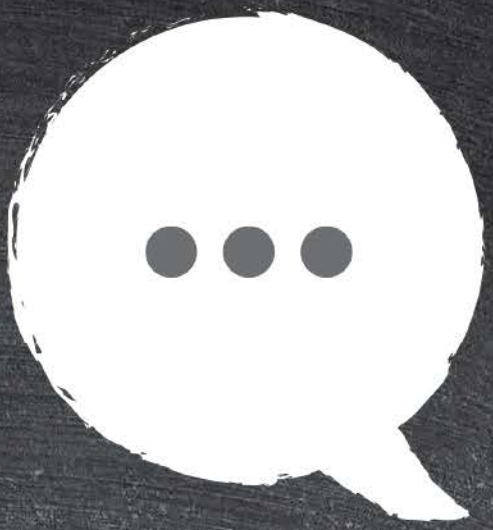
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LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #1
Self Introduction in Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Swedish
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
4 Grammar

1

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SWEDISH

1. Jasmine: Hej. Jag heter Jasmine. Vad heter du?
2. Morten: Hej Jasmine. Jag heter Morten.
3. Jasmine: Trevligt att träffa dig.
4. Morten: Detsamma.

ENGLISH

1. Jasmine: Hello. My name is Jasmine. What's your name?
2. Morten: Hello Jasmine. My name is Morten.
3. Jasmine: Nice to meet you.
4. Morten: You too.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
jag	I; me	
heter	to be called	verb
detsamma	you too	expression
hej	hello	
trevligt	nice, pleasant	adjective

träffas	meet	verb
Jag heter...	“I am named...”	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jag bor väldigt nära stationen. "I live very close to the station."	**Jag heter Alexandra.** "I am named Alexandra."
-Trevligt att träffa dig. **-Detsamma.** "- Nice to meet you. - You too."	**"Hej, trevligt att träffas."** "Hello, nice to meet you."
"Hej, trevligt att träffas." "Hello, nice to meet you."	**"Hej, trevligt att träffas."** "Hello, nice to meet you."
Jag heter Alexandra. "I am named Alexandra."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Hej means "Hi". It is used in a casual and means "Hello." It is used in casual as well as in formal situations. The older way to say hi, used to be Good day "*God dag*" but this is rarely, if ever, used. To make the greeting even more friendly and informal, you can just say Hejsan!

"***Jag***" means "I" in Swedish.

For Example:

Jag heter
"I´m called"

Jag har en bil
"I have a car"

Trevligt att träffa dig is like the English "nice to meet you". But it means something like "Pleasant to meet you"

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is How to ask somebody their name.
Vad heter du?
"What's your name?"

To ask someone their name, just ask “Vad heter du” Literally, this means "What are you called?" when it is said in the polite form.
The first word, "Vad" means “What.” It is followed by the word for “My name is --” heter, which means something like “to call”. And finally it uses “you”, when it is a direct object: "du". “ Vad heter du”?
Vad heter du?; with this question you’ll be able to meet people easily in Sweden.
Personal pronouns
The personal and possessive pronouns for I and You in Swedish are:

"English Translation"	nominative form	object form	possessive
I	jag	mig	min / mitt / mina
you (singular)	du	dig	din / ditt / dina

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #2
Talking Nationality in Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Swedish
2 English
2 Vocabulary
2 Sample Sentences
3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
3 Grammar

2

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SWEDISH

1. Jasmine: Hej. Jag heter Jasmine. Jag är svensk.

2. Morten: Hej. Jag heter Morten. Jag är engelsk.

ENGLISH

1. Jasmine: Hello. My name is Jasmine. I'm Swedish.

2. Morten: Hello, My name is Morten. I'm English.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class	Gender
svenska	Swedish	noun	common
engelska	English	noun	common
Jag är...	“I am...”		
jag	I, me	personal pronoun	
heter	to be called, named	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jag talar svenska. "I speak Swedish."	**Ursäkta, hur säger man "car" på svenska?** "Excuse me, how do you say 'car' in Swedish?"

Nej, tyvärr. Jag pratar bara engelska. "No, unfortunately, I speak only English."	**Hon studerar engelska på universitetet.** "She studies English at the university."
Jag är Alexandra. "I am Alexandra."	**Jag bor väldigt nära stationen.** "I live very close to the station."
Jag heter Alexandra. "I am named Alexandra."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

To say you are a certain nationality, just say ***Jag är***, which means "I am" and add *engelsk* after it to the end. "I am English." To change nationality to, say Russian, use the same *Jag är* and just add the word for Russian at the end: *Jag är Rysk.*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Talk About Gender
Hej. Jag heter Jasmine. Jag är svensk.
"Hello. My name is Jasmine. I'm Swedish."

A masculine gender for both women and men is commonly used. If you do want to specify that you are a woman, you simply add –a to the end of the nationality. *Jag är svenska. Jag är engelska*. This is optional, and not something that Swedes think of.

Masculine, commonly used:

Swedish	**"English Translation"**
Jag är svensk.	"I'm Swedish."
Jag är Rysk.	"I'm Russian."
Han är Amerikansk.	"He's American."

Han är engelsk.	"He's British."
Är du Japansk?	"Are you Japanese?"
Är du Kinesisk?	"Are you Chinese?"
Min pojkvän är Fransk.	"My boyfriend is French."
Min pojkvän är Italiensk.	"My boyfriend is Italian."

Feminine:

Swedish	**"English Translation"**
Jag är svenska.	"I'm Swedish."
Jag är ryska.	"I'm Russian."
Hon är amerikanska.	"She's American."
Hon är engelska.	"She's British."
Är du japanska?	"Are you Japanese?"
Är du kinesiska?	"Are you Chinese?"
Min flickvän är franska.	"My girlfriend is French."
Min flickvän är italienska.	"My girlfriend is Italian."

Note: Another important point is that like English, we use *svenska* ("Swedish") to refer to the spoken language, as well as the feminine Swede. Be aware that to express the spoken language, same form as feminine is used. "I speak Italian," therefore becomes *Jag talar Italienska*. "I speak Swedish," becomes *Jag talar svenska.*

For Example:

1. *svensk*
   "Swedish (ethnicity)"

2. *svenska*
   "Swedish" (feminine ethnicity and language)"

3. *svensk design*
   "Swedish design"

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #3 Useful Phrases for Learning Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Swedish
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5 Grammar

3

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SWEDISH

1. Jasmine: Ursäkta mig, hur säger man "cheese på svenska?
2. Morten: Ost
3. Jasmine: Ursäkta men, jag förstår inte. Säg det en gång till, tack.
4. Morten: ost
5. Jasmine: Snälla, tala långsammare.
6. Morten: O-s-t
7. Jasmine: Kan du skriva ner det på svenska åt mig, tack.

ENGLISH

1. Jasmine: Excuse me, how do you say "cheese" in Swedish?
2. Morten: Cheese
3. Jasmine: I'm sorry, I don't understand. Say it once again, please.
4. Morten: Cheese
5. Jasmine: Please, speak slower.
6. Morten: Chee-se
7. Jasmine: could you please write it down in Swedish for me, thanks.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
Ursäkta mig	Excuse me; I'm sorry	expression
långsamt	slowly	
tack	thank you	expression
förstår (förstå)	to understand	verb
säger	say	
skriv ner	write down	verb
hur	how	adverb
på svenska	in Swedish	
tala	speak	verb
inte	not	adverb
en gång till	one more time	phrase
åt mig	for me	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ursäkta, mig var är toaletten? "Excuse me, where is the bathroom?"	**Jag gillar att gå långsamt.** "I like to walk slowly."
Tack för hjälpen. "Thank you for the help."	**Jag förstår inte.** "I don't understand."
Jag förstår inte nederländska. "I don't understand Dutch."	**Vad säger man efter maten?** "What do you say after dinner?"

Kan du skriva ned det till mig, tack? "Can you write it down for me, please?"	**Berätta för mig hur man använder fjärrkontrollen.** "Tell me how to use the remote control."
Hur mår du? "How are you?"	**Jag brukar sjunga sånger på svenska.** "I used to sing songs in Swedish."
Talar du japanska? "Do you speak Japanese?"	**Jag kan inte sova.** "I cannot sleep."
Det vet jag inte. "I don't know that."	**Kan du säga det en gång till Thomas, tack.** "Could you say that once more, Thomas? Thanks."
Snälla, köp den åt mig. "Please, buy it for me."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Ursäkta mig

Ursäkta mig means "excuse me" and has the same usage as in English when used in questions. However, if we use it in an interrogative sentence, as in "I'm sorry," you say "*Förlåt*," which translates to "Forgive."

For Example:

1. *Ursäkta mig, vad är klockan?*
   "Excuse me, what time is it?"

2. *Förlåt, jag såg dig inte.*
   "I'm sorry, I didn't see you."

Tack

Tack has the same usage as the English "please," and "thank you" and we use it with both requests and offers.

1. *En kaffe, tack.*
   "One coffee, please."

2. *Ursäkta mig, var är toaletten?*
   "Excuse me, where is the toilet?"

Snälla, tala långsamt.

tala means "speak," and we say it as a command. It will be very useful to remember this word together with this sentence.

1. *Kan du prata engelska?*
   "Do you speak English?"

långsamt means "slow." If you have difficulty understanding your companion, you can simply say this.

1. *Långsammare, tack.*
   "Slower, please."

Kan du skriva ner det på svenska åt mig

Skriva ner means "write" or "write down." *Åt mig*, literally means "to me" or "for me." You can use it with other verbs.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Using Swedish Phrases to Learn More Swedish
Ursäkta mig, hur säger man _____ på svenska?
"Excuse me, how do you say _____ in Swedish?"

