

Danish Pronunciation

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1. Neutral Danish (Germ., IE) has changed considerably with respect to the traditional pronunciation of three or four decades ago, both phonetically and

<p>/i(i)/ [i(i)], /y(y)/ [y(y)] /I(I)/ [I(I)], /Y(Y)/ [Y(Y)] /e(e)/ [e(e)], /ø(ø)/ [ø(ø)] /ε(ε)/ [ε(ε), ↓ε(ε)], /ø(ø)/ [ø(ø)] /æ/ [ε, ↓ε] /a/ [a] ([↓A]+lab. or apic. C)</p>		<p>/u(u)/ [μ(μ)] /υ(υ)/ [υ(υ)] /ə/ [ə] /o(o)/ [ø(ø)] /ɔ(ɔ)/ [σ(σ)], /ɹ#/ [Λ, λ] /ə/ [ə] /aa/ [aa]</p>
<p>/i, I/+/ð/ [i, I] ↓[i, I]+[ɹ] /y, Y/+/ð/ [y, Y] ↓[y, Y]+[ɹ] /re(e)/ [ɹe(e)] /εε/+/ɹ/ [εε-] ↓[εε-, εε-] /εε/+/ɹ/ [εε-, ↓εε-], /ɹε/ [ɹ(ɹ)ε, ↓ε] /ε(ε)ɹV/ [ε(ε)ɹV, ↓ε(ε)-] /æ#/ [Λ, ↓æ], /ɹa#/ [(ɹ)a]</p>		<p>/r(u)ɹ/ [ɹu(u), ↓ɹυ(υ)] /rø(ø)/ [ɹø(ø)] /øø/+/ɹ/ [øø-] ↓[øø-, øø-] /rø/ [ɹ(ɹ)ø, ↓ø] /ə/ [ə, Λ]</p>
<p>/i(i) ↓[i(i)], /y(y) ↓[y(y)] /I(I) ↓[e(I)], /Y(Y) ↓[ø(Y)] /e(e) ↓[ε(e)], /ø(ø) ↓[ø(ø)] /ε(ε) ↓[ε(ε)], /ø(ø) ↓[ø(ø)] /æ/ ↓[a] /a ↓[A], /aa ↓[aε]</p>		<p>/u(u) ↓[μ(μ)] /υ(υ) ↓[ο(υ)] /o(o) ↓[ø(ø)] /ɔ(ɔ) ↓[σ(σ)] /ə ↓[ə, ɔ, ə]</p>
<p>/ii/ [ii] /ei/ [ei] /ei/ [εi] /ai(ə)/ [Ae(ə), ↓aə(ə), ↓↓aə(ə)]</p>		<p>/uy(ə)/ [μy(ə)] /yɹ/ [yɹ] /əy(ə)/ [ΔY(ə), ↓λY(ə)]</p>
<p>/iu/ [iμ] /Iu/ [Iμ] /eu/ [eμ] /εu/ [εμ] /au/ [aμ, ↓aω]</p>		<p>/yu/ [yμ] /ɹu/ [ɹμ] /øu/ [øμ] /ou/ [øμ] /ɔu/ [ɔμ] /əu/ [Δμ, ↓λω]</p>

phonemically (even though grammars and textbooks usually still present traditional pronunciation).

In fact, we now even find an opposition between /æ/ ≠ /a/, as in *kan* /'kħæ/ ['kħæ] (present tense) 'can' vs *kar* /'kħa/ ['kħa] 'container', *Anners* /'ænʌs/ ['ʔænʌs] (genitive plural form of) 'Anna' vs *Anders* /'anʌs/ ['ʔanʌs] (surname).

In words of foreign origin ending in *-a#*, we have /æ#/ [ʌ], but /a#/ [a] for *-ra*: *villa* /'vilæ/ ['vilʌ], *Noah* /'nuuæ/ ['nuuʌ], *zebra* [ʔɪpɾɛ], *Nora* ['nuuɔɹ, 'nuuʌ].

Moreover, we now have: *lad* /'læð/ ['læɔ] (before coronal C) vs *lab*, *laf*, *lak* /'lap, 'laf, 'lak/ ['lap, 'laf, 'lak], which once had the same phoneme (/CaC/), even though phonetic differences similar to those of today were to be found (ie: ['læɔ], ['lap, 'laf, 'lak]), while there were no minimal pairs, since *kar* was still /'kħaɾ/ ['kħaɹ, 'kħaʒ] (the last symbol is completely voiceless), and *kan* /'kħa(nʔ)/ ['kħæ(n)].

