

**OUTLINES OF NORWEGIAN  
GRAMMAR, WITH EXERCISES;  
BEING A HELP TOWARDS  
ACQUIRING A PRACTICAL  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE**

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Outlines of Norwegian Grammar, with Exercises; Being a Help Towards Acquiring a Practical Knowledge of the Language by J. Y. Sargent

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by

J. Y. SARGENT, M.A.

FELLOW OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.



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## CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. The Letters and their Pronunciation . . . . .	1
Exercise on the Letters . . . . .	3
II. The Articles . . . . .	5
Exercise on the Articles . . . . .	6
III. Nouns Substantive—Gender, Number, Case . . . . .	9
Exercise on the Nouns Substantive . . . . .	13
IV. Adjectives—Declension . . . . .	15
Exercise on the Declension of Adjectives . . . . .	17
V. Adjectives—Comparison . . . . .	19
Exercise on the Comparison of Adjectives . . . . .	20
VI. The Numerals . . . . .	21
Exercise on the Numerals . . . . .	23
VII. Pronouns . . . . .	24
Exercise on the Pronouns . . . . .	26
VIII. Verbs—their Conjugations, with Exercise . . . . .	29
List of Verbs, showing their Inflections . . . . .	35
Exercise on the Verbs . . . . .	39
IX. The Particles—Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions . . . . .	41
Exercise on the Particles . . . . .	43
List of Phrases and Idiomatic Expressions . . . . .	45
Miscellaneous Exercises in Translation and Composition . . . . .	52
Extracts from the Norwegian—Prose . . . . .	61
—Verse . . . . .	64

## PREFACE.

THE aim of the following work is to supply a want which has been felt by the Author himself, in common with most English travellers in Scandinavia. There are no books to help one in acquiring a practical knowledge of the Norwegian language. By Norwegian is here meant the ordinary language of the country extending from Christiansand and Christiania in the south to Hammerfest in the north; the country most frequented by English travellers and sportsmen. It has been customary to call this language by the name of Danish; and in fact the differences, which are chiefly of dialect and pronunciation, are scarcely enough to constitute them two distinct languages. For our purpose they may be looked upon as one. The grammatical forms are identical, and the vocabulary the same in the main. But the term Norwegian seems more appropriate than Danish to the present work, especially since the publication of Ivar Aasen's "Norsk Grammatik," in which he claims for his countrymen a national language, and a right to call their grammar Norwegian instead of Danish. Rask's Danish Grammar, which has been freely used in constructing the following rules, is too prolix for that class of persons, yearly increasing, who would qualify themselves to be their own interpreters in the country. The reader of that valuable work, left to generalize for himself, finds it no easy task to pick out those points which for his purpose are necessary to be remembered. On the other hand, he who has been enthusiastic enough to

learn by heart the dialogues usual in Conversational Manuals, is still unable to venture beyond their limited formulas, and finds himself at a loss to originate a grammatical sentence. The organic likeness of the Norsk to the English which renders it apparently easy to our countrymen, by inducing them to throw off the shackles of grammar, gives rise to a slipshod manner of expression and pronunciation which excites the surprise of educated Norwegians. It is the aim of this Introduction to furnish, in as brief and explicit a form as possible, the means of laying a secure foundation, the superstructure of which may be completed by reading the literature or conversing with the inhabitants of the country. The Author has endeavoured to give so much grammatical information as may be necessary, and no more. The rules are illustrated by Examples, and followed by Exercises, intended to impress them on the student's memory at each step, and at the same time to enable him to make the knowledge his own by affording an immediate occasion of applying it. A work of this kind cannot of course supersede the dictionary; but the list of words at the foot of each Exercise will, it is hoped, render it self-sufficing. With a view to practical usefulness, care has been taken to select the examples from the circle of common wants and topics. The curious minuteness of the student of comparative philology could not be consulted in so brief a treatise. As it is the first attempt of the kind in English it may be open to improvement; as it is the only one it cannot fail to be useful.



## CHAPTER I.

### THE ALPHABET.

Character.		Names.		Sound.
Norse.	English.	Spelt.	Pronounced.	
À	A a	A	Ah	= $\tilde{a}$ in <i>father</i> , <i>maxim</i> .
Ð	B b	Be	Bey	= <i>b</i> .
Ɔ	C c	Ce	Cey	= <i>s</i> and <i>k</i> , as in English.
Ð	D d	De	Dey	= <i>d</i> .
Ɔ	E e	E	Ey	= <i>e</i> in <i>set</i> , <i>a</i> in <i>ape</i> .
Ɔ	F f	Eff	Eff	= <i>f</i> .
Ɔ	G g	Ge	Gay	= <i>g</i> in <i>go</i> , <i>give</i> .
Ɔ	H h	Haa	Haw	= <i>h</i> , but mute before <i>j</i> and <i>v</i> .
Ɔ	I i	I	Ee	= <i>ee</i> in <i>steel</i> , <i>i</i> in <i>still</i> .
Ɔ	J j	Iod	Yod	= <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i> .
Ɔ	K k	Kaa	Kaw	= <i>k</i> and <i>ch</i> .
Ɔ	L l	El	El	= <i>l</i> .
Ɔ	M m	Em	Em	= <i>m</i> .
Ɔ	N n	En	En	= <i>n</i> .
Ð	O o	O	O	= $\tilde{o}$ in <i>hope</i> , <i>hop</i> , <i>move</i> .
Ɔ	P p	Pe	Pay	= <i>p</i> .
Ɔ	Q q	Ku	Koo	= <i>q</i> .
Ɔ	R r	Er	Err	= <i>r</i> .
Ɔ	S s	Es	Ess	= <i>s</i> hard, as in <i>sing</i> .
Ɔ	T t	Te	Tey	= <i>t</i> and <i>tz</i> .
u	U u	U	Oo	= $\tilde{oo}$ in <i>food</i> , <i>foot</i> .

