

BASIC NORWEGIAN – SECTION 4 – NOUNS

THIS CLASS WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- Nouns
- Den, Det, De – Denne, Dette, Disse

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".

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

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.

DEN, DET, DE – DENNE, DETTE, DISSE

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*

Den bilen er blå (That car is blue)	Denne bilen er blå (This car is blue)	<i>Hankjønn/Male</i>
Den hylla er ny (That shelf is new)	Denne hylla er ny (This shelf is new)	<i>Hunkj./Female</i>
Det huset (That house)	Dette huset (This house)	<i>Intetkj./Neutral</i>
De koppene (Those cups)	Disse koppene (These cups)	<i>Flertall/Plural</i>

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 har gjester senere og lager mat. Han koker suppe med grønnsaker. Han serverer den først, og så serverer han kjøttkaker med poteter og salat. Kjøttkakene er fra butikken. Gjestene er venner han jobber med.

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?

Erik: Takk. Nei, jeg eier den, dessverre. Naboen er en idiot.

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.

Marit: Hyggelig å hilse på deg. Jeg heter Marit. Jobber du med Erik og Morten?

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

en venn = a friend

tidlig = early

å treffe = 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

å koke = to boil

en grønnsak = a vegetable

og så = and then

en salat = a salad

velkommen = welcome

en/ei kone = a wife

i like måte = you too – Usual way of returning a compliment

vakker = beautiful

dessverre = unfortunately

å dekke bordet = set the table

en gaffel = a fork¹

sulten = hungry

å se = to see

noen = someone

et besøk = a visit

en brus = a soft-drink

senere = later

en suppe = a soup

å servere = to serve

en/ei kjøttkake = a meatball

en butikk = a store

beklager = sorry

hyggelig = nice

å leie = to rent

en nabo = a neighbor

å trenge = to need

et glass = a glass

å lukte = to smell

her = here

andre = other

å spise = to eat

en vin = a wine

¹ Nouns ending in –el has irregular endings in plural. Hence: en gaffel – gaffelen - gafler - gaflene