The first word in this sentence means "excuse me" and has the same usage as in English when used in questions.

Hur säger man literally means "How do one say." We can translate *på svenska* as "in Swedish," and it refers to the language in our case.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #4
Counting from 1-100 in Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Swedish
2 English
2 Vocabulary
2 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar
4 Cultural Insight

4

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SWEDISH

1. Jasmine: Ett (och) två (och) tre (och) fyra (och) fem (och)

2. Jasmine: Sex (och) sju (och) åtta (och) nio (och) tio

ENGLISH

1. Jasmine: One (and) two (and) three (and) four (and) five (and)

2. Jasmine: six (and) seven (and) eight (and) nine (and) ten

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class
åtta	eight	numeral
två	two	numeral
ett	one	numeral
tre	three	numeral
fyra	four	numeral
fem	five	numeral
sex	six	numeral
sju	seven	numeral
nio	nine	numeral
tio	ten	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vi har ett bord med åtta stolar. "We have a table with eight chairs."	**Två katter sitter på gatan.** "Two cats are sitting on the street."
Det finns ett postkontor på femte avenyn och ett på Central Street. "There is a post office on 5th Avenue and one on Central Street."	**Tre tallrikar på bordet.** "Three plates on the table."
Fyra fåglar i trädet. "Four birds in the tree."	**Fem flaskor vatten.** "Five bottles of water."
Det finns sex ägg kvar. "There's six eggs left."	**Jag köpte sju nya pennor.** "I bought seven new pencils."
Filmen börjar klockan nio. "The movie starts at nine."	**Jag kan göra tio situps.** "I can do ten sit-ups."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Swedish Numerals

From the point of view of the word order, Swedish numerals have the same usage as in English: the number comes first followed by a noun (the thing you are counting).

For Example:

1. *En biljett*
   "one ticket"

2. *Tre personer*
   "three people"

3. *Fyrtio år*
"forty years"

En, Ett

The definite article in Swedish is mostly expressed by a suffix on the head noun, while the indefinite article is a separate word preceding the noun. This structure of the articles is shared by the Scandinavian languages. Articles differ in form depending on the gender and number of the noun.

The indefinite article, which is only used in the singular, is *en* for common nouns, and *ett* for neuter nouns, e.g. *en flaska* ("a bottle"), *ett brev* ("a letter"). When counting, *ett* is used, but when addressing any noun, the suitable indefinite article is used.

Indefinite article	*Swedish*	"English Translation"
Common nouns	*En flicka*	"one girl"
Neuter nouns	*Ett bord*	"one table"

Note: This is only the case with *En/Ett*, and when counting with other counting words they are used in there common way.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Numbers From Eleven to Twenty

As you might have already noticed, we form the numbers thirteen to nineteen simply by adding ton ("teen") before the number. The only small exceptions are *elva* ("eleven") and *tolv* ("twelve").

Here are some more examples:

Swedish	"English"

Elva år	"eleven years"
Tolv bilar	"twelve cars"
Sexton år gammal	"sixteen years old"
Tjugo personer	"twenty people"

The Multiples of Ten

You need to learn the tens in Swedish separately. But once you can do one through ten, it should not be a problem. And they end with *-tio*, which makes it easier to remember.

Some exceptions just need blind memorizing:

1. *Tjogo*
   "twenty"

2. *Hundra*
   "(one) hundred"

Other Compound Numbers

We form other compound numbers in the same way we form the English numerals, that is, by placing numbers from one to nine after twenty, thirty, forty, fifty...ninety.

For Example:

1. *Tjugofyra historier*
   "twenty-four stories"

2. *Fyrtiofem minuter*
   "forty-five minutes"

3. *Åttiosex procent*
   "eighty-six percent"

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #5 Counting from 100-1,000,000 in Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Swedish
3 English
5 Vocabulary
7 Sample Sentences
7 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
8 Grammar

5

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SWEDISH

1. A: Etthundra
2. B: tvåhundra
3. A: trehundra
4. B: fyrahundra
5. A: femhundra
6. B: sexhundra
7. A: sjuhundra
8. B: åttahundra
9. A: niohundra
10. B: ettusen
11. A: tvåtusen
12. B: tretusen
13. A: fyratusen
14. B: femtusen
15. A: sextusen

CONT'D OVER

16. B: sjutusen

17. A: åtta tusen

18. B: niotusen

19. A: tiotusen

20. B: tjugotusen

21. A: trettiotusen

22. B: fyrtiotusen

23. A: femtiotusen

24. B: sextiotusen

25. A: sjuttiotusen

26. B: åttiotusen

27. A: nittiotusen

28. B: etthundratusen.

29. A: En miljon!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: one hundred

2. B: two hundred

3. A: three hundred

4. B: four hundred

5. A: five hundred

6. B: six hundred

7. A: seven hundred

8. B: eight hundred

9. A: nine hundred

10. B: one thousand

11. A: two thousand

12. B: three thousand

13. A: four thousand

14. B: five thousand

15. A: six thousand

CONT'D OVER

16. B: seven thousand

17. A: eight thousand

18. B: nine thousand

19. A: ten thousand

20. B: twenty thousand

21. A: thirty thousand

22. B: forty thousand

23. A: fifty thousand

24. B: sixty thousand

25. A: seventy thousand

26. B: eighty thousand

27. A: ninety thousand

28. B: one hundred thousand

29. A: one million

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class

en miljon	one million (1000000)	numeral
etthundra	one hundred (100)	numeral
trehundra	three hundred (300)	numeral
ettusen	one thousand (1000)	numeral
tvåhundra	two hundred (200)	numeral
fyrahundra	four hundred (400)	numeral
femhundra	five hundred (500)	numeral
sexhundra	six hundred (600)	numeral
sjuhundra	seven hundred (700)	numeral
åttahundra	eight hundred (800)	numeral
niohundra	nine hundred (900)	numeral
tvåtusen	two thousand (2000)	numeral
tretusen	three thousand (3000)	numeral
fyratusen	four thousand (4000)	numeral
femtusen	five thousand (5000)	numeral
sextusen	six thousand (6000)	numeral
sjutusen	seven thousand (7000)	numeral
åttatusen	eight thousand (8000)	numeral
niotusen	nine thousand (9000)	numeral
tiotusen	ten thousand (10000)	numeral
tjugotusen	twenty thousand (20000)	numeral
trettiotusen	thirty thousand (30000)	numeral
fyrtiotusen	forty thousand (40000)	numeral
femtiotusen	fifty thousand (50000)	numeral
sexriotusen	sixty thousand (60000)	numeral

sjuttiotusen	seventy thousand (70000)	numeral
åttiotusen	eighty thousand (80000)	numeral
nittiotusen	ninty thousand (90000)	numeral
etthundratusen	one hundred thousand (100000)	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Huset kostade en miljon kronor. "The house cost one million crowns."	**Han har levt i etthundra år.** "He has lived one hundred years."
Den här staden är trehundra år gammal. "This city is three hundred years old."	**Jag hittade ettusen kronor!** "I found one thousand crowns!"
Är tvåhundra kronor mycket? "Are two hundred crowns a lot?"	**Han lånade fyrahundra kronor till mig.** "He lent four hundred crowns to me."
Det är femhundra anställda som arbetar på vårt företag. "There are five hundred employees working in our company."	**Växla sexhundra dollar till kronor åt mig, tack.** "Please change six hundred dollars into crowns for me."
Väskan kostade sjuhundra kronor! "The bag cost seven hundred crowns!"	**Jag spenderade åttahundra kronor på en dag.** "I spent eight hundred crowns in one day."
Antiken var niohundra år gammal. "The antique was nine hundred years old."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Swedish	"English"
En miljon	One million 1 000 000
En miljard	One billion 1000 000 000
Noll	Zero

Huset kostade en miljon kronor
"The house cost one million crowns."

Företagen är värt en miljard kronor
"The company is worth one billion crowns."

Från noll till etthundra km/h på tio sekunder.
"From zero to one hundred km/h in ten seconds."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Numbers Larger than 100 in Swedish
etthundratusen
"one hundred thousand"

The easiest way to remember large Swedish numbers is to understand their structure first. In the previous Boot Camp lesson, we covered the numbers from one to one hundred. As you can remember, the most important thing was to memorize the numbers from one to ten, and then build larger numbers by modifying endings, adding or dropping some parts, and so on. There are exceptions among the commons rules, but in general, Swedish numbers have a strong logical system according to which the numbers are built.

100

"One hundred" in Swedish is *etthundra*; however, when counting the rest of the hundreds, this word changes. For example, "two hundred" is *tvåhundra* and "three hundred" is *trehundra*. As you might have noticed, we use numbers two through nine first, and then we add *-hundra*. This makes the hundreds.

1,000

Here, things are even easier than with hundreds. "Two thousand" *Tvåtusen*, "three thousand" is *tretusen.*

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #1 History of The Swedish Language and Top 5 Reasons to Learn Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

1

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the History of Swedish.

I. Linguistics

The Swedish language has over ten million native speakers and it is spoken in Sweden as well as in Finland. Swedish is closely related to other Scandinavian languages, and a person who speaks and understands Swedish will also without great difficulty understand Norwegian and Danish. Swedish is a North Germanic language, descended from Old Norse, the language spoken by the Vikings.

Swedish is the largest language amongst all North Germanic languages. The history of Swedish begins in the 9th century, when Old Norse started to divide into Old West Norse and Old East Norse. In the 12th century these two groups began to create what we now call Norwegian and Icelandic, and Swedish and Danish. Today they are four separate languages, but it is easy to see the similarities among them.

