norwegian Home

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

18

NORWEGIAN

1. **Espen:** Mark, dette er min søster Nora. Nora, Mark.
2. **Mark:** Hei, Jeg er Mark. Jeg er her på business reise. Hyggelig å møte deg.
3. **Nora:** Hei Mark. Jeg er Nora. Espen har fortalt så mye om deg. Hyggelig å møte deg også.
4. **Mark:** Å? Bare gode ting håper jeg? (laugh)
5. **Nora:** (laugh) Ja, ta det helt med ro!

ENGLISH

1. **Espen:** Mark, this is my sister Nora. Nora, Mark.
2. **Mark:** Hi, I'm Mark. I'm here on a business trip. Nice to meet you.
3. **Nora:** Hi Mark. I'm Nora. Espen has told me so much about you. Nice to meet you too.
4. **Mark:** Oh? Only good things, I hope? (laugh)
5. **Nora:** (laugh) Yes, don't worry!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
ting	thing, stuff	noun

helt	whole, completely	adjective
ro	ease	
ta det (helt) med ro	don't worry	phrase
mye	much, a lot	adjective
å fortelle	to tell	verb
reise	trip, travel	noun
business	business	noun
god	good	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jeg samler på ting. "I collect stuff."	Hele situasjonen var helt mystisk. "The entire situation was wholly mysterious."
Ro deg ned! "Take it easy!"	Ta det (helt) med ro, Nora! "Don't worry, Nora!"
Det er mye. "That's a lot."	Fortell meg et eventyr! "Tell me a fairytale!"
Jeg skal reise i morgen. "I'm leaving tomorrow."	Jeg er ingen business mann. "I'm no businessman."
Det smakte godt "It tasted good."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's first of all take a look at the family members, since it's most related to this lesson.

In Norwegian, we differentiate between male and female cousins, and we also have specific names for grandparents whether they are on your mother's or your father's side of the family.

In the case of the grandparents, the name used for both (*Bestemor/bestefar*) is most commonly used, especially by children. In fact, many children find it hard to distinguish the more distinct nicknames.

Let's also take a look at the sentence used in the dialogue: ***Ta det helt med ro*** - "Don't worry."

This sentence is meaningless taken apart, and is best remembered as a whole. If we remove *helt* from this sentence, it can mean two things:

Ta det med ro - "Don't worry."/"Take it easy."

The version without *helt* is more aggressive if not used in similar situations to our dialogue. It is often used if someone is too energetic, or angry.

I'm sure you also noticed the word **business**. The fact is that Norwegian has a lot of borrowed words from English, and sometimes words are the same in both languages. This is also common with German and Norwegian.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Pronouns, and Further Introductions

Hei, Jeg er Mark. Jeg er her på business reise. Hyggelig å møte deg.

"Hi, I'm Mark. I'm here on a business trip. Nice to meet you."

In this lesson, we are taking a closer look at pronouns, and work on further detail an introduction. Let's first take a look at a list of pronouns in Norwegian and English, and have some examples of them.

<i>Norwegian</i>	English
<i>Jeg</i>	I
<i>Deg/ Du</i>	You
<i>Vi</i>	We

<i>Oss</i>	Us
<i>De</i>	They
<i>Han</i>	He
<i>Hun</i>	She

1. *Jeg er Mark.*
"I am Mark."
2. *Hvem er du?*
"Who are you?"
3. *Vi er venner.*
"We are friends."
4. *Er du en av oss?*
"Are you one of us?"
5. *Hvem er de?*
"Who are they?"
6. *Han er grei.*
"He is kind."
7. *Hun er pen.*
"She is pretty."

OK, now that we have had an example of some pronouns in Norwegian, let's use these in an introduction. Normally you would just say "I am Mark," but let's add some more to this, and have a short introduction conversation using some different pronouns:

Norwegian:

A: Jeg er Pål, hvem er du?

B: Jeg er Arne. Kjenner du Espen?

A: *Ja, vi jobber sammen.*

B: *Åja, han fortalte det.*

English:

A: "I am Pål, who are you?"

B: "I am Arne. Do you know Espen?"

A: "Yes, we work together."

B: "Oh right, he told me that."

Knowing the pronouns and then adding them in a conversation, makes it easier for both parts to establish an understanding of everyone involved. In the case above, both characters knows the same person. Using pronouns here helps us understand when they are speaking about them selves, about the conversation partner, or the common friend. Without pronouns here, this would not be possible.

Examples From the Dialogue

Mark: *Hei, Jeg er Mark. Jeg er her på business reise. Hyggelig å møte deg.*

Mark: "Hi, I'm Mark. I'm here on a business trip. Nice to meet you."

Extra Vocabulary

Let's also look at some typical family members:

Norwegian	English
<i>Mor/mamma</i>	Mother/mom
<i>Far/pappa</i>	Father/dad
<i>(lille/store) Bror</i>	(little/big) Brother
<i>(lille/store) Søster</i>	(little/big) Sister
<i>Onkel</i>	Uncle

<i>Tante</i>	Aunt
<i>Fetter</i>	Cousin (male)
<i>Kusine</i>	Cousin (female)
<i>Mormor</i>	Grandmother (maternal)
<i>Morfar</i>	Grandfather (maternal)
<i>Farmor</i>	Grandmother (paternal)
<i>Farfar</i>	Grandfather (paternal)
<i>Bestemor</i>	Grandmother (both)
<i>Bestefar</i>	Grandfather (both)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Norwegian Family Culture

Some aspects of family life in Norway differ from other places, so let's look at these.

Marriage

In Norway, there are more unmarried than married couples living together in a shared house with children. Due to a high divorce rate, many couples choose not to get married, either because they see marriage as a "jinx" to get divorced, or they just don't see the point in it. Even though Norway is viewed as a Christian country, few people are Christians beyond having their name in the Christian book at birth, and the rate of atheists both within the people written in the book and those not, is pretty high. This is also a reason as to why the rate of marriage is low. You can get married without it being religious, but few do this.

