

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

How to Introduce Yourself in Excellent Swedish

CONTENTS

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

1

SWEDISH

1. Anders: Hej och god morgon. Välkomna till Göteborg.
2. Chorus reply: God morgon.
3. Anders: Hej!
4. James: Hej, jag heter James. Vad heter du?
5. Anders: Jag heter Anders. Kul att träffas.
6. James: Ja, kul att träffas. Det är fest ikväll här, eller?
7. Anders: Ja, just det. Vi ses på festen.
8. James: Ja, absolut.
9. Anders: Tack allihopa och adjö!
10. Chorus reply: Hejdå!
11. James: [to Anders] Hejdå, vi ses!
12. Anders: Vi ses!

ENGLISH

1. Anders: Hello and good morning. Welcome to Gothenburg.
2. Chorus reply: Good morning.

CONT'D OVER

3. Anders: Hi.
4. James: Hi, I'm called James. What's your name?
5. Anders: Hi, I'm Anders. Nice to meet you.
6. James: Yes, nice to meet you. There is a party here tonight, right?
7. Anders: Yes, exactly. See you at the party.
8. James: Yes, of course.
9. Anders: Thanks, everyone, and goodbye.
10. Chorus reply: Bye!
11. James: [to Anders] Bye, see you.
12. Anders: See you.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
god morgon.	good morning	expression
hej	hello	
heter	to be called	verb
ja	yes	adverb
hejdå	bye	interjection
kul att träffas	nice to meet you	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>God morgon, har du sovit gott?</p> <p>"Good morning, did you sleep well?"</p>	<p>"Hej, trevligt att träffas."</p> <p>"Hello, nice to meet you."</p>
<p>Jag heter Alexandra.</p> <p>"I am named Alexandra."</p>	<p>Ja, jag följer gärna med dig.</p> <p>"Yes, I'd be happy to go with you."</p>
<p>Hejdå, Anders! Vi ses.</p> <p>"Bye, Anders! See you."</p>	<p>Hej, jag är Björn. Kul att träffas.</p> <p>"Hello, my name is Björn. Nice to meet you."</p>
<p>Tack för hjälpen.</p> <p>"Thank you for the help."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Kul att träffas* ("Nice to meet you")**

This is not in the vocabulary list for a reason. The phrase is best learnt, for now, as it is on its own. The initial word is still considered fairly casual and spoken language rather than written. The construction that follows will be dealt with as a structure at a later stage. Here and now we will only address the phrase's pronunciation.

***Tack* ("Thanks")**

Without a doubt, the most important word in the Swedish language. Swedes say "thanks" for everything and anywhere; it is an omnipresent piece of vocab. This point will be picked up in many a later session, but some mention of the word's importance will naturally be given here, too.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using *Heter* in Simple Present Tense

Hej, jag heter James. Vad heter du?

"Hi, I'm called James. What's your name? "

The grammar for this lesson consists mainly of the usage of the word *heter* (*heta*) in simple present tense. It thus provides a glimpse at the tense and paves the way for some more simple verbs in lesson 2.

Swedish has a number of different verb groups. We will start with the ones like *heter* (*heta*) that drop the infinitive *a* and add an *er* at the end. They are relatively simple in terms of pronunciation. Giving your name and asking for the other person's name are probably the most common things to do when meeting for the first time. Swedish is no exception here.

There are at least two ways to give your name, the more common of which *Vad heter du? Jag heter...* we are presenting and practicing here. The other, slightly more formal variant will be introduced in one of the next lessons, so not to worry. It will all be covered shortly.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Important Introductory Swedish Words

The most common and basic greeting in Swedish is *hej*. It can be used in emails (even addressing unknown addressees) and sometimes letters—with certain limitations—and is used all the time in spoken Swedish. It is always usable and there is no stigma attached to it. It may freely be used even in contexts where perhaps individual Swedes would choose slightly more formal options. Swedes are by and large very casual and also like to be seen that way, especially when communicating with foreigners.

Equivalent to the phrase "nice to meet you" in English, Swedes, probably as a consequence of close contact with the English language, often use *kul att träffas* even when not being properly introduced. It is, so to speak, like in English an expression of exchanging niceties rather than a sincere comment.

To say good-bye in Swedish is equally simple and casual. You just use the word *hejdå*. There are other alternatives (*hejhej* etc), but we shall limit ourselves to the commonest way for now. What was said about the usability of *hej* is also true for *hejdå*. It can be used without inhibition anytime and anywhere.

Just to get an idea about slightly more formal way of greeting and saying good-bye, two other forms (*god morgon* and *adjö*) will also be introduced in brief. Upon leaving, as the English "see you," Swedes often use *vi ses*, to mark the ultimate end of the conversation.

Other than the immediate greeting and good-bye phrases a word of utmost importance is the word for "thanks," *tack*. Swedes use it even more frequently than it is being used in the English language. They use it when ordering, instead of "please." They confirm the order with it, they confirm the sum payable with it and they definitely use it again when receiving the order. Although, the word itself will only feature briefly here, its importance will be hinted at and it will feature again at least a few more times in later lessons.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2

Introducing Yourself with Common Swedish Verbs

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- 3 Vocabulary
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- 5 Grammar
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2

SWEDISH

1. Anders: Hej, James, hur är det?
2. James: Bra, tack.
3. Anders: James, varifrån kommer du?
4. James: Jag kommer från England. Och varifrån i Sverige kommer du?
5. Anders: Jag kommer från Linköping. Var i Göteborg bor du?
6. James: Jag bor i Kallebäck och du?
7. Anders: Jag bor i stan, nära till universitetet. Jag bor i en tvåa med min tjej. Hur bor du?
8. James: Jag bor på hotell just nu. Ursäkta, Anders, men jag måste till bussen nu.
9. Anders: Okej, vi ses, hejdå.
10. James: Vi ses.

ENGLISH

1. Anders: Hi James, how are you?
2. James: Fine, thanks.
3. Anders: James, where are you from?

CONT'D OVER

4. James: I am from England. And where in Sweden are you from?
5. Anders: I am from Linköping. Where in Gothenburg do you live?
6. James: I live in Kallebäck. How about you?
7. Anders: I live in town, close to the university. I live in a two-bedroom flat with my girlfriend. And where do you live?
8. James: I live in a hotel for now. I am sorry, Anders, but I have to catch the bus now.
9. Anders: OK, see you, bye.
10. James: See you.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
ursäkta	I'm sorry, excuse me	
kommer (komma)	to come	verb
Jag kommer från...	I am from...	phrase
bor (bo)	to live	verb
Varifrån kommer du?	Where are you from?	phrase
Var bor du?	Where do you live?	phrase
Jag bor i...	I live in...	phrase
Hur bor du?	How do you live?	phrase
Och du?	And how about you?	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ursäkta, det var dumt av mig.</p> <p>"I'm sorry, it was stupid of me."</p>	<p>Varifrån kommer du, Anders?</p> <p>"Where are you from, Anders?"</p>
<p>Jag kommer från Sverige, och du?</p> <p>"I am from Sweden, how about you?"</p>	<p>Var bor du i Göteborg?</p> <p>"Where do you live in Gothenburg?"</p>
<p>Varifrån kommer du, Anders?</p> <p>"Where are you from, Anders?"</p>	<p>Var bor du i Göteborg?</p> <p>"Where do you live in Gothenburg?"</p>
<p>Jag bor på hotell, och du?</p> <p>"I live in/am staying at a hotel, how about you?"</p>	<p>Hur bor du?</p> <p>"How do you live?"</p>

Jag bor på hotell, och du?

"I live in/am staying at a hotel, how about you?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *Varifrån kommer du? Jag kommer från ... England* - "Where are you from? I'm from ... England"

Probably, the second question you will be asked, after your name, in most contexts when meeting people for the first time. Consequently, this is an important phrase to memorize and practice early on.

2. *Var/Hur bor du? Jag bor i ... en lägenhet* - "Where do you live? I live in ... a flat"

This question will normally be asked, once initial contact has been established and people know you'll be at a given place for a while. Especially when the question is put to you using the question word *hur* it means the type of place you're staying at. As in the dialogue you could say, you live in a hotel or other temporary accommodation.

3. *Och du?* - "And how about you?"

This is a very common thing to add to information given. In English it is closest to "And how about you?"

4. *Ursäkta* - "Sorry/I'm sorry/Excuse me"

As in most languages there are a number of little apologetic words that are used a lot in daily life. This one is the closest to the English word "sorry" and it is not very apologetic. It would be used when trying to get past people in a crowded place for instance.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Present Tense

Jag kommer från Linköping. Var i Göteborg bor du? "

I am from Linköping. Where in Gothenburg do you live?"

In this lesson we are introducing some more present tense forms. In the vocab section we introduced *är* (*vara*), *kommer* (*komma*) and *bor* (*bo*).

The type of verb forms like *kommer* behave similarly to *heter* (*heta*) from last lesson and *bo* is a short one-syllable verb that just adds an 'r' in present tense. The verb *är* is an irregular auxiliary. Like "to be" in English these are a little more versatile in their forms. However, Swedish does not mark these verbs either by person!

We still haven't looked at the ones that only add 'r' to their infinitive *jobbar* (*jobba*)—since these are also marked by a distinctive tone accent, this will be mentioned at a later stage. In terms of pronunciation, the two verb groups mentioned in this lesson are a lot simpler than the other kind. Irregulars don't really place a problem in terms of pronunciation but undergo certain changes that are a bit harder to follow.

However, for now this categorization should suffice. And it has to be pointed out (again) that this categorization is only marginally congruent to the actual verb groups, but for the present tense this is ample explanation. Instead of using a lot of complex grammatical categories we will for now ask you to listen and imitate and go after the simple formula given: irr. verbs; -er verbs; -r verbs (one syllable ones AND two syllable ones with tone accent).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Right Way to Greet a Swede

Swedes have over the past twenty-three years become increasingly more relaxed and casual

when interacting socially. There are still some remnants of older types of formality, though. Shaking hands is one of these. Younger Swedes may give kisses on the cheek or use other forms of greetings. Shaking hands, however, is always OK and never deemed inappropriate. At social occasions with young people involved you might not want to initiate a handshake yourself. Just watch and imitate peoples' behavior. If they are extending their hand for the handshake, take it. If they just say hello, give a nod, raise their hand in recognition, etc, simply do the same. Groups of people will have their own ways of addressing and dealing with such social interactions and encounters and it's best to observe a little initially. Go with the flow and you will have no problems surfing the social wave in Sweden. As in most places, parties are a good place and occasion to get to know people (a little). So, do take up the opportunity when it arises.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3

Getting to Know More About Swedish People

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- 2 Swedish
- 2 English
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- 3 Sample Sentences
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3

SWEDISH

1. Anders: Du, idag flyttar Nils och Ewa in i lägenheten.
2. James: Jaha, vad trevligt. Varifrån kommer dom?
3. Anders: Ewa är från Polen och Nils är från Sverige.
4. James: Jaha, vad intressant.
5. Anders: Du James, kan du hjälpa Nils och Ewa senare med att hitta här i huset, tack?
6. James: Självklart. När kommer dom?
7. Anders: Dom kommer på eftermiddagen. Jag måste verkligen gå nu, hejdå.
8. James: Hejdå, vi ses.

ENGLISH

1. Anders: James, today Nils and Ewa are moving into this flat.
2. James: Oh, splendid. Where are they from?
3. Anders: Ewa is from Poland, and Nils is from Sweden.
4. James: Really? How interesting!
5. Anders: James, could you please help Nils and Ewa find their way around the house later?

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Of course. When are they coming?
7. Anders: They are coming in the afternoon. I really have to go now. Bye.
8. James: Bye, see you.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
flytta in	to move in	phrasal verb
kan	can/be able to	verb
självkligt	naturally; no worries; don't mention it	phrase
en lägenhet	a flat	noun
hjälpa	to help	verb
hitta	to find; here: to find your way	verb
måste	have to/must	verb
gå	to go	verb
vad trevligt	how nice	phrase
Jaha, vad intressant.	Really, how interesting.	conversational phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vi flyttar in i lägenheten idag.</p> <p>"We are moving into the flat today."</p>	<p>Jag kan inte sova.</p> <p>I cannot sleep.</p>
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<p>Kan du skicka mjölken?</p> <p>"Can you pass the milk?"</p>	<p>Självklart får du äta med oss.</p> <p>"Of course you may eat with us."</p>
<p>Vi flyttar in i lägenheten idag.</p> <p>"We are moving into the flat today."</p>	<p>Självklart kan jag hjälpa dem.</p> <p>"Of course I can help them."</p>
<p>Kan du hjälpa dem att hitta?</p> <p>"Can you help them find their way?"</p>	<p>Nej, jag hittar själv.</p> <p>"No, I'll find it on my own."</p>
<p>Jag måste gå nu, hej hej.</p> <p>"I need to go now, bye."</p>	<p>Du måste skynda dig!</p> <p>"You have to hurry up!"</p>
<p>Kan du gå du till Thomas?</p> <p>"Could you go to Thomas?"</p>	<p>Vad trevligt att höra.</p> <p>"How nice to hear (that)."</p>

Jaha, vad intressant att höra.

"Really, how interesting to hear (that)."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

vad trevligt ("how nice")

This tiny little phrase is used when the interlocutor wants to express how happy s/he is for whatever happened or about the circumstances. It is not used to refer to people, but to their actions. It keeps the conversation going and encourages the counterpart to continue. *Anders kommer och hälsar på idag. - Nej, vad trevligt.* ("Anders is going to come to visit today. - How nice.")

Jaha, vad intressant. ("Really, how interesting")

This is another phrase used to express a positive attitude towards the interlocutor's utterance. Unlike the English "Really, how interesting" it does not tend to be used ironically, unless clearly marked by intonation. However, it does not mean the listener is extremely interested either. On a pragmatic level it keeps the conversation going.

***självklart* ("naturally (no worries)")**

This phrase in the guise of a word is used a lot when people acknowledge that they are prepared to or will be doing something that has just been mentioned. *Kan du hjälpa till ikväll?* - *Ja, men det är ju självklart.* ("Could you help out tonight? - Well, no worries, I'm happy to.") It is not very easily translatable as a concept into English. It means something along the lines of "don't mention it," but there's another Swedish equivalent for that, too.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Verb Forms in the Present Tense

Du James, kan du hjälpa Nils och Ewa senare med att hitta här i huset, tack?

"James, could you please help Nils and Ewa find their way around the house later?"

In this lesson we are looking at some other verb forms in the present tense. First and foremost we will be addressing modals plus infinitives.

The main difficulty with modals usually is their semantic fields. They are constructed using the present simple tense form of a modal verb (here: *måste*, *kan*) and an infinitive of any verb (here: *gå*, *hjälpa*).

In this lesson we will merely look at the form in a phrase context. In particular we are looking at the modal *kan* or "can" in English. The example phrases here are *Kan du hjälpa dem med att hitta?* – "Can you help them finding their way?" and *Jag måste verkligen gå nu.* – "I really have to go now."

We haven't yet either looked at those verbs that only add -r to their infinitive: *flyttar* (*flytta*) – as mentioned before, these are marked by a distinctive tone accent. We have two of these verb forms in the dialogue (*flytta*, *hitta*) and might as well make some use of them.

One is featured in our dialogue in its present simple tense form (*flytta*) and the other in an infinitive construction (*att hitta*). Infinitives with two syllables to in fact always show the tone accent, when used in that form. Example phrases for these two verbs would be *Ewa flyttar in idag.* – "Ewa is moving in today." and *Nils hittar inte själv.* – "Nils can't find his own way."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Living Arrangements in Swedish

Schools

In Sweden students often live in university-run students halls for the duration of their studies. These can be individual flats or en suite rooms with a shared kitchen. However, it is not uncommon either to share the kitchen and one or two bathrooms as well. Such flats are often rented out to international students, since it offers them the opportunity to make new friends. Make the most of any opportunity to get to know Swedes a bit better and you will soon feel much more integrated already. Of course it will also require a bunch of people to share the burdens of communal living: cleaning first and foremost. But it's probably best to look at the bright side. You will get to know the people you're living with much better and more quickly, while managing life in a new country together. Talk about killing two birds with one stone!

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4

Talking Nationalities in Swedish

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- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
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- 5 Cultural Insight

4

SWEDISH

1. Ewa: Hej, jag heter Ewa och kommer från Polen. Vad heter du?
2. James: Mitt namn är James, jag är engelsman. Och du är polack.
3. Ewa: Ursäkta, men vad betyder det?
4. James: På svenska säger man polack till folk från Polen. Och till mig från England, engelsman.
5. Ewa: Jaså, det visste jag inte. Så, jag är polack. Och till folk från Sverige, vad säger man då?
6. James: De kallas för svenskor.
7. Ewa: Jaha, jag hoppas jag får träffa många av dem snart.

ENGLISH

1. Ewa: Hi, I am Ewa and I'm from Poland. And you?
2. James: My name is James and I am an Englishman. And you're a Pole.
3. Ewa: I'm sorry, but what does that mean?
4. James: In Swedish you say "Pole" for someone from Poland. And for me, from England, "Englishman."
5. Ewa: OK, I didn't know that. So I am a Pole. And what do you call people from Sweden?

CONT'D OVER

6. James: They're called Swedes.
7. Ewa: All right, I hope I will meet a lot of them soon.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
mitt namn (ett)	my name	possessive pronoun + noun
kalla för	to call (something, not someone)	phrasal verb
säger (säga)	to say (gerund form)	phrasal verb
polack	Pole	noun
engelsman	Englishman	noun
snart	soon	adverb
Vad betyder det?	What does that mean?	phrase
jag hoppas	I hope	phrase
På svenska säger man...	In Swedish you say...	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hej, mitt namn är Thomas.</p> <p>"Hi, my name is Thomas."</p>	<p>Vad kallas det för på svenska?</p> <p>"What do you call that in Swedish?"</p>
<p>Vad säger man efter maten?</p> <p>"What do you say after dinner?"</p>	<p>Men min far är polack.</p> <p>"But my father is a Pole."</p>

Jag är engelsman. "I am an Englishman."	Vi ska åka snart. "We're going soon."
Vi måste åka snart. "We have to go soon."	Jag måste gå snart. "I have to go soon."
Vad betyder det? "What does that mean?"	Jag hoppas vi träffas igen. "I hope we'll meet again."

På svenska säger man "fotboll".

"In Swedish you say 'fotboll.'"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this lesson is Talking about Nationalities and Countries

Hej, jag heter Ewa och kommer från Polen. Och vad heter du?

Hi, I am Ewa and I'm from Poland. And you?

But before we do that we are briefly introducing the other way to give your name. Instead of using *Jag heter...* you could always use *Mitt namn är ...*. The two are 100% interchangeable. The latter bears a slightly more formal connotation. The question that is asked, is, however, likely to remain *Vad heter du?* While it is possible to ask *Vad är ditt namn?*, this to native ears would sound very—if not too—formal for most contexts.

Talking about countries of origin and names for people from these countries is a very common thing among people living, working, and studying in international contexts. Generally, when abroad you're likely to be asked a lot about your country. In Swedish knowing the name of the country helps, and knowing the word for the majority language could be even better. Unfortunately, these are not guaranteed clues. Like in English, there are exceptions. Two of these exceptions feature here: England - *engelsman*, Polen - *polack*.

Please note that only proper names are capitalized in Swedish and not names of languages or nationalities. The words for nationalities in accordance with the former pattern are e.g.

Norge - norrman, Frankrike - fransman. There are a few more patterns like Irland - irländare, Finland - finländare.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Making Friends with Swedes

Swedes tend to have close-knit social networks. Many of them have known their friends since early childhood days. This is largely related to the school system, where most children attend the same school in the same class for nine years plus. Of course, when people move, this no longer applies to the same extent. But it is important to realize that Sweden, despite being geographically huge, is a small society. Mobility towards university towns and the larger cities does exist. But on the countryside much continuity still prevails, although certain problems and economic downward trends are tangible. It is generally advisable to be proactive and to take up opportunities to get to know people on another level than work/studies only.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5

Which Languages Do You Speak in Sweden?

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SWEDISH

1. Anders: Hej, James. Du spelar bra.
2. James: Tack Anders. Många här spelar bra, men jag förstår inte allas språk.
3. Anders: Jaså, hurså?
4. James: De där pratar franska. De talar ingen svenska och mycket lite engelska.
5. Anders: Jaha, vad kul, så många språk. Självt studerar jag spanska och japanska.
6. James: Oj, vad intressant. Då talar du många språk.
7. Anders: Nej, inte än. Min spanska är okej, men min japanska är fortfarande svag.
8. James: Som min svenska...
9. Anders: Nej, du talar ju nästan flytande.

ENGLISH

1. Anders: Hello, James. You're a good player.
2. James: Thanks, Anders. Many here are good players, but I don't understand everyone's languages.
3. Anders: OK, how come?