In one way the Scandinavian languages are mere different dialects derived from the same languages. Because of wars and rivalry between Sweden and Denmark, the languages parted and created their own dictionaries and formal written concepts. Also, Norway and Finland have once belonged to Sweden, another reason that the languages seem to be somewhat shared. In addition, there are subordinate dialects within the Swedish language, especially along the western parts close to Norway and the southern parts close to Denmark. These dialects use vocabulary in different ways, borrow words from the neighbouring countries, and hold on to an older way of speaking.

As Swedish is a Germanic language, many of the words will sound similar to English and German, and the grammar is very similar to English's. The standard word order is subject-verb-object, just like in English. There is no reason that you shouldn't be able to master simple phrases and words in Swedish in just a day.

II. About Sweden

Sweden is situated in the northern parts of Europe. The capital, Stockholm, is also the largest city with 1.3 million inhabitants.

The most famous of Swedish ages would be the Viking Age, dated to the 6th-11th century. The Vikings are believed to have travelled across the Baltic Sea, to the neighbouring countries, and also into Russia, Ukraine, and the Black Sea. Several travellers and writers of that time described the Swedish Vikings described as tall above others, blond and with great skills in war. Sweden at the time lived by the stories of the Nordic myths, that told of the god

Thor. It wasn't until the 12th century that paganism was truly replaced by Christianity, which is today the biggest religion in the country.

Sweden is a monarchy under the royal family Bernadotte. The Crown princess Victoria will one day replace her father, King Carl Gustav XVI, on the throne.

III. Where Swedish is spoken

Swedish is the official language of Sweden and Finland. Due to emigration and travel, Swedish speakers can also be found in USA, Norway, Spain and UK, amongst others. There are 9.4 million people in Sweden, and a total of approximately ten million Swedish speakers around the world.

There where previously Swedish speakers along the Estonian island, as well as in Swedish settlements in the USA and Ukraine. These have died out, and today only a few elderly people can speak or understand the language in these regions.

89% of Swedes speak and understand English because of trade, travel, and the close similarity to the English language. Swedish TV and movies will always be shown in the original language, only to be subtitled in Swedish.

IV. Writing System and Pronunciation

Swedish belongs to the group of Germanic languages, and because of this, the pronunciation is quite similar to (for example) English and German. The vowels differ slightly from those in other languages, as does the alphabet.

The Swedish language has three letters beyond the 26 in the English alphabet. These letters are written as *å*, *ä*, *ö* and appear at the end of the alphabet.

These can be seen as variations of the English letters a and o, with a slight change in pronunciation.

There are also differences in pronunciation within Sweden, as every part of the country has its own dialect, where phonology varies in the same way that British English is different from Canadian or Australian English.

The dialect known as standard Swedish is the "main," or "dialect-free" method of pronunciation. This dialect is closest to the those spoken in the middle of Sweden and in the Stockholm region.

V. Why it is Important: The Top Five Reasons to Learn this Language Are...

1. Beauty! The Swedish language is beautiful and has a songlike melody when spoken. The country is also beautiful in itself, with mountains, woods, and lakes all around the country.

2. It sets you apart. Millions of people know French and English. To be able to write "I speak Swedish" on your CV will surely set you apart from other applicants.

3. The closeness to other Scandinavian languages. If you want to be able to communicate

with any Scandinavians, Sweden is the largest country, and also it is situated in the middle of them.

4. Ease. Thanks to the close similarity to other Germanic languages including English, Swedish is not that hard to learn!

5. Friends! The best way to make friends is to speak their language. Swedes may seem hard to get to know, but once they have included you in their lives, they will regard you as their friend for life!

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #2
The Swedish Writing System

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

2

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Swedish Writing System.

The Swedish alphabet is very easy to learn because it uses the same alphabet as English, except for the last three: *å, ä, ö.*

Knowing the basics of the Swedish alphabet is a huge step in learning Swedish because it's a "phonetic" language. That means if you know the letters, then you can read the words and people will understand you. In fact, the writing system is so exact that when you ask someone to spell a word, they usually just say it slower. We'll go over the pronunciation of each letter and the rules for spelling in our pronunciation series.

Alphabet

The Swedish alphabet consists of nine vowels and twenty consonants. The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u, y, å, ä, and ö*. This is similar to the English vowels, apart from *å, ä, ö* and *y*.

You also form words the same as in English by putting letters together in certain orders. Swedish is a Germanic-based language, so it shares many words with English and German. Cognates are similar-looking words with similar meanings. For example, "electricity" (*elektricitet*) and "traditional" (*traditionell*) are English-Swedish cognates.

Learning Other Languages

If you know Swedish, then Norwegian, Danish, Icelandic and German will be easier to understand and learn because they share common roots.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #3
Painless Swedish Grammar

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

3

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Swedish Grammar.

When you learn a language, grammar usually chews you up, spits you out, and leaves you to cry in a small corner of the room. The good news is that Swedish grammar is not the kind you need to spend hours and hours memorizing. In fact, you could master the basics in less than a week!

Swedish grammar is a lot simpler than you might think. For example, basic word order is so similar to English you probably don't need to study it. We easily sum up some of the more difficult aspects of Swedish grammar (like gender or subjunctives) in one word: agreement. Everything needs to agree with or match everything else. But we'll talk about that later.

I. History of Grammar

We have studied grammar for at least four thousand years. That means there are many (too many) terms used by grammarians that no one else understands or uses, like paroxytone or present indicative. Almost any four-year-old can speak his native language fluently without knowing those words, so why should you have to learn them?

In these All About lessons, we are going to avoid all but the most basic grammar words. Introducing complex grammatical concepts in the early stages of language learning actually makes things much more difficult than they need to be.

II. Verbs

All languages have verbs, and every language uses those verbs differently. Swedish uses them in the same way that English does. To learn all possible variations of verbs, you should in theory memorize five forms: the infinitive, the present, the past, the supine, and the past participle; if you know these you will be able to easily work out the rest. However, memorizing all verbs can be a long and quite boring process. By just reading a newspaper or a book, you should be able to meet most common form of verbs and see how they are used.

Time

Swedish verbs contain two central meanings: time (also called tense) and person. "Time" (or tense) is past, present, or future. "Person" means who is talking and who is being talked to or about. We express these meanings by altering the verbs according to specific patterns. Time is indicated by changing the verb to a past, present, or future form. While verbs do change form for tense, they do not change their form for person. To show who is speaking, just put the word for he, she, they, etc., in front of the verb.

English verbs change to express time and person as well. For example, time can be

expressed as "I was happy" (past), which is different from "I am happy" (present), which is different from "I will be happy" (future). Person can be expressed as "I am happy," which is different from "He is happy," which is different from "We are happy."

III. Neuter and common nouns

In Swedish, as in the other Scandinavian languages and English, gender forms are not used. This can be compared with French, where the masculine and feminine forms le and la are used to define each object.

Nouns can be neuter or common, *en* for common nouns and *ett* for neuter nouns (e.g., en *flaska* ("a bottle"), *ett brev* ("a letter").

English does this, too, just with slightly different rules. For example, you would say "a bottle" but "an envelope," depending on the vowels and consonants.

When talking about definite form of "the" bottle, change the suffix to make flaskan, and the letter will become brevet with the definite article showing only at the end of the noun.

All nouns will be common or neuter. We'll go over this in more detail in future lessons.

IV. Plural—More Than One?

Once again, agreement. We already learned that verbs don´t need to be altered depending on the person, they stay the same wheiter you talk about me, him, them etc. This number agreement extends to all the articles, demonstratives, pronouns...wait! Too many grammar words! To...all the other words in the sentence. This is done by adding *-or*, *-ar*, *-er*, *-n*, and sometimes nothing at all. While -ar is slightly more common, there is no reliable rule to determine which suffix to use.

The suffixes *-or, -ar*, and *-(e)r* are used for "*en* words." The suffixes *-n* and - (empty) are most used for "*ett* words."

1. *-or*	2. *-ar*	3. *-(e)r*	4. *-n*	5. -

en words that end in an unstressed *-a*	*en* words that end in an unstressed *-e*, and monosyllabic *en* words that end in a consonant	*en* words with the stress on the last vowel, and *ett* words with more than one syllable with a stress on the last vowel	Mainly *ett* words that end in a vowel	*ett* words that end in a consonant, and *en* words' ending in *-are*
en klocka *två klockor* *klockorna* ("the clocks")	*en dag* *två dagar* *dagarna* ("the days")	*en telefon* *två telefoner* *telefonerna* ("the telephones")	*ett ställe* ("place," "spot") *två ställen* *st.ällena* ("the places")	*ett barn* *två barn* *barnen* ("the children")

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LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #4
Swedish Pronunciation Made EASY

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

4

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Swedish Pronunciation

Comparatively speaking, Swedish is an easy language to speak. A few sounds might be difficult, but almost every sound in Swedish is used every day in English. That means you already know how to say it! Swedish also follows many of the same intonation patterns as English.

Let's recap the written system quickly just as an introduction to the pronunciation. The Swedish alphabet has the same 26 letters as English in the beginning, and then ends with the extra three: *å*, *ä*, and *ö*. It has nine vowels: *A*, *E*, *I*, *O*, and *U* as in English, and then *Y*, *Å*, *Ä*, and *Ö* additionally.

The Nine Vowels

A

is different depending on whether the quantity of the vowel is long or short. When long, the letter is pronounced approximately like the "a" in the English word "far." When short, the letter is pronounced approximately like the "a" in Spanish *casa*.

E

is pronounced as in the English word "deck," even when long—that is, never like "e" in English "be" or "deep." (The letter "i" is used for that sound.)

I

is pronounced as English "e" in "be."

O

is, depending on context, pronounced as either "oo" in English "too" (usually when the sound is long) or "o" in English "for" (usually when short).

