

Learn Norwegian on the Web



Text book grammar

Collected texts from LearnNoW Chapters 1-12

Olaf Husby, Åsta Øvregaard,
Kjell Heggvold Ullestad, Dominique Heyler

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NOUNS

Chapter 2

Genders

Norwegian nouns have three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter.

Masculine:	en gutt	a boy
Feminine:	ei jente	a girl
Neuter:	et fly	an airplane

(Feminine nouns can have the article **en** instead of **ei**: **ei/en** jente)

Generally we use the article **en/ei/et** when the noun is in the indefinite form, singular.

Leaving out en/ei/et

In some expressions the indefinite article **en/ei/et** is left out:

Alex reiser med **fly**. Alex travels by plane.

The article is not used when we define characteristics of a person (i.e. professions and nationalities):

Jeg er **student**. I am a student.

Chapter 3

Definite form

In *Chapter 2* we presented the indefinite articles **en**, **ei** and **et** which indicate the gender of the noun (cf. **a/an**). In Norwegian, there is no article in front of the noun in the definite form. Instead a suffix is added. Masculine words get **-en**, feminine words get **-a** and neuter words get **-et**.

en stol	a chair	→	stolen	the chair
ei dør	a door	→	døra	the door
et bord	a table	→	bordet	the table

If the noun already ends with an **-e**, you just add the **-n** or the **-t** at the end of masculine and neuter words. When adding **-a** at the end of feminine words ending in **-e**, you drop the **-e**:

en familie	a family	→	familien	the family
ei stue	a living room	→	stua	the living room
et hjørne	a corner	→	hjørnet	the corner

Plural forms

The plural of indefinite nouns is normally formed by adding **-(e)r**. If the singular indefinite form ends in **-e**, you only add **-r**:

en stol	a chair	→	(to) stoler	chair
ei dør	a door	→	(to) dører	doors
et hjørne	a corner	→	(to) hjørner	corners

Short (one syllable) neuter words take no ending in the indefinite form plural:

et hus	a house	→	(to) hus	houses
et rom	a room	→	(to) rom	rooms

In the definite form of the plural, the ending is usually **-(e)ne**:

stoler	chairs	→	stolene	the chairs
dører	doors	→	dørene	the doors
hjørner	corners	→	hjørnene	the corners

Some irregular plural forms

et barn	a child	barnet	barn	barna
ei bok	a book	boka	bøker	bøkene
en bror	a brother	broren	brødre	brødrene
ei søster	a sister	søstera	søstre	søstrene
en far	a father	faren	fedre	fedrene
ei mor	a mother	mora	mødre	mødrene
en mann	a man	mannen	menn	mennene

Genitive

To indicate who or what owns something you can:

1) add an **-s** to the owner: **Dinas** rom (without apostrophe)

or

2) use the preposition **til**. Rommet **til Dina**.

Note that what is owned is in the indefinite form in sentence 1 and in the definite form in sentence 2.

Chapter 7

Masculine nouns with special plural forms

In *Chapter 3* we learnt that the indefinite and the definite plural form of the masculine nouns normally is formed by adding **-(e)r** and **-(e)ne**: **biler** (cars) and **bilene** (the cars).

Some masculines however do not follow the normal rule:

1. Nouns ending in **-er**, mostly denoting persons, have the plural forms **-e** and **-ne**:

en lærer	læreren	lærere	lærerne
a teacher	the teacher	teachers	the teachers

2. When the noun ends in **-el**, one **-e** is dropped when adding **-er** and **-ene**. The double consonant is reduced to one:

en nøkkel	nøkkelen	nøkler	nøklene
a key	the key	keys	the keys

Chapter 9

Compound nouns

Sometimes, two or more nouns are needed to give a precise description of an object. In such cases, the nouns are written as **one word** in Norwegian. The last part of the compound noun tells you what kind of thing it is, while the first part gives more precise information:

et møte + et rom = et møterom (a meeting room, a room for meetings)

et prosjekt + en leder = en prosjektleder (a project leader, a leader of a project)

The last part of the compound noun defines its gender and inflection:

ei stue + et bord = et stuebord – mange stuebord (**bord** is a short neuter)
(a living room table – many living room tables)

In some compound nouns an -s- or an -e- is used to combine the words:

en tid + en frist = en tidsfrist (a deadline)

et barn + en hage = en barnehage (a kindergarten)

VERBS

Chapter 2

The infinitive

The infinitive marker is **å** (to). The infinitive marker is generally used when the verb is in the infinitive:

Hyggelig **å hilse** på deg. Nice to meet you.

Verbs in the present tense

You add -r to the infinitive to form the present tense:

<i>Infinitive</i>			<i>Present tense</i>
å komme	to come	→	kommer
å sitte	to sit	→	sitter

It does not matter who is carrying out the verb. You add **-r** to the infinitive form of the verb after all pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, you and they:

Jeg **kommer** fra England. I come from England.

Hun **kommer** fra Italia. She comes from Italy.

Vi **kommer** fra Norge. We come from Norway.

Note that some verbs have irregular present tense forms:

å være to be → **er**

å gjøre to do → **gjør**

Stå/sitte/ligge + present tense

Norwegian does not have a present continuous form like English. However, we often use the verbs **stå** (stand), **sitte** (sit) or **ligge** (lie) + **the present tense** to express an ongoing action:

Benjamin **står og venter**. Benjamin is waiting.

Alex **sitter og snakker** med ei dame. Alex is talking to (with) a woman.

The position, in which the subject is when performing the action, decides whether you should use **stå**, **sitte** or **ligge**.

Chapter 3

Auxiliary verbs + infinitive

The auxiliary verbs

skal will, am/are/is going to

vil want to/will

kan can, be able to

må have to, must

bør ought to/should

are followed by the infinitive.

The infinitive marker **å** is not used after auxiliary verbs:

Dina **skal gå** på skolen.

Mormor **vil ha** besøk.

Snart **kan** vennene **se** Dinas rom.

Han **må finne** en venn.

Skal + infinitive is often used to express future time:

Hva **skal** vi **gjøre** i dag?

Vi **skal være** hjemme.

Chapter 4

Imperative form

The imperative form of the verb is made by removing the infinitive **-e**:

å kjøpe to buy → **Kjøp!** Buy!

å stoppe to stop → **Stopp!** Stop!

Verbs that end in **-mme** have only **one -m** in the imperative:

å komme to come → **Kom!** Come!

When the infinitive form is short (consists of only one syllable) the infinitive and the imperative forms are the same:

å se to see → **Se!** See!

å gå to walk → **Gå!** Go/Walk!

Chapter 6

Infinitive

In *Chapter 2* we learnt about the infinitive marker **å**:

Hyggelig **å hilse** på deg. Nice to meet you.

Dina begynner **å bli** trøtt. Dina is beginning to get tired.

