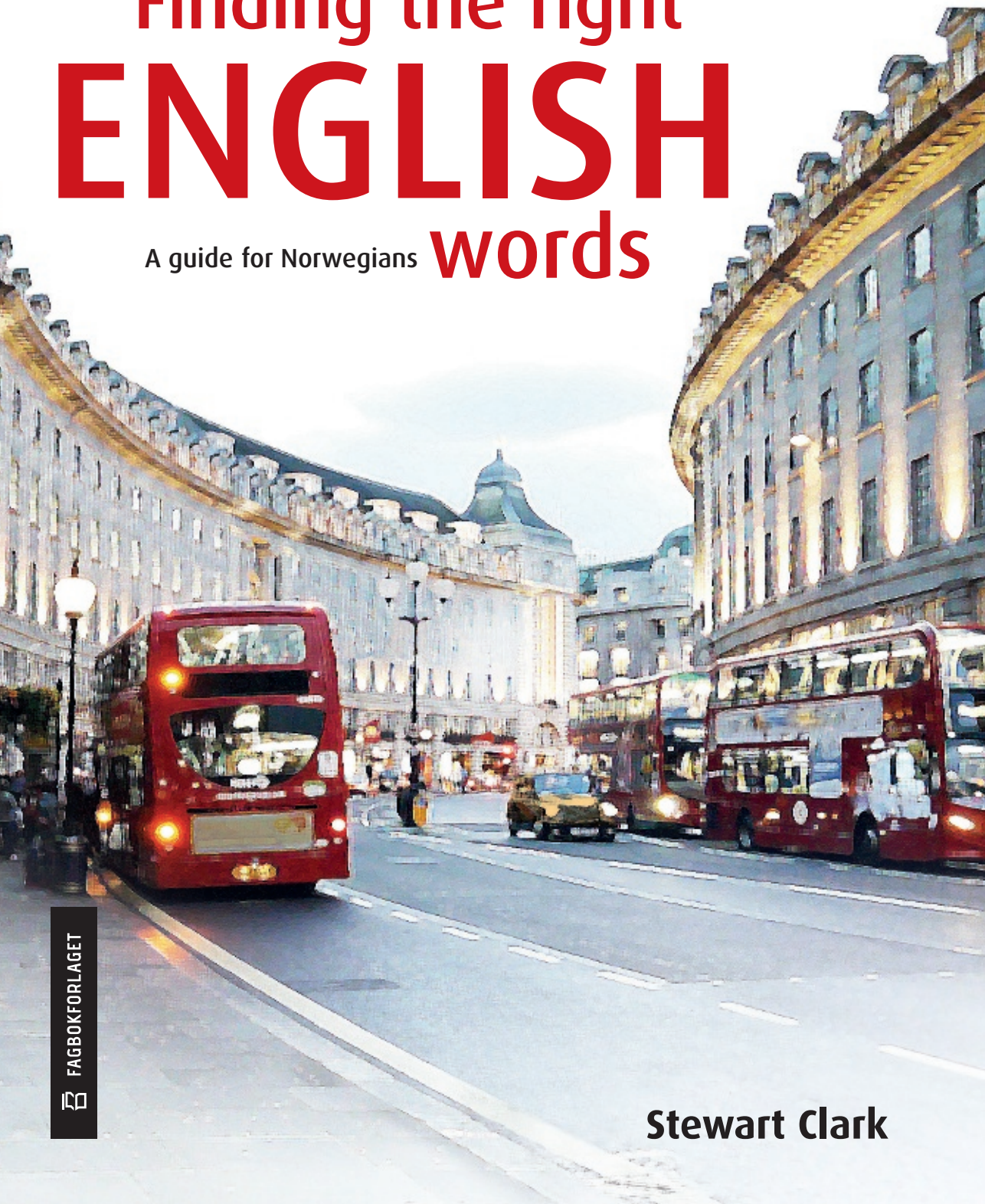
Finding the right ENGLISH words

A guide for Norwegians



FAGBOKFORLAGET

Stewart Clark

Finding the Right English Words

A Guide for Norwegians

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Contents

Introduction 7
Guide to abbreviations 8

Main text A - Z 9

Reference material 190

1 Writing skills 190

1.1 Formal English 190
1.1.1 Suitable vocabulary 190
1.1.2 Phrasal verbs 190
1.1.3 Slang 191
1.1.4 Contractions 191
1.1.5 Sexist language 192
1.1.6 Verbiage 193
1.1.7 We - tips for authors 194

1.2 Email writing and CV writing 195
1.2.1 Email writing 195
1.2.2 CV writing 200

1.3 Style tips 202
1.3.1 Capitalization 202
1.3.2 Figures 203
1.3.3 Link words 203
1.3.4 Proper names 204
1.3.5 Tables 205

1.4 Punctuation guide 205
1.4.1 Apostrophe 205
1.4.2 Colon 206
1.4.3 Comma 207
1.4.4 Dash 209
1.4.5 Exclamation mark 209
1.4.6 Hyphenation 209
1.4.7 Quotation marks, inverted commas 212
1.4.8 Full stop 212

2 Grammar tips 213

2.1 Adjectives 213
2.2 Adverbs 214
2.3 Agreement 215
2.4 Articles 216
2.5 Collective nouns 217
2.6 Genitive forms 218
2.7 Pronouns 218
2.8 Uncountable and countable nouns 219

3 Word formation 220

3.1 Back formation 220
3.2 Blend words 220
3.3 Collocation 220
3.4 Plural nouns 221
3.5 Prefixes and suffixes 223
3.6 Negative prefixes 224
3.7 Retronyms 225

Bibliography 227

Index of Norwegian terms 229

Introduction

Finding the right word is tricky in any language. The richness of English makes it especially tricky if it is not your native language. Another problem is that Norwegian often has a single word, whereas English has several. An example is *hytte*. In English you can chose between *cabin*, *chalet*, *cottage* and even *lodge*. Then there is the direct translation pitfall – *hut*, which usually refers to a shed in the garden for keeping your gardening tools or a lightweight structure on a beach for changing your clothes. Finding the right word is difficult if you consult a dictionary as they have a single word-at-a-time structure. This book groups the English words that correspond to a single Norwegian word in one entry. So *cabin*, *chalet*, *cottage, hut* and *lodge* are all in the same entry. The Index of Norwegian terms points to the entry to look up.

Finding the Right English Words is useful in other ways. It groups words that are often confused because they sound alike or look alike. An example is "lose" and "loose". If you "lose the dogs", they run away and you cannot find them, but to "to loose the dogs" means that you release them to chase someone away. Many native English speakers often mix up these words.

