

# NORWEGIAN ACCENT

The Norwegian language is one of the North Germanic languages. There are three standard forms of the written and spoken language, and numerous dialects within each standard.

Norwegian is “pitch accent” language: two words have similar spelling, but a different inflection gives them different meanings. That’s why when we hear Scandinavian languages we pick up on the inflection and pitch changes that are so distinct.

To speak English with a Norwegian accent, here are some specifics:

## 1. Inflection

“Singsong” is an up and down inflection and pitch (but more subtle than Swedish).

## 2. Tapped ‘r’

Not quite a rolled ‘r’

Easiest to do when in a combined consonant, such as ‘prize’ or ‘bring.’

An ‘r’ in the middle of a word isn’t usually tapped, such as ‘normal.’

The ending ‘r’ could be tapped, but usually it is a harder ‘ur.’

## 3. Vowel/consonant substitutions

Short ‘o’ = aw

Shot = ‘shawt’

Double ‘o’ = ew

Blood (‘blud’) = ‘blewt’

School = ‘schewl’

‘th’ = soft ‘d’ (or ‘t’)

Theatre = ‘dee-a-ter’

‘w’ = v

Wonderful = ‘vonderful’

This is similar to a German accent but should be softer and more subtle.

Ending ‘d’ = t

Good = ‘goot’

‘J’ at the start of words is often replaced with ‘y’

Jelly = yelly

## 4. Other important sounds

Ending ‘l’ is emphasized with the tongue such as ‘deal’

The American “uh” sound isn’t heard in words.