In addition, some expressions with prepositions are followed by **å + infinitive**:

for å in order to Dina går til disken **for å bestille**.

å ha lyst til want/would like to Dina **har lyst til å kjøpe** klær.

Auxiliary verbs without main verb (expressions of motion)

The infinitive marker **å** is not used after auxiliary verbs (see *Chapter 3*).

When an auxiliary verb is followed by an expression of motion, the main verb can be left out. It is common to do so when the main verb is **gå** (walk), **dra** (go) or **reise** (travel):

Hun **skal reise** til Paris → Hun **skal** til Paris. She is going to Paris.

Nå **må** de **gå** tilbake. → Nå **må** de tilbake. Now, they must go back.

Chapter 7

Past tense (preterite)

We use past tense when we want to describe something that has already happened at a certain time in the past (e.g. **i går** - yesterday):

Hun **kjøpte** ei jakke **i går**. She bought a jacket yesterday.

Regular verbs, group 1-4

The regular verbs are divided into four groups.

Group 1

The verbs add the ending **-et**. In this group you will find most verbs with two consonants in front of the infinitive **-e** and some verbs with **t**, **g**, and **d**:

Infinitive: **å snakke** speak/talk **å vente** wait **å lage** make

Past tense: **snakket** **ventet** **laget**

Group 2

The verbs add the ending **-te**. Most verbs with one consonant belong in this group:

Infinitive: **å kjøpe** buy **å spise** eat

Past tense: **kjøpte** **spiste**

Notice that there are also some verbs with a double consonant in group 2:

Infinitive: **å begynne** begin

Past tense: **begynte**

Group 3

The verbs add the ending **-de**. Verbs with **v** and **ei** belong in this group:

Infinitive: å prøve try å greie manage å leie rent

Past tense: **prøvde greide leide**

Group 4

The verbs add the ending **-dde**. Verbs without -e in the infinitive belong in group 4:

Infinitive: å bo live å bety mean, signify

Past tense: **bodde betydde**

Irregular verbs

The irregular verbs have other forms. In most cases they change vowel in the past tense:

Infinitive: å dra go/travel å drikke drink å finne find

Past tense: **dro drakk fant**

Some other irregular verbs in chapter 7:

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Past tense</i>
å bli	become	ble
å gå	walk	gikk
å ha	have	hadde
å komme	come	kom
å se	see	så
å si	say	sa
å sitte	sit	satt
å skrive	write	skrev
å slå på	turn on	slo
å ta	take	tok
å treffe	meet	traff
å være	be	var

For more irregular verbs, see *Chapter 8*.

Chapter 8

Present perfect

The present perfect (cf. has bought) is formed with the verb **å ha** (to have) and the past participle of the main verb: **har + kjøpt = har kjøpt**.

We use the present perfect when:

1. We are focused on the consequences of a past event and not on the time when it happened:

Jens **har vært** hjemme hos Alex. Jens has been at Alex' house.
(Consequence: He knows Alex' family.)

2. Something started in the past and is still going on:

Ben **har vært** i Fjordvik i tre måneder. Ben has been in Fjordvik for three months.
(He is still living there.)

3. We have a specification of time which includes the present, e.g. **i dag** (today), **i år** (this year), **alltid** (always), **aldri** (never):

Hva **har** du **gjort** i dag? What have you been doing today?

Word order

When the sentence does not start with the subject, the **subject** is placed between the verbs:

Hva **har** du gjort i dag? What have you done today?

I dag **har** Jens vært hos Alex. Today, Jens has been at Alex' house.

Adverbs like **ikke** (not) and **også** (also) are always placed between the verbs in the present perfect:

Hun har **ikke** gjort leksene i dag. She has not done her homework today.

I dag har hun **ikke** gjort leksene. Today, she has not done her homework.

Regular verbs, group 1- 4

Below is the conjugation of regular verbs in the present perfect according to the four classes presented in *Chapter 7*.

Group 1

The verbs add the ending **-et**:

Infinitive: å snakke speak/talk å vente wait å lage make

Past tense: snakket ventet laget

Present perfect: **har snakket har ventet har laget**

Group 2

The verbs add the ending **-t**:

Infinitive: å kjøpe buy å spise eat å begynne begin

Past tense: kjøpte spiste begynte

Present perfect: **har kjøpt har spist har begynt**

Group 3

The verbs add the ending **-d**:

Infinitive: å prøve try å greie manage å leie rent

Past tense: prøvde greide leide

Present perfect: **har prøvd har greid har leid**

Group 4

The verbs add the ending **-dd**:

Infinitive: å bo live å bety mean, signify

Past tense: bodde betydde

Present perfect: **har bodd har betydd**

Irregular verbs

The irregular verbs have other forms:

Infinitive: å dra go/travel å drikke drink å finne find

<i>Past tense:</i>	dro	drakk	fant
<i>Present perfect:</i>	har dratt	har drukket	har funnet

Some irregular verbs

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Past tense</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
å bli	become	blir	ble	blitt
å brenne	burn	brenner	brant	brent
å dra	go/travel	drar	dro	dratt
å drikke	drink	drikker	drakk	drukket
å dø	die	dør	døde	dødd
å finne	find	finner	fant	funnet
å forstå	understand	forstår	forsto	forstått
å fortelle	tell	forteller	fortalte	fortalt
å fortsette	continue	fortsetter	fortsatte	fortsatt
å få	get/receive	får	fikk	fått
å gi	give	gir	ga(v)	gitt
å gjøre	do	gjør	gjorde	gjort
å gå	go/walk	går	gikk	gått
å ha	have	har	hadde	hatt
å hete	be named/called	heter	het	hett
å hjelpe	help	hjelper	hjalp	hjulpet
å komme	come	kommer	kom	kommet
å le	laugh	ler	lo	ledd
å legge	lay/put	legger	la	lagt
å ligge	lie	ligger	lå	ligget
å møte	meet	møter	møtte	møtt
å se	see	ser	så	sett
å selge	sell	selger	solgte	solgt
å sette	set/put	setter	satte	satt
å si	say	sier	sa	sagt
å sitte	sit	sitter	satt	sittet
å skrive	write	skriver	skrev	skrevet
å sove	sleep	sover	sov	sovet
å spørre	ask	spør	spurte	spurt
å stå	stand	står	sto(d)	stått
å synge	sing	synger	sang	sunget
å ta	take	tar	tok	tatt

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Past tense</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
å treffe	meet/hit	treffer	traff	truffet
å velge	choose	velger	valgte	valgt
å vite	know	vet	visste	visst
å være	be	er	var	vært

Auxiliary verbs

å skulle	shall	skal	skulle	skullet
å ville	will	vil	ville	villet
å kunne	can	kan	kunne	kunnet
å måtte	must/have to	må	måtte	måttet
å burde	ought to	bør	burde	burdet

Future tense

In *Chapter 3* we learnt that the future tense can be expressed by **skal + infinitive**. This construction implies that the future action is intended:

Jeg skal reise til Oslo på torsdag. I will go to Oslo on Thursday.