Besides, it is better to posit the phonemes /ɔ(ɔ)/, even if they are only found in contact with /R/. In fact, particularly out of sociolinguistic reasons, we cannot let /Rɔ(ɔ)/ [ʀɔ(ɔ)] coincide with the diaphonemic sequences /Rø(ø)/ [ʀø(ø)], which are possible in the same words, but with connotations referring to traditional pronunciation (which is shown by the taxophones given in the second vocogram), with a closing and fronting narrow diphthong; the same happens for the indicated taxophone of /re(e)/ [ʀe(e)].

We also show a number of variants, mostly contextual: taxophones. Some are indicated by means of descending arrows, ↓, as less recommendable, or mediatic, shown especially in the third vocogram. Some are only slightly moved in their own cells, others change more. Thus, listening to different speakers, it may seem that some neutralizations can occur.

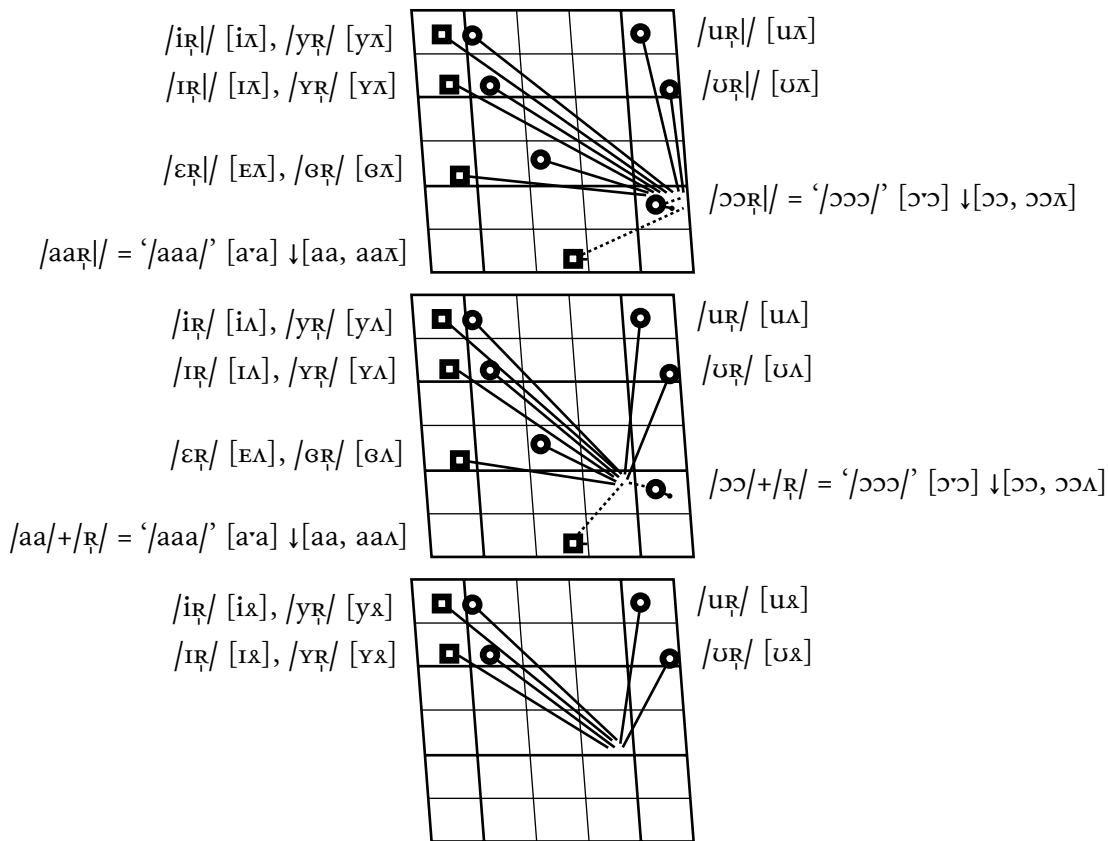
2. Let us also notice /eɛ, øɔ/, which occur in contact with /R, ʀ/: they are *diaphonemes*, being possibly realized as [eɛ, øɔ; øø, øɔ] alongside with [eɛ, øɔ]: *lære* /'leɛʀ/ ['leɛʀ, 'leɛʀ, 'leɛʀ], *smøre* /'smøɔʀ/ ['smøɔʀ, 'smøɔʀ, 'smøɔʀ], *rærene* /'rɛɛʔʀ-nə/ ['ʀɛɛʔʀ-nə, 'ʀɛɛʔʀ-nə, 'ʀɛɛʔʀ-nə, -ʔʀ], *røre* /'røɔʀ/ ['ʀøɔʀ, 'ʀøɔʀ, 'ʀøɔʀ].

