

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #1

Where is All My Swedish Stuff?

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#1

DIALOGUE - SWEDISH

MAIN

1. Anna : Mamma, har du sett min biologibok?
2. Kerstin : Den ligger på köksbordet.
3. Anna : Där är den ju! Har du sett mitt pennskrin?
4. Kerstin : Nej. Jens kanske har tagit det.
5. Anna : Va? Inte nu igen!
6. Kerstin : Jo. Jag såg honom med det i morse.

ENGLISH

1. Anna : Mom, have you seen my biology book?
2. Kerstin : It's on the kitchen table.
3. Anna : There it is! Have you seen my pencil case?
4. Kerstin : No. Maybe Jens has taken it.
5. Anna : What? Not again!
6. Kerstin : Yes. I saw him with it this morning.

VOCABULARY

Swedish	English	Class	Gender
min	my, mine	possessive pronoun	
mitt	my	pronoun	
att ta	to take	verb	
mamma	mamma, mom	noun	
vad	what	pronoun	
att se	to see	verb	
där	there	adverb	
biologibok	biology book	noun	
att ligga	to be, to lay	verb	
pennskrin	pencil case	noun	neuter

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Jag har tappat min plånbok. "I have lost my wallet."	Hej, mitt namn är Thomas. "Hi, my name is Thomas."
Välkomna till mitt hem. "Welcome to my home."	Glöm inte att ta en bild! "Don't forget to take a picture!"
Jag gillar den här, så jag tar den. "I like this one so I'll take it."	Kvinnan tar sina piller varje morgon före frukost. "The woman takes her pills every morning before breakfast."
Det är svårt att ta dig på allvar. "It is difficult to take you seriously."	Min mamma jobbar som lärare. "My mother works as a teacher."
För vad? What for?	Vad är klockan nu? "What is the time now?"
Vad är din destination? "What's your destination?"	Jag ska se den nya filmen på bio ikväll. "I'm going to see the new movie at the cinema tonight."
Det är underbart att se dig igen. "It is wonderful to see you again."	Ställ shoppingpåsar där, tack. "Please, put the shopping bags there."
Där går en grupp tyskar. "There goes a group of Germans."	Jag måste köpa en ny biologibok. "I have to buy a new biology book."
Mina nycklar ligger på stolen. "My keys are on the chair."	Roberto har köpt ett nytt pennskrin. "Roberto has bought a new pen box."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

mamma ("mom")

The Swedish counterpart of the word "mom" is *mamma*. It's probably the most commonly used word for "mother"—much more common than the more old fashioned *mor*. Some people use the word *morsan*, which is probably the most casual way of saying "mother" in Swedish, but I would not recommend anyone to use this to your friend's mother, because some people think it sounds too informal or even rude.

att ligga ("to be")

In this lesson, the verb *att ligga* was used in a way that corresponds to the English verb "to be." It should, however, be mentioned that the verb *att ligga* is sometimes also used in Swedish in a way that corresponds to the English verb "to be located." One example is in the sentences *Affären ligger bredvid apoteket*, meaning "The store is located beside the pharmacy."

i morse ("this morning")

The adverb *i morse*, meaning "this morning," is written here as two words *i*, literally meaning "in," and *morse* meaning "morning." However, it's not uncommon to see the two words spelled together as *imorse*, which can be confusing for people who have just started to learn Swedish. Both ways of writing are correct, and both still mean "this morning."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is to Learn How to Express Ownership

Har du sett mitt pennskrin?

"Have you seen my pencil box?"

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how to express ownership. Expressing ownership can of course be done in many different ways. But in this lesson, we'll focus on how to use the pronouns *min* and *mitt* correctly. Both *min* and *mitt* were used by Anna in this lesson's dialog when expressing ownership. Let's have a look.

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Mamma, har du sett min biologibok?*
"Mom, have you seen my biology book?"
2. *Har du sett mitt pennskrin?*
"Have you seen my pencil case?"

As you might have noticed from the sentences presented above, both the pronouns *min* and *mitt* correspond to the English pronoun "my." This leads us to the question: Why do we sometimes use *min* and sometimes *mitt* if they both correspond to "my"? The difference between *min* and *mitt* has to do with the noun that they are referring to. In Swedish, nouns are either common gender nouns or neuter gender nouns. Common gender nouns are sometimes referred to as *en*-nouns since the prefix *en*-precedes them.

Examples of *en*-nouns or common gender nouns are:

1. *en biologibok*
"a biology book"
2. *en mamma*
"a mom"
3. *en hund*
"a dog"

Neuter gender nouns are, on the other hand, sometimes referred to as *ett*-nouns since the prefix *ett* precedes them.

Examples of *ett*-nouns or neuter gender nouns are:

1. *ett pennskrin*
"a pencil case"
2. *ett hus*
"a house"
3. *ett barn*
"a child"

In Swedish there are, unfortunately, no rules for how to tell the common gender nouns and the neuter gender nouns apart. So a good thing to do is to always try to memorize the nouns that you learn as either an *ett*-noun or *en*-noun.

Now let's return to how to express ownership with the help of *min* and *mitt*. We'll use a simple sentence structure such as *Det är min/mitt + [noun]* ("It's my [noun]") to exemplify how to express ownership, depending on whether it's a common or neuter gender noun in its singular indefinite form you are actually referring to. We'll look at how to do that when we want to refer to common gender nouns (*en*-nouns) such as *en biologibok* ("a biology book"), *en mamma* ("a mom"), and *en hund* ("a dog"). Because we want to refer to common gender nouns (*en*-noun), we have to use the pronoun *min*. Let's look at some examples:

1. *Det är min biologibok.*
"It's my biology book."
2. *Det är min mamma.*
"It's my mom."
3. *Det är min hund.*
"It's my dog."

Now, if we instead want to express ownership by referring to a neuter gender noun such as *ett pennskrin* ("a pencil case"), *ett hus* ("a house"), and *ett barn* ("a child"), you'll have to use the pronoun *mitt* ("my"). Let's illustrate this with some examples:

1. *Det är mitt pennskrin.*
"It's my pencil case."
2. *Det är mitt hus.*
"It's my house."
3. *Det är mitt barn.*
"It's my child."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Education in Sweden

The Swedish education system consists of nine years of compulsory comprehensive school, or *grundskola* as it's referred to in Swedish. After *grundskolan*, you have the Swedish counterpart of high school, which in Swedish is known as *gymnasieskola*. There are a large variety of different programs offered to the students who start *gymnasiet*. These programs are both of a practical, as well as of a more theoretical nature, and while some will provide the students with an education that they can put into use directly after graduating, others are more designed to be a stepping stone to further studies at university. The education offered at Swedish high schools is voluntary, but most Swedish youth still attend. In fact, statistics show that as many as ninety percent start high school, but quite a few drop out or graduate with grades that are too poor to get accepted to universities or colleges.