When there is no such intention, we often use **komme til + infinitive (with å)**:

Det kommer til å bli overskyet i dag. It will be cloudy today.

Du kommer til å like skolen. You are going to like the school.

Chapter 12

S-verbs

Some verbs end in –s in all forms. Here are some of the most common ones:

<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Preterite</i>	<i>Present perfect</i>
å synes	to think	synes	syntes	har syntes
å trives	to like a situation	trives	trivdes	har trivdes
å finnes	to exist	finnes	fantas	har finnes
å møtes	to meet each other	møtes	møttes	har møttes
å ses	to see each other	ses	såes	har settes

Examples:

Ben trives i Fjordvik. Ben likes living in Fjordvik.

Han syntes lutefisk var rart. He thought «lutefisk» was strange.

Sissel og Cecilie møttes i Oslo. Sissel and Cecilie met in Oslo.

Vi ses i morgen! See you tomorrow!

ADJECTIVES

Chapter 5

Most adjectives add **-t** in the neuter and **-e** in the plural.

Attributive form

Below, the adjectives are placed in front of the nouns to which they refer:

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
en brun stol	ei brun seng	et brunt bord	brune stoler/senger/bord
a brown chair	a brown bed	a brown table	brown chairs/beds/tables

Predicative form

Below, the adjectives are connected to the noun with the verb **er** (am/is/are) - present tense of **å være** (to be):

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
Stolen er brun	Senga er brun	Bordet er brunt	Stolene/sengene/bordene er brune
The chair is brown	The bed is brown	The table is brown	The chairs/beds/tables are brown

Chapter 6

In *Chapter 5* we learnt the main pattern for adjectives: Most adjectives end in **-t** in the neuter and **-e** in the plural.

Attributive form

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
en brun stol	ei brun seng	et brunt bord	brune stoler/senger/bord
a brown chair	a brown bed	a brown table	brown chairs/beds/tables

Predicative form

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
Stolen er brun	Senga er brun	Bordet er brunt	Stolene/sengene/bordene er brune
The chair is brown	The bed is brown	The table is brown	The chairs/beds/tables are brown

There are however some other patterns for adjectives as well:

Other patterns

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	<i>Plural</i>
1.	en ny kjole	ei ny lue	et nytt bord	nye klær
2.	en billig kjole	ei billig lue	et billig bord	billige klær
3.	en tysk kjole	ei tysk lue	et tysk bord	tyske klær
4.	en praktisk kjole	ei praktisk lue	et praktisk bord	praktiske klær
5.	en moderne kjole	ei moderne lue	et moderne bord	moderne klær
6.	en grønn kjole	ei grønn lue	et grønt bord	grønne klær

1. One-syllable adjectives ending in a stressed vowel *take -tt in the neuter (ny - new)*.
2. Adjectives ending in **-ig** *take no -t in the neuter (billig - cheap)*.
3. Adjectives denoting nationalities ending in **-sk** *take no -t in the neuter (tysk - German)*.
4. Foreign adjectives ending in **-isk** *take no -t in the neuter (praktisk - practical)*.
5. Adjectives ending in **-e** *take no -t in the neuter (moderne - modern)*.
6. Most adjectives with a double consonant *drop one consonant before -t (grønn - green)*.

Liten og annen

Liten (small) and **annen** (other) are irregular adjectives:

Attributive form

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
en liten bil	ei lita bok	et lite bord	små biler/bøker/bord
a small car	a small book	a small table	small cars/books/tables
en annen bil	ei anna bok	et annet bord	andre biler/bøker/bord
another car	another book	another table	other cars/books/tables

Predicative form

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
Bilen er liten	Boka er lita	Skjerfet er lite	Bilene/bøkene/skjerfene er små
The car is small	The book is small	The table is small	The cars/books/tables are small

Annem (other) is not used in predicative form.

Chapter 7

Other patterns

Adjectives ending in **-el** and **-en**, like **gammel** (old) and **sulten** (hungry) do not follow the main pattern for adjectives. One **-e** disappears when adding the plural **-e**. In addition, adjectives with a double consonant drop one consonant in the plural form:

Attributive form

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
en gammel bil	ei gammel veske	et gammelt bord	gamle biler/vesker/bord
an old car	an old handbag	an old table	old cars/handbags/tables
en sulten gutt	ei sulten jente	et sultent barn	sultne gutter/jenter/barn
a hungry boy	a hungry girl	a hungry child	hungry boys/girls/children

Predicative form

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
Bilen er gammel	Veska er gammel	Bordet er gammelt	Bilene/veskene/bordene er gamle
The car is old	The handbag is old	The table is old	The cars/handbags/tables are old
Gutten er sulten	Jenta er sulten	Barnet er sultent	Guttene/jentene/barna er sultne
The boy is hungry	The girl is hungry	The child is hungry	The boys/girls/children are hungry

Combination with the verb to look

The expression **to look + adjective** (He looks old) is in Norwegian constructed by the verb **å se + adjective + (the adverb) ut**.

The adjectives follow the pattern described under *Predicative form* in *Chapter 5, 6* and *7*. Below this is demonstrated with the adjectives **fin** (here: nice) and **gammel** (old).

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
Bilen ser fin ut	Boka ser fin ut	Huset ser fint ut	Bilene ser fine ut
The car looks nice	The book looks nice	The house looks nice	The cars look nice
Bilen ser gammel ut	Boka ser gammel ut	Huset ser gammelt ut	Bilene ser gamle ut
The car looks old	The book looks old	The house looks old	The cars look old

Chapter 8

The adjectives appear, as we have seen in *Chapter 5* and *6*, in the following positions:

- as attributes (in front of) describing indefinite nouns: en **stor bil**
- as predicates after verbs like *å være* (to be): bilen er **stor**

In *en stor bil* the adjective is placed in front of a noun in indefinite form. However, attributive adjectives can also describe definite nouns (i.e. the big car). Then the adjectives end in **-e** (just like the plural form).

In addition, adjectives require the definite articles: **den, det** and **de** which agree in gender and number with the noun: **den + store + bilen = den store bilen** (the big car).

The so-called double definite construction is special. In English there is only one element that expresses definite form (*the* big car). In Norwegian, definite form is marked twice: first by the definite articles (**den, det, de**) and then by the definite form of the noun (**bilen**).

