

Swedish is spoken in Sweden and along the southern and western coasts of Finland, as well as on the Åland islands. More than nine million people speak Swedish. Swedish is similar to Norwegian and Danish. Somebody who understands one of these languages can understand the others.



Swedish is a Germanic language with some similarities to English because of the Vikings that invaded England in the 10th century. It is even more similar to German and Dutch, this because of the Hanseatic League of the Middle Ages, when Sweden traded with Germany.

There are three characters in the Swedish language that are not used in English. These are å, ä and ö. The letter å is a vowel sound similar

to the English word *tall*. The letter ä is a vowel sound like in the English word *bed*. The letter ö is pronounced like the u in the English word *burn*. These characters are also used in the Finnish language, while Norwegian and Danish languages replace ä and ö with æ and ø.

VOCABULARY

similar: alike
to invade: to conquer
league: alliance
Middle Ages: years 500 to 1500
to trade: to deal, to exchange
character: type
once: before, earlier



Definite articles in Swedish go to the end of their nouns, so *ett hus* (a house) becomes *huset* (the house). Swedish uses two grammatical genders called Common and Neuter. Nouns of the Common gender are sometimes called “en words”, and many words for living (or once-living) things are “en words”. Nouns of the Neuter gender are sometimes called “ett words”.



Translate into English:

en/ett	<i>one</i>
två	
tre	
Hej!	
God morgon!	
Tak!	
Hej då!	
ja / nej	

Pratar du engelska?	
en kopp kaffe	
mjök och socker	
Titta! Det är en ren!	
Jag älskar Sverige.	
Jag saknar min cykelnyckel.	
min farfar och min mormor	
Är du från Stockholm?	