CONT'D OVER

4. James: Those there speak French. They speak no Swedish and very little English.
5. Anders: Really, so many languages. I am studying Spanish and Japanese myself.
6. James: Oh, how interesting. You speak many languages.
7. Anders: No, not yet. My Spanish is OK, but my Japanese is still weak.
8. James: Like my Swedish...
9. Anders: No, you speak almost fluently.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
förstår (förstå)	to understand	verb
talar (tala)	to speak	verb
ett språk	language	noun
pratar (prata)	to talk/speak	verb
studerar (studera)	to study	verb
franska	French	noun
svenska	Swedish	noun
engelska	English	noun
japanska	Japanese	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jag förstår inte.</p> <p>"I don't understand."</p>	<p>Jag förstår inte nederländska.</p> <p>"I don't understand Dutch."</p>
<p>Talar du svenska?</p> <p>"Do you speak Swedish?"</p>	<p>Ja, jag talar också franska.</p> <p>"Yes, I speak French, too."</p>
<p>Talar du japanska?</p> <p>"Do you speak Japanese?"</p>	<p>Förstår du mitt språk?</p> <p>"Do you understand my language?"</p>
<p>Nej, tyvärr. Jag pratar bara engelska.</p> <p>"No, unfortunately, I speak only English."</p>	<p>Jag studerar i biblioteket.</p> <p>"I am studying at the library."</p>
<p>Jag studerade franska på gymnasiet.</p> <p>"I studied French in high school."</p>	<p>Jag talar svenska.</p> <p>"I speak Swedish."</p>
<p>Ursäkta, hur säger man "car" på svenska?</p> <p>"Excuse me, how do you say 'car' in Swedish?"</p>	<p>Nej, tyvärr. Jag pratar bara engelska.</p> <p>"No, unfortunately, I speak only English."</p>
<p>Hon studerar engelska på universitetet.</p> <p>"She studies English at the university."</p>	<p>Japanska? Vad kul.</p> <p>"Japanese? How fun."</p>
<p>Men jag studerar japanska.</p> <p>"But I am studying Japanese."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **vad kul** - "how cool"

A very common way to express your approval or perhaps even admiration for something

you've just been told about, is this short conversational phrase. It may also be translated into English as "how fun" or "how fascinating." In any case, its use tends to indicate a positive stance towards the aforesaid. It may be accompanied by other words, like interjections: *Nej, vad kull, Oh, vad kul*. This phrase may be used without hesitation or inhibition in casual situations.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is on Talking About Languages

In Swedish the names for languages are a lot more regular than country names and nationalities covered in the previous lesson. Usually a language bears the ending *-ska* like e.g. *svenska, engelska, franska, spanska*. You may note here, that the process of derivation from the country name is not always one hundred percent obvious. However, a tendency is to take the term for the nationality and to add *-(sk)a* examples would be *tysk* ("German") *tyska* or *amerikan* ("American") *amerikanska* ("American English," unless you prefer *amerikansk engelska*). An extensive list about the world's languages' names in Swedish may be found here. As you can see a basis for languages' names is the underlying suffix *-(i)sk* that marks many Swedish adjectives. Here are a few sample sentences talking about language abilities:

Swedish	"English"
<i>Jag talar svenska.</i>	"I speak Swedish."
<i>Jag talar inte svenska.</i>	"I don't speak Swedish."
<i>Jag talar lite svenska.</i>	"I speak a little Swedish."
<i>Jag talar tyska.</i>	"I speak German."
<i>Jag talar japanska.</i>	"I speak Japanese."
<i>Jag talar inte franska.</i>	"I do not speak French."
<i>Jag talar lite spanska.</i>	"I speak a little Spanish."
<i>Jag talar inte engelska.</i>	"I don't speak English."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Melting Pot

Sweden is today a country of people with many different origins. Besides Swedish and a lot of English around universities and companies, more than a hundred other languages are spoken throughout the country. Sweden has its own minority languages: Finnish, Meänkieli (Tornedal) Finnish, Sami and Romani Chib and Yiddish. Languages you will frequently encounter in Sweden include Kurdish, Turkish, Somali, Arabic, and languages from the former Yugoslavia. However, compared to mainland Europe young people with immigrant backgrounds are actually more likely to use Swedish in public. Around fifteen percent of Sweden's population have an immigrant background. Unlike its Scandinavian neighbour Denmark, Sweden still has a fairly open and liberal immigration policy. In schools French and German are still prominent as second foreign languages after English. However, Spanish and Asian languages have been gaining much ground in the past decade. According to statistics more than ninety percent of Swedes know English. Visitors to Sweden can usually expect to be able to communicate through the medium of English. English is a very prominent language on TV, since programmes and films are merely subtitled and viewers thus exposed to a lot of native English. In Swedish schoolyards, more than one hundred different languages are spoken. Pupils in schools speaking another language than Swedish or a modern foreign language have, by law, a right to *hemspråksundervisning* ("home language instruction"). But this is not possible in all cases and it happens that pupils miss out.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6

What's The Swedish Address Again?

CONTENTS

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

6

SWEDISH

1. Anders: International Office, Anders. Hur kan jag stå till tjänst?
2. James: Ja, hej Anders, det är James. Jag är ledsen, men jag har en fråga.
3. Anders: Javisst, har det med lägenheten att göra?
4. James: Ja, just det. Vad är postkoden till Kallebäck igen?
5. Anders: Den är 412 76.
6. James: Alltså adressen till min lägenhet är Ostkupan, Mejerigatan 2A, lägenhet 589, rum 3, 412 76 Göteborg.
7. Anders: Ja, just det.
8. James: Tack så mycket!

ENGLISH

1. Anders: International Office, Anders. What can I do for you?
2. James: Hi, Anders, it's James. I am sorry, but I have a question.
3. Anders: Yes, sure. Does it have to do with the flat?
4. James: Yes, that's it. What was the postcode for Kallebäck again?
5. Anders: It's 412 76.

CONT'D OVER

6. James: So the address of my flat is Ostkupan, Mejerigatan 2A, lägenhet 589, rum 3, 412 76 Gothenburg?
7. Anders: Yes, that's it.
8. James: Thanks so much!

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
en fråga	a question	noun
att göra	to do	verb
har (ha)	to have	verb
igen	again	verb
en adress	an address	noun
Hur kan jag stå till tjänst?	What can I do for you? (lit. How can I serve you?)	(phone) phrase
jag är ledsen	"I am sorry"	
Ja, just det	Yes, exactly.	interactional phrase
Tack så mycket!	Thanks so much!	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jag har en fråga. "I have a question."	Högskolestudenten frågade en fråga. "The university student asked a question."
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<p>Det här var en klurig fråga.</p> <p>"This is a tricky question."</p>	<p>Vad ska jag göra?</p> <p>"What should I do?"</p>
<p>Jag vet inte vad jag ska göra.</p> <p>"I don't know what to do."</p>	<p>Det finns inget att göra.</p> <p>"There is nothing to do."</p>
<p>Jag har en ny dator.</p> <p>"I have a new computer."</p>	<p>Har det med lägenheten att göra?</p> <p>"Does it have to do with the flat?"</p>
<p>Jag är ledsen, men jag har en fråga.</p> <p>"I am sorry, but I have a question."</p>	<p>Jag kommer igen i morgon.</p> <p>"I will come again tomorrow."</p>
<p>Hur var adressen igen?</p> <p>"What was the address again?"</p>	<p>Hur kan jag stå till tjänst?</p> <p>"What can I do for you?"</p>
<p>Jag är ledsen, men det verkar som att jag blir sen.</p> <p>"I'm sorry, but it looks like I'll be late."</p>	<p>Ja, just det.</p> <p>"Yeah, that's it."</p>
<p>Tack så mycket, Thomas.</p> <p>"Thanks so much, Thomas."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **Hur kan jag stå till tjänst?** - "What can I do for you? (lit. How can I serve you?)"

This is a phrase you are not likely to use yourself, unless you got yourself a job answering the phone in Swedish. You may hear variations, like *Vad kan jag stå till tjänst med?* or others, but they all mean the same, something along the lines of "How can I assist you?"

2. **jag är ledsen** - "I am sorry"

This is a very useful phrase. As in our dialogue, you can use it before making a request or

asking a question. However, it also works when you cannot give an answer or do something for someone, as requested. It is a bit higher up the formality ladder. There are other more casual ways to express the same meaning, but it is perfectly possible to use the phrase in any context. You wouldn't, however, use it when merely squeezing past people on the bus. For that there are other words we'll be introducing shortly.

3. **Ja, just det** - "Yes, that's right"

Another of these much used and very practical little interactional phrases that will make you sound like a native in no time at all. It is often used, as in our dialogue, to confirm something that has just been said. However, it is also used when people actually don't really know what the other person is on about but want to appear as if they do.

4. **Tack så mycket** - "Thanks so much"

We've already covered the basic form *tack* and how it's used all the time in Swedish. When using this phrase you are definitely more thankful. It is often said before parting with someone. Obviously, there are potentially millions of things you might be thanking for like this, but it is a really neat way to take your leave after having been invited or having been helped along with something important.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using the Numbers 0-9

Den är 412 76.

"It's 412 76."

Firstly, we are introducing the numbers 0-9 (*noll, en/ett, två, tre, fyra, fem, sex, sju, åtta, nio*) and we are using them in context. Practicing numbers works well with postcodes or phone numbers, because when vocalizing them people often use the individual numbers. Naturally, numbers are very important and we practice their pronunciation in more detail in the podcast. By and large, numbers in Swedish are fairly similar to the ones in English or other Germanic languages—and yes, 6 is actually pronounced "sex."

Also, in this lesson we are looking at how Swedish makes use of the definite article. Unlike English Swedish adds the definite article like a suffix to the noun. This is at first neither easy to spot nor to produce. The examples from the dialogue are *en adress – adressen, en lägenhet – lägenheten, en postkod – postkoden*. The definite form is used very frequently in Swedish and sometimes instead of using a construction with a possessive pronoun. Instead of *min adress är* ("my address is") people do use *adressen är* ("the address is"). This is for instance

very common when casually referring to your mother/father. Some Swedes will say *morsan* ("the mum") and *farsan* ("the dad") when talking about their parents. It's a bit like some people in English occasionally saying "the wife" instead of "my wife." So, the definite article is frequently used and has its own little peculiarities in Swedish.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where to Stay in Sweden

By and large the standard of accommodation in Sweden is very high. Any rented accommodation will have laundry facilities (*tvättstuga*) that you have to book. There are usually lifts and most buildings have door codes, through which you can access without a key. When visiting people in flats in Sweden you will normally be given a door code. You may collect quite a few of them. Remember them or write down the ones for people whom you may visit more often. The door codes are usually four digits long. Apartment blocks also often have a communal sauna (*bastu*) and sometimes even other recreational facilities. Student halls will definitely have even more recreational facilities. The communal saunas tend to have days for males and females, but some mixed sauna times are likely to feature as well. Going to the sauna is surely a Swedish experience that shouldn't be missed, if you can take the heat. In saunas people are commonly naked and no bathing clothes are usually worn. Wearing clothes in the sauna is considered very unhygienic. So, please be aware of this fact. If you have issues with this, please refrain from using a sauna in Sweden. Swedes sometimes drink light beer in the sauna, but this is nothing you would have to partake in unless you choose to.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

How Are You in Sweden?

CONTENTS

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

7

SWEDISH

1. Anders: Hej James, hur står det till?
2. James: Bra, tack. Och själv då?
3. Anders: Jo, läget är också bra. Hur är det med Ewa och Nils i lägenheten?
4. James: Allt går mycket väl och de mår också bra. Ewa pratar allt mer svenska och Nils är jättetrevlig. (new slow version recorded at end of dialogue.) Fast version re^recorded at the end of the slow dialogue, too)
5. Anders: Du James, tyvärr måste jag tillbaka till jobbet nu. Jag ber om ursäkt. Vi ses väl snart?
6. James: Javisst, tack. Hej och ha det så bra!

ENGLISH

1. Anders: Hi, James, how are you?
2. James: Fine, thanks. And you?
3. Anders: Sure, all sound, too. How are things with Ewa and Nils in the flat?
4. James: Everything's working out really well, and they're also good. Ewa speaks more and more Swedish, and Nils is really pleasant.
5. Anders: James, I'm afraid I have to get back to work now. I apologize. I'll see you soon, won't I?

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Yes, sure. Thanks. Bye and take care!

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
tyvärr	unfortunately	
Hur står det till?	How are you?	interactional phrase
läget	the situation (how things are)	noun/phrase
Bra, tack	Fine, thanks.	interactional phrase
Hur är det?	How are things?	interactional phrase
Och själv då?	And you?	interactional phrase
Jag ber om ursäkt.	I apologize.	interactional phrase.
Ha det så bra.	Take care. (lit. "have it/be so good")	interactional phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tyvärr kan jag inte hjälpa dig.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, I cannot help you."</p>	<p>Tyvärr, jag kan inte komma ikväll.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, I can't make it tonight."</p>
<p>Tyvärr, din klocka kan inte lagas.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, your watch can not be repaired."</p>	<p>Hur står det till, Björn?</p> <p>"How are you, Björn?"</p>
<p>Läget är mycket bra.</p> <p>"The situation is very good."</p>	<p>Bra, tack. Och själv då?</p> <p>"Fine, thanks. And how about you?"</p>

<p>Hur är det, Linda?</p> <p>"How are you, Linda?"</p>	<p>Bra, tack. Och själv då?</p> <p>"Fine, thanks. And how about you?"</p>
<p>Jag ber så mycket om ursäkt.</p> <p>"I apologize sincerely."</p>	<p>Ha det så bra, Linnea.</p> <p>"Take care, Linnea."</p>
<p>Hej då, ha det så bra.</p> <p>"Good bye, take care."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **Hur står det till?** - "How are you? (How do you do?)"

An excellent phrase to use when you want to know how someone is. However, even in Swedish such phrases are increasingly used as mere niceties and the response is not necessarily the most important thing. In any case, this phrase is a tiny bit more formal than other ways to express the same thing. It doesn't mean you shouldn't use it, though. It's perfectly OK to use it in most contexts. Note the pronunciation, though.

2. **Bra, tack** - "Fine, thanks"

Your standard response to question like "How are you?" In most cases people will use this response. However, it is not totally void of meaning and thus devalued in Swedish. If you quite genuinely want to express that you're fine, this is the thing to say. You may in turn also use, just as the normal or polite thing to say. This is all up to you.

3. **Och själv då?** - "And you?"

A very useful phrase indeed. The word *själv* will also be part of the language focus of this lesson. It is perfectly OK to respond to almost anything that has been said with this phrase. Usually your partner would say something personal or about a personal stance. However, even other scenarios are quite possible. If you want to turn things around and not just give information about yourself, but rather hear the other tell something, you can use this phrase.

4. **Hur är det?** - "How are things?"

Another way to ask someone how they are. This phrase is probably a little more casual than *Hur står det till?*. However it has the same functionality and range. Like in our dialogue you

could also add *med ...* to it. It could be peoples' names or pronouns like *dig* ("you").

5. ***Jag ber om ursäkt*** - "I apologize"

If you really want to apologise, this is the way to do it. This phrase carries less weight than the previous *jag är ledsen*. The person using this phrase is likely to mean what they say. You would probably use it even in a conversational context, like the one in the dialogue, when you feel slightly guilty for something, i.e. having to leave early.

6. ***Ha det så bra*** - "Take care (lit. "be good")"

When taking your leave, you might want to throw in a nice phrase, like "take care" in English. This is just the thing. Of course, there are alternatives, but this is a guaranteed good way to wish someone well. Please use frequently.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking How People Are and Using *Själv*

Bra, tack. Och själv då?

"Fine, thanks. And you?"

The focus of this lesson is again twofold. Firstly, we are taking a closer look at phrases for asking how people are and what function they have in everyday conversational Swedish. Secondly, we will take a much closer look at the extremely useful word *själv*, embedded in one of the key phrases of the dialogue. With the help of examples we will explore how you could explore the enormous potential of the word/phrase for conversational Swedish.

The dialogue in this lesson is devoted to a number of different ways to ask people for how they are. Phrases like this are increasingly used in Swedish as they are in English: i.e. as mere set greeting phrases. However, in Swedish this isn't as fully-fledged yet as it is in English. The answer is likely to be a *Bra, tack!*, but it could also be an accurate expression of how you feel.

The two question phrases we have in the dialogue are *Hur står det till?* and *Hur är det?* The former is a bit more marked with formality as the latter, but they are very useable in all contexts.

Hidden in the dialogue is also one other, a lot more colloquial way. It is the word *läget*. In extremely informal contexts you may overhear people say simply *Läget?*, which corresponds to "What's up/Alright?" In such contexts even the reply could be *Läget?* Which means, this is

much closer to the English "Alright?" or "How're ya?," often responded to in like manner. Greeting is never an easy thing to do, but with these phrases at your disposal you will be just fine in Swedish.

In the dialogue there is also another very powerful and much used word hidden. It is the word *själv* ("self"). In the dialogue it's set in the phrase *Och själv då?*, but it needn't be embedded as such. You could also just reply saying *Själv?* The only thing that is noteworthy here, is that such a response would be classed as very casual indeed. The phrase and the word are, however, much and widely used in Swedish. If you would like the talking done by your partner you sincerely want to know the other's view/situation, this is the phrase/word to use. You can bounce almost any utterance by using it, if you do not wish to say anything yourself. It is an extremely useful piece of vocab and we would like to encourage you to use it freely.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Student Life

Swedish universities will have cafeterias for staff and students. Proper large refectories are less common. The food on campus is a bit cheaper than off campus, but not by much. The quality of food served will vary considerably from place to place. Try it yourself and ask for recommendations. In fact, you may want to explore the area around a university and check what kinds of deals other places offer for students. Rooms with microwaves to heat up food brought from home are also a common feature on Swedish campuses.

As a student you will be eligible for many discounts, not just on lunchtime food offers. Museums, theaters, cinemas, clubs and many more places are likely to have student discount. But don't forget your *studentleg* ("student ID"), you will be asked for it. And if you look as if you may be younger than 20, please always have some kind of *leg* ("ID") on you. The legal age for being served alcohol is 20 in Sweden.

* You can't buy alcohol from Systembolaget (a government owned chain of liquor stores in Sweden) if you're younger than 20. But you can buy alcohol in some pubs and enter in some clubs at the age of 18.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8

Balancing Work Life and Family Life in Sweden

CONTENTS

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

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SWEDISH

1. Ewa: Förresten James, vad gör dina föräldrar?
2. James: Alltså, min mor är ingenjör och min far är lärare, engelska och tyska. Och dina föräldrar, vad gör dem?
3. Ewa: Min far är advokat och min mor jobbar som läkare på sjukhuset i Poznan.
4. James: Min bror, han jobbar på en bank och min syster ska bli psykolog. Hon studerar just nu.
5. Ewa: Jaha, alltså min lillebror går fortfarande i skolan.

ENGLISH

1. Ewa: By the way, James, what do your parents do?
2. James: Well, my mother is an engineer and my father is a teacher, English and German. And your parents, what do they do?
3. Ewa: My father is a lawyer, and my mother works as a doctor at the hospital in Poznan.
4. James: My brother is working at a bank, and my sister is going to be a psychologist. She is studying right now.
5. Ewa: OK, well, my little brother is still in school.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
föräldrar	parents	noun
en far	a father	noun
en läkare	a medical doctor	noun
en mor	a mother	noun
en bror	a brother	noun
en syster	a sister	noun
jobba	to work	noun
en ingenjör	an engineer	noun
en lärare	a teacher	noun
en advokat	a lawyer	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vad gör dina föräldrar?</p> <p>"What do your parents do?"</p>	<p>Min far jobbar på en bank.</p> <p>"My father works at a bank."</p>
<p>Jag ska bli läkare.</p> <p>"I'm going to be a doctor."</p>	<p>Min mor är psykolog.</p> <p>"My mother is a psychologist."</p>
<p>Min bror jobbar också på en bank.</p> <p>"My brother also works for a bank."</p>	<p>Min bror är laktosintolerant.</p> <p>"My brother is lactose intolerant."</p>
<p>Min syster kan lite finska.</p> <p>"My sister knows a bit of Finnish."</p>	<p>Jag jobbar fram tills klockan tio ikväll.</p> <p>"I'm working until ten o'clock tonight."</p>
<p>Jag jobbar som lärare.</p> <p>"I work as a teacher."</p>	<p>Nej, hon är ingenjör.</p> <p>"No, she is an engineer."</p>

<p>Henrik är lärare.</p> <p>"Henrik is a teacher."</p>	<p>Min lärare är tysk.</p> <p>"My teacher is German."</p>
<p>Läraren lärde ut i klassen.</p> <p>"The teacher taught the class."</p>	<p>Är Lisa advokat?</p> <p>"Is Lisa a lawyer?"</p>

Advokaten stod vid busshållplatsen.

"The lawyer stood at the bus stop."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **föräldrar** - "parents"

The Swedish word for parents is often used in the plural. However, it is possible, as in English, to speak of just one parent: *förälder*.

2. **en mor** - "mother"

This word is the everyday version of *moder*. The latter is, however, seldom used and has a very old-fashioned ring to it.

3. **en far** - "father"

For father there is also an older and longer version that is equally little used as the equivalent above: *fader*. This form is used a lot in liturgy, like in the Christian profession of faith.

4. **en bror** - "brother"

Again an older lesser used version exists: *broder*.

5. **en syster** - "sister"

Only in the case of sister, no older form exists. As for all family names more casual forms used by people in everyday life exist. But those will only be mentioned briefly in the lesson focus.

6. **jobba** - "to work "

This word is used in Swedish for all kinds of work, be it part time, full time or anything else. The alternative *arbeta* is also possible and mutually exchangeable with *jobba*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Possessive Pronouns in 1st and 2nd Person Singular

Alltså, min mor är ingenjör och min far är lärare, engelska och tyska. Och dina föräldrar, vad gör dem?

"Well, my mother is an engineer and my father is a teacher, English and German. And your parents, what do they do?"

We will be looking at the possessive pronouns for 1st and 2nd person singular ("I" and "you").

Since other forms, like 3rd person singular and 1st, 2nd and 3rd person plural ("s/he/it," "we," "you" and "they") are not being used here, we will briefly present them. However, at a later stage they will have to be looked at in more detail when the occasion arises.

The possessive pronouns for "I" and "you" are *min* and *din*. What is special about these pronouns is that they mark number, i.e. they distinguish between the object/person that is possessed being in the singular or the plural. You say *min far* ("my father") but *mina föräldrar* ("my parents"). This is unusual for English native speakers and the speakers of many other languages and takes some getting used to.

In this lesson we will provide a number of examples for practice. The forms for "s/he/it," "we," "you" and "they," not covered in the dialogue, are: *hans* ("his"), *hennes* ("her"), *vår* ("our"), *er* ("your") and *deras* ("their"). It is important to note here that there is no form for English "its." The word for you in the plural is, as in English, identical to the form in the singular. Also, the forms for "his," "her" and "their" do not, like the other forms, distinguish between number: *hans mor* ("his mother")—*hans föräldrar* ("his parents").

In everyday Swedish, casual terms for family members are very frequently used. These forms do not have to be used, it is perfectly alright to use the names presented above. It is, however, important, to be aware of them. They are: *mamma* ("mum"), *pappa* ("dad"), *morsan* ("my mother"), *farsan* ("my father"), *brorsan* ("my brother") and *syrran* ("my sister").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Nation of Equality

Sweden is a country with a long and proud tradition of focusing on equality and female participation in all areas of society. The Swedish parliament has about 45% female members and has had so for many years. Also in other sections in the public sector, women are

substantially represented. The percentage of women in the private sector is still somewhat lower. Awareness in Sweden of gender equality related issues is very high indeed. Many Swedes, both male and female, pride themselves in being "feminists" and the country and society having a significant go at realizing full equality. Sweden and its legal system also attempts to ensure equality and to safeguard women in particular. Prostitution is for instance illegal. However, only the client can and will be prosecuted.