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
en stor bil	ei stor lue	et stort bord	store biler/luer/bord
a big car	a big cap	a big table	big cars/caps/tables
den store bil	den store lue	det store bord	de store bilene/vesker/borde
the big car	the big cap	the big table	the big cars/caps/tables

Note the irregular form of **liten** (small):

<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>
<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	
en liten bil	ei lita lue	et lite skjerf	små biler/luene/skerf
a small car	a small cap	a small scarf	small cars/caps/scarfs
den lille bilen	den lille lue	det lille skjerf	de små bilene/luene/skerf
the small car	the small cap	the small scarf	the small cars/caps/scarfs

Chapter 10

Comparison

The main pattern for comparison is the following:

<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Comparative</i> + enn (<i>than</i>)	<i>Superlative</i>	
fin	finere	finest	fine - finer - finest
kald	kaldere	kaldest	cold - colder - coldest
varm	varmere	varmest	warm - warmer - warmest

Example:

Vinteren er kald i Fjordvik.	The winter is cold in Fjordvik.
Vinteren er kaldere i Fjordvik enn i Paris.	The winter is colder in Fjordvik than in Paris.
Vinteren er kaldest i Sibir.	The winter is coldest in Siberia.

Exceptions

1) Adjectives ending in **-(l)ig** and **-som** take only **-st** in the superlative form:

<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Comparative</i> + enn (<i>than</i>)	<i>Superlative</i>	
billig	billigere	billigst	cheap
hyggelig	hyggeligere	hyggeligst	nice
morsom	morsommere	morsomst	amusing/funny

2) An **-e** disappears in the comparative and superlative form when the adjectives end in **-el**, **-en** and **-er**:

<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Comparative</i> <i>+ enn (than)</i>	<i>Superlative</i>	
travel	travlere	travlest	busy
moden	modnere	modnest	ripe, mature
vakker	vakrere	vakrest	beautiful

3) Many adjectives ending in **-sk** and adjectives ending in **-e** are compared with **mer** (more) and **mest** (most).

Adjectives from the present perfect (example: berømt) and several long words and some foreign words are also compared in the same way:

<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Comparative</i> <i>+ enn (than)</i>	<i>Superlative</i>	
praktisk	mer praktisk	mest praktisk	practical
moderne	mer moderne	mest moderne	modern
berømt	mer berømt	mest berømt	famous
interessant	mer interessant	mest interessant	interesting
absurd	mer absurd	mest absurd	absurd

Irregular comparative and superlative

<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Comparative</i> <i>+ enn (than)</i>	<i>Superlative</i>	
gammel	eldre	eldst	old
god/bra	bedre	best	good
ille	verre	verst	bad
lang	lengre	lengst	long
liten	mindre	minst	small
stor	større	størst	big
tung	tyngre	tyngst	heavy
ung	yngre	yngst	young
mange	flere	flest	many
mye	mer	mest	much

Example:

Cecilie er **ung**. Dina er **yngre enn** Cecilie. Alex er **yngst**.
Cecilie is young. Dina is younger than Cecilie. Alex is (the) youngest.

Note the following:

1) The comparative form is invariable. The gender of the noun and the number (singular or plural) does not matter:

Dina er yngre enn Cecilie.

Alex er **yngre** enn Dina.

Alex og Dina er **yngre** enn Cecilie.

2) When the superlative form is placed in front of a definite noun the adjectives end in **-e**. In addition, the definite articles **den**, **det** and **de**, which agree in gender and number with the noun, are required (see also Adjectives, the double definite construction, *Chapter 8*):

den yngste jenta	det fineste huset	de beste bøkene
the youngest girl	the nicest house	the best books

3) When the superlative form appears as predicate after verbs like *å være* (to be), we can use the indefinite or the definite form of the superlative:

Alex er **yngst** i familien. Alex er **den yngste** i familien.
Alex is (the) youngest in the family.

4) We use the superlative form when we compare two items:

Hvem er **eldst/den eldste**, Dina eller Alex?
Who is the older, Dina or Alex?

Hvilken jakke er **billigst/den billigste**, den røde eller den svarte?
Which jacket is cheaper, the red or the black one?

Hvilken by er **størst/den største**, Trondheim eller Oslo?
Which city is bigger, Trondheim or Oslo?

ADVERBS

Chapter 5

Movement/stationary

Some adverbs have two forms, one indicating movement, the other for stationary situations:

<i>Movement</i>		<i>Stationary</i>	
Han går inn .	in	Han er inne .	in/inside
Han går ut .	out	Han er ute .	out/outside
Han går opp i andre etasje.	up	Han er oppe .	up/upstairs
Han går ned i første etasje.	down	Han er nede .	down/downstairs
Han går hjem .	home	Han er hjemme .	at home

Note that there are also two forms for **here** and **there**.

<i>Movement</i>		<i>Stationary</i>	
Han kommer hit .	here	Han er her .	here
Han går dit .	there	Han er der .	there

Chapter 10

An adverb describes a verb, whereas an adjective describes a noun or a pronoun. We form an adverb by using **the neuter form of an adjective**:

Alex puster **tungt**. Alex breathes heavily.

Alex snakker **høyt**. Alex speaks loudly.

PRONOUNS

Chapter 2

Personal pronouns - subject form

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | jeg | I |
| 2. | du | you (singular) |
| 3. | han, hun, det/den | he, she, it |
| 1. | vi | we |
| 2. | dere | you (plural) |
| 3. | de | they |

Chapter 3

Personal pronouns – object form

Personal pronouns have two forms in Norwegian, subject and object form.

	<i>Subject form</i>		<i>Object form</i>	
1.	jeg	I	meg	me
2.	du	you	deg	you (singular)
3.	han	he	ham (han)	him
	hun	she	henne	her
	det/den	it	det/den	it
1.	vi	we	oss	us
2.	dere	you	dere	you (plural)
3.	de	they	dem	them

Den/det

Both **den** and **det** mean it. **Den** is used to replace masculine and feminine nouns, **det** replaces neuter nouns:

- De har *en sofa*. **Den** er i stua.
 De har *ei stue*. **Den** er stor.
 Dina har *et skap*. **Det** har tre hyller.

Chapter 5

Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are identical to object pronouns (see *Chapter 3*) except for **ham**, **henne**, **dem** where the pronoun **seg** is used:

- | | | | | |
|----|---------|--------|--------------|------------|
| 1. | Jeg | vasker | meg. | myself |
| 2. | Du | vasker | deg. | yourself |
| 3. | Han | vasker | seg. | himself |
| | Hun | vasker | seg. | herself |
| | Det/Den | vasker | seg. | itself |
| 1. | Vi | vasker | oss. | ourselves |
| 2. | Dere | vasker | dere. | yourselves |
| 3. | De | vasker | seg. | themselves |

Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and the object in the sentence are the same person(s). They indicate that the subject is performing the action upon itself, while a pronoun in the object form indicates that the action is performed upon someone else than the subject. Notice the difference in these sentences:

- Han vasker **seg.** He is washing himself.
 Han vasker **ham.** He is washing him (e.g. his son).

Reflexive verbs

Some verbs require a reflexive pronoun even if it may not seem logic. These verbs are called reflexive verbs:

Tone **setter seg** i stolen. Tone sits down in the chair.

