

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Beginner S1 #1

Talking About Your Strengths in Danish

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#1

INTRODUCTION

Eric: Hi everyone, and welcome back to DanishClass101.com. This is Beginner, Season 1 Lesson 1 - Talking About Your Strengths in Danish. Eric here.

Anna: Hej! I'm Anna.

Eric: In this lesson, you'll learn how to talk about skills and desires. The conversation takes place at a high school.

Anna: It's between Stine and Nanna.

Eric: The speakers are classmates. Listeners, please note that because there's no difference between formal and informal registers in Danish, we won't be mentioning the formality level of conversations within this series. Okay, let's listen to the conversation.

DIALOGUE

Stine: Nanna, du er god til matematik, er du ikke?

Nanna: Jo... Sådan da.

Stine: Fedt! Kan du hjælpe mig?

Nanna: Ja, selvfølgelig. Nå, du er næsten færdig?

Stine: Ja, jeg skyndte mig. Jeg vil gerne have mere tid til mit valgfag.

Nanna: Åh, hvad er det nu, det er?

Stine: Idræt! Jeg er dårlig til matematik, men god til sport.

Nanna: Det er rigtigt! Jeg er derimod ikke så vild med idræt.

Stine: Så er det godt, du er god til matematik!

Eric: Listen to the conversation one time slowly.

Stine: Nanna, du er god til matematik, er du ikke?

Nanna: Jo... Sådan da.

Stine: Fedt! Kan du hjælpe mig?

Nanna: Ja, selvfølgelig. Nå, du er næsten færdig?

Stine: Ja, jeg skyndte mig. Jeg vil gerne have mere tid til mit valgfag.

Nanna: Åh, hvad er det nu, det er?

Stine: Idræt! Jeg er dårlig til matematik, men god til sport.

Nanna: Det er rigtigt! Jeg er derimod ikke så vild med idræt.

Stine: Så er det godt, du er god til matematik!

Eric: Listen to the conversation with the English translation.

Stine: Nanna, du er god til matematik, er du ikke?

Stine: Nanna, you're good at math, aren't you?

Nanna: Jo... Sådan da.

Nanna: Yes... Sort of.

Stine: Fedt! Kan du hjælpe mig?

Stine: Cool! Can you help me?

Nanna: Ja, selvfølgelig. Nå, du er næsten færdig?

Nanna: Yes, of course. Oh, you are almost done?

Stine: Ja, jeg skyndte mig. Jeg vil gerne have mere tid til mit valgfag.

Stine: Yes, I hurried. I'd like to have more time for my elective.

Nanna: Åh, hvad er det nu, det er?

Nanna: Oh, what is it again?

Stine: Idræt! Jeg er dårlig til matematik, men god til sport.

Stine: Sports! I am bad at math, but good at sports.

Nanna: Det er rigtigt! Jeg er derimod ikke så vild med idræt.

Nanna: That's right! I, on the other hand, am not so crazy about sports.

Stine: Så er det godt, du er god til matematik!

Stine: Then it is a good thing you're good at math!

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Eric: Anna, is it common for students to take electives at Danish schools?

Anna: Yes, from the 7th grade on, students are able to take one to three elective courses. Some university courses also feature electives or supplementary subjects.

Eric: What kinds of courses are these usually?

Anna: Some common examples are foreign languages, art, home economics, shop, music, sports, math, psychology, science, but they can really be anything.

Eric: And I've heard that some university courses require certain electives for admission, is that correct?

Anna: Yes, that's true.

VOCAB LIST

Eric: Now, let's take a look at the vocabulary from this lesson. The first word is..

Anna: matematik [natural native speed]

Eric: math

Anna: matematik [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: matematik [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: sådan da [natural native speed]

Eric: sort of, more or less

Anna: sådan da [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: sådan da [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: at kunne [natural native speed]

Eric: to be able to

Anna: at kunne [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: at kunne [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: selvfølgelig [natural native speed]

Eric: of course, naturally, certainly, obviously

Anna: selvfølgelig [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: selvfølgelig [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: at skynde sig [natural native speed]

Eric: to hurry, to hurry up

Anna: at skynde sig [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: at skynde sig [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: at gerne ville [natural native speed]

Eric: would like to

Anna: at gerne ville [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: at gerne ville [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: valgfag [natural native speed]

Eric: elective

Anna: valgfag [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: valgfag [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: idræt [natural native speed]

Eric: sport, physical education

Anna: idræt [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: idræt [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Anna: dårlig [natural native speed]

Eric: bad

Anna: dårlig [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: dårlig [natural native speed]

Eric: And last..

Anna: derimod [natural native speed]

Eric: on the other hand, in contrast

Anna: derimod [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Anna: derimod [natural native speed]

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Eric: Let's have a closer look at some of the words and phrases from this lesson. The first word is..

Anna: selvfølgelig

Eric: as an adverb it means "of course" and as an adjective it means "obvious". In Danish, this word functions as an adjective, but in English it is equivalent to the adverbs "obviously" or "of course."

Anna: You can use *selvfølgelig* to express that you think something is completely normal or expected, or to say a faint confession before stating something contradictory.

Eric: You can also use it to emphasize that you are fully aware of the particular way something stands. But note that it changes when you use it as an adjective to describe neuter gender nouns or verbs.

Anna: Right. When you're using *selvfølgelig* as an adjective, remember to add a -t. *Selvfølgeligt*.

