

# Pronunciation

## SOME SPECIAL PECULIARITIES OF DANISH PRONUNCIATION ARE

- e... In the imitated pronunciation "e" indicates the vowel sound in "pen" and "ee" indicates that in "seen".
- i... Is pronounced as the "ee" in "been", never as the "i" in "high".
- u... The closest you can come to the pronunciation of the Danish "u" in "hummer", "skum" and "rundstykke" is like the "u" in "humbug".
- y... Is pronounced like the "ü" in the German "über", and the imitated pronunciation in this book is therefor given as "ü".
- æ... Is pronounced as "e" in "best".
- ø... Is pronounced like the French "oe" in "hors d'oeuvres" or the English "u" in "burden". In the imitated pronunciation it is given as "eu".
- å... Is an independent letter sometimes pronounced "oh" and sometimes as the "aw" in "claw".
- d... Is hard like an English "d" at the beginning of a word but soft, as "th" in "father" when it comes between two vowels or at the end of a word. In this book's imitated pronunciation a soft "d" is always given as "th". **THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER "TH" IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED AS THE "TH" IN "FATHER".**
- g... Usually the Danish "g" is silent. Otherwise it is hard as in "get". There is NO soft "g" as in "gee".
- S... The Danish "s" is never pronounced as 'z', generally as in "hiss".
- det... The word "det" is a problem of its own. The "t" is not pronounced.



# A little bit of grammar

## NOUNS:

Most nouns form their plurals by adding -e, -r or -er to the singular form:

hus (house), huse (houses) -skole (school), skoler (schools)  
træ (tree), træer (trees)

## ARTICLES:

Danish has two genders, common and neuter.

The indefinite article en (com.) or et(neut.) always comes before the noun:

Com.: en vej (a road) - Neut.: et hus (a house)

The definite article is added to the end of a noun. It has the following forms: common, -en, -n, neuter, -et, -t, plural, -ene, -ne added to the plural form of the noun:

Com.: vej (road), vejen (the road), vejene (the roads)  
dame (lady), damen (the lady), damerne (the ladies)

Neut.: hus (house), huset (the house), husene (the houses)  
træ (tree), træet (the tree), træerne (the trees)

Where an adjective qualifies the noun, the definite article comes before the adjective, taking the following forms:

common, den, neuter, det, plural, de:

Com.: den gamle dame (the old lady)

Neut.: det røde hus (the red house)

Plur.: de gamle damer (the old ladies)

Genitives are formed (as in English) by adding an -s (but without an apostrophe):

kongens slot (the king's castle), or maendenes hatte (the mens' hats)

## ADJECTIVES

Adjectives with their nouns in number and gender.

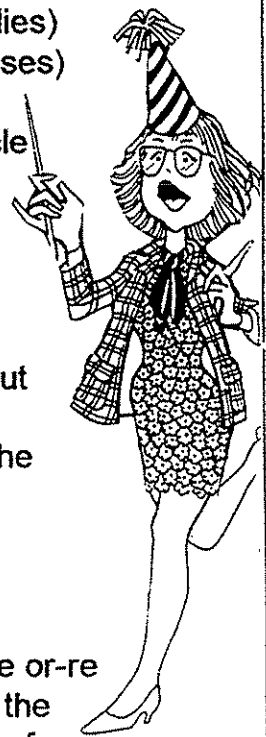
After the definite article they end with -e:

Comparatives are formed in most cases by adding -ere or -re and -est or -st respectively to the positive. Sometimes the words mere (more) or mest (most) are used, coming before the positive as in English:

kold (cold), koldere (colder), koldest (coldest)

sulten (hungry), mere sulten (hungrier), mest sulten (hungeriest)

(irregular, ex.: god (good) bedre, bedst)



