

Amnesty International ou des institutions comme l'ONU et le Conseil de l'Europe accusent alors la France de dérives dans le maintien de l'ordre. L'usage de certaines armes non létales tels que les Lanceurs de Balles de Défense (LBD) ou les grenades de désencerclement est très critiqué.

Initialement opposé à toute concession, le Président de la République Emmanuel Macron est vivement pris à partis. les Gilets Jaunes contestent sa légitimité. Il est considéré comme trop favorable aux riches et méprisant avec les pauvres.

Devant l'ampleur de la révolte populaire, l'exécutif finit par renoncer à la hausse de la taxe sur le gazole. Le président Macron, annonce ensuite des mesures pour un total de plus de 10 milliards d'euros en faveur des Français en difficulté. Il lance un grand débat national afin de recueillir les doléances des Français.

Cette réponse de l'exécutif est cependant jugée insuffisante par la plupart des Gilets jaunes, qui poursuivent leur mobilisation sous différentes formes. Environ 50 000 à 80 000 personnes défilent dans les rues françaises chaque samedi depuis 20 semaines.

Et le bilan de ces manifestations est très lourd à ce jour : Onze personnes ont trouvé la mort accidentellement, plusieurs centaines de personnes ont été blessées, parfois très gravement, notamment chez les manifestants, mais aussi au sein des forces de l'ordre. Deux mille personnes ont été condamnées pour des actes de violence. Mille personnes sont en prison.

La prestigieuse avenue des Champs Elysées à Paris a été dévastée à plusieurs reprises ainsi que les centres des principales villes françaises. Le bilan de toutes ces destructions seraient de 200 millions d'euros. Le manque à gagner pour les commerçants serait d'environ un milliard d'euros.

Le pouvoir semble désemparé face à ce mouvement de colère populaire qui a surpris les observateurs même les plus aguerris de la vie politique française.

La France est maintenant suspendue aux résultats du Grand Débat National lancé par le Président Macron et qui seront dévoilés le 8 avril.

Que vont proposer les Français pour sortir de cette crise inédite ? Quelles seront les réponses retenues par le pouvoir ?

Cela suffira-t-il à apaiser, en France, cette colère populaire envers le pouvoir?

Les Ukrainiens, experts en révolutions en tout genre, devraient peut-être nous éclairer pour trouver la porte de sortie de cette révolution de Maïdan "à la française".

УДК 811.111

**Geir Spachmo**

### **WELCOME TO FRIENDLY NORWAY!**

Whether you are thinking about visiting Norway for a short vacation trip, travelling to the country on business or planning to relocate, it's essential to understand the basic facts of the local culture, values and practices before you go. This will show

native Norwegians that you respect their culture and way of life enough to have taken time to research it. It will also make transition into a new way of life much easier.

### **Facts & Stats**

- Located on the western Scandinavian peninsula
- Covers 148,747 square miles
- Population: 5,213,985
- Capital city: Oslo
- Other major cities: Stavanger, Bergen and Trondheim
- Borders: Finland, Sweden, and Russia with Denmark situated just across

the Skagerrak Strait

- Constitutional monarchy
- Egalitarian culture

An average of 14 people per square kilometre makes Norway one of the most scarcely populated countries in the world. The majority of residents live in the southern half of the country. Norway has a constitutional monarchy and King Harald V (since Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 1991) is the current reigning monarch. While the Royal Family has limited powers, there is a deep respect for them among the general population. There is also a great sense of national pride among Norwegians, with the National Holiday on 17<sup>th</sup> of May one of the most highly anticipated annual celebrations.

The capital city of Oslo is home to more than half a million residents and is considered an important trading and maritime centre. Norway is an extremely open and accepting country with a highly tolerant attitude towards other cultures and nationalities. Religion does not play an overt role in everyday life, although more than half the population are registered at baptism as being members of the Lutheran Church of Norway, which is the official state religion.

Around 95% of the population speak Norwegian as their first language. Norwegian has two written forms – Bokmaal (book Norwegian) and Nynorsk (new Norwegian) – both of which are recognised as official languages. The vast majority of people (around 80–85%) use Bokmaal. There are also a number of dialects throughout the country that vary slightly from the traditional language. Around 0.2% of the population, in the far north, speak Finnish.

The Norwegian language is very similar to Swedish and Danish. Children of expatriates are encouraged to learn Norwegian and the government requires any applicant for Norwegian citizenship to either be skilled in Norwegian, one of the Sami languages or another of the Scandinavian languages or provide proof of having attended Norwegian classes for a minimum of 300 hours. English is the primary foreign language taught in Norwegian schools. The majority of the population is fairly fluent, although some older people have limited skills.

Norway is renowned for its exceptional natural beauty. Its coastline stretches more than 102,000 kilometres and the region boasts around 240,000 islands. Thanks to a public rights law named *allemannsrett* (all men's rights), residents are free to roam through any uncultivated land. This makes for incredible outdoor sports opportunities and ventures into landscapes seemingly untouched by modern life.

Along with hundreds of thousands of lakes and fjords, ski runs, sailing, ferrying or spending the weekend staying in a lakeside fisherman's cabin, the country has boundless outdoor opportunities. Hiking is very popular among the local people and a

good way to acquaint with them. The Norwegian lifestyle is extremely healthy and life expectancy is second best in the world, 84 for women and 81 for men, just behind Japan.

