

A Short Glossary of Grammatical Terms

TERM	NORWEGIAN TRANSLATION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
adjective	adjektiv	a word used to describe a noun or a pronoun adjectives have three forms or degrees: positive comparative superlative	a beautiful girl a big one new newer newest
adverb	adverb	a word used to describe a verb, adjective, adverb or an entire sentence	she sings well she is very talented she sings very well hopefully , you understand this
article	artikkel	a word that makes a noun either specific (definite article) or non-specific (indefinite article)	
<i>definite article</i>	bestemt artikkel		he sees the dog
<i>indefinite article</i>	ubestemt artikkel		he sees a cat and an owl
auxiliary verb	hjelpeverb	a verb which combines with another verb; the most common auxiliary verbs are <i>to be, to have</i> and <i>to do</i>	she is singing he has done all his work I don't eat chili
<i>modal auxiliaries</i>	modale hjelpeverb	<i>will, shall, would, should, can, may, might</i> and <i>could</i>	I can help you if you want.
concord	samsvar	"agreement" between noun and verb; a singular noun must match with a singular verb and a plural noun with a plural verb	he takes the subway they take the tram
conjunction	konjunksjon	words that join words, phrases or sentence parts; <i>and, or, for, but</i> etc.	he lives and works in the city
future tense	futurum	verb tense which expresses an action that will take place in the future; formed with <i>will</i> + infinitive of the main verb	they will try to come to the party I' ll do that in a moment
gerund	substantivisk form av verbet	a verbal noun (ends in -ing)	jogging is healthy

TERM	NORWEGIAN TRANSLATION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
imperative	imperativ	a verb mood used to express direct commands	speak louder don't run
infinitive	infinitiv	the basic form of the verb used with or without <i>to</i>	she can dance well to be or not to be ...
interjection	utropsord	a word or sound that expresses an emotion	Ouch!
noun	substantiv	a word used to express a person, place, thing, idea, action, condition or quality	(common noun) house (proper noun) Henry
object	objekt		
<i>direct object</i>	direkte objekt	a noun, pronoun or noun phrase that receives the action of the verb	he built a house he built a three storey house
<i>indirect object</i>	indirekte objekt	precedes the direct object and tells <i>to whom</i> or <i>for whom</i> the action of the verb is done	she gave me the report
participle		form of the verb used in compound tenses (<i>sammensatt tid / samansett tid</i>)	
<i>past participle</i>	perfektum partisipp		she has baked a cake
<i>present participle</i>	presens partisipp		she is running
past tense	preteritum	verb tense consisting of one word which shows that the action is completed in the past; not formed with auxiliary	she sang at the party they were thrilled at the news
preposition	preposisjon	a word placed before a noun or pronoun which is used to indicate position, direction, time etc.	she went into the barn he got off the table he eats at six o'clock
present perfect	presens perfektum	verb tense which shows that the action is already completed in the past; formed with auxiliary + past participle	he has eaten all his dinner
present tense	presens	verb tense which expresses an unchanging, repeated or reoccurring action or situation that exists now	
<i>simple present</i>	enkel presens		he eats breakfast
<i>present continuous</i>	sammensatt presens / samansett presens		she is eating an apple

TERM	NORWEGIAN TRANSLATION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
pronoun	pronomen	a word used in place of a noun.	
<i>personal pronoun</i>	personlig pronomen / personleg pronomen	replaces a person or thing	he is handsome it really scared them
<i>interrogative pronoun</i>	spørreord / spørjeord	a pronoun used to introduce questions; <i>who, whom, whose, which</i>	whose is this?
<i>possessive pronoun</i>	eiendomsord / eignedomsord	pronouns which show ownership; <i>mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs</i>	that coat is hers
<i>reflexive pronoun</i>	refleksivpronomen	a pronoun that refers to the subject of the sentence, translated into English with the suffix -self, -selves	he does everything by himself
<i>relative pronoun</i>	relativpronomen	a pronoun which introduces a relative clause; <i>who, which, that</i>	the man who is talking is my brother
subject	subjekt	the noun, pronoun or noun phrase that immediately precedes the verb	the dress is expensive the dress in the window is expensive
verb	verb	a word expressing an action	
<i>intransitive verb</i>	intransitivt verb	a verb that does not take a direct object	leaves fall
<i>transitive verb</i>	transitivt verb	a verb which takes a direct object	she owns a horse
voice			
<i>active voice</i>	aktiv	sentence where the subject is the doer of the action	the woman nurses her baby
<i>passive voice</i>	passiv	sentence where the subject is being acted upon rather than doing the action. The doer or "agent" may or may not be expressed	the house was built in 3 months (by the carpenters)