U

in Swedish is pronounced in a way that is somewhat difficult to describe with reference to English, which has no sound similar to it. Closest is perhaps the long "o" in English "two," "too," and "you," but more fronted, with the tip of the tongue almost touching the front teeth.

It's important to reproduce these sounds accurately. It doesn't matter how many words you know or how good you are at the grammar; if you don't pronounce the word correctly, the Swedes won't understand.

Y

is pronounced almost like "y" in English names such as "Terry," "Teddy," or "Cheryl," both

when long and when short. It is never pronounced as the "y" in "reply."

Å

is pronounced as English "o" in for."

Ä

is pronounced as English "ai" in "fair" and as a German "ä."

Ö

a bit like "ea" in English "earn" and roughly like "u" in English "turn."

Consonants

Some unique aspects of Swedish pronunciation:

J

as "y" in English "yes" (NEVER as in "jam")

K

as "k" in English "keep," or as "sh" in English "sheep"

R

"rolled" as in Spanish, but not quite as forcefully

S

like "s" in English "summer"; never "zz."

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #5 Top 5 Most Common Swedish Phrases

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

5

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Must-Know Swedish Phrases

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Here we'll introduce five phrases in Swedish that will take you a long way and help you out in a variety of situations!

Hej ("Hi," "Hello")

It doesn't matter who you speak to; one always says hello. *Hej, Hej hej*, or *Hejsan* are all variations on how the Swedes greet friends, business connections, or even new acquaintances. If you want to say goodbye, you simply say *Hej då* or *hej* again.

Hur mår du? ("How are you?")

The first thing you will say to someone is after *Hej* is "How are you?," *Hur mår du?* This is something that you will use several times a day. As in English, it is the polite thing to say, and one would answer "Good," *Bra*.

For Example:

A: *Hur mår du?*

B: *Bra, tack. Hur mår du?*

Tack ("Thank you," "Please")

A well-placed and sincere "Thank you" will always be appreciated when someone gives you a plate of food, a drink, or even a compliment. "Thank you" in Swedish is *Tack*.

Swedes rarely take hospitality or kindness for granted, so they will give often give thanks. Failing to say thank you for something is perceived negatively in Sweden.

When you ask for something, remember always to say *Tack* afterwards. Another word for "Please" is *Snälla*, which can also mean kind or kindly.

Ursäkta mig ("Excuse me")

Just as in English, simply saying *Ursäkta mig* ("Excuse me") gets you through just about any human roadblock. However, don't be put off if people do not say *Ursäkta* to you. Swedish people have a way of avoiding getting into other people's business, and this might just be a way to not disturb you.

Förlåt ("I'm sorry")

In Swedish, *Förlåt* means "I'm sorry." You're probably going to be saying this a lot. Literally, it's a request that means "Forgive me," in the sense that you did something (anything) and now you feel bad about it.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #6
Top 5 Swedish Things to Know About Sweden

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

6

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is a Quiz!

Five things you have to know about Sweden! Test your knowledge of Sweden.

Geography

In which part of Sweden can you see the aurora borealis lights?

1. The North
2. The South
3. The East

Correct answer: 1. The North

The aurora borealis is more commonly known as the Northern lights.

In the fall and spring, there are spectacular light shows in northern Sweden known as the "aurora borealis," or "northern lights." The dazzling green or red lights, which fill the late night sky, are caused by collisions of tiny particles high in the Earth's atmosphere.

One of the most northern cities is Kiruna, not only can you spot the Northern lights from here, but it's also the home of a Ice Hotel. Built completely from Ice, it is a entirely functioning hotel. In this northern part of Sweden, you will also experience the Midnight sun. During June and July the sun is visible 24 hours a day.

There are more than 100,000 lakes around Sweden, some of them large, Vänern and Vättern, and thousands of smaller ones. At many of them you can even drink the water directly. The tap water is very tasty, and is seen as being as good as bought water. Since Swedes like to take care of nature, very few will buy bottled water, but will always drink the tap water instead.

The ancient right to roam (*allemansrätten*) grants everybody a right to move freely in nature on foot, horse, ski, bicycle or by boat, even on others' private property. With this right comes an obligation to respect the integrity of nature and the privacy of others. It is therefore important to understand the limitations.

The temperatures in Sweden vary between 17°C to 25°C in the summers and 0°C to -10°C in wintertime. Some summer days will reach temperatures of 30°C and during the winter the temperature will not uncommonly drop to -20°C.

Pop Culture

We'll give the names of three people. One is a famous musician, another is a politician, and the third is a sports star. Match the name with their profession.

1. Björn Ulvaeus Writer
2. Astrid Lindgren Athlete
3. Zlatan Ibrahimovic Musician

Correct answers:
Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a Swedish soccer player and is well-known throughout the world. He is currently the seventh highest-paid footballer in the world and was voted Serie A Footballer of the Year: 2008, and 2009.
Björn Ulveus was a member of ABBA, the best-known popular music band from Sweden, and the only one that ranks among the best-known in the world.
Sweden is one of the biggest exportersof music in the world. With ABBA, Sweden entered into a new era, in which Swedish pop music gained international prominence after winning the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest.
Astrid Lindgren is a world famous author of books for children. She has sold 145 million books world wide. Internationally she is probably best known for the books about Pippi Long Stocking and Karlsson on the Roof. Lindgren is considered to have affected the Swedish self image in a number of areas, and probably also the image of Sweden internationally.

Travel

Which one of these sights does not include water?

1. Stockholm Archipelago, Gota kanal, Visby town
2. Grona Lund, Gota kanal, Visby town
3. Salen, Vasa museum, Visby town

Correct Answer: none! Swedes love their water, islands, snow and boating. Let us introduce you to the top three, according to us!
Stockholm Archipelago
Just off the coast of Stockholm, this archipelago has more than 30,000 islands, the biggest

archipelago in Sweden. The islands were inhabited by fishermen and farmers up until the second world war, but nowadays the locals are mixed with tourists and most farms and fish industries have moved on to other places.

Gota Canal

Riding along the Gota Canal, known as "blue ribbon", is a major fun thing to do in Sweden and it is one of Scandinavia's major tourist attractions with its beautiful scenery, canals, lakes and rivers linked by a series of sixty-five locks. During the summer months people canoeing, biking, cycling, nordic walking and passenger boats can be seen everywhere! During the summer months many Swedish families take their boats to travel through all the locks.

Visby, Sweden

The town of Visby is one of the best-preserved examples of a medieval town found in northern Europe and is surrounded by a two-mile stone wall. Visby is the regional capital of Swedens biggest island Gotland on the east coast.

You will see the original alleys and buildings and the original town square amazing place to see. In August there is a medieval festival every year, when people dress up in typical medieval costumes, and the whole city turns back the clock some thousand years. Definitely one of the must-see places to experience.

Economics

Which of these products is a Swedish invention?

1. the Pacemaker
2. Computer
3. the Wheel

Correct Answer: 1

Many well-known innovations and discoveries have Swedish origins. Sweden has the highest numbers of patents granted of a European country, with over 271 per million people and in 2008 Sweden also reported the highest numbers of patent applications per million habitants in EU.

Innovations such as the internal pacemaker, the three-point seat belt, the zip, the telephone handset and the tetra pak are all of Swedish patent and innovations.

The internal pacemaker was developed in 1958, with the first implantation done that same year. The first device only lasted for a couple of hours and further adjustments were made. The patient survived, and lived until 2001.

Another very famous and important invention is Dynamite, invented by Alfred Nobel in 1866. He managed to assemble 355 patents before his death in 1896. In his will he set up the Nobel prizes from physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace.

MYTH Buster! All Swedes are not 7 feet tall and blond. We do have our fair share of blonds,

but Swedes can look many different ways.

1. Food

There is more to Swedish food than Swedish meatballs.

Swedish traditional food has since the 70s been exposed to a large international influence, but in essence Swedish food is straightforward, no nonsense and direct. With regional differences the basic ingredients are grain, seafood and fish, meat and findings from the nature, wild berries, mushrooms and vegetables.

2. Culture

Swedes will work together, with care and consideration rather than boasting about being better, more special or very individualistic. Sweden has a culture where moderate behavior is the key word. Moderate, *lagom* is never too little nor too much. Excess, flashiness, and boasting are abhorred in Sweden and individuals strive towards the middle way. As an example, work hard and play hard are not common concepts in Sweden.

3. Society

Despite being a relatively small country, so many interesting things come from Sweden. As mentioned earlier, the Nobel prize for physics, chemistry, medicine and literature are awarded each year. Between 1901 and 2011, the Nobel prizes have been awarded 549 times.

4. Natives

The natives of Sweden and northern Scandinavia are called Sami, and are an important part of the Swedish culture. Traditionally, the Sami have pursued a variety of livelihoods, including coastal fishing, fur trapping, and sheep herding. Their most well-known means of livelihood is semi-nomadic reindeer herding, with which one-third of the Samis today work with.

5. Language

And last but not least, Swedes speak Swedish. Not English! Eighty-six percent of the Swedish population speak English, but this is something taught in school, and not by mother tongue (some exceptions of course)

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #7
Top 5 Swedish Foods

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

7

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Swedish Cuisine

Most people have heard of meatballs and typical Swedish smorgasbord. But Sweden has so much more to offer than these dishes. Every year the Swedish national team of chefs competes in the Culinary Olympics, where it has had great success. Although this might not be as well-known abroad as it is in Sweden, it shows the will to create and think fresh about Swedish cooking. Many also celebrate the raw materials as especially aromatic and high-class, thanks to our climate and clean nature. And the ambient Swedish light, from darkness and the northern lights to the midnight sun, sets an exotic, enticing mood at the table.