The majority of men, native and immigrant, often take out the two months of parental leave that can only be used if they take it out. Sometimes they take out more than the sixty (out of 480 overall) days of leave that is tied to the individual, i.e. in this case the male. This parental leave (*föräldrarledighet*) allows parents to spend time with their children before the child is eight years of age or finishes the first year of primary school—the start age in Sweden is years. There is also a special allowance of days off right after the birth.

During the entire leave period, everyone is entitled to a certain level of support by the state. The exact level depends on your employment, if any. There is, however, an upper limit. By and large it allows many people in Sweden to spend substantial time with their children when they are still young, subsidized by society. This is also why Sweden does not have such a drastically declining birth rates, like Japan and Germany. On Sweden's streets and in Sweden's city centers you also see many fathers proudly looking after their offspring. Regarding children, Sweden also has some special legislation. It is for instance illegal to discipline children.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9

Could You Say That Again in Swedish Please?

CONTENTS

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

9

SWEDISH

1. Nils: Har du lust att följa med mig och mina kompisar till 7ans för ett par bärs ikväll?
2. James: Öh, ursäkta men kan du prata lite långsammare?
3. Nils: Okej, har du lust att träffa mig och mina kompisar på 7ans ikväll?
4. James: Ja, absolut. Men snälla, kan du säga det en gång till, var ska ni träffas? Tack.
5. Nils: Inga problem, på 7ans ölhall, vid saluhallen.
6. James: Jaha, okej. Javisst, jag kommer gärna.

ENGLISH

1. Nils: Would you like to come with me and my pals to No.7 for a few scoops (bevvies) tonight?
2. James: Umm, I'm sorry, but could you speak a little slower?
3. Nils: OK, would you like to meet me and my friends at No.7 tonight?
4. James: Yes, sure. But please, could you say the place where we shall meet once more? Thanks.
5. Nils: No problem—at No.7, beer hall, next to the market hall.
6. James: All right. Sure, I'd be pleased to come.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
en kompis	a friend	noun
en bärs	bevv (slang word for beer)	noun
träffa	to meet	verb
Kan du prata lite långsammare?	Could/Can you speak a little slower?	phrase
snälla	please (lit. "kind one")	interactional phrase
Kan du säga det en gång till?	Could/Can you say that once more?	phrase
gärna	readily/willingly	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Min kompis pojkvän är amerikan.</p> <p>"My friend's boyfriend is American."</p>	<p>Min kompis hoppade av skolan i 7an.</p> <p>"My friend dropped out of school in 7th grade."</p>
<p>Jag ska träffa kompisar för en bärs i stan.</p> <p>"I am meeting friends for a drink in town."</p>	<p>Jag ska träffa kompisar för en bärs i stan.</p> <p>"I am meeting friends for a drink in town."</p>
<p>Hej, roligt att träffa dig igen!</p> <p>"Hello, nice to see you again!"</p>	<p>"Hej, trevligt att träffas."</p> <p>"Hello, nice to meet you."</p>
<p>Snälla, kan du prata lite långsammare?</p> <p>"But please, could you speak a little slower?"</p>	<p>Tack snälla ni, er hjälp är oersättlig.</p> <p>"Thank you very much, how kind of you, your help is irreplaceable."</p>

<p>Snälla, köp den åt mig.</p> <p>"Please, buy it for me."</p>	<p>Snälla, kan du prata lite långsammare?</p> <p>"But please, could you speak a little slower?"</p>
<p>Snälla öppna dörren.</p> <p>"Please open the door."</p>	<p>Kan du säga det en gång till Thomas, tack.</p> <p>"Could you say that once more, Thomas? Thanks."</p>
<p>Javisst, gärna.</p> <p>"Sure, I'd love to."</p>	<p>Ja, jag följer gärna med dig.</p> <p>"Yes, I'd be happy to go with you."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **en kompis** (-ar) - "pal (-s), buddy (-ies)"

This Swedish word is the most common to be used referring to friends by young people. There is another word for friend (*vän*), but that is by far less common.

2. **träffa** - "to meet"

We've come across this word before in *kul att träffas*. There is one other common synonym, but to use *träffa* works just fine and is not marked in any way.

3. **en bärs** - "bevvy"

This is a useful Swedish word. It is very casual in nature, but does find its way even into place names. In Gothenburg for many years there was a bar called *Bärs å bar* (lit. bevvy and bar). It could also be translated as "drinks."

4. **Kan du prata lite långsammare?** - "Could/Can you speak a little slower?"

A useful and very handy phrase for any language learner. Outside language learning not likely to be used much.

5. **snälla** - "please (lit. kind one)"

You've already learned that *tack* can be used for saying "please" in Swedish. Now, this is another phrase to be used. It is a little more personal and is directly appealing to the person

you speak to. If you were to be begging to be let in somewhere, although it's already full or past admittance time, use this phrase.

6. **Kan säga det en gång till?** - "Could/Can you say that once more?"

Another excellent phrase for you to use when you just didn't quite get what was said.

7. **gärna** - "readily/willingly"

The last word *gärna* is used in Swedish a lot. It means readily or willingly, you'd be well pleased to do something and you will. It can also mean "enjoy," *jag spelar gärna fotboll* - "I enjoy playing football."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking People to Talk Slowly and Repeat Themselves

In this lesson, we will be looking at different ways of getting people to slow down or repeat things they said. This will give any language learner the tools to make spoken Swedish more accessible. There are the obvious phrases, we covered in part in the dialogue. However, there are also some more casual and more native ones. Swedes like things short and if they didn't understand what was said, they're likely to say *Vad?* "What?" If they take a little more time people might say something along the lines of *Vad sa du?*– "What did you say?." However, this one's not a good one to use, since it might also come across as slightly aggressive, especially when said with a rising intonation. If you add the little phrase *Jag hörde inte riktigt* ("I didn't quite get that") it is softened down and perfectly polite again.

Another way to ask for a repetition in a more polite way is *Förlåt?* –"Sorry?" with a rising intonation. This indicates to the native speaker that you didn't understand and would like the utterance repeated. It is also possible that they will use part of one of our phrases and say something like *En gång till, tack* – "Once again, please."

Native speakers don't normally ask their interlocutor to speak slower, unless the pace of the utterance were vastly increased. However, if they were to do so nonetheless, they would probably say something like *Lite långsammare, tack* or *Snälla, lite långsammare, tack*. As in most languages there are many ways to get someone to repeat or to slow down. The most prominent ones have been covered in the dialogue and a few more are offered here. Please bear in mind that a lot in this area also works with intonation. So, if you're not sure of the exact intonation, perhaps it's a good idea to stick with the standard phrase. It's the safest way.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Going Out and Partying in Sweden

Going out in Sweden for meals or drinks can be a bit pricey at times. However, it's nowhere near as bad as people often imagine. If you come from the UK in particular, you will find at least eating out to be affordable enough. On top of that, as in most places, a lot of restaurants have special deals for lunch and sometimes early bird evening menus as well. They are well worth checking out.

Another thing not to miss is a Swedish Friday night after-work event. A lot of bars and restaurants offer a free buffet on that day. Mostly nibbles, but hey, who's complaining? It's free. Sometimes you have to leave your jacket at the door for the cloakroom and that will cost you. It's best to ask the locals or just tag along when they go. It usually starts mid to late afternoon on a Friday. Many a Swede still finishes work earlier on a Friday. People get together for a quiet few or sometimes even a few more than that. The atmosphere tends to be very relaxed and pleasant. Swedes don't go out much during the week, so it's weekends that count. This is much like in the UK and Ireland as well.

Instead of eating or drinking out, people will also often have little events at their home. Sometimes people just take a few drinks before going out, a *förfest* (warm-up party). Sometimes people have proper small parties with food and drink at theirs. Swedes love their homes and they often like socializing and sharing it with friends. They like their places cozy, but they also like to use them for pleasant things. Of course, the odd *etterfest* (after party) also occurs. Clubs often close fairly early, around 3 A.M..

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10

Going Out in Sweden

CONTENTS

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

10

SWEDISH

1. James: Vilket trevligt ställe.
2. Nils: Javisst. Ska vi ta en öl?
3. James: Jo, men vad och hur beställer jag?
4. Nils: Du säger helt enkelt, en öl tack. Eller en stor stark, tack.
5. James: En stor stark?
6. Nils: Ja, en stor öl från fatet.
7. James: Okej, då gör jag det. En stor stark, tack.

ENGLISH

1. James: What a nice place.
2. Nils: Sure is. Shall we get a beer?
3. James: Yeah, but how and what do I order?
4. Nils: You say quite simply, "A beer, please." Or "A large strong one."
5. James: "A large strong one"?
6. Nils: Yes, a large draft beer.
7. James: OK, I'll do that then. A large strong one, please.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
ett ställe	a place	noun
en öl	a beer	noun
ta	to take	verb
vad	what	pronoun
beställa	to order	verb
helt enkelt	quite simply	phrase
En stor stark, tack!	A large draft beer, please! (lit. A big/large strong one)	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det är ett trevligt ställe för att ta ett öl.</p> <p>"This is a really nice place to have a beer."</p>	<p>Helt enkelt en öl.</p> <p>"Quite simply a beer."</p>
<p>Kan du ta mig till apoteket?</p> <p>"Could you take me to a pharmacy?"</p>	<p>Vad är klockan nu?</p> <p>"What is the time now?"</p>
<p>Vad är din destination?</p> <p>"What's your destination?"</p>	<p>Vad ska jag beställa?</p> <p>"What should I order?"</p>
<p>Helt enkelt en öl.</p> <p>"Quite simply a beer."</p>	<p>En stor stark, tack!</p> <p>"A large draft beer, please!"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **ta** - "to take"

In Swedish this verb can be used for consuming something, food or drink. Where in English

you might use "have a drink," Swedes say *ta en drink*. Naturally, a word like *take* has many other uses, too.

2. ***vad*** - "what"

We have come across the question word *vad* once before, in the phrase *Vad kul!* ("How cool!") in Lesson 5. The actual translation of the word is "what," unlike what the above example suggests. In Swedish *vad* is sometimes used like English "how," but in most cases it actually means "what."

3. ***helt enkelt*** - "quite simply"

A common phrase in Swedish, probably a little more common than its English equivalent, this phrase indicates that the task at hand is very easily managed. When using this phrase, between the lines you're saying: it's not difficult, just do it.

4. ***En stor stark, tack!*** - "A large draft beer, please!"

For those of you who like beer, this is THE essential phrase in Swedish for the cheapest beer around. Please see the Cultural Insight for further details.

5. ***ett fat*** - "a barrel"

Although the literal translation of this word is indeed "barrel," the phrase *från fatet* means "draft beer." You may also here/see/use *fatöl* for "draft beer." Both expressions denote to a non-bottled beer.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Grammatical Gender

Ja, en stor öl från fatet.

"Yes, a large draft beer."

In the Lesson Focus of lesson six in this series, we looked at the indefinite and definite articles in Swedish. What we didn't look into is a phenomenon that distinguishes Swedish from English. Swedish still possesses grammatical gender. Gender in Swedish is divided up into two forms, the *neutrum* (neuter) and the *utrum* (common gender). Older forms featuring masculine and feminine forms are mostly lost to this day.

Grammatical gender of a noun is largely randomly assigned. So, it needs to be learned and memorized with the noun itself. However, there are a few hints that can aid the learner. Living beings tend to be *utrum*. Overall, about three quarters of all nouns are *utrum*—so it's a pretty

good guess, but still just a guess unless you know for sure. Nouns are always marked for number and, as mentioned before, definiteness. We will look at the plural of nouns at a later stage.

The current dialogue features three *neutrum* nouns: *ett ställe*, *ett öl* and *ett fat*. The *neutrum* nouns have one thing that is slightly different than with *utrum* nouns. Such nouns just add the article as a suffix at the end: *en lägenhet – lägenheten*.

The composition of *neutrum* nouns' definite form is broadly the same. However, there is one tiny difference: *ett fat – fatet*. The definite form just takes one 't' from the indefinite article. Nouns of both genders that end in a vowel usually only add either *-n* or *-t* at the end: *ett ställe – stället*, *en pojke* ("boy") – *pojken*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Drinking in Sweden

Alcohol is an important aspect of culture and a simultaneously chronically debated issue in Sweden. There is a retail monopoly on the selling of alcohol in the country. You can only buy alcohol in state-run shops called *Systembolaget*. These shops usually open Mon-Fri. 10-6 and Sat 10-1. Sometimes in bigger cities they are open marginally longer on Saturdays. Alcohol licenses for pubs, bars or restaurants are hard to obtain and consequently especially drinking out can be a bit pricey. But most importantly, if you are going to have a dinner or a party in Sweden you need to plan ahead what alcohol you might need. There are definitely no 24-hour supermarkets, little shops, or even off licenses or liquor stores around selling alcohol at later hours.

Historically, Sweden has had severe problems with alcohol abuse and alcoholism. In 1922 the country even had a referendum on a total ban of alcohol—which was marginally rejected. For many years consumption of spirits was rationed by the month. Even to this day a lot of illegal (bootleg or moonshine) alcohol is being produced, especially in remote areas. The term for this alcohol is *hembränd* (lit. "home-distilled").

In recent years and especially since joining the EU in 1995, the attitude to the consumption of alcohol has become a bit more continental, moderate, and relaxed. Swedes are increasingly enjoying a glass of wine or beer with a meal. However, drinking strong beer at lunchtime may still be frowned upon. Sweden has three classes of beer: Class I (max of 2.25%) is called

lättöl ("light beer") and sold without restrictions, Class II (max 3.5%) is called *folköl* ("people's beer") and is *fouf* in regular shops, Class III (over 3.5%) is called *starköl* ("strong beer") and is only sol in *Systembolaget*. Many Swedes pride themselves in having the best assortment in alcohol shops in the world. And indeed *Systembolaget* sells a wide range of fine wines, spirits, and beers.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11

Weather Talk is the Language of the World, Even in Sweden

CONTENTS

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

11

SWEDISH

1. Elderly lady: God morgon, unge man. Vilket dåligt väder det är idag.
2. James: Ja, men igår var det fint.
3. Elderly lady: Javisst, men lite blåsigt var det. Ikväll ska det regna.
4. James: Oj, då hoppas jag det blir bättre väder till helgen.
5. Elderly lady: Ja, det ska bli varmt.
6. James: Det låter bra, trevligt och varmt till helgen.

ENGLISH

1. Elderly lady: Good morning, young man. What terrible weather we have today.
2. James: Yes, but yesterday it was nice.
3. Elderly lady: Sure, but it was windy. It's going to rain tonight.
4. James: Oh, I hope it'll be better on the weekend.
5. Elderly lady: Yes, it's going to be warm.
6. James: That sounds good, pleasant and warm for the weekend.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
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dålig	bad	adjective
fin	nice, good	adjective
väder	weather	noun
blåsig	windy	adjective
regna	to rain	verb
bli	to become	verb
varm	warm	adjective
hoppas	to hope	verb
Vilket ... väder det är idag.	What...weather it is today.	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vilket dåligt väder det är. "What bad weather it is."	Det går dåligt för ekonomin. "It's going bad for the economy."
Vilken fin vas. "What a nice vase."	Vilket fint hus. "What a nice house."
Det är dåligt väder idag. "It's bad weather today."	Det är vackert väder idag. "It is beautiful weather today."
Det är blåsig och det regnar. "It's windy and it's raining."	Det kommer att regna imorgon. "It will rain tomorrow."
Det har regnat hela dagen. "It has been raining all day."	Det blir kyckling till middag. "We'll have chicken for dinner."

<p>Det blir sol i eftermiddag.</p> <p>"It will be sunny this afternoon."</p>	<p>Att bli ett ledande märke idag är väldigt svårt.</p> <p>"To become a leading brand today is very difficult."</p>
<p>Pojken äter en varmkorv.</p> <p>"The boy is eating a hot dog."</p>	<p>Det är för varmt med den här tröjan på.</p> <p>"It's too hot with this sweater on."</p>
<p>Jag hoppas vi träffas igen.</p> <p>"I hope we'll meet again."</p>	<p>Jag hoppas någon kan hjälpa oss.</p> <p>"I hope someone can help us."</p>
<p>Vilket dåligt väder det är idag.</p> <p>"What bad weather it is today."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *väder* - "weather"

The word for weather in Swedish is a *neutrum* or an ett-word. However, it is hardly ever used in its indefinite form with the article and often in its definite form: *vädret*. Special is on top of this that the 'e' of *väder* disappears and just the suffix for definite neutrum nouns *-et* is added. This happens for the reason that it is thus a lot easier to pronounce.

2. *regna* - "to rain"

What is special about this word is first and foremost the pronunciation of the cluster 'gn' in Swedish. It is always (!) realized as if it were written 'ng'. If, like in this case, there is another syllable after 'gn' the 'n' is also pronounced .

3. *bli* - "to become"

A very important word in Swedish indeed! Unlike English, Swedish has a third auxiliary, on top of "have" and "be." This is *bli* - "to become." If something of its own accord and almost inevitably is going to happen, Swedish uses *bli*. Like in *det ska bli varmt* - "it's going to be warm." Or as in *jag blir lärare* - "I will be a teacher, and I am currently studying for it." So, you see how in English it is usually rendered as "will/going to be" and not like its literal translation

of "to become."

4. **hoppas** - "to hope"

This is an interesting verb and also a useful thing to be able to say. It can be said on its own: *jag hoppas* - "I hope" or combined with something you hope for: *jag hoppas det blir bra ikväll* - "I hope it's going to be fine tonight" - the weather, that is. It is interesting because of the final -s. It always has and needs that -s. Without it, it would be a completely different word: "to hop/ jump."

5. **Vilket ... väder det är idag.** - "What ... weather it is today."

A very practical phrase in Swedish. Just add any weather adjective and there's your weather talk. *Vilket dåligt väder det är idag.* - "What bad weather it is today." Or input *bra, fint, blåsig* ... The final -t in the latter two has two potential explanations: a) the adjective is agreeing with the neutrum noun *väder* or b) it's an adverb. Here it's the former. But this is at this stage still negligible. However, since it is quite obvious mentioning it was imperative.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Numbers 10-19

In the Lesson Focus for Lesson 6, we looked at numbers 0-9. Like English and many other European languages, Swedish has a system where the numbers 11 and 12 will follow a certain pattern and the numbers 13-19 are differently constructed, using the Swedish equivalent to the ending "-teen."

10 is *tio* in Swedish. The pronunciation is like the 9 *nio*: instead of a final -o something like an -e is spoken—just try to produce the most relaxed vowel you can think of and there you are. 11 and 12 in Swedish are *elva* and *tolv*. You can probably see the similarity to English here.

13 to 19 are largely derived from the numbers 3-9 followed by the ending *-ton*. And here they are: *tretton, fjorton, femton, sexton, sjuutton, arton, nitton*. As you can see, the numbers 13 and 17 have an additional -t- added to the numbers 3 *tre* and 7 *sju*. The same is true for 19. However, here even the final -o of 9 *nio* is omitted.

14 and 18 are the numbers that digress the most from the original numbers 4 *fyra* and 8 *åtta*. So, let's recap all the numbers 0-9 and then have a go at memorizing (drilling) the numbers 10-19 as well.

0-9 are *noll, ett, två, tre, fyra, fem, sex, sju, åtta, nio*.

If you want to practice this, pick some random phone numbers or post/zip codes and say them in Swedish.

The numbers 10-19 are *tio, elva, tolv, tretton, fjorton, femton, sexton, sju, arton, nitton*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Talking About the Weather is Popular No Matter Where you go in the World!

Sweden is a country of four seasons. How distinct they are and how long they last very much depends on where in the country you are—it is a very large country. From the northernmost spot in Sweden to the southernmost tip is as far as it is to Rome from the southernmost tip. It is also an agricultural and timber producing country. Many people on the countryside depend in part of their livelihood on weather conditions.

Thus, like in many countries, the weather is always a suitable subject, especially for conversations with total strangers. Swedes are not so outgoing and don't often talk to strangers at bus stops, but it does happen. The weather is a likely subject, especially in a country like Sweden.

Large parts of Sweden have a very long and fierce winter. From around October until April or sometimes even until May it can be very snowy, even around Stockholm or further south.

The western coastal regions (e.g. Gothenburg) have an almost maritime climate and can be a bit milder, but they are often cold and wet.

The eastern half of the country (e.g. Stockholm) has more continental weather, with very cold winters and fairly warm summers. In winter daylight hours are shorter, but the often fairly sunny weather in the east compensates to some extent for that. Spring is often short in Sweden. It begins around late April/early May and probably only lasts for a month or a little more. Summer weather is fairly unpredictable, but the long hours of light make Sweden a very worthy destination for visits at this time of the year.

Seeing the Swedes bloom and blossom in spring and summer time and enjoy the warm and sunny days to the utmost is nothing short of a delight. Swedes know they need to seize the day when there's a fair and pleasantly warm weather around. Which isn't to say that there are

no complaints about the weather. As in so many places, most people moan about the weather most of the time. The most Swedish of summer festivals, Midsummer, is notoriously known for a tendency for sporting bad weather. But Swedes will celebrate it nonetheless.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12

Telling the Time in Swedish

CONTENTS

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

12

SWEDISH

1. Ewa: Nu är det klockan 12. Klockan 12.30 måste jag till föreläsningen.
2. James: Jag har en paus till klockan 14 och sedan en kurs till kl 15.30.
3. Ewa: Ikväll går jag på bio kl 20. Så, jag måste hem innan affären stänger i Kallebäck, kl 18.30.
4. James: Jaha, då måste du vara tillbaka i staden kl 19.45.
5. Ewa: Ja, och sedan tar jag sista bussen hem kl 23.15.
6. James: Lycka till med allt!

