
Discovering Swedish



EPISODE 3

“Adjectives”



Dialogue

Swedish

- José:** Kallt...
- Anna:** Hmm?
- José:** Det är* kallt.
- Anna:** Fryser du?
- José:** Ja. Ahh... Det är varmt i Spanien...**
- Anna:** Har du ingen varm jacka?
- José:** Nej, den är gul.
- Anna:** Huh?

English

- José:** Cold...
- Anna:** Hmm?
- José:** It is cold.
- Anna:** Are you cold?
- José:** Yes. Ahh... It is warm in Spain...
- Anna:** Have you no warm jacket?
- José:** No, it is yellow.
- Anna:** Huh?

Notes: ** Swedish **pronunciation** does not always reflect the spelling. The copula 'är' is often pronounced 'é' in casual speech. Thus, you may hear Swedes say something like: 'Ja é varm', even though it is spelt 'jag är varm'. Although this is common practice today, it is never wrong to pronounce 'är' as it is written.

* The first letter in the names of geographical places are always capitalized.

Key vocabulary

Swedish	English
kall	cold
varm	warm
(att) frysa	being cold (person)
det är ____	it is ____
här	here
än	than
gul	yellow
jacka	jacket
du	you
har du ingen ____?	have you no ____?

Key sentences

Swedish	English
Har du inga varma kläder?	Don't you have any warm clothes?
Det är kallt.	It is cold.
Jag fryser.	I am cold.
Är det kallt ute idag?	Is it cold outside today?
Vädret i Sverige är alltid kallt.	The weather in Sweden is always cold.

Grammar Explanations

N/Pro + 'to be' + adj.

This is one of two basic sentence structures for using adjectives taught in this lesson. Of the two, this is probably the most basic, yet very versatile and common. The sentence structure is: Noun or Pronoun + the copula 'to be' + Adjective.

Example:

The car	is	big
Bilen	är	stor
Noun	'to be'	adjective

It	is	big
Den	är	stor
Pronoun	'to be'	adjective

Det. + adj. + N

This is the second of two basic sentence structures for using adjectives taught in this lesson. This structure is slightly more advanced, as it shows you how to use adjectives to provide additional information about the subject or the object in a sentence. The sentence structure is: Determiner + Adjective + Noun.

Example:

The	big	car	collided	with	the	small	car
Den	stora	bilen	krockade	med	den	lilla*	bilen
Definite	adjective	noun			definite	adjective	noun
determiner					determiner		
Subject			Verb		Object		
A	big	car	collided	with	a	small	car
En	stor	bil	krockade	med	en	liten	bil
Indefinite	adjective	noun			indefinite	adjective	noun
determiner					determiner		

*'Liten' is an irregular adjective, thus the form 'lilla' in this example.

Inflection of adjectives

What these basic sentence structures do not cover, is adjective inflections. In Swedish, adjectives are inflected (modified) according to number (singular/plural) and noun gender (common/neuter), as well as when used together with possessive pronouns or the genitive. For more on this, see the section 'Adjectives' below.

Adjectives

Adjectives as attributes (indefinite form)

Adjectives are words that describe a person or other nouns. There are two indefinite articles (en and ett) for nouns in Swedish, and they also affect the appearance of the adjectives. When an adjective describes an en-noun (common), you use the base form of the adjective, also referred to as the dictionary form. If the adjective describes an ett-noun (neuter), -t is usually added as a suffix at the end of the adjective.

En-noun (common)
En stor bil (a big car)

Ett-noun (neuter)
Ett stort hus (a big house)

For the plural form, you simply add an -a to the base form of the adjective. Plural forms look exactly the same for both en-nouns (common) and ett-nouns (neuter).

En-noun (common)
Många stora bilar

Ett-noun (neuter)
Många stora hus (many big houses)

Adjectives as attributes (definite form)

If you talk about a particular thing you always use the definite form. If you use some adjectives in combination with the definite form of a noun, the letter -a is added to the base form of the adjective.

En-noun (common)
Sing. Den stora bilen (the big car)
Plur. De stora bilarna (the big cars)

Ett-noun (neuter)
Det stora huset (the big house)
De stora husen (the big houses)

Adjectives as predicate

If you use adjectives together with the copula "vara (to be)", the adjectives are modified for ett-nouns (neuter) and the plural form.

