

## 1 Vælkomin til Føroya!

Welcome to the Faroe Islands!



Track 2

In this unit you will learn about:

- the Faroese alphabet
- gender
- greetings
- articles
- personal pronouns (nominative)
- present tense verbs (first person singular)
- asking someone's name
- word order: statements and questions
- question words
- words for countries, nationalities and languages
- the verb *vera* 'to be' in present tense
- the infinitive
- words for marital status
- vowel length
- the pronunciation of the letters *a* and *æ*

We suggest you concentrate on the pronunciation of Faroese during the first few units. You should make good use of the recordings that accompany this course as there is no substitute for hearing the words pronounced by native speakers. Although you will probably understand very little at this stage, try listening to Faroese radio and television so that you get used to hearing the sounds and rhythm of Faroese. Programmes are available free of charge over the Internet (*Kringvarp Føroya*, the national broadcaster, can be found at [www.ulf.fo](http://www.ulf.fo)).

### Samrøða 1 ('Dialogue 1')



Track 3

#### *I bussinum av fløgvlílinum til Havnar (1. partur)*

*Claire McDonald is a Scottish student visiting family in the Faroe Islands. She has just arrived at the airport on Vágar and is taking the bus to Tórshavn. On the bus she meets Jógvan.*

JÓGVAN: Kann eg seta meg her?  
CLAIRE: Ha?  
JÓGVAN: Er hetta plássíð upptikið?  
CLAIRE: Nei. Ger so væl.  
JÓGVAN: Takk. Hvaðani ert tú?  
CLAIRE: Eg eri úr Skotlandi. Eg eri her í feriu.  
JÓGVAN: Eg skilji. Eg eri úr Føroyum – úr Havn.  
CLAIRE: Góðan dagin. Eg eiti Claire. Hvussu eitur tú?  
JÓGVAN: Góðan dagin, Claire. Eg eiti Jógvan.

## In the bus from the airport to Tórshavn (part 1)

- JÓGVAN: *May I sit here?*  
 CLAIRE: *Pardon?*  
 JÓGVAN: *Is this seat taken?*  
 CLAIRE: *No. Help yourself.*  
 JÓGVAN: *Thanks. Where are you from?*  
 CLAIRE: *I'm from Scotland. I'm here on holiday.*  
 JÓGVAN: *I see. I'm from the Faroe Islands – from Tórshavn.*  
 CLAIRE: *Pleased to meet you. I'm called Claire. What's your name?*  
 JÓGVAN: *How do you do, Claire. I'm called Jógvan.*



Våga Flugvøllur

### Orðalýsingar ('Vocabulary explanations')

í	in	hvaðani	from where?
í bussinum	on the bus	ert	are
av	from	tú	you ( <i>inf.</i> )
av flugvøllinum	from the airport	eg	I am
tí	to	ei	from
tí Havnar	to Tórshavn	úr	from Scotland
kann eg?	may I?	úr Skotlandi	here
seta meg	sit down	her	on holiday
her	here	i ferð	see; understand
ha?	what? pardon? eh?	skilji	how do you do, hello
er	is	góðan dagin	am called
hetta plássio	this seat	eiti	are called
upptikið	taken; occupied	eftur	how
nei	no	hvussu	what is your name?
ger so væl	please; help yourself	hvussu eftur tú?	

## Mállæra ('Grammar')

### The Faroese alphabet [§16.1]

The Faroese alphabet has 29 letters. They are:

A a Á á B b D d Ð ð E e F f G g H h I i Í í  
 J j K k L l M m N n O o Ó ó P p R r S s  
 T t U u Ú ú V v Y y Ý ý Æ æ Ø ø

Listen to the recording to hear what each letter is called. Notice especially these names:

a	fyrri	a	i	fyrri	i	fyrri	i	ð	ed
æ	seinni	æ	y	seinni	y	ý	seinni	y	

The letters c, q, w, x and z are not used in Faroese except in some foreign words (for example, *celsius*, *watt*, *x-ásur* 'x-axis'). Notice where the unfamiliar letters ð, æ and ø come in the alphabet. Very rarely the letter ø is written ö.

### Greeting people

To greet people we say:

Góðan morgun	Good morning (up to about 10am)
Góðan dag	Good afternoon, hello
Gott kvøld	Good evening
Hey	Hello, hi
Halló	Hello, hi

To say goodbye:

Farvæl	Goodbye
Vit síggjast	See you (later / soon)
Bei bei	Bye
Góða nátt	Good night
Góða ferð	Have a good trip

Other greetings:

Góðan dag(in)	How do you do
Tíð lukku	Congratulations
Alt tað besta	Good luck
Takk, í líka máta	Thanks, you too
Hugnið tykkum! ( <i>pl.</i> )	Have fun! Enjoy yourself!
Sov væl ( <i>sg.</i> )	Have fun! Enjoy yourselves!
Sovið væl ( <i>pl.</i> )	Sleep well
Stuttligt at hitta teg	Sleep well
	I'm pleased to meet you

Other useful phrases:

Ja / Nei	Yes / No
Takk	Thanks
Túnd takk	Many thanks
Einki at takka (tyri)	You're welcome
Sleppi eg? Kann eg?	May I?
Orsaka	Excuse me
Umskylda	I'm sorry
Tað er í lagi	That's okay

