

SPEAK SWEDISH

LIKE A NATIVE

30

**TIPS AND TRICKS TO
MASTER THE SWEDISH
LANGUAGE**

Hello beautiful reader, this is Drahomír Mach. It is a great pleasure to introduce you to your new guide to fluency in Swedish.

This e-book is going to show you tips and tricks on how to master the Swedish language quickly and in a fun way.

This is not an ordinary language book. This is actually a guide through the daily spoken language.

A special thanks goes to Andrea Posteby. She is an amazing and inspiring woman. It would be a disaster without her help and proofreading.

Make yourself comfortable and get started. It is going to be fun, I promise.

*Drahomír Mach, MySwedish,
December 2016*

1

A very informal greeting often used in the spoken language between people who know each other well. However, the most common way of greeting people in Sweden is by **HEJ**. You can use that in both formal and informal situations.

TJENA

-

HEY

Usage

A: Tjena!

B: Hejsan!

A: Hur är läget?

B: Allt är bra med mig, tack! Hur mår du själv?

A: Hey!

B: Hi!

A: What's up?

B: I'm fine, thanks. How are you?

2

This is the way to express happiness and support for the other person. It is used in an informal language. Two other expressions that could be used in these situations are *toppen* or *mycket bra*.

KANON

-

GREAT

Usage

A: Jag har hittat ett sommarjobb!

B: Men det är ju kanon! När börjar det?

A: Det börjar den första veckan i juni.

B: Okej, lycka till!

A: I've found a summer job!

B: That's great! When does it start?

A: It starts the first week of June.

B: OK, good luck!

3

One can use this nice expression when talking about something very easily reachable. If you would like to know the word-for-word translation of the expression it would go something like this: *as easy as a small pancake.*

LÄTT SOM EN PLÄTT

-

PIECE OF CAKE

Usage

A: Kan du klara av det?

B: Absolut! Det är lätt som en plätt.

A: Det tror jag inte på.

B: Vänta och se bara.

A: Can you make it?

B: Of course! That's a piece of cake!

A: I wouldn't say so.

B: Just wait and see.

4

Once you master the language you can even modify this expression. Since **händer** means **hands** in English one can make fun of it and say **vad fötter** instead.

VAD HÄNDER?

-

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Usage

A: Vad händer idag?

B: Inget särskilt tror jag.

A: Vad tråkigt det är.

B: Ja, det har du rätt i.

A: What is going on today?

B: Nothing special I guess.

A: Oh, how boring.

B: Yes, you got that right.

5

One can use the verb **att hålla** with different conjunctions and get completely different meanings. **Att hålla i** means **to hold something** and **att hålla om** stands for **to hug**.

HÅLLER DU MED?

-

DO YOU AGREE?

Usage

A: Det var riktigt galet! Håller du med?

B: Verkligen!

A: Vågar du göra om det?

B: Nej, helst inte

A: That was really crazy! Do you agree?

B: Of course!

A: Do you dare to do that again?

B: No, rather not.

6

There are these short expressions that help us sound more like a native speaker. We feel confident with them and it is a great way how to react quickly and at the right moment.

ELLER HUR?

-

ISN'T IT?

Usage

A: Det var jätte roligt, eller hur?

B: Ja, det var det.

A: Vilket äventyr!

B: Vi måste gå dit igen.

A: It was fun, wasn't it?

B: Yes, it was.

A: What an adventure!

B: We have to go there again.

7

There are many ways how to learn and master any language. The thing is that you just need to find a way that suits you best. The most important thing is to study every day. Even 15 minutes a day make a big difference.

SMAKLIG MÅLTID!

-

ENJOY YOUR MEAL!

Good to know

Fika *It's a very Swedish thing. Basically it's time for coffee and cake together.*

Kanelbulle *Lovely cinnamon buns are very popular among Swedes.*

Kräftskiva *A crayfish party is a traditional summer celebration.*

Köttbullar *Meat balls are very popular in Sweden and you should try them.*

8

What I personally love about learning new languages is the fact that you discover words that do not exist in your mother tongue. There are many of these words in Swedish as well.

LAGOM

-

JUST RIGTH

Usage

A: Hur är teet?

B: Det är gott.

A: Är det varmt?

B: Det är lagom varmt.

A: How is your tea?

B: It's good.

A: Is it hot?

B: It's just right.

9

If you want to agree on something or with someone else's statement you can use several short expressions. One of them is **just det**. The pronunciation may be a bit unclear since it sounds as a single word that would go like this: **juste**.

JUST DET!

-

THAT'S IT!

Usage

A: Kommer du ihåg det?

A: Do you remember that?

B: Nej, det gör jag inte.

B: No, I don't.

A: Det var på den tiden då du arbetade utomlands.

A: It was at that time when you worked abroad.

B: Ja, just det!

B: Yes, that's right!

10

Through a short command or a piece of advice one can show how advanced in the language one is. It's actually these small words and expressions that help us sound like a native speaker and enable us to react quickly to a current situation.

HITÅT

-

THIS WAY

Usage

A: Ska vi gå hitåt?

