## Language Manual

Language Manual: HQ and CO Norwegian
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## 1 General

This document discusses certain aspects of text-to-speech processing for the Norwegian text-to-speech system, in particular the different types of input characters and text that are allowed.

This version of the document corresponds to the High Quality (HQ) and Colibri (CO) Norwegian voices.

Please note that the User's Guide, mentioned several times in the manual, is called Help in some applications.

Note: This language manual is general and applies to all Acapela Group HQ Norwegian voices specified above. One or more of the voices may be included in a certain Acapela Group product.

Note: For efficiency reasons, the processing described in this document has a different behaviour in some Acapela Group products. Those products are:

- Acapela TTS for Windows Mobile
- Acapela TTS for Linux Embedded
- Acapela TTS for Symbian

For these products, the default processing of numbers, phone numbers, dates and times has been simplified for the low memory footprint (LF) voice formats. Developers have the possibility to change the default behaviour from simplified to normal preprocessing by setting corresponding parameters in the configuration file of the voice. Please see the documentation of these products for more information. In the following chapters, each simplification will be described by the indication [not SP] following the description of the standard behaviour. The $S P$ in the indication stands for Simplified Processing.

## 2 Letters in orthographic text

Characters from $A-\AA$ and $a-\AA$ may constitute a word. Certain other characters are also considered as letters, notably those used as letters in other European languages, e.g. é, è, ô, ü. These letters are not pronounced as in their native languages though, they are pronounced as regular $e, o, u$ etc. However, when one of these letters stands on its own, they are read with an indication of the diacritic (modification of the letter), for instance (for the letters mentioned above): e med akutt aksent, e med grav aksent, o med sirkumfleks aksent, tysk y.

Characters outside of these ranges, i.e. numbers, punctuation characters and other non-alphanumeric characters, are not considered as letters.

## 3 Punctuation characters

Punctuation marks appearing in a text affect both rhythm and intonation of a sentence. The following punctuation characters are permitted in the normal input text string: , : ; " " ? ! ( ) \{ \} [ ]

### 3.1 Comma, colon and semicolon

Comma ',', colon ':' and semicolon ';' cause a brief pause to occur in a sentence, accompanied by a small rising intonation pattern just prior to the character.

### 3.2 Quotation marks

Quotes ' " "' appearing around a single word or a group of words cause a brief pause before and after the quoted text.

### 3.3 Full stop

A full stop '.' is a sentence terminal punctuation mark which causes a falling end-of-sentence intonation pattern and is accompanied by a somewhat longer pause. A full stop may also be used as a decimal marker in a number (see chapter Number processing) and in abbreviations (see chapter Abbreviations).

### 3.4 Question mark

A question mark '?' ends a sentence and causes question-intonation, first rising and then falling.

### 3.5 Exclamation mark

The exclamation mark '!' is treated in a similar manner to the full stop, causing a falling intonation pattern followed by a pause.

### 3.6 Parentheses, brackets and braces

Parenthesis '( )', brackets '[ ]' and braces '\{ \}' appearing around a single word or a group of words cause a brief pause before and after the bracketed text.

## 4 Other non alphanumeric characters

### 4.1 Non-punctuation characters

The characters listed below are processed as non-letter, non-punctuation characters. Some are pronounced at all times and others are only pronounced in certain contexts, which are described in the following sections of this chapter.

Non-punctuation characters

| Symbol | Reading |
| :--- | :--- |
| $/$ | skråstrek |
| + | pluss |
| $\$$ | dollar |
| $£$ | pund |
| $€$ | euro |
| $¥$ | yen |
| $<$ | mindre enn |
| $>$ | større enn |
| $\%$ | prosent |
| $\wedge$ | cirkumfleks |
| $\boldsymbol{l}$ | vertikal strek |
| $\sim$ | tilde |
| $@$ | krøllalfa |
| 2 | see below |
| 3 | see below |
| $*$ | see below |
| - | see below |
| $=$ | see below |

### 4.2 The ${ }^{2}$ and ${ }^{3}$ signs

The reading of expressions with ${ }^{2}$ and ${ }^{3}$ is:

## Expression

mm ${ }^{2}$
$\mathrm{cm}^{2}$
$\mathrm{m}^{2}$
km²
$\mathrm{mm}^{3}$
$\mathrm{cm}^{3}$

