



# RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

## **M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports**

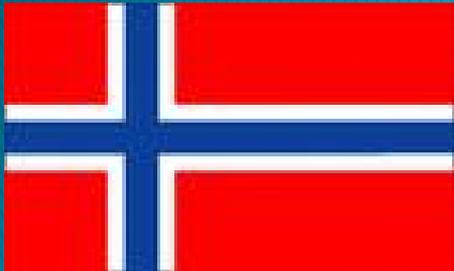
Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program  
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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# Norwegian Language

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(Google image)

# Important Facts

- ▶ Two distinct dialects
  - Bokmal (literally meaning “book language”)
    - Closely related to Danish and Swedish
    - Used primarily in the cities
    - Also used by most newspapers, television and radio broadcasts.
  - Nynorsk (“new Norwegian”)
    - Dialect formed in the mid-1800s from rural dialects of Norwegian
    - Created as a conscious effort to separate from the Danish language
- ▶ Both dialects have equal status in Norway
- ▶ Schools can choose to teach either Nynorsk or Bokmal

# Important Facts

- ▶ Two ways to address others, depending on your relationship:
  - du (never capitalized) is used when addressing people you know
    - family members
    - good friends
  - De (always capitalized) used when speaking with people of high status, elders, and people you meet for the first time

# Important Facts

## ▶ Grammar

- Much easier grammar than other Germanic languages
- Definite Article
  - Expressed with a suffix
  - Sprak (language)---spraket (the language)
- Verbs
  - not marked by person or number
  - Suffix is added to mark tense or mood
  - Reise (to travel)---- reiser (I/you/he/she/it/we/they travel)
- Nouns
  - Categorized by gender
    - Masculine, feminine and neuter
    - gutt (boy: masculine), jente (girl: feminine), barn (child: neuter)

# Norwegian Alphabet

## Norsk Alfabet

([www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com))

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj  
a be se de e eff ge hå i je/jådd

Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt  
kå ell em enn o pe ku ærr ess te

Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz Ææ Øø Åå  
u ve dåbbelt eks y sett æ ø å  
-ve

# Interesting Facts

- ▶ The following English words are of Norwegian origin:
  - Fjord
  - Nook
  - Krill
  - Scrawny
  - Trash
  - Slump
  - Dollop
  - Rig

# Difficulties When Learning English

- ▶ English is relatively easy for Norwegian Speakers to learn.
  - ▶ Most features of English pronunciation do not present difficulties for Norwegian speakers.
  - ▶ Some vowel and consonant sounds may cause difficulties when learning English.
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# Difficulties When Learning English

- ▶ As far as spelling, Norwegian speakers tend to replace v's with w's and the letter k is used much more than the letter c.
  - ▶ Hyphens, commas, semi colon, and apostrophes are confusing when learning to write in English.
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# Difficulties When Learning English

- ▶ Norwegian nouns are categorized by gender which can cause difficulty when learning English because gender is not part of our grammar.
  - This can be tricky because some objects have a different gender than what may be assumed, such as:
    - Some flowers and plants are masculine
    - Body parts are feminine
    - Names of materials and substances are neuter

# Difficulties When Learning English

- ▶ Forming proper (who, what, when, where, why) questions can also be an issue due to the following:
  - “Verb second” rule in the Norwegian language
  - Subject–auxiliary inversion in English
  - Even though Norwegian word order is closer to English than other Germanic languages.
- ▶ Norwegian speakers place mid–sentence adverbs after the “finite verb” and place the adverb before the “finite verb” in subordinate clauses which can cause problems in English.

# Difficulties When Learning English

- ▶ A large amount of English vocabulary is fairly simple for Norwegian speakers to learn and because of the similarity of some words pronunciation of these words is somewhat easy as well.
  - ▶ However, there are some words, called “false friends” that are spelled like a Norwegian word but their meaning is not the same.
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# Norwegian Communication

- ▶ There is no ritual to follow when you greet a Norwegian businessman.
    - A handshake, eye contact and a smile are enough when doing business in Norway.
  - ▶ The Norwegian communication style is informal and direct.
  - ▶ When presenting yourself, try not to be too overconfident.
  - ▶ It is important to be polite and respectful regardless of how informal their style is.
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# Norwegian Communication

- ▶ Norwegians are very honest and expect the same honesty in return.
  - ▶ Their body language and tone of voice is often less expressive than in North America and southern European countries.
  - ▶ Norwegians are punctual in both business and social situations.
    - Delays more than 10–15 minutes give the impression of being unprofessional and even rude.
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# Work Cited

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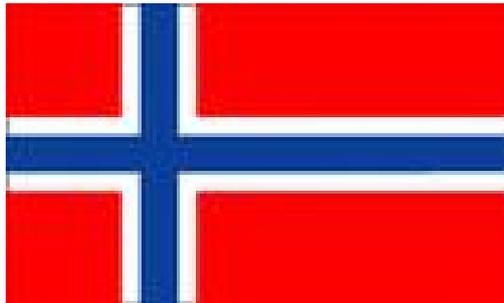
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# The End



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