

Proposed Grammar of Folksprak

I. Alphabet and Orthography

Alphabet:

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V Y

Pronunciation:

Consonants: B, D, H, K, L, M, N, P, S, T, V as in English. F as in English “fish”. G as in English “go”, never as in English “age”. J as in German J or English Y.

Vowels: Vowels are pronounced either long or short. A vowel is long when it is: a) stressed, and b) followed by no more than a single consonant. All other vowels are pronounced short. A long as in English “father”, short as in English “wasp”. E long as in English “ate”, short as in English “bet”. I long as in English “machine”, short as in English “sit”. O long as in English “old”, short as in English “broke”. U long as in English “tune”, short as in English “full”. Y long as in Swedish “dyr”, short as in Swedish “lyfta”.

There are also four diphthongs, AU, EU, AI and EI. AU as in German “Haus”. EU as in German “Europa”. AI as in English “aisle” or German “Mai”. EI as in Afrikaans “Mei” or English “May”.

Most words are stressed on the first syllable. Those beginning with unstressed prefixes, such as ge-, for-, fer-, be-, un-, etc. are stressed on the second syllable. Articles, conjunctions, prepositions and other function words are usually unstressed.

II. Grammar

Articles: There is a definite and an indefinite article in Folksprak. The definite article is DE and the indefinite article is EN. The articles are both invariable.

Nouns: Nouns in Folksprak inflect for number and possessive case, but not for gender. Plural nouns end with –EN. The possessive, or genitive, case ends with –S.

	Singular	Plural
Common Case	mann	mannen
Genitive Case	manns	mannens

Pronouns: The pronouns in Folksprak inflect for number, case, person and gender.

	1 st Person	2 nd Person	3 rd Person			
			masc.	fem.	neut.	refl.
Nominative Case	ik	du	hi	hir	it	--
Genitive Case	min	din	his	hirs	its	sin
Objective Case	mig	dig	him	hir	it	sig
Nominative Case	vi	ji	dei			
Genitive Case	uns	jurs	deirs			

Objective Case us ju deim

Adjectives: Regular adjectives in Folksprak come before their nouns. Many adjectives end with –IG or –LIG. They inflect for comparative and superlative degree, but not for gender, number or case. The comparative ends with –ER and the superlative ends with –EST.

	Singular
Common Case	de jung mann/de junger mann/de jungest mann
Genitive Case	de jung manns hus/de junger manns hus/de jungest manns hus
	Plural
Common Case	de jung mannen/de junger mannen/de jungest mannen
Genitive Case	de jung mannens hus/de junger mannens hus/de jungest mannens hus

A few adjectives are irregular in comparison, such as god/better/best.

Adjectives may also be used as nouns. Adjectives used as nouns may be formed from the positive, the comparative or the superlative.

de jung (the young one), de junger (the younger one), de jungest (the youngest one)
de jungen (the young ones), de jungeren (the younger ones), de jungesten (the youngest ones)

Verbs: Regular verbs in Folksprak inflect for tense, but not for person, number, voice or mood. Voice and mood are indicated by the use of auxilliary verbs. The infinitive ends with –E. The present tense (and the imperative mood) are indicated by the bare root. The past tense ends with –DE. The active participle ends with –ENDE, and the passive participle ends with –T. The future is formed using VILL + the infinitive. The perfect is formed using HAVE + the past participle. The passive is formed using VARE (to be) + the past participle.

infinitive	present	imperative	preterite	act. part.	pas. part.
have	hav	hav!	havde	havende	havt
future	pres. perf.	past perf.	fut. perf.	pres. pass	pret. pass.
vill have	hav havt	havde havt	vill have havt	ar havt	var havt
fut. pass.					
vill have havt					

The verb VARE (to be) is irregular, but all other verbs in Folksprak are regular.

infinitive	present	imperative	preterite	future	act. part.
vare	ar	var!	var	vill vare	varende

pres. perf.	past perf.	fut. perf.
hav vart	havde vart	vill have vart

The various conditional moods are expressed using the modal auxiliary verbs plus the infinitive. DURFE (be allowed), KUNNE (to be able), MOGE (may, might), MOTE (must), SKULLE (should), VOLLE (want, intend). Ik durf have, ik kunn drinke, ik mog lese, ik mot lerne, ik skull singe, ik voll swimme.

