

# Learning To Speak Icelandic

## 1. Pronunciation

Icelandic has many English sounds due the languages both coming from the same language tree. Unless mentioned, assume English pronunciation.

Á á - said as "ow" as in cow

Ð ð - said as "th" in the

E e - said as the short "ai" sound in air

É é - said as yeah, but shorter

F f - at the start of words it is said as the English f. Between vowels as English. Before l or n as a b. Fnd is said as English m and fnt is said as hm

G g - At the beginning of words it is said as a hard English g. In between vowels and at the end of a word a very soft throaty g resembling a toned down German "ch" at the back of the throat.

It is not pronounced between accented vowels. It is said as an Icelandic j between a vowel and j. After a vowel and before a t or s it is a hard German "ch"

I i - said as "i" in win

Í í - said as "ee" in we

J j - said as a "y" at the beginning of words. Elsewhere it is aspirated before the "y" sound

O o - said as "o" in hot

Ó ó - said as "oh"

R r - is always rolled

S s - always an "s", never said as a z

U u - said as the French "eux" but shorter

Ú ú - said as the "ew" sound in yew

X x - said as a hard German "ch"

Y y - see l

Ý ý - see í

Þ þ - said as the "th" sound in thing

Æ æ - said as "eye"

Ö ö - said as "ur" as in murder

Hv - as "kf" in thankful

Ll - as "tl"

Nn - as tn after accented vowel or diphthong. This also happens between rl, rn, sl and sn

Pp, tt, kk are all aspirated

Au - is said as "öj"

Ei and ey - said as the "a" sound in case

## 2. Alphabet and the names of the letters

A a a	N n enn
Á á á	O o o
B b bé	Ó ó ó
D d dé	P p pé
Ð ð eð	R r er
E e e	S s ess
É é é	T t té
F f eff	U u u
G g ge	Ú ú ú
H h há	V v vaff
I i i	X x ex
Í í í	Y y ufsilon y
J j joð	Ý ý ufsilon ý
K k ká	Þ þ þorn
L l ell	Æ æ æ
M m emm	Ö ö ö

## 3. Nouns and Cases

Cases are simply the ending of a noun. In Icelandic most nouns are declined. There are 3 genders (masculine, feminine and neuter) and 4 cases (nominative, accusative, dative and genitive). Icelandic is not largely a grammatical language, but instead a lexical language. This means that it is verbs and prepositions which govern cases, rather than sentence position. If there is both a verb and preposition in the sentence it will be the preposition rather than the verb which decides the case.

## 4. Nominative Case

This is the case in which all nouns appear in the dictionary. If the verb in the sentence does not govern a case, and there is no preposition then the noun will be in the nominative case. The nominative singular endings are as follows:

Masculine: ur, l, n, i

Feminine: a, or no ending

Neuter: no endings, although nouns ending with accented accents are usually neuter.

## 5. Accusative Case

The singular accusative case endings are as follows:

Masculine: remove the nominative ending. If the noun ends in i then it changes to a.

Feminine: if the noun had no ending in the nominative, it will have no ending in the accusative. If the noun ended in a it will change to ur.

Neuter: no ending.

## 6. Dative Case

The dative singular endings are:

Masculine: very irregular group. Some acquire i, others do not. If the noun ended in i in the nominative, it will end in a in the dative.

Feminine: the same rules apply as the feminine accusative.

Neuter: add i.

## 7. Genitive Case

Masculine: add s. If the noun ended in i in the nominative, it will end in an a in the genitive.

Feminine: nouns which ended in a become ar. Nouns which had no ending remain ur.

Neuter: add s.

## 8. Plurals

The table below shows the case endings in the plural:

	Masculine		Feminine	Neuter
	-ur, l, n	-i	No ending -a	
Nominative	ir	ir	ur	Vowel shift See section 8
Accusative	a	ir	ur	
Dative	U(m)*			
Genitive	a			

\* The m is not added if definite article is being added.

## 9. The articles

There is no indefinite article, meaning that the word barn (child) means both child and a child.

