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LEVEL

1



Danish

Introduction



Unabridged Edition

innoVative LANGUAGE

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #1 Self Introductions - Basic Greetings in Danish

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- 2 Vocabulary
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#1

DANISH

1. Peter: Goddag. Mit navn er Peter. Hvad er dit navn?
2. Maria: Goddag, Peter. Mit navn er Maria.
3. Peter: Rart at møde dig.
4. Maria: I lige måde.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Good Day. My name is Peter. What's your name?
2. Maria: Good day, Peter. My name is Maria.
3. Peter: Nice to meet you.
4. Maria: Likewise.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
Goddag	Hello.	interjection
navn	name	noun
at være	to be	verb
at møde	to meet	verb
hvad	what	pronoun
mit	my, mine	pronoun
dig	you	pronoun

dit	your, yours	pronoun
rart	nice	adjective
i lige måde	likewise, you too	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Goddag, det er længe siden. "Hello, long time no see."	Goddag, hvordan har du det? "Hello, how are you?"
Goddag, Maria. "Hello, Maria."	Hvad er dit navn? "What's your name?"
Jeg kan ikke huske dit navn. "I can't remember your name."	Han sagde, hans navn er Peter. "He said his name is Peter."
Jeg er studerende. "I am a student."	Jeg er fra Danmark. "I'm from Denmark."
Kan vi mødes i morgen? "Can we meet tomorrow?"	Det var rart at møde dig. "It was nice to meet you."
Hvad er det? "What is that?"	Kan du gætte mit navn? "Can you guess my name?"
Mit navn er Maria. "My name is Maria."	Har jeg ikke set dig før? "Haven't I seen you before?"
Hvad med dig? "How about you?"	Må jeg se dit hjem? "May I see your home?"

Rart endelig at møde dig. "Nice to finally meet you."	A: Hav en god weekend! B: Tak, i lige måde! A: "Have a nice weekend!" B: "Thanks, you too!"
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

At være means "to be" in Danish, and luckily, whether you want to say "am," "are," or "is," this verb is always *er* in the present tense, no matter which pronoun or noun in the singular or plural you put in front of it. Therefore, it is as easy to tell someone your name as it is to ask someone their name in Danish.

For example:

1. *Mit navn er Peter.*
"My name is Peter."
2. *Hvad er deres navne?*
"What are their names?"

Notice how *er* remains in both sentences. Besides being easy to remember, *er* is one of the most important words to know in Danish, as it is often used like "to be" in any other language.

Mit and **dit** are the equivalents of "my"/"mine" and "your"/"yours." They are the first and second person possessive pronouns used when referring to a noun that belongs to the neuter gender class, like in the first example above, in which the noun *navn* ("name") is used. Like in English, *mit* and *dit* can also stand alone in a sentence without the actual noun being mentioned.

For example:

1. *Er det mit?*
"Is this mine?"
2. *Er det dit?*
"Is this yours?"

Simply make sure that you know the gender of the noun that *det* ("this") has replaced. In the examples above, *det* refers to nouns that belong to the neuter gender class, but if you are referring to a noun of the common gender class, *det*

should be changed to *den* ("this"), even though the meaning obviously does not change. This also counts for *mit* and *dit*, which should be changed to *min* ("my"/"mine") and *din* ("your"/"yours") when referring to nouns that belong to the common gender class. When referring to nouns in the plural though, gender does not matter: it is *mine* ("my"/"mine") and *dine* ("your"/"yours").

For example:

1. *Er skoene dine?*
"Are the shoes yours?"
2. *Skoene er mine.*
"The shoes are mine."

Finally, the phrase ***i lige måde*** is equivalent to both "likewise" and "you too," and it is used the same way in Danish as it is in English. Danish people mostly use it when someone has thanked you for something and you want to thank them too.

For example:

A: *Tak for godt samarbejde.* - "Thanks for good cooperation."

B: *Tak, i lige måde.* - "Thanks, likewise/you too."

A: *Tak for i aften.* - "Thanks for tonight/this evening."

B: *Tak, i lige måde.* - "Thanks, likewise/you too."

I lige måde can also be used when someone wishes you good luck or something pleasant and you want to return the compliment.

For example:

A: *Hav en god weekend.* - "Have a nice / good weekend."

B: *Tak, i lige måde.* - "Thanks, likewise / you too."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking Someone Their Name

To ask someone their name, just ask, *Hvad er dit navn?* This means, "What is your name?"

The first word, *hvad*, is a pronoun that means "what."

The next word, *er*, means "is," followed by *dit*, which is the second person possessive pronoun "your / yours" in Danish.

The last word *navn* means "name."

All together, we have: *Hvad er dit navn?*

The answer is *Mit navn er* plus your name, which literally means, "My name is ..."

For example:

1. *Mit navn er Maria.*
"My name is Maria."

Please note that there is another common way of asking someone's name in Danish, which is *Hvad hedder du?* This literally means, "What are you called/ named?" But it is equivalent to, "What is your name?" Accordingly, the answer is *Jeg hedder* plus your name, which literally means, "I'm called / named ..." and is equivalent to, "My name is ..." Both phrases can be used, but Danish people tend to say *Jeg hedder...* when introducing themselves because it is shorter than *Mit navn er ...* and also sounds less formal. So basically, it is up to you to decide which one you prefer using.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Incentives for Having Children

In 2012 Denmark had 57,916 newborns. The country of Denmark officially needs a birth rate of 2.3 babies per woman, but combined with the increasing age of first timers and the economy, this has been rather hard to achieve. Many incentives to bear more children have been made over the past thirty years. One of the biggest new incentives was the *Schlüter checken* act from 1987, under which a check is sent to every child under the age of eighteen, regardless of their parents' income. Also almost half of daycare and kindergarten is subsidized, and the more children you have, the bigger the discount.

Currently, the most popular girls and boys names in Denmark are:

Girls Names	Boys Names
Emma	Victor
Sofia	William
Freja	Noah
Ida	Frederik

Maja	Lucas
Sofie	Liam
Isabella	Emil
Laura	Oscar
Clara	Magnus
Josefine	Oliver

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #2 Talking Nationality in Danish

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#2

DANISH

1. Peter: Goddag. Mit navn er Peter. Jeg er dansk.
2. Maria: Goddag, jeg hedder Maria. Jeg er englænder.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Hello. My name is Peter. I'm Danish.
2. Maria: Hello, I'm called Maria. I'm English.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
Mit navn er	My name is..	expression
jeg hedder	I'm called, I'm named	phrase
Dansker	Dane (nationality)	noun
englænder	English (nationality)	noun
Goddag	Hello.	interjection
at være	to be	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jeg hedder Peter. "I'm called Peter."	Jeg er dansk. "I'm Dane."
Jeg er ikke englænder. "I'm not English."	Goddag, det er længe siden. "Hello, long time no see."

Goddag, hvordan har du det? "Hello, how are you?"	Goddag, Maria. "Hello, Maria."
Jeg er studerende. "I am a student."	Jeg er fra Danmark. "I'm from Denmark."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Jeg er is the equivalent of "I am/I'm" in English. This phrase can be followed by a noun indicating your name, your nationality, or occupation.

For example:

1. *Jeg er Julie.*
"I'm Julie."
2. *Jeg er amerikaner.*
"I'm American."
3. *Jeg er studerende.*
"I'm a student."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Boot Camp Lesson is Talking about Nationality

We start with a self-introduction ("Hello, my name is Peter"). Then we say our nationality, *Jeg er dansk*. ("I'm Danish (a Dane)").

To say you are a certain nationality, just say the phrase *Jeg er*, which means "I am," followed by your nationality.

Sentence structure: *Jeg er* plus nationality

Examples of nationalities in Danish

Danish	English
<i>Jeg er dansk.</i>	"I'm Danish."

<i>Jeg er tysker.</i>	"I'm German."
<i>Jeg er amerikaner.</i>	"I'm American."
<i>Jeg er brite.</i>	"I'm British."
<i>Jeg er japaner.</i>	"I'm Japanese."
<i>Jeg er kineser.</i>	"I'm Chinese."
<i>Jeg er Franska.</i>	"I'm French."
<i>Jeg er italiener.</i>	"I'm Italian."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Denmark's Demographics

During the last couple of decades, Denmark's national demographic landscape has become more and more diverse. Today, approximately ninety percent of Denmark's population is of Danish descent. The remaining ten percent represent immigrants or descendants of recent immigrants, mainly from Sweden, Norway, and Germany. However, nationalities such as Turkish, Arab, and Somali are also represented in the Danish population, along with many others from Eastern Europe, South Asia, and the Middle East.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #3 Useful Phrases for Learning Danish

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DANISH

1. A: Undskyld, hvordan siger man "I love you." på dansk?
2. B: "Jeg elsker dig."
3. A: Undskyld, det fangede jeg ikke. Sig det en gang til, be'om.
4. B: "Jeg elsker dig."
5. A: Vær venlig at tale lidt langsommere.
6. B: "Jeg elsk-er dig."
7. A: Skriv det ned på dansk for mig, be'om.

ENGLISH

1. A: Excuse me, how do you say, "I love you," in Danish?
2. B: I love you.
3. A: I'm sorry, I didn't catch that. Say it once again, please.
4. B: I love you.
5. A: Please, speak a little slower.
6. B: I love you.
7. A: Write that down in Danish for me, please.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
at tale	to speak, to talk	verb
at skrive ned	to write down	verb
langsom	slow	adjective
undskyld	excuse me, sorry, pardon	interjection
at sige	to say	verb
man	you, one, we, they	pronoun
dansk	Danish language	noun
at fange	to catch	verb
en gang til	one more time	phrase
mig	me	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Han taler engelsk. "He speaks English."	Kan du skrive det ned for mig, be' om? "Can you write it down for me, please?"
Jeg er langsom til at læse. "I'm slow at reading."	Undskyld, jeg løj. "Sorry, I lied."
Undskyld, hvad er klokken nu? "Excuse me, what time is it now?"	Man kan ikke leve uden ilt. "You can't live without air."
Man får valuta for pengene der. "You get a lot for your money there."	Hvordan siger man mit navn på dansk? "How do you say my name in Danish?"

Fangede du det? "Did you catch that?"	Vil du ikke nok sige det en gang til? "Could you please say it one more time?"
Han sendte et brev til mig. "He sent a letter to me."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Undskyld means "excuse me," "sorry," or "pardon." "Excuse me" is actually *Undskyld mig* in Danish, and this might have been used to apologize in the past, but today you will most likely only hear *Undskyld*. You can use both, however, when you are trying to work your way through a crowd (on the bus, for instance), when you are trying to get a staff member's attention in a store, or when you are asking for directions. *Undskyld* is also used when you accidentally bump into someone or step on their foot or the like.

For example:

1. *Undskyld, hvor meget koster det?*
"Excuse me, how much does it cost?"
2. *Undskyld, jeg fik ikke helt fat i det.*
"Sorry, I didn't quite get that."

Man is a pronoun and means "you/one/we/they." Danish people use *man* when they want to say something in general.

For example:

1. *Det ved man aldrig.*
"One never knows."
2. *Man skal ikke kaste med sten, når man selv bor i et glashus.*
"People who live in glass houses should not throw stones."
3. *Sådan gør man ikke her i huset.*
"That is not the way we do it in this house."

At *fange* means "to catch," and it is used both figuratively and literally, just like in English. You can use it not only when talking about catching fish or burglars, but also when not catching what someone just said. In the dialogue, we met the following sentence:

Undskyld, det fangede jeg ikke.

We start by apologizing for not catching what was said the first time by saying *undskyld*. Then we have *det fangede jeg ikke*, which literally means, "I didn't catch" or, "I didn't catch that."

Mig is a pronoun and means "me." It is used together with prepositions, such as "to" and "for," to mention a few. When used with other nouns, especially people, make sure that you put *me* last in the noun order to express more politeness by not mentioning yourself first.

For example:

1. *De købte kaffe til Peter og mig.*
"They bought coffee for Peter and me."
2. *Er der kage til både Maria, Julie og mig?*
"Is there cake for both Maria, Julie, and me?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Learning More Danish Phrases by Asking Questions in Danish.

Undskyld, hvordan siger man ____ på dansk.
"Excuse me, how do you say ____ in Danish?"

The first word in this sentence means "excuse me" or "sorry," and is used to catch someone's attention and ask him / her a question. Then, in order to ask, "How do you say ____ in Danish?" you just put the English word you want to ask before the last two words of the sentence, which are *på dansk* ("in Danish").

For example:

1. *Undskyld, hvordan siger man 'television' på dansk?*
"Excuse me, how do you say "television" in Danish?"

Before the English word that you want to ask, we have *hvordan siger man*, which means "how do you say." *Hvordan* is an adverb meaning "how," and *siger* is the present tense form of the verb *at sige* ("to say"). As explained above in the

vocabulary section, *man* is used when speaking of something in general and is equivalent to "you/one/we/they." All together we have, *Hvordan siger man*. If you want to know an English word in another language, simply replace the last word *dansk* ("Danish") in the sentence with that other language.

1. *Undskyld, hvordan siger man 'television' på spansk?*
"Excuse me, how do you say "television" in Spanish?"

Examples of languages in Danish:

Danish	English
<i>dansk</i>	"Danish"
<i>tysk</i>	"German"
<i>amerikansk</i>	"American (English)"
<i>britisk</i>	"British (English)"
<i>japansk</i>	"Japanese"
<i>kinesisk</i>	"Chinese"
<i>fransk</i>	"French"
<i>italiensk</i>	"Italian"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

English in Denmark

In Denmark, English is taught from the second to the tenth year of compulsory education. This is the first foreign language that is taught in Danish schools. The second foreign language is, in most cases, German, which is offered in the eighth to the tenth year. Both German and French as a third foreign language are usually among the optional subjects offered in the eighth to the tenth year, and sometimes even Latin is offered in the tenth year, but this is far from being in every school. If choosing a secondary education, most people continue with English and German or French or even choose one of the other languages offered at a given institution, such as Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, or others.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #4

Counting from 1-100 in Danish

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DANISH

1. Coach: en, og, to, og, tre, og,
2. Coach: fire, og, fem, og, seks, og,
3. Coach: syv, og, otte, og, ni, og, ti!

ENGLISH

1. Coach: one, and, two, and, three, and,
2. Coach: four, and, five, and, six, and,
3. Coach: seven, and, eight, and, nine, and, ten!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
en	One	
tre	Three	numeral
fire	Four	numeral
otte	Eight	numeral
fem	Five	numeral
to	Two	numeral
ni	nine (9)	numeral
seks	Six	numeral
syv	Seven	numeral
ti	ten (10)	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

En kaffe, tak. "One coffee, please."	Jeg vil gerne købe tre bøger. "I want to buy three books."
Jeg bliver i København i fire dage. "I'll stay in Copenhagen for four days."	Jeg har været i Danmark otte gange. "I've been to Denmark eight times."
Han har ventet i fem timer i lufthavnen. "He has been waiting for five hours at the airport."	To billetter til København, tak. "Two tickets to Copenhagen, please."
Han har fortalt historien til ni personer. "He's told the story to nine people."	Der er seks minutter tilbage. "There are six minutes left."
Han boede i København i syv år. "He lived in Copenhagen for seven years."	Er der ti bananer i posen? "Are there ten bananas in the bag?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Counting in Danish is easy, once you get past the numbers from eleven to nineteen, which are irregular. The numbers eleven to twenty in Danish are:

Elleve - 11
Tolv - 12
Tretten - 13
Fjorten - 14
Femten - 15
Seksten - 16
Sytten - 17
Atten - 18
Nitten - 19
Tyve - 20

In order to make numbers thirteen through nineteen, you add the word *-ten*, which is equivalent to the english "ten," but as we can see, the numbers "eleven" and "twelve" are exceptions. Unfortunately, there is no easy way of remembering what comes before *-ten*.

The Multiples of Ten

It is a good idea to learn the multiples of ten in Danish, because if you are able to remember those numbers, counting will be a piece of cake. The multiples of ten are as follows:

Tyve - 20
Tredive - 30
Fyrre - 40
Halvtreds - 50
Tres - 60
Halvfjerds - 70
Firs - 80
Halvfems - 90

Compound Numbers

Unlike in English, in order to form compound numbers, the ones are placed before the tens with an intervening *og* ("and").