Some common reflexive verbs are:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| å sette seg | to sit down |
| å ha med seg | to bring |
| å glede seg til | to look forward to |
| å skynde seg | to hurry |
| å kose seg | to have a nice time |
| å tørke seg | to dry oneself |
| å kle på seg | to dress |
| å barbere seg | to shave |
| å komme seg ut | to get out quickly (e.g. in an emergency) |

Chapter 6

Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns specify objects as well as distance to the objects.

Denne and **den** is used with singular masculine and feminine nouns.

Dette and **det** is used with singular neuter nouns.

Disse and **de** is used with plural nouns.

Note that the nouns following the demonstratives take the definite form: denne bilen etc..

	<i>Close</i>		<i>Remote</i>	
<i>Masculine</i>	denne koppen	this cup	den koppen	that cup
<i>Feminine</i>	denne døra	this door	den døra	that door
<i>Neuter</i>	dette glasset	this glass	det glasset	that glass
<i>Plural</i>	disse koppene	these cups	de koppene	those cups

Chapter 9

Possessive pronouns

The possessive pronouns give information about ownership. If the owner is **jeg** (I), you indicate possession by using either **min**, **mi** or **mitt** depending on the gender of the «owned» noun. If the «owned» noun is in plural, you choose **mine**:

<i>Faren</i> min er lærer.	My father is a teacher.
<i>Mora</i> mi er også lærer.	My mother is also a teacher.
<i>Huset</i> mitt er gammelt.	My house is old.
<i>Bøkene</i> mine ligger i sekken.	My books are in the bag.

The possessives **din** (your/yours) and **vår** (our/ours) also agree in number and gender with the noun while **hans** (his), **hennes** (her/hers) and **deres** (their/theirs) are invariable.

<i>Owner</i>	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>	<i>Neuter</i>	<i>Plural</i>
I	faren min my father	mora mi my mother	huset mitt my house	bøkene mine my books
you	faren din your father	mora di your mother	huset ditt your house	bøkene dine your books
he	faren hans his father	mora hans his mother	huset hans his house	bøkene hans his books
she	faren hennes her father	mora hennes her mother	huset hennes her house	bøkene hennes her books
we	faren vår our father	mora vår our mother	huset vårt our house	bøkene våre our books
you	faren deres your father	mora deres your mother	huset deres your house	bøkene deres your books
they	faren deres their father	mora deres their mother	huset deres their house	bøkene deres their books

In Norwegian, the possessive pronouns can be placed either after the «owned object», like in the table above, or in front of the «owned object»: faren **min** or **min** far.

Note that the noun takes the definite form in the first case while it takes the indefinite form in the latter:

faren min	but	min far
mora di	but	di mor
huset hennes	but	hennes hus
bøkene våre	but	våre bøker
faren deres	but	deres far

Chapter 10

Possessive pronouns

sin - si - sitt - sine

In *Chapter 9* you were introduced to the possessive pronouns - the different forms of **min** (my/mine), **din** (your/yours singular) and **vår** (our/ours) and **hans** (his), **hennes** (her/hers) and **deres** (your/yours plural + their/theirs).

In the 3. person singular and plural, however, there is a reflexive possessive pronoun, **sin**. It is used when the subject of the sentence owns the object, and the other form is used when the subject does not own the object:

Sissel ringer tannlegen sin. → Sissels tannlege
Sissel calls her dentist.

Sissel ringer tannlegen hennes. → Cecilies tannlege
Sissel calls her dentist.

The reflexive possessive pronoun agrees in gender and number with the owned noun, where **sin** is the masculine singular form, **si** the feminine singular, **sitt** the neuter singular form and **sine** the plural form.

Owner	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
I	faren min my father	mora mi my mother	huset mitt my house	bøkene mine my books
you	faren din your father	mora di your mother	huset ditt your house	bøkene dine your books
he	faren hans his father faren sin his (own) father	mora hans his mother mora si his (own) mother	huset hans his house huset sitt his (own) house	bøkene hans his books bøkene sine his (own) books
she	faren hennes her father faren sin her (own) father	mora hennes her mother mora si her (own) mother	huset hennes her house huset sitt her (own) house	bøkene hennes her books bøkene sine her (own) books
we	faren vår our father	mora vår our mother	huset vårt our house	bøkene våre our books
you	faren deres your father	mora deres your mother	huset deres your house	bøkene deres your books
they	faren deres their father faren sin their (own) father	mora deres their mother mora si their (own) mother	huset deres their house huset sitt their (own) house	bøkene deres their books bøkene sine their (own) books

Other examples:

Sissel kikker inn i *munnen sin*. → Sissels munn

Sissel looks into her mouth.

Sissel kikker inn i *munnen hennes*. → Cecilies munn
Sissel looks into her mouth.

Sissel sitter ved *skrivebordet sitt*. → Sissels skrivebord
Sissel sits at her desk.

Sissel har vondt i *tanna si*. → Sissels tann
Sissel has a pain in her tooth.

Sissel peker på en av *tennene sine*. → Sissels tenner
Sissel points at one of her teeth.

Note that **sin - si - sitt - sine** can't be used in the subject:

Subject

Tannlegen hennes kan hjelpe henne. Her dentist can help her.

but

Subject *Object*

Hun får hjelp av *tannlegen sin*. She gets help from her dentist.

PREPOSITIONS

Chapter 2

I or på?

The general rule is:

I in + continents, countries, cities

På in/on/at + mountain, islands, places, parts of a city

Examples:

i Europa **på** Mount Everest

i Norge **på** Sumatra, **på** Mallorca

i Oslo **på** Gardermoen (a place outside Oslo)

på Grorud, **på** Tøyen (both parts of Oslo)

Exception: In front of some inland cities in Norway, we use **på** instead of **i**: **På** Lillehammer, **på** Hamar. You can read more about this in *Chapter 5*.

Chapter 5

Place prepositions

More about prepositions in connection with place.

Bak (behind), **foran** (in front of), **i** (in), **på** (on), **over** (over), **under** (under) and **ved siden av** (next to) are typical prepositions in connection with place.

In the following we will have a closer look at the difference between **i** and **på**, and in addition explain the use of two other prepositions; **til** (to) and **hos** (at).

I

I is used when something is placed inside something, within borders or walls:

Klærne ligger **i** skapet. The clothes are in the closet.

Sofaen er **i** stua. The sofa is in the living room.

I is also used together with

continents: **i** Europa, **i** Asia

countries and states: **i** Norge, **i** Kina, **i** Texas

cities: **i** Trondheim, **i** Oslo, **i** Beijing

street names/addresses: **i** Karl Johans gate, **i** Drammensveien 1

På

På is often used to indicate that something is on top of something else:

Boka ligger **på** bordet. The book is on the table.

