

Language Lessons

Celebrate heritage and history with the Norwegian language. BY ISABELLE WATTENBERG

Originally a language of runes thought to bestow magical powers on anyone who could write with them, the Norwegian language is spoken by nearly 5 million people today. Learning a new language at an early age is not only great for developing young minds, it passes an important piece of culture through the generations. Norway has three official written languages: Bokmål, Nynorsk and Sámi. It's never too early to teach the young people in your life a new language.



To see Family Matters pages from previous issues, go to sonsofnorway.com, log in and select "Cultural Programming," then "Family Matters."

Activities for Young People

PRESCHOOL

Start with Pictures

Identify objects a young child will recognize and say the Norwegian translation with an illustrated children's Norwegian-English dictionary (see below).

EXPAND IT:

Practice simple phrases, such as hello (*hei*), goodbye (*ha det*) and thank you (*takk*). Write the words on flash cards and practice saying them together.



ELEMENTARY AGES

Foodie Favorites

Learn Norwegian food vocabulary! Young kids can help write notecards with the Norwegian names of the food being served and place them next to the appropriate dish. Go around the table and have each person name what's on their plate using the Norwegian words.

EXPAND IT: Learn the alphabet song in Norwegian. Search YouTube for "ABCs in Norwegian," and follow along with the Norwegian Alphabet Song video.

TEENAGERS

Play Lottery

Choose simple Norwegian words and write them down on pieces of paper, putting the English translation on the other side. Mix up the words in a bag and have each family member draw five words, keeping them hidden from other players. Take turns creating and saying a phrase with one Norwegian word added in. Other family members have to guess what the Norwegian word means.

EXPAND IT: Attend a language camp together. Programs across the United States, such as Concordia, offer language camps for the whole family. concordialanguagevillages.org

LEARN MORE

↑ Dino Lingo Learning Sets
dinolingo.com

← "My First English/Norwegian Dictionary of Sentences"
ingebretsens.com

Sons of Norway Norwegian Language Lessons
sonsofnorway.com

Online Norwegian-English Dictionary
norskengelskordbok.com