

This lesson goes over adjective basics.

Grammar Review

Sentence structure

While most Norwegian sentences use the subject-verb-object (SVO) word order, like English does, Norwegian also has the V2 (verb second) rule.

- If an adverbial phrase or subordinate clause is at the front of the sentence, the subject and verb have to switch places (this is called “inversion”) so that the verb stays in the second position.
- **I.e. adv. phrase / sub. clause - verb - subject - object**

	Eksempel	English
SVO	Familien besøkte Spania i fjor sommer.	The family visited Spain last summer.
	Hunden logrer med halen når eieren kommer hjem.	The dog wags his tail when its owner comes home.
V2	I fjor sommer besøkte familien Spania.	Last summer, the family visited Spain.
	Når hundens eier kommer hjem, logrer hunden med halen.	When the dog's owner comes home, the dog wags its tail.

Verb Conjugation

Most present tense verbs just add an **-r** to the end of the infinitive and drop the infinitive marker (å).

Infinitive	Present	English	Infinitive	Present	English
Å bake	baker	Bakes / Baking	Å følge	følger	Follows / Following
Å krangle	krangler	Argues / Arguing	Å snorke	snorker	Snores / Snoring

Note: There are some irregular verbs; mostly modal verbs.

Past tense conjugation is a bit more difficult, however there are some guidelines (but keep in mind there are exceptions). **NOTE:** The past tense endings are added to the stem.

1. If the verb stem ends with a double consonant, consonant cluster, or voiced plosive (b / d), past tense will typically end in **-et** / **-a**.
2. If the verb stem ends in a single consonant (except v / b / d), past tense usually ends in **-te**.
3. If the verb stem ends with v or diphthong, the past tense will often end in **-de**.

4. If the verb stem has only one syllable with a long vowel, past tense usually ends in **-dde**.

NOTE: There are many exceptions, with vowel changes, no endings, etc.

Rule Number	Ending	Infinitive	Stem	Past Tense	English
1	-et / -a	Å redde	Redd	reddet	Saved / Rescued
		Å banke	Bank	banket	Knocked
2	-te	Å løse	Løs	Løste	Solved
		Å kjøre	Kjør	kjørte	Drove
3	-de	Å leie	Lei	Leide	Rented
		Å prøve	Prøv	Prøvde	Tried
4	-dde	Å skje	Skje	Skjedde	Happened
		Å snø	Snø	Snødde	Snowed

There are three ways to talk about future activities.

- Using a present tense verb + a time adverbial.
- Using a modal verb + an infinitive.
- Using the phrase “kommer til å + infinitive” (used when the speaker has no control of the situation)

	Eksempel	English
Present Tense + Time Adverbial	Piloten flyr til Oslo senere i dag.	The pilot is flying to Oslo later today.
Modal Verbs + Infinitive	Fiolinisten skal stemme fiolinen.	The violinist will tune the violin.
Kommer til + Infinitive	Byen kommer til å miste strømmen på grunn av stormen.	The city is going to lose power because of the storm.

Adjectives

In Norwegian, adjectives must always agree with the number and gender of the noun.

- The plural form of the adjective is the same across all genders.
- The adjective also has two declensions: indefinite and definite.
- Unfortunately, there are many irregulars.

Indefinite Form

When using the indefinite form (i.e. “en bil,” “ei bok,” etc):

- The adjective does *not* change when the noun is singular masculine or feminine gender (en / ei)
- The adjective gets a **-t** ending if the noun is *singular* neuter (et)
- The adjective gets an **-e** ending in *plural* in all three genders.

Gender	Singular	English	Plural	English
Masc.	En stor katt	A big cat	store katter	Big cats
	En rød kopp	A red cup	røde kopper	Red cups
	En fin kjole	A nice dress	fine kjoler	Nice dresses
Fem.	Ei stor bok	A big book	store bøker	Big books
	Ei rød skjorte	A red shirt	røde skjorter	Red shirts
	Ei fin leilighet	A nice apartment	fine leiligheter	Nice apartments
Neut.	Et stort tre	A big tree	Store trær	Big trees
	Et rødt hus	A red house	Røde hus	Red houses
	Et fint armbånd	A nice bracelet	Fine armbånd	Nice bracelets

Most adjectives decline the same way as “stor” does, in which there are only 3 forms.