For example:

En og tyve - 22
To og tredive - 32
Tre og fyrre - 43
Fire og halvtreds - 54
Fem og tres - 65
Seks og halvfjerds - 76
Syv og firs - 87
Otte og halvfems - 98

The word for one hundred is *hundrede*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using Danish Numerals

Numerals in Danish are not inflected, and a noun following a number should always be in its indefinite form.

For example:

Én seng.
"one bed."

Elleve etager.
"eleven floors."

De fire og tyve flasker.
"The twenty-four bottles."

Hun pustede de fyrre lys ud på kagen.
"She blew out the forty candles on the cake."

Han har tre og tres kaniner.
"He has sixty-three rabbits."

There are no actual rules for whether or not numerals should be written with letters or simply just the number, but in general, a rule of thumb could be not to write any numerals from eleven and up with letters, as the numbers start to become too long and clumsy to write. However, if you prefer writing the numerals one to ten with numbers, that is fine as well. In fact, writing numerals with numbers instead of letters gives a more accurate impression, and writing numerals that are followed by abbreviations or symbols, like kg and %, with numbers is also more sensible.

Cardinal vs. Ordinal Numbers

What we have learned above are cardinal numbers. To form ordinal numbers, add *-ende*, which is equivalent to the English "-th," after the cardinal numbers. There are quite a few exceptions though: the first, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth, the eleventh, and the twelfth. Also, the ordinal numbers thirtieth to thirtieth end with *-te* instead of *-ende*.

Danish Cardinal	Danish Ordinal	English Cardinal	"English Ordinal"
<i>én/et</i>	<i>første</i>	"one"	"first"
<i>to</i>	<i>anden</i>	"two"	"second"
<i>tre</i>	<i>tredje</i>	"three"	"third"
<i>fire</i>	<i>fjerde</i>	"four"	"fourth"
<i>fem</i>	<i>femte</i>	"five"	"fifth"
<i>seks</i>	<i>sjette</i>	"six"	"sixth"
<i>syv</i>	<i>syvende</i>	"seven"	"seventh"

<i>otte</i>	<i>ottende</i>	"eight"	"eighth"
<i>ni</i>	<i>niende</i>	"nine"	"ninth"
<i>ti</i>	<i>tiende</i>	"ten"	"tenth"
<i>elleve</i>	<i>elvte</i>	"eleven"	"eleventh"
<i>tolv</i>	<i>tolvte</i>	"twelve"	"twelfth"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Numbers and Money in Denmark

On checks, receipts, and the like, you might come across the sum written with both numbers and letters in order to avoid any misunderstandings. When written with letters, the so-called Nordic numerals are normally used. These numerals only exist from twenty to ninety-nine and are as follows:

- 20 - *toti* (literally, "twoten")
- 30 - *treti* (literally, "threeten")
- 40 - *firti* (literally, "fourten")
- 50 - *femti* (literally, "fiveten")
- 60 - *seksti* (literally, "sixten")
- 70 - *syvti* (literally, "seventen")
- 80 - *otti* (literally, "eightten")
- 90 - *niti* (literally, "nineten")

In the numbers that include ones, the tens come first:

- 24 - *totifire* (literally, "twotenfour")
- 35 - *tretifem* (literally, "threetenfive")
- 99 - *nitini* (literally, "ninetennine")

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #5 Counting from 100 - 1 Million in Danish

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DANISH

1. A: hundred (100), to hundred (200), tre hundred (300), fire hundred (400), fem hundred (500)
2. B: seks hundred (600), syv hundred (700), otte hundred (800), ni hundred (900), tusind (1000)
3. A: fem tusind (5000), ti tusind (10000), halvtreds tusind (50000), hundred tusind (100000), en million (1000000)!

ENGLISH

1. A: one-hundred, two-hundred, three-hundred, four-hundred, five-hundred
2. B: six-hundred, seven-hundred, eight-hundred, nine-hundred, one-thousand
3. A: five-thousand, ten-thousand, fifty-thousand, one-hundred-thousand, one million!

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
hundred(e)	one hundred	
tre hundred(e)	three hundred	
fire hundred(e)	four hundred	
ti tusind	ten thousand	numeral
fem hundred(e)	five hundred	
to hundred(e)	two hundred	

hundred(e) tusind	one hundred thousand	numeral
seks hundred(e)	six hundred	
tusind	one thousand	numeral
en million	one million	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Han levede i hundred(e) år.</p> <p>"He lived for one hundred years."</p>	<p>Byen er tre hundred(e) år gammel.</p> <p>"This city is three hundred years old."</p>
<p>Der er fire hundred(e) deltagere.</p> <p>"There are four hundred participants."</p>	<p>Istiden sluttede for ti tusind år siden.</p> <p>"The ice age ended ten thousand years ago."</p>
<p>Der er fem hundred(e) kilometer tilbage.</p> <p>"There are five hundred kilometers left."</p>	<p>Firmaet har to hundred(e) ansatte</p> <p>"The company has two hundred employees."</p>
<p>Jeg arvede hundred tusind kroner.</p> <p>"I inherited one hundred thousand crowns."</p>	<p>Hun har seks hundred(e) par sko.</p> <p>"She has six hundred pairs of shoes."</p>
<p>Ingen fylder tusind år.</p> <p>"Nobody turns a thousand years old."</p>	<p>Bilen koster over en million.</p> <p>"The car costs over one million."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

100

"One-hundred" in Danish is *et hundred(e)* or just *hundred(e)* ("hundred"). The reason why the final -e is in brackets is that it is optional. Usually, you would add the -e because the hundred is followed by a noun in plural, but today it is not necessary, and most Danish people never pronounce the final -e either. Counting hundreds in Danish is easy; you simply place one of the numbers from one to nine before *hundred(e)*.

Danish	English
<i>hundred(e) / et hundred(e)</i>	100
<i>to hundred(e)</i>	200
<i>tre hundred(e)</i>	300
<i>fire hundred(e)</i>	400
<i>fem hundred(e)</i>	500
<i>seks hundred(e)</i>	600
<i>syv hundred(e)</i>	700
<i>otte hundred(e)</i>	800
<i>ni hundred(e)</i>	900
<i>tusind / et tusind</i>	1,000

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using Larger Numbers in Danish

The easiest way to remember large Danish numbers is to understand their structure first. In the previous Basic Boot Camp lesson, we covered the numbers from one to one hundred. As you can remember, the most important thing was to memorize the numbers from one to ten, and then build larger numbers by modifying endings, adding or dropping some parts, and so on. There are exceptions among the common rules, but in general, Danish numbers have a strong logical system according to which numbers are built.

One-thousand

Here, things are just as easy. Like "hundred," we add "thousand," *tusind*, to the end of one through nine. For instance, "one-thousand" is *et tusind* or just *tusind* ("thousand"). "Two-thousand," is *to tusind*, and so on.

From one-thousand to nine-thousand

Danish	English
<i>tusind / et tusind</i>	1,000
<i>to tusind</i>	2,000
<i>tre tusind</i>	3,000
<i>fire tusind</i>	4,000
<i>fem tusind</i>	5,000
<i>seks tusind</i>	6,000
<i>syv tusind</i>	7,000
<i>otte tusind</i>	8,000
<i>ni tusind</i>	9,000

Follow the same rule for bigger numbers. Just as in English, we add *tusind* ("thousand") to the end of the numbers from ten to one-hundred. Then, we have numbers from ten-thousand to one-hundred-thousand.

Danish	English
<i>ti tusind</i>	10,000
<i>tyve tusind</i>	20,000
<i>tredive tusind</i>	30,000
<i>fyrre tusind</i>	40,000
<i>halvtreds tusind</i>	50,000
<i>tres tusind</i>	60,000
<i>halvfjerds tusind</i>	70,000

<i>firs tusind</i>	80,000
<i>halvfems tusind</i>	90,000
<i>hundred(e) tusind / et hundred(e) tusind</i>	100,000

All the way up to "nine-hundred-thousand," *ni hundred(e) tusind*, the system is logical and easy, just like the English number system. Just remember that all the numbers are contracted into one long phrase, e.g., "132,496" in Danish would be:

Et hundred to og tredive tusind fire hundred og seks og halvfems.

It may be overwhelming to read, but you'll gradually get used to it. Therefore, in Danish, large numbers like the one above are always written with digits and not letters. Also notice that in English, you put an "and" before the units digit of a number, but in Danish, you won't need to add it after *hundred(e)* when it's followed by a number of thousands like in the example above, or *tusind*, when followed by a number above one hundred.

For example:

Ti tusind to hundred og syv og firs - "10,287"

One Million

"Million" in Danish is *million*. The same rule as "hundred" and "thousand" is also applied here. For instance, "one million" is *en million*. However, please note that once you have more than one million, *million* changes to its plural form, *millioner*.

For example:

To millioner - "two million"

Tre millioner - "three million"

Fire millioner - "four million"

and so on...

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Danish Money

The currency in Denmark is the Danish crown or DKK. Even though we are a part of the European Union, the Danish population voted against the euro in 2003. Denmark's currency, therefore, still has a national coin with the queen, the Danish emblem, and historical treasures and places on the bills. To get an idea of the value of Danish money, at the time this lesson was written, 1,000,000 DKK was approximately 180,000 USD or 134,000 EUR.

The Danish economy is mainly based on exports since Denmark has very few raw materials—only some North Sea oil and gas. The Danes have specialized in research, machinery production, luxury goods, and food production. The main export goods are machinery and instruments for other industries, including windmills. Next comes produce exports. Denmark is a very fertile country, giving it very diverse export possibilities, especially pork. A Dane eats about seventy kilos of pork every year, but with around thirty million pigs being produced a year, it accounts for an export value of twenty-two billion DKK. Other than meat products, the list includes dairy products, fish, animal skins or leather, and salt. Another unusual but very profitable good is Christmas trees, with a rendering of about one billion DKK per year. Then comes the Danish pharmaceutical industry which makes up ten percent of the total export, with approximately sixty billion DKK. This is followed by Danish fashion apparel and luxury furniture. So as you can see, Denmark has a very diverse industry. It is also the country with the highest minimum wage, and foreign debt is almost non-existent since the loans to other countries greatly surpass the debt. During the last years' worldwide crises, the Danes also suffered, resulting in the Danish government raising its debt, and many people have become unemployed. Over the last ten years, Denmark has been focusing greatly on getting a more specialized workforce so it can continue its innovation and export industry.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #1

Top 5 Reasons to Learn Danish

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the History of Danish

I. Linguistics

Danish is the official language of Denmark as well as the Faroe Islands and is spoken by approximately six million people, of which 5.6 million people are native speakers. It is also the minority language on Greenland, Iceland, and northern Germany. Danish belongs to the Indo-European language family, but is more specifically referred to as a Northern Germanic language. Danish, together with Swedish and Norwegian, is considered as *Mainland Scandinavian* due to their mutual intelligibility, meaning that speakers of at least one of the three languages are able to understand all three more or less.

The long history of Danish can be traced all the way back to the 8th century where *Proto-Norse*, the common Germanic language of Scandinavia at that time, had evolved into *Old Norse* which was then further divided into two similar dialects: *Old East Norse* and *Old West Norse*, which was only separated by diphthong changes. In eastern Denmark, the former was called *Runic Danish* and written with an alphabet which had only sixteen letters or *runes*, the *Younger Futhark* alphabet. Some runes, such as the rune for the vowel *u* and the rune for *i*, were used for a range of phonemes as the number of runes were evidently quite limited. In Sweden, *Old East Norse* was called *Runic Swedish*, but the two dialects were basically the same until the 12th century. However, due to the widespread travels of the Vikings for trade, warfare, exploration etc. during the Viking Era, *Old East Norse* was also once spoken in the northeast counties of England, as they were colonized by Danish Vikings. Many words still used in the English language today, in fact, derive from *Old East Norse*. For example, "gate" (*gade*) meaning "street," "egg" (*æg*), and "knife" (*kniv*). In the Late Middle Ages, the runes had completely been replaced by the Latin letters brought along with the introduction of Christianity. At this point, Danish was also highly influenced by *Low German* due to immigrating merchants and craftsmen from northern Germany, resulting in Germans joining the chancery making *Low German* the actual mother tongue of many Danish kings during the Middle Ages. Today, however, the basic vocabulary of the Danish language is still Nordic, but since the 1950s, English loanwords have made their way into the language used not only in a business context, but also on a daily basis, and are continuing to expand the Danish vocabulary.

In general, the Danish dialects can be divided into three distinct main groups: Insular Danish, Jutlandic, and the Bornholmsk dialect (Bornholmian). These, however, can be further subdivided into about thirty dialects. The traditional Danish dialects have gradually been replaced by a regional pronunciation of Standard Danish. Standard Danish or *Rigsdansk* is the common writing system, that was introduced around 1500 at the royal court and the chancery. Since these were in

Copenhagen it was natural that it became based on some dialects that were spoken in and around the capital. And today this is the standard has to how we write Danish even though the spoken dialects in and around Copenhagen are distinct dialects in themselves named after areas of Copenhagen, and not *Rigsdansk*. Even the Queen speaks in a dialect.

II. About Denmark

Denmark is located south of Norway, north of the German border, and southwest of Sweden to which it is connected with the Øresund Bridge. Denmark, officially the Kingdom of Denmark, has two additional overseas constituent countries, Greenland and the Faroe Islands located in the North Atlantic, and is surrounded by the Baltic Sea, the Kattegat, Skagerrak, and the North Sea, giving Denmark a 7,314 km tidal shoreline in total. The country consists of the peninsula of Jutland and 443 named islands, among which Funen and Zealand are the largest. With a fairly humble population under 5.6 million people, the largest cities, which are Copenhagen on Zealand, Aarhus in Jutland, and Odense on Funen all connected with bridges, are inhabited by fewer than 200,000 people, making Denmark quite small compared to its neighbors.

Denmark has four seasons and large seasonal variations in daylight due to its location. The climate is temperate, with cold winters, mild springs, slightly warmer summers, and wet autumns. It is possible, though rare, to experience snow in April and hot and sunny weather in October. The country is flat and the highest point, Møllehøj, is only at 170.86 metres. Therefore, Denmark has become one of the world's leaders in wind power technology, as strong winds blow freely due to the flatness of the country. In addition, Denmark is characterized by sandy coasts and woodlands, but is also highly urbanized, such as the largest cities mentioned above. Finally, the Kingdom of Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, which means that actual royal power is limited and the head of government, the prime minister, is the one exercising executive authority together with other cabinet ministers.

III. Where Danish is Spoken

Danish is mainly spoken by around 5.6 million people in Denmark, but is also spoken in Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and northern Germany. It is also the official language in the European Union Nordic Council and is spoken in Danish communities in the US, Canada, and Argentina.

IV. Writing System and Pronunciation

The Danish alphabet consists of Latin letters and is similar to the English one with the exceptions of the vowel letters æ, ø, and å at the very end of the alphabet. They have replaced the digraphs æe, oe, and aa, but the latter aa can still be found in some personal or geographical names today without any change in pronunciation. The digraphs can also be used if æ, ø, and å are not available, for example, on computer keyboards.

In Danish, at least seventeen different vowel qualities and twenty-one consonants

can be distinguished in distinct pronunciation, representing ten distinctive vowel phonemes and fifteen consonant phonemes. These phonemes differ further in allophones depending on length, conjunction, occurrence, combination and so on. In addition, the prosody of Danish does not have phonetic pitch like Swedish and Norwegian, but does have stress, which is phonetic and distinguishes words. The *stød*, a suprasegmental feature occasionally realized as a full glottal stop, is also phonetic and distinguishes words. While there are main rules for the position of the stress, only some main rules exist when it comes to predicting whether or not the *stød* is present. Finally, the Danish pronunciation of the letter *r* also differs from Swedish and Norwegian, as it is not trilled, making it sound a bit like the German *r*.

V. Why it is Important: The Top Five Reasons to Learn this Language Are...

1. Learning Danish is fun! In many cases, when the stress is not positioned correctly or the *stød* is not present when it is supposed to, or the other way around, the word you are trying to pronounce will have a completely different meaning than the one you actually want to communicate. It is also a great way of making people laugh when they hear you speak, as to many people Danish often sounds like you are trying to speak with a hot potato in your mouth.

2. Denmark is one of the world's best welfare societies. Danish welfare is handled by the state and managed by municipalities, regions, and private operators. The essence is equal access for all to public offerings, services, and benefits, both tangible and intangible. These include social security, tax-financed education, public childcare, disease treatment, subsidies etc. With an average of almost 50%, Denmark has one of the world's highest tax levels—sometimes the highest—which is a necessity to maintain good welfare. Yet, Denmark and its welfare society remains very attractive to many people worldwide, so if you dream of living in Denmark one day, learning Danish will definitely give you an advantage, as Danes love when people have taken the time to learn the Danish language spoken by such few worldwide compared to English.

