Danish language facts

The Danish (official Denmark language) is an interesting idiom that has some unusual rules and many gramatical diferences comparing to other languages. And we will show to you some historical and curious facts about that special language.

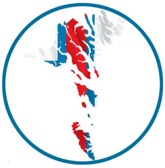
How It Started?

Also derived from Old Norse and originally the same language as Swedish, Old Danish became the Medieval Danish in the 12th century.

12TH CENTURY

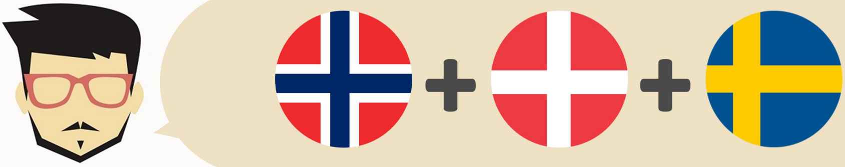
How Many Speakers?

6 million people speak Danish nowadays and is an official language in Denmark and the Faroe Islands.



Similar Languages

Swedish and Norwegian are derived from Old Norse just like Danish. So Danish people are able to speak those 3 idioms.



Extra Vowels

The Danish alphabet has 3 extra vowels: Æ, Ø and Å, and the language has 27 vowel phonemes in its vocabulary.

abc

Biggest Word

In Danish is **Speciallægepraksisplanlægningsstabiliseringsperiode,** meaning “period of plan stabilising for a specialist doctor’s practice”

Speciallægepra

ksisplanlægn

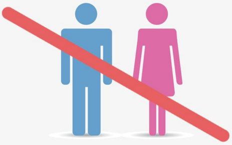
stabiliseringsperiode

Greenland

Danish is spoken as a native language by 20% of the population of Greenland, it is considered an official language!

Two genders

Nouns in Danish can take two genders: common and neuter, and not masculine and feminine.



Counting is based on 20

Numbers 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90 use vigesimal system. For example, the word for 60 is “tres”, short form of “tresindtyve” meaning 3 times 20.

20

Creating Words

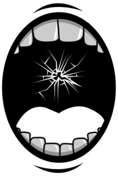
Danish makes use of compounding, that is joining words to create other. Example: Langtidsplanlægge - lang (long) + tid (time), + planlægge (plan).

Polite Way

Danish Language does make a distinction between formal and informal vocabulary. For example, du is informal whereas De is formal.

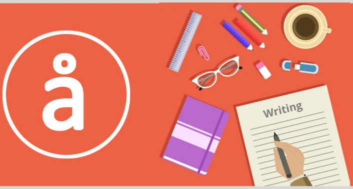
Creaky Voice

Danish has a feature called stød, which sound like a creak in the voice that is very difficul to non-natives to get it!



New Letter

In 1948 appeared a new letter: “å” to use in instead of “aa” in the written language. However, some towns never adopted it, like Aalborg.



Great Influence

Danish language has influenced a lot on the other Scandinavian languages like Swedish and Icelandic, and Norwegian, thanks to the Denmark--Norway union in the 14th century.

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