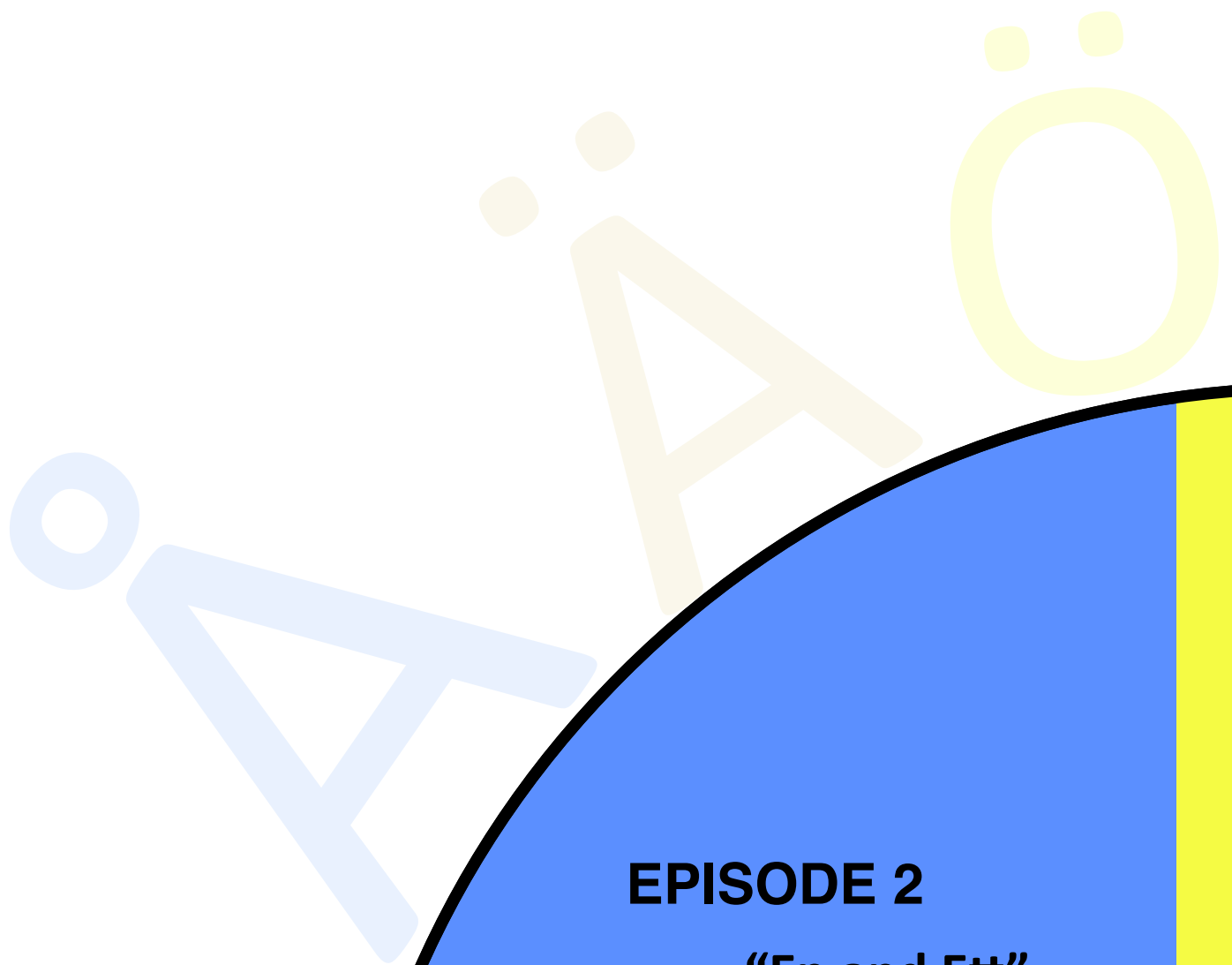


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# Discovering Swedish

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## **EPISODE 2**

**“En and Ett”  
and  
“Nouns”**



## Dialogue

### Swedish

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- Anna:** Kommer Johanna snart?  
**José:** Jag tror det. I Sverige är alla punktliga.  
**Anna:** Hon åker tåg. Tåget är kanske försenat.\*  
**José:** Åh! Ja, kanske det. I Sverige är tåget alltid försenat.