3. Denmark is a beautiful country! Rich in natural and cultural attractions, Denmark is becoming one of the must-see tourist destinations in the world. Learning Danish gives you more opportunities to get a deeper understanding of this beautiful and interesting country and its people.

4. It is practical for learning other languages in nearby countries! As Danish includes elements of Swedish, Norwegian, German, and English to some extent, knowing Danish is an excellent basis for learning the languages of Denmark's neighboring countries. Even languages of countries further away may become easier to acquire, as if you can master Danish pronunciation you can master anything!

5. You don't need to study complicated characters! The Danish alphabet is exactly the same as the English alphabet with the exceptions of the three vowel letters *æ*, *ø*, and *å*. So it's very convenient for English speakers to read and write,

and make quick progress.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #2

The Danish Writing System

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2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Danish Writing System

The Danish alphabet is easy to learn because it uses the same alphabet as English, plus æ, ø, and å.

Alphabet

The Danish alphabet consists of 28 letters (29 when you include *w* which in general is not used very often), inclusive of 26 letters as in English and three additional vowels.

Æ æ, Ø ø, Å å

These three extra letters are vowels not found in the English alphabet and come at the very end of the alphabet. They sometimes occur as digraphs, *æ*, *oe*, and *aa*, in some personal and geographical names. However, this does not affect the alphabetical sorting. The most common digraph still used today is *aa*, which appears in the names of the larger cities *Aarhus* and *Aalborg* in Jutland.

Upper case	Lower case	Vowel/Consonant
A	a	Vowel
B	b	Consonant
C	c	Consonant
D	d	Consonant
E	e	Vowel
F	f	Consonant
G	g	Consonant
H	h	Consonant
I	i	Vowel
J	j	Consonant
K	k	Consonant

<i>L</i>	<i>l</i>	Consonant
<i>M</i>	<i>m</i>	Consonant
<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	Consonant
<i>O</i>	<i>o</i>	Vowel
<i>P</i>	<i>p</i>	Consonant
<i>Q</i>	<i>q</i>	Consonant
<i>R</i>	<i>r</i>	Consonant
<i>S</i>	<i>s</i>	Consonant
<i>T</i>	<i>t</i>	Consonant
<i>U</i>	<i>u</i>	Vowel
<i>V</i>	<i>v</i>	Consonant
<i>W</i>	<i>w</i>	Consonant
<i>X</i>	<i>x</i>	Consonant
<i>Y</i>	<i>y</i>	Vowel
<i>Z</i>	<i>z</i>	Consonant
<i>Æ</i>	<i>æ</i>	Vowel
<i>Ø</i>	<i>ø</i>	Vowel
<i>Å</i>	<i>å</i>	Vowel

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #3

Painless Danish Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Danish Grammar

Danish is very similar to English in terms of grammar. Of course, there are some differences, but once you have grasped its basis, the rest is just a piece of cake.

In these All About lessons, we are going to avoid all but the most basic grammar words. Introducing complex grammatical concepts in the early stages of language learning actually makes things much more difficult than they need to be.

Overview

The syntax form of Danish is basically the same as English with the subject placed at the beginning of the sentence, followed by the verb and object. In some cases, though, the verb is placed at the beginning of the sentence and then followed by the subject and object. Finding out how many syllables a word consists of is easy. Simply count the number of vowels in the word and you got your answer.

Nouns

There are two genders in Danish: common and neuter. Around 75% of Danish nouns have the common gender though. The singular indefinite article for common nouns is *en*. For neuter nouns it is *et*. Depending on the gender of a given noun, *en* or *et* is placed in front of it like in English. However, a singular definite noun is rendered by placing the indefinite article as a suffix at the end of the noun. *-en* and *-et* are added to the noun.

For example: *by* ("city") becomes

en *by* ("a city")

*by****en*** ("the city")

hus ("house") becomes

et *hus* ("a house")

*hus****et*** ("the house")

Note when the noun carries an attributed adjective, the prepositive articles *den* and *det* are used instead and placed in front of the adjective followed by the noun.

For example: ***den*** *store by* ("the big city")

det *lille hus* ("the small/little house")

Plural

When it comes to plural nouns in Danish, things get a little more complicated. The plural form based on the gender and the number of syllables in a word can be predicted to some extent, but even among regular nouns it is not obvious whether *-er* or *-e* should be added to make the plural form of common gender nouns in monosyllables. Additionally, there are also many irregular nouns with irregular plurals in Danish, but to keep it simple here at first, remembering that the suffixes *-er* and *-e* for plural indefinite and *-ne* and *-ene* for plural definite is most important.

For example: *byer* ("cities")

byerne ("the cities")

Note that the noun is already in its plural indefinite form when *-ne* is added to make it plural definite.

For example: *huse* ("houses")

husene ("the houses")

Personal pronouns

Danish pronouns are very similar to English pronouns, but with a few exceptions, of course.

The lists and usage of common personal pronouns are as follows:

Pronoun	Nominative case	Oblique case	Nominative polite case	Oblique polite case
1st person Singular	<i>jeg (I)</i>	<i>mig (me)</i>		
2nd person Singular	<i>du (you)</i>	<i>dig (you)</i>	<i>De (thou)</i>	<i>Dem (thee)</i>
3rd person Singular personal (masculine)	<i>han (he)</i>	<i>ham (him)</i>		
3rd person Singular personal (female)	<i>hun (she)</i>	<i>hende (her)</i>		

3rd person Neuter impersonal	<i>det (it)</i>	<i>det (it)</i>		
3rd person Common impersonal	<i>den (it)</i>	<i>den (it)</i>		
1st person Plural	<i>vi (we)</i>	<i>os (us)</i>		
2nd person Plural	<i>I (ye)</i>	<i>jer (you)</i>	<i>De</i>	<i>Dem</i>
3rd person Plural personal	<i>de (they)</i>	<i>dem (them)</i>		

Try not to worry too much about formality levels in Danish, we do not use them often! The polite forms of the second person pronouns presented above are just to show how people used to address one another, depending on their relations. Today, only members of the Danish Royal Family are addressed using the polite forms, its used in formal letters and many elderly people also appreciate it. The polite forms of the second person pronouns can also be heard in older Danish movies and read in Danish literature prior to the 1970s.

Verbs

A Danish verbs have nine distinct forms and do not vary according to person or number. The present tense is made by adding *-r* to the infinitive form of a given verb.

For example: (*at*) *svømme* ("to swim")

eg svømmer ("I swim/am swimming")

du svømmer ("you swim/are swimming")

han/hun svømmer ("he/she swims/is swimming")

vi svømmer ("we swim/are swimming")

I svømmer ("you (you all) swim/are swimming")

de svømmer ("they swim/are swimming")

Verb tense conjugations are divided into two groups: weak verbs and strong verbs. The former group indicates the past tense by adding the suffixes *-ede* or *-te* and the latter group forms the past tense with a zero ending - the vowel before the suffix often changes in these cases.

For example: (at) *svømme* ("to swim")

svømmede ("swam")

(at) *købe* ("to buy")

købte ("bought")

And: (at) *gå* ("to walk, to leave")

gik ("walked, left")

In Danish, the future tense is formed with the modal verbs *vil* or *skal* and the infinitive form of a given verb.

Adjectives

In Danish, there are three forms of the adjective: the basic or common form, *t*-form or neuter form, and the *e*-form or plural/definite form. The first, basic form is used with singular words of the common gender, the second form is used with singular words of the neuter gender and as an adverb, and the third form is used in the plural and with a definite article, a pronoun or a genitive.

For example: *god* ("good")

en god by ("a good city")

et godt hus ("a good house")

han bor godt ("he lives well (lit. he lives good)")

gode byer, gode huse ("good cities, good houses")

den gode by ("the good city")

hans gode hus ("his good house")

Danish word order

The meaning of Danish very much depends on its word order. Changing the position of some words in a sentence results in a complete meaning change. In many cases, the new sentence still makes sense and is grammatically correct, but it might also end up sounding a little strange both in Danish as well as in the English translation.

For example:

1. *I går mødte jeg en gammel ven.*
"Yesterday I met an old friend."
2. *Jeg mødte en gammel ven i går.*
"I met an old friend yesterday."
3. *En gammel ven, mødte jeg i går.*
"An old friend I met yesterday."
4. *En gammel ven, jeg mødte i går.*
"An old friend I met yesterday."

The last two sentences do not make much sense, which is also evident in the English translations, but a Danish native speaker will most likely be able to understand what it is you are trying to say.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #4

Basic Danish Pronunciation

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Danish Pronunciation

So far, Danish seems very similar to English, but when it comes to pronunciation things get a little more tricky. Therefore, learning the distinct Danish phonology is the key to pronunciation.

Before moving on, let's recap the written system quickly just as an introduction to the pronunciation. The Danish alphabet consists of twenty-nine letters (when including **w**), twenty-six of which are the same as in English, plus three additional vowels. Out of twenty-nine letters, there are twenty consonants and nine vowels.

Consonants

The twenty Danish consonants are **b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, and z**, but there are in fact twenty-three consonants that can be distinguished in distinct pronunciation. First, let's have a look at the basic pronunciation of the twenty consonants of the Danish alphabet.

B b is called *be* and pronounced /b/ like "b" in "baby" or the "w" in "why."

C c is called *se* and pronounced /s/ like "s" in "snake" or /k/ the "k" in "kick" and is typically used in loanwords or personal and geographical names.

D d is called *de* and pronounced /d/ like "d" in "door" or "th" in "the."

F f is called *æf* and pronounced /f/ like "f" in "father."

G g is called *ge* and pronounced /g/ like "g" in "go" or "sh" when used in loanwords.

H h is called *hå* and pronounced /h/ like "h" in "hold."

J j is called *jåd* and pronounced /j/ like "y" in "you" or "j" in "job" when used in loanwords.

K k is called *kå* and pronounced /k/ like "k" in "kick."

L l is called *æl* and pronounced /l/ like "l" in "law."

M m is called *æm* and pronounced /m/ like "m" in "mother."

N n is called *æn* and pronounced /n/ like "n" in "now."

P p is called *pe* and pronounced /p/ like "p" in "pick."

Q q is called *ku* and pronounced /k/ like "q" in "quiz" and is typically used in loanwords or personal and geographical names.

R r is called *ær* and pronounced as an uvular trill or uvular approximant, but in general the pronunciation of the Danish "r" is /r/ like the "r" in the German word "reisen" ("to travel").

S s is called *æs* and pronounced /s/ like "s" in "sound."

T t is called *te* and pronounced /t/ like "t" in "tea."

V v is called *ve* and pronounced /v/ like "v" in "velvet."

W w is called *dobbeltve* and pronounced /v/ as above or as "w" in "wow," as it is typically used in loanwords or personal and geographical names.

X x is called *æks* and pronounced /ks/ or like "x" in "xylophone."

Z z is called *sæt* and pronounced /s/ or like "z" in "zoo."

The final three consonants or compounds, distinguished in distinct pronunciation, are as follows:

ch is pronounced /tj/ or /sj/ like "ch" in "chance" or "ch" in "champagne" and typically used in loanwords or personal names.

ng is pronounced /ŋ/ like the "ng" in "morning."

sj is a variation of the letter c and is pronounced /ʃ/ like "sh" in "show."

Vowels

The Danish alphabet has 9 vowels, of which around 20 different vowel sounds can be derived, but first let's have a look at the 9 basic vowel pronunciations.

A a is called *a* and pronounced /a/ or /a:/ like "a" in "and" or "a" in "father."

E e is called *e* and pronounced /ə/, /e/, /ɛ/, /e:/ or /ɛ:/ like the first "e" in "electric," but slightly different.

I i is called *i* and pronounced /i/, /i:/ or /e/ like "e" in "e-mail."

O o is called *o* and pronounced /o/ or /o:/ like "o" in the Japanese word "obaa-san" ("grandmother").

U u is called *u* and pronounced /u/, /u:/ or /o/ like "oo" in "hooligan."

Y y is called *y* and pronounced /y/, /y:/ or /ø/ like "u" in the French word "duchesse" ("duchess").

Æ æ is called *æ* and pronounced /ɛ/ or /ɛ:/ like the first "e" in "energy."

Ø ø is called *ø* and pronounced /ø/, /œ/, /ø:/ or /œ:/ like "eu" in the French word "deux" ("two"), but slightly longer.

Å å is called *å* and pronounced /ɔ/ or /ɔ:/ like "o" in "oh no."

Phonemes and Allophones

In Danish, there is a wide variety of both consonant and vowel phonemes, of which even a greater number of allophones can be derived, and as it is hard to cover them in this basic lesson, therefore they will gradually be introduced in the next lessons.

Stress

As mentioned in a previous lesson, Danish does not have phonetic pitch like Swedish and Norwegian, but a stress which is phonemic and helps distinguish between words that would sound the same if not emphasizing certain syllables in a word. The position of the stress depends on the words' origin, prefixes and suffixes, and their position in a sentence.

Stød (glottal stop)

Also as mentioned previously, the Danish *stød* is a suprasegmental feature used to keep words apart like the stress, making it phonemic. The *stød* may accompany syllables with a long vowel or syllables that end with a voiced consonant. As in any language, there are things that just have to be learned, and in Danish the *stød* is one of those things because it is not possible to predict whether or not it is present. There are some main rules, but even they are hard to cover in this one basic lesson. Therefore, they will gradually be introduced along the way in this series.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #5 Top 5 Must-Know Phrases for Learning Danish

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Must Know Danish Phrases

Here we'll introduce five phrases in Danish that will take you a long way and help you out in a variety of situations!

1. *Hej*. ("Hello.")

The most practical phrase in Danish is *Hej*. It means "Hello," or "Hi." It can be used in both formal and informal situations. Danes also say *Godmorgen* ("Good morning") and *Godaften* ("Good evening"), but *Hej* can be used at any time of day.

2. *Tak skal du have*. ("Thank you.")

A well-placed and sincere "Thank you" will always be appreciated when someone has done something nice for you. "Thank you" in Danish is *Tak skal du have* (lit. "You shall have thanks"). This phrase can be used in both written texts and daily conversation.

Please be noted that you will be likely to hear Danish people say *Tak* only, which means "Thanks." This phrase has the exact same meaning as the one above, but it is much shorter and therefore faster (and easier) to say.

If you really want to express your gratitude, *mange* ("many/a lot") is added before *tak*, which gives us *Mange tak* (lit. "Many thanks"), equivalent to "Thanks a lot" in English.

3. *Nej, tak*. / *Ja tak*. ("No, thank you."/"Yes, please.")

This phrase is used to refuse anything offered to you in a polite manner. *Nej, tak* ("No, thank you"), adds *nej* ("no") before *tak*. It's just like the English "no, thank you." When someone offers you something and you say *Tak*, it means "Thanks." Adding *Nej* in front makes this a "No, thanks." You can also add *ellers* ("otherwise," "else") between *Nej* and *tak*, which gives us *Nej, ellers tak* (lit. "No, thanks otherwise"), equivalent to "Thanks, but no thanks."

When you want to accept something that someone offers you. *Ja tak* means "Yes please." *Tak* literally means "thanks" but in this case only it is translated as "please," in Danish we do not only have one way of saying please, but we will cover these later on.

4. *Undskyld mig*. ("Excuse me.")

If you want to draw somebody's attention in Danish, when you want to ask about something or when you want to squeeze past somebody in a crowded place, use *Undskyld mig* ("Excuse me"). In most cases, though, when you want to ask the

store clerk about a product, your waiter about the menu, or simply a random person on the street for the time or directions, simply say *Undskyld* to get someone's attention. This translates to "Sorry" or more practically "excuse me" in English.

5. *Jeg er ked af det.* ("I'm sorry.")

In Danish, *Jeg er ked af det* also means "I am sad," therefore this phrase is mainly used when you want to express sympathy for someone else, even when you have not had any direct influence on the immediate situation. When you want to apologize for something you did, though, you can say *Undskyld* ("Sorry") or a combination of both.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #6

Can You Answer these 5 Questions About Denmark?

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2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is a Quiz!

Five things you have to know about Denmark! Test your knowledge of Denmark!