Apart from helping to keep over 3000 tricky English words apart, there is a compact reference material section at the back of the book. This provides tips about formal English usage, style, grammar and word formation. The writing skills section considers email writing and clarifies the differences between Norwegian and English norms. If you start an email in English without a standard salutation you may irritate an international contact before you have even written a single sentence. Almost all businesslike mails in English start with a salutation such as "Dear Jim", "Dear Mr Brown" or "Dear Professor Jones", and "Hi" is not recommended here. This book guides you around such potential problems and shows how each of the above salutations are normally linked to a standard ending.

My FAQ column called "Stewart's Corner" in *Universitetsavisa*, the university newspaper at NTNU, was expanded into a book that was first published in Norway in 2000 entitled *Getting your English Right*. An international version of this, *Word for Word*, was published by the Oxford University Press in 2003 with my co-author Graham Pointon, a former English department colleague of mine at NTNU. We have also published two other international reference books on English usage. Our latest book is *The Routledge Student Guide to English Usage*, Routledge, 2016. The present book has incorporated much of the material from these books that has relevance to Norwegians who use English at work or university.

Finding the Right English Words is based on the latest authoritative dictionaries. The spelling follows the Oxford University Press house style. This means that organize and similar words with an alternative "s" spelling in British English now have a "z"; so for once, British and American English agree on this point. However, there are many differences between these two main varieties of English, and these are referred to through the book.

A few examples of typical Norwegian errors are included to keep readers on their toes. One of these is the person who said: "Let me introduce Mr Olsen, our economical director". As the entry points out, Mr Olsen may be interested in saving money or resources, but his work title is probably financial director.

There are two ways to use this book. The first is the A-Z part which includes the most usual translations of Norwegian words; *flytende*, for example, can be translated into five different words in English. This part of the book also contrasts English words that are often confused; such as *affect* and *effect* or *compare to* and *compare with*. The cross references in the text will help you to help to find the other English words included in the book and the content of the reference section. The second way to use the book is to look at the Index of Norwegian terms, where you get the page reference to the entry with the various English translations of that word.

Good hunting. I hope this book helps you to find the right English words.

Guide to abbreviations

adj. - adjective
adv. - adverb
AE - American English (*Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, Gramercy Books, NY, 1989)
BE - British English (*Oxford Dictionary of English*, 3rd version (2010) and *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. Oxford University Press, 8th edition, 2010)
n. - noun
Norw. - Norwegian
pl. - plural
prep. - preposition
v. - verb

Note that words that are soundalikes and near soundalikes are in italics on the first line of each group of words (example: ***rap, wrap***).

Cross references
If a cross reference says "see (**ACTUAL**) **TOPICAL**", the word in brackets will bring you to the cross reference. In this example, **actual** is the word to look up and **topical** is the cross reference.

A

a, an. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 2.4.**

a-. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 3.4.**

A British speaker once told a group of Americans how he was rescued by the AA (Automobile Association). Unfortunately most of the audience thought he meant Alcoholics Anonymous

abbreviations, acronyms

An abbreviation may be formed from the initial letters in a phrase or name and is read letter-by-letter, like I, B, M or A, S, A, P for "as soon as possible" in BE. An acronym is a word formed from the initial letters of other words and is pronounced as a word such as AIDS and NATO.

With familiarity, an abbreviation may change into an acronym. An example is "U.N.E.S.C.O.", written originally as initial letters with stops, and read letter-by-letter. It has now developed into the acronym UNESCO. Abbreviations formed from the initial letters in the names of companies, organizations and states such as IBM, the EU and the USA are written in modern dictionaries without stops. Note that there may be differences between English and other languages here. For example, "VIP" is read as a three-letter abbreviation in English, not as an acronym as in Norwegian.

General abbreviations
Apart from names, abbreviations are also formed by writing the first letter or a few of the letters in a word, but these are read as a whole word. Examples: "dept" (department), "asst" or "assist" (assistant), "Fri." (Friday) and "Mr" (Mister), "Ms" (Mrs and Miss), "Dr" (Doctor). In BE, abbreviations which end with the final letter of the word usually do not have a stop, while those that do not end like that are followed by a stop. Thus the "Reverend Doctor A. Smith" would be abbreviated "The Rev. Dr A. Smith". In AE, stops are usual after all abbreviations. Thus "Mr." and "Ms." and "Dr." all have stops in AE.
Plurals of abbreviations are often formed with an "s" as in: no., nos. (number/s); fig., figs. (figure/s); eq., eqs. (equation/s). The plural of p., is pp. (pages). The ISO standard concerning SI units states that units such as cm, h, kg, km, m, s are to remain unaltered in the plural and are to be written without a final stop (ISO 31-0:1992).

Acronyms
An acronym is written without stops and read as a word. Some acronyms are used so much that it is often difficult to remember that they are acronyms. Most acronyms are written in capital letters, but a few are in lower case and are scarcely recognizable as acronyms as they are treated as everyday words. Examples of these are "laser" (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation) and "radar" (radio detection and ranging). Market researchers love to produce acronyms like YUP (Young Urban Professional) that occasionally survive and generate everyday words, written in lower case, like "yuppie". Some of the acronyms that are widely adopted are carefully chosen to make suitable words that buzz like WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant). Most dictionaries on computing terms are full of acronyms like GIGO (garbage in, garbage out) and ROM (read only memory).

Non-English abbreviations and acronyms
Norwegian abbreviations and acronyms like NRK and SINTEF are used in English together with their English translations. This means that the correct English abbreviation for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation is NRK, not "NBC". This follows the practice in the UN and elsewhere where institutions often mix their English names with an abbreviation/acronym that is from French or German. An example of this is Système International d'Unites, which in English is called the International System of Units, and the abbreviation SI is used in all languages. Other examples are BMW and FIAT.

