



DanishClass101.com

LEVEL
2



Danish

Absolute Beginner



Unabridged Edition

innovative LANGUAGE

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Greetings in Danish

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DANISH

1. Mark: Hej.
2. Louise: Hej.
3. Mark: Hvordan går det?
4. Louise: Det går godt. Hvad med dig?
5. Mark: Det går også godt.

ENGLISH

1. Mark: Hi.
2. Louise: Hi.
3. Mark: How's it going?
4. Louise: It's going well. What about you?
5. Mark: It's also going well.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
hej	hi, hello	interjection
hvad med dig	what/how about you?	phrase
det går også godt	it's also going well.	phrase
det går godt	it's going well.	phrase

hvordan	how	adverb
hvordan går det	how's it going?	phrase
hvad	what	pronoun
gå	to go, to pass, to walk, to leave	verb
godt	well, good	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hej, hvad så? "Hi, what's up?"</p>	<p>Jeg går hjem nu. Hvad med dig? "I'm going home now. What about you?"</p>
<p>Det går også godt med forretningen. "It's also going well with the business."</p>	<p>Det går godt for tiden. "It's going well at the moment."</p>
<p>Hvordan kom du hertil? "How did you get here?"</p>	<p>Hvordan kommer vi derhen? "How do we get there?"</p>
<p>Hvordan går det med dit nye arbejde? "How's it going with your new job?"</p>	<p>Hvad er det? "What is that?"</p>
<p>Jeg gik hjemmefra om morgenen, gik på arbejde og gik hele vejen hjem. "I left home in the morning, went to work, and walked all the way home."</p>	<p>Det smager godt. "It tastes good."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Det går godt means "It's going well," and it is the answer you give when someone asks you how things are going. The phrase is composed with the pronoun *det*, which most often means "it;" the verb *går* in the present tense, which literally means "goes;" and the adverb *godt*, which means "well" or "good."

Hvad med dig? means "What about you?" or "How about you?" It usually follows statements in which you have expressed something about yourself and want to show interest in the person you're talking to (for example, after telling how things are going, how you are, what you've been up to lately, what you did last weekend, or what you would like to have, etc.). Asking about the other person is a nice and simple gesture to show interest and consideration.

Det går også godt means "It's also going well." It's the answer you would give to someone whom you've already asked how they're doing and who now has asked about you. Of course, if things aren't going well, remove the adverb *også*, which means "also," "too," or "as well," and replace the adverb *godt* with *skidt*, which means "bad."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Greet People and Ask How They're Doing

Hej. Hvordan går det?

"Hi. How's it going?"

Hej. Hvordan går det? is the most commonly used phrase when greeting people in Denmark, and it is used in the same way as the English "Hi. How's it going?" The phrase can be used at any time of the day when meeting and greeting friends, family, and acquaintances. It's more or less a learned standard phrase, but it's also a way of showing interest and consideration for another person's well-being, condition, feelings, etc., and the speaker expects an answer. Sometimes, the answer can be short, like *Godt*, which means "Well" or "Good," or *Fint*, which means "Fine," or even *Stille og roligt*, which literally means "Quiet and calm," but indicates that there's not much new under the sun. Also, young people especially tend to give answers like *Det går okay*, which means "It's going okay/alright." Of course, if things aren't going well, expect answers like *Det går ikke så godt*, which means "It's not going so well," or *Det går dårligt*, which means "It's going badly."

Verb Form in *Hvordan går det?*

Går is the present tense form of the verb *at gå*, which means "to go," "to pass," "to walk," "to leave," and "to run." Unlike in English, the simple present tense and

continuous present tense of a verb are the same in Danish, which explains why *Hvordan går det?* is equivalent to the English "How's it going?" but literally means "How goes it?"

For example:

1. *Jeg ser fjernsyn hver dag.*
"I watch television every day."
2. *Jeg ser fjernsyn lige nu.*
"I'm watching television right now."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hej. Hvordan går det.*
"Hi. How's it going?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Hej. Hvad så?*
"Hi. What's up?"
2. *Hvordan går det med firmaet?*
"How's it going with the company?"

Language Expansion

When you want to ask about something more specific about a person, you can add *med*, which means "with," followed by what you want to ask about. For example, if you want to ask about someone's progress with an assignment, you can ask *Hvordan går det med opgaven?* which means "How's it going with the assignment?" Instead of asking about a specific object or person, you can also ask about an overall action that involves the specified object or person. For example, *Hvordan går det med at skrive opgave?* means "How's it going with the writing assignment?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Greeting People in Danish

In spoken Danish, there are no formality levels to be considered when meeting

and greeting people-not even when meeting people for the first time. You can say *hej* to anyone at any time in any situation in Denmark. Of course, if you are about to meet your potential future employer and are not sure how to greet him or her properly, you can choose to wait for them to greet you and then greet them similarly. Or, you could raise the bar yourself and use the more formal *Goddag*, which means "Good day." Also, if you want, you can choose to adjust your greeting according to the time of day, but this is completely optional and a matter of preference. *Godmorgen* means "Good morning," *God eftermiddag* means "Good afternoon," and *Godaften* means "Good evening."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2 Self-introductions in Danish

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DANISH

1. Emma: Hej. Jeg hedder Emma. Hvad hedder du?
2. William: Jeg hedder William.
3. Emma: Rart at møde dig.
4. William: I lige måde.

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Hi. My name is Emma. What is your name?
2. William: My name is William.
3. Emma: Nice to meet you.
4. William: Likewise.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
hej	hi, hello	interjection
i lige måde	likewise, the same to you	phrase
jeg	I	pronoun
rart at møde dig	nice to meet you	phrase
hedde	to be called, to be named	verb
jeg hedder	my name is, I'm called	phrase
rart	nice, kind, sweet, pleasant	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hej, hvad så? "Hi, what's up?"</p>	<p>Tak i lige måde. "Thanks, the same to you."</p>
<p>Jeg spiller tennis. "I play tennis."</p>	<p>Jeg er dansk. "I'm Dane."</p>
<p>Det er rart at møde dig. "It's nice to meet you."</p>	<p>Hvad skal din bamse hedde? "What's the name of your bear going to be?"</p>
<p>Hvad hedder gaden? "What is the street called?"</p>	<p>Jeg hedder Mikkelsen til efternavn. "My surname is Mikkelsen."</p>
<p>Det er rart at være her. "It's nice to be here."</p>	<p>Har jeg ikke set dig før? "Haven't I seen you before?"</p>
<p>Hvad med dig? "How about you?"</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Hvad hedder du? literally means "What are you called?" but is usually translated as "What is your name?" It's the most common way to ask someone their name, but, as an alternative, you can also use the phrase *Hvad er dit navn?* which is actually the literal Danish version of "What is your name?"

Rart at møde dig means "Nice to meet you." The phrase is used in the same way

in Danish as it is in English. Therefore, *rart*, which means "nice" or "pleasant," can also be replaced with other words, like *godt*, which means "good," or *dejligt*, which means "lovely."

I lige måde means "Likewise" or "The same to you," but it can also be equivalent to "You too." The phrase is used in the same way as in English.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Introduce Yourself by Saying Your Name

Jeg hedder (...).

"My name is (...)."

Jeg hedder (...) is the most common way of introducing yourself in Danish. As a phrase, it's used when people meet for the first time and say their name. It's the most simple way of introducing yourself, and it can be used in any situation when meeting someone for the first time, since there are no actual formality levels in spoken Danish. You usually start by greeting the person you are introducing yourself to with a *Hej* and then follow by saying *Jeg hedder* and then your name.

If you want to sound more formal in your self-introduction, you can use the phrase *Mit navn er (...)* instead, which literally means "My name is (...)." However, the phrase *Jeg hedder (...)* is used more often because it sounds less formal. Also, if you're in a situation where you'll have to introduce yourself to a larger number of people, some choose to only say their name along with a handshake, perhaps after a *Hej*.

The Verb *Hedder* in *Jeg Hedder (...)*

Hedder is the present tense of the verb *at hedde*, which means "to be called" or "to be named." This means that the phrase *Jeg hedder (...)* should actually be translated as "I'm called (...)" or "I'm named (...)." It still means "My name is (...)" as well, and it's most commonly translated that way because it sounds more natural in English.

For example:

1. *Jeg hedder Lars.*
"My name is Lars." (lit., "I'm called/named Lars.")

2. *Mit navn er Lars.*
"My name is Lars."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hej. Jeg hedder Emma.*
"Hi. My name is Emma."
2. *Jeg hedder William.*
"My name is William."

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg hedder Mikkelsen til efternavn.*
"My surname is Mikkelsen."
2. *Jeg hedder Julie Frederiksen.*
"My name is Julie Frederiksen."

Pronunciation Tip

When it comes to pronouncing *Jeg hedder (...)*, it can be quite difficult to get your tongue wrapped around it. Therefore, it might be easier for absolute beginners to use the phrase *Mit navn er (...)* instead when introducing themselves. But remember that practice makes perfect, so don't give up!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Introducing Yourself in Danish

In Denmark, it is up to you to decide how much information you give when introducing yourself. When saying your name, most people only use their first name, unless, of course, it has been specified by someone before you begin your self-introduction just how much information you are supposed to give (for example, when meeting your new classmates for the first time or meeting people at conventions or get-togethers). If you end up being the lucky first to introduce yourself in front of others, you can set the standard for everyone else's self-introductions, since people often tend to follow the first example. Therefore, depending on the circumstances or given specifications, it's always a good idea to

be prepared and to know how to say how old you are, where you're from, your interests, etc. Master introducing yourself in Danish, and you might just become the most interesting person in the room.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3

Expressing Gratitude in Danish

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DANISH

1. Emma: Tak for gaven. Kunne du tænke dig et stykke kage?
2. Simon: Ja tak.
3. Emma: Her er et stort stykke.
4. Simon: Mange tak.
5. Emma: Det var så lidt.

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Thank you for the gift. Would you like a piece of cake?
2. Simon: Yes, please.
3. Emma: Here's a big piece.
4. Simon: Thank you very much.
5. Emma: You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
tak	thank you, thanks	noun
stor	big, large, great	adjective
kage	cake	noun
du	you	pronoun

det var så lidt	you're welcome, don't mention it	phrase
mange tak	thank you very much, thanks a lot	phrase
ja tak	yes please	phrase
et stykke kage	a piece of cake	phrase
kunne du tænke dig	would you like	phrase
mange	many, a lot, much	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tak for undskyldningen.</p> <p>"Thank you for the apology."</p>	<p>Tak for det gode råd.</p> <p>"Thank you for the good advice."</p>
<p>Den stol er for stor til en lille pige.</p> <p>"That chair is too big for a little girl."</p>	<p>Vi har en stor have.</p> <p>"We have a big garden."</p>
<p>Jeg bagte en kage i går.</p> <p>"I baked a cake yesterday."</p>	<p>Hvad sagde du?</p> <p>"What did you say?"</p>
<p>Åh, det var så lidt.</p> <p>"Oh, you're welcome."</p>	<p>Mange tak til jer alle.</p> <p>"Thank you very much to all of you."</p>
<p>Mange tak for i aften.</p> <p>"Thank you very much for this evening."</p>	<p>Mere kaffe? Ja tak.</p> <p>"More coffee? Yes, please."</p>

Et stykke kage kan ikke skade.

"A piece of cake can't hurt."

Hvad kunne du tænke dig at drikke?

"What would you like to drink?"

Der var mange til festen.

"There were many people at the party."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Ja tak literally means "Yes, thanks" or "Yes, thank you," but it's equivalent to the English "Yes, please." Therefore, it is used in the same way in Danish as it is in English.

Mange tak means "Thank you very much" or "Thanks a lot." The phrase is very straightforward and is used in the same way in Danish as in English.

Det var så lidt means "You're welcome" or "Don't mention it," and it's a phrase that's used in the same way in Danish as in English. It's composed with the word *det*, which is the pronoun "it;" the word *var*, which is the past tense of the verb "to be;" the word *så*, which, in this case, is the adverb "so;" and the word *lidt*, which is an adjective that means "a little" or "a bit." So, the phrase literally means "It was so little," as in, "It was no problem at all."

Ingen årsag is another phrase that means "You're welcome," and it literally means "No reason." Both phrases are equally correct, but Danes tend to use *Det var så lidt* more often than *Ingen årsag*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Express Gratitude by Saying "Thank You"

Tak.

"Thank you/Thanks."

The most common way of expressing gratitude in Danish is by saying *tak*, which means "thank you" or "thanks." Like in English, if you want to specify what you are thanking for, you can add the preposition *for* and follow it with whatever it is that you are grateful for. For example, if you want to thank someone for their help, you would usually say *Tak for hjælpen*, which means "Thanks for the help." Another version could be *Tak for din hjælp*, which means "Thanks for your help." It basically works in the same way in Danish as it does in English.

Tak... for Specified Actions

Danes often specify their expressions of gratitude by including what the person they are thanking did for them after saying *tak*. So instead of only saying *Tak for hjælpen*, you can say *Tak fordi du hjalp med at gøre rent*, which means "Thanks for helping cleaning." To specify your "thank you," we add the conjunction *fordi*, which means "because," and the pronoun *du*, which means "you," followed by whatever action it is that we want to express gratitude for.

For example:

1. *Tak fordi du ventede.*
"Thank you for waiting."
2. *Tak fordi du er så venlig.*
"Thank you for being so friendly."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Tak for gaven.*
"Thank you for the gift."

Sample Sentences

1. *Tak for det gode råd.*
"Thank you for the good advice."

Pronunciation Tip

Sometimes, you will hear Danes make the vowel sound in *tak* a little longer, so it sounds more like *taaak*. This is because it sort of emphasizes gratitude towards someone. But, be careful with the tone, because it can easily be misunderstood by some as condescending, as if you were talking to a child. So, don't forget to smile and make eye contact, if you are going to go with that emphasized *taaak*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Saying "Please" in Danish

In Danish, *tak* means "please" because there is no exact word for "please." So, when someone asks if you'd like to have something or a similar question, and your answer is "Yes, please," simply say *Ja tak*. In other cases, "please" is expressed by saying *vær så venlig* or *venligst*. The former literally means "be so kind," and the latter means "kindest." For example, *Vær så venlig at række mig saltet* literally means "Be so kind and pass me the salt," but it is equivalent to "Pass me the salt, please." And *Ræk mig venligst saltet* literally means "Pass me kindest the salt," but it is also equivalent to "Pass me the salt, please." Since an actual "please" doesn't really exist in Danish, *tak* is the most commonly used word for expressing a polite tone, and it is usually said AFTER you have gotten what you wanted.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4 It's Never Too Late to Apologize in Danish

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DANISH

1. Emma: Undskyld, må jeg komme forbi?
2. Stranger: Åh, undskyld. Står jeg i vejen?
3. Emma: Det gør ikke noget. Tak.

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Excuse me, may I pass?
2. Stranger: Oh, sorry. Am I in the way?
3. Emma: That's alright. Thanks.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
det gør ikke noget	that's/it's alright, it doesn't matter	phrase
åh	oh	interjection
må jeg komme forbi	may I pass	phrase
stå	stand	verb
undskyld	excuse me, sorry, pardon	interjection
i vejen	in the way	phrase
jeg	I	pronoun
ikke	not, no	adverb
noget	some, any, something, anything	pronoun

tak

thank you, thanks

noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Glem det. Det gør ikke noget. "Forget it. It's alright."	Åh, nej! "Oh, no!"
Må jeg komme forbi her? "May I pass here?"	Advokaten står ved busstoppestedet. The lawyer is standing at the bus stop.
Undskyld, jeg løj. "Sorry, I lied."	Undskyld, hvad er klokken nu? "Excuse me, what time is it now?"
Du står i vejen for mig. "You're in my way."	Jeg spiller tennis. "I play tennis."
Jeg er dansk. "I'm Dane."	Jeg tror ikke på jer. "I do not believe you."
Hvorfor ikke? "Why not?"	Jeg tror, jeg så noget derhenne. "I think I saw something over there."
Tak for undskyldningen. "Thank you for the apology."	Tak for det gode råd. "Thank you for the good advice."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Åh is an interjection and means "oh" in English. It's used in the same way in Danish as in English—to express some kind of exclamation. Danes often use *åh* in connection with *ja*, which means "yes," or *nej*, which means "no." So, like the English "oh, yes" and "oh, no," *åh, ja* and *åh, nej* are most commonly used in casual conversation as reactions to someone's story or news, etc.

I vejen means "In the way," but the phrase is not only used in terms of something or someone being in the way. When *i vejen* is part of the phrase *Hvad er der i vejen?* or *Er der noget i vejen?* it means "wrong." The full phrase, *Hvad er der i vejen?* means "What is wrong?" and *Er der noget i vejen?* means "Is something wrong?" *I vejen* also means "wrong" in the phrase *Hvad er der i vejen med dig?* which means "What's wrong with you?" or "What's the matter with you?"

Det gør ikke noget usually means "That's alright" or "It's alright," but the phrase can also mean "It doesn't matter." It's composed with the pronoun *det*, which means "it;" *gør*, the present tense of the verb "to do" or "to make;" the adverb *ikke*, which means "not" or "no," and the pronoun *noget*, which means "some," "any," "something," or "anything." So, the phrase literally means something like "It doesn't something" or "It doesn't anything," which doesn't make much sense in English. Therefore, we say "It doesn't matter" instead.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Say "Sorry"

Undskyld. **"Sorry/Pardon."**

When wanting to express that you are sorry or to apologize, Danes usually use the interjection *undskyld*, which means "sorry" or "pardon." *Undskyld* is used in Danish in the same way that "sorry" is in English, so it is very straightforward to learn. *Undskyld* is sometimes followed by the pronoun *mig*, which means "me." The phrase *Undskyld mig* means "Excuse me," but Danes often leave out *mig* and only say *Undskyld*, even though they mean to say "Excuse me." For example, when you want to pass someone or if you want to get someone's attention, you only need to say *Undskyld*. *Undskyld mig* is most commonly used only when you want to apologize or excuse yourself before making a statement that might not be received well by everyone who is present, or before cutting through in a conversation or discussion in order to get heard and share your opinion. Of course, if you need to leave during a meal or during another activity you and others are engaged in, you can use *Undskyld mig* to excuse yourself. However, as long as you remember *undskyld*, you are ready to apologize or excuse yourself at any time and in any situation.

From Interjection to Verb

Instead of saying *undskyld* when apologizing to someone, you can emphasize how sorry you truly are by saying *Det må du undskyldte*. This phrase literally means something like "That you must excuse," but it's equivalent to "Sorry about that" or "Please excuse/forgive that." It's composed with the pronoun *det*, which means "it" or "that;" *må*, the present tense of the verb "may" or "must;" the pronoun *du*, which means "you," and the verb *undskyldte* in the infinitive form, which means "to apologize," "to excuse," or "to forgive." Also, if you want to apologize for something more specific, you can say *Jeg undskylder* plus whatever it is you want to apologize for.

For example:

1. *Du må undskyldte rodet.*
"Please forgive the mess."
2. *Han undskyldte sin opførsel.*
"He apologized for his behavior."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Undskyld, må jeg komme forbi?*
"Excuse me, may I pass?"
2. *Åh, undskyld.*
"Oh, sorry."

Sample Sentences

1. *Undskyld, jeg løj.*
"Sorry, I lied."