## Reading

kvadratmillimeter
kvadratcentimeter
kvadratmeter
kvadratkilometer
kubikkmillimeter
kubikkcentimeter

## Expression

$\mathrm{m}^{3}$
$\mathrm{km}^{3}$

## Reading

kubikkmeter
kubikkilometer

### 4.3 Symbols whose pronunciation varies depending on the context

### 4.3.1 Hyphen

A hyphen '-' is pronounced minus in two cases:

1. if followed by a digit and no other digit is found in front of the hyphen, i.e. as in the pattern -X but not in $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{Y}$ or $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{Z}$ where $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}$, and $Z$ are numbers.
2. if followed by a digit and an equals sign '=', i.e. as in the pattern $X$ $Y=Z$. Space is allowed between digits, hyphen and equals sign.

If there is no equals sign, as in $X-Y$ or $X-Z$, the hyphen is pronounced bindestrek.

In certain dateformats, it is pronounced til. If more than one hyphen appear together only one is processed.

Expression
-3
44-3
$44-3=41$
$44-3=41$
15.-20. oktober
6.-10. nov.
årene 1998-2004

2000-07-31
data-maskin

## Reading

minus tre
førtifire bindestrek tre [Not SP]
førtifire minus tre er lik førtien
[Not SP]
førtifire minus tre er lik førtien
femtende til tjuende oktober
[Not SP]
sjette til tiende november [Not SP]
årene nittenhundreognittiåtte til [Not SP] totusenogfire
totusen minus sju minus trettien
[Not SP]

### 4.3.2 Asterisk

Asterisk '*' is pronounced ganger if enclosed by digits and followed by equals sign ' $=$ '. In other cases it is pronounced asterisk.

## Expression

2*3
$2 * 3=6$
*bc

## Reading

to asterisk tre to ganger tre er lik seks asterisk b c

### 4.3.3 Equals sign

Equals sign '=' is pronounced er lik if followed by a digit. In all other cases it is pronounced likhetstegn.

## Expression

$2 * 3=6$
$\mathrm{cd}=\mathrm{dc}$

## Reading

to ganger tre er lik seks
c d likhetstegn d c

## 5 Number Processing

The text-to-speech system applies the so-called new counting principles for Norwegian, which means that, for instance, 27 is read as tjuesju and not as syvogtyve.

Strings of digits that are sent to the text-to-speech converter are processed in several different ways, depending on the format of the string of digits and the immediately surrounding punctuation or non-numeric characters. To familiarise the user with the various types of formatted and non-formatted strings of digits that are recognised by the system, we provide below a brief description of the basic number processing along with examples. Number processing is subdivided into the following categories:

Full number pronunciation
Leading zero
Decimal numbers
Currency amounts
Ordinal numbers
Arithmetic operators
Mixed digits and letters
Time of day
Years
Phone numbers

### 5.1 Full number pronunciation

Full number pronunciation is given for the whole number part of the digit string.

## Example

2425
2.425

2425
24,25
full number
full number
full number
24 is a full number, 25 is the decimal part

Numbers denoting thousands, millions and billions (numbers larger than 999) may be grouped using space or full stop (not comma). In order to achieve the right pronunciation the grouping must be done correctly.

The rules for grouping of numbers are the following:

- Numbers are grouped in groups of three starting at the end.
- The first group in a number may consist of one, two, or three digits.
- If a group, other than the first, does not contain exactly three digits, the sequence of digits is not interpreted as a full number.
- The highest number read is 999999999999 (twelve digits). Numbers higher than this are read as separate digits.
- An exception is made for year pronunciation, which occurs in fourdigit strings in the range between 1100 and 2099.

| Number <br> 2585 | Reading <br> totusen femhundreogåttifem <br> 2.585 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2585 | $"$ |
|  | $"$ |
| 25700 | tjuefemtusen sjuhundre |
| 25.700 | $"$ |
| 25700 | $"$ |
|  |  |
| 2090350 | tomillioner nittitusen trehundreogfemti |
| 2.090 .350 | $"$ |
| 2090350 | $"$ |
|  |  |
| 1000000001 | en miljard og en |
| 34567890123 | tre fire fem seks sju åtte ni null en to tre fire tre |
| 43 |  |
| 34567890 | trettifiremilliarder femhundreogsekstisjumillioner |
| 123 | ăttehundreognittitusen ethundreogtjuetre |

### 5.2 Leading zero

Numbers that begin with 0 (zero) followed by a maximum of three digits (the first of which is not 0 ) are read null and then the number as it would be without the 0 . Numbers that begin with 00 (zero zero) followed by a maximum of two digits (the first of which is not 0 ) are read null null and then the number as it would be without the 00 . Other digit strings beginning with 0 are read out digit-by-digit.