The definite article is suffixed to the noun and its declension. The table below shows the definite article and its various declensions:

Singular					
	Masculine		Feminine		Neuter
	-ur, l, n	-i	No ending	-a	
Nominative	inn	nn	in	n	ið
Accusative	inn	nn	ina	na	ið
Dative	num	num	inni	nni	nu
Genitive	ins	ns	innar	nnar	ins
Plural					
Nominative	nir	nar		nar	in
Accusative	na	nar		nar	in
Dative	num				
Genitive	nna				

#### 10. A complete declension table

Here is an example of all noun classes without the definite article.

Singular					
	Masculine		Feminine		Neuter
	-ur, l, n	-i	No ending	-a	
Nominative	bíll	nemandi	rós	kirkja	barn
Accusative	bíl	nemanda	rós	kirkju	barn
Dative	bíl	nemanda	rós	kirkju	barni
Genitive	bíls	nemanda	rósar	kirkju	barns
Plural					
Nominative	bíllir	nemandir	rósir	kirkjur	börn
Accusative	bíla	nemandir	rósir	kirkjur	börn
Dative	bílum	nemandum	rósum	kirkjum	börnum
Genitive	bíla	nemanda	rósa	kirkja	barna

And with the definite article

Singular					
	Masculine		Feminine		Neuter
	-ur, l, n	-i	No ending	-a	
Nominative	bíllinn	nemandinn	rósinn	Kirkjan	barnið
Accusative	bíllinn	nemandann	rósinni	kirkjuni	barnið
Dative	bílunum	nemandanum	rósinni	kirkjunna	barninu
Genitive	bílsins	nemandans	rósarinnir	kirkjunnir	barnsins
Plural					
Nominative	bíllirnar	nemandirnar	rósirnar	kirkjurnar	börnin
Accusative	bílanar	nemandirnar	rósirnar	kirkjurnar	börnin
Dative	bílu	nemandunum	rósunum	kirkjunum	börnunum

Genitive	bílanna	nemandanna	rósanna	kirkjanna	barnanna
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Bíll – car  
 Nemandi – pupil  
 Rós – rose  
 Kirkja – church  
 Barn – child

## 11. Prepositions

The following prepositions govern the accusative case:

Um – about  
 Gegnum – through  
 Kringum – around  
 Við – at, against

The following prepositions govern the dative case:

Að – towards  
 Frá – from  
 Af – off  
 Úr – out of  
 Nálægt – near

The following prepositions govern the genitive case:

Til – to  
 Án – without  
 Milli – between  
 Vegna – because of

Prepositions governing more than one case:

Í and dative – in  
 Í and accusative – into

Á and dative – on  
 Á and accusative – onto

Undir and dative – under  
 Under and accusative – going under

Með and dative – means “with” but in an instrumental sense.  
 Með and accusative – means “with” as in bringing

## 12. Demonstratives

To form “the other” add an h in front of definite article and put it before the noun. There is only one irregularity – neuter singular becomes hitt not hið.

This

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	þessi	þessi	þetta
Accusative	þennan	þessa	þetta
Dative	þessum	þessari	þessu
Genitive	þessa	þessarar	þessa
Plural			
Nominative	þessir	þessar	þessi
Accusative	þessa	þessar	þessi
Dative	þessum	þessum	þessum
Genitive	þessara	þessara	þessara

Referring to something mentioned earlier in the sentence

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	sá	sú	það
Accusative	þann	þá	það
Dative	þeim	þeirri	því
Genitive	þess	þeirrar	þess
Plural			
Nominative	þeir	þær	þau
Accusative	þá	þær	þau
Dative	þeim		
Genitive	þeirra		

## 13. Personal Pronouns

Singular					
	I	You	He	She	It
Nominative	Ég	þú	Hann	Hún	Það
Accusative	Mig	þig	Hann	Hana	Það
Dative	Mér	þér	Honum	Henni	Því
Genitive	Mín	þín	Hans	Hennars	Þess
Plural					
Nominative	Við	Þið	Þeir	Þær	Þau
Accusative	Okkur	Ykkur	Þá	Þær	Þau
Dative	Okkur	Ykkur	Þeim		

Genitive	Okkar	Ykkar	Þeirra
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In Icelandic it is important to refer back to a noun in the correct gender. An example: rós is feminine, so refer to it as hún.

Also note, that personal pronouns are only capitalised at the beginning of a sentence.

See the section on personal pronouns in the genitive for more accurate usage.