På is also used in the following connections:

på skolen at school

på kino, teater at the cinema, theatre

på restaurant, kafé in/at a restaurant, café

på biblioteket at the library

på jobb/arbeid at work

på (ved) universitetet at the university

In the following connections **i** is also used:

på/i butikken in/at the shop

på/i kjøkkenet, stua in the kitchen, living room

på/i badet, soverommet in the bathroom, bedroom

På is also used together with

islands: **på** Grønland (When the island is a state we use **i**: **i** Irland.
Sometimes we can use both: **på/i** Sri Lanka.)

many inland cities in Norway: **på** Røros, **på** Lillehammer

many parts of a city: **på** Grorud, **på** Sinsen, **på** Frogner

It is often difficult to explain the use of **i** and **på** together with Norwegian names of places. The topography or even the name itself often decides the preposition, but there are lots of exceptions and also local differences.

Til

Til is the most frequent preposition denoting movement towards a place:

Ben går **til** kantina. Ben goes to the canteen.

Skal du dra **til** Fjordvik i dag? Are you going to Fjordvik today?

Notice that **i** or **på** are generally used to express movement towards or into many rooms and institutions:

Dina går på badet .	Dina goes to the bathroom.
Cecilie går i operaen .	Cecilie goes to the opera.
Skal vi gå på kafé ?	Shall we go to a café?

Hos

Hos is used in front of persons in the meaning «at his/her place»:

De tar en kaffe hos Cecilie .	They have a coffee at Cecilie's.
Så fint det er hos deg , Dina!	It is so nice at your place/in your room, Dina!

We also use **hos** when we talk about some occupational groups:

Jeg er **hos legen**. I am at the doctor's.

When involving movement, we use **til**:

Anne går på besøk til Cecilie .	Anne goes for a visit at Cecilie's.
Jeg må dra til legen .	I have to go to the doctor's.

Chapter 10

Time expressions

A lot of time expressions are formed together with prepositions. Below you are presented with some of these expressions:

The preposition **I** is used

a) in front of years, months, holidays and other expressions regarding time:

i 2009, **i oktober**, **i jula** (for/during Christmas),
(i) neste uke (next week), **i kveld** (tonight), **i morgen** (tomorrow).

b) in front of seasons. The season you refer to is a specific one, and the tense of the verb will indicate whether you refer to the present season, to the coming season or to the last season. Note that we use the indefinite form of the noun (the season):

Ben <i>går</i> på norskkurs i høst .	Ben takes a Norwegian course this autumn.
Ken <i>skal studere</i> psykologi i høst .	Ken is going to study psychology this autumn.
I høst <i>dro</i> studentene på hyttetur.	This autumn the students went on a cabin trip.

c) in front of periods of time:

Anna har bodd i Norge i tre måneder .	Anna has lived in Norway for three months.
Hun skal være her i to år .	She is going to stay here for two years.

The preposition **OM** is used

a) in front of seasons and other periods of time when the periods are repeated. Note the definite form of the noun:

Ola liker å bade om sommeren .	Ola likes to go for a swim in the summer.
Om kvelden ser Ken på TV.	In the evening, Ken watches TV.

b) to express future:

De skal reise på tur **om to dager**. They are going on a trip in two days.

Kurset begynner **om 15 minutter**. The course starts in 15 minutes.

FOR _ SIDEN

We use the discontinuous preposition **for _ siden** to express **ago**:

De flyttet hit **for tre måneder siden**. They moved here three months ago.

The preposition PÅ

Together with weekdays we use **på**:

Bussen drar klokka 16.00 **på søndag**. The bus leaves at 4 pm on Sunday.

Maria er på Dragvoll **på fredager**. Maria is at Dragvoll on Fridays.

WORD ORDER

Chapter 1

Main clauses (sentences)

A Norwegian sentence must always have a verb and a subject. The subject is the person or thing carrying out the action in the sentence.

The normal word order in a main clause is:

subject – verb – rest of the sentence

Jeg heter Alex. I am called Alex.

Jeg kommer fra Frankrike. I come from France.

Questions

In questions with question words the verb is also the second element:

Hva **heter** du? What is your name?

In questions without a question word the sentence starts with the verb:

Er du norsk? Are you Norwegian?

Chapter 2

Main clauses (sentences)

As mentioned in *Chapter 1* the verb is the second element when the sentence starts with the subject:

Jeg **snakker** norsk. I speak Norwegian.

The verb is always the second element, so too when the sentence starts e.g. with words for time or place:

Nå (now) **reiser** Alex til Norge.

Der (there) **venter** pappa.

Note that by verb we mean **finite verb** when describing word order. A finite verb is a verb in present or past tense (preterite).

Negation

In a narrative clause the negation **ikke** (not), which is an adverb, usually comes after the verb:

Jeg reiser **ikke** til Paris. I don't travel to Paris.

Other adverbs like **også** (also/too) come after the verb as well:

Jeg reiser **også** til Oslo. I also travel to Oslo.

Chapter 3

Det er

The existential **there** in English (e.g. «There are two chairs in the living room») is translated by **det** in Norwegian. It does not agree with gender or number of the logic subject:

Det er fire stoler i stua. There are four chairs in the living room.

Det er ei seng på Dinas rom. There is a bed in Dina's room.

Det can never be left out in sentences like these, even if the sentence starts with an adverb. In such sentences the verb is before **det** (cf. the verb is always the second element):

På Dinas rom **er det** ei seng. In Dina's room there is a bed.

Chapter 8

There are two types of clauses in Norwegian: main clauses and subordinate clauses.

1. Main clause

A main clause is an independent sentence. The verb (finite verb) is the second element, except in questions without a question word where the verb is in initial position:

De **bor** i Fjordvik.

Hvor **jobber** han?

Går han på norskkurs?

Adverbs like **ikke** (not) are placed after the verb:

Dina **kommer ikke** fra England.

Alex **går ikke** på skolen.

Ben **snakker ikke** tysk.

The conjunctions **og** (and) and **men** (but) start main clauses:

Dina bor i Fjordvik, **og** hun går på skolen.

Alex liker ikke norsk ost, **men** han liker fransk ost.

2. Subordinate clause

A subordinate clause is a dependent sentence. Normally, it is part of a main clause.

A subordinate clause typically starts with a subordinating conjunction. In *Chapter 8* you are presented to three of them:

fordi because

at that

om whether, if

The subordinating conjunction is followed by the subject of the sentence and the verb:

Norsk er vanskelig for meg **fordi** *jeg har bodd i Frankrike.*

Mamma sier **at** *jeg må øve på å skrive norsk.*

Tone spør **om** *Dina liker seg på skolen.*

Adverbs like «**ikke**» (not) are placed in front of the verb:

Dina sier **at** de *ikke* har mange lekser i Norge.

A subordinate clause can also stand first in the main clause. Then, the verb in the main clause will follow directly after the subordinate clause:

Norsk er vanskelig for meg **fordi** jeg har bodd i Frankrike.

Norwegian is hard for me because I have lived in France.

Fordi jeg har bodd i Frankrike, **er** norsk vanskelig for meg.