Remember that it may be difficult for non-Norwegians to understand Norwegian abbreviations/acronyms like "NRK" and "LO/NHO". In an oral presentation, it is best to avoid filling up overheads with such strange combinations of letters. As abbreviations in one language often have no direct equivalent in another, it is worth checking in a large English dictionary that abbreviations exist before you confuse your readers with home-made abbreviations.

abeam, abaft, astern

- **Abeam** (Norw. tverrskips) refers to a line at right angles to the length of a ship or aircraft at its midpoint: "The lighthouse will soon be abeam of us".
- **Abaft** (Norw. akterut, innabords) refers to something in the stern of a ship or behind it.
- **Astern** (Norw. akterut, utabords) means towards the back of a ship or aircraft or anything directly behind a ship or aircraft.

abide, abode

- **Abide** (Norw. overholde, bli værende på et sted) when used with "by" means to accept or obey something: "We abide by the rules". It also has an archaic

sense that means to stay or live together: "Abide with me".
- **Abode** (Norw. bolig, bopel) means a dwelling and is used in the legal phrase "no fixed abode" (Norw. uten fast bopel). It is a formal word that is used in poetry or in humour "my humble abode". Alternatives are residence, house, address. Abode as a verb is also the past tense of abide but this use is archaic. See HOUSE.

ability, capacity
- **Ability** (Norw. evne, tillært) means the human power to do something: "He has the ability to be a great mathematician". Note that ability often takes "to".
- **Capacity** (Norw. evne, medfødt) means the ability to produce something or to have a talent for doing something with skill. A useful distinction is that ability is something you acquire and capacity is something you are born with: "His ability as a detective was helped by his capacity for remembering faces". Note that capacity often takes "for".

abnormal, subnormal
- **Abnormal** (Norw. uvanlig) means something that differs from the norm: "The last two winters were characterized by abnormal weather (extreme conditions)".
- **Subnormal** (Norw. subnormal) means something below the norm: "Many winters had subnormal temperatures (colder than average)".

abode. See **ABIDE.**

abolish, extinguish
- **Abolish** (Norw. avskaffe) means to end or destroy customs, practices and institutions completely: "Slavery was abolished by law".
- **Extinguish** (Norw. slukke, drepe) means to suppress feelings completely, to make a group or species extinct, or to put out a fire: "Three weeks of heavy rain extinguished the forest fires".

"Take one of our horse-driven city tours, we guarantee no miscarriages"
(Czech Tourist Agency)

abort, abortion, miscarriage
- **Abort** v. (Norw. abort) means to terminate a pregnancy: "She aborted in her 20th week". Abort is not used in this sense as a noun. When used as a noun, abort may refer to calling off a rocket launch in a space mission.
- **Abortion** (Norw. abort) means the termination of a pregnancy by deliberate intervention: "The issue of legalized abortion is still undecided in many countries". In a general sense, abortion is used to mean something unpleasant: "That building is an abortion and should be pulled down".
- **Miscarriage** (Norw. abort) means the termination of a pregnancy by natural causes: "The woman was depressed after her third spontaneous miscarriage". In general use, "miscarriage of justice" is a common phrase to express the wrongful conviction of an innocent person.

about. See **APPROXIMATION.**

above (positions). See **OVER.**

adjectives. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 2.1.**

absorb, adsorb
- **Absorb** (Norw. suge opp, absorbere) means to soak up and remove a substance: "This cloth will absorb the spilt milk".
- **Adsorb** (Norw. adsorbere) is a technical word meaning to retain something in a layer on the surface: "This chemical will adsorb the oil and prevent it sinking".

abstract, abstractedly
- **Abstract** n. (Norw. sammendrag) means a summary of a report or paper usually in about 250 words.
- **Abstract** adj. (Norw. abstrakt) means existing in thought or just as an idea: "Enough abstract thought, give me one concrete example". Abstract can also refer to a direction in art and artistic expression.
- **Abstractedly** adv. (Norw. distré) means not paying attention to the surroundings: "He walked past me and did not nod. He was abstractedly engaged in his own world".

If a referee is abused, this usually means he is shouted at. If a referee is misused, he may be blackmailed into fixing the result of a match

abuse, misuse
- **Abuse** (Norw. misbruke) means to use with bad effect or to treat or use badly or violently: "He was imprisoned after repeatedly abusing his children". *Alcohol abuse* means drinking too much. Note that as a noun, abuse rhymes with "juice", but as a verb it rhymes with "news".
- **Misuse** (Norw. bruke galt) means to use something incorrectly and for a purpose it was not designed for: "The guarantee does not cover the misuse of this vacuum cleaner for gardening". *Alcohol misuse* means using it for the wrong purpose: "Using that expensive Burgundy to make gravy is a clear case of alcohol misuse". The noun, misuse rhymes with "juice", as a verb it rhymes with "news".

abysmal, abyssal

- **Abysmal** (Norw. bunnløs) means very bad: "The quality of the food in that hotel is abysmal". In this sense it is an informal term. Alternatives are: terrible, appalling, and in the above example, uneatable or inedible. In its original meaning of a very deep or bottomless pit, abysmal is only used in poetic and similar contexts.
- **Abyssal** (Norw. dyphavs-) is a technical term for the ocean depths, especially at depths between 3000 and 6000 metres: "Abyssal mapping operations".

Both these words are stressed on the second syllable.

AC, DC

- **AC** (Norw. vekselstrøm) is an abbreviation for alternating current.
- **DC** (Norw. likestrøm) is an abbreviation for direct current. In slang, someone who is described as AC/DC is bisexual.

academic, scholarly

- **Academic** (Norw. akademisk) in one sense is a positive word meaning associated with university education: "This is a leading academic institution". It also has a negative meaning - something that is too theoretical and without practical application: "This invention is only an academic idea".
- **Scholarly** (Norw. vitenskapelig) means serious academic study and is used only in a positive sense: "This scholarly paper was written by one of our best researchers". If someone is called scholarly, it means having or showing academic knowledge (Norw. lærd). See SCHOLAR.

accede, exceed

- **Accede** (Norw. gå med på, samtykke) means to agree or consent to something: "The dictator was forced to accede to their demands". This is a very formal word and agree and consent are more usual terms.
- **Exceed** (Norw. overskride, overgå) means to go beyond what is allowed or stipulated: "The police exceeded their power when they tortured the prisoners".

accept, except

- **Accept** v. (Norw. ta imot) means to receive something: "He was forced to accept the resignation".
- **Except** prep. (Norw. unntatt) means not including or omitting something: "The Prime Minister faced widespread criticism, except from the government MPs".

access, excess

- **Access** (Norw. adgang) means being allowed in, admittance: "There is no right of access for the public". See ADMISSION.
- **Excess** (Norw. overmål) means something more than is permitted: "He had to pay extra for his excess baggage".

accident, mishap, catastrophe, disaster

- **Accident** (Norw. ulykke, uhell) means an unintentional incident that results in damage or injury: "There was another accident on that road last year". Things can be done unintentionally or by accident.
- **Mishap** (Norw. uhell) means an unlucky accident: "Delivery was delayed by a minor mishap in our factory".
- **Catastrophe** (Norw. katastrofe) means an event that results in great damage or suffering: "The earthquake was a catastrophe for the whole nation".
- **Disaster** (Norw. katastrofe, ulykke) means a sudden event, accident or catastrophe that results in great damage or loss of life: "The train crash was one of many such disasters in India". Note that English often uses disaster where other languages use catastrophe or katastrofe. Examples: *disaster area* (Norw. katastrofeområde), *disaster fund* (Norw. katastrofefond).

accommodation, accommodations

- **Accommodation** (Norw. innkvartering) means: 1. A room or building where someone can live or stay: "Student accommodation in town is always hard to find at the beginning of term". 2. A settlement, agreement or compromise: "The two sides came to an accommodation". Note that in the first sense, accommodation takes neither the definite nor indefinite articles, while in the second sense it may. Accommodation is always spelt with two c's, two m's and three o's. This word is only used in the singular in BE.
- **Accommodations** (Norw. innkvartering) is the plural of accommodation, but is only used in AE: "Overnight accommodations are available in the next town".