#### 14. To Be, to Have and to Become

To be – Vera (this governs the nominative)

Ég er  
 Þú ert  
 Hann, Hún, Það er  
 Við erum  
 Þið eruð  
 Þeir, Þær, Þeim eru

There are three verbs for to have in Icelandic. The majority require the verb vera in its correct form followed by með and the object in the accusative, although there are two common alternatives.

To own – Eiga (this governs the accusative)

Ég á  
 Þú átt  
 Hann á  
 Við eigum  
 Þið eigið  
 Þeir eiga

To have – Hafa (this verb governs the accusative)

Ég haf  
 Þú hafur  
 Hún hafur  
 Við höfum  
 Þið hafið  
 Þær hafa

To become – Verða (this verb governs the nominative)

Ég verð  
 Þú verður  
 Það verður  
 Við verðum

Þið verðið  
Þau verða

## 15. Vowel Shifts

In Icelandic vowels change, or “shift” for many reasons, the most common reasons being case endings or tense.

The most common shift is the ö shift. This occurs in the plural neuter nominative and accusative and when a syllable preceding the letter a is a u. For example, the feminine noun *taska* (case) will become *tösku*, not *tasku*, in the singular accusative, dative and genitive. There are however two rules. An accented á does not change. Also the combination au does not qualify (*augu* does not become *öugu*).

In unstressed positions, the a changes to u rather than ö

Another vowel shift in Icelandic is the I shift. This shift has many uses, but these will be dealt with when they occur, although the most important use is the present tense of strong verbs. The I shift involves the following changes:

A	=	e	taka = tek
O	=	e	koma = kem
Á	=	æ	fá = fæ
Ú			búa = bý
Jú	=	ý	fljúga = flýg
Jó			brjóta = brýt
Au	=	ey	auka = eyk

The I shift never occurs in the plural.

Taka – take  
Koma – come  
Fá – get  
Búa – live  
Fljúga – fly  
Brjóta – break  
Auka – increase

## 16. Verbs

In Icelandic, there are three categories of verbs. The first group is known as the –a group. In the ég form use the infinitive and in the þú and hann, hún, það form and an r to the infinitive. An example:

Ég tala  
Þú talar  
Hann talar

The second group is the –l group. These follow the same rules as above except with an i, for example:

Ég þoli  
Þú þolir  
Hún þolir

The third group is the ur group and conjugate as follows:

Ég vinn  
Þú vinnur  
Það vinnur

All three groups have the same endings in the plural:

Við – um      Við tölum (ö shift)  
Þið – ið      Þið talið  
Þeir – a      Þeir tala

All verbs in Icelandic end in a in the infinitive, except munu and skulu which are used to express the future and a few other verbs which end in á.

Tala – to talk  
Þola – to endure  
Vinna – to work

## 17. Simple Past tense of Weak Verbs

In Icelandic, verbs can be either strong or weak. Strong verbs form their past tense with a vowel shift (an English example take becomes took). Weak verbs add an ending to show their past tense (English example talk becomes talked).

There is no way of telling if a verb is strong or weak. This is learned through usage. To form a weak past tense, simply take the infinitive and remove the last letter (with the exception of a group verbs which keep the a) and add the appropriate ending:

-ði              Ég ætlaði  
-ðir             Þú ætlaðir  
-ði              Hún ætlaði  
-ðum            Við ætluðum (ö shift)  
-ðuð            Þið ætluðuð (ö shift)  
-ðu              Þær ætluðu (ö shift)

If the stem of the verb ends in –s or -t, the ð becomes t. If the stem ends in -l, -m or –n, the ð will change to d. If the stem ends in –ð do not add the extra ð. In weak verbs, there is also a stem vowel shift. E goes to a and y goes to u. Similarly, ý goes to ú.

## 18. Simple Past Tense of Strong Verbs

Past tense of strong verbs are formed with a vowel shift, with only a few forms taking an ending as well. The shift changes are different for singular and plural verbs.