Pronunciation Tip

Undskyld is stressed on the first syllable, and both *d*'s are silent and are therefore not pronounced.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Apologizing in Danish

It may not always be easy to apologize, but it's good to know when an apology is appropriate in Denmark. Danes usually apologize when accidentally bumping into people on the street or stepping on someone's toes and the like. It's also normal to apologize for being late or for not showing up at all when expected. During a meal, it's also normal to excuse yourself if you accidentally (or have to) burp or make other disturbances that might be annoying to others. Of course, many of these scenarios are circumstantial and vary according to who you are, who you are affecting, and how you are affecting them. In crowded places, people can easily get annoyed and perhaps even feel like you bumped into them or stepped on their feet on purpose, so it's a good idea to always have a well-placed *undskyld* ready.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5 Dining Out in Denmark

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DANISH

1. Waiter: Velkommen til! Er du klar til at bestille?
2. Customer: Ja. Må jeg bede om dagens suppe?
3. Waiter: Ja, tak. Hvad kunne du tænke dig at drikke til?
4. Customer: Kan jeg få et glas vand?
5. Waiter: Ja selvfølgelig. Ellers andet?
6. Customer: Det var det hele. Tak.

ENGLISH

1. Waiter: Welcome! Are you ready to order?
2. Customer: Yes. May I have the soup of the day?
3. Waiter: Yes. What would you like to drink with that?
4. Customer: Can I get a glass of water?
5. Waiter: Yes, of course. Anything else?
6. Customer: That's all. Thanks.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
velkommen til	welcome	phrase

kunne tænke sig	would like	phrase
ellers andet	anything else	phrase
bede om	to ask for, to beg for, to request for, to plead for, to urge someone (to do something)	phrase
det var det hele	that's all	phrase
er du klar til at bestille	are you ready to order?	phrase
selvfølgelig	of course	adverb
dagens suppe	soup of the day	phrase
kan jeg få	can I have, can I get	phrase
et glas vand	a glass of water	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Velkommen til Danmark! "Welcome to Denmark!"</p>	<p>Jeg kunne godt tænke mig en is. "I would like an ice cream."</p>
<p>Var der ellers andet, vi skulle købe? "Was there anything else we had to buy?"</p>	<p>Jeg vil gerne bede dig om en tjeneste. "I want to ask you a favor."</p>
<p>Nej, det var det hele. "No, that was all."</p>	<p>Er du klar til at bestille noget at spise? "Are you ready to order something to eat?"</p>
<p>Selvfølgelig må du det! "Of course, you may!"</p>	<p>Vi har ikke mere dagens suppe. "We are out of the soup of the day."</p>

Kan jeg få fjernbetjeningen? "Can I have the remote control?"	Hvor meget koster et glas vand? "How much does a glass of water cost?"
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Er du klar til at bestille? means "Are you ready to order?" This is one of the first things your waiter is going to ask when you've had a look at the menu at a restaurant. If you aren't dining alone, the pronoun *du* is replaced with the second-person plural pronoun *I*, which means "you" or, rather, "ye."

Ellers andet means "anything else." This is what your waiter, store clerk, or shop assistant is going to ask you once you seem to be done ordering or making a purchase. *Er det det hele?* or *Var det det hele?* may also be used. These phrases literally mean "Is that (it) all?" or "Was that (it) all?" But they are equivalent to "Is that everything?" or "Was that all?"

Det var det hele means "That was all" or "That was all of it." It's the phrase you want to use, for example, when letting your waiter know that you're done ordering. But, basically, it's used in the same way in Danish as "That's all" is in English.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask for Something

Må jeg bede om (...)? / Kan jeg få (...)?

"May I have (...), please?" / "Can I have/get (...)"

When you want to ask for an item or service in Danish, you have several options, but the structure of the sentences is very similar. *Må jeg bede om (...)?* means "May I have (...), please?" It's the most polite way of asking for something because of the verb *må*, which is the present tense of *måtte*, meaning "may," "can," or "must." So, you are basically asking for permission to ask for something. *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," and *bede om* means "to ask for," or, more literally, "to beg for," adding further politeness to the phrase (hence, the "please" in the English version). Put together, that gives us *Må jeg bede om (...)?* which literally means "May I ask for (...)" but is equivalent to "May I have (...), please?" as already stated.

Kan jeg få (...)? means "Can I have (...)" or "Can I get (...)" Both *Må jeg bede om (...)?* and *Kan jeg få (...)?* have the same sentence structure. You start with a verb in the present tense form and then a personal pronoun, followed by an infinitive verb.

So, the only thing missing is the item or service you want to ask for, which you simply add at the end of the sentence.

Interchangeable Words

Besides being phrases you can use to get what you want, there's another great thing about *Må jeg bede om (...)?* and *Kan jeg få (...)?* Since there are no formality levels in Danish, you can easily use the words from the phrases interchangeably—as long as you stick to the same sentence structure, of course.

For example:

1. *Kan jeg bede om regningen?*
"Can I have the check, please?"
2. *Må jeg få noget mere kaffe?*
"May I have/get some more coffee?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Må jeg bede om dagens suppe?*
"May I have the soup of the day?"
2. *Kan jeg få et glas vand?*
"Can I have a glass of water?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg vil gerne bede dig om en tjeneste.*
"I want to ask you a favor."

Pronunciation Tip

In spoken Danish, Danes tend to cut off the endings of words and not pronounce the last letter in a word. This varies from person to person, of course, but if you want to ask for something like a native Dane, you should pronounce *Må jeg bede om (...)?* as *Må jeg be' om (...)?* and *Kan jeg få (...)?* as *Ka' jeg få (...)?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Customer Service in Denmark

In comparison to many other countries around the world, Denmark is far behind when it comes to service levels, even in the larger cities such as Copenhagen and Aarhus. Many Danes working in the service industry view their occupation as merely a job for making a living, which often makes waiters, store clerks, or shop assistants seem uncommitted to what they are doing (for example, by not greeting you, not smiling, avoiding eye contact, and sounding like they just woke up). Of course, this doesn't apply to everyone working in the service industry, but don't be surprised if staff members paradoxically seem annoyed by the presence of customers, even in high-end restaurants or stores. But don't let this scare you off completely! Lately, service levels have gradually started to improve due to more focus on tourists, but the Danes still have a way to go. Thank goodness that no one expects to get tips!

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6

Seeing an Old Friend in Denmark

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

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DANISH

1. Troels: Hej Alan! Længe siden.
2. Alan: Hej Troels. Ja, det må du nok sige.

ENGLISH

1. Troels: Hi Alan! Long time, no see.
2. Alan: Hi Troels. Yes, you can say that again.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
længe siden	long time no see	phrase
Ja	Yes	noun
du	you	pronoun
hej	hi, hello	interjection
nok	enough, probably	adjective, adverb
det må du nok sige	you can say that again	phrase
sige	say, tell	verb
måtte	may, can, must, to have to, to be bound to	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det er længe siden, vi har set hinanden.</p> <p>"It's a long time since we've seen each other."</p>	<p>Mere kaffe? Ja tak.</p> <p>"More coffee? Yes, please."</p>
<p>Ja, det er sandt.</p> <p>"Yes. It's true."</p>	<p>Hvad sagde du?</p> <p>"What did you say?"</p>
<p>Hej, hvad så?</p> <p>"Hi, what's up?"</p>	<p>Du har fået nok slik nu.</p> <p>"You've had enough candy now."</p>
<p>Han vil nok ikke med.</p> <p>"He probably doesn't want to come."</p>	<p>Ja, det må du nok sige til en vis grad.</p> <p>"Yes, you can say that again to a certain degree."</p>
<p>Jeg ved ikke, hvad jeg skal sige.</p> <p>"I don't know what to say."</p>	<p>Jeg måtte bare møde dig.</p> <p>"I just had to meet you."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Du is the personal pronoun "you" found in the second-person singular nominative case. It's used exactly the same way in Danish as "you" is in English, so it's very easy and straightforward. Decades ago, personal pronouns were actually used to indicate formality levels in spoken Danish. *Du* was the informal version of "you," while *De* was the formal version, meaning "thou." Danes only use *De* today when addressing the queen or other members of the royal family or when wanting to sound more respectful to the elderly.

Nok means "enough" or "probably." Depending on its position in a sentence, it's either an adjective or an adverb. It more or less works the same way as "probably" does in English, but, for example, *Det tror jeg nok* means "I think so." This sentence uses *nok* to indicate probability, as visible in the English translation, but in this case, you can't directly translate *nok* as "probably." Also, you can use *nok* to say "please" in phrases like *Vil du ikke nok?* which means "Won't you, please?"

Sige means "to say" or "to tell." The verb is used in the same way in Danish as it is in English, but be careful when using it with some nouns. For example, "to tell a

story" is *at fortælle en historie* in Danish, not *at sige en historie*. And the same goes for "to tell a joke," which is *at fortælle en vits*. A rule of thumb is that, whenever you can only use the verb "tell" to express something in English, you should use the verb *fortælle* in Danish instead of *sige*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Say "Long Time, No See" and Answer It

Længe siden. Ja, det må du nok sige.

"Long time no see." "Yes, you can say that again."

When reuniting with an old friend or someone you haven't met in a while in Denmark, you can use the expression *Længe siden* to say "Long time, no see." The phrase is composed with *længe*, which is an adverb and means "for a long time" or just "long." The other component is *siden*, which usually means "since," but depending on whether it's used as a preposition, an adverb, or a conjunction in a sentence, it can also mean "ago," "afterwards," or "later on."

When replying to someone saying *Længe siden*, Danes often say *Ja, det må du nok sige*, which means "Yes, you can say that again" in English. In this case, we've translated the word *nok* as "again" in order to make the English version of the phrase more correct.

Less Is More, Especially in Danish

In spoken everyday Danish, Danes like to express themselves by using the shortest way possible to say something. For example, *Det er længe siden* is the longer version of "Long time, no see," and it literally means "It is long since," which doesn't make much sense in English. Nevertheless, it's perfectly fine to only say *Længe siden*, because everyone knows what you mean. This also goes for replying. *Ja, det må du nok sige* is not a fixed answer to *Længe siden*.

For example:

1. *Det er længe siden. - Ja, det må du nok sige.*
"Long time, no see." - "Yes, you can say that again."
2. *Længe siden. Ja, det er det.*
"Long time, no see." "Yes, it is."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Længe siden.*
"Long time, no see."
2. *Ja, det må du nok sige.*
"Yes, you can say that again."

Sample Sentences

1. *Det er længe siden, vi har set hinanden.*
"It's been a long time since we've seen each other."
2. *Ja, det må du nok sige til en vis grad.*
"Yes, you can say that again to a certain degree."

Language Expansion

By adding the adverb *godt*, which normally means "well" or "good," followed by *nok*, you can express that it's really been a long time since the last time you met. So, the phrase becomes *Det er godt nok længe siden*, and it literally means "It's indeed long ago," but it is equivalent to something like "It's been such a long time" in English.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Warm Greetings in Denmark

Danes are warm-hearted people, and, as you probably know, things can easily become a little awkward when randomly running into an old friend you haven't seen in a long time (who, perhaps, you've hardly been in touch with). Depending on who you are, of course, you'll either be greeted with a hug, as if it's only been a day since the last time you met, or you'll not be greeted with any physical contact at all. Some might shake hands, but this mostly applies to men or to more formal situations, like meetings or big family get-togethers, etc. Younger men, especially, like to use their favorite bro-like handshake with their friends. When meeting someone for the first time and introducing yourself, it's customary to shake hands, but some Danes go straight for the hug. So, don't be surprised if you're met with physical greetings to warm your heart in Denmark.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7 Give in to Your Curiosity and Ask “What's This?” in Danish

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- 2 Danish
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- 2 Vocabulary
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DANISH

1. Mother: Sikke en fin tegning! Hvad er det?
2. Son: Det er en zoologisk have.
3. Mother: Hvad forestiller det der?
4. Son: Det er en elefant.
5. Mother: Okay. Hvad med den der?
6. Son: Det er jo en abe, mor!

ENGLISH

1. Mother: What a nice drawing! What is it?
2. Son: It's a zoo.
3. Mother: What is this meant to be?
4. Son: It's an elephant.
5. Mother: Okay. How about that one?
6. Son: (Don't you see) that is a monkey, Mom!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
sikke	what, some	adjective

det er	it is, this is, that is	phrase
hvad forestiller det	what is it meant to be?	phrase
hvad er det	what is it?	phrase
elefant	elephant	noun
tegning	drawing	noun
jo	of course, obviously (particle of emphasis)	interjection
hvad med	what about, how about	phrase
zoologisk have	zoo	phrase
abe	monkey	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Sikke et dejligt vejr! "What lovely weather!"</p>	<p>Det er min værelseskammerat. "That's my roommate."</p>
<p>Det er et stykke ananas. "It's a piece of pineapple."</p>	<p>Hvad forestiller det maleri? "What's that painting meant to be?"</p>
<p>Hvad er det, du spiser? "What is it you're eating?"</p>	<p>Jeg vil gerne se en lyserød elefant. "I want to see a pink elephant."</p>
<p>Din datter gav mig en tegning. "Your daughter gave me a drawing."</p>	<p>Jeg har jo sagt, at jeg ikke vil med. "I've already told you that I don't want to come."</p>
<p>Hvad med at blive til i morgen? "How about staying till tomorrow?"</p>	<p>I morgen skal vi i zoologisk have. "Tomorrow we're going to the zoo."</p>

Der sidder en lille abe i træet.

"There's a little monkey sitting in the tree."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Hvad forestiller det? means "What is it/this/that meant to be?" The phrase is composed with the pronoun *hvad*, which means "what;" the verb *forestiller* in the present tense form, which means "be meant to be" or "represent;" and *det*, which is a pronoun meaning "it" or "that." It's a way of asking more technically about what something is—for example, in relation to arts and crafts.

Hvad med means "what about" or "how about." It can be followed by an indefinite article and a noun (for example, *Hvad med en sodavand?* meaning "How about a soda?"). Or, it can be followed by a noun with a definite suffix (for example, *Hvad med hunden?* meaning "What/How about the dog?") Or, it's followed by a personal pronoun in the oblique case (for example, *Hvad med dig?* meaning "What/How about you?"). Or, it's followed by a possessive pronoun and at least one noun (for example, *Hvad med din bror og søster?* meaning "What/How about your brother and sister?") Or, it's followed by an action (for example, *Hvad med at gå en tur?* meaning "What/How about going for a walk?"). Or something else! It is used in the same way that "What/How about" is in English.

Jo as an interjection or noun means "yes," and it can be viewed as a more casual version of *ja*. It can also be used to express doubt and uncertainty. For example, if someone wants you to confirm something, but you aren't sure, you can use *jo* instead of the more certain-sounding *ja*. *Jo* as an adverb or conjunction can mean "already" or "after all." For example, *Du har jo set filmen før* means "You have already watched the movie," and *Men det er jo min bedste ven* means "But this is my best friend, after all." *Jo* also means "the" in the expression "the ~ the ~." For example, "the sooner the better" is *jo før jo bedre* in Danish. Finally, *jo* can be used to express that you find something very obvious, meaning "of course" or "obviously." For example, *Han har jo ingen penge* means something like "(Don't you see) he doesn't have any money?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask and Answer What Something Is

Hvad er (...)? Det er (...).

"What is (...)" "It is (...)." / "That is (...)."

When asking what something is in Danish, you use the same sentence pattern as when asking what something is in English. *Hvad er (...)?* means "What is (...)?" and the phrases are used similarly in both languages. First, you have the pronoun *hvad*, and secondly, the verb *er*, which is the present tense form of "to be." Now, by adding the pronoun *det*, you are asking *Hvad er det?* This means "What is it?" "What is this?" or "What is that?" in English. It refers to the object, item, or phenomenon you are asking about.

If someone has asked you *Hvad er det?* you can answer by using the same sentence pattern as you would in English. *Det er (...)* means "It is (...)," "This is (...)," or "That is (...)." The pronoun *det* refers to whatever it was the person was asking about, and *er* is the verb "is." And now, you simply add the noun or description that matches the thing you were asked about.

***Hvad Er (...)?* Followed by a Subject**

Specifying your question can often make it easier to know exactly what it is you're asking about. Adding a subject at the end of the phrase *Hvad er (...)?* provides further specification to the person being asked to identify what something is. Like in English, the subject can be one or several words.

For example:

1. *Hvad er fuldkornsbrød?*
"What is wholemeal bread?"
2. *Hvad er navnet på det dyr?*
"What is the name of that animal?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hvad er det?*
"What is it?"
2. *Det er en zoologisk have.*
"It's a zoo."
3. *Det er en elefant.*
"It's an elephant."
4. *Det er jo en abe, mor!*
"(Don't you see) that is a monkey, mom!"

Sample Sentences

1. *Hvad er det, du spiser?*
"What is it you're eating?"
2. *Det er et stykke ananas.*
"It's a piece of pineapple."

Pronunciation Tip

Danes often cut off the last letter of a word when speaking, but they also tend to merge words. For example, when asking *Hvad er (...)?* you will hear it pronounced *Va' er (...)?* The letter *h* before *-v* is always silent, but sometimes the *-d* following a vowel is also cut off in spoken Danish. And you may hear *Det er (...)* pronounced *De' (...)*. The *-t* in the word *det* is silent, but it's necessary to prevent it from being pronounced *de* with an *i*-sound, which usually means "they." *Er* has been merged with *det*, making it disappear, and, instead, the vowel sound in *det* is extended slightly to indicate the *er*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Asking Questions in Danish

Danes may come off as a bit reserved and not that approachable, which might keep you from asking random people on the street about what something is. But don't hesitate to ask questions, because people are more than happy to answer them as best they can. Even though most Danes speak sufficient English, some may still feel insecure about it and avoid eye contact if they can tell from a distance that you are stuck with a question and just dying to get it answered by someone. But they will be thrilled when they hear you ask your question in Danish! In case you want to make sure you can get your answer in English as well, your chances are best if you try asking people who look like high school students or college students. They are used to speaking English quite often at that point in their lives. Of course, if you're in a store or at a restaurant or the like, ask the nearest staff member, even if they also seem a bit reserved and unapproachable.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8 Get Acquainted with Your Friends' Friends in Danish

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- 2 English
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DANISH

1. Emma: Hej. Hvem er det?
2. William: Det er Peter. Fra USA.
3. Emma: Hej Peter.
4. Peter: Hej. Hvem er du?
5. Emma: Jeg er Williams veninde Emma.

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Hi. Who's this?
2. William: This is Peter. From America.
3. Emma: Hi Peter.
4. Peter: Hi. Who are you?
5. Emma: I'm William's friend Emma.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
jeg er	I am	phrase
hvem er det	who is it?, who is this?, who is that?	phrase
det er	it is, this is, that is	phrase

fra	from	
hvem er du	who are you?	phrase
veninde	(female) friend	noun
hvem	who	pronoun
være	to be	verb
du	you	pronoun
jeg	I	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg er klar til at spille! "I'm ready to play!"</p>	<p>Jeg er sulten. "I am hungry."</p>
<p>Hvem er det derovre? "Who is that over there?"</p>	<p>Det er min værelseskammerat. "That's my roommate."</p>
<p>Det er et stykke ananas. "It's a piece of pineapple."</p>	<p>Det her er fra Japan. "This is from Japan."</p>
<p>Hvem er du uden mig? "Who are you without me?"</p>	<p>Hun er bare en god veninde. "She's just a good friend."</p>
<p>Han ved ikke, hvem det er. "He doesn't know who it is."</p>	<p>Det er rart at være her. "It's nice to be here."</p>
<p>Hvor har du været hele mit liv? "Where have you been all my life?"</p>	<p>Hvad sagde du? "What did you say?"</p>
<p>Jeg spiller tennis. "I play tennis."</p>	<p>Jeg er dansk. "I'm Dane."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Fra USA means "from America" (or "from the United States of America," of course). Danes usually say *USA* instead of *Amerika*, but you can use both interchangeably.