Note the spelling. Double "c" and double "m".

accompany. See **TAKE.**

accord. See **(AGREEMENT) ARRANGEMENT, TREATY.**

accountable. See **RESPONSIBLE.**

accounting, bookkeeping, creative accountancy

- **Accounting** (Norw. regnskapsføring) is the broadest term for keeping accounts and recording entries in company books: "The corporate accounting principles".
- **Bookkeeping** (Norw. bokføring) is the technical recording of accounting information: "We have a two-tier system of bookkeeping". Note the spelling with double "k".
- **Creative accountancy** (Norw. kreativ bokføring) means exploiting the loopholes in the tax regulations to gain advantage or it can also mean presenting a company's accounts in a beneficial way. This is also known as *window dressing*.

achieve, accomplish, attain

- **Achieve** (Norw. oppnå, utrette) means to reach or attain an objective: "He achieved his ambition of becoming a rock star".
- **Accomplish** (Norw. oppnå) means to achieve or do something successfully: "They accomplished the task of freeing the soldiers".
- **Attain** (Norw. oppnå) means to reach something that is measured: "She attained top grades". Attain is a formal word and alternatives are get and achieve.

acid, acrid

- **Acid** (Norw. syrlig) means sharp in taste and tone: "The stand-up comedian had an acid sense of humour". An acid test (Norw. avgjørende prøve) means a crucial trial: "The acid test: will the software work?"
- **Acrid** (Norw. skarp, besk) means unpleasantly bitter in taste or smell: "The burning wood emitted acrid fumes from the paint". Figuratively, *an acrid departure* means an angry and bitter one.

acknowledge, admit

- **Acknowledge** (Norw. anerkjenne, innrømme) means to confirm that you have received something, or to accept a truth without implying error. "I acknowledge your complaint about the car I sold you". In another sense, acknowledge means to thank: "I acknowledge the financial support from the Research Council of Norway" (Norw. takke for).
- **Admit** (Norw, innrømme, slippe inn) means to accept responsibility: "I admit your complaint is justified". It also means allow to enter. See ADMISSION.

acknowledgement, acknowledgment

- **Acknowledgement** (Norw. bekreftelse, anerkjennelse, påskjønnelse) means to accept something: "We have now received acknowledgement that the parcel was received". In another sense it means to express gratitude to others: "The gift was in acknowledgement of her kindness". The plural form acknowledgements is often used as a heading in reports.
- **Acknowledgment** (spelt with two e's) is an alternative way of spelling acknowledgement.

acoustic, acoustical, acoustics

- **Acoustic** (Norw. akustisk, høre-, lyd-) refers to hearing, sound or the science of sound. In anatomy, we have the *acoustic nerve* (Norw. hørenerve), and in sound, *an acoustic image* (Norw. lydbilde). Examples: acoustic feedback and acoustic guitar. Acoustic is more frequent than acoustical.
- **Acoustical** (Norw. akustisk) means almost the same as acoustic and is used in terms like *acoustical measurement* (Norw. akustisk måling) and *acoustical shadow* (Norw. skyggesone). Though there is very little difference between acoustic and acoustical, they are rarely interchanged.
- **Acoustics** (Norw. akustikk) has two meanings. One is the science of sound, and, like other academic subjects ending in "-ics", it always takes a singular verb here: "Acoustics is a challenging field". In the second sense, it means the acoustic properties of something such as a room (Norw. romakustikk) or a building. Here it takes a plural verb: "The acoustics in the Greek amphitheatre are perfect".

acquaintance. See **FRIEND.**

acquire. See **ADAPT.**

acronyms. See **ABBREVIATIONS.**

across (positions). See **OVER.**

act, action

- **Act** (Norw. gjerning) is a deed which is usually done once. In the legal sense, an Act (Norw. lov) is capitalized and means a law passed by the legislature of a country.
- **Action** (Norw. handling, aksjon) stresses the process involved in an act. It may also refer to legal proceedings, a law suit: "My client is considering taking action against you".

> **"I would like to thank Professor Jones, his comments were very actual"**
> **(Typical Norwegian error)**

actual, topical

- **Actual** (Norw. virkelig, faktisk) means a real, factual event and something which exists: "No one has yet filmed the actual Loch Ness monster". Actual is often contrasted with something expected or estimated: "The actual cost was only 60 % of the estimate". Actual is a word that needs to be used with care, and it must not be confused with the similarly spelt word in other languages (such as the Norw. aktuell, which means relevant or topical). See FALSE FRIENDS.
- **Topical** (Norw. aktuell) means relevant or of current interest. Compare "this film is about a topical problem" (up to date and relevant) with "this film is about an actual problem" (real and not imagined). See CURRENT.

acute, chronic

- **Acute** (Norw. akutt) refers to an illness or event that has just occurred: "After the crash, the badly injured driver needed acute attention".
- **Chronic** (Norw. kronisk) refers to a serious condition of long duration: "In their third year of drought, the people suffered from chronic malnutrition".

***ad, add,* advertisement, advertise**

- **Ad** (Norw. annonse) means a short advertisement, often in the classified pages of a newspaper: "They put a classified ad in the paper to try to find a flat".
- **Add** (Norw. øke, tilføye) means to increase or to say something more. Note that when using the phrase "an added advantage" you must have already mentioned one advantage.
- **Advertisement** (Norw. annonse) means any type of notice, picture or similar that informs people about a product: "These controversial advertisements for female underwear are on all the billboards in town". The short forms of advertisement are *ad* and *advert*; both are informal. In BE the stress is placed on the second syllable "vert". The third syllable is pronounced "tis".
- **Advertise** (Norw. annonsere) means the act of advertising. Make sure that you put the stress on the third syllable which is pronounced "taiz".

