

For a dictionary I recommend Google Translate: <http://translate.google.com>  
Dictionary for info on word conjugations: <http://www.nob-ordbok.uio.no/perl/ordbok.cgi>

## BASIC NORWEGIAN – SECTION 1 - PRONUNCIATION

### BASIC PRONUNCIATION - ALPHABET

The three extra letters, **Æ** [æ] **Ø** [ø] **Å** [å], are vowels. Be particularly aware of the sound of the **Ø** [ø]. This is one that many people have problems with. You should also pay attention to the pronunciation of the "o" and the "u". Listen to the video or to audio files while repeating the letters of the alphabet.

**A** [a] **B** [be] **C** [se] **D** [de] **E** [e]

**F** [eff] **G** [ge] **H** [hå] **I** [i] **J** [je/jodd]

**K** [kå] **L** [ell] **M** [emm] **N** [enn] **O** [o]

**P** [pe] **Q** [ku] **R** [err] **S** [ess] **T** [te]

**U** [u] **V** [ve] **W** [dobbeltve] **X** [eks] **Y** [y]

**Z** [sett] **Æ** [æ] **Ø** [ø] **Å** [å]

### BASIC PRONUNCIATION - SPECIAL SOUNDS

These letter combinations are common and are one of many reasons it might be a good idea to have a teacher to study with. The sounds are not that difficult to remember, but easy to forget while reading. Norwegians will understand you if you mispronounce the words but they are errors that are easily spotted. The combinations are:

Sj, ski, skj, sky Sound: ʃ (ship)  
Examples: Sjelden, skip, skjule, skyte

Ky, ki, kj Sound: ç  
Examples: Kyst, kirke, kjøre

Ng Sound: ŋ (ring)  
Examples: Mange, lang

Two vowel combinations are particularly difficult – «au, eu»  
Examples: Australia, Europa, maur, eufori

---

## BASIC PRONUNCIATION - SILENT LETTER

Another difficulty is the silent letters. Have someone correct you when you are reading texts loud.

Words ending in -lig Silent "g" (Vanlig, merkelig)

Also applies to most -ig combinations

G and H in front of J (Gjelder, hjul)

Silent h in words starting with hv- (hvem, hva, hvor, hvorfor)

Often silent -d in end of words (Bord, råd til). Particularly if the vowel in front of it is long.

Same applies if the letter is -l or -n. E.g. *kald* sounds like "kall" and *rund* sounds as "runn".

For later grammar: Silent -t in nouns in the definite form of the words (Huset, beltet)

---

## BASIC PRONUNCIATION - SHORT AND LONG VOWELS

Norwegian has two lengths of vowels - Long and short. The length of the vowels is usually not a big problem for beginner learners. This should, however, be learned from the start since change of length can change the meaning of the word.

The basic rule is that the vowel is short if it is followed by 2 consonants and long if it is followed by one or no consonant.

Consider these words below. Where in some cases it is the length of the vowel that makes it clear to the listener what you mean. (Don't bother to translate the words as many of them are rather uncommon).

| <u>Vowel</u> | <u>Short vowel</u> | <u>Long vowel</u>    |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| a            | Takk (Thank you)   | Tak (roof)           |
| e            | Legge (lay)        | Lege (doctor)        |
| i            | Finne (find)       | Fine (nice – plural) |
| o            | Komme (come)       | Skole (school)       |
| u            | Ull (wool)         | Ulykke (accident)    |
| y            | lyst på (to want)  | Lys (light)          |
| æ            | Færre (fewer)      | Lære (learn)         |
| ø            | Ørken (desert)     | Øl (beer)            |
| å            | Ånd (spirit)       | Ål (eel)             |