Family Members Living Together

In many countries, grandparents live together with the family, but this is a rare case in

Norway. Most elderly people live by themselves, until they can't, and get sent to an elder-care home. Families are often made up of a mother, a father, and a number of kids often ranging from one to three. Children in Norway will often leave the house to live alone between the age of 16 and 20. Being independent is a big thing in Norway, and some feel the urge to live by themselves earlier than others. There are of course families where grandparents live with the family, and children live at home until they are 30 or older, it's just not that common.

Work

In Norwegian families, both parents are normally in full-time employment. Children are often at so called "day mothers" or in kindergartens until their parents come home from work to pick them up. When a couple has a child, the mother can take one year off work to support the baby, with a 50% salary. This however can also be done by the father, if the mother wishes to work instead. It is often done if the mother has a higher salary than the father, to better support the family.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19

Getting Invited to a Norwegian Party

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

19

NORWEGIAN

1. Nora: Mark, vi skal holde hjemmefest hos Espen til helgen. Har du lyst til å komme?
2. Mark: Å, takk for invitasjonen. Det høres spennende ut. Selvfølgelig kommer jeg.
3. Espen: Husk på å ta med litt drikke selv, maten lager vi.
4. Mark: Ok. Sees på lørdag da.

ENGLISH

1. Nora: Mark, we're going to throw a home party at Espen's this weekend. Would you like to come over?
2. Mark: Oh, thank you for the invitation. It sounds great. Why sure, count me in.
3. Espen: Remember to bring something to drink, we'll take care of the food.
4. Mark: Okay. See you on Saturday then.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
helgen	weekend	noun
lage	make	verb
hos	at	preposition

hjemmefest	house party	noun
invitasjonen	the invitation	noun
holde	hold, have	verb
å ha lyst	to want to, to be willing to	verb
å høres	to sound	verb
spennende	interesting	adjective
å komme	to come	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Skal du noe til helgen? "Are you doing anything this weekend?"	Kokken lagde appelsinjuice. The chef made orange juice.
Skal jeg lage deg noe mat? "Should I make you some food?"	Var dere hos deg? "Were you guys at your place?"
Var du på hjemmefest i går? "Did you go to a house party yesterday?"	Fikk du invitasjonen min? "Did you get my invitation?"
Skal jeg holde posen for deg? "Should I carry the bag for you?"	Har du lyst til å leke? "Do you want to play?"
Har dere lyst til å gå å spise? "Do you guys want to go eat?"	Det høres smart ut. "That sounds clever."
Det høres hyggelig ut! "That sounds nice!"	Det er spennende å se på fotball. "It's exciting to watch soccer."

Legen kom etter en time. "The doctor came after an hour."	Jeg kommer hjem nå. "I'm coming home now."
Kom over. "Come over."	Fire stykker kom ikke. "Four people did not come."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In Norwegian as in English we use the word **da** ("then") as a filler word. Like in English, *da* usually intensifies the sentence a bit, and usually also provides a confirmation meaning we often append *da* after a rhetorical question or a final statement.

For example:

1. *Skal vi gå da?*
 "Are we going then?"
2. *Det er bra du fikk fikset problemet da!*
 "It's a good thing you managed to fix the problem then!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Make an Invitation in Norwegian

Har du lyst til å komme?

"Would you like to join?"

To invite someone to something using Norwegian can be quite tricky. So let's look at the structure of this question sentence to understand it better. Most invitations starts out with the explanation of what is going to happen. Be it a garden party, a night out or a formal dinner, you would always start by explaining what is happening.

In the dialogue Nora says this to Mark:

1. *Vi skal holde hjemmefest hos Espen til helgen.*

"We are going to host a house party at Espen's place this weekend."

Let's just break up that sentence to make more sense of it. *Vi skal* means "we are going to." Then comes *holde hjemmefest*, which means "host/have a house party." This is followed by *hos Espen*, which would translate to something like "at Espen's place." *Hos* is a practical word since it means "at (someone's) place," where *hos Espen* becomes "at Espen's place." Finally we add *til helgen*, this means "this weekend."

So for the invitations there are several ways one could ask, but a common way is saying *har du lyst til å komme?* ("Would you like to come/join"). This question is based on a fixed phrase and a verb. The phrase *har du lyst til å* means "do you want to" and adding a verb to the end of it would make it a question. Like *har du lyst til å gå?* ("do you want to go?").

Another way of inviting someone to an event would be to say *Det hadde vært fint om du vil komme*. It's a bit long so we won't go into details here, but it would translate quite directly to English as "It would be nice if you want to come."

Let's look at some more example invitations:

1. *Vi skal på kino i kveld. Har du lyst til å bli med*

"We are going to the cinema tonight, would you like to join?"

2. *Jeg skal spise lunsj, vil du bli med?*

"I am going to eat lunch. Do you want to join?"

3. *Vi skal feire bursdagen min den 20. Det hadde vært fint om du vil komme.*

"We are going to celebrate my birthday the 20th. It would be lovely if you could come."

Examples From the Dialogue

1. *Mark, vi skal holde hjemmefest hos Espen til helgen. Har du lyst til å komme?*

"Mark, we're going to throw a home party at Espen's this week-end. Would you like to come over?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Average Norwegian's Week

Norway is a country where going out during weekends is a common pastime for citizens. Norwegians often host weekend parties or go out for a drink on the weekends. If you don't drink there are several other options as well. Going to a theater, a concert, an exhibition or simply visiting friends and having lunch together or dinner is very common. However, it would most likely happen during weekends.

During weekdays Norwegians tend to go home directly after work or to a café before returning home. Many Norwegians also go to a gym, health studio, or pool, or to do some sport after work. It is not that common, however, to be social and relax after work during weekdays.

