

Norwegian on the Web



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Norwegian speech sounds compared to **Greek**

Greek and Norwegian speech sounds compared

Below you will find a comparison between Norwegian (NO) and Greek (GR) speech sounds, that is consonants, vowels and diphthongs.

Consonants

The column **Consonant** in the table below demonstrates Norwegian consonant sounds of Central East Norwegian. Column 2 and 3 show words of Norwegian (NO) and Greek (GR) that sound similar or quite similar. The words may have different meanings. In these words the consonants in question are used. The degree of similarity is indicated by +, ~ or – in the column **Overlap**:

- + The Norwegian consonant is **quite similar** to the Greek one
- ~ The Norwegian consonant is **to a certain extent similar** to the Greek one
- The Norwegian consonant has **no counterpart** in Greek

Greek consonants of the two first categories may be used when speaking Norwegian. Use of the second category implies stronger degree of foreign accent.

Consonant	Norwegian	Greek	Overlap	Comments
/p/	πεννα	penna	+	Unaspirated in GR
/b/	μπεξ	beige	+	
/t/	τε	te	+	Unaspirated in GR
/d/	ντε	det	+	
/t̥/	–	smart	–	
/d̥/	–	ferdig	–	
/k/	καν	kan	+	Unaspirated in GR
/g/	γα	ga	+	
/m/	μη	mi	+	
/n/	νη	ni	+	
/ŋ/	–	barna	–	
/ŋj/	ταγκο	tango	+	
/f/	φιν	finn	+	
/v/	βατ	vatt	+	
/s/	σαν	sann	+	
/ʃ/	–	ski	–	
/ç/	–	kjapp	–	
/j/	γη	gi	+	
/h/	–	ha	–	< X > → [x], [h]
/r/	ρεν	renn	+	
/l/	λα	la	+	
/l̥/	–	jarl	–	

Below you will find the same data in a shorter version using colour codes:

- White: The Norwegian consonant is quite close to the Greek one
- Grey: The Norwegian consonant overlaps to some degree with the Greek one
- Black: The Norwegian consonant has no counterpart in Greek

p	b	t	d	t̥	d̥	k	g	l	l̥	r
m	n	ŋ	ŋ	f	v	s	ʃ	ç	j	h

The speech sounds in black and grey cells are sounds that Greek-speaking students should practice more in order to obtain a proper pronunciation of Norwegian.

Vowels

The column **Vowel** in the table below demonstrates Norwegian vowel sounds of Central East Norwegian. Column 2 and 3 show words of Norwegian (NO) and Greek (GR) that sound similar or quite similar. The words may have different meanings. In these words the vowels in question are used. The degree of similarity is indicated by +, ~ or – in the column **Overlap**:

- + The Norwegian vowel is **quite similar** to the Greek one
- ~ The Norwegian vowel is **to a certain extent similar** to the Greek one
- The Norwegian vowel has **no counterpart** in Greek

Greek vowel of the two first categories may be used when speaking Norwegian. Use of the second category implies stronger degree of foreign accent.

Vowel	Norwegian	Greek	Overlap	Comments
/i/	inn	ιν	+	
/i:/	sin	–	–	
/y/	synd	–	–	
/y:/	syn	–	–	
/e/	enn	εν	+	
/e:/	lese	–	–	
/ø/	søtt	–	–	
/ø:/	møt	–	–	
/æ/	vært	–	~	NO /æ/: mer fremre enn GR /a/
/æ:/	lær	–	–	
/a/	am	αμ	~	NO /a/: mer fremre enn GR /a/
/a:/	spa	–	–	
/ʌ/	full	–	–	
/ʌ:/	tur	–	–	
/u/	ost	ουστ	+	
/u:/	bod	–	–	
/o/	ånd	ον	+	
/o:/	lån	–	–	

In general the duration of Greek vowels can be compared to short vowels in Norwegian.

The table above is presented below in a shorter version using colour codes:

- White: The Norwegian vowel is quite close to the Greek one
- Grey: The Norwegian vowel overlaps to some degree with the Greek one
- Black: The Norwegian vowel has no counterpart in Greek

i	e	æ	ɑ	y	ʌ	ø	u	o
i:	e:	æ:	ɑ:	y:	ʌ:	ø:	u:	o:

The sounds in black and grey cells are speech sounds that Greek-speaking students should practice more in order to obtain a proper pronunciation of Norwegian. Observe that /æ/ and /a/ are two different sounds in Norwegian. The Greek /a/ is somewhere in between, maybe a little closer to Norwegian /a/.

Diphthongs

The column **Diphthong** in the table below demonstrates Norwegian diphthongs of Central East Norwegian. Column 2 and 3 show words of Norwegian (NO) and Greek (GR) that sound similar or quite similar. The words may have different meanings. In these words the diphthongs in question are used. The degree of similarity is indicated by +, ~ or – in the column **Overlap**:

- + The Norwegian diphthong is *quite similar* to the Greek one
- ~ The Norwegian diphthong is *to a certain extent similar* to the Greek one
- The Norwegian diphthong has *no counterpart* in Greek

Greek diphthongs of the two first categories may be used when speaking Norwegian. Use of the second category implies stronger degree of foreign accent.

Diphthong	Norwegian	Greek	Overlap	Comments
/ai/	hai	αιδονι	~	
/æi/	hei	–	+	
/øɣ/	høy	–	-	
/æu/	sau	–	~	
/oy/	soya	ροιδι	~	
/uy/	hoie	–	~	Rare in NO
/ɥy/	huie	–	-	Rare in NO

The table above is presented below in a shorter version using colour codes:

- White: The Norwegian diphthong is quite close to the Greek one
- Grey: The Norwegian diphthong overlaps to some degree with the Greek one
- Black: The Norwegian diphthong has no counterpart in Greek

/ai/	/æi/	/øɣ/	/æu/	/oy/	/uy/	/ɥy/
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The sounds in black and grey cells are speech sounds that Greek-speaking students should practice more in order to obtain a proper pronunciation of Norwegian.