## Number

0753
020
0053
00753
07253

## Reading

null sjuhundreogfemtitre
null tjue
null null femtitre
null null sju fem tre
null sju to fem tre

### 5.3 Decimal numbers

Comma is used when writing decimal numbers.

The full number part of the decimal number (the part before comma) is read according to the rules in the section Full number pronunciation. If the decimals (the part after comma) are more than three, the decimal part is read as separate digits. Note: A number containing full stop followed by exactly three digits is not read as a decimal number but as a full number, following the rules in the section Full number pronunciation.

## Number

16,234
3,1415
1251,04
2,50
2.50
3.141

## Reading

seksten komma tohundreogtrettifire tre komma en fire en fem
ettusentohundreogfemtien komma null fire to komma femti
to punktum femti
tretusenethundreogførtien

### 5.4 Currency amounts

The following principles are followed for currency amounts:

- Numbers with zero, one or two decimals preceded or followed by the currency markers $k r, £, \$, \neq$ or $€$ are read as currency amounts.
- Numbers with zero or two decimals followed by the words kroner, dollar, yen or euro are read as currency amounts.
- Comma is the only accepted decimal marker.
- The sequence comma followed by hyphen ',-' is read as kroner bindestrek
- The decimal part (consisting of two digits) in currency amounts is read as og nn øre, og nn pence, and og nn cent.
- If the decimal part is 00 it will not be read.


## Example

kr 20,50
kr 20,00
kr 20,-
20,50 kroner
\$15,00
15,00£
€ 200,50
1.000.000 $¥$
\$1.314,57

## Reading

tjue kroner og femti øre
tjue kroner
tjue kroner bindestrek
tjue kroner og femti øre
femten dollar
femten pund
tohundre euro og femti cent
en million yen
ettusen trehundreogfjorten dollar og femtisju cent

### 5.5 Ordinal numbers

Numbers are read as ordinals in the following cases:

- The number is followed by a full stop and a month name or one of the month name abbreviations and the number is smaller or equal
to 31. The number may be preceded by a day or an abbreviation for a day.
- The number consists of a day interval followed by a month name/abbreviation.
- The number is part of the date format $d d / m m$ yyyy and occurs in the $d d / m m$ part, $d d / m m$ must be a possible date and yyyy a year between 1100 and 2099.

See also Dates.
Valid abbreviations for months: jan, feb, febr, mar, apr, mai, jun, jul, aug, sep, sept, okt, nov, and des.

Valid abbreviations for days: man, tirs, ons, tor, tors, fre, lør and søn.
The abbreviations above are only expanded to names of months and days when appearing in correct date contexts.

Examples:

## Expression

3. januar
4. jan. onsdag 3. jan.
ons. 3. jan.
15.-16. januar

3/7 2003

## Reading

tredje januar [Not SP]
tredje januar [Not SP]
onsdag tredje januar [Not SP]
onsdag tredje januar [Not SP]
femtende til sekstende januar [Not SP]
tredje i sjuende totusenogtre

### 5.6 Arithmetic operators

Numbers together with arithmetical operators are read according to the examples below.

## Expression

-12
14-2
$14-2=12$
$+24$
$2+3$
$2+3=5$
2*3
$2 * 3=6$
2/3
$6 / 2=3$
$2: 3=6$
25\%
3,4\%

## Reading

minus tolv
fjorten bindestrek to
[Not SP]
fjorten minus to er lik tolv
plus tjuefire
to plus tre
to plus tre er lik fem
to asterisk tre
to ganger tre er lik seks
to tredjedeler
seks dividert med to er lik tre
to dividert med tre er lik seks
tjuefem procent
tre komma fire prosent

### 5.7 Mixed digits and letters

If one or more upper-case letters appear within an alphanumeric sequence, the letters are read one by one. The numbers are read according to the examples below.