AD, BC

- **AD** (Norw. e.Kr) stands for Anno Domini and is written before the year: "Pompeii was destroyed in AD 79". Purists argue that it is incorrect to use "in AD 79" as in Latin anno means "in the year". However, the combination "in AD 79" is in general use. Another criticism from purists is combining AD with "century", because a century cannot be in the year of anything. Nevertheless, AD often illogically follows century for clarity: "Many ancient tombs were discovered in the fourth century AD".
- **BC** (Norw. f.Kr.) stands for before Christ and is written after the year: "Cicero was born in 106 BC". Note that AD and BC should be written in small capitals in printed text.

adapt, adopt, acquire

- **Adapt** (Norw. tilpasse seg) means to adjust to something: "In Western Australia he had to adapt to a climate without snowy winters". See CONFORM.
- **Adopt** (Norw. innføre, ta i bruk) means to put into practice or to borrow: "He adopted the custom of going for long walks in the hills on Sundays".
- **Acquire** (Norw. erverve) means to learn or develop a skill, habit or quality: "He acquired new habits after a Christmas in Hollywood".

address, lecture, speech, talk (oral presentations)

- **Address** (Norw. tale til) is a very formal prepared speech: "He delivered an impressive address to the Senate". Note that address is spelt with a double "d" in English and may be used as a noun or verb. In BE, the second syllable is stressed in either case, but AE, also stresses the first syllable when address is used as a noun. Note that this use of address may be confused with the most common meaning – the place where someone lives. Thus "the prince's address in Hamburg" is ambiguous.
- **Lecture** (Norw. forelesning) is a prepared presentation for teaching purposes.
- **Speech** (Norw. tale) in politics and diplomacy is a prepared talk that is designed to win opinion or present an argument. An after-dinner speech can vary a lot in standard and length, but it is supposed to be prepared. When speech is used without an article it means articulated sound (Norw. taleevne): "Three years later the gift of speech returned".
- **Talk** (Norw. tale) is the most informal type of presentation and does not have to be a prepared speech. When talk is used without an article it means the process of communication (Norw. prating, snakking): "Careless talk costs lives". See TALKS.

Note the spelling of address. Double "d" and double "s".

addresses in letters. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 1.2.1.**

adequate. See **ENOUGH.**

adhesion, adherence

- **Adhesion** (Norw. fastklebing) refers to the quality of sticking or gluing: "The 'Post it' labels are useful because of their poor adhesion".
- **Adherence** (Norw. overholdelse (av)) refers to support for a particular party or ideology: "Adherence to the party line was the only way to get a job".

adjacent, adjoining

- **Adjacent** (Norw. tilstøtende) is a general word, that means close to or nearby and only sometimes sharing the same boundary. This ambiguity in adjacent can be avoided by replacing it by *near* or *adjoining*.
- **Adjoining** (Norw. tilgrensende) means sharing the same boundary or next to: "The hotel gave the guests adjoining rooms". Things that are adjoining must be joined.

adjectives. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 2.1.**

adjourn, postpone, rain check

- **Adjourn** (Norw. heve møte, begi seg til) means to break off a meeting that has started: "We adjourn the meeting until next week". More informally, it can also mean to move somewhere else: "As the weather was settled they adjourned to the garden after lunch".
- **Postpone** (Norw. utsette) means to rearrange an event or meeting that has not started for a later date: "The league matches on Saturday are postponed because of the weather".
- **Rain check** (Norw. utsette) means to come back to a matter later on: "I will take a rain check on this". Rain check is an AE term that is used a lot in business. The expression comes from a new ticket for a rescheduled baseball / football match that had to be stopped because of the rain or bad weather conditions.

adjunct professor. See **PROFESSOR.**

admission, admittance

- **Admission** (Norw. adgang, innrømmelse) means permission to enter in an abstract sense: "Admission to the clan was difficult". It is also the cost of being admitted to something: "Admission to the match EUR 15". Admission is also used for confession: "His admission of guilt shocked the court". See ACCESS.
- **Admittance** (Norw. adgang) means direct permission to enter a place. It is often used in a negative sense as in "No admittance" or "Admittance is prohibited".

admit. See **ACKNOWLEDGE.**

adopt. See **ADAPT.**

adsorb. See **ABSORB.**

advanced age. See **OLD.**

adverbs. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 2.2.**

adverse, averse

- **Adverse** (Norw. negativ, ugunstig) means unfavourable, having a dislike or distaste for things but, not people: "Adverse comments about his driving".
- **Averse** (Norw. ha noe imot) means unwilling or having a strong dislike for things or people. Averse appears only after the verbs to be or to feel and is followed by to: "He was averse to garlic eaters".

advert. See **AD.**

advice, advise

- **Advice** n. (Norw. råd) means recommendation. Advice is uncountable, thus "an advice" is incorrect in English. Use "a piece of advice" or "some advice" instead. The "plural" of advice can be expressed by using "some advice". Advice always takes a singular verb and determiner: "This advice is important, it must be applied". The ending rhymes with "ice". See REFERENCE MATERIAL, 2.8.
- **Advise** v. (Norw. gi råd, råde til) means to make recommendations: "The policeman put his notebook away and advised us to keep to the speed limit". The ending rhymes with "eyes".

adviser, advisor

- **Adviser** (Norw. rådgiver) is a person who gives advice. This spelling is usual in BE. Note that the adjective is spelt advisory.
- **Advisor** (Norw. rådgiver) is an alternative spelling in BE for adviser and is the usual spelling in AE.

ae-, e-, oe-

In words of Greek and Latin origin, the sound "ee" is sometimes spelt ae and oe in BE. The joined æ is rarely used today. In AE, only e is used.