Swedish food is a blend of old traditions and modern thinking. The outdoor meals of Midsummer's Eve, crayfish parties in August, and the older ways of preserving food such as pickling, smoking, and the famous gravad lax are all time-honored Swedish traditions.

Wild food is among the most exciting things to eat. In Sweden it ranges from elk and reindeer meat to fresh oysters and lobster.

The Swedish people like to eat a big breakfast of rye bread, variations of yogurt with flavours like cloudberry or locally produced cheese, pickled herring, and fresh fruit and vegetables. And don't forget the coffee—Swedes are the world's second-biggest drinkers of coffee!

Popular Food Items

Everywhere you go in Sweden, you'll find *konditorier* ("bakeries"). There you'll find *kanelbullar* ("cinnamon buns"), *småkakor* ("small biscuits" in a variety of shapes and flavors), cakes with fresh strawberries, *jordgubbar* and any number of sweet breads, cookies, or tarts.

What will never be missing is bread, a standard part of every Swedish breakfast. Not all bread will be soft; the *knäckebröd* ("hardbread") is popular among all Swedes.

Fika is a social institution in Sweden. This roughly means a coffee break, usually accompanied by something sweet, and Swedes do it all throughout the day. The first one is the morning meeting at work or the eleven o'clock *fika* at home, and then there are breaks in the afternoon. *Fika* derives from the word *kaffe* ("coffee").

Seasonal Dishes

Christmas is a big food holiday in Sweden. The preparations begin as early as September, when the *Glögg* ("mulled wine") begins to brew. It needs to brew until the first weekend of

December, when Advent is celebrated. On December 13, the dark country lights up with hundreds of Lucias as Swedes celebrate the feast of Saint Lucia with bright yellow safranbuns and mulled wine or coffee.

The Swedish Christmas table is a *smörgasbord* filled with salads, ham, meatballs, gravad lax, other types of fish and potato dishes.

Table Etiquette

Table etiquette in Sweden is important. The basic rules apply: don't talk with your mouth full, sit up straight, don't put your feet on the table, etc. When seated at a table, remember to not start eating before the host has said *Varsågoda* ("You are welcome").

A big difference for foreigners in Sweden will be taking off their shoes indoors. In Sweden you will be considered ignorant if you do not take your shoes off as you enter a home.

The Top 5 Swedish Dishes

Number 5 - *Köttbullar*

A must in Swedish cuisine. Served with lingonberry jam and potatoes, *köttbullar* (meatballs) are made with ground beef or a mix of ground beef, pork and sometimes veal, mixed with breadcrumbs soaked in milk and finely chopped (fried) onions, some broth, and, occasionally, cream.

Number 4 - *Lingonsylt*

The lingonberry is made into a jam, similar to cranberry jam, and can be found all over Scandinavia. Most people pick their berries from the woods and prepare the jam at home, and it has always been very popular with other traditional meat dishes.

Number 3 - *Gravad lax*

A Nordic dish consisting of raw salmon cured in salt, sugar, and dill. Gravad lax is usually served as an appetizer, sliced thinly and accompanied by *hovmästarsås* (also known as *gravlaxsås*), a dill and mustard sauce, either on bread of some kind or with boiled potatoes.

Number 2 - New Potatoes

Potatoes have long been the main source of carbohydrates in Sweden, and with their long history, they come in many different variations. The most appreciated is the new potato, one that ripens in early summer and is enjoyed at the traditional mid-summer feast called *Midsommar*. New potatoes at *midsommar* are served with pickled herring, chives, and sour cream, with the first strawberries of the year for a dessert.

Number 1 - Crayfish

In August, at the traditional feast known as *kräftskiva*, the crayfish party, Swedes eat large amounts of crayfish boiled and marinated in a broth with salt, a little bit of sugar, and a large

amount of dill. It's the last feast of summer, and is enjoyed outdoors.

Top 5 Foods for the Brave

Number 5 - *Inlagd sill*

Almost a national dish is the pickled herring. It is eaten at most festivities, during summer, and at Christmas and is seasoned with onions, caviar or mustard. Everyone have their own local favourite.

Number 4 - *Saltlaktrits*

Liquorice candy flavoured with salt. The salt makes it very different from other sweets, but it is highly enjoyed among Swedes and all Scandinavians.

Number 3 - *Grisfötter*

Pigs' trotters served with beetroot.

Number 2 - *Blodpudding*

The Swedish name literally means "blood pudding" and is simular to black pudding. Eaten with lingonberry jam, potatoes and grated carrots.

Number 1 - *Surströmmimg*

Surströmming (soured Baltic herring) is the most putrid smell in the world. Being fermented, *surströmming* has a strong odor and unique flavour and is considered an acquired taste. It is often eaten with *tunnbröd*, literally "thin bread," a thin, either soft or crispy bread (not to be confused with crisp bread) that comes in big square sheets. Before you try *surströmming* for yourself, you should know that the odor of an opened can can travel several hundred meters...

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #8
Top 5 Things You Need To Know About Swedish Society

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

8

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Things You Need to Know about Swedish Society

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Society is a very broad topic that can't be summarized in a single lesson. That's why we're narrowing it down to the top five most important aspects of the Swedish society!

Major Cities

Stockholm is the capital of Sweden. The city is made up of fourteen islands connected by some fifty bridges on Lake Mälaren, which flows into the Baltic Sea and passes an archipelago with some 24,000 islands and islets. The city's a very lively, cosmopolitan place with modern Scandinavian architecture, including lots of brass and steel, along with fairytale towers, a captivating Old Town (*Gamla Stan*) and lots of green space.

Göteborg is the second-largest city in Sweden with approximately 500,000 inhabitants (2008) in the municipality. It is situated on Sweden's west coast at the outlet of the Göta river. With over 60,000 students, Gothenburg University is the largest in Scandinavia. Gothenburg has a reputation of being a friendly place, even more welcoming than the capital.

Kiruna

Kiruna houses the largest underground mine (for iron ore) in the world and is also known for satellite/space projects, the Sámi culture, long winters, modern town planning, a beautiful church and town hall, the Ice Hotel, and easy access to the wilderness and adventure of northern Lapland, including Sweden's highest mountain, Kebnekaise. There are only 18,000 people living here, but it's still the largest town in northern Sweden.

Family Life

The family in Sweden is extremely important; as such, the rights of children are well protected.

The rights afforded to Swedish families to ensure that they are able to care for their children adequately are some of the best in the world. Anyone traveling to Sweden will notice the family-friendly environment of most restaurants and other such establishments. Even trains have a play area with toys!

Behaviors in Sweden are strongly balanced towards *lagom*, "everything in moderation." Excess, flashiness and boasting are abhorred in Sweden, where people strive toward the middle way. For example, "work hard, play hard" is not a common concept in Sweden. People work hard but not too hard, and they go out and enjoy themselves but don't participate in anything extreme.

Work Culture and Economy

The economy is unusually diversified for a small country. Sweden is home to several giant transnational corporations, which dominate foreign trade. Their economic and political might is counterbalanced by large labor unions and a strong public sector. Companies like IKEA, Volvo, Spotify, and Skype are all from Sweden.

European Union membership has forced the country to become less liberal in its trade policy. Sweden has not joined the European Monetary Union; its currency remains the krona.

Egalitarianism is the most dominant social value in Sweden. Consensus and compromise are ingrained into the business and social life. When doing business in Sweden you will notice the lack out outward signs of hierarchy and status present in many other countries

Politics

Typical for Swedish politics are strong political parties and other organizations, like trade unions. There is a clear left-right dimension in political preferences of the Swedish electorate, but government politics is generally middle-of-the-road. The social democrats have been the leading party since the 1930s, but they have gradually lost their political dominance. After the 2006 election a non-socialist government was formed, and re-elected in 2010.

Sweden has a royal family, but they have no powers, and it's the prime minister together with the government that leads the country.

Trends

Swedes are very quick to adapt to novelties, and follow trends and new technology. They want to be amongst the first to own the latest technology.

And as we have seen, they will also often join in in these changes, with international companies and a strong economy to guide them through.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #9
Top 5 Dates During the Calendar Year

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

9

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Dates During the Calendar Year

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Oh, dear, oh, dear! How to choose among so many! In reverse order:
In Swedish tradition, many holidays have their main celebrations not on the Day but on the eve of the holiday, meaning one day earlier. This is especially significant on Christmas Eve and Midsummer's Eve, as well on New Year's Eve, which is not really unique.

Number 5: *Valborgsmässoafton* ("Walpurgis Eve")

The fifth most important day in Sweden is *Valborgsmässoafton*. This is the first day of spring, when Swedes put their winter coats away and celebrate. It is a pagan tradition celebrated on April 30 every year, and like most other Swedish celebrations, it is celebrated on the eve rather than the day.
At Walpurgis (*Valborg*), farm animals were let out to graze, and ever since the early 18th century, bonfires (*majbrasor*) have been lit to scare away predators. Now it is a holiday when Swedes, long attached to nature and the changing seasons, celebrate the end of winter with a big party.

During the day, people gather in parks, drink considerable amounts of alcoholic beverages, barbecue, and generally enjoy the weather, if it happens to be favorable. At nightfall, fires are lighted all around the country. The biggest celebrations can be found in the student cities. As children we collected twigs and branches from the woods surrounding our neighborhood, to make the fire as big as possible. Most people also cut and trim their gardens for this event, again to make their fires as big as possible.