If you want to socialize with Norwegians, weekends are the best choice, and house parties are something you eventually can't avoid.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20

Taking a Trip in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

20

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Hvor skal vi hen?
2. Espen: Vi skal til Oslo.
3. Mark: Hvordan drar vi dit? Med tog?
4. Espen: Nei, vi skal ta buss. Bussen vår går fra platform 5.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Where are we going?
2. Espen: We are going to Oslo.
3. Mark: How do we get there? By train?
4. Espen: No, we are going by bus. Our bus leaves from platform 5.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
fra	from	preposition
platform	platform	noun
å dra	to leave	verb
dit	there	preposition
hvordan	how	adverb
buss	bus	noun

hen	to	adverb
tog	train	noun
å gå	to go	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jeg fikk et postkort fra USA. "I got a postcard from the U.S."	Toget står på platform 2. "The train's at platform 2."
Jeg drar om en time. "I am leaving in an hour."	Vi skal dit. "We are going there."
Hvordan kommer du deg dit? "How do you get there?"	Hvordan kom du deg hjem? "How did you get home?"
Hvordan går det? "How goes it?"	Hei, hvordan går det Maria? "Hello, how are you Maria?"
Elevene sitter på bussen. "The students ride the bus."	Bussene i Oslo er røde. "Buses in Oslo are red."
Hvor skal du hen? "Where are you going?"	Bruk toget. "Use the train."
Toget er kjapt, men dyrt. "The train is fast, but expensive."	Jeg må gå snart "I have to go soon."
Jeg går på videregående. "I am in middle school."	Jeg liker å gå i skogen. "I like to take a walk in the woods."

Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien.

"Please go to the other side of the road."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

The Norwegian word **hen** can sometimes be quite confusing to newcomers. The word has no direct translation in English, but could resemble something like "to." The thing about *hen* is that it's usually only used in questions. You use *hen* in cases where the "place" is unknown to you. In general, it's not essential to use *hen*. It can be left out of most sentences where people use it, but Norwegians tend to use it every so often for no real reason at all.

For example:

1. *Hvor er du hen?*
"Where are you?"
2. *Hvor drar du hen?*
"Where are you going?"
3. *Tiden gled hen.*
"Time passed by."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Use the Phrases *skal til*, and *hvor skal*

Vi skal til Oslo.

"We are going to Oslo."

The two phrases we are going to learn in this lesson are going to come handy when travelling around Norway, especially with a companion.

The first one we are going to learn is "Where are we going?" it's quite straightforward.

Hvor skal vi?

Directly translated it would look something like "Where shall we?" Change the ending of the phrase "We" with any other pronoun and you can ask where anyone is going.

For example:

1. *Hvor skal du?*
"Where are you going?"
2. *Hvor skal hun?*
"Where is she going?"
3. *Hvor skal dere?*
"Where are you (guys) going?"

Next up we have the answer to this question. And it couldn't be simpler either.

1. *Jeg skal til Oslo.*
"I am going to Oslo."

Again, directly translated this would sound something like "I shall to Oslo."

The verb *skal* is a really practical verb since it has a lot of uses. When used in the context of travel it can double as "shall go." "I shall go to Oslo," which makes a bit more sense in English.

For example:

1. *Jeg skal til Bergen.*
"I am going to Bergen."
2. *Vi skal til byen.*
"We are going to town."
3. *Hun skal til sentrum.*
"She is going to the city center."

Finally let's look at some common ways of travel. Like the dialogue we could use the above sentence structure and say something like:

1. *Jeg skal ta tog.*
"I am going by train."

Or alternatively we could add the method of travel to the end of the sentence stating our destination. That would look like this:

1. *Vi skal til Oslo, med tog.*
"We are going to Oslo, by train."
2. *Han skal til byen med buss.*
"He's going to town by bus"
3. *De skal til Namsos med fly.*
"They are going to Namsos by plane"

Example From the Dialogue

1. *Vi skal til Oslo.*
"We are going to Oslo"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Norwegian Transport Network

Norway is one of those countries where travelling to see the pure beauty of nature is the most common tourist magnet. You can frequently find bus tours going to various parts of the country offering sightseeing and cultural activities at famous tourist spots in Norway. Norway also has a railroad connecting the whole country...well almost the whole country. The NSB (National Railroad Service) runs trains from the southernmost parts of Norway to Bodø being the northernmost terminating station. From there, one can take buses further north or transfer to a private line going further north. In the cities and suburbs, Norway has extensive bus transport, and in Oslo you will also find a subway service that runs through the city and a tram service that's great for some sightseeing.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21

Sightseeing in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

21

NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Dette er det norske slottet. Det er i fra 1849.
2. Mark: Er det kongens garde som står rundt?
3. Espen: Det stemmer.
4. Mark: Er det mulig å ta bilde av dem?
5. Espen: Selvfølgelig, jeg kan ta bilde av deg ved siden av en om du vil?
6. Mark: Ja, gjerne!

ENGLISH

1. Espen: This is the Norwegian Royal Castle. It dates back to 1849.
2. Mark: Are those the Royal Guards?
3. Espen: That's right.
4. Mark: Is it possible to take a photo of them?
5. Espen: Of course, I can take your photo next to one of them, if you want?
6. Mark: Yes, please!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
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selvfølgelig	of course	
ved siden av	beside	preposition
garde	guard	noun
kongens	the king's	noun
slottet	castle	noun
mulig	possible	
dette	this (neutral)	pronoun
å stemme	to be correct (correct)	verb
bilde	picture	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Selvfølgelig kan vi besøke bestemor. "Of course we can visit Grandma."	Selvfølgelig kan jeg hjelpe deg. "Of course I can help you."
Kan jeg stå ved siden av deg? "Can I stand beside you?"	Jeg skal et år i garden. "I'm called in for a year with the king's guard."
Har du sett kongens hund? "Have you ever seen the king's dog?"	Slottet er prektig. "The castle is incredible."
Er det mulig å være så dum? "Is it possible to be that stupid?"	Hva er dette? "What is this?"
Det stemmer det du sier. "What you're saying is correct."	Det stemmer. "That's correct."

Kunstneren tegner et bilde. "The artist draws a picture."	Kan du ta bilde av meg og ungene. "Could you take a picture of me and my kids?"
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

So let's explain two phrases here that might be a bit confusing.

Er det mulig å... is a common phrase that is similar to "is it possible to..." or "am I allowed to..." Like the example in the dialogue: *Er det mulig å ta bilde av de?* ("Is it possible (allowed) to take a photo of them?").