Eric: Can you give us an example using this word?

Anna: Sure. For example, you can say *Selvfølgelig må du komme med*.

Eric: ..which means "Of course, you may come along." Okay, what's the next phrase?

Anna: *sådan da*

Eric: which means "sort of, more or less."

Anna: *Sådan* is an adjective that means "such" or "like that," and *da* is an adverb that means "then" or "at that time." As a conjunction, it means "when" or "since."

Eric: You can use this expression to express that something is fairly good or is within reasonable boundaries.

Anna: That's right. Be aware, though, that some Danish people might find *sådan da* to be too vague when describing a status or condition.

Eric: Instead, they may prefer the adjective...

Anna: *nogenlunde*

Eric: ...which means "fairly good." Anna, can we use these two words in the same way?

Anna: Both are equally casual, but *sådan da* has a more negative connotation to it. So if someone asks you something like whether you've recovered from an illness, you might want to use *nogenlunde*.

Eric: That way, you can indicate that you are on your way to recovery. Can you give us an example using this phrase?

Anna: Sure. For example, you can say.. *Vi er snart færdige - sådan da*.

Eric: .. which means "We'll be done soon - more or less." Okay, what's the next word?

Anna: *derimod*

Eric: which means "on the other hand, against it."

Anna: *Der* means "it" and *imod* as an adverb means "against."

Eric: So literally, it means "against it," but you can use it to mean "in contrast." Use this phrase when you want to express something that is contrary to what was just stated.

Anna: Right. You will often hear *derimod* used in formal situations to mean that something or someone is opposed to what was just mentioned.

Eric: For example, it might come up in a political or judicial context when someone is against what is being stated or proposed. Can you give us an example using this word?

Anna: Sure. For example, you can say.. Derimod kan katte ikke flyve.

Eric: .. which means "On the contrary, cats cannot fly."

Anna: Okay, now onto the lesson focus.

LESSON FOCUS

Eric: In this lesson, you'll learn how to talk about your skills and desires. Let's take a look at three of the most common sentence structures to talk about your own skills. The first one is...

Anna: Jeg er god til, followed by a noun.

Eric: which means "I am good at..." and then state what it is that you are good at doing. Let's break this phrase down to understand the meaning of each word.

Anna: Alright. Jeg means "I," er means "is," god is the adjective meaning "good," and til is the preposition "at." After this, just add a noun indicating what it is that you are good at.

Eric: So, it literally means "I am good at.." So following our pattern, how would you say..."I am good at soccer"?

Anna: That's simple. "Soccer" in Danish is fodbold. So the sentence is Jeg er god til fodbold.

Eric: Great. Now let's talk about the second most common sentence structure.

Anna: That would be Jeg er ikke god til plus a noun.

Eric: Using this pattern to express that you're not good at something. As you can see, we only added one word,

Anna: ikke

Eric: Which means "no" or "not." For example, you can say...

Anna: Jeg er ikke god til madlavning.

Eric: "I am not good at cooking." Anna, how would you say "I am bad at something"?

Anna: For that we would have to use a third structure - Jeg er dårlig til plus a noun.

Eric: Just replace the word meaning "good,"

Anna: god

Eric: with the word meaning "bad."

Anna: dårlig.

Eric: Other than that, the sentence pattern is identical to what we have just learned. Let's examine this phrase by using an example. If I am bad at chess, I can say...

Anna: Jeg er dårlig til skak. The noun skak is the Danish word for "chess."

Eric: Can we use the same sentence structure with verbs instead of nouns?

Anna: Yes, just add the infinitive marker *at*, meaning "to." Then simply add a verb in the infinitive form that indicates what it is that you're good at.

Eric: To apply this to a sample sentence, how would you say... "I am good at reading"?

Anna: "To read" is *at læse* in Danish. So that would be...*Jeg er god til at læse.*

Eric: And what about "I am not good at spelling."?

Anna: The verb *at stave* means "to spell," so in Danish it's *Jeg er ikke god til at stave.*

Eric: And I guess the same pattern is used for "I am bad at..." plus a verb, right?

Anna: Right. For example "I am bad at singing" - *Jeg er dårlig til at synge*, where *at synge* means "to sing."

Eric: Listeners, for more examples, take a look at the Lesson Notes for this lesson. Let's move on to our second grammar point, which is how to talk about what you would like to do using the phrase...

Anna: *at gerne ville*. It's the most common way to express what you would like to do. It consists of the adverb *gerne*, which means "gladly," and the verb *ville*, which means "will." Put together, we have *at gerne ville*, which means "would like to."

Eric: After that, simply add a verb in the infinitive form that indicates what it is you would like to do. For example...

Anna: *Jeg vil gerne sove.*

Eric: "I would like to sleep."

Anna: *At sove* means "to sleep."

Eric: Let's hear one last example...

Anna: *Forældrene vil gerne være alene.*

Eric: "The parents would like to be alone." Alright, we have one more Grammar Point, and you can find more information about it in the Lesson Notes,

Anna: It's about the usage of the modal verb *at kunne*.

Eric: Meaning "to be able to," which is commonly used to express ability or to ask if someone is able to help.

Anna: So listeners, make sure to check out the lesson notes, and post any questions you have in the comment section.

OUTRO

Eric: And that's all for this lesson. Thank you for listening, everyone, and we'll see you next time! Bye!

Anna: Vi ses!