

GRAMMAR TERMINOLOGY

This document provides explanations to some important grammar terms in Norwegian and English, as they are used in grammatikk.com. The list is intended as a quick reference guide for students of Norwegian as a foreign language, and does not provide precise linguistic definitions. For some of the terms, there are also other terms commonly used. These are not given in this list. Examples are mostly given in English since they serve to illustrate the term, not Norwegian grammar.

Categories of words

	English	Explanation	Examples
Substantiv	noun	The name of a thing, person or place.	a chair, a friend, the dream...
Verb	verb	Word for an action or state.	to sing, to be, to know, will...
Modalverb	auxilliary verb	In Norwegian: The verbs <i>kan, vil, skal, må, bør</i> in all their forms.	
Pronomen	pronoun	A word that replaces a noun or a name.	Where is my tea? Here <i>it</i> is. Where is Tom? Here <i>he</i> is.
Possessiv pronomen	possessive pronoun	A word that shows who owns something.	It is <i>her</i> cat. I know <i>your</i> sister.
Adjektiv	adjective	A word that describes a noun or a pronoun	The boy is <i>nice</i> .
Adverb	adverb	A word that describes a verb. See also under <i>Sentence structure</i> below.	The boy dances <i>well</i> .
Preposisjon	preposition	A word used in front of a noun, often to show place or time.	in, on, at, from

Tenses and forms of the verb

	English	Explanation	Examples
Infinitiv	infinitive	The basic form of the verb. Gives no information of when the action happens.	to go, to dance, to eat
Presens	present	Indicates present action.	He goes, he dances, he eats
Preteritum	preterite / past tense	Indicates action in the past.	went, danced, ate
Presens perfektum	present perfect	Indicates action in the past.	have gone, have danced, have eaten.
Perfektum partisipp	perfect participle	The perfect tense without the auxilliary <i>have</i> .	gone, danced, eaten
Preteritum perfektum	pluperfect	Indicates action in the past.	had gone, had danced, had eaten
Futurum	future	Indicates action in the future.	will go, will dance, will eat
Imperativ	imperative	The form use for commands.	Go! Dance! Eat!
Passiv	passive	Forms of the verb used when it is not important who performs the action.	The food <i>was eaten</i> .

Forms of the noun

	English	Explanation	Examples
Kjønn	gender	Norwegian has three genders: masculine, feminine and neutral.	<i>This distinction does not exist in English.</i>
Maskulin	masculine		en mann
Feminin	feminine		ei dame
Nøytrum	neutral		et barn
Singular	singular	Indicates <i>one</i> object.	a car, the car
Plural	plural	Indicates more than one object.	cars, the cars
Ubestemt form	indefinite form		a car, cars
Bestemt form	definite form		the car, the cars
Artikkel	article	Word or suffix indicating the distinction definite – indefinite	a (indefinite article) the (definite article)

Forms of the adjective

	English	Explanation	Examples
Positiv	absolute	The basic form of the adjective.	He is <i>old</i> .
Komparativ	comparative		He is <i>older</i> than me.
Superlativ	superlative		He is the <i>oldest</i> one.

Sentence structure and sentence elements

	English	Explanation	Examples
Element	sentence elements	What function a word has in the sentence. Subject, objects, verbs and adverbials are sentence elements.	
Verb	verb	The action of a sentence.	He <i>buys</i> a book.
Subjekt	subject	The performer of the action.	<i>He</i> buys a book.
Setningsadverb	sentence modifier	In Norwegian: Adverbs like <i>ikke, kanskje, gjerne, heller, alltid, også...</i>	
Adverbial	adverbial	An element that says where, when, how or why an action happens. See also <i>Categories of words</i> above.	He buys the book <i>in a shop</i> . He buys the book <i>today</i> .
Objekt	object	The thing or person something is done to.	He buys <i>a book</i> . (direct object) He buys <i>her</i> a book. (indirect object)
Predikativ	predicative expression	An "object" after <i>to be, to become</i> and some other verbs.	He is <i>nice</i> . She became <i>a teacher</i> .
Helsetning	main clause	An independent sentence which gives full meaning alone.	<i>I come today</i> <i>I say that I will come today.</i> <i>I sing and she dances.</i>
Leddsetning	subordinate clause	A sentence which is a part of another sentence. It doesn't give full meaning alone.	<i>I say that I will come today.</i>
Konjunksjon	conjunction	A conjunction combines two main clauses.	I dance <i>and</i> she sings.
Subjunksjon	subjunction	A subjunction introduces a subordinate clause.	I say <i>that</i> it is cold. I will freeze <i>if</i> it rains.