

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #1

A Gym Session in Norway

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1

NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Hvordan gikk det på treningen?
2. Espen: Joda, jeg har stått på. Jeg klarte seksten kroppshevninger.
3. Kjersti: Neimen, så bra!

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: How did the workout go today?
2. Espen: Well, I've been sweating! I managed to do sixteen pull-ups.
3. Kjersti: Wow, well done!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
hvordan	how	interrogative word
så	so, how	adverb
å gå	to go	verb
trening	training	noun
å stå på	to try one's best	verb
kroppshevning	pull-up	noun
seksten	sixteen	numeral
å klare	to make, to be able to	verb
neimen	wow, indeed	interjection

bra

good

adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hvordan kom du deg hjem? "How did you get home?"	Hvordan går det? "How goes it?"
Hei, hvordan går det Maria? "Hello, how are you Maria?"	Så fin den ser ut. "How nice it looks."
Så... hva er til middag? "So... what's for dinner?"	Jeg må gå snart. "I have to go soon."
Jeg går på videregående. "I am in middle school."	Jeg liker å gå i skogen. "I like to take a walk in the woods."
Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien. "Please go to the other side of the road."	Jeg er på trening. "I am exercising."
Du får stå på! "Keep going strong!"	Hvor mange kroppshevninger kan du ta? "How many pull-ups can you do?"
Hun har seksten par sko. "She has sixteen pairs of shoes."	Jeg klarer ikke mer. "I can't do anymore."
Neimen så stor du har blitt. "Wow, how big you've become."	Bra du kunne komme. "Good of you to come."

Jeg har det bra.

"I'm good."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In our vocab we have a few words we should explain. We'll start with **neimen**. It means "wow," but it could be interpreted in different ways. Essentially it is an interjection on the same line as "wow" or "oh hey." The easiest way to explain its usage would be to provide you with some examples.

For example:

1. *Neimen, hvordan står det til?*
"Hey, how's it going?"
2. *Neimen, går det bra eller?*
"Hey, are you alright?"
3. *Neimen, er det virkelig deg?*
"Wow, is that really you?"

Next we'll explain a phrase that was in our vocabulary, **å stå på**. This phrase works more or less as a single verb. It is however put together using the verb *å stå* ("to stand"), and *på* ("on"). What we meant by it being a single verb is that you can conjugate the verb *å stå* in any tense and it would still make sense. This phrase means "to keep fighting" or "to go strong." But it's better illustrated in some example sentences.

For example

1. *Jeg ser du står på!*
"I see you're working hard!"
2. *Jeg stod på, men til ingen nytte.*
"I fought hard, but to no avail."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Simple Past Tense and Perfect Past Tense

Joda, jeg har stått på.

"Well, I have been sweating!"

1. *Jeg klarte seksten kroppshevninger.*
"I managed to do sixteen pull-ups."

In this lesson we'll cover some points that we have looked at in our earlier series. As mentioned at the beginning of this lesson, this lesson should help you remember some of the grammar we'll be focusing on going forward. The lesson should also work as a bar for those of you who are new to the Norwegian series.

In this lesson we're looking at simple past tense and perfect past tense. For those of you who don't know what the difference is, in English we say "I ate" which is the simple past tense of "to eat," and "I have eaten" which is the perfect past tense. In our dialogue we saw lots of past tense. But for the sake of it let's list a few in a table.

English Infinitive	Norwegian Infinitive	Simple past tense	Perfect past tense
To drive	å kjøre	kjørte	har kjørt
To find	å finne	fant	har funnet
To read	å lese	leste	har lest

Don't get scared by this table, though. We'll explain what's going on from now on. First however let's look at our dialogue sentences and break them up.

Jeg klarte seksten kroppshevninger. The translation is "I managed to do sixteen pull-ups." This is a loose translation of the text and not a word by word translation so note that when we pick the sentence apart it will look quite different. The first word is the pronoun *jeg* meaning "I." It's followed by *klarte* which is the past tense of *å klare*, which means "to manage" or "to be able."

After this comes the number *seksten*, "sixteen," and finally the long plural noun *kroppshevninger* "pull-ups." The last noun translates directly as "body lifts." The essence of this

sentence however is the word *å klare* which is seen in past tense here, *klarte*. In Norwegian, like in English, there are no auxiliary verbs used to denote simple past tense, the only change that occurs is to the verb itself. But there are several ways verbs are conjugated in simple past tense, and while some verb endings might seem common, the truth is it's not easy to conjugate to simple past tense without knowing how the verb changes. We'll take a deeper look at the different verb groups in the next lesson.

Next let's move on to our perfect past tense sentence: *Joda, jeg har stått på*. It translates again as "Well, I have been sweating." You could also translate this as "Well, I have worked hard."

Notice how this sentence also becomes perfect past tense in English as well. If we break up this sentence we'll see that *Joda* here translated as "well" is an interjection. Following is the pronoun *jeg* "I." Next follows *har stått på* which is the perfect past tense of *å stå på* which you saw in our vocab explanation section means something like "to work hard." Now notice that for the past perfect tense we have an auxiliary verb *har* or the infinitive version *å ha* "to have." This verb is added to all perfect past tense. In perfect past tense this verb is always in its present tense form, *har*. In fact this is almost just like the English "have" or "has."

Now let's look at some examples and see if you can guess which are in simple past tense and which are in perfect past tense.

1. *Hun har kjørt langt.*
"She has driven a long way."
2. *Mannen tok på seg jakken.*
"The man put on his jacket."
3. *Jeg kom med bussen.*
"I came here by bus."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Importance of Health in Norway

As we might have mentioned in some other lessons, working out is a very important aspect of Norwegian daily life, though not for every Norwegian. However, it has gone from being a major trend in the early 2000s to becoming a focus of the spare time of many a Norwegian.

For some, the goal is to become slim and have a fit body. The focus of the media has been on the general health of the population and that is probably why exercise has stayed around for longer. The consensus is that Norwegians are growing obese and having a less healthy life in front of the TV, so many people are exercising or focusing on losing weight to stay healthy.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #2

Getting Online in Norway

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NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Tore, jeg fant en side på Google her.
2. Tore: Åja? Var den interessant?
3. Espen: Jo, den så nyttig ut!
4. Tore: Har du sendt linken til meg?
5. Espen: Ja.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Tore, I found a page here on Google.
2. Tore: Oh? Was it interesting?
3. Espen: Well, it looked like it could be of use.
4. Tore: Did you send the link to me?
5. Espen: Yes.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å finne	to find	verb
her	here	preposition
å være	to be	verb

interessant	interesting	adjective
å se... ut	to look ...	verb
nyttig	practical, of use	adjective
å sende	to send	verb
link	link	noun
til	to, for	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hun fant ikke nøkkelen.</p> <p>"She couldn't find the key."</p>	<p>Jeg må finne nummeret først</p> <p>"I have to find the number first."</p>
<p>Ta denne asjetten her.</p> <p>"Take this platter here."</p>	<p>Her er greia jeg pratet om.</p> <p>"Here's the thing I was talking about."</p>
<p>Jeg er her.</p> <p>"I'm here."</p>	<p>Vær litt mer aktiv.</p> <p>"Be a bit more active."</p>
<p>Du e jammen meg stor blitt.</p> <p>"You have become quite big."</p>	<p>Hvem vil du være?</p> <p>"Who do you want to be?"</p>
<p>Boken virket interessant.</p> <p>"The book seemed interesting."</p>	<p>Det er interessant.</p> <p>"That's interesting."</p>
<p>Det så dårlig ut.</p> <p>"It looks bad."</p>	<p>Kniven var nyttig.</p> <p>"The knife was practical."</p>
<p>Han sendte henne et brev.</p> <p>"He sent her a letter."</p>	<p>Jeg skulle ha sendt denne i morgen.</p> <p>"I would like to send this tomorrow."</p>

<p>Kan du sende meg en link?</p> <p>"Could you send me a link?"</p>	<p>Toget gikk til Skien.</p> <p>"The train went to Skien."</p>
<p>Hvem er dette til?</p> <p>"Who's this for?"</p>	<p>Jeg drar til Bergen.</p> <p>"I am going to Bergen."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

We'll repeat an explanation of a phrase we have here from one of our earlier lessons. If you aren't familiar with **å se... ut** already then make sure you pay attention. In English we say "to look like" or "to seem like." In Norwegian we say *å se... ut*. Note however that the space between *å se* and *ut* is designed for the describing word. And unlike English where we can leave out the "like" depending on the describing words used, in Norwegian *ut* always has to be there.

For example:

1. *Du ser sliten ut*
"You look tired"
2. *Bilen så veldig gammel ut*
"The car looked really old"

Our next word just needs a simple explanation. The word **link** is the same as the English word "link." In other words it's an English loan word. That means its usage is also entirely the same as in English, although some uses might not be as common as others. Let's look at some examples. The first one is the most common occurrence of *link* in Norwegian. The second one is rarely used, but still correct.

For example:

1. *Her er linken til det nye passordet ditt*
"Here's the link to your new password"

2. *Linken mellom den avdøde og gjerningsmannen var uklar*

"The link between the deceased and the perpetrator was vague" - The most common word here would be *sammenhengen* ("The link")

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is an In-depth Look at Simple Past Tense and Present Perfect Tense

Tore, jeg fant en side på Google her.

"Tore, I found this page here on Google."

In our previous lesson we looked back on the main difference between the simple past tense and the perfect past tense. In this lesson we'll take that one step further and start talking about verb categories. The focus on this grammar point will mainly be on the simple past tense, but we'll also look at some perfect past tense examples and how they differ in a conjugation sense.

First let's start by dissecting the sentence in the dialogue that contained the word *fant*: *Tore, jeg fant en side på Google her*. The translation here would be, "Tore, I found this page here on Google." Now the start of this sentence is the personal noun *Tore*, in other words the name of Espen's friend and colleague. Following the noun we have the pronoun *jeg*. Next we have the verb *fant* which is the simple past tense of *å finne* which means "to find." Next we have the article *en* "a" after which always follows a noun, in this case *side* "page." Then we have *på* which is the preposition "on." Then the famed name *Google*, and finally *her* meaning "here." Now let's explain briefly why *her* is at the end of the sentence and what significance it has. *Her* is at the end of the sentence because Espen is referring to something that happened very recently and at his job. In other words *her* simply conveys that it is of significance to the listener and that it happened recently.

Now to the point this lesson really is about. The verb *fant* in this lesson is what you'd call a strong verb. In Norwegian we usually categorize verbs into two categories: strong verbs and weak verbs. Weak verbs needs an ending in simple past tense, while strong verbs usually only alter the vowel in the verb to form simple past tense. The verb *å finne* does not have an ending in simple past tense; instead the word itself changes shape to *fant*. I just mentioned that strong verbs usually change the vowel, *å finne* changes more than a vowel, but it is not irregular just because of that. Most verbs that end in infinitive *nne* like *å vinne* ("to win") will

change to *ant* in past tense. *Å vinne* changes to *vant*.

In past perfect tense *å finne* conjugates to *har funnet*. So what about the other verb *å vinne*? Well this also ends in the same way, *har vunnet*. This is why they are regular verbs. However, there are many different strong verbs that end in other ways than what we have seen as examples here. Furthermore, there are about four different types of weak verbs. Let's look at some of the most common ones.

Verb Type	Infinitive	Simple Past Tense	Past Perfect Tense
Weak verb category 1	<i>å kaste</i> "to throw"	<i>kasta / kastet</i> "threw"	<i>har kastet</i> "has thrown"
Weak verb category 2	<i>å lyse</i> "to glow"	<i>lyste</i> "glowed"	<i>har lyst</i> "has glowed"
Weak verb category 3	<i>å leve</i> "to live"	<i>levde</i> "lived"	<i>har levd</i> "has lived"
Weak verb category 4	<i>å nå</i> "to reach"	<i>nådde</i> "reached"	<i>har nådd</i> "has reached"
Strong	<i>å gå</i> "to walk"	<i>gikk</i> "walked"	<i>har gått</i> "has walked"
Strong	<i>å si</i> "to say"	<i>sa</i> "said"	<i>har sagt</i> "has said"
Strong	<i>å ta</i> "to take"	<i>tok</i> "took"	<i>har tatt</i> "has taken"

Now you might have noticed there are no irregular verbs in this example. Don't worry, we are reserving a separate lesson for them later.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Online in Norway

Like the rest of the industrialized world, Norway also has Internet access. The infrastructure is strong and innovative. Although fiber-optic speeds are still quite expensive and inaccessible for most, the general connection speeds are fast and thus more or less every Norwegian has a stable connection to the Internet. This has led to everything from private postal mail becoming an online service; to online banks, and traffic information, ticket systems, and so on are becoming the norm in the population. Most Norwegians now submit their tax return through the Internet or cell phone rather than on paper.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #3

Traveling Around Norway

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NORWEGIAN

1. Scott: Hei, jeg skal til Ålesund.
2. Concierge: Har du kjøpt billett?
3. Scott: Ja, jeg har allerede betalt.
4. Concierge: Bra, kan jeg få booking-nummeret?

ENGLISH

1. Scott: Hi, I am going to Ålesund.
2. Concierge: Did you buy a ticket?
3. Scott: Yes, I have already paid for it.
4. Concierge: Good, could I have the booking number?

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
booking-nummer	booking number	noun
å skulle	to go to, will	verb
Ålesund	Ålesund, a city in Norway	noun
allerede	already	adverb
å kunne	to be able to, to be willing to	verb
å kjøpe	to buy	verb

å ha	to have	verb
billett	ticket	noun
å betale	to pay	verb
å få	to get, to have	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Booking-nummeret var feil.</p> <p>"The booking number was wrong."</p>	<p>Hvor skal du?</p> <p>"Where are you going?"</p>
<p>Skulle ikke du komme i går?</p> <p>"Weren't you supposed to come by yesterday?"</p>	<p>Jeg skal besøke deg i morgen.</p> <p>"I'll pay you a visit tomorrow."</p>
<p>Har du vært i Ålesund før?</p> <p>"Have you been to Ålesund before?"</p>	<p>Den var allerede fire på ettermiddagen.</p> <p>"It was already four in the afternoon."</p>
<p>Kunne du hjelpet meg?</p> <p>"Could you help me?"</p>	<p>Jeg kan komme i dag.</p> <p>"I can come today."</p>
<p>Du kan kjøpe tannkrem på apoteket.</p> <p>"You can buy toothpaste at the pharmacy."</p>	<p>Jeg vil kjøpe tre bøker.</p> <p>"I want to buy three books."</p>
<p>Du kan ikke kjøpe bussbillett her.</p> <p>"You can't buy bus tickets here."</p>	<p>Har du en katt?</p> <p>"Do you have a cat?"</p>
<p>Billetten var ugyldig.</p> <p>"The ticket was invalid."</p>	<p>Tre billetter er du snill.</p> <p>"I'd like three tickets please."</p>

Betal meg senere. "Pay me later."	Få se på telefonen din. "Let me have a look at your phone."
Få deg en pc. "Get a PC."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

As you may have noticed, two of the words in our vocabulary are sort of special when it comes to Norwegian grammar. They are what you call helping verbs, which means they are contributing to the conjugation of verbs. These are **å skulle** and **å ha**. The role of these verbs is usually obvious in a sentence as they are most often paired with other verbs to help conjugate them into a different tense. However, on their own, they also work as normal verbs. Let's look at some examples.

1. *Jeg har en hund.*
"I have a dog."
2. *Mannen skulle hjem.*
"The man was going home."

Finally, we have another loanword that might have made you wonder. **Booking-nummer** is a hybrid Norwegian and English word. The first part, *booking*, is an English loan word and comes from the word "booking," what a surprise. The second word, *nummer*, means "number" and is strikingly similar to its English counterpart. *Booking*, or for that sake, *booking-nummer*, is exactly what it would mean in English and is used in the exact same way. An alternate word, which is much more Norwegian, would be: *reservasjonsnummer* ("booking number").

For example:

1. *Her er booking-nummeret ditt.*
"Here's your booking number."
2. *Jeg finner ikke booking-nummeret.*
"I can't find the booking number."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using *har allerede* ("have already").

Ja, jeg har allerede betalt.

"Yes, I have already paid (for a ticket.)"

In our previous lesson, we looked at simple past tense and the strong and weak verb groups. This time, we will move on to the present perfect tense and look a bit deeper into how they are made.

First, however, let's dissect the sentence that we'll be concentrating on from our dialogue. *Ja, jeg har allerede betalt.* It translates as, "Yes, I have already paid (for a ticket)." Now the last part of the sentence in English is something that would usually be understood from the context of the conversation and isn't part of the Norwegian sentence. With that understood, we'll look at the first word in the sentence, and that is the affirmative *ja*, or "yes" in English. Following that, as usual, we have the pronoun *jeg* ("I"). After the pronoun comes the verb, and this time, it is the present perfect tense of *å betale*, which means "to pay." *Har betalt.* But wait, in between the helping verb *har* and *betalt*, we have another adverb, *allerede* ("already"). Luckily, this happens in English too, and so it shouldn't be too hard to grasp. When adding adverbs like "already," "almost," "probably," and so on, they are put in between the auxiliary verb and the conjugated verb, just like they would be in English. So all together, we have, *Jeg har allerede betalt*, or, in English, "I have already paid." It's a straight-forward word for word translation that works in English as well.

Next up, let's look at the most important part of this sentence, the verb *å betale*. Now if we were to conjugate this verb, it would change to *betaler* in present tense, *betalte* in simple past tense, and *har betalt* in present perfect tense. So besides adding the auxiliary verb *har*, we have also removed the last *e* from the simple past form. With good memory or a bit of searching, we'll see that this verb is a weak verb, following the second verb group formula we looked at in the previous lesson.

Let's bring up the table we had in the previous lesson and talk a bit about it.

Verb type	Infinitive	Simple Past Tense	Present Perfect Tense	English
Weak	<i>å kaste</i>	<i>kasta / kastet</i>	<i>har kastet</i>	"to throw"
Weak	<i>å lyse</i>	<i>lyste</i>	<i>har lyst</i>	"to glow"
Weak	<i>å leve</i>	<i>levde</i>	<i>har levd</i>	"to live"

Weak	<i>å nå</i>	<i>nådde</i>	<i>har nådd</i>	"to reach"
Strong	<i>å gå</i>	<i>gikk</i>	<i>har gått</i>	"to walk"
Strong	<i>å si</i>	<i>sa</i>	<i>har sagt</i>	"to say"
Strong	<i>å ta</i>	<i>tok</i>	<i>har tatt</i>	"to take"

Let's go over this diagram. The weak verb from the first group, *å kaste*, means "to throw." It changes to *kastet* or *kasta* in simple past tense. In present perfect tense, we simply add the auxiliary verb *har* to make up the correct form.

The weak verb from the second group, as we mentioned, *å lyse* ("to radiate"), becomes *lyste* in simple past tense. Then it sheds the last *e* and adds the auxiliary verb *har* to become *har lyst*.

Next, we have the weak verb from the third group, *å leve* ("to live"). The verbs of this group add a *de*, making it *levde* in simple past tense. And they shed the last *e* in perfect past tense: *har levd*.

Finally, the weak verb from the fourth group, *å nå* ("to reach") becomes *nådde*, adding a *dde* in simple past tense and shedding the last *e* in present perfect tense: *har nådd*.

We'll not go over each strong verb, since many of the strong verbs have different endings. However, you might notice something quite common even in this short list. In present perfect tense, one usually adds *t* to the infinitive form. Just be observant that this is not the case for every strong verb, however.

For example:

Å gå ("to go") becomes *har gått*

Å ta ("to take") becomes *har tatt*

And unlike these two, *å si* ("to say") becomes *har sagt*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Traveling in Norway

Traveling in Norway is a subject that often comes up in conversation with foreigners or when outside of Norway. Norway is most famous for the fjords, mountain, midnight sun, and northern lights. However, there is much more to the country than that. While Norwegians enjoy nature and Norway's natural attractions as much any foreign tourist does, Norway can also offer vibrant cities with interesting architecture and city life, as well unique shopping opportunities. The main way to travel in Norway is either by car or train. When traveling longer distances within the country, it is also common to take flights between the larger cities.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #4

Arguing About the Housework in Norwegian

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NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Sku'kke du vaske opp?
2. Espen: Jo, men hadde ikke tid til det.
3. Kjersti: Kan'ke du gjøre det nå a?
4. Espen: Jeg ha'kke tid, sa jeg.

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: Weren't you supposed to wash (the dishes)?
2. Espen: Yes, but I didn't have time for it.
3. Kjersti: Can't you do it now?
4. Espen: I don't have time, I said.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å skulle	to go to, will	verb
å vaske opp	to wash up	verb
å gjøre	to do	verb
å kunne	to be able to, to be willing to	verb
nå	now	adverb
å si	to say	verb

ikke	not	interjection
men	but	conjunction
tid	time	noun
a	huh? (question intensifier)	interjection

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hvor skal du?</p> <p>"Where are you going?"</p>	<p>Skulle ikke du komme i går?</p> <p>"Weren't you supposed to come by yesterday?"</p>
<p>Jeg skal besøke deg i morgen.</p> <p>"I'll pay you a visit tomorrow."</p>	<p>Jeg vasker opp kjelen jeg.</p> <p>"I'll wash the pot."</p>
<p>Gjør du noe spesielt nå?</p> <p>"Are you doing anything special now?"</p>	<p>Kunne du hjulpet meg?</p> <p>"Could you help me?"</p>
<p>Jeg kan komme i dag.</p> <p>"I can come today."</p>	<p>Du kan kjøpe tannkrem på apoteket.</p> <p>"You can buy toothpaste at the pharmacy."</p>
<p>Kan du gå nå?</p> <p>"Can you go now?"</p>	<p>Det går bra nå.</p> <p>"It's ok now."</p>
<p>Nå må du høre!</p> <p>"Now listen to me!"</p>	<p>Han kunne ikke si sannheten til henne.</p> <p>"He couldn't tell her the truth."</p>
<p>Hva sier han?</p> <p>"What is he saying?"</p>	<p>Han hadde ikke tid.</p> <p>"He didn't have time."</p>

<p>Er ikke du sliten?</p> <p>"Are you tired?"</p>	<p>Jeg vil, men kan ikke.</p> <p>"I want to, but I can't."</p>
<p>Men kan ikke du komme hit?</p> <p>But can't you come here?</p>	<p>Jeg liker deg men...</p> <p>"I like you but..."</p>
<p>Tid er penger.</p> <p>"Time is money."</p>	<p>Jeg har ikke nok tid.</p> <p>"I don't have enough time."</p>

Hvorfor må du spille nå a?

