

# Norwegian on the Web



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## Short Norwegian Grammar

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As the text book grammar is lacking descriptions of some word classes, we would like to present a short review of all word classes in Norwegian.

## Nouns

### General

Nouns are words that name people, things, actions, places, states. Nouns are divided in two subgroups, common and proper nouns.

### Common nouns

These are nouns that name general items. In Norwegian common nouns are written with lower-case letters (except when they occur after a full stop): “student” (*student*), “universitet” (*university*), “idé” (*idea*).

### Proper nouns

These are nouns that name a specific item, often a “one-of-a-kind”. Proper nouns are written with upper-case letters: “Norge” (*Norway*), “Trondheim” (*Trondheim*), “Julie” (*Julie*).

### Gender

In Norwegian, nouns are grouped into three categories according to the noun's **gender** (kjønn). This division is important as nouns are conjugated according to its inherent gender.

Gender	Norwegian term	Literal translation
masculine	<i>hankjønn</i>	“ <i>he-gender</i> ”
feminine	<i>hunkjønn</i>	“ <i>she-gender</i> ”
neuter	<i>intetkjønn</i>	“ <i>no-gender</i> ”

In most cases the assignment of gender is arbitrary, and for learners of Norwegian it usually is difficult to guess the gender of a given noun.

In general one may say that

- about 50 per cent of all nouns are of masculine gender
- about 25 per cent of all nouns are of feminine gender
- about 25 per cent of all nouns are of neuter gender

However, as all feminine nouns may be conjugated as masculine nouns, 75 per cent of all nouns may use articles for masculine nouns, and 25 per cent as articles for neuter nouns.

## Conjugation of nouns

The noun is an independent form in singular indefinite. Adding a suffix to the end of the noun makes definite form singular. Indefinite and definite form plural are made the same way. The suffixes are listed below. The three dots <...> are replacing any noun.

Two conjugation patterns are presented below. First you find the very basic rules.

### The simple pattern

	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
masculine	en ...	...-en	...-er	...-ene
feminine	ei ...	...-a		
neuter	et ...	...-et	...-	

### System used in this course

As there are several exceptions, this extended version is presented. These patterns will cover most cases in this introductory course.

	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
masculine	en ...	...-(e)n	...-(e)r	...-(e)ne
feminine	ei ...	...-a	...-(e)r	...-(e)ne
neuter	et ...	...-(e)t	... - ...-(e)r	...-(e)ne

## Verbs

Verbs are words that name what is going on (actions, states of being, what exists). Norwegian verbs occur in several forms as a result of **conjugation**. The different forms of a verb can be divided into

- **Finite** forms, that is forms that express time (past, present) or mode
- **Infinite** forms, that is forms that do not express time or mode

As in English you will find both **regular** (“weak”) and **irregular** (“strong”) **verbs**.

- Regular verbs form preterite (past tense) by adding a suffix to the stem
- Irregular verbs form preterite without adding a suffix to the stem

Norwegian verbs are not conjugated in person and number.

## Verbs - terminology

In this presentation the new standard terminology is used. The English translation of the new and old terminology (Strandskogen 1995) is shown below. Non-overlapping categories are marked in grey.

Strandskogen (1995)	Grammatical terminology applied in teaching (2006)	
	<b>English</b>	<b>Norwegian</b>
Infinitive	<i>Infinitive</i>	Infinitiv
Present	<i>Present</i>	Presens
Past (Imperfect)	<i>Preterite</i>	Preteritum
Perfect	<i>Present perfect</i>	Presens perfektum
Pluperfect	<i>Preterite perfect</i>	Preteritum perfektum
Future	<i>Present future</i>	Presens futurum
Future perfect	<i>Preterite future</i>	Preteritum futurum
Conditional	<i>Present future perfect</i>	Presens futurum perfektum
Conditional perfect	<i>Preterite future perfect</i>	Preteritum futurum perfektum

Norwegian verbs occur in seven different forms. This is demonstrated below using the regular “øke” - “*increase*” and the irregular verb “skrive” - “*write*”.

Verb form	Structure	Norwegian	English
Imperative	stem	øk	<i>increase</i>
Infinitive	stem + “-e”	øke	<i>increase</i>
Present	stem + “-er”	øker	<i>increase(s)</i>
Preterite	stem + ending “-te”	økte	<i>increased</i>
Perfect participle	stem + ending “-t”	økt	<i>increased</i>
Present participle	stem + “-ende”	økende	<i>increasing</i>
Passive voice	stem + “-es”	økes	<i>is being increased</i>

Verb form	Structure	Norwegian	English
Imperative	stem	skriv	<i>write</i>
Infinitive	stem + “-e”	skrive	<i>write</i>
Present	stem + “-er”	skriver	<i>write(s)</i>
Preterite	internal change	skrev	<i>wrote</i>
Perfect participle	internal change	skrevet	<i>written</i>
Present participle	stem + “-ende”	skrivende	<i>writing</i>
Passive voice	stem + “-es”	skrives	<i>is being written</i>

The verb forms above occur for both regular and irregular verbs. However, they are produced in slightly different ways. Regular verbs produce preterite and present perfect forms by adding a suffix to the verb. Irregular verbs produce preterite by changing the stem vowel. The present perfect participle of irregular verbs in general ends in a “-t”.