Again in the second vocogram, we also find the peculiar realizations of /RE, Rɔ/ [ʀɛʀ, ʀɔʀ], with an inserted approximant, as in: *række* /'rɛkə/ ['ʀɛkəʃ], *drømme* /'tʀømə/ ['ʔʀøməʃ, -øm]. They can also occur without [ɥ, ʊ].

Even other taxophones appear, under the influence of /R/ and /ʀ/ [ʌ, ʌ#], as well, but we focus especially on /aaʀ, ɔɔʀ/ ('/aaa, ɔɔɔ') [a'a, ɔ'ɔ], as in *vare* /'vaʀ/ ['va'a, 'vaʀ], *pore* /'phɔʀ/ ['phɔ'ɔ, 'phɔʀ] (see the following vocograms); the second taxophones are increasingly less frequent (and belong more to traditional pronunciation); some speakers drop [ʌ], keeping [aa, ɔɔ] without [ʔ].

These three vocograms complete the series with /V/ followed by /ʀ/: /iʀ, iʀ, eʀ; yʀ, yʀ, øʀ; uʀ, uʀ/ [i-, i-, e-; y-, y-, ø-; u-, u-], which maintain the second element unassimilated, ie /ʀ/ [ʌ], or [ʌ#], in final and prepausal position. Especially in sentence internal position, not followed by pauses, some speakers can use higher realizations as shown in the third vocogram. Sequences of /VV/ + /ʀ/ are also possible: *ord* /'uʀʔʀ/. Stressed initial vowels are often preceded by [ʔ].

3. As shown in the second vocogram of the first serie of five elements, /i, i, y, y/ + /ð/ have retracted taxophones [i, i, y, y] ↓ [i, i, ɨ, ɨ] + [ɔ], which are indicat-



ed: *stød* /'styð/ [ʃtʰøɹ]. Danish shows various sequences of vowel phonemes (either short or long, [V, VV]), phonetically real closing diphthongs, with /i/ [i], or especially /u/ [u], as a second element (deriving from previous /ɣ, v/, to which they are still synchronically linked). Notice, however, that /ai/ is mostly [æ, ↓aə, ↓aɔə].

There are even some real triphthongs, which are generally hardly ever realistically indicated with 'VjV, VwV', which would lead one to think there are two syllables 'V#jV, V#wV'.

Sequences of /VV/ + /i, u/ are also possible: eg, *åg* /'iɪ²i, 'oo²u/, but they are often shortened to /V/ + /i, u/, especially in widely used words: /'iɪ², 'ou²/.

The abstract (tautosyllabic) sequences //ən, əl, əR// undergo assimilation, which is already included in our phonemic transcriptions /n, l, R/ (the latter, [Λ, ɫ]#, from previous traditional [ɹ]): *halen* /'hɛɛlɲ/, *gammel* /'kaməɫ/ [kaml], *haler* /'hɛɛlɹ/.

This assimilation can further extend to other voiced phonemes: *tiet* /'thiiəð/ [tʰiiɹ], *hyldet* /'hyləð/ [hylɹ]. Let us notice that currently (as already emerged from some examples given above) /ə#/ even assimilates to a preceding voiced phone, giving: *hale* /'hɛɛl/, *måne* /'moonə/ [mooɲ], *uge* /'uuə/ [ʔuɹ], *pige* /'phiiə/ [phii, phii], *pine* /'phiinə/ [phiin], *gade* /'kɛɛðə/ [kɛɛɹ], which are possibly further reduced in case of complete assimilation. Let us also notice: *uforståelige* /ufɹ'stoo²əliə/ [ɸfl-ʃtʰøɹlii].

4. As for the *consonants*, we recall that /C^h/ indicates /Ch, C/, which oppose word-initially; in the extant cases (even in /sC/) they occur without 'aspiration', and –between vowels– they are voiceless lenis, [p̥, t̥, k̥] (in careful pronunciation, but [b, d, g] in connected speech).

Besides, we notice that in the capital and its outskirts, /th/ is often realized as