ENGLISH

1. Ewa: It's 12 o'clock now. At 12.30 I need to go to the lecture.
2. James: I have a break until 2 o'clock and then a course until 3.30.
3. Ewa: In the evening I am going to the cinema at 8. So, I must be home before the shops close in Kallabäck at 6.30.*
4. James: All right, and then you have to be back in town at 7.45.
5. Ewa: Yes, and then I take the last bus home at 11.15.
6. James: Good luck with everything!
7. *English audio in the main track is wrong. This is the correct translation.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
i dag	today	adverb
ikväll	tonight	adverb
sist	last	adjective
sedan	then, next	adverb
då	then (here, "in that case")	adverb
klockan	o'clock (lit. "the watch/clock")	phrase
Lycka till!	Good luck!	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jag ska träffa Camilla idag.</p> <p>"I'll meet Camilla today."</p>	<p>Idag ska jag åka hem.</p> <p>"Today I'm going home."</p>
<p>Ikväll ska jag gå på bio.</p> <p>"Tonight I am going to the cinema."</p>	<p>Ikväll ska vi gå ut.</p> <p>"Tonight we will go out."</p>
<p>Ikväll serverar vi ärtsoppa med fläsk.</p> <p>"Tonight we serve pea soup with pork."</p>	<p>Det är sista dagen den visas.</p> <p>"It's the last day it's screened."</p>
<p>Sedan blir man inte blöt.</p> <p>"Then one doesn't get wet."</p>	<p>Jag är vegetarian sedan fem år.</p> <p>"I've been a vegetarian for five years."</p>
<p>Först åt vi och sedan gick vi ut.</p> <p>"We had lunch first and then we went out."</p>	<p>Då måste jag ta ett paraply.</p> <p>"In that case, I'll have to take an umbrella."</p>
<p>Filmen börjar klockan 8</p> <p>"The film starts at 8 P.M."</p>	<p>Vad är klockan nu?</p> <p>"What is the time now?"</p>

<p>Mitt tåg ankommer klockan fem.</p> <p>"My train arrives at five o'clock."</p>	<p>Lunch serveras klockan ett.</p> <p>"Lunch is served at one o'clock."</p>
<p>Klockan tio.</p> <p>"Ten o'clock."</p>	<p>Filmen börjar klockan nio.</p> <p>"The movie starts at nine."</p>
<p>Banken stänger klockan sex.</p> <p>"The bank closes at six o'clock."</p>	<p>Lycka till, Linnea!</p> <p>"Good luck, Linnea!"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **klockan** - "o'clock (lit. the watch/ clock)"

This is the most vital phrase for telling the time. You can express time without it, but for starters it's a very good idea to always use it when mentioning the time. It literally means watch or clock, but in its definite form.

2. **då** - "then (here: in that case)"

This word is one out of a few Swedish words that translates into English as "then." In this context *då* means something like "in that case." You can start pretty any spoken Swedish with *då*.

3. **sedan** - "then, next"

Another one of the words that translates to "then" in English. It usually means "next," so something else will have occurred before. *Först tar jag bussen, sedan går jag.* - "Firstly, I take the bus and then/next I walk." A very useful thing to know if you are listing a few things.

4. **sist** - "last"

A very useful adjective, especially when listing a sequence of things. In Swedish this adjective is often used with nouns in the definite form: *sista bussen/filmen/ölet*. Please note that even the adjective in Swedish is marked according to number and definiteness, i.e. when describing a plural or a definite noun, an -a is added.

5. **Lycka till!** - "Good luck"

A wonderful phrase, that translates excellently into "Good luck" in English and may be used just like the English counterpart. You can use it on its own or with some more specific

information, like in our dialogue.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Giving the Time in Swedish

Nu är det klockan 12.

"It's 12 o'clock now."

As well as giving times, there will be a short excursion into vowel sound pronunciation territory. It is possible to say the time without using the word *klockan* if from the context it is absolutely apparent that you're talking about time. However, it is not wrong, no problem, and thus advisable to always use the word *klockan* as an indication that time is indeed what you're talking about. So, please do use it.

We are covering all the most common time expressions in this lesson: full hours, half hours, a quarter to and past the hour. Together with the numbers you already know, you can pretty much express any time of the day. In Swedish most people do not use the 24 hour system when speaking about the time. Written Swedish may refer to the afternoon hours as *kl* (= *klockan*) 13, 14, 15 etc. but people will normally say *kl ett, kl två, kl tre och så vidare* ("and so on").

An important note is the way Swedish talk about half hours. Here the Swedish way of telling the time is exactly opposite to how you express half hours in British English. If you say half 3 it is 2:30 – A.M. or P.M., depending on the situation. This often leads to misunderstandings between Swedes and English native speakers, so please make a mental note of this and practice as much and as often as you can.

A quarter to and past the hour are relatively straight forward: *kvart i två* (1:45) and *kvart över två* (2:15). You can substitute *kvart* here for any number from 1-20 using *i* and **över**: 1:50 = *tio i två*, 2:18 = *arton över två*.

When referring to anything between 21 to 29 minutes past the hour and 31 to 39 minutes to the next hour, you usually use the half our as point of reference. 2:25 = *fem i half tre* and 2:35 *fem över half tre*. So, 8:35 is *fem över half nio*, 8:25 is *fem i half nio*.

The pronunciation of the Swedish "u" and "y" is very subtle and this can make people uncertain about how to produce them. For "u" you round and protrude your lips. With "y" they are also rounded and protruded, but you also stretch the lips apart forcibly a fraction and then

protrude them upwards. That way you almost inevitably produce the correct sound. Try it and you'll be surprised.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Working to Live in Sweden

Working hours in Sweden are in the international context still fairly low. Most people work 40 hours per week or less. At the same time employees in Sweden have at least 25 days of annual leave and often closer to 30 days. National holidays are not counted in here. In recent years in health care professions working hours have increased a bit due to a general strain on resources and dwindling numbers of professionals. But you will still find nurses and doctors that do very few, if any, hours of overtime per week. By and large Swedes cherish their spare and free time and love to spend it with friends and family. For many people in Sweden work is still merely a means to earn money for a life outside work that is the focus. Of course, people in Sweden also look for fulfilling and challenging professions, but work and a career for most are not ends in themselves. Even at work, Swedes love to have a relaxed atmosphere with regular breaks. The so-called *fika* ("coffee break") is a national institution and at many work places people have a *fika* at least twice a day. Often *fika* is held sometime in the morning and then again in the afternoon. It tends to last at least around 20-30 minutes. If you want to understand Swedes you'd best join as many *fika* as possible. The Swedes' love for coffee and something to eat along with that is renowned. Joining a *fika* will greatly enhance your understanding of Swedish mentality. Sweden doesn't have as many public holidays as some Catholic countries, but there are still a few spread out throughout the year, most of them Christian holidays, but also the 1st May (Labour Day) and 6th June (Sweden's National Day)

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13

What Do You Enjoy Doing in Your Spare Time in Sweden?

CONTENTS

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

13

SWEDISH

1. Anders: James tycker du om tennis, för jag gillar verkligen tennis.
2. James: Nej tyvärr, inte så mycket. Men jag gillar badminton och bordtennis.
3. Anders: Jaha, vad bra, det gör jag med. Vad tycker du annars om att göra på fritiden?
4. James: Jag tycker om att spela datorspel, att läsa, att simma och att fjällvandra.
5. Anders: Jaså, jag är skidentusiast och tycker mycket om vintersport. Och så träffar jag gärna kompisar.
6. James: Det gör jag med, men vintersport har jag aldrig provat.

ENGLISH

1. Anders: James, do you like tennis? Because I really like tennis.
2. James: No, sorry, not so much. But I like badminton and ping-pong.
3. Anders: All right, good, so do I. What else do you do like to do in your spare time?
4. James: I like to play computer games, read, swim, and hike in the mountains.
5. Anders: OK, I am a ski enthusiast and like winter sports very much. And I enjoy meeting friends.

CONT'D OVER

6. James: So do I, but I've never tried winter sports.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
tycker om	to like	phrasal verb
vandra	to hike	verb
aldrig	never	adverb
fritiden	spare time	noun
gilla	to like	verb
dator	computer	noun
annars	otherwise, else	adverb
läsa	to read	verb
simma	to swim	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jag tycker om fotboll. "I like soccer."	Björn vandrar på fritiden. "Björn hikes in his spare time."
Jag har aldrig rest utomlands. I have never traveled abroad.	Jag spelar aldrig datorspel. "I never play computer games."
Säg aldrig, aldrig! "Never say never."	På fritiden gör jag inte mycket alls. "In my spare time I don't do much."

<p>Den unga flickan gillar verkligen hundvalpar.</p> <p>"The young girl really likes the puppies."</p>	<p>Jag gillar godis, speciellt choklad.</p> <p>"I like sweets, chocolate in particular."</p>
<p>Jag har en ny dator.</p> <p>"I have a new computer."</p>	<p>Personen använder en dator för att skriva e-post.</p> <p>"The person is using a computer to write e-mail."</p>
<p>Annars kommer jag inte.</p> <p>"Otherwise, I won't come."</p>	<p>Kvinnan läser en tidning.</p> <p>"The woman is reading a magazine."</p>

Kvinnan simmar i bassängen.

"The woman swims in the pool."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **tycka om** - "to like"

This is one of two popular ways to denote you like something or someone. This phrasal verb is often used for referring to people as well. It is important to note that the prepositional component in Swedish phrasal verbs has a tendency to stay very close to its verbal component. Negation particles and pronouns can often be found in between the two. Occasionally, adjectives also are to be found there. The phrasal verb forms its present tense form with the ending *-er*.

2. **gilla** - "to like; enjoy"

This is the other way to express that you like something. This verb is rarely used with people and more often refers to things, activities, abstract concepts etc. Its present tense is formed by adding an *-r*.

3. **annars** - "otherwise; or else"

A useful little word if you want to express the English word "otherwise" in Swedish. Just beware, it also has another connotation, meaning "or else" and thus being some kind of a

threat or warning. As such it has not been used in our dialogue here. In fact in the dialogue *annars* bears very little meaning and functions almost as a modal particle, merely lending stress to the notion of "otherwise."

4. *fritiden* - "(THE) spare time"

Whether you would call it free, leisure or spare time in English matters not. What's important is that this Swedish word almost exclusively occurs with the definite article *fritiden*. Please use it accordingly.

5. *det gör jag med* - "so do I"

Swedes have a number of ways of agreeing and supporting others peoples' points of view, feelings, thoughts etc. One is this phrase. If someone tells you, for example, that s/he likes something and so do you, this is the perfect scenario to try out this handy little phrase.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using "to like"

James tycker du om tennis, för jag gillar verkligen tennis.

"James, do you like tennis? Because I really like tennis."

There are two very popular ways to express the notion of "to like," *tycka om* and *gilla*. Both are synonyms and thus to a high degree mutually interchangeable. However, for people *tycka om* is used more frequently. In fact, *gilla* is in such contexts used rather infrequently. If and when it is used, it has a rather neutral appreciative notion. Whereas, *tycka om* tends to be a bit more affectionate, also potentially expressing deeper feelings. But as synonyms, the two variants could, strictly speaking, be used freely in any context. It is advisable to listen in on native speakers around you to determine how and when they use which. And then use them accordingly for your own language production. This could be called mimicking and is potentially a way to develop your non-native *språkkänsla* ("feeling for language").

As mentioned before, the pronunciation for verbs ending in *-ar* is characterized by a specific tonal accent, the so-called *grav accent*. Words with this accent have at least two syllables. Commonly, in two-syllable words, the first syllable is stressed. However, the stress is followed by a slight dip in pitch and a rise again in pitch level. This sometimes leads to the perception of stress on the second syllable. There is, however, no stress on the second syllable, but the upward moving pitch gives that impression. In fact, we're merely looking at a pitch and intonation contour phenomenon. In Swedish *grav accent* is rarer and more restricted than words not having the accent. Swedish words of two syllables (polysyllabic) or more that don't

posses it feature the so-called *akut accent*. Out of the two words for "to like" above, *gilla* displays the *grav accent* both in the infinitive and the present tense form and *tycka om* has *grav accent* only in the infinitive (as all polysyllabic verbs), but loses it in favor of the *akut accent* in the present tense form. The *akut accent* is characterized by a stress (commonly) on the first syllable and a steady decline in the pitch contour after that. In simpler words, the intonation rises with the stress and very naturally falls again. This is by far the more common of the types of pronunciation throughout the Swedish lexicon. In the case of *tycka om* the realization of the *grav accent* even in the infinitive is further impeded by the phrasal nature of the verb. The preposition *om* and the stress that falls into it make the *grav accent* virtually inaudible.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Enjoying the Swedish Outdoors

Outdoor and winter sports are very popular in Sweden. The country, with its mere nine million inhabitants, has vast nature in abundance on offer. The great outdoors is for most Swedes literally around the corner. A lot of Swedes also pride themselves on their healthy lifestyles.

Many people put an emphasis on good nutrition and supermarkets offer a lot of products with reduced fat content. This goes as far as milk and other dairy products containing 0.01% fat. Whether or not these are indications for sound choices or if this is pushing things a bit too far is up to the beholder.

Apart from the great outdoors, many Swedish towns and cities call running tracks in local forests or woods their own, and they are often illuminated for safe usage for all even at night. Popular summer sports are soccer, handball, volleyball, golf, *innebandy* (a type of hockey, played indoors) and going to the gym. Many Swedes enjoy running and even some Nordic Walking can be seen on occasion. Though not anywhere near as much as the name would suggest. Nordic Walking is by far more of an export phenomenon than a domestic one. These tracks are in winter often used as tracks for cross-country skiing, a favorite past time for many Swedes. To once in a lifetime complete the Vasaloppet (90 km from Sälen to Mora in Dalarna in central Sweden) is like running a marathon for many Swedes.

Orienteering is also a popular sport and the Swedish countryside is well suited to it. Cycling is also popular, predominantly in cities with high student populations. For cycling enthusiasts there is *Vätterrundan*, a 300 km race around one of the big lakes (*Vättern*) in central southern

Sweden. In winter, all kinds of winter sports are popular. Besides cross-country skiing there is ice skating, ice hockey, and *bandy* (the Swedish take on ice hockey) and also alpine winter sports. Generally, Swedes often appreciate the great outdoors and make a lot of use of the vast unspoiled countryside that is so characteristic for their country.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14

My Swedish Morning Routine

CONTENTS

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

14

SWEDISH

1. Ewa: Usch, vad tidigt du är uppe igen.
2. James: Jag vaknar prick kl 6.30 varje dag. Sen springer jag i en halvtimme.
3. Ewa: Och sen tar du en dusch - jag väcks av det varje dag.
4. James: Jag måste ju hinna göra läxor i minst en timme innan universitetet börjar.
5. Ewa: Men det börjar inte innan kl 9, tidigast.
6. James: Ja, men jag vill ta bussen som går kl 8.30 senast.
7. Ewa: Tyvärr, själv är jag absolut ingen morgonmänniska och skulle helst inte gå upp innan kl 9.

ENGLISH

1. Ewa: Gee, you're up early again.
2. James: I wake up at 6.30 A.M. sharp every day. Then I go running for half an hour.
3. Ewa: And then you take a shower. It wakes me up every day.
4. James: I have to have time to do my homework for at least an hour before university starts.
5. Ewa: But it doesn't start before 9 A.M. at the earliest.

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Yes, but I want to take the bus that goes at 8.30 at the latest.
7. Ewa: I'm sorry, I am absolutely not a morning person and would ideally not get up before 9 A.M.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
tidig	early	adjective
vakna	to wake up	verb
igen	again	verb
sedan	then	
minst	at least	adjective/ adverb
innan	before	preposition
tidigast	(at the) earliest	adjective/ adverb
senast	(at the) latest	adjective/ adverb
gå upp	to get up	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Kl 6 är tidig på dagen.</p> <p>"Six A.M. is early in the day."</p>	<p>Pojken vaknar och går upp ur sängen.</p> <p>"The boy wakes up and leaves his bed."</p>
<p>Jag vaknar mycket lätt.</p> <p>"I wake up very easily."</p>	<p>Kvinnan vaknar.</p> <p>"The woman is waking up."</p>

<p>Jag kommer igen i morgon.</p> <p>"I will come again tomorrow."</p>	<p>Sedan läser jag lite.</p> <p>"Then I read a little."</p>
<p>Först åt vi och sedan gick vi ut.</p> <p>"We had lunch first and then we went out."</p>	<p>Minst ett par sidor.</p> <p>"At least a few pages."</p>
<p>Innan jag går upp dricker jag lite vatten.</p> <p>"Before I get up I drink a little water."</p>	<p>Tidigast kommer jag hem kl 8.</p> <p>"I come home at 8 P.M. at the earliest."</p>
<p>Jag är framme senast kl 8.</p> <p>"I will be there at 8 o'clock at the latest."</p>	<p>Jag går upp tidigt.</p> <p>"I get up early."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *sedan* - "then"

This is a very short and most useful little word. It can be used wherever the English "then" would be used and perhaps even more often. You can use it as "glue" when listing things, you can start a sentence with it. Get the pronunciation sorted and start using it!

2. *minst* - "at least"

Before we have even systematically looked at adjectives, this is the irregular superlative of *lite*. But in this lesson's context we are using *minst* as an adverb rather than an adjective. If you quite simply want to say "at least," it's the word to use.

3. *tidigast* - "(at the) earliest"

Another superlative before we have properly looked at the adjective. Although the adjective is also part of today's vocab. Again in the context *tidigast* is used adverbally and is a useful expression to denote "(at the) earliest" in Swedish.

4. *senast* - "(at the) latest"

The adjective *sen* gives us this word in its adverbial meaning. The opposite of *tidigast*, naturally.

5. *varje* - "every"

A very handy little phrase or determinant if you so wish. It can be used with expressions of time as well as any other noun. But you will hear it a lot, particularly with time: *varje morgon* - "every morning," *varje dag* - "every day"...

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Talking About Plans

Jag vaknar prick kl 6.30 varje dag. Sen springer jag i en halvtimme.

"I wake up at 6.30 A.M. sharp every day. Then I go running for half an hour."

In the dialogue to this lesson we have a few constructions using modal verbs. We've looked at modals and how they work before. First and foremost all other verbs but the modal occur in the infinitive. Special in one of the cases here is the usage of three verbs in one string: *jag måste hinna göra det*—"I have to manage to do this."

In this case the quasi-modal *hinna* ("to manage/to be able to") is used together with the modal *måste*.

However, *hinna* could also stand on its own with e.g. the verb *göra*: *jag hinner göra det idag*—"I'll manage to do this today."

There are also more standard examples of modals in the dialogue: *jag vill ta bussen*—"I want to take the bus," *jag skulle helst inte gå upp innan kl 9*—"I would rather not get up before 9 A.M." The last example is, however, somewhat more complex than an ordinary modal phrase. On top of the modality we are here looking at a subjunctive construction. This is merely to flag this up. We will not cover this in detail for a while. Just in case you had been wandering.

Secondly, we are looking at adjectives and their superlatives as temporal adverbs, i.e. modifying expressions of time. For this it will not be necessary to look at all the characteristics of adjectives, since these modifiers of time expressions occur almost like phrases (chunks) very frequently in everyday speech and it's a very good idea to be aware of them in this very particular context.

We are looking at the adjective *tidig* and its superlative *tidigast*, the adjective *liten* with its irregular superlative *minst* will at least both find mention in this section: *Det är en liten stol, men minst lika stor som min*—"This is a small chair, but at least as big as mine".

On top of that we look at the adjective *sen* and its superlative *senast*: *Det blev en sen morgon, men senast imorgon måste jag gå upp tidig igen*—"It was a late morning, but tomorrow at the latest I have to get up early again. Again we will practice all the pronunciations extensively in context.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Unique Swedish Gym Chain

Friskis & Sveltis is a cultural phenomenon in Sweden. The name of this chain of gyms that exist throughout the country, alongside many other competitors, has become synonymous for the modern-day gym. Like how in English the brand name "Blu Tack" may be used for all products by any brand that perform the same function, *Friskis & Sveltis* has become the name for a modern-day workout in a gym. The word *frisk* means "healthy" and *svett* means "sweat." The added *-is* usually used in order to make a noun referring commonly to a person out of an adjective. As with "sweat" it becomes apparent that the ending is productive even with nouns as a base.

There one thing that is special about *Friskis & Sveltis*, though. It is a non-profit organization, devoted and dedicated to amateur and popular sports. It shows a surprising spread in Sweden. More than 500,000 Swedes are members and thus almost 5% of the country's population. In urban areas this figure is easily as high as 10%. Outwardly many of the bigger branches look just like any commercial gym. In more rural areas the appeal of a non-profit organisation is stronger preserved. There occasionally *Friskis & Sveltis* merely hires communal gym and sports facilities for a few hours per day or week. However, *Friskis & Sveltis* has succeeded in offering many Swedes an affordable option to do something for their health and their wellbeing. On top of machines and treadmills, they offer a range of classes.

First and foremost they have developed their own fitness class called *Jympa*. These classes can largely be described as aerobics with a little less drill and more flexibility. There are a number of different variants of *Jympa* that you can take. *Friskis & Sveltis* is a phenomenon that in its form and shape could only have come up in a Nordic country. Other countries also have well-funded and successful concepts for amateur and popular sports, but that a non-profit organisation is one of the major competitors on the gym market has to be called a unique thing. And along with other much-used communal amenities like public libraries, this success tells us something about the communal spirit that still exists in Sweden and other parts of Scandinavia and the north of Europe.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15

A Busy Week in Sweden

CONTENTS

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

15

SWEDISH

1. Ewa: Nästa vecka blir mycket jobbigt och intressant.
2. James: Hurså? Vad ska du göra?
3. Ewa: På måndag ska jag till volleybollträningen för första gången.
4. James: Jag spelar ju fotboll varje tisdag.
5. Ewa: Jag vet. Och på onsdag går jag på bio med någon jag träffade igår.
6. James: Jaså, en kille, vad!?
7. Ewa: Och på torsdag har jag en tenta. Jag är lite skraj.
8. James: Jag har en på fredag.
9. Ewa: Men sen är det ju lördag och söndag och därmed helg.

ENGLISH

1. Ewa: Next week is going to be stressful and interesting.
2. James: How come? What are you going to do?
3. Ewa: On Monday I will go to volleyball practice for the first time.
4. James: I'm playing soccer every Tuesday.