The present participle form is the adjectival form of the verb, and is used only as adjective or adverb, not as verb.

et økende antall  
et gråtende barn

*an increasing number*  
*a crying child*

## Regular verbs

There are four classes of regular verbs. 1. class has two patterns. The “-et”-form is regarded as more formal than the “-a”-form.

	Infinitive	Present	Preterite	Present perfect	English
1. class	å kaste	-er	-et	-et	<i>to throw</i>
			-a	-a	
2. class	å leke	-er	-te	-t	<i>to play</i>
3. class	å leve	-er	-de	-d	<i>to live</i>
4. class	å nå	-r	-dde	-dd	<i>to reach</i>

## Irregular verbs

Irregular verbs produce preterite by changing the stem vowel. The present perfect participle in general ends in a “-t”. Irregular verbs are quite heterogeneous.

Infinitive	Present	Preterite	Present perfect	English
å skrive	skriver	skrev	har skrevet	<i>to write</i>
å finne	finner	fant	har funnet	<i>to find</i>
å vinne	vinner	vant	har vunnet	<i>to win</i>

## Tenses and forms

Below all forms and tenses of verbs are demonstrated using the regular verb “øke” - “*increase*” (PP = present participle, INF = infinitive)

Form	Norwegian	Example	English
Imperative	øk	stem	<i>increase!</i>
Infinitive	øke	stem + “-e”	<i>increase</i>
Present	øker	stem + “-er”	<i>increase</i>
Preterite	økte	stem + ending	<i>increased</i>
Present perfect	har økt	har + PP	<i>have increased</i>
Preterite perfect	hadde økt	hadde + PP	<i>had increased</i>
Present future	vil øke	vil + INF	<i>will increase</i>
Preterite future	ville øke	ville + INF	<i>would increase</i>
Present future perfect	vil ha økt	vil ha + PP	<i>will have increased</i>
Preterite future perfect	ville ha økt	ville ha + PP	<i>would have increased</i>

## Infinitive

The infinitive form is the base form of the verb. This form is used together with auxiliary verbs to make complex verb forms. With auxiliary verbs the infinitive marker “å” (*to*) is not used.

å synge	<i>to sing</i>
Jeg liker å synge	<i>I like to sing</i>
Jeg kan synge	<i>I can sing</i>

## Present

Present tense may express present actions, general statements that are independent of time and place, and repeated actions.

Jeg leser nå.	<i>I am reading now.</i>
To pluss to er fire.	<i>Two plus two is four.</i>
Jeg legger meg alltid klokka 11	<i>I always go to bed at 11 o'clock.</i>

Present tense forms of verbs may also be used in statements related to the future, quite often in connection with time phrases that are referring to the future:

De kommer i morgen.	<i>They are coming tomorrow.</i>
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## Preterite

In general one can say that this verb form is used to express actions that took part at a definite point of time in the past. The focus is on the action itself.

Jeg spiste frokost klokka 10.

*I had breakfast at 10 o'clock.*

## Present perfect

In general one can say that this verb form is used to express actions that took part in the past, but without referring to a definite point in time. The focus is on the consequences of the action. Present perfect is formed by using present tense of the auxiliary verb *å ha* (har) and the past participle of the main verb.

Jeg har lest boka.

*I have read the book.*

It can also be used about an action that has continued from the past up to now.

Jeg har bodd her i fem år.

*I have been living here for five year.s*

## Preterite perfect

This tense is expressing an action that went on in the past, but *before* another action. It is formed by preterite of “å ha” → **hadde**, and past participle of the main verb.

Jeg hadde spist før de kom.

*I had been eating before they cam.e*

## Present future

The future may be expressed in several ways. It is quite common to combine present tense of one of the modal auxiliaries “å ville” → **vil** or “å skulle” → **skal** with infinitive of the main verb.

“Skal” is used only when the subject has a plan or purpose.

Vi skal sove nå.

*We will/shall sleep now.*

“Vil” often expresses an element of will or wish.

De vil dra nå.

*They want to leave now.*

WHen the action is not planned, “kommer til å” – “*am/are/is going to*” is the most common expression in oral speech.

Det kommer til å regne i dag.

*It is going to rain today.*

## Preterite future

This tense is expressing an action that was planned or went on in the past, but *after* another action. It is formed by preterite of “å skulle” → **skulle** and infinitive of the main verb.

Jeg skulle spise da de kom.      *I was about to eat when they came.*

## Present future perfect

This tense is expressing an action that has to be concluded before a certain time in the future. It is formed by present tense of an auxiliary verb + infinitive of “å ha” + past participle of the main verb.

Jeg bør ha lest denne boka før kurset starter.  
*I ought to have read this book before the course is starting.*

## Preterite future perfect

This tense is expressing an action that should have been concluded in the past (but was not) or an action that (doubtfully) will be concluded in the future. It is formed by preterite of an auxiliary verb + infinitive of “å ha” + past participle of the main verb.