Because I have lived in France, Norwegian is hard for me.

You can read more about main clauses and subordinated clauses in *Chapter 9*.

Chapter 9

Relative clauses

The English relative pronouns **who**, **which** and **that** are all translated with **som** in Norwegian, regardless of whether it is referring to people, animals or objects:

Jeg har en bror. Han er 30 år gammel. → Jeg har en bror **som** er 30 år gammel.
I have a brother. He is 30 years old. I have a brother who is 30 years old.

Jeg har en katt. Den er søt. → Jeg har en katt **som** er søt.
I have a cat. It is cute. I have a cat which is cute.

Jeg har en bil. Den er ny. → Jeg har en bil **som** er ny.
I have a car. It is new. I have a car which is new.

A relative clause is a subordinate clause, and therefore adverbs like **ikke** are placed in front of the verb in a relative clause:

Jeg har en bil **som ikke er ny**. I have a car which is not new.

In the examples above, **som** is also the subject of the relative clause. If **som** is not the subject of the relative clause, the subject will come directly after **som**, as for any subordinating conjunction:

Jeg har en bil **som jeg kjøpte** i juni. I have a car which I bought in June.

Da - når = when

Both **da** and **når** mean when.

We use **da** about a single occurrence or a continuous period of time in the past:

Alex traff Jens da han begynte i barnehagen.
Alex met Jens when he started in kindergarten.

We use **når** for customary or repeated actions, even for repeated actions in the past:

Jeg liker å slappe av **når** jeg kommer hjem fra jobben.
I like to relax when I come home from work.

Jeg likte alltid å slappe av **når** jeg kom hjem fra jobben.
I always liked to relax when I came home from work.

We also use **når** for actions in the future:

Jeg skal ta eksamen **når** kurset er ferdig.
I will take the exam when the course is finished.

Chapter 12

Main clause

A main clause is an independent sentence. It contains a subject (the person or thing that carries out the action) and a verb.

Often there are other grammatical units in the sentence, such as objects and adverbs.

In a narrative clause the finite verb (= verb in present or past tense) is the second element.

Different elements can be placed in the front such as the subject (sentence 1), adverbs indicating time or place (sentence 2), question words (sentence 3) and other elements.

In sentences like 2 and 3, the subject has to move to its assigned place after the verb.

In questions without a question word (**hva** (what), **hvem** (who) etc.) the sentence starts with the verb (sentence 4).

Adverbs like **ikke** (not) are normally placed after the finite verb.

<i>Front</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Adverb</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Adverb</i>
1. Han	vil	-	<i>ikke</i>	spise	kake	i kantina i dag
2. I dag	vil	han	<i>ikke</i>	spise	kake	i kantina
3. Hvorfor	vil	han	<i>ikke</i>	spise	kake	i kantina i dag?
4.	Vil	han	<i>ikke</i>	spise	kake	i kantina i dag?

1. He does not want to eat cake in the canteen today.
2. Today, he does not want to eat cake in the canteen.
3. Why doesn't he want to eat cake in the canteen today?
4. Doesn't he want to eat cake in the canteen today?

Note that the subject is placed after **ikke** in inverted sentences when it is a noun (here: Ben).

<i>Front</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Adverb</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Adverb</i>
I dag	vil	ikke	Ben	spise	kake	i kantina

Today, Ben does not want to eat cake in the canteen.

Subordinate clause

A subordinate clause also contains a subject and a verb, but it is not an independent sentence. It goes together with a main clause.

A subordinate clause normally starts with a subordinating conjunction. Some frequent subordinating conjunctions are: **fordi** (because), **at** (that), **hvis** (if), **om** (if – together with the verb **å spørre** (to ask)), **da** (when), **når** (when).

In subordinate clauses the word order is fixed. The subordinating conjunction is followed by the subject of the sentence. Other elements can't be moved to the front field.

Adverbs like **ikke** are placed in front of the verb:

	<i>Conjunction</i>	<i>Front (subject)</i>	<i>Adverb</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Adverb</i>
1. Alex er litt trøtt	fordi	han	ikke	har sovet		mye i natt.
2. Bildene blir uskarpe	når	Alex	hopper			i snøen.
3. Snøballen er så stor	at	Dina	må hjelpe		ham.	
4. Alex spør	om	han	ikke	kan åpne	gavene	nå.

1. Alex is a little tired because he didn't sleep much last night.
2. The pictures get blurred when Alex jumps in the snow.
3. The snowball is so big that Dina has to help him.
4. Alex asks if he can open the presents now.

The subordinate clause may also be placed in the front of the main clause. As for main clauses, the subject then moves to its assigned place after the verb:

<i>Front</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Subject</i>
1. Når Alex hopper i snøen,	blir	bildene uskarpe.
2. Fordi han ikke har sovet mye i natt,	er	Alex trøtt.

1. When Alex jumps in the snow, the pictures get blurred.
2. Because he didn't sleep much last night, Alex is tired.

Miscellaneous

Chapter 1

Question words

The most common question words are:

hva	what
hvem	who
hvor	where (how)
hvordan	how

Examples:

Hva heter du?	What is your name?
Hvem er det?	Who is it?
Hvor bor du?	Where do you live?
Hvordan går det?	How are you?

The question word **hvor** is used for **how** when we ask about a size or a quantity.

Hvor gammel er du? How old are you?

Nationalities

<i>Country</i>	<i>Nationality (adjective)</i>	<i>Person</i>	<i>Language</i>
England	engelsk	en engelsk mann	engelsk
Frankrike	fransk	en fransk mann	fransk
Italia	italiensk	en italiener	italiensk
Nederland	nederlandsk	en nederlander	nederlandsk
Norge	norsk	en nordmann	norsk
Polen	polsk	en polakk	polsk
Spania	spansk	en spanjol	spansk
Tyskland	tysk	en tysker	tysk
USA	amerikansk	en amerikaner	(amerikansk) engelsk

Chapter 2

Conjunctions

The conjunctions **og** (and) and **men** (but) connect sentences:

De ser pappa, **og** Dina roper. They see dad, and Dina shouts.

Det går bra, **men** det er ei lang reise. I am fine, but it is a long journey.

Chapter 4

Hvilken

Hvilken (which) is, in general, used to single out one object among many. This question word agrees with the noun's gender and number:

Hvilken pakke sender du? **hvilken** in front of a masculine noun (en pakke)

Hvilken avis leser du? **hvilken** in front of a feminine noun (ei avis)

Hvilket bord vil du ha? **hvilket** in front of a neuter noun (et bord)

Hvilke aviser leser du? **hvilke** in front of plural nouns (aviser)

See *Chapter 1* for more question words.

Chapter 7

Words for quantities

Mange (many) and **noen** (some) are used together with countable nouns:

Det er **mange kaféer** i sentrum. There are many cafés downtown.

Ben har **noen hyller** på kontoret. Ben has some shelves in his office.

