

**Author: Babette Newsome** Norwegian is a Germanic language spoken by over 5 million people; it is one of the official languages of Norway.

## The Norwegian Problem / A Norwegian Problem - Norwegian Problems / The Norwegian Problems?Y

a. The Norwegian sentences and their English translations have been mixed up. Match the correct English translation to its Norwegian counterpart.

You could start this by counting the repeated words / phrases in English / Norwegian e.g. Jeg (4 times), I have (4 times) = a match.

1. Bussen stanser her.	a. A woman has the apple.
2. Jeg har en bil.	b. I have an apple.
3. Bilen stanser her.	c. The bus stops here.
4. Jeg har eplet.	d. The woman has cars.
5. Jeg har et eple.	e. The car stops here.
6. En kvine har eplet.	f. I have buses.
7. Kvina har biler.	g. The woman has the cars.
8. Kvina har bilene.	h. I have the apple.
9. Jeg har busser.	i. The women stop here.
10. Kvinnene stanser her.	j. I have a car.

Or this Method: Let's make a table of the words we are looking for:

	a(n) sing	the sing	(bare) plur	the plur
woman	a	d,g		i
apple	b	a,h		
bus		c	f	
car	j	e	d	
I	b,f,h			

This should allow you to match them up:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
c	j	e	h	b	a	d	g	f	i

So let's now fill in the Norwegian forms in the table

	a(n) sing	the sing	(bare) plur	the plur
woman	en kvine	kvina		kvinnene
apple	et eple	eplet		
bus		bussen	busser	
car	en bil	bilen	biler	bilene

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b. Nouns in Norwegian can belong to one of three classes: Common (masculine-feminine), Feminine, or Neuter. The class determines how the noun can be used with determiners (words such as “the”, “a”, “an”) and be made plural. The nouns you encountered above are all regular and feature examples of all three classes:

Norwegian noun	Noun Class
kvine	Feminine
bil	Common
eple	Neuter

With this new information, let’s add some rules to the table:

	a(n) sing	the sing	(bare) plur	the plur
X (FEM)	en X	change final -e to -a		change -e to -ene
Y (NEUT)	et Y	add -t		
Z (COMMON)	en Z	add -en	add -er	add -ene

Here are some more regular Norwegian nouns:

Norwegian noun	Class	English Translation
jente	Feminine	girl
hund	Common	dog
hotel	Neuter	hotel

Now, translate the following into Norwegian:

11. A bus stops here. = **en bus stanser her** [assume *bus* is same class as *car*]
12. A girl has a hotel. = **en jente har et hotel**
13. I have the dogs. = **jeg har hundene**
14. The girl has dogs. = **jenta har hunder**

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c. Here is a little more Norwegian vocabulary without any information about the classes the slightly irregular nouns belong to.

Norwegian word	English translation
sko	shoe
mann	man
ikke	not

With what you have learnt about Norwegian nouns, translate the following sentences from Norwegian into English:

15. Mennene har epler. = **The men have apples**
16. Kvina har ikke skoene. = **The woman does not have the shoes**
17. Jeg har ikke eplene. = **I don't have the apples**
18. Hunden har skoen. = **The dog has the shoe**