"Why d'you have to play now, huh?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In our dialogue we had a phrase that might be confusing to some. It says **å vaske opp** ("to wash up"). Now there is a distinct difference between **å vaske** and **å vaske opp** in Norwegian. The former means "to wash," as in general washing for clothes and the house. The latter, however, is only referring to "washing the dishes." In Norwegian, this distinction often makes it easy to understand what someone is "washing" simply by only hearing the verb. Let's look at some examples.

For example:

1. *Jeg går og vasker opp.*
"I'll go wash / do (the dishes)."
2. *Jeg går og vasker jeg.*
"I'll go wash." - This is implying that whatever that person is washing is already understood between the two speakers.

Finally, we have a funny little letter that often comes up as slang in Norwegian: **A**. It isn't really possible to translate it to English, however, it is quite similar to how "huh" is used in English. That is to say, it implies that the sentence is a question, and thus, it always comes at the end

of a sentence. The following examples are translated to be similar to the mood expressed by the use of *a* at the end of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Hva driver du med a?*
"So, whatcha doin'?"
2. *Hvorfor kommer ikke hu a?* (note *hu* is slang for *hun*, meaning "she")
"(What's wrong?) Why isn't she coming?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Irregular Verbs and Slang.

Jeg ha'kke tid, sa jeg.

"I don't have time, I said."

The grammar point of this lesson is somewhat irregular, in many ways. We'll be dealing with the irregular verbs, and believe me, there are many of them. In fact, as we have pushed in earlier lessons, there's a need for learning each verb individually as you'll have a hard time guessing what category they fall into. That said, what we're trying to do here is to help make sense of what exactly is happening in the world of Norwegian verbs. If you understand how the verbs work and start to get a certain feel for the language, you can use the knowledge and the feel for the language to accurately conjugate verbs you haven't heard before.

Back to irregular verbs. The definition of irregular in Norwegian is that they don't conform to the common present tense form for verbs, which is adding *-r* or *-er* to the end of the verb. The irregular verbs usually change shape when conjugating to present tense. This way they are quite easy to spot. Adding to this, they are usually some of the most common verbs used in Norwegian, so you'll quickly get used to using and conjugating them.

Before we start looking at the most common irregular verbs, let's break down the sentence we had in our dialogue. *Jeg ha'kke tid, sa jeg.* In English, "I don't have time, I said." The first word here is, as always, the pronoun *jeg* ("I"). Next, however, we have quite a funny word. Notice that reading this, the apostrophe is never used in Norwegian. It is used solely in this lesson to make a distinction in the slang used. When writing Norwegian, never use an apostrophe, even when in doubt. So, back to our funny word, *ha'kke*, or correctly written, *hakke*. This is a

conjunction of *har* ("have / has") and *ikke* ("not"). In other words, this is slang for "have not / has not" or, as it is often written in English, "haven't / hasn't." We'll look more at this slang later. Next we have the word *tid*, which means "time." Following, we have *sa* ("said"), another verb, and finally, the pronoun *jeg* ("I") again.

So what's up with the irregular verbs? Let's list some of them and take a look.

Verb Infinitive	Present Tense	English Translation
<i>å ha</i>	<i>har</i>	"to have"
<i>å skulle</i>	<i>skal</i>	"going to"
<i>å være</i>	<i>er</i>	"to be"
<i>å ville</i>	<i>vil</i>	"to want"
<i>å kunne</i>	<i>kan</i>	"to be able to"

As you see here, all the verbs change to some degree in present tense. The verb *å ha* does seem to be a regular verb, however, seeing that in present tense it becomes *har*. However, in simple past tense, it is *hadde*, and in perfect past tense, it becomes *har hatt*. Like we have said earlier, there is no way to distinguish an irregular verb from a regular verb when they are in infinitive tense. This is something that has to be learned gradually.

Now finally, let's look at the slang we were talking about. When some irregular verbs are coupled with the negative *ikke* ("not"), you can contract the verb and the negative by removing the last consonant of the verb and the *-i* in *ikke*. Let's look at some of the examples of this.

For example:

Hakke - Har ikke - "Haven't"

Vikke - Vil ikke - "Won't"

Kanke - Kan ikke (Here the *-n* isn't removed) - "Can't"

Skakke - Skal ikke - "Aren't supposed"

Ekke - Er ikke - "Isn't"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Housekeeping Habits in Norway

You wouldn't imagine that housekeeping chores in Norway differ that much from any country, and that is true. There are, however, some things you should watch out for that might differ from your own culture. When entering a Norwegian house or apartment, it is always common to take off your shoes. This is because using shoes inside is, in reality, very unhygienic. It's not common to help out with washing up after a dinner when you're a guest, however, it is polite to help clean the table. In general housekeeping, Norwegians tend to value cleanliness, and most clean their house quite often.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #5

Is Smoking Allowed in Norway?

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

5

NORWEGIAN

1. Scott: Det går vel an å røyke på bussen?
2. Bussjåfør: Nei, det går ikke, da må du av i så fall.
3. Scott: Ah, da må jeg av på neste stopp.
4. Bussjåfør: Ok.

ENGLISH

1. Scott: I'm allowed to smoke on the bus, right?
2. Bus driver: No, that's not allowed. In that case, you have to get off the bus.
3. Scott: Oh, then I'll have to get off at the next stop.
4. Bus driver: Okay.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
neste stopp	next stop	phrase
å gå	to go	verb
nei	no	adverb
da	then	interjection
i så fall	in that case	phrase
av	from, of	adverb

å røyke	to smoke	verb
an	even (used for emphasis)	interjection
å måtte	to have to, to be forced to	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg går av på neste stopp.</p> <p>"I am getting off at the next stop."</p>	<p>Jeg må gå snart.</p> <p>"I have to go soon."</p>
<p>Jeg går på videregående.</p> <p>"I am in middle school."</p>	<p>Jeg liker å gå i skogen.</p> <p>"I like to take a walk in the woods."</p>
<p>Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien.</p> <p>"Please go to the other side of the road."</p>	<p>Det er ikke mulig, nei.</p> <p>"It's not possible, no."</p>
<p>Jeg liker ikke fotball.</p> <p>"I don't like soccer."</p>	<p>Da var vi endelig ferdige.</p> <p>"And finally we finished."</p>
<p>I så fall kan du si ifra.</p> <p>"In that case you can just tell me."</p>	<p>Gå av nå!</p> <p>"Get off now!"</p>
<p>Jeg har fått nok av dette!</p> <p>"I have had enough of this!"</p>	<p>Pipen røyket.</p> <p>"The pipe was smoking."</p>
<p>Konen min røyker ikke.</p> <p>"My wife doesn't smoke."</p>	<p>At det går an?</p> <p>"Is it even possible!?"</p>
<p>Jeg måtte bare ha en til.</p> <p>"I just had to have one more."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In this lesson, we'll look at some more common slang—the word **an**. Again we are faced with a word that is nearly impossible to translate to English. That is to say, it does have a use, which is to put emphasis on certain sentences. It cannot be used in every sentence you want to put emphasis in, however. It is most commonly used as part of the phrase *å gå an*. The phrase *å gå an* would translate roughly as "to be possible." Again we'll need examples to illustrate just exactly how this is used.

For example:

1. *Går det an å spise her?*
"Is it possible (allowed) to eat here?"
2. *Det går ikke an å være så dum!*
"It's impossible to be that stupid!"

Next up we have the phrase **i så fall**. This phrase most often translates as "in that case." It's more or less used in the same scenarios you would use "in that case" in English and shouldn't be that hard to understand. It's like its English counterpart—a set phrase—so it doesn't change.

For example:

1. *Du kan jo bli med, men i så fall må vi ta bussen.*
"You could join, (but) in that case, we'd have to take the bus."
2. *I så fall vil ikke jeg ha den maten.*
"If that's the case, then I don't want that food."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is (*Det går*)

Det går vel an å røyke på bussen?

"I am allowed to smoke on the bus, right?"

Nei, det går ikke, da må du av i så fall.

"No, that's not allowed. In that case you have to get off the bus."

Our grammar point in this lesson was covered lightly in our vocab explanation as well. We explained how *an* works as part of the phrase *å gå an*. Now we are going to explain the former part of this sentence, namely *det går*, which translates as "it goes." This phrase is commonly used in referring to general possibility. Translating it to English it would more closely resemble the phrase, "it is possible." Before we start explaining the phrase in more details, let's go over and break down the two sentences we had in our lesson. We have already explained some of the words in the vocab section, so if you are unsure of some of them, please refer to our vocab section again.

Our first sentence, *Det går vel an å røyke på bussen?* translates roughly as, "I am allowed to smoke on the bus, right?" Now this is again a more freestanding translation. A more precise translation would be, "Would it be possible to smoke on the bus?" Now the first word in our sentence is *det* ("it"). It is followed by the present tense verb *går* ("goes"). Next we have *vel*, an adverb which doesn't translate to English but would add something like the word "right" at the end of the sentence. Following this, we have *an*, which again would best be thought of as part of the phrase *det går an* ("It is possible"). Then we have a verb in the infinitive form, *å røyke* ("to smoke"). The reason it is in infinitive form is because we have the "possible" phrase as the first part of the sentence. The verb is then followed by *på*, which is a preposition and means "on." And finally, we have the definite noun *bussen* ("the bus"). The whole sentence can be a bit complex, but essentially, it is affirming the notion that it is possible to smoke on the bus by using the *det går an* phrase.

Now for our next sentence we have the answer to the question above. *Nei, det går ikke, da må du av i så fall.* This translates as, "No, that's not allowed. In that case, you'll have to get off (the bus)." Again, it is understood in the sentence here that when the bus driver says "get off," he means "to get off the bus." The first word in the sentence is the negative *nei*, which is "no" in English. It is followed by our phrase *det går* ("it goes"), and then the second negative, *ikke* ("not"). Next we have *da* ("then"), which is followed by *må*, which means "to have to." Next we have the adjective *av* ("off"). And finally, the phrase *i så fall* ("in that case"). We explained the last phrase in our vocab explanation section. This sentence's most important part is the *det går ikke* part. This is the only answer needed to the question above. Let's look at how this phrase works.

Det går is a phrase indicating general possibility. In our vocab explanation, we talked about *å gå an* as translating as "to be possible." While it is common to add the *an* at the end of *det går*, it is not in any way necessary. But alone, *å gå* simply means "to go." That's why combining *det* ("it") and *å gå* ("to go") is necessary to make the phrase, "it is possible" or "it goes." Whether

det or *går* comes first depends on whether the sentence is an affirmation or a question, just as in English. If we say, *Det går å kjøre gjennom her*, *det* comes first and forms the affirmation, "It is possible to drive through here." While on the other hand, we say, *Går det å kjøre gjennom her?* to make it a question because *går*, the verb, is first. "Is it possible to drive through here?" Let's look at some examples of this:

1. *Jeg vil hjelpe til. Går det om jeg blir med?*
"I want to help out. Is it possible for me to join?"
2. *Det går ikke ann å svømme over.*
"It is impossible to swim across."
3. *Går det fortere om vi kjører bil?*
"Would it be faster if we drive a car?"
4. *Det går om du sikter mer mot høyre.*
"It's going to work if you aim a bit more to the right."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Norwegian Smoking Laws

Smoking laws in Norway have become quite strict in recent years. Now it's illegal to smoke in many public spaces, like inside malls, restaurants, larger squares, and other places where it is considered a nuisance to the general public. Smokers are becoming a minority in Norway, so much so that some jobs aren't allowing cigarette breaks, and it is becoming unusual to smoke inside one's own house. The latter is also due to the problem with selling houses or apartments where there has been smoking going on inside. Smokers are complaining more and more recently due to the tightening of the laws and the gradual exclusion of smokers in general. While on the other hand, the general non-smoking public is gradually becoming able to take a breath of relief.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #6

Getting Help with Your Norwegian Homework

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

6

NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Skal jeg hjelpe deg med leksene, Ada?
2. Ada: Ja!
3. Kjersti: Kom her, så skal vi sette oss ved bordet og gjøre dem.
4. Ada: Jippi!

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: Should I help you with your homework, Ada?
2. Ada: Yes!
3. Kjersti: Come here then. We'll sit down by the table and do it.
4. Ada: Yay!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
dem	they	pronoun
jippi	yay!	interjection
å skulle	to go to, will	verb
å hjelpe	to help	verb
ved	by	preposition
å sette	to sit	verb

bord	table	noun
leksene	homework	noun
med	with	conjunction
her	here	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hva skal vi gi dem?</p> <p>"What are we going to give them?"</p>	<p>Jippi, endelig er det vår!</p> <p>"Yay, it's finally spring!"</p>
<p>Hvor skal du?</p> <p>"Where are you going?"</p>	<p>Skulle ikke du komme i går?</p> <p>"Weren't you supposed to come by yesterday?"</p>
<p>Jeg skal besøke deg i morgen.</p> <p>"I'll pay you a visit tomorrow."</p>	<p>Han skulle bare hjelpe til.</p> <p>"He was just going to help."</p>
<p>Kan du hjelpe til?</p> <p>"Can you help out?"</p>	<p>Jeg trenger hjelp her.</p> <p>"I need some help here."</p>
<p>Baggen lå ved bordet.</p> <p>"The bag lay by the table."</p>	<p>Huset ligger ved elven.</p> <p>"The house lies by the river."</p>
<p>De satte seg ned i en sirkel.</p> <p>"They sat down in a circle."</p>	<p>Bordet hadde knekt.</p> <p>"The table had been broken."</p>
<p>Jeg liker ikke dette bordet.</p> <p>"I don't like this table."</p>	<p>Gutten ville ikke gjøre leksene sine.</p> <p>"The boy didn't want to do his homework."</p>

<p>Brødskive med hva?</p> <p>"A slice of bread with what?"</p>	<p>Jeg blir med!</p> <p>"I'm coming with you!"</p>
<p>Blir du med?</p> <p>"Are you joining?"</p>	<p>Den med hunden på, vær så snill.</p> <p>"The one with the dog (on it), please."</p>
<p>Ta denne asjetten her.</p> <p>"Take this platter here."</p>	<p>Her er greia jeg pratet om.</p> <p>"Here's the thing I was talking about."</p>
<p>Jeg er her.</p> <p>"I'm here."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In our lesson this time around, we didn't have too many curious words. Let's, however, explain a bit about the word *jippi*. It's an exclamation said in excitement or when very happy. Thus, it isn't a countable noun like *a hurra* or "hurrah." The more *'s* you add to the end of *jippi*, the happier you seem. If translated to English, it would be quite similar to how "wohoo" is used to express joy.

For example:

- Jippi! Jeg fikk det til!*

"Yay! I finally did it!"
- Jippi! Endelig ferdig på jobb!*

"Woo! I finally got off work!"

Next we have **å sette** ("to sit"). It is very similar to *å sitte*, which also means "to sit." In fact, English uses the same word "to sit" to refer to the action of "sitting down" and "to be sitting." The action of setting or putting something down or sitting down uses the verb *å sette*, and the action of sitting uses the verb *å sitte*. In English, you make the distinction between "to sit down" and "to put something somewhere," however, in Norwegian, both these actions are

expressed through the word *å sette*. Let's look at some examples.

For example:

1. *Sett deg ned her du.*
"Sit down here."
2. *Sett baggen fra deg på bordet.*
"Set the bag on the table."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using *skal* ("should").

Skal jeg hjelpe deg med leksene, Ada?

"Should I help you with your homework, Ada?"

In our grammar point, we'll look at the verb *å skulle* ("should") or ("to have to"). It works as both, whereas in English, these two words are often interchangeable. This verb, apart from being a helping verb in terms of tense, is also a helping verb in terms of being a modal verb. It is the same in English, so this shouldn't be too hard, but let's explain what a modal verb is. A modal verb helps indicate or ask about the possibility or likelihood of something. In our previous lesson we were talking about *det går an* ("it is possible"). This phrase is a modal phrase. In this lesson, however, we'll explain just how *å skulle* works as a modal verb.

A quick fact first. You might have noticed how in English, there is no infinitive form of "should." This is the case for many auxiliary verbs in English. In Norwegian, however, there is not a single verb without an infinitive. This should make it easier for you to grasp each verb and its conjugation.

Now, to start off, let's break down our sentence. *Skal jeg hjelpe deg med leksene, Ada?* This sentence translates as, "Should I help you with your homework, Ada?" This is more or less a straight-forward translation, thus, the explanation should be quite easy. Our first word is the present tense *skal* of the verb *å skulle* ("should"). This is followed by *jeg*, the pronoun "I." Next we have the infinitive of the verb that is coupled with the modal *skal*, *hjelpe*, which means "to help." Next we have the passive pronoun *deg* ("you"). It is followed by *med*, the conjunction "with." After which follows the plural noun *leksene* ("homework"). And finally, we have the personal noun *Ada*. The sentence should be quite easy. Just watch out for parts that might be

tricky for English-speakers, like the passive pronoun *deg*. *Deg* can never be the subject of the sentence. It is always the direct or indirect object.

Now that we have that down, let's look at *å skulle*. When *å skulle* is used as a modal verb in a question, the verb coupled with it will always come after the subject, and the subject always comes after *å skulle*. Just like this: *Skal vi komme over?* "Should we come over?" However, when *å skulle* is used in an affirmation, the verb being coupled with the modal verb always comes after the modal verb, that is, unless there are adverbs. Let's look at a sentence with an adverb. *Han skulle bare ha hjulpet.* "He should have just helped." Now you notice that the English and Norwegian start to look very different. This is mainly because English uses the copula "to be," which is hardly present in Norwegian.

Here comes the complex part of this verb. When used in an affirmative sentence as a modal verb, it doubles as a helping verb for tense. In English, we differentiate between "I am going" and "I should." The former is a helping word for future tense, while the latter is a modal verb. However, in Norwegian, *å skulle* is the most common future tense verb, as well as a modal verb. Thus, it becomes hard to draw a line between whether it acts as a modal verb in a sentence or as a future tense. The difference is largely based on the context of the rest of the sentence. Take a look at our examples, and tell us which is which. Modal or future tense?

1. *Barna skulle hjelpe til.*
"The children were going to help." (future)
2. *Skal jeg hjelpe deg?*
"Should I help you?" (modal)
3. *Skal han kjøre barna til skolen?*
"Is he going to drive the kids to school?" (This can be both, depending on the context)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Parenting in Norway

Raising children in Norway is quite a different story than it is in many other countries. Improvements in the situation for parents in Norway are gradually being pushed by the governments. And while work times and stances on work and private life are still quite conservative in general, the availability of kindergartens, free public schooling, public

parenting compensations, and strict laws on parenting points to a serious focus on parenting in Norwegian society. Few have problems raising their children properly, and big safety nets are in place for economic hurdles, disabled children, and treating child diseases. In other words, Norway is the place to raise your children if you ever wonder where to raise them.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #7

A Funny Way of Looking at Things in Norway

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

7

NORWEGIAN

1. Mille: Virker ikke som de kommer.
2. Lars: Nei, skal vi ringe dem og spørre?
3. Mille: Ok.
4. Lars: (dials, waits) Hmm virker ikke som de tar telefonen heller.

ENGLISH

1. Mille: Doesn't seem like they are coming.
2. Lars: No, should we call them and ask?
3. Mille: Okay.
4. Lars: (dials, waits) Hmm, doesn't seem like they're picking up either.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å virke	to seem	verb
som	that, which, as	conjunction
å ta	to take, to pick up	verb
å spørre	to ask	verb
telefon	telephone	noun
å ringe	to call, to ring	verb

å komme	to come	verb
og	and	conjunction
heller	rather, either	conjunction

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det virket ikke som det var lenge siden han dro.</p> <p>"It didn't seem like it was long since he left."</p>	<p>Hvem er det som skriker?</p> <p>"Who is screaming?"</p>
<p>Hvem er det som tramper på min bru?</p> <p>"Who stomps on my bridge?"</p>	<p>Han er blek som et spøkelse.</p> <p>"He is white as a ghost."</p>
<p>Bussen tok en time.</p> <p>"The bus took an hour."</p>	<p>Kan jeg ta med en venn?</p> <p>"Can I bring a friend?"</p>
<p>Mannen spurte om veien.</p> <p>"The man asked for the road."</p>	<p>Spurte du meg om noe?</p> <p>"Did you ask me about something?"</p>
<p>Telefonen ringte.</p> <p>"The telephone rang."</p>	<p>Den telefonen virker ikke.</p> <p>"That phone doesn't work."</p>
<p>Ringte det i stad?</p> <p>"Did the phone ring earlier?"</p>	<p>Du kan jo ringe meg, kanskje?</p> <p>"You could call me, maybe?"</p>
<p>Legen kom etter en time.</p> <p>"The doctor came after an hour."</p>	<p>Jeg kommer hjem nå.</p> <p>"I'm coming home now."</p>
<p>Kom over.</p> <p>"Come over."</p>	<p>Fire stykker kom ikke.</p> <p>"Four people did not come."</p>

<p>Jeg vil ha fisk og poteter.</p> <p>"I want fish and potatoes."</p>	<p>Jeg vil og bli med.</p> <p>"I also want to join."</p>
<p>Jeg tar en brandy og to øl.</p> <p>"One brandy and two beers please."</p>	<p>Jeg vet heller ikke.</p> <p>"I don't know either."</p>

Jeg vil heller spille spill.

"I'd rather play games."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

We will cover the word **som** more extensively in later lessons, however, let's take a short look at it now. *Som* is similar to the English word "that." However, in Norwegian, *som* is used a lot more often than "that" is in English and in different circumstances. That is what makes this word so hard to grasp at times. So what exactly does it signify? In essence, it points at the word before it as being the reason for the action that comes after it.

