

extremist
[ik'stri:mist]

- 1** *n* víðgongdur maður
2 *l* víðgongdur (t.d. *politician, views*)



A screenshot of a mobile application interface. At the top, there are two teal circular navigation buttons with arrows pointing left and right. To the right of these buttons are characters with diacritics: Ä ä Ö ö Ü ü ß. Below this is a search bar containing the word "extremist". Underneath the search bar, the word "extremist" is displayed again, this time in a larger, bold, blue font, with the phonetic transcription "[ik'stri:mist]" in smaller blue text to its right.

- 1** *n* víðgongdur maður
2 *l* víðgongdur (t.d. *politician, views*)

[https://sprotin.fo/dictionaries? DictionaryId=3& SearchFor=extremist& SearchInflections=0& SearchDescriptions=0& Group=& DictionaryPage=1](https://sprotin.fo/dictionaries?DictionaryId=3&SearchFor=extremist&SearchInflections=0&SearchDescriptions=0&Group=&DictionaryPage=1)

Faroese language

Faroese^[4] (/*fɛəroʊ'i:z, -i:s/; Faroese: *føroyskt mál*, pronounced ['fø:.ɪst mɔ:a:l]) is a North Germanic language spoken as a first language by about 66,000 people, 45,000 of whom reside on the Faroe Islands and 21,000 in other areas, mainly Denmark. It is one of five languages descended from Old West Norse spoken in the Middle Ages, the others being Norwegian, Icelandic, and the extinct Norn and Greenlandic Norse. Faroese and Icelandic, its closest extant relative, are not mutually intelligible in speech, but the written languages resemble each other quite closely, largely owing to Faroese's etymological orthography^[5]*

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History

Around 900, the language spoken in the Faroes was Old Norse, which Norse settlers had brought with them during the time of the settlement of Faroe Islands (*landnám*) that began in 825. However, many of the settlers were not from Scandinavia, but descendants of Norse settlers in the Irish Sea region. In addition, women from Norse Ireland, Orkney, or Shetland often married native Scandinavian men before settling in the Faroe Islands and Iceland. As a result, the Irish language has had some influence on both Faroese and Icelandic. There is some debatable evidence of Irish language place names in the Faroes: for example, the names of Mykines, Stóra Dímun, Lítla Dímun and Argir have been hypothesized to contain Celtic roots. Other examples of early-introduced words of Celtic origin are: "blak/blaðak" (buttermilk), cf. Middle Irish *bláthach*; "drunnur" (tail-piece of an animal), cf. Middle Irish *dronn*; "grúkur" (head, headhair), cf. Middle Irish *gruaig*; "lámur" (hand, paw), cf. Middle Irish *lámh*; "tarvur" (bull), cf. Middle Irish *tarbh*; and "ærgi" (pasture in the outfield), cf. Middle Irish *áirge*.^[7]

Between the 9th and the 15th centuries, a distinct Faroese language evolved, although it was probably still mutually intelligible with Old West Norse, and remained similar to the Norn language of Orkney and Shetland during Norn's earlier phase.

Faroese ceased to be a written language after the union of Norway with Denmark in 1380, with Danish replacing Faroese as the language of administration and education.^[8] The islanders continued to use the language in ballads, folktales, and everyday life. This maintained a rich spoken tradition but for 300 years the language was not used in written form.

Faroese	
<i>føroyskt mál</i>	
Pronunciation	['fø:.ɪst mɔ:a:l]
Native to	Faroe Islands, Denmark, Greenland
Ethnicity	Faroe Islanders
Native speakers	66,000 (2007) ^[1]
Language family	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Germanic ▪ North Germanic ▪ West Scandinavian ▪ Insular Scandinavian ▪ Faroese
Early forms	Old Norse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old West Norse ▪ Old Norwegian^[2] ▪ Old Faroese
Writing system	Latin (Faroese orthography) Faroese Braille
Official status	
Official language in	 Faroe Islands
Recognised minority language in	 Denmark
Regulated by	Faroese Language Board Føroyska málnevndin
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	fo
ISO 639-2	fao
ISO 639-3	fao
Glottolog	faro1244 ^[3]
Linguasphere	52-AAA-ab



The Sheep letter (Faroese: *Seyðabrévið*) is the oldest surviving document of the Faroe Islands. Written in 1298 in Old Norse, it contains some words and expressions believed to be especially Faroese.^[6]

This changed when Venceslaus Ulricus Hammershaimb and the Icelandic grammarian and politician Jón Sigurðsson published a written standard for Modern Faroese in 1854, which still exists.^[9] They set a standard for the orthography of the language, based on its Old Norse roots and similar to that of Icelandic. This had the advantage of being etymologically clear, as well as keeping the kinship with the Icelandic written language. The actual pronunciation, however, often differs from the written rendering. The letter *ð*, for example, has no specific phoneme attached to it.