## Masculine, feminine and neuter nouns [§1]

All nouns in Faroese have one of three genders: masculine, feminine or neuter. In English, the gender of a noun is *natural*; that is, we refer to a male person as *he* (boy, man, father), a female person as *she* (girl, woman, mother), and an inanimate thing or lowly animal as *it* (table, ship, beetle). This, however, is not what happens in Faroese; a child (**barn**) is always *it* in Faroese, never *he* or *she*, whereas a beetle (**klukka**) is always referred to as *she* and a chair (**stólur**) as *he*! This is because gender in Faroese, like many other languages, is not natural, but *grammatical* – a feminine word does not necessarily refer to a female (for example, **gøta** 'street' and **ferð** 'journey') and a neuter word can refer to something with natural gender (for example, **meniskja** 'person' and **postboð** 'postman, postwoman'). It is important that you memorise the gender of every noun in Faroese as you learn it. Fortunately, the endings of nouns often make it easy to determine their gender:

Masculine nouns usually end in:

- ur **maður** 'man', **dagur** 'day', **stólur** 'chair', **næmingur** 'pupil'
- i **tíni** 'hour', **máni** 'month', **beiggi** 'brother', **lundi** 'puffin'

Feminine nouns usually end in:

- oi **bók** 'book', **nát** 'night', **kúgv** 'cow', **hond** 'hand'
- a **genta** 'girl', **kirkja** 'church', **gøta** 'street', **súkkla** 'bike', 'bicycle'

Neuter nouns usually end in:

- o **hús** 'house', **summar** 'summer', **barn** 'child', **kríggi** 'war'
- i **kaffi** 'coffee', **politi** 'police', **dømi** 'example', **stykki** 'piece'
- a **eyga** 'eye', **oyra** 'ear', **hjarta** 'heart', **lunga** 'lung'

In this course we mark the gender of nouns with following abbreviations: *m.* for masculine, *f.* for feminine and *n.* for neuter. It is essential that you learn the gender of each noun as you study.

## Venjing 1 ('Exercise 1'): Gender

What gender are the following nouns? Use the glossary at the back of the book if you get stuck. (Remember that endings can help you.)

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (a) <b>bussur</b> 'bus'         | (g) <b>Skotland</b> 'Scotland'         |
| (b) <b>mamma</b> 'mother'       | (h) <b>dagur</b> 'day'                 |
| (c) <b>borð</b> 'table'         | (i) <b>kona</b> 'woman'                |
| (d) <b>flogvøllur</b> 'airport' | (j) <b>fall</b> 'mountain'             |
| (e) <b>pláss</b> 'seat'         | (k) <b>troygja</b> 'jumper', 'sweater' |
| (f) <b>nát</b> 'night'          | (l) <b>stívl</b> 'boot'                |

## Articles

### The Indefinite Article: 'A', 'an' [§2.2]

The Faroese indefinite article changes according to the gender of the noun it qualifies. Here are the forms of the indefinite article:

*Masculine:*

**ein** – **ein maður** 'a man', **ein dagur** 'a day', **ein tíni** 'an hour'

*Feminine:*

**ein** – **ein bók** 'a book', **ein nát** 'a night', **ein genta** 'a girl'

*Neuter:*

**eitt** – **eitt hús** 'a house', **eitt summer** 'a summer', **eitt dømi** 'an example'

### Venjing 2: Indefinite article

Write the correct form of the indefinite article (**ein** or **eitt**) alongside each of the nouns from Venjing 1 above.

### The Definite Article: 'The' [§2.1]

The definite article in Faroese takes the form of a suffix; that is, it is added directly onto the end of the noun. The suffix has different forms depending on the gender of the noun it is joined to. Here are the forms of the definite article:

*Masculine:*

**-in** – **maðurin** 'the man', **dagurin** 'the day', **stólurin** 'the chair'

**-n** – **tímin** 'the hour', **mánn** 'the month', **beiggin** 'the brother'

*Feminine:*

**-in** – **bókin** 'the book', **náttin** 'the night', **kúgvinn** 'the cow'

**-n** – **gentan** 'the girl', **kirkjan** 'the church', **gøtan** 'the street'

*Neuter:*

**-ið** – **húsið** 'the house', **summarið** 'the summer', **barnið** 'the child'

**-ð** – **kaffið** 'the coffee', **dømið** 'the example', **eygað** 'the eye'

If the noun already ends in an unstressed vowel, there is no need to include the **i** of the suffix. That is why we write **dagurin**, but **tímin** (not \***tímini**). However, if the final vowel of a word is stressed (this is sometimes the case with words that are not Faroese in origin), we include the **i** of the suffix:

<sup>1</sup> The symbol '0' is used to mean 'nothing' or 'zero'. Thus, if we talk about a noun ending in -0 (a 'zero ending'), we mean that it has no special ending at all.

<b>polití</b> 'police'	→	<b>politíið</b> 'the police'
<b>bakarí</b> 'bakery'	→	<b>bakaríð</b> 'the bakery'
<b>konditari</b> 'cake shop'	→	<b>konditariíð</b> 'the cake shop'

If any vowel other than the first one is stressed, it is underlined in the glossaries.