Number 4: *Luciadagen* ("Saint Lucia's Day")

December 13 is St Lucia's Day, the darkest day of the year. On this day, the eldest daughter in the family wears a white robe and a head wreath with candles. All dressed up, she serves the family St. Lucia buns (*Lussekatter*) and coffee in bed. A big event is the Lucia choir show. Young girls portray Lucia and "terns" (*tärnor*). Boys take part as starboys, *tomtenissar* (Santa's helpers) or gingerbread cookie characters.
The celebrations take place in homes, offices, and schools, but the biggest national event is shown on Swedish TV. Competition for the role of Lucia can be tough. Each year, a national Lucia is proclaimed on some TV channel or other, while every town and village worth the name chooses its own Lucia. Candidates are presented in the local newspaper a couple of

weeks in advance.

Number 3: *Nyår* ("New Year")

The Swedish New Year often coincides with a bout of ice-cold weather. Temperatures, which tend to hover frustratingly around freezing point over Christmas, at least in the south, gradually drop, and by midnight you can see shivering Swedes up to their knees in heavy snow, toasting one another with champagne and firing off rockets.

It is celebrated with friends, with newly bought dresses and shirts, the finest dinnerware, and most often a big home-cooked feast. It might be celebrated in a ski villa in the mountains, or in a town flat where the fireworks will light up the pitch-black night sky.

Number 2: *Jul* ("Christmas")

First of all, "Merry Christmas (...and a happy New Year)" in Swedish is *God Jul* (*...och Ett Gott Nytt Ar!*).

Holiday leave over Christmas and the New Year is fairly long, usually extending a week into January. The main Swedish Christmas celebration takes place on December 24.

One or two days before Christmas, trees and homes are decorated in seasonal spirit with gingerbread biscuits, ornaments, and flowers such as the *Julstjärna* ("poinsettia"), red tulips, and red or white amaryllis. Christmas Eve is known as Julafton in Swedish.

The celebrations start with the family Christmas breakfast. The final decorations are prepared and put up, and the last of the gifts get wrapped and prepared for Santa Claus.

Another important Christmas Eve tradition is somewhat American! At three o'clock in the afternoon, children and adults will stop to watch the Disney special "From All of Us to All of You." Dinner and presents must sometimes wait until after *Kalle Anka* (Donald Duck). This is a 40-year-old tradition and a must in most families.

In Sweden, Santa Claus comes to everyone's home. He rides up with his reindeer, knocks on the door, and demands, "Are there any nice children here?," on which all the children scream, "YES!" Santa is then invited into the home to hand out gifts to the family. Sadly, and to the children's distress, the father of the family will often miss this, as he very urgently had to go out to buy the newspaper.

A traditional Christmas Eve dinner usually includes smorgasbord or a Swedish Christmas buffet with ham, pork, or fish, as well as a variety of sweets, such as rice pudding with an almond hidden inside. The person to find the almond is said to be the next to marry in the next year.

Christmas Day is celebrated with a family lunch, and the evening is spent in the company of friends. Young people often go out clubbing, and it is a big reunion for all those returning

home.

Number 1: *Midsommar* ("Midsummer")

This is by far the most popular tradition in Sweden. A traditional celebration of the summer solstice, Midsummer is the longest day of the year. In Sweden, it is celebrated as a national holiday. Midsummer's Eve is always the Friday between June 20 and 26.

In contrast to the dark Christmas and New Years celebrations, the Midsummer sun will never really set. It stays up until late at night and will set only for a brief moment, to rise again in the early morning.

The celebration of the summer solstice is a very ancient practice, dating back to pre-Christian times. Midsummer was originally a fertility festival with many customs and rituals associated with nature, done in hope for a good harvest the coming autumn.

Midsummer Eve is celebrated in the countryside and on the day before, everyone leaves town, everything closes and the streets are suddenly, spookily deserted.

The country's main thoroughfares, on the other hand, are packed. Queues of cars stretch away into the distance, everyone eager to start the celebrations.

People often begin the day by picking flowers and making wreaths to place on the maypole, which is a key component in the celebrations. The maypole is raised in an open spot and traditional ring-dances ensue, to the delight of both children and adults. This is succeeded by a big festive meal, and the festivities go on long into the night.

A typical Midsummer menu features different kinds of pickled herring, boiled new potatoes with fresh dill, soured cream and raw red onion. This is often followed by a grilled dish of some kind, such as spare rib or salmon, and for dessert the first strawberries of summer with cream.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #10
Top 5 Things You Need to Know About Swedish Pop-Culture

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

10

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Things to Know about Swedish Pop Culture

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As popular culture changes quickly and drastically, this lesson focuses on the most recent pop culture. Please keep in mind, we wrote this lesson on September 1, 2011. In this lesson, we'll focus on the top five pop culture topics in Sweden.

Popular TV

In Sweden the main form of entertainment is television, and the four major TV channels—SVT, TV4, TV3, and Kanal 5—influence everything from political campaigns and fashion to international relations. In recent years, Swedish film has acquired a healthy new air of self-confidence. A new generation of filmmakers has emerged, using today's multicultural Sweden as a fertile ground for their filmmaking. Mikael Håfström's boarding school drama *Ondskan* (Evil) was nominated for a 2004 Academy Award in the category Best Foreign Language Film. The most recent success is the trilogy of *Millennium* movies, based on a bestselling novel.
Content among the TV channels can vary but in general includes: kids' and variety programs in the morning; general entertainment programs, movies, reality shows, and reruns in the afternoon; and news, American TV series, sports, films, and talk shows in the evening.

Popular Swedes Abroad

Famous actresses and actors include Ingrid Bergman, Greta Garbo, Alexander Skarsgård, Stellan Skarsgård, and Peter Stormare.

Entrepreneurs Ingvar Kamprad (founder of IKEA) and Alfred Nobel also come from Sweden. Alfred Nobel invented dynamite, and in his last will he used his enormous fortune to institute the Nobel Prizes.

Swedish children's writer Astrid Lindgren delighted youngsters around the world with more than seventy books, including the internationally beloved series about Pippi Longstocking, the strongest nine-year old in the world.

Popular Music

From ABBA to Robyn to Jose Gonzales to the Hives, Swedish pop artists have a long history of international success. Swedish producers and songwriters, such as Max Martin

(responsible for several international smash hits by acts like Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys) have also had a major impact on worldwide pop music charts. Sweden also boasts several internationally famous folk, jazz and classical musicians.

Popular Sports

About 20 percent of the total Swedish population are members of a sports club, Sweden is a nation of amateur athletes and sports enthusiasts with a long history of international success in ice hockey, soccer, golf, skiing, and tennis. In fact, Sweden has won eight world championships and two Olympic medals in ice hockey. It has also produced three of the best tennis players in history: Björn Borg (11 grand slam titles), Mats Wilander (7), and Stefan Edberg (6).

Soccer striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is unquestionably Sweden's biggest sports star today. The technically gifted forward has been one of Europe's top strikers for nearly a decade. Other famous footballers are Henrik Larsson and Fredrik Ljungberg.

Most people engage regularly in some sort of physical activity, such as team sports, working out at the gym, jogging, or skiing, while football and ice hockey attract big TV audiences. Keeping fit and enjoying the great outdoors are very much part of Swedish culture. Many companies subsidize their employees' sporting activities or gym memberships.

Swedish schools shut for a week's "sports vacation" in February each year, when many families head north to ski. This widespread involvement in sports helps explain why Sweden, as a relatively small country, has had such success on the international sporting stage.

International Pop Culture

Swedes are extremely up to date on international pop culture. Twilight, Lady Gaga, and Beyonce are part of popular culture as well as Kesha, Justin Bieber, the Black-Eyed Peas, and *Avatar*. Basically, whatever is popular internationally is popular in Sweden, too.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #11
Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

11

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Swedish

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Entertainment

Language is not just an academic pursuit. The purpose of any language is to communicate with others, and that is more often done through stories and video than through academic papers. Besides, these sources of reading and listening pleasure provide excellent examples of how native speakers actually use the language, something no textbook can copy. Some great sources for Swedish learners of all levels are YouTube and Google Images. Just type in the Swedish word for whatever you want to learn and start studying. Many people have used movies and TV shows as their primary means of contact with a culture. Just remember, you are what you watch. Watching a professionally produced feature film will yield better results faster than watching people stupidly doing dumb stuff on YouTube. As you improve your Swedish, there is even a small national newspaper called *8 sidor* adapted to Swedish as a second language speakers, it can be read online, www.8sidor.se.

Dictionary

Using bilingual dictionaries used to be a bit of a catch-22. Only the larger dictionaries were complete enough to be useful, but they were too large to carry around. Nowadays, web-based and electronic dictionaries are rapidly bridging that gap. They are complete enough to help you with your composition assignments, faster than paper-bound dictionaries, and available on any web browser or smartphone. As often with any language, no online Swedish dictionary is a "one-stop shop," but the English-Swedish dictionary at Folkets Lexikon is about as close as you can get. It gives you a definition in English and then the correct word that matches that definition in Swedish. Very useful!

Warning: Make sure you're using a web-based dictionary and not an online translator. Web-based dictionaries will give you the dictionary entry of the word you're looking for; an online translator will offer you a machine translation that is rarely accurate.

Swedish-Speaking Friends and Loved Ones

This is potentially the most efficient and most rewarding source of learning Swedish. Friends and loved ones who speak to you in Swedish can give you more insight, understanding, and help you feel the heart of Swedish. Swedish is always changing, and the only way you can keep up is if you can feel the language the way they do. With their help, you'll learn to express

yourself in Swedish and understand others in ways that none of the tools previously mentioned can even approach. The more time you spend negotiating meaning from natural native speech, the better. It is also very different hearing a word used in a conversation, than to hear it during a language lesson. The more you hear Swedish, the easier it will get to pick out and understand the words that you already know!