Veninde means "female friend." By adding *-inde* to the word *ven*, which means "friend," you indicate that it's a female friend. *Veninde* usually only applies to female friends, while *ven* can apply to both male and female friends. You can add *-inde* to nouns like *skuespiller*, which means "actor," or *sanger*, which means "singer," if you want to specify the gender. So, *skuespiller* becomes *skuespillerinde* and *sanger* becomes *sangerinde*.

Være is the verb "to be" in the infinitive or dictionary form. Unlike with the English "be," the conjugation of the Danish *være* is very easy to learn. The present tense form is always *er*, the past tense form is always *var*, the present perfect tense form is always *har været* (which uses the auxiliary verb *have* in present tense), and the past participle is always *havde været* (which uses *have*, but in the past tense form). The tenses do not vary according to person, like in English.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask and Answer Who Someone Is
Hvem er det?/Hvem er du? Det er (...).

"Who is it/this/that?"/"Who are you?" "It/This/That is (...)."

It's actually rare for Danes to directly ask someone *Hvem er du?* which means "Who are you?" because just a slightly wrong tone can make you sound accusing. Instead, it's more common to ask someone you know if they know who the person you don't know is. When asking *Hvem er det?* you are asking "Who is it/this/that?" The phrase is composed from the pronoun *hvem*, which means "who;" the verb *er*, which means "is;" and the pronoun *det*, which refers to the person you are asking about.

Usually, you only use this phrase when the person cannot hear you. But, if one of your friends has a new girlfriend or boyfriend, for example, you can ask *Hvem er det?* in a joyful tone, while looking at both of them before, perhaps, introducing yourself. If you do decide to use *Hvem er du?* be careful that you don't come off as offensive instead of genuinely interested. You can answer both *Hvem er det?* and *Hvem er du?* with *Det er (...)* followed by who the person is.

The Replaceable Pronoun in *Hvem er det?*

If you want to specify who you are asking about, you can replace the pronoun *det*

in the phrase with other pronouns. When referring to a boy or man, you can replace *det* with *han*, so the phrase becomes *Hvem er han?* which means "Who is he?" And, when referring to a girl or woman, you can replace *det* with *hun*, so the phrase becomes *Hvem er hun?* which means "Who is she?" As in English, you can also replace *det* with either a noun with definite suffix, a modifying noun in the genitive case followed by another noun, or a possessive pronoun followed by a noun.

For example:

1. *Hvem er manden?*
"Who is the man?"
2. *Hvem er bilens ejer?*
"Who is the owner of the car?"
3. *Hvem er hendes mand?*
"Who is her husband?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hvem er det?*
"Who is it/this/that?"
2. *Hvem er du?*
"Who are you?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Hvem er det derovre?*
"Who's that over there?"
2. *Hvem er du uden mig?*
"Who are you without me?"

Language Expansion

If you want to add a helpful adjective to your sentence, further indicating who you're asking about, you have two options. When using the pattern *Hvem er* plus a noun, you add a prepositive *den*, which means "the," and the adjective conjugated in the so-called e-form before the noun. As indicated by the name, Danish e-form adjectives usually end with an -e.

For example:

1. *Hvem er den flotte fyr?*
- 2.
3. "Who's the handsome guy?"
- 4.

In this phrase, we've used the adjective *flot*, which means "handsome" and has been conjugated in the e-form.

In spoken Danish, when using the pattern *Hvem er* plus a personal pronoun in the oblique case, you add a prepositive *den*, then an adjective conjugated in the e-form, and, finally, a noun.

For example:

1. *Hvem er ham den flotte fyr?*
"Who is he, the handsome guy?" (lit., "Who is him the handsome guy?")

The two sentence patterns look as follows:

1. ***Hvem er* + *den* + adjective + noun**
2. ***Hvem er* + personal pronoun + *den* + adjective + noun**

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Introducing People in Danish

Danes usually introduce themselves when meeting friends or family of friends, but when bringing along someone to a party or get-together where he or she doesn't know anyone, you can be sure they'll be introduced to everyone there. Of course, it depends on who you are, who you're with, and the situation, but the people you introduce to each other usually shake hands. Alternatively, especially among younger Danes, it's alright to just say *hej* and leave the handshake for more formal occasions, like business meetings and the like. When introducing someone, it's common to say the person's name and perhaps your relationship (for example, through school, work, or leisure activities). Some only choose to say people's

names and leave out everything else, so people have the option of small-talking when getting to know each other on their own terms through basic, typical questions about their occupation, education, interests, etc.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9

What Do You Call a Danish in Danish?

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- 6 Cultural Insight

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DANISH

1. Peter: Wow, er det wienderbrød?
2. William: Ja, det er det.
3. Peter: Er det en kanelsnegl?
4. William: Nej, det er det ikke. Det er en spandauer.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Wow, is that a Danish pastry?
2. William: Yes, it is.
3. Peter: Is that a cinnamon roll?
4. William: No, it is not. That is a spandauer. (another kind of pastry).

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
nej	no	interjection
er det	is it, is this, is that	phrase
wienerbrød	Danish pastry (lit. Viennese bread)	noun
Ja	Yes	noun
det er det	it is, that it is	phrase
ikke	not, no	adverb

kannelsnegl	cinnamon roll (lit. cinnamon snail)	noun
spandauer	name of a specific kind of pastry	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Nej, tak. Jeg er mæt. "No thanks. I'm full."	Nej. Det er ikke sandt. "No. It's not true."
Er det spiseligt? "Is it edible?"	Lunt wienerbrød. "Warm Danish pastry."
Mere kaffe? Ja tak. "More coffee? Yes, please."	Ja, det er sandt. "Yes. It's true."
Det er det, jeg siger. "That is what I'm saying."	Jeg tror ikke på jer. "I do not believe you."
Hvorfor ikke? "Why not?"	To kannelsnegle. "Two kannelsnegle (cinnamon rolls)."

Jeg har taget en spandauer med til dig.

"I've brought you a spandauer."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Wienerbrød literally means "Viennese bread," but most people know it as "Danish pastry," or simply "Danish." The gender of the noun is only clear when the definite suffix is added, so it becomes *wienerbrødet*, which means "the Danish pastry." The *-et* makes it so that *wienerbrød* is a neuter gender noun.

Det er det literally means something like "It is that," but when it's used as part of a

longer sentence, the phrase means "it is" or "that is." For example, *Det er det, vi er her for* means "That is what we are here for."

Ikke is an adverb and means "not" or "no." It's used the same way in Danish as "not" is in English, so it's very straightforward and easy to learn how to use. For example, *Jeg har ikke set ham* means "I have not seen him," and *Det er ikke bedre end før* means "It's no better than before."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Form a Question and How to Answer It

Er det (...)? Det er (...).

"Is it/this/that (...)?" "It/this/that is (...)."

When uncertain about what something or who someone is, you can form a question to have your presumption confirmed by the use of *Er det (...)?* This means "Is it (...)?" "Is this (...)?" or "Is that (...)?" And you simply add the name of the object, item, phenomenon, or person you want to have confirmed. For example, when going sightseeing, if you aren't sure whether you're at the right place, you can use *Er det (...)?* to ask and have someone confirm it for you. Also, when suddenly spotting a familiar face somewhere, you can use the phrase to ask and have someone confirm whether or not the person is the Danish celebrity you think it is. For example, *Er det Det Kongelige Teater?* means "Is this The Royal Theater?" and *Er det Nikolaj Coster-Waldau fra Game of Thrones?* means "Is that Nikolaj Coster-Waldau from *Game of Thrones*?"

For answering questions like these, you can use the good old *Det er (...)*, which means "It is (...)," "This is (...)," or "That is (...)." When confirming that someone's presumption is correct, you can simply add the pronoun *det*, so the phrase becomes *Det er det*, which means "It is." When someone's presumption isn't correct, you can simply say *nej*, which means "no," followed by *Det er (...)* and the correct answer. For example, *Nej, det er Det Kongelige Bibliotek* means "No, it is The Royal Library." Or *Nej, det er bare en fyr* means "No, it is just a guy."

As in English, you can add the adverb *ikke*, which most commonly means "not," in order to express that you are almost certain about what something or who someone is. In Danish, the phrase becomes *Er det ikke (...)?* which means "Isn't it (...)?" "Isn't this (...)?" or "Isn't that (...)?" Then, you simply add the name of the object, item, phenomenon, or person you are almost certain about but want to have confirmed just in case. You can also use the phrase as it is, without adding anything.

Also, you can add *ikke* when saying that someone's presumption isn't correct. For example, *Det er ikke Nikolaj Coster-Waldau* means "It's not Nikolaj Coster-Waldau." Or, you can simply add both the pronouns *det* and *ikke*, so the phrase becomes *Det er det ikke*, which means "It is not."

Usage of the Sentence Structure to Form Questions

Danish is an SVO language. Therefore, when forming questions, the word order changes like it does when forming questions in English. Instead of SVO, it becomes VSO, or...

verb + subject + object?

Some examples are *Spiller du skak?* which means "Do you play chess?" or *Spiste du din madpakke?* which means "Did you eat your packed lunch?" or *Har du været i USA?* which means "Have you been to America?"

For example:

1. *Er det ikke din kone?*
"Isn't this your wife?"
2. *Er det ikke?*
"Isn't it?"
3. *Det er ikke et legetøj.*
"It's not a toy."
4. *Kommer du senere?*
"Are you coming later?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Er det wienerbrød?*
"Is that Danish pastry?"
2. *Ja, det er det.*
"Yes, it is."
3. *Er det en kanelnegl?*
"Is that a *kanelnegl* (cinnamon roll)?"
4. *Nej, det er det ikke. Det er en spandauer.*
"No, it's not. That's a *spandauer* (another specific kind of pastry)."

Sample Sentences

1. *Er det spiseligt?*
"Is it edible?"
2. *Det er det, jeg siger.*
"That's what I'm saying."
3. *Det ved jeg ikke.*
"I don't know."

Language Expansion

Like in English, you can also add adjectives instead of names of things or people to *Er det (...)?* in Danish. Just remember that the adjectives should often end with *-t* because *det* usually refers to neuter gender nouns, while *den* refers to common gender nouns. Take, for example, *Er det billigt?* which means "It is cheap?" or *Er det smukt?* which means "It is beautiful?" as opposed to *Er den billig?* or *Er den smuk?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Pastries

Denmark, along with the other Scandinavian countries, is world-famous for pastries and bread rolls. Ironically, the Danish pastry is of Viennese origin, which is why it is called *wienerbrød* in Danish. Danish pastries and bread rolls come in a variety of shapes with different toppings and fillings, but another characteristic is their names. Take, for example, *kanelnegl*, or *kanelbolle*, which is a cinnamon roll, and *Spandauer*, which refers to a specific part of Berlin in Germany. This type of Danish is also popularly known among the Danes as *bagerens dårlige øje*, which literally means "the baker's bad eye," because it is a round piece of pastry with custard or jam in the middle. There is also *håndværker*, which literally means "craftsman" and refers to a bread roll with black poppy seeds as a topping. *Giffel* is also a bread roll, but instead of being round, it's shaped as a crescent. The name doesn't mean anything—it only refers to this specific bread roll.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10 Where in Denmark Did You Leave Your Wallet?

CONTENTS

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

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DANISH

1. Clerk: Ellers andet?
2. Emma: Nej, tak.
3. Clerk: Er det din pung?
4. Emma: Nej, det er ikke min. Undskyld?
5. Customer: Ja?
6. Emma: Er det din pung?
7. Customer: Gud ja, det er min. Mange tak.

ENGLISH

1. Clerk: Anything else?
2. Emma: No, thanks.
3. Clerk: Is this your wallet?
4. Emma: No, it's not mine. Excuse me?
5. Customer: Yes?
6. Emma: Is this your wallet?
7. Customer: Oh yes, that's mine. Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
undskyld	excuse me, sorry, pardon	interjection
ellers andet	anything else	phrase
nej tak	no thanks	phrase
er det	is it, is this, is that	phrase
det er ikke min	it's not mine	phrase
gud ja	oh yes (lit. God yes)	phrase
mange tak	thank you very much, thanks a lot	phrase
din	your, yours	pronoun
pung	wallet	noun
det er min	it's mine	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Undskyld, jeg løj. "Sorry, I lied."</p>	<p>Undskyld, hvad er klokken nu? "Excuse me, what time is it now?"</p>
<p>Var der ellers andet, vi skulle købe? "Was there anything else we had to buy?"</p>	<p>Nej, tak. Jeg er mæt. "No thanks. I'm full."</p>
<p>Er det spiseligt? "Is it edible?"</p>	<p>Det er ikke min dag i dag. "It's not my day today."</p>
<p>Gud ja! Det er hendes fødselsdag i morgen. "Oh yes! It's her birthday tomorrow."</p>	<p>Mange tak til jer alle. "Thank you very much to all of you."</p>

<p>Mange tak for i aften.</p> <p>"Thank you very much for this evening."</p>	<p>Din datter gav mig en tegning.</p> <p>"Your daughter gave me a drawing."</p>
<p>Din nøgle er her.</p> <p>"Your key is here."</p>	<p>Jeg har mistet min pung.</p> <p>"I've lost my wallet."</p>
<p>Det er min tur nu!</p> <p>"It's my turn now!"</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Undskyld means "sorry" or "pardon." As we learned in a previous lesson, it's used to apologize, like in English. By adding the pronoun *mig*, which means "me," you can say *Undskyld mig*. This phrase means "Excuse me."

Gud ja literally means "God yes," but it's equivalent to something like "Oh yes" or "Oh (that's right)" in English. The expression is often used when you suddenly realize something—for example, *Gud ja, klokken er mange*, which means "Oh (that's right), it's late," or *Gud ja, det havde jeg glemt*, which means "Oh (that's right), I forgot about that." *Gud ja* is composed with the noun "God" and the interjection "yes."

Pung means "wallet" or "purse" and is used the same way in Danish as it is in English. However, *pung* can also refer to a kangaroo's pouch. It's a common gender noun, which means that "a wallet" is *en pung*, and "the wallet" is *pungen*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Use Possessive Pronouns
Er det din pung?
"Is this your wallet?"

Danish possessive pronouns are used the same way as in English when it comes to their positioning in a sentence. The following table will provide a simple overview of the most commonly used Danish possessive pronouns:

	Common	Neuter	Plural	English
First person singular	<i>min</i>	<i>mit</i>	<i>mine</i>	"my/mine"
Second person singular	<i>din</i>	<i>dit</i>	<i>dine</i>	"your/yours"
Third person singular (masculine)	<i>hans</i>	<i>hans</i>	<i>hans</i>	"his"
Third person singular (feminine)	<i>hendes</i>	<i>hendes</i>	<i>hendes</i>	"her/hers"
Reflexive	<i>sin</i>	<i>sit</i>	<i>sine</i>	"his, her"
First person plural	<i>vores</i>	<i>vores</i>	<i>vores</i>	"our/ours"
Second person plural	<i>jeres</i>	<i>jeres</i>	<i>jeres</i>	"your/yours"
Third person plural	<i>deres</i>	<i>deres</i>	<i>deres</i>	"their/theirs"
Reflexive	<i>deres</i>	<i>deres</i>	<i>deres</i>	"their"

To ask whether an object belongs to someone, you use the same sentence structure as we learned in the previous lesson. For example, *Er det din pung?* means "Is this your wallet?" It's composed of *Er det*, which means "is this;" the possessive pronoun *din*, which means "your;" and the singular common gender noun *pung*, which means "wallet." The structure is very straightforward and easy to learn because it's similar to the English version.

Usage of Possessive Pronouns with Nouns

Possessive pronouns express possession, and, therefore, it's important to remember that there are two types of nouns in Danish. As demonstrated in the table, you express possession of a singular, common gender noun by placing the possessive pronoun *min*, which means "my," in front of it. Possession of a singular, neuter gender noun is expressed by placing the possessive pronoun *mit*, which

also means "my," in front of it. Also, like in English, possessive pronouns are not necessarily followed by a noun, which is demonstrated in the dialog of this lesson.

For example:

1. *Det er min bil.*
"It's my car."
2. *Det er mit bedste forslag.*
"It's my best proposal."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Er det din pung?*
"Is this your wallet?"
2. *Nej, det er ikke min.*
"No, it's not mine."
3. *Gud ja, det er min.*
"Oh yes, that's mine."

Sample Sentences

1. *Det er ikke min dag i dag.*
"It's not my day today."
2. *Det er min tur nu!*
"It's my turn now!"
3. *Din nøgle er her.*
"Your key is here."

Language Tip

The reflexive pronoun is used when the possessive is the same as the subject of a sentence. Take, for example, *Manden mistede sin pung*, which means "The man lost his (own) wallet," or *Pigen fandt sine nøgler*, which means "The girl found her (own) keys."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Carrying Cash in Denmark

Most Danes own at least one credit card, and they gradually tend to use plastic more often than cash when making a purchase. Some carry only a little or no cash at all because they always pay with a credit card anyway. It is rare to find places that don't take credit cards, but such places do still exist, though. Therefore, it's a good idea to keep some cash on you if you are planning on going on a shopping spree adventure in areas outside the main shopping streets or at flea markets, small bazaars, or garage sales. You also need coins to temporarily pay for your shopping cart at most supermarkets. When getting a cart, you insert the coin into the lock on the cart's handle, and it will be returned to you once you've reattached it to another cart. Some Danes, though, may have a keychain that matches the size of the coin used for shopping carts, which is perfectly fine to use instead of an actual coin.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11 Help Yourself to This Delicious Danish Dish!

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

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DANISH

1. Emma: Værsgo!
2. William: Lækkert! Brændende kærlighed!
3. Peter: Hvad er brændende kærlighed?
4. Emma: Det er kartoffelmos med stegte løg og bacon.
5. Peter: Mmm, mums!

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Help yourself!
2. William: Yummy! Brændende kærlighed!
3. Peter: What is brændende kærlighed?
4. Emma: It's mashed potatoes with fried onion and bacon.
5. Peter: Mmm, yum!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
kartoffelmos	mashed potatoes	noun
værsgo	here you are, dinner is ready, help yourself, please	interjection

lækker	delicious, yummy, gorgeous, dishy	adjective
brændende kærlighed	name of a Danish dish (lit. burning love)	phrase
med	along, with, by, in	adverb, preposition
mums	yum	
hvad er	what is, what are	phrase
stegte løg og bacon	fried onion and bacon	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vi fik kartoffelmos med sovs.</p> <p>"We had mashed potatoes with gravy."</p>	<p>Værsgo, tag noget slik.</p> <p>"Help yourself to some candy."</p>
<p>Det smager lækkert!</p> <p>"It tastes delicious!"</p>	<p>Jeg har lyst til at spise brændende kærlighed.</p> <p>"I feel like eating brændende kærlighed."</p>
<p>Jeg går med jer.</p> <p>"I'm going with you."</p>	<p>Jordbæris! Mums!</p> <p>"Strawberry ice cream! Yum!"</p>
<p>Hvad er det værste, der kunne ske?</p> <p>"What's the worst that could happen?"</p>	<p>Ingen stegte løg og bacon til mig.</p> <p>"No fried onion and bacon for me."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Lækker is an adjective and means "delicious" or "yummy" when referring to food and beverages. Remember to add a *-t* when you are referring to a neuter gender noun. For example, if you want to say "a delicious meal," it's *et lækkert måltid* in

Danish. *Et* is the indefinite article "a," and *måltid* is the neuter gender noun "meal." You also add *-t* if you want to say "It's delicious." In Danish, that's *Det er lækkert*. *Det* is the pronoun "it," which is most commonly used when referring to a neuter gender noun. When referring to a common gender noun, use *den* instead of *det*. Finally, you can also use *lækker* to refer to someone's looks. For example, *Han er lækker* means "He is gorgeous" or "He is dishy/hot."