Geography

1. In which part of Denmark is Copenhagen located?

1. In Jutland
2. On Funen
3. On Zealand

Correct answer: 3. On Zealand

Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark and is the country's largest city with a metropolitan population of 1,950,522.

Like in most other parts of Denmark, Copenhagen experiences unstable and changing weather patterns all year round. During winter, the average temperature is 0°C. Daytime temperatures rise a few degrees above freezing, mostly during daytime and down to 12°C during the night. Spring in Copenhagen is similar to continental Europe and autumn is mild. Denmark experiences a moderate amount of rain throughout the year, with a small peak during summer, which is usually a mixture of mild, windy, warm, rainy, and sunny weather.

Copenhagen is the economic, political and cultural centre of Denmark. The city was originally a Viking fishing village founded in the 10th century, but due to a strong urban development, especially during the last decade, today the capital is characterized by promenades and waterfronts, not to mention a diverse infrastructure which allows the mix of bicycles, cars, and public transport to run more smoothly, making it one of the most bicycles-friendly cities in the world. Also, as Copenhagen not only stretches along the eastern shore of Zealand, but also several both natural and artificial islets, parts of the city are connected by a number of bridges and tunnels. Besides being great for shopping and dining, you can also enjoy Danish architecture and design, sandy beaches, world class museums, amusement parks and a vibrant nightlife.

Cuisine

2. Which meat do Danes like eating the most?

1. Pork
2. Chicken
3. Beef

Correct answer: 1. Pork

In Denmark, pork cuts and bacon especially are used in several principal national dishes, such as *stegt flæsk med persillesovs* ("fried pork with parsley sauce"). As Danish cooking is rooted in peasant dishes, it is based on the need to make use of natural products available, including smoked or salted pork. After the Industrial Revolution of 1860, wood-fired ovens and meat grinders allowed new dishes to be created, such as *frikadeller* ("meat balls") and roast pork. Over the centuries, sausages also became popular due to their economical value and durability. Ham, pork tenderloin, and pork cutlets are also very popular today.

Travel

3. What are the most popular attractions in Denmark?

1. Tivoli, København Zoo, ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum
2. Tivoli, Dyrehavsbakken, Legoland
3. København Zoo, Legoland, Djurs Sommerland

Correct Answer: 2. Tivoli, Dyrehavsbakken, Legoland

All the places mentioned in the question are worth a visit because they are among the top tourist attractions in Denmark. However, the three most popular ones are:

Tivoli, or *Tivoli Gardens*, located in Copenhagen, is the most popular attraction in Denmark. *Tivoli* opened in 1843 and is the world's second oldest amusement park. It is also the most visited theme park in Scandinavia, the fourth most visited in Europe, the world's most popular city park, and is home to one of the world's oldest wooden roller coasters still operating today. Besides the rides, *Tivoli* also hosts concerts and other performance arts and is an active part of the cultural scene in the capital. You can also enjoy the park itself as it is beautifully landscaped with fountains and flower beds, wonderful Danish and Chinese-style architecture, and custom-designed lights illuminating the park at night.

Dyrehavsbakken ("The Deer Park Hill"), or *Bakken* ("The Hill"), is an amusement

park located in a large forest park ten kilometers north of Copenhagen near Klampenborg. *Bakken* opened in 1583 and is the world's oldest operating amusement park. After *Tivoli*, it is the second most popular attraction in Denmark with 2.5-2.7 million annual visitors. Over time, modern rides, such as roller coasters and gaming halls, and entertainment options have been introduced, ranging from cabarets and circus shows to kids' entertainment with Pjerrot the clown and animal shows performed at *Bakkens Hvide* music hall. Besides standard amusement park foods, traditional Danish cuisine can also be enjoyed in the park. Among these, you will find *pølser* (Danish sausages), *æbleskiver* (Danish popovers), and *smørrebrød* (open-faced sandwiches).

Legoland is the most popular amusement park among families with children. The park is located in Billund in Jutland and offers a large variety of rides and attractions for kids of all ages. In recent years, *Legoland* has built bigger and bigger rides and attractions, for instance, Polar Land is home to a large number of penguins and the roller coaster Polar X.plorer, and Atlantis with plenty of varied sea life (including sharks). One of the more classic attractions found in the park is Miniland where everything is built with LEGO bricks; 20 million to be exact. You can see famous buildings, capital cities, villages, and other exciting areas in the world, ALL in miniature. Some of the sites on display change every once in a while, but those belonging to the USA, the Netherlands, Germany, and Scandinavia, of course, are always there to be enjoyed.

Economy

4. Denmark is the world's largest exporter of...

1. Textiles/fabric
2. Wood/planks
3. Industrial production/manufactured goods

Correct Answer: 3. Industrial production/manufactured goods

Denmark's main export is industrial production/manufactured goods like machinery and instruments, but also fuels and chemicals among others. The US is Denmark's largest trading partner outside Europe to whom not only industrial machinery and chemical products, but also furniture, pharmaceuticals, canned ham and pork, and LEGO, are being exported.

Culture

5. The most famous but hidden Danish export...which of these fairy tales was written by a Dane?

1. *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs*

2. *The Little Mermaid*
3. *Little Red Riding Hood*

Correct answer: 2. *The Little Mermaid*

The *Little Mermaid* was written in 1837 by the Danish poet and fable writer, Hans Christian Andersen. Many of his fables have a tortured ending showing the problems and tortures that he passed through in his life. He was born in Odense, the capital of Funen, but after leaving the city he never set foot in it again. He spent most of his life traveling across Europe and when in Denmark he lived in Copenhagen; today you will find buildings in the city with placards that tell you he lived there. He had a great fear of dying, and would always carry a rope wrapped around his waist in case the building he was in caught on fire. He died at the age of 70 in 1875, never having married. He left no children but he left countless travelogues, poems and over 25 full fairy tales.

Interesting Facts and Figures About Denmark

1. Economy

During the last ten years, Denmark's GDP annual growth rate averaged 0.85%, which unfortunately seems to have been the tendency in countries in the European Union. The Scandinavian economy, in general, is still looking slightly better than others' though, but the unstable times have also had their influence.

2. Culture

The most prominent feature of Danish culture is a mentality, not unlike one found in Sweden or Norway, that de-emphasizes individual effort and places all emphasis on the collective. At the same time, it discourages those who stand out as achievers. This mentality is sometimes said to be summarized in the concept of *Janteloven* (the Law of Jante), invented by the author Aksel Sandemose, as the governing code of the small, fictional town of Jante. It consisted of ten rules concerning how the individual should NOT think of him or herself in relation to the rest. It can be summarized as the command not to think "you are not to think you are anyone special or that you are better than us." Despite this who-do-you-think-you-are attitude, do not be afraid to try your luck in Denmark, providing you follow the Law of Jante, of course! The Law of Jante is naturally somewhat satirical, and Danish culture does not always conform to its model; however, egotism in Denmark is not to be desired. If you show your modesty and humility, this will get you a long way and the key to success in Denmark is to not to brag too much, to be modest and humble.

3. Education

In Denmark, literacy is approximately 99% for both men and women. If you are below the age of 15 or 16, education is compulsory and almost all educational institutes are funded by the government and are therefore free. Private schools, of which Denmark has a tradition, are not free, but are still attended by 13% of all children at basic school level. Around 82% of young people take further education in addition to the compulsory years of education. As for universities, a tuition-less system applies to all students. And in addition, both students, over the age of 18, attending secondary and tertiary school and all citizens of Denmark, as well as many others who meet certain criteria, are offered *SU* (*Statens Uddannelsesstøtte* or "The State's Educational Support") which is a monthly financial aid with a base ranging from 2860 to 5753 Danish crowns (DKK) which is the equivalent to USD517 to USD1045. A student can also get extra funds depending on their family situation, physical problems and if you are a single parent. Socially, this decreases the need to work many hours at a part-time job, getting more time to focus on school.

4. Transportation

Even though transport in Denmark is considered developed and modern, it still seems to lag fast, advanced train systems in countries such as Japan. Copenhagen is the only city with its own metro system as well as the S-trains, a type of subterranean land train, above ground commuter trains, which connect passengers to the outlying boroughs of the city. However, perhaps a motorway network covering 1,111 kilometres and a railway network of 2,667 kilometres, connecting all the main parts of the country as well as Zealand to Sweden, is enough for a country of 42,894.8 square kilometres in size after all. Domestic and international air routes as well as ferry connections are also available. However, the most popular form of transport is cycling, hence the diverse infrastructure, especially in the more populated areas.

5. Life Satisfaction

As you have probably heard many times, Denmark has a reputation for being the happiest country in the world according to FN's 2012 Happiness Report and Columbia University's 2013 Earth Institute's Happiness Report 2013. This may seem odd considering that Denmark also has the world's highest tax rate, and the world's largest consumption of happy pills mainly due to *vinterdepression* from not getting enough sunlight. Denmark has very interchangeable weather and a people that by nature like to complain. Therefore, being ranked the happiest country in the world comes as a surprise to many Danes. However, some believe that the combination of Denmark's history, the long history of battles with our neighbors and being betrayed numerous times by allies and then the unlikely winning of the UEFA European Football Championship in 1992 has resulted in a nation with low expectations of things in general, but also with a small ray of hope at the same time, making it quite easy for Danes to experience something as positive. Many Danes live by the saying *det kan ikke blive værre end det allerede er* "things

cannot get any worse than they already are." Or *Mange bække små gør en stor å* "many small streams make a big river." This maxim reminds Danes not to overlook the small joys in life since they will accumulate to become a greater happiness.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #7

Top 5 Danish Dishes

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2 Grammar

#7

The Focus of This Lesson is Danish Cuisine

If you are afraid of gaining weight, and if you are fed up with high calorie food like cheese, butter, and gravy, or just trying to avoid consuming too many carbohydrates, Danish food will not make things any better for you. However, the extra kilos may just be worth the experience. Known as one of the biggest pork-eating nations in the world, Danish food can satisfy any meat lover's taste buds with a huge variety of meat and it doesn't just stop at pork. Danish food also offers plenty of healthy, low calorie dishes.

As mentioned in the previous lesson, Danish cooking is rooted in the peasant dishes which were served across the country before 1860, the year of the Industrial Revolution. Today, however, you can eat at several Michelin-starred restaurants in Copenhagen and the provinces, offering updated traditional Nordic dishes made from local produce. Danish cuisine has indeed undergone some changes during the last couple of centuries, but many classic dishes are still made among a number of faster, more flavorful foreign dishes in most Danish homes.

In recent years, the media has focussed more and more on health and exercise and new takes on traditional dishes, or healthier alternatives, are regularly featured in TV-shows and magazines. As it can take quite some time to cook Danish food, it is considered a slow food. Therefore, saving some money is not the only good reason for cooking with others. Delegating tasks like potato-peeling, gravy-making, vegetable- and salad-chopping, and meat-marinating, can both save a lot of time while being a good and fun way of socializing.

Popular Food Items

As one of the first things you are likely to see when entering Copenhagen Airport one way or another, the hot dog van or *pølsevogn* is actually the "original" fast food outlet in Denmark, where you can eat a variety of sausages, in a hot dog bun, bread aside, breadless and French-style (a half baguette that is hollow to allow for the sausage) served with ketchup, Danish remoulade sauce, mustard, raw or toasted onion, finishing off with thin sliced pickles on top. Everywhere you go in Denmark, you will be able to find restaurants serving *smørrebrød* ("open-faced sandwiches"), usually consisting of a buttered piece of rye bread with toppings, such as cold cuts, pieces of meat or fish, cheese or spreads, and decorated with fitting accompaniments, such as herbs, onions, or pickles. Danish bread, in general, is very popular, especially Danish breakfast rolls, and it is almost impossible to say "Danish" without thinking of Danish pastry, which ironically though, is called *wienerbrød* (lit. "Viennese bread") in Danish and is rarely called this at bakeries in other countries. Also, summer desserts like strawberry pie, Danish strawberries with cream, and *koldskål* (lit. "cold bowl"), which is a sweet cold butter milk dish with vanilla and lemon served with *kammerjunker* (a type of

dry, crispy Danish biscuit), are also very popular, but vary a lot in price because strawberries are so seasonal in Denmark.

Thanks to the integration of global culture in Denmark, foods from all over the world have become very popular and some dishes of foreign origin are even considered Danish or have been given a Danish twist today. For instance, sandwiches and hamburgers, originally from the US; pizza, lasagna, and spaghetti originally from Italy; sushi and tempura originally from Japan; and a variety of other foods from Asia and also the Middle East are very popular, especially in Denmark's cosmopolitan cities.

Seasonal Dishes

Usually, the seasonal dishes of Denmark are more holiday-related than actually seasonal, but some people also eat some of the dishes all year round.

On St. Martin's Day (November 11), it is tradition to serve roast goose, or roast duck which is usually cheaper. For Christmas, *flæskesteg* ("roast pork with crackling") or stuffed roast duck or goose is served as the main course dish with brown sauce, *brunede kartofler* (caramelized potatoes made with sugar and butter (lit. "browned potatoes")) and *rødkål* (red cabbage with duck fat, sugar, vinegar, apple, onion, red wines and several spices (lit. "red cabbage")), and *risalamande* or *ris à l'amande* (lit. "rice with almonds") as dessert, which is rice pudding mixed with whipped cream, vanilla, chopped almonds, and one whole almond, served cold with a cherry sauce. The one who finds the one whole almond in their portion usually gets a small prize. Through December, it is also very common to eat *æbleskiver* (lit. "apple slices") which is a kind of Danish pancake in a shape of a sphere, its very light and fluffy, usually served with jam and powdered sugar.

For Easter, *påskelam* (lit. "Easter lamb"), grilled lamb with dried herbs and garlic, is served as the main course dish with different salads and potatoes or other vegetables.

With both Christmas and Easter comes *julefrokost* ("Christmas lunch") and *påskefrokost* ("Easter lunch"). Both are usually held with family, friends or coworkers, or the like, respectively around Christmas or Easter and are special variations of *det kolde bord* (lit. "the cold table") or *smørrebrødsbord*, which is usually set up as a buffet or on the dining table at home, depending on where the lunch is held. In short, you put together your own *smørrebrød*.

You start off by eating herring or other fish dishes and then move on to the either hot or cold meat dishes like liver paste and *medisterpølse* (lit. "medister sausage"), cold cuts of ham, roast beef, salami, a brisket of beef, and spiced roulade. Accompaniments such as potato salad, scrambled egg, and a variety of salads, are also included. For Christmas lunch, *risalamande* or *ris à l'amande* is served as dessert, and for Easter lunch, it is usually a variety of cheeses and fruit. Besides this, the two lunches are practically the same, except that *julefrokost* may include more pork dishes and duck, *påskefrokost* may include more lamb and more dishes

with eggs.

Table Etiquette

In Denmark, table etiquette varies depending on the situation, but basic rules, such as not talking with your mouth full, sitting up straight, and not putting your feet on the table and not picking your nose apply. There are five other things that may be irritating to some Danes:

1. If you are a guest in someone's home, sitting down at the table before one of your hosts does or someone asks you to, or even shows you your seat, can make you seem too comfortable and not really respecting that this is someone else's home. Especially when it is one of the first times you are invited. After several visits, or once you have got to know each other better, you will automatically know where your seat is at the table. Unless you are told otherwise, of course.
2. Burping is usually not acceptable, because many find it disgusting so try suppressing it as much as you can, or make sure you excuse yourself if it can still be heard. If you are in the company of people who do not mind, or even do it themselves, feel free to burp.
3. Eating before you are allowed. As in other countries, Danish people also say something like "Bon appetit" before eating and it is usually the one who has cooked the meal who says *Værsgo* ("Go ahead"). Then, it is okay for you to start eating. Sometimes you do not even start putting food on your plate before *Værsgo* has been said and everyone has sat down at the table. If you are a guest in someone's home, your host will usually want you to dig in first, and the other way around if YOU are the host. When finished eating, you show gratitude to the one who has cooked the meal by saying *Tak for mad* ("Thanks for the food"), and then you will usually get a *Velbekomme* ("You're welcome") in return.
4. Drinking in the middle of a toast before it is finished is probably not the end of the world, if you are really really thirsty, but if someone wants to make a toast or simply say "cheers" to everyone, raise your glass at least above nose level, make eye contact with the people seated closest to you, and wait for *Skål!* ("Cheers!") to be said and then drink. Again, this can also vary depending on the situation and the company.