Stem Vowel	Singular	Plural	Example
Í	ei	i	Bíða beið biðum
Jó jú ú	au	u	Fljúga flaug flugum
E	a	u	Drekka drakk drukkum
	a	á	Gefa gaf gáfum
I	a	u	Finna fan fundum
	a	á	Sitja sat sátum
a	ó	ó	Fara fór fórum
A Á Ei	é	é	Falla fell féllum Láta lét létum Heita hét héyum
Au	jó	u	Hlaupa hljóp hlupum

The endings are easy to remember, but the plural ending may trigger of a ö shift

Ég (no ending)

Þú –st

Hann, Hún, Það (no ending)

Við –um

Þið –uð

Þeir, Þær, Þau –u

An example:

Lesi – read

Ég las

Þú last

Hann, Hún, Það las

Við buðum

Þið buðuð

Þeir, Þær, Þau buðu

## 19. Questions

Most Icelandic question words start in hv.

Where = hvar  
 Where from = hvaðan  
 When = hvanær  
 What = hvað  
 Why = hvers vegna  
 How = hvernig  
 Who = hver. However, this can be declined as follows:

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	hver	hver	hvert or hvað
Accusative	hvern	hverja	
Dative	hverjum	hverri	hverju
Genitive	hvers	hverrar	hvers
Plural			
Nominative	hverjir	hverjar	hver
Accusative	hverja		
Dative	hverjum		
Genitive	hverra		

To construct questions, simply invert the verb. For example:

Ég er = I am  
 Er ég? = am I?

When this happens with þú, it becomes attached to the verb. The þ is either lost or changes:

Þú ert = You are  
 Ertu? = Are you

Hvað segjaðu? = What do you say?

## 20. Numbers Simple

Numbers in Icelandic are incredibly complex. For correct usage of numbers see Numbers Advanced. This section is only intended as a rough introduction.

1. Einn
2. Tvíer
3. Þrír
4. Fjórir
5. Fimm
6. Sex
7. Sjö
8. Átta

- 9. Níu
- 10. Tíu
- 11. Ellefu
- 12. Tólf
- 13. Þrettán
- 14. Fjórtán
- 15. Fimmtán
- 16. Sextán
- 17. Sautján
- 18. Átján
- 19. Nítján
- 20. Tuttugu
- 21. Tuttugu og einn
- 30. Þrjátíu
- 40. Fjörutíu
- 50. Fimmtíu
- 60. Sextíu
- 70. Sjötíu
- 80. Áttatíu
- 90. Níutíu
- 100. Hundrað
- 101. Hundrað og einn
- 1000. Þúsund
- 1000000. Miljón

## 21. Numbers Advanced

As mentioned earlier, Icelandic numbers are rather erratic. The first problem encountered is the fact that the numbers 1 through 4 are declined in both gender, case and in some instances singular and plural. The table below shows the declension and then gives an explanation of how to use them.

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	einn	ein	eitt
Accusative	einn	eina	
Dative	einum	einni	einu
Genitive	eins	einnar	eins
Plural			
Nominative	einir	einir	ein
Accusative	eina		
Dative	einum		
Genitive	einna		

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter

Nominative	tveir	tvær	tvö
Accusative	tvo		
Dative	tveimur		
Genitive	tveggja		

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	þrír	þrjár	þrjú
Accusative	þrjá		
Dative	þremur		
Genitive	þriggja		

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	fjórir	fjórar	fjögur
Accusative	fjóra		
Dative	fjórum		
Genitive	fjögurra		

The plural form of 2, 3 and 4 are tvennir, þrennir and fernir, and they follow the same declension pattern as einir.

Plural numbers are used to count pairs of something, for example, when counting socks, you would say þrenna sokka. If however, there were only one sock, and not a pair, you would use the singular version.

### 13. Further Numbers

Numbers have to agree with what is being counted. This means that roses would be counted using the feminine version of 1, 2, 3 and 4 because rós is feminine. When reciting numbers use the masculine form.

The numbers hundrað, þúsund and miljón have set genders (neuter, neuter and feminine), so it is important to decline these as plural numbers when using any number after 1 (ie tvö þúsund). It is also important to use the correct gender of the numbers 1 - 4 with these numbers.

To make matters worse there can be more than one form of a number in a larger number. For example, hús (house) is neuter. So to say 2031 houses you must use the correct form of 2, 1000 must be plural and 1 must be neuter as it qualifies the noun house. 2451 houses in Icelandic would be tvö þúsund þrjátíu og eitt hús.

Numbers in Icelandic can be extremely difficult, but these rules easily sink in with practise. Unfortunately, due to stubbornness, Icelanders will not hold back at telling you off for getting numbers wrong and desecrating the language. It has remained virtually unchanged for thousands of years, and so they refuse to change it now. Mistakes are frowned upon, especially if the speaker is not a native.