For example:

1. *Er det du som spiste kaken?*
"Is it you who ate the cake?"
2. *Jeg er som en sommerfugl, lett.*
"I am like a butterfly—light."

Our next word is **heller**. It usually translates as "either" in English. One note, however. In English, "either" can often be exchanged for "as well" by altering the sentence slightly. And by the way, we are talking about "either" as in, "I have no idea either" or, "I have no idea as well," and not a phrase like, "Can I have either?" In Norwegian, *heller* does not have any similar word it can be substituted with. Thus, you can only use *heller* to denote "either" and "as well."

For example:

1. *Jeg vil heller ikke spise.*
"I don't want to eat, either."
2. *Han visste ikke svaret heller.*
"He didn't know the answer either."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Norwegian Phrase *Virker som*.

Virker ikke som de kommer.

"Doesn't seem like they are coming."

In this grammar point, we'll look at one of the usages of the word *som*. This word has a few different uses depending on which words it's placed with and the context of the sentence. This grammar point will focus on using it with the word *virker*, the present tense of the verb *å virke* ("to be in working order"), and the word *ser ut*, the present tense of the phrase *å se ut* ("to look").

First, however, let's break down the sentence in the dialogue we had. *Virker ikke som de kommer*. In English, this means, "Doesn't seem like they are coming." The first word in this sentence is *virker*, which is the present tense of *å virke* ("to be in working order"). This is followed by the negative *ikke* ("not"). Next we have the conjunction *som*, which in this sentence means "like." Then we have the pronoun *de* ("they"). And finally, we have the verb *kommer*, the present tense of *å komme* ("to come").

Now the word *som*. As you can see from the above sentence, *virker* and *som* are joined to become the phrase *virker som* ("seems like"). Thus, you could call it a set phrase. The same goes for *ser ut* and *som*. *Ser ut som* ("looks like"). *Virker som* in Norwegian works much like "seems like" does in English. Let's see some examples of it.

For example:

1. *Det virker som vi må bli her.*
"It seems like we have to stay here."
2. *Bilen virker som den går på tomgang.*
"The car seems like it's idling."

Sometimes you may hear *virker som* followed by the word *at*. This is quite common in speech because it sounds more natural to the speaker, however, it has no significance in the sentence itself. For example, we can take one of the sentences above and add *at* to it: *Det virker som at vi om bli her* ("It seems like we have to stay here."). *At* doesn't have any real significance here. It simply makes the sentence sound more natural to some.

Next, the phrase *ser ut som*. You might remember that we talked about the descriptive word being placed between the *ser* and *ut* in order to make the form "(something) looks (description)." When coupling *ser ut* with *som*, it becomes, as stated above, a set phrase. However, adverbs are still put in between the *ser* and *ut*. *Ser ut som* works much the same way the phrase "looks like" does in English. Let's look at some examples.

1. *Du ser nesten ut som en løve.*
"You almost look like a lion."
2. *Det ser ut som det skal begynne å regne.*
"It looks like it's going to start raining."

Finally, a little bonus for coming this far. Until now, we have only been using the phrase "looks like." However, in Norwegian there also exists a phrase for "sounds like." The only thing you need to do is swap the *ser* with *høres*. It is the present tense of the verb *å høres* ("to be heard" or "to sound"). Basically, the phrase now would look like this: *høres ut som*. Let's look at one example of this.

For example:

1. *Det høres ut som en dårlig idé.*
"It sounds like a bad idea."

Now let's compile the different phrases we've seen until now to give you a better overview.

Phrase	Norwegian	English
<i>Virker som</i>	<i>Det virker som om du er sint.</i>	"It seems like you are angry."
<i>Ser ut som</i>	<i>Du ser ut som du har løpt litt</i>	"You look like you've been running quite a lot."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Socializing with Norwegians

When socializing with Norwegians, it is common to be quite open and frank about oneself. Norwegians don't like to hide much and talk quite freely about any topic. Which political party a Norwegian votes for, though, tends to be a secret for most. Other than that topic, socializing with Norwegians isn't at all hard, and most would feel comfortable initiating chats with strangers, while being a bit shy at first, maybe. Being too direct though, can sometimes end up getting you on the wrong side of the person's mood. For example, telling a Norwegian that he or she looks like they are a bit chubby or fat would put them off, just as it would in many other cultures.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #8

Celebrity Spotting in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Scott: Hei, jeg lurte på noe.
2. Stranger: Umm. Ok. Spørr i vei.
3. Scott: Er det du som spiller i den Kon-Tiki filmen?
4. Stranger: Nei, det er Agnes Kittelsen som spiller i den.
5. Scott: Åja, unnskyld.

ENGLISH

1. Scott: Hi, I was wondering about something.
2. Stranger: Um. Okay. Ask away.
3. Scott: Are you the guy in the Kon-Tiki movie?
4. Stranger: No, that's Agnes Kittelsen who plays in that movie.
5. Scott: Oh, alright. Sorry.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
i vei	away	
jeg	I	pronoun

å lure	to wonder	verb
å spille	to play	verb
å spørre	to ask	verb
film	film, movie	noun
unnskyld	excuse me, I'm sorry	interjection
som	that, which, as	conjunction
noe	something	adverb
åja	oh, right	interjection

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg er ikke hjemme nå. "I am not at home now."</p>	<p>Jeg liker ikke servitøren. "I don't like the waiter."</p>
<p>Jeg kjenner ikke henne. "I don't know her."</p>	<p>Lurer du på noe? "Are you wondering about something?"</p>
<p>Jeg lurte på noe. "I'm curious about something."</p>	<p>Jeg liker å spille spill. "I like to play games."</p>
<p>Hun spiller tennis. "She plays tennis."</p>	<p>Mannen spurte om veien. "The man asked for the road."</p>
<p>Spurte du meg om noe? "Did you ask me about something?"</p>	<p>Gutten likte filmen. "The boy liked the movie."</p>
<p>Unnskyld, hvor går du? "Excuse me, where are you going?"</p>	<p>Unnskyld jeg har glemt det. "Sorry, I forgot it."</p>

<p>Hvem er det som skriker?</p> <p>"Who is screaming?"</p>	<p>Hvem er det som tramper på min bru?</p> <p>"Who stomps on my bridge?"</p>
<p>Han er blek som et spøkelse.</p> <p>"He is white as a ghost."</p>	<p>Jeg vet noe ikke du vet.</p> <p>"I know something you don't."</p>
<p>Er det noe annet?</p> <p>"Is there something else?"</p>	<p>Åja, det er deg.</p> <p>"Oh, it's you."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In our dialogue we had an interesting phrase that wasn't reflected in our vocabulary, but rather, broken into pieces. **Å spørre i vei** literally translates as "to ask away." It's very similar to the English phrase in its usage. The last part of the phrase, *i vei*, means "away" and can be used in other scenarios, like *å spise i vei* ("to eat away (at something))."

For example:

1. *Om du er klar så må du bare spørre i vei!*
"If you are ready, then just ask away!"
2. *Jeg er forberedt, spørr i vei!*
"I am prepared. Fire away!"

Next we have an interjection we have looked at before: **Åja**. It's used more to add a mood to a sentence, and thus, translates to a slew of similar English interjections like "oh," "yes," or "oh yeah." **Åja** usually implies a small revelation on the speaker's part, as in, "Oh, i see."

Examples

1. *Åja, så det er der du er.*
"Oh, so that's where you are."

2. *Åja, jeg fant ikke ut svaret med en gang.*
"Oh yeah, I couldn't figure out the answer at first."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using the Norwegian Word *som*.

Er det du som spiller i den Kon-Tiki filmen?

"Are you the guy in the *Kon-Tiki* movie?"

In this lesson's grammar point, we'll continue looking at the word *som*. In our previous lesson, we learned how to use *som* in conjunction with *virker*, *ser ut*, and *høres ut*. What *som* ended up becoming in these phrases was the word "like." It's best, however, to think of these—*virker som*, *ser ut som*, and *høres ut som*—as set phrases that way.

To understand this lesson's grammar point, it is important to understand how English works and what the difference is between Norwegian and English. Before we start to go deep into explaining *som* in this lesson, let's first break down our dialogue sentence so that we can understand it a bit better.

Er det du som spiller i den Kon-Tiki filmen? This translates roughly as, "Are you the guy in the *Kon-Tiki* movie?" However, it translates word for word like this: "Is it you who plays in that *Kon-Tiki* movie?" So let's look at our first word, *er*. This is the present tense of the verb *å være* ("to be"). Following this, we have *det* ("that" or "it"). Next, we have the pronoun *du* ("you"). Then we have *som*, and here it translates as "who." Next is the verb *spiller*, which is the present tense of *å spille* ("to play" or "to act"). Then we have the preposition *i*, which means "in." Following this, we have *den* ("that"). This is the neuter gender pronoun of *den*, by the way. Then we have the movie name, *Kon-Tiki*. And finally, there's the definite noun *filmen* ("film" or "movie"). *Er det du som spiller i den Kon-Tiki filmen?* This question is, as you might remember from an earlier series, a VSO question, which is almost like confirming a notion.

Of course what we'll focus on here is not the VSO question, but the *som* word. Now *som*, in the above sentence, meant "who" or "whom." In English, "who" or "whom" could have been substituted with "that" in the same sentence. In fact, English makes use of the adverb "who" more often than "that" in these cases. This makes no sense coming from the outside where "who" and "that" could just be the same word for simplicity in sentences like this.

What I am trying to get at here is that English can be quite complex when it comes to using

"who" or "that." In Norwegian, however, there is only one word: *som*. Thus, whenever you see *som* in a sentence like the one in our dialogue, it means either "who" or "that." You could say that *som* is connecting the subject behind it with the action in front of it. Let's look at some examples of this.

For example:

1. *Det er datamaskinen som lager så mye lyd.*
"It's the computer that's making all that noise."
2. *Kan du fortelle meg hvem som gjorde dette?*
"Can you tell me who (that) did this?"
3. *Jeg liker alt som er gult.*
"I like everything that's yellow."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Norwegian Film Industry

Norwegian movies haven't really broken through internationally. Few movies are being screened overseas, except at the Cannes Film Festival or in some minor international screenings. A few movies have made it overseas, however. One of them was the recent Oscar-nominated film *Kon Tiki*. It was the highest grossing Norwegian film of 2012 and the most expensive of all time. However, how it does overseas remains to be seen. Some are sceptical since the lead actor Thor Heyerdahl is hardly known to anyone but Norwegians, who hold him as a sort of icon.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #9

A Mysterious Norwegian Letter

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Hvem er dette brevet til?
2. Espen: Til faren din.
3. Kjersti: Åja. Er det for å takke for gavene?
4. Espen: Ja, vi har ikke takket ham enda.

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: Who is this letter for?
2. Espen: For your dad.
3. Kjersti: Oh. Is it to thank him for the presents?
4. Espen: Yes, we haven't thanked him yet.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
gave	present	noun
hvem	who	interrogative word
dette	this (neutral)	pronoun
å takke	to thank	verb
din	your	pronoun
for	for	preposition

til	to, for	preposition
brev	letter	noun
far	father	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det er en gave.</p> <p>"It's a gift."</p>	<p>Jeg vet ikke hvem han er.</p> <p>"I don't know who he is."</p>
<p>hvem var det?</p> <p>"Who was that?"</p>	<p>Hva er dette?</p> <p>"What is this?"</p>
<p>Jeg takker deg senere.</p> <p>"I'll thank you later."</p>	<p>Er denne blyanten din?</p> <p>"Is this pencil yours?"</p>
<p>Hva er dette for noe?</p> <p>"What sort of thing is this?"</p>	<p>Det var for litt siden.</p> <p>"It was a while ago."</p>
<p>Toget gikk til Skien.</p> <p>"The train went to Skien."</p>	<p>Hvem er dette til?</p> <p>"Who's this for?"</p>
<p>Jeg drar til Bergen.</p> <p>"I am going to Bergen."</p>	<p>Det lå et brev på bordet.</p> <p>"There was a letter on the table."</p>
<p>Ungdomsskoleeleven skriver et brev.</p> <p>"The middle school student writes a letter."</p>	<p>Jeg skulle ha gjerne sendt dette brevet til søsteren min.</p> <p>"I would like to send this letter to my sister."</p>
<p>Han var faren i huset.</p> <p>"He was the father in the house."</p>	<p>Faren gir mynter.</p> <p>"The father gives coins."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In Norwegian, we have two common words for "father," just like English. One is **far**, and the other is **pappa**. The latter is used more in amicable speech and often when referring to one's own father or talking to him. On the other hand, we use *far* when talking about someone else's father. This word is often used in conjunction with a pronoun or noun, as in "your dad."

For example:

1. *Faren hennes virket skummel.*
"Her father seemed scary."
2. *Det er en presang til pappa.*
"It's a present for dad."

We also want to cover a word, or more specifically, a pronoun, not reflected in the vocabulary. **Ham** is best translated as "him," just like **han**. However, in Norwegian, the words have separate meanings. Both are pronouns meaning "him," but *han* is the subject in the sentence, while *ham* is the object. This is so complex that many Norwegians also mistake these two or simply refuse to use *ham* at all.

For example:

1. *Han var en stolt far.*
"He was a proud father."
2. *Jeg så ingenting godt i ham.*
"I saw nothing good in him."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Difference Between *til* and *for*.

Til faren din.

"For your dad."

Åja. Er det for å takke for gavene?

"Oh. Is it to thank him for the presents?"

In this lesson's grammar point, we'll be looking at the two words "to" and "for," or *til* and *for* in Norwegian. Now they might sound very similar, "to" (*til*), and "for" (*for*). However, they aren't always used in the same situations as English. The truth is that the difference is even hard for Norwegians, and they often mistake the two.

In English, you will often differentiate between "to" and "for" by grammatical difference. In Norwegian, the difference is often whether what you are talking about is a gift or whether it was asked for. However, this is only talking about certain things or actions. *Til* and *for* also have several uses that go outside the usages of "to" and "for" in English. Before we go any further, let's just quickly break down the two sentences we have in the dialogue.

Til faren din means "for your father." The first word is *til*, which we know means "to," or in this case, "for." Then we have *faren*, which is the definite noun "father." And finally, we have the possessive pronoun *din* ("your"). This sentence shouldn't be that difficult to swallow.

However, our next sentence is a bit longer and a bit more complicated. *Åja. Er det for å takke for gavene?* This translates roughly as, "Oh right. Is it to thank him for the presents?" The first word here is the interjection *Åja* ("oh right"). This stands as a sentence by itself. The beginning word of the next sentence, however, is *Er*, the present tense of the verb *å være* ("to be"). Next we have *det*, the pronoun "it". Following is the first *for*, which here translates better as "to." Then we have *å takke* the infinitive of the verb "to thank". This is followed by the next *for* which this time translates as "for." And finally, we have the definite plural noun *gavene* ("the gifts / presents"). This sentence proves the point that "to" and "for" don't always correspond with the Norwegian *til* and *for*.

The reason, as stated earlier, is the way they are integrated into the language. To explain this better, *til* is best thought of as either pointing to a direction or between two points, and finally, "to" someone. *For* has much more varied uses. Let's look at some examples of *til* first.

For example:

1. *Toget går fra Oslo til Skien.*
"The train travels from Oslo to Skien."
2. *Denne pakken er til lillebror.*
"This present is for little brother."

Now *til* is all good, but what about *for*. *For* is best thought of connecting something that is meant *for* something else. Again this is best illustrated through examples.

For example:

1. *Kan du kjøpe ost for meg?*
"Could you buy cheese for me?"
2. *Jeg trenger ost for å lage kake.*
"I need cheese to make a cake"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Giving Gifts in Norway

Norwegians are fond of receiving presents and of giving them. Norwegian gift traditions, however, only extend to Christmas and individual birthdays. During Christmas, presents are placed under a Christmas tree until on Christmas' Eve, December twenty-four, the family gathers around the tree after dinner and opens presents. Other than Christmas and birthdays, it is common courtesy to bring a small present when visiting someone for dinner or a party. It is not a norm, however, it is common politeness. If you are visiting a Norwegian family or friend for dinner, try bringing a bottle of wine or a small token of gratitude.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #10

Playing With Norwegian Adverbs

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Nora, nå må du gå på skolen snart.
2. Nora: Men jeg vil spille først.
3. Espen: Gå på skolen nå.
4. Nora: Greit, men kan jeg spille etterpå?
5. Espen: Ja det kan du.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: Nora, you have to go to school soon.
2. Nora: But I want to play games first.
3. Espen: Go to school now.
4. Nora: Fine, but can I play later?
5. Espen: Yes, you can.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
nå	now	adverb
å gå	to go	verb
å spille	to play	verb

å ville	to want	verb
etterpå	afterwards, later	adverb
snart	soon	adverb
skole	school	noun
men	but	conjunction
å kunne	to be able to, to be willing to	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Kan du gå nå?</p> <p>"Can you go now?"</p>	<p>Det går bra nå.</p> <p>"It's ok now."</p>
<p>Nå må du høre!</p> <p>"Now listen to me!"</p>	<p>Jeg må gå snart.</p> <p>"I have to go soon."</p>
<p>Jeg går på videregående.</p> <p>"I am in middle school."</p>	<p>Jeg liker å gå i skogen.</p> <p>"I like to take a walk in the woods."</p>
<p>Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien.</p> <p>"Please go to the other side of the road."</p>	<p>Jeg liker å spille spill.</p> <p>"I like to play games."</p>
<p>Hun spiller tennis.</p> <p>"She plays tennis."</p>	<p>Jeg vil ha iskrem.</p> <p>"I want ice cream."</p>
<p>Vil du høre sangen min?</p> <p>"Do you want to hear my song?"</p>	<p>Jeg kommer ned etterpå.</p> <p>"I'll come down later."</p>

<p>Hun var snart fremme.</p> <p>"She would arrive soon."</p>	<p>Skolen stod tom.</p> <p>"The school stood empty."</p>
<p>Jeg vil, men kan ikke.</p> <p>"I want to, but I can't."</p>	<p>Men kan ikke du komme hit?</p> <p>But can't you come here?</p>
<p>Jeg liker deg men...</p> <p>"I like you but..."</p>	<p>Kunne du hjulpet meg?</p> <p>"Could you help me?"</p>
<p>Jeg kan komme i dag.</p> <p>"I can come today."</p>	<p>Du kan kjøpe tannkrem på apoteket.</p> <p>"You can buy toothpaste at the pharmacy."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

There are two words in the dialogue that didn't make it to the vocab section, so we'll explain them here. **Greit** means "fine." It doesn't really have any hidden meanings or complex rules that would make it hard to use. In other words, *greit* is really straightforward. Just like "fine" is in English.

For example:

1. *Er det greit at jeg kommer over?*
"Is it OK if I come over?"
2. *Det går sikkert greit.*
"It'll be fine."

Secondly, we have the verb **å måtte** "to have to." There is no significant hocus pocus here either. However, it does qualify as one of the helping verbs, which means it helps conjugate tenses. *Å måtte* is a helping verb for future tense, along with *å ville* ("to want") and *å skulle* ("to go to").

For example:

1. *Jeg må gå på do.*
"I have to go to the toilet."
2. *Jeg må spise snart, jeg er sulten.*
"I have to eat soon; I am hungry."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using Adverbs.

Nora, nå må du gå på skolen snart.

"Nora, you have to go to school soon."

This grammar point will deal with adverbs. First off, however, let's break down the sentence we had in our dialogue.

Nora, nå må du gå på skolen snart. This translates roughly as, "Nora, you have to go to school soon." Looking at it word for word, our first word is the name Nora. After the comma follows *nå*, which means "now." It is followed by *må*, which is the present tense of the verb *å måtte* ("to have to"). Next we have the pronoun *du* ("you"). Then the verb infinitive *gå* ("to go"). This is followed by the preposition *på* ("on"). Then next is the definite noun *skolen* ("the school"). And finally, we have the adverb *snart* ("soon").

What we'll be looking at in this lesson is adverbs like *snart*. In our dialogue, we had several other adverbs come up in the conversation as well. Let's list them: *snart* ("soon"), *først* ("first"), *nå* ("now"), *etterpå* ("later"). If you look at the dialogue, you'll notice an interesting thing. All these adverbs came at the end of the sentence. This is quite common in Norwegian, especially in contexts like these, where we are dealing with time and in conversation. The reason is because the indication of when is always given at the end of the sentence. Keep in mind, however, that in many of the sentences above, the adverbs could be placed at many different positions. Let's take one of the sentences and look at where the adverb could have been placed and what effect it would have on the sentence.

Let's use the sentence which we broke down. *Nora, nå må du gå på skolen snart.*

Example 1:

Nora, nå må du snart gå på skolen.

In this example, *snart* was moved before the verb. The only thing that changes with the reordering is the mood of the sentence. In this case, the father doesn't sound that irritated. The effect of putting the adverb at the end can often be that you sound commanding, especially when giving others orders.

Example 2:

Nora, snart må du gå på skolen.

In this example, we removed *nå*, which served as an intensifier, and replaced it with *snart*. The result is that it sounds like Nora has to go to school soon, in an hour's time or so. The sentence serves more as an informative sentence than a command.

Now that we've seen that. Let's look at some other sentences.

For example:

1. *Jeg kommer etterpå.*
"I'll come later."
2. *Etterpå kommer jeg over.*
"Afterwards, I'll come over." - This sounds rather odd in English.
3. *Hun tok bussen senere den dagen.*
"She took the bus later that day."
4. *Senere den dagen tok hun bussen.*
"Later that day, she took the bus."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Education in Norway

School in Norway is, in general, free of charge and subsidized by the government. Textbooks aren't always covered, but it is possible to get a public scholarship that will cover these costs and often more. School is mandatory for elementary and junior high school. It is possible to quit school at this point, although this doesn't happen often as most students are sent on to

high school. The student chooses a high school based on the curriculum. High schools are usually divided into giving sufficient theoretical education to attend a university or giving sufficient practical education to go into apprenticeship. It is very common to enter an apprenticeship if you live in the countryside, however, the majority go on to university and higher education.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #11

If Only You Could Find a Norwegian Movie Theater, You Could Watch a Movie!