### Venjing 3: **Definite article**

Add the definite article to the following nouns:

(a) <b>bussur</b>	(g) <b>dagur</b>
(b) <b>mamma</b>	(h) <b>kona</b>
(c) <b>borð</b>	(i) <b>fall</b>
(d) <b>flogvøllur</b>	(j) <b>troyggja</b>
(e) <b>skoði</b>	(k) <b>stívi</b>
(f) <b>skoði</b> 'Scot', 'person from Scotland'	(l) <b>vaskarí</b> 'laundrette'

### The Articles: **Usage [§2.3]**

When to use the definite and indefinite articles in Faroese is very similar to English. However, there are a few differences. At this stage the most important is that the indefinite article ('a', 'an') is not used in Faroese when giving one's nationality, profession or religious conviction:

<b>eg eri færoyingur</b>	I'm a Faroese Islander, I'm Faroese (not * <b>eg eri ein færoyingur</b> )
<b>tú ert íslendingur</b>	you're an Icelandic, you're Icelandic
<b>hann er blaðmaður</b>	he's a journalist
<b>hon er studentur</b>	she's a student
<b>eg eri muslimur</b>	I'm a Muslim
<b>tú ert fríeinkjari</b>	you're an atheist, you're atheist

### Personal pronouns (nominative) [§6.1]

	Singular	Plural
<i>First person</i>	<b>eg</b> I	<b>vit</b> we
<i>Second person</i>	<b>tú</b> (inf.) you	<b>tit</b> you
<i>Third person</i>	<b>hann</b> he, it	<b>teir</b> they m.
	<b>hon</b> she, it	<b>tær</b> they f.
	<b>tað</b> it	<b>tey</b> they n.

There are, in fact, three forms for 'you' in Faroese. There is a polite form, **tygum**, that is only used by older generations when addressing a stranger and is rarely encountered nowadays. The familiar form **tú** is used when addressing one person you know well (for example: a good friend, a close work colleague or a relative), and by younger Faroese Islanders at least, even when addressing a stranger. Notice that **tú** is the form used by Claire and Jógván when they meet on the bus. Both **tygum** and **tú** are used when speaking to just one person (although confusingly **tygum** takes a verb in the plural; see Unit 2). When addressing more than one person, always use **tit**; it does not matter whether you know them well or not.

There are three forms for 'it' in Faroese: masculine, feminine and neuter. The gender of 'it' matches the gender of the noun it refers to. Look at the sentences below:

<i>Masculine:</i>	<b>Stóluin er nýggjur</b> The chair is new	→	<b>Hann er nýggjur</b> It is new
<i>Feminine:</i>	<b>Bókin er spennandi</b> The book is exciting	→	<b>Hon er spennandi</b> It is exciting
<i>Neuter:</i>	<b>Borðið er gamalt</b> The table is old	→	<b>Tað er gamalt</b> It is old

Of course, **hann** and **hon** also mean 'he' and 'she':

<b>Jógván er færoyingur</b> Jógván is Faroese	→	<b>Hann er færoyingur</b> He is Faroese
<b>Claire er í bussinum</b> Claire is in the bus	→	<b>Hon er í bussinum</b> She is in the bus

### Venjing 4: **Personal pronouns**

Which personal pronoun would you use to refer to each of the nouns listed in *Venjing 3* above? Write the correct pronoun (**hann**, **hon** or **tað**) alongside each of the nouns.

There are also three different words for 'they' in Faroese. Again you must choose the correct form to refer to the gender of the noun:

Use <b>teir</b> to refer to	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{two or more masculine nouns} \\ \text{two or more men} \end{array} \right.$	For example: <b>stólar</b> 'chairs' <b>beiggjar</b> 'brothers'
Use <b>tær</b> to refer to	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{two or more feminine nouns} \\ \text{two or more women} \end{array} \right.$	<b>bøkur</b> 'books' <b>systirar</b> 'sisters'
Use <b>tey</b> to refer to	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{two or more neuter nouns} \\ \text{men and women together} \\ \text{a mixture of masculine, feminine} \\ \text{and neuter nouns} \end{array} \right.$	<b>borð</b> 'tables', <b>børn</b> 'children', <b>Jógván og Claire</b> , <b>dreingir og gentur</b> 'boys and girls', <b>stólar, bøkur og borð</b> 'chairs, books and tables'

Look at the sentences below:

(Stolar 'chairs')	Teir eru nýggir	They (m.) are new
(Bøkur 'books')	Tær eru spennandi	They (f.) are exciting
(Borð 'tables')	Tey eru gomul	They (n.) are old
(Jógvan og Mikkjal)	Teir eru føroyingar	They (m.) are Faroese
(Claire og Anna)	Tær eru í bussinum	They (f.) are on the bus
(Claire og Jógvan)	Tey eru í bussinum	They (m.) are on the bus

The plural of nouns is dealt with in more detail in the next unit.

## Samrøða 2

*Claire and Jógvan chat together as the bus makes its way from the airport to Tórshavn.*



Track 6

- CLAIRE: Hvát gert tú?  
 JÓGVAN: Eg arbeiði sum blaðmaður. Og tú?  
 CLAIRE: Eg eri studentur. Eg lesi enskt í Edinburgh.  
 JÓGVAN: Hvussu ber tað so til, at tú tosar føroyskt?  
 CLAIRE: Mamma mín er føroyingur. Eg víti familju í Havn.  
 JÓGVAN: Nú skilji eg, hví tú tosar flótandi føroyskt! Dugir tú onnur mál?  
 CLAIRE: Ja. Eg dugi eitt sindur av fronskum. Dugir tú eingilskt?  
 JÓGVAN: Nei, men eg dugi danskt.  
 CLAIRE: *What do you do?*  
 JÓGVAN: *I'm a journalist. And you?*  
 CLAIRE: *I'm a student. I'm studying English in Edinburgh.*  
 JÓGVAN: *How come you speak Faroese?*  
 CLAIRE: *My mum is Faroese. I'm visiting family in Tórshavn.*  
 JÓGVAN: *Now I understand why you speak fluent Faroese! Do you speak any other languages?*  
 CLAIRE: *Yes. I speak a little French. Do you speak English?*  
 JÓGVAN: *No, but I speak Danish.*