## Expression

77B184Z3
0092B87-B
FT2892B87Z
TN12345L5

## Reading

syttisju $B$ etthundreogåttifire $Z$ tre null null nittito $B$ àttisju $B$
F T tjueåtte nittito B åttisju Z
$T N$ en to tre fire fem $L$ fem

### 5.8 Time of day

Numbers denoting time are marked by the abbreviation $k /$ or the word klokken in front of the digits. Either colon or full stop may be used to separate hours, minutes and seconds.

Possible patterns are:
a. kl hh.mm or h.mm
b. kl hh.mm.ss or h.mm.ss

Colon may be used instead of full stop and klokken instead of $k /$ in both patterns. $h=$ hour, $m=$ minute, $s=$ second.

## Expression

kl 9:00
klokken 9:30
kl 13:00
klokken 12:00
kl 0:00
klokken 20.15.34
kl 20.15.34
20.15.34

## Reading

klokken ni null null
klokken ni tretti
klokken tretten null null
klokken tolv null null
klokken null null
klokken tjue femten trettifire
klokken tjue femten trettifire
tjue femten trettifire

### 5.9 Years

Numbers between 1100 and 2099 are always read as hundreds ("year reading") with the exception of numbers containing decimals.

## Expression Reading

året 1988
året nittenhundreogåttiåtte
[Not SP]
årene 1939-45
årene nittenhundreogtrettini til førtifem
[Not SP]
årene 1998-2010
årene nittenhundreognittiåtte til [Not SP] totusenogti
år 2000 àr totusen

## Expression

X2000
år 2004
1088 1900 nittenhundre
1988
2000
1988,0
1988.32
sep 2004
13. sep 2004

## Reading

$X$ totusen
år totusenogfire
ettusenogåttiåtte
nittenhundreogåttiåtte
totusen trettito
nittenhundre [Not SP]
[Not SP]
ettusennihundreogåttiåtte komma null
ettusennihundreogåttiåtte punktum
september totusenogfire
[Not SP]
trettende september totusenogfire
[Not SP]

### 5.10 Dates

There are four types of valid formats for dates:

|  | Format | Example |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1. | $\mathrm{dd} / \mathrm{mm} / \mathrm{yy}$ | $25 / 12 / 04$ |
| 2. | $\mathrm{dd} / \mathrm{mm} / \mathrm{yyyy}$ | $25 / 12 / 2004$ |
| 3. | $\mathrm{dd}-\mathrm{mm}$ yyyy | $25-122004$ |
| 4. | $\mathrm{dd} / \mathrm{mm}$ yyyy | $25 / 122004$ |

All the above examples are read as tjuefemte $i$ tolvte totusen og fire.
yyyy is a four-digit number number between 1100 and 2099, yy is a twodigit number, $m m$ is a month number between 1 and 12 and $d d$ a day number between 1 and 31 .

In type 1 and 2 full stop, and slash may be used as delimiters, in type 3, only hyphen and in type 4 only slash.

In all formats, one or two digits may be used in the $m m$ and $d d$ part. Zeros may be used in front of numbers below 10 .

### 5.11 Phone numbers

In this section the patterns of digits that are recognised as phone numbers are described. In the pronunciation of phone numbers each group of digits is read as a full number (see also Leading zero section) with pauses pause between the regional code and the local number, and pauses between groups of numbers.

### 5.11.1 Ordinary phone numbers

Sequences of digits in the following formats are treated as phone numbers:

- A regular Norwegian phone number always has 8 digits, divided into groups of two or four.
- Norwegian mobile phone numbers may be divided 3-2-3
- International numbers are preceded by 00 or + plus country code


## Examples:

22334455
22334455
96023123 [Not SP]
+4722334455
004722334455

### 5.11.2 Special phone numbers

The emergency numbers: 111, 112, 113
Service numbers: 1800 (4-digit numbers)

There are more numbers like this and they are pronounced according to the general rules for pronouncing full numbers.