CONT'D OVER

5. Ewa: I know. And on Wednesday I will go to the cinema with someone I met yesterday.
6. James: All right, a boy, right?
7. Ewa: And on Thursday I have an exam. I'm a little scared.
8. James: I've got one on Friday.
9. Ewa: But then it will be Saturday and Sunday and thus the weekend.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
vecka	week	noun
helg	weekend	noun
söndag	Sunday	noun
lördag	Saturday	noun
fredag	Friday	noun
torsdag	Thursday	noun
onsdag	Wednesday	noun
tisdag	Tuesday	noun
måndag	Monday	noun
någon	someone, somebody	indefinite pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jag är ledig i en vecka.</p> <p>"I'm off for one week."</p>	<p>En vecka har sju dagar.</p> <p>"A week has seven days."</p>
<p>Jag hoppas du får en trevlig helg.</p> <p>"I hope you have a nice weekend."</p>	<p>Helgen tycker jag verkligen om.</p> <p>"The weekend I really like."</p>
<p>Söndag är veckans slut.</p> <p>"Sunday is the end of the week."</p>	<p>På lördag kan många sova länge.</p> <p>"On Saturday many can sleep longer."</p>
<p>Helgen börjar på fredag.</p> <p>"The weekend starts on Friday."</p>	<p>Sedan är det torsdag.</p> <p>"Then it is Thursday."</p>
<p>Näst är det onsdag.</p> <p>"Next comes Wednesday."</p>	<p>Sedan kommer tisdag.</p> <p>"Then comes Tuesday."</p>
<p>Måndag är den första.</p> <p>"Monday is the first."</p>	<p>Finns det någon som inte gör det?</p> <p>"Is there anyone who doesn't?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *helg* - "weekend"

The word for "weekend" can also refer to days that you're off. However, in that case people would usually use the word *en helgdag*, literally "a holiday." As for the word "weekend," it will commonly be used with the definite article: *helgen*. There are a number of prepositions that are often used in conjunction with *helg*: *på helgen*—"on/at the weekend," *under helgen*—"during the weekend," *till helgen*—meaning something along the lines of "towards the weekend."

2. *någon* - "somebody, someone"

Swedish does not distinguish between in the same way as English distinguish between "some" and "any." So, *någon*, while it usually means "somebody, someone" can occasionally also express the notion of "anybody, anyone." In the phrase *är det någon som tar ansvar för*

det—"is there anyone that is taking responsibility for it" this can be seen. Occasionally, *någon* also is used like an indefinite article: *finns det någon tid på torsdag*—"is there a free appointment/slot on Thursday." As you can see, here in English you could and probably would also use the word any.

3. The days of the week in Swedish

Without picking any particular day of the week there is one point that needs to be made about weekdays. And this aspect has to do with how they appear in writing. Days of the week in Swedish are not capitalized. Neither are months, languages, and nationalities. In fact, Swedish only knows capitalization of names, proper names of people, countries or else. Also, please pay close attention to the pronunciation in the vocab section.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Substituting Nouns with Indefinite Articles

Jag har en på fredag.

"I've got one on Friday."

In this lesson, we'll be looking at how nouns in Swedish can, once introduced, be substituted by an indefinite article.

As a little addendum will also look at how the indefinite pronoun *någon* sometimes substitutes indefinite articles. In the dialogue we have the example by Ewa: *På onsdag har jag en tenta*. Commenting on this James says *Jag har en på fredag*. The *en* in James' sentence is substituting the noun *en tenta*—"an exam."

In English in a similar case you would most likely use "one" and "some" if the noun was plural. However, the plural being unspecific is less likely in either language. If someone told you they have three exams next week, you are not likely to respond that you also have "some" next week. You will know the exact figure in all likelihood. So, the phenomenon mentioned here is more likely to occur in the singular.

In Swedish this kind of substitution is very common. What you need to know to use it well is obviously the gender of the noun: is it an *utrum* or a *neutrum*? On top of these two genders, Swedish still has masculine and feminine and has pronouns for them, but since all nouns are categorized by the *utrum-neutrum* system, they cannot be used here. Nor can a number as a substitute in absence of noun gender, as in English. Let's give an example with a *neutrum* noun:

Det är ett fint kort - "That's a pretty picture/photo,"

Jag vill ta ett jag med - "I want to take one as well."

So, in a situation where the other person shot a pretty picture, you may want one as well and thus this works in Swedish. A few more examples:

Jag redan har ett öl - "I already have a beer,"

Jag ska också hämta ett - "I will also get one";

Titta, en Volvo - "Look, a Volvo,"

Jo, jag har också en - "Oh yes, I have one, too."

The indefinite pronoun *någon* has already been mentioned in the vocab section. As mentioned, it is often used as a pronoun translating into English as "somebody, someone" or even "any(one)." However, it also sometimes used in questions in Swedish, performing the function of an article. Normally, in such cases there is a fair portion of doubt about the scenario in question, but it can also be fairly neutral in tone. An example for the latter:

Har du någon bil? - "Do you have a car?"

An example for the former would be:

Är han någon kändis? - "Is he someone famous?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Opening Hours in Sweden

Sweden has five working days per week and two days of weekend, as it is in many countries. Banks will usually only be open Monday-Friday, as are public administration offices. So, if you need to get to the immigration authorities or have some other business with public bodies, make sure you know exactly what their opening hours are.

The employment agency tends to be open 10-6 Mon-Fri, but immigration may only have limited opening hours, like 10-3 on weekdays. However, some public institutions may be open on Saturdays, at least in the morning. Such institutions include post offices, some

libraries, *Systembolaget* (the state-run alcohol shop) and a few others. Pharmacies in Sweden are also publicly owned and have restricted opening hours, but there will be emergency services available around the clock somewhere near you.

Public places like museum, galleries and libraries are likely to be open at weekends as well. Many museums and galleries are closed on Mondays instead. But please make sure you check in advance. Strangely enough, especially in smaller communities, quite a few restaurants are closed on Sundays or are only serving lunch on Sundays. This is a bizarre custom that is hard to understand, but will just have to be simply accepted wherever this is the case.

In the retail sector there are very few limitations to opening hours. In big cities supermarkets and shopping malls will often be open until 10 or 11 P.M.. And you may even find shops that are open 24/7. But still many city centres can feel fairly deserted on Saturday afternoons, particularly in the long dark winters. A strangely Scandinavian atmosphere may be witnessed there and then. And be reminded that there is no alcohol to be had from shops after *Systembolaget* closes its doors on Saturday until Monday morning. And many pubs, bars and clubs are not open until very late. Many Swedes live for weekends and the biggest nights for going out for a meal, a few drinks or dancing are Friday and Saturday night. In rural areas the extreme focus on the few locations there are for going out and on those two nights will be even more obvious than in cities.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

Talking About Your Swedish Friends

CONTENTS

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

16

SWEDISH

1. Anders: Hej James. Är du här redan?
2. James: Javisst, det var inte svårt att hitta hit. Vem kommer i kväll?
3. Anders: Alltså, det blir Sara, Per, Craig, Erica och kanske Martin. Känner du dem?
4. James: Jag känner Craig, han är amerikan, eller?
5. Anders: Det stämmer. Och Erica hon är hans svenska flickvän.
6. James: Sara jobbar också på IO, inte sant? Och Per...var det hennes pojkvän?
7. Anders: Just det. Och Martin är en kompis till mig som redan jobbar.

ENGLISH

1. Anders: Hi, James. Are you already here?
2. James: Sure, it wasn't hard to find. Who is coming tonight?
3. Anders: Well, it's going to be Sara, Per, Craig, Erica and possibly Martin. Do you know them?
4. James: I know Craig. He's American, right?
5. Anders: That's right. And Erica, she is his Swedish girlfriend.

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Sara also works at the IO, isn't that right? And Per...wasn't that her boyfriend?
7. Anders: That's right. And Martin is a friend of mine who's already working.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
redan	already	adverb
hitta	to find	verb
hit	this way (direction)	adverb
känna	to know, feel	verb
alltså	so, therefore, consequently	adverb
flickvän	girlfriend	noun
pojkvän	boyfriend	noun
också	also, as well	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jag har redan bokat biljetter till konserten.</p> <p>"I have already booked tickets to the concert."</p>	<p>Jag har redan gjort mina läxor.</p> <p>I have already done my homework.</p>
<p>Jag har redan en cykel.</p> <p>"I already have a bike."</p>	<p>Men jag hittar den inte.</p> <p>"But I can't find it."</p>

<p>Så, jag åker hit med bussen.</p> <p>"So, I come here by bus."</p>	<p>Jag känner många med sådana cyklar.</p> <p>"I know many with such bikes."</p>
<p>Alltså min kompis har en.</p> <p>"So, my friend has one."</p>	<p>Han också har en söt flickvän.</p> <p>"He also has a cute girlfriend."</p>
<p>Ewa har en pojkvän.</p> <p>"Ewa has a boyfriend."</p>	<p>Han är också från Polen.</p> <p>"He is also from Poland."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *redan* "already"

This word is paired up with *inte än(nu)* "not yet." It is a very useful word to express what has already been achieved, done etc.

2. *hit* "this way" (direction)

This is a very specific Swedish word that English has no equivalent for. It often translates as "here." However, that is a slight mistranslation, since the role of "here" in Swedish is taken up by another word (*här*). The word *hit* always means the direction towards wherever here is. Literally translated it would be "to here."

3. *känna* "to know, feel"

This is an important word in Swedish, but caution is needed when using it. It translates as "to know, feel" and this illustrates the much wider scope the word has in Swedish than simply the word "to know." Most often it is used bearing that meaning. However, *känna* describes being quite familiar with someone or something, really knowing it or her/him, so to speak. When the preposition *till* is added, it means rather "know of."

4. ..., *eller?/..., inte sant?* "isn't it?/isn't it true?"

Swedish isn't as versatile as English when it comes to adding question tags at the end of phrases—for truly asking a question or for receiving confirmation of something said. Whereas in English any verb could be and predominantly forms of "be," "have" and "do" are being used, in Swedish you often tag with *eller (hur)?* The question word "how" may be added, but is often omitted. In a similar fashion, the tag *inte sant?* is commonly used. In translation it

means "isn't that true," so this tag is first and foremost seeking confirmation of what has just been said and is not so much a question tag.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Personal Pronouns in Swedish

Hej James. Är du här redan?

"Hi, James. Are you already here?"

Like English, Swedish has personal pronouns that are marked by person, number and gender. The Swedish personal pronouns are: *jag, du, han/hon/(den/det), vi, ni, de* = "I, you, he/she/it, we, you, they."

The third person plural *de* is pronounced *dom* in standard Swedish. Occasionally native speakers say *de*. However, this is leading it to be confused with *det*. This pronoun is not well and truly a personal pronoun, although it sometimes functions as the pronoun for "it."

Swedish, with its two-gender system of *utrum* and *neutrum*—and on top of that, masculine and feminine pronouns—is sometimes called a four-gendered language. However, this is not too helpful and not an explanation either. In terms of nouns, there are only the two genders that have already been introduced: *utrum* and *neutrum*. However, when we refer to people or animals with distinguishable natural gender, Swedish normally uses masculine and feminine pronouns where pronouns are needed. By definition, grammatically, both masculine and feminine nouns are *utrum*. However, when referring to such nouns with a pronoun, the personal pronouns *han* ("he") and *hon* ("she") are used, instead of the normal third person pronouns for *utrum* nouns *den* ("it, this") or *neutrum* nouns *det* ("it, this").

Let's take a look at some examples:

1. *Peter är från England. Han är engelsman.*
"Peter is from England. He is an Englishman." **or**
2. *Ewa är från Polen. Hon är polack.*
"Ewa is from Poland. She is Polish."

Examples for non-personal nouns merely marked by their respective gender are:

1. *Här är en cocktail. **Den** smakar bra.*
"Here is a cocktail. It tastes good." **or**
2. *Här är ett öl. **Det** är kallt.*
"Here is a beer. It is cold."

Examples with animals would be:

1. *Det är vår hund. **Han** heter Linus.*
"This is our dog. He is called Linus." or of course it could be:
2. ***Hon** heter Lady.*
"She is called Lady."

As briefly mentioned before, when referring to entire groups of beings, animals or humans, where natural gender cannot be specified Swedish tends to use the feminine personal pronoun *hon*.

Examples would be:

1. *Människan kommer från Afrika. **Hon** är flera hundra tusen år gammal.*
"Human beings come from Africa. They are several hundred thousand years old."

So, English uses here the third person plural.

An example from the world of inanimate objects is:

1. *Oj, klockan är redan 5. Är **hon** verkligen så mycket?*
"Oh, it's already 5 o'clock. Is it really that late."

As you can see, in this example in English you have to use quite a different construction to express the same sentence. In fact, often in Swedish the word *klocka* doesn't even have to be mentioned. People will still refer to it being late by using the second sentence quite frequently.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Things to See and Do in Gothenburg

Gothenburg is Sweden's second city. It has some 550,000 inhabitants within the city borders. The entire area is home to roughly a million people. It is situated on the west coast of Sweden's North Sea coastal waters and is home to Sweden's biggest port.

Gothenburg and people from Gothenburg entertain a certain rivalry with the country's capital Stockholm. The Gothenburg dialect is widely liked by many Swedes and Gothenburg is definitely a bit calmer than Stockholm. It is home to two renowned universities, Gothenburg University and Chalmers Technical University, and also has a large research hospital facility with Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Stockholm is often regarded as the prettier city space, but Gothenburg also has many charms on offer. Like Stockholm, it also offers access to coastal waters and an abundant archipelago system nearby. Some of these small islands are even accessible via public transport ferries.

In the city there are a number of famous attractions to be visited and enjoyed. First and foremost, there is the art museum with a sizeable collection of Scandinavian classics and modern art (*Konstmuseet*). Then there is Avenyn, the famous boulevard in central Gothenburg, stretching from the art museum all the way to the opera house at the waterside. At the very top of Avenyn, close to the art museum, is the public library. Along Avenyn you will find fashionable shops, national and international chains, and fancy hotels, but also traditional sausage parlors and much more. The boulevard is the hub of Gothenburg.

On the way to the waterfront the visitor crosses Kungsparken, a lovely park along the former moat of the medieval city. Just before the park, you can take off into Vasastaden with the university's representative main building and its many cafes. A bit further down the open air museum-like district of Haga, with its picturesque little alleys, is to be found. In the midst a steep hill is located with Skansen Kronan at its top, a former watchtower with a lot of green all the way to the top.

If you take off into the other direction at Kungsparken, you will get to the botanical gardens of *Trädgårdsföreningen*. If you cross Kungsparken and walk across the bridge towards the waterfront, you'll find Kungssportsplatsen with the local landmark and popular meeting point, the statue of Karl IX called *Kopparmärran*. Next to it the central tourist office is to be found and on the other side of Avenyn you can spot the fantastic old market hall (Saluhallen) with a lot of shops, pubs and cafes around it. A bit further down beckons the traffic hub of Brunnsparken with the big shopping centre Nordstan next to it. The city is well worth a visit and there is much

more to see and to discover.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17

Making Swedish Small Talk Over Coffee

CONTENTS

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

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SWEDISH

1. Nils: Hej James, hur står det till?
2. James: Bara bra, tack. Och själv då?
3. Nils: Under kontroll. Du, du måste prova det här kaffet med valnötsmak, jättegod!
4. James: Okej, det ska jag. Men jag är lite hungrig också.
5. Nils: Ta en av frallorna här. Dem kan jag rekommendera.
6. James: Visst är det skönt med lite svensk fika.
7. Nils: Absolut. Jag är här varje onsdag. Kom med lite oftare.
8. James: Gärna. Då kommer jag nästa vecka redan.

ENGLISH

1. Nils: Hi, James. How are you?
2. James: Just fine, thanks. And how about you?
3. Nils: Fine. James, you have to try this walnut-flavored coffee—very tasty!
4. James: OK, will do. But I'm also a little hungry.
5. Nils: Take one of these rolls here. I can recommend those.

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Sure, a Swedish coffee break is a fine thing.
7. Nils: Absolutely. I'm here every Wednesday. Join me more often.
8. James: I'd be pleased to. Then I'll come as early as next week.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
prova	to try	verb
smak	taste	noun
god	tasty	adjective
hungrig	hungry	adjective
fralla	bread roll	noun
rekommendera	to recommend	verb
skön	pleasant	adjective
ofta	often	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jag vill prova svensk mat.</p> <p>"I want to try Swedish food."</p>	<p>Smaken av svensk mat är nytt för mig</p> <p>"The taste of Swedish food is new to me."</p>
<p>Middagen var god.</p> <p>"The dinner was tasty."</p>	<p>Det här är jättegott.</p> <p>"This here is super tasty."</p>

<p>Är du hungrig?</p> <p>Are you hungry?</p>	<p>Kvinnan är hungrig. Den hungrige mannen letar efter mat i kylskåpet.</p> <p>"The woman is hungry. The hungry man is looking for food in the refrigerator."</p>
<p>Jag är också mycket hungrig.</p> <p>"I am also very hungry."</p>	<p>Jag äter en fralla med ost.</p> <p>"I am eating a bread roll with cheese."</p>
<p>Det kan jag verkligen rekommendera.</p> <p>"I can really recommend that."</p>	<p>Det är skönt ikväll.</p> <p>"It's pleasant tonight."</p>
<p>Jag äter ofta här.</p> <p>"I eat here often."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. **(jätte)god** - "(giant-like) tasty"

The word *god* in Swedish is the equivalent of the word "good." However, in standard Swedish it is only used for food and to denote that something tasted good. In everyday Swedish some people use it in other contexts as. But for starters it is advisable to stick with the word *bra* for "good" (see Lesson 7) and to use *god* for tasty food stuffs only. The word *jätte* means literally "giant." The word is used a lot in conjunction with adjectives in Swedish to make them sound bigger and weightier. It functions in the same way as words like *super* in English.

2. **skön** - "here: pleasant"

This word is commonly used in Swedish to describe beautiful landscapes or pleasant cosy feelings. It literally translates as "beautiful," but in conjunction with people, other adjectives are usually used.

3. **Under kontroll** - "in hand"

This phrase is fairly street or at least used to be. Now that it appears in books and even study material it probably isn't any more. However, this is a very casual way to respond to, for

example, the introduction/greeting phrase *Läget?* (see Lesson 7). It is used to express that you're casually on top of things and all is in order.

4. *Det ska jag* - "Shall/Will do that"

This simple phrase is not really a fixed expression but it is still used a lot to give somebody thumbs up that you will do whatever you have come up with yourself to do, been advised to do, or told to do. It is a useful thing to know for communicative purposes.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Imperative

Ta en av frallorna här.

"Take one of these rolls here."

The imperative in Swedish is fairly straightforward. Not taking tense changes into account, in Swedish there are irregular verbs (here: *vara* and *ha*), verbs that add *-r* that have one syllable (*bo*), those with two or more syllables (*tala*, *rekommendera*) and those verbs that drop the *-a* they have in the infinitive and add *-er* instead (*heta*, *komma*, *läsa*). These are the types we need to bear in mind when addressing the imperative.

As in many languages, the imperative is often used sparsely. However, in daily conversations, especially within families or at work places where people communicate over distances, they are being used a lot more.

The imperative forms for *vara* and *ha* are the following: *ha* is not often used as an imperative, but when it is, you simply use the infinitive form.

For example:

1. *Ha det här ölet, jag hämtar ett nytt.*
"Have this beer, I'll get a new one."

With *vara* you need to drop the final *-a*.

For example:

1. *Var inte så ledsen*
"Don't be so sad."

That's all there is to these two.

The verbs (both one and two or more syllable ones) that add *-r* in their respective present tense forms behave like *ha*. The infinitive form is also the imperative form.

For example:

1. *Tala inte så fort.*
"Don't speak so fast,"
2. *Rekommendera ett bra ställe, tack*
"Please recommend a good place,"
3. *Bo inte för nära stationen*
"Don't live too close to the station."

The final group—those verbs that drop the infinitive ending *-a* in favor of adding a present tense *-er*—things are a little more complex, but not by much. These verbs form the imperative with what you get when dropping the *-a* without adding the *-er*. Thus infinitive *läsa* becomes *läs*.

For example:

1. *Läs den här boken*
"Read this book here."

Some verbs, like *heta*, don't really take imperative form at all. And with some like *kommer* there are some phonological rules that interact with the written form; *kommer* doesn't just drop the *-er*, it also drops an *m*, yielding the imperative form *kom*.

For example:

1. *Kom hit, Thomas.*
"Thomas, come here."

This has to do with pronunciation rules that will not be further addressed here. There are very few such verbs in Swedish.

Notes: There is additional information about the imperative in lessons 1 and 2 of this series. For information on the pronunciation of verbs, please refer to Lesson 13.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Going for Coffee in Sweden

In Sweden *fika* is a national institution and perhaps one of the loveliest all-year-round traditions, even if you happen to dislike coffee. As mentioned before, even at work Swedes love to have regular coffee breaks, the so called *fika*. At most work places people have a *fika* at least twice a day. But even students, people working from home or even not working have *fika* very regularly.

It's like a coffee or tea break in other countries, just with an extra added weight to the concept. Swedes simply love to *fika*—we can say this, since it is both a noun and a verb in the infinitive. And the place for enjoying *en fika* is *ett fik*, naturally. At work or at university, *fika* is held usually sometime in the morning and then again in the afternoon. It tends to last at least around twenty-thirty minutes.

If you want to understand Swedes you'd best join as many *fika* as possible. The Swedes' love of coffee and what they call *kaffebröd* with it is renowned. Joining a *fika* will greatly enhance your understanding of Swedish mentality. With *kaffebröd* we normally mean some kind of sweet baked piece of goodness, often it is so-called *Wienerbröd* or any cake with cinnamon in it.

Scandinavian cakes and biscuits very often have cinnamon. When drinking coffee at *ett fik* or a cafe, you will normally expect to be allowed *påtår*. This translates as "refill" and works a bit like it does in America. However, *påtår* usually means one refill and not several. So, be a bit cautious and check what the locals are doing. At *fika*, Swedes relax and forget their stress and hectic work life and such things for a little while.