The other phrase is *ved siden av*, is the Norwegian version of "beside." It is a preposition of sorts and can be directly translated as something like "by the side of." This would help make sense of it. Let's look at some examples here:

1. *Huset mitt er ved siden av sykehuset.*
2. "My house lies beside the hospital."
3. *Kan du stå ved siden av skiltet?*
4. "Could you stand beside the sign there?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making Complex Questions in Norwegian

Er det kongens garde som står rundt?

"Are those the Royal Guard?"

In Norwegian an assertive question is often used when you want to have a notion confirmed or when you are unsure whether your statement is correct. An assertive question is structured as a VSO sentence. If you remember our earlier lessons about VSO questions, you will remember that it start with a verb. It was in fact one of the first things you learned.

Er du Kristian?

("Are you Kristian?")

In the same way, we can use more complex assertive questions like the one in the dialogue:

Er det kongens garde som står rundt?

Directly this would translate to "Is it the Kings Guard that stands about?" In this lesson we will look at some common structures for intermediate questions.

Let's use the two found in this dialogue for this lesson:

Firstly, *Er det kongens garde som står rundt?* is built up by the *er det* ("Is that/it"), followed by a pronoun or noun, *som* ("that") and ends with a verb, preposition or adjective.

For example:

1. *Er det søsteren din som sitter der?*
"Is it your sister that sits there?"
2. *Er det en bil som lager den lyden?*
"Is it a car that makes that sound?"
3. *Er det huset som du snakket om?*
"Is that the house that you talked about?"

Secondly we have:

Jeg kan ta bilde av deg ved siden av en om du vil? ("I can take a picture of you standing beside one if you want?") With this question there are essentially two parts we want to use: *jeg kan ... om du vil?* The structure is a polite question resembling the English "I could ... if you'd like?"

Let's look at some examples here too:

1. *Jeg kan kjøre deg til byen om du vil?*
"I can drive you to town if you'd like?"

2. *Jeg kan vise deg Munch museet om du vil?*
"I can show you the Munch museum if you'd like?"
3. *Jeg kan sjekke kartet om du vil?*
"I can check the map if you'd like?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Things to Do in Norway

As you might remember from our previous lesson, Norway's natural beauty is a large tourism magnet. Tourists here are fascinated by the fjords, the aurora or the vast barren western steppes and mountain ranges. There are hundreds upon hundreds of places in Norway that are worth a visit once you're here. If you're more of a city person, Oslo, Trondheim and Bergen might offer something for you. There are many free museums and exhibitions in all three cities, and live cafés and concerts are commonplace in all the cities as well. If you like bars and clubs, then Oslo and Trondheim offer the best nightlife in Northern Europe, with an international scene of musicians and DJs. If, on the other hand, you like chamber music or the theater, Oslo offers a repertoire of interesting theaters with daily schedules and classical concerts and opera as well. For cinemagoers, Oslo has the Colosseum, one of the largest THX screens in Europe and definitely worth watching a blockbuster on.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22

In a Norwegian Office

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

22

NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Unnskyld, kunne du kopiert dette for meg?
2. Employee: Ja, så klart. Nå med en gang?
3. Espen: Ja det hadde vert fint om du kunne.
4. Employee: Så klart! Jeg leverer det til pulten din da jeg er ferdig.
5. Espen: Tusen takk skal du ha! (Mark comes in) Å hei Mark! Står til?
6. Mark: Joda, bare bra. Travel?
7. Espen: Neida, la oss gå ut for lunsj.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Excuse me, could you copy this for me?
2. Employee: Yes of course. Right now?
3. Espen: Yes, that would be great if you could.
4. Employee: Of course! I'll deliver it to your desk when I'm done.
5. Espen: Thank you so much! (Mark comes in) Oh hi Mark! You good?
6. Mark: Sure, I'm fine. Busy?
7. Espen: No no, let's go out for lunch.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
pult	desk	noun
ferdig	finished	adverb
travel	busy	adjective
lunsj	lunch	noun
(nå) med en gang	right now, at once	adverb
så klart	of course	interjection
å kopiere (kopiere)	to copy (copy)	verb
kan	can, may	verb
levere	to hand over, to deliver	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hvor er John sin pult? "Where is John's desk?"	Er du ferdig snart? "Are you finished soon?"
Jeg er alt for travel... "I'm too busy..."	Hva er til lunsj? "What's for lunch?"
Det var hyggelig å ha lunsj sammen. "It was nice to have lunch together."	Stopp med en gang! "Stop immediately!"
Så klart jeg kan hjelpe deg! "Of course I can help you!"	Er dette en kopi? "Is this a copy?"
Kan jeg gå å shoppe? "Can I go shopping?"	Kan du gi meg den? "Can you hand me that?"

Når leverer jeg passet mitt?

"When do I hand in my passport?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In this lesson, the dialogue is pretty much straightforward in both English and Norwegian, but let's have a look at the sentence **(Nå) med en gang**. It's the only part that really sticks out in its translation in this lesson.

This particular sentence differs a lot in the translation between English and Norwegian. Let's see what it is directly translated:

1. *(Nå) med en gang*
"(Now) at once."

The sentence is different, but the meaning of *nå med en gang* and "right now/ at once" is the same. *nå* and "now" are the same, and *en gang* means "once." The word *med* in Norwegian is just to bind the other words together, just like "at" does in the case of English. Let's see it again with this explanation:

1. *Nå - (Med) - En gang*
"Now - (at) - Once."

You don't have to use *nå* at the beginning, it just gives it a stronger meaning like "right now."

This may seem a little confusing, so it's best to just remember this as it is. At least now you know why!

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making Formal Inquiries and Ask for Favors

Unnskyld, kunne du ha kopiert dette for meg?

"Excuse me, could you copy this for me?"

In this lesson, we will take a closer look at how to ask someone for favors, and also look at a bit of formality. The two subjects are very much linked in work situations, where you might need help with something, and you have to be formal about it.

Let's first have some examples of how to ask for simple favors:

1. *Kan du åpne døren for meg?*
"Can you open the door for me?"
2. *Kan jeg låne en paraply?*
"Can I borrow an umbrella?"
3. *Kan du hjelpe meg?*
"Can you help me?"