## 6 How to change the pronunciation

### 6.1 User lexicon

Words that are not pronounced correctly by the text-to-speech converter can be entered in the user lexicon (see User's guide). When writing transcriptions for entries in the user lexicon to change the way a word is pronounced, one method is to modify the spelling of the word (see section Spelling incorrectly) and another is to write a phonetic transcription of the word (see chapter Norwegian Phonetic Text). Phonetic transcriptions can also be entered directly in the text, using the PRN tag (see User's guide).
6.2 Spelling incorrectly

Sometimes the quickest way of changing the pronunciation of the word is to change the spelling of the word directly in the text. Changing a single letter, or adding a hyphen, can often make it sound better.

## Norwegian Phonetic Text

The Norwegian text-to-speech system uses the Norwegian subset of the SAMPA phonetic alphabet (Speech Assessment Methods Phonetic Alphabet) with a few exceptions. The symbols are written with a space between each phoneme. Earlier text-to-speech converters developed by Babel-Infovox use a different phonetic alphabet, called RULSYS. As some users may be accustomed to this alphabet we also provide here the corresponding RULSYS-symbols for every SAMPA-symbol.

Only the symbols listed here may be used in phonetic transcriptions. Symbols not listed here are not valid in phonetic transcriptions and will be ignored if included in the user lexicon or in a $P R N$ tag.

### 7.1 Stress marks

Every Norwegian word of more than one syllable spoken in isolation has at least one (and normally only one) syllable that stands out as being more prominent than the others. This is referred to as stress (word stress, lexical stress). This stress also affects a word of one syllable pronounced in isolation. In an utterance of more than one word some words will retain the word stress, whereas some may lose theirs. For instance, so-called function words (pronouns, prepositions and other "grammatical" words) often lose their word stress in sentences. For instance, in the sentence Jeg fant den på gaten the words jeg, den and p̊ will normally be unstressed. In some contexts even other words may lose their word stress. This can happen if another word receives a special emphatic stress, for instance, or in some regular word combinations, like kjøre bil, where kjøre is often pronounced without stress. In the synthesis, word stress is assigned automatically. The loss of stress that should affect words in some cases is often applied correctly, even if this cannot be guaranteed.

Most Norwegian dialects have two so-called word tones (tonelag, tonem) associated with the stressed syllable, referred to in Norwegian as tonelag 1/enkelt tonelag/tonem 1 and tonelag 2/dobbelt tonelag/tonem 2. We here refer to them as (word) accents: accent 1 and accent 2, respectively.

The synthesis is based on a Standard East Norwegian pronunciation like that of a representative speaker from the Oslo region. In this variety of Norwegian it is important to assign to words of more than one syllable the correct word accent. The text-to-speech system does this automatically as much as possible, although mistakes may occur, especially in many cases where the same spelling is used for two different words with different word accents. For instance, what is written hender is pronounced differently (with accent 1) when it means hands (the noun) and (with accent 2) when it means happens. The word bønder (farmers) is pronounced with accent 1 , but bønner (beans or prayers) is pronounced with accent 2. The sentence Det hender at bønder har bønner isine hender has the pattern $x$
$2 x \times 1 \times \times 2 x \times x \times 1 \times$ where $x$ symbolises an unstressed syllable, 1 a syllable with accent 1 , and 2 a syllable with accent 2 . The synthesis treats words of one syllable as having accent 1.

In compound words the stress usually lies on the first part of the compound (on that syllable which has the stress when this part is used as a word in its own right), but the accent often changes; particularly frequently, but by no means always, if the first part is a word of one syllable, the compound will have accent 2 . In compound words, there is often a "reminder" of the original word stress in the last part; this is a kind of "lighter" stress, referred to as secondary stress or secondary accent. The synthesis often, but not always, correctly represents this secondary stress.

When writing phonetic text it is important to indicate the correct stress, especially the main stress (the word stress). It is important to realise that the word accents are an integrated aspect of the word stress. In other words, in order to indicate word stress one has to decide whether the word should be pronounced with accent 1 or accent 2. Put differently, indicating which word accent a syllable has implies that that syllable is stressed.