Med as an adverb means "along." For example, *Kom med!* means "Come along!" and *Hun tog nogle venner med til festen* means "She brought some friends along to the party." *Med* as a preposition has several meanings, such as "with," "by," and "in," and is used the same way in Danish as in English. For example, *Kom med os* means "Come with us," *De kørte med bus* means "They went by bus," and *Med andre ord* means "In other words." *Med* can also mean "about" in the sentence "What about me?" which is *Hvad med mig?* in Danish.

Mums means "yum" or "yum yum" in English and is used to express that something is delicious or tasty. Alternatively, you can say *namnam*, but this is mainly used when feeding or talking to smaller children.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Say and Use "Help Yourself" **Værsgo!** **"Help yourself!"**

When everyone is sitting down and ready to eat, the person or people who prepared the dinner usually say *værsgo*, which means "help yourself" or, literally, "here you go," and then everyone can go ahead. Some Danes also say *værsgo* before everyone has gathered around the table to let people know that dinner is ready and it's time to eat.

Værsgo can also be used when offering someone something. For example, *Værsgo, tag en sodavand* means "Help yourself to a soda" or "Go ahead, have a soda." You also say *værsgo* when handing or passing someone something. For example, *Værsgo, det er til dig* means something like "Here you are, this is for you."

Using *Værsgo* to Say "Please"

Værsgo can be used to say "please" when followed by the infinitive marker *at*, which means "to," and a verb in infinitive or dictionary form. Here's the sentence structure:

***værsgo* + *at* + infinitive**

For example:

1. *Værsgo at sidde ned.*
"Please sit down."
2. *Værsgo at spise.*
"Please eat."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Værsgo!*
"Help yourself!"

Sample Sentences

1. *Værsgo, tag noget slik.*
"Help yourself to some candy."

Language Tip

Værsgo is actually a contraction of the interjection *værsgågod*, which literally means "be so good," but it is used in the same way as *værsgo*, of course.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The New Age of Danish Cuisine

Danish cuisine has, during the last couple of years, truly made itself visible on the culinary world map. Danish chefs in Copenhagen have been leading the new Nordic food wave with new, but yet old, takes on traditional Denmark dishes or completely new combinations of well-known ingredients and flavors. Contemporary Danish gourmet dishes are made with local ingredients that change according to season and availability, so there's always something new and interesting on the menu. The cooking style focuses on the individual products rather than on the modern techniques we have developed to make gourmet cooking easier. This is why older techniques, such as drying, smoking, and pickling, are used instead. Hay, pine, or other natural resources are also used in the cooking process to add a more authentic or natural flavor to the dishes, so the ingredients are done justice.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12 This Danish Dish is Called What?!

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

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DANISH

1. Emma: Kan du lide maden?
2. Peter: Ja, det kan jeg.
3. William: Kan du fortælle Emma, hvad vi spiste i går?
4. Peter: Beklager, jeg kan ikke huske navnet på retten. Må jeg få navnet igen?
5. William: Forloren hare.

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Do you like the food?
2. Peter: Yes, I do.
3. William: Can you tell Emma what we ate yesterday?
4. Peter: Sorry, I can't remember the name of the dish. May I have the name again?
5. William: Forloren hare.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
ikke	not, no	adverb
kunne	be able to, can, may, know how to, know	verb

fortælle	tell	verb
spise	eat	verb
i går	yesterday	phrase
beklage	regret, be sorry	verb
huske	remember, recollect, recall	verb
navnet på retten	the name of the dish	phrase
måtte	may, can, must, to have to, to be bound to	verb
igen	again, back	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg tror ikke på jer. "I do not believe you."</p>	<p>Hvorfor ikke? "Why not?"</p>
<p>Jeg kunne ikke spise det hele. "I couldn't eat it all."</p>	<p>Fortæl mig en historie. "Tell me a story."</p>
<p>Spiser du fisk? "Do you eat fish?"</p>	<p>De mødtes i går. "They met yesterday."</p>
<p>Jeg beklager det, der skete. "I regret what happened."</p>	<p>Han kan ikke huske noget, der skete før ulykken "He doesn't remember anything that happened before the accident."</p>
<p>Kvinden huskede nummeret. The woman remembered the number.</p>	<p>Kender I navnet på retten? "Do you know the name of the dish?"</p>

Jeg måtte bare møde dig.

"I just had to meet you."

Jeg siger det ikke igen.

"I am not saying it again."

Ikke igen!

"Not again!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

I går means "yesterday" and is used exactly the same way in Danish as it is in English. Even though it's composed with *i* and *går*, they both together mean "tomorrow."

Beklage means "regret" or "be sorry." As the translations suggest, this verb is used to express regret or when you are sorry about something. Danes most commonly only use the word in the present tense and without a personal pronoun, unlike other verbs. For example, *Beklager meget* means "Very sorry," but the personal pronoun is implicit. Of course, you can add a personal pronoun if you want, so the sentence becomes *Jeg beklager meget*, for example, which means "I'm very sorry." You don't really use it to apologize like you do when saying *undskyld*, which we learned in a previous lesson. You will most likely hear it from someone working in a store, if they are out of something.

Navnet på retten means "the name of the dish." The first word, *navnet*, is the neuter gender noun "name" with the definite suffix *-et*. The second word, *på*, means "of" in this case, and *retten* is the common gender noun "dish" with the definite suffix *-en*. You can replace *retten* with any other noun like in English.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Use the Verbs *Kunne* and *Måtte* to Ask About Ability or for Permission

Beklager, jeg kan ikke huske navnet på retten. Må jeg få navnet igen?
"Sorry, I can't remember the name of the dish. May I have the name again?"

Danes usually use the verb *kunne* to express ability. *Kunne* most commonly means "be able to" or "can." It's used together with another verb in the infinitive form that describes an ability. For example, *Kan du spille poker?* means "Can you play poker?" *Kan* is the verb *kunne* in the present tense, *du* is the second-person pronoun "you," *spille* is the infinitive form of the verb "play," and *poker* means

"poker." *Kunne* is basically used the same way in Danish as "can" is in English, so it's very easy to learn.

The verb *måtte* has several meanings, but when it's used to ask for permission, it means "may" or "can." For example, *Må jeg låne din kuglepen?* means "May I borrow your pen?" or "Can I borrow your pen?" As you can see, this sentence structure is the same as the one above. *Må* is the verb *måtte* in present tense, *jeg* is the first-person pronoun "I," *låne* is the infinitive form of the verb "borrow," *din* is the possessive pronoun "your," and *kuglepen* is the common gender noun "pen." *Måtte* is also used in the same way as "may" in English.

Asking About Ability or for Permission with the Adverb *Ikke*

You can also ask about ability or for permission by using sentences such as *Kan han ikke tale engelsk?* Instead of asking *Kan han tale engelsk?* which means "Can he speak English?" you're asking "Can't he speak English?" Depending on the tone, the adverb *ikke*, which means "not," can help indicate that you either assume or don't assume that someone is able to do something. *Må jeg ikke blive hjemme?* means "May I not stay home?" or "Can't I stay home?" In this case, *ikke* helps indicate that you would rather do one thing over another (for example, stay at home).

For example:

1. *Kan hun ikke køre bil?*
"Can't she drive a car?"
2. *Må vi ikke se en film?*
"May we not watch a movie?"/"Can't we watch a movie?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Kan du fortælle Emma, hvad vi spiste i går?*
"Can you tell Emma what we ate yesterday?"
2. *Beklager, jeg kan ikke huske navnet på retten. Må jeg få navnet igen?*
"Sorry, I can't remember the name of the dish. May I have the name again?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg kunne ikke spise det hele.*
"I couldn't eat it all."
2. *Hun måtte bare sige det.*
"She just had to say it."

Pronunciation Tip

As we learned in a previous lesson, Danes like to cut off the last letter or endings of words. So, when asking *Kan du spille poker?* you pronounce it *Ka' du spille poker?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Strange Danish Dish Names

Many classic Danish dishes have weird names. For example, *forloren hare* literally means "false hare," but it's a meatloaf, usually made with minced pork and topped with strips of bacon. Another weird name is *benløse fugle*, which literally means "boneless birds." The dish has got nothing to do with birds, though, because it consists of shreds of fat wrapped in beef. *Skipperlabskovs* is also a traditional Danish dish with a weird name. It is untranslatable, but it's a type of casserole with sliced potatoes, bacon bits, bay leaves, and peppercorns. Most Danes eat *skipperlabskovs* with a piece of rye bread. Another weird name of a dish is *millionbøf*, which literally means "million steak." It's fried minced beef added to brown gravy, with or without chopped or peeled tomatoes, so, basically, it does consist of a large number of tiny pieces of beef. Danes usually eat this with spaghetti.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13

Looking for a Bathroom in Denmark

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

13

DANISH

1. Peter: Hvor er toilettet?
2. Emma: Badeværelset er derhenne.
3. Peter: Derhenne? Tak.
4. Emma: Det var så lidt.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Where is the toilet?
2. Emma: The bathroom is over there.
3. Peter: Over there? Thanks.
4. Emma: You are welcome.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
hvor	where	adverb
badeværelse	bathroom	noun
derhenne	over there	
tak	thank you, thanks	noun
det var så lidt	you're welcome, don't mention it	phrase
lidt	a little, a bit	adjective

være	to be	verb
toilet	toilet	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hvor er stationen? "Where is the station?"</p>	<p>De har renoveret deres badeværelse. "They have renovated their bathroom."</p>
<p>Den butik er derhenne. "That store is over there."</p>	<p>Tak for undskyldningen. "Thank you for the apology."</p>
<p>Tak for det gode råd. "Thank you for the good advice."</p>	<p>Åh, det var så lidt. "Oh, you're welcome."</p>
<p>Er du lidt træt? "Are you a little tired?"</p>	<p>Det er rart at være her. "It's nice to be here."</p>
<p>Hvor har du været hele mit liv? "Where have you been all my life?"</p>	<p>Hvor kan jeg finde et toilet? "Where can I find a toilet?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

toilet

The word *toilet* means "toilet" or "lavatory," but it can also be used to refer to a restroom or a more public toilet. It's a neuter gender noun, which means that "a toilet" is *et toilet* and "the toilet" is *toilettet* in Danish. Remember that the definite article is added to the end of the noun instead of the front of the noun, like in English.

Badeværelse

Badeværelse means "bathroom" and is another neuter gender noun. It's used in the

same way in Danish as it is in English.

Det var så lidt

The phrase *Det var så lidt* is equivalent to "You're welcome" or "It was nothing" in English, but it literally means "It was so little." It's most often used when someone has thanked you for something, just like in English.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is How to Ask "Where?" in Danish and How to Answer

Hvor er toilettet? Badeværelset er derhenne.

"Where is the toilet?" "The bathroom is over there."

When in a foreign country, it always comes in handy to know how to ask where something or someone is. This also counts for Denmark. In Danish, "where" is *hvor*. It's an adverb and is used in the exact same way as "where" is in English. Therefore, it's very straightforward to ask where something or someone is. In case you've forgotten to bring a map and there aren't any tourist information spots around, you can try asking in the nearest store or asking someone on the street. For example, if you want to ask where the police station is, you say *Hvor er politistationen?* which means "Where is the police station?" *Hvor* means "where," *er* is the verb "is," and *politistationen* means "the police station" and is a common gender noun in definite form. Had it been a neuter gender noun, you would have added the definite article *-et* to the noun instead of *-en*. So, like in English, the sentence structure is as follows:

Hvor er + [a noun in definite form or a name]?

You can answer where something or someone is, for example, by saying *Politistationen er derhenne*, which means "The police station is over there," or *Den er derhenne*, which means "It is over there." Remember to use the pronoun *det* instead of *den* when referring to a neuter gender noun. You can also simply say *Derhenne*, which means "over there," and point in the direction of where the police station is. Another alternative could be *Den vej*, which literally means "This way" or "That way."

Asking Where Something Is with the Verb *Ligge*

You can also ask where something is by using the verb *ligge* instead of "be." For example, if you want to ask "Where is The Royal Theater?" you say *Hvor ligger Det Kongelige Teater?* instead of *Hvor er Det Kongelige Teater?* The verb *ligge* has several meanings, including "be" in English. It can also mean "lie," "be situated," or "stand." In English, both phrases mean the same, but *ligge* can only be used when

asking about places, not people.

For example:

1. *Hvor ligger havnen?*
"Where's the harbor?"
2. *Hvor er Rasmus?*
"Where's Rasmus?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hvor er toilettet?*
"Where's the toilet?"
2. *Badeværelset er derhenne.*
"The bathroom is over there."

Sample Sentences

1. *Hvor er vi?*
"Where are we?"
2. *Den butik er derhenne.*
"That store is over there."

Pronunciation Tip

Whenever the letter *-h* is followed by a *-v*, it's silent and, therefore, not pronounced. So, *hvor* is pronounced 'vor.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Public Toilets in Denmark

Make sure to always have some coins on you when you're in Denmark, because you never know if you'll need to use one of the public toilets. It costs two kroner to use one, and you'll most likely be able to pay with a *tokrone* coin ("two krone") or two *enkrone* coins ("one krone"). You'll most likely find public toilets in parking lots or other busy areas, and you can recognize them by their black, booth-like

appearance. Of course, it's also marked on the door that it's a toilet for both men and women. Some are more handicap-friendly than others because the door will open and close automatically. It's stated on the outside how much time you'll have before the door opens. If you are unable to find a public toilet, you can always use the lavatories in shopping malls or at gas stations. Larger supermarkets also have customer toilets.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 Do You Want Ice Cream With That in Denmark?

CONTENTS

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

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DANISH

1. Emma: Vil du hjælpe mig med tallerknerne?
2. William: Ja, da. Det vil jeg gerne.
3. Emma: Vil I have is nu?
4. William and Peter: Ja, tak!

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Would you help me with the plates?
2. William: Yes, sure, I will.
3. Emma: Do you want ice cream now?
4. William and Peter: Yes, please!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
ville	will, shall, want to, would	verb
hjælpe	help, assist, aid	verb
med	along, with, by, in	adverb, preposition
is	ice cream, ice	noun
nu	now, present moment	adverb, noun
vil du hjælpe mig	would you help me?	phrase

det vil jeg gerne	I will	phrase
vil I have	do you want?	phrase
tallerken	plate	noun
ja da	yes sure, yes of course	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hvad vil du have? "What do you want?"</p>	<p>Sønnerne hjælpe deres mor. "The sons are helping their mother."</p>
<p>Jeg går med jer. "I'm going with you."</p>	<p>Vi vil have is! "We want ice cream!"</p>
<p>Det er nu eller aldrig. "It's now or never."</p>	<p>Vil du hjælpe mig med vasketøjet? "Would you help me with the laundry?"</p>
<p>Ja, det vil jeg gerne. "Yes, I will."</p>	<p>Hvad vil I have til frokost? "What do you want for lunch?"</p>
<p>Snup en tallerken! "Grab a plate!"</p>	<p>Ja da, lad os det. "Sure, let's do that."</p>
<p>Ja, da. Det må du gerne. "Yes, sure. You may."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

hjælpe

The verb *hjælpe* means "help," "assist," or "aid" in English. In the present tense, you add *-r*, so the verb becomes *hjælper*, but in the past tense, the vowel *-æ* changes to an *-a*, so it becomes *hjalp*. Remember that the *-h* is silent because it's followed by a *-j*.

Ja, da

The phrase *Ja, da* is equivalent to something like "Yes, sure" or "Yes, of course." Danes use this phrase when expressing that the "yes," or *ja*, is a given. For example, if someone has asked if it's okay to do something, you can reply *Ja, da* to express "Yes, of course it's okay," or that it's more than okay to it.

Is

Is means "ice cream" or "ice" in English. It's a common gender noun, which means that "an ice cream" is *en is* and "the ice cream" is *isen* in Danish. "The ice" is also *isen*. The definite article *-en* is added to the end of the noun to create the definite form.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is How to Use the Verb *Ville*

Vil I have is nu?

"Do you want ice cream now?"

The Danish verb *ville* has several meanings, such as "will," "shall," "want to," and "would." Therefore, it's often used to express what you want or what you want to do. You'll most likely use it when you've made some kind of choice or when you're expressing what you'd like to do out of a number of options. For example, if you want a cup of coffee, you say *Jeg vil have en kop kaffe*. The phrase literally means "I will have a cup of coffee," but it's also equivalent to "I want (to have) a cup of coffee." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I." *Vil have* consists of the modal verb *vil*, which is the present tense form of *ville*, and the verb *have* in the infinitive form, which, together, means "want" or "want to have." And *en kop kaffe* means "a cup of coffee." When wanting specific items, Danes most often use *vil have* followed by the desired object. So, the sentence structure is:

vil have + [noun]

"want to have" + [noun]

When using *ville* to express what you want to do, Danes usually follow the modal verb *vil* with the adverb *gerne*, which means "with pleasure," "gladly," or "willingly." *Vil gerne* means "want to" or "would like to" and sounds less demanding. For example, if you literally say "I want to eat cake," you use *Jeg vil spise kage*, which might make you come off as being a little childish, because *vil*, or "want," is very emphasized in the sentence. If you add *gerne*, your tone becomes softer: *Jeg vil gerne spise kage*. *Jeg* means "I," *vil gerne* means "want to" or "would like to," *spise*

is the verb "eat" in the infinitive form, and *kage* means "cake" and is a common gender noun. The sentence structure is as follows:

vil gerne + [infinitive verb] (+ object)

Expressing What You Don't Want To Do with the Word *Ikke*

In a previous lesson, we learned the Danish word *ikke*, which is an adverb and means "not." You can use *ikke* to express that there's something you don't want or don't want to do. For example, "He doesn't want to play soccer" is *Han vil ikke spille fodbold*. *Han* is the pronoun "he;" *vil ikke* consists of the verb *ville* in the present tense and the adverb *ikke*, which means "does not want to;" *spille* is the verb "play" in the infinitive form; and *fodbold* means "soccer" and is a common gender noun. Basically, you switch *gerne* with *ikke*, and you're ready to tell everyone what you don't want to do.

For example:

1. *De vil gerne rejse til Asien.*
"They want to travel to Asia."
2. *Jeg vil ikke bruge salt på min mad.*
"I don't want to use salt on my food."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Vil du hjælpe mig med tallerknerne?*
"Would you help me with the plates?"
2. *Det vil jeg gerne.*
"I will."

Sample Sentences

1. *Hvad vil du have?*
"What do you want?"
2. *Vil du hjælpe mig med vasketøjet?*
"Would you help me with the laundry?"