## 22. Days of the Week

Week days (virkir dagar)

Mánudagur  
Þriðjudagur  
Miðvikudagur  
Fimmtudagur  
Föstudagur

Weekend (helgi)

Laugardagur  
Sunnudagur

All the days are masculine and can be declined. Days are only capitalised at the beginning of sentences.

Dagalega - daily  
Vikulega – weekly

## 23. Months of the Year

Mánuðir (months)

Janúar  
Febrúar  
Mars  
Apríl  
Maí  
Júní  
Júlí  
Ágúst  
September  
Oktober  
Nóvember  
Desember

Months cannot be declined.

Mánaðarlega – monthly

## 24. Seasons

## Árstíðir (seasons)

Vetur – winter

Vor – spring

Sumar – summer

Haust – autumn

Seasons can be declined. All the seasons are neuter except vetur, which is masculine.

## 25. Directions

When it comes to directions, Icelandic most resembles Old English, with different forms of directions depending on whether you are going, coming or already there. English lost this distinction over time, but due to its geographical isolation, changes in other languages have had little effect on Icelandic. This is very extreme, with Icelanders being able to read sagas in Old Norse with no difficulty at all. It is often said that Icelandic is Old Norse with a few variations in pronunciation and a slightly different spelling system.

It is very important to note that the directions are always given in relation to the position of the speaker.

Left – vinstri

Right – hægri

Straight ahead – Beint áfram

Back – tilbaka

Here – hér (na)

From here – héðan

To here – hingað

There – þarna

From there – þaðan

To there – þangað

Where (not a question) – þar sem

Up – upp

Down – niður

All ready up at – uppi

All ready down at – niðri

If any of the words for up or down are followed by a vowel, the vowel at the end of the words for up or down will be replaced with an apostrophe, for example, upp'á.

## 26. Declensions of Adjectives

Adjectives can be tricky to master but once you are familiar with them, they are very easy to form. Adjectives always become before the noun they qualify. Adjectives have fixed gender. This means that if someone was to say they are weak they would say “ég er slappur” despite the gender of the speaker. However, when qualifying a noun, the gender changes to match that of the noun.

There are 2 sets of declensions for adjectives in Icelandic. The first is known as weak declension and is used when the definite article is being added. This is the easiest declension pattern within Icelandic, and many find weak adjectives the easiest part of Icelandic.

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	i	a	a
Accusative	a	u	
Dative			
Genitive			
Plural			
Nominative	u		
Accusative			
Dative			
Genitive			

When being used with indefinite nouns, the adjective takes on strong declension, which has a rather more elaborate declension pattern.

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	Ur, ll, nn	Ö shift	t
Accusative	an	a	t
Dative	um	ri	u
Genitive	s	rar	s
Plural			
Nominative	ir	ar	Ö shift
Accusative	a		
Dative	um		
Genitive	ra		

To ease pronunciation, the following changes at the end of neuter adjectives occur:

Ð + t = tt

Vowels are followed by tt

Consonant + d = t

Adjectives that end in r get an additional r before an r ending is added. This means hlýr goes to hlýrrar. Adjectives ending in ll or nn lose the first r in r endings (eg lítillar)

In both weak and strong adjective declensions be aware of vowel shifts. Fraction and j insertion may also be necessary (see below).

## 27. Fraction

This is purely to ease pronunciation and to lessen the effects of harsh sounds. Fraction is very common, and thankfully, very easy to do. Any nouns or adjectives that have two syllables in the stem lose the second stem vowel when a vowel ending is added. Gamall means old. Fraction would occur here when an ending beginning with a vowel is added. So, instead of becoming gamalan we get gamlan.

Fraction does not apply to nouns with the definite article when it is at the end of the noun. Furthermore, fraction does not occur in adjectives ending in legur. This means that fallegur (beautiful) would become fallegan.

## 28. J Insertion

J insertion is used to keep a consistent relationship between spelling and pronunciation. It occurs naturally in speech so you need not worry about pronouncing it too much. The rules for J insertion are simple. Whenever an ending beginning a or u is added to a stem ending ý, æ or ey, a j will be placed between stem and ending. For example, nýr will become nýjum

## 29. Colours

Colours are adjectives, and so are declinable. A few colours are false friends – they do not mean what they appear to mean.