In the phonetic alphabet used in the text-to-speech system the word accents (and, implicitly, the word stress) are represented by a number placed immediately after the stressed vowel (no space character allowed in between), as follows (a space character must separate each symbol representing the speech sounds; an explanation of the symbols for consonants and vowels follows shortly):

| Accent <br> type | Accent <br> symbol | Word | Transcription | Comment |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| accent 1 | 4 | bønder | b 24 n @ r |  |
| accent 1 | 4 | finner | f i4 n @ r | verb |
| accent 2 | 3 | bønner | b 23 n @ r |  |
| accent 2 | 3 | finner | fi n n @ r | noun |
| secondary <br> stress | 1 | bondegårder | b u4 n @ g O:1 r @ r | compound; <br> secondary stress <br> on the first <br> syllable of the <br> second part; <br> word stress with <br> accent 1 on the <br> first syllable of <br> the word |


| Accent <br> type | Accent <br> symbol | Word | Transcription | Comment |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| secondary <br> stress | 1 | vannkanne | v A3 n k_h A1 n @ | lompound; <br> secondary stress <br> on the first <br> syllable of the <br> second part; <br> word stress with <br> accent 2 on the <br> first syllable of <br> the word |

Note that transcriptions may be read with the correct stress even if no stress marks are included, but this happens randomly and is nothing that can be relied on.

### 7.2 Symbols for the Norwegian consonants

Symbols for the Norwegian consonants

| Symbol | Word | Phonetic text | Comment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| b | be | b e:4 |  |
| d | bade | b A:3 d @ |  |
| rd | verdi | v \{ rd i:4 | retroflex d |
| f | far | f A:4 r |  |
| g | gå | $\mathrm{g} \mathrm{O}: 4$ |  |
| h | ha | h A:4 |  |
| j | ja | j A:4 |  |
| k | skal | skA4 L |  |
| k_h | kan | k_h A4 n | aspirated k |
| I | sile | si:31@ |  |
| L | holte | h O3 L t @ | dark L |
| rl | jarle | j A:3 rl @ | retroflex I |
| rL | fæl | f \{ : 4 rL | retroflex flap, "thick I" |
| m | mor | mu:4 r |  |
| n | nord | $\mathrm{n} u: 4 \mathrm{r}$ |  |
| rn | barn | b A:4 rn | retroflex $n$ |
| N | sang | s A4 N | not used syllable-initially |
| p | spise | spi:3s @ |  |
| p_h | pris | p_hri:4s | aspirated p |
| r | rar | r A:4 r |  |
| S | sa | s A:4 |  |
| rs | vers | v \{4 rs | retroflex s |
| S | stasjon | stASu:4n |  |
| t | stå | st 0:4 |  |


| Symbol | Word | Phonetic text | Comment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| t_h | ta | t_h A:4 | aspirated t |
| rt | vert | $v$ \{4 rt | retroflex t |
| rt_h | fortelle | f Ort_h e4 I @ | aspirated retroflex t |
| C | kjole | Cu:31@ | not used syllable-finally |
| v | vi | vi:4 |  |
| $\mathrm{I}=$ | handel | h A4 n d I= | syllabic I |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | femten | $\mathrm{fe} 3 \mathrm{mtn}=$ | syllabic $n$ |
| rn= | verten | $v$ \{4 rt rn= | syllabic rn |
| aU | house | haU s | used in e.g. English names |
| x | Bach | b A x | German |
| w | Windows | w i4 n d O w s | English |
| tS | church | tS 2:4 tS | English |
| dZ | John | $\mathrm{dZ} \mathrm{O4} \mathrm{n}$ | English |
| T | thing | T i4 N | English |
| D | this | D i4 s | English |
| z | zoo | z u:4 | English |
| Z | Jean | Z A~4 | French |

### 7.2.1 Comments on the phonetic symbols for consonants

### 7.2.1.1 Retroflexes

The pronunciation of the consonants $t, d, s, l$ and $n$ is changed when they are orthographically preceded by an $r$. The tip of the tongue is bent backwards against the hard gum and the $r$ is not pronounced as a separate sound. These sounds are called supradentals or retroflexes. Compare the pronunciation of bordell and modell, fort and fot. In phonetic text these sounds are written as the combination of the $r$ and the following dental consonant, with no space in between them. Note that not all dialects of Norwegian have retroflexes.

### 7.2.1.2 Aspiration

The voiceless stops $p, t, k$ are typically aspirated in certain positions of the word. That is, they are followed by a "puff of breath" before the vowel. This happens when the stop sound is followed by a stressed vowel and in the beginning of words, including words that are part of compounds.