## PERSONAL PRONOUNS

I	jeg (yi)
you	du (do)
he	han (han)
she	hun (hoon)
it	den (comm.) det (neut.)
we	vi (vee)
you	I (ee)
they	de (dee)

me	mig (my)
you	dig (dy)
him	ham
her	hende

it	den (comm.) det (neut.)
us	os (os)
you	jer (yair)
them	dem (dem)

## OTHER PRONOUNS

oneself, himself	sig, dem (sigh, dem)
herself, itself	
each other	hinanden (heen-an-en)
this, these	denne, dette, disse (denna, detta, deesa)
that, those	den, det, de (den, de, dee)
who, which, whom, that	som (som)
who, which	der (dare)
whose	hvis (viss)
what	hvad (vath)

Future  
jeg vil vaere  
jeg vil have  
jeg vil blive

Conditional  
jeg ville vaere  
jeg ville have  
jeg ville blive

## Interrogatives

Questions work on the English pattern:  
du kan (you can), kan du ? (can you ?)

## VERBS

Regular verbs are conjugated in two ways:

(elske = to love, tale = to speak):

Infinitive	Present	Past	Perfect	Pluperfect
elske	elsk-er	elsk-ede	har elsk-et	have elsk-et
tale	tal-er	talte	tal-t	have tal-t

Future	Conditional	Present Participle
vil elsk-e vil tal-e	ville elsk-e ville tal-e	elsk-ende tal-ende

The passive is sometimes formed with the use of auxiliary verb "blive" and sometimes by adding -s to the active form of the verb.

## AUXILIARY VERBS

Infinitive	Present	Past
vaere (to be)	jeg er	jeg var
have (to have)	jeg har	jeg havde
ville (to want to)	jeg vil	jeg ville
skulle (to be obliged to)	jeg skal	jeg skulle
blive (to be, become)	jeg bliver	jeg blev

Perfect	Pluperfect
jeg har vaeret	jeg havde vaeret
jeg har haft	jeg havde haft
jeg har villet	jeg havde villet
jeg har skullet	jeg havde skullet
jeg er blevet	jeg var blevet

Imperative	Present Participle
vaer !	vaerende
hav !	havende
bliv !	blivende



## SOME USEFUL VERBS

(in present indicative)

give, take	giver, tager (gee-r, TA-er)
begin, end	begynder, ender (be-GUN-er, en-er)
am, is, are	er (air)
read, write,	læser, skriver (LAY-ser, SKREE-ver)
want	ønsker (EUN-sker)
see, say	ser, siger (sear, see-er)
open, shut	åbner, lukker (OH-b-ner, lukker)
have, get	har, får (har, fohr)
find, lose	finder, taber (FEE-ner, TA-ber)
come, go	kommer. går (KOM-mer, gohr)
buy, sell	køber, sælger (KEU-ber, sell-er)
can, must	kan, må (can, mo)



## CONJUNCTIONS

and	og (ow)
or	eller (el-la)
also	også (ow-so)
but	men (men)
before	før (feur)
after	efter (etter)
when	når (nohr)
while	medens (mens)
since	siden (see-then)
because	fordi (for-dee)
if	hvis (viss)
wether	om (om)

## PREPOSITIONS

of	af (ah)
by	af (ah)
before	før (feur)
from	fra (frah)
with	med (meth)
on	på (po)
over	over (o-er)
to	til (till)
about	omkring (om-KRING)
between	mellem (mellem)
after	efter (etter)
among	blandt(blandt)

## A FEW ADJECTIVES

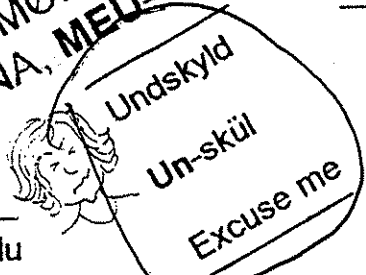
good	god (goth)
bad	dårlig (dohr-ly)
big	stor (stohr)
little	lille (lee-la)
high	høj (heu)
low	lav (laav)
right	rigtig (RIK-tee)
wrong	forkert (for-KEHRT)
long	lang (lang)
short	kort (kohrt)
many	mange (mang-a)
few	få (foh)

