

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/ ['kħɑ:ɫ, 'lɑ: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:/ ['bɫø:; 'bɾø:] 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; ɸ̥, ʃ̥].

The most noteworthy peculiarity of Norwegian is its tonal word accent, which produces minimal pairs as: *banner* /_bɑnəɾ/ [_bɑn̥ˀˀɾ] 'banner' and /_bɑnəɾ/ [_bɑn̥ˀˀɾ] 'curse'; *hoppene* /_hɔpənə/ [_hɔp̥ˀˀn̥ɛ] 'the jumps' and /_hɔpənə/ [_hɔp̥ˀˀn̥ɛ] 'the mares'.

4. As can be seen from the latter examples, the chronetic structure after stressed short vowels is /VCV/ [C̥]. 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/ [ɑ̃:mʉn̥ˀˀs̃n̥] ([ɑ̃:mʉn̥ˀˀs̃n̥]), *Bergen* /_bɛɾgən/ [_bɑɾˀˀg̃n̥] ([_bɑɾˀˀg̃n̥]), *Oslo* /_uslu/ [_us̃ˀˀlu] –in Oslo: [us̃ˀˀlu]– ([us̃ˀˀlu]), *fjord* /_fju:r/ [_fjũˀˀɾ] ([_fjũˀˀɾ]), *Magnus* /_mɑŋnʉs/ [_mɑŋ̃ˀˀn̥ʉs]. Notice that /r/ [ɾ] is also possible in mediatic pronunciation.

5. Spelling: *au* /œy/, *c* /k, s̃ṽ/, *d* /d, θ/, *e* /e:, ε, ə/, *ei* /ɛi/, *g* /g, ɟ̃ṽ/, *gj* /ɟ̃ṽ/, *gn* /ŋn/, *h* /h/, *#hj* /j/, *#hv* /v/, *j* /j/, *k* /k, ʃ̃ṽ/, *kj* /ç/, *l* /l/, *#lj* /j/, *ng* /ŋ/, *o* /u(:), o:, ɔ/, *øy* /ɔy/, *s* /s/, *sj* /ʃ̃/, *sk* /sk, ʃ̃/ (as in *ski* /'ʃi:/), *skj* /ʃ̃/, *u* /u(:), u/, *v* /v/, *y* /y(:), ø /e: ε(:), ø /ø:, œ/, *øy* /œy/, *å* /o:, ɔ/.

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.