Jeg skulle ha lest denne boka før kurset startet.  
*I should have read this book before the course started.*

Jeg skulle ha lest denne boka før kurset starter.  
*I should have read this book before the course is starting.*

## Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs are divided into two groups:

1. Common auxiliary verbs
2. Modal auxiliary verbs

## Common auxiliary verbs

Among common auxiliary verbs we find verbs that in combination with ordinary verbs produce complex verb forms. The verbs in this group are “å ha, å være, å bli, å få”.

Infinitive	Present	Preterite	Present perfect	English
å ha	har	hadde	har hatt	<i>to have</i>
å være	er	var	har vært	<i>to be</i>
å bli	blir	ble	har blitt	<i>to become</i>
å få	får	fikk	har fått	<i>to get</i>

### Modal auxiliary verbs

The second group of auxiliary verbs, the *modal auxiliary verbs*, contains verbs that express the speaker's attitude towards the utterance he/she is producing.

The verbs are “å skulle, å ville, å kunne, å måtte, å burde”.

Infinitive	Present	Preterite	Present perfect	English
å skulle	skal	skulle	har skullet	<i>should*</i>
å ville	vil	ville	har villet	<i>would*</i>
å kunne	kan	kunne	har kunnet	<i>to be able to</i>
å måtte	må	måtte	har måttet	<i>to have to</i>
å burde	bør	burde	burdet	<i>ought to*</i>

\*In English the infinitives “should, would, ought to do” never appear with the infinitive marker “to”.

## Adjectives

### General

An adjective is a word that describes or modifies a noun. It gives more information about the object that the noun is referring to. For example, an adjective might describe the size or the colour of an object.

### Agreement

In Norwegian adjectives agree in gender, number and definiteness with the noun. In this way the noun will appear in several forms. In general the root of the adjective is stable, and agreement is expressed through endings (or suffixes).

#### Agreement: Attributive form

Regular adjectives in attributive form have three different forms depending upon gender, number and definiteness. Below you find forms of the adjectives for the three genders in singular and plural, indefinite and definite.

Gender	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
Masculine	en <b>fin</b> bil	den <b>fine</b> bilen	to <b>fine</b> biler	de <b>fine</b> bilene
Feminine	ei <b>fin</b> dør	den <b>fine</b> døra	to <b>fine</b> dører	de <b>fine</b> dørene
Neuter	et <b>fint</b> hus	det <b>fine</b> huset	to <b>fine</b> hus	de <b>fine</b> husene
English	<i>a nice X</i>	<i>the nice X</i>	<i>two nice Xs</i>	<i>the nice Xs</i>

By removing everything except the suffixes the pattern becomes clear:

Gender	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
Masculine	-	-e	-e	-e
Feminine	-	-e	-e	-e
Neuter	-t	-e	-e	-e

#### Agreement: Predicative form

Regular adjectives in predicative have three different forms depending upon gender, number and definiteness. Below you find the adjective form used with the nouns “bil” - “*car*”, “dør” - “*door*”, “hus” - “*house*”.

Gender	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
Masculine	En bil kan være <b>fin</b>	Bilen er <b>fin</b>	Biler kan være <b>fine</b>	Bilene er <b>fine</b>
Feminine	Ei dør kan være <b>fin</b>	Døra er <b>fin</b>	Dører kan være <b>fine</b>	Dørene er <b>fine</b>
Neuter	Et hus kan være <b>fint</b>	Huset er <b>fint</b>	Hus kan være <b>fine</b>	Husene er <b>fine</b>
English	<i>An X can be nice</i>	<i>The X is nice</i>	<i>Xs can be nice</i>	<i>The Xs are nice</i>

By removing everything except the suffixes, the pattern becomes clearer:

Gender	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
Masculine	-	-	-e	-e
Feminine	-	-	-e	-e
Neuter	-t	-t	-e	-e

## Comparison

Adjectives are used when comparing objects with reference to a certain quality. One house is “fint” - “*nice*”, another is “finere” - “*nicer*” and a third one is “finest” - “*nicest*”.

Form	Root	Ending	Norwegian	English
Positive (basic form)	fin	-	fin	<i>nice</i>
Comparative	fin	-ere	finere	<i>nicer</i>
Superlative	fin	-est	finest	<i>nicest</i>

Some adjectives express the same forms by placing the words “mer” - “*more*” and “mest” - “*most*” in front of the adjectives: “elsket – mer elsket – mest elsket” - “*loved – more loved – most loved*”.

Form	Root	Word	Norwegian	English
Positive (basic form)	elsket	-	elsket	<i>loved</i>
Comparative	elsket	mer	elsket	<i>more loved</i>
Superlative	elsket	mest	elsket	<i>most loved</i>

## Comparison between two objects

When you compare two objects, A and B, and A is bigger than B, you can express the relationship by using “enn” - “*than*”:

A er finere **enn** B.

*A is nicer than B.*

## Adverbs

### General

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, verb phrases or sentences. They describe circumstances related to the action (how, when, where, to which degree). They report how likely it is that the action reported occurred, and they report the speaker's attitude to what is being said.