Examples:	(BE)	(AE)
	aesthetic	esthetic
	amoeba	ameba
	anaemic	anemic
	anaesthetic	anesthetic

aerial, areal

- **Aerial** (Norw. luftig, luft, antenne) means something in the air or involving the use of aircraft, "The aerial surveillance was intensified before the invasion". It is also a wire to transmit or receive radio waves in BE. See ANTENNA.
- **Areal** means the nature of an area: "Areal linguistics stresses the importance of geographical factors in the development of language".

aero-. See **AIR-.**

aeroplane, airplane, aircraft

- **Aeroplane** (Norw. fly) means a powered flying vehicle with fixed wings. The short form is *plane*. This is the BE form.
- **Airplane** (Norw. fly) is the AE form of aeroplane.
- **Aircraft** (Norw. fly) is often used in BE as an alternative for aeroplane. In AE, it is the plural of airplane. Note that in BE, aircraft is both the singular and plural form: "One or two aircraft were also on the runway before the crash". See AIR-.

aesthete, esthete

- **Aesthete** (Norw. estetiker) means a person who understands and appreciates beauty. It is old-fashioned to spell this with "æ". See AE-.
- **Esthete** is the AE spelling of aesthete.

a few. See **FEW.**

affect, effect

- **Affect** v. (Norw. virke (inn) på) means make a difference to or influence something: "Computers are affecting our lives". "Her illness affected the whole family".
- **Effect** n. (Norw. virkning, få til) means a result or consequence: "Rising prices are having an effect on the government's popularity".
- **Effect** v. (Norw. få til) means to do or achieve something: "The plane was grounded until repairs to the engine could be effected". This is a formal word and carried out or done are alternatives.

Since these words are frequently confused, a useful rule of thumb is to consider **affect** as a verb and **effect** as a noun.

affluent. See **WEALTH.**

African American. See **BLACK.**

afterwards, afterward

- **Afterwards** (Norw. etterpå) means at a later time. "We must find the child and look for the dog afterwards". This is the normal BE spelling.
- **Afterward** (Norw. etterpå) is the AE alternative spelling of afterwards. See -WARD, -WARDS.

aged (noun and verb)

- **Aged** n. (Norw. gammel) means the old: "Help the aged". This is pronounced in two syllables as "ayjid". See OLD.
- **Aged** v. (Norw. år gammel) refers to the age of a person or thing: "He was aged 18". Note this is pronounced as one syllable. See YEARS OLD.

agenda, agendas

- **Agenda** (Norw. saksliste) means matters to be discussed, usually in a meeting: "This is the agenda for today". Although agenda is a Latin plural, in modern English it is a singular noun which takes a singular verb. See (OSTENSIBLE) HIDDEN AGENDA.
- **Agendas** is the plural of agenda.

aggressive. See **OFFENSIVE.**

ago, way back

- **Ago** (Norw. for … siden) means before the present. It can be just five minutes ago or twenty-five years ago. Note that it is incorrect to combine "for" and "ago" in a time phrase: "It happened 15 years ago" (not "… for 15 years ago"). When a clause is introduced by ago, add "that", not "since": "It was over fifty years ago that NATO was formed".
- **Way back** (Norw. for … siden) refers to an earlier period or a historical period. This is an informal expression: "This happened way back in 1949".

A well-known Norwegian rally driver may not have grasped the basics of a gentleman's agreement, as he is reported as saying: "For many years, Ford and I have had a gentleman's agreement - in writing of course".

agreement, gentleman's agreement, arrangement, deal

- **Agreement** (Norw. avtale) means a negotiated and typically legally binding arrangement between two or more parties. An agreement can be written or oral: "An agreement was reached between the three computer companies".
- **Gentleman's agreement** means an unwritten, but binding agreement, based on trust and usually confirmed by a handshake. This is also written *gentlemen's agreement.*
- **Arrangement** (Norw. avtale, akkord) means either a practical, often oral agreement on a personal or commercial basis: "The travel agents have an arrangement with several hotels in London". It can also mean an agreement to settle a debt: "They came to an arrangement with the bank" (Norw. akkord, which must not be confused with accord). See (TREATY) ACCORD.
- **Deal** means an agreement of any type. It is an informal word that refers either to a commercial transaction (Norw. handel): "We made a good deal there, the car was a bargain", or agreements in general (Norw. avtaler): "The government refuses to make any deals with terrorists".

agreement between subject and verb. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 2.3.**

aid, aide

- **Aid** (Norw. hjelp, bistand) means help and support in a general sense: "Considerable aid is always necessary for orphans in war zones".
- **Aide** (Norw. adjutant, (politisk) medarbeider) means a helper in the armed forces and diplomatic corps. The word is short for *aide-de-camp*.

ail, ale

- **Ail** v. (Norw. sykdom) is an old-fashioned word that means to be ill or in trouble. It is sometimes used today in a negative sense such as "the ailing economy has caused high unemployment" (Norw. skrantete).
- **Ale** (Norw. øl) means a type of beer. It is now used in trade names like "pale ale, brown ale, mild ale".

aim. See **GOAL.**

ain't, aren't, are not

- **Ain't** (Norw. er ikke) is a contraction for *am not*, *are not*. It is only used in non-standard English.
- **Aren't** (Norw. er ikke) is a contraction for *are not*. This is used to represent dialogue in standard English.
- **Are not** (Norw. er ikke) is the standard written form: "We are not amused".

air-, aero-

- **Air-** (Norw. luft-) is used in most of the words connected with aviation in BE and AE. Examples: *Airborne, aircrew, aircraft, airport*. See AIRCRAFT.
- **Aero-** (Norw. luft-) is used in a few words connected with aviation. Examples: *Aeronautics, aerospace, aerosol, aeroplane* (BE). See AEROPLANE.

aircraft, airplain. See **AEROPLANE.**

aisle. See **ISLE.**

alike. See **SIMILAR.**

all, al-

All words (Norw. all, alt, alle) are written in two words as in *all ready, all right, all together* or with a hyphen like *all-important, all-inclusive*. Remember to keep the double "l".
Al- words are written in one word as in already, *alright, altogether*. These words only have a single "l".

all of. See **MOST OF.**

allocate, allot
- **Allocate** (Norw. tildele, gi) means to share or divide resources for a particular purpose: "The university was allocated 40 % of the new places for IT students".
- **Allot** (Norw. avsette) means to assign as a lot without the idea of distribution: "The government allotted a further NOK 50 million to medical research".

all ready, already
- **All ready** adj. (Norw. alt klart) means being completely prepared: "The players were finally all ready for the match to start".
- **Already** adv. (Norw. allerede) means beforehand or prior to an event: "The referee was irritated, he had already been waiting for 5 minutes".

all right, alright
- **All right** (Norw. alt riktig, tilfredsstillende) either means that everything is correct: "These answers are all right", here both words are stressed, or it can also mean satisfactory.
- **Alright** (Norw. tilfredsstillende, godkjent) means satisfactory. For example some of the answers in a test are correct: "The test result was alright". Some guides to English consider that alright is just an informal spelling of all right and is to be avoided. *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* states that the spelling alright is similar to altogether and already and there is no logical reason for not using it. Nevertheless, many people consider it to be unacceptable in formal writing.

all together, altogether
- **All together** (Norw. alle sammen) means doing something as a group: "The cars moved all together".
- **Altogether** (Norw. fullstendig) means completely or entirely: "What the politician said was not altogether true".