Adverbs: Adverbs in Folksprak are formed in two ways, either as primary adverbs of place and time (i.e. her, der, nu, denn, alltid, oft, etc.) or as adverbs of manner, by adding the suffix –LIK to adjectives. (kald/kaldlik, sterk/starklik, svak/svaklik) Adverbs inflect for comparison with the help of the words MER and MEST. Thus: svaklik/mer svaklik/mest svaklik ‘weakly, more weakly, most weakly’.

Numbers: There are both cardinal and ordinal numbers in Folkspraak.

Cardinal:	Ordinal:
en	fyrst/erst
tve	tvede/ander
dri	dride
fier	fierde
fimf	fimfde
seks	seksde
seven	sevende
aht	ahtede
nien	niende
ten	tende
elef	elefde
tvelf	tvelfde
driten	dritende
fierten	fiertende
tventig	tventigde
tventig en	tventig fyrst
tventig tve	tventig tvede
tventig dri	tventig dride
dritig	dritigde
hundred	hundredde
dusend	dusendde

Word Order: The basic rules for Folksprak word order are 1) that the Subject may not be separated from the finite verb by any other word. 2) that the ordinary position for the verb in a declarative sentence is as second element and in imperatives or questions as the first element. 3) that the grammatical Subject must always come before any Objects.

III. Vocabulary

		A
Al (n)	eel	(D aal, E eel, G Aal, S �al)
		B
bad (n)	bath	(E bath, G Bad, S bad)
bringe (v)	bring	(E bring, G bringen, S bringa)
		D
dag (n)	day	(E day, G Tag, S dag)
denke (v)	think	(E think, G denken, S t�nka)
		E
erd (n)	Earth	(E earth, G Erde, S jord)
ete (v)	eat	(E eat, G essen, S �ta)
		F
finde (v)	find	(E find, G finden, S finna)
folk (n)	folk	(E folk, G Volk, S folk)
		G
ga (v)	go	(E go, G gehen, S g�)
get (n)	goat	(E goat, G Geiz, S get)
		H
hand (n)	hand	(E hand, G Hand, S hand)
have (v)	have	(E have, G haben, S ha)
		I
is (n)	ice	(E ice, G Eis, S is)
		J
jar (n)	year	(E year, G Jahr, S jar)
		K
koke (v)	cook	(E cook, G kochen, S koka)
kyng (n)	king	(E king, G K�nig, S kung/konung)
		L
land (n)	land	(E land, G Land, S land)
lose (v)	lose	(E lose, G l�sen, S f�rlora)
		M
make (v)	make	(E make, G machen, S maka ‘move’)
mann (n)	man	(E man, G Mann, S man)
		N
naht (n)	night	(E night, G Nacht, S natt)
		O
oppne (v)	open	(E open, G �ffnen, S �ppna)
oven (n)	oven	(E oven, G Ofen, S ugn)
		P
pennig (n)	penny	(E penny, G Pfennig, S peng ‘coin’)
		R
ring (n)	ring	(E ring, G Ring, S ring)
		S
skipp (n)	ship	(E ship, G Schiff, S skepp)
slape (v)	sleep	(E sleep, G schlafen)
		T

tand (n)	tooth	(E tooth, G Zahn, S tand)
		U
ul (n)	owl	(E owl, G Eule, S ugle)
		V
vaske (v)	wash	(E wash, G waschen, S vaska)
vind (n)	wind	(E wind, G Wind, S vind)