Noen is also used about persons in the meaning «someone»:

Noen kommer der borte. Someone is coming over there.

Mye (much/a lot of) and **noe** (some) is used together with uncountable (mass) nouns:

Sjefen kommer med **mye informasjon**. The boss gives much information.

Ben drikker **mye kaffe**. Ben drinks a lot of coffee.

Ben kjøper **noe kaffe**. Ben buys some coffee.

Noe can also be used without a noun. Then it has the meaning «something» or «anything»:

Vil dere ha **noe** å spise? Do you want something to eat?

Chapter 10

Synes – tro – tenke

All the verbs **synes**, **tro** and **tenke** mean «to think», but they are used in different contexts.

Synes is used about a subjective meaning. It can also be translated with «to find» in English:

Hun **synes** at det er interessant. She thinks it is interesting. / She finds it interesting.

Notice that **synes** ends in **-s** in all forms: å **synes** – **synes** – **syntes** – har **syntes**. You can find more verbs like this in *chapter 12*.

Tro is used when you are insecure about facts. It can also be translated with «to believe» in English:

Jeg **tror** at London er større enn Oslo. I think/believe London is bigger than Oslo.

Tenke refers to the cognitive process of thinking:

Alex **tenker** på katten. Alex is thinking about the cat.

Chapter 11

Fordi – derfor

(because – therefore)

The use of **fordi** and **derfor** might seem a bit confusing.

Fordi

Fordi indicates reason. It is a subordinating conjunction and starts a subordinate clause:

Han rydder **fordi** dokka liker å ha det ryddig.
He cleans up because the doll likes it to be tidy.

Barna klapper **fordi** de liker forestillingen.
The children clap their hands because they like the show.

or

Fordi dokka liker å ha det ryddig, rydder han.
Because the doll likes it to be tidy, he cleans up.

Fordi de liker forestillingen, klapper barna.
Because they like the show, the children clap their hands.

Derfor

Derfor indicates consequence and is an adverb. **Derfor** is followed by the verb:

Dokka liker å ha det ryddig. **Derfor** rydder han.
The doll likes it to be tidy. Therefore, he cleans up.

Barna liker forestillingen. **Derfor** klapper de.
The children like the show. Therefore they clap their hands.

Så

Different types of words sometimes have the same form and are, therefore, a bit confusing. The form **så** is one of these:

1) **Så** = then, afterwards

This type of **så** is an adverb.

Etter lunsj dro vi til Akershus festning. **Så** gikk vi til Rådhuset.
After lunch we went to Akershus fortress. Then we went to the City Hall.

2) **Så** = so, very

This type of **så** is also an adverb. It is normally placed in front of adjectives:

Det var **så** interessant på Vikingskipshuset.
It was so interesting at the Viking Ship Museum.

3) **Så** = so, for that reason

This type of **så** is a conjunction. The conjunction is followed by a main clause:

Peter har ikke møtt Evas familie før, **så** han er litt nervøs.
Peter has not met Eva's family before, so he is a bit nervous.

4) **Så** = saw

Så can also be the past tense of the verb **å se** (to see):

Vi **så** et stykke av Henrik Ibsen. We saw a play by Henrik Ibsen.

Short answers

In English you might answer questions like this: Yes, I have. No, I haven't. Yes, I do. No, I don't, etc.

In Norwegian you make short answers in the following ways:

1) To answer questions starting with **har** (has/have) og **er** (am/is/are) you use **har** and **er** in the answer:

Har du ei fiskestang?	Ja, det har jeg. Nei, det har jeg ikke.
Do you have a fishing rod?	Yes, I have. No, I haven't.
Er du norsk?	Ja, det er jeg. Nei, det er jeg ikke.
Are you Norwegian?	Yes, I am. No, I'm not.

2) To answer questions starting with **modal verbs** you use the modal verb in the answer:

Kan vi gå på kino?	Ja, det kan vi. Nei, det kan vi ikke.
Can we go to the cinema?	Yes, we can. No, we can't.
Skal du gå på konserten?	Ja, det skal jeg. Nei, det skal jeg ikke.
Are you going to the concert?	Yes, I am. No, I'm not.
Vil du se byen?	Ja, det vil jeg. Nei, det vil jeg ikke.
Do you want to see the city?	Yes, I do. No, I don't.

Må du ringe ham? Ja, det **må** jeg. Nei, det **må** jeg ikke.
Do you have to call him? Yes, I do. No, I don't.

3) When the questions contain other verbs than the ones mentioned in 1) and 2) you use **gjør** (do/does) in your answer:

Liker du opera? Ja, det **gjør** jeg. Nei, det **gjør** jeg ikke.
Do you like opera? Yes, I do. No, I don't.

Leser du ei bok? Ja, det **gjør** jeg. Nei, det **gjør** jeg ikke.
Are you reading a book? Yes, I am. No, I'm not.

Snakker du norsk? Ja, det **gjør** jeg. Nei, det **gjør** jeg ikke.
Do you speak Norwegian? Yes, I do. No, I don't.

Note the following:

When the subject in the questions is **det** (it) or **den** (it) the verb in the short answer is followed by **det** or **den**:

Er **det** kaldt? Ja, det er **det**. Nei, det er **det** ikke.
Is it cold? Yes, it is. No, it isn't.

Er **den** ny? Ja, det er **den**. Nei, det er **den** ikke.
Is it new? Yes, it is. No, it isn't.

Ja – jo

When a question is negative, **jo** is used instead of **ja** for positive answers:

Kommer du **ikke** fra Oslo? **Jo**, det gjør jeg.
Are you not from Oslo? Yes, I am.

Chapter 12

Comma rules

1) We always use a comma in front of **men** (but):

Anne bor i Fjordvik, men hun kommer fra Lillestrøm.
Anne lives in Fjordvik, but she comes from Lillestrøm.

2) We use a comma in front of the conjunctions **og** (and), **for** (because) and **så** (so) when the following sentence is a complete main clause:

Hans har bodd i Fjordvik i ti år, og han jobber i en bank.
Hans has lived in Fjordvik for ten years, and he works in a bank.

but

Hans har bodd i Fjordvik i ti år og jobber i en bank.
Hans has lived in Fjordvik for ten years and works in a bank.

3) We use a comma before and after a parenthetical clause:

Ben, som kommer fra Frankrike, bor i Fjordvik.
Ben, who comes from France, lives in Fjordvik.

4) We always use commas by enumeration:

Han spiser vanligvis kylling, laks, pasta, ris og grønnsaker til middag.
He usually has chicken, salmon, pasta, rice and vegetables for dinner.

5) We use a comma after the subordinate clause when it is placed in front of the main clause:

Hvis Eva hjelper henne, blir Tone glad.

If Eva helps her, Tone will be happy.

6) We use a comma after direct speech:

«Vil du ha hjelp?» spør Eva.

«Would you like some help?» Eva asks.