## A FEW ADVERBS

here	her (hair)
there	der (dare)
where	hvor (vor)
in	ind (in)
out	ud (ooth)
up	op (op)
down	ned (neth)
over	over (o-er)
now	nu (noo)
often	ofte (ofta)
very	meget (my-at)
how	hvordan (vordan)

# Greetings meeting people

HILSNER, MØDE FOLK  
(HEEL-SNA, MEEL-THE FOLLG)



Jeg, mig, du

Yi, my, do

I, me, you

Han, ham, hun, hende  
Han, ham, hoon, henna  
He, him, she, her

☀️ God nat  
go-nat  
good night

☀️ God morgen  
Go morn  
Good morning

Hvad behager  
Vah-be-hah  
What did you say?



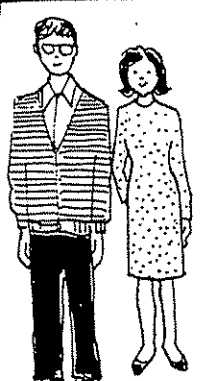
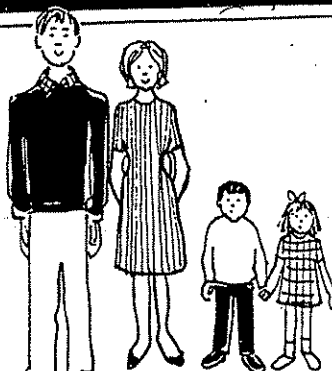



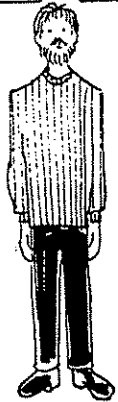
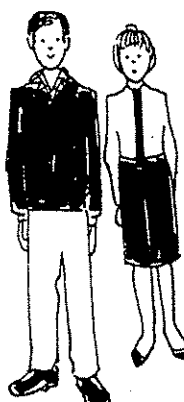
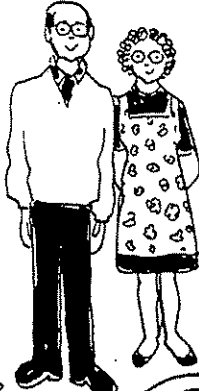


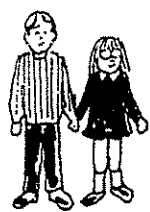
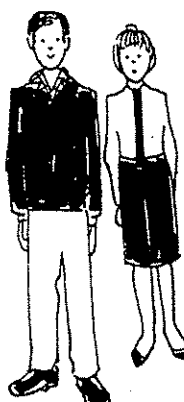
Omforladelse  
om-for-lath-elsa  
I beg your pardon

Vi, os, de  
Vee, os, dee  
We, us, they

Ikke, måske, hvornår  
Egga, moh-skay, vor-nohr  
Not, perhaps, when?

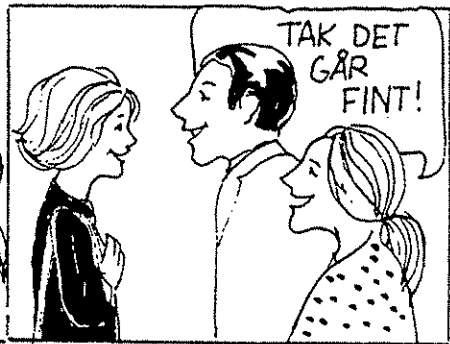
Vaer så god  
Vair-sgo  
Please

Tak  
Tack  
Thank you

								
MAND mann husband	KONE koff-ne wife	FAR fahr father	MOR mohr mother	BØRN beurn children	GLAD glath happy	VENINDE ven-eenna girlfriend	SUR SOOR unhappy	VEN venn friend
ÆGTEPAR EG-fe-pahr married couple	FAMILIE fa-mee-lee-a			BEDSTEFAR besta-fahr grandfather	BEDSTEMOR besta-mohr grandmother		FARFAR / MORFAR fahrfahr / mohrfahr fathersfather/mothersfather	
				FATTER fet-fer cousin	KUSINE koo-seena cousin	ONKEL unkel uncle	TANTE Tahn-da aunt	FARMOR / MORMOR fahrmohr / mohrmohr fathersmother/mothersmother
DRENG dreang boy	PIGE PEE-A girl							