Character.		Names.		Sound.
Normc.	English.	Spelt.	Pronounced.	
Ø	v	V	v	= v in <i>vow</i> , w in <i>owl</i> .
		Ve	Vey	
Æ	x	X	x	= x hard.
		Eks	Eks	
Ÿ	y	Y	y	= u French, ú German, or Scotch <i>ui</i> in <i>muir</i> .
		Y	U	
Ɔ	z	Z	z	= z.
Æ	æ	Æ	æ	= <u>ai</u> in <i>sail</i> , <i>said</i> .
Ɔ	ø	Ø	ø	= ø German, i in <i>sir</i> .

## REMARKS ON THE LETTERS.

- ʌ = a in *wall*; o in *throne*. Ex. *Staat*, good health (pron. *skaal*). *ſaab*, hope (pron. *hoab*).  
 ɔ final after another consonant in the same syllable is mute, and has the effect of shortening the vowel: thus *ſand*, water, *ſib*, fire, *fielb*, mountain, *ſaand*, hand, are pronounced *vann*, *ill*, *fyell*, *hoan*. It is also mute before *ſt*, *ſr*, *t*, as *bebſt*, best, *ſtybe*, conveyance (pron. *beſt*, *ſchyuſſ*).  
 Ɔ long and short. *meget*, much (pron. *meget*). As a final ſyllable its ſound approaches that of the ſhort *e* in *the*; e. g. *ſpiſe* (*ſpees-e*), eat. After a vowel at the end of a word *e* is mute, as *nye Klæder*, new clothes (pron. *nee clayder*).  
 Ɔe = a in *crane*. Ex. *peen*, pretty (pr. *pane*).  
 Ɔi = ay. Ex. *nei*, nay.  
 Ɔ g is mute before j in the ſame ſyllable, as *gjelb*, debt (pron. *yell*); and in ſuch words as *ſogn*, a carriage (pron. *vogn*). It is ſounded like *y*; before n in ſome words, as *ſegn*, rain, pronounced like the English word; in the termination *ig*,—ex. *teffelig*, charming (pron. *tekkely*); and in *jeg*, I (pron. *yey*).  
 Ɔ i = ey in the pronouns *mig*, *dig*, *fig* (pron. *mei*, *dei*, *sey*).  
 Ɔ i = y, as *ſorb*, earth (pr. *yore*).

- Ɔ  $t = oh$ , when it precedes  $j$ ,  $i$ , or  $y$ ; ex. *Kjøb*, meat (pron. *chyud*). This softening of the  $t$  is not considered elegant, but appears to be universal. There is a tendency in Norwegian to insert the  $y$  sound after  $t$  and  $g$ , where it does not appear in Danish, and at the same time to soften the consonants. Thus Danish *kæmpe*, champion, becomes in Norse *kjæmpe* (pron. *kyempe* or *chemp*; *gienskjende*, recognize, is pron. *ghenkende* in Danish, but *yenkyende* in Norse. So *kjetman* becomes in English *chapman*: and there is an analogous tendency in some dialects to pronounce garden, *gyarden*, guardian, *gyardian*.
- Ɔ  $o = \bar{o}$  in *repose*,  $\bar{o}$  in *lot*, and sometimes  $o$  in *move*, as *flød*, *stood* (pron. *stōde*); *flød*, waterfall (*fōss*); *sko*, shoe (pron. *sko*); *to*, two (pron. *too*).
- Ɔ  $t = sh$ , before  $j$ ,  $i$ ,  $g$ ; ex. *Skjert*, petticoat (pron. *shirt*); *Skjæg*, beard (pron. *shæg*). The Danes pronounce the  $t$  hard in all these cases.
- Ɔ  $ti = tzi$  in words of foreign origin, as *Station*, station.

Obs. In Swedish the Roman letters are used: in Danish and Norse, the Gothic or German, and all nouns are spelt with a capital initial letter.

### 1. EXERCISE.—ON PRONUNCIATION.

- Jeg tvivler ikke* (pron. *yey twæler ikke*), I doubt not.  
*Drukten af Biin* (*av Veen*), drunk with wine.  
*Læt ved Elven* (*let vade elven*), close to the river.  
*Kommer Dampskibet* (*Dampskibet*)? Is the steamer coming?—In Danish the  $t$  is hard.  
*Til Sogne Fjord* (*til Songne Fjord*), to Sogne Fjord.  
*Slaae igjen* (*slow iyen*), to hit back, return a blow.  
*han rider gjerne*, he is fond of riding.  
*Gjæstgivergaard* (*Yestyivergoar*), an inn.  
*En snild Karl* (*en snil karl*), a nice fellow.