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

11

NORWEGIAN

1. Scott: Hvor går jeg hvis jeg skal til kinoen?
2. Concierge: Hvis du tar til høyre nede ved banken, så ligger kinoen på venstre side.
3. Scott: Så ovenfor banken altså?
4. Concierge: Ja, på andre siden av veien.

ENGLISH

1. Scott: Where do I go if I want to go to the cinema?
2. Concierge: If you take a right down by the bank, you'll find the cinema on the left side.
3. Scott: So opposite the bank?
4. Concierge: Yes, on the opposite side of the road.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
veien	road	noun
andre	other, others	adverb
ovenfor	opposite	preposition
hvis	if	conjunction

kino	cinema	noun
venstre	left	adjective
å ligge	to lie	verb
nede	down	preposition
høyre	right	adjective
bank	bank	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Veien strakk seg milevis framover.</p> <p>"The road stretched for miles ahead."</p>	<p>Er det noen andre her?</p> <p>"Is there anybody else here?"</p>
<p>Han bor ovenfor meg.</p> <p>"He lives opposite of me (my apartment)."</p>	<p>Du kan komme hvis du har tid.</p> <p>"You can come if you have time."</p>
<p>Jeg er på kino.</p> <p>"I am at the cinema."</p>	<p>Han skriver med venstre hånd.</p> <p>"He writes with his left hand."</p>
<p>Aldri snu mot venstre her.</p> <p>"Never turn left here."</p>	<p>Kan hun ligge i sofaen?</p> <p>"Can she lie on the sofa?"</p>
<p>Ligg rolig ned</p> <p>"Lie down slowly."</p>	<p>Ligger du behagelig?</p> <p>"Are you lying comfortably?"</p>
<p>Er det noen der nede?</p> <p>"Is there anybody down there?"</p>	<p>Butikken ligger til høyre her.</p> <p>"The shop lies to the right here."</p>
<p>I Norge kjører vi på høyre side.</p> <p>"In Norway, we drive on the right side."</p>	<p>Banken var stengt.</p> <p>"The bank was closed."</p>

Hvilken bank er rundt hjørnet?

"Which bank is that around the corner?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's explain two more words here. You might have noticed the word **så** repeated several times through the dialogue. It means "so" in English. However, in our dialogue, it also had another usage. Coupled with *hvis* ("if"), *så* changed to meaning "then." Let's look at a few more examples of that.

For example:

1. *Hvis du kommer hit så kan jeg hjelpe deg.*
"If you come here, then I can help you."
2. *Hvis jeg dør så lov meg å ikke gråt.*
"If I die, then promise me not to cry."

Next, we have **andre**, which means "others" or "other." The thing is, which one it means is totally dependent on context. There is no rule it follows. However, it should usually be easy to understand from a contextual point of view.

For example:

1. *Hvor er han andre fyren?*
"Where's the other guy?"
2. *Hvilke andre kommer?*
"Who else is coming?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using *hvis*.

Hvor går jeg hvis jeg skal til kinoen?

"Where do I have to go if I want to go to the cinema?"

In our grammar point in this lesson, we'll be looking at the word *hvis*, which means "if." It's going to be a fairly simple point, but despair not! It is in the next lesson where this will escalate. First, we need to make you are comfortable with the word *hvis*. Before that, however, let's break down the sentence we had in the dialogue in this lesson.

Hvor går jeg hvis jeg skal til kinoen? This translates roughly as, "Where do I have to go if I want to go to the cinema?" Word for word though, it is a bit different. The first word is the adverb *hvor*, which means "where." It is followed by *går*, the present tense of the verb *å gå* ("to go"). Then we have the pronoun *jeg* ("I"), which is followed by the conjunctive *hvis* ("if"). Next, we have the pronoun *jeg* ("I") again. This is followed by the verb *skal*, which is the present tense of *å skulle* ("to go to"). Then we have the preposition *til* ("to"). And finally, we have the definitive noun *kinoen* ("the cinema"). This sentence might be slightly complex, however, that is to better illustrate how *hvis* works.

Hvis is in essence quite, if not entirely, similar to the English word "if." In all circumstances where you see *hvis* in Norwegian, you'll translate it as "if." The other way around, however, becomes a bit more complicated, and we'll see that in the next lesson. For now, think of "if" as *hvis*.

Like "if," *hvis* can start a sentence. Like this:

1. *Hvis du har tid kan vi finne på noe?*
"If you have time, let's hang out?"

It is a conditional like "if," meaning that the outcome of an action depends on certain conditions. This might also be illustrated by putting *hvis* in the middle of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Vi taper hvis du ikke tar deg sammen.*
"We'll lose if you don't pull yourself together."

We can also use it to ask for comprehension.

For example:

1. *Jeg er litt nervøs hvis du skjønner.*
"I am a bit nervous, if you understand"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Immigrants in Norway

Some have the idea that Norway is only populated with tall white people, but this couldn't be further from the truth. While the majority are ethnic Norwegians, immigrants count for a quite big portion of the population as well. Being a foreigner in Norway might not feel as foreign as some might think it would be. The mix of different nationalities in Norway is likely to result in you meeting several people from your own country while there.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #12

Getting Some Groceries in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

12

NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Hvis du har lyst kan du bli med til butikken Nora.
2. Nora: Om jeg vil! Kan vi kjøpe sjokolade?
3. Kjersti: Bare om du er en snill jente.
4. Nora: Det er jeg jo!

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: If you want, we can go to the shop together, Nora.
2. Nora: Of course I want to! Can we buy chocolate?
3. Kjersti: Only if you're a good girl.
4. Nora: I am a nice girl! (Literally, that I am!)

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å ha lyst	to want to, to be willing to	verb
å bli med	to join	verb
sjokolade	chocolate	noun
å kjøpe	to buy	verb
bare	only, just	adverb
jente	girl	noun

om	if	conjunction
butikk	store, shop	noun
å ville	to want	verb
snill	kind, good	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Har du lyst til å leke?</p> <p>"Do you want to play?"</p>	<p>Har dere lyst til å gå å spise?</p> <p>"Do you guys want to go eat?"</p>
<p>Jeg blir med.</p> <p>"I'll join."</p>	<p>Kjæresten min elsker sjokolade.</p> <p>"My girlfriend loves chocolate."</p>
<p>Jeg vil kjøpe tre bøker.</p> <p>"I want to buy three books."</p>	<p>Du kan ikke kjøpe bussbillett her.</p> <p>"You can't buy bus tickets here."</p>
<p>Jeg er bare litt syk.</p> <p>"I am just a bit sick."</p>	<p>Jeg har bare hundre kroner!</p> <p>"I only have one hundred Kroner!"</p>
<p>Bare gå rett fremover.</p> <p>"Just go straight ahead."</p>	<p>Det er bare meg.</p> <p>"It's only me."</p>
<p>Kjenner du denne jenta?</p> <p>"Do you know this girl?"</p>	<p>Jenta vasker fjeset sitt.</p> <p>"The girl washes her face."</p>
<p>Jeg er fremme om en time.</p> <p>"I'll arrive in an hour."</p>	<p>Jeg går på butikken.</p> <p>"I'm going to the shop."</p>

<p>Jeg vil ha iskrem.</p> <p>"I want ice cream."</p>	<p>Vil du høre sangen min?</p> <p>"Do you want to hear my song?"</p>
<p>Være snill nå.</p> <p>"Be kind now."</p>	<p>Det var veldig snilt av deg.</p> <p>"That's very kind of you."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's look a bit more closely at **å ha lyst**. It means "to want," however, we already have another verb meaning the same thing: *å ville*. Furthermore, *å ville* is a helping verb, but *å ha lyst* is not. This is, first of all, because it's a phrase, but more importantly, because it already contains a helping verb. *Lyst* is, in fact, a noun which means "desire." The phrase, therefore, translates as "to have desire."

For example:

1. *Har du lyst til å kjøre?*
"Do you want to drive?"
2. *Jeg har veldig lyst på iskrem.*
"I really want ice cream."

Next we have the adverb **bare**, which means "just" or "only." In Norwegian, we have only one word that functions as both those words in English. In English, these are semi-interchangeable, meaning that in some sentences you can switch between them but in others you can't. In Norwegian, you'll notice that *bare* can have different positions in a sentence. This is a bit confusing, especially when a different position means a different meaning in the sentence.

For example:

1. *Jeg må bare spise litt iskrem.*
"I only have to eat a bit of ice cream" - (soft "have")

2. *Jeg bare må spise litt iskrem!*

"I just have to have some ice cream!" - (heavy stress on "have")

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Differences Between *hvis* and *om*.

Hvis du har lyst kan du bli med til butikken, Nora.

"If you want, we can go to the shop together, Nora."

Bare om du er en snill jente.

"Only if you're a good girl."

In this grammar point, we'll continue from our previous lesson's talk on *hvis*. However, as you know, in this lesson we'll introduce *om*, another word meaning "if." We'll also be discussing what the differences are.

First off, let's break down the two sentences in our dialogue.

Hvis du har lyst kan du bli med til butikken, Nora. This translates roughly as, "If you want, we can go to the shop together, Nora." This sentence translates pretty much word for word, but let's go through them one by one. First, we have the infamous *hvis* ("if"). Next, we have the pronoun *du* ("you"). Then there's the present tense of the phrase *å ha lyst*, which you might remember means "to want / desire." Next we have another present tense verb, *kan*, which comes from *å kunne* ("to be able to"). Following that, we have the pronoun *du* ("you") again. Then there's the infinitive of the phrase *å bli med* ("to join"). Then we have the preposition *til* ("to"). This is followed by the definite noun *butikken* ("the shop"). And finally, after the comma comes the name Nora.

Bare om du er en snill jente. This sentence translates as, "Only if you're a good girl." Here we start with the adverb *bare* ("only"). Then we have the conjunctive *om* ("if"). Next comes the pronoun *du* ("you"). Then we have the present tense *er*, which comes from the verb *å være* ("to be"). After that comes the article *en* ("a"). And then there's the adverb *snill* ("good"). And finally, we have the indefinite noun *jente* ("girl").

Now that we have the two sentences down, let's go on to explain *om*. As you may know by now, it also means "if." However, every time you see *om* in a sentence it's not necessarily certain that it will mean "if." Let's look at an example:

1. *Jeg er der om en time.*
"I'll be there in an hour."

Here *om* is used to signify time. You'll often see *om* in such scenarios where it is meant to signify "in" and refer to a certain amount of time.

Secondly, *om* can be used in sentences where it would translate as "about."

For example:

1. *Han snakket om deg.*
"He spoke about you"

Finally, *om* is also used to mean "if" in certain scenarios. Now for the difference between *hvis* and *om*. Here's the thing. In most cases, *hvis* can always replace *om* in situations where *om* would signify "if." Let's look at some examples.

For example:

1. *Om du har tid så kom hit da.*
"If you have time, come over."
2. *Hvis du har tid så kom hit da.*
"If you have time, come over."

Here you can see that both work. So you could essentially think that whenever you want to use "if," you can always use *hvis*. But here's the catch. This isn't always possible. There are a few instances where *hvis* doesn't work. Here's one.

For example:

1. *Jeg vet ikke om det er mulig.*
"I don't know if it is possible."

The reason is because *hvis* simply doesn't fit in here. It sounds unnatural. Don't worry, however, you'll rarely find situations where this is the case. Usually using *hvis* for "if" should

be enough.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Caring for Children in Norway

Norwegians tend to bring their children everywhere they go. Having housemaids or nannies is quite uncommon, and when the parents cannot bring the children with them, they either ask the neighbor to watch them for a bit or leave the children alone if they deem them able to take care of themselves. A lot of Norwegian children grow up spending a few days a month being entirely alone in the house or with their siblings. Another practice some find weird is how Norwegians and Scandinavians in general like to leave their infant outside in the stroller during winter. The infant can be left sleeping in subzero temperatures for an hour or two every day as a routine. Many state it is to keep the baby healthy.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #13

Getting Involved in the Cleaning in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

13

NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Eспен, er du der?
2. Espen: Ja, jeg er her.
3. Kjersti: Det hadde vært fint om du kunne hjelpe meg med å rydde her.
4. Espen: Jeg kommer!

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: Eспен, are you there?
2. Espen: Yes, I am here.
3. Kjersti: It would be nice if you could help me clean this place up.
4. Espen: I'm coming!

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å være	to be	verb
der	there	preposition
med	with	conjunction
å hjelpe	to help	verb
å rydde	to tidy	verb
å ha	to have	verb

her	here	preposition
fint	nice	adjective
å komme	to come	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vær litt mer aktiv.</p> <p>"Be a bit more active."</p>	<p>Du e jammen meg stor blitt.</p> <p>"You have become quite big."</p>
<p>Hvem vil du være?</p> <p>"Who do you want to be?"</p>	<p>Toalettet er der borte.</p> <p>"The bathroom is over there."</p>
<p>Brøds kive med hva?</p> <p>"A slice of bread with what?"</p>	<p>Jeg blir med!</p> <p>"I'm coming with you!"</p>
<p>Blir du med?</p> <p>"Are you joining?"</p>	<p>Den med hunden på, vær så snill.</p> <p>"The one with the dog (on it), please."</p>
<p>Hennes formål i livet var å hjelpe andre mennesker.</p> <p>"It sounds more natural in norwegian to use mennesker(humans) in this context."</p>	<p>Jeg trenger hjelp her.</p> <p>"I need some help here."</p>
<p>jeg er hjemme og rydder.</p> <p>"I am cleaning the house."</p>	<p>Har du en katt?</p> <p>"Do you have a cat?"</p>
<p>Ta denne asjetten her.</p> <p>"Take this platter here."</p>	<p>Her er greia jeg pratet om.</p> <p>"Here's the thing I was talking about."</p>

<p>Jeg er her.</p> <p>"I'm here."</p>	<p>hun har et fint smil.</p> <p>"She has a pretty smile."</p>
<p>Legen kom etter en time.</p> <p>"The doctor came after an hour."</p>	<p>Jeg kommer hjem nå.</p> <p>"I'm coming home now."</p>
<p>Kom over.</p> <p>"Come over."</p>	<p>Fire stykker kom ikke.</p> <p>"Four people did not come."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

The verb **å rydde** means "to clean." Or more correctly, "to tidy." In English, we often say "to tidy up." The same is common in Norwegian: *å rydde opp*. The distinction between *å rydde* and *å vaske* is also the same as in English "to tidy" and "to clean." However, *å vaske* could also imply that one is tidying as well as washing.

For example:

1. *Har du ryddet rommet?*
"Have you tidied your room?"
2. *Jeg skal rydde opp eskene senere.*
"I'll tidy / remove the boxes later."

Å komme means "to come." In English, you say "to come home," which would be the same in the Norwegian *å komme hjem*. However, in English, you also say "Did you get home?" using another word "to get." In Norwegian, this is not the case. In Norwegian, you would use the same *å komme*.

For example:

1. *Kom du deg hjem?*
"Did you get home?"

2. *Kom deg hit nå!*
"Get here ASAP!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is *Om du kan*.

Det hadde vært fint om du kunne hjelpe meg med å rydde her.

"It would be nice if you could help me clean this place up."

We will take a final look at *hvis* and *om* in this grammar point. That means we will be focusing on the phrase *Om du kan* ("if you can"). We will also be taking a look at the phrase *det hadde vært...* ("It would have been.."). Let us begin by looking at the phrase from our dialogue.

Det hadde vært fint om du kunne hjelpe meg med å rydde her. This sentence translates as, "It would be nice if you could help me clean this place up."

Now let us break this sentence down. The first word is the pronoun *det* ("it"). Next, we have the pluperfect tense *hadde vært of å være* ("to be"). Then we have *om* (you should remember this one means "if"). After this, comes the pronoun *du* ("you"). Next, we have the simple past tense of the verb *å kunne*, which is *kunne* ("to be able to"). This is the modal verb for the following verb in the infinitive *hjelpe* ("to help"). Following this, we have the passive pronoun *meg* ("me"). This is followed by the conjunction *med* ("with"). Next, we have the infinitive verb *å rydde* ("to tidy / clean"). And finally we have the preposition *her* ("here").

The sentence can be quite long and complex to some. However, the two main parts of it--the phrases *Det hadde vært fint* and *om du kunne--are* all you need to worry about. Those two phrases are what we will focus on now.

First, let us begin with *Om du kunne* or *Om du kan*. The difference between the two is quite simple. One is future tensed, and the other is in the present tense. Before we start explaining the phrases, there is one more thing to explain. There is a trick here that we learned in earlier lessons. *Om* can be replaced with *hvis*, as we learned in the previous two lessons. Still, the most common way to use this phrase is to use the word *om*. The phrase is built up around the modular verb *å kunne*. Therefore, after the phrase comes the verb that it modulates. This verb will always be in the infinitive.

For example:

1. *Jeg lurte på om du kan donere til Redd Barna?*
"I was wondering if you could help donate to Save the Children?"
2. *Det går bra om du kan kjøre meg hjem.*
"It's OK if you can drive me home."

Next up, let us look at the phrase *det hadde vært...* This phrase utilizes a verb tense we haven't talked about much yet, but we will come back to it later. However, this phrase translates very similarly to "It would be..." After *det hadde vært*, you need to add an adjective. This phrase can also work like that by itself, usually as a response to an offer.

For example:

1. *Skal jeg hjelpe til? Takk, det hadde vært hyggelig!*
"Should I help?" Thanks, that would be nice!"

Now let us see how these two phrases look when used together in the same sentence.

For example:

1. *Det hadde vært bedre om du kunne tatt buss.*
"It would be better if you could take the bus."
2. *Det hadde vært fint hvis du kom på besøk.*
"It would be nice if you came to visit."
3. *Det hadde vært interessant om vi fikk sett resultatet.*
"It would have been interesting if we could see the result."

In that last example there, we used a different verb than *kunne* ("could"). In fact, *fikk* ("could") and *kunne* ("could"), while translating to the same word in English, are often used interchangeably. There is, however, a nuance there which makes them slightly different. *Fikk* also bears the connotation of "got" or "were allowed." That's as opposed to *kunne*, which relates more to a constraint or a limit due to lack of ability.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cleaning in Norway

Norwegians like to keep their houses clean. We have perhaps mentioned this characteristic in earlier lessons. Regular cleaning every week is quite common, but what you will also see is "spring cleaning" (*vårrengjøring*) and "Christmas cleaning" (*Julevasken*). These two cleaning events are probably common in other countries as well. They are, however, a deeply embedded part of Norwegian culture. Mentioning either of those words will bring chills down children's, men's, and women's spines. Naturally, there are those who enjoy the major cleanups, but it is often seen as a traditional chore that can't be avoided.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #14

Talking About Your Job in Norwegian

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

14

NORWEGIAN

1. Espen: Hvordan går det på jobben Kjersti?
2. Kjersti: Det går bra. Jeg liker hvor fleksibel jeg kan være, men jeg er lei av stresset.
3. Espen: Det er nok mye stress ja.
4. Kjersti: Men det går bra.

ENGLISH

1. Espen: How is your job, Kjersti?
2. Kjersti: It's nice. I like how flexible I can be, but I am tired of the stress.
3. Espen: Yeah, it's probably a lot of stress.
4. Kjersti: But it's fine.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å være lei	to be tired	verb
hvordan	how	interrogative word
å gå	to go	verb
stress	stress	noun
av	from, of	adverb

nok	enough	adjective
det	that	pronoun
fleksibel	flexible	adjective
å like	to like	verb
mye	much, a lot	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg er så inmari lei.</p> <p>"I am so incredibly tired."</p>	<p>Hvordan kom du deg hjem?</p> <p>"How did you get home?"</p>
<p>Hvordan går det?</p> <p>"How goes it?"</p>	<p>Hei, hvordan går det Maria?</p> <p>"Hello, how are you Maria?"</p>
<p>Jeg må gå snart.</p> <p>"I have to go soon."</p>	<p>Jeg går på videregående.</p> <p>"I am in middle school."</p>
<p>Jeg liker å gå i skogen.</p> <p>"I like to take a walk in the woods."</p>	<p>Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien.</p> <p>"Please go to the other side of the road."</p>
<p>Han følte mye stress.</p> <p>"He felt a lot of stress."</p>	<p>Gå av nå!</p> <p>"Get off now!"</p>
<p>Jeg har fått nok av dette!</p> <p>"I have had enough of this!"</p>	<p>Er det nok?</p> <p>"Is this enough?"</p>
<p>Ole, jeg er lei for det.</p> <p>"Ole, I am sorry about that."</p>	<p>Fikk du med deg det?</p> <p>"Did you get all of that?"</p>

<p>Det er viktig å være fleksibel.</p> <p>"It's important to be flexible."</p>	<p>Jenta liker valpene kjempegodt.</p> <p>"The girl really likes the puppies."</p>
<p>Den lille jenta liker valpene kjempegodt.</p> <p>"The young girl really likes the puppies."</p>	<p>Jeg liker tysk øl.</p> <p>"I like German beer."</p>

Det er mye.

"That's a lot."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In this section, we will take a look at an adjective and an adverb that we saw in the dialogue.

First we have **å være lei**. It translates as "to be tired." We usually use it in conjunction with the adverb *av*, "of." This is just like you would use it in English. For example, *Jeg er lei av brød* means, "I am tired of bread." There is no magic going on here, however, if you want to add some adverbs to this phrase, like our sample sentence, you need to put it in between the verb *å være* ("to be") and the adjective *lei* ("tired").

For example:

1. *Jeg er veldig lei for det.*
"I am very sorry about that."
2. *Hun var lei av den samme maten hver dag.*
"She was tired of having the same food every day."

We are also going to look at the word **mye** ("much"). There is a thing to watch out for which we have repeated time and time again. In Norwegian, another word, *mange* ("many") must not be confused with *mye*. It shouldn't be much of a problem if you are fluent in English. Just to be clear, however, *mye* is used when we are talking about something that isn't countable or abstract things (like *snø* "snow"), while *mange* is used when what we are talking about is countable (like *epler*, which means "apples").