Jakob Jakobsen devised a rival system of orthography, based on his wish for a phonetic spelling, but this system was never taken up by the speakers!^[10]

In 1937, Faroese replaced Danish as the official school language, in 1938 as the church language, and in 1948 as the national

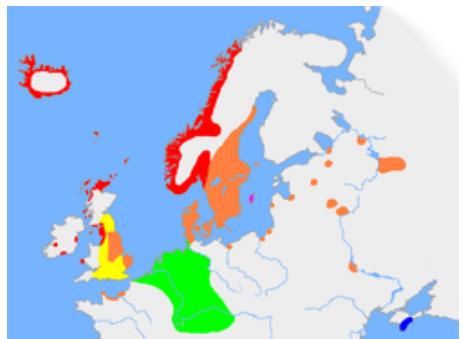
language by the Home Rule Act of the Faroes. However, Faroese did not become the common language of media and advertising until the 1980s. Today Danish is considered a foreign language, although around 5% of residents on the Faroes learn it as a first language, and it is a required subject for students in third grade^[11] and up.

The Visit Faroese tourism organisation launched the Faroe Islands Translate online service in 2017, available in English and another 13 languages including Chinese, Russian, Japanese, and Portuguese. A Faroese video database has also been built^[12]

Old Faroese

Old Faroese (*miðaldarføroyskt*, ca. mid-14th to mid-16th centuries) is a form of Old Norse spoken in medieval times in the Faroe Islands. The language shares many features with both Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian; Old Norwegian appears closer to Old Faroese, whereas Old Icelandic remained rather archaic compared to other medieval varieties of Old West Norse. The most crucial aspects of the development of Faroese are diphthongisation and palatalisation.

There is not enough data available to establish an accurate chronology of Faroese, but a rough one may be developed through comparison to the chronologies of Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian. In the 12th/13th centuries, *á* and *ó* merged as /ɔ:/; later on at the beginning of the 14th century, delabialization took place: *y, øy, au* > /i, oi, ei/; delabialization of *ý* is not certain, *í* and *ý* merged in addition to *i* and *y*, but in the case of *í* and *ý*, it appears that labialisation took place instead as is documented by later development to /ʊɪ/. Further, the language underwent a palatalisation of *k, g* and *sk* before Old Norse *e, i, y, ø, au* > /kʰ, gʰ, skʰ/ > /cʰ, tʃʰ, ɣ/ > /tʃʰ, tʃ, ɣ/. Before the palatalisation *é* and *æ* merged as /ɛ:/ and approximately in the same period epenthesis *u* is inserted into word-final /Cr/ and /CrC/ clusters. The Great Quantity Shift operated in the 15th/16th centuries. In the case of *skerping*, it took place after delabialization but before loss of post-vocalic *ð* and *g* /ɣ/. The shift of *hv/hw/* to /kw/, the deletion of /h/ in (remaining) word-initial /h/-sonorant clusters (*hr, hl, hn* > *r, l, n*), and the dissolution of *p* (*p* > *t*; *b* > *h* in demonstrative pronouns and adverbs)^[13] appeared before the end of the 13th century. Another undated change is the merger of *q, ø* and *ó* into /ø/; pre-nasal *q, ø* > *o, ó*. *enk, eng* probably became *eing, eink* in the 14th century; the development of *a* to /ɛ/ before *ng, nk* appeared after the palatalisation of *k, g*, and *sk* had been completed, such a change is quite a recent development, as well as change *Eve* > *Cvø*.



The approximate extent of Old Norse and related languages in the early 10th century:

- █ Old West Norse dialect
- █ Old East Norse dialect
- █ Old Gutnish
- █ Old English
- █ Crimean Gothic
- █ Other Germanic languages with which Old Norse still retained some mutual intelligibility



The Famjin Stone, a Faroese runestone

Development of vowels from Old Norse to Modern Faroese^[14]