### English

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- Anna:** Is Johanna coming soon?  
**José:** I think so. In Sweden everyone is punctual.  
**Anna:** She's taking the train. Maybe the train has been delayed?  
**José:** Oh! Yes, maybe. In Sweden the train is always delayed.

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- Notes:** \* It is also possible to place 'är' after 'kanske':  
'Tåget kanske är försenat.'

## Key vocabulary

English	Swedish
snart	soon
tro	believe/think e.g. I think she is coming soon.
åka	travel by e.g. to travel by train
punktlig	punctual
(ett) tåg	train
kanske	maybe
försenat	delayed
i tid	on time
alltid	always
alla	everyone
(en) station	station
(en) perrong	platform
(en) tågbiljett	train ticket

## Key sentences

Swedish	English
Från vilken perrong avgår tåget?	From which platform does the train depart?
Är tåget försenat?	Has the train been delayed?
Tåget är i tid.	The train is on time.

# Grammar Explanations

**Noun gender** Swedish nouns can have one of two genders: common gender (en-noun) and neuter (ett-noun). There used to be more, so if you have a book from the 1990's or earlier that mentions three different genders, that is because the change is quite recent.

Just like in English, there are two indefinite articles. In English they are 'a' and 'an', and which one you use depends on the initial sound of the word following after the article. In Swedish there is no such clear-cut rule. Instead, whether you use 'en' or 'ett' depends on the gender of the noun. Unfortunately, you cannot determine the noun gender from just looking at the word; you will have to memorize it individually for each noun you learn.

**Singular & Plural** The plural is formed by attaching different suffixes to the noun stem. There are five common plural endings (declensions), and it is not always possible to tell which one is right simply by looking at the word. Some rules do exist, however.

**Common gender (en) nouns ending in 'a':**

Remove the 'a' and add -or, e.g. penna (pen) -> pennor (pens)

**Common gender nouns ending in other letters than 'a':**

Add -ar or -er, e.g. hund (dog) -> hundar (dogs)

gardin (curtain) -> gardiner (curtains)

Unfortunately, there are no clear rules on when -ar should be used and when -er should be used.

**Neuter nouns ending in a vowel:**

Simply add -n, e.g. äpple (apple) -> äpplen (apples)

**Neuter nouns ending in a consonant:**

These are zero-plurals, meaning that they remain unchanged in the plural.

**Irregular plural:**

Naturally, there are also some irregular nouns that do not abide to any of the above mentioned pluralization rules.

**Definite and indefinite** The determiners 'en' and 'ett' can be either particles, in which case they are placed before the noun to act as indefinite articles similar to the English 'a' and 'an', or they can be suffixes, in which case they are attached to the end of the noun and do the same job as the definite particle 'the' in English.

## Indefinite articles

The indefinite articles serve the same function as 'a/an' in English. They are easy to use, as long as you know what gender a nouns is. Simply place 'en' before a common noun, and 'ett' before a neuter.

Example:

	<u>En-noun (common)</u>		<u>Ett-noun (neuter)</u>	
Sing.	A	car	A	train
	<b>En</b>	<b>bil</b>	<b>Ett</b>	<b>tåg</b>

## Definite suffixes

When 'en' and 'ett' are used as suffixes attached to the end of the noun, they take on slightly different forms depending on whether the noun they are attached to is in the plural or the singular:

### Common (en) noun, singular:

Add -en or -n, e.g. sko (shoe) -> skon (the shoe)  
bil (car) -> bilen (the car)

### Neuter (ett) noun, singular:

Add -et or -t, e.g. äpple (apple) -> äppet (the apple)  
hus (house) -> huset (the house)

### Common (en) and neuter (ett) nouns, plural:

Add -na, -a or -en to the end of the pluralized noun. Which suffix you use, depends on the plural ending (declension):

pennor + na  
hundar + na  
gardiner + na  
äpplen + a  
zero plurals + en

## Genitive

The genitive in Swedish is formed by adding -s at the end of the noun. The genitive 's' always comes at the end, after definite/indefinite and plural inflections.

