

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)/ [re(e)] /εε/+/ɹ/ [εε-] ↓[εε-, εε-] /εε/+/ɹ/ [εε-, ↓εε-], /re/ [re(ɹ)ε, ↓ε] /ε(ε)ɹV/ [ε(ε)ɹV, ↓ε(ε)-] /æ#/ [Λ, ↓æ], /ɹa#/ [(ɹ)a]</p>		<p>/r(u)u/ [ɹu(u), ↓ɹu(υ)] /rø(ø)/ [ɹø(ø)] /øø/+/ɹ/ [øø-] ↓[øø-, øø-] /rø/ [ɹ(ω)ø, ↓ø] /ə/ [Λ, 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)/ ↓[ο(ø)] /ɔ(ɔ)/ ↓[σ(σ)] /ə/ ↓[ɰ, ɔ, ɤ]</p>
<p>/ii/ [ii] /ei/ [ei] /ei/ [εi] /ai(ə)/ [Ae(ə), ↓aə(ə), ↓↓aə(ə)]</p>		<p>/uy(ə)/ [μy(ə)] /yɣ/ [yɣ] /əy(ə)/ [ΛY(ə), ↓ɰY(ə)]</p>
<p>/iu/ [iμ] /Iu/ [Iμ] /eu/ [eμ] /εu/ [εμ] /au/ [aμ, ↓aω]</p>		<p>/yυ/ [yμ] /øu/ [øμ] /ou/ [oμ] /ɔu/ [ɔμ] /əu/ [Λμ, ↓ɰω]</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* /'kxæ/ ['kxæ] (present tense) 'can' vs *kar* /'kxa/ ['kxa] '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* /'nuʊæ/ ['nuʊʌ], *zebra* [ʃɪpɾɛ], *Nora* ['nuʊɹɔ, 'nuʊʌ].

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 /'kxar/ ['kxar, 'kxax] (the last symbol is completely voiceless), and *kan* /'kxan²/ ['kxæ(ŋ)].

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* /'smøʀ/ ['smøʀ, 'smøʀ, 'smøʀ], *rærene* /'reɛ²ʀ-nə/ ['ʀeɛʀnə, 'ʀeɛʀnə, 'ʀeɛʀnə, -ʀn], *røre* /'røʀ/ ['ʀøʀ, 'ʀøʀ, 'ʀøʀ].

Again in the second vocogram, we also find the peculiar realizations of /re, rɔ/ [ʀɛ, ʀɔ], with an inserted approximant, as in: *række* /'reke/ ['ʀɛkə], *drømme* /'trømə/ ['ʀɔwə, -wə]. They can also occur without [ɥ, w].

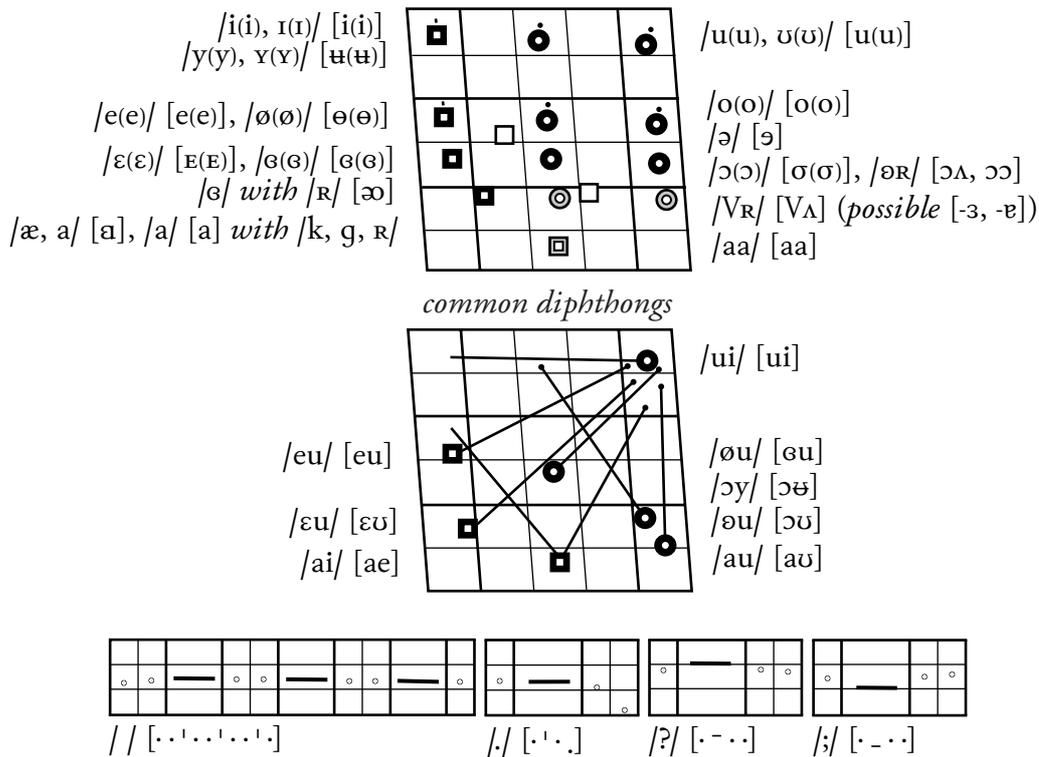
Even other taxophones appear, under the influence of /R/ and /ʀ/ [ʌ, ʌ[#]], as well, but we focus especially on /aar, ɔʀ/ ('/aaa, ɔɔ/') [a'a, ɔ'ɔ], as in *vare* /'vaar/ ['va'a, 'va'a], *pore* /'phɔʀ/ ['phɔ'ɔ, 'phɔ'a] (see the following vocograms); the second taxophones are increasingly less frequent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

