

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #1

A Danish Job Interview

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#1

DIALOGUE - DANISH

MAIN

1. Jon : Tak for indkaldelsen. Jeg hedder Jon, og jeg er studerende.
2. Theresa : Tak fordi du ville komme. Vil du fortælle om din tjenererfaring?
3. Jon : Jeg var opvasker, men pludselig rejste tjeneren. Så jeg meldte mig.
4. Theresa : Det var heldigt. Hvad er dine stærke og svage sider?
5. Jon : Jeg er service-minded, men konfliktsky. Derfor gør jeg alt for, at andre er glade.
6. Theresa : Javel. Hvorfor vil du gerne arbejde på netop denne café?
7. Jon : Hmm... Tja...
8. Theresa : Caféen overfor søger jo også en tjener.
9. Jon : Jeg vil gerne arbejde her på grund af de fleksible arbejdstider.
10. Theresa : Hvordan har du det med weekendvagter?
11. Jon : Helt fint. Giver I weekendtillæg?
12. Theresa : Det gør vi.
13. Jon : Alletiders.

ENGLISH

1. Jon : Thank you for the call. My name is Jon and I am a student.
2. Theresa : Thank you for coming. Do you want to tell me about your waiting experience?
3. Jon : I was a dishwasher, but suddenly the waiter left. So I signed up.
4. Theresa : That was lucky. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
5. Jon : I am service-minded, but afraid of conflict. Therefore, I do anything to make others happy.
6. Theresa : I see. Why do you want to work at this café exactly?
7. Jon : Hmm... Well...
8. Theresa : After all, the café across the street is also looking for a waiter.
9. Jon : I would like to work here because of the flexible working hours.
10. Theresa : How do you feel about weekend shifts?
11. Jon : Totally fine. Do you give weekend supplement?
12. Theresa : We do.
13. Jon : Great.

VOCABULARY

Danish	English	Class
weekendtillæg	weekend supplement	noun
weekendvagt	weekend shift	noun
arbejdstid	working hours, hours	noun
studerende	student above senior high school level	noun
tjenererfaring	waiting experience	noun
indkaldelse	call, summons, call-up, draft	noun
hedde	to be called, to be named	verb
tjener	waiter	noun
konfliktsky	afraid of conflict	adjective
søge	to apply for	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Selvølgelig giver vi weekendtillæg. "Of course, we give weekend supplement."	Kan du tage min weekendvagt? "Can you take my weekend shift?"
Normalt er den ugentlige arbejdstid på 37 timer. "Normally, the weekly workings hours are 37 hours."	Mange studerende tjener penge ved siden af deres SU. "Many students earn money besides their student grant."
Det er nemt at få tjenererfaring, mens du er ung. "It is easy to get waiting experience, while you are young."	I morges modtog jeg en indkaldelse til en jobsamtale. "This morning I received a call for a job interview."
Hvad skal din bamse hedde? "What's the name of your bear going to be?"	Hvad hedder gaden? "What is the street called?"
Han har arbejdet som tjener i tre år. "He has worked as a waiter for three years."	Der er ingen grund til at være konfliktsky her. "There is no reason to be afraid of conflict here."
Sidste år søgte jeg ind ved en stor kemivirksomhed, men de svarede aldrig tilbage. "Last year I applied for a big chemical company, but they didn't even reply."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

være studerende ("to be a student")

The phrase *være studerende* means "to be a student." The first word *være* is the irregular verb "to be" and *studerende* is the common gender noun meaning "student." Unlike English, there is no need for the indefinite article in Danish.

The phrase is mainly used by students, who are above senior high school level, when introducing themselves. Of course, you can also use the phrase when talking about someone else who is a student above senior high school level. If you are a student below senior high school level or attending a secondary educational institution, you replace *studerende* with *elev*, which is a common gender noun. However, in order to specify what kind of student you are, *elev* is often combined with an institution. For example, *folkeskoleelev* is a common gender noun made up of two separate nouns. *Folkeskole* is a common gender noun meaning "primary and lower secondary school" or "state school" and *elev* is of course "student." Another example is *gymnasieelev*, which is a common gender noun meaning "senior high school student."

For example:

1. *Alle mine venner er også studerende.*
"All my friends are students too."

søge ("to look for," "to search for," "to seek," "to apply for," "to try")

This is a verb with several meanings, such as "to look for" and "to search for." *Søge* is a regular verb, but it conjugates according to the second regular conjugation in past tense, which means that you add *-te* to the base form *søg*. So *søge* in past tense is *søgte*.

