

# Norwegian on the Web



Olaf Husby – Crina Leon

**Norwegian** speech sounds compared to **Romanian**

## Romanian and Norwegian speech sounds compared

Below you will find a comparison between Norwegian (NO) and Romanian (ROM) 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 Romanian (ROM) 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 Romanian one
- ~ The Norwegian consonant is **to a certain extent similar** to the Romanian one
- The Norwegian consonant has **no counterpart** in Romanian

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

Consonant	Norwegian	Romanian	Overlap	Comments
/p/	pass	pas	~	Unaspirated in ROM
/b/	banan	banan	+	
/t/	test	test	~	Unaspirated in ROM
/d/	da	da	+	
/t̥/			–	
/d̥/			–	
/k/	kald	cal	~	Unaspirated in ROM
/g/	golf	golf	+	
/m/	minne	mină	+	
/n/	når	nor	+	
/ŋ/			–	
/ŋj/	bank	banc	+	Only before /k/, /g/ in ROM
/f/	fokk	foc	+	
/v/	vinn	vin	+	
/s/	sekk	sec	+	
/ʃ/	sjanse	șansă	+	
/ç/	-	-	–	
/j/	ja	ia	+	
/h/	hall	hal	+	
/r/	rabatt	rabat	+	
/l/	fell	fel	+	
/l̥/			–	

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

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

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

The speech sounds in black and grey cells are sounds that Romanian-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 Romanian (ROM) 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 Romanian one
- ~ The Norwegian vowel is **to a certain extent similar** to the Romanian one
- The Norwegian vowel has **no counterpart** in Romanian

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

Vowel	Norwegian	Romanian	Overlap	Comments
/i/	viss	vis	~	ROM /i/ is longer than NO /i/
/i:/	vin	vin	~	ROM /i/ is shorter than NO /i:/
/y/			–	
/y:/			–	
/e/	fell	fel	~	ROM /e/ is longer than NO /e/
/e:/	se	se	~	ROM /e/ is shorter than NO /e:/
/ø/	løss	loess	~	In a few loanwords only. ROM /ø/ is longer than NO /ø/
/ø:/	blø	bleu	~	In a few loanwords only. ROM /ø/ is shorter than NO /ø:/
/æ/			–	
/æ:/			–	
/a/	land	lan	~	ROM /a/ is between NO /a/ and /æ/ ROM /a/ is longer than NO /a/
/a:/	la	la	~	ROM /a/ is between NO /a/ and /æ/ ROM /a/ is shorter than NO /a:/
/ʌ/			–	
/ʌ:/			–	
/u/	ond	un	~	ROM /u/ is longer than NO /u/
/u:/	to	tu	~	ROM /u/ is shorter than NO /u:/
/o/	kost	cost	~	ROM /o/ is longer than NO /o/
/o:/	år	or	~	ROM /o/ is shorter than NO /o:/

ROM vowels are in general longer than short NO vowels, and shorter than long NO vowels. The Romanian letter < ă > represents [ə], so-called “slapp e” – (“lax e”) in Norwegian, cf. ROM “mină” – NO “minne”.

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

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

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

## 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 Romanian (ROM) 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 Romanian one
- ~ The Norwegian diphthong is **to a certain extent similar** to the Romanian one
- The Norwegian diphthong has **no counterpart** in Romanian

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

Diphthong	Norwegian	Romanian	Overlap	Comments
/ɑi/	hai	hai	~	ROM /a/ is between NO /ɑ/ and /æ/
/æi/	lei	lei	~	ROM /ei/, Norwegian /æi/
/øy/	-	-	–	
/æu/	-	-	–	
/oy/	boikott	boicot	+	NO /o/ is somewhat shorter than the ROM
/uy/	oi	ui	+	Rare in NO
/ɥy/	-	-	–	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 Romanian one
- Grey: The Norwegian diphthong overlaps to some degree with the Romanian one
- Black: The Norwegian diphthong has no counterpart in Romanian

/ɑi/	/ei/	/øy/	/æu/	/oy/	/uy/	/ɥy/
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The sounds in black and grey cells are speech sounds that Romanian-speaking students should practice more in order to obtain a proper pronunciation of Norwegian.