9th century (Old Norse)	up to 14th century (Early Faroese)	14th–16th centuries (Old Faroese)		17th century (Late Old Faroese)				20th century (New Faroese)				
		North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	long	short	
i	/i/	long		long	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	i
y		/i:/		/i:/	/ɪ/	/i:/	/ɪ/	[i:]	[ɪ]	[i:]	[ɪ]	y
e and æ	/e/	/e:/		/e:/	/ɛ/	/e/	/ɛ/	[e:]	[ɛ]	[e:]	[ɛ]	e
ø	/ø/	/ø:/	/ø/	/ø:/	/œ/	/ø:/	/œ/	[ø:]	[œ]	[ø:]	[Y]	ø
u	/u/	/u:/		/u:/	/ʊ/	/u:/	/ʊ/	[u:]	[ʊ]	[u:]	[ʊ]	u
o	/o/	/o:/	/o/	/o:/	/ɔ/	/o:/	/ɔ/	[o:]	[ɔ]	[o:]	[ɔ]	o
ø	/ɔ:/	/ø:/		/ø:/	/œ/	/ø:/	/œ/	[ø:]	[œ]	[ø:]	[Y]	ø
a	/a/	/ɛ:/		/ɛ:/	/ɛ ^a /	/ɛ:/	/ɛ ^a /	[ɛa]	[a]	[ɛa]	[a]	a

Long vowel -> Diphthong

í	/y:/	/vɪ/		/vɪ/	/vɪ/	/vɪ/	/vɪ/	[ui]	[vɪ]	[ui]	[vɪ]	í
ý		/vɪ/		/vɪ/	/vɪ/	/vɪ/	/vɪ/	[vɪ]	[vɪ]	[vɪ]	[vɪ]	ý
é and æ	/ɛ:/	/ɛ:/	/e:/	/ɛ ^a /	/ɛ ^a /	/e:/	/ɛ/	[ɛa]	[a]	[e:]	[ɛ]	æ
ø	/ø:/	/ø:/		/ø:/	/œ/	/ø:/	/œ/	[ø:]	[œ]	[ø:]	[Y]	ø
ú	/u:/	/u:/		/u:/	/u/	/u:/	/u/	[u:]	[u]	[u:]	[u]	ú
ó	/o:/	/ɔu/	/ɔu/	/ɔu/	/ɔ/	/ɔu/	/ɔ/	[ɔu]	[ɔ]	[ɔu]	[ɔ]	ó
á and ɔ	/ɔ:/	/ɔ:/		/ɔ:/	/ɔ ^a /	/ɔ:/	/ɔ ^a /	[ɔa]	[ɔ]	[ɔa]	[ɔ]	á

True diphthongs

au	/æu/	/ɛɪ/		/ɛɪ/	/ɛɪ/	/ɛɪ/	/ɛɪ/	[ɛi]	[ɛ]	[ɛi]	[ɛ]	ey
øy	/œy/	/ɪc/		/ɪc/	/ɪc/	/ɪc/	/ɪc/	[ɪc]	[c]	[c]	[c]	oy
ei	/æi/	/aɪ/		/aɪ/	/aɪ/	/aɪ/	/aɪ/	[cɪ]	[c]	[c]	[ai]	ei

Alphabet

The Faroese alphabet consists of 29 letters derived from the Latin script

Majuscule forms (also called uppercase or capital letters)												
A	Á	B	D	Ð	E	F	G	H	I	Í	J	K
Minuscule forms (also called lowercase or small letters)												
a	á	b	d	ð	e	f	g	h	i	í	j	k
m	n	o	ó	p	r	s	t	u	ú	v	y	ý
æ	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø	ø

Phonology

Faroese vowels

	Front				Central		Back			
	unrounded		rounded							
	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	long		
Close	I	i:	Y	y:			ʊ	u:		
Mid	ɛ	e:	œ	ø:			ɔ	o:		
Open					a	a:				

As with most other Germanic languages, Faroese has a large number of vowels, with 26 in total. Vowel distribution is similar to other North Germanic languages in that short vowels appear in closed syllables (those ending in consonant clusters or long consonants) and long vowels appearing in open syllables. Árnason (2011) provides the following alternations:

Faroese vowel alternations ^[15]						
Monophthongs						
/i/	<u>linur</u>	[i:nʊr]	'soft'	<u>lint</u>	[lɪnt]	'soft (N.)'
/e/	<u>frekur</u>	[fjε:(h)kʊr]	'greedy'	<u>frekt</u>	[fjε:kɪt]	'greedy (N.)'
/y/	<u>mytisk</u>	['my:tɪsk]	'mythological'	<u>mystisk</u>	['mystɪsk]	'mysterious'
/ø/	<u>høgur</u>	['hø:ʊŋr~'høœʊŋr]	'high (M.)'	<u>høgt</u>	[høekt]	'high (N.)'
/u/	<u>gulur</u>	['ku:lʊr]	'yellow'	<u>gult</u>	[ku:tɪt]	'yellow (N.)'
/o/	<u>tola</u>	['t'o:la]	'to endure'	<u>toldi</u>	['tʰɔlðɪ]	'endured'
/a/	<u>Kanada</u>	['kʰa:nata]	'Canada'	<u>land</u>	[lant]	'land'
Diphthongs						
/ɔi/	<u>hvítur</u>	['kvɔi:tʊr]	'white (M.)'	<u>hvítt</u>	[kvɔi:t:]	'white (N.)'
/ɛi/	<u>deyður</u>	['tei:jʊr]	'dead (M.)'	<u>deytt</u>	[tɛ:h:t:]	'dead (N.)'
/ai/	<u>feitur</u>	['faɪ:tʊr]	'fat (M.)'	<u>feitt</u>	[faɪ:h:t:~fɔi:h:t:]	'fat (N.)'
/ɔi/	<u>gloyma</u>	['klɔi:ma]	'to forget'	<u>gloymdi</u>	['klɔimtɪ]	'forgot'
/ɛa/	<u>spakur</u>	['spɛa:(h)kʊr]	'calm (M.)'	<u>spakt</u>	[spakt]	'calm (N.)'
/ɔa/	<u>vátur</u>	['vɔa:tʊr]	'wet (M.)'	<u>vátt</u>	[vɔ:h:t:]	'wet (N.)'
/ɛu/	<u>fúlur</u>	['fɛu:lʊr]	'foul (M.)'	<u>fúlt</u>	[fɛ:tɪt]	'foul (N.)'
/ɔu/	<u>tómur</u>	['tʰɔu:mʊr~'tʰœu:mʊr]	'empty (M.)'	<u>tómt</u>	[tʰœmɪt~tʰɔmɪt]	'empty (N.)'

Faroese shares with Icelandic and Danish the feature of maintaining a contrast between stops based exclusively on aspiration, not voicing. Geminated stops may be pre-aspirated in intervocalic and word-final position. Intervocally the aspirated consonants become pre-aspirated unless followed by a closed vowel. In clusters, the preaspiration merges with a preceding nasal or apical approximant, rendering them voiceless.

Faroese consonants						
		Labial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar
Nasal		m ɱ	n ŋ	(ɳ ᶻ)	ɳ ɳ	ɳ ɳ
Stop	<u>plain</u>	p	t	(t)	tʃ	k
	<u>aspirated</u>	p ^h	t ^h		tʃ ^h	k ^h
Fricative	<u>central</u>	f	s	ʂ	ʃ	h
	<u>lateral</u>		ɬ			
Approximant	<u>central</u>	v	ɹ	(ɹ)	j	w
	<u>lateral</u>		ɿ	(ɿ)		

There are several phonological processes involved in Faroese, including:

- Nasals generally assume the place of articulation and laryngeal settings of following consonants.
- Velar stops palatalize to postalveolar affricates before /j/ /e:/ /ɛ/ /i:/ /ɪ/ and /ɛi/
- /v/ becomes [f] before voiceless consonants
- /sk/ becomes [ʃ] after /ɛi, ai, ɔi/ and before /j/
- /ʃ/ becomes retroflex following consonants in consonant clusters, yielding the allophones [ʂ] [ʈ n] while /ʃ/ itself becomes [ɿ]. example: /rtʃ/ is realized as [ʈɿ].
- Pre-occlusion of original /ll/ to [tl] and /nn/ to [tn].
- Pre-aspiration of original voiceless stops [hp ht hk htʃ] after non-high long vowels and diphthongs /ɛa:/ /ɔa:/ /e:/ /o:/ /ø:/ or when a voiceless stop is followed by /n, l, r/. All long voiceless stops are pre-aspirated when doubled or in cluster [hp: ht: hk: htʃ:].

Grammar

Faroese grammar is related and very similar to that of modern Icelandic and Old Norse. Faroese is an inflected language with three grammatical genders and four cases: nominative, accusative, dative and genitive.