Manner:	Tor løper <b>fort</b> .	<i>Tor is running <b>quickly</b>.</i>
Time:	Tor løper <b>ofte</b> .	<i>Tor is running <b>often</b>.</i>
Place:	Tor løper <b>ute</b> .	<i>Tor is running <b>outdoors</b>.</i>
Degree:	Tor løper <b>svært</b> fort.	<i>Tor is running <b>very</b> quickly.</i>

Sentence adverbs are connected to the whole sentence. They express conditions related to the whole statement:

Jeg skal <b>ikke</b> lese i dag.	<i>I am <b>not</b> going to read today.</i>
Jeg skal <b>kanskje</b> lese i dag.	<i>I will <b>maybe</b> read today.</i>
Jeg må <b>dessverre</b> lese i dag.	<i><b>Unfortunately</b> I have to read today.</i>
Jeg vil <b>gjerne</b> lese i dag.	<i>I would <b>really like to</b> read today.</i>
Jeg skal <b>sannsynligvis</b> lese i dag.	<i>I will <b>probably</b> read today.</i>

### Adverbs – adverbial

Adverbs constitute a word class. When one is talking about the *function* of these words, one may say that they function as *adverbials*. Words belonging to other word classes may also function as adverbials, like “i skogen” - “*in the forest*” which is a prepositional phrase expressing where something occurs (in the forest > place)

Han bor <b>i skogen</b> .	<i>He is living <b>in the forest</b>.</i>
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### Modifying adjectives

Adverbs of degree are qualifying other adverbs, adjectives or quantifiers. These adverbs are placed in front of the word they modify:

Jeg er trøtt.	<i>I am <b>tired</b>.</i>
Jeg er <b>litt</b> trøtt.	<i>I am a <b>little</b> tired.</i>
Jeg er <b>ganske</b> trøtt.	<i>I am <b>quite</b> tired.</i>
Jeg er <b>veldig</b> trøtt.	<i>I am <b>very</b> tired.</i>
Jeg er <b>ekstremt</b> trøtt.	<i>I am <b>extremely</b> tired.</i>

## Adverbs - form

Most adverbs have one form only. Some, however, can be conjugated, cf. “fort” - “*quickly*” below.

Anne løper **fort**.

Anne løper **fortere** enn Tor.

Liv løper **fortest**.

*Anne is running quickly.*

*Anne is running **more quickly** than Tor.*

*Anne is running the **quickest**.*

## Pronouns

### General

Pronouns are words that can replace nouns, both common nouns and proper nouns. There are several kinds of pronouns:

- Personal pronouns
- Reflexive pronouns
- Reciprocal pronoun
- Indefinite pronouns
- Interrogative pronouns

The **personal pronouns** have subject and object forms.

Person	Category		Singular		Plural	
			Subject	Object	Subject	Object
1.			jeg	meg	vi	oss
2.	Informal		du	deg	dere	dere
	Formal		De	Dem	De	Dem
3.	Human	Masculine	han	ham	de	dem
		Feminine	hun	henne		
	Non-human	en nouns	den	den		
		ei nouns				
		et nouns	det	det		

The **reflexive pronouns** are equal to personal pronouns except for 3. person singular and plural where “seg” is used.

Person	Category		Singular		Plural	
			Subject	Refl.	Subject	Refl.
1.			jeg	meg	vi	oss
2.	Informal		du	deg	dere	dere
	Formal		De	Dem	De	Dem
3.	Human	Masculine	han	seg	de	seg
		Feminine	hun			
	Non-human	en nouns	den			
		ei nouns				
		et nouns	det			

The **reciprocal pronoun** is “hverandre” - “*each other*”

The **indefinite pronouns** are “en” - “*one*”, “man” - “*one*”.



The **interrogative pronouns** are “hvem” - “*who*” and “hva” - “*what*”. The most common question words are listed below.

Norwegian	English
hvem	<i>who</i>
hva	<i>what</i>
hvilken, hvilket, hvilke	<i>which (one)</i>
hva for en/ei/et	<i>which (one)</i>
hvordan	<i>how</i>
hvorfor	<i>why</i>
når	<i>when</i>
hvor	<i>where</i>
hvor + adjective/adverb/quantifier	<i>how + adjective/adverb/quantifier</i>

## Articles

Articles are words that indicate whether the noun is in indefinite or definite form. In Norwegian they also reflect the gender of the noun (masculine, feminine, neuter)

There are three different sets of articles:

- the indefinite articles (singular indefinite)
- the definite articles (singular and plural definite)
- the adjective's definite articles (singular and plural definite)

Article	Number	Gender	Norwegian	English
The indefinite article	Singular	masculine	<b>en</b> vegg	<b>a</b> wall
		feminine	<b>ei</b> dør	<b>a</b> door
		neuter	<b>et</b> hus	<b>a</b> house
The definite article	Singular	masculine	veggen	<b>the</b> wall
		feminine	døra	<b>the</b> door
		neuter	huset	<b>the</b> house
	Plural	masculine	veggene	<b>the</b> walls
		feminine	dørene	<b>the</b> doors
		neuter	husene	<b>the</b> houses
The adjective's definite article	Singular	masculine	<b>den</b> nye veggen	<b>the</b> new wall
		feminine	<b>den</b> nye døra	<b>the</b> new door
		neuter	<b>det</b> nye huset	<b>the</b> new house
	Plural	masc., fem., neut.	<b>de</b> nye bilene	<b>the</b> new cars

## Demonstratives

Demonstratives are words that direct your attention to certain objects. Some of the demonstratives agree in gender and number with the noun they are connected to, others don't.