## Orðalýsingar

hvát	what	mín	my
gert	do	mamma mín	my mum
arbeiði	work	føroyingur m.	a Faroese Islander
sum	as	familju	family
blaðmaður m.	journalist, reporter	< familja f.	
og	and	flótandi	fluently
studentur m.	student	dugir	to know (how to...)
lesi	read, study	dugir tú...?	do you speak...?
enskt	English	onnur mál	other languages
hvussu ber tað so til at	how come then	mál n.	language
tosar	speak	eitt sindur av	some, a little
føroyskt	Faroese	fronskum	French
víti	visit	eingilskt	English
mamma f.	mum		

In the vocabulary explanations we have started to provide you with extra information about some of the words. When a word appears in an inflected form in the text, this inflected form appears in the vocabulary list together with a translation followed on the line below by the symbol '<' (inflected from) and the dictionary form of the word (that is, the nominative form for nouns). For example in the list above we have:

familju  
 < familja f.  
 family

This means that the word *familju* is an inflected form of the feminine noun *familja*.

## Máliæra

### Present tense of verbs (first person singular)

The first person singular, the 'I' form, of verbs in the present tense ends in -i. For example:

eg eri 'I am', skilji 'understand', eiti 'am called', arbeiði 'work', lesi 'read, study', víti 'visit', dugi 'can (speak)', komi 'come', tosi 'speak', búgvi 'live', kenni 'know'.  
 There is only one present tense in Faroese, so several English constructions, such as 'I speak, I am speaking' and 'I do speak', are all translated with the present tense (here, *eg tosi*). Don't try to translate the 'am', '-ing' or 'do'!

### Asking someone's name

The simplest way to ask someone's name is to say: *Hvussu eitur tú? (inf.) / Hvussu eita tygum? (pol.)*. The answer to which is: *Eg eiti... 'I'm called...'*

Faroese Islanders usually have at least one first name (*fornavn n.*), often a middle name (*millunnavn n.*), and a surname (*eftirnavn n.*). In addition to these, a nickname (referred to as a *kelnavn n.* if it is positive, and *eyknevn n.* if it is negative or rude) is very common. A Faroese Islander's surname is sometimes the same as his or her mother or father's, in other words a family name (*ættarnavn n.*). Family names are often of Danish origin (and end in -sen: *Abrahamsen, Hansen, Mikkelsen* etc.). Family names can also refer to a place where the family once lived: *á Ryggi* ('on the Ridge'), *av Skarði* ('from the Mountain Pass'), *við Ána* ('by the Stream'), *á Høvdanum* ('on the Headland'). However, surnames can also be created from the first name of the father (a patronymic) or the mother (a matronymic) with the suffix -son added for males or -dóttir for females. For example, if *Eiríkur Hansen* and *Guðrún við Ána* had a daughter *Maggá*, she might be called *Maggá Hansen*, *Maggá við Ána*, *Maggá Eiríksdóttir* or *Maggá Guðrúndóttir*. Their son *Mikkjal Pætur* could be called *Mikkjal Pætur Hansen*, *Mikkjal Pætur við Ána*, *Mikkjal Pætur Eiríksson* or *Mikkjal Pætur Guðrúnarson*! It is becoming more common to use this patronymic-matronymic system and members of the same family may well have different surnames.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The law which reintroduced the use of patronymic and matronymic surnames is known as *Lógin um fólkanøvn* and was passed by the Faroese parliament (*løgtingið*) in 1992. Until then Faroese Islanders had been required by a law passed in 1832 in Copenhagen to use family names instead of the patronymic system that had been in use until then.

Notice also the following phrases:

Hvussu eitur tú til fornavn? ( <i>inf.</i> )	What is your first name?
Hvussu eia tygum til fornavn? ( <i>pol.</i> )	
Fornavn mitt er Katrina	My first name is Katrina
Hvussu eitur tú til eftirnavn? ( <i>inf.</i> )	What is your surname?
Hvussu eia tygum til eftirnavn? ( <i>pol.</i> )	
Eftirnavn mitt er Djurhuus	My surname is Djurhuus

### Word order: Statements and questions [§11.1–11.2]

Word order is often similar to English: subject – verb. Look at the following examples:

Ti eru úr Skotlandi	You are from Scotland
Hon eitur Claire	She is called Claire
Eg arbeiði sum blaðmaður	I am a journalist [literally: I work as journalist]
Tú ert studentur	You are a student
Eg lesi eingilskt í Keypmannahavn	I'm studying English in Copenhagen

Notice that the verb is the second element in a main clause that is not a question. Compare these sentences that all mean 'I'm buying a book in Tórshavn today':

Eg keypi eina bók í Havn í dag	} the verb <b>keypi</b> is always the second element in the sentence
Í dag keypi eg eina bók í Havn	
Í Havn keypi eg eina bók í dag	
Eina bók keypi eg í Havn í dag	

Beginning a sentence with an adverb of time (for example, **í dag**), of place (for example, **í Havn**) or even with another part of speech (such as the object, **eina bók**) is very common in Faroese, so it is essential that you remember the basic word order rule, that the verb is always in the second position. Remember that **í dag**, **í Havn** and **eina bók** count as one element each even though they consist of more than one word.