### 7.3 Vowels

Symbols for the Norwegian vowels
Symbol Word $\quad$ Phonetic text Comment

| Symbol | Word | Phonetic text | Comment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | matt | m A4 t |  |
| A: | mat | m A:4t |  |
| e | vett | v e4t |  |
| e: | vet | $v e: 4 t$ |  |
| @ | mate | m A:3t@ | schwa vowel allophone |
| i | fille | fi31 @ |  |
| i: | file | fi:31 @ |  |
| u | bonde | bu3 n @ |  |
| u: | bone | bu:3n @ |  |
| \} | lutt | l $\} 4$ t |  |
| \}: | lut | $1\}: 4 \mathrm{t}$ |  |
| y | lynne | ly3 n @ |  |
| y: | lyne | ly:3n@ |  |
| 0 | vått | v 04 t |  |
| O: | våt | v $0: 4 \mathrm{t}$ |  |
| \{ | herr | h \{4 r |  |
| \{: | her | h $\{: 4 \mathrm{r}$ |  |
| 2 | m ¢tt | m 24 t |  |
| 2: | møt | m 2:4 t |  |
| Ai | hai | h Ai4 | diphthong |
| \{\} | haug | h \{\}4 | diphthong |
| \{i | lei | 1 \{i4 | diphthong |
| 2y | køye | k_h 2y3 @ | diphthong |
| A~ | blanc | b I A~4 | French, nasal A |
| E~ | vin | v E~4 | French, nasal E |
| O~ | bon | b O~4 | French, nasal O |

### 7.3.1 Comments to the phonetic symbols for vowels

### 7.3.1.1 Vowel length

Long vowels are marked with colon ':'.

### 7.4 Glottal stops

A glottal stop, represented by the phonetic symbol /?/, is a small sound which is often used to separate two words when the second word starts with a stressed vowel. This sound can be inserted in a transcription in order to improve the pronunciation.

### 7.5 Pause

An underscore / // in a phonetic transcription generates a small pause.

## 8 Abbreviations

In the current version of the Norwegian text-to-speech system, the abbreviations in the table below are recognised in all contexts. These abbreviations are case-insensitive and require no full stop in order to be recognised as an abbreviation.

As previously mentioned, there are also abbreviations for the days of the week and the months (see chapter Ordinal numbers).

Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Reading |
| :--- | :--- |
| ev. | eventuelt |
| evt. | eventuelt |
| resp. | respektive |
| tel. | telefon |
| tlf. | telefon |
| A.S. | Aksjeselskap (case sensitive) |
| AS | Aksjeselskap (case sensitive) |
| bl | blant |
| bl. a. | blant annet/andre (requires full stops) |
| bl.a. | blant annet/andre (requires full stops) |
| ca. | cirka |
| dvs. | det vil si |
| etc. | etcetera |
| jr. | junior |
| kl. | klokken |
| osv. | og så videre |
| m.m. | med mer |
| m.fl. | med flere |
| d.y. | den yngre |
| d.e. | den eldre |

Some abbreviations representing units of measurement and measures of capacity are only expanded after digits. Abbreviations connected to telephony are only expanded in front of digits.

## Abbreviation

20 ml
25 cl
30 dl
40 mm
50 cm

Reading
tjue milliliter
tjuefem centiliter
tretti deciliter
førti millimeter (mm is normally read as med mer)
femti centimeter

```
Abbreviation
60 dm
70 kg
tel 32123456 telefon trettito (pause) tolv (pause) trettifire
    (pause) femtiseks
mob 245 35043 mobil tohundreogførtifem (pause) trettifem (pause)
null førtitre
```


## 9 Web-addresses and email

Web-addresses and email-addresses are read as follows:

- $\quad w w w$ is read as three normal $v$ 's spelled letter by letter.
- Full stops '.' are read as punktum, hyphens '-' as bindestreck, underscores '_' as understrekning, slashes '/' as skråstrek.
- no, uk, us and all the other abbreviations for countries are spelled out letter by letter.
- The @ is read krøllalfa.
- Words/strings (including org, com and edu) are pronounced according to the normal rules of pronunciation in the system and in accordance with the lexicon.


## String

www.acapela-group.com
support@acapelagroup.com

## Reading

v v v punktum acapela bindestreck punktum com
support krøllalfa acapela bindestreck punktum com