5. Placing your knife and fork anywhere but on your plate or your napkin. When finished eating, place your knife and fork across your plate with the tines facing up. This shows that you are done eating and that you have partially helped clear your part of the table by not leaving your used cutlery lying around on the table. Usually, the whole table will be cleared once everyone has finished eating, and your host will appreciate it if you at least carry your own plate to the kitchen area so it is ready to be cleaned. Your host will let you know, if you do not have to help clear the table.

Remember that these rules may vary depending on who you are with and where you are, but if you are not sure what to do or not and do not feel like asking, a general rule of thumb is to basically look at what everyone else is doing and simply follow that.

The Top 5 Danish Dishes

Number 5: *Hakkebøf* ("Salisbury Steak")

Hakkebøf is made of minced beef topped with soft caramelized onion rings and is usually served with boiled potatoes and brown sauce. The dish is similar to a Salisbury Steak, but the minced beef for *hakkebøf* does not necessarily have to resemble the shape of an actual steak; round is just fine. It can also be served with mashed or fried potatoes as well as other vegetables and pickles.

Number 4: *Frikadeller* ("Meat Balls")

In fact, there are two types of meat balls in Denmark: one is *frikadeller* and the other is *kødboller*. *Frikadeller* are usually made of ground pork, veal, chopped onions, eggs, flour, milk, and salt and pepper, formed into oval balls and flattened somewhat, and finally pan-fried. You can also use fish instead of meat as the main ingredient, adding the right herbs. *Frikadeller* are usually served with brown sauce, boiled potatoes, and pickled beetroot or red cabbage, but they can also be served with creamed, white cabbage, which is a dish in itself called *stuvet hvidkål*. Cold potato salad is also very popular with *frikadeller*, especially for picnics during the summer. As for *kødboller*, which are mainly used in the dish *boller i karry* (lit. "(meat) balls in curry"), are also made of ground pork, chopped onions, eggs, flour, milk, and salt and pepper. The balls are usually formed with two spoons and then boiled in water. Then, they are added to the curry sauce and served with rice and other vegetables.

Number 3: *Flæskesteg Med Brun Sovs, Brunede Kartofler og Rødkål* ("Roast Pork With Crackling With Brown Sauce, Caramelized Potatoes, And Red Cabbage")

As already mentioned, *flæskesteg* ("roast pork with crackling") or stuffed roast duck or goose is served as the main course at Christmas with brown sauce, *brunede kartofler* (caramelized potatoes made with sugar and butter (lit. "browned potatoes")), and *rødkål* (red cabbage with duck grease, sugar, vinegar, apple, onion, red wines and several spices (lit. "red cabbage")). The trickiest part, however, is to obtain a perfect crispy crackling. Use a knife to cut the skin of the roast through to the meat in narrow strips, if it is not already done by the butcher. Then, rub the skin with salt, add a little pepper, and insert bay leaves, and optional cloves into the cuts. The roast is now ready to be roasted in the oven, but if you are going for that divine crackling, make sure to become very familiar with your oven, watching the temperatures carefully when the roast is almost done, also every family has its own way of getting this just right.

Number 2: *Smørrebrød* ("open-faced sandwiches")

Smørrebrød usually consists of a buttered piece of rye bread with topping, such as cold cuts, pieces of meat or fish, cheese or spreads, and decorated with fitting accompaniments, such as herbs, onions, or pickles. Classic *smørrebrød* have names such as *Dyrlægens natmad* (lit. "The Veterinarian's midnight snack"), which is a piece of rye bread consisting of a layer of liver paté topped with a slice of salt beef and meat aspic all decorated with raw onion rings and garden cress, *stjernes kud* (lit. "shooting star"), which is a piece of buttered white bread with a piece of steamed white fish on one half and a piece of fried, breaded plaice or *rødspætte* on the other half topped with a mound of shrimp decorated with mayonnaise, sliced cucumber, caviar or blackened lumpfish roe, and a lemon slice, and *sol over Gudhjem* (lit. "sun over Gudhjem"), which is a piece of rye bread with smoked herring, chives and a raw egg yolk (the "sun") on top.

Number 1: *Stegt Flæsk Med Persillesovs* ("Fried bacon with parsley sauce")

This is the most popular traditional Danish dish. It contains fried slices of juicy pork served with creamy parsley sauce and boiled potatoes. *Flæsk* is made from uncured bacon; more precisely, the same cut as pork belly bacon or side bacon that is cut in to one centimeter thick slices. Denmark has many dishes that can be considered a national dish and if you ask Danes which one they consider they will give different replies, but *stegt flæsk med persillesovs* is definitely a must-try dish.

5 Fun Facts about Danish Food Culture

Number 5: Danish people eat 8.5-9.0 million slices of rye bread every day

Not each, of course, but each Dane does eat about 20-25 kilograms of rye bread annually, as it is an important part of the everyday food consumption in Denmark due to its richness in whole grain, dietary fiber with no fat, and nutrient values.

Number 4: The Danes are "World Champions" in peeling potatoes

For numerous generations, potatoes have been a must as a supplement to all traditional Danish dishes; they still are. But despite the fact that Danes have been training for centuries, they are still thankful for the new potatoes of the summer season that can be cooked in their skin and eaten without requiring any peeling at all, but this mainly because they taste wonderfully with the skin on.

Number 3: *Each Dane eats almost 70 kilograms of pork yearly*

The Danish people love their pork. In fact, they are the biggest pork eaters in the world, but perhaps this is because the pork is so tasty, which would also explain why over 10 million pigs per year are exported from Denmark.

Number 2: *Danish dishes from the interwar period have made a comeback*

Recently, *grød* ("porridge") and *øllebrød* (lit. "beer bread") have made their way back onto the gastronomical world map. In the larger cities, there are already so-called porridge cafes and it is only a matter of time before the first *øllebrød* bar will boom. *Øllebrød* is a type of porridge made of rye bread scraps and white beer, which will bring back bad childhood memories to most Danes. Please note that *øllebrød* can go horribly wrong if not cooked properly.

Number 1: *The Danish concept of hygge can be attained through good food*

Hygge is best translated as a "warm, fuzzy, cozy, comfortable feeling of well-being" and it often involves good company, comfortable furniture, soft easy lighting, music, a movie, etc. It can also involve good food, but when it comes to *hygge*, good food means unhealthy food, such as candy, chocolate, crisps, and ice cream, consumed with zero guilt, because it is for the goodness of *hygge*.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #8 Top 5 Things You Need to Know About Danish Society

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2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Things You Need to Know about Danish Society

Society is a very broad topic, and cannot be summarized in one single lesson. That is why we are narrowing it down to the top five most important aspects of Danish society!

Major Cities

Copenhagen

Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark and the country's largest city with a metropolitan population of 1,950,522. It is the main economic, political and cultural centre of Denmark. The city was originally a Viking fishing village founded in the tenth century, but due to a strong and urban development, especially during the last decade, today the capital is characterized by promenades and waterfronts, not to mention a diverse infrastructure which allows the mix of bicycles, cars, and public transport to run more smoothly, making it one of most bicycles-friendly cities in the world. Also, as Copenhagen not only stretches along the eastern shore of Zealand, but also several both natural and artificial islets, the parts of the city are connected by a number of bridges and tunnels. Besides being great for shopping and dining, you can also enjoy Danish architecture and design, sandy beaches, international museums, amusement parks, and buzzing nightlife.

Aarhus

Often referred to as the biggest village in Denmark or as "Capital of Jutland," Aarhus is located on the east side of the peninsula. It is also the second largest city in Denmark with 252,213 inhabitants in the inner urban area. Aarhus is already a very vibrant city due to the many students and cultural events, but it is still striving towards becoming an even more modern European knowledge city in the near future through a number of development and construction projects. The city is currently characterized by a large harbor with both industrial areas and a recreational marina, forests and meadows, sandy beaches along the coastline, and Aarhus River, passing through the inner city. Popular attractions include *Den Gamle By* ("The Old Town"), which is an open air museum consisting of a collection of historic Danish buildings from all over the country, ARoS, which is the newest and largest museum in Aarhus, Aarhus Domkirke, which is the longest and tallest cathedral in Denmark, the amusement park Tivoli Friheden, and a botanical garden.

Odense

Located between Jutland and Zealand on Funen, Odense is the third largest city in Denmark after Copenhagen and Aarhus. The name is derived from the Viking Age, and right underneath the city you can find one of Denmark's six known former Viking ring castles. Odense is also home to the second largest hospital in Denmark, *Odense Universitetshospital*, and no other than the world famous fairy tale writer and poet Hans Christian Andersen, whose house attracts many tourists every year.

The three cities are the largest in the country, but Denmark has a total of 98 municipalities and is divided into five regions.

Family Life

The concept of a "traditional family" in Denmark is a father and a mother, who are married to each other, both working full time, with their children living together. Today, however, the majority is still nuclear families, but other concepts of 'family' also characterize Danish family life. Living together as a couple without being married is totally accepted in Danish society, and single parents, families comprised of parents and children from previous marriages, and homosexuals entered into a registered partnership, are also accepted. Men and women have equal rights by law and Danes, in general, are highly individual, resulting in very confident and independent young people.

Work Culture and Economy

In Denmark, it is normal to question management decisions, but also provide it with new ideas, taking full advantage of the open dialogue between management and employees. Therefore, many Danes are comfortable with being employed at a company instead of starting their own business, for instance. Most are considered motivated and committed to their work and can easily handle their own work themselves. Generally, the work culture is cooperation-oriented and the actual working environment is marked by open and informal social conventions.

Denmark's diverse or mixed economy is mainly based on jobs in the service sector, but the country is also characterized by a modern technological agricultural sector, small-sized businesses, and industrial jobs. Denmark was ranked as number 32 on the list of countries sorted by their 2011 GDP per year, succeeded by the rest of Scandinavia. Due to the financial crisis, Denmark is currently struggling to find solutions in order to maintain its welfare society and high living standards.

Politics

Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, which means that actual royal power is

limited and the head of government, the Prime Minister, is the one exercising executive authority together with other cabinet ministers. Denmark's politics function within a framework of a parliamentary, representative democracy.

In Denmark, one single party has rarely held an absolute majority because the country has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties, and four or five other significant parties. Currently, eight parties are represented in the national parliament, and the Social Democrats have been the major coalition partner in the now center-left government since the parliament election in 2011, with party leader Helle Thorning-Schmidt as Prime Minister (the first female PM, in fact). The party is committed to the political ideology of social democracy. Other coalition partners are the Socialist People's Party and the Social Liberal Party with parliamentary support from the small Red-Green Alliance.

The national parliament or *Folketing* is the center of the political system in Denmark and performs the legislative functions of the whole Kingdom. As Danish society is based on established principles of freedom and democracy, the national parliament is the people's governing assembly, also reflected in the name *Folketing*.

As Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, Queen Margrethe II, head of the state, only has an essential ceremonial role and restricted power. The Royal Family in general, though, serve as good ambassadors and representatives of Denmark, creating friendly relations with other countries and people all over the world. The monarchy of Denmark is the oldest in Europe and the second oldest in the world, dating back to the first official king of Denmark, Gorm den Gamle King of Denmark from c. 936 to 958. The monarchy will continue to exist after Queen Margrethe II, with her oldest son as her successor.

The Supreme Court of Denmark is the final instance in all civil and criminal cases in Denmark, and does not deal with issues of guilt, like in the lower courts. It is split into two chambers, but both hear all types of cases. This judicial system is independent of the executive.

Generational Trends

Constantly seeking new markets and ways to sell their products, Danish companies are very focused on coming up with new ideas and innovation. Denmark, in general, is currently striving towards creating more jobs for the people and becoming more visible in the world by offering more diverse cultural experiences living up to international standards while still staying green, and attracting more tourists and business to the country.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #9

Top 5 Important Dates During the Danish Calendar Year

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Dates During the Calendar Year

Oh, dear, oh, dear! How to choose among so many! In reverse order:

Number 5: "St. John's Eve" - *Sankthansaften* (June 23)

This celebration of midsummer has taken place since the time of the Vikings, but the traditions that come along with it have changed through time. Today, you will see huge bonfires on beaches, shores of lakes and other waterways, parks, etc., and since the 1920s it has been tradition to put a witch made of straw and cloth on the bonfire, and sending her away to Bloksbjerg, which is where the great witch gathering was thought to be held on this day in the past. However, some Danes find this inappropriate in the 21st century, so burning "witches" may be on the decline. During this evening, you will most likely also hear speeches and songs like the so-called *midsommervise* ("midsummer hymn") called *Vi elsker vort land...* ("We love our country").

Number 4: "Carnival" - *Fastelavn* (Sunday or Monday before Ash Wednesday)

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is a moveable feast that can fall anywhere between early February and mid-March. *Fastelavn* is not a religious festivity, though. It is best described as a Nordic version of Halloween, with children dressing up in all sorts of costumes. One of the traditional events is *slå katten af tønden* (lit. "hit the cat out of the barrel"), which is somewhat similar to using a piñata, but without the blindfold. In Denmark, the barrel is made of wood and filled with lots of candy. Back in the day, an actual black cat was put in the barrel due to superstition, and beating the barrel was regarded as a safeguard against evil. Today, of course no real cats are cruelly put into barrel and the rules for *slå katten af tønden* are as follows: the one who knocks down the bottom of the barrel, releasing all the candy, is crowned *kattedronning* ("queen of cats"); the one who knocks down the last piece of the barrel is crowned *kattekonge* ("king of cats"). Other customs like flogging your parents with a *fastelavnsris* (bunches of birch tree branches with buds, decorated with feathers, cut crepe paper, candy, etc.) to wake them up on the morning of *Fastelavns* Sunday(the beating used to be done as a ritual of fertility), ringing doorbells and singing *fastelavn* songs for money, and *fastelavnsboller* (lit. "fastelavns buns," or "shrovetide buns" or "lenten buns"), which is a round sweet roll usually covered with icing and filled with custard, jam, or whipped cream, are still parts of celebrating *fastelavn* today, along with different kinds of children's games, usually involving candy or *fastelavnsboller* one way or another.

It should be mentioned though, that Halloween has made its way into Danish

society and more and more people enjoy dressing up in all kinds of scary costumes on this day as well.

Number 3: "Easter" - Påske (Late March/late April)

Like *fastelavn*, Easter and the related holidays are also movable feasts that can fall anywhere between late March and late April. Both Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are public holidays and many businesses and educational institutions give their employees or students several days off, if not a whole week, called Easter break. Besides perhaps going to an Easter church service, traditions include several activities mainly for children such as egg painting and egg hunting. Another Easter custom is *gækkebrev* (lit. "snowdrop letter"), which is a letter cut in paper with a symmetric pattern. As it is customary to add a snowdrop to the letter, which is *vintergæk* in Danish, *gækkebrev* is derived from *gække*. *Gække* has a superintendent meaning of teasing and making the receiver of a *gæk* guess something, and *brev* ("letter"). The flower *Vintergæk* literally means "winter teaser" because by being the first springbloom, it is the flower that teases winter. Then, a short Easter poem is written on the letter, and finally it is sent anonymously signed only with the same number of dots as the number of letters in the name of the sender. The receiver has three chances to guess who sent the letter, and if he or she succeeds, the sender owes an Easter egg, usually made of chocolate. If not, the receiver owes the sender an Easter egg.

Finally, as described in one of the previous lessons, *påskefrokost* ("Easter lunch") is also customary during this time of year. This usually consists of *det kolde bord* (lit. "the cold table") and also *påskebryg* (lit. "Easter brew"), which is the special beer with a higher alcohol percentage only available around Easter.

Number 2: "New Year's Eve" - Nytårsaften (December 31)

Like many other countries, Denmark celebrates New Year's Eve on the last day of the calendar year. People usually go to the parties or stay at home with family or friends. Many also have dinner with their family and then later meet up with friends at a party. The New Year's dinner usually consists of traditional dishes, such as boiled cod, stewed kale, and cured saddle of pork, and at midnight followed by a special dessert called *kransekage* (lit. "wreath cake") which is made of layered concentric rings of marzipan cake. Recently, expensive cuts of beef and even sushi have become increasingly popular for New Year's dinner, replacing the more traditional dishes. In any case, a bottle of champagne will be popped open when the clock strikes midnight and there will be fireworks all over the country. Before this, traditional events are broadcasted on television and radio, including the monarch's 18 o'clock New Year's speech, talk shows and New Year's skits, especially *Dinner for One* (a British sketch taped in 1963 which has been shown every year since 1980), The Town Hall Clock in Copenhagen is also broadcasted when it is almost midnight and afterwards the Danish national choir sing in the new year. The next day people gather to watch the Prime Minister's New Year's speech.