Like in English, *søge* is mainly used when you want to express that you are looking or searching for something or someone. For example, *Vi søger en butiksassistent* means "We are looking for a shop assistant." *Vi* is the pronoun "we," *søger* is the verb *søge* in present tense, and *en butiksassistent* is the indefinite article *en* followed by the common gender noun *butiksassistent* meaning "shop assistant." When they are seeking someone in particular, but they have not met the person before, some people add the indefinite article *en* before the name of that person. For example, *Jeg søger en Jon Andersen*. This means "I'm looking for a Jon Andersen." *Jeg* is the pronoun "I," *søger* is *søge* in present tense, and *en Jon Andersen* is "a Jon Andersen." By adding the indefinite article, you show distance to the person you are talking about, indicating that you do not know him or her.

Søge is often followed by the preposition *efter*, which literally means "after," but in this case it is equivalent of "for" in English. The phrase *søge efter* works just like in English. For example, *Han søgte efter sin pung*. This means "He searched for his wallet." *Han* is the pronoun "he," *søgte* is *søge* in past tense, *efter* is the preposition "for," *sin* is the reflexive pronoun "his," and *pung* is the common gender noun meaning "wallet."

For example:

1. *Vi har søgt efter chefen overalt.*
"We have looked for the boss everywhere."

***give weekendtillæg* ("to give weekend supplement")**

The phrase *give weekendtillæg* means "to give weekend supplement." The irregular verb *give* means "to give," and the neuter gender noun *weekendtillæg* means "weekend supplement." The noun is made of the two nouns *weekend* and *tillæg*. The common gender noun *weekend* means "weekend" and the neuter gender noun *tillæg* means "supplement," "addition," or "bonus."

You usually use the phrase in a work or employment-related context. For example, if you want to know if an employer offers weekend supplement, you can ask *Gives der weekendtillæg?* This literally means "Is there given weekend supplement?" The first word *gives* is the verb "give" in passive form, toning down the subject, or rather the giver, the second word *der* is the formal subject "there," and finally *weekendtillæg* is "*weekendsupplement*." When switching focus from the giver to the receiver, you simply replace the verb *give* with a verb meaning the exact opposite. For example, *Modtager du weekendtillæg?* means "Do you receive weekend supplement?" The first word *modtager* is the irregular verb *modtage* in present tense meaning "receive," the second word *du* is the pronoun "you," and finally *weekendtillæg* is of course "weekend supplement."

A shorter version also focusing on the receiver is, *De får weekendtillæg*. This literally means "They get weekend supplement." The first word *de* is the pronoun "they," the second word *får* is the irregular verb *få* in present tense meaning "get," and finally *weekendtillæg* is "weekend supplement."

For example:

1. *Arbejdsgivere kan give forskellige weekendtillæg.*
"Employers can give different weekend supplements."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Discussing Reasons

Jeg vil gerne arbejde her på grund af de fleksible arbejdstider.

"I would like to work here because of the flexible working hours."

In this lesson, you will learn how to:

1. Express reasons with the conjunctions *fordi* and *så*
 2. Express reasons with the adverb *derfor*
 3. Express reasons with the phrase *på grund af*
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1. How to express reason with the conjunctions *fordi* and *så*

The conjunction *fordi* means "because" and it is used just like its English equivalent; to give reason. It is always an introduction to a subordinate clause, preceding or following a main clause. Normally, subordinate clauses cannot stand alone, but if someone asks you the reason for something, you can answer with a subordinate clause only. For example, when like in the dialogue, when Theresa asks Jon why he wants to work at this exact café, Jon could have answered *Fordi I tilbyder fleksible arbejdstider*. This literally means "Because you offer flexible working hours." The conjunction *så* means "so" and it is also used like its English equivalent. *Så* differs from *fordi* because it can introduce both main and subordinate clauses, as it can be a co-ordinating conjunction. Also, *så* is used to express reason through the effect or result of an action. Like in the dialogue, when Jon tells Theresa about his waiting experience, he first explains that the waiter at his old job suddenly left, which was the action that caused him to sign up for the job.

Sentence structures:

Even though *fordi* introduces a subordinate clause, it does not mean that the order of the two clauses can be switched. If a main clause precedes a subordinate clause, the subject comes before the verb in both clauses. If the subordinate clause precedes the main clause, the word order changes in the latter so that the verb comes before the subject. It is most common to start with the main clause before the subordinate clause, but if you really want to emphasize the reason for something, you can start with *fordi* and the rest of the subordinate clause and then the main clause. In questions, the main clause always precedes the subordinate clause, and once again, the word order changes in the main clause.

Affirmative: [main clause: subject + verb] + *fordi* + subject + verb
Negative: [main clause: subject + verb] + *fordi* + subject + *ikke* ("not") + verb
Interrogative: [main clause: verb + subject] + *fordi* + subject + verb?

