

**ELEMENTARY SWEDISH  
GRAMMAR, COMBINED WITH  
EXERCISES, READING LESSONS  
AND CONVERSATIONS**

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Elementary Swedish Grammar, Combined with Exercises, Reading Lessons and Conversations  
by Henri Fort

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**HENRI FORT**

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METHOD GASPEY-OTTO-SAUER.

ELEMENTARY  
SWEDISH GRAMMAR

COMBINED WITH

EXERCISES, READING LESSONS AND CONVERSATIONS

BY

HENRI FORT.



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1900.

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*Julius Groos.*

## Preface.

In writing this «Elementary Swedish Grammar» the author has strictly followed the same plan and arrangement as in the other grammars of the well known «Method Gaspey-Otto-Sauer», as he is fully convinced that this is the best method for enabling anyone to acquire a practical and thorough knowledge of the language in the least possible time.

Without entering into many details which would be quite out of place in an elementary book of this kind, it is impossible to give an exact transcription of all the sounds peculiar to the Swedish language. The learner should therefore remember that the pronunciation given between brackets is only approximate.

Special care has been devoted to the declensions and irregular (strong) verbs which present so many difficulties to foreigners.

The author has tried to make the book as serviceable as possible and he hopes that it will be found very useful to those who begin to learn the Swedish language alone or under the tuition of a teacher. In conclusion he has much pleasure in thanking Professor J. Wright of Oxford for much valuable advice and for his great kindness in reading the proofs of the English part.

Châteauneuf s/Ch<sup>te</sup>.

Henri Fort.

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## Pronunciation.

### § I. The alphabet.

1. The Swedish alphabet consists of 29 letters, which are represented and named as follow:

Character.	Name.	Character.	Name.
<i>A</i>	<i>a</i> ah	<i>P</i>	<i>p</i> pay
<i>B</i>	<i>b</i> bay	<i>Q</i>	<i>q</i> kû (French q)
<i>C</i>	<i>c</i> say	<i>R</i>	<i>r</i> err
<i>D</i>	<i>d</i> day	<i>S</i>	<i>s</i> ess
<i>E</i>	<i>e</i> a	<i>T</i>	<i>t</i> tay
<i>F</i>	<i>f</i> eff	<i>U</i>	<i>u</i> u (French u <sup>2</sup> )
<i>G</i>	<i>g</i> yay	<i>V</i>	<i>v</i> vay
<i>H</i>	<i>h</i> oh	<i>W</i>	<i>w</i> <sup>1</sup> vay
<i>I</i>	<i>i</i> e	<i>X</i>	<i>x</i> ex
<i>J</i>	<i>j</i> yee	<i>Y</i>	<i>y</i> u (French u <sup>2</sup> )
<i>K</i>	<i>k</i> koh	<i>Z</i>	<i>z</i> saytah
<i>L</i>	<i>l</i> ell	<i>Å</i>	<i>å</i> awe
<i>M</i>	<i>m</i> emm	<i>Ä</i>	<i>ä</i> ai (in pair)
<i>N</i>	<i>n</i> enn	<i>Ö</i>	<i>ö</i> eu (French eu <sup>2</sup> ).
<i>O</i>	<i>o</i> o (in good)		

2. Of these letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, *y*, *å*, *ä* and *ö* are vowels and the others are consonants.

- a*, *å*, *o* and *u* are called hard vowels.
- e*, *i*, *ä*, *ö* and *y* are called soft vowels.
- å*, *ä* and *ö* are called modified vowels.
- a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* and *y* are called simple vowels.

<sup>1</sup> *W* occurs only in a few names of persons, towns and countries etc.

<sup>2</sup> See the following chapter.

## § 2. Pronunciation of the letters.

### I. Vowels.

#### 1. A.

Swedish *A* has two different sounds:

1. It is pronounced like «a» in «father» when long.  
Ex.: *skada* (skahda), damage.
2. It is pronounced like «a» in «lad» when short.  
Ex.: *vacker* (vacker), beautiful.

#### 2. E.

This letter is pronounced like:

1. «ai» in «sail» when long.  
Ex.: *felet* (falett), the mistake.
2. «e» in «smelt» when short.  
Ex.: *penna* (penna), pen.

#### 3. I.

The vowel *I* is pronounced like:

1. «ee» in «see» in long syllables.  
Ex.: *ptga* (peega), maid.
2. «i» in «thick» in short syllables.  
Ex.: *minska* (minska), to decrease.

#### 4. O.

a) Swedish *o* has a double sound when short.

1. it has the *o* sound of the word «bog» that is, an open sound.  
Ex.: *lock* (lock), curl; *docka* (docka), doll.
2. and a close sound like «o» in «bore».  
Ex.: *konung* (konoong), king; *hof* (hofs), court.

b) When long Swedish *o* is pronounced like «oo» in «soon»:

1. at the beginning of a word when forming a syllable of its own.  
Ex.: *obekant* (oobeykant), unknown; *obehag* (oobeyhag), annoyance.
2. at the end of a syllable.  
Ex.: *broder* (brooder), brother; *kvitto* (kvitto), receipt.

3. in many monosyllables (with ' a short vowel) = German u in „bumm“.

Ex.: *bord* (board), table; *ost* (oost), cheese.

#### 5. U.

This letter has in Swedish two different sounds.

- a) It is pronounced like «oo» in «room»:

1. before a double consonant.

Ex.: *stund* (stoond), moment; *kunder* (koonder), customers.

- b) It is pronounced like French «u» in «pur, dur»:

1. before a single consonant.

Ex.: *Gud* (gud), God; *hus* (hus), house.

2. at the end of a syllable.

Ex.: *bjuda* (beeüda), to invite; *ljuda* (yüda), to sound.

Note. The sound of Swedish «u» as described under b) is a sound peculiar to the Swedish language and has no equivalent in English. It is not unlike French u in «pur» and German ü in „führen“.

#### 6. Y.

Swedish y has:

1. a long and close sound like French «u» in «dune, perdu».

Ex.: *fyra* (füra), four; *rymd* (rümd), space.

2. a short and open sound like French «u» in «lustre, rustre».

Ex.: *syster* (süster), sister; *rygg* (rüg), back.

NB. The note under 5. U applies also to Swedish y.

#### 7. Å.

Swedish Å is pronounced:

1. like «oa» in «care» when long.

Ex.: *fråga* (frohga), to ask; *plåga* (plohga), pain.

2. like «a» in «fall» when short.

Ex.: *säll* (sall), sieve; *hållet* (hallet), the hole.

#### 8. Ä

is pronounced in two different ways:

1. as «a» in «care» when long.

Ex.: *bära* (bara), to carry.

2. as «e» in «den» when short.

Ex.: *värme* (verme), warmth.