Hvítur – white

Svartur – black

Blár – blue

Grænn – green

Rauður – red

Brúnn – brown

Gulur – yellow

Grár – grey

Fjólublár – purple

Watch out for:

Bleikur – pink

Appelsínugular – orange

### 30. Time

Hvað er klukkan? – What time is it?  
Klukkan er (+ neuter) – the time is....

Fyrir + dative = ago

Í + acc = for

Eftir + acc = after

Í morgun = this morning, in the morning

Í dag = today

Í kvöld = this evening

Í nótt = tonight

Ein klukkustund and Einn klukkutími both mean 1 hour

Hálftími = half an hour

Korter = a quarter hour

Mínúta = a minute

Sekúnda = a second

..... past.... = klukkan er ..... mínútur yfir .....

In Icelandic, you go half to the hour. So klukkan er hálf tvö is half one

Quarter to ..... = klukkan er korter í .....

### 31. Weather

Icelandic has many words for weather and its various extremes. Listing them all could take many months, even years. This is a list of the most common weather terms you are most likely to hear.

Wind – vindur

Breeze – gola

Windy – hvass

Storm – stormur

Gale – rok

Sunshine – sólskin

Bright – heiðskír

Its cloudy – það er skýjað

Shower – skúr

Sleet – slydda

Its snowing – það snjóar

Mist – þoka

Warm – hlytt

Hot – heitt

Frost – frost

### 32. Family

Genealogy is very popular in Iceland. So popular that relatives for which there are no names in English are named in Icelandic (eg, there is a word for people who have the same great – great grandparents). Again, there are too many terms to list, so here are the essentials.

Mummy – mamma  
Mother – móðir  
Daddy – pabbi  
Father – faðir  
Parents – foreldrar  
Sister – systir  
Brother – bróðir  
Siblings – systinki  
Gran – amma  
Granddad – afi  
Grandchild – barnabarn  
In – laws - tengdafólk

### 33. To Know

There are different verbs for “to know” depending on what it is you know. This may sound daunting, but it is not.

The verb kunna implies knowledge of a learned skill for example driving a car. When followed by another verb, að must be placed between the two, otherwise it governs the accusative case and conjugates as follows:

Ég kann  
Þú kannt  
Hann Kann  
Við kunnum  
Þið kunnið  
Þeir kunna

The next verb expressing knowledge is vita. This is more factual knowledge and it governs the accusative case. A very important rule is that this verb cannot stand alone. It has to be followed by something. You cannot say ég veit. Instead you must say ég veit það. When used as a subordinate clause, it is followed by að. An example þú veist að ég elska þig (you know that I love you)

Ég veit  
Þú veist  
Hún veit

Við vitum  
 Þið vitið  
 Þær vita

The verb þekkja implies knowledge due to previous exposure and again governs the accusative case.

#### 34. Personal Pronouns in the Genitive

These pronouns show ownership. They follow the definite noun and like all other pronouns, they have to agree.

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	minn	mín	mitt
Accusative	minn	mína	
Dative	mínum	minni	mínu
Genitive	míns	minnar	míns
Plural			
Nominative	mínir	mínar	mín
Accusative	mína		
Dative	mínum		
Genitive	minna		

Þín also declines the same.

The declension of “our” is different from that of above.

Singular			
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	vor	vor	vort
Accusative	vorn	vora	
Dative	vorum	vorri	voru
Genitive	vors	vorrar	vors
Plural			
Nominative	vorir	vorar	vor
Accusative	vora		
Dative	vorum		
Genitive	vorra		

#### 35. Countries and Nationalities

Country

Nationality

England

Englendingur

Skotland  
 Spánn  
 Ítalía  
 Rússland  
 Frakkland (France)  
 Kanada  
 Svíþjóð (Sweden)

Skoskur  
 Spænskur  
 Ítalskur  
 Rússneskur  
 Franskur  
 Kanadískur  
 Sænskur

### 36. Negative Sentences

There are a few ways of negating statements in Icelandic, the most easiest being nei (no).

When making positive a negative statement, use jú instead of já. For example, “Ertu ekki englandinger?” translates as “are you not English?” If you are, use jú rather than já.