As said before, Swedes often like to take the good with the bad. If life today is demanding, well let's at least take a bit of time to enjoy the good things in life—even and particularly at work. Now, Sweden is no paradise and this may not be true for every single Swede or Swedish workplace. But by and large it is true and this, amongst other things, makes Sweden such a pleasant and enjoyable country. Since for most part of the year the weather isn't pleasant and enjoyable, this is certainly not a bad idea at all.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18

Grocery Shopping in Swedish: The Essentials

CONTENTS

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

18

SWEDISH

1. James: Så, vi behöver mjölk, ägg, ost och toapapper ...
2. Ewa: Hurså? Är det slut IGEN? Jag tror vi behöver också juice och bröd.
3. James: Bröd handlade jag igår. Hälften är i frysen.
4. Ewa: Och hur är det med frukt och grönsaker?
5. James: Vill du laga nyttig mat åt oss? Vad bra.
6. Ewa: Jo ... nej, egentligen inte. Jag vet, Flingor behöver vi också.
7. James: Ja, just det. Jag hoppas det var allt nu.
8. Ewa: Jag med, vi måste ju bära hem allt.

ENGLISH

1. James: OK, we need milk, eggs, cheese and toilet paper...
2. Ewa: How come? Are we out AGAIN? I think we also need juice and bread. James I bought bread yesterday. Half of it is in the freezer.
3. Ewa: And what about fruit and vegetables?
4. James: Are you going to cook something healthy for us? Good.
5. Ewa: Well...no, not really. I know, we also need cereal.

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Yes, that's right, I hope that was everything now.
7. Ewa: So do I, especially since we have to carry everything home.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
mjök	milk	noun
äg	egg	noun
ost	cheese	adjective
behöva	to need sth	verb
handla	to grocery shop	verb
bröd	bread	noun
frukt	fruit	noun
grönsak	vegetable	noun
mat	food	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jag gillar mjök.</p> <p>"I like milk."</p>	<p>Thomas tycker om ägg.</p> <p>"Thomas likes eggs."</p>
<p>Ost i Sverige är mycket god.</p> <p>"Cheese is very good in Sweden."</p>	<p>Jag behöver många grejor från affären.</p> <p>"I need a lot of things from the shop."</p>

<p>Då måste du handla på stormarknaden.</p> <p>"Then you should do the shopping at the big supermarket."</p>	<p>Kan du köpa bröd?</p> <p>"Can you buy bread?"</p>
<p>Bröd är viktigt för mig.</p> <p>"Bread is important for me."</p>	<p>Vi behöver också frukt.</p> <p>"We also need fruit."</p>
<p>Och kanske ett par grönsaker.</p> <p>"And perhaps a few vegetables."</p>	<p>Jag vill prova svensk mat</p> <p>"I want to try Swedish food."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *handla* – "grocery shopping"

Swedish makes a distinction between shopping for necessities like food stuffs and other essentials of everyday life and e.g. clothes shopping, shopping for more luxurious goods. You could say it's roughly the distinction between grocery shopping and other kinds of shopping. The other word for shopping will be introduced in the next lesson. Another possible translation for *handla* is "to do the shopping." The verb is occasionally used not just to the action of shopping, but also the entire feat of doing the shopping.

2. *en mat* – "food"

This word is often used in its definite form *maten*, e.g. *Maten är klar* – "The meal/food is ready." As you can see here, it does not merely mean food, but also often refers to entire meals.

3. *Hurså?* – "What?"

This little phrase is excellent to express surprise or to get further explanation about the subject from your interlocutor. Literally translated it would be "how so," but the range of its use in Swedish is much wider and it is better and more accurately translated as "What?" Unlike its English equivalent, *Hurså?* does not bear any necessary inherent aggressiveness and may be used without hesitation and freely. It also often combines with other words (interjections etc), as in *Jaså, hurså?*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Expressing Needs, and Quantifiers

Så, vi behöver mjölk, ägg, ost och toapapper...

"OK, we need milk, eggs, cheese and toilet paper..."

In this lesson we are looking at using *behöva* to express needs, and at the quantifiers (indefinite pronouns) *mycket* and *många*. First up is how you express the need for something in Swedish. You use the versatile word *behöva*. It can be used both with nouns and as a quasi-modal with other verbs. If and where used with verbs, the other verb(s) is(are) in the infinitive, as with regular modal verbs.

Examples for both types are:

1. *Jag behöver mjölk.*
"I need milk,"
2. *Jag behöver handla.*
"I have to do the shopping."

So, you see that the scope for *behöva* is indeed somewhat larger. You could also use the verb with, for example, *Jag behöver tänka* ("I need to think about that,") *Jag behöver kolla* ("I need to check that") and so on. Not every other verb is as likely to be combined with *behöva* as the ones above, but it is still very widely usable as a quasi-modal.

It is also possible to further modify the verb and even entire phrases with *behöva*:

For example:

1. *Han behöver tänka på framtide.*
"He needs to think about the future."

Even more widely usable it is with nouns. In fact you can use it with any noun without exception:

1. *Jag behöver tid*
"I need time."
2. *Jag behöver ett öl.*
"I need a beer."

3. *Jag behöver boken.*
"I need the book."
4. *Jag behöver ro.*
"I need the quiet."

When groceries are mentioned, it's only one step to quantifiers. Swedish knows two indefinite quantifiers expressing a lot: *många* and *mycket*. The former (*många*) is used with countable nouns: *många ägg* – "many eggs," *många kompisar* – "many friends," *många tentor* – "many exams."

The latter (*mycket*) is used with non-countable nouns: *mycket tid* – "much time," *mycket vatten* – "much water," *mycket bröd* – "much bread."

As you can see from these examples, what is countable and what isn't is fairly analogous to the distinction in English. Nouns like water are obviously non-countable. With concepts like time and also money, it's a little more complicated. Both can obviously be counted, but when using indefinite pronouns like *många* and *mycket* the focus is on an abundance of the substance and the notion is thus infinite. Therefore, you have to use *mycket* with them. A little odd is bread, but as the example in English shows, it's perfectly alright to use "much" here, too. In both languages you can quantify bread using "many" or *många*, however only when they are quantified by another concept, like *limpor* "loaves," or *skivor* "slices."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Groceries in Sweden

Supermarkets in Sweden are a subject not often addressed. However, there are quite a few things to be said about it. Until a few years ago the Swedish market was very closed to international competitors and basically three large chains dominated almost everywhere. These chains are Axfood (SPAR, Hemköp et al), Coop (Konsum) and ICA. Still you are very likely to find that these supermarkets are the biggest and easiest to find in most places in Sweden. ICA especially has very large shops on the outskirts of towns and cities. Some of these bigger ICA are called Maxi ICA and they will have the entire range of products on offer.

Smaller supermarkets are likely to be Coop, Konsum or Hemköp, but these days there are

also cheaper alternatives. Matex, Netto (Danish) and Lidl (German) are some of these cheaper competitors. These supermarkets offer a no-frills alternative to the established supermarkets. They can be considerably cheaper, but there is no guarantee they always are. Even the big chains, like Axfood for instance, sometimes have their own cheaper shops with a smaller range of products on offer with PrisXtra and Willys.

Naturally, it's always a good idea to have a look around or ask Swedish friends. However, Swedes have a certain bias against no-frills shops, similar to the bias existing in, for example, the UK. Plus, some of the no-frills chains, especially Lidl, are said to treat their staff very rigidly indeed.

In the end, it's all down to what one is able and willing to spend, but luckily there is more choice on offer in terms of different grocery shopping alternatives in Sweden today. The range of products, particularly of more exotic international goods, is still somewhat restricted.

For Middle Eastern, South Asian, East Asian, Eastern European, or South American foodstuffs you may have to find small specialist shops, often run by immigrants. These shops can also be a cheap and fresh alternative for vegetables. However, this will predominantly be the case in larger cities. In the countryside there is the option to buy fresh fruit and vegetables from producers at farm shops, or at farmers markets. The latter also exist in towns and cities, but are not as regular as in parts of central Europe. As mentioned before, the opening hours of supermarkets are largely from 9-6 or perhaps 7 P.M. Big supermarkets tend to be open longer and have more choice. They can be a bit more expensive, but not necessarily so.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19

Clothes Shopping in Sweden: A Rough Guide

CONTENTS

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

19

SWEDISH

1. James: Du Ewa, jag behöver nya kläder. Vart ska jag gå tycker du?
2. Ewa: Vad är det du behöver?
3. James: Jag behöver ett par byxor, nya joggingskor, underkläder, några t-shirts och kanske en skjorta.
4. Ewa: Jaha, det var ju en del. Jag tycker det är bäst om du börjar med H &M i Nordstan.
5. James: H &M, javisst. Men har de joggingskor också?
6. Ewa: Nej, men det finns sportaffärer i Nordstan. Och så finns massor med andra affärer också.
7. James: Jag förstår, i fall jag inte gillar vad som finns på H &M.
8. Ewa: Just det. Lycka till!

ENGLISH

1. James: Ewa, I need new clothes. Where should I go, do you think?
2. Ewa: What is it you need?
3. James: I need a pair of trousers, new running shoes, underclothes, some T-shirts, and perhaps a shirt.
4. Ewa: OK, that's quite a lot. I think you should start with H &M at Nordstan.

CONT'D OVER

5. James: H &M, sure. But do they also have running shoes?
6. Ewa: No, but there are sports shops at Nordstan. And there are lots of other shops, too.
7. James: I see, in case I don't like what they have at H &M.
8. Ewa: Right. Good luck!

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
vart	where to	adverb
tycka	to find, think, be of the opinion	verb
börja	to begin, start	verb
byxor	pants	noun
skjorta	shirt	noun
underkläder	underwear	noun
skor	shoes	noun
affär	shop	noun
finnas	to exist	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vart ska du ikväll?</p> <p>"Where are you off to tonight?"</p>	<p>Jag tycker 7:an ölhallen är ett bra ställe..</p> <p>"I think 7:an ölhallen is a good place."</p>
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<p>Lektionen börjar klockan 9.</p> <p>"The lesson starts at nine a.m."</p>	<p>Jag har många olika byxor.</p> <p>"I have a lot of different pants."</p>
<p>Men en ny skjorta skulle vara fint.</p> <p>"But a new shirt would be nice."</p>	<p>Nya underkläder behöver jag också.</p> <p>"I also need new underwear."</p>
<p>På vilken affär ska jag köpa dem?</p> <p>"In which shop should I buy them?"</p>	<p>Det finns en ny affär i staden.</p> <p>"There is a new shop in town."</p>
<p>Det finns ingen mat i kylen.</p> <p>"There's no food in the fridge."</p>	<p>Det finns en ny affär i staden.</p> <p>"There is a new shop in town."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *var* - "where to"

This is a special word, that is closely linked with the word *hit* from Lesson 16. In the same way that *hit* means "towards here," *var* is the equivalent question word, meaning "where to." So, *Vart ska du?* translates into English as "Where are you off to?" However, it needs to be mentioned, that the distinction between *var* ("where") and *var* ("where to") is slowly being lost. Many Swedes these days are uncertain about the distinction and many mistakes (grammatical) are in everyday speech.

2. *finnas* - "to exist"

This is a useful Swedish verb meaning that something exists, is present and available. The ending -s in verbs usually marks passives, with a few exceptions. However, the ending is very productive and there are many contexts where the -s ending is used in fairly active senses.

3. *det var ju en del* - "that was quite a lot"

A not overly common, but still very useful phrase. With this phrase you can show your appreciation of the largeness of something. Say, if somebody were to tell you about all the overtime they have to work or the high cost for something, you could respond using *det var ju en hel del*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Indefinite Plural Pronoun *några*, the quantifier *massor av/med* and the verb *tycka*.

Jag behöver ett par byxor, nya joggingskor, underkläder, några t-shirts och kanske en skjorta.

"I need a pair of trousers, new running shoes, underclothes, some T-shirts, and perhaps a shirt."

We have looked at the indefinite pronoun *någon* in the singular in Lesson 15. Now, this is merely the *utrum* form, the *neutrum* is *något*, but this form behaves otherwise entirely like *någon*. Additionally, there is a plural form: *några*, which needs a little attention. Like *Någon* it can be used instead of an article with the noun *några t-shirts* but also substituting the noun instead of a personal pronoun:

Det finns t-shirts på bordet. Jag hämtar några. - "There are t-shirts on the table. I'll get some."

In this lesson we are also introducing another way to express *många* ("many") or *mycket* ("much"). The word *massor* ("masses) followed by the prepositions *av* or *med* ("of" or "with") can be used to express large indefinite quantities of both countable and non-countable things, concepts, abstract ideas, and so on. It is thus a way to avoid using either *många* for countable nouns and *mycket* for non-countable nouns. It is a bit casual and by some people not regarded to be standard language, but for those learners that find the distinction between *många* and *mycket* complicated, this is a way out:

Han har massor med tid - "He has lots of time" or *Jag har massor av öl hemma* - "I have lots of beers at home."

The distribution of the two accompanying prepositions *av* and *med* is not entirely straightforward. Prepositions in general are often subject to specific dialectal or individual usage. However, with the two prepositions in question there is a tendency of *av* to be used with countable nouns and *med* with non-countable ones.

Finally, we'd like to take a quick look at the word *tycka*. We already covered *tycka om* ("to like") in Lesson 13. Without the preposition *om*, *tycka* means something quite different, such as "to find, think, be of the opinion." Thus, it is a much-used verb used in a phrasal fashion when expressing opinions:

Han tycker det är ett bra ställe - "He thinks this is a good place," *Jag tycker vi ska gå på bio* - "I think we should go to the cinema."

The word *tycka* is not to be confused with *tänka* (lit. "to think"). The latter is often the reason for a certain amount of confusion, but for now it's sufficient to stress that whenever you would use "think" in English in the sense of expressing an opinion, use *tycka* in Swedish.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Swedish Retail Scene

Like the grocery market the Swedish retail sector has only been internationalised of fairly late. A lot has happened since Sweden joined the EU in 1995. Before that there were other Scandinavian chains (e.g. Dressmann from Norway), but the market was dominated by domestic players. Of course, major international brands were to be had even in pre-EU Sweden, but they were usually sold at local shops or chains. Today at the upper end of the market Stockholm and Gothenburg both still have branches of Nordiska Kompaniet (NK), a department store for high-end clothing and home accessories. Then there is Åhléns from Stockholm that even has branches in many other Swedish cities. Åhléns is a bit more mid-range in terms of price. They even sell books and CDs.

Since the 90s Swedish shops have been branching out. The Swedish clothes giant Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) has taken its shops all over the world. IKEA had been a big seller even before, particularly in other parts of Europe, but has since expanded massively in new markets (China, India etc) and in most of the Western hemisphere. Swedish design for both clothes and even more so for furniture are renowned throughout the world, mostly for its simplicity. The same can be said for the architecture from Scandinavian countries. The success of first and foremost IKEA and H&M is not just down to the relative affordability and low prices, but the combination of a certain chic paired with sound quality and low prices. That, it seems, is what appeals to customers in markets around the world. These days Swedes buy a lot of things online. Many Swedes, like the citizens of most other Nordic countries, are very internet-savvy, even the older generations. Books, groceries, electrical goods, even furniture may be bought online. Sweden has one of Europe's highest figures in terms broadband users: more than 92% are online. It also has among the fastest networks in Europe. On top of that, the remoteness of large parts of the country make internet shopping particularly attractive.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20

Public Transport in Sweden

CONTENTS

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

20

SWEDISH

1. James: Du Nils, jag måste ladda lite pengar på mitt trafikkort.
2. Nils: Okej, men varför har du trafikkort och inte periodkort?
3. James: Periodkort, vad är det för någonting?
4. Nils: Vad? Känner du inte till det? Om du åker regelbundet är det mycket billigare.
5. James: Ja, men...
6. Nils: Du åker ju in till staden nästan varje dag, eller?
7. James: Ja, det stämmer. Ibland fler än en gång.
8. Nils: Då måste du helt enkelt skaffa periodkort!
9. James: Okej, det ska jag göra.

ENGLISH

1. James: Nils, I have to put money onto my travel card.
2. Nils: OK, but why do you have a travel card and not commuter pass?
3. James: Commuter pass, what is that?
4. Nils: What? You don't know that? If you're commuting a lot, that's a lot cheaper.

CONT'D OVER

5. James: Yes, but...
6. Nils: You're going into town almost every day, aren't you?
7. James: Yes, that's true. Sometimes more than once a day.
8. Nils: In that case, you simply have to get a commuter pass.
9. James: OK, I'll do that.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
trafikkort	travel card	noun
periodkort	commuter pass	noun
billig(are)	cheap(er)	adjective
åka	to ride, drive	verb
skaffa	to get (organise)	verb
pengar	money	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Men hon har ett trafikkort.</p> <p>"But she has a travel card."</p>	<p>Jonas har ett periodkort.</p> <p>"Jonas has a commuter pass."</p>
<p>Periodkort är billigare än trafikkort.</p> <p>"Commuter passes are cheaper than travel cards."</p>	<p>Björn åker mest buss.</p> <p>"Björn usually takes the bus."</p>

<p>Han vill också skaffa sig ett periodkort.</p> <p>"He also wants to get a commuter pass."</p>	<p>Kan jag låna lite pengar?</p> <p>"Can I borrow some money?"</p>
<p>Linda har inga pengar.</p> <p>"Linda has no money."</p>	<p>Mannen tog emot pengar.</p> <p>"The man received money."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *pengar* – "money"

A common word indeed, as you will have guessed. This word exists exclusively in the plural.

2. *Vad är det för någonting?* – "What's that (exactly)?"

This is phrase you are likely to overhear a lot when Swedes ask about unknown things. It may be asked with the thing within sight or be directed at something that has merely been mentioned. A very useful phrase also for learners of the language.

3. *Känner du inte till det?* – "Do you not know what that is?"

Another phrase from the realm of native ways to gain understanding of an unknown matter. It is also used when trying to ascertain whether or not the other person knows about the matter you're talking about.

4. *det stämmer* – "that's right/true"

This is a very frequently used little phrase. If you want to respond positively to something that's been said and would like to denote it's true, this is one of the phrases you're looking for.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Swedish Comparatives

Vad? Känner du inte till det? Om du åker regelbundet är det mycket billigare.

"What? You don't know that? If you're commuting a lot, that's a lot cheaper."

The comparative in Swedish is largely regular. However, there are more irregulars than in English. All in all, the adjective system is more complex, but comparatives are still relatively straightforward. This is also the reason why we are taking up comparatives, before we deal in any depth with adjectives in general. The list of adjectives we've used so far is still fairly limited, but there are a few irregulars among them: *bra*, *god*, *hungrig*, *liten*, *ofta*, *fin*, *dålig*, *varm*, *blåsig*, *tidig*, *skön*, *billig*.

Here and now we will only be looking at the comparative forms and not the superlative forms, although they are often covered in one go. The reason is space and also that once you know the comparative, the superlative is not very difficult to work out anymore.

The irregulars in our list are: *bra*, *liten*, *dålig*. All the others are regular. Let's take a look at what these three look like in the comparative:

1. *bra* - *bättre* ("good - better")
2. *liten* - *mindre* ("small - smaller")
3. *dålig* - *sämre* ("bad - worse").

The last word, *dålig*, is a particularly tricky one, because it strictly speaking has another comparative *dålig* - *värre*. The translation into English remains the same. The former, *sämre*, means "worse" in the sense of lesser quality, the latter refers to a deteriorating situation in general and has a broader scope.

The regular comparative is produced by adding the *-are* to the adjective. Thus yielding:

1. *god* - *godare* ("tasty- more tasty")
2. *hungrig* - *hungrigare* ("hungry - hungrier" or "more hungry")
3. *ofta* - *oftare* ("often - more often")
4. *fin*- *finare* ("nice - nicer")
5. *varm* - *varmare* ("warm - warmer")
6. *blåsig* - *blåsigare* ("windy - windier")
7. *tidig* - *tidigare* ("early - earlier")

8. *skön - skönare* ("pleasant - more pleasant")
9. *billig - billigare* ("cheap - cheaper")

As you may have noticed, where an adjective ends in a vowel, like *ofta*, merely *-re* is added. This is also the case for some adjectives ending in certain consonants and consonant clusters.

Like English, Swedish also knows the comparison using *mer* "more." However, this is only the case when comparing adverbs or participles. Because of the heavy influence of the English language on Swedish, ungrammatical comparisons using *mer* can be heard these days in casual everyday Swedish. This is a normal process within a language. Even within English more and more adjectives are—by native speakers—compared using "more" rather than the correct comparative ending "-er."

Finally, a few example sentences:

1. *Vädret är bättre idag. Det är varmare.*
"The weather is better today. It's warmer."
2. *Vädret är värre idag. Det är blåsigare.*
3. *Maten här är billigare och godare.*
"The food here is cheaper and better."
4. *Han kommer oftare nu och tidigare.*
"He is coming more often now and earlier."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Transportation in Sweden

In Sweden public transport in cities is very well developed. In the countryside and especially in the remote landscapes of the north, the situation is somewhat different. However, public transportation is largely still in the hands of the public, in other words, communal and other

authorities. Or at least the state holds large stakes in the corporations that run public transport.

Occasionally, as in the case of Stockholm, public transport is contracted to private companies. Railways are still in public hands. Buses throughout the country are largely private. A complete overview over transportation in general can be found at: <http://www.samtrafiken.se/Samtrafiken/>. There are normally options for English language displays on all such websites. As we said above, transportation in most larger towns and cities tends to be very well-organized and smooth. There are usually a number of different types of transport available.

In the case of Stockholm these are buses, trams, a metro system, suburban rail, and ferryboat travel. In Gothenburg, commuters can make use of buses, the tram network, suburban rail, and ferryboats. In buses you are often are obliged to get in at the front. In many places you cannot pay directly at the driver anymore but have to pre-buy tickets, day passes, or use chargeable travel cards or commuter passes. Occasionally paying when entering is still possible. There are not commonly any checks, despite the absence of ticket barriers at most types of transportation. Swedes are by and large a fairly obliging people and fare evasion is rare.

In most places public transport runs until around midnight. Some places offer night travel options. Taxis are rather expensive in Sweden and are avoided by most people for longer distances. Incidentally, Stockholm has or had the highest transportation costs per kilometer in the world.