Danes also perform the custom of jumping down from a chair or over a piece of string and "physically" into the new year, leaving the old behind and we also have the custom of kissing in the new year, so don't be surprised by getting a sudden kiss if you ever spend New Years in Denmark.

Number 1: "Christmas Eve" - Juleaften (December 24)

Unlike several other countries, in Denmark Christmas is celebrated on December 24 instead of the 25th. Originally, the purpose was to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which is why many go to a Christmas church service in the daytime on the 24th and sing Christmas psalms or carols at some point during the evening. Thoughts and beliefs towards Christmas have changed over the decades—today, Christmas is a cosy, pleasant time to spend with friends and loved ones while giving gifts, eating and drinking together. As mentioned in a previous lesson, the traditional Danish Christmas dinner consists of *flæskesteg* ("roast pork with crackling") with *brun sovs* ("brown sauce"), *brunede kartofler* ("caramelized potatoes"), and *rødkål* ("red cabbage"), followed by *risalamande* or *ris à l'amande* ("rice with almonds") for dessert. The exchanging of gifts, singing and dancing around the Christmas tree is also enjoyed. Families also have the tradition of playing a range of Christmas games or even regular board games.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #10 Top 5 Things You Need to Know About Danish Pop Culture

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The Focus of this Lesson is Danish Popular Culture

As popular culture changes quickly and drastically, this lesson focuses on Denmark's most recent pop culture. In this lesson, we'll focus on the top five pop culture topics in Denmark.

Popular TV

The largest broadcasters in Denmark are *Danmarks Radio (DR)* ("Radio of Denmark") and TV2, which are also the primary watched channels, followed by TV3. During the last decade, Danish television has moved from analogue to a digital broadcasting-system (HDTV) in order to receive not only Danish digital channels, but also digital channels from outside the country.

Denmark has quite diversified channels and programmes. Besides Danish channels like DR1, DR2, DR3, TV2, TV Film, TV2 Charlie, TV3, TV3+, TV3 Puls, Kanal 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, international channels are also very popular. These include MTV, Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, National Geographic Channel, Cartoon Network, Disney Channel, History Channel, BBC, CNN, ESPN, etc.

The most popular programmes in Denmark are crime and drama series, sitcoms, documentaries, reality shows, and a variety of contests, some with celebrities as contestants. These shows are being shown on a daily basis, and many of the concepts for contests and reality and game shows are not of Danish origin. These include *Who wants to be a millionaire?*, *X Factor*, *Paradise Hotel*, *Master Chef*, and so on.

Popular Danes Abroad

It is in design, architecture, research and sports that Danish people are the most successful abroad. One of the most outstanding Danes was Jørn Utzon (1918-2008), who is the architect behind the Sydney Opera House in Australia. Another Dane to be acknowledged was the physicist, philosopher, and footballer, Niels Bohr (1885-1962), who received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922 for his foundational contributions to understanding atomic structure and quantum mechanics. There was also Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1895), who is still considered as the greatest Danish philosopher of all time and as the father of existentialism. Finally, Danish author and poet, Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), is still famous worldwide because of his fairy tales, such as *The Little Mermaid*, *Thumbelina*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Ugly Duckling*.

In terms of Danish cinema, director Susanne Bier is currently the most well-known for having won an Academy Award in 2011 in the category Best Foreign Language for the movie "In a Better World" (*Hævnen*). Her famous movies also include *The One and Only* (*Den Eneste Ene*), *Brothers* (*Brødre*), and *After the Wedding* (*Efter*

Brylluppet), *Things We Lost in the Fire*, and *Love is All You Need* (*Den skaldede frisør*). Next comes Mads Mikkelsen and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, the most famous Danish actors in the US, after Viggo Mortensen who is only half Danish. Mads Mikkelsen has acted in many famous Hollywood films, such as the James Bond film *Casino Royale*, and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau has also starred in several Hollywood movies and tv-shows, and currently stars in the series *Game of Thrones*.

In sports, Denmark also has some notable names who have won important international prizes. For instance, Tom Kristensen who is the only driver to win Le Mans 8 times, boxer Mikkel Kessler who has held championship belts in both WBC and WBA, and badminton player Poul-Erik Høyer who won Olympic Gold in men's single. In addition, tennis player Caroline Wozniacki was ranked #1 in women's singles in 2010.

Popular Music

Looking back at the history of Danish music, there seems to be a tendency to switch between Danish artists singing in Danish or English, depending on the decade. Some artists, who used to only sing in Danish, have now switched to English, and also the other way around. The pop music scene in Denmark is highly influenced by the US, but when it comes to Danish artists, they are most likely to have a breakthrough in the rock genre. Every now and then, Swedish songs and artists from the UK become popular in Denmark, but aside from that it is extremely rare that other European artists gain any popularity.

Due to the recent trend of talent shows and TV contests, many one-hit-wonders have also characterized the Danish music scene lately. Many try continuing their success with a second single release, but more or less everyone falls through. As Danish people consider these talent shows and singing contests as easy ways to success, the contest winners usually do not get acknowledged by the public for very long.

Many more experienced Danish artists, though, are quite successful in making comebacks after time away from the music scene and the media, either by continuing where they left off, or reinventing themselves by changing the language they sing in, or collaborating with another artist from the same or complete opposite genre. Some Danish artists have been consistent in delivering good music for several decades and these are the artists who inspire the younger as well as older generations.

Popular Sports

Soccer is the most popular sport among Danish people. Danes are crazy soccer fans and there are daily radio broadcasts dedicated to soccer. Whenever the Danish national soccer team is playing, the match will be broadcasted on the main television channels and most of the nation will be watching either at home or at a pub. Daily sports news cover details of soccer competitions in all parts of the world such as the Premier League, Champions League, the La Liga, Serie A, and so

on. Particularly when Danish national soccer team plays, you will see news about them any time you turn on TV and in any kinds of newspapers you read.

Some other popular sports include handball, cycling, tennis, and badminton.

International Pop Culture

Danes are very up to date on international pop culture, thanks to globalization. Lady Gaga, Beyonce, Kanye West, Rihanna, Justin Timberlake and the like, are all part of popular culture as well as the latest Hollywood movies. Generally, whatever is popular internationally is popular in Denmark too, especially as US and UK top 20s are broadcasted on television and the radio.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #11 Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Danish

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Danish

Entertainment

Language is not just an academic pursuit. The purpose of any language is to communicate with others, and that is more often done through stories and videos than through academic papers. Besides, these sources of reading and listening pleasure provide excellent examples of how native speakers actually use the language, something no textbook can copy. Some great sources for Danish learners of all levels are YouTube and just the Internet, in general. You can study Danish by watching movies, listening to music and online news broadcasts on DRs website, or by reading featured articles about all aspects of life in Denmark. Just type in any of your interests and you will be able to get to know more about Denmark while improving your Danish.

Dictionary

Using bilingual dictionaries is always safe. There are a lot of Danish-English/ English-Danish dictionaries available on the web, but the two most user-friendly are the <http://da.bab.la/ordbog/> and <http://da.glosbe.com/>. Just type in a word, then the equivalent plus a detailed explanation will be provided. Google Translate can be another option, but it mainly works best with single words only. If you type a phrase, only the literal translation will come out, which sometimes makes no sense at all.

Danish-Speaking Friends

This is potentially the most efficient and most rewarding source of learning Danish. Friends who speak to you in Danish can give you more insight, understanding, and help you feel the heart of the Danes. With their help, you will learn to express yourself in Danish and understand others in ways that none of the tools previously mentioned can even come close to. If you have a Danish friend or a friend who speaks Danish fluently, catch up with him or her regularly. Throwing yourself in at the deep end is the best and quickest route to mastering Danish.

Social Networking

If you have no friends who speak Danish, you can make use of some language learning forums or social networking site. One of the best is called Lang-8 (l-a-n-g dash 8, as in the number eight, dot com.)

This site is different from other language learning sites in that it provides a free connection for native speakers of a language to correct writings of people who are

studying that language. For example, a native English speaker can correct a Danish person's English writing and a native Danish speaker can correct a native English speaker who is studying Danish. It is quite helpful because it offers a free service for people to correct each other's writings. It is a great place to see how a native person might write a particular sentence, paragraph, or short writing sample.

And if you want to meet even more Danes, the best place is Facebook. I am sure you are familiar with it! It has been around since 2005 and like in the U.S., its use has skyrocketed in Denmark. In fact, it is the country with most users compared to the size of the population. So it is simple to find Danish people on Facebook. Make sure, though, to send a message before or right after you send someone a friend request, as it often comes off as suspicious to Danish people when a stranger suddenly wants to be befriend them for no apparent reason.

Pen and Paper

Ultra-low tech and ultra cheap, pen and paper are still the king of speed and flexibility in note taking. No one will mug you for a notebook (but they might for that three hundred dollar smart phone or one thousand dollar laptop), and it does not matter if it gets wet; leave it to dry and keep using it, or throw it out and get a new one. Journalists still use pen and paper for note taking because it is just plain faster. For example, you are at the store and you have a good idea about something to study, but when you have time to study, you cannot remember what it was. Has this happened to you? Instead, write down all your ideas and choose what you want to study from your list. That way, you study what you want, when you want, and you are not wasting time trying to remember your great idea. Even though the use of pen and paper has decreased in Denmark in today's digital age, you will still be certain to find specialized paper shops, where you can find all kinds of imaginable pens and different qualities of paper, since in Denmark there is a great and old tradition of paper-cutting and paper folding much like the Japanese Origami. For every major holiday, Christmas, Easter, Fastelavn and so on we use tremendous amounts of colored paper to produce models with intricate designs, shapes and cuts.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #12

Top 5 Tips for Avoiding Common Mistakes in Danish

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Tips to Help Overcome Some Common Errors That Learners of Danish Make

Tip 1: Think twice when using possessive pronouns

Even some Danes have trouble with the use of possessive pronouns. The problems occur when it comes to knowing whether to use *hans* ("his"), *hendes* ("her"), or *sin* ("one's") in a sentence. The main rule is as follows: use the reflexive pronoun *sin* when what you are referring to is the subject of the sentence; use *hans* or *hendes* when you are referring to something other than the subject.

For example:

*Peter vasker **sin** bil.* ("Peter is washing his (own) car.")

*Peter vasker **hans** bil.* ("Peter is washing his (another man's) car.")

Remember this main rule and you can't go far wrong.

Tip 2: Watch out for silent letters

Like English, you can't always immediately tell the pronunciation of a word based on spelling. This is due largely to the fact that Danish makes use of a number of silent letters, many of which follow no pattern and which simply have to be learned on a case-by-case basis. Despite this, they are crucial to indicating meaning and will change the meaning of the word if read incorrectly.

Silent letters can occur both at the beginning, the middle, and at the end of a word, and also indicate stress and *stød*—a feature of Danish pronunciation that is frequently realized as a glottal stop. English speakers may be familiar with the cockney pronunciation of words like "butter" and "bottle." In most cases *stød* will sound like this—a forced closing of the vocal cords as a s substitution for the pronunciation of particular sound.

For example:

Silent *d*: *ful**d***, *kal**d**e*, *plad**s***, *løbend**e***.

Silent *e*: *billed**e***.

Silent *g*: *spurg**t**e*, *sig**e**r*, *vældig**e***.

Silent *h*: *h**j**erte*, *h**v**em*, *h**v**ad*, *h**v**or*, *h**v**orfor*, *h**v**ordan*.

Silent *r*: *grosserb**e**r*, *forvirr**e**r*, *kørb**e**r*.

Silent s: *retssal*.

Silent t: *ordentlig*, *syntes*.

Silent v: *gulv*, *halv*.

The best way to overcome this is by consulting a dictionary or simply learning from your mistakes.

Tip 3: Practice your prepositions hard

In Danish, there are many different prepositions, which is a challenge in itself. In addition, knowing when to use which preposition is not always very logical and definitely not a given. Therefore, the best you can do is to check a dictionary if you are not sure about which preposition to use. If you do use a wrong preposition, any Danish native speaker will still be able to understand what you are trying to say, even though it might sound odd.

Tip 4: Learn the pronunciation now

Don't delay! We have dedicated an entire lesson series to pronunciation because it is that important in Danish. It does not matter how well you know the grammar: you must pronounce it correctly. But do not be afraid to look stupid when practicing your pronunciation, because exaggerating can sometimes be the best way of getting it right in the end. If you have a Danish native-speaker close by to practice with on a regular basis, even better!

Tip 5: Be careful when using transitive and intransitive verbs

Problems with verbs that belong in pairs occur when choosing which one is correct for actually saying what you want to say. Here are the verbs that usually cause the most trouble:

Transitive	Intransitive
<i>lægge</i> ("lay," "put")	<i>ligge</i> ("lie")
<i>sætte</i> ("put," "place")	<i>sidde</i> ("sit")
<i>sprænge</i> ("blow up," "blast," "explode")	<i>springe</i> ("jump," "leap," "hop," "skip")
<i>vække</i> ("wake up," "rouse," "waken")	<i>vågne</i> ("wake," "wake up")

To overcome this, make sure that you know which verbs are transitive and which are intransitive, but do not worry too much about them when using them in present tense in spoken language, because many of them are actually very similar in their

pronunciation. In fact, many Danes cannot always tell them apart either.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #13 Top 5 Phrases Your Danish Teacher Will Never Teach You

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The Focus of This Lesson is Common Danish Expressions That You Might Not Learn From a Danish Teacher

Phrase One: *Ikke også?(!)* ("Right?(!)")

Ikke også?(!) is the same as "Right?(!)" in English and therefore added to the end of a sentence when you are seeking confirmation, or making sure that the person you are talking to is with you so far and most likely agrees with you, if you are expressing your opinion about something. Like in English, exclusively saying *Ikke også?(!)* is also possible. However, please note that *Ikke også?(!)* in spoken language is more like *Ik' også?(!)* or *Ik'?(!)*, depending on which part of Denmark you are in.

Phrase Two: *Træls*. ("Annoying/Tiring.")

When something is *træls*, it means that something or someone is irritating, annoying or tiring. The word originates from Jutland, but during the last decade or so it has traveled from Jutland, across Funen, and to Zealand where the phrase has been almost fully embraced today.

Phrase 3: *Hvad så?* ("What's up?")

This phrase is literally translated as "What so?" but is equivalent to "What's up?" or "So what?" depending on your tone. This phrase can also be used as a "What is happening here?!"-type of phrase. Please note that *Hvad så?* in spoken language is more like *Hva' så?*

Phrase Four: *Fedt! Sejt!* ("Cool!")

Fedt! literally means "fat" as in the fat in meat or on your body, but is also used as the equivalent of "Cool!" Funnily enough, *Sejt!* is also a meat reference as it literally means "tough" and is originally used to describe the texture of a given piece of meat when chewing it. One can only guess as to how these two words ended up as Danish slang.

Phrase Five: *Kvajebajer*. ("Penalty beer.")

Finally, this phrase is used when someone has screwed up one way or another or made a fool of him- or herself. Whatever the person has done may not necessarily have had any direct effect on anyone other than the person him- or herself, but it might still be considered as the type of screw-up that calls for a so-called *kvajebajer*, or a "penalty beer." "To screw up" is *at kvaje sig* in Danish and *bajer* is slang for "beer," which is probably considered as the most popular drink in Denmark. Therefore, it is understandable why some people seize the opportunity to make someone buy them beer at some point to make up for his or her

"mistake." As Danes can be quite sarcastic, do not worry about screwing up; *kvajebajer* is all in good fun (except for for your wallet, of course).

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #14

Top 5 Danish Classroom Phrases

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The Focus of this Lesson is Useful Danish Phrases For the Classroom

Phrase 1: *Hvad betyder...?* ("What does ... mean?")

Hvad betyder...? is a phrase that literally translates to "What does... mean?" This is a very useful phrase in the classroom because you can ask your teacher what certain words and phrases mean in Danish. You would use this phrase by adding the item you want to know at the end of the sentence.

For Example:

1. *Hvad betyder 'bil'?*
"What does "bil" mean?" (*bil* means "car")
2. *Hvad betyder 'taske'?*
"What does "taske" mean?" (*taske* means "bag")
3. *Hvad betyder 'at studere'?*
"What does "at studere" mean?" (*at studere* means "to study")

Phrase 2: *Slå op på side...* ("Turn to page...")