B: Nej, vi ska till vänster!

A: Aha, ditåt?

B: Exakt!

A: Should we go this way?

B: No, we are turning left!

A: That way then?

B: Exactly!

11

When it comes to learning a new language people often tend to not paying attention to the tiny differences in pronunciation and spelling. Misusage of the words below could possibly lead to a funny situation.

ATT PRUTA

X

ATT PRUTTA

Good to know

***Att pruta** means “to bargain” and is pronounced longly, it goes like “pruuuta”.*

***Att prutta** means “to fart” and is pronounced shortly with stress on “ta”.*

12

Once you need to encourage somebody else (your favorite soccer team for instance) or even yourself, you can use the expression below. It may have a bit negative meaning in a certain situations.

KOM IGEN!

-

COME ON!

Usage

A1: Jag är trött, jag vill inte gå.

B1: Kom igen, var inte tråkig!

A2: Jag är rädd för att göra det.

B2: Kom igen, det klarar du!

A1: I am tired, I don't want to go.

B1: Come on, don't be boring.

A2: I am afraid of doing that.

B2: Come on, you can do it!

13

When it comes to fluency it is all about how quickly you are able to react to daily situations. Some phrases can even prevent you (or people around you) from severe injuries.

AKTA HUVUDET!

-

MIND YOUR HEAD!

Usage

A: Akta dig, Henrik!

B: Oj då!

A: Du skadade nästan dig själv.

B: Ja, det var mitt fel.

A: Henrik, look out!

B: Oops!

A: You almost hurt yourself.

B: Yes, it was my fault.

14

Are you progressing? Are you aiming at your goal? Do you even know what your goal is? It is not enough to set a goal like “I want to learn Swedish”, trust me. You have to be more specific with your goals. What does it mean “to learn Swedish” to you? Setting a measurable goal is the only way how to know where to go. What is your goal then? Write it down!

KOM SÅ GÅR VI!

-

LET'S GO!

Usage

A: Skynda dig!

A: Hurry up!

B: Kan du snälla vänta lite?

B: Could you please wait a little bit?

A: Okej då.

A: Ok then.

B: Jag är redo, kom så går vi!

B: I am ready, let's go!

15

Interjections are very powerful words and have a very important role in any conversation. The strange thing is that you see these words very seldom in traditional language books. One can use the following to express surprise informally: *ojdå, jösses, kors ...*

NÄMEN!

-

OH, REALLY!

Usage

A: Titta, vad sött det är, eller hur?

A: Look, how sweet it is, isn't it?

B: Nämen, det är så himla gulligt!

B: Oh, it's so heavenly sweet!

16

I personally love proverbs and it is something that makes languages so interesting. Sometimes there are pretty much the same proverbs among languages but on the other hand there are many of them that show tiny cultural differences.

GAMMAL SOM GATAN

-

AS OLD AS THE HILLS

Good to know

Jag fryser som en hund.

Det var på håret!

I am chilled to the marrow.

That was close!

17

There are many days of the year dedicated to food in Sweden. One of them is called *kanelbullens dag*. One can enjoy eating lovely cinnamon buns on the 4th of October every year. Do not miss out on this day in 2017, okay?

**GLAD KANELBULLENS
DAG!**

-

**HAPPY CINNAMON
BUNS' DAY**

Good to know

Våffeldagen is on the 25th of March. This day you eat waffles with whipped cream and jam.

Kräfskiva is a traditional summertime eating when crayfish are served.

Fettisdagen delicious semlor are eaten on the 28th February.

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The best way how to become fluent is to start live with the language. Do you remember how you learned your mother tongue? It was on the fly, wasn't it? Try to switch the language to Swedish on your phone, on Facebook and as many other places/devices as possible. You will make a huge step forward, I promise. ... I have bought a diary in Swedish with quotations for every week.

***“En bra sak med egocentriker:
de springer inte omkring med en
massa skvaller”***

-LUCILLE S. HARPER-

What to do

You can start playing online word games, buy cross-words books, start listening to some Swedish online broadcasting radio (you can try <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/default.aspx?ProgramId=2576>), start watching Swedish television online with subtitles <http://www.svtplay.se>, you can find a partner to start chatting with in Swedish. But most of all you have to do it regularly. How about starting with 15 minutes a day? I say, we have a deal!

19

Swedish (just like other languages) has many loan words from other languages. There are many words in the Swedish language similar to English, French or German words. But sometimes it gets a bit tricky.

EN VRIST

-

AN ANKLE

What to do

I recommend to make a list of these frenemies. What I mean by that is to write down words that sound similar in Swedish and English and have the same meaning. Make another list afterwards with the words like in the example above - the words that sound similar but have different meaning.

20

How do you wish best of luck in Swedish? There are several ways to express that. You can use the one below or *lycka till* which means good luck.

**HÅLLA
TUMMARNAS
-
KEEP ONE'S
FINGERS CROSSED**

Hejaramsa

One can use a *hejaramsa* when cheering at a football game (or any other sport event). In Sweden it goes like this: *Andra sidan är ni klara?! Jajamensan, fattas bara!*

21

There was one nice commercial going on lately and it goes something like this: *Yesterday you said tomorrow!* What I mean by that is that there is no time like the present and you should start learning right now. Even a five minute-effort counts!