However, in order to make a yes/no question in Faroese, we swap the position of the subject and the verb, giving: verb – subject. This is known as inversion. Look at the following examples:

Eru tit úr Skotlandi?	Are you ( <i>pl.</i> ) from Scotland?
Eitur hon Claire?	Is she called Claire?
Arbeiði eg sum blaðmaður?	Am I a journalist?
Ert tú studentur?	Are you a student?
Lesi eingilskt í Keypmannahavn?	Am I studying English in Copenhagen?

An alternative is to use the question tag **ha?** This little word is probably the most frequently used word in the Faroese language! Its meaning covers just about everything from 'I beg your pardon?' and 'do you know what I mean?' to 'aren't you?' and 'isn't it?'. By placing it at the end of an affirmative sentence you create a yes/no question:

Ti eru úr Skotlandi, ha?	You are from Scotland, aren't you?
Hon eitur Claire, ha?	She is called Claire, isn't she?
Eg arbeiði sum blaðmaður, ha?	I'm a journalist, aren't I?
Tú ert studentur, ha?	You're a student, aren't you?

### Question words [§9.5, 11.2]

Below is a list of question words:

hvat	what	hvussu leingi	how long ( <i>time</i> )
hvar	where	hvussu langt	how far ( <i>distance</i> )
hvaðani	from where	hví	why
hvussu	how	nær	when
hvussu nógv <i>sg.</i>	how much	hvor	who
hvussu nógvir <i>m. pl.</i>	how many	hvoru <i>m. and f.</i>	which
hvussu nógv <i>f. pl.</i>	how many	hvat <i>n.</i>	which
hvussu nógv <i>n. pl.</i>	how many	hvat ( <i>fyri</i> )	what sort of

Examples of usage:

Hvat er tað?	What is that?
Hvussu nógvir studentar lesa føroyskt?	How many students are studying Faroese?
Hvussu leingi ert tú í Føroyum?	How long are you in the Faroe Islands?
Hvussu langt er tað til Klaksvík?	How far is it to Klaksvík?
Hví lesur tú eingilskt?	Why are you studying English?
Nær eru vit í Havn?	When are we in Tórshavn?
Hvor er hon?	Who is she?
Hvat ( <i>fyri</i> ) breyð eitur tú?	What (sort of) bread are you eating?
Hvaðani ert tú?	Where are you from?

The interrogative pronoun **hvor** is dealt with in more detail in the next unit.

### Countries and nationalities

Land	Eg eri úr...	Eg eri...
Australia	Avstrálla	avstrállari / avstrálli
Austria	Eysturriki	eysturrikari
Brazil	Brasilja	brasíliari / brasíli / brasíllanari
Canada	Kanada	kanadíari / kanadamaður
China	Kína	kinnesari / kinverji



Track 8



Track 7



Denmark	Danmark <sup>3</sup>	Danmark	danskari / dani
England	Onland <sup>4</sup>	Onlandi	onglendingur / eingliksmaður
Faroe Islands	Føroyar	Føroyum	føroyingur
Finland	Finnland	Finnlandi	finnlendingur / finni
France	Frakland <sup>5</sup>	Fraklandi	fraklendingur / fransmaður
Germany	Týskland	Týsklandi	týskari
Great Britain	Bretland	Bretlandi	breiti
Greece	Grikkaland	Grikkalandi	grikkari
Greenland	Grønland	Grønlandi	grønlandingur
Iceland	Ísland	Íslandi	íslendingur
India	Indía	Indía	indari / indi
Ireland	Írland	Írlandi	íri
Israel	Ísrael	Ísrael	ísraelari / ísraeli
Italy	Ítalía	Ítalía	ítaliari / ítaliénari
Japan	Japan	Japan	japanari / japanesari
The Netherlands	Háland <sup>6</sup>	Hálandi	hálandingur
New Zealand	Nýsýðland	Nýsýðlandi	nýsýðlandingur
Norway	Norri <sup>7</sup>	Norri	nórðmaður
Philippines	Filipsoyggiar	Filipsoyggið	filipsoyingur / filipinari
Poland	Pólland	Pólland	póllendingur
Russia	Rússland	Rússlandi	rússari / rússi
Scotland	Skotland	Skotlandi	skoiti
South Africa	Suðurafrika	Suðurafrika	suðurafrikaniari
Spain	Spanía	Spanía	spaniðli
Sweden	Svíetki	Svíetki	svenskari / sviit
Switzerland	Sveis / Svais	Sveis / Svais	sveisari / svaisari
Thailand	Taíland	Taílandi	taílandingur
Ukraine	Úkraína	Úkraína	úkraiini
USA	Ameríka / USA <sup>8</sup>	Ameríka / USA	amerikanari
Wales	Wales	Wales	walisari / walisai

Some other place-names in Faroese:

Copenhagen	Keypmannahavn	Middle East	Míðeystur
Scandinavia	Norðurlond	North America	Norðuramerika
The Hebrides	Suðuroyggiar	South America	Suðuramerika
The Orkney Islands	Orkneyggjar	Central America	Míðamerika
The Shetland Islands	Hetland	Arctic	Arktis
Europe	Evropa	Antarctic	Antarktis
Africa	Afrika	The Atlantic Ocean	Atlantshavio
Asia	Asia	The Pacific Ocean	Kyrrahavio



Track 9

Notice also that *Tórshavn* is usually just referred to as *Havn* or *Havnin* (lit. '[the] harbour').

