

# LEARN ABOUT VERBS IN NORWEGIAN

## **The Purpose Of This Ebook**

The purpose of this ebook is to help you understand about verbs and their usage in the Norwegian language.

This information is collected from a list of tutorials provided on my blog. The information is consolidated into an ebook for your convenience.

I hope this ebook helps you improve your understanding of verbs in the Norwegian language.

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## Introduction

A verb tells something about what is happening or the action taken. Associated with a verb is the tense of the verb. Norwegian verbs can use one of four tenses: **presens**, **preteritum**, **futurum** and **perfektum**.

## Infinitiv

But before we can start learning about verbs with tenses let us look at the **infinitiv** form of the verb. The **infinitiv** form is the dictionary form of the verb. So whenever you read verbs in a dictionary you will find them in this form. Below are some verbs in their infinitive form.

Norwegian	English
<a href="#">å lese</a>	to read
<a href="#">å reise</a>	to travel
<a href="#">å kjøpe</a>	to shop
<a href="#">å lage</a>	to make
<a href="#">å sparke</a>	to kick
<a href="#">å gjøre</a>	to do
<a href="#">å gå</a>	to go
<a href="#">å feire</a>	to celebrate

## Presens (Present Tense)

A Norwegian verb in the **presens** could indicate something that:

- 1) is happening now.
- 2) which happens often.
- 3) which happens always.

Note that the **presens** form is created by adding an **r** to the **infinitiv** as below.

Infinitiv	Presense	Example	English
<a href="#">å lese</a>	<a href="#">leser</a>	<a href="#">Han <b>leser</b> nå.</a>	He <b>reads</b> now.
<a href="#">å reise</a>	<a href="#">reiser</a>	<a href="#">Hun <b>reiser</b> i dag.</a>	She <b>travels</b> today.
<a href="#">å kjøpe</a>	<a href="#">kjøper</a>	<a href="#">Jeg <b>kjøper</b> is akkurat nå.</a>	I <b>buy</b> ice cream just now.
<a href="#">å lage</a>	<a href="#">lager</a>	<a href="#">Han <b>lager</b> middag nå.</a>	He <b>makes</b> dinner now.
<a href="#">å sparke</a>	<a href="#">sparker</a>	<a href="#">De <b>sparker</b> fotball nå.</a>	They <b>kick</b> football now.
<a href="#">å gjøre</a>	<a href="#">gjør</a>	<a href="#">Hun <b>gjør</b> leksene sine nå.</a>	She <b>does</b> her lessons now.
<a href="#">å gå</a>	<a href="#">går</a>	<a href="#">Vi <b>går</b> på ski i dag.</a>	We <b>go</b> to ski today.
<a href="#">å feire</a>	<a href="#">feirer</a>	<a href="#">De <b>feirer</b> i Italia nå.</a>	They <b>celebrate</b> in Italy now.

## Preteritum (Past Tense)

A Norwegian verb in the **preteritum** indicates something that has already happened.

Note that the **preteritum** form is created by adding a **te** to the **infinitiv** as below. Also note that it is necessary to specify the time when using preteritum (e.g. yesterday, one week ago, etc).

Infinitiv	Preteritum	Example	English
<a href="#">å lese</a>	<a href="#">leste</a>	<a href="#">Han leste i går.</a>	He <b>read</b> yesterday.
<a href="#">å reise</a>	<a href="#">reiste</a>	<a href="#">Hun reiste i går.</a>	She <b>traveled</b> yesterday.
<a href="#">å kjøpe</a>	<a href="#">kjøpte</a>	<a href="#">Jeg kjøpte is i går.</a>	I <b>bought</b> ice cream yesterday.
<a href="#">å lage</a>	<a href="#">laget</a>	<a href="#">Han laget middag i går også.</a>	He <b>made</b> dinner yesterday also.
<a href="#">å sparke</a>	<a href="#">sparket</a>	<a href="#">De sparket fotball i går også.</a>	They <b>kicked</b> football yesterday also.
<a href="#">å gjøre</a>	<a href="#">gjorde</a>	<a href="#">Hun gjorde leksene sine før hun gikk.</a>	She <b>did</b> her lessons before she went.
<a href="#">å gå</a>	<a href="#">gikk</a>	<a href="#">Vi gikk på ski før en uke siden.</a>	We <b>went</b> to ski a week ago.

As you can see above, there are a few exceptions to the “rule” of adding **te** to the **infinitiv**.