Pronunciation Tip

The *-i* in the verb *ville* is pronounced like the *-e* in the English word "we." The *-i* in the present tense form *vil*, however, is pronounced like the *-i* in the English word "wind," which makes it sound more like a Danish *-e* than an *-i*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Communal Cooking in Danish Dormitories

Many of the larger dormitories in Denmark have common rooms and shared kitchens. This not only makes it easier to socialize and get to know your new neighbors, but it also makes your food budget look a lot better than if you were cooking for just yourself. Therefore, it's very common to cook dinner and eat with the other people living in the dormitory at least once a week to save some money on food. It's also a good way to take a break from the study books and to regain energy to keep yourself going by sharing your frustrations with others in the same position. If your dormitory is very international, many "visit" each other's countries through the food culture, which offers great opportunities to try new and interesting cuisines from all over the world. People usually take turns to cook and clean, but it's customary to clean up after yourself.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15 Braving the Cold in Denmark

CONTENTS

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

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DANISH

1. Peter: Jeg fryser! Det er koldt herude.
2. Emma: Vinteren er kold i Danmark.
3. Peter: Bliver det også blæsende?
4. William: Sandsynligvis.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: I am freezing! It is cold out here.
2. Emma: The winter is cold in Denmark.
3. Peter: Does it also get windy?
4. William: Probably.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
jeg	I	pronoun
fryse	freeze, be cold	verb
være	to be	verb
vinter	winter	noun
blive	become, get, stay, remain	verb
også	also, too, as well	adverb
blæsende	windy	adjective

sandsynligvis	probably, most likely	adverb
kold	cold	adjective
herude	out here	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg spiller tennis. "I play tennis."</p>	<p>Jeg er dansk. "I'm Dane."</p>
<p>Vi fryser og vil hjem! "We're freezing and want to go home!"</p>	<p>Det er rart at være her. "It's nice to be here."</p>
<p>Hvor har du været hele mit liv? "Where have you been all my life?"</p>	<p>Vinteren var hård. "The winter was hard."</p>
<p>Jeg bliver i København i fire dage. "I'll stay in Copenhagen for four days."</p>	<p>Er du blevet rig endnu? "Have you become rich yet?"</p>
<p>Han vil også med. "He wants to come, too."</p>	<p>Hun spiste også en burger. "She also ate a burger."</p>
<p>Vejret er meget blæsende i dag. "The weather is very windy today."</p>	<p>De kommer sandsynligvis senere. "They'll probably come later."</p>
<p>Mine fødder er kolde. "My feet are cold."</p>	<p>Hvad laver du herude? "What are you doing out here?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Vinter is a common gender noun and means "winter" in English, of course. Therefore, it's also used the exact same way in Danish. The other seasons are *forår*, which means "spring;" *sommer*, meaning "summer;" and *efterår*, which means "fall" or "autumn." *Forår* and *efterår* are neuter gender nouns because they end with *år*, which means "year" and is a neuter gender noun. *Sommer* is a common gender noun, like *vinter*.

Blive is a verb with several meanings, such as "become," "get," "stay," and "remain," as stated in the vocabulary list. However, you can also use *blive* to indicate a slow or quick change. For example, "to grow old" is *at blive gammel* and "to turn pale" is *at blive bleg* in Danish. You can also use *blive* to indicate an unwanted change. For example, "to go blind" is *at blive blind* in Danish. Finally, you can use *blive* when talking about age. For example, "She will be ten next year" is *Hun bliver ti næste år*.

Også is an adverb that means "also," "too," and "as well." In subject-verb-object sentences, *også* is usually placed after the verb. For example, "We were also on the boat" is *Vi var også på båden*. *Vi* is the pronoun "we" and the subject of the sentence. *Var* is the verb "be" in the past tense, meaning "was." *Også* means "also" in this case, and *på båden* means "on the boat." When used in questions, *også* is usually placed after the subject. For example, "Are you staying till tomorrow, too?" is *Bliver du også til i morgen?* *Bliver*, we just learned, can mean "stay," and *du* is the pronoun "you." *Også*, in this case, means "too," and *til i morgen* means "till tomorrow."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Use Adjectives

Vinteren er kold i Danmark.

"The winter is cold in Denmark."

In Danish, there are three forms of adjectives. The first form is called the **basic form** and is used with singular, common gender nouns. For example, "a yellow banana" is *en gul banan* in Danish. *En* is the indefinite article used with common gender nouns, meaning "a." *Gul* is an adjective and can mean "yellow." And *banan* is a common gender noun and means "banana." The basic form is also how you'll see the adjective in a dictionary.

The second form is called the **t-form** because you add *-t* to the end of the adjective, and it's used with singular, neuter gender nouns. For example, "a green apple" is *et grønt æble* in Danish. *Et* is the indefinite article used with neuter gender nouns, meaning "a." Next is the adjective *grøn*, to which *-t* is added, and it means "green." And *æble* is the neuter gender noun "apple."

The third form is called the **e-form** and is used with definite articles. For example, "the sweet melon" is *den søde melon* in Danish. *Den* is the definite article used with common gender nouns, and it means "the." Instead of adding *-en* to the end of the

noun to create the definite form, it's placed before the adjective. When an adjective follows a definite article, you add -e to the end of the adjective, which, in this case, is *sød* and means "sweet." *Melon* is the common gender noun "melon."

The third form is also used in the plural. For example, "red tomatoes" is *røde tomater* in Danish. -E has been added to the adjective *rød*, which means "red." And *tomater* is the plural form of *tomat*, which means "tomato."

Using Adjectives after Nouns or Pronouns

When there is a verb between the noun or pronoun and the adjective in a sentence, the adjective still changes according to the three forms. The verbs used in the sentence are most often *være* ("be") or *blive* ("become"). The nouns are most often in the definite form. The basic form is used with singular, common gender nouns. For example, "The movie is long" is *Filmen er lang* in Danish. *Film*, which means "movie," is a common gender noun, and, therefore, -en is added to the end of the word to create the definite form. *Er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, and *lang* is the adjective "long" in the basic form. The basic form is also used with singular pronouns. For example, "You are tall" is *Du er høj* in Danish. *Du* is the pronoun "you," *er* means "is," and *høj* is the adjective "tall" or "high."

The t-form is used with neuter gender nouns. For example, "The ocean is blue" is *Havet er blå*. *Havet* is the neuter gender noun *hav* in the definite form and means "the ocean" or "the sea." *Er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, and *blå* is the adjective *blå* in the t-form, meaning "blue." You also use the t-form with the pronoun *det*, which means "it" and refers to a neuter gender noun. For example, "It is beautiful" is *Det er smukt* in Danish. *Smukt* is the adjective *smuk*, to which -t is added in order to create the t-form, and it means "beautiful."

The e-form is used in the plural. For example, "The children are happy" is *Børnene er glade* in Danish. *Børnene* is the neuter gender noun *barn* in the plural, which means "the children." *Er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, and *glade* is the adjective *glad*, to which -e is added, and which means "happy." The e-form is also used with plural pronouns. For example, "They were rich" is *De var rige* in Danish. *De* is the pronoun "they," *var* is the verb "be" in the past tense, and *rige* is the adjective *rig*, to which -e is added, and which means "rich."

For example:

1. *Vi så en lille kat.*
"We saw a small cat."
2. *Katten var lille.*
"The cat was small."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Det er koldt herude.*
"It's cold out here."
2. *Vinteren er kold i Danmark.*
"The winter is cold in Denmark."

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg er søvnig.*
"I'm sleepy."
2. *Det har været en lang sommer.*
"It has been a long summer."

Language Tip

When adjectives are used to say something about a verb, they become adverbs instead. The adjective is always placed after the verb and is in the *t*-form. For example, "He sings well" is *Han synger godt* in Danish. *Han* is the pronoun "he," *synger* is the verb "sing" in the present tense, and *godt* is the adjective *god* in the *t*-form, meaning "good" or "well."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Seasons

Some may associate Denmark with constant cold weather, but there are, in fact, four seasons. During the winter, Danes usually gear up for Christmas, but besides Christmas-related activities, many also play outside in the snow, build snowmen, ice skate, and go sledding—especially children. This is also the time of year to go on vacation and enjoy the warm climates of other places around the world. During the spring, Danes slowly begin to do more outdoor activities because the weather starts to get milder. Many like going for walks and watching everything start to blossom. During the summer, Danes usually go to the beach, go camping, or relax in summer houses close to the sea. Many also go to one of the many Danish music festivals, such as the Roskilde Festival. During the autumn, Danes like going for walks in the forests to enjoy the colors of autumn before the weather gets too cold and windy. Many also carve pumpkins because Halloween has gained in popularity during the past decade.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16 Wow! Using Danish Interjections Makes You Sound Like a Natural!

CONTENTS

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

16

DANISH

1. William: Øh, har du set mine nøgler?
2. Louise: Tja... Måske.
3. William: Ej, kom nu.
4. Louise: Næh. Find dem selv.
5. William: Nå... Så gør jeg det.
6. Louise: Ta-da! Her er de!

ENGLISH

1. William: Uhm, have you seen my keys?
2. Louise: Well...Maybe.
3. William: Oh, come on.
4. Louise: Nah. Find them yourself.
5. William: Oh...I will do that then.
6. Louise: Ta-da! Here they are!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
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have	have, have got, own, possess	verb
se	see, look, watch	verb
min	my, mine	pronoun
nøgle	key	noun
måske	maybe, perhaps, possibly	adverb
kom nu	come on (lit. "come now")	
finde	find	verb
selv	-self, -selves, even	pronoun, adverb
gøre	do, make	verb
de	they, those, the	pronoun, definite article

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>A: Hav en god weekend! B: Tak, i lige måde!</p> <p>A: "Have a nice weekend!" B: "Thanks, you too!"</p>	<p>Tak skal du have.</p> <p>"Thank you."</p>
<p>Jeg ser fjernsyn med min familie.</p> <p>I'm watching television with my family.</p>	<p>Mine forældre bor i København.</p> <p>"My parents live in Copenhagen."</p>
<p>Øh, har du givet dem en nøgle?</p> <p>"Umm, have you given them a key?"</p>	<p>Nå, måske kommer de ikke.</p> <p>"Well, perhaps they aren't coming."</p>
<p>Kom nu. Lad os tage hjem.</p> <p>"Come on. Let's go home."</p>	<p>Søstrene fandt nogle blomster.</p> <p>"The sisters found some flowers."</p>

Hun skrev det selv.

"She wrote it herself."

Gør som du vil.

"Do as you please."

De unge mennesker er fattige.

"The young people are poor."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Måske means "maybe," "perhaps," and "possibly," and it's pretty much used the same way in Danish as it is in English. Therefore, this adverb is very straightforward and easy to learn.

Kom nu is a phrase composed of the verb "come" and the adverb "now." It literally means "Come now," but it's used as an equivalent to "Come on." You can use it when you start to get impatient with someone who's taking too long to do something. Or, you can use it when you're cheering on someone, for example, in connection with sports.

Selv as a pronoun is used to indicate "myself," "yourself," "himself," "herself," "itself," "oneself," "ourselves," "yourselves," and "themselves." For example, "I went by myself" is *Jeg tog selv afsted*. *Jeg* means "I," *tog* means "went," *selv* means "myself," and *afsted* means "off" (but it isn't included in the English translation). *Selv* as an adverb means "even," and it is used the same way as in English. For example, "Even then, they could not get along" is *Selv dengang kunne de ikke enes* in Danish. *Selv* means "even," *dengang* means "then," *kunne* means "could," *ikke* means "not," and *enes* means "get along" or "agree."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Respond Naturally Using Interjections in a Conversation

Tja... Måske.

"Well... Maybe."

Being able to use Danish interjections in a conversation will add an extra layer of nuance to your language skills. Some of the most commonly used interjections appear in this lesson's dialog. *Øh* is mainly used to express hesitation, doubt, or perplexity, but it's also used to fill in a pause while you think about what to say next. In English, *øh* is equivalent to "uhm," and it can be used at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence. For example, *Øh, det ved jeg ikke*-with the

interjection at the beginning-means "Uhm, I don't know." *Det* is the pronoun "it" or "that," *ved* is the verb "know" in the present tense, *jeg* is the pronoun "I," and *ikke* is the adverb "not." An example with *øh* in the middle of a sentence is *Har du set den serie med, øh, Mads Mikkelsen?* In this sentence, *øh* fills in the pause while you remember the name of the actor starring in the series. *Har* is the verb "have," *du* is the pronoun "you," *set* is the verb "seen," *den* is the pronoun "that," *serie* is the common gender noun "series," *med* is the preposition "with," and *Mads Mikkelsen* is the name of a famous Danish actor. *Øh* can basically be put anywhere in a sentence.

Another interjection from the dialogue is *tja*, which is equivalent to the English "well." It's used to express hesitation or doubt, and it can appear anywhere in a sentence. For example, if you have to answer a difficult question, you can say *Om det er en god idé, tja, det finder vi ud af.* This means "If it's a good idea, well, (that) we will find out." *Om* is the conjunction "if," *det* is the pronoun "it," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, *en god idé* is literally "a good idea," the second *det* is the pronoun "that," *finder* is the verb "find" in the present tense, *vi* is the pronoun "we," and *ud af* is connected to the verb *finder* and means "out."

In this lesson's dialogue, the interjection *ej* is also used. Danes use this to express annoyance and irritation, regret, reproach, surprise, and other feelings, such as dislike, disagreement, or discontent as a reaction to something. For example, if you want to express that you find someone annoying for saying something, you can say *Ej, ...*, followed by that person's name. If you're positively surprised by something, you can just say *Ej...!* This interjection doesn't really translate directly to English, but it can be used as an equivalent to "oh" or "wow" in certain situations.

Another interjection from the dialog is *næh*. This is a variation of *nej*, which means "no," and is therefore used to express denial, often influenced by hesitation or uncertainty. For example, if someone asks if you are sad, and you might be, but don't want to say it, you can answer *Næh, jeg har det fint.* This means "Nah, I'm fine." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *har det* means "am," and *fint* means "fine." *Næh* can also be used to express admiration or surprise. For example, *Næh, en gave til mig!* means something like "Wow, a gift for me!" *En gave* means "a gift," *til* is the preposition "for," and *mig* is the pronoun "me."

Nå, a Short Word with Multiple Meanings

The Danish interjection *nå* can be used in several ways, and since far from all of them are positive, be sure to say it in the right tone so you don't get misunderstood. There are seven main ways of using *nå*, but many contain additional options. *Nå* is usually used at the beginning of a sentence.

***Nå* as a matter-of-fact declaring reply** can be used to express interest or lack of interest in something that was said. When you want to express the latter, you simply say *Nå*. If you want to express understanding of something that was explained or that you have realized something, *nå* is often followed by the

interjection *ja*, which means "yes." *Nåh ja* is equivalent to "oh, right" or "oh, yeah" in English. Finally, *nåh* can also be used to express scepticism. In this case, the interjection is equivalent to "huh..." in English.

Nå as an opening to a statement can be used to summarize and end a conversation or to move it on to a new topic—for example, *Nå, hvad synes du så om...?* which means something like "Well, so what do you think about...?" in English. *Hvad* is the pronoun "what," *synes* is the verb "think" in the present tense, *du* is the pronoun "you," *så* is the adverb "so," and *om* is the preposition "about."

Nå as an expression of hesitation or doubt can be used in connection with replying to unexpected questions. For example, you might have spaced off and then become surprised when someone asks you what you're thinking about. Then, you might say *Hvad? Nåh, ingenting*, which literally means "What? Oh, nothing" in English.

Nå as an expression of surprise can be used in situations where you're surprised to find out that something wasn't as you thought or expected. For example, *Nå, du har gjort huset rent* means "Oh, you've cleaned the house." *Du* is the pronoun "you," *har gjort rent* means "have cleaned," and *huset* means "the house."

Nå as an expression of impatience can be used in situations where you've been waiting for someone or for something to happen—for example, *Nå, så kom du endelig*, which means something like "Oh, so you finally came." *Så* is the adverb "so," *kom* is the verb "come" in the past tense, *du* is the pronoun "you," and *endelig* is the adverb "finally."

Nå as an expression of threat is often used as the reaction to an action or a statement—for example, *Nå, det skal du få betalt!* which means "Oh, you'll pay for this!" *Det* is the pronoun "that," *skal* is the verb "shall" in the present tense, *du* is the pronoun "you," and *få betalt* literally means "get paid."

Nå as a reaction to something cute or adorable or as an expression of comfort is often used with children or animals. For example, *Nåh, hvor sødt!* means "Oh, how sweet!" or "Aw, how sweet!" in English. If you want to comfort someone, you can say *Nåh, det er synd for dig*, which means something like "Aw, I feel sorry for you."

For example:

1. *Nåh ja! Det er rigtigt!*
"Oh, yeah! That's right!"
2. *Nå, lad os komme igang med projektet.*
"Well, let's get started on the project."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Øh, har du set mine nøgler?*
"Umm, have you seen my keys?"
2. *Tja...Måske.* "Well...Maybe."

Sample Sentences

1. *Øh, har du givet dem en nøgle?*
"Umm, have you given them a key?"
2. *Nå, måske kommer de ikke.*
"Well, perhaps they aren't coming."

Pronunciation Tip

You've probably noticed that *nå* is spelled with an *-h* at the end in some places. When that's the case, the vowel sound is longer than in *nå*. So, *nåh* is pronounced more like *nååå*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Slang

Like other young people around the world, young Danes use a lot of slang. When greeting each other, instead of saying *hej*, which means "hi," many people say *hey*, kind of like the English "hey." When you are unhappy with something—for example, your job or an assignment—you can use the word *skod* to describe it. This literally means "cigarette butt," but when used as slang, it means "bad." Also, instead of using the adverb *meget*, which means "very," to emphasize an adjective, many young Danes use *herre*. This literally means "gentleman," but it's now used synonymously with *meget*. So, if something tastes very good, you can say *Det smager herre godt*, which means "It tastes very good." If something is very funny, you can say *Det er herre grineren*, which is a sentence with two slang words and means "It's very funny." *Grineren* is slang for the adjective "funny," and it literally means something like "the laughter," which doesn't make much sense in English. There are tons of other slang words and expressions, but remember that it's mainly younger Danes who will be down with your Danish slang.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17

It Doesn't Always Take Ages to Find Out How Old Someone Is in Denmark!

CONTENTS

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

17

DANISH

1. Louise: Hej Peter.
2. Peter: Hej...
3. William: Louise, hvor gammel er det nu, du er?
4. Louise: Jeg er ti år gammel.
5. Peter: Jeg har også en søster.
6. Louise: Hvor gammel er hun?
7. Peter: Hun er ni.

ENGLISH

1. Louise: Hi Peter.
2. Peter: Hi...
3. William: Louise, how old are you, again?
4. Louise: I'm ten years old.
5. Peter: I also have a sister.
6. Louise: How old is she?
7. Peter: She's nine.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
år	year	noun
hvor gammel	how old	phrase
være	to be	verb
jeg er	I am	phrase
ti	ten (10)	numeral
gammel	old	adjective
også	also, too, as well	adverb
søster	sister	noun
hun	she, female	pronoun, noun
ni	nine (9)	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Det var varmt i år. "It was warm this year."</p>	<p>Hvor gammel er pigen? "How old is the girl?"</p>
<p>Det er rart at være her. "It's nice to be here."</p>	<p>Hvor har du været hele mit liv? "Where have you been all my life?"</p>
<p>Jeg er klar til at spille! "I'm ready to play!"</p>	<p>Jeg er sulten. "I am hungry."</p>
<p>Er der ti bananer i posen? "Are there ten bananas in the bag?"</p>	<p>Jeg smed det gamle legetøj i garagen ud. "I threw away old toys in the garbage."</p>
<p>Den kage er gammel. "That cake is old."</p>	<p>Han vil også med. "He wants to come, too."</p>

<p>Hun spiste også en burger.</p> <p>"She also ate a burger."</p>	<p>Har I set min søster?</p> <p>"Have you seen my sister?"</p>
<p>Hvad sagde hun til ham?</p> <p>"What did she say to him?"</p>	<p>Han har fortalt historien til ni personer.</p> <p>"He's told the story to nine people."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Være is the infinitive or dictionary form of the English verb "to be." In the present tense, it's conjugated as *er* in any person and any number, and in the past tense, it's conjugated as *var*-also in any person and any number. In the present perfect, the combination of the present tense of the auxiliary verb *have*, which means "have," and the past participle of *være* becomes *har været* or "have been" in English. In the past perfect, the combination of the past tense of *have* and the past participle of *være* becomes *havde været* or "had been" in English.