As you can see in the examples above, the structure of both Norwegian and English is very similar here. All sentences start with "can."

Now let's make these sentences a little more formal, by adding *vær så snill*, meaning "please."

1. *Kan du være så snill å åpne døren for meg?*
"Can you please open the door for me?"
2. *Kan jeg være så snill å låne en paraply?*
"Can I please borrow an umbrella?"
3. *Kan du være så snill å hjelpe meg?*
"Can you please help me?"

Now let's first look at *vær så snill*. As you saw, it changed to *være* when referring to the other person. Not all Norwegians use this, but it's the correct way of speaking. To understand the use of *vær så snill* we must first take a closer look at the sentence. Let's see how it translates directly:

1. *Vær så snill.*
"Be so kind."

As you see, the direct translation makes a lot of sense, and you can also use "be so kind" instead of "please" in English as well. The word "please" is just a little more normal to use. The word "please" is also used in Norwegian, but only with friends.

In the second example, the person asking the question is referring to him or herself, "can I." In this case, we use *Vær* and not *være* in Norwegian. This is because the sentence doesn't really make sense grammatically in the first place, so conjugating the verb *å være* is not necessary here. It may sound confusing, but when speaking, most people use *vær så snill* for all three cases.

Now let's see the previous sentences again, with a more direct translation:

1. *Kan du være så snill å åpne døren for meg?*
"Can you be so kind to open the door for me?"
2. *Kan jeg vær så snill å låne en paraply?*
"Can I be so kind to borrow an umbrella?"
3. *Kan du være så snill å hjelpe meg?*
"Can you be so kind to help me?"

As you can see here, the *å* in the sentence is has the same purpose as "to" in English. In situations where you add "please" in front of a verb, you also need to add "to" between to make sense of it grammatically. This is the same in both languages.

Let's have a few more examples, and combine something we learned earlier:

1. *Jeg er tørst, kan jeg vær så snill å få litt vann?*
"I'm thirsty, can i please have some water?"
2. *Jeg er trøtt, kan jeg legge meg?*
"I'm tired, can I go to bed?"

Example from the Dialogue

1. Espen: *Unnskyld, kunne du ha kopiert dette for meg?*
Eспен: "Excuse me, could you copy this for me?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Norwegian business culture is very different from many places in the world. Norwegian workers have the highest salaries in the world, and are some of the most productive as well. Working hours are limited to eight hours a day for full time employees, and everything over counts as overtime. If these rules are violated, the workers has a lot of rights protecting them and backing them up to claim it. Workers pay a lot of tax on their salary, with a normal percentage of 36%, but insurance, health care and retirement pensions are paid for by the government. Even part-time work in Norway has higher salaries than elsewhere. A part-time worker in a supermarket in Norway will make about the same as a starting salary-man in Japan.

Business life in Norway is often very social, and many businesses offers seminars and company trips for their employees. One thing every company has is a *julebord*. *Julebord* is a party around Christmas, often paid for by the company. These things are organized for workers to enjoy their job, and be motivated to do their best. Clearly it works. Some businesses in cities also have gyms, or offer gym memberships to their employees. It was discovered that employees that work out before their working hours do a better job than those who don't, so it caught on a few years back.

Communication during working hours will of course depend on companies, but employees usually use standard politeness when speaking to each other. There is no special polite version of Norwegian, but adding "thank you" and "please" is considered a polite way to speak, so apart from this, working culture is very "down to earth."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23

Celebrating Norway's National Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

23

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Oi, så mange mennesker!
2. Espen: Ja, det er Norges nasjonaldag i dag.
3. Mark: Riktig, du nevnte det. Espen, hva er det hun har på seg? (points at a girl)
4. Espen: Det er en bunad, en tradisjonell folkedrakt fra Norge.
5. Mark: Går folk ofte med det?
6. Espen: Nei, kun ved spesielle anledninger, som konfirmasjon, bryllup og helligdager.
7. Mark: Så flotte de er!
8. Espen: Og de er like dyre som de er fine!

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Wow, so many people!
2. Espen: Yea, it's Norway's national day today.
3. Mark: Right, you mentioned that. Espen, what is that she's wearing? (points at a girl)
4. Espen: It's a 'bunad,' a traditional folk costume from Norway.

CONT'D OVER

5. Mark: Do people often wear that?
6. Espen: No, only on special occasions, like confirmation, weddings and public holidays.
7. Mark: They look great!
8. Espen: And they are as as expensive as they are fine!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class	Gender
helligdag	public holiday	noun	
bryllup	wedding	noun	neutral
konfirmasjon	confirmation	noun	
anledning	occasion	noun	
Folkedrakt	folk-clothing (old fashion clothing), folk costume	noun	masculine
tradisjonell	traditional	adjective	
Bunad	traditional Norwegian clothing, decorated with embroidery and silver jewelry	noun	
å ha på seg	to wear	verb	
å nevne (nevnte)	to mention (mentioned)	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jeg elsker helligdager! "I love public holidays!"	Jeg hater bryllup! "I hate weddings!"
Vil du komme i min konfirmasjon? "Do you want to come to my confirmation?"	Dette er en bra anledning. "This is a good occasion."
Har ditt land folkedrakter? "Does your country have folk-clothing?"	Liker du tradisjonell musikk? "Do you like traditional music?"
Dette er en bunad. "This is a 'bunad.'"	Hva skal jeg ha på meg? "What should I wear?"
Du nevnte det tidligere. "You mentioned it earlier."	Jeg er kun et menneske! "I'm only a human!"
Noen mennesker har overlevd utrolige hendelser. "Some people have survived incredible events."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's have a look at the verb *å ha på seg* meaning "to wear."

In English, the verb is just one word, while in Norwegian it's three. There simply is no one word for wearing something in Norwegian. let's see the direct translation:

1. *Å ha på seg*
"To have on oneself."

It makes sense in English, but you would never use it. It's just one of those strange cases of the language, but this three-word verb is "to wear" in Norwegian.