It's not just the landscapes that are green. The government has strict environmental commitments with a pledge to reduce greenhouse gases by 40% before 2030. Plans are currently being put in place to make downtown Oslo entirely pedestrianised, cutting car pollution significantly.

### **Local Culture, Etiquette and Customs**

Norway has a strictly egalitarian culture within which Jante Law is a pillar. According to Jante Law, values of humility, respect, simplicity and equality are a priority. As such, Norwegian people are not vocal about their own achievements (wealth, intelligence, material goods) and are generally unimpressed by those who show off about such things. People are valued for their honesty, respect and goodness without any need to judge others on their professional standing. It is markedly different to Eastern European culture, whereby a person's professional role is often used to determine opinions and make judgements.

### **Work-Life Balance**

Norwegians very much work to live and there is a healthy work-life balance. A typical working week will not exceed 40 hours and the office workday usually lasts from 8-4 with an early finish on Fridays. It is extremely difficult for your employer to let you go after the probation period. You will also have a healthy annual leave allowance. It is frowned upon – and sometimes forbidden – not to take your holiday time.

Hierarchy in the workplace is usually flat, as equality and democracy are valued. An informal leadership style co-exists with a healthy balance between employee freedom and responsibility. The office environment is usually casual with a first name basis and informal dress code, with the exception of high-end banking and finance environments.

### **Relocation and Advice for Expatriates**

Norway is a consistent feature in prestigious world rankings and was named the best place to live in in the world by the United Nation's Annual Human Development Report. It also came second in the UN's World Happiness Report. It is renowned for its excellent public healthcare system and employee rights, among other key points.

Family is of the utmost importance and most employment contracts will reflect these values with excellent maternity and paternity leave policies. New mums are granted 12 months' paid leave at 80% (or 10 months at 100%) and subsidised childcare. It's a wonderful place for children as they grow up, too, as access to higher education is considered fundamental for all and the majority of Norwegian universities and state university colleges do not charge tuition fees, even to foreign students. Norway has one of the highest adult literacy rates in the world. It is worth noting that marriage is not considered a prerequisite to starting a family and many couples of all ages live together without getting married first.

Healthcare is unparalleled and the government healthcare spend (approx. \$13,000 per head annually) is the highest in the world. You have a free choice of provider and all residents are members of the Norwegian National Insurance scheme with the right to access healthcare services. While treatment is not free, there is an annual cap on how much any individual has to pay for healthcare.

When it comes to accommodation, if you are moving to one of the main cities such as Oslo, Bergen or Trondheim, homes are likely to be smaller than you are used to. Norwegian accommodation is cosy but functional so keep an open mind. The cost of living is high, and taxes are high, but salaries are extremely competitive, and the quality

of life is exceptional. Norway is one of the most expensive countries in the world to live in, but the benefits are unparalleled.

Public transport in Norway is reliable and easy to use. A comprehensive network of long-distance buses, trains and ferry lines cover the country, while the major cities have good bus, metro and tram routes. The Hurtigruten coastal liner follows the coastline from north to south while regular ferries take passengers from Oslo to Denmark, Sweden, and Germany. The train network from Oslo Sentralstasjon (Central Station) covers domestic routes across the country and international travel to Gothenburg, Stockholm and Malmö. Oslo's central bus station operates express and international busses across most of Europe.

### **Social graces**

When making friends in a new country, there are certain ways to abide by. When you are invited for a meal at a Norwegian home, you must always be punctual. It is also customary to bring a gift such as flowers, a houseplant, chocolates or wine. Norwegians keep work and play separate, so avoid talking about business matters in a social setting. Table manners are formal and almost all food is eaten with a knife and fork. Do not begin eating until the hostess starts and if you wish to make a toast, avoid doing so using beer. And always reciprocate any invitation! It is good manners and a fast track to solidifying friendships.

УДК811.111

**Robert Tanner**

## **GRAMMAR FOR FIRST CERTIFICATE IN THE INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH CLASSROOM**

I am using the *Grammar for First Certificate, Second Edition* by Louise Hashemi and Barbara Thomas (Cambridge University Press, ISBN: 978-0-521-69087-4) as the sole textbook for my intermediate English class. My students are members of the faculty here at Mykolaiv National Agrarian University, and, for the most part, the book serves my purposes well.

Each chapter of *Grammar* covers a particular grammatical topic (questions, adjectives, and adverbs are three examples) and begins with a short listening section (from the included CD, with transcripts in the back of the book) that introduces the new grammatical topic through dramatic illustration. There are then questions about the audio that focus the students' attention on the grammatical topic.

Following this is an explanation in English of the grammatical topic of the chapter. Because this is a *grammar*-focused textbook, this is, understandably, where the book excels. The grammatical topics are divided into smaller points and thoroughly explained, with charts and tables as needed. The authors also provide sufficient examples for each point. The students read these grammatical sections at home, and rarely do they come to class requiring further elucidation. (And only once or twice, such as with the ordering of adjectives, have I taken issue with the grammar as it was presented.)

The next section of each chapter includes exercises for practicing the new grammar. These exercises range from fill-in-the-blanks to choosing the grammatically correct sentence to completing a sentence from a few key words. The students also do