Også means "also," "too," and "as well." It's an adverb used the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, *også mig* means "also me," "me too," or "me as well."

Søster is a common gender noun and means "sister." If you want to specify whether it's an older or a younger sister, you can add the prefix *store-* or *lille-*. The former means "big" and the latter means "little." So, *storesøster* means "big sister" and *lillesøster* means "little sister" or "kid sister." You can do the same with the common gender noun *bror*, which means "brother."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is How to Talk About Age

Hvor gammel er hun? Hun er ni.
"How old is she?" "She's nine."

When you've reached a certain age, not all Danes will be happy to talk about how old they are. Yet, it's still important to know how to ask someone their age as well as to tell them yours. In Danish, "How old are you?" is *Hvor gammel er du?* The first word, *hvor*, is the adverb "how;" the second word is the adjective *gammel* ("old"); the third word, *er*, is the verb "be" in the present tense; and the last word, *du*, is the pronoun "you."

An example of a common way of answering is *Jeg er atten år gammel*, which means "I'm eighteen years old." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, *atten* is the number "eighteen," *år* is the neuter gender noun "year" in the plural, and *gammel* is the adjective "old." Many leave out *år gammel*, or "years old," so the sentence becomes *Jeg er atten*, which means "I'm eighteen." If you want to make your answer even shorter, you can simply choose to say the number, which, in this case, is *Atten*, meaning "Eighteen."

Asking Someone About Another Person's Age

As in English, you can replace the pronoun *du* ("you") with another pronoun if you want to ask someone about a third person's age in Danish. For example, "How old is he?" is *Hvor gammel er han?* and "How old is she?" is *Hvor gammel er hun?* With pronouns in the plural, "How old are they?" is *Hvor gamle er de?* *Du* is simply replaced with *de*, which is the pronoun "they." Please note that the e-form of the adjective *gammel* ("old") becomes *gamle* when used to describe pronouns or nouns in the plural.

When using a noun instead of a pronoun, the noun is always in its definite form when used in this expression. For example, "How old is the child?" is *Hvor gammelt er barnet?* The t-form of the adjective *gammel* is used because of the neuter gender noun *barn*, which means "child." *Barnet* means "the child." If you use a common gender noun, *gammel* stays in its basic form.

For example:

1. *Hvor gamle er tvillingerne?*
"How old are the twins?"
2. *Hvor gammel er drengen?*
"How old is the boy?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Anna, hvor gammel er det nu, du er?*
"Anna, how old are you again?"
2. *Jeg er ti år gammel.*
"I'm ten years old."

Sample Sentences

1. *Hvor gammel er pigen?*
"How old is the girl?"
2. *Bogen er halvtreds år gammel.*
"The book is fifty years old."

Language Expansion

If you want to specify who or what you want to know the age of, you can place a possessive pronoun in front of the noun. For example, "How old is your dog?" is *Hvor gammel er din hund?* The word *din* is the possessive pronoun "your," and *hund* is the common gender noun "dog." Please note that the noun is always in its indefinite form when following a possessive pronoun.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Family Dynamics in Denmark

During the last couple of decades, the family unit in Denmark has undergone a few changes. The majority still consist of traditional nuclear families with a father, a mother, and at least one child, but many families also consist of a single parent and one or more children. With a divorce rate around 40 percent, the number of extended families is gradually rising because many people with children date or remarry other people with children after their divorces. Some may also have children with their new partners, which makes it quite common to have stepbrothers and stepsisters and half-brothers and half-sisters. These may also be called "bonus-brothers" and "bonus-sisters" by some to give the terms a more positive tone-focusing on what you got from a divorce or breakup instead of what you lost. Other family units consist of parents of the same sex and one or more children. Couples of the same sex can get married either at the city hall or in a church.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18 Let Your Danish Opinion Be Heard

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- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 5 Cultural Insight

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DANISH

1. Louise: Kan din søster godt li' musik?
2. Peter: Ja, hun elsker at lytte til musik.
3. Louise: Det gør jeg også.
4. Peter: Min søster kan bedst li' rock.
5. Louise: Det kan jeg ikke så godt li'.

ENGLISH

1. Louise: Does your sister like music?
2. Peter: Yes, she loves listening to music.
3. Louise: So do I.
4. Peter: My sister likes rock the best.
5. Louise: I don't like it that much.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
kunne lide	can like, be fond of	verb
søster	sister	noun
musik	music	noun
elske	love	verb

lytte	listen	verb
min	my, mine	pronoun
bedst	best	adjective
ikke så godt	not so good, not so well, not so much	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Han kan lide æblejuice. "He likes apple juice."</p>	<p>Har I set min søster? "Have you seen my sister?"</p>
<p>Sangeren synger en sang. The singer is singing a song.</p>	<p>Jeg elsker dig ikke længere. "I don't love you anymore."</p>
<p>Kvinden lytter til musik. The woman is listening to music.</p>	<p>Mine forældre bor i København. "My parents live in Copenhagen."</p>
<p>Hvem er bedst? "Who is best?"</p>	<p>Det var ikke så godt. "It wasn't so good."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Musik is the common gender noun "music." In the definite form, "the music" is *musikken*. The definite article *-en* is added to the end of the noun, but another *-k* is added before this. When the vowel right in front of a consonant is short, you double that consonant. Because the vowel *i* in *musikken* is short, you add another consonant before the definite article. Otherwise, it would be pronounced incorrectly as a long vowel.

Lytte means "listen." The verb is used the same way in Danish as it is in English. Also, like in English, you say *lytte til musik*, which means "listen to music," but many Danes say *høre musik* instead. This literally means "hear music," but it can also mean "listen to music." Therefore, you can use these expressions interchangeably.

Bedst means "best," and it's the superlative of the irregular adjective *god*, which means "good" or "well." The comparative is *bedre*, which means "better." If you want to say "You are the best," it is *Du er den bedste*. *Du* is the pronoun "you," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, *den* is the definite article "the," and *bedste* is the superlative meaning "best." Because the adjective follows a definite article, you add -e to the end of the word.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Express Likes and Dislikes
Min søster kan bedst lide rock. Det kan jeg ikke så godt lide.
"My sister likes rock the best." "I don't like it that much."

Your new Danish friends are going to be keen on knowing what you think about Denmark as well as your likes and dislikes so far. In Danish, "like" or "be fond of" is *kunne lide*. So, for example, if you want to say that you like Danish music, you can say *Jeg kan godt lide dansk musik*. *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *kan godt lide* means "like," and *dansk musik* means "Danish music." Notice that, in Danish, you usually add the adverb *godt*, which means "well," when you express likes. This is used to emphasize or confirm that you like whatever it is you say you like. So, literally, *Jeg kan godt lide dansk musik* means "I like Danish music well," but it's translated as "I like Danish music."

If you want to say that you don't like something—for example, herring—you can say *Jeg kan ikke lide sild*. *Jeg* means "I," *kan ikke lide* means "do not like," and *sild* is the noun "herring." The adverb *godt* is replaced by the adverb *ikke*, which means "not." So, *Jeg kan ikke lide sild* means "I do not like herring." The sentence structure used to express likes and dislikes is as follows:

kan godt lide ("like") + [noun/pronoun in oblique case/verb in infinitive]

kan ikke lide ("do not like") + [noun/pronoun in oblique case/verb in infinitive]

Expressing Likes and Dislikes of Actions

When you want to say that you like or don't like doing something, you can say *Jeg kan godt lide* and add a verb in the infinitive or dictionary form, including the infinitive marker. For example, *Jeg kan godt lide at svømme* means "I like to swim." *Jeg* means "I," *kan godt lide* means "like," and *at svømme* means "to swim." If you don't like swimming, you can say *Jeg kan ikke lide at svømme*, which means "I don't like to swim." The adverb *godt* is simply replaced with the adverb *ikke* ("not").

For example:

1. *Hun kan godt lide ham.*
"She likes him."

2. *De kan ikke lide at danse.*
"They don't like to dance."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Kan din søster godt lide musik?*
"Does your sister like music?"
2. *Min søster kan bedst lide rock.*
"My sister likes rock the best."

Sample Sentences

1. *Han kan lide æblejuice.*
"He likes apple juice."
2. *Lad os sætte noget musik på, som vi godt kan lide.*
"Let's put on some music that we like."

Language Tip

You can use the adverb *lidt*, which means "a little" or "a little bit," to express the degree of how much you don't like something. For example, *Jeg kan mindre lide hiphop* means "I like hip-hop less." *Jeg* means "I," *kan mindre lide* means "like less," and *hiphop* means "hip-hop." The word *mindre* is the comparative of *lidt* and means "less." You can use the superlative *mindst* to express that you like something the least. For example, *Jeg kan mindst lide pop* means "I like pop the least." In Danish, you don't use a definite article to express when you like something the least; you only say *mindst* ("least"). Remember that the *-d* in *mindst* is silent.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Music Artists

The Danish music scene features all kinds of artists. Most of them sing in Danish, but many also sing in English. Some even do both. Besides Michael Learns To Rock and Aqua back in the '90s and Safri Duo and Junior Senior in the early and mid-2000s, singer-songwriter Tina Dickow, dance-pop vocalists Ida Corr and

Camille Jones, electronic music producer Trentemøller, and indie-rock duo The Raveonettes are some of the newer Danish artists with international breakthroughs. As requested by American record producer Timbaland, the Danish rock band Nephew has done a remix of his track "The Way I Are," which became a huge hit in Denmark. The Danish DJ Kato has also released two singles in collaboration with American rapper Snoop Dogg, which got a lot of media attention. Other contemporary popular Danish artists are Medina, Burhan G, Volbeat, Marie Key, O-Land, Rasmus Seebach, Svenstrup and Vendelboe, Shaka Loveless, Nik and Jay, Panamah, Rasmus Walter, Pharfar, Lucy Love, and Electric Lady Lab. If you turn on the radio in Denmark, you will definitely hear at least one of these artists' songs.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19 Spend Some Time On Learning The Danish Time

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- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
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- 6 Cultural Insight

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DANISH

1. William: Emma, skynd dig! Vi skal mødes med Peter klokken tolv.
2. Emma: Ja, ja. Hvad er klokken nu?
3. William: Klokken er elleve femogfyrre.
4. Emma: Hvornår starter filmen?
5. William: Den starter kvart over.
6. Emma: Masser af tid så.

ENGLISH

1. William: Emma, hurry up! We're meeting up with Peter at twelve o'clock.
2. Emma: Yes yes. What time is it now?
3. William: It's eleven forty-five.
4. Emma: When does the movie start?
5. William: It starts at a quarter past.
6. Emma: Lots of time, then.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
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skynd dig	hurry up	phrase
skulle	have to, have got to, must, be to, be meant to, be supposed to, should, ought to	verb
mødes	meet, get together	verb
klokken	o'clock	adverb
hvad er klokken nu	What time is it now?	phrase
hvornår	when	adverb
starte	start, begin	verb
film	film, picture, movie	noun
masser	lots	noun
tid	time, appointment, tense	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Skynd dig! Vi skal afsted nu! "Hurry up! We have to go now!"</p>	<p>Skulle du ikke være i skole? "Shouldn't you be in school?"</p>
<p>Han skal mødes med hende på stationen. "He's meeting her at the station."</p>	<p>Han ankommer klokken fem. "He will arrive at 5 o'clock."</p>
<p>Hvad er klokken nu, tror du? "What time is it now, do you think?"</p>	<p>Hvornår kan vi være færdige? "When can we be finished?"</p>
<p>Atleterne starter løbet. The athletes are starting the race.</p>	<p>Hendes liv er ligesom en film. "Her life is like a movie."</p>

Der er masser af mennesker her.

"There are lots of people here."

Der er ikke mere tid tilbage.

"There is no more time left."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

skynd dig

The phrase *skynd dig* means "hurry up." It's composed of the verb *skynde* in the imperative, which means "hurry," "hurry up," "hasten," and "be quick," and the pronoun *dig* in the oblique case, which means "you." So, the phrase literally means "hurry, you" or "hurry up, you," but it's equivalent to "hurry up." Danes use *skynd dig* in the same way "hurry up" is used in English.

Film

Film means "film," "picture," and "movie." It's a common gender noun and is used in the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, *Filmen var dårlig* means "The movie was bad." *Filmen* is "the movie" with the definite article *-en*, *var* is the verb "be" in the past tense, and *dårlig* is the adjective "bad." In the plural, *film* remains unchanged when it's indefinite, which means that "movies" is *film* in Danish. When *film* is definite in the plural, it becomes *filmene*, which means "the movies."

tid

The common gender noun *tid* can mean "time," "appointment," and "tense" (as in grammatical tense). *Tid* is very straightforward and easy to learn because it's used in the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, *Har du tid?* means "Do you have time?" *Har* is the verb "have" in the present tense, *du* is the pronoun "you," and *tid* means "time." *Har du en tid?* means "Do you have an appointment?" By including the indefinite article *en*, *tid* means "appointment" in this context. Finally, *Hvilken tid står verbet i?* literally means "Which tense does the verb stand in?" but is equivalent to "Which tense is the verb in?" *Hvilken* is the pronoun "which," *tid* means "tense," *står* is the verb "stand" in the present tense, *verbet* is the neuter gender noun "verb" with the definite article *-et*, meaning "the verb," and *i* is the preposition "in."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Talk About Time

Hvad er klokken nu? Klokken er 11:45.

"What time is it now?" "It's eleven forty-five"

You might need to ask a Dane for the time, which, in Danish, is *Hvad er klokken?*

Hvad is the pronoun "what," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, and *klokken* means "the clock." So, in English, the phrase literally means "What is the clock?" but it's also equivalent to "What is the time?" or "What time is it?" When answering this question, you have several options.

You can say *Klokken er...* followed by the time. For example, *Klokken er tolv* literally means "The clock is twelve," but it is equivalent to "It's twelve o'clock." *Klokken* can be replaced with the pronoun *den*, which means "it." You use the pronoun *den*, because *klokken* is a common gender noun with the definite article *-en*. With *den*, the phrase becomes *Den er tolv*, which literally means "It is twelve." You can also just say *Tolv*, which is the number "twelve."

When the time is half past the hour, you say *Den er halv...* followed by a given time. For example, *Den er halv ni* literally means "It is half nine," but it is equivalent to "It's eight thirty." *Den er* means "It is," *halv* is the adjective "half," and *ni* is the number "nine."

Usage of the Prepositions "Over" and "I" to Tell the Time

In Danish, you use the preposition *over* to say "past" and the preposition *i* to say "to." For example, *Den er tyve minutter over tre* means "It's twenty minutes past three." *Den er* means "It is," *tyve* is the number "twenty," *minutter* is the noun "minute" in the plural, and *over tre* means "past three." When the time is more than thirty minutes past, you use *i* instead of *over*. For example, *Den er ti i otte* literally means "It is ten to eight." *Ti* is the number "ten," *i* is the preposition "to," and *otte* is the number "eight." As you can see, it's optional to add *minut* ("minute") or *minutter* ("minutes") after the number of minutes past or to a given time.

When the time is a quarter past something, you can say *Den er et kvarter over...* followed by a given time. For example, *Den er et kvarter over fem* means "It's a quarter past five." You can also say *Den er kvart over...* followed by a given time. For example, *Den er kvart over syv* means "It's quarter past seven." *Kvater* and *kvart* mean "quarter." When the time is a quarter to something, you can say *Den er et kvarter i...* followed by a given time. For example, *Den er et kvarter i seks* and *Den er kvart i seks* mean "It's a quarter to six." *Den er* means "it is," *et kvarter* or *kvart* mean "a quarter," and *i seks* means "to six."

For example:

1. *Klokken er femogtyve minutter over to.*
"It's twenty-five minutes past two o'clock."
2. *Den er fem i fire.*
"It's five to four."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hvad er klokken nu?*
"What time is it now?"
2. *Den er 11:45.*
"It's 11:45."

Sample Sentences

1. *Klokken er mange.*
"It's late."
2. *Hvad er klokken nu, tror du?*
"What time is it now, do you think?"

Language Expansion

If you want to specify a.m. and p.m. in Danish between midnight and noon, you use the numbers one through twelve, and between noon and midnight, you use the numbers thirteen through zero. For example, *Den er attenfemogfyrre* means "It's 18:45" or "It's 6:45 pm." *Attenfemogfyrre* is a number composed of *atten*, which means "eighteen;" *fem*, which means "five;" the conjunction *og*, which means "and;" and *fyrre*, which means "forty."

You can also just use the numbers one through twelve because most people will know from the context whether you're referring to something happening in the am or the pm. However, if you still want to specify, you can follow the time with *om natten*, which means "at night." For example, *Klokken to om natten* means "two o'clock at night." After three am, you can follow the time with *om morgenen*, which literally means "in the morning." For example, *Klokken otte om morgenen* means "eight o'clock in the morning."

If it's past noon, you can follow the time with *om eftermiddagen*, which means "in the afternoon." For example, *Klokken tre om eftermiddagen* means "three o'clock in the afternoon." After six pm, you can follow the time with *om aftenen*, which means "in the evening." For example, *Klokken to om aftenen* means "ten o'clock in the evening."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Daylight Savings Time in

Denmark

In Denmark, daylight savings time, or *sommertid* (lit., "summer time"), usually starts around the end of March and ends around the end of October. This means that Danes turn their clocks one hour forward when daylight savings time starts and one hour back when it ends. So, in the spring, you lose one hour, and in the fall, you gain one in order to make the most out of the daylight—especially in the summer evenings. The clocks are usually changed at two or three o'clock at night. Today, many digital clocks and watches adjust themselves, but those who still have to do it manually often risk waking up an hour late for any appointment in the morning following the change at night. On the other hand, some will also go happily back to bed, once they realize that they've gained an hour after the change in the fall. Fortunately, daylight savings time will be covered on the news when it's that time of year to remind everyone.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20 Make Sure You Don't Run Out of Popcorn in Denmark!

CONTENTS

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

20

DANISH

1. Emma: Er der popcorn?
2. William: Ja, det er der.
3. Peter: Jeg er sulten. Er der nok til alle?
4. Emma: Jeg tror, der er rigeligt.
5. William: Er du sikker?
6. Peter: Jeg er ikke sikker.
7. Emma: Men det er jeg!

ENGLISH

1. Emma: Is there popcorn?
2. William: Yes, there is.
3. Peter: I'm hungry. Is there enough for everyone?
4. Emma: I think there's plenty.
5. William: Are you sure?
6. Peter: I'm not sure.
7. Emma: But I am!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
nok	enough, probably	adjective, adverb
være	to be	verb
popcorn	popcorn	noun
jeg	I	pronoun
sulten	hungry	adjective
alle	all, everybody, everyone	adjective
tro	believe, think	verb
rigelig	ample, plentiful, plenty of	adjective
sikker	sure, certain, positive, safe, steady	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Du har fået nok slik nu. "You've had enough candy now."</p>	<p>Han vil nok ikke med. "He probably doesn't want to come."</p>
<p>Det er rart at være her. "It's nice to be here."</p>	<p>Hvor har du været hele mit liv? "Where have you been all my life?"</p>
<p>Børnene elsker popcorn. "The children love popcorn."</p>	<p>Jeg spiller tennis. "I play tennis."</p>
<p>Jeg er dansk. "I'm Dane."</p>	<p>Er I ikke sultne? "Are you not hungry?"</p>
<p>Alle er her nu! "Everyone is here now!"</p>	<p>Hvad tror du? "What do you think?"</p>

Drik rigeligt med vand.