Spell these as two words if they are pronounced with two stresses.

allude, refer
- **Allude** (Norw. hentyde til, alludere) means referring to something indirectly without mentioning it: "The reporter alluded to the Princess' secret lover".
- **Refer** (Norw. henvise til) means to state things directly: "The reporter referred to Captain John Smith, the Princess' lover".

allusion, reference
- **Allusion** (Norw. hentydning, allusjon) means an indirect reference: "The allusion to the MP's attempt at tax evasion".
- **Reference** (Norw. henvisning) means a direct statement about something: "Reference was made to the MP's battle with the tax authorities".

"This hotel is renowned for its piece and solitude. In fact, crowds from all over the world flock here to enjoy its solitude"
(Hotel brochure, Italy)

alone, solitary, lonely
- **Alone** (Norw. alene, for seg selv) describes someone who is separate from others but there is no suggestion of unhappiness: "He is driving to Glasgow alone". Alone is not used directly before a noun: "She looks forward to being alone in the flat".
- **Solitary** (Norw. alene, for seg selv) also means alone and can describe an out-of-the-way place: "A solitary cabin in the mountains". Solitary is used directly before a noun: "She loves long solitary walks". Solitude is the state of being solitary.
- **Lonely** (Norw. ensom) suggests that someone dislikes being alone and is unhappy: "She was very lonely when she moved to Madrid". An informal AE term for lonely is *lonesome*.

a lot. See **MUCH.**

altar, alter
- **Altar** n. (Norw. alter) means the part of a church where most ceremonies are held: "The bride and groom walked towards the altar".
- **Alter** v. (Norw. endre) means to make something different: "Winning the pools altered his bank balance, not his character".

alternative, alternate
- **Alternative** (Norw. alternativ) means providing a choice among different options. Though alternative is derived from the Latin *alter* (other of two), it is normal today to write about "several alternatives". Alternative energy means power production from non-traditional sources such as wind and waves.
- **Alternate** (Norw. annenhver, veksle) means every other: "Alternate days are Monday, Wednesday,

Friday". It can also mean succeeding another thing in turn as in *alternating current* (Norw. vekselstrøm): plus-minus, plus-minus etc. In AE, alternate also means the same as alternative. Thus "alternative suppliers" may mean different ones in AE.

although, though

- **Although** (Norw. skjønt, selv om) means even though and is mainly used at the beginning of a sentence or phrase: "Although we ran, we did not catch the bus".
- **Though** (Norw. skjønt, selv om) means the same as although but they cannot always be interchanged. Though is used at the beginning, middle or end of a sentence or phrase: "We did not catch the bus, though". Though is also less formal than although.

altitude. See **HEIGHT.**

aluminium, aluminum

- **Aluminium** (Norw. aluminium) is a lightweight metal. This is the BE spelling, and the word is pronounced "alu'minium" in BE.
- **Aluminum** (Norw. aluminium) is the AE spelling of aluminium, and the word is pronounced "a'luminum" in AE spelling. Note that there is only one "i" in AE.

alumna, alumnae

- **Alumna** (Norw. kvinnelig universitetsstudent) means a female graduate or student of a university.
- **Alumnae** is the plural of alumna and is pronounced "a'lum-nee".

alumnus, alumni

- **Alumnus** (Norw. mannlig universitetsstudent) means a male graduate or student of a university and is not used for a female student or graduate.
- **Alumni** (Norw. universitetsstudent) strictly speaking means male students only since alumni is the plural of alumnus. However, alumni is widely used for both sexes. It is pronounced "a'lum-nigh". In BE, graduate is more common than alumni. The *alumni association* is the organization for the alumni (of both sexes).

a.m. see TIME OF DAY.

America, The Americas

- **America** (Norw. Amerika) means either the United States or the geographical land mass comprising North and South America joined by Central America.
- **The Americas** (Norw. Amerika) means the geographical land mass comprising North and South America joined by Central America. This is always used with a definite article: "The Americas have suffered a succession of hurricanes".

American English. See **BRITISH ENGLISH (BE), AMERICAN ENGLISH (AE).**

American Indian. See **NATIVE AMERICAN.**

amiable, amicable

- **Amiable** (Norw. vennlig) describes people and expressions that appear friendly: "An amiable face". This is pronounced "aymi-able".
- **Amicable** (Norw. vennlig, vennskapelig) is used to describe an agreement or a friendly relationship: "The children and the teacher got on well together. It was an amicable class". This is pronounced "a'mickable".

amity, enmity

- **Amity** (Norw. vennskap) means friendship of a public nature such as between nations or people. This is a very formal word and *friendship, brotherhood* and *close ties* are more usual synonyms. It is pronounced "ay'mitee".
- **Enmity** (Norw. fiendskap) means hostility, so it is the opposite of amity: "The two countries were in a state of enmity". It is pronounced "en'mitee".

amoeba. See **AE-.**

among, midst, between

- **Among** (Norw. blant) means to distribute in parts and is used about people or things considered as a group: "She shared the food among the passengers".
- **Midst** (Norw. blant) means surrounded: "Lost in the midst of the dark forest". This is a rather old-fashioned poetic term. In non-poetic writing it is best to use *among*.
- **Between** (Norw. mellom) means among and is used for people or things. Between is often used just for two, but it can mean more than two, in constructions such as: "She shared the food equally between her six cats". When between indicates a range and there are dates or prices after between, these should be linked by *and*. Example: "People born between 1985 and 1989". Avoid using "between 1985-1989" or "between 1985 to 1989". When you quote a price, use "between NOK 20 000 and NOK 30 000". Note "between NOK 20 and NOK 30 000", may mean that NOK 20 is the lowest figure.

amoral. See **IMMORAL.**

anaemia, anemia

- **Anaemia/anaemic** (Norw. anemi, anemisk) mean suffering from and the state of having a deficiency of red blood cells. These are the BE spellings. See AE-.
- **Anemia/anemic** are the AE spellings of anaemia/anaemic.

anaesthetic, anaesthesia (BE), anesthetic, anesthesia (AE)

- **Anaesthetic/anaesthesia** (Norw. bedøvelsesmiddel). An anaesthetic is a substance that creates insensitivity to pain. Anaesthesia is the state induced by an anesthetic. These are the BE spellings.
- **Anesthetic/anesthesia** are the AE spellings.

analyse, analyze

- **Analyse** (Norw. analysere) means to examine methodologically and in detail. This is the BE spelling. It is pronounced "anna-liez".
- **Analyze** is the AE spelling of analyse.

analysis, analyses

- **Analysis** (Norw. analyse) means the detailed examination of the elements or structure of something. This is the singular form. Analysis is pronounced "a'nala-siss".
- **Analyses** n. (Norw. analyser) is the plural of analysis. This is pronounced "a'nala-seas".
- **Analyses** v. (Norw. analysere) is the 3rd person singular of analyse. It is pronounced "anna'liez-is".