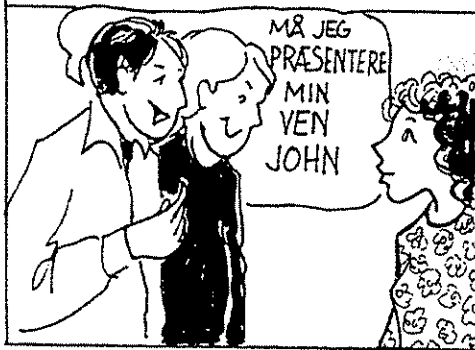
goddag hvordan går det?  
hello how is it going?



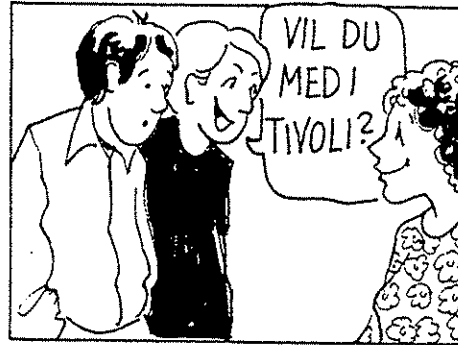
tak det går fint!  
thank you (it goes well) very well



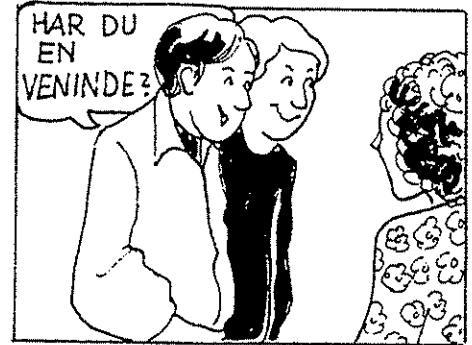
dejligt vejr idag!  
ja, men jeg tror vi får regn  
nice weather today  
yes, but i think we'll get rain



må jeg præsentere min ven John  
may i present my friend John



vil du med i Tivoli?  
do you want to go to Tivoli (with me)



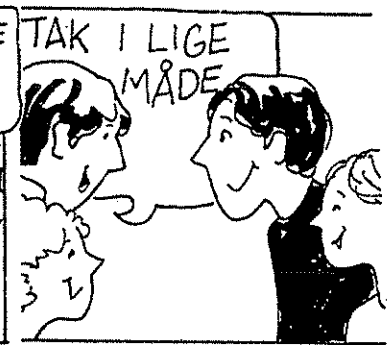
har du en veninde?  
do you have a girlfriend?



godaften, velkommen og tak fordi i ville komme  
good evening and thank you for coming



ja tak fordi i ville se os!  
yes thank you for wanting to see us



og mange tak for sidst  
tak i lige måde  
and many thanks for last time (we were together)  
thanks the same (to you)



hvad er klokken?  
jeg skal møde en pige klokken syv  
what time is it? i have to meet a girl at seven o'clock



den er 5 minutter over syv!  
it is five minutes past seven



hjælp! jeg kommer for sent  
yelp! i'm going to be late



skynd dig! tag en taxa  
hurry, get a taxi

# Bank & Money

BANK & PENGE  
(BAHNK & PENG-A)



Jeg er fra Amerika  
Yi air frah a-me-ri ka  
I am from America



Jeg vil gerne veksle  
nogle amerikanske  
penge

Yi vill gair-na vex-la  
no-en american-ska  
peng-a

I want to change some  
American money



Hvor meget vil du veksle?  
vor my-et vill do vex-la?  
How much do you want to  
change?