"Drink plenty of water."

Hun er ikke helt sikker på det.

She's not quite sure about it.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Nok

Nok as an adjective means "enough" and is used in the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, *Der er nok forslag nu* means "There are enough suggestions now." *Der er* means "there are," *nok* means "enough," *forslag* means "suggestions," and *nu* is the adverb "now." *Nok* as an adverb means "probably." It is always part of a sentence and can't stand alone (like the English "probably"). For example, *Vi vinder nok ikke* means "We probably will not win." *Vi* is the pronoun "we," *vinder* is the verb "win" in the present tense, *nok* means "probably," and *ikke* is the adverb "not."

Tro

The verb *tro* means "believe" or "think," and it's used in the same way in Danish as in English. For example, *Jeg tror på skæbnen* means "I believe in destiny." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *tror* is the verb "believe" in the present tense, *på* is the preposition "in," and *skæbnen* literally means "the destiny" (but it is equivalent to just "destiny" in this context). *Tro* as the verb "think" is used when you are pretty much certain about something. For example, *De tror, det er en dum idé* means "They think it's a dumb idea." *De* is the pronoun "they," *tror* is the verb "think" in the present tense, *det* is the pronoun "it," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, *en* is the indefinite article "a," *dum* is the adjective "dumb" or "stupid," and *idé* is the common gender noun "idea."

sikker

The adjective *sikker* has several meanings, but it's most commonly used to express certainty. In this case, it means "sure," "certain," and "positive." For example, *Han er meget sikker på sig selv* means "He is very sure of himself." *Han* is the pronoun "he," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, *meget* is the adverb "very," *sikker* means "sure," and *på sig selv* means "of himself." *Sikker* can also mean "safe." For example, *Ræven føler sig sikker om natten* means "The fox feels safe at night." *Ræven* is the common gender noun "fox" with the definite article *-en*, meaning "the fox;" *føler sig* is the verb "feel" in the present tense; *sikker* means "safe;" and *om natten* means "at night." Finally, *sikker* can also mean "steady." For example, *Hun tegner med sikker hånd* means "She draws with a steady hand." *Hun* is the pronoun "she," *tegn* is the verb "draw" in the present tense, and *med sikker hånd* literally means "with steady hand," but it is equivalent to "with a steady hand."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Talk About Animate and Inanimate Objects Using the Verb *Være*

Er der popcorn? Jeg er sulten.

"Is there popcorn?" "I'm hungry."

In previous lessons, the verb *være* has been used in several dialogs, sample sentences, and examples of the grammar points. *Være* is the infinitive or dictionary form of the verb "be." Like in English, it can be used when talking about both animate and inanimate objects. The following is a chart demonstrating how the verb is conjugated:

	Present tense ("am/are/is")	Past tense ("was/were")	Past participle following the auxiliary verb <i>have</i> ("have") in present tense ("have been/has been")	Past perfect following the auxiliary verb <i>have</i> ("have") past tense ("had been")
Jeg ("I")	<i>er</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>har været</i>	<i>havde været</i>
Du ("you")	<i>er</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>har været</i>	<i>havde været</i>
Han, hun, den, det ("he," "she," "it," "that")	<i>er</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>har været</i>	<i>havde været</i>
Vi ("we")	<i>er</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>har været</i>	<i>havde været</i>
I ("you")	<i>er</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>har været</i>	<i>havde været</i>
De ("they")	<i>er</i>	<i>var</i>	<i>har været</i>	<i>havde været</i>

Compared to the English "be," *være* is easy to conjugate and easy to remember, because it doesn't change according to person or number, only tense.

Using *Være* as an Auxiliary Verb

You can use *være* in the present tense or in the past tense as an auxiliary verb before other verbs in the past participle or the past perfect. As an auxiliary verb, *være* means "have." For example, "The train has stopped" is *Toget er stoppet*. The first word, *toget*, is the neuter gender noun "train" with the definite article *-et*, meaning "the train," and *er stoppet* means "has stopped." *Er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, and *stoppet* is the verb "stop" in the past participle.

Also, "They had already gone home" is *De var allerede taget hjem*. The first word, *de*, is the pronoun "they," *var* is the verb "be" in the past tense, *allerede* is the adverb "already," and *taget hjem* is the compound verb "go home" in the past perfect, meaning "gone home."

For example:

1. *Er bilen blevet solgt?*
"Has the car been sold?"
2. *Hun var blevet træt og gik i seng.*
"She had become tired and went to bed."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Er der popcorn?*
"Is there popcorn?"
2. *Ja, det er der.*
"Yes, there is."

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg er tørstig.*
"I'm thirsty."
2. *Er I ikke sultne?*
"Are you not hungry?"

Language Tip

As a formal subject, you can use the word *der* with the verb *være* to say "there is" or "there are." In Danish, both become *der er*, which uses the present tense of *være* with *der*. In the past tense, both become *der var*, which uses the past tense of *være* with *der*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Going to the Cinema in Denmark

The leading cinema chains in Denmark are Cinemaxx and BioCity. You can find one or both of them in all the larger and medium-sized cities. When booking a ticket, you can either call the cinema or book it online from the website. There, you can also see which seats are available and choose your own seats. You'll be charged a small fee for booking a ticket in advance, on top of the ticket price. When buying your ticket at the counter in the cinema, you won't be charged extra, but—depending on the movie—you might not be able to get good seats. If you have a student card, you can get a discount on the ticket, so don't forget to bring it. Ticket prices usually range from eighty-five to ninety kroner, but they might be more expensive if it's in 3D or if it's a movie that lasts longer than average.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21 I See Danish Snacks in Your Future!

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

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DANISH

1. Emma: Sikke en film.
2. William: Ja, skal vi gå i parken senere?
3. Peter: Ja, lad os det.
4. Emma: Køber vi snacks på vejen?
5. William: Jeg troede, du havde fået nok i biografen.

ENGLISH

1. Emma: What a movie!
2. William: Yes! Are we going to the park later?
3. Peter: Yes, let's do that.
4. Emma: Will we buy snacks on the way?
5. William: I thought you'd had enough at the cinema.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
lad os det	let's do it, let's do that	phrase
sikke en film	What a movie!	phrase
gå	to go, to pass, to walk, to leave	verb

park	park	noun
senere	later, afterwards	adjective, adverb
købe	buy, purchase	noun
snack	snack	noun
på vejen	on the way, on the road, on the street	phrase
nok	enough, probably	adjective, adverb
biograf	cinema	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ja da, lad os det. "Sure, let's do that."</p>	<p>Sikke en sjov film! "What a funny film!"</p>
<p>Jeg gik hjemmefra om morgenen, gik på arbejde og gik hele vejen hjem. "I left home in the morning, went to work, and walked all the way home."</p>	<p>Faren ankommer til parken. The father is arriving at the park.</p>
<p>Jeg tager toget senere i dag. "I am taking the train later today."</p>	<p>De skal købe gaver i morgen. "They're buying gifts tomorrow."</p>
<p>Jeg kunne godt tænke mig en snack. "I would like a snack."</p>	<p>Mødte I dem på vejen herover? "Did you meet them on the way over here?"</p>
<p>Du har fået nok slik nu. "You've had enough candy now."</p>	<p>Han vil nok ikke med. "He probably doesn't want to come."</p>

Hvor ligger biografen?

"Where is the cinema?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

senere

Senere, as an adjective, means "later," and it's used the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, *Jeg kommer på et senere tidspunkt* means "I will come at a later time." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *kommer* is the verb "come" in the present tense, the preposition *på* means "at" in this context, *et* is the indefinite article "a," *senere* means "later," and *tidspunkt* is the neuter gender noun "time" or "date." When the comparative *senere* is used as an adverb, it means "later" or "afterwards." For example, *Vi ordner det senere* means "We will take care of it later." *Vi* is the pronoun "we," *ordner* is the verb "take care of" in the present tense, *det* is the pronoun "it," and *later* is the adverb "later."

lad os det

The phrase *lad os det* is composed of *lad*, which is the verb "let" in the imperative; *os*, which is the pronoun "us;" and *det*, which is the pronoun "it." The phrase literally means "let us it," but it's equivalent to "let's do it." When it follows an interjection, such as *ja*, which means "yes," it can also mean "let's do that" because the last word refers to what you're going to do.

På vejen

På vejen literally means "on the way," "on the road," or "on the street." The phrase is used in the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, *På vejen købte de vand og sandwich* means "On the way, they bought water and sandwiches." *På vejen* means "on the way," *købte* is the verb "buy" in the past tense, *de* is the pronoun "they," *vand* means "water," *og* is the conjunction "and," and *sandwich* means "sandwiches." You can also say that something is literally on the road or street. For example, *Der holder en bil på vejen* means "There's a car on the road" or "There's a car in the street." *Der* is the formal subject "there," *holder* means "is" in this context, *en* is the indefinite article "a," *bil* is the common gender noun "car," and *på vejen* means "on the road" or "in the street."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Talk About Doing Intentional Actions in the Future Using Future and Present Tense Verbs

Ja, skal vi gå i parken senere?

"Yes, are we going to the park later?"

Danes talk about doing intentional actions in the future by using verbs in the future tense. Here, you have two options. You can use the verb *skulle* as an auxiliary verb in the present tense—which means "be to"—followed by a verb in the infinitive or dictionary form when expressing what you're going to do in the future. For example, *Vi skal rejse til København i weekenden* means "We're traveling to Copenhagen on the weekend." *Vi* is the pronoun "we;" *skal rejse* literally means "are to travel," but is equivalent to "are traveling;" *til* is the preposition "to;" *København* means "Copenhagen;" *i* is the preposition "in;" and *weekenden* is the common gender noun "weekend" with the definite article *-en*, meaning "the weekend."

The second option is simply using verbs in the present tense followed by an expression of time in the future. For example, *Vi rejser til København i weekenden* literally means "We travel to Copenhagen in the weekend," but to emphasize the future tense in English, it becomes "We will travel to Copenhagen on the weekend." *Vi* means "we," *rejser* is the verb "travel" in the present tense, *til København* means "to Copenhagen," and *i weekenden* means "on the weekend," which is the expression of time in the future.

Using *Skulle* Without a Verb in the Infinitive Following

You can also use the verb *skulle* in the present tense without a verb in the infinitive following to express where you're going in the future. For example, *Vi skal til København i weekenden* means "We're going to Copenhagen on the weekend." *Vi* means "we," *skal* is the present tense of *skulle*, meaning "are going," *til København* means "to Copenhagen," and *i weekenden* means "on the weekend."

For example:

1. *Jeg skal spille fodbold i aften.*
"I'm playing soccer tonight."
2. *Jeg skal til fodboldtræning.*
"I'm going to soccer practice."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Ja, skal vi gå i parken senere?*
"Yes. Are we going to the park later?"
2. *Køber vi snacks på vejen?*
"Will we buy snacks on the way?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Hun går i parken om en time.*
"She'll go to the park in an hour."
2. *Han skal hjem senere.*
"He's going home later."

Language Tip

When using verbs in the present tense to express the future tense, you don't always have to follow the verb with an expression of time. You'll often know from the context whether someone is talking about a present or future intentional action. For example, *Hun ringer lige til ham* means "She's just going to call him." *Hun* is the pronoun "she;" *ringer* is the verb "call" in the present tense; *lige* is an adjective that, in this case, means "just;" *til* is the preposition "to;" and *ham* is the pronoun "him."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Parks and Recreation

Besides lots of forests and endless green landscapes surrounding most cities in Denmark, you'll also find parks and recreation grounds in the cityscapes. The larger parks have lakes and other water features, statues, benches, and pathways. Therefore, it's very rare to have the park all to yourself on days with mild or warm weather. Especially during summer, you'll see people hanging out on blankets, reading books, sunbathing, having lunch, or taking a nap. Recreation grounds function either as playgrounds for children or as places to work out or play sports. Many also use the larger parks for playing frisbee or soccer. Some parks and recreation grounds also feature a *Pétanque* playing area, which is a game where the players have to throw hard metal balls with different patterns (or heavy plastic balls in different colors) as close as possible to a smaller ball thrown to a random distance at the beginning of the game. Another popular lawn game is *Kubb*, which is a game where two teams compete in knocking over each other's *kubbs* on the opposite side of the playing area. The team that knocks over the "king" placed in the middle of the area wins.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22 Talking About Your Habits in Danish

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- 2 Danish
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 6 Cultural Insight

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DANISH

1. William: Drikker du sodavand?
2. Peter: Ja, jeg elsker sodavand!
3. William: Det gør jeg også.
4. Peter: Ser du amerikansk fodbold?
5. William: Nej, jeg ser Champions League.

ENGLISH

1. William: Do you drink soda pop?
2. Peter: Yes, I love soda pop!
3. William: So do I.
4. Peter: Do you watch American football?
5. William: No, I watch Champions League.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
ombygge	remodel	verb
jeg	I	pronoun
drikke	drink	verb
du	you	pronoun

sodavand	fizzy drink, soda pop	noun
Ja	Yes	noun
elske	love	verb
gøre	do, make	verb
også	also, too, as well	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>De besluttede at ombygge køkkenet.</p> <p>"They decided to remodel the kitchen."</p>	<p>Jeg spiller tennis.</p> <p>"I play tennis."</p>
<p>Jeg er dansk.</p> <p>"I'm Dane."</p>	<p>Jeg kan ikke drikke.</p> <p>"I can't drink."</p>
<p>Hvad sagde du?</p> <p>"What did you say?"</p>	<p>Hvilken sodavand kan de bedst lide?</p> <p>"Which soda pop do they like the most?"</p>
<p>Mere kaffe? Ja tak.</p> <p>"More coffee? Yes, please."</p>	<p>Ja, det er sandt.</p> <p>"Yes. It's true."</p>
<p>Jeg elsker dig ikke længere.</p> <p>"I don't love you anymore."</p>	<p>Gør som du vil.</p> <p>"Do as you please."</p>
<p>Han vil også med.</p> <p>"He wants to come, too."</p>	<p>Hun spiste også en burger.</p> <p>"She also ate a burger."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Drikke

Drikke is the verb "drink." It's used in the same way in Danish as it is in English. In the present tense, *drikke* becomes *drikker*. In the past tense, it becomes *drak*. And in the past participle and the past perfect, it becomes *drukket*. The vowel *-i* changes to *-a* in the past tense and to *-u* in the past participle and the past perfect.

sodavand

The common gender noun *sodavand* means "fizzy drink" or "soda pop." In the plural, the noun stays unchanged because it's uncountable. This means that "fizzy drinks" or "soda pops" in Danish is *sodavand*. The plural definite of the noun is *sodavandene*, which means "the fizzy drinks" or "the soda pops."

gøre

The verb *gøre* means "do" or "make." It's an irregular verb, which means that, in the present tense, it becomes *gør*, meaning "do" or "does" and "make" or "makes." In the past tense, it becomes *gjorde*, which means "did" and "made." And in the past participle and the past perfect, it becomes *gjort*, which means "done." *Gøre* most commonly means "do," but in some cases, it means "make." For example, *Du har gjort et godt indtryk* means "You've made a good impression." *Du* is the pronoun "you," *har* is the auxiliary verb "have" in the present tense, *gjort* is the past participle "made," and *et godt indtryk* means "a good impression."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Talk About Doing a Habitual Action Using Verbs in the Present Tense

Ser du amerikansk fodbold?

"Do you watch American football?"

Like in English, Danes usually express habitual action by using the present tense form of the verb matching the action. A habitual action is something you do out of habit. For example, *Jeg spiser stærk mad* means "I eat spicy food." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *spiser* is the verb "eat" in the present tense, *stærk* is the adjective "spicy," and *mad* is the common gender noun "food."

You can also use the verb *pleje* to express habituality, followed by the infinitive marker *at* and a verb in the infinitive or dictionary form. The verb *pleje* means "use to," but, when used in the present tense in this structure, it means "usually." For example, *Han plejer at sove over sig* means "He usually oversleeps." *Han* is the pronoun "he," *plejer* is the verb "use to" in the present tense—in this case, meaning "usually"—and *at sove over sig* means "to oversleep." Even though *at sove over sig* is in the infinitive, the verb is in the present tense in the English translation because *plejer* is translated as the adverb "usually" to make proper sense in English.

So, the sentence structure used to express habitual action with *pleje* is as follows:

plejer (present tense) + **at** (infinitive marker) + [verb in infinitive]

Expressing Past Habitual Action

If you want to talk about past habitual action, you can simply use the past tense form of the verb matching the action. For example, *Hun drak kun vand til maden i et år.* [pause] *Hun drak kun vand til maden i et år* means "She only drank water with her meals for a year."

Hun means "she," *drak* means "drank," *kun* means "only," *vand* means "water," *til* means "with," *maden* means "meals" or "the food," *i* means "for," *et* means "a," and *år* means "year." Using an expression of time in the sentence can emphasize that the habitual action is in the past and no longer current.

For example:

1. *De tager bussen til skole hver dag.*
"They take the bus to school every day."
2. *Som børn fik vi altid slik om fredagen.*
"As children, we always got candy on Fridays."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Drikker du sodavand?*
"Do you drink soda pop?"
2. *Ser du amerikansk fodbold?*
"Do you watch American football?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg drikker ikke alkohol.*
"I don't drink alcohol."
2. *Træner du hver dag?*
"Do you exercise every day?"

Language Tip

You can use the verb *pleje*, which means "use to," in the past tense, followed by the infinitive marker and a verb in the infinitive or dictionary form, to express past

habitual action. For example, *Du plejede at løbe så hurtigt* means "You used to run so fast." *Du* is the pronoun "you;" *plejede* is the verb "use to" in the past tense, meaning "used to;" *at løbe* means "to run;" *så* is the adverb "so;" and *hurtigt* is the adjective "fast."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Sports Bars

In every larger and medium-sized city in Denmark, you can be sure to find a sports bar. Sports bars are also called pubs because they resemble British pubs. Many of them serve small meals or snacks, but larger ones also have Sunday roast on the menu, for instance. When they are not showing any important matches or games, you can also attend happy hours and karaoke nights at many sports bars or pubs. Large places might also have live music performances, pool tables, and darts, so you definitely won't get bored. Since many of the sports bars and pubs are defined as British or Irish pubs, you can expect the staff to have good English skills, and many of the staff members are actually British or Irish—who might or might not speak Danish. Danes love the concept of these places, so if you want to make both Danish-speaking and English-speaking friends in a place with a nice "British" atmosphere, you know where to go now.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23 I'm So Glad it's Friday in Denmark!

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DANISH

1. Søren: Tager du i universitetsbaren?
2. Thomas: Måske.
3. Søren: Jeg går derhen nu.
4. Thomas: Skal du i byen senere?
5. Søren: Selvfølgelig.