Bunad doesn't really have an English translation, since it is a Norwegian item. It's traditional clothing that's been used in Norway for hundreds of years that's made of dyed wool, impressive embroidery and silver jewelry. Different places in Norway will have their own type of *Bunad*, so if you know your stuff well, you can determine where someone is from, by just looking at their *Bunad*.

Folk-clothing is basically just a country's old-fashioned clothes. The folk-clothing of Norway is *Bunad*, the Scottish is the Kilt, and the Japanese is the Kimono, for example.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Form Intermediate Questions

Riktig, du nevnte det. Espen, hva er det hun har på seg?

"Right, you mentioned that. Espen, what is it she's wearing?"

Heres another example:

1. *Går folk ofte med det?*
"Do people often wear that?"

In this lesson, we are going to take a look at how to ask more advanced questions. Being able to form more advanced questions means we can add more detail to our question, and therefore also get a more precise answer.

The easiest way to add more detail to a question is to ask specifically. In the case where Mark is asking Espen "do people often wear that?" he is specifically asking if this action is normal. Mark does this by adding "often." Although not having "often" in this sentence would be pointless since Mark can actually see the girl is wearing it already, this is a specific question.

These types of specific questions are also often asked after an unspecific one. Let's look at an example of this:

1. *Har du en hund? Ja.*
"Do you have a dog? Yes."

2. *Hva slags hund er det? Det er en sort Labrador.*

"What kind of dog is it? It's a black Labrador."

Here you see, that the unspecific question gets an unspecific answer, while the specific question gets a specific answer. In this case, we add "what kind" to the question, making it more specific.

So how do we make these specific questions then? It's quite simple. We add what we have already gone through, like adjectives, nouns and verbs.

Let's see some sentences where we add some of this:

1. *Kan du hjelpe meg?*

"Can you help me?"

2. *Kan du hjelpe meg å løfte dette?*

"Can you help me lift this?"

In this example, we are basically just adding a simple sentence at the end of a question, making it a more advanced question. The answer will often be as short as in a simple question, but the person you're talking to understands more specifically what you want, or what you need help with.

So far, we have looked at two different ways of extending our questions. One is by asking more specifically in the beginning, like "what kind." The other is to connect the sentence to another sentence that has to do with the question. Let's have some examples of both of these below:

1. *Hva slags mat liker du?*

"What kind of food do you like?"

2. *Hvilken farge liker du best?*

"What color do you like the best?"

3. *Trenger du hjelp med oppvasken?*

"Do you need help with the dishes?"

4. *Skal vi gå en tur i parken?*
"Shall we take a walk in the park?"

Example from the Dialogue

1. *Riktig, du nevnte det. Espen, hva er det hun har på seg?*
"Right, you mentioned that. Espen, what is it she's wearing?"
2. *Går folk ofte med det?*
"People often wear that?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Importance of History in Norway

Norway is a country that is very proud of its history and traditions. Norwegians are very aware of their own history, as it's a big part of the school curriculum, from as early as elementary school. We also hold on to a lot of old traditions. Christmas feasting originated from the Vikings, and Norwegians will still have feasts at Christmas time, and do things others may not relate too much to Christmas. Especially the changing of the sun is a big thing in Norway from old times. This is where both the Christmas feast and the midsummer fires come from.

Folk music and folk clothing is still a very popular thing in Norway. Many musicians play music from centuries ago, and the *Bunad*, basically the Norwegian Kimono, is owned by most. As mentioned in the dialogue, the Bunad is mostly worn at national holidays, weddings and such, but birthdays and anniversaries are also occasions where it's taken out of the closet. Pretty much any excuse Norwegians gets to wear it (if they own one), they will. Considering the price you pay for one, it's no wonder! These clothing will differ in colors and patterns depending on what part of Norway you are from, and even local districts have their own patterns.

Let's also not forget May 17th. This is the national day in Norway, or Norway's birthday. This is the day Norway got its own constitution in 1814. This is common knowledge for most Norwegians. In fact, not knowing the history of one's own country, and also not being up to

date on the country's current state, is forbidden by law. Though this is of course not really enforced, it says something about the importance and pride Norwegians have for their history and society.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24

Norwegian Dialects

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Mark, dette er min venn Trond.
2. Mark: Hei Trond. Hyggelig å møte deg! Jeg er Mark.
3. Trond: Hyggeleg å møte deg også, eg er Trond. Eg kjem ifrå Troms fylke, nord i landet.
4. Mark: (confused to Espen) Jeg forsto ikke helt hva han sa...
5. Espen: Hehe, ja han snakker dialekt, så det er kanskje litt vanskelig å forstå.
6. Mark: Å? Så dere snakker begge Norsk men forskjellig dialekt?
7. Espen: Ja, jeg snakker sør-øst dialekt, siden jeg er fra Oslo.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Mark, this is my friend Trond.
2. Mark: Hi Trond. Nice to meet you! I'm Mark.
3. Trond: Nice to meet you too, I'm Trond. I'm from Troms county, in the north of the country.
4. Mark: (confused to Espen) I didn't completely understand what he said...
5. Espen: (Laugh) Yes, he speaks in a dialect, so it might be a little hard to understand.

CONT'D OVER

6. Mark: Oh? So you both speak Norwegian but different dialects?
7. Espen: Yeah, I speak the southeast dialect, since I'm from Oslo.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class	Gender
siden	since	preposition	
forskjellig	different	adjective	
begge	both	adjective	
Vest	West	noun	masculine
Øst	East	noun	masculine
Sør	South	noun	masculine
Nord	North	noun	masculine
fylke	county	noun	
Troms	a county in the north of Norway	noun	
dialekt	dialect	noun	
helt	whole, completely	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jeg har vært her siden. "I've been here since."	Siden du er så god, kan ikke du vise meg hvordan? "Since you are so good, can't you show me how?"
Vi to er forskjellige. "The two of us are different."	Det er ikke plass til begge. "There isn't room for both."
Hvor er vest? "Where is west?"	Vet du hvor øst er? "Do you know where east is?"
Det er varmere sør. "It's warmer south."	Hvilken vei er nord? "which way is north?"
Hvilket fylke er du fra? "What county are you from?"	Er du fra Troms? "Are you from Troms?"
Hva slags dialekt snakker du? "What kind of dialect do you speak?"	Hele situasjonen var helt mystisk. "The entire situation was wholly mysterious."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's cover some of the vocab that did not show up in the dialogue, namely, north, east, south, and west. In Norwegian some, of these words sound and look quite similar, so you shouldn't have any problem mixing these up. For the record:

- "North" is *Nord*
- "East" is *Øst*

- "South" is *Sør*, and
- "West" is *Vest*

In writing, we never capitalize the first letter unless it is a proper name or the first word in a sentence. In sentences we use the directions pretty much same as English. Let's look at some examples

1. *Jeg bor nord for Hamar.*
"I live north of Hamar"
2. *Øst i landet sier de "Jag."*
"In the eastern part of the country they say *jag* ("I")."
3. *Ta vest på motorveien.*
"Take west on the highway."
4. *Jeg liker meg på sørlandet.*
"I like the South (country) a lot."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is *Nynorsk* and Norwegian Dialects

Hyggeleg å møte deg også, eg er Trond.

"Nice to meet you too, I'm Trond."

In Norway aside from the two written languages, we have a slew of dialects, and most of them sound different. Your chances of meeting someone speaking a different dialect than the one you are used to learning, which is most likely the Southeastern dialect or Oslo dialect, is incredibly high when you're in Norway. For that reason, learning some of the different ways these dialects can change is a good thing. Most people who study Norwegian encountering their foreign dialect will not immediately believe that person speaks Norwegian. In some cases, our neighboring language Swedish sounds more Norwegian than some of the dialects. That doesn't mean you won't be able to understand people speaking in a different

accent than what you are used to, though.

Let's start by looking at some different dialects, and how they treat different words that you have learned up until now.

For example, let's start with the word "I." You should by now know that it is *jeg* in Norwegian. And that is to say, in the official written language Bokmål, it is written *j e g*. In the second official language *Nynorsk*, it is written *e g*.

In other words there are two ways you could write "I." When saying "I" however there are many different versions. Let's look at some of the most common ones.

For example:

Northern dialects say:

Eg, Æ or Jæ

Western dialects say:

Eg, I, Je, or E

Southern dialects say

I, Jæi, E

And **Eastern** dialects say

Jeg, Je, I or Jæ

Knowing that, you should be able to recognize what most Norwegians mean when they say "I" in their dialect.

Let's also compare some of the dialect we saw in the dialogue with the dialect we have become used to now.

The dialogue phrase with the dialect was this one:

1. *Hyggeleg å møte deg også, eg er Trond. Eg kjem ifrå Troms fylke, nord i landet.*
"Nice to meet you too, I'm Trond. I'm from Troms county, in the north of the country."

Now let's note a few words that are different from the southeastern dialect you are used to.

- *Hyggeleg* - "Nice," "Pleasure"
- *eg* - "I"
- *kjem* - "Come"
- *ifrå* - "From"
- *(deg)* - "You"

Written, you can see that some of these are significantly different. That is why it is written in *Nynorsk*. The dialect in northern Norway uses *Nynorsk* as the written language since it is closer to the spoken dialect there. We can compare these words with the *Bokmål* version to see the difference.

<i>Nynorsk</i>	<i>Bokmål</i>
<i>hyggeleg</i>	<i>hyggelig</i>
<i>eg</i>	<i>jeg</i>
<i>kjem</i>	<i>kommer</i>
<i>ifrå</i>	<i>fra</i>
<i>deg</i>	<i>deg</i>

Now you might wonder why the last one, *deg* ("you") is the same in both *Nynorsk* and *Bokmål*. We added it because it is pronounced differently in different dialects.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Norway we have two spoken, and three written languages. One of these is the Sami language, spoken by the Sami people in the north, and the other is Norwegian. Within Norwegian however, we have two written languages.

A couple of hundred years ago, Norway was under Denmark's control. During this time, Norway wanted to speak a more Danish-inspired language than they already did, so the *Bokmål* was made. *Bokmål* is a way of writing Norwegian, and it's the same as the spoken Norwegian in the south and west.

During this time, another person named Ivar Aasen, who in the mid-19th century wished for a more Norwegian language than the Danish, made *Nynorsk*. *Nynorsk*, meaning "new Norwegian" was a mixed language of different Norwegian dialects. It is not a spoken language, since it's a mix of dialects, but it is spoken or used in 25% of all programs on the NRK, the Norwegian government supported radio and TV station.

In Norway today, about 12% of the population use *Nynorsk* as their written language. It looks small, but most of the northern parts of Norway uses *Nynorsk*. There are more people living down south, so that might be the reason for the percentage of people who prefer *Bokmål*. All students who use *Bokmål* have to study *Nynorsk* as well in school. It is used in a lot of official documents, and everyone is required to have learned at least the biggest differences between *Nynorsk* and *Bokmål*.

Students using *Nynorsk*, however, don't get graded on their ability in *Bokmål*, since it's used in most of the education already.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25

Facts about Norway

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

25

NORWEGIAN

1. Mark: Hei Espen, hvorfor har vi ikke sett noen isbjørner enda?
2. Espen: Isbjørner??
3. Mark: Ja, jeg hørte at de var et vanlig syn å se her...
4. Espen: Hahaha! Nei beklager Mark, jeg tror du har blitt lurt.
5. Mark: seriøst?
6. Espen: Ja, det finnes ikke isbjørn på fastlandet i Norge.
7. Mark: Hvor er de da?
8. Espen: Det eneste Norske territoriet du kan se isbjørn er Svalbard.
9. Mark: Åja. Det er et stykke unna...

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Hey Espen, why haven't we seen any polar bears yet?
2. Espen: Polar bears??
3. Mark: Yeah, I heard that they were a common sight here...
4. Espen: (Laughs) No, sorry Mark, I think you've been fooled.
5. Mark: Seriously?

CONT'D OVER

6. **Espen:** Yeah, polar bears don't exist on the mainland in Norway.
7. **Mark:** Then where are they?
8. **Espen:** The only Norwegian territory where you can see polar bears is Svalbard.
9. **Mark:** I see. That is quite far away...