He was a historical analist
(Typo to avoid)

analyst, annalist

- **Analyst** (Norw. analytiker) is a person who analyses material or compounds: "She is a chemical analyst at ICI".
- **Annalist** (Norw. annalist, årbokforfatter) is someone who writes historical records, or annals. Note that the soundalike *analist* is related to the word anus.

ancient. See **OLD.**

and. See **COMMA USE.**

anemia. See **ANAEMIA.**

anesthesia. See **ANAESTHESIA.**

angel, angle

- **Angel** (Norw. engel) means a heavenly spirit or a person with exemplary behaviour: "She is a real angel to me".
- **Angle** (Norw. vinkel, vinkling) means the space between two lines that meet in mathematics or a means of describing the steepness of a surface. Angle also means an approach in informal English: "We could not understand what his angle was". Here, *line of argument* can be used in formal contexts.

angler, fisherman

- **Angler** (Norw. sportsfisker) is someone who fishes for sport with a rod. Anglers distinguish between fishing or angling and the exclusive sport of fly-fishing.
- **Fisherman** (Norw. fisker) is usually someone who fishes for a living, from a trawler: "A deep sea fisherman", but it can also be used for anglers. Fisherman is criticized on grounds of sexism, but the alternative *fisher* is too biblical to be used generally: "I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). See REFERENCE MATERIAL, 1.1.5.

Anglo-. See **NATIONALITY WORDS.**

angry about, angry with

- **Angry about** (Norw. sint over) is used for things and events: "He was extremely angry about the bank's decision".
- **Angry with** (Norw. sint på) is used about people: "He was extremely angry with the bank manager".



"The pipeline has minor bending angels".
(Research report)

annex, annexe

- **Annex** v. (Norw. annektere) means that a dominant power takes over a territory: "Plans were made to annex parts of the West Bank".
- **Annex** n. (Norw. tillegg) refers to an addition to a document or report. See APPENDIX.
- **Annexe** (Norw. tilbygg) means an additional part of something, such as an extra hotel building: "The hotel annexe is across the road". This spelling is mainly used in BE. In AE, the spelling is annex.

annual, perennial

- **Annual** (Norw. årlig) means something that happens each year. An *annual plant* (Norw. ettårig plante) is one that has a one-year life cycle. An annual can also be a special edition of a book: "He bought the children a Mad annual for Christmas".
- **Perennial** (Norw. flerårig) means lasting or recurring: "El Niño is a perennial problem". A *perennial plant* is one that flowers annually and lives for many years.

annul, invalidate

- **Annul** (Norw. annullere, gjøre ugyldig) is a legal term to cancel or make something worthless: "The divorce settlement means that the marriage is annulled".
- **Invalidate** (Norw. gjøre ugyldig) means to make a thing ineffective due to a specific reason: "The marriage was invalidated because her husband was guilty of bigamy". The stress is on the second syllable. See INVALID.

answer. See **REPLY.**

ante-, anti-

Ante- (Norw. ante-, før-) means before and also in front of. In the "before" sense, there is *antenatal* meaning prior to birth and also *antedate* which means before in date. *Antediluvian* means before the Flood and is sometimes used to describe very antiquated concepts. In the "in the front of" sense, there is *antechamber* (Norw. forkammer) for a minor room. Ante- rhymes with "panty".
Anti- (Norw. anti-, mot-) means against or opposed to. An *antiseptic* is an agent which destroys bacteria. Other words with anti- are: *antibiotic, antibody, anticyclone*. Anti- in the sense "of opposed to" is the basis of words like the *Antichrist* and *anti-hero*. In BE, anti- rhymes with "panty". In AE, anti- is pronounced "ant-tie". Note that there are a few, mostly rare, words that have the main stress on the second syllable, examples: an'tipathy and an'tipodes.

antenna/antennae, antenna/antennas

- **Antenna/antennae** (Norw. følehorn) are the sense organ(s) on the heads of insects (or people in a figurative sense): "Her antennae were alerted by the mention of a certain woman". The last syllable in the plural form antennae is pronounced "nai".
- **Antenna/antennas** (Norw. antenne) in a technical sense this means an arrangement of aerials. In this sense, the plural is antennas. In AE, antenna is synonymous with aerial. See AERIAL.

"For sale, 4-poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for an antique lover"

antique, antiquated

- **Antique** (Norw. antikk) means things made valuable by age: "This table is an antique". Antique is used for things that are not as old as ancient objects. Antique is both an adjective and a noun.
- **Antiquated** (Norw. antikvert) means ideas and things that are out of date and are not in favour: "His views about life are as antiquated as this castle".

antisocial, unsocial, unsociable

- **Antisocial** (Norw. asosial) means hostile to society: "He is antisocial and tries to run people down on his bicycle".
- **Unsocial** (Norw. ubekvem, ususosial) means outside normal working hours: "Allowance for unsocial working hours". It also means causing annoyance to others: "This spray gun is a most unsocial device".
- **Unsociable** (Norw. ususosial) means someone who is unfriendly or badly mannered: "He's too unsociable to work as a waiter". "That unsociable box, the TV".

any. See **SOME.**

anyone, any one

- **Anyone** (Norw. noen (som helst)) means any person and is equivalent to anybody. If you ask: "Is anyone there?" you expect a negative answer. (Compare this with someone, where you expect a positive answer.) Note that anyone and anybody both take singular verbs. See SOMEONE.
- **Any one** (Norw. enhver) means a specific person or object. One of a choice: "I would like any one of those boats". Stress both words.

anywhere, anyplace

- **Anywhere** (Norw. hvor som helst) means every place: "Anywhere she goes, reporters follow".
- **Anyplace** (Norw. hvor som helst) means the same as anywhere but is only used in AE.

anxious. See **CONCERNED.**

apostrophe. See **REFERENCE MATERIAL, 1.4.1.**

appendix/appendices, appendix/appendixes
Appendix has two meanings.

- **Appendix** (Norw. vedlegg) is an annex or an addendum to a report. In this sense it has the plural ap-