ENGLISH

1. Søren: Are you going to the university bar?
2. Thomas: Maybe.
3. Søren: I'm going over there now.
4. Thomas: Are you going out later?
5. Søren: Of course.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
gå	to go, to pass, to walk, to leave	verb
tage i	go to	phrase
universitetsbar	university bar	noun

måske	maybe, perhaps, possibly	adverb
jeg	I	pronoun
derhenne	over there	
skulle	have to, have got to, must, be to, be meant to, be supposed to, should, ought to	verb
i byen	in the town, in the city, out	phrase
senere	later, afterwards	adjective, adverb
selvfølgelig	obvious, of course, naturally, certainly	adjective, adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg gik hjemmefra om morgenen, gik på arbejde og gik hele vejen hjem.</p> <p>"I left home in the morning, went to work, and walked all the way home."</p>	<p>Vi tager ikke i skole i morgen.</p> <p>"We're not going to school tomorrow."</p>
<p>De sidder i universitetsbaren.</p> <p>"They're sitting in the university bar."</p>	<p>Nå, måske kommer de ikke.</p> <p>"Well, perhaps they aren't coming."</p>
<p>Jeg spiller tennis.</p> <p>"I play tennis."</p>	<p>Jeg er dansk.</p> <p>"I'm Dane."</p>
<p>Den butik er derhenne.</p> <p>"That store is over there."</p>	<p>Skulle du ikke være i skole?</p> <p>"Shouldn't you be in school?"</p>

Jeg har ikke været i byen i et halvt år.

"I haven't gone out for half a year."

Jeg tager toget senere i dag.

"I am taking the train later today."

Selvfølgelig må du det.

"Of course, you may."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

i byen

The phrase *i byen* literally means "in the town" or "in the city." But, when used with the verb *gå*, the phrase *gå i byen* means "go out." *I byen* means "in the town" or "in the city" when you're talking about things, people, or something else that is literally in the town or in the city. For example, *Der er mange mennesker i byen* means "There are a lot of people in the city." *Der* is the formal subject "there," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, *mange* is the adjective "many," *mennesker* is the neuter gender noun "person" in the plural form for "people," and *i byen* means "in the city." Or for example, *De holder et karneval i byen* literally means "They're holding a carnival in the city." *De* is the pronoun "they," *holder* is the verb "hold" in the present tense, *et* is the indefinite article "a," *karneval* is the neuter gender noun "carnival," and *i byen* means "in the city."

Senere

Senere, as an adjective, is used to describe nouns, like in English, and means "later." As an adverb, it can mean both "later" and "afterwards" and is used the same way in Danish as it is in English—for example, when something is happening later or after something else.

selvfølgelig

The word *selvfølgelig*, as an adjective, means "obvious" and is used to describe nouns, like in English. As an adverb, *selvfølgelig* means "of course," "naturally," and "certainly," and it's used in Danish as it is in English to express certainty.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Use "Go To"

Tager du i universitetsbaren?

"Are you going to the university bar?"

In Danish, there are several ways to say that you're going somewhere. Like in the dialog, you can use the verb *tage*, followed by the preposition *i*, which means "go to." In some cases, you must replace the preposition *i* with the preposition *til*, which also means "to." For example, *Jeg tager til tandlægen* means "I'm going to the dentist." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *tager til* means "am going to," and *tandlægen* is the common gender noun "dentist" with the definite article *-en*, meaning "the dentist."

Another way to say that you're going somewhere is by using the verb *gå*, which has several meanings. In this context, it means "go," and it's used like it is in English. Like in the dialog, you can follow *gå* with a preposition or an adverb. For example, when followed by a preposition, *De går til stranden* means "They're going to the beach." *De* is the pronoun "they," *går* is the verb "go" in the present tense, *til* is the preposition "to," and *stranden* is the common gender noun "beach" with the definite article *-en*, meaning "the beach." And, when followed by an adverb, *Du går derhen i næste uge, ikke?* means "You'll go over there next week, right?" *Du* is the pronoun "you," *går* means "will go," *derhen* is the adverb "over there," and *i næste uge* means "next week." In English, the preposition *i* in *i næste uge* is not included in the translation.

Tage and Gå Followed by the Preposition I or Til

You can sometimes test which preposition to use after the verbs *tage* and *gå* by using the English preposition "in" instead of "to." For example, you can't say "in the dentist," so here, you have to use "to." This means that you use the preposition *til* in the Danish translation. Unfortunately, this is not a rule of thumb, because there are many exceptions, and, in some cases, you can even use the prepositions interchangeably. Before most proper nouns or proper names, though, you use the preposition *til*, but this is still not always the case.

For example:

1. *Familien tager til Paris.*
"The family is going to Paris."
2. *Børnene tager i Tivoli.*
"The children are going to Tivoli."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Tager du i universitetsbaren?*
"Are you going to the university bar?"

2. *Jeg går derhen nu.*
"I'm going over there now."

Sample Sentences

1. *Vi tager ikke i skole i morgen.*
"We're not going to school tomorrow."
2. *Jeg går ingen steder.*
"I'm not going anywhere."

Language Expansion

Like we learned in a previous lesson, you can use the verb *skulle* in the present tense to express where you're going in the future. Therefore, this is also used to say "go to." For example, *Mine venner skal på ferie* means "My friends are going on vacation." *Mine* is the possessive pronoun "my," *venner* is the common gender noun "friend" in the plural, *skal* is the present tense of "go to," *på* is the preposition "on," and *ferie* is the common gender noun "vacation" or "holiday."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish University Life

Danish university life can be quite hectic, like anywhere else in the world. At the beginning, you'll be introduced to your tutors, who have usually packed the first week's program with competitions, funny (drinking) games, and pub crawls, in addition to info-meetings and tours around campus. This Introduction Week is called *rusuge* in Danish, which literally means something like "state of intoxication week." It's a good way to break the ice and really get to know your new classmates, as well as a way to reduce the uncertainty you might have when starting at university. On Fridays, students often attend the weekly *fredagsbar*, or "Friday bar," where they can buy cheap drinks and blow off some steam leading up to the weekend. Every major study program with many students has its own Friday bar almost every week, but study programs with fewer students may only have Friday bar once a month. All students are welcome to go to any Friday bar, but many also go to the university bar instead, where the student environment is mixed anyway.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24 Expanding Your Danish Vocabulary AND Having Your Mouth Full At The Same Time

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- 2 Danish
- 2 English
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- 3 Sample Sentences
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DANISH

1. (crunchy sound of chewing)
2. Emma: Mmm.
3. William: Gem noget til os!
4. Peter: Hvordan siger man 'crisps' på dansk?
5. (gulp)
6. Emma: Det er nemt! Chips.
7. Peter: Hvad er 'french fries' så på dansk?
8. William: Pomfritter.

ENGLISH

1. (crunchy sound of chewing)
2. Emma: Mmm.
3. William: Save some for us!
4. Peter: How do you say "crisps" in Danish?
5. (gulp)
6. Emma: That's easy! Chips.

CONT'D OVER

7. Peter: What is "French fries" in Danish, then?
8. William: Pomfritter.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
nem	easy	adjective
gemme	hide, save, keep	verb
nogle	some, something	pronoun
Hvordan siger man	How do you say?	phrase
på dansk	in Danish	phrase
hvordan	how	adverb
sige	say, tell	verb
man	you, one, we, they	pronoun
hvad er	what is, what are	phrase
pomfritter	French fries, chips	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Katten er ikke nem at nare. "The cat is not easy to fool."</p>	<p>Skatten er gemt derovre. "The treasure is hidden over there."</p>
<p>Hønen lagde nogle æg. "The hen laid some eggs."</p>	<p>Hvordan siger man 'goodbye' på tysk? "How do say "goodbye" in German?"</p>

<p>På dansk siger man 'farvel.' "In Danish you say "farvel.""</p>	<p>Hvordan kom du hertil? "How did you get here?"</p>
<p>Hvordan kommer vi derhen? "How do we get there?"</p>	<p>Jeg ved ikke, hvad jeg skal sige. "I don't know what to say."</p>
<p>Man kan ikke leve uden ilt. "You can't live without air."</p>	<p>Man får valuta for pengene der. "You get a lot for your money there."</p>
<p>Hvad er det værste, der kunne ske? "What's the worst that could happen?"</p>	<p>Må jeg tage en pomfritter? "Can I take a French fry?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

gemme

The verb *gemme* means "hide," "save," and "keep," and it's used the same way in Danish as it is in English. For example, you can use *gemme* when you're hiding yourself or hiding something else. You can also use it when you're saving money or keeping money somewhere.

Nogle

Nogle is the pronoun *nogen* in the plural form, which means "some" or "something." It's used like it is in English when talking about an indefinite quantity of something and when talking about people. For example, *Der er noget i luften* means "There is something in the air." *Der* means "there," *er* is the verb "be" and means "is," *noget* means "something," *i* is the preposition "in," and *luften* means "the air."

Another example is *Noget te er meget godt, andet er ikke*, which means "Some tea is very good; others aren't." *Noget*, in this case, means "some," *te* means "tea," *er* means "are," *meget* means "very," *godt* is the t-form of "good," *andet* is the neuter-form of *anden* and means "other," *er* means "are," and *ikke* means "not."

pomfritter

The word *pomfritter* has French origins and means "French fries" or "chips." In Danish, it's a common gender noun, and it's often spelled according to its Danish pronunciation, which is *pomfrit* in the singular form and *pomfritter* in the plural form. Both the original French and the Danish way of spelling "French fry" are accepted.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask How to Say Something in Another Language

Hvordan siger man 'crisps' på dansk?

"How do you say "crisps" in Danish?"

When your current Danish vocabulary is not enough, it's always good to know how to ask what something is called. The most common way of asking is *Hvordan siger man...på dansk?* This means "How do you say...in Danish?" The first word, *hvordan*, is the adverb "how." The next word, *siger*, is the verb "say" in the present tense. The third word, *man*, is the pronoun "you" or "one." And, finally, *på dansk* means "in Danish." You simply add the word you want to know how to say between *man* and *på dansk*. The sentence structure is as follows:

Hvordan siger man + [word/sentence] + på dansk?

"How do you say" + [word/sentence] + "in Danish?"

An alternative—and more simple—way of asking how to say something in Danish is *Hvad er...på dansk?* This means "What is...in Danish?" *Hvad* is the pronoun "what," *er* is the verb "be" in the present tense, and *på dansk* means "in Danish."

Asking How to Say Something Using the Verb Hedde

In a previous lesson, the verb *hedde* was used to say your name because it means "be called." Therefore, you can also use it to ask what something is called in another language. For example, *Hvad hedder...på dansk?* means "What is...called in Danish?" *Hvad* is the pronoun "what," *hedder* is the verb "be called" in the present tense, and *på dansk* means "in Danish."

For example:

1. *Hvordan siger man 'have a nice day' på dansk?*
"How do you say 'have a nice day' in Danish?"
2. *Hvad hedder 'a dictionary' på dansk?*
"What is 'a dictionary' called in Danish?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hvordan siger man 'crisps' på dansk?*
"How do you say 'crisps' in Danish?"
2. *Hvad er 'french fries' så på dansk?*
"What is 'French fries' in Danish, then?"

Sample Sentences

1. *Hvordan siger man 'goodbye' på tysk?*
"How do you say "goodbye" in German?"
2. *På dansk siger man 'farvel.'*
"In Danish, you say *farvel*."

Language Expansion

If you want to know what something is called in a language other than Danish, you can simply replace the word *dansk* at the end of the sentence—meaning Danish—with another language. For example, *Hvordan siger man 'see you later' på svensk?* means "How do you say 'see you later' in Swedish?" Or *Hvad er 'bread' på norsk?* which means "What is 'bread' in Norwegian?" Or *Hvad hedder 'sorry' på spansk?* which means "What is 'sorry' called in Spanish?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Snacks and Sweets

One of the Danes' favorite summer snacks is *koldskål*, which is a cold dessert made from buttermilk, eggs, and sugar and eaten with whole or crumbled macaroons on top. The name literally means "cold bowl," and some Danes even have it for dinner in the summertime because it's nice and cooling and can be bought in every supermarket. Of course, many also make it themselves. If you're more into salty snacks, you can buy "crispy crackling" ready to eat in all supermarkets, kiosks, and gas stations next to all the other crisps. If you worry about the calories, you can try salty liquorice, which is another Danish favorite. Most people are used to sweet or regular liquorice, but salty liquorice is another common type of liquorice, especially in Scandinavian countries. You may not like the sort of burning sensation on your tongue, but you might get used to it after a few pieces. It's definitely something you must try at least once in your life.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25 A Danish Traveler's Life For Me

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DANISH

1. Emma: Jeg skal til Japan næste år.
2. William: Hvorfor?
3. Emma: En af mine venner skal giftes.
4. Peter: Tillykke! Det er dejligt. Hvornår tager du afsted?
5. Emma: I april.
6. William: Fedt! Skal din bror også afsted?
7. Emma: Nej, hans ven skal giftes i København.
8. William: Så du skal afsted alene? Wow.
9. Emma: Efter det skal jeg til USA.
10. Peter: Virkelig? Fedt!

ENGLISH

1. Emma: I'm going to Japan next year.
2. William: Why?
3. Emma: One of my friends is getting married.
4. Peter: Congratulations! That's nice. When are you leaving?

CONT'D OVER

5. Emma: In April.
6. William: Neat! Is your brother going, too?
7. Emma: No, his friend is getting married in Copenhagen.
8. William: So you're going alone? Wow.
9. Emma: After that, I'm going to America.
10. Peter: Really? Cool!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
jeg skal til	I'm going to	phrase
næste år	next year	phrase
en af mine venner	one of my friends	phrase
gifte	marry	verb
tillykke	congratulations	interjection
tage afsted	go off, leave	verb
alene	alone, by myself, single-handedly, only, solely	adjective, adverb
efter	after, according to, for	preposition, adverb, conjunction
virkelig	real, actual, really	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Jeg skal til bryllup i maj. "I'm going to a wedding in May."</p>	<p>Det kan kun blive bedre næste år. "It can only get better next year."</p>
<p>Fyren er en af mine venner. "The guy is one of my friends."</p>	<p>Hun skal giftes med chefen. "She's getting married to the boss."</p>
<p>Tillykke! Du har vundet! "Congratulations! You have won!"</p>	<p>Vi tager afsted ved midnat. "We're leaving at midnight."</p>
<p>Han skal køre alene hjem. "He's driving home alone."</p>	<p>Alle tager i byen efter eksamensafslutningen. "Everyone is going out after the graduation ceremony."</p>
<p>Sangen er virkelig god. "The song is really good."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

tillykke

The word *tillykke* is an interjection and means "congratulations." Like in English, Danes say *tillykke* when congratulating others on or with something. Because "happy birthday" is *tillykke med fødselsdagen* in Danish, you can also just say *tillykke* in this case. *Tillykke med fødselsdagen* literally means "Congratulations with the birthday," but it's equivalent to the English "Happy birthday."

alene

As an adjective, *alene* means "alone" or "by myself." As an adverb, it means "single-handedly," "only," or "solely." *Alene* is used in the same way in Danish as it is in English, so it's very straightforward and easy to learn. *Alene* is always used in the basic form, which means that no extra letters are added, no matter where it appears in a sentence.

virkelig

The adjective *virkelig* means "real," "actual," or "really." Like in English, Danes use it to describe something. When asking *Virkelig?* in Danish, it's also used in the same way as in English because it means "Really?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is a Review of Grammar Points From Previous Lessons

Nej, hans ven skal giftes i København.

"No, his friend is getting married in Copenhagen."

In the previous lessons of this series, we learned different ways to talk about doing intentional actions in the future. The subjects of the actions can either be personal pronouns, such as *jeg* ("I"), *du* ("you"), or *vi* ("we"); nouns, such as *broderen* ("the brother"), *kvinderne* ("the women"), or *træerne* ("the trees"); or a possessive pronoun followed by a noun, such as *mit tøj* ("my clothes"), *dine forældre* ("your parents"), or *jeres stue* ("your living room"). In the present tense, the verb *skulle* ("be to") is conjugated *skal*, which, in English, means "am/is/are (to)." *Skal* is then followed by a verb in the infinitive or dictionary form, such as *købe* ("buy"), *lave* ("make"), or *arbejde* ("work"). Here are some expressions of intentional actions in the future using the auxiliary verb *skal*.

Han skal flytte i lejlighed means "He is moving to an apartment." *Han* is the pronoun "he;" *skal flytte* means "is to move," but is equivalent to "is moving;" *i* is the preposition "to" in this case; and *lejlighed* is the common gender noun "apartment." It's not specified when the subject is moving, but it's most likely in the near future.

Another example is *Manden og konen skal skilles*, which means "The husband and wife are getting a divorce." *Manden* literally means "the man," but, in Danish, it can also mean "the husband;" *og* is the conjunction "and;" *konen* is the common gender noun "wife" with the definite article *-en*, which means "the wife;" and *skal skilles* means "are to get a divorce," but is equivalent to "are getting a divorce." It's not specified here either when the subjects are getting a divorce, but it's most likely in the near future.

The last example is *Deres søskende skal hente nye møbler*, which means "Their siblings are bringing new furniture." *Deres* is the pronoun "their;" *søskende* is the plural noun "siblings;" *skal hente* means "are to bring" or "are to get," but is equivalent to "are bringing" or "are getting;" *nye* is the e-form of the adjective "new;" and *møbler* is the neuter gender noun "furniture" in the plural form. When the subject is getting the furniture is not specified, but it's most likely in the near future.

Adding an Expression of Time

To make it more specific when subjects are doing intentional actions in the future, you can add an expression of time. In a previous lesson, we used *i weekenden*, which means "on the weekend." Expressions of time are unlimited, and they can vary from one second to years. When expressing time with seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, or years, Danes use the preposition *om* to say "in." For example, *om en uge* means "in a week," and *om et år* means "in a year." If you want to specify the period of time the subjects are doing intentional actions, Danes use the preposition *i* to say "for." For example, *i fem dage* means "for five days," and *i seks måneder* means "for six months." The expression of time is most commonly placed at the end of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Skolen skal holde fest om to timer.*
"The school is having a party in two hours."
2. *Dyrene skal bo hos naboen i tre uger og to dage.*
"The animals are staying with the neighbor for three weeks and two days."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *En af mine venner skal giftes.*
"One of my friends is getting married."
2. *Nej, hans ven skal giftes i København.*
"No, his friend is getting married in Copenhagen."

Sample Sentences

1. *Hun skal giftes med chefen.*
"She's getting married to the boss."
2. *Han skal køre alene hjem.*
"He's driving home alone."

Language Expansion

After conjugating the verb *skulle* in the present tense so it becomes *skal*, you can follow it with the prepositions *i* or *til* to say where you're going in the future. Both *skal til* and *skal i* mean "going to," and you simply follow the preposition with a proper name or a noun.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Weddings

Danes usually get married in a church or at a city hall. Like in many other countries, the bride wears a white dress at church weddings and the groom wears a suit or tuxedo. Those who get married at a city hall can wear whatever they want, but the bride and groom often wear more formal clothing, as if they were going to someone else's wedding. After the ceremony, everyone invited will go to the wedding reception, which often takes place in the party room of a hotel or inn, at a community hall, or at the bride and groom's home. The garden is an ideal place for wedding receptions held in the summer, but, of course, you can never predict the Danish weather. Therefore, many set up the tables and so on under large, open tents in case it starts raining. During the reception, there will be speeches, songs, wedding cake cutting, and the bridal waltz. It's tradition for all the male guests to kiss the bride on the cheek whenever the groom leaves the room and for all the female guests to kiss the groom on the cheek whenever the bride leaves the room.



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- 6 Seeing an Old Friend in Denmark
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