1. Stor - only used in the indefinite singular form for masc / fem nouns.
2. Stort - only used in the indefinite neuter singular form
3. Store - used in all other forms

Definite Form

In the definite form, the adjective almost always takes an -e ending:

Gender	Singular	English	Plural	English
Masc.	Den store katten	The big cat	De store kattene	The big cats
	Den røde koppen	The red cup	De røde koppene	The red cups
Fem.	Den store boka	The big book	De store bøkene	The big books
	Den røde skjorta	The red shirt	De røde skjortene	The red shirts

Neut.	Det store treet	<i>The big tree</i>	De store trea / trærne	<i>The big trees</i>
	Det røde huset	<i>The red house</i>	De røde husa / husene	<i>The red houses</i>

The adjective declines the same as they do in the *indefinite*, when the adjective is predicative (i.e. after the noun).

Gender	Singular	English	Plural	English
Masc.	Katten er stor	<i>The cat is big</i>	Kattene er store	<i>The cats are big</i>
	Koppen er rød	<i>The cup is red</i>	Koppene er røde	<i>The cups are red</i>
Fem.	Boka er stor	<i>The book is big</i>	Bøkene er store	<i>The books are big</i>
	Skjorta er rød	<i>The shirt is red</i>	Skjortene er røde	<i>The shirts are red</i>
Neut.	Treet er stort	<i>The tree is big</i>	Trærne er store	<i>The trees are big</i>
	Huset er rødt	<i>The house is red</i>	Husene er røde	<i>The houses are red</i>

Let's Practice: Write the Norwegian translation for the English phrases.

Eksempel (kol. 1)	English	Eksempel (kol. 2)	English
Reaperz - en søt baby	<i>A cute baby</i>	Hanna - høye alarmer	<i>Loud alarms</i>
Ozy - den korte/lave atleten	<i>The short athlete</i>	Reaperz - Den nye filmen	<i>The new film</i>
Deena - langt hår	<i>Long hair</i>	Ozy - Et høyt gjerde	<i>A tall fence</i>
Dan - Skoene er nye	<i>The shoes are new.</i>	Deena - eplet er grønt	<i>The apple is green.</i>

The *definite* form of the adjective is used in a number of ways in Norwegian:

1. After the definite article (den / det)
2. After the demonstrative pronoun (den / denne / dette)
3. After the possessive pronoun (min / mitt, etc)
4. After the genitive -s
5. After første, siste, neste, samme
6. Certain prepositional phrases
7. In some cases before a noun without a preceding article, usually when the adjective is part of a proper name or an expression of address.

Rule	Norwegian	English
After definite article	Den stygge andungen.	<i>The ugly duckling.</i>
	Det gamle huset	<i>The old house</i>
	Den gule boka	<i>The yellow book</i>
After the demonstrative pronoun	Den / denne gule regnfrakken	<i>That / this yellow raincoat.</i>
	Det / dette nye biblioteket	<i>That / this new library</i>
	Det / Dette brune hundhuset	<i>That / this brown doghouse</i>
After the possessive pronoun	Min kjekke mann	<i>My handsome husband</i>
	Ditt varme skjerf	<i>Your warm scarf</i>
	Min nye leiligheten	<i>My new apartment</i>
After the genitive -s	Berits vakre smil	<i>Berit's pretty smile</i>
	Leifs gamle hatt.	<i>Leif's old hat</i>
	Kvinnens svarte kjole	<i>The woman's black dress</i>
After første, siste, neste, samme	Neste offentlige tale.	<i>The next public speech</i>
	Det første røde og hvite flagget.	<i>The first red and white flag</i>
	Den siste hvite kattungen	<i>The last white kitten</i>
Certain prepositional phrases	Hele dagen	<i>The whole day</i>
	Midt på lyse dagen	<i>In broad daylight</i>
	Ut av løse luften	<i>Out of thin air</i>
Before a noun without a preceding article when the adjective is part of a proper name or an expression of address.	Gamle Norge	Old Norway
	Kjære barn	Dear children

The following adjectives do *not inflect* for number or gender.

