

1 Vælkomin til Føroyal

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).

Samrøða 1 ('Dialogue 1')



Track 3

I bussinum av flogvøllinum 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 Torshavn. 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 ferju.
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.*



Vága Flogvøllur

Orðalýsingar ('Vocabulary explanations')

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

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	í	fyrri í	ø	edá
æ	seinna æ	y	seinna y	ý	seinna ý		

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
Hallo	Hello, hi

To say goodbye:

Farvæl	Goodbye
Vit siggjast	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
Tí! lukku	Congratulations
Allt tað besta	Good luck
Takk, í líka máta	Thanks, you too
Hagna taer! (sg.)	Have fun! Enjoy yourself!
Hagnuð tykkum! (pl.)	Have fun! Enjoy yourselves!
Sov væl (sg.)	Sleep well
Sovið væl (pl.)	Sleep well
Stuttligt at hitta teg	I'm pleased to meet you

