Nouns

Genders of nouns in one of the elements you will have to learn as quickly as possible. It is different from English and will have large consequences for adjectives.

There are three genders in Norwegian:
- **Hankjønn** (male gender) with article “en”
- **Hunkjønn** (female gender) with article “ei”
- **Intetkjønn** (Neutral) with article “et”.

Many Hunkjønn words can also be used as Hankjønn. In some dialects they do not the female gender. So you can ignore female gender and give them the male article “en” and conjugate them accordingly. E.g. you can change “ei kake” from the table below to “en kake” and “ei jente” to “en jente”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entall ubestemt</th>
<th>Entall bestemt</th>
<th>Flertall ubestemt</th>
<th>Flertall bestemt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>En bil (a car)</td>
<td>Bilen</td>
<td>Biler</td>
<td>Bilene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En stol (a chair)</td>
<td>Stolen</td>
<td>Stoler</td>
<td>Stolene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ei kake (a cake)</td>
<td>Kaka</td>
<td>Kaker</td>
<td>Kakene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ei Jente (a girl)</td>
<td>Jenta</td>
<td>Jenter</td>
<td>Jentene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et bilde (a picture)</td>
<td>Bildet</td>
<td>Bilder</td>
<td>Bildene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et eple (an apple)</td>
<td>Eplet</td>
<td>Epler</td>
<td>Eplene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Et hus (a house)</td>
<td>Huset</td>
<td>Hus - NOTE1</td>
<td>Husene</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entall ubestemt = Singular indefinite e.g. a car, a house, an apple
Entall bestemt = Singular definite e.g. the car, the house, the apple
Flertall ubestemt = Plural indefinite e.g. cars, houses, apples
Flertall bestemt = Plural definite e.g. the cars, the houses, the apples

**NOTE1** – In general plural indefinite ends in “-er”. One notable exception is one syllable neutral words. Other examples are: “et barn” (a child); “et fjell” (a mountain) “et spill” (a game as in ‘computer game”).

As you see in the table above, the vast majority of nouns have similar ending in plural. The big difference is singular, and this is also where you will discover the gender of the noun.
Now that you have looked through the main elements of nouns, this is something you will have to use in many contexts in Norwegian. First is when you want to say *it*, *that*, *they* and *those* in Norwegian.

Den – *It* for hunkjønn and hankjønn (female nouns and male nouns)
Det – *It* for hunkjønn and hankjønn (neutral nouns)
De – *They* for flertall (plural nouns)

**Jeg har en bil. Den er blå.**
*I have a car. It is blue.*

**Brødet er på bordet, og det er ferskt.**
*The bread is on the table and it is fresh.*

**Vi har to biler. De er gamle.**
*We have two cars. They are old.*

Remember the above forms as “it” is a very common form in any language. Norwegian is no exception.

Another usage for *Den*, *Det* and *De* is the meanings “That” and “Those” for objects far away. The equivalent for close objects is *Denne*, *Dette*, *Disse*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Den</th>
<th>Det</th>
<th>De</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>bilen er blå</em> (That car is blue)</td>
<td><em>hylle er ny</em> (That shelf is new)</td>
<td><em>koppene</em> (Those cups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>hylla er ny</em> (This shelf is new)</td>
<td><em>huset</em> (This house)</td>
<td><em>disse koppene</em> (These cups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>huset</em> (This house)</td>
<td><em>koppene</em> (Those cups)</td>
<td><em>flertall/plural</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In these forms you will use the definitive form of the noun as you are speaking about particular object(s).

**Hvilken, Hvilket, Hvilke (Which)**

These question words are different in that you have to conjugate them based on the noun. The conjugation follows much the same pattern as the noun conjugation, as well as the conjugation of adjectives which we will look at in class A1-4.

**Hvilken**: Is used for male and female nouns (Hankjønn og Hunkjønn)
**Hvilket**: Is used for neutral nouns (Intetkjønn)
**Hvilke**: Is used for plural (Flertall)

**Hvilken by er det? (Which city is that?)**
*en by = a city*

**Hvilken bok leser du? (Which book are you reading)**
*ei bok = a book*

**Hvilket hus? (Which house?)**
*et hus = a house*

**Hvilke kopper er dine? (Which cups are yours?)**
*en kopp = a cup*

Other versions of this question form are “Hva for en/ei/et” and “Hva for noe/noen”. I would recommend you to just avoid using them for now, just recognizing them.
A SHORT TEXT AND VOCABULARY


Erik: Velkommen.
Morten: Takk, beklager vi er tidlig. Dette er min kone Marit.
Erik: Jeg heter Erik. Hyggelig å treffe deg.
Marit: I like måte. Det er en vakker leilighet du har. Leier du den?
Morten: Jeg dekker bordet. Hva trenger vi.
Erik: 6 tallerkener, kniver, gaffler, glass og servietter. Er dere sulten?
Marit: Det lukter godt.

Det ringer på døra.

Erik: Hyggelig å se deg igjen.
Trond: I like måte. Hei, jeg heter Trond.
Trond: Ja, er du her med Morten?
Marit: Ja. Der kommer det noen.
De andre kollegaene kommer, og besøket begynner. De spiser, snakker sammen, og drikker alt fra brus til vin og øl.

å ha = to have
å lage mat = to cook
med = with
først = first
ei potet = a potato
ei venn = a friend
tidlig = early
å trekke = to meet
en leilighet = an apartment
å eie = to own
en idiot = an idiot
en tallerken = a plate
en serviett = a napkin
å ringe = to ring
der = there
en kollega = a colleague
alt = everything
en øl = a beer

en gjest = a guest
en suppe = a soup
en grønnsak = a vegetable
å servere = to serve
og så = and then
en salat = a salad
velkommen = welcome
en/ei kone = a wife
hyggelig = nice
i like måte = you too – Usual way of returning a compliment
en/ki kjøttkake = a meatball
en butikk = a store
beklager = sorry
vacker = beautiful
deskverre = unfortunately
å dekke bordet = set the table
å leie = to rent
en gaffel = a fork
sulten = hungry
å trenge = to need
et glass = a glass
en brus = a soft-drink
å spise = to eat
en vin = a wine

Nouns ending in –el has irregular endings in plural. Hence: en gaffel – gaffelen - gafler - gaflene