If you require to make a statement negative, place ekki after the verb for example, ég ætla ekki að... I don't intend to... If you require stronger negation, place ekki either at the end, or beginning of the statement.

### 37. Irregular Nouns

In Icelandic, some nouns follow a completely different declension pattern as the one you know. They take totally different forms and some are affected by I-shift. Here are the most common deviations, but this is by no means a full list:

#### Father

Singular	
Nominative	faðir
Accusative	föður
Dative	föður
Genitive	föður
Plural	
Nominative	feður
Accusative	feður
Dative	feðrum
Genitive	feðra

#### Mother

Singular	
Nominative	móðir
Accusative	móður
Dative	móður
Genitive	móður

Plural	
Nominative	mæður
Accusative	mæður
Dative	mæðrum
Genitive	mæðra

### Tree

Singular	
Nominative	tré
Accusative	tré
Dative	tré
Genitive	trés
Plural	
Nominative	tré
Accusative	tré
Dative	trjá(m)
Genitive	trjá(a)

The letters in brackets are only added if the definite article is not being added.

### Cat

Singular	
Nominative	köttur
Accusative	kött
Dative	ketti
Genitive	kattar
Plural	
Nominative	kettir
Accusative	ketti
Dative	köttum
Genitive	katta

### Book

Singular	
Nominative	bók
Accusative	bók
Dative	bók
Genitive	bókar
Plural	
Nominative	bækur
Accusative	bækur
Dative	bókum
Genitive	bóka

### 38. The Middle Voice

The middle voice is used to show that something is being done together. It can also replace reflexives. The middle voice is very easy to form. Simply add –st to the conjugated verb. There are only a few points to remember:

- Remove –ur, -rð and –ð before adding –st
- Remove dentals before adding –st

The middle voice is a useful of shortening sentence as it expresses the idea of “each other” or “self”. For example, insted of saying ég hitti þig og þú hettir mig (i meet you and you meet me) simply say ég og þú hittumst.

There are a few verbs which change their meaning in the middle voice. Koma (come) becomes komast (get somewhere). Taka (take) becomes takast to mean succeed and gera becomes gerast meaning happen.

### 39. Participles

The present participle is the equivalent of –ing. In Icelandic add –andi to the infinitive. For example hafa (to have) becomes hafandi (having).

The other participle in Icelandic is the past participle, and this is slightly more complex:

The –a verb group add –að (tala – talað)

The –i group add –t (reykja – reyktt)

The other verbs end in –ið and undergo a vowel shift.

E	goes to	a
Y or ý		u or ú
Í		í
Jó, jú, ú, e		o

This vowel shift is very irregular and the above is only a rough guide. There are far too many exceptions to cater for.

### 40. Past simple and Past Continuous

### 41. Food and Meals

### 42. Commands

Commands are far more common in Icelandic than in many other languages. This is due to the lack of the word please. Imperatives are used for even the most friendliest of situations, meaning that commands also act as requests. Forming the imperative is very easy. Simply add –ðu to the verb. When the stem of the verb ends in l, m, or n, -ðu becomes –du. When the stem ends p, s, k, or t, -ðu becomes –tu. If the stem already ends in dd or tt you will not add an extra d or t. To form a plural imperative, add –iði.

Here are some irregular forms:

Be quiet – þegiðu

Be – vertu

Think - haltu

#### 43. Impersonal Construction

These are very common in Icelandic. Simply, they are verbs that require the subject to be in a case other than the nominative, which is usually the case the subject has to be in.

Acc + langar í + acc = ... would like ...

Acc + vantar + ´acc = ... lacks ... (ie, I don't have.... So can I borrow...)

Acc + þyrstir = ... is thirsty

Dat + finnst + acc = ... thinks ...

Dat + líður á + acc = ... likes ...

These are the most common impersonal verbs. Another useful one is dat + vera (conjugated form) kalt, eg þér ert kalt means you are cold.

#### 44. Future Tense

#### 46. Clothing

#### 47. Perfect Future Tense

#### 48. Suggestions

#### 49. Comparative and Superlative

#### 50. Parts of the Body

#### 55. Another

#### 56. Future Perfect

#### 57. Subjunctive

58. Useful verbs (may, get, intend to, remember, love, to be able to.....)

59. Some more pronouns (all, etc)