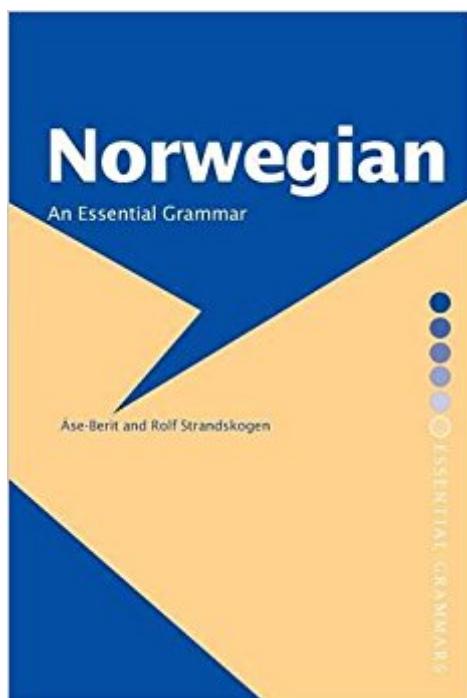


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# Norwegian: An Essential Grammar (Routledge Essential Grammars)



## **Synopsis**

Norwegian: An Essential Grammar is a reference guide to the most important aspects of contemporary Norwegian as used by native speakers. The Grammar presents a fresh and accessible description of the language. Explanations are clear, free from jargon and often accompanied by exercises. The book gives a simple, step-by-step presentation of the grammatical systems of Norwegian and demonstrates and explains usages which have proved difficult for those learning the language in the past. It is clearly laid-out for easy reference making it accessible for those at a beginner/intermediate level. This is the ideal reference source for all learners, whether studying independently or in a class.

## **Book Information**

Series: Routledge Essential Grammars

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (December 22, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415109795

ISBN-13: 978-0415109796

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #753,933 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > German #1989 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference > Instruction #5824 in Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Foreign Language Dictionaries & Thesauruses

## **Customer Reviews**

"This is an excellent dictionary, prepared with all the attention a good lexicographer pays to every detail and with all the typographical differentiation of various categories of information." - "Language and Linguistics, 1996

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Norwegian

As I already speak Swedish I wanted this grammar book to make comparisons because I am about to learn Norwegian. I'm most of the way through the book. So far it's clear and concise and makes

sense. If this had been my first attempt at learning a Scandinavian language, I probably wouldn't start by devouring a grammar book. It was just that it came before the other books I had ordered.

Excellent format, organization and clear explanations!

To read the full review, you can go to my Wordpress blog, "SpoiledMilks." Learning a new language is exhausting. Reading, writing, listening, recognizing, speaking – it will make you tired, frustrated, and overwhelmed. You don't understand the road signs, you can't tell if your neighbor is a gentleman or a shyster, and when you try to relax with some TV, even the children shows seem to be mocking you. Åse-Berit and Rolf Strandskogen are professors at the University of Oslo, Norway, and they teach Norwegian as a foreign language. Thankfully, from their experience has come a book for us foreigners (utlanders). Outline! Parts of

SpeechVerbsArticlesNounsAdjectivesAdverbsPronounsConjunctionsInterjectionsNumeralsPrepositionsII Sentence ElementsIII Sentence StructureIV Word OrderWhy is this book important?Test Case: PrepositionsYou don't think much about prepositions until you have to learn another language. In Norwegian, the word *om* means "about" in English. So the phrase *Boka handler om en stor hval* would mean "The book is about a great whale." Yet propositions are tricky. In English, you can sit in a chair or you can sit on a chair, but books always go in a bookcase and on a shelf. Or, you were born in 1990 on July 4th. You wouldn't say you were born on 1990 in July 4th. That sounds wrong, and when you hear a foreigner mix up their prepositions you know they're either still new to the country, or they have a ways to go in the English language (unfortunately, this fault is also found with many Americans themselves). But in order to impress your Norwegian neighbors and family, learn your prepositions (and everything else for that matter). So what about Norwegian? The word *om* doesn't always mean "about." *om* means "in order to" or "for the purpose of." For example, *Jeg skal på ferie om to uker* means "I am going on vacation in two weeks." It does not mean "I am going on vacation about two weeks." If you don't know any better, hearing this in a sentence will throw you off, and you will lose precious words in the conversation leaving you wondering why everyone except for you is nodding their heads. Reading this book as you continue in your Norsk immersion will help you to

nod your head and laugh right along with everyone else, and [as well as] it will help you avoid sitting in a corner alone eating the rest of the lefse at the next juletrefest. The grammar and terms in which the book is written was surprisingly easier than I thought it would be. I could actually understand the grammar the authors were explaining. This is essential in a grammar book. It is a huge help to be able to read this book and understand how the grammar works without needing a teacher to explain it to you (though if you *are* living in Norway and learning Norwegian, you will probably need go to through a language course. However, reading this book will put you much farther ahead than if you began school without any prior knowledge of the language). The authors not only provide many examples, but they also provide plenty of subtle, idiomatic phrases.

You *will* never need another Norwegian grammar (though others would be beneficial as well). Section I (which is made up of 10 parts) is 169 pages. Each piece is filled with explanations, examples, and comments. Sections II-IV are only a few pages long each, but they *are* essential. What goes first in a sentence? Why? Where do the adjectives go? Adverbs? Time references? All are essential to becoming a pro at reading, hearing, writing, and speaking Norwegian. Recommended? The *Stranskogen* is aim has been to provide the non-Norwegian with a *simple, step-by-step presentation of the grammatical rules and systems of Norwegian* (Preface). It is a *practical guide to modern Norwegian as it is used in an every day context* (Preface). Grammar is essential to learning a foreign language, and this book is essential if you are learning on your own, if you want to be ahead in class, or if you just want to understand what your mail says. And for me, if I ever want to be able to express the gospel to anyone, it *is* best to learn their mother tongue or else I *will* be just another American with wacky ideas. You *won't* want to have only this book on hand. While slowly working through this book you should also be going through workbooks such as *Norwegian in 10 Minutes a Day*, *Teach Yourself Norwegian*, and *Colloquial Norwegian*. A good website is also *Norwegian on the Web*.

This is a great resource, especially for those that are in the beginnings of learning the proper usage of the Norwegian language. I have used it as a guide many many times. It is written in a very good manner - easy to understand for all, not just for experts in the world of grammar. There is still much I could learn from a more thorough reading through of the entire book, but I have used it to look up specific things I am trying to understand and it has done a great job at explaining what I need to know!

The grammar content is exactly what I needed, but this edition is poorly printed. The text was scanned rather than typed and on some pages this is distracting as well as too light to read comfortably. A few of the charts are also slightly over-enlarged and some of the text is cut off. The formatting is also awkward and could be improved with more line spacing and indentations. It's okay, but I had higher expectations. It reminds me of the photocopied handouts I used to get in school. If not for these complaints, I would give the book 4-5 stars based on the grammar covered.

Barely see the words. Wonder if it's the copyright. Hope someone can give me an reply. 30 bucks and this qualityÃƒÂÃÃÃÃÃ,

I've been learning Norwegian for a little bit and this book is hands-down one of the most useful things I've ever seen for language study. It's very direct, minimizes jargon, provides a ton of examples, never assumes you know more than you probably should, it's just fantastic. It's technical enough for people who understand formal grammar well, and simple enough for people who don't have as much of that background. This book belongs on the shelf of every Norwegian language learner, without a doubt. It's a shame every language doesn't have a guide-book like this one, it would have cut my time learning Spanish and Portuguese by quite a bit.

It is a very thorough grammar book for studying Norwegian.

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