For example:

1. *Så mye sand det er her.*
"There's so much sand here"
2. *Det er mye som foregår på en gang, nå.*
"There's a lot happening at the same time now."

GRAMMAR

The Focuses of this Lesson are the Phrases that Mean "to like," "to be tired," and "how."
Jeg liker hvor fleksibel jeg kan være, men jeg er lei av stresset.
"It's nice. I like how flexible I can be, but I am tired of the stress."

In the grammar point for this lesson, we will look at how to talk about work, life, and general likes and dislikes. We will also look at the word *hvor* and how it changes a bit depending on context. We covered this word in earlier lessons, but we will be elaborating on that in this lesson.

First of all, however, let's look at how the sentence in the dialogue is built up.

Jeg liker hvor fleksibel jeg kan være, men jeg er lei av stresset. This sentence roughly translates as, "I like how flexible I can be, but I am tired of the stress."

Now let's break this sentence down. First, we have the pronoun *jeg* ("I"). It's followed by the present tense of the verb *å like*, *liker*, which means "to like." Then we have *hvor*, which can mean "where," but in this instance, it means "how." We will look at just why, later. Following, we have the adjective *fleksibel*, similar to its English counterpart "flexible." Then we have the pronoun *jeg* again. This is followed by the modal verb *kan* ("can"), which modifies the verb *å være*, "to be." After the comma follows the conjunction *men* ("but"). Then we have the pronoun *jeg* again, followed by the present tense of the verb *å være*, *er*, ("is"). Then comes the adjective *lei* ("tired" / "sad"). Then there's the preposition *av* ("of"). And finally, we have the defined noun *stresset* ("the stress").

The way this sentence is built up is quite complex. We're not really going to look at how it is done. However to better understand it, we will look at the two main points of this sentence: *jeg liker* and *jeg er lei*. Since we will end with explaining the word *hvor*, and since it connects with the former *jeg liker*, let's first start by explaining *jeg er lei*.

Jeg er lei is a common phrase, as we saw in the vocab explanation. Since we explained the meaning itself in the vocab explanation part, let's focus on the surrounding words. A common trait of the phrase *jeg er lei* is to connect the phrase with the word *av* ("of"). *Jeg er lei*. This works much like the English "I am tired of..." It is also very common to put nouns or pronouns after this or after the phrase itself. We can also add a few adverbs in between to make the sentence even more complex.

For example:

1. *Jeg er lei av alt bråket utenfor.*
"I am tired of all the noise outside."
2. *Jeg er lei alle telefonene jeg får på jobben.*
"I am tired of all the phone conversations at my job."

The phrase is, in general, quite simple. We added *alt* ("all" in the simple neuter form) and *bråket* ("noise" in the defined form) after the phrase in the first example. In the second example, we added *alle* ("all" in the plural form) and *telefonene* ("phone" in the plural defined form).

Also a small note on a word we had in the dialogue sentence which we mentioned in the vocabulary explanation. The first word after the comma, *men* ("but"), implies that whatever comes after the comma is probably not positive, especially if the first part of the sentence is positive. In a later lesson, we will look at how *men* works in longer sentences.

Next we have *jeg liker*. This phrase works a bit differently from the *jeg er lei* phrase. That's because this phrase only consists of a pronoun and a verb. Thus, you cannot use *av* ("of") after the phrase. However, you can add pronouns and nouns after the phrase. What was special in our dialogue is that we added the interrogative *hvor* "where." In English, this doesn't make much sense, but *hvor* in Norwegian has a few different uses depending on context and which words surround it. In our previous series, we explained that *hvor*, coupled with *mye* or *mange* or many other adverbs, would translate as "how" ("how much," "how many," etc.) Now, for our dialogue, you can alter the sentence to include an adverb: *Jeg liker hvor veldig fleksibel...* ("I like how very flexible...") And immediately, it starts to make more sense just why we use *hvor*. Let's just look at a few more examples of this.

For example:

1. *Jeg liker hvor frisk luften er her.*
"I like how fresh the air is here."
2. *Hun likte hvor utrolig snill han var.*
"She liked how incredibly kind he was."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Careers in Norway

Norwegians tend to be quite down to earth. This is quite easily observable in the types of jobs they take or what their aspirations are. Like most children on the planet, Norwegian children also dream of becoming firefighters, police, farmers, and so on. The thing is, Norwegians tend to aspire to these vocations, while others leave them as childhood dreams.

Norwegians are actually faced with their career choices quite early on. Before entering high school, students choose whether they want to be carpenters, mechanics, farmers, doctors, or even actors. They can even settle with a job in the local supermarket. In the case of carpenters, mechanics, chefs, and so on, they go on to high schools which put them through a year of general schooling, and then they start specializing within their field of choice. If they choose to become doctors or actors, they would have to enter high schools which offer diplomas which will allow them to continue on to higher education upon graduation. If they simply want to end up in a supermarket, their education can end before high school. It is really up to them upon graduating from junior high school.

The currency of Norway is the NOK, which stands for the Norwegian Krone.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #15

Have You Seen That Norwegian Ad?

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

15

NORWEGIAN

1. Tore: Hva tenker du om de nye idéene Espen?
2. Espen: Jeg tenker forslaget til Volvo-reklamen hadde noe for seg.
3. Tore: Ja, enig der. Jeg tror den kan bli forbedret hvis vi korter den ned litt.
4. Espen: Ja, jeg tror den blir bedre da.

ENGLISH

1. Tore: What do you think about the new ideas, Espen?
2. Espen: I think the proposal for the Volvo ad had some potential.
3. Tore: Yeah, I agree there. I think it can be improved if we shorten it a bit, however.
4. Espen: Yes, I think it'll be better then.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
forslag	suggestion	noun
å tro	to think, to believe	verb
nye	new	adjective
noen	some / someone	pronoun
reklame	advertisement	noun

seg	one (passive pronoun)	pronoun
å forbedre	to improve	verb
å tenke	to think	verb
idé	idea	noun
enig	in agreement	adjective
å korte	to shorten	verb
litt	a bit	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>De hadde to forslag.</p> <p>"They had two propositions."</p>	<p>Jeg tror på deg.</p> <p>"I believe in you."</p>
<p>Er det den nye bilen din?</p> <p>"Is that your new car?"</p>	<p>Er det noen her?</p> <p>"Is there anybody here?"</p>
<p>Jeg ser ikke på reklamene.</p> <p>"I don't watch the commercials."</p>	<p>Han tok på seg buksene.</p> <p>"He put on his pants."</p>
<p>Man kan alltid forbedre seg.</p> <p>"One can always improve oneself."</p>	<p>Hun tenker på mye rart.</p> <p>"She thinks about a lot of weird stuff."</p>
<p>Har du noen god idé?</p> <p>"Do you have any good idea?"</p>	<p>Jeg er enig med deg der.</p> <p>"I agree with you there."</p>
<p>Jeg kan korte litt ned på planken.</p> <p>"I can shorten down a bit on the wood board."</p>	<p>Jeg er litt sulten.</p> <p>"I am a bit hungry."</p>

Litt saktere, er du snill.

"Slow down a bit, please."

Vi er litt slitne.

"We're a bit tired."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In this lesson's vocab and phrase explanation section, we will have a look at the word *litt* ("a bit" or "little"). In English, there are these two words (along with "slightly") which have somewhat the same meaning. In Norwegian, we have the word *litt*, which would work in all instances when you would use either "a bit," "a little," or "slightly" in English.

For example:

1. *Jeg er litt sulten.*
"I am a little hungry."
2. *Jeg er litt irritert.*
"I am slightly irritated."

Then we have the word *reklame*. This is also a word which, in English, has a few different variants. In Norwegian, only one umbrella term exists, however. Where we would say "PR," "commercial," or "advertisement" in English, Norwegian has only the one word: *reklame*. This might seem confusing to some, but in reality, you will quickly understand in what sense the word is used by the context of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Vi trenger mer reklame for produktet.*
"We need more publicity for the product."
2. *Så du den bilreklamen som går på TV?*
"Did you see that car ad that airs on TV nowadays?"

GRAMMAR

The Focuses of this Lesson are the Phrases *Jeg tenker* and *jeg tror*.

Jeg tenker forslaget til Volvo-reklamen hadde noe for seg.

"I think the proposal for the Volvo ad had some potential."

In the grammar point in this lesson, we will look at the verbs *å tenke* ("to think") and *å tro* ("to believe"). Both are quite often used interchangeably like in English, but there are some differences in Norwegian that we need to sort out. First off, let us break down the sentence in our lesson and look at how it is built up:

Jeg tenker forslaget til Volvo-reklamen hadde noe for seg. - "I think the proposal for the Volvo ad had some potential."

The sentence is not that simple, so let us look at each word individually. First, we have the pronoun and subject of the sentence, *jeg* ("I"). Next up, we have the verb in the present tense, *tenker*, from *å tenke* ("to think"). Following that, we have a noun in the defined form *forslaget* ("the proposal"). Then we have the preposition *til* ("to"). In an earlier lesson, we explained that this can also translate as "for." This is followed by the compound Volvo, the auto brand, and *reklamen*, a defined noun that means "ad." It can also mean "commercial," as we explained above. Following this, we have the verb *hadde*, the simple past tense of *å ha* ("to have"). This is followed by the pronoun *noe* ("something"). Then we have the preposition *for* ("for"), and finally, the passive possessive pronoun *seg* ("its" / "itself").

Like we mentioned, this sentence, while pretty straight forward, is not that simple. This goes especially for the last part, which could be explained as a phrase. (Something) ... *hadde noe for seg*. It means that (something)... "had some potential." We say "had some potential" since the verb is in the past tense. We can change the phrase to the infinitive form by conjugating the verb to *å ha noe for seg* ("to have some potential"). While the direct translation does not make much sense in English, it still gives a little hint as to what it means. The literal translation would be "to have something for itself."

Now for the main content of this grammar point. In our sentence, we saw the use of the word *å tenke* ("to think"). In other sentences in our dialogue, however, we also saw *å tro* ("to believe") used to great effect. This is because we can actually alternate between the two words in any of the sentences. Since they both have the same meaning in the context of the sentences, the message in the sentence remains the same. As an example, let us take the first part of the sentence in our dialogue. *Jeg tenker forslaget til...* ("I think the proposal for..."). This sentence can effortlessly be changed to *Jeg tror forslaget til...* ("I believe the proposal for..."). In English, we have the same effect. Still, you might have noticed that there is also this slight difference in

meaning that exists in English. *Å tenke* ("to think") might be perceived as being less determinate, while *å tro* ("to believe") is quite strong. At least this is the case in Norwegian. How does this translate into a sentence? Let us look at *å tenke* first. In essence, it means "to think," so there are some instances where it is impossible to substitute it with *å tro*.

For example:

1. *Jeg tenker på mamma.*
"I am thinking about mom."
2. *Jeg tror på mamma.*
"I believe in mom."

As you can see, the difference is quite the same in English. Now the same is true for *å tro*. While it is quite normal to substitute it with *å tenke*, in some instances, this impossible.

For example:

1. *Jeg kan ikke tro hva jeg sier.*
"I can't believe what I am saying."
2. *Jeg kan ikke tenke hva jeg sier.*
"I can't think what I am saying."

These are two quite different sentences. As a final note, you might have noticed by now that *å tenke* is a verb that conjugates a bit oddly, especially if we look at its English equivalent, "to think." We have talked about how Norwegian does not use the copula "to be" as often as English. In fact, in Norwegian it is used only with adjectives and nouns. So "I am thinking" directly translated to Norwegian would be *jeg er tenker*. That sounds quite awful, and it is bad grammar in Norwegian because we never use *er* with verbs.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Norwegians in Advertising

Norwegians are quite renowned for their skill in public relations and advertisement. In

different countries, you will find quite a few Norwegians working in the PR and marketing departments of large companies. If you have ever watched Norwegian television, you have probably noticed how many commercials are focused on a humorous theme. That is not to say humor is not used in other countries, but simply that in Norway, humor plays a large role in marketing—especially black comedy and self-irony. If you have the chance, you should try to watch *Gullfisken*, or the "Goldfish." It is an award show that runs every year, awarding the best commercials of that year. It also features parodies of some of the commercials that were trending that year. For reference, this was the winning commercial in 2012:

Bønder i byn - Felleskjøpet

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozWb2j2kzGc>

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #16

What Do You Think of This Norwegian Proposal?

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

16

NORWEGIAN

1. Tore: Hva syns du om Anna sitt forslag da, Espen?
2. Espen: Jeg syns hun hadde et sterkt bidrag.
3. Tore: Nemlig.
4. Espen: Forslaget hadde en seriøs vinkel som var bra.

ENGLISH

1. Tore: What do you think about Anna's proposal then, Espen?
2. Espen: I think she made a great contribution.
3. Tore: Exactly.
4. Espen: It had a serious tone that worked well.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
vinkel	angle	Noun
seriøs	serious	adjective
nemlig	exactly	Interjection
bidrag	contribution	noun
sterkt	strong	adjective
da	then	interjection

hva	what	interrogative word
å synes	to think, to believe	verb
forslag	suggestion	noun
sitt	one's	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Du må se bildet fra en annen vinkel.</p> <p>"You have to look at the picture from another angle."</p>	<p>Du kan ikke være seriøs?</p> <p>"You cannot be serious?"</p>
<p>Det er nemlig slik.</p> <p>"It is like that, in fact."</p>	<p>Til konkurransen kom det mange bidrag.</p> <p>"There were many contributions that came in to the contest."</p>
<p>Det var et sterkt syn.</p> <p>"It was a sight not for the faint of heart."</p>	<p>Ok, da ser jeg deg neste uke.</p> <p>"Ok, then, I'll see you next week."</p>
<p>Da var vi endelig ferdige.</p> <p>"And finally we finished."</p>	<p>Hva vil du gjøre?</p> <p>"What do you want to do?"</p>
<p>Hva synes du?</p> <p>"What do you think?"</p>	<p>De hadde to forslag.</p> <p>"They had two propositions."</p>
<p>Har han ryddet rommet sitt?</p> <p>"Has he cleaned his room?"</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let us proceed with explaining parts of the vocabulary that deserve a bit more thorough explanation.

First, we have a passive possessive pronoun in the vocab section that is a bit different from those we have in English: **sitt** ("one's"). In English, masculine and feminine nouns or pronouns are used in conjunction with "his" or "hers." This is mostly the case for Norwegian as well.

In Norwegian, we have a special passive pronoun used to denote ownership by the subject in the sentence. This pronoun is **seg**. As noted, it doesn't really have an English equivalent, and we will not go into this one now. Instead, we will look at the passive possessive conjugation of this: *sin* (masculine / feminine) or *sitt* (neuter).

We use this pronoun when we want to refer to something that the subject of the sentence owns. In English, this pronoun would most often translate to its gender equivalent possessive pronoun ("his," "hers," "its," etc.). You'll notice, however, that there's room for misinterpretation here. Take a sentence like, "He rode his bike." What we can understand here is one of two interpretations. Either, "He rode his own bike," or "He rode his (some other guy's) bike."

In Norwegian, the above two sentence would be different. We have:

1. *Han syklet på sykkel sin.*
"He rode his own bike."
2. *Han syklet på sykkel hans.*
"He rode another guy's bike."

The final pronoun changes depending on the context of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Har katten fått mat sin?*
"Has the cat had its food?"
2. *Tok hun med seg sekken sin?*
"Did she bring her bag with her?"
3. *De har et piano i huset sitt.*
"They have a piano in their house."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is *å synes*.

Jeg synes hun hadde et sterkt bidrag.

"I think she had a great contribution."

In our previous lesson, we looked at the words *å tenke* and *å tro*. They both translate as "to think" or "to believe" and are both interchangeable like their English counterparts, at least in some situations. In this lesson, we will look at a third word that works as an alternative to these two: *å synes* ("to perceive"). As you saw in our dialogue, *å synes* is most often translated as "to think." To illustrate that, let's take a look at the sentence in our dialogue and break it down.

Jeg synes hun hadde et sterkt bidrag. This translates roughly as, "I think she had a great contribution." What we will look at next is how this sentence is built, word for word. First, we have the familiar pronoun *jeg*, or "I," in English. Following this is the verb we are talking about in this lesson, in present tense: *syns* from *å synes*, ("to perceive"). This is followed by the pronoun *hun* ("she"). Then we have a simple past tense of the verb *å ha*, *hadde* ("to have"). Then comes an article, followed by an adjective, and finally, the noun which the article belongs to: *et sterkt bidrag*. This is the common way to add adjectives to nouns. Also notice that the noun is neuter gender, so the article *et* is the neuter gender article.

This sentence is pretty straightforward, just the way it could be phrased in English. Of course the English translation could be phrased more naturally, but for illustration purposes, it does its job.

Now back to *å synes*. While it translates as "to perceive" and certainly can be used in sentences where you use "perceive" in English, the more common and frequent usage is the way you would use "to think" (as in having an opinion) in English. While this might be a bit confusing, try to think of it this way. "To think," as in having an opinion, is the same as "perceiving" a matter in a way. Thus, when we say, "I perceive the matter in this way," it could also work as, "I think of the matter in this way." In Norwegian, we only use the word *å synes*. We do not, however, use *å tenke* at all in this context. *Å tenke* correlates only to "the act of thinking."

Let's look at a couple of sentences and see how this works.

For example:

1. *Jeg synes det er en dårlig idé.*
"I think that's a bad idea."

2. *Han syntes hunden så syk ut.*
"He thought the dog looked sick."

Here, we had examples of how *å synes* is used as "to think." Notice also how we can replace "to think" with "to perceive" in the same sentences. For example, "He perceived that the dog looked sick."

While that constitutes the main usage of this word, this is not all there is to this word, however. In other words, "to perceive" works in various contexts. Let us look at how *å synes* would be used as "to feel" in English.

For example:

1. *Hun syntes synd på barnet.*
"She felt sorry for the child."
2. *Jeg syns du er urettferdig.*
"I feel like you're being unfair."

The thing about *å synes* is that it is one of those words that has a vague definition and a wide range of uses. One could generally say that *å synes* works something like "seeing with one's inner eye," as all its uses are related to how a person subjectively perceives something. Let us look at a few more examples:

1. *Gutten kunne synes gjennom tåken.*
"The boy was visible through the fog."
2. *Oppgaven syntes umulig.*
"The task seemed impossible."

It does not stop here, however. *Å synes* has a few more uses that we haven't covered, some of which are a bit more complex. You should, however, get how it is generally utilized. If you happen to come across a sentence with *å synes* in it, take some time to reflect on what it conveys in the sentence.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Small Norwegian Companies

In Norway companies are usually not that big. In fact, quite a lot of companies have small offices with only about ten to thirty workers in them. While the population is small in Norway, the reason for smaller companies and smaller offices is probably also a due to the Norwegian culture. Norwegians, being only five million in number, and while appreciating independency and solitude, prefer to stay in smaller, close-knit communities rather than larger communities where the individual often disappears. A small, close-knit community means good opportunities for building a reputation and also for better cooperation. Much of the Norwegian culture is also built up around taking care of each other like family. There's even some that attribute Norway's success to that special trait.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #17

Getting from A to B in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

17

NORWEGIAN

1. Concierge: Hva kan jeg hjelpe med?
2. Scott: Jeg tenkte meg til Skagen, men jeg er ikke helt sikker på hvordan jeg skal komme meg dit.
3. Concierge: Det går bra. Tog eller fly er nok kjappest.
4. Scott: Takk. Kan du booke et fly for meg?

ENGLISH

1. Concierge: What can I help you with?
2. Scott: I am planning to go to Skagen, but I am not entirely sure how to get there.
3. Concierge: That is fine. Going by train or air is probably fastest.
4. Scott: Thanks. Could you book me a flight?

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
å skulle	should	verb
å hjelpe	to help	verb
meg	me	pronoun
dit	there	preposition

å komme seg	to get (somewhere)	verb
tog	train	noun
å tenke	to think	verb
sikker	sure	adjective
helt	entirely	adverb
eller	or	noun
fly	airplane	noun
nok	enough	adjective
kjapp	quick	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Skal vi spise snart?</p> <p>"Are we gonna eat soon?"</p>	<p>Hennes formål i livet var å hjelpe andre mennesker.</p> <p>"It sounds more natural in Norwegian to use 'mennesker' (humans) in this context."</p>
<p>Jeg trenger hjelp her.</p> <p>"I need some help here."</p>	<p>Kan du se meg?</p> <p>"Can you see me?"</p>
<p>Vi skal dit.</p> <p>"We are going there."</p>	<p>Hvordan kommer du deg dit?</p> <p>"How do you get there?"</p>
<p>Bruk toget.</p> <p>"Use the train."</p>	<p>Toget er kjapt, men dyrt.</p> <p>"The train is fast, but expensive."</p>
<p>Hun tenker på mye rart.</p> <p>"She thinks about a lot of weird stuff."</p>	<p>Han var sikker på at hun hadde dratt.</p> <p>"He was confident that she would leave."</p>

<p>Det var helt ufattelig stilig!</p> <p>"That was incredibly cool!"</p>	<p>Skal vi ta denne eller denne?</p> <p>"Should we take this or this?"</p>
<p>Kommer du eller ikke?</p> <p>"Are you coming or not?"</p>	<p>Passasjerene flyr med flyet.</p> <p>"The passengers fly on the airplane."</p>
<p>Reiser du med fly?</p> <p>"Will you be traveling by air?"</p>	<p>Er det nok?</p> <p>"Is this enough?"</p>

Jeg er kjapp til fots.

"I'm swift on foot."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Kjapp

This adjective meaning "swift" or "quick" is not that common in Norway anymore. Still, it is used sometimes, and you are most likely going to hear it at some point during a conversation. As with the English "swift," *kjapp* can be quite vague. It is associated with a swift motion or something that happens in the blink of an eye. In other words, a car driving at two-hundred kilometers per hour is not *kjapp* because it has a constant high speed. It would be the same in English, as such a car is not considered "swift" but "fast." Similarly, it would be said of a car that it is *rask* in Norwegian. *Kjapp* can also be used when talking about reflexes, thinking, actions, and events. However, in terms of word choice, you would alternate more often between swift, fast, and quick in English than *kjapp*, *rask*, and *fort* in Norwegian.