Social Networking

If you are like I was when I started learning Swedish, then talking with Swedish-speaking friends and family isn't really an option. I didn't know anyone who spoke Swedish and didn't feel comfortable randomly calling people in Sweden to practice speaking. Many people, probably most people, are in a similar situation. That's why social networking sites can be so useful when you are learning a language.

One of the best is called Lang-8. This site is different from other language learning sites in that it provides a free connection for native speakers of a language to correct the writing of people who are studying that language. For example, a native English speaker can correct a Swedish person's English writing and a native Swedish speaker can correct a native English speaker who is studying Swedish. It's quite helpful because it offers a free service for people to correct each other's writings. It's a great place to see how a native person might write a particular sentence, paragraph, or short writing sample.

And if you want to meet even more Swedes, the best place is Facebook. It is currently the largest and most popular network in the word, with over a half billion users, and Sweden is no exception.

Pen and Paper

Ultra-low-tech and ultra-cheap, pen-and-paper is still the king of speed and flexibility in note-taking. No one will mug you for a notebook (but they might for that three-hundred-dollar smartphone or one-thousand-dollar laptop), and it's OK if the paper gets wet—let it dry and keep on using it, or throw it out and get a new one. Journalists still use pen and paper for note-taking because it's just plain faster. For example, you're at the store and you have a good idea about something to study, but when you have time to study, you can't remember what it was. Has this happened to you? Instead, write down all your ideas and then choose what you want to study from your list. That way, you study what you want, when you want, and you aren't wasting time trying to remember your great idea. Try post-its, too. If you want to learn basic names for things around the house or maybe even the office, write the Swedish word on a post-it and simply stick it on the *dörr* ("door"), *fönster* ("window"), or *stol* ("chair").

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #12
Top 5 Tips for Avoiding Common Mistakes in Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

#12

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Tips to Help Overcome Some Common Errors That Learners of Swedish Make

---

Tip #1: Don't talk fast

It's so hard to understand someone when he or she speaks too fast. When you hear native Swedes speaking, it will seem like they are talking a thousand words per minute, but don't feel that you need to keep up. They're native, which means they can talk as fast as they want. Many foreigners try to speak as fast as Swedes do, and even though their grammar is perfect, they smash the words together in ways that we can't decipher. It usually takes years of fine-tuning pronunciation to be able to speak as fast as a Swedish person does. Many people jumble up their words in Swedish because they speak too fast. Speak slowly and clearly, and people will understand.

Tip #2: Don't just add *-o* or *-a* to the end of English words

Swedish and English have many cognates, but it isn't that simple. You could very easily say something very offensive if you use cognates like that. Many English words look and sound the same as Swedish ones but mean completely different things.

Tip #3: Learn basic conjugations

Swedish verb conjugation is almost nonexistent. Swedish has four verb conjugations, with the majority belonging to the first conjugation. Swedish verbs are not inflected by person or number, but they are inflected by tense, mood, and voice.

Conjugation	Ending
Present	-ar
Past	-ade
Supine	-at
Past part.	-ad

If you're just starting out, the first conjugations are a great place to begin because they are the most commonly used form in Swedish. The most common Swedish verbs are *har* ("have") and *är* ("is").

People starting to speak Swedish will only have to add the person to the right conjugation of the verb. For example, if you want to say "I am American," you simply say *Jag är Amerikan*. When you change the sentence to "him," you only change it to Han är American.

In Swedish, a verb employs the same form in all persons, whereas English, for example, uses different forms for different persons.

Thus, the verb *vara* conjugates as follows in the present tense:

Jag	*är*	I	am
Du	*är*	You	are
Han	*är*	He	is
Hon	*är*	She	is
Den	*är*	It	is
Det	*är*	It	is
Vi	*är*	We	are
Ni	*är*	You	are
De	*är*	They	are

As you can see, this is very easy. Therefore, you only have to learn one form for every verb in each tense.

Tip #4: Learn the Pronunciation Now

Don't delay! We've dedicated an entire lesson series to pronunciation because it's that important in Swedish. It doesn't matter how well you know the grammar; if you don't pronounce it right, the Swedes won't understand you.

Tip #5: Confidence

Maybe the most important tip to learn Swedish is: Speak Swedish with confidence. Even if you are totally wrong, speak it like you know and people will help you even more, and you will get used to your new language. Never mind if it's not correct, as long as you feel that you are using the vocabulary you have and know, people will always do their best to understand you and appreciate your effort.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #13
Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

#13

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Common Swedish Expressions That You Might Not Learn From a Swedish Teacher

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Phrase One: *Vänta* ("Wait")

Vänta literally translates to "Wait where you are," but more simply means "Wait a minute" or just "Wait."

Phrase Two: *Vad händer?* ("What's going on?")

Vad händer is an expression that means "What's happening?" or "What's going on?" You would typically use it as a greeting phrase with someone you know. It is a young expression.

Phrase 3: *Stackars liten* ("Poor thing")

Stackars liten literally means "poor little" and is used the same as in English. It can be used in a condescending way, but is mostly used to address something small and innocent to show pity.

Phrase Four: *Seriöst* ("Seriously")

Seriöst literally translates to "speak seriously," but is an expression we use with a tone of disbelief and can be roughly interpreted to mean "Tell the truth." We usually use it in a playful setting and the tone of voice gives a similar meaning to "You're kidding!" in English.

Phrase Five: Hur är det? ("How is it")

Hur är det? is a casual greeting used among friends and is very similar in feeling and use to the English phrase "What's up?" Very casual. Instead of "How are you?" (*Hur mår du?*), *Hur är det?* is very common.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #14
Top 5 Most Useful Phrases for Learning Swedish

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

14

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Useful Swedish Phrases For the Classroom

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Phrase One: *Vad betyder...?* ("What means...?")

Vad betyder...? is a written phrase that literally translates to "What means...?" This is a very useful phrase in the classroom because you can ask your teacher what certain words, ideas, or places, mean in Swedish. You would use this phrase by first stating *Vad betyder* and then adding the item you want to know.

For example:

1. *Vad betyder sko?*
   Literally "What means *sko*?"
   "What does *sko* mean?" (*sko* means "shoe")

2. *Vad betyder gift?*
   Literally "What means *gift*?"
   "What does *gift* mean?" (*Gift* means "married")

3. *Vad betyder stanna?*
   Literally "What means *stanna*?"
   "What does *stanna* mean?" (Stanna means "stop")

Phrase Two: *Snälla, öppna era böcker* ("Please, open your books")

Öppna era böcker literally means "Open your books," and *snälla* means "please." Your teacher might use this phrase to tell the class to open their books to begin reading.

Phrase Three: *Jag förstår inte* ("I don't understand")

Jag förstår inte literally translates to "I understand not," but means "I don't understand." You would use this phrase if your teacher explains something or says something that you don't understand. Swedish teachers like it when you use Swedish to interact in the classroom, even if they have to explain things in English afterward.

Phrase Four: *En gång till* ("One more time")

En gång till literally translates to "one more time." You can expect your teacher to say this when they want you to *repetera* ("repeat") something.

Phrase Five: *Förstår du*? ("Do you understand?")

Förstår du literally translates as "Understand you?" Teachers use this question to make sure the students understand what they are explaining.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #15
Top 5 Useful Swedish Phrases from Your Hosts

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

#15

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Useful Phrases from Your Hosts

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Phrase One: *Hur är det?* ("How are you doing?")

This phrase means "How is it going?" This is similar to *Hur mår du?* ("How are you?") but is used in a more familiar, slangy way. It is such common slang that you might hear it even in more formal settings. It's a condensed form of *Hur står det till* which means, "How is it that you are doing?" or "How are you doing?"

Phrase Two: *Det är bra* ("That's fine")

This phrase means "I'm good" or "It's all right" and can be used when someone ask you how you are feeling, or when you agree with something.

Phrase Three: *Var ligger* ("Where is...?")

This phrase means "Where is...?", and you normally use it for things you are having difficulty finding.

Phrase Four: *Varsågod* ("You are welcome")

Varsågod literally means "Be so good," but figuratively "Go ahead," "You are welcome," or "Here you are." You use it when you offer something to someone, and you would expect them to say *Tack* ("Thank you").

Phrase Five: *typ* ("or, like")

The last word is *typ*, is used by everyone in Sweden. It doesn't really mean anything, and it doesn't add anything to the context. It's a good word to know because it's widely used. Some people also use *liksom*, but it means the same thing.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #1
Basic Native Consonant Sounds

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

1

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Syllables and Consonants That Make Up the Swedish Language

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Introduction

Let's first take a look at how Swedish sounds work. The phonology of Swedish is notable for having a large vowel inventory, with nine vowels distinguished in quality and to some degree quantity, making 17 vowel phonemes in most dialects.

There are eighteen consonants: *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, x, z...*

And nine vowels: *a, e, i, o, u, y, å, ä, ö.*

Swedish basically uses the same alphabet as English, with the addition of three letters: *å, ä* and *ö*. In alphabetical order, these are at the end of the alphabet, in that order.

Swedish pronunciation of consonants is similar to that of other Germanic languages. Another notable feature is the pitch accent, which is unusual for European languages.

Some letters in the Swedish alphabet are pronounced roughly as they would be in English.