Instead of asking you to simply open your book, your teacher might be more specific and tell you to turn to a given page of a book. *Slå op på side...* means "Turn to page..." and as you have probably already guessed, the page number is added at the end of the sentence. You might also be told by your teacher to turn to the first or the last page of a book. In that case, you will hear the phrase *Slå op på den første side* ("Turn to the first page") or *Slå op på den sidste side* ("Turn to the last page").

Phrase 3: *Jeg forstår det ikke.* ("I don't understand.")

Jeg forstår det ikke is equivalent to "I don't understand," but it literally means "I don't understand it." You would use this phrase if your teacher explains something or says something that you don't/didn't understand. You can also use the phrase *Det forstår jeg ikke*, which literally means "That I don't understand," but carries the exact same meaning as *Jeg forstår det ikke*.

Phrase 4: *En gang til.* ("One more time.")

En gang til means "One more time" and is often used when asking for something that was just said to be repeated. You can expect your teacher to say this when he or she wants you to repeat something and, of course, you can also use this when

you want your teacher to explain something again but here we add a "please." *En gang til, be' om.*

Phrase 5: *Forstået?* ("Understood?")

Forstået? is the same as "Understood?" Teachers use this question to make sure the students understand what they are explaining. But to some, simply saying *Forstået?* may have a slightly harsh tone. Therefore, instead of using *Forstået?*, your teacher might say *Er I med?* which literally means "Are you/you all with?" which is equivalent to "Are you with me (so far)?"

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #15

Top 5 Danish Phrases From the Hosts

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Useful Phrases from Your Hosts

Phrase 1: *Hvordan går det?/Hvordan har du det?* ("How are you doing?" or "How are you feeling?")

These two phrases are commonly used to ask how a person is doing. The first phrase *Hvordan går det?* literally means "How is it going?" where *det* ("it") refers to the person's life, but it is equivalent to "How are you?" The second phrase *Hvordan har du det?* means "How are you doing?" or "How are you feeling?" You can use these phrases when talking to a friend, family member, or colleague.

Phrase 2: *Det går godt./Jeg har det godt.* ("I'm good.")

These phrases are the answers to the two questions above. *Det går godt* literally means "It is going well" and *Jeg har det godt* means "I'm doing/feeling good." Of course, if you or someone else is not doing well, add *ikke* ("not") before *godt*, or simply replace *godt* with a more fitting adjective, such as *skidt* ("bad") which is probably the most commonly used Danish adjective for a negative answer to how you are doing.

Phrase 3: *Hvor er...?* ("Where is...?")

This phrase means "Where is...?" It is a useful phrase, short, concise, and easy to use, and you normally use it for things you are having difficulty finding. Simply add the item, person, or place you want to find out where is, at the end of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Hvor er posthuset?* (*posthuset* means "the post office")
"Where is the post office?"

Phrase 4: *Åh, gud!* ("Oh god!") This phrase means exactly the same as the English "Oh God." You say it when something unfavorable happens as a start of a complaint, or if you want to express surprise. The English "Oh God!" or "Oh my God!" have become very common phrases in daily Danish, especially among young people.

Phrase 5: *Ja, da.* ("Sure.")

This is another way to say "yes" to a question and it is used in the same way as "sure" in English. It shows that you willingly and happily agree to the question.

For example:

1. *Skal vi bestille pizza i aften? Ja, da.*
"Shall we order pizza tonight?" "Sure."

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #1

The Pronunciation of Consonants in Danish

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2 Grammar

#1

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Native Consonant Sounds That Make Up the Danish Language

Introduction

As you know, the Danish alphabet consists of 29 letters (including w), of which 20 are consonants: *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, and z*, but there are in fact 23 individual consonant sounds that can be distinguished, when you include the compounds *ch, ng, and sj*. Out of the many Danish allophones, 15 can be seen as distinctive consonant phonemes: *p, t, k, b, d, g, m, n, f, s, h, v, j, r, and l*.

P, t, k, d, g, v, j, and r can be further divided into different pronunciation groups depending on whether they fall at the beginning or the end of a syllable. Finally, there are 9 stops in Danish, which are divided into three groups: *p, t, and k, b, d, and g, and m, n, and ŋ*.

The pronunciation of each consonant sounds is as follows.

Initial Distinct Pronunciation of Consonants

Single consonants:

1. **B b** is called "be" and is pronounced /b/ like "b" in "baby" or the "w" in "why" (for example, *bøgetræ* meaning "beech"), and [b̥] at the beginning and end of syllables.
2. **C c** is called "se" and is pronounced /s/ like "s" in "snake" or /k/ the "k" in "kick" and is typically used in loan words or personal and geographical names (for example, *citron* meaning "lemon").
3. **D d** is called "de" and is pronounced /d/ like "d" in "door" (for example, *dag* meaning "day"), and [d̥] at the beginning of a syllable, representing a voiceless sound, and [ð̥] at the end of a syllable, representing the sound "eth" taken from the Old English letter by the same name
4. **F f** is called "æf" and is pronounced /f/ like "f" in "father" (for example, *fest* meaning "party"), and [f] at the beginning and end of syllables.
5. **G g** is called "ge" and is pronounced /g/ like "g" in "go" (for example, *godmorgen* meaning "good morning"), and [g̥] at the beginning of a syllable and [ɣ̥] after front vowels or [ŋ̥] after back vowels at the end of a syllable.

6. **H h** is called "hå" and is pronounced /h/ like "h" in "hold" (for example, *hus* meaning "house"), and [h] at the beginning of a syllable.
7. **J j** is called "jåd" and pronounced /j/ like "y" in "you" or "j" in "job" when used in loan words (for example, *jeg* meaning "I"), and [j], [ç] after [s] or [tʰ] at the beginning of a syllable and [ɤ] at the end of a syllable.
8. **K k** is called "kå" and is pronounced /k/ like the "k" in "kick" (for example, *kirke* meaning "church"), and [kʰ] at the beginning of a syllable and [g̊] at the end of a syllable.
9. **L l** is called "æl" and pronounced /l/ like "l" in "law" (for example, *løve* meaning "lion"), and [l] at the beginning and end of syllables.
10. **M m** is called "æm" and pronounced /m/ like "m" in "mother" (for example, *møbel* meaning "furniture"), and [m] at the beginning and end of syllables.
11. **N n** is called "æn" and pronounced /n/ like "n" in "now" (for example, *næse* meaning "nose"), and [n] at the beginning of a syllable and [n], [ŋ] before /g k/ at the end of a syllable.
12. **P p** is called "pe" and pronounced /p/ like "p" in "pick" (for example, *persille* meaning "parsley"), and [pʰ] at the beginning of a syllable and [b̥] at the end of a syllable.
13. **Q q** is called "ku" and pronounced /k/ like "q" in "quiz" and is typically used in loan words or personal and geographical names (for example, *quickstep* meaning "quickstep").
14. **R r** is called "ær" and pronounced like an uvular trill or uvular approximant, which will be further elaborated in another lesson, but in general the pronunciation of the Danish "r" is /r/ like the "r" in the German word "reisen" ("to travel") (for example, *rød* meaning "red"). At the beginning of a syllable it is pronounced [ʀ] and at the end of a syllable [g̊].
15. **S s** is called "æs" and pronounced /s/ like "s" in "sound" (for example, *skole* meaning "school"), and [s] at the beginning and end of syllables.
16. **T t** is called "te" and pronounced /t/ like "t" in "tea" (for example, *torv* meaning "market square"), and [tʰ] at the beginning of a syllable and [d̥] at the end of a syllable.

17. **V v** is called "ve" and pronounced /v/ like "v" in "velvet" (for example, *vaskemaskine* meaning "washing machine"), and [ʋ] at the beginning of a syllable and [ʊ] at the end of a syllable.
18. **W w** is called "dobbelv" and pronounced /v/ as above or as "w" in "wow," as it is typically used in loan words or personal and geographical names (for example, *wienerbrød* meaning "Danish pastry").
19. **X x** is called "æks" and pronounced /ks/ or like "x" in "xylophone" (for example, *xenofobi* meaning "xenophobia").
20. **Z z** is called "sæt" and pronounced /s/ or like "z" in "zoo" (for example, *zink* meaning "zinc").

Compound consonants distinguished in distinct pronunciation:

1. **ch** is pronounced /tj/ or /sj/ like the "ch" in "chance" or the "ch" in "champagne" and is typically used in loan words or personal names (for example, *chips* meaning "(potato) crisps/chips" and *charmerende* meaning "charming").
2. **ng** is pronounced /ŋ/ like the "ng" in "morning" (for example, *honning* meaning "honey").
3. **sj** is a variation of the letter c and is pronounced /ɕ/ like "sh" in "show" (for example, *sjov* meaning "fun").

Stops

When *p*, *t*, and *k* are in the initial position before a full vowel, they are aspirated stops.

For example:

p /p/ *passe* ("look after," "take care of"), *pose* ("bag")

t /t/ *tand* ("tooth"), *til* ("to," "until," "till")

k /k/ *krikke* ("nag"), *komme* ("come")

In all other positions, *p*, *t*, and *k* are unaspirated stops and become /b/, /d/, and /g/, including after -s and when doubled.

For example:

p /b/ *spille* ("play," "act"), *tæppe* ("carpet," "blanket"), *stop* ("halt," "stop")

t /d/ *støj* ("noise"), *rotte* ("rat"), *kat* ("cat")

k /g/ *sko* ("shoe"), *lokke* ("tempt," "persuade"), *tak* ("thanks")

Let's move on to *b*, *d*, and *g*. *B* is pronounced /b/ in all positions.

For example:

b /b/ *bil* ("car"), *briller* ("glasses"), *dyb* ("deep"), *skæbne* ("destiny," "fate"), *åben* ("open")

d is usually pronounced in one of three ways: hard, soft, and silent.

For example:

Hard *d* /d/ initially and before a full vowel

dag ("day"), *dusin* ("dozen"), *dø* ("die"), *djærv* ("burly"), *drama* ("drama"), *soldat* ("soldier"), *student* ("student," "sby holding A-levels"), *heldig* ("lucky")

Soft *d* /ð/ after a vowel and when doubled

mad ("food"), *møde* ("meeting"), *trediv*e ("thirty"), *smedje* ("smithy"), *bedre* ("better"), *sødme* ("sweetness"), *hedde* ("be called," "be named"), *sidde* ("sit")

Except in *addere* ("add," "add up"), *bredde* ("breadth," "width"), *middag* ("noon," "midday," "dinner"), *vidde* ("width"), then *d* is /d/.

In addition, when *d* is found in the plural forms of the words *mor* ("mother/mom"), *far* ("father/dad"), and *bror* ("brother"), which are *mødre* ("mothers"), *fædre* ("fathers"), and *brødre* ("brothers"), it is pronounced /ð/ like the soft *d*.

Silent *d* is silent in the following combinations:

-*ld* *ild* ("fire"), *sild* ("herring"), *kilde* ("source," "tickle"), *melde* ("announce," "report")

-*nd* *mand* ("man"), *vind* ("wind"), *dundre* ("thump," "hammer"), *kende* ("know")

Therefore, in words ending in *-ende*, *d* is silent.

For example:

spændende ("exciting," "thrilling"), *søskende* ("siblings"), *tyvende* ("twentieth")

Let's continue with another combination in which the *d* is silent:

-rd bord ("table"), *gård* ("farm," "yard," "court"), *gærde* ("fence")

G is unvoiced and unaspirated at the end of a syllable, but aspirated at the beginning of a syllable.

For example:

gammel ("old"), *grim* ("ugly"), *grine* ("laugh"), *gade* ("street"), *gås* ("goose"), *gulerod* ("carrot")

However, it is often silent in several words.

For example:

mægle ("mediate"), *undersøge* ("examine," "investigate"), *spørge* ("ask"), *spurgte* ("asked"), *solgte* ("sold"), *jæger* ("hunter"), *uge* ("week"), *sige* ("say"), *meget* ("very"), *nogen* ("some," "any," "somebody," "anybody"), *nogle* ("some")

This also includes words ending in *-ig*.

For example:

dejlig ("lovely," "nice," "fine," "delightful"), *vældig* ("huge," "enormous," "vast," "very"), *åbenhjertig* ("frank," "unreserved"), *heldig* ("lucky")

M, n, and *ŋ* are all voiced no matter their position.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #2

The Pronunciation of Danish Vowels and Diphthongs

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

#2

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Danish Basic Vowels and Diphthongs

As we learned in Lesson 4 of the "All About Danish" series, there are 9 single vowels, which create around 20 different vowel sounds, including phonemes and allophones. Their names and their sounds are basically identical.

1. **A a** is called "a" and is pronounced /a/ or /a:/ like "a" in "and" or "a" in "father" (for example, *alene* meaning "alone" and *arm* meaning "arm").
2. **E e** is called "e" and pronounced /ə/, /e/, /ɛ/, /e:/ or /ɛ:/ like the first "e" in "electric," however, it is slightly different, (for example, *egetræ* meaning "oak tree," *egn* meaning "countryside," "region," or "country," and *eksempel* meaning "example").
3. **I i** is called "i" and pronounced /i/, /i:/ or /e/ like "e" in "e-mail" (for example, *is* meaning "ice" or "ice cream") or like "e" in *egetræ* as demonstrated above.
4. **O o** is called "o" and pronounced /o/ or /o:/ like "o" in the Japanese word "obaa-san" ("grandmother") (for example, *oase* meaning "oasis" and *offentlig* meaning "public").
5. **U u** is called "u" and pronounced /u/, /u:/ or /o/ like "oo" in "hooligan" (for example, *ugle* meaning "owl," *kun* meaning "only" or "just," and *kul* meaning "coal").
6. **Y y** is called "y" and pronounced /y/, /y:/ or /ø/ like "u" in the French word "duchesse" ("duchess") (for example, *ydmyg* meaning "humble" and *hynde* meaning "cushion").
7. **Æ æ** is called "æ" and pronounced /ɛ/ or /ɛ:/ like the first "e" in "energy" (for example, *æsel* meaning "donkey").
8. **Ø ø** is called "ø" and pronounced /ø/, /œ/, /ø:/ or /œ:/ like "eu" in the French word "deux" ("two"), but slightly longer (for example, *øl* meaning "beer," *ørn* meaning "eagle," and *skønhed* meaning "beauty").
9. **Å å** is called "å" and is pronounced /ɔ/ or /ɔ:/ like "o" in "oh no" (for example, *åben* meaning "open" and *åndedrag* meaning "breath").

Diphthongs

A diphthong is when two vowel sounds occur in the same syllable. In Danish, there are two kinds of diphthongs. Please note the spelling of these sounds.

1. Diphthongs with /i/ as their second component:

aj, eg, ej, ig [ai] *maj* ("May"), *leg* ("play"), *hej* ("hi"), *mig* ("me"), *dig* ("you"), *sig* ("him-, her-, it-, oneself," "themselves")

øg, øj [ɔi] *løg* ("onion"), *nøgle* ("key"), *høj* ("tall," "high"), *tøj* ("clothes"), *fløjte* ("whistle")

2. Diphthongs with /u/ as their second component:

iv [iu] *ivrig* ("eager," "keen"), *livlig* ("lively," "vivid"), *tvivl* ("doubt")

ev [eu] *blev* ("stayed," "became," "was," "got"), *hev* ("dragged")

ev [ɛu] *evne* ("ability," "talent," "gift"), *brev* ("letter")

yv [yu] *syv* ("seven"), *tyv* ("thief")

øv [øu] *øvre* ("upper"), *støv* ("dust")

øv [œu] *støvle* ("boot"), *vrøvl* ("nonsense," "trouble," "fuss")

ov [ɔu] *lov* ("law," "permission"), *skov* ("forest," "wood")

ag [au] *hagl* ("hail," "hailstone," "shot," "pellet")

av [au] *hav* ("sea," "ocean")

av [au] *gav* ("gave")

og [åu] *bog* ("book"), *sprog* ("language")

The sound of the Danish diphthong is created by firstly pronouncing the first and the second vowel separately then gradually increasing the speed until you can hear them combined in one sound.

Actually in Danish there are 11 phonemes, 20 distinct vowel-sound symbols and in total around 40-50 distinguishable vowel sounds (this includes consonants that are pronounced with a vowel quality).

So some of the lines can be very blurry between vowels and they can sound very much alike.