Example: Hundarnas (The dogs')

	Dog				
	<b>Hund</b>	<b>ar</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>s</b>	
	Noun stem + (plural inflection) + (definite inflection) + genitive 's'				
	<u>Singular</u>			<u>Plural</u>	
Indef.	A	dog's	food	Dogs'	food
	<b>En</b>	<b>hund<sub>s</sub></b>	<b>mat</b>	<b>Hundars</b>	<b>mat</b>
Def.	The dog's	food		The Dogs'	food
	<b>Hundens</b>	<b>mat</b>		<b>Hundarnas</b>	<b>mat</b>

**V + N/ProN + N?** As mentioned in the last episode, making a statement into a question is sometimes a simple matter of just moving the verb in front of the subject and adding a question mark at the end.

Example: (the subject has been underlined)

Am named	I	Martin?	(Am I Martin?)
<b>Heter</b>	<b><u>jag</u></b>	<b>Martin?</b>	
Verb	ProN.	Noun	
Eats	the dog	the food?	(Does the dog eat the food?)
<b>Äter</b>	<b><u>hunden</u></b>	<b>maten?</b>	
Verb	Noun	Noun	

**N/ProN. + V + kanske + N/ProN.** In this episode, we introduced the word 'kanske' (maybe/perhaps). You can easily create sentences with 'kanske' using this sentence structure: Noun or Pronoun + Verb + kanske + Noun or Pronoun.

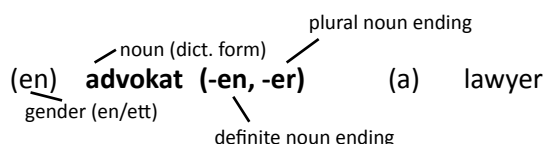
Example:

You	are named	maybe	Martin	(Maybe you are Martin)
<b>Du</b>	<b>heter</b>	<b><u>kanske</u></b>	<b>Martin.</b>	
ProN.	Verb	Adv.	Noun	
The dog	eats	perhaps	the food	(Perhaps the dog eats the food)
<b>Hunden</b>	<b>äter</b>	<b><u>kanske</u></b>	<b>maten.</b>	
Noun	Verb	Adv.	Noun	

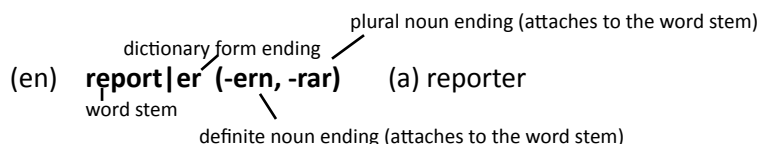
## Noun Vocabulary Lists

### Reading the Vocab. Lists

We're presenting three noun vocabulary lists with this episode. Here is how you read the items on the lists:



In some cases, the definite and plural noun endings replace letters in the dictionary form of the noun, instead of being attached to the end. Whenever this happens, the word stem has been marked:



-ø signifies no inflectional change. 'Hus' (house), for instance, is a zero-plural, which means that its singular and plural forms are identical. In the vocabulary list, it is listed as: '(ett) hus (-et, -ø)', with the -ø telling us that there is no change in the plural.

## Noun Vocabulary List: Professions

Swedish		English	
(en)	<b>advokat (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	lawyer
(ett)	<b>affärsbiträde (-t, -n)</b>	(a)	shop clerk
(en)	<b>bibliotekarie (-n, -r)</b>	(a)	librarian
(en)	<b>brandman (-en, brandmän)</b>	(a)	firefighter
(en)	<b>doktor (-n, -er)</b>	(a)	doctor
(en)	<b>elev (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	pupil, student
(en)	<b>hjält e (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	hero
(en)	<b>ingenjör (-en, -er)</b>	(an)	engineer
(en)	<b>kock (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	cook, chef
(en)	<b>lärare (-n, -ø)</b>	(a)	teacher
(en)	<b>polis (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	police officer
(en)	<b>politiker (-n, -ø)</b>	(a)	politician
(en)	<b>report er (-ern, -rar)</b>	(a)	reporter, i.e. for a news paper or tv show.
(en)	<b>servitör (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	waiter
(en)	<b>sjuuskötersk a (-an, -or)</b>	(a)	nurse
(en)	<b>student (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	student (at University)
(en)	<b>tandläkare (-en, -ø)</b>	(a)	dentist
(en)	<b>tjuv (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	thief