En-noun (common)
Sing. Bilen är stor (the car is big)
Plur. Bilarna är stora (the cars are big)

Ett-noun (neuter)
Huset är stort (the house is big)
Husen är stora (the houses are big)

Adjectives after possessive pronouns

If you want to talk about the things you own, you also use the ending -a for the adjective. The same forms are used if you use genitive forms.

En-noun (common)
Sing. Min stora bil (my big car)
Plur. Mina stora bilar (my big cars)

Ett-noun (neuter)
Mitt stora hus (my big house)
Mina stora hus (my big houses)

Example of the genitive form:

En-noun (common)
Sing. Annas stora bil (Anna's big car)
Plur. Annas stora bilar (Anna's big cars)

Ett-noun (neuter)
Annas stora hus (Anna's big house)
Annas stora hus (Anna's big houses)

Irregular adjectives

Here are some adjectives that are irregular:

<u>En-noun</u> (<i>common</i>)	<u>Ett-noun</u> (<i>neuter</i>)	<u>Plural</u>	<u>English</u>
söt	sött	söta	sweet
mild	milt	milda	mild
ny	nitt	nya	new

Exceptions in plural form:

<u>En-noun</u> (<i>common</i>)	<u>Ett-noun</u> (<i>neuter</i>)	<u>Plural</u>	<u>English</u>
gammal	gammalt	gamla	old
enkel	enkelt	enkla	easy, simple
vacker	vackert	vackra	beautiful
morgen	moget	mogna	mature

Here are some adjectives that remain the same, no matter if you use them in combination with en-nouns (common), ett-nouns (neuter) or in the plural. The adjectives look the same in all three cases:

<u>En-noun</u> (<i>common</i>)	<u>Ett-noun</u> (<i>neuter</i>)	<u>Plural</u>	<u>English</u>
bra	bra	bra	good
intressant	intressant	intressant	interesting
enda	enda	enda	only
gratis	gratis	gratis	gratis, for free
gyllene	gyllene	gyllene	golden
samtida	samtida	samtida	contemporary

Vocabulary List

Reading the Vocab. Lists

With this episode, we present the first Adjective Vocabulary List. The column headings are:

- Adjective (en)** this column holds the dictionary form of the adjectives. When used with an 'en-noun' (common noun) this is the adjective form to use.
- Adjective (ett)** this column shows the adjectives inflected for use with 'ett-nouns' (neuter).
- Adjective (plural)** in this column you find the adjectives inflected for use with the plural.
- English** this column contains the English equivalents of the Swedish adjectives.

Adjective Vocabulary List			
Adjective (en)	Adjective (ett)	Adjective (plural)	English
billig	billigt	billiga	cheap, inexpensive
dyr	dyrt	dyra	expensive
dålig	dåligt	dåliga	bad
enkel	enkelt	enkla	easy, simple
fattig	fattigt	fattiga	poor
fin	fint	fina	nice, fine
frisk	friskt	friska	healthy (person)
gammal	gammalt	gamla	old
glad	glatt	glada	happy
hungrig	hungrigt	hungriga	hungry
hög	högt	höga	high
intressant	intressant	intressant	interesting
kall	kallt	kalla	cold
ledsen	ledset	ledsna	sad
liten	litet	små	little
ljus	ljus	ljusa	light, clear
lugn	lugnt	lugna	calm
låg	lågt	låga	low

lång	långt	långa	long
långsam	långsamt	långsamma	slow
lätt	lätt	lätta	easy, light
mörk	mörkt	mörka	dark
ny	nytt	nya	new
ren	rent	rena	clean
rik	rikt	rika	rich
rolig	roligt	roliga	funny
sann	sant	sanna	true
sjuk	sjukt	sjuka	ill
snabb	snabbt	snabba	fast, quick
snygg	snyggt	snygga	beautiful, nice-looking, ha
stark	starkt	starka	strong
stor	stort	stora	big, tall
svag	svagt	svaga	weak
svår	svårt	svåra	difficult, hard
säker	säkert	säkra	sure, secure
tjock	tjockt	tjocka	thick
trevlig	trevligt	trevliga	nice
tråkig	tråkigt	tråkiga	boring
trött	trött	trötta	tired
ung	ungt	unga	young
vacker	vackert	vackra	beautiful
varm	varmt	varma	warm