

Norwegian is a Scandinavian language of the Germanic branch of Indo-European and is spoken by about 5 million people. Within Norway there is a division between two official languages "Bokmål" and "Nynorsk". Bokmål developed from contact with Danish between the 14th and early 19th century when Norway was part of Denmark and Danish was the official written and spoken language. Formally, Bokmål differs little from Danish. Nynorsk on the other hand is a somewhat artificial construction that was asserted as the national language of Norway during Norway's independence movement. It is based on rural dialects of Norwegian that remained less affected by Danish because of their distance from urban centers. Although Nynorsk and Bokmål hold equal legal status in Norway, only about 17% of Norwegians speak Nynorsk as their mother-tongue and its use in the media reflects this ratio.

The speaker in this recording is a male in his thirties from Drammen, Norway.

#### Nynorsk Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p	t		k	
	b	d		g	
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	ç	h
	v				
Nasals:	m	n		ŋ	
Liquids:		l r			
Glides:			j	w	

All consonants become long when gemminated. [ç] was not exhibited in this sample. The flap is devoiced in some environments.

#### Nynorsk Vowel Phonemes:

i y    u    u  
 e ø    ə    o  
 ɛ            ɔ  
           a

#### Vowels Encountered:

i y            ɔ u  
 ɪ            ʊ  
 e ø    ə    o  
 ɛ            ɔ  
 æ    a    ɑ

Vowel length is contrastive and vowels may be allophonically nasal.

#### Tones:

There are two pitch contours distinguished in Norwegian: a rising tone ([ˀ]) and a falling-rising tone ([ˆ]).

I. Spontaneous SpeechII. Word ListsPitch Contrasts:

1.	[jéme]	'the home'
2.	[jěme]	'at home'
3.	[bá:mə]	'the bathroom'
4.	[bá:mɛ]	'bathe'
5.	[ámɛn]	'amen'
6.	[ǎmən]	'the wet-nurse'
7.	[bøneɾ]	'peasants'
8.	[bøneɾ]	'beans'
9.	[būn:øn]	'tied'
10.	[búnən]	'the bottom'
11.	[dúre]	'the animal'
12.	[dǔre]	'expensive'
13.	[hǒre]	'the hair'
14.	[hó:reʔ]	'hairy'
15.	[lǔmən]	'the pocket'
16.	[lúmən]	'the loon'
17.	[svá:lɛʔ]	'the balcony'
18.	[svá:lɛʔ]	'the swallow'
19.	[ǔlən]	'woolly'
20.	[úlən]	'the wool'
21.	[jé:geɾ]	a name
22.	[jǎ:geɾ]	'hunter'
23.	[møleɾ]	'miller'
24.	[møleɾ]	a name
25.	[bæ:r]	'I carry'
26.	[bǎ:r]	'carrier'
27.	[légr]	'(I) lay'
28.	[lǎgr]	'calves'
29.	[lø:pɛɾ]	'(I) run'
30.	[lø:pɛɾ]	'runner'
31.	[lě:sɛɾ]	'reader'
32.	[lǎ:sɛɾ]	'I read'
33.	[pí:pɛɾ]	'I pipe'
34.	[pǐ:pɛɾ]	'pipes'
35.	[skri:veɾ]	'penman'
36.	[skri:veɾ]	'I write'

Vowel Length Contrasts:

1.	[vi:n]	'wine'
2.	[vɪn]	'wind'
3.	[spisə]	'sharpen'
4.	[spi:sə]	'eat'

5.	[bre:]	'broad'
6.	[he:t]	'hot'
7.	[brend]	'breadth'
8.	[ve:]	'wood'
9.	[əret:]	'right'
10.	[fæ:drə]	'fathers'
11.	[flet]	'even'
12.	[stæ:dəŋ]	'cities'
13.	[fərd]	'journey'
14.	[bæ:re]	'to bear'
15.	[værk:]	'work'
16.	[næ:r]	'near'
17.	[tak:]	'thanks'
18.	[ta:k]	'ceiling'
19.	[had]	'had'
20.	[hɑ:d]	'hate'
21.	[grø:]	'grey'
22.	[grət]	'grey' (neutral)
23.	[hɑ:ŋ]	'hard'
24.	[hɑ:t]	'hard' (neutral)
25.	[bøk]	'he-goat'
26.	[ho:p]	'bunch'
27.	[skø:g]	'forest'
28.	[toŋ]	'heavy'
29.	[gy:d]	'God'
30.	[gøt]	'boy'
31.	[hu:l]	'hollow'
32.	[hul]	'hole'
33.	[bruz:d]	'bride'
34.	[brød]	'breach'

### References:

- Cambell, George L. 1991. *Compendium of the World's Languages*. New York: Routledge Press.
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- Popperwell, R.G. 1963. *The Pronunciation of Norwegian*. New York: Cambridge University Press.