Stockholm citizens love to complain about public transport being delayed or trains cancelled without any prior warning. However, the standards are still pretty high and you might say we're looking at complaining on a high level. All in all public transport in urban Sweden is reliable and frequent enough for commuter comfort. In rural Sweden, you may find the public transport network wanting a lot more. At some places there are only a few buses (in the morning) into local centers and then another few back in the afternoon/evening. These are often parts of the country where a car is almost essential. Please check transportation times and availability before taking off to these remote parts.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21

Public Holidays in Sweden

CONTENTS

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

21

SWEDISH

1. James: Anders, hur är det med Luciadagen, är det alltid den 13e december?
2. Anders: Ja, just det. Liksom Julafton ligger alltid på den 24e.
3. James: Julafton... och vad kallas den 25e och 26e december för?
4. Anders: Juldagen och Annandag Jul. Hurså?
5. James: Jag ska resa hem till England under Jul. Men jag kommer tillbaka den 31a december.
6. Anders: Vad kul! Då kan vi ju fira nyårsafton tillsammans.
7. James: Ja, absolut. Den 1a januari, är det också en helgdag i Sverige?
8. Anders: Javisst, nyårsdagen är alla lediga.

ENGLISH

1. James: Anders, what about Lucia Day, is it always on December 13?
2. Anders: Yes, that's right. Like Christmas Eve is always on the 24th.
3. James: Christmas Eve...and what do you call the 25th and 26th of December? Anders Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Why?
4. James: I am going home to England over Christmas. But I'll be back on December 31.

CONT'D OVER

5. Anders: How cool. So that means we can celebrate New Year's Eve together. James Yes, absolutely. Is January 1 also a bank holiday in Sweden?
6. Anders: Yes, sure. On New Year's Day everyone is off.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
alltid	always	adverb
Julafton	Christmas Eve	proper noun
Luciadagen	St. Lucy's Day	proper noun
Juldagen	Christmas Day	proper noun
Annandag Jul	Boxing Day	proper noun
Nyårsafton	New Year's Eve	proper noun
Nyårsdagen	New Year	proper noun
fira	celebrate	verb
ledig	free, available, time off	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det är alltid roligt att träffa vänner.</p> <p>"It is always fun to meet friends."</p>	<p>Lina har alltid mycket att göra.</p> <p>"Lina has always a lot to do."</p>
<p>Julafton är ingen helgdag i Sverige.</p> <p>"Christmas Eve is no bank holiday in Sweden."</p>	<p>Luciadagen är den 13:e december.</p> <p>"St Lucy's Day is the 13th of December."</p>

<p>Juldagen firar många svenskar med familjen.</p> <p>"Many Swedes celebrate Christmas Day with the family."</p>	<p>På Annandag Jul är det oftast lugnt.</p> <p>"On Boxing Day it is often quiet."</p>
<p>Nyårsafton är den sista dagen på året.</p> <p>"New Year's Eve is the last day of the year."</p>	<p>Nyårsafton är en stor fest i Sverige.</p> <p>"New Year's Eve is a big party in Sweden."</p>
<p>På Nyårsdagen jobbar inte många svenskar.</p> <p>"Not many Swedes work on New Year's Day."</p>	<p>Jag ska fira min födelsedag på fredag.</p> <p>"I'm celebrating my birthday on Friday."</p>

Då är många lediga.

"Then many are off."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *alltid* - "always"

A very useful piece of vocab by any standards. There are other ways to express the same concept (*jämt, hela tiden*), but this is probably the most used word.

2. *ledig* - "free, available, time off"

This is an interesting word. It is used for free and available chairs in pubs and restaurants as well as to describe that you have time available. It cannot be used, however, for things you get for free, though.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Ordinal Numbers

Ja, just det. Liksom Julafton ligger alltid på den 24e.

"Yes, that's right. Like Christmas Eve is always on the 24th."

Ordinal numbers tend to vary from cardinal numbers (for more on these, see Lessons 6, 11 and 12 partly, where we have introduced telling the time). As in other Germanic languages the most diverging ordinal numbers are those for 1 and 2. Instead of *ett* and *två*, we get *första* ("first") and *andra* ("second") here in Swedish. The other ordinal numbers up to 20 are the following:

1. *tredje* ("third")
2. *fjärde* ("fourth")
3. *femte* ("fifth")
4. *sjätte* ("sixth")
5. *sjunde* ("seventh")
6. *åttonde* ("eighth")
7. *nionde* ("ninth")
8. *tionde* ("tenth")
9. *elfte* ("eleventh")
10. *tolfte* ("twelfth")
11. *trettonde* ("thirteenth")
12. *fjortonde* ("fourteenth")
13. *femtonde* ("fifteenth")
14. *sextonde* ("sixteenth")
15. *sjuttonde* ("seventeenth")

16. *artonde* ("eighteenth")
17. *nittonde* ("nineteenth")
18. *tjugonde* ("twentieth")

As you hopefully are able to see right away, the ordinal numbers 13-19 do not present any problems. 20 adds an extra *n* before the final *-de*. They are exactly like the cardinal numbers, you just have to add *-de*.

Something where Swedish is similar to English is the use of an article with ordinal numbers. With all ordinal numbers you need to add the definite article for *utrum* nouns: *den*. Where in English you say "the fourteenth," in Swedish it is *den fjortonde*.

But back to the ordinal numbers 3-12. Here there are some more substantial digressions from the cardinal numbers. To be precise, these are the numbers 3, 4, 6, and 8. Numbers 7, 9 and 10 merely add *-nde*, like number 20.

Number 5 shows some phonological adaptation in adding *-te*, rather than *-de*. But that is all the difference there is. Number 3 adds *-dje*, again for phonological reasons.

For number 8 the vowel changes from final *-a* in *åtta* to 'o' in *åttonde*. Other than this, this number behaves fairly regularly. Please be extra careful and pay extra attention to the distinction between *åttonde* and *artonde*. To the untrained ear they can sound fairly similar, but obviously you don't want any misunderstandings arising from this. In the audio section we practice these two specifically.

Then there are the numbers 11 and 12. For 11 (*elva*) final *-a* is dropped and the 'v' becomes an 'f': *elfte*. The latter is also true for 12: *tolfte*.

And finally there are the ordinal numbers for 4 and 6. These digress quite considerably from the cardinal numbers: *fyra* - *fjärde*, *sex* - *sjätte*. Again these changes are taking place largely for phonological reasons. If you attempt to say *fyra* with *-de* at the end quickly, you will end up with something approximating *fjärde*.

With 6 it is more complicated. Please make sure to again pay extra attention to the quite different ordinal forms for 6 and 16: *sjätte* v *sextonde*.

From 21 onwards, the numbers become more regular, but please bear in mind we haven't

introduced the numbers for 30, 40 and so on just yet.

This is going to take place in Lesson 24 on conjunction and some recap on numbers in general. Like English, Swedish has written short forms for ordinal numbers. For numbers finishing in 1 and 2—except 11 and 12—they are *1:a* and *2:a*. For all other numbers it is the number and colon 'e': e.g. *6:e*, *14:e* etc. Let's take a look at a few examples for ordinal numbers in context:

1. *Thomas är alltid den första som kommer.*
"Thomas is always the first to arrive"
2. *Det är andra gången Sophie är sent.*
"This is the second time Sophie is late."
3. *Helen är född den fjärde.*
"Helen was born on the fourth."
4. *Ska vi träffas den tolfte?*
"Shall we meet on the twelfth?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What is Lucia Day?

Lucia and Christmas are very important and much loved traditions in Sweden. Lucia is probably the festival that people outside Sweden have seen the most pictures of and know the least about. When you see pictures of young Swedes dressed all in white with a crest (or crown) with candles on their heads and often in their hands as well, then that is a picture of the Lucia festival celebrated on the thirteenth of December. Lucia was an Italian female saint who lived in the pre-Christian Rome of the third century AD. She is the patron saint of the blind and her name stems from the Latin for light *lux*. She is one of the few saints venerated by the Lutheran Church. The celebrations with lots of candles and light have their roots in much older pre-Christian pagan traditions of the people of northern Europe. Lucia is not an official holiday in Sweden, but there are festivals featuring a Lucia procession at virtually every school and in all towns and cities. It's a festival most often celebrated by the young. It is often considered an honor for Swedish girls—and occasionally there have been boys—to be

the local Lucia. Special cakes are baked, usually using saffron as a typical Lucia feat. Girls participating who are not portraying Lucia themselves are referred to as *tärna* (-or) or "maid" and boys as *stjärngosse* (-ar) or "star boy." The festival of Lucia is celebrated in other countries, too. First and foremost Scandinavian ones, but the tradition is by far strongest in Sweden.

Juldagen or "Christmas Day" and *Annandag Jul* or "Boxing Day" are official bank holidays in Sweden. So are *Nyårsdagen* or "New Year's Day" and *Trettondedag Jul* or "Epiphany." This sums up a quite a number of Swedish bank holidays around Christmas and the New Year. Many Swedes will have around two weeks of holidays around Christmas. Schools are closed, as are universities. Before Christmas Swedes enjoy their traditional *julbord*. This is usually a three-course meal of Swedish specialities served from early December until Christmas at restaurants and sometimes until Epiphany at private homes. It is made up of many Swedish specialities, the *smörgåsbord* (lit. "sandwich table"), *köttbullar* ("meatballs"), different fish delicacies, *julskinka* ("Christmas ham"), *risgrynsgröt* ("rice pudding") served with cinnamon and many others more. The typical Swedish drink is *glögg*, hot drink made up of red wine, spirits, raisins, almonds, oranges, and herbs and spices. All in all Sweden has a lot to offer around Christmas and a Swedish Christmas is a wonderful thing not to be missed, when given the chance to partake in it.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22

The Swedish World in Colors

CONTENTS

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

22

SWEDISH

1. James: Vad kallas färgerna på trafikljuset för igen?
2. Ewa: Vad? Du måste ha hört dem 30 eller 40 gånger. Röd, gul och grön.
3. James: Vadå 30 eller 40 gånger? Men din tröja den är också grön.
4. Ewa: Nej, den är turkos så klart.
5. James: Alltså jag tycker den är blå nästan och den ser 50 år gammal ut.
6. Ewa: Nejmen, den är ju definitivt inte blå, och inte grön heller. Och det är ju 60-tals mode.
7. James: Jag ser inte skillnaden. Min keps den är gul, eller?
8. Ewa: Nejdå, den är orange. Och din tröja är märklig lila och väldigt 70-tal.

ENGLISH

1. James: What do you call the colors on traffic lights again?
2. Ewa: What? You must have heard them thirty or forty times. Red, yellow, and green.
3. James: What do you mean thirty or forty times? But your sweater is also green.
4. Ewa: No, it's turquoise, of course.

CONT'D OVER

5. James: Well, I think it's blue almost. And it looks fifty years old.
6. Ewa: No, it's definitely not blue, and not green either. And it's 60s fashion.
7. James: I don't see the difference. My cap is yellow, isn't it?
8. Ewa: No, it's orange. And your sweater is a strange purple and very 70s.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
röd	red	adjective
gul	yellow	adjective
grön	green	adjective
turkos	turquoise	adjective
blå	blue	adjective
orange	orange	adjective
lila	purple	adjective
skillnad	difference	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>David har en röd tröja.</p> <p>"David has a red jumper."</p>	<p>Hanna har en gul mössa.</p> <p>"Hanna has a yellow hat."</p>
<p>Kjell har en grön skjorta.</p> <p>"Kjell has a green shirt."</p>	<p>Emil har en turkos t-shirt.</p> <p>"Emil has a turquoise t-shirt."</p>

<p>Ingrid har en blå bil.</p> <p>"Ingrid has a blue car."</p>	<p>Dörren är orange.</p> <p>"The door is orange."</p>
<p>Väskan är lila.</p> <p>"The bag is purple."</p>	<p>Det är en stor skillnad mellan Göteborg och Stockholm.</p> <p>"There is a big difference between Gothenburg and Stockholm."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *skillnad* - "difference"

An important piece of vocab. The difficult thing about *skillnad* is, that it is a wee bit hard to pronounce. Most often it occurs with *det är* and the preposition *på*: *Det är skillnad på ...*

2. *50-tal* - "50s"

If you want to refer to an decade in Swedish, like "the 50s," you use *50-tal*. This is a *neutrum* word and if and when the definite article is to be used it is *50-talet*. Of course, it doesn't have to be 50s, but could have any other figure in the tens in front of the *-tal*.

3. *Vad kallas ... för?* - "What is ... called?"

One of the ways to check understanding. You could insert an English word and thus ask for a translation or describe somebody and ask for her/his name. Or perhaps you are pointing at somebody asking *Vad kallas hon/han för igen?* - "What is her/his name again?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Decimal Numbers

Du måste ha hört dem 30 eller 40 gånger.

"You must have heard them thirty or forty times."

In this lesson, we are taking a look at decimal numbers, at hundreds and counting all the way up to one thousand. The numbers up to 20 have already been covered in Lesson 6 and 11. In

Lesson 21, we looked at ordinal numbers.

What's really new are the tens, and even these bear substantial resemblance to the figures from 2-9 that they are derived from. We have already introduced 20.

So, we are now looking at 30-90. And here they are:

Swedish	"English"
<i>trettio</i>	"thirty"
<i>fyrtio</i>	"forty"
<i>femtio</i>	"fifty"
<i>sextio</i>	"sixty"
<i>sjuttio</i>	"seventy"
<i>åttio</i>	"eighty"
<i>nittio</i>	"ninety"

As you will be easily be able to spot, either *-tio* or *-ttio* are added to the number below 10. In terms of pronunciation it is important to note that the 'o' is usually completely omitted, yielding an ending that resembles in this respect of the same figures for English very much. If the number below 10 has two syllables and ends in a vowel, this vowel is dropped and just *-tio* or *-ttio* is added.

In order to produce numbers say between 20 and 30 Swedish, like English, merely adds 1-9 to the respective ten. Please note that instead of pronouncing *tjugo*, Swedes often use the short form: *tju: tju(go)ett* ("21"), *tju(go)två* ("22"), *tju(go)tre* ("23"), *tju(go)fyra* ("24"), *tju(go)fem* ("25"), *tju(go)sex* ("26"), *tju(go)sju* ("27"), *tju(go)åtta* ("28"), *tju(go)nio* ("29").

In terms of pronunciation 27 is by far the most difficult number. Also, distinguishing between *sjutton* ("17") and *sjuttio* ("70") isn't always easy for non-natives. Please pay extra attention when figures that include sevens are being used. Misunderstandings can happen easily. Here are a few random examples: "34" = *trettiofyra*, "43" = *fyrtiotre*, "57" = *femtiosju*, "66" = *sextiosex*, "72" = *sjuttiotvå*, "89" = *åttionio*, "95" = *nittiofem*.

When going beyond the tens the next unit is *hundra* ("hundred"). As in English, "100" - *hundra* usually is accompanied by the number *ett*, yielding *etthundra*—analogous to the English "one hundred." Unlike English, Swedish is very fond of building compound forms. Wherever possible Swedish realizes sequences as compounds. Writing things apart, as is common in English, is often not opportune and may in some cases even lead to severe misunderstandings: for example: *en brunhårig flicka* - "a brown-haired girl" vs. *en brun hårig flicka* - "a brown hairy girl." Naturally, once we leave the realm of 100 and get to 200, 300 and so on, again the number from 2-9 needs to forego *hundra*, yielding *tvåhundra*, *trehundra*, and so on. To give a few examples, a number like "159" would be *etthundrafemtio*, "137" = *etthundratrettiosju*, "245" = *tvåhundrafyrtiofem*, "396" = *trehundranittiosex*.

When getting to the thousands, the Swedish numbering system again works very much like its English counterpart. Unlike 100 (*etthundra*), 1000 does not use the number 1: *tusen* "thousand," unlike in English occasionally uses "one thousand." It is not impossible to say *ettusen*, however, it is rare. If you do use it and choose to write it, please be aware that there is a maximum of two identical consonants that can follow each other in written form. Although *ettusen* is composed of *ett* and *tusen*, with three 'ts', only two are realized. But since this form is rare anyways, it is not likely you will have to or want to use it. Also, that *tusen* is used on its own, often only applies when the figure 1000 is used like this. Once you start adding hundreds or tens, it is likely that *ettusen* is used. When counting in tens of thousands, Swedish behaves just like English: *tiotusen* "ten thousand," *tjugotusen* "twenty thousand" etc. Here are a few examples for practice: "1357" (*ett*)*tusentrehundrafemtiosju*, "2500" *tvåtusenfemhundra*, "10740" *tiotusensjuhundrafyrtio*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Color Everywhere

Colors are omnipresent in Sweden, especially the colors of the vast and beautiful nature of the country. But there are also certain colors that have come to epitomize Sweden. First and foremost there is the copper red color with which so many houses in rural Sweden are painted. Sweden has been a producer of ores for many centuries. A by-product of copper mining, particularly in middle and northern Sweden, has always been copper-colored sand. This sand was mixed with water and some additional ingredients and then used as paint for houses. Since houses in Sweden have traditionally been built from wood, the timber needed protection against the weather and especially the cold winters. The copper color proved a particularly good protection from the elements, due to the copper particles. On top of that it

was cheap and available in abundance. Therefore, to this day, many Swedish houses are adorned by this copper colored paint.

But there are other colors typical for Sweden, too. Houses are also often painted in light pastel colors, particularly yellow and blue. These colors are, of course, also the colors of the Swedish flag. However, in the flag these colors tend to be rich and vibrant. Swedes often display the flag on their houses or at their allotments. The official National Day of Sweden, the sixth of June, used to be called the Day of the Swedish flag. It has only been made a public holiday in 2005. For this, the traditional bank holiday of Whit Monday was taken away. Swedes do not celebrate this day like the Norwegians celebrate their national holiday. They have a rather relaxed attitude towards it and their own flag. However, they are not shy either about displaying the flag proudly, especially at sports events.

Since the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Swedish artists like the painter and interior designer Carl Larsson have been creating and establishing what today is perceived as traditional Swedish design patterns. Larsson cherished the so-called *allmogestil*, a style of design modelled on the clothes and belongings of Swedish peasants. Flowery motifs, pastel colors and particularly the typical light Scandinavian blue have their origin in these designs modelled on simple people's clothing of the nineteenth century. Many items purchased at IKEA today still bear resemblance to the *allmogestil*, side by side with more modern minimalistic Scandinavian design. However, certain features, like the abundant use of natural materials, often wood, are even characteristic for modern Swedish design.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23

Review Part 1: At the Swedish Conference

CONTENTS

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

23

SWEDISH

1. Anders: James, hur står det till?
2. James: Bra tack. Och hur är det med dig?
3. Anders: Också bra. Har du träffat intressant folk idag?
4. James: Javisst, Ania därborta är doktorand från Ukraina.
5. Anders: Jaha, och känner du också Holger från Berlin?
6. James: Han där med det långa håret? Ja, vi pratade som hastigast. Men Ana från Portugal, hon är söt...
7. Anders: Vem är hon? Jag har inte träffat henne än.
8. James: Hon har långt mörkt hår och är mycket intelligent och vacker...

ENGLISH

1. Anders: James, how are you?
2. James: Good, thanks. And how are things with you?
3. Anders: Also good. Have you met any interesting people today?
4. James: Sure, Ania over there is a Ph.D. student from Ukraine.
5. Anders: Alright, and do you know Holger from Berlin?

CONT'D OVER

6. James: Him with the long hair? Yes, we spoke very briefly. But Ana from Portugal, she is cute...
7. Anders: Who is she? I haven't met her yet.
8. James: She has long dark hair and is very intelligent and pretty...

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
intressant	interesting	adjective
där	there	demonstrative pronoun
folk	people	noun
lång	long (physically)	adjective
söt	cute	adjective
vem	who	pronoun
vacker	beautiful	adjective
ännu	yet	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Göteborg är en intressant stad.</p> <p>"Gothenburg is an interesting city."</p>	<p>Där går en grupp tyskar.</p> <p>"There goes a group of Germans."</p>
<p>Det är mycket folk i staden.</p> <p>"There are a lot of people in town."</p>	<p>En av dem är mycket lång.</p> <p>"One of them is very tall."</p>

<p>Hon är mycket söt.</p> <p>"She is very cute."</p>	<p>Vilken söt kattunge!</p> <p>"What a cute kitten!"</p>
<p>Vem bor i det där huset?</p> <p>Who lives in that house over there?</p>	<p>Vem har ätit upp all kakor?</p> <p>Who has eaten all the cookies?</p>
<p>Vem är Johan?</p> <p>"Who is Johan?"</p>	<p>Du är så vacker!</p> <p>"You're so beautiful!"</p>
<p>Elsa är mycket vacker.</p> <p>"Elsa is very beautiful."</p>	<p>Jag har inte ringt David ännu.</p> <p>I haven't called David yet.</p>
<p>Det är ännu inte mycket folk här.</p> <p>"There are not many people here yet."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *intressant* - "interesting"

This word is most noteworthy for its spelling. Please note that unlike English there is no 'e' following the first 't'. This is the Swedes' concession to the way the word tends to be pronounced even in English. Makes sense, doesn't it?!

2. *folk* - "people"

This is an oft-used word in the Swedish language. It can mean both "people" and "a people." When used as the latter the article is normally being used. When used for referring to people in general there is normally no article.

3. *lång* - "long"

Swedish has two words for the English "long." This one here, *lång*, can also mean "tall." When used with nouns it can refer to long stretches of time or length. But beware, when, for example, saying "it took long" or "I haven't seen her in a long time," Swedish uses the other

word *länge*. Both are adjectives, but *länge* usually stands on its own and then always refers to time.

4. *än(nu)* - "yet"

A very useful word to know indeed, *ännu* may be written and spoken in its full form or as a shortened version *än*. Both are standard usage in Sweden and can be seen in writing and overheard.

5. *som hastigast* - "quickly, in passing"

Not the most common, but a very practical phrase. When expressing that something happened briefly, use *som hastigast*. Also, when wanting to express that an encounter with someone or something only lasted a short while, marking unfamiliarity with the object, situation or person, it is also being used.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is a Review of Greetings and Nationalities

Jaha, och känner du också Holger från Berlin?