There are

5 a sounds

4 *i* sounds

5 *e* sounds

5 *æ* sounds

5 *y* sounds

4 *ø* sounds

6 *u* sounds

5 *o* sounds

2 *å* sounds

These sounds/pronunciations overlap with each other. What I have counted here is not the phonetic appearances of each vowel but the different ways to pronounce them in different words and syllables.

Actually the Danish vowel sounds are so extensive that in some dialects you can say full sentences with only vowel sounds.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #3

Stress and Stød in the Danish Language

CONTENTS

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Danish Stød and Stress

As mentioned earlier in Lesson 4 of the "All About Danish" series, Danish has a stress and stød, also known as a glottal stop.

Stress

Unlike other Scandinavian languages such as Swedish and Norwegian, Danish does not have phonetic pitch. However, it does have a phonemic stress that helps distinguish between words that would sound the same if not emphasizing certain syllables in a word. The position of the stress depends on the words' origin, prefixes and suffixes, and their position in a sentence. The following is a set of main rules, in which an apostrophe marks the stressed syllable:

1. Inherited words are usually stressed on the first syllable.
2. Words of French origin are stressed on the last syllable with the exception of /ə/.

For example: *renæ'ssance* ("renaissance") and *mil'jø* ("environment").

1. Words of Greek and Latin origin are stressed according to the Latin accent rules. This means that the stress is on the next to last syllable if it is long or otherwise on the third to last syllable.

For example: *Ari'stoteles* ("Aristotle") and *Ho'rats* ("Horace").

1. The prefixes *be-*, *for-*, and *ge-* are unstressed because of their German origin, but the prefix *u-* is also unstressed.

For example: *for'stå* ("understand"), *be'tale* ("pay"), and *u'mulig* ("impossible").
Note, *for-* in nouns corresponding to the verbal prefix *fore-* is also stressed.

1. The learned suffixes *-aner*, *-ansk*, *-ance*, *-a/ens*, *-a/ent*, *-ere*, *-i*, *-ik*, *-ion*, *-itet*, and *-ør* are stressed.

For example: *finge'rere* ("finger something"), *situa'tion* ("situation"), *poli'tik* ("politic"), and *århusi'aner* ("person from Aarhus").

The preceding syllable to the suffixes *-isk*, *-iker*, and *-or* are stressed.

For example: *po'lemisk* ("polemic"), *po'litiker* ("politician"), and *radi'ator* ("radiator").

Note, the suffix -or is stressed in the plural: *radia'torer* (colloquial: *radi'atorer*) ("radiators").

1. In many compound adjectives, especially those ending in -ig and -lig, the stress moves from the first to the second syllable.

For example: *vidt'løftig* ("circumstantial") and *sand'synlig* ("probable").

1. Verbs lose their stress (and stød, if any) in certain positions:

- With an object without a definite or indefinite article.

For example: *Han 'spiser et 'brød* [hæn 'sɸi:ʔse eɔ̯ 'b̥ʁœðʔ] ("He eats a loaf") and *Han spiser 'brød* [hæn sɸise 'b̥ʁœðʔ] ("He eats bread").

- In a fixed phrase with an adverb or an adverbial.

For example: *Han 'sov 'længe* [hæn 'sʌʔ 'lɛŋə] ("He slept for a long time") and *Han sov 'længe* [hæn sʌʔ 'lɛŋə] ("He slept late").

- Before the direction adverbs *af, hen, hjem, ind, indad, ned, nedad, op, opad, over, ud, udad, under* (but NOT the location adverbs *henne, inde, nede, oppe, ovre, ude*).

For example: *Han 'går 'ude på 'gaden* [hæn 'gɔ:ʔ 'u:ð̥ pʰɔ̯ 'g̊æ:ð̥n] ("He walks on the street") and *Han går 'ud på 'gaden* [hæn gɔ 'uð̥ʔ pʰɔ̯ 'g̊æ:ð̥n] ("He walks out on the street").

Stød (Glottal Stop)

As mentioned previously, the stød is a pronunciation unit of Danish phonology used to keep words apart like when you stress a syllable. The sound is made by forcing your vocal cords together, allowing the sound to build without releasing it, but unlike a pause or small stop in a word, it will produce a sound. The stød is like a forced puff of air. Some may know it from the cockney dialect and their pronunciation of "Butter". The stød may accompany syllables with a long vowel or syllables that end with a voiced consonant. Like in any language, there are things

that just have to be learned, and in Danish the stød is one of those things because it is not possible to predict whether or not it is present, but be aware that if not present in the right place it will change the meaning of the word. However, here are some main rules:

1. Words of Greek or Latin origin have the stød. It is on the stressed syllable, which can either be the second to last syllable or last syllable. If the word ends in *-er* then the stød is on the second to last syllable, which is the stressed syllable.
2. Words that originally were monosyllabic have stød. These words used to end in a consonant plus *r*, *l*, or *n* in Old Danish and even though today a vowel has been added, they still retain the stød. The postposed definite article, which has become an inseparable part of the word, does not influence the word.
3. All pluralizing syllables *-er* (Old Danish *-r*) have the stød.

For example: *hænder* ['hɛnʔɐ] ("hands").

1. Most present tenses of strong verbs (Old Danish *-r*) have the stød.

For example: *finder* ['fɛnʔɐ] ("finds").

Many of the presents of verbs with a preterite in *-te* have the stød as well (but not the presents of verbs with a preterite in *-ede*).

1. Monosyllabic words that originally ended in a short vowel + a single *n*, *r*, *l*, *v*, *ð*, or *g* do not have the stød. However, when the definite suffix is added, the stød "returns."

For example: *ven* ['vɛn] ("friend") and *vennen* ['vɛnʔɐ] ("the friend").

1. Stød is frequently avoided in words with the the danish consonant clusters *rp*, *rt*, *rk*, *rs*.

For example: *vers* ['væʁs] ("verse") and *kort* ['kʰɔ:ɖ] ("card, map"/"short").

1. Most (non-derived) words in *-el*, *-er* have the stød. Most words in *-en* do not have the stød and nomina agentis in *-er* do not have the stød either.
2. All words with the unstressed prefixes *be-*, *for-*, *ge-* of German origin have the stød.

3. There is *stød* in most compounds that have a replacement of the stress from first to the second syllable.
4. *Stød* frequently appears in the second part of compound verbs.
5. Monosyllables regularly lose the *stød* when they are the first part of a compound.

For example: *mål* ['mɔ:ʔl] ("target," "goal") and *målmand* ['mɔ:l,mænʔ] ("goalkeeper").

The vowel is sometimes shortened.

For example: *tag* ['tʰæ:ʔ] ("roof") and *tagterrasse* ['tʰɑʊtʰa,ʌsə] ("roof terrace").

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #4 Regional Accents in Denmark

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Regional Variations of Danish Pronunciation Found Respectively on the Danish Main Islands, in Jutland, and on Bornholm.

Preface

There are differences in Danish pronunciation and accents from the main islands to Jutland and to the island of Bornholm, which make up the three main distinct Danish dialects. However, these can be further subdivided into no less than 30 dialects. All dialects are usually named after each region when in broader terms, or the representative city in a given area. While there are a number of rural dialects, each varying in their influence, all belong to one of three larger dialect groups: Insular Danish, Jutlandic, and Bornholmian, which is sometimes known as Eastern Danish. Due to a very homogeneous national speech norm, Danish only has one regional speech norm which is Standard Danish; though its exact origin is up for debate, Standard Danish was based on dialects spoken in and around the capital, and was originally derived from the dialects of Copenhagen. In rural areas distinct dialects still exist, but in general, most people there speak a regionalized form of Standard Danish. Switching between this and a distinct dialect is very common though.

Sound System and Grammar

Jeg often becomes *ja* only with the [ɑ] diphthong when pronounced in Jutlandic. There is also a tendency to pronounce the *or* in words such as *jord* and *sort* as [ɒ:] instead of [oɹ] in Standard Danish. Northern Jutlandic dialects have voiceless variants of *v* and *j* when combined with *h* at the beginning of a word and becomes *hv* or *hj*.

There is also a confusion between several vowel phonemes, in general, because the contemporary Danish language is experiencing a merger of more of these. Furthermore, vowel allophones and diphthongs are also undergoing developments, especially among younger Jutlandic Danish speakers. New so-called Jutlandic "regiolects," though, are identical to the Copenhagen variety in many aspects, but differs primarily with a distinct accent.

The *stød*, which we covered in the previous lesson, is absent in most southern Danish dialects due to the greater influence of Low German in those areas. Therefore, it can sometimes be difficult to understand what is being said if someone from a southern rural area does not code-switch to regionalized Standard Danish, even for a Danish native speaker. Jutlandic dialects, in general, also tend to skip the *e* [ə] which is often found in unstressed syllables. This means that the presence of the *stød* and vowel length become highly significant when distinguishing words. Bornholmian, or Eastern Danish, however, has many

phonetical features in common with Swedish, due to its geographical position, but vocabulary-wise it is closer to Danish.

In Standard Danish, nouns can only fall into two grammatical genders: common and neuter. Yet, some dialects, like Bornholmian or Eastern Danish, still often have masculine, feminine, and neuter, like German, and in dialects spoken mainly in the western part of Jutland, the definite article even goes in front of the noun. However, instead of having two articles depending on which gender the noun has, the definite article put in front of words is always *æ*. Additionally, some dialects are only with one gender and even lack the definite article completely. Another Jutlandic tendency is not using the reflexive pronoun *sin* ("his," "her") when referring to the subject of a sentence. Instead, *hans* ("his" as in someone else's) and *hendes* ("her" as in someone else's) are more frequently used. Finally, Jutlandic also often lack distinction between transitive and intransitive forms of certain verbs, but this is sometimes hard to do for many Danes in general.

Even though people in the three main regions speak different dialects, when singing the Danish national anthem, they all do so in Standard Danish. In modern Danish songs, however, artists do not hesitate to sing with in regionalized Standard Danish, especially men, who generally tend to speak with a stronger accent than women.

"Hello"

Every Dane understands all the standard greetings of Denmark, but if you go to the southern part of Jutland you will most likely hear *møjn*, which means "hi", "hello" or "goodbye," but can be used anytime of the day, and can even replace *godmorgen* ("good morning"), *godeftermiddag* ("good afternoon"), and *godaften* ("good evening"). Another common way to say "hi" in Jutland is *dav*. Today, this is often used jokingly or when trying to imitate a Jutlandic dialect, but in fact the word originates from the daily pronunciation of *dag* ("day"), more common used in the olden days though.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #5 Common Danish Pronunciation Mistakes

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Five Most Common Mistakes People Make When They Pronounce Danish

#1: The Uvular Trill

To the foreign ear, Danish is often mistaken with German or Dutch because of the common uvular trill pronunciation of the letter *r*, unlike Swedish and Norwegian. The Danish *r* is actually articulated with the root of the tongue against the back of the throat.

For example: *rød* ("red"), *rejse* ("travel"), *bedrag* ("deception"), *begrunde* ("state the reason for"), *praktisk* ("practical"), *strofe* ("stanza"), *vaskeri* ("laundry"), *krydderi* ("spice")

In syllable coda, *r* is normally pronounced [ɐ] and forms a diphthong with a preceding syllables vowel.

For example: *stor* ("big"), *næring* ("nourishment")

#2: Silent Letters

As you know, Danish has letters in words that cannot be heard when speaking. To make things harder, there is no single rule for remembering them and when not to add them or when supposed to, which can change the meaning of the word completely. Silent letters can occur both at the beginning, the middle, and at the end of a word, and also indicate stress and *stød*.

For example: Silent *d*: *fuld*, *kalde*, *plads*, *løbende*.

Silent *e*: *billede*.

Silent *g*: *spurgte*, *siger*, *vældig*.

Silent *h*: *hjerter*, *hvem*, *hvad*, *hvor*, *hvorfor*, *hvordan*.

Silent *r*: *grosserer*, *forvirrer*, *kører*.

Silent *s*: *retssal*.

Silent *t*: *ordentlig*, *syntes*.

Silent *v*: *gulv*, *halv*.

#3: Stress and Stød

Because there are so many variables to consider for positioning the stress, like the words' origin, prefixes and suffixes, and sentence position, it is tempting to just take a chance and pronounce a word the way you think it is supposed to be. Once you've become more adjusted to listening to Danish, it might actually be the best way to go about it, but if you still feel a little uncertain and have a hard time with the stress, it is a good idea to keep a dictionary close by.

Likewise, the *stød*, or the glottal stop, also presents major challenges, as its presence is more or less unpredictable; it is one of those things that just has to be learned. The *stød* may accompany syllables with a long vowel or syllables that end with a voiced consonant.

Main rules for both the stress and the *stød* can be found in Lesson 3 in this Danish Pronunciation series, but since there are so many, it is easy to understand why it causes trouble for many people trying to learn Danish.

#4: Diphthongs

Even though there are only two kinds of diphthongs in Danish, there are still many sounds to remember. Diphthongs vary according to whether they have /i/ or /u/ as their second component. The sound of a Danish diphthong is created by firstly pronouncing the first and the second vowel separately then gradually increasing the speed until you can hear them combined in one sound.

Diphthongs with /i/ as their second component:

aj, eg, ej, ig [ɑi] *maj* ("May"), *leg* ("play"), *hej* ("hi"), *mig* ("me"), *dig* ("you"), *sig* ("him-, her-, it-, oneself," "themselves")

øg, øj [ɔi] *løg* ("onion"), *nøgle* ("key"), *høj* ("tall," "high"), *tøj* ("clothes"), *fløjte* ("whistle")

Diphthongs with /u/ as their second component:

iv [iu] *ivrig* ("eager," "keen"), *livlig* ("lively," "vivid"), *tvivl* ("doubt")

ev [eu] *blev* ("stayed," "became," "was," "got"), *hev* ("dragged")

ev [ɛu] *evne* ("ability," "talent," "gift"), *brev* ("letter")

yv [yu] *syv* ("seven"), *tyv* ("thief")

øv [øu] *øvre* ("upper"), *støv* ("dust")

øv [œu] *støvle* ("boot"), *vrøvl* ("nonsense," "trouble," "fuss")

ov [ɔu] *lov* ("law," "permission"), *skov* ("forest," "wood")

ag [au] *hagl* ("hail," "hailstone," "shot," "pellet")

av [au] *hav* ("sea," "ocean")

av [au] *gav* ("gave")

og [åu] *bog* ("book"), *sprog* ("language")

#5: Stops

All foreigners learning Danish admit that Danish pronunciation is difficult mainly because of the many different pronunciations of several letters. When the pronunciation of words is incorrect, misunderstandings can easily occur.

A stop is any consonant, like *d* or *p*, in which the action of speaking causes airflow to cease. Among 9 stops, *d* varies the most and therefore causes most problems.

d is usually pronounced in one of three ways: hard, soft, and silent.

For example:

Hard *d* /d/ initially and before a full vowel

dag ("day"), *dusin* ("dozen"), *dø* ("die"), *djærv* ("burly"), *drama* ("drama"), *soldat* ("soldier"), *student* "student", *heldig* ("lucky")

Soft *d* /ð/ after a vowel and when doubled

mad ("food"), *møde* ("meeting"), *tredive* ("thirty"), *smedje* ("smithy"), *bedre* ("better"), *sødme* ("sweetness"), *hedde* ("be called," "be named"), *sidde* ("sit")

Except in *addere* ("add," "add up"), *bredde* ("breadth," "width") - a word that also requires the application of *stød*, *middag* ("noon," "midday," "dinner"), *vidde* ("width"), then *d* is /d/.

In addition, when *d* is found in the plural forms of the words *mor* ("mother/mom"), *far* ("father/dad"), and *bror* ("brother"), which are *mødre* ("mothers"), *fædre* ("fathers"), and *brødre* ("brothers"), it is pronounced /ð/ like the 'soft' *d*.

Silent *d* is silent in the following combinations:

-*ld* *ild* ("fire"), *sild* ("herring"), *kilde* ("source," "tickle"), *melde* ("announce," "report")

-*nd* *mand* ("man"), *vind* ("wind"), *dundre* ("thump," "hammer"), *kende* ("know")

Therefore, in words ending in *-ende*, *d* is silent.

For example:

spændende ("exciting," "thrilling"), *søskende* ("siblings"), *tyvende* ("twentieth")

Let's continue with another combination in which the *d* is silent:

-rd bord ("table"), *gård* ("farm," "yard," "court"), *gærde* ("fence")



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