1. Certain adjectives which end in a stressed vowel.

Norwegian	English
Bra	Good

Slu	Sly
Lilla	Lilac / Purple
Troende	Faithful

***NOTE:** In the ordbok, some adjectives with an unstressed vowel ending have an *optional -e* ending for definitive and plural nouns.

Norwegian	English
Ru	Rough
Sky	Shy
Sjalu	Jealous
Sta	Stubborn
Edru	Sober

Ex: Den edru(e) mannen The sober man
 Eslene er sta(e) The mules are stubborn
 Mannen er sjalu(e) The husband is jealous

2. Adjectives which end in an unstressed -e.

Norwegian	English	Norwegian	English	Norwegian	English
Øde	Deserted	Sovende	Sleeping	Bedre*	Better
Stille	Quiet	Syngende	Singing	Penere*	Prettier
Steinete	Stony	Gående	Walking	Mindre*	Smaller

***NOTE:** These words are comparatives; most (if not all) comparatives end in an unstressed -e and therefore do not inflect.

Ex: Et bedre alternativ a better option
 En penere kjole a prettier dress
 Broren min er mindre. My brother is smaller

3. Some adjectives ending in -s.

Norwegian	English	Norwegian	English	Norwegian	English
Stakkars	Poor	Gratis	Free	Nymotens	Newfangled
Avsides	Remote	Felles	Mutual	Forgjeves	In vain
Innvortes	Internal				

Ex: Stakkars folk! poor people
Et gratis måltid a free meal

****If the lesson was beneficial, please consider buying me a [virtual tea](#). Thanks.****

Resources:

[Norwegian: An Essential Grammar \(pg. 70-78\)](#)

[Learn Norwegian! Adjectives \(YouTube\)](#)

[Norwegian Language: Adjectives \(w Karin\) \(YouTube\)](#)

[Learn Norwegian Naturally: Adjectives \(YouTube: på norsk\)](#)

Exercise: Fill in the blank

Copy / Paste into a separate GOOGLE document before answering.

En (white) _____ katt jager en (green) _____ ball.

Den (young) _____ avokaten vant den (difficult) _____ saken.

Har du sett de (soft) _____ tøflene mine?

Er de (black) _____ skoene dine (new) _____ ?

Det (big) _____ flyet er (white) _____ og (blue) _____ .

Jeg liker den (cozy) _____ estetikken din.

Modellen har et (beautiful) _____ smil, men en (ugly) _____ holdning.'

Hører du de (loud) _____ klokkene ringe?

Jeg kjøpte et (warm) _____ teppe til moren min.

Denne (famous) _____ skuespilleren har vunnet mange priser.

De to (**talented**) _____ fiolinistene har (**expensive**) _____ fioliner.

“Jeg forstår ikke de (**newfangled**) _____ mobiltelefonene”, sa den (**old**) _____ kvinnen.

Er hundene dine (**friendly**) _____ ?

“Armsbånduret er for (**expensive**) _____ “, klaget den (**rich**) _____ mannen.

Mange (**poor**) _____ folk bor i den (**remote**) _____ landsbyen ved den (**big**) _____ innsjøen.

Det (**innocent**) _____ barnet trodde på den (**kind**) _____ tannfeen.

Den (**heavy**) _____ lastebilen forårsaket den (**tragic**) _____ ulykken.

De (**big**) _____ skyskraperen ruvet over de (**smaller**) _____ bygningene.

Hun har (**cute**) _____ , (**colorful**) _____ sokker med (**white**) _____ og (**black**) _____ katter på.

Spøkelsesjegeren hørte (**weird**) _____ lyder og (**loud**) _____ fottrinn i det (**empty**) _____ slottet.

[Answer Key](#)