"All right, and do you know Holger from Berlin?"

In this lesson, we are repeating the use of greetings, nationalities, and the structures *känner* and *känner till*. This means there is going to be lots of practice and many examples. Also, we will test your knowledge of these areas of Swedish. So, let's get started.

Greetings

The most common greetings in Swedish are of course *hej* ("hello/hi") and *hejdå* ("good-bye"). When leaving it is also very common to say *Vi ses* - "See you."

Common greeting phrases upon meeting someone are *Hur står det till?* - "How are you?," *Hur är det (med ...)?* - "How are things (with ...)?" and more casually *Läget?* - "Alright?."

When you really want to find out how somebody is doing you would most likely use yet another phrase which we haven't introduced so far: *Hur mår du?* - "How do you feel?"

The latter phrase is often used when, for instance, somebody has been ill or is known to still

suffer from some kind of illness, stress or the like. It is normally not used when casually greeting someone. Additionally, you may overhear people using *Hur har du det?* - "How is it going for you?" This is often used by older or more senior people when addressing younger and less senior people. It expresses a certain degree of concern about the other person's wellbeing. There is nothing wrong with using it, but it is recommended and easier to use the options we've already introduced here before. There is a variety of more casual greeting but these undergo permanent changes. You will be able to spot them when and if you're in the country for longer.

Nationalities

To recap nationalities, they can be a bit tricky and are often not too regular. For instance to a French person you could say *fransman*, *fransos* or *en fransk*. To a German you only ever say *en tysk*. To people from England it's most likely *engelsman*, similarly to Norwegians you say *norrman*. Danes are talked about in a similar fashion to Germans, they're simply called *en dansk*.

When talking about females and the nationality in question ends in -sk, an -a is added. Talking about Swedes also works along those lines: *en svensk* (male Swede) - *en svenska* (female Swede).

Where country names feature a continent the nationality is often produced by adding a final -n: *en amerikan* ("American"), *en sydafrikan* ("South African"). But again there is at least one exception: *en australier* ("Australian"). Canadians are called *kanadensare*. Similarly, Italians are called *italienare*. A Spaniard is *en spanjor*, a Portuguese *en portugis*, an Irishman is *en irländare* and similarly a Finn is often *en finnländare*. In the audio part we practice a number of these and their pronunciation more intensely.

Using *känna* and *känna till*

Also, we'd like to take another look at *känna* and *känna till*. When you use the latter you mean you know of someone or something, you know them or it only very briefly: *Jag känner till Brad Pitt*. - "I know of Brad Pitt."

When using the former you indicate that you are indeed quite familiar with whoever or whatever is talked about: e.g. *Jag känner Thomas sedan många år*. - "I've known Thomas for many years."

It is very important to bear this small but significant distinction in mind, because it's easy to actually be misunderstood quite severely when using this wrong.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

All About Swedish Midsummer

In Sweden there are numerous well-known and extremely popular festivals, renowned even beyond Swedish borders. Perhaps the most famous is Midsummer. Midsummer in Sweden is always celebrated on a Saturday between the 19th and 26th of June. It is the old summer solstice that is celebrated here. The exact day or Midsummer's Day in Sweden used to be on the night of the 23rd June. This was, however, changed in 1953 in favor of a holiday that all Swedes could celebrate and thus the weekend was chosen. On Midsummer's Day Swedes raise a maypole (*majstång* or *midsommarstång*) and there is a lot of dancing and singing.

Traditionally this is a festival celebrated with family and friends or locally in small communities. Food and drink are central elements in the celebrations that often already commence around midday. There are many traditional Midsummer songs and dances, and there is often live music at the festivities. Women and girls often wear crests or crowns of flowers in their hair. The flowers are usually wild flowers collected on the day. There is a folk belief that if girls collect seven kinds of flowers and put them under their pillow on Midsummer Night they will dream of their future husband.

There are also often bonfires lit and occasionally people will also dance around the fires and jump across the flames. Contrarily to common belief this hardly ever happens naked. Since the days around Midsummer are the longest of the year, celebrating Midsummer's Day and Eve often goes on well into the night. Many people also take midnight baths and the festivities are generally full of merriment and tend to have a very relaxed atmosphere.

In Sweden people almost expect Midsummer to be a day of bad weather, something that will, naturally, happen from time to time.

Midsummer celebrations are also renowned in a negative way for parties among (mainly) the young that can easily get out of hand with lots of alcohol consumed. It is one of the busiest days of the year for the police and there will always be reports about how many fights had to be calmed down and how many cases of underage drinking had to be tackled in different regions of the country. But despite this, it is a very worthwhile experience to partake when in

Sweden in summer. Beware that traffic into the countryside around big cities may be very heavy and roads often congested. Book early if you're planning to arrange your own Midsummer celebrations.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24

Review Part 2: Talking Numbers in Swedish

CONTENTS

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

24

SWEDISH

1. Ewa: Hej James, vill du ha mitt nya nummer?
2. James: Vad? Ett nytt nummer, igen?
3. Ewa: Ja, jag förlorade tyvärr mobilen, igen. Numret är 070-3145628.
4. James: Förlåt, kan du säga det en gång till?
5. Ewa: 070-3145628
6. James: Okej, 0-7-9-3-1-4-5-6-2-8
7. Ewa: Nej, 0-7-0. Annars stämmer det.
8. James: Tack ska du ha. Hur länge planerar du att behålla mobilen denna gång?
9. Ewa: men skärp dig!

ENGLISH

1. Ewa: Hi James, would you like my new number?
2. James: What? A new number again?
3. Ewa: Yes, unfortunately, I lost my cell phone again. The number is 070-3145628.
4. James: Sorry, can you say that once again?

CONT'D OVER

5. Ewa: 070-3145628.
6. James: OK, 0-7-9-3-1-4-5-6-2-8
7. Ewa: No, 0-7-0. Otherwise it's correct.
8. James: Thanks to you. How long are you planning on keeping the cell phone this time?
9. Ewa: Get lost!

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
behålla	to keep, retain	verb
planera	to plan	verb
annars	otherwise, else	adverb
förlåta	to forgive	verb
mobil	mobile/cell phone	noun
förlora	to lose	verb
nummer	number	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Kan jag behålla mobilen idag?</p> <p>"Can I keep the mobile for today?"</p>	<p>Alvin planerar att stanna i Göteborg.</p> <p>"Alvin is planning to stay in Gothenburg."</p>
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<p>Annars kommer jag inte.</p> <p>"Otherwise, I won't come."</p>	<p>Kan du förlåta mig, snälla?</p> <p>"Can you forgive me, please?"</p>
<p>En mobil är mycket praktisk.</p> <p>"A mobile is very handy."</p>	<p>Jag förlorar på Poker ofta.</p> <p>"I often lose at Poker."</p>

Vad har du för nummer?

"What's your number?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *förlåta* - "to excuse"

We had the verb *ursäkta* ("sorry") in Lesson 2. The verb *förlåta* is fairly similar, but has a more profound scope meaning "to forgive". In their everyday usage as verbs the distinction isn't always as clear-cut. Hearing somebody mumbling *Ursäkta* or *Förlåt* there isn't necessarily a massive difference in the scenario or the sincerity with which it is uttered. However, as nouns *en ursäkt* ("excuse") and *en förlåtelse* ("forgiveness") are quite profoundly and clearly distinct in their scope.

2. *hur länge* - "how long"

In Lesson 23 we looked at the word *lång* and mentioned that it has a counterpart that only refers to time intervals. This is the word *länge*. Whereas long can also refer to spatial length and does refer to time only with an accompanying expression of time, *länge* is always used in a temporal sense. The question *hur länge* means literally translated how long and it is commonly accompanied by a verb phrase: *Hur länge känner du henne?* - "How long have you known her?"

3. *Dra åt helvete* - "Go to hell"

We would never advise anyone to use swearwords themselves in either foreign or native language, but occasionally it is good to know and be aware of them. This phrase is a fairly common thing to be overheard in Swedish. However, it is already quite potent and strong. If someone bids another person *Dra åt helvete* s/he truly wishes that person to vanish quickly.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Reviewing Numbers and Repetition

First up let's take a look at **numbers 0-9** (Lesson 6). In Swedish these numbers are: *noll, ett, två, tre, fyra, fem, sex, sju, åtta, nio*. So for practice purposes it would be a very good idea to take your phone or an address book and just produce some numbers that you find there—both in writing and saying them out aloud.

This could look like this: *Annas telefonnummer är 031-4598627*—"Anna's phone number is 031-4598627." Or you could say *Lennarts mobilnummer är 070-2953814*. "Lennart's mobile/cell number is 070-2953814."

For postcodes it would work like this: *Vad är Saras postkod igen? Alltså den är 428 56*. - "What is Sara's postcode again? Well, it's 428 56."

Just to give all of you some opportunity to practise even when you don't have phone numbers or postcodes at hand, here some random combinations of number for you to practise: 08-3789522, 031-4423986, 070-7450239, 322 90, 725 61, 154 79.

Of course it's absolutely possible and even strongly encouraged to make up your own numbers. The ones used here always follow the pattern of Swedish phone numbers and postcodes, but of course one does not have to adhere to these patterns. Please note, that none of the numbers above are real. All of them have produced entirely at random. So, please don't try them out.

Next we are looking at **numbers ranging from 10-99** (Lesson 11 and Lesson 22). Some of these have only been introduced fairly recently. Here are the numbers 10-19 in Swedish: *tio, elva, tolv, tretton, fjorton, femton, sexton, sjutton, arton, niotton*. The tens have the following values in Swedish: 20 *tju(go)*, 30 *trettio*, 40 *fyrtyo*, 50 *femtio*, 60 *sextio*, 70 *sjuttio*, 80 *åttio*, 90 *nittio*. The larger numbers 100 and 1000 are in Swedish *hundra* and *tusen*. Let's practise some numbers between 10-99 using peoples' age: *Hur gammal är Åke? Åke är 57*. - "How old is Åke? Åke is 57." Now, we will just give you names and numbers and you can fill in the rest (in writing or saying them out aloud) yourself: Lina 12, Pelle 42, Gudrun 78, Martin 17, Claes 33, Hedvig 94, Gunnar 65, Magnus 26. Please practise these further.

Now let's briefly look at numbers in their **hundreds** and **thousands**. We will talk about prices here. *Det gamla iPhone kostar nu bara \$ 199*. "The old iPhone now only costs \$199.", *Den här datorn kostar bara 798 kronor*. - "This computer here only costs 798 Crowns.", *En ny bil kostar minst 8000 kronor*. - "A new car costs at least 8000 Crowns."

Additionally to these numbers, let's take a quick look at the **ordinal numbers** (Lesson 21) as well. We will list all the ordinal numbers up till 20 here. From then on just use the other numbers you have learned and combine. Please practise using your diary—at the same time you can thus obviously repeat the days of the week (Lesson 15). Here are the ordinal numbers. Please note that for days you always add *den* before the ordinal number: 1st *första*, 2nd *andra*, 3rd *tredje*, 4th *fjärde*, 5th *femte*, 6th *sjätte*, 7th *sjunde*, 8th *åttonde*, 9th *nionde*, 10th *tionde*, 11th *elfte*, 12th *tolfte*, 13th *trettonde*, 14th *fjortonde*, 15th *femtonde*, 16th *sextonde*, 17th *sjuttonde*, 18th *artonde*, 19th *nittonde*, 20th *tju(go)nde*.

As for **asking people to repeat themselves** this is best and easiest done by using the phrase *Kan du säga det en gång till?* - "Could you say that again/once more?" You can add a little *tack* or *är du snäll* at the end. You can also substitute *en gång till* ("another time") for the shorter *igen* ("again"). However, do be a bit careful with this, since with the wrong kind of tone you may sound more demanding and doubting than you actually intended.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Swedish Festivals

We are looking at a Swedish festival again here and now. This time we are looking at the Swedish *Kräftskiva*, the yearly crayfish parties in late summer. Swedes love seafood and especially crayfish. There are both salt and fresh water varieties of crayfish and both are cherished at *Kräftskivor* all over the country.

Depending on where you are and how good the connections to inland lakes or the sea are, people tend to have different preferences for either salt or fresh water crayfish. There have even been fights over this issue. Crayfish parties are very common for family, friends, and groups of coworkers. Everyone gathers together, often at a remote cottage in the countryside, and usually around one large table. Hats and napkins with crayfish motifs are passed out and everybody (literally) wears them. How very silly, you might think. Most Swedes do not merely have no problem with this, they love it. And should you ever get the chance to participate in one yourself, I am very positive you will also love them. The crayfish are boiled fresh—and sometimes go from being alive and kicking into boiling water, so nothing for strict Vegetarians—and are cooked with dill as almost the only herb.

It is served with potatoes, salads and other Swedish specialities. You may go off into the

forest before the party to collect some berries for the alcohol. What is very Swedish about a crayfish party is also the drinking. There are lots of little songs (*snapsvisor* or "liquor songs") that people sing before drinking and it is also the manner in which the drinking happens. It's very egalitarian and very Swedish. There is rarely someone at a crayfish party who doesn't drink—unless it's for some medical reason. It's truly quite something to see a group of people getting very merrily drunk at a Swedish crayfish party. Now, of course, there is no necessity to drink, but if you'd like to refrain from it people will ask you why. There may even be a bit of pressure. Medical reasons are always good as an indisputable excuse. Although, a Swedish crayfish party is best enjoyed while doing what everybody else is doing, so in true Swedish spirit.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25

Review Part 3: Weighing Swedish Transportation Options

CONTENTS

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

25

SWEDISH

1. James: Okej Nils, hur tänker du åka in till stan ikväll.
2. Nils: Jag vet inte än. Först måste vi bestämma när vi ska åka.
3. James: Nejmen, var det inte kl 11 vi måste vara framme?
4. Nils: Jo, men kanske man skulle ta en bårs på ölhallen.
5. James: Okej, då kan vi ju ta 9.47 bussen.
6. Nils: Men hur gör vi senare, på vägen tillbaka? Ska vi inte ta cykeln?
7. James: Alltså min cykel är trasig...
8. Nils: Men om vi tar en taxi tillbaka, kostar det jättemycket.

ENGLISH

1. James: OK, Nils, how do you plan to get into town tonight?
2. Nils: I don't know yet. First we have to decide when we will go.
3. James: No but, wasn't it at 11 we have to be there?
4. Nils: Sure, but perhaps we should have a bevvie at the Ölhalle before.
5. James: OK, then we could take the 9.47 bus.

CONT'D OVER

6. Nils: But how shall we do it later, on the way back? Why don't we go by bike?
7. James: My bike is broken...
8. Nils: But if we take a taxi back, it costs very much.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
skulle	should	modal verb
ska	shall, will, have to	modal verb
kosta	to cost	verb
trasig	broken	adjective
cykel	bicycle	noun
inte	not	adverb
tillbaka	back (again)	adverb
framme	in front, to have arrived	adverb
när	when	adverb
tänka	to think	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hanna skulle vara framme kl 7. "Hanna should've arrived at 7 o'clock."	Du ska bestämma hur vi åker dit. "You're going to decide how we get there."
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<p>Lagning kostar alltid en hel del.</p> <p>"Repairs always cost quite a lot."</p>	<p>Men den är trasig idag.</p> <p>"But it is broken today."</p>
<p>Jag åker ofta med cyckeln.</p> <p>"I often take the bike."</p>	<p>Jag kan inte sova.</p> <p>I cannot sleep.</p>
<p>Det vet jag inte.</p> <p>"I don't know that."</p>	<p>Kommer du tillbaka ikväll?</p> <p>"Are you coming back tonight?"</p>
<p>Jag är framme senast kl 8.</p> <p>"I will be there at 8 o'clock at the latest."</p>	<p>När åker du till Italien?</p> <p>"When are you going to Italy?"</p>
<p>När fyller du år?</p> <p>"When is your birthday?"</p>	<p>När kommer du ikväll?</p> <p>"When are you coming tonight?"</p>

Kvinnan tänkte på svaret.

"The woman thought about the answer."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. *tänka* - "to think"

This should be a fairly straightforward piece of vocab. However, the word *tänka* places a few problems for speakers of English and other languages. The word is really only used when referring to the act of sincere thinking and consideration or when stating a very concrete plan—a bit like "going to" in English. If you want to casually give your opinion you use *tycka*, introduced in Lesson 19. When stating a belief you would use *tro*, a verb we haven't introduced yet. So, please use *tänka* carefully.

2. *framme* - "in front, arrived"

This is a very Swedish word, usually denoting that you have arrived somewhere. The original

translation of "in front" is hardly used at all in modern day Swedish. The form *fram* means front and adding an -e plus the then necessary doubling of the final consonant 'm' marks location rather than movement (in analogy with *hemma* - "at home," *hem*—movement towards "home")

3. *inte* - "not"

This may be a bit late into the series, but the most widely used word to denote "not" in Swedish is *inte*. It has been used countless times before and there are other alternatives, but this will and shall suffice for now.

4. *trasig* - "broken"

This word for "broken" is first and foremost to be used with objects. You don't normally use it for say relationships or people. However, if you want to denote that someone is an extremely sorry existence, you may use *trasig*. But please be careful with using the word.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Reviewing Modal Verbs, Traffic Vocabulary, and Small Talk

First up is **modal** verbs. As in all Germanic languages, modal verbs are frequent and not always easy to decode in their exact meaning. However, in form they are very regular insofar as the accompanying verb always stands in the infinitive. Like in our dialogue here *man skulle ta* - "one should take."

The modals we've come across so far in previous lessons are: *måste*, *kan*, *ska*, *skulle*. The latter two have only been formally introduced here. In particular we looked at modals in Lesson 14, including the quasi-modal *hinna*.

In Lesson 18 we introduced another quasi-modal *behöva*. In this lesson's dialogue there is another quasi-modal *tänka*. Quasi-modals can have modal qualities, accompanying other verbs in the infinitive, but they occur more often as full verbs on their own. Naturally, fully-fledged modal verbs can also stand entirely on their own. *Jag måste hem*. - "I have to go home."

In the dialogue of this lesson we have a number of modal constructions: *Hur tänker du åka?* - "How are you planning on going?," then a sentence with two modal constructions subsequently one after the other:

Först måste vi bestämma när vi ska åka. - "First we have to decide when we will go.," *Vi måste vara framme.* - "We have to be there.," *Man skulle ta en bärs.* - "One should have a bevv.,," *Då kan vi ta bussen.* - "Then we can take the bus.," *Ska vi inte ta cykeln?* - "Why don't we take the bike?"

Within a fairly limited dialogue there are a lot of modals being used here. Some are easier and more straight-forward to translate and use than others. The verbs *måste* and *kan* are relatively easy in that respect. *Måste* usually translates as "have to" and *kan* as "can." A little more tricky is *ska*. It can be translated as "shall, will, have to." So, it largely works like English "shall" and "will" as a marker for intent and future actions, but it can also denote necessity or obligation. The last other modal *skulle* is best translated as "should." The three quasi modals *hinna*, *behöva* and *tänka* translate as follows: when functioning as quasi-modals *hinna* is "to manage/to be able to," *behöva* is "to need sth" and *tänka* is "to plan, intend."

The **traffic vocabulary** looked at here has mostly to do with means of transport. When speaking of transportation this usually is done using the word *ta* ("to take") and then stating whatever transport is used (commonly) in the definite form of the noun: *ta bussen* ("take the bus"), *ta cykeln* ("take the bike"), *ta taxin* ("take the taxi"). However, as we can see in the dialogue it is by no means impossible to use the indefinite form either. When our two characters speculate about using a taxi it is the least likely and least preferred alternative. Thus, it is fairly uncertain they will take a taxi and the indefinite form is used. The question commonly associated with transport is *Hur ska vi åka till ...?* - "How shall we get to ...?"

There are a few indicators for **small talk** in the dialogue: the usage of *nejmen* and *bärs* for instance. Both words are very colloquial. When talking to friends Swedes often use forms like *jamen*, *jajamen*, *jajamensan*, *nejmen*. They are largely versions of *ja* ("yes") and *nej* ("no") where the word *men* ("but") has been added. When used with *ja* using such forms usually means that you emphatically support something. You want to assure the other person you're on board and going to go through with something. When using *nej* it is usually to reassure your partner, particularly in cases where some doubt may have arisen. The word *bärs* is just a colloquialism we introduced in Lessons 9 and 10. These kinds of dialectal slang words also always indicate strong familiarity with the person you're talking to.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

[More About Swedish Festivals](#)

We are looking at Swedish festivals again here and now. This time we are looking at *Walpurgis Night* and the 1st May or Mayday celebrations. The festival of *Valborgsmässoafton* is celebrated on the eve of the 1st May. It is perhaps the most important festival for students in Sweden. Particularly in the old university cities of Uppsala and Lund many hundreds of thousands gather for picnicking, boat races, singing and other activities outdoors.

In Lund students often gather in parks for champagne breakfasts and there is a lot of singing. In Uppsala, students race in homemade and easily wreckable boats on the river *Fyrisån*. In Gothenburg many thousands annually watch the march by the students, the so-called Cortège at Chalmers University of Technology and several more thousands attend the choir and other singing in *Trädgårdsföreningens* park, very close to *Kungssportsplatsen* and *Avenyn*. Once again alcoholic beverages play an important role at the festivities, but also seasonal fruits like strawberries.

The festival itself has very diverse roots. As part of the name suggests, it has a Christian component, reaching back to a female English missionary of the 8th century A.D. The origins of the festival, however, date back a lot longer than that. In Celtic societies it was called Beltane, but even the ancient Germanic peoples celebrated the festival. At that time of the year, half of the sun's progress from the spring equinox to the summer solstice (Midsummer) has been completed. Traditionally, fires were lit and the soon to be coming warmer weather welcomed. Later in the 19th and 20th century even unions and leftist movements discovered the 1st May and the eve of that day for their celebrations of working class culture. In the traditionally very leftist regions of Sweden's ore producing regions, to this day unions, social democrats or socialists still arrange festivities for *Valborgsmässoafton*. Maypoles are also often to be seen around this time of the year. As you can there are multiple roots and moderns claims to a truly diverse festival and since the 1st May is always a bank holiday in Sweden it is also possible for most people to enjoy its eve with the prospect of a work-free day the next day.