### Denne, dette, disse - den, det, de

“Denne, dette, disse” - “*this, these*” indicate that the person, object or idea spoken about is close in time or space. “Den, det, de” - “*that, those*” indicate that the person, object or idea spoken about is distant in time or in space.

Number	Gender	Close		Far	
Singular	Masculine	denne	<i>this</i>	den	<i>that</i>
	Feminine			det	
	Neuter	dette			
Plural	m., f., n.,	disse	<i>these</i>	de	<i>those</i>

### Slik

“Slik” - “*such, this/that kind*” often refers to something which is mentioned or experiences earlier (an action, an object). “Slik” must be in agreement with the noun's gender and number:

Number	Singular			Plural
Gender	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	
Norwegian	slik		slikt	slike
English	<i>such</i>			

### Sånn

“Sånn” - “*such, this/that kind*” is a synonym of “slik”. “Sånn” often refers to something which is mentioned or experienced earlier (an action, an object). “Sånn” must be in agreement with the noun's gender and number:

Number	Singular			Plural
Gender	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	
Norwegian	sånn		sånt	såanne
English	<i>such</i>			

**Samme**

“Samme” - “*same*” is used to indicate something identical related to the context in question. “Samme” is not conjugated, it occurs in only one form.

Vi kom samme dag. *We arrived the same day.*

**Selv**

“Selv” - “*self*” is an indeclinable demonstrative which function is to emphasize nouns or pronouns. Its English counterparts are “self, myself, yourself” etc.

Jeg har gjort det selv. *I have done it myself.*

**Både ... og**

“Både ... og” - “*both ... and*” connects two or more units of any kind. “Både” is placed before the first part, and “og” before the second:

Jeg liker både kaffe og te. *I like both coffee and tea.*  
Jeg liker både kaffe, te og brus. No direct correspondance  
*\*(I like both coffee, tea and soda.)*

**Begge to**

“Begge to” - “*both of them*” refers to two persons or two concrete objects, that are countable items.

Har du sett Per og Kari? *Have you seen Per and Kari?*  
Ja, jeg møtte begge to i dag. *Yes, I met both of them today..*

**Begge deler**

“Begge deler” - “*both kinds*”. This expression is relating to uncountable objects (mass nouns), general concepts or actions.

Hva er best? Kaffe eller te? *What is the best? Coffee or tea?*  
I like both. *Jeg liker begge deler.*

## Determinatives

Determinatives give a more detailed description of nouns and noun phrases. They may

1. express who owns an object (possessives)
2. direct your attention towards an object (demonstratives)
3. inform about the amount of objects (quantifiers)
4. inform about the noun's gender (articles)

A number of determinatives inflect according to the noun's **gender** and **number**.

## Possessives

Norwegian possessives do not behave in a uniform way. The form of some possessives relates to the gender and number of the possessed item (1., 2., person singular, 3. person plural). The other possessives have only one form, which consequently is used for all genders and for singular and plural objects.

Owner		Object owned			
Number	Person	Singular			Plural
		Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	
Sing.	1. p.	min	mi	mitt	mine
	2. p.	din	di	ditt	dine
	3. p.	hans			
		hennes			
		dens			
		dets			
Plur.	1. p.	vår		vårt	våre
	2. p.	deres			
	3. p.	deres			

There is a particular set of possessive pronouns (so-called reflexive possessives) in Norwegian that is used when the subject of the sentence is in the third person (both singular and plural) and this subject possesses an item. The reflexive possessive pronouns are:

Owner	Object owned
-------	--------------

Number	Person	Singular			Plural
		Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	
<b>Sing.</b>	1. p.	min	mi	mitt	mine
	2. p.	din	di	ditt	dine
	3. p.	sin	si	sitt	sine
<b>Plur.</b>	1. p.	vår		vårt	våre
	2. p.	deres			
	3. p.	sin	si	sitt	sine

## Possessive expressions

There are several grammatical constructions used to denote possession in Norwegian. You will find the so-called “s-genitive”, the “sin-genitive”, as well as several prepositional expressions. There are two structures: “owner+ owned object” (cf. “*John’s brother*”) and “owned object + owner” (cf. “*the brother of John*”). As in English the noun which refers to the owned object is in indefinite form in the first case (“*Johns bror*”) and definite form in the second (“*broren til John*”).

Date er Johns bror.

Dette er John sin bror.

Dette er broren til John.