To ask where someone comes from, we say:

**Hvaðani ert tú?** (*inf.*) / **Hvaðani eru tygum?** (*pol.*)

To reply, we say:

**Eg eri úr...** [*Føroyum* / *Skotlandi* / *Norri*]

Notice that the name of a country (*land n.*) may change form in these sentences (for example, we say *Eg eri úr Onglandi*, not \**Eg eri úr Ongland*). This is because nouns in Faroese inflect; that is, they take endings to mark their role in a sentence. The noun must appear in a special case called the dative after the preposition *úr*. This is explained in Unit 5.

Another way of saying where you come from is to give your nationality (*tjóðskapur m.*). We can say:

**Eg eri danskari** I am a Dane; I am Danish  
**Ett tú fraklendingur?** Are you French?

Remember that we do not use the indefinite article in Faroese in these expressions about nationality. So we say, *eg eri amerikanari* (and never \**eg eri ein amerikanari*).

Other useful phrases:

**Eg eri her...** I'm here...  
*í ferð* on holiday  
*á vitjan* visiting  
*í handilsörindum* on business



Track 11

## Languages

Do you speak? **Dugir tú...? / Tosar tú...?** (*inf.*)  
 Duga tygum...? / Tosa tygum...? (*pol.*)  
 I speak... **Eg dugi...** / **Eg tosi...**  
 I speak a little... **Eg dugi eitt sindur av...** / **Eg tosi eitt sindur av...**  
 I speak ... well **Eg dugi væl...** / **Eg tosi væl...**  
 I don't speak... **Eg dugi ikki...** / **Eg tosi ikki...**



Track 12

**MÁL** 'languages'

Arabic	arabiskt	Icelandic	islendskt
Chinese	kinesiskt	Italian	italískt / italienskt
Danish	danskt	Japanese	japanskt
English	enskt / einglikt	Norwegian	norskt



Track 13

<sup>3</sup> Also *Dannørk*<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Also *England*.

<sup>5</sup> Also *Frankríki*.

<sup>6</sup> Also *Níðurlond* (úr *Níðurlondum*, *níðurlendingur*).

<sup>7</sup> Also *Noreg* (úr *Noregi*<sup>2</sup>).

<sup>8</sup> Also *Sambandsríkið Amerika*<sup>2</sup>.

Faroese	føroyskt	Polish	pólskt
French	franskt	Portuguese	portugisiskt
Finnish	finnsk	Russian	russiskt
German	týskt	Spanish	spanskt
Hebrew	hebrískt	Swedish	svenskt

Listen carefully to the pronunciation of these words on the recording. The ending **-skt** is often pronounced as if it were spelt **-kst**.

To say 'in Faroese', 'in English' and so on, we use a special phrase with the preposition **á** – **á enskum, á føroyskum, á finskum**. Here the form of the language ends in **-um** because here, after the preposition **á**, we use the dative case. This form is dealt with more fully in Unit 5.

Other useful phrases:



Track 14

Nei, men eg skilji eitt sindur  
 Ger so væl ikki at tosa so skjótt  
 Eg royni at læra føroyskt  
 Hvussu eitur tað / hetta / hatta  
 á føroyskum?  
 Hvussu verður tað framborið?  
 Ger so væl at siga tað umaftur  
 Hvat merkir tað / hetta / hatta?

No, but I understand a bit  
 Please don't speak so quickly  
 I'm trying to learn Faroese  
 What is it / this / that called  
 in Faroese?  
 How is it pronounced?  
 Please repeat it  
 What does it / this / that mean?

Note also the verbs **snakka** (= tosa 'to speak') and **forstánda** (skilja 'to understand'), which are much used colloquially.

### Venjing 5: Spurningar ('questions')

Answer the following question in Faroese:

- (a) Hvussu eitur tú? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Hvussu eitur tú til fornavn? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Hvussu eitur tú til eftirnavn? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Hvaðani ert tú? \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Dugir tú føroyskt? \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) Dugir tú onnur mál? \_\_\_\_\_

### Venjing 6: Listening



Track 15

Listen to each person on the recording. Complete the information box for each person. Any new vocabulary is provided at the end of the exercise.

<b>A</b>	
Eftirnavn	Joensen
Formavn	Hans
Tjóðskapur	føroyingur
Málkunnleiki	✓ [ja] føroyskt, danskt, norskt
	* [nei] eingiljskt

<b>B</b>	
Eftirnavn	_____
Formavn	_____
Tjóðskapur	_____
Málkunnleiki	✓ _____ * _____

<b>C</b>	
Eftirnavn	_____
Formavn	_____
Tjóðskapur	_____
Málkunnleiki	✓ _____ * _____

<b>D</b>	
Eftirnavn	_____
Formavn	_____
Tjóðskapur	_____
Málkunnleiki	✓ _____ * _____



<b>E</b>	
<b>Eftirnavn</b>	_____
<b>Fornavn</b>	_____
<b>Tjóðskapur</b>	_____
<b>Málkunnleiki</b>	✓ _____
	x _____

### Orðalýsingar

málkunnleiki <i>m.</i>	ability to speak languages	búgvi	live
sjálvandi	of course	gælist	Gaelic
eisini	also	Róm <i>f.</i>	Rome

