

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

A Gentle Introduction to Norwegian

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#1

DIALOGUE - NORWEGIAN

MAIN

1. Ola : Hei. Jeg heter Ola.
2. Kari : Hei. Mitt navn er Kari.
3. Ola : Hyggelig.
4. Kari : Hyggelig.

ENGLISH

1. Ola : Hi. I am called Ola.
2. Kari : Hi. My name is Kari.
3. Ola : Pleased to meet you.
4. Kari : Pleased to meet you.

VOCABULARY

Norwegian	English	Class	Gender
hyggelig	pleasant (Nice to meet you)	adjective	
å hete	to be called	verb	
jeg	I	pronoun	
navn	name	noun	neuter
mitt	my	adjective	
å være	to be	verb	
hei	hi	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bare hyggelig. "My pleasure."	Jeg heter Arne. "My name is Arne."
Heter du Olav? "Are you Olav?"	Jeg er ikke hjemme nå. "I am not at home now."
Jeg liker ikke servitøren. "I don't like the waiter."	Jeg kjenner ikke henne. "I don't know her."

Hva heter du? "What's your name?"	Kan du skrive ned navnet ditt? "Can you write down your name?"
Har du skiftet navn? "Have you changed your name?"	Husker du navnet mitt? "Do you remember my name?"
Er du tørst? "Are you thirsty?"	Hva er klokken? "What time is it?"
Hei, hvordan går det Maria? "Hello, how are you Maria?"	Hei, Maria. "Hello, Maria."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Heter

Norwegian is quite straightforward. There are seldom any pitfalls or complex mazes that prevent you from using the language skillfully. That said, Norwegians tend to take the shortest route possible to arrive at a point. Long sentences are therefore rarely found in spoken and, most often, written Norwegian as well. To accomplish this, Norwegian has certain words that make up meanings that would take English several words to express. A word like this is *heter*. In English, this would commonly translate to "being called." We mostly only use *heter* for referring to people's names, as in *jeg heter* ("my name is" or "I am called"). Yet, *heter* can also take on other meanings pretty similar to the way we use "to be called" in English. We shall look at these uses in another lesson in a more advanced series.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Learn Two Ways of Conveying Your "Name."

Hei. Jeg heter Ola.

"Hi, I am called Ola."

Heter is the present form of å *hete*. You will rarely have to use the infinitive form of this verb, so remembering *heter* is in itself enough.

Although both characters (Ola and Kari) use different greetings, there is no difference between male and female in Norwegian speech. Thus, the only difference between *jeg heter* ("name") and *mitt navn er* ("name") is that they look and sound different. Their meaning is exactly the same.

Exclusion of "Am"

Notice that we can directly translate *mitt navn er* in English as "my name is," while with *jeg heter*, you would have to add a verb to make even remote sense of the phrase. In Norwegian, we do not often use "am (adjective)" like in English. Without delving too deeply into why it is different, instead do yourself a favor and think twice before translating any phrases such as "I am...," "you are...," and so on directly to Norwegian.

Let's look at some concrete examples.

For Example:

1. *Jeg er tørst.* (with "am")
"I am thirsty." (with "am")
2. *Jeg drikker.* (without "am")
"I am drinking." (with "am")

Examples from This Lesson

1. *Hei. Jeg heter Ola.*
"Hi. I am called Ola."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Keep It Simple in Norwegian

As you can see, Norwegians like short, concise sentences. *Hyggelig* is one of those words that go with every conversation, whether what is implied is "Nice to meet you," "Nice meeting you again," or "(It was nice of you)." The best part of it is that *Hyggelig* is no less formal than the long version of each phrase, making it an essential word in your dictionary. Norwegians use this all the time along with other practical words like *takk* ("thank you") and *jepp* ("yes"/"correct"). It is these words that will, in the end, prove most handy during your Norwegian studies.