## Futurum (Future Tense)

A Norwegian verb in the **futurum** indicates something that will happen in the future.

Note that the **futurum** form is created by adding a **skal** before the **infinitiv** as below.

Infinitiv	Futurum	Example	English
<u>å lese</u>	<b>skal lese</b>	<u>Han skal lese i morgen.</u>	He <b>shall read</b> tomorrow.
<u>å reise</u>	<b>skal reise</b>	<u>Hun skal reise om en time.</u>	She <b>shall travel</b> in an hour.
<u>å kjøpe</u>	<b>skal kjøpe</b>	<u>Jeg skal kjøpe is.</u>	I <b>shall buy</b> icecream.
<u>å lage</u>	<b>skal lage</b>	<u>Han skal lage middag.</u>	He <b>shall prepare</b> dinner.
<u>å sparke</u>	<b>skal sparke</b>	<u>De skal sparke fotball.</u>	They <b>shall kick</b> football.
<u>å gjøre</u>	<b>skal gjøre</b>	<u>Hun skal gjøre leksene sine.</u>	She <b>shall do</b> her lessons.
<u>å gå</u>	<b>skal gå</b>	<u>Vi skal gå på ski.</u>	We <b>shall go</b> for skiing.

## Perfektum (Past Tense)

A Norwegian verb in the **perfektum** indicates something that has happened in the past. But it is different from the **preteritum** that also indicates past tense. It is different because we use **perfektum** when we don't tell **when** the action occurred.

Note that the **perfektum** form is created by adding a **har** before the **infinitiv** and a **t** at the end as below.

Infinitiv	Perfektum	Example	English
<a href="#">å lese</a>	<a href="#">har lest</a>	<a href="#">Han har lest.</a>	He <b>has read</b> .
<a href="#">å reise</a>	<a href="#">har reist</a>	<a href="#">Hun har reist.</a>	She <b>has travelled</b> .
<a href="#">å kjøpe</a>	<a href="#">har kjøpt</a>	<a href="#">Jeg har kjøpt is.</a>	I <b>have bought</b> .
<a href="#">å lage</a>	<a href="#">har laget</a>	<a href="#">Han har laget middag.</a>	He <b>has prepared</b> dinner.
<a href="#">å sparke</a>	<a href="#">har sparket</a>	<a href="#">De har sparket fotball.</a>	They <b>have kicked</b> football.
<a href="#">å gjøre</a>	<a href="#">har gjort</a>	<a href="#">Hun har gjort leksene sine.</a>	She <b>has done</b> her lessons.
<a href="#">å gå</a>	<a href="#">har gått</a>	<a href="#">Vi har gått på ski.</a>	We <b>have gone</b> for skiing.

## Groups of Norwegian Verbs

### Gruppe 1

Verbs in group 1 have preteritum ending in **et** and perfektum ending in **et**.

Infinitiv	Presens	Preteritum	Perfektum
<a href="#">å bade</a> (to bathe)	<a href="#">bader</a>	<a href="#">badet</a>	<a href="#">har badet</a>
<a href="#">å dusje</a> (to shower)	<a href="#">dusjer</a>	<a href="#">dusjet</a>	<a href="#">har dusjet</a>
<a href="#">å lage</a> (to make)	<a href="#">lager</a>	<a href="#">laget</a>	<a href="#">har laget</a>
<a href="#">å snakke</a> (to speak)	<a href="#">snakker</a>	<a href="#">snakket</a>	<a href="#">har snakket</a>
<a href="#">å danse</a> (to dance)	<a href="#">danser</a>	<a href="#">danset</a>	<a href="#">har danset</a>
<a href="#">å gjette</a> (to guess)	<a href="#">gjetter</a>	<a href="#">gjettet</a>	<a href="#">har gjettet</a>
<a href="#">å vaske</a> (to wash)	<a href="#">vasker</a>	<a href="#">vasket</a>	<a href="#">har vasket</a>
<a href="#">å huske</a> (to remember)	<a href="#">husker</a>	<a href="#">husket</a>	<a href="#">har husket</a>



## Gruppe 2

Verbs in group 2 have preteritum ending in **te** and perfektum ending in **t**.