*This is John’s brother.*

*This is John’s brother.*

*This is the brother of John.*

## Quantifiers

## Cardinal Numbers

0 - 10		10 - 20		20 - 30		20 - 100	
0	null	10	ti	20	tjue	20	tjue
1	en	11	elleve	21	tjueen	30	tretti
2	to	12	tolv	22	tjueto	40	førti
3	tre	13	tretten	23	tjuetre	50	femti
4	fire	14	fjorten	24	tjuefire	60	seksti
5	fem	15	femten	25	tjuefem	70	sytti
6	seks	16	seksten	26	tjueseks	80	åtti
7	sju	17	syttten	27	tjuesju	90	nitti
8	åtte	18	atten	28	tjueåtte	100	hundre
9	ni	19	nitten	29	tjueni	1000	tusen
10	ti	20	tjue	30	tretti	1000000	million

## Ordinal Numbers

0 -10		11-20		21-31	
1	første	11	ellevte	21	tjueførste
2	andre	12	tolvte	22	tjueandre
3	tredje	13	trettende	23	tjuetredje
4	fjerde	14	fjortende	24	tjuefjerde
5	femte	15	femtende	25	tjuefemte
6	sjette	16	sekstende	26	tjuesjette
7	sjuende	17	syttende	27	tjuesjuende
8	åttende	18	attende	28	tjueåttende
9	niende	19	nittende	29	tjueniende
10	tiende	20	tjuende	30	trettiende
				31	trettiførste

## Old an new counting system

In the new system units of ten are mentioned before single units. In the old system it is opposite. As the new system has not replaced the old one yet, you will hear numbers expressed in both ways. In addition the word for 20 – “tjue”, and for 30 – “tretti” is replaced by “tyve” and “tredve”, respectively.

## Countable/uncountable amounts

There are different quantifiers for countable and uncountable amounts. Among these you can find.

## Countable amounts

Quantifier		Examples	
Norwegian	English	Norwegian	English
mange	<i>many</i>	Jeg har <b>mange</b> bøker	<i>I have many books</i>
noen	<i>some</i>	Jeg har <b>noen</b> bøker	<i>I have some books</i>
få	<i>few</i>	Jeg har <b>noen</b> bøker	<i>I have few books</i>
ingen	<i>no, none</i>	Jeg har <b>ingen</b> bøker	<i>I have no books</i>

## Uncountable amounts

Quantifier		Examples	
Norwegian	English	Expression	English
mye	<i>a lot of</i>	Jeg har <b>mye</b> sukker	<i>I have a lot of sugar</i>
noe	<i>some</i>	Jeg har <b>noe</b> sukker	<i>I have some sugar</i>
<b>litt</b>	<i>a little</i>	Jeg har <b>litt</b> sukker	<i>I have a little sugar</i>
ikke noe	<i>no, none</i>	Jeg har <b>ikke noe</b> sukker	<i>I have no sugar</i>

## Quantifiers with grammatical agreement

There are some quantifiers that have to agree in number and/or gender with the noun that it is connected to.

Singular			Plural	English
Masculine	Feminine	Neuter		
mang en	mang ei	mangt et	mange	<i>many a</i>
all		alt	alle	<i>all</i>
noen		noe	noen	<i>some</i>
ikke noen		ikke noe	ikke noen ingen	<i>no one</i>
ingen		intet		<i>no one</i>
enhver		ethvert		<i>each</i>
hver		hvert		<i>every</i>



## Prepositions

Prepositions are words that show the relation of a noun (or pronoun) to some other word in a sentence. They often form phrases that describe a relationship of time or space.

Below most of the Norwegian prepositions are listed with the most basic translation. Depending on the context in which the preposition is used, the translation to English will change.

av	<i>of</i>	gjennom	<i>through</i>
bak	<i>behind</i>	hos	<i>with, by (person)</i>
blant	<i>among</i>	i	<i>in</i>
etter	<i>after</i>	i løpet av	<i>during</i>
for	<i>for</i>	igjennom	<i>through</i>
før	<i>before</i>	imellom	<i>between</i>
for ... siden	<i>ago</i>	imot	<i>towards</i>
foran	<i>in front of</i>	innen	<i>within</i>
forbi	<i>past, by</i>	langs	<i>along</i>
fra	<i>from</i>	på grunn av	<i>because of</i>
mellom	<i>between</i>	på tross av	<i>in spite of</i>
mot	<i>towards</i>	rundt	<i>around</i>
nedenfor	<i>below</i>	siden	<i>since</i>
om	<i>about</i>	til	<i>to</i>
omkring	<i>around</i>	til tross for	<i>in spite of</i>
ovenfor	<i>above</i>	under	<i>under</i>
over	<i>over</i>	uten	<i>without</i>
overfor	<i>opposite</i>	ved	<i>by, at</i>
på	<i>on</i>	ved siden av	<i>besides</i>

## Conjunctions

Conjunctions connect words, phrases and sentences on the same syntactic level. Below is a list of Norwegian conjunctions.

