

Faroese Cheat Sheet - Lesson 1

Please refer to the course book “Faroese: A language course for beginners” for more in-depth explanations and further examples.

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1 Alphabet of the Faroese language

A a Á á B b D d Ð ð E e F f G g H h I i Í í J j K k L l M m

N n O o Ó ó P p R r S s T t U u Ú ú V v Y y Ý ý Æ æ Ø ø

Note that the following pairs of letters are pronounced the same, hence the name of the letter contains either *fyrri* (first) or *seinna* (later), depending on the location in the alphabet:

A and Æ → *fyrri* A and *seinna* Æ
I and Y
Í and Ý

c, q, w, x and z are not part of the Faroese alphabet, but may be used in foreign words.

2 Noun gender

There are three noun genders in Faroese: *masculine*, *feminine* and *neuter*. In some cases, the gender can be determined by the ending of the noun:

Gender	Endings	Examples
Masculine	-ur	mað ur
	-i	tí i
Feminine	-a	gent a
	-0	bók
Neuter	-i	kaff i
	-a	eyg a
	-0	hús

Note that quite some *feminine* and *neuter* nouns can not be characterized by their ending (-0 in the table), as they end in neither -i or -a, while *masculine* nouns always end in either -ur or -i.

In other cases there is some ambiguity between the endings, namely -i being used by both *masculine* and *neuter* nouns, and -a by *feminine* and *neuter* nouns.

Example: politi (*n.*), beiggi (*m.*).

3 Indefinite and definite articles

3.1 Indefinite article

In English we are using the indefinite articles *a* or *an* for every noun. In Faroese, it depends on the gender of the noun. In the nominative case (we will get to cases in another lesson) the indefinite articles are as follows:

Gender	Article	Examples
Masculine	ein	ein maður
Feminine	ein	ein genta
Neuter	eitt	eitt kaffi

Notice that the articles for masculine and feminine nouns are the same in the nominative case, in other cases they will differ from each other.

3.2 Definite article

The English equivalent to the definite article is *the*. In Faroese, just like the indefinite article, the definite article depends on the gender of the noun and is used as a suffix to the noun, unlike in English where *the* is used as a standalone word.

Gender	Article	Examples
Masculine	-in -n	maður in tí in
Feminine	-in -n	bók in genta n
Neuter	-ið -ð	húsi ð kaffi ð

In case a word ends in an unstressed vowel, the suffix without *i* (**-n** or **-ð** according to the gender) is used.

An example would be the word *politi*. In this case the *i* of the suffix would be included, as it is stressed on the last letter, which is a vowel: *politi* → *politi**ið***.

4 Personal pronouns

The personal pronouns are changing with the case as well, here we are looking at the pronouns in the nominative case again. Note that the pronouns for *it* and *they* have different versions according to the gender of the noun.

Faroese	English
eg	I
tú	you
hann	he, it
hon	she, it
tað	it
vit	we
tit	you (<i>pl.</i>)
teir	they (<i>m.</i>)
tær	they (<i>f.</i>)
tey	they (<i>n.</i>)