Consonants

Letter	Pronunciation	Examples
b	as in "English"	*brö´d* ["bread"]
c	1. before a consonant or a hard vowel (*a, o, u, å*): as in "café"; 2. before a soft vowel (*e, i, y, ä, ö*): as in "city"	1. *café* 2. *cýkel* ["bike"]
d	like in English, but with the tip of the tongue touching the upper teeth	*dag* ["day"]

f	as in English	*fredag* ["Friday"]
g	1. before a consonant or a hard vowel (*a, o, u, å*); like "g" in "go"; 2. before a soft vowel (*e, i, y, ä, ö*): like "y" in "yes"	1. *gáta* ["street"]; *gå* ["walk," "leave"] 2. *Gíssa*! ["Guess!"]
h	as "h" in "ham"	*húvudvä´rk* ["headache"], höst ["autumn"]
j	as y in yes (never as "j" in "jam")	*ja* ["yes"]
k	1. before a hard vowel: as "k" in "keep"; 2. before a soft vowel (*e, i, y, ä, ö*): like "ch" in check, but without the initial "t" sound	1. *káffe* ["coffee"] 2. *kä´rlék* ["love"]
l	like in English, but with the tip of the tongue straight and pressed closer towards the teeth, without actually touching them	*lö´rdag* ["Saturday"]
m	as in English	*må´ndag* ["Monday"]
n	as in English	*natt* ["night"]
p	as in English	*pris* ["price," "cost"]
q	as in English (rarely in use nowadays)	
r	a rolled "r", pronounced with a slight quiver of the tongue	*ringa* ["(to) ring"]

s	like in English	*sómmar* ["summer"]
t	like in English, but with the tip of the tongue straight and touching the teeth	*te* ["tea"]
v, w	like in English	*vår* ["spring"], *vínter* ["winter"]
x	as in "exceed" (never as in "example")	*till exémpel* ["for example"]
z	as *s* in sing	"zoo"

One reason that Swedish is so characteristic is the tone, or the pitch accent. This has disappeared in most other Indo-European languages. It is this tone-accent that gives Swedish its typical 'singsong' rhythm. The two pitches (acute/"high" and grave/"low") are not marked in written Swedish, and must be learned by listening to the spoken language.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #2
Basic Vowels

CONTENTS

Grammar

#2

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Swedish Basic Vowels and Diphthongs

Vowels

There are nine vowels: *-a, -e, -i, -o, -u, y, -å, -ä* and *-ö.*

1. *-A*

Pronounced as a long vowel: "a" as in "bar"

For Example:

1. *tála* ["speak," "talk"]
2. *glas* ["glass"]

2. *-E*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel.

Long: as French é (and like "e" in "café");

Short: like "e" in "net"

For Example:

1. *héta* ["to be called"], *se* ["see"]
2. *nej* ["no"]

3. *-I*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel.

Long: like "ee" in "keep";

Short: like "i" in "pit"

For Example;

1. *kniv* ["knife"]
2. *spríngа* ["(to) run"], *tímme* ["hour"]

4. *-O*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel, with exceptions.

Long A: as "oo" in "tool" (normal);

Long B: as o in "fore" (exception);

Short A: as "o" in "not";

Short B: (a short version of long A)

For Example:

1. *stol* ["chair"]
2. *moln* ["cloud"]
3. *kopp* ["cup"]
4. *ost* ["cheese"]

5. *-U*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel.

Long: somewhat similar to "u" in "rude";

Short: (no equivalent in English)

For Example

1. *ut* ["out"];
2. *under* ["under"]

6. *-Y*

Similar to the French u and German ü

For Example:

1. *dyr* ["expensive"]
2. *mycket* ["much"]

7. *-Å*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel.

Long: close to "o" in "fore";

Short: like "o" in "yonder"

For Example:

1. *språk* ["language"]
2. *ålder* ["age"]

8. *-Ä*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel.

Long: like "ai" in "fair";

Short: as "e" in "best"

For Example:

1. *bära* ["(to) carry"]
2. *vän* ["friend"]

9. *-Ö*

Can be pronounced as a long or short vowel, with exceptions.

Long A: as "eu" in the French "deux";

Long B (before an *r*): like "u" in "fur";

Short: like "e" in "her" (unstressed: tell her!)

For Example:

1. *röd* ["red"]
2. *kö´ra* ["(to) drive"]
3. *sö´nder* ["broken," "in pieces")

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #3 Swedish Intonation

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

3

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Intonation

Unlike most other modern Indo-European languages, but like some of the older ones, Swedish also has a tonal, or pitch, accent. Only two levels are distinguished, "high" and "low". (Although one might argue that the unstressed syllables have a third, "middle", level.) Non-Swedish speakers sometimes say that it has a singing tone to it.

The high and low pitches of words are not marked in the written Swedish language, but are better learned by listening to the language.

Stress in Swedish falls generally on the first syllable of the word

1. *talar* ("speak, talk")

2. *Snälla* ("Please")

For words beginning with a prefix (be-, för, etc...) the stress will fall on the second syllable.

1. *Före* (before)

2. *Olycka* (accident)

And finally, for words of French origin, the stress falls on the final syllable (paraply, fåtölj, etc...)

1. Affär (store, shop)

2. *Paraply* (Umbrella)

3. *Fåtölj* *(armchair)*

Often, pronouncing a word with the wrong pitch will sound odd, but not cause any misunderstandings. There is a vague general tendency towards interpreting bisyllabic words with an initial high pitch as nouns, while words with a initial low pitch "feels" more like verbs.

1. Kaffe (noun, Coffee)

2. Betala (verb, pay)

3. Söndag (noun, Sunday)

4. Komma (verb, to come)

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #4 Regional Pronunciation

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

4

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Regional Variations of Swedish Pronunciation Found in South, Central and Northern Sweden.

Contrary to the situation with Danish or Finnish, there is not a uniform nation-wide spoken Standard Swedish. Instead there are several regional standard varieties. Within Sweden, actors, singers and TV-personalities are often advised to "neutralize" their dialects by assimilating Central (Svealand) Swedish pronunciation.

Every region in Sweden has its own dialect, even if you only travel ten kilometres you will be able to hear a difference in pronunciation. This is only a introduction to a couple of irregularities that can be heard from south to northern Sweden.

Central Standard Swedish

Standard Swedish, used by most Swedish people, is the national language that evolved from the Central Swedish dialects in the 19th century and was well established by the beginning of the 20th century. Some dialects differ considerably from the standard language in grammar and vocabulary and are not always mutually intelligible with Standard Swedish. These dialects are confined to rural areas and are spoken primarily by small numbers of people with low social mobility. Though not facing imminent extinction, such dialects have been in decline during the past century, despite the fact that they are well researched and their use is often encouraged by local authorities.

Southern Sweden, Scanian

The most widespread dialect in Southern Sweden is the "Skånska." The melody of this dialect resembles to the melody in Danish and is typical of Southern Sweden.

The most obvious difference from other Swedish dialect are the "r" sounds that don't have the typical rolling sound but a uvular trill. While the general vocabulary in modern Scanian does not differ considerably from Standard Swedish, a few specifically Scanian words still exist which are known in all of Scania, occurring frequently among a majority of the speakers.

Instead of saying *flicka* ("girl") or *pojke* ("boy") someone from Southern Sweden might say *tös* or *påg*.

Northern Sweden

Every region is Sweden has it own variations on how to pronunciation words and letters, and where to put the intonation in words. Northern Sweden has a relaxed approach to pronunciation; it might even be seen as being pronounced very slowly. The pronunciation of *L* is different, in northern Sweden it is pronounced thicker and with a more relaxed tongue movement. Many of the consonants will be softened and not have as a clear break. Similar to other western dialects, the endings of words are often cut off, for example *Han springer* ("he runs") becomes *han spring*.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #5
Five common pronunciation mistakes

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

5

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Five Most Common Mistakes People Make When They Pronounce Swedish.

#1: Remember to Trill Your "-R's"!

Remember that in Swedish, we don not pronounce the letter *-R* in the same way as it is in English. We trill it much like the "-rr" in Spanish. One of the ways that people can automatically detect a foreign accent over the phone is by the way you pronounce this particular sound. Move your tongue forward and make it sharper. Remember, this is for standard Swedish.

#2: Remember the Intonation!

Don't forget the intonation! A Swedish sentence can sometimes sound more "singing" than English. Intonation is more important than people know, when it comes to sounding like you know a language.

#3: The difference between long and short vowels.

The length of a vowel might be different in words that are otherwise the same. For example, it might be dfficult to pronounce *brun* ("brown") and *brunn* ("well," as in water hole) with correct length.

#4: Sound!

In general, American sounds are "thicker" (a little like the difference between British and American). If words seem to be pronounced exactly the same (e.g. *stol* vs "stool"), it's good to remember this. Even when it's the same, there is almost always the difference of thickness.

#5: Recognize the letters *Å, Ä, Ö*!

Do not pronounce the three last letters of the Swedish alphabet (*Å, Ä, Ö*) as if they are different versions of A and O. They are not, they are letters of their own, and it will naturally alter the meaning of a word if you alter the pronunciation.

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Intro
1 Self Introduction in Swedish
2 Talking Nationality in Swedish
3 Useful Phrases for Learning Swedish
4 Counting from 1-100 in Swedish
5 Counting from 100-1,000,000 in Swedish
6 History of The Swedish Language and Top 5 Reasons to Learn Swedish
7 The Swedish Writing System
8 Painless Swedish Grammar
9 Swedish Pronunciation Made EASY
10 Top 5 Most Common Swedish Phrases
11 Top 5 Swedish Things to Know About Sweden
12 Top 5 Swedish Foods
13 Top 5 Things You Need To Know About Swedish Society
14 Top 5 Dates During the Calendar Year
15 Top 5 Things You Need to Know About Swedish Pop-Culture
16 Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Swedish
17 Top 5 Tips for Avoiding Common Mistakes in Swedish
18 Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You
19 Top 5 Most Useful Phrases for Learning Swedish
20 Top 5 Useful Swedish Phrases from Your Hosts
21 Basic Native Consonant Sounds
22 Basic Vowels
23 Swedish Intonation
24 Regional Pronunciation
25 Five common pronunciation mistakes

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