Norwegian	English	Norwegian	English
og	<i>and</i>	både ... og	<i>both ... and</i>
men	<i>but</i>	enten ... eller	<i>either ... or</i>
eller	<i>or</i>	verken ... eller	<i>neither ... nor</i>
for	<i>because</i>		
så	<i>so, consequently</i>		

As a general rule one can say that conjunctions require identical structures on each side:

*pronoun and pronoun*  
*noun and noun*  
*pronoun and noun*  
*adjective and adjective*  
*sentence and sentence*

du **og** jeg  
 Tor **og** broren hans  
 du **og** broren din  
 rød **og** blå  
 Jeg kom, **og** de gikk

*you and I*  
*Tor and his brother*  
*you and your brother*  
*red and blue*  
*I came, and they went*

## Subjunctions

### General

Subjunctions are introducing subordinate clauses. As described in the chapter dealing with *Sentences*, there are two different sentence structures in Norwegian, one for main clauses and one for subordinate clauses. The main differences are:

- Subordinate clauses **are introduced by** subjunctions
- Subordinate clauses have an **invariable** word order
- Subordinate clauses have the sentence adverbial placed **in front of** the finite verb

The use of a subordinate clause is a signal that the subordinate sentence structure must be used.

Subjunctions may be divided into three classes depending on the function of the subordinate clause in the main clause: Nominal, adverbial, adjectival.

### Nominal function

at	<i>that</i>	Han sa <b>at</b> bussen stopper her. <i>He said <b>that</b> the bus will stop here.</i>
om	<i>whether, if</i>	Hun spurte <b>om</b> de ville komme til oss. <i>She asked <b>if</b> they would come to us.</i>

### Adverbial function

#### Time

da	<i>when</i>	Da de kom, gikk jeg. <i>When they arrived, I left.</i>
når	<i>when</i>	De kommer når de har tid. <i>The will come when they have time.</i>
mens	<i>while</i>	De kom mens jeg var der. <i>They came while I was there.</i>
idet	<i>as</i>	De kom idet jeg gikk. <i>They came as I left.</i>
etter at	<i>after</i>	De kom etter at jeg hadde gått. <i>They came after I had left.</i>
før	<i>before</i>	De kom før det ble mørkt. <i>They came before it got dark.</i>
innen	<i>within, before</i>	Kom innen klokka 2. <i>Come before 2 o'clock.</i>

## Condition

hvis	<i>if</i>	De kommer hvis de har tid. <i>They will come if they have time.</i>
dersom	<i>if</i>	De kommer dersom de har tid. <i>They will come if they have time.</i>

## Reason

fordi	<i>because</i>	Hun gråt fordi hun var sulten. <i>She was crying because she was hungry.</i>
siden	<i>since, as</i>	Siden det er mørkt, tar vi taxi. <i>Since it is dark, we will take a taxi.</i>

## Admission, contradiction

selv om	<i>even though</i>	De kom selv om det regnet. <i>They came even though it was raining.</i>
enda	<i>even though</i>	De kom enda det regnet. <i>They came even though it was raining.</i>
til tross for at	<i>in spite of</i>	De kom til tross for at det regnet. <i>They came in spite of it was raining.</i>

## Purpose

for at	<i>in order to</i>	Jeg gjorde det for at du skulle bli glad. <i>I did it in order to make you happy.</i>
så	<i>so that</i>	Jeg kastet den så du skulle bli fornøyd. <i>I got rid of it so that you should be pleased.</i>

## Consequence

slik at	<i>so that</i>	Jeg sier det tydelig slik at du skal forstå. <i>I will say it clearly so that you will understand.</i>
så	<i>so</i>	Ta en kopp kaffe så du våkner. <i>Have a cup of coffee so you wake up.</i>

## Comparison

slik som	<i>as</i>	Jeg skal gjøre det slik som hun gjorde det. <i>I will do it as she did it.</i>
som om	<i>as if</i>	Han gikk som om han var full. <i>He walked as if he was drunk.</i>
jo ... dess	<i>the ... the</i>	Jo mer jeg studerer, dess flinkere blir jeg. <i>The more I study, the better I get.</i>

**Adjectival function**

som	<i>who</i>	Det var jeg som gjorde det. <i>It was I who did it.</i>
	<i>whom</i>	Jeg møtte mannen som vi så forrige uke. <i>I met the man whom we saw last week.</i>
	<i>which</i>	Frukten, som var norsk, var dårlig. <i>The fruit, which was Norwegian, was bad.</i>
	<i>that</i>	Frukten som var norsk, var dårlig. <i>The fruit that was Norwegian, was bad.</i>

## Interjections

### General

Interjections are emotional expressions of feelings, motions, sensations and so on. Interjections can be divided into two groups, those that are taboo words and those that are not.

### Interjections used for answers

#### Ja

“Ja” is an affirmative answer to a positive question

Har du en bror?	<i>Do you have a brother?</i>
Ja, det har jeg.	<i>Yes, I have.</i>

#### Jo

“Jo” is an affirmative answer to a negative question

Har du ikke en bror?	<i>Don't you have a brother?</i>
Jo, det har jeg.	<i>Yes, I have.</i>

#### Nei

“Nei” is a negative answer to a question

Har du en bror?	<i>Do you have a brother?</i>
Nei.	<i>No, I don't.</i>

Har du ikke en bror?	<i>Don't you have a brother?</i>
Nei.	<i>No, I don't.</i>

### Greetings

These words are common when you meet someone:

Hei!	<i>Hi!</i>
Morn!	<i>Good morning!</i>
God dag!	<i>Hello!</i>
Hallo!	<i>Hello!</i>

## Sentences

There are two kinds of sentences in Norwegian, main clauses and subordinate clauses. These two clause types have different properties. Main clauses have a loose word order as any part of speech can be placed in front of the sentence. However, the finite verb (V) must occur as the second part (2). This rule is labelled the “V2 rule”. The sentence adverbials are in general placed after the verb. Subordinate clauses, however, have a fixed word order as the part of speech cannot move around.