For example:

1. *Hvor raskt kjører denne bilen?*
"How fast can this car go?"
2. *Han er kvikk til å løpe og hjemme seg.*
"He is quick to run and hide."

3. *Det gjelder å være kjapp.*
"It is essential to be swift."

The next word, **sikker**, means "secure" or "confident," based on context. Norwegian, like English, has its share of words with the usage changing depending on context. *Sikker* is most commonly used in the context of security. As the word "confident," it draws logic from the fact that one is "sure" or "feels secure" when they are "confident." The word "self-confident" also contains *sikker* in Norwegian: *selvsikker*.

For example:

1. *Hvor sikker er denne båten?*
"How secure is this boat?"
2. *Jeg er sikker på at han er skyldig.*
"I am confident that he is guilty."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Conjunction *eller* and Pauses in Long Sentences.

Tog eller fly er nok kjappest.

"Going by train or air is probably fastest."

In this lesson, we will look at using the word *eller*, as well as pauses in longer sentences. Let us start with *eller* first. It is not too hard and does not need too much explanation. First, we will look at the sentence in our dialogue.

Tog eller fly er nok kjappest. This translates roughly as, "Going by train or air is probably fastest." Now let us look at it word for word. First, we have the noun *Tog* ("train"). This is followed by the conjunction *eller* ("or"), the word we will be looking at. Next, we have the noun *fly* ("plane, flight"). Then we have the verb *er*, a present tense of *å være* ("to be"). Then we have the adverb *nok* ("probably"). And finally, we have the conjugated adjective *kjappest*, from *kjapp* ("fast, swift").

This sentence is quite simple. In fact, translating it word by word to English would not make much sense since often English requires a more elaborate grammar to make sense. In

Norwegian, sentences can often be quite simple.

So what about the *eller*, which is used in this sentence? No extra words are needed here, leaving you with an incredibly simple grammatical structure. You simply put it in between the words you want to compare, "train" or "car." The same goes for the Norwegian *eller*. *Hus eller hytte* ("house or cottage"), *sliten eller trøtt* ("tired or sleepy"). The same goes for longer sentences. Let us look at some examples:

1. *Har du vært hjemme i ferien eller ute og reist?*
"Have you been home during the vacation or out traveling?"
2. *Hun visste ikke om hun likte maten eller hatet den.*
"She didn't know whether she liked the food or hated it."

There is also one more use for *eller* which is not that common in English. It is putting the *eller* at the end of a yes / no question. In Norwegian, this is quite common when expressing doubt whether the answer will be yes.

For example:

1. *Liker du fisk eller?*
"Do you like fish (..or not)?"
2. *Skulle vi gå på kino eller?*
"Were we going to the cinema or...?"

Now for longer sentences and where to put pauses. Again, this works much like English, but let us look at it to get a clear idea of how to speak longer sentences in Norwegian. Let us take a sentence from our dialogue for convenience.

Jeg tenkte meg til Skagen, men jeg er ikke helt sikker på hvordan jeg skal dra. This translates as, "I am planning to go to Skagen, but I am not entirely sure how to get there." The first part of this sentence is everything that comes before the comma, and usually this is spoken without a pause. The next part goes until the word *helt* ("entirely"), where a stress is usually put on the word *helt* or the word is dragged out to emphasize it. Then finally comes the last part of the sentence. Although this is quite similar to the way you would speak the sentence in English as well, it is not entirely similar. Most often, Norwegians put stress on the part of the sentence they want to emphasize or drag it out in order to put their point across.

For example:

1. *Jeg tenkte meg ut i båten i kveld, vil du bli med?*
"I thought I would take a ride by boat tonight; would you like to join?"
2. *Her har du beviset på at jeg er helt uskyldig i saken.*
"Here you have the evidence that I am completely without guilt in this trial."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Traveling in Norway

It can be quite common to use domestic flights as a means to travel between certain parts of Norway. It is not always cheap to go by car or rail either, if you consider the time it takes to either drive a car from A to B or use the railway. The bottom part of Norway to the northernmost outskirts of Alta is more than a two-day drive. It is such an exhausting trip that few ever attempt it. Traveling by air only takes you, at most, a few hours. Besides, certain carriers offer such cheap tickets that there is absolutely no reason to go by any other means. Some of the common cities to travel between by air are: Oslo to Bergen, Oslo to Trondheim, Oslo to Stavanger, and Oslo to Longyearbyen.

On a side-note, Longyearbyen is the main settlement on Svalbard. It even has a town hall and a university. But be careful if you visit. It is also the only place in Norway where polar bears exist. Coincidentally, "polar bear" in Norwegian is *isbjørn*.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #18

How Long Until You Arrive in Norway?

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

18

NORWEGIAN

1. Lars: Kjersti, du er vel ikke i Oslo allerede?
2. Kjersti: Jeg har ikke ankommet enda. Jeg er der om en time.
3. Lars: Åja, fortell meg når du er her da.
4. Kjersti: Det skal jeg.

ENGLISH

1. Lars: Kjersti, you have not arrived in Oslo already?
2. Kjersti: I have not arrived yet. I will be there in an hour.
3. Lars: Oh, tell me when you are here then.
4. Kjersti: I will.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
time	hour	noun
vel	well	expression
allerede	already	adverb
meg	me	pronoun
å fortelle	to tell	verb
når	when	interrogative word

å skulle	should	verb
enda	yet	adverb
å ankomme	to arrive	verb
her	here	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det er om en time.</p> <p>"That's in an hour."</p>	<p>Jeg drar om en time.</p> <p>"I am leaving in an hour."</p>
<p>Vel, jeg prøvde ihvertfall.</p> <p>"Well, at least I tried."</p>	<p>Vel... ikke egentlig...</p> <p>"Well... not really..."</p>
<p>Den var allerede fire på ettermiddagen.</p> <p>"It was already four in the afternoon."</p>	<p>Kan du se meg?</p> <p>"Can you see me?"</p>
<p>Fortell meg et eventyr!</p> <p>"Tell me a fairytale!"</p>	<p>Jeg trener hver morgen når jeg står opp.</p> <p>"I am exercising every morning when I wake up."</p>
<p>Skal vi spise snart?</p> <p>"Are we gonna eat soon?"</p>	<p>Har du sett filmen enda?</p> <p>"Have you seen the movie yet?"</p>
<p>jeg ankommer i morgen.</p> <p>"I will arrive tomorrow."</p>	<p>Ta denne asjetten her.</p> <p>"Take this platter here."</p>
<p>Her er greia jeg pratet om.</p> <p>"Here's the thing I was talking about."</p>	<p>Jeg er her.</p> <p>"I'm here."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

The word **vel** can mean different things depending on context. It can mean "well" or "good," as in, *Jeg er vel* ("I am well"). Or it can mean "probably," as in, *det går vel bra* ("it is probably ok"). And it can mean "well," as in, *vel, det har ikke så mye å si* ("Well, it does not have that much to say."). While it resembles "well" a lot, just be careful in the scenarios where it means "probably." Let us look at few examples of it as the word "probably."

For example:

1. *Hun kommer vel i morgen.*
"She probably coming tomorrow."
2. *Han sa vel ikke noe om meg?*
"He did not say anything about me, did he?"

Next we have the word **når**. It means "when" and is a conjunction. More specifically, it is a conjunction dealing with time. A common mistake for Norwegians is to mix *når* with the other time-related conjunction *da* ("then"). This is hard to imagine at first, but looking at a phrase like this: *da jeg var liten* ("when I was little"), it is a bit easier to understand just why this is confusing. In Norway, there is a saying that goes, *den gang da, hver gang når* ("That time then, every time when"). In other words, you only use *når* when you talk about something occurring often and *da* when talking about something which happened once.

For example:

1. *Når jeg spiser ris blir jeg fort mett.*
"When I eat rice, I fill up quickly."
2. *Da jeg spiste ris ble jeg fort mett.*
"When I ate rice, I filled up quickly."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Longer Sentence Structure and Semantics.

Jeg har ikke ankommet enda. Jeg er der om en time.

"I have not arrived yet. I will be there in an hour."

Kjersti, du er vel ikke i Oslo allerede?

"Kjersti, you have not arrived in Oslo already?"

In this lesson's grammar point, we will continue on from our last lesson in which we looked at longer sentences and a few words. In this lesson, we will be focusing on the structure of longer sentences. We will start by breaking down two sentences from our dialogue and then look at how they are built. Let us look at our first sentence.

Jeg har ikke ankommet enda. Jeg er der om en time. This roughly translates as, "I have not arrived yet. I will be there in an hour."

If we look at this word for word, we see that *jeg* the pronoun ("I") is the first word. This is followed by the present tense of the verb *å ha, har*, ("to have"). Then we have the negative *ikke* ("not"). This is followed by the past tense of the verb *å ankomme, ankommet* ("to arrive"). Then we have the adverb *enda* ("yet"). This completes one sentence. The next sentence starts with the pronoun *jeg*, ("I") again, followed by the present tense of the verb *å være, er*, ("to be"). Next we have the adverb *der* ("there"). This is followed by the preposition *om* ("in"). And finally, we have the noun *time* ("hour") in infinitive. It is preceded by its article *en* ("an" / "one"). All together, we have, *Jeg har ikke ankommet enda. Jeg er der om en time.* "I have not arrived yet. I will be there in an hour."

You might have noticed that the sentence translates directly into English. Let us see just how this is possible. As you know by now, Norwegian is an SVO language, like English. This means that we always start with the subject of the sentence, then we move on to the verb, and then the object that the subject acts upon. In longer sentences, these word orders repeat themselves.

Let us look at the structure of the above sentence. *Jeg* is the subject of the sentence, so it could be replaced by any pronoun or noun. This is followed by the auxiliary verb *har*, followed by the modifier *ikke*. *Ikke* is an adverb, by the way. Finally, we have the verb of the sentence: *ankommet*.

The auxiliary verb is necessary to form the present perfect tense, and the negative *ikke* makes the verb negative. This usually implies that the action is "not" performed. Finally, we have the adverb *enda*, which relates it to time. Now you may notice that we are missing an essential part of the sentence here, namely, the object. The reason it is missing is because it is understood through the context of the sentence. If we were to include the object, the sentence would look like this.

For example:

1. *Jeg har ikke ankommet i Oslo enda.*
"I haven't arrived in Oslo yet."

Here you can see that Oslo is placed as the object after the verb. The time-related adverb comes after the object.

In the following sentence, we can again see the SVO structure. First we have *Jeg*, the subject. Then the verb, *er*, which is followed by the object, *der*. Finally, we have the time-related phrase. This is actually part of the object of the sentence.

Let us look at the other sentence we had:

1. *Kjersti, du er vel ikke i Oslo allerede?*
"Kjersti, You have not arrived in Oslo already?"

Let us look at it word by word. First we have a personal noun *Kjersti*. This is followed by a comma and the pronoun *du*, ("you"). Then we have a verb in present tense, *er*, from *å være* ("to be"). Then we have the adverb *vel* ("well"). This is followed by the negative *ikke* ("not"). Next we have the preposition *i* ("in"). Then the place noun Oslo. And finally, we have the time-related adverb *allerede* ("already").

In this case we have a question, and as you might remember; questions usually follow a different structure, which is VSO, but not always. In this sentence, the question is a closed question, so it works more like a sentence with an open end. It starts with the subject, which is *Kjersti, du*. Two words as one in this case is simply pointing out the listener, while the following is the defining subject. This is followed by the verb of the sentence, *er*.

Then comes the part of the sentence which does not translate directly to English. Whenever a verb is paired with the negative *ikke*, *ikke* should be placed after the first part of the verb. The second rule at work here is that adverbs like *vel*, which has the connotation of "probably" or "possibly," are always placed before the negative. Here we have *er*, verb; *vel*, adverb; and *ikke*, negative, in that order. After this comes the object of the sentence, *i Oslo*. The preposition *i* was somewhat optional in the sentence above because the verb *å ankomme* does not seem to need it.

Now finally in this sentence, we have another time-modifying adverb, *allerede*. These adverbs at the end of the sentences always tell us what time our sentence relates to. Let us

see how we can change some of the words in our two sentences to give it a new meaning (Note that the word positions do not change.).

For example:

1. *Jeg drar ikke nå. Jeg skal i møtet om to timer.*
"I am not going now. I am going to the meeting in two hours."
2. *Ole! Dere har vel ankommet Kiel innen nå?*
"Ole! You guys have probably arrived in Skien by now?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Oslo

It is quite common for just about every Norwegian to visit Oslo now and then, at least those who live somewhat close to the capital. Most Norwegian cities, suburbs, and small towns, while often quite unique and interesting, always seem to be lacking something at a second glance. Going to visit the capital then becomes something of a pilgrimage for many. In the capital you can shop, experience culture, sight-see, meet friends who "moved to the city," and, of course, experience the vibrant city life.

If you ever visit Oslo and other parts of Norway, you will quickly notice the difference between the capital and the other cities. While Trondheim, Bergen, Tromsø, Tønsberg, and Stavanger are all places with large cultural diversity, landmarks, and something more to offer, none of them come close to the capital in being attractive. Of course, this depends on individual tastes as well, however, there seems to be some sort of consensus that Oslo is the heart of Norway, and quite clearly so. It is the capital, after all.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #19

Connecting the Dots in Norway

CONTENTS

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- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

19

NORWEGIAN

1. Lars: Hva tenker du å gjøre mens du er i Oslo?
2. Kjersti: Jeg trenger å kjøpe noen gaver til jul, og samtidig fikse noen greier ved universitetet.
3. Lars: Ok. La oss dra til Universitetet først.
4. Kjersti: Greit.

ENGLISH

1. Lars: What do you plan on doing while in Oslo?
2. Kjersti: I need to buy some presents for Christmas, and at the same time, fix some stuff at the university.
3. Lars: Okay, let's go to the university first.
4. Kjersti: Fine.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
først	first	number
å tenke	to think	verb
mens	while	
Å trenge	to need	verb

gave	present	noun
jul	Christmas	noun
å fikse	to fix	verb
noen	some / someone	pronoun
greie	thing	adjective
universitet	university	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hvem kom først?</p> <p>"Who came first?"</p>	<p>Hun tenker på mye rart.</p> <p>"She thinks about a lot of weird stuff."</p>
<p>Vent her mens jeg går inn.</p> <p>"Wait here while I go in."</p>	<p>Alle liker å dra på sightseeing mens man er på ferie.</p> <p>"Everyone likes to go sightseeing while on vacation."</p>
<p>Vi trenger alle sollys for å overleve.</p> <p>"We all need sunlight to survive."</p>	<p>Jeg trenger papir.</p> <p>"I need paper."</p>
<p>Det er en gave.</p> <p>"It's a gift."</p>	<p>Jenta gledet seg til jul.</p> <p>"The girl was looking forward to Christmas."</p>
<p>Gutten prøvde å fikse leken.</p> <p>"The boy tried to fix the toy."</p>	<p>Er det noen her?</p> <p>"Is there anybody here?"</p>
<p>Hva er den greia?</p> <p>"What is that thing?"</p>	<p>Hun studerer ved universitetet.</p> <p>"She studies at the university."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In this lesson, we will look at the word **greie**. It literally translates as "thing." It is an ambiguous, abstract noun that denotes anything that the speaker is not able to put a name on. However, in Norwegian, there is not only one word for "a thing." There is one more noun that is used as the same abstract noun: *ting*. It is more similar to the English word, and therefore, probably easier to understand. The thing about it being two words, however, is that there is a tiny nuance regarding the difference between the two. It is not easy to learn this nuance. In fact, in most cases, the words are entirely interchangeable. In some cases, however, only one of the words sounds natural.

Let us see some examples where only the word used is the one that sounds natural:

1. *Jeg har noen ting hjemme.*
"I have some stuff at home."
2. *Hva er greia liksom?*
"What is the problem?"

Let us also explain the word **først** as well. It means "first," but it has two forms, depending on usage, in Norway. The one we saw in this lesson's vocab is *først*, as in, *jeg var først!* ("I was first!"). The other common form is as an ordinal number: *første*. This is a defined form and will always need the article *den* or *det* first. By ordinal numbers, we mean "first," "second," "third," and so on. The thing about Norwegian ordinal numbers is that they are always in defined form. So "the first," "the second," "the third," etc. In Norwegian, the numbers following *første* would be:

Andre - "second"

Tredje - "third"

Fjerde - "fourth"

Femte - "fifth"

Sjette - "sixth"

Syvende - "seventh"

Åttende - "eighth"

Niende - "ninth"

Tiende - "tenth"

For example:

1. *Han var alltid den første til å kjøpe de nyeste gadgetene.*
"He was always the first one to buy the newest gadgets."
2. *Hun var først ut med nyhetene.*
"She was first out with the news."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Conjunctions.

Jeg trenger å kjøpe noen gaver til jul, og samtidig fikse noen greier ved universitetet.
"I need to buy some presents for Christmas, and at the same time, fix some stuff at the University."

In this lesson, we will look at conjunctions in Norwegian and how they help bind together longer sentences. In our dialogue, we had a fairly long sentence. We will start by breaking down this sentence and analyzing it:

1. *Jeg trenger å kjøpe noen gaver til jul, og samtidig fikse noen greier ved universitetet.*
"I need to buy some presents for Christmas, and at the same time, fix some stuff at university."

This is quite a long sentence. However, this sentence is mostly built up of adverbs, pronouns, and prepositions.

First, we have the familiar pronoun *jeg* ("I"). This is, as we learned, followed by the verb, this time in the present tense, *trenger*, from *å trenge* ("need"). Then we have a second verb, this time in the infinitive, *å kjøpe* ("to buy"). The reason is because *å trenge* can work as a modular verb. We can attach other verbs after *å trenge* to form "need to (verb)..."

After the verbs comes the object of the sentence, *noen gaver*. *Noen* is an adverb; in English, it means "some." *Gaver* is the noun and means "gifts" / "presents." Finally, we have the indirect object, or time modifier, as we learned in the previous lesson: *til jul*. It consists of the preposition *til* ("for") and then the noun *jul* ("Christmas"). We then have a comma, which is

followed by the conjunction *og* ("and"). Then there's another conjunction, *samtidig* ("at the same time"). These two conjunctions function together as a phrase. Think of it as the phrase ". .. and at the same time."

After the *og samtidig*, we have the whole SVO structure over again. Please notice, however, there is no subject mentioned. This is because we already know it. It is *jeg*, which we had in the beginning of the sentence. Thus, we move directly to the verb in the infinitive, *å fikse* ("to fix"). Then the object, *noen greier*. The adverb, *noen*, meaning "some," and the noun, *greier*, meaning ("things"). And finally, the indirect object, *ved universitetet*. The preposition, *ved*, means "by" and the noun, *universitetet*, "university."

All together:

Jeg trenger å kjøpe noen gaver til jul, og samtidig fikse noen greier ved universitetet.

Again, this translates to:

"I need to buy some presents for Christmas, and at the same time, fix some stuff at the University"

So what about the conjunctions? Well, in our dialogue, we saw three conjunctions. Let us look at them, what they do, and some examples.

Og, "and," is the most common conjunction. It is used to tie two sentences that cannot be tied together using other conjunctions. It is basically just a *concatenator*.

For example:

1. *Har du tid til å lage middag og gå tur med hundene?*
"Do you have time to make dinner and take the dogs for a walk?"

Samtidig, which means "at the same time," is commonly used to tie actions together through a time expression.

For example:

1. *Jeg er stor fan av videospill, samtidig liker jeg ikke å spille for lenge.*
"I am a big fan of video games; at the same time, I do not like to play for too long."

Mens means "while" or "meanwhile" and also ties sentences together in a time frame.

For example:

1. *Jeg var hjemme og spiste, mens barna var på skolen.*
"I was at home eating; meanwhile, the children were at school."

There are also a few others that we can look at that were not to be found in the dialogue, but are important, nonetheless.

Også, which means "as well," is used to link sentences or words which have a contextual relation.

For example:

1. *Han hadde trent mye de siste to månedene. Han hadde vært diett også.*
"He had exercised a lot the past two months. He had been on a diet as well."

Desto is a comparative conjunction, and this one is a bit tricky. It is an adverb as well as a conjunction. It is not that commonly used, even though it has no adequate synonyms. It works as a comparative similar to "the more..." in English.

For example:

1. *Sover man lite blir man fort sliten, desto fortere mister man konsentrasjonen også.*
"If one does not sleep sufficiently, one will quickly get tired, the quicker one loses one's concentration as well."
2. *Jo bedre man sover, desto mer uthvilt blir man.*
"The better one sleeps, the more rested one feels."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Christmas in Norway

As we mentioned in the previous lesson about the pilgrimage to Oslo, something Norwegians

seem quite preoccupied with around Christmas time is Christmas shopping. Christmas is a major holiday in Norway, even though the Norwegian state and church officially parted ways quite recently. Now Norway is a secular country. Much of our tradition lies in Christian values, however.

In the U.S., people are usually wary of mentioning Christmas without mentioning *Hanukkah*, or *Id-al-Adha*, or maybe even Winter Solstice in the same sentence. In Norway, Christmas is the reigning holiday, and few people greet each other during the season with anything but Christmas greetings. One can even observe that atheists and, to some extent, people from other religions, celebrate Norwegian Christmas. The tradition has recently become quite secular with more focus on Santa and on giving gifts, so it might not be so surprising. When talking about gift giving, in Norway, many Norwegians start to panic during the Advent season as they look for Christmas presents for their loved ones. It also seems like the Christmas sales start earlier and earlier every year.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #20

See the Signs in Norway

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- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 7 Cultural Insight

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NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Hva?! "Stengt til og med tredje Januar"?
2. Lars: Hmm, kjedelig.
3. Kjersti: Jeg får sende administrasjonen en email da.
4. Lars: Ja la oss gå og finne gaver i stedet.