### Vera in the present tense

The verb 'to be' is vera in Faroese. Its forms are:

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>First person</i>	eg eri I am	vi eru we are
<i>Second person</i>	tú ert you are ( <i>inf.</i> ) <sup>9</sup>	tit eru you are
<i>Third person</i>	hann er he is; it is	teir eru they are
	hon er she is; it is	tær eru they are
	tað er it is	tey eru they are



Track 16

### Venjing 7: vera

Complete the sentences below using the correct form of the verb vera:

- Eg \_\_\_\_\_ úr Føroyum.
- Maðurin \_\_\_\_\_ walsi.
- Anna og Ísakur \_\_\_\_\_ gift ['married'].
- Vit \_\_\_\_\_ ikki gift.
- \_\_\_\_\_ tú studentur?
- Hví \_\_\_\_\_ tit ikki her?

### The Infinitive

The infinitive of the verb, the 'to' form, ends in -a. The infinitive marker 'to' is at. For example:

<sup>9</sup> The polite form is tygum eru 'you are'.

at vera 'to be', at skilja 'to understand', at eta 'to be called', at arbeiða 'to work', at lesa 'to read, to study', at vitja 'to visit', at duga 'to be able (to speak)', at koma 'to come', at tosa 'to speak', at búgva 'to live', at kenna 'to know'.

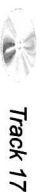
### Marital status (Njunastøða f.)

The phrases below are useful for discussing marital status:

Hann er giftur ( <i>m.</i> )	He is married
Hon er gift ( <i>f.</i> )	She is married
Eg eri singul / stakur / ógiftur ( <i>m.</i> )	I'm single / unmarried
Eg eri singul / stök / ógift ( <i>f.</i> )	I'm single / unmarried
Eg eri leysur ( <i>m.</i> ) / leys ( <i>f.</i> )	I'm available
Hevur tú sjeik / damu?	Do you have a boyfriend / girlfriend?

Tú ert forlovaður ( <i>m.</i> ) / forlovað ( <i>f.</i> )	You're engaged
Vit búgva saman	We live together, we co-habit
Eg eri fráskildur ( <i>m.</i> ) / fráskild ( <i>f.</i> )	I am divorced
Eg eri einkjumaður / einkja	I am a widower / widow
Eg eri samkyndur ( <i>m.</i> ) / gjelkari ( <i>m.</i> )	I'm gay
Eg eri samkynd ( <i>f.</i> ) / lesbisk ( <i>f.</i> )	I'm lesbian / gay
Vit eru / Eg eri í skrásettum parlagi	We're / I'm in a registered partnership

### Samrøða 3



Track 17

JÓGVAN:	Er tað fyrsta ferðin til Føroya?
CLAIRE:	Nei. Eg var her fyrri einum ári síðan.
JÓGVAN:	Býr familja tín í Havn?
CLAIRE:	Ja, mostir mín býr í Havn, men omma býr í Klaksvík.
JÓGVAN:	Hvat eitur mostir tín?
CLAIRE:	Hon eitur Kristin Poulsen.
JÓGVAN:	Oy, oy, Kristin? Hana kenni eg! Hon arbeiðir á posthúsinum, ha?
CLAIRE:	Ja! Hetta var legið!
JÓGVAN:	Ája, veitst tú. Havnin er ikki so stór!
JÓGVAN:	Is this your first trip to the Faroe Islands?
CLAIRE:	No. I was here a year ago.
JÓGVAN:	Does your family live in Tórshavn?
CLAIRE:	Yes, my aunt lives in Tórshavn, but my grandmother lives in Klaksvík.
JÓGVAN:	What is your aunt called?
CLAIRE:	She's called Kristin Poulsen.
JÓGVAN:	Well I never! Kristin? I know her. She works at the post office, doesn't she?
CLAIRE:	Yes! What a coincidence!
JÓGVAN:	Well, you know. Tórshavn's not that big!

## Orðalýsingar

fyrsta	first	hana	her
ferð <i>f.</i>	trip	kenni	know
ár <i>n.</i>	year	á	in, at
fýri einum ári síðan	one year ago	posthús <i>n.</i>	post office
frán <i>f.</i>	family	há?	question tag (doesn't she?)
mostir <i>f.</i>	aunt (mother's sister)	hatta var lægið	what a coincidence
mín	my	ája	well
onna <i>f.</i>	grandmother	veitist	know
tín	your	stór	big
oy, oy	goodness me		

## Venjing 8: Rætt ella skeið? (True or false?)

- Tað er Clairesa fyrsta ferð til Føroya.
- Familja hennara býr á Tvøroyri.
- Mostirin eitur Kristin.
- Kristin arbeiðir í bankanum.
- Havnin er ein lítil býur.