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* /'uʀ²ʀ/. Stressed initial vowels are often preceded by [ʔ].

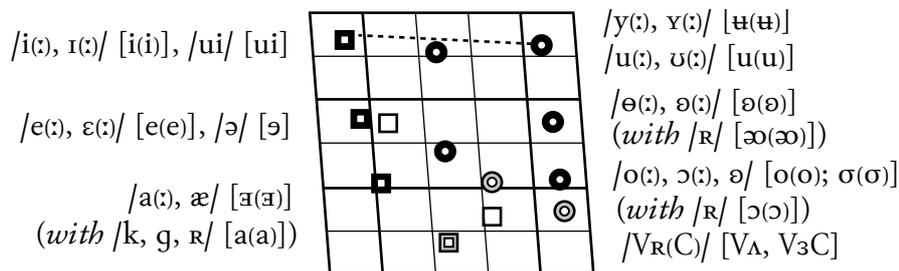
3. As shown in the second vocogram of the first serie of five elements, /i, i, y, y/ + /ð/ have retracted taxophones [i, i, y, y] ↓ [i, i, ɨ, ɨ] + [ɔ], which are indicat-

8. Here is a concise presentation of the Faroese and Greenlandic accents of Danish. We show the most typical peculiarities of the vowels (and main diphthongs), including some observations about the consonants, also providing the fundamental tonograms for intonation. Oscillations are quite possible especially for some vowels and consonants.

Thus, in the *Faroese* accent, the ‘aspirated’ voiceless stops are usually [Ch] (semi-approximant), with oscillations between [Ch] and [C]; while the ‘voiced’ stops are [C̣] (lenis voiceless). In addition, /tj/ may become [tʃh]. Danish *r* is a uvular tap, [ʀ], before vowels, but a vocoid, as shown in the first vocogram (with variants). Creaky voice (*stød*) may be very very unstable, and sometimes used for the vocalized *r*.



In the *Greenlandic* accent of Danish, word-initial vowels (especially in stressed syllables) may be [ʔV] (with a weak glottal stop). Rather systematically, the ‘aspirated’ voiceless stops are [Ch] (semiapproximant), and the ‘voiced’ stops are [C̣] (lenis voiceless). Before /i(i), ɪ(ɪ), j/, we often find that /t, d/ [s, l, n/] are prepalatal, [t̚] (rtespectively with [h] or lenis) and [ʃ, ʎ, ɲ]. Danish *r* is a uvular constrictive, or approximant, or tap, [ʀ, ʁ, ʀ], before vowels, but a vocoid, as shown in the first vocogram (with the variants given). Creaky voice (*stød*) may be very unstable.



common diphthongs (plus /ui/ [ui] above)