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
isbjørn	polar bear	noun
vanlig	common, normal	adjective
syn	sight	noun
å lure	to trick, to fool	verb
seriøst	seriously	adverb
å finnes	to exist	verb
fastland (fastlandet)	mainland (the mainland)	noun
territorie	territory	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Isbjørner er ekstremt farlige! "Polar bears are extremely dangerous!"	For meg er dette vanlig. "For me, this is normal."
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De norske fjordene er litt av et syn! "The Norwegian fjords sure are a sight to see!"	Du lurer ikke meg! "You're not fooling me!"
Skal du seriøst spise det der? "Are you seriously going to eat that?"	Det finnes flere tusen stjerner. "Thousands of stars exist."
Finnes det en doktor her? "Is there a doctor here?"	Jeg bor på fastlandet. "I live on the mainland."
Dette er et territorie for isbjørn. "This is territory for polar bears."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

There are a few fixed phrases in the dialogue. A few of them can be useful for other sentences as well, and are thus nice to learn.

Jeg tror literally means "I believe," but it is commonly used in the sense of "I think."

Some examples using *jeg tror* are:

1. *Jeg tror ikke det går bra.*
"I don't think it will be ok."
2. *Jeg tror du kan kjøpe øl på vinmonopolet.*
"I think you can buy beer at the Wine Monopoly."

Next we have the phrase:

Jeg hørte... It literally means "I heard." And can be used like the English "I heard."

Some examples using *jeg tror* are:

1. *Jeg hørte at du giftet deg.*
"I heard that you got married."
2. *Jeg hørte du fikk bot i går?*
"I heard you got a speeding ticket yesterday?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Making Longer Sentences

Ja, det finnes ikke isbjørn på fastlandet i Norge.

"Yeah, Polar bears don't exist on the mainland in Norway.

Det eneste Norske territoriet du kan se isbjørn p, er Svalbard.

"The only Norwegian territory were you can see polar bears is Svalbard."

In the dialogue of this lesson, we have two very difficult and long sentences. Everything in these two sentences has been covered throughout the 25 lessons of this series, but we are now putting things together. Putting together sentences like this is not easy, but an important step in "sewing" together what we have learned this far. Going through everything is too much, so we will focus on these two for this final grammar lesson.

First, let's break the sentence down to smaller sentences.

Espen: *(Ja), (det finnes ikke isbjørn) (på fastlandet i Norge.)*

First of all, *ja* is just a word that appears at the beginning, and doesn't have much impact on the sentence itself.

Then *(Det finnes ikke isbjørn)*

We have had sentences like this one before. It has the same structure as *Jeg er Mark*, but with a negative before the noun. We covered this in lesson 7 with negatives mixed with SVO sentences.

Lastly *(På fastlandet i Norge.)* - "on the mainland in Norway."

As you can see, this sentence is similar in structure to English, except for when defining the noun. This was covered in an earlier lesson, where we talked about the use of "the" in Norwegian.

Let's now look at the other long sentence broken down:

Espen: (*Det eneste Norske territoriet*) (*du kan se isbjørn,*) (*er Svalbard.*)

First was (*Det eneste Norske territoriet*) - "The only Norwegian territory"

This sentence is a similar sentence to one we did with adjectives before nouns in lesson 16. In this sentence, *eneste* is an adjective, and *Norske territoriet* is the noun. *Norske territoriet* is two words, but they are combined in this case, just as they would be when saying "Norwegian territory" in English.

Next was (*Du kan se isbjørn*) - "You can see polar bears"

This is a very simple sentence. In lesson 23, we had the sentence *kan du hjelpe meg*.

It's a question, and the only difference is that *du kan se isbjørn* is a statement. We have also looked at statements in earlier lessons.

Finally (*...Er Svalbard*) - "... is Svalbard"

This sentence is is similar to one of the earlier lessons we had, where we learned "I am Mark." In this case however, Espen is explaining to Mark where he may see polar bears, so he ends the sentence with "is Svalbard." This is the exact same way as it's used in English.

Example from the Dialogue

1. *Ja, det finnes ikke isbjørn på fastlandet i Norge.*
"Yeah, Polar bears don't exist on the mainland in Norway."
2. *Det eneste Norske territoriet du kan se isbjørn p, er Svalbard.*
"The only Norwegian territory where you can see polar bears is Svalbard."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Many things are said and believed about Norway. Some are true, and some are completely off target. Let's take a look at some from both categories:

False:

1. Norwegians are vikings
2. Polar bears are a common sight
3. Norway is part of Sweden
4. Norway is like the North Pole

These are actually things people believe and hear about Norway, that are not true at all. Vikings did come from Norway and Scandinavia, but there are none alive today. It's like the Samurai in Japan, they were a group of soldiers that died out hundreds of years ago. However, calling a Norwegian a viking is a nice compliment.

Polar bears as well, as mentioned in the dialogue, are not seen on the mainland of Norway, unless you visit the zoo. This might be a confusion with Svalbard, which is also a part of Norway, but an island in the far north.

Norway is absolutely not a part of Sweden, but we were in union from 1814-1905. Be careful not to make the mistake of mixing Norway and Sweden to a Norwegian. It's considered insulting.

Norway has a reputation of being as cold as the North pole, but reality is far from this. It is true that Norway gets cold, especially in winter time, but in the south of the country, temperatures have reached 35 degrees Celsius in summer, and normally stay around 25-30 degrees.

True:

1. Norway is one of the richest countries in the world
2. Norwegians are tall
3. Norway has a king
4. Norway has a native tribe

Norway got extremely rich after the second world war, when large amounts of oil were found in the Northern Sea. Norway is today one of the richest countries per capita in the world.

Norwegians are rumored to be tall, and they are close to the tallest people in the world. Though shorter people do exist, the average height is at 182cm for men, and 169cm for women.

Norway does indeed have a king, King Harald Rex the 5th. Norway is a monarchy, so the country is ruled by the prime minister and the Storting, while the king has a more symbolic status.

Together with Sweden, Finland and parts of Russia, Norway is also home to the Sami people. They settled north before anyone else in recorded history settled in Norway, and have their own flag and language.



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