<b>Infinitiv</b>	<b>Presens</b>	<b>Preteritum</b>	<b>Perfektum</b>
<a href="#">å lese</a> (to read)	<a href="#">leser</a>	<a href="#">leste</a>	<a href="#">har lest</a>
<a href="#">å låne</a> (to loan)	<a href="#">låner</a>	<a href="#">lånte</a>	<a href="#">har lånt</a>
<a href="#">å lære</a> (to learn)	<a href="#">lærer</a>	<a href="#">lærte</a>	<a href="#">har lært</a>
<a href="#">å svømme</a> (to swim)	<a href="#">svømmer</a>	<a href="#">svømte</a>	<a href="#">har svømt</a>
<a href="#">å begynne</a> (to begin)	<a href="#">begynner</a>	<a href="#">begynte</a>	<a href="#">har begynt</a>
<a href="#">å betale</a> (to pay)	<a href="#">betaler</a>	<a href="#">betalte</a>	<a href="#">har betalt</a>

## Gruppe 3

Verbs in group 3 have preteritum ending in **de** and perfektum ending in **d**.

Infinitiv	Presens	Preteritum	Perfektum
<a href="#">å bøye</a> (to bend)	<a href="#">bøyer</a>	<a href="#">bøyde</a>	<a href="#">har bøyd</a>
<a href="#">å tøy</a> (to stretch)	<a href="#">tøyer</a>	<a href="#">tøyde</a>	<a href="#">har tøyd</a>
<a href="#">å greie</a> (to manage)	<a href="#">greier</a>	<a href="#">greide</a>	<a href="#">har greid</a>
<a href="#">å prøve</a> (to try)	<a href="#">prøver</a>	<a href="#">prøvde</a>	<a href="#">har prøvd</a>
<a href="#">å behøve</a> (to want)	<a href="#">behøver</a>	<a href="#">behøvde</a>	<a href="#">har behøvd</a>

## Gruppe 4

Verbs in group 4 have preteritum ending in **dde** and perfektum ending in **dd**.

Infinitiv	Presens	Preteritum	Perfektum
<a href="#">å nå</a> (to reach)	<a href="#">når</a>	<a href="#">nådde</a>	<a href="#">har nådd</a>
<a href="#">å sy</a> (to sew)	<a href="#">syr</a>	<a href="#">sydde</a>	<a href="#">har sydd</a>
<a href="#">å bo</a> (to stay)	<a href="#">bor</a>	<a href="#">bodde</a>	<a href="#">har bodd</a>
<a href="#">å snu</a> (to turn)	<a href="#">snur</a>	<a href="#">snudde</a>	<a href="#">har snudd</a>
<a href="#">å ro</a> (to row)	<a href="#">ror</a>	<a href="#">rodde</a>	<a href="#">har rodd</a>
<a href="#">å skje</a> (to happen)	<a href="#">skjer</a>	<a href="#">skjedde</a>	<a href="#">har skjedd</a>
<a href="#">å snø</a> (to snow)	<a href="#">snør</a>	<a href="#">snødde</a>	<a href="#">har snødd</a>
<a href="#">å så</a> (to sow)	<a href="#">sår</a>	<a href="#">sådde</a>	<a href="#">har sådd</a>

## More About Preteritum and Perfektum

Let us continue learning about some Norwegian verbs that change vowels in the **preteritum** and **perfektum** forms.

Infinitiv	Presens	Preteritum	Perfektum
<a href="#">å fortelle</a> (to tell)	<a href="#">forteller</a>	<a href="#">fortalte</a>	<a href="#">har fortalt</a>
<a href="#">å bringe</a> (to bring)	<a href="#">bringer</a>	<a href="#">brakte</a>	<a href="#">har brakt</a>
<a href="#">å følge</a> (to follow)	<a href="#">følger</a>	<a href="#">fulgte</a>	<a href="#">har fulgt</a>
<a href="#">å gjøre</a> (to do)	<a href="#">gjør</a>	<a href="#">gjorde</a>	<a href="#">har gjort</a>
<a href="#">å legge</a> (to lay)	<a href="#">legger</a>	<a href="#">la</a>	<a href="#">har lagt</a>
<a href="#">å rekke</a> (to reach)	<a href="#">rekker</a>	<a href="#">rakte</a>	<a href="#">har rakt</a>
<a href="#">å selge</a> (to sell)	<a href="#">selger</a>	<a href="#">solgte</a>	<a href="#">har solgt</a>
<a href="#">å sette</a> (to set)	<a href="#">setter</a>	<a href="#">satte</a>	<a href="#">har satt</a>
<a href="#">å smøre</a> (to smear)	<a href="#">smører</a>	<a href="#">smurte</a>	<a href="#">har smurt</a>
<a href="#">å velge</a> (to choose)	<a href="#">velger</a>	<a href="#">valgte</a>	<a href="#">har valgt</a>
<a href="#">å spørre</a> (to ask)	<a href="#">spør</a>	<a href="#">spurte</a>	<a href="#">har spurt</a>

## Å være

One of the most common verbs that is used in Norwegian is the verb **å være** (to be).