	Word order	V2	Placement of sentence adverbial
Main clause	Loose	Yes	<i>After</i> the finite verb
Subordinate clause	Fixed	No	<i>Before</i> the finite verb

### Main clause

The basic word order in main clauses is SVO: **S**ubject + **V**erb + **O**bject (below as subscript <sub>SVO</sub>)

Jeg<sub>S</sub> lånte<sub>V</sub> boka<sub>O</sub>                      *I<sub>S</sub> borrowed<sub>V</sub> the book<sub>O</sub>*

Adverbials of *time*, *place*, *manner* are normally placed in the end:

Jeg<sub>S</sub> lånte<sub>V</sub> boka<sub>O</sub> i går<sub>A</sub>                      *I<sub>S</sub> borrowed<sub>V</sub> the book<sub>O</sub> yesterday<sub>A</sub>*

However, the adverbials in the end of the sentence can be moved to the front of the sentence as in English:

*Yesterday<sub>A</sub> I<sub>S</sub> borrowed<sub>V</sub> the book<sub>O</sub>*

In cases like these the V2-rule is active. This rule says that in a Norwegian main clause the verb always is occupying the second place as in

I går<sub>A</sub> lånte<sub>V</sub> jeg<sub>S</sub> boka<sub>O</sub>                      *Yesterday<sub>A</sub> I<sub>S</sub> borrowed<sub>V</sub> the book<sub>O</sub>*

In principle any sentence element may be moved to the front of the sentence (loose word order) as long as the verb is occupying the second place (V2 rule).

There are two verb forms: *Finite*, which indicates tempus (imperative, present tense, past tense) and *infinite*, which do not indicate tempus (infinitive, past participle, gerund). It is the finite verb that is occupying the second place of the sentence.

Negation words (“ikke” – “*not*” and so on) are in general placed just behind the finite verbs.

The word order of Norwegian main clauses may be presented in this somewhat simplified pattern:

Open	Finite verb	Subject	Sentence adverbial (negation)	Infinite verb	Objects	Adverbials
Any part	Present/ Past tense	(If not in initial position)		Infinitive Participles	Direct Indirect	Time Place Manner

Because of this a Norwegian main clause can appear in different forms:

Open	Finite verb	Subject	Sentence adverbial (negation)	Infinite verb	Objects	Adverbials
Han	vil	-	ikke	møte	deg	i byen nå.
Nå	vil	han	ikke	møte	deg	i byen.
-	Vil	han	ikke	møte	deg	i byen nå?

1. Han **vil** ikke møte deg i byen nå. *He **will** not meet you in town now.*
2. Nå **vil** han ikke møte deg i byen. *Now he **will** not meet you in town.*
3. **Vil** han ikke møte deg i byen i dag. *Will he not meet you in town now?*

Here you can observe that in Norwegian the finite verb occurs in second position (sentence 1, 2), while in English it may occur on second place (1) or third place (2). In yes/no questions (3) the first place is empty so the verb is still in the second place.

Even though the sentences may appear as complex, the structure is strictly governed by the V2 rule.

## Subordinate clause

In subordinate clauses the word order is fixed as the front field is occupied by the subjunction. Subordinate clauses are introduced by subjunctions like “at, som, hvis” - “*that, who, if*” and so on.

Subjunction	Subject	Sentence adverbial (negation)	Finite verb	Infinite verb	Objects	Adverbials
			Present/ Past tense	Infinitive Participles	Direct Indirect	Time Place Manner

Observe that the sentence adverbial (negation for instance) is placed in front of the finite verb in subordinate clauses. (In main clauses it is placed behind).



The difference between the structure of a main clause and a subordinate clause can be illustrated the following way:

Main clause: Han<sub>S</sub> kan<sub>V</sub> ikke kjøpe mat<sub>O</sub> i dag<sub>A</sub>  
*He cannot buy food today*

Subordinate clause: (Tor sier) at han<sub>S</sub> ikke kan<sub>V</sub> kjøpe mat<sub>O</sub> i dag<sub>A</sub>  
*(Tor says) that he cannot buy food today*

Below the sentences are fitted into the two different structures:

**Main clause:** Han kan ikke kjøpe mat I dag

Open	Finite verb	Subject	Negation (sentence adverbial)	Infinite verb	Objects	Adverbials
Han	kan	-	ikke	kjøpe	mat	i dag

**Subordinate clause:** (Tor sier) at han ikke kan kjøpe mat I dag.

Subjunction	Subject	Negation (sentence adverbial)	Finite verb	Infinite verb	Objects	Adverbials
at	han	ikke	kan	kjøpe	mat	i dag