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: What?! Closed until the third of January?
2. Lars: Oh, how unfortunate.
3. Kjersti: I will have to email the administration then.
4. Lars: Yeah, let's go find presents instead.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
istedet	instead	interjection
kjedelig	boring	adjective
stengt	closed	adjective
til og med	until	adverb
administrasjon	administration	noun
å sende	to send	verb

email	email	noun
Januar	January	noun
tredje	third	numeral
gave	present	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg vil være hos deg istedet.</p> <p>"I want to be with you instead."</p>	<p>TV er kjedelig å se på.</p> <p>"TV is so boring to watch."</p>
<p>Butikken er stengt.</p> <p>"The shop is closed."</p>	<p>Vi har åpent til og med fjerde april.</p> <p>"We are open until the 4th of April."</p>
<p>Hei, snakker jeg med administrasjonen?</p> <p>"Hi, am I talking with the administration?"</p>	<p>Han sendte henne et brev.</p> <p>"He sent her a letter."</p>
<p>Jeg skulle ha sendt denne i morgen.</p> <p>"I would like to send this tomorrow."</p>	<p>Kvinnen hadde mottat en ukjent email.</p> <p>"The woman had received an unrecognizable email."</p>
<p>Hun gledet seg til januar.</p> <p>"She looked forward to January."</p>	<p>Jenta var den tredje i linjen.</p> <p>"He was the third in line."</p>
<p>Det er en gave.</p> <p>"It's a gift."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let us go over some of the phrases and words you see in this lesson. The first vocab term is

the phrase, ***til og med***. It is similar to "until" in English. However, in Norwegian, it becomes a phrase which consists of three separate words: *til* ("to"), *og* ("and"), and finally, *med* ("with"). This is a phrase you will see quite often in Norwegian. It is not limited to the meaning of "until" like it is in English, however. The phrase is also what you use when you want to say "even" in English.

Let us look at some examples:

1. *Til og med Espen ville ha pizza.*
"Even Espen wanted pizza."
2. *Fristen for konkurransen var til og med fjerde september.*
"The deadline for the contest was until the fourth of September."

Another word we want to look at is ***Januar***. I do not believe we have ever listed the months in Norwegian. And because learning them early on is more common in lower education, it has now come to a point where not knowing them would be slightly impermissible. We have already mentioned two months in this lesson. Let us see what the other months are.

Januar - "January"

Februar - "February"

Mars - "March"

April - "April"

Mai - "May"

Juni - "June"

Juli - "July"

August - "August"

September - "September"

Oktober - "October"

November - "November"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Incomplete Sentences.

Stengt til og med tredje Januar?

"Closed until the third of January?"

In this grammar point, we will look at incomplete sentences and how they commonly appear in both daily speech and in written form everywhere around us. When it comes to speaking, incomplete sentences are a common thing to Norwegians. More than incomplete sentences, contracted sentences are much more frequently used. When a Norwegian speaks at full speed, you will often find that whole sentences sound like one long word and that several letters often seem missing from the different words. Of course this makes it quite inconvenient for people who do not speak Norwegian that well. It can sometimes even be so hard to follow that even native speakers have to ask to repeat the sentence. Now before we look at just how Norwegians often contract sentences and use incomplete sentences, let us look at the sentence in our dialogue:

1. *Stengt til og med tredje Januar?*
"Closed until the third of January?"

Looking at this sentence word for word, it is not that hard. First we have the adjective *stengt* ("closed"). This is followed by the phrase we saw in the vocab explanation: *til-og-med* ("until"). Then the order number *tredje* ("third"). Finally, we have the name of the month, *januar*, which is in English, "January."

The sentence above is not an incomplete sentence per se; it could be a full sentence. However, it is lacking in terms of being a good sentence. For example, we do not know what is "closed until the third of January." In this case, we should have put the subject and the verb in the sentence, before the object. So *butikken er* ("the shop is") *stengt til og med tredje januar*. When shortening down sentences in Norwegian, we omit the subject and the verb. While it is common to shorten down sentences where you can, Norwegians do not do it all the time. However, a common scenario in which you might expect to hear incomplete sentences is as answers to questions.

Let us look at some examples of this:

1. *Hvor skal du? Til apoteket.*
"Where are you going? To the pharmacy."

The answer here really just contains the object of the sentence. The rest of the sentence, *jeg skal* ("I am going"), is omitted.

Other common situations where you will hear incomplete sentences is in quick comments or short replies.

For example:

1. *Syns ikke filmen var dårlig.*
"Do not think the movie was bad."
2. *Så pen!*
"How pretty!"

Now that we have seen how some incomplete sentences are commonly formed, let us go a bit deeper. We will see how, in Norwegian, we contract certain daily common phrases. Remember, we have already seen this a bit in an earlier lesson in which we talked about *ha'kke, vi'kke*, etc.

Next, we have some other common contractions:

1. *Åssen gåre? - Hvordan går det?*
"How are you doing?"
2. *Ære ikke dålig værute? - Er det ikke dårlig vær ute?*
"Is not it bad weather outside?"
3. *Hvorran hare sæat du æ her? - Hvordan har det seg at du er her?*
"How come you are here?"

A final note on these contractions and incomplete sentences: they are largely based on dialect. The ones presented to you in this lesson are most common around the Oslo area and the area surrounding the Oslofjord.

Most people do not have this heavy slang all the time. The examples were more for demonstration purposes. As a word of advice, when you, the listener, is speaking Norwegian, do not attempt to use slang consciously. Instead, speak clearly. Slang will come naturally as you learn.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Typical Business Hours in Norway

In Norway, you will find yourself getting more than a bit irritated at closing time. Everything closes too early. Shops close at eight or nine p.m., supermarkets at ten or eleven p.m., and not only that, but banks and certain public offices close at three p.m. Even pubs, bars, and clubs sometimes close at an inconvenient hour. And as if that was not enough, many shops and offices are closed on Sundays or keep only short hours. This includes the post office as well, which does not do deliveries on Sundays.

So what is the reason for this inconvenient opening time schedule? Part of it, like closing on Sundays, has to do with an old tradition which is not particularly common anymore. Because Sundays are still seen as holy, being closed on them is still considered by many an unspoken rule. As for banks and others closing so early, it is simply a tradition, and traditionally, people worked from between five and six a.m. until three or four p.m. Many find the banks' closing times especially inconvenient, but there has not seemed to be any shift towards more convenient banking hours. Actually, many supermarkets closed quite early some years back, but they are gradually starting to stay open longer and longer.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #21

Having Fun With Norwegian Compounds

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- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

21

NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Haha, Espen sjekk denne. Tunfisk biter.
2. Espen: Hah, Ja tunfiskbiter. Den er bra. Har du sett "Lamme lår"?
3. Kjersti: Haha, lammelår!
4. Espen: Samskrivingsfeil er morsomme.

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: Haha, Espen, check this out! Tunafish bites.
2. Espen: Hah, tunafish chunks. It is good. Have you seen the "Lame legs"?
3. Kjersti: Haha, leg of lamb.
4. Espen: Compound mistakes are hilarious.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
tunfiskbiter	tunafish chunks	noun
å sjekke	to check	verb
denne	this	pronoun
lår	thigh	noun
lam	lamb	noun
lammelår	lamb thigh, leg	noun

morsom	funny	adjective
å bite	to bite	verb
tunfisk	tunafish	noun
samskrivingsfeil	compounds mistakes	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Kattungen likte tunfiskbiter.</p> <p>"The kitten liked tunafish chunks."</p>	<p>Sjekk denne fisken!</p> <p>"Look at that fish!"</p>
<p>Denne boken, vær så snill.</p> <p>"This book, please."</p>	<p>Se hun har fine lår!</p> <p>"Wow, she's got nice legs!"</p>
<p>Lammet drakk melk fra moren.</p> <p>"The lamb drank milk from its mother."</p>	<p>Jeg liker lammelår med poteter.</p> <p>"I like a leg of lamb with potatoes."</p>
<p>Den morsomme mannen danser uten bukse.</p> <p>"The funny man is dancing without pants."</p>	<p>Han bet seg i tungen.</p> <p>"He bit his own tongue."</p>
<p>Er det tunfisk salat?</p> <p>"Is that tunafish salad?"</p>	<p>Her har du en samskrivingsfeil.</p> <p>"Here's a compound miss."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

In the vocab and phrase explanation section, we will look at two phrases we saw in the dialogue. Note, however, that these did not appear in the the vocab section. The first one is: **Har du sett...**- "Have you seen."

In the context of the dialogue, they are talking about reading or "seeing" compound mistakes.

In English, you will commonly come across the "have you heard..." phrase, when it comes to anything spoken or written. In Norway, this phrase is quite common too: *har du hørt...* In fact, *har du hørt* and *har du sett* are often interchangeable. Still, one relates to "seeing" and the other to "hearing." When in doubt about which one to use, use the one you would have used in an English conversation.

For example:

1. *Har du sett nyhetene?*
"Have you seen the news?"
2. *Har du hørt om den nye filmen til Spielberg?*
"Have you heard about the new movie from Spielberg?"

The next phrase is: ***den/det er bra***. The phrase translates simply as, "It is good."

It is often perceived to be a quite flat response, sometimes even sarcastic, especially when commenting on something. Still, do not be afraid of using it. If said with a positive intonation or an energized intonation, it will have a very positive impact on the listener.

For example:

1. *Har du sett den nye filmen til Spielberg? Den er bra!*
"Have you seen the new movie by Spielberg? It's good!"
2. *Jeg så den nye filmen til Spielberg på fredag... Den var bra.*
"I saw the new movie by Spielberg on Friday... It was good."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is *samskriving*, or "Compounds."

Hah, Ja tunfiskbiter. Den er bra. Har du sett "Lamme lår"?

"Hah, tunafish chunks. It is good. Have you seen the "Lame legs"?"

In this lesson, we will look at an infamous aspect of the Norwegian language, which is known as *samskriving*. It is similar to how compounds work in English.

The thing about compounds in Norwegian is that two or more words that form a single word should always be written and pronounced as one continuous word. This concept might be a bit hard to grasp at first for English speakers. While there are quite a lot of compound words in English, many compounds are also written and pronounced as separate words. An example of a proper compound in English is "starfish," where "star" and "fish" is compounded into one word. An example of a separate compound in English is "dollar bill." There are no clear rules on what to compound and not compound properly in English, however, if you are unsure, the general rule of thumb is to separate the words. In Norwegian, the general rule is the opposite. If you are unsure, compound it as one word.

Let us look at a line from this lesson's dialogue.

Hah, Ja tunfiskbiter. Den er bra. Har du sett "Lamme lår"? This translates roughly as, "Hah, tunafish chunks. It is good. Have you seen the "Lame legs"?" Here we had two examples of compound words. Now let us look at it word by word.

First we have *hah*; it is an onomatopoeia which simply sounds like laughter. Next we have *ja* ("yes"). This is followed by the noun *tunfiskbiter* ("tunafish chunks"). Notice how the Norwegian word is one single word, while the English compound is two separate words. Then we have the pronoun *Den* ("it"), followed by the verb in present tense, *er* ("is"). Then there's the adjective *bra* ("good"). The next sentence starts with the present tense verb *har*, from *å ha* ("to have"). Next we have the pronoun *du* ("you") and then the past tense of the verb *å se, sett*, ("seen"). And finally, we have another compound in which the words are separated: *lamme* ("lame"), and *lår* ("thighs").

The last compound in the sentence above should have been compounded into one single word so we'd have *lammelår* ("lamb thigh"), instead of *lamme lår* ("lame legs").

There are two rather complicated things about Norwegian *samskriving*. One is that compounded words can become quite long and thus, hard to write and speak in one breath. Just look at this word:

Menneskerettighetsorganisasjonene. - "The human rights organizations."

Secondly, when compounded, many words change shape slightly to better fit naturally with their companion words. Take, for example, the word above. Between *menneskerettighet* ("human rights") and *organisasjonene* ("organizations"), there is an *s* bridging the two words. This is simply to make it easier to pronounce and understand that it is compounded.

Another thing about Norwegian compound words is that you can actually build words which

are as long as you want. Take our word above then add the word *sekretariat* ("secretariat").

Menneskerettighetsorganisasjonssekretariatet. - "The secretariat of the human rights organizations."

Now add another word after that, say, *møte* ("meeting").

Menneskerettighetsorganisasjonssekretariatsmøtet. - "The meeting of the secretariat of the human rights organizations."

We can even add one more word or a few more words, but really, it only becomes quite silly. The point here is that not only do you write this as one word, but you might have noticed that it is pronounced in one go as well. If not, the words will be perceived as being split and lead to confusion.

Let us look at some examples of how it sounds when that happens:

1. *Lekebutikk*.
"Toy shop."
2. *Leke butikk*.
"Pretend shop."

Here, the meaning changed quite a lot, from being a toy shop to being a common pastime of playful children.

Finally, let us look at such a miss in the context of a sentence.

1. *Jeg er på vei til kjøpesenteret*.
"I am on my way to the mall."
2. *Jeg er på vei til kjøpe senteret*.
"I am on my way to buy center."

There's quite the big difference between those two sentences. Now it is easier to pronounce most compounds right, as opposed to writing them correctly. However, you need only remember the general rule of thumb. "If you are unsure whether it should be a separated compound or closed compound, always go for closed compound."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Compounding Mistakes

Compounding mistakes in Norwegian is actually quite funny. In Norway, it is commonly mistaken as the word *orddelingsfeil*. That roughly translates as "hyphenation mistakes." However, this in itself is a misconception. *Orddeling* or "hyphenation" has nothing to do with it. It is whether you separate a compound into two words or treat it as one concatenated word. If you go online and search for *orddelingsfeil*, you will find a lot of pictures of funny situations where compounds have been split into two or more words to create hilarious sentences.

The way it works is like we explained. In essence, it is because of how two words, when separate, are understood as separate, and when compounded, they create the compounded word. For example, look at the word "motorbike." If you separate the compound, it becomes "motor" and "bike," which suddenly makes a bit less sense. While you have the chance, put *samskrivingsfeil* or *orddelingsfeil* into your search engine and read some of the pictures that comes up. If you do not know the words, put them through a translation service, the first time as a compound, and the second time separate. The fun is endless!

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #22

Why Is That Norwegian University Closed?

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

22

NORWEGIAN

1. Mille: Hei Kjersti! Jeg hørte universitetet var stengt?
2. Kjersti: Ja, men jeg skjønner ikke hvorfor.
3. Mille: Ah, det er fordi det er juleferie.
4. Kjersti: Åja, hvordan kunne jeg være så dum.

ENGLISH

1. Mille: Hi, Kjersti! I heard the university was closed.
2. Kjersti: Yeah, but I have no idea why.
3. Mille: Ah, but that is because it is already the Christmas holidays.
4. Kjersti: Oh, of course. How could I be that stupid?

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
dum	stupid	adjective
å skjønne	to understand	verb
å høre	to hear	verb
universitet	university	noun
fordi	because	conjunction
hvorfor	why	interrogative word

juleferie	Christmas holidays	noun
å kunne	to be able to, to be willing to	verb
men	but	conjunction
å stenge	to close	verb
hvordan	how	interrogative word

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Han følte seg dum.</p> <p>"He felt stupid."</p>	<p>Skjønner du ingenting?</p> <p>"Do you not understand anything?"</p>
<p>Det var fint å høre fra deg.</p> <p>"It was nice to hear from you."</p>	<p>Hun studerer ved universitetet.</p> <p>"She studies at the university."</p>
<p>Fordi det var ikke plass noe annet sted.</p> <p>"Because there was not any space elsewhere."</p>	<p>Hvorfor står lampen her?</p> <p>"Why is the lamp in that position?"</p>
<p>Er det juleferie snart?</p> <p>"Is it Christmas vacation soon?"</p>	<p>Kunne du hjulpet meg?</p> <p>"Could you help me?"</p>
<p>Jeg kan komme i dag.</p> <p>"I can come today."</p>	<p>Du kan kjøpe tannkrem på apoteket.</p> <p>"You can buy toothpaste at the pharmacy."</p>
<p>Jeg vil, men kan ikke.</p> <p>"I want to, but I can't."</p>	<p>Men kan ikke du komme hit?</p> <p>But can't you come here?</p>
<p>Jeg liker deg men...</p> <p>"I like you but..."</p>	<p>Når stenger butikken?</p> <p>"When is the shop closing?"</p>

Hvordan kom du deg hjem? "How did you get home?"	Hvordan går det? "How goes it?"
Hei, hvordan går det Maria? "Hello, how are you Maria?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Å skjønne - "To understand."

There are, in fact, two different ways to say "to understand" in Norwegian. We have *å skjønne*, and the other one is *å forstå*. The difference between the two is quite complicated. The former, *å skjønne*, often translates as "to see," as in: *Ah, jeg skjønner* ("Oh, I see."). It is most commonly used in scenarios where "logic" is a keyword.

Forstå, on the other hand, relates to understanding itself, as in understanding language. Let us look at a few examples.

For example:

1. *Jeg forstår ikke hva du sier.*
"I do not understand what you are saying."
2. *Jeg skjønner ikke hvordan du gjør det!*
"I do not understand how you do it!"

Juleferie - "Christmas holidays"

In Norwegian, as we pointed out in the last lesson, words that are built up using two or more words are usually pronounced and written as one single word, which is a compound. In this case, *juleferie* is the combination of *jul* ("Christmas") and *ferie* ("vacation"). In many cases, like with this word, when combining two or more words, you will end up adding some extra vowels to make the resulting compound more natural. In most scenarios, that means adding an *e*.

Jul + e + ferie.

For example:

1. *Når begynner juleferien?*
"When do the Christmas holidays start?"
2. *Hva gjorde du i juleferien?*
"What did you do during the Christmas holidays?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is *fordi* ("because").

Ah, det er fordi det er juleferie.

"Ah, but that is because it is already the Christmas holidays."

In this lesson's grammar point and onwards, we will move on from sentence structure to focus on some individual words. First of all in this grammar point, we will look at the word *fordi* ("because"). While we have already seen this word before, what we have not done is take a more detailed look of how this word fits in a sentence.

First off, we will look at a sentence from our dialogue:

1. *Ah, det er fordi det er juleferie.*
"Ah, but that is because it is already Christmas holidays."

Now let us look at it word by word. First, we have *Ah*, which is just an interjection similar to the English "ah." Next, we have the pronoun *det* ("that"). It is followed by the present tense verb *er*, from *å være* ("to be"). Then we have the conjunction we will be talking about in this lesson: *fordi* ("because"). This is followed by the pronoun *det* ("that," "it"). And again, the present tense verb *er* ("is"). And finally, we have the noun *juleferie* ("Christmas holidays").

While the sentence above translated nicely, that is not always the case for sentences containing *fordi*. We looked at conjunctions in an earlier lesson, but at that time we did not include *fordi*. While many of the other conjunctions also warranted a longer, deeper explanation, *fordi* is a conjunction we think you will come to use quite often, and so it is good to know it well.

When we build a sentence with *fordi*, we effectively have one part in front of it. You might remember the SVO sentence structure, and then another part after it, another SVO. So it looks much like this:

Jeg må en tur hjem, fordi jeg må spise.

S V O lo , Conj S -----V-----

"I need to be home shortly, because I need to eat."

Gutten kom hjem sent, fordi han hadde lekt i parken.

S V O Adv, Conj S -----V----- O

"The boy came home late, because he had been playing in the park."

A sentence with *fordi* in it will almost always follow this structure. Now, what if we put the conjunction in the beginning of a sentence?

For example:

1. *Fordi du spiser, trenger du ikke å være stille.*

"Because you're eating, it does not mean that you need to be silent."

Here we have a small difference between how English and Norwegian sentence structure works. *Fordi* works directly with the verb on the other side of the comma, like an open phrase. In English, the phrase becomes a whole lot more complex. "Because....., it does not mean that...." This way of phrasing it is inescapable in English. You need to put "it does not mean that" to refer back to the "because." Let us see how it looks if we translate the above sentence word for word into English. That way, you might more easily see what we are talking about:

1. *Fordi du spiser, trenger du ikke å være stille.*

"Because you're eating, need you not be silent." (literal)

"Because you're eating, you don't need to be silent."

The first one only sounds weird in English. This is unless you reverse the sentence to, "You do not need to be silent because you're eating."

Now lastly, *fordi* also works without the pause, or comma, in a sentence, just like the English "because."

For example:

1. *Han kom fordi han trengte mat.*
"He came because he needed food."

Just note that in Norwegian, it is safer to put a comma, or a pause, in the sentence, rather than leaving it out.

Now finally in English, beware the phrase "because of" when translating to Norwegian. Now it is easy to directly translate that into Norwegian and say *fordi av*. But that is incorrect. If you want to make the phrase "because of" in Norwegian you will have to say *på grunn av*. This directly translates as something like "on the grounds of," or "for the reason of." So just be a bit careful on that point.

For example:

1. *Jeg kommer ikke på grunn av feber.*
"I'm not coming because of a fever."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Attending a Norwegian University

There are not that many universities in Norway. The school system in Norway is quite different from many other countries, like, for example, how we saw in an earlier lesson about how students' education depends on what type of high school they attend. This is much the same for university. In Norway, a bachelor degree usually takes you three years to finish, although a bachelor is not the only thing you can get. Many vocational schools offer diplomas to prove that you have gone through some sort of education.

There are two types of vocational schools in Norway. Some allow students to get relevant diplomas within a certain field of study, like, say performing arts or 3D animation. Whether these diplomas are accepted overseas as relevant education depends on the employer or the institution one is interviewing at. Most vocational schools in Norway are considered to be of high quality, and as such, they are often accepted as certifiable educational institutions.

The second type of vocational school is sort of a school where students study for a year simply to get experience within a particular field. These schools offer diplomas, but the disciplines students study within are usually not considered to be academically relevant. Examples of such schools would be schools where you, for example, practice volleyball or martial arts or just study religion for a year.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #23

How Do You Use This Norwegian Software?

