

Norwegian Pronunciation

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1. *Norwegian* (Germ., IE) has the fifteen vowels and six diphthongs shown on the vocograms. All of the vowels but /ə/ are either short or long monophthongs, the short ones being (more or less) lower.

The three diphthongs given in brackets occur in words of foreign origin, or in *hwi*. Opener realizations than those given for /ø:r, œ:r/ would be considered regional or non-modern.

2. We prefer interpreting the postalveolar series, [ŋ, t̚, d̚, ʂ, ʃ], as realization of the phonemic sequences /r/ + /n, t, d, s, l/ rather than autonomous phonemes /ŋ, t̚, d̚, ʂ, ʃ/, as this is a phenomenon which is also morphological, and the unasimilated pronunciation is always possible in a lofty style (as is also in the Southwest, where /r/ is uvular): *Karl, Lars* /'kɑ:rɫ, 'lɑ:rs/ [ʰkħɑ:ɫ, ʰlɑ:ʂ].

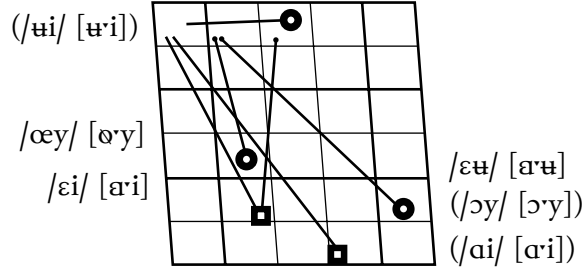
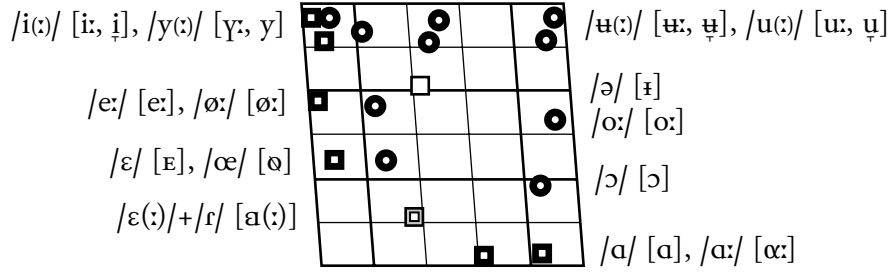
The table also gives the postalveolar tap [ɾ], which is very widespread in the Oslo area, especially in correspondence of *l*, as in *blå*: /'blø:/ [ʰbɫø:; ʰbɾø:] but does not belong to neutral pronunciation and is thus given in brackets (although frequent in mediatic pronunciation).

3. Syllable-initial stressed /p, t, k/ are 'aspirated', unless preceded by /s/; in final position, /k, g/ are [c, ɟ]. Instead of [ʂ], there can systematically be /ʃ/ [ʃ] (as frequently in mediatic pronunciation). There are various intense sonants: [m̥, n̥, ŋ̥, ɲ̥; f̥; l̥, ʃ̥].

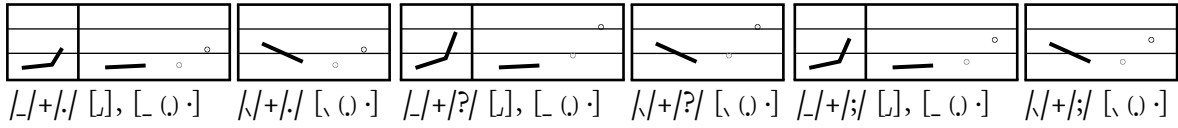
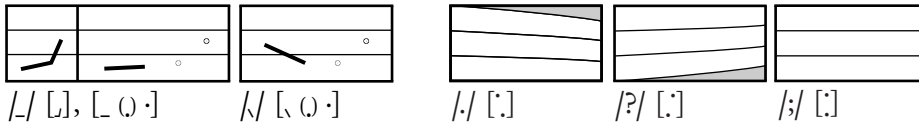
The most noteworthy peculiarity of Norwegian is its tonal word accent, which produces minimal pairs as: *banner* /_bʌnɛr/ [_bʌn-^{n̥}ɾ] 'banner' and /_bʌnɛr/ [_bʌn-^{n̥}ɾ] 'curse'; *hoppene* /_hɔpənə/ [_hɔp-^{p̥}ɱn̥ɛ] 'the jumps' and /_hɔpənə/ [_hɔp-^{p̥}ɱn̥ɛ] 'the mares'.

4. As can be seen from the latter examples, the chronetic structure after stressed short vowels is /VCV/ [C^c]. Here follow some useful examples (in brackets we rapidly draw a comparison with the pronunciation of Bergen, with /r/ [ɾ] and one different tone): *Amundsen* /ɑ:mʉnsən/ [_ɑ:mʉn-s̄n̥] ([_ɑ:mʉn.s̄n̥]), *Bergen* /_bɛrɡən/ [_bɛr-^{ḡ}n̥] ([_bɛr.ɾ-^{ḡ}n̥]), *Oslo* /_uslu/ [_us-lu] –in Oslo: [_uʂ-^{l̥}u]– ([_us.l̥u]), *fjord* /_fju:r/ [_fju-^{r̥}] ([_fju.ɾ̥]), *Magnus* /_mɑŋnʉs/ [_mɑŋ-n̥ʉs]. Notice that /r/ [ɾ] is also possible in mediatic pronunciation.

5. Spelling: *au* /εʉ/, *c* /k, s̄V/, *d* /d, Ø/, *e* /e:, ε, ə/, *ei* /εi/, *g* /g, ɟ̄V/, *gj* /ɟ̄V/, *gn* /ŋn/, *h* /h/, *#hj* /j/, *#hv* /v/, *j* /j/, *k* /k, ʰc̄V/, *kj* /ç/, *l* /l/, *#lj* /j/, *ng* /ŋ/, *o* /u(:), o:, ɔ/, *øy* /ɔy/, *s* /s/, *sj* /ʃ/, *sk* /sk, ʃ/ (as in *ski* /'ʃi:/), *skj* /ʃ/, *u* /ʉ(:), u/, *v* /v/, *y* /y(:), ø /e: ε(:), ø /ø:, œ/, *øy* /œy/, *å* /o:, ɔ/.



m	[n]	n	[ŋ]	[ɲ]	ŋ
p b	t d		[t̪ d̪]	[ç ʝ]	k g
	f v	s	[ʂ]	ʃ	
	[v]	[l]	r-l [ɫ]	(ç)[l]	h [ɦ]



6. There follow the vowels and diphthongs of the *mediatic* Norwegian accent (with the possible addition of /ei/ in some words). They are more or less frequent, even alternating with either more marked or more neutral realizations. The same goes for the consonant variants shown in the table.