## Noun Vocabulary List: In the City

Swedish		English	
(en)	<b>affär (-en, -er)</b> sko affär bok affär	(a)	1. store, shop shoe store bookstore 2. business deal 3. [romantic] affair
(ett)	<b>apotek (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	chemist's (AmE. drugstore)
(en)	<b>bank (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	bank
(ett)	<b>bibliotek (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	library
(en)	<b>biograf (-en, -er)</b> [Usage note: In casual speech often referred to simply as 'bio' (-n). The short form version does not have a plural form and can therefore not be used when referring to more than one 'bio'.	(a)	cinema, the movies

(en)	<b>butik (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	store, shop [Usage note: Usually a small or middle-sized local store or shop carrying a defined assortment of wares, e.g. corner store]
(ett)	<b>fik (-et, -ø)</b> also 'café/kafe (-et, -er)	(a)	café
(en)	<b>klubb (-en, -ar)</b> natt klubb fotbolls klubb idrotts klubb	(a)	club nightclub football club sports club
(ett)	<b>konserthus (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	concert hall
(ett)	<b>muse um (-et, -er)</b>	(a)	museum
(ett)	<b>operahus (-et, -ø)</b> [Usage note: In casual speech, the Gothenburg opera house is commonly referred to simply as 'operan']	(a)	opera house
(en)	<b>park (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	park
(ett)	<b>postkontor (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	post office
(en)	<b>restaurang (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	restaurant
(ett)	<b>sjukhus (-et, -en)</b>	(a)	hospital
(en)	<b>skol a (-an, -or)</b>	(a)	school
	<b>systembolaget</b> [Usage note. In casual speech, commonly 'systemet']		name of the government-approved stores selling alcohol. In Sweden, this is the only place allowed to sell alcohol.
(en)	<b>teat er (-ern, -rar)</b>	(a)	theatre
(ett)	<b>torg (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	square

### Noun Vocabulary List: Transportation & Travel

Swedish		English	
	<b>bensin (-en)</b> [Usage note: Does not have a plural form. To quantify, use the a measurement quantifier like 'liter' (litre).]		petrol (AmE. gas)
(en)	<b>bil (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	car
(en)	<b>buss (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	bus
(en)	<b>by (-n, -ar)</b>	(a)	village
(en)	<b>cyk el (-eln, -lar)</b>	(a)	bicycle
(en)	<b>färj a (-an, -or)</b>	(a)	ferry
(en)	<b>flygbuss (-en, -ar)</b>	(an)	airport bus
(en)	<b>flygplats (-en, -er)</b>	(an)	airport
(en)	<b>hållplats (-en, -er)</b> buss hållplats spårvagns hållplats	(a)	stop bus stop tram stop



(en)	<b>hamn (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	harbour
(ett)	<b>hav (-et, -en)</b>	(a)	sea
(ett)	<b>hotel (-et, -len)</b>	(a)	hotel
(ett)	<b>hotelrum (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	hotel room
(en)	<b>matsal (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	dining area
(ett)	<b>pendeltåg (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	commuter train
(en)	<b>perrong (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	platform (at a train station)
(en)	<b>reception (-en, -er)</b> hotel reception	(a)	reception area hotel reception
(en)	<b>sjö (-n, -ar)</b>	(a)	lake
(en)	<b>spårvagn (-en, -ar)</b>	(a)	tram
(en)	<b>stad (-en, städer)</b>	(a)	city, town
(en)	<b>station (-en, -er)</b> tåg station polis station	(a)	station train station police station
(ett)	<b>tåg (-et, -ø)</b>	(a)	train
(en)	<b>taxi (-n, see note)</b> [Usage note: To for the plural, attach the plural form av 'bil' (car) at the end, i.e. taxi bilar. This can also be done in the singular using the singular form of 'bil' (car).]	(a)	taxi
(en)	<b>terminal (-en, -er)</b>	(a)	terminal (e.g. at an airport)
	<b>Älvsnabben</b>		Name of a small ferry service that goes between the island Hisingen and mainland Gothenburg.