

Basic Norwegian Grammar Terms

This is a list of basic grammar terms used when learning languages. They'll help you understand the words we use when teaching grammar and sentence structure. The list explains how we use the words in our Lenoo classroom and does not provide precise, linguistic definitions.

PARTS OF SPEECH (WORD CLASSES)

Every word in Norwegian can be classified into parts of speech. The term part of speech refers to the role a word plays in a sentence.

Norsk	English	Definition	Example
substantiv	noun	denotes a person, place, or thing	teacher, city, dog <i>lærer, by, hund</i>
verb	verb	denotes an action	run, dance, sleep <i>løpe, danse, sove</i>
modal verb	modal verb	expresses possibility, necessity or ability	can, should, must <i>kan, bør, må</i>
pronomen	pronoun	replaces a noun	you, me, him, us <i>du, meg, ham, oss</i>
possessiv pronomen	possessive pronoun	a pronoun that shows ownership of something	his, our, their <i>hans, vår, deres</i>
adjektiv	adjective	describes a noun	cute, big, expensive <i>søt, stor, dyr</i>
adverb	adverb	describes a verb	quickly, often, poorly <i>raskt, ofte, dårlig</i>
preposisjon	preposition	relates words to each other	in, above, behind <i>i, over, bak</i>

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VERB TENSES

Verb tenses show when an action took place, as well as how long it occurred. The main verb tenses are the past, present, and future.

Norsk	English	Definition	Example
infinitiv	infinitive	basic form of the verb - does not indicate when the action happens	to eat, to pray, to love <i>å spise, å be, å elske</i>
presens	present	actions happening now	dancing, sleeping, laughing <i>danser, sover, ler</i>
preteritum	past	actions completed in the past	drank, flew, ran <i>drakk, fløy, løp</i>
presens perfektum	present perfect	actions started in the past that is not yet completed	She <u>has grown</u> a lot this year. <i>Hun <u>har vokst</u> mye i år.</i>
futurum	future	actions that have not happened yet but will later	I <u>will see</u> her tomorrow. <i>Jeg <u>skal se</u> henne i morgen.</i>
imperativ	imperative	denotes a command	push, stop, jump <i>trykk, stopp, hopp</i>
passiv	passive	used when we don't say who performed the action	The food <u>was eaten</u> . <i>Maten <u>ble spist</u>.</i>

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TYPES OF NOUNS

These words denote the type of noun we're using. In Norwegian, not only do you have single and plural nouns, but nouns also have genders.

Norsk	English	Definition	Example
kjønn	gender	In Norwegian, there are 3 genders of nouns	This difference is not present in the English language.
maskulin	masculine		<u>en</u> mann
feminin	feminine		<u>ei</u> kvinne
nøytrum	neutral		<u>et</u> barn
entall	singular	one single object	an apple; the apple <i>et eple; eplet</i>
flertall	plural	more than one object	apples <i>eples</i>
bestemt	definite	the noun is known to the speaker	<u>the</u> car <i>bilen</i>
ubestemt	indefinite	noun is unknown to the speaker	<u>a</u> house <i>et hus</i>
artikkel	article	the word used to indicate whether it's definite or indefinite	the, a, an <i>den/det, en, en</i>

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DEGREES OF ADJECTIVES

Norsk	English	Definition	Example
positiv	absolute	describes something in its own right	a <u>cool</u> guy <i>en <u>kul</u> fyr</i>
komparativ	comparative	compares two or more things	a <u>cooler</u> guy <i>en <u>kulere</u> fyr</i>
superlativ	superlative	indicates it has the highest degree of the quality	the <u>coolest</u> guy <i>den <u>kuleste</u> fyren</i>

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Norsk	English	Definition	Example
subjekt	subject	performs an action	<u>Aina</u> walks to the park. <i><u>Aina</u> går til <u>parken</u>.</i>
objekt	object	receives the action	Aina walks to <u>the park</u> . <i>Aina går til <u>parken</u>.</i>
helsetning	independent clause	on its own, has a complete meaning	<u>I sleep a lot</u> when I am sick. <i><u>Jeg sover mye</u> <u>når jeg er syk.</u></i>
leddsetning	subordinate clause	provides informational support to the main event of the sentence	I sleep a lot <u>when I am sick.</u> <i><u>Jeg sover mye</u> <u>når jeg er syk.</u></i>



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