## Orðalýsingar

Clairea	Claire's	hennara	her	lítil	little, small
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## Málæra

### Vowel length: a and æ

Listen carefully to the recording and repeat the words below paying particular attention to the pronunciation of the letters **a** and **æ**:



Track 18

mamma <i>f.</i>	'mum', 'mother', 'ma'
fið <i>n.</i>	'mountain'
kaffi <i>n.</i>	'coffee'
barn <i>n.</i>	'child'
ætla	'to think'
banki <i>m.</i>	'bank' (from Danish bank)
sangur <i>m.</i>	'song' (from Danish sang)
langur	'long'
hanga	'to hang'
maður <i>m.</i>	'man'

dagur <i>m.</i>	'day'
tað <i>n.</i>	'it'
hvat	'what'
hvaðani	'from where'
mær	'me' (dative)
æt	'was called'
æra <i>f.</i>	'honour'
baða	'to bathe'
ræðast	'to be afraid'
tomat <i>m.</i>	'tomato' (from Danish tomat)

## Lesistykki 1 ('Reading passage 1')



Track 19

### Claire McDonald

Claire er úr Skotlandi. Hon lesur einglikt á fróðskaparsetrinum í Edinburgh. Nú er hon í Føroyum í feriu. Mamma Claire er føroyingur. Hon er úr Klaksvík. Pápin er skoti. Claire víðar familju sína og er sera glað. Hon fer við bussinum av flogvøllinum til Havnar, har ið mostir hennara býr. Mostir hennara eitur Kristin Poulsen. Hon arbeiðir á posthúsinum í Havn. Í bussinum tosar Claire við ein ungan mann. Hann eitur Jógván Jakupsson. Hann er blaðmaður og býr í Havn.

## Venjing 9: Spurningar

- Hvaðani er Claire?
- Hvat lesur hon á fróðskaparsetrinum í Edinburgh?
- Hvar er hon nú?
- Er mamma Claire skoti?
- Hvar býr mostir Claire?
- Hvussu eitur mostirin?
- Hvar arbeiðir hon?
- Hvønn tosar Claire við í bussinum?
- Hvat ger Jógván Jakupsson?

## Orðalýsingar

á fróðskaparsetrinum	at (the) university	hvønn	who, whom
mamma Claire	Claire's mum	har ið	where

## Lesistykki 2



Track 20

### Ein bussur – try fólk

Jógvan Jakupsson er úr Havn. Hann er føroyingur. Hann tosar føroyskt og danskt. Hann er ógjøttur og arbeiðir sum blaðmaður. Nú situr hann í bussinum av flogvøllinum í Vágum til Havnar í Streymoy og tosar við Claire. Hon er í Føroyum á vitjan.

Pia Larsen er úr Danmark. Hon er dansk. Hon tosar danskt, enskt og eitt sindur av føroyskum. Hon arbeiðir á sjúkrahúsinum í Havn. Hon hevur verið í Keymannahavn í feriu. Í morgin byrjar hon aftur at arbeiða.

Per Johansen er úr Vágum. Hann er føroyingur og tosar føroyskt. Hann er bussførari og arbeiðir just nú – hann koyrir bussin av flogvøllinum til Havnar!

## Orðalýsingar

trý	three	< sjúkrahús <i>n.</i>	hospital
fólk <i>n.</i>	people	hefur verið	has been
arbeiðir	works, is working	afur	again
sum	as	at arbeiða	to work
nú	now	bussforari <i>m.</i>	bus driver
situr	is sitting	júst nú	right now
á sjúkrahúsinum	at/in the hospital	koyrir	is driving

## Lesistykki 3

This popular song, *Eg oyggjar veit* 'I know of some islands', by Fríðrikur Petersen (1853–1917) celebrates the natural beauty of the Faroe Islands. The first verse is written below and you can listen to it on the recording.

Eg oyggjar veit, sum hava fjøll og grøna lð, og taktar eru tær við mjøll um vetrartíð, og áir renna vakrar har og fossa nóg, tær vilja allar skunda sær í bláan sjógv.	<i>I know of some islands that have mountains and green hillsides, and they are covered with snow in the wintertime; and beautiful streams run there and cascade a lot; they all want to hurry into the blue ocean.</i>
Gud signi mítt føðiland Føroyar.	<i>God bless the land of my birth, the Faroes.</i>

## Orðalýsingar

oyggjar	islands	vakrar	beautiful
veit	know	har	there
sum	which, that	fossa	cascade, gush
hava	have	nóg	a lot
fjøll	mountains	vilja	want
grøna	green	allar	all
lð	hillsides	skunda sær	hurry
taktar	covered	bláan	blue
við	with	sjógv	sea, ocean
mjøll	snow	Gud	God
um vetrartíð	in the wintertime	signi	bless
áir	streams	mítt	my
renna	run	føðiland	native land (of birth)

## Orðatak

Trygg eru heimatún

'home sweet home'

## Orðalýsingar

orðatak <i>n.</i>	proverb, saying	heimatún	courtyards, paths
trygg	secure, safe	< heimatún <i>n.</i>	next to your home

Veist tú at...? ('Do you know that...?')

The Faroe Islands can be reached by air and sea. There are regular flights from Denmark, Iceland, Norway and the UK (**Bretland**) to the airport on Vágar (**Vága Flogvøllur**). A bus (**bussur**) connects the airport to the bus and ferry terminal (**farstøðin**) in Tórshavn. From



The ferry terminal in Tórshavn

ferry docks in Tórshavn at the bus and ferry terminal. Once there, you can rent a car (**bilur**) to explore the Islands or you might consider renting a bike (**súkkla**). Look in the resources and further reading at the back of the grammar book for the addresses of organisations that can advise you on travelling to and from the Faroe Islands.

there you can take the bus or ferry to almost any corner of the Islands (**oyggjar**). Alternatively, it is possible to catch a domestic flight in a helicopter (**tyrla**) from the airport to other destinations in the Islands. There are about a dozen villages and towns with helicopter platforms (**tyrlupallar**) in the country. You can also reach the Faroe Islands by sailing from Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Scotland. The