Infinitiv	Presens	Preteritum	Perfektum
<a href="#">å være</a>	<a href="#">er</a>	<a href="#">var</a>	<a href="#">har vært</a>

Here are a few examples.

Norwegian	English
<a href="#">Jeg liker å være</a> inne i regnvær.	I like <b>to be</b> inside in rainy weather.
<a href="#">Jeg er</a> hjemme nå.	I <b>am</b> home now.
<a href="#">Jeg var</a> på skolen i går.	I <b>was</b> at school yesterday.
<a href="#">Jeg har vært</a> i butikken.	I <b>have been</b> to the shop.
<a href="#">Jeg skal være</a> hjemme i morgen.	I <b>shall be</b> home tomorrow.

## Helping Verbs

Helping verbs are often used when you want to use the future tense of the verb(**futurum**). Also note that helping verbs cannot be used on their own. They are used **to help** the main verb.

The helping verbs are as mentioned below:

Infinitive	Presens	Preteritum
<a href="#">å burde</a>	<a href="#">bør</a> (should)	<a href="#">burde</a>
<a href="#">å kunne</a>	<a href="#">kan</a> (can)	<a href="#">kunne</a>
<a href="#">å måtte</a>	<a href="#">må</a> (must)	<a href="#">måtte</a>
<a href="#">å skulle</a>	<a href="#">skal</a> (shall)	<a href="#">skulle</a>
<a href="#">å ville</a>	<a href="#">vil</a> (will)	<a href="#">ville</a>

When we use the helping verb, we use the infinitive form of the main verb without the infinitive marker **å**.

e.g. Jeg **kan** (**å**) snakke litt norsk nå.

Here are a few examples to make things clear.

Norwegian	English
<a href="#">Kan jeg få en kopp te?</a>	Can I get a cup of tea?
<a href="#">Jeg kan snakke litt norsk nå.</a>	I <b>can</b> speak a little Norwegian now.
<a href="#">Jeg kan komme på skolen på mandag.</a>	I <b>can</b> come to school on Monday.
<a href="#">Jeg kan ikke komme på tirsdag.</a>	I <b>can</b> not come on Tuesday.

## Learn About Verbs in Norwegian

<u>Vil du ha kaffe eller te?</u>	<b>Will</b> you have coffee or tea?
<u>Vil du ha en blyant?</u>	<b>Will</b> you have a pencil?
Jeg <b>vil</b> gjerne lære norsk.	I <b>would</b> like to learn Norwegian.
<u>Vil du lære norsk?</u>	<b>Will</b> you learn Norwegian.
<u>Jeg <b>skal</b> gå på norskkurs i morgen.</u>	I <b>shall</b> go to Norwegian course tomorrow.
<u><b>Skal</b> du gjøre lekser?</u>	<b>Shall</b> you do lessons?
<u>Du <b>må</b> komme presis!</u>	You <b>must</b> come on time!
<u>Du <b>må</b> lære norsk!</u>	You <b>must</b> learn Norwegian!
<u><b>Bør</b> du spise dette?</u>	<b>Should</b> you eat this?

## Exception for Helping Verbs

Earlier we learnt that helping verbs cannot be used on their own, but there is an exception to this rule as shown below. See how the verb has been omitted in the sentences below. This is completely correct grammar in Norwegian with certain sentences.

Norwegian	English
<u>Jeg skal på norskkurs i morgen.</u>	I <b>shall</b> (go) to Norwegian course tomorrow.
<u>Hun skal hjem nå</u>	She <b>shall</b> (go) home now.
<u>Kan du norsk?</u>	<b>Can</b> you (speak) Norwegian?



Learn About Verbs in Norwegian

## About Learn Norwegian

Because Norwegian is not a common language in the world, it's a bit difficult to find good resources and training materials on the Internet.

Learn Norwegian is an attempt to provide resources that will help you learn the Norwegian language as much as to help me further my education.

It gives you lessons, tips and resources that took me some time to gather so that you can save up on your time for learning the Norwegian language.

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