

A quick reference guide to essential Norwegian grammar, vocabulary, and phrases, designed to help you get started with the language.



Basic Grammar

Nouns (Substantiv)

Verbs	(Verb)

Gender	Norwegian nouns have three genders: masculine (maskulin), feminine (feminin), and neuter (intetkjønn). In Bokmål, masculine and feminine genders are often merged into a common gender (felleskjønn).
Articles	Definite articles are suffixes attached to the noun (e.g., huset - the house). Indefinite articles precede the noun (e.g., et hus - a house).
Singular Definite	Masculine: -en (e.g., bilen - the car) Feminine: -a (e.g., boka - the book, Bokmål can use -en) Neuter: -et (e.g., huset - the house)
Singular Indefinite	Masculine: en (e.g., en bil - a car) Feminine: ei/en (e.g., ei bok - a book, en bok also correct in Bokmål) Neuter: et (e.g., et hus - a house)
Plural Definite	<pre>-ene (e.g., bilene - the cars, bøkene - the books, husene - the houses)</pre>
Plural Indefinite	Usually -er or -r (e.g., biler - cars, bøker - books, hus - houses)

Infinitive	Verbs in the infinitive form usually start with å (to) (e.g., å snakke - to speak).
Present Tense	Often formed by adding -r to the infinitive stem (e.g., snakker - speaks, is speaking).
Past Tense	Regular verbs often add <u>-et</u> , - te, -de to the stem (e.g., snakket - spoke).
Future Tense	skal + infinitive (e.g., Jeg skal snakke - I will speak).
Perfect Tense	har + past participle (e.g., Jeg har snakket - I have spoken).
Passive Voice	Often formed by adding -s (e.g., snakkes - is spoken).

Adjectives (Adjektiv)

Agreement	Adjectives must agree in gender and number with the noun they modify.
Masculine/Feminine Singular	Basic form (e.g., en stor bil - a big car, ei stor bok - a big book).
Neuter Singular	Add -t (e.g., et stort hus - a big house).
Plural	Add -e (e.g., store biler - big cars).
Definite Form	Add -e (e.g., den store bilen - the big car).

Essential Phrases

Greetings and Introductions

Hello	Hallo
Good morning	God morgen
Good day/Good afternoon	God dag
Good evening	God kveld
Good night	God natt
Goodbye	Ha det (short), Farvel (formal)
My name is	Jeg heter
What is your name?	Hva heter du?

Basic Communication

Yes	Ja	How
No	Nei	l'm fi
Please	Vær så snill	
Thank you	Takk	Whe
You're welcome	Værsågod	How
Excuse me	Unnskyld	What
l don't understand	Jeg forstår ikke	
Do you speak English?	Snakker du engelsk?	Can

Essential Questions

How are you?	Hvordan har du det?
l'm fine, thank you	Jeg har det bra, takk
Where is?	Hvor er?
How much does it cost?	Hvor mye koster det?
What time is it?	Hvor mye er klokken?
Can you help me?	Kan du hjelpe meg?

Vocabulary

Basic Words

Mann

Barn

Hus

Bil

Mat

Vann

Dag

Natt

Kvinne

Man

Woman

Child

House

Car

Food

Water

Day

Night

Common Verbs

To be	Å være
To have	Å ha
To do	Å gjøre
To say	A si
To go	Å gå
To know	Å vite / Å kjenne
To think	Å tenke
To see	A se
To come	Å komme

Numbers

One	En/Ett
Two	То
Three	Tre
Four	Fire
Five	Fem
Six	Seks
Seven	Sju/Syv
Eight	Åtte
Nine	Ni
Ten	Ti

Pronunciation Guide

Vowels

Consonants

a e	Similar to 'a' in 'father'. Similar to 'e' in 'bed'.	kj and skj	Pronounced like the 'sh' in 'ship'.	St
i	Similar to 'ee' in 'see'.	rs	Often pronounced as a single sound,	
0	Similar to 'o' in 'note'.		similar to a retroflex 's'.	
u	Similar to 'oo' in 'moon'.	rd,	Retroflex consonants, where the	
У	Similar to the French 'u' or German 'ü'.	r1, tongue curls back slightly. rn, rt	tongue curls back slightly.	
æ	Similar to 'a' in 'cat'.			
Ø	Similar to the German 'ö'.	g	Hard 'g' as in 'go' before (a), (0), (u).	
å	Similar to 'aw' in 'paw'.		Soft 'g' as in 'yes' before (i), (y), (ei), (øy) and at the end of words.	

Stress

Stress is usually on the first syllable of a word.