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

23

NORWEGIAN

1. Kjersti: Jeg vet ikke hvordan man bruker dette programmet.
2. Sjefen: Du kan lese om hvordan man gjør ting i brukermanualen.
3. Kjersti: Greit, jeg skal lese den da.
4. Sjefen: Sett i gang.

ENGLISH

1. Kjersti: I don't know how to use this software.
2. Boss: You can read about how to do things in the manual.
3. Kjersti: Fine, I will read it then.
4. Boss: Get on with it.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
brukermanual	user manual	noun
greit	fine	interjection
å sette i gang	to get to it	phrase
å gjøre	to do	verb
å vite	to know	verb
å bruke	to use	verb

ting	thing, stuff	noun
å lese	to read	verb
program	program /software	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hvor er brukermanualen?</p> <p>"Where is the user manual?"</p>	<p>Greit, jeg orker ikke mer.</p> <p>"Fine, I cannot take this anymore."</p>
<p>La oss sette i gang!</p> <p>"Let us get to it!"</p>	<p>Gjør du noe spesielt nå?</p> <p>"Are you doing anything special now?"</p>
<p>Det er vanskelig å vite.</p> <p>"It's hard to know."</p>	<p>Jeg bruker ikke PC.</p> <p>"I do not use a PC."</p>
<p>Jeg samler på ting.</p> <p>"I collect stuff."</p>	<p>Unnskyld, men jeg klarer ikke å lese navnet ditt.</p> <p>"Sorry, I can't read your name."</p>
<p>Hva slags program er det?</p> <p>"What sort of software is that?"</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Here we will explain a few words and phrases that we saw in the dialogue.

Å vite - "To know"

It is often interchangeable with *å skjønne*, which makes it a bit confusing since we explained in our last lesson that *å skjønne* means "to understand." You can think of both *å vite* and *å skjønne* as meaning "to be enlightened with." This way it would not be that surprising to say

that they are often interchangeable. *Å skjønne* would be "to be enlightened at that moment," while *å vite* would be "to already have been enlightened." Let us see them in context.

For example:

1. *Jeg vet at du ikke liker druer.*
"I know that you do not like grapes."
2. *Jeg skjønner at du ikke liker druer.*
"I understand / know that you do not like grapes."

Å sette i gang

This phrase is almost synonymous with *å begynne*, which means "to begin." While *å begynne* means "to be beginning something" though, *å sette i gang* is more related to the starting or reviving of a process. It's much like "to get to it" is used in English. Whenever you use *å sette i gang*, it bears a certain air of it being a heavy process or that whatever you are doing is a duty that cannot be escaped. The phrase can also bear more positive connotations like "starting a fun project."

For example:

1. *La oss sette i gang med arbeidet.*
"Let us get to work."
2. *Jeg setter i gang båten snart.*
"I will start the boat soon."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is *Hvordan*.

Jeg vet ikke hvordan man bruker dette programmet.

"I don't know how to use this software."

In this lesson's grammar point, we will take a look at the word *hvordan* ("how"). By now you should already be familiar with the word and how to use it, at least a bit. We will go over some common usages and also what to watch out for. We will also look at how the sentences are

structured around the adverb.

First off however, let us look at the sentence from our dialogue and break it down:

1. *Du kan lese om hvordan man gjør ting i brukermanualen.*
"You can read about how to do things in the manual."

Now let us look at this word by word. We start with the pronoun *Du* ("you"). Then we have the modular verb *kan* ("can"), followed by the word it modulates, *lese*, ("to read") in infinitive form. This is followed by the preposition *om* ("about"). Then we have the word we are looking at in this lesson, *hvordan* ("how"). This is followed by the pronoun *man* ("one"). Next we have the present tense verb *gjør*, from *å gjøre* ("to do"). This is followed by the noun *ting* ("things"). And finally, we end with the preposition and noun, *i* ("in"), and *brukermanualen* ("the user manual"). Remember our lesson on compounds.

You may be familiar with the adverb *hvordan*. Normally, we would want to use it in questions like:

1. *Hvordan går det?*
"How are you doing?"
2. *Hvordan kan jeg hjelpe deg?*
"How can I help you?"

Of course that is not all you can do with *hvordan*. Like in our sentence above, we can use it to "explain how to do something." In other words, use it in statements, explanations, and so on. We have not used *hvordan* in this way a lot, so let us look at how we go about making sentences like this:

1. *Han forklarte hvordan han hadde tatt seg inn i huset umerket.*
"He explained how he had entered the house unnoticed."
2. *Det er urettferdig hvordan vi blir behandlet.*
"It is unfair how we are being treated."

You may notice how this adverb also works as a conjunction. It has the same properties, connecting two SVO structures. Let us look at one of the sentences again.

Det er urettferdig hvordan vi blir behandlet.

S V O(Adj) Conj S2 V2 O2

"it is unfair how we are being treated."

Now be careful of one thing with *hvordan*, and that is translating "how" with *hvordan* every time you see it. "How" in English has a few usages which do not translate as *hvordan* in Norwegian. One of these is when used as a measure.

For example:

1. *Hvor mye skal vi kjøpe?*
"How much are we going to buy?"
2. *Jeg vet ikke hvor langt det er igjen.*
"I don't know how long (or how far) is left."

In these cases where "how" is combined with a measure, it translates as *hvor* plus the measure word. This is important not to forget since the mistake makes your meaning hard to grasp if you mix the two.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Norway's Job Market

Over the past few decades, Norway's workplaces and job market have changed significantly. More than sixty percent of jobs created in Norway are now in the service sector, while the other forty percent are in the industrial sector and agricultural, fishing, and mining sector. While it is common for evolving economies to advance from the primary sector to the tertiary sector as they grow, Norway still has a large focus on the industrial sector despite being one of the world's larger economies. Even the industrial sector evolves and advances, which means the jobs created these days do not have the same requirements as jobs advertised ten years ago had. Newer jobs focus more and more on IT skills. While studying Norwegian is the most important thing if you want to get a job in Norway, having some basic computer proficiency will definitely help you along your way too.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #24

Finding A Little Piece of the United States in Norway

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

24

NORWEGIAN

1. Scott: Hei! Unnskyld, men jeg lurer på noe.
2. Espen: Eh, ja? Hva er det?
3. Scott: Hvordan er det jeg kan komme meg fra Oslo til Lista på kjappest mulig måte?
4. Espen: Unnskyld, jeg er ikke sikker.
5. Scott: Kan jeg bruke fly?
6. Espen: Jeg tror det.

ENGLISH

1. Scott: Hi! Sorry, but I'm wondering about something.
2. Espen: Erh, okay? What is it?
3. Scott: How do I get from Oslo to Lista in the fastest way possible?
4. Espen: I'm sorry, I'm not quite sure.
5. Scott: Could I do it by flight?
6. Espen: I think so.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
på	in, on	preposition
unnskyld	excuse me, I'm sorry	interjection
å lure	to wonder	verb
mulig	possible	
kjapp	quick	adjective
måte	way	noun
å bruke	to use	verb
å komme	to come	verb
noe	something	adverb
sikker	sure	adjective
å tro	to think, to believe	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ta på deg lua!</p> <p>"Put on your hat!"</p>	<p>Jeg må på do.</p> <p>"I have to go to the toilet."</p>
<p>Unnskyld, hvor går du?</p> <p>"Excuse me, where are you going?"</p>	<p>Unnskyld jeg har glemt det.</p> <p>"Sorry, I forgot it."</p>
<p>Lurer du på noe?</p> <p>"Are you wondering about something?"</p>	<p>Jeg lurte på noe.</p> <p>"I'm curious about something."</p>
<p>Er det mulig å være så dum?</p> <p>"Is it possible to be that stupid?"</p>	<p>Jeg er kjapp til fots.</p> <p>"I'm swift on foot."</p>

<p>I like måte.</p> <p>"Likewise."</p>	<p>Jeg bruker ikke PC.</p> <p>"I do not use a PC."</p>
<p>Legen kom etter en time.</p> <p>"The doctor came after an hour."</p>	<p>Jeg kommer hjem nå.</p> <p>"I'm coming home now."</p>
<p>Kom over.</p> <p>"Come over."</p>	<p>Fire stykker kom ikke.</p> <p>"Four people did not come."</p>
<p>Jeg vet noe ikke du vet.</p> <p>"I know something you don't."</p>	<p>Er det noe annet?</p> <p>"Is there something else?"</p>
<p>Han var sikker på at hun hadde dratt.</p> <p>"He was confident that she would leave."</p>	<p>Jeg tror på deg.</p> <p>"I believe in you."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Now to explain some of our vocabulary in this lesson.

Måte - "way" as in "method" or "technique"

Måte can also translate differently into English, depending on context.

An example of another usage is *å ta det med måte*, which means "to be moderate." Here, *måte* would translate as "moderate" or "moderately." The only way to know which meaning it holds is by looking at the context of the sentence. We will look at one more common way of using *måte*.

1. *Det var da måte på!*
"What sort of manner is that!"

Here are a few more examples.

1. *Det er en smart idé, på en måte.*
"it is a smart idea, in a way."
2. *Det er viktig å ha måte.*
"It is important to be moderate."

Mulig - "possible"

It is commonly seen in the phrase, *Er det mulig?* which means, "Is it even possible?"

The usage comes closer to "probable" than "possible." Let us look at some examples of that:

1. *Det er mulig vi kommer hjem litt senere.*
"It is possible / probable that we will be home a bit later."
2. *Mulig han ankommer tidligere.*
"He will probably arrive a bit earlier."

GRAMMAR

The Focuses of this Lesson are Long Questions and Adjective Comparatives and Superlatives.

Hvordan er det jeg kan komme meg fra Oslo til Lista på kjappest mulig måte?

"How do I get from Oslo to Lista in the fastest way possible?"

In this lesson's grammar point, we will be having a look at two grammar points. First, we have the longer questions and their structures. Next, we have adjective comparatives and superlatives, a topic we have not discussed too much.

First off, however, let us look at a sentence from our dialogue in this lesson. This sentence is quite long and ends in a question, so it ties in with looking at longer questions. Once more, here is the sentence from the dialogue:

1. *Hvordan er det jeg kan komme meg fra Oslo til Lista på kjappest mulig måte?*
"How do I get from Oslo to Lista in the fastest way possible?"

Let us break it up and look closely at it. First we have *hvordan* ("how"), an adverb you should be familiar with from our previous lesson. This is followed by *er*, the present tense of the verb *å være* ("to be"). Then we have the pronoun *det* ("that, it"). This is followed by another pronoun, *jeg* ("I"). Then we have the modular verb *kan* ("can"), which is modulating the verb *komme* ("come"). Then we have a pronoun again, *meg* ("me"). Then there's the preposition *fra* ("from"). Next, we have the proper name Oslo, which is followed by another preposition, *til* ("to"). Next, we have the proper noun Lista. This is followed by another preposition, *på* ("on"). Then the adjective *kjappest* ("fastest"). We will look at how to modify these as well. Next, we have another adjective, *mulig* ("possible"). And finally, the noun *måte* ("manner," "way").

It's a quite long question, indeed. Now let us look at the structure of this. You see the first part of this sentence is quite heavy. *Hvordan er det jeg kan*. Directly translated, it means "How is it I can." In fact, we are sitting with a phrase here as well, as the first part, *hvordan er det*, is quite common. Let us look at a few examples of it:

1. *Hvordan er det du får til å lage så god mat?*
"How is it you are able to make such good food?" Note that the translation is quite direct.
2. *Hvordan er det biler fungerer?*
"How do cars work?"

It is a handy phrase, but it also makes the sentence quite complex. The next part of the question, *(jeg kan) komme meg fra Oslo til Lista*, is quite straight forward. Notice, however, how if we translate this directly, we get "(I can) get myself from Oslo to Lista." Here, *å komme seg* is also best thought of as a set phrase. It means "to get oneself...(from A to B)."

Let us look at a few examples of this as well:

1. *Kom du deg hjem?*
"Did you get home?"
2. *Hvordan kommer jeg meg dit?*
"How do I get there?"

It is most often seen in questions. Then we have the final part of the sentence, *på kjappest mulig måte*. "In the fastest way/manner possible." This part is fairly straight forward, except in Norwegian when using *mulig* ("possible"), it always comes after the first adjective and not

after the modified noun or pronoun. So finally, let us look at some examples of this:

1. *Jeg kommer forttest mulig dit.*
"I am coming there as fast as possible."
2. *Han prøvde å ankomme så tidlig som mulig.*
"He tried to arrive as early as possible."

This might take some time to get used to, but not to worry. Try finding sentences with *mulig* in them and analyze where the *mulig* is placed in relation to the adjective.

Next, we will take a look at adjective comparatives and superlatives. In English, an example would be "smart - smarter - smartest."

The thing here is that Norwegian is actually not much different from English. In Norwegian, the modification of the same adjective would be, *smart, smartere, smartest*. So basically, we just add an *e* to the middle modification. Here we have a few adjectives in a table. The adjectives are conjugated into the comparative and the superlative forms.

Adjective English	Adjective Norwegian	Comparative	Superlative
"Good"	<i>Bra</i>	<i>Bedre</i>	<i>Best</i>
"Big"	<i>Stor</i>	<i>Større</i>	<i>Størst</i>
"Small"	<i>Liten</i>	<i>Mindre</i>	<i>Minst</i>
"Green"	<i>Grønn</i>	<i>Grønnere</i>	<i>Grønnest</i>
"Lazy"	<i>Lat</i>	<i>Latere</i>	<i>Latest</i>

You might have noticed that Norwegian has quite a few irregular adjectives, just like English. While most conform to the *-ere, -est* forms, some adjectives change shape while modified in comparative or superlative form. So be a bit careful and learn the irregulars by heart.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Lista

Lista is quite an interesting place in Norway. It is, in fact, considered the America of Norway. The place looks like an American suburb stuck in the 1970s or 1980s. It is quite an interesting place though. And some, if not most of the inhabitants are, in fact, Americans or of American descent. The place is, however, small, and the airport there is already disused and no commercial air traffic goes there anymore. This means Scott will never be able to go there by air. Actually, the airport is now used privately by hobby pilots and others.

Another feature of Lista that sort of adds to the Americanism is the motor club that focuses on old American cars. This club is probably the sole reason the place looks so American, with all the low cruisers cruising around. If you have the chance, this is definitely a place to visit, even if just for the sole purpose of reliving life in the U.S. during the 1970s.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #25

It's All About You and Me in Norway!

CONTENTS

- 2 Norwegian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
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NORWEGIAN

1. Mille: Hvordan går det med deg og Espen?
2. Kjersti: Vel, han kan være litt dum, men jeg elsker ham fortsatt.
3. Mille: Det er bra. Man må alltid være tålmodig med menn.
4. Kjersti: Ja, og det kan være vanskelig.
5. Mille: Haha, ja...

ENGLISH

1. Mille: How are you and Espen doing?
2. Kjersti: Well, he can be a bit stupid, but I still love him.
3. Mille: That's good. You always have to be patient with men.
4. Kjersti: Yeah, but that can be quite hard sometimes.
5. Mille: Haha, yeah...

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class
vanskelig	hard	adjective
menn	men	noun
tålmodig	patient	adjective

alltid	always	adverb
å elske	to love	verb
å gå	to go	verb
vel	well	expression
ham	him	pronoun
fortsatt	still	adverb
dum	stupid	adjective
litt	a bit	adverb
man	one	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Testen var vanskelig.</p> <p>"The test was hard."</p>	<p>Menn er som menn flest.</p> <p>"Men are like most men (Norwegian saying)."</p>
<p>Katten var tålmodig.</p> <p>"The cat was patient."</p>	<p>Han er alltid sinna.</p> <p>"He is always angry."</p>
<p>Jeg elsker deg.</p> <p>"I love you."</p>	<p>Elsker du meg?</p> <p>"Do you love me?"</p>
<p>Jeg må gå snart.</p> <p>"I have to go soon."</p>	<p>Jeg går på videregående.</p> <p>"I am in middle school."</p>
<p>Jeg liker å gå i skogen.</p> <p>"I like to take a walk in the woods."</p>	<p>Vær så snill å gå på den andre siden av veien.</p> <p>"Please go to the other side of the road."</p>

<p>Vel, jeg prøvde ihvertfall.</p> <p>"Well, at least I tried."</p>	<p>Vel... ikke egentlig...</p> <p>"Well... not really..."</p>
<p>Hun kjente ham ikke.</p> <p>"She did not know him."</p>	<p>Er du hjemme fortsatt?</p> <p>"Are you still at home?"</p>
<p>Han følte seg dum.</p> <p>"He felt stupid."</p>	<p>Jeg er litt sulten.</p> <p>"I am a bit hungry."</p>
<p>Litt saktere, er du snill.</p> <p>"Slow down a bit, please."</p>	<p>Vi er litt slitne.</p> <p>"We're a bit tired."</p>
<p>Man skal ikke løpe med saks.</p> <p>"One shouldn't run with scissors."</p>	<p>Hva kaller man "fish" på norsk?</p> <p>"What is 'fish' called in Norwegian?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Here we will explain some of the more tricky words in this lesson's dialogue.

Å gå - "to go"

Å gå is something we have covered before in previous lessons. This is just to remind you, however. The usage in this lesson is not the common meaning of "to go." Instead, it is more like "to be."

For example:

1. *Hvordan går det med dere?*
"How are you guys?"
2. *Gikk det bra i går?*
"Did it go well yesterday?"

Å elske - "to love"

This word is used just like the English version of it, "to love." In other words, you could say:

1. *Jeg elsker kake!*
"I love cake!"

So the word is not only used about love for another person, but love for anything.

For example:

1. *Jeg elsker å høre på musikk.*
"I love listening to music."
2. *Hun elsket skoene sine.*
"She loved her shoes."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Pronouns

Vel, han kan være litt dum, men jeg elsker ham fortsatt.

"Well, he can be a bit stupid, but I still love him."

This is the final lesson of this series, and so we will take it slowly explaining some pronouns that do not have any proper equivalents in English. We will also look at just how pronouns work in Norwegian. We will start off by looking at a relevant line from our dialogue and break it down:

1. *Vel, han kan være litt dum, men jeg elsker ham fortsatt.*
"Well, he can be a bit stupid, but I still love him."

First here, we have the interjection *vel* ("well"). After this follows the pronoun *han* ("him"). Then we have the modal verb *kan* ("can"), modifying the verb *være* ("be"). After this, we have the adverb *litt* ("a bit"). Then the adjective that follows is *dum* ("stupid"). Then we have a comma, followed by the conjunction *men* ("but"). After this comes a pronoun again *jeg* ("I"). Then there's a verb in present tense: *elsker* ("love"). This is followed by the tricky pronoun *ham*

("him"). And finally, we have the adverb *fortsatt*, meaning "still."

We had two pronouns in this sentence, one of which was an active subject and another which was a passive object. Most pronouns that exist in English also exist in Norwegian. However, in Norwegian, we tend to use certain pronouns more often than we would in English. Take, for example, *meg* ("me," "myself") or *megselv* ("myself"). We also have two pronouns that often translate into the same "myself" in English, depending on the context. You could say Norwegian is a bit more complex when it comes to pronouns. Let us have a look at most of the Norwegian pronouns in the table below. Note that this table is excluding the pronouns pointing at neuter gender nouns.

Norwegian Pronoun	English Pronoun
<i>Jeg</i>	"I"
<i>Du</i>	"You"
<i>Hun</i>	"She"
<i>Han</i>	"He"
<i>De</i>	"They"
<i>Dere</i>	"You (plural)"
<i>Meg</i>	"Me"
<i>Deg</i>	"You"
<i>Ham</i>	"Him"
<i>Henne</i>	"Her"
<i>Dem</i>	"Them"
<i>Seg</i>	"Oneself" / "One" / "Himself" / "Herself" / "Themselves"
<i>Sin/sitt</i>	Passive possessive 3rd person ("his," "hers"
<i>Min</i>	"My" / "Mine"

<i>Din</i>	"Your" / "Yours"
<i>Hans</i>	"His"
<i>Hennes</i>	"Hers"
<i>Deres/Demmes</i>	"Yours" (plural) / "Theirs" (plural)

What we can learn from looking at this is that the possessive pronoun part has differences between English and Norwegian that become quite messy. First, we have the pretty unique *seg / sin* pronouns in Norwegian, and second, we have the English "my" / "mine," which are equally as complex.

Going a bit back to sentence structure, let us look at one particular group of pronouns: the passive pronouns, for example, *meg / deg / seg / dere*. The reason we are not including *ham / henne / dem* in this group is because they are regarded as somewhat semi-passive and belong to a group by themselves. *Seg*, in this group, would correspond to "one" / "him" / "her" / "them" and "one's" / "his" / "her" / "their." Do not get too confused by this. Take a look at these examples instead to help make it clearer.

For example:

1. *Han tok av seg jakken.*
"He took off his jacket."
2. *De hadde ikke kommet seg frem enda.*
"They had not gotten themselves there yet." ("They had not arrived yet.") - The first translation is to make sure you understand why we use *seg* in that sentence.
3. *Hun hadde gjemt godteriet sitt.*
"She had hidden away her candy."

One of the most confusing parts of Norwegian is the *seg / sin / sitt* pronouns. Take some time to go over these example sentences a few times and also keep an eye out for the use of *seg*, *sin*, and *sitt* in other lessons as well. They are quite easy to come by, and it is very important to learn exactly where they are used and in what way.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Same-Sex Marriage in Norway

Many regard marriage as a holy ceremony. Recently, there has been a lot of debate worldwide whether to allow for same-sex marriage. The debate has been especially coming from the U.S. Equal marriage laws have been in effect in Norway since 2009. While it is quite recent, there are still many developed countries that struggle to make life choices and rights equal to every citizen. And while the equal marriage law has been in effect in Norway for more than four years, there are still biases among the population about marriage and who it is for. The more recent problems arise between same-sex couples and conservative immigrants who sometimes have problems assimilating to the Norwegian culture. Other problems this law has faced has been in the face of religion, which is now an entity separated from state. Hopefully, the Norwegian society will continue to develop, solve, and create a prosperous society where anyone can feel safe and free, no matter their sexual orientation, religion, or background.