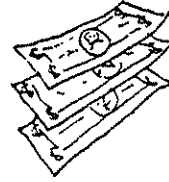
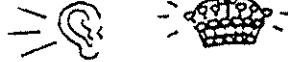
Vaer så venlig at tale  
lidt langsommere  
Vair so ven-ly at ta-la  
lit lang-som-mera  
Please speak a little  
slower

Giv mig hundrede kroner  
i ti kroner

gee my hun-retha kroner  
ee tea kroner

Give me a hundred crowns  
in ten crowns

100 øre = 1 krone  
eu-ra kro-na  
100 ears = 1 crown



Har du rejsechecks  
Har do rye-sa-shecks  
Do you have traveler's  
checks

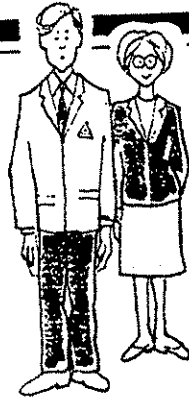


Har du lyst til at gå i  
biografen med mig?  
Har do lyst till at go ee  
bee-o-graf-en meth my?

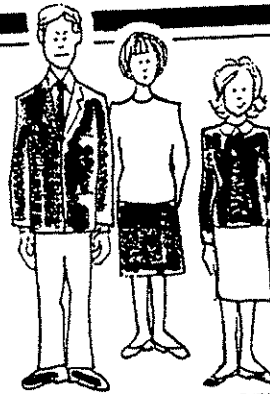
Would you like to go to  
the movies with me?



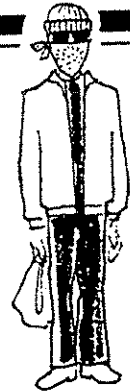
EN BANKDIREKTØR  
een bahnk-DEE-rek-teur  
one Bank Director



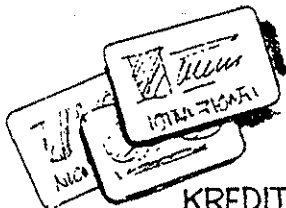
TO BANKFULDMÆGTIGE  
toe bahnk-FULL-mek-tee-ye  
two Bank Managers



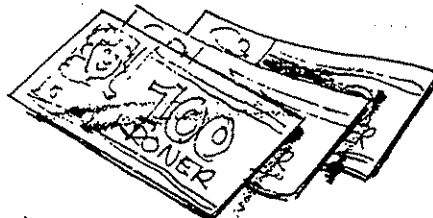
TRE BANKASSISTENTER  
tray bahnk-as-sees-TEN-tar  
three Bank Assistants



EN BANKRØVER  
een bahnk-REU-var  
one Bank Robber



KREDITKORT  
kreDEET kohrt  
credit cards



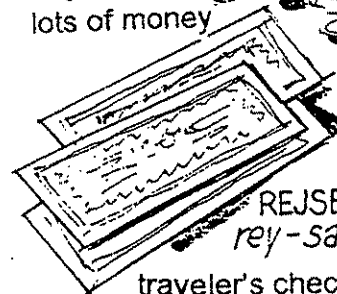
PENGESEDLER  
peng-a-seth-lar  
bills



MANGE  
PENGE  
mang-a peng-a  
lots of money



MØNTER  
MEUN-tar  
coins



REJSECHECKS  
rey-sa-shecks  
traveler's checks



yi vill GAIR-ne heva no-la peng-a po meet kre-DEET kohrt  
I would like to draw some money on my credit card

air de et DAN-kohrt  
is it a Dancard



nay de air de egga  
no it is not

do skal tala meth bahnk-full-mek-tee-an  
you have to talk to the bank manager



vath air kour-san po ameri-KAN-ska DOL-lers  
what is the exchange on american dollars