**JU TIDIGARE,
DESTO BÄTRE**

-

**THE EARLIER,
THE BETTER**

What to do

The only thing that matters is your mind-set. It is said that all you need to do is to repeat your activity for 21 days in a row and it will become a habit, simply a part of your daily routine. Why not start today then?

22

Learning a new language is always a big challenge to face. An important way to handle it is actually to start thinking in the new language. I always play a game in my head while walking for instance. What I do is that I make up a situation and start dealing with it in the language I am learning. It is fun. No matter the fact that once you get too excited about it you can start talking in a loud voice and people around you start staring at you with that “what a wierdo” face.

EN UTMANING

-

A CHALLENGE

What to do

I usually start watching some tv series and sometimes it is even for children. The key is to keep on watching the same movie or series all the time. Repetition is the mother of all learning, right?

New words and expression will slightly become a part of your vocabulary-that-you-know then.

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Do you know how fairy tails usually start in your language? And do you know how it goes in Swedish? You can start writing short stories. It is fun and you will learn new expressions on the fly.

DET VAR EN GÅNG

-

ONCE UPON A TIME

Usage

Det var en gång ett litet land, högt uppe i bergen. Landet hade en huvudstad, som låg vid en stor sjö. På ett berg ovanför staden låg det ett slott. I slottet bodde kungen och drottningen och...

24

When you want to set off quickly or just run away from a situation you may need the great expression below. This short imperative sentences are very useful and one cannot see them very often in classic grammar books.

GASEN I BOTTEN!

-

STEP ON IT!

Usage

A: Hur mycket är klockan?

A: What's the time?

B: Klockan är nio.

B: It's nine a.m.

A: Gasen i botten då. Vi måste vara där om 10 minuter.

A: Step on it then. We must get there in 10 minutes.

B: Okej då.

B. Ok then.

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Swedish is a rich language. Some of the typical features of the language are long words. Swedish likes to combine words and join them together. According to the Svenska Akademiens Ordlista, the longest word in Swedish is **afdelningsområdeslandstormsbefälhavare** and it really doesn't matter what that means.

ARTONHUNDRATALET

-

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Interesting information

*The example above shows how the Swedish language deals with counting centuries. Let me make it clear for you. The nineteenth century is everything between 1801-1900. Whereas in Sweden the term **artonhundratalet** refers to 1800-1899. I personally love these tiny differences, how about you?*

26

Let's talk a bit about genders in the Swedish language. Every noun in Swedish is either an "en" noun or an "ett" noun. It is a good idea to learn the gender of nouns by heart. It will help you become fluent. I have written some rules that can help predict gender of nouns. Click on the link to see the article <http://myswedish.net/assets/lessons/lesson44.html>

ETT ÖGA

-

AN EYE

Extending your vocabulary

*There is a nice way to extend your vocabulary and get to know your limits. Let's start to play a game. We have a word "ett öga". The goal of the game is to come up with as many words as possible that contain "ett öga". My word is: **ett ögonblick**. It's your turn now, play on!*

27

There is a huge difference when speaking with adults and when speaking with children. It's good to have an ace up your sleeve and use it whenever you are playing with children or taking care of them. The example below can be used to make children stop doing something (you can use it with dogs as well).

AJA BAJA!

-

SHAME ON YOU!

Children's vocabulary

tittut - peekabo

en nallebjörn (en nalle) - a teddybear

kom, lilla du - come here little boy/girl

Får jag en kram? - Will you hug me?

28

Tongue twisters could be a good way to get into the language and into its melody. My favourite one is about six salmons in a box for salmons. Try to repeat the one below several times in a row. Don't let your tongue get twisted!

SEX LAXAR I EN LAXASK

Other examples

Får får får? Får får inte får, får får lamm.

Do sheep get sheep? Sheep don't get sheep, sheep get lamb.

Sju sjösjuka sjömän sköttes av sju sköna sjuksköterskor.

Seven seasick sailors were taken care of seven beautiful nurses.

Flyg, fula fluga, flyg! Och den fula flugan flög.

Fly, ugly fly, fly! And the ugly fly flew.

29

This is the penultimate expression of this e-book. No, I'm not kidding with you. No worries, more lovely books, information, graphics and fluency bits are coming soon! Thank you for your support.

SKOJAR DU?

-

ARE YOU KIDDING?

Usage

A: Känner du till MySwedish?

B: Nej,

A: Skojar du? Det är bäst!

B: Jag måste kolla upp det då.

A: Do you know MySwedish?

B: No, I don't.

A: Are you kidding me? It's the best!

B. I have to check it out then.

30

I hope that you enjoyed this little gift that I've prepared for you. I had a lot of fun producing it. It would be very kind of you to give me feedback on this work. You can leave a message on mailmyswedish@gmail.com.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Take care.

-Drahomír Mach @MySwedish -

VI SES SNART!

-

SEE YOU SOON!

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