Affirmative: *Fordi* + subject + verb + [main clause: verb + subject]
Negative: *Fordi* + subject + *ikke* ("not") + verb + [main clause: verb + subject]

Affirmative: *Fordi* + subject + verb
Negative: *Fordi* + subject + *ikke* ("not") + verb

Affirmative: [main clause: subject + verb] + *så* + subject + verb
Negative: [main clause: subject + verb] + *så* + subject + verb + *ikke* ("not")
Interrogative: *Så* + subject + verb?

For example:

1. *Han ansøger, fordi han mangler penge.*
"He is applying because he needs money."
2. *Fordi hun ikke spurgte, udelod han det.*
"Because she didn't ask, he left it out."
3. *Lønnen var også for lav. -Så du gik?*
"The salary was also too low." -"So you left?"

2. How to express reason with the adverb *derfor*

As a causal adverb, *derfor* means "therefore," and it is used like its English equivalents, including "thus"; to express reason. *Derfor* can only introduce main clauses in which the word order must be inverted. In the dialogue, Jon talks about his strengths and weaknesses, and follows that sentence with another sentence starting with *derfor*. Here, the adverb clearly refers to the first sentence, which is the reason why he will do anything to keep others happy, as he explains in the latter sentence. Even when a main clause is followed by another main clause, connected by a conjunction, such as the familiar *så*, the word order must be inverted in the latter clause because of *derfor*. *Så* preceding *derfor* works the same as in English, "so therefore." When using *derfor* in questions, it is often translated as "why" to make sense in English.

Sentence structures:

Affirmative: *derfor* + verb + subject
Negative: *derfor* + verb + subject + *ikke* ("not")

Interrogative: *Er det* ("Is it") + *derfor* + subject + verb?
Interrogative: *Er det* ("Is it") + *derfor* + subject + *ikke* ("not") + verb?

For example:

1. *Derfor er det vigtigt at være velforberedt.*
"Thus, it is important to be well-prepared."
2. *Han var ærlig, og derfor fik han jobbet.*
"He was honest, and therefore he got the job."
3. *Er det derfor, du har gode anbefalinger?*
"Is that why you have good recommendations?"

3. How to express reason with the phrase *på grund af*

The phrase *på grund af* consists of the preposition *på*, which has several meanings, such as "on" and "in." Next, the common gender noun *grund* which means "reason." And finally, the preposition *af* which also has several meaning, such as "of." The phrase is used to give reason like its English equivalent "because of." Like in the dialogue, Jon uses the phrase in a sentence explaining why he want to work at that café in particular. *På grund af* can appear anywhere in a sentence except at the very end, because it will always be followed by a reason.

Sentence structures:

Affirmative: *på grund af* + reason
Negative: *ikke* ("not") + *på grund af* + reason
Interrogative: *på grund af* + [reason]?
Interrogative: *ikke* ("not") + *på grund af* + reason?

For example:

1. *Du er ansat på grund af din gode attitude.*
"You are hired because of your great attitude."
2. *På grund af manglende erfaring giver vi dig afslag.*
"Because of lack of experience, we are turning you down."
3. *Er det på grund af min civilstand?*
"Is it because of my civil status?"

Examples from the dialogue:

1. *Tak fordi du ville komme. Vil du fortælle om din tjenererfaring?*
"Thank you for coming. Do you want to tell about your waiting experience?"
2. *Jeg er service-minded, men konfliktsky. Derfor gør jeg alt for, at andre er glade.*
"I am service-minded, but afraid of conflict. Therefore, I do anything to make others happy."
3. *Jeg vil gerne arbejde her på grund af de fleksible arbejdstider.*
"I would like to work here because of the flexible working hours."

Sample Sentences

1. *Jeg er glad, fordi jeg er blevet fastansat.*
"I am happy because I have been tenured."

2. *Du havde mest erfaring, og derfor ansætter vi dig.*

"You have the most experience, and therefore we are hiring you. "

3. *Arbejdspladsen er god på grund af det gode kollegaskab.*

"The workplace is good due to the great collegueship."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Applying for Jobs in Denmark

The most standard job application procedure in Denmark is simple. You send your resume and a cover letter through email or upload it through a given employer's application site. Besides newspapers, bulletin boards, and the like, Danes often use online job portals to find available jobs matching their profile or field. If there are no relevant jobs, you can always try sending an unsolicited application, but do not be surprised if you never get an answer. When you are unemployed, you can receive a monthly deposit, for a limited time of course, if you are a member of an *a-kasse* and declared unemployed at the authorities' job center online.

Useful expression:

1. *a-kasse*

"unemployment fund"