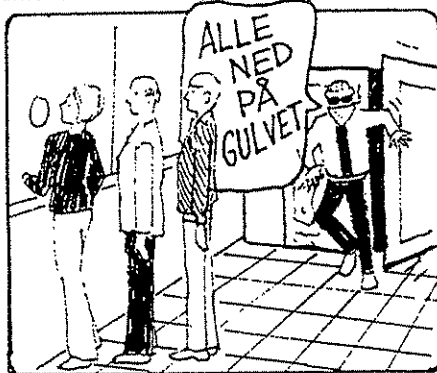
vill do koe-ba ella sella  
do you want to buy or sell



yi vill VEX-la DOL-lers till kro-na  
I will change dollars to crowns



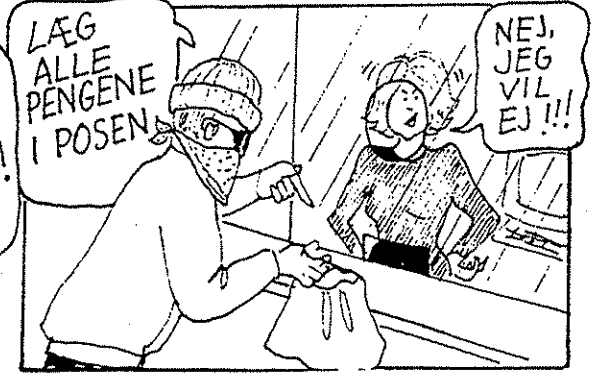
noo skal yi se vath DAVS-koursan air  
now I will see what the daily exchange is



alla neth po GOL-vat  
all down on the floor

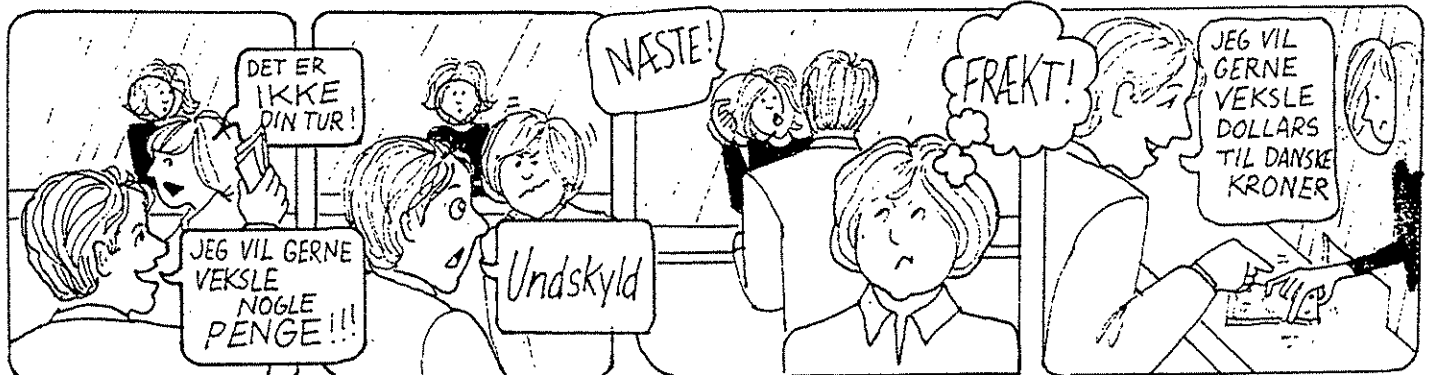


yi har een BOM-ba  
I have a bomb



leck alla peng-a-na ee PO-san  
put all the money in the bag

ni, yi vill ay  
no I will not



de air egga deen tour  
it is not your turn  
yi vill GAIR-ne VEX-la noia peng-a  
I would like to change some money

UN-skül  
excuse me

nes-ta  
next

frekt  
rude

yi vill GAIR-ne Vex-la DOL-lers till DAN-ska kro-na  
I would like to change dollars to Danish crowns