Faroese Words and Phrases in comparison to other Germanic languages

Faroese	Icelandic	Norwegian (nynorsk)	Norwegian (bokmål)	English	Frisian	Danish	Swedish	German	Dutch
Vækmin	Velkomin	Velkommen	Velkommen	Welcome	Wolkom	Velkommen	Välkommen	Willkommen	Welkom
Farvæl	Far vel; Farðu heill	Farvel	Farvel	Farewell	Farwol	Farvel	Farvälv	Lebwohl	Vaarwel
Hvussu eitur tú?	Hvað heitir þú?	Kva heiter du?	Hva heter du?	What is your name?	Wat is dyn namme?	Hvad hedder du?	Vad heter du?	Wie heißt du?	Hoe heet je?
Hvussu gongur?	Hvernig gengur?	Korleis gjeng / går det?	Hvordan går det?	How is it going? (How goes it?)	Hoe giet it?	Hvordan går det?	Hur går det?	Wie geht's?	Hoe gaat het?
Hvussu gamal (m) / gomul (f) ert tú?	Hversu gamall (m) / gömul (f) ert þú?	Kor gamal er du?	Hvor gammel er du?	How old are you?	Hoe âld bisto?	Hvor gammel er du?	Hur gammal är du?	Wie alt bist du?	Hoe oud ben je?
Reytt / reyður / reyð	Rauðt / rauður / rauð	Raud(t)	Rød(t)	Red	Read	Rødt	Rött / Röd	Rot	Rood / Rode
Blátt / bláur / blá	Blátt / blár / blá	Blå(tt)	Blå(tt)	Blue	Blau(e)	Blå(t)	Blå(tt)	Blau	Blauw(e)
Hvít / hvítur / hvít	Hvít / hvítur / hvít	Kvit(t)	Hvit(t)	White	Wyt	Hvid(t)	Vit(t)	Weiß	Wit(te)

See also

- [Faroese language conflict](#)
- [Götudansk accent](#)
- [Old Norwegian](#)

Further reading

To learn Faroese as a language

- Adams, Jonathan & Hjalmar P. Petersen. *Faroese: A Language Course for beginners*. Grammar & Textbook. Tórshavn, 2009: Stiðin (704 p.) ISBN 978-99918-42-54-7
- W. B. Lockwood: *An Introduction to Modern Faroese*. Tórshavn, 1977. (no ISBN, 244 pages, 4th printing 2002)
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- Richard Kölbl: *Färöisch Wort für Wort*. Bielefeld 2004 (in German)

Dictionaries

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- Gianfranco Conti: *Dizionario faroese-italiano = Føroyisk-italsk orðabók* Tórshavn, 2004. (627 p.) ISBN 99918-41-58-X (Faroese–Italian dictionary)

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- Tórður Jóansson: *English loanwords in Faroese* Tórshavn, 1997. (243 pages) ISBN 99918-49-14-9
- Petersen, Hjalmar P. 2009. *Gender Assignment in Modern Faroese*. Hamborg. Kovac
- Petersen, Hjalmar P. 2010. *The Dynamics of Faroese-Danish Language Contact*. Heidelberg. Winter
- Faroese/German anthology "From Djurhuus to Poulsen – Faroese Poetry during 100 years", academic advice: Turið Sigurðardóttir, linear translation: Inga Meincke (2007), ed. by Paul Alfred Kleinert

Other

- Barnes, Michael P; Weyhe, Eivind (2013) [First published 1994], "7 Faroese", in van der Auwera, Johan; König, Ekkehard, *The Germanic Languages* Routledge, pp. 190–218, ISBN 0-415-05768-X

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15. Árnason, Kristján (2011), *The Phonology of Icelandic and Faroese* New York: Oxford University Press, p. 68

External links

- [Føroyisk orðabók](#) (the Faroese–Faroese dictionary of 1998 online)
- [Sprotin](#) (complete English-Faroese/Faroese-English and Danish–Faroese online dictionary)
- [Faroese online syntactic analyser and morphological analyser/generator](#)
- [FMN.fo – Faroese Language Committee](#) (Official site with further links)
- ['Hover & Hear' Faroese pronunciations and compare with equivalents in English and other Germanic languages.](#)
- [Useful Faroese Words & Phrases for Travelers](#)
- [How to count in Faroese](#)

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This page was last edited on 25 August 2018, at 16:03 UTC.

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Faroese phonology

Faroese has a phoneme inventory similar to closely related Icelandic but markedly different processes differentiate the two. Similarities include an aspiration contrast in stop consonants, the retention of front rounded vowels and vowel quality changes instead of vowel length distinctions.

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Vowels

Faroese vowels

	Front				Central		Back	
	unrounded		rounded					
	short	long	short	long	short	long	short	long
Close	I	i:	Y	(y:)			ʊ	u:
Mid	ɛ	e:	œ	ø:			ɔ	o:
Open					a	(a:)		

- /y:/ and /a:/ appear only in loanwords.^[1]
- The long mid vowels/e:/, ø:/, o:/ tend to be diphthongized to[eɛ: ~ eə:, øœ: ~ øə:, oo: ~ oə:].[1]

As with other Germanic languages, Faroese has a large number of vowel phonemes; by one analysis, long and short vowels may be considered separate phonemes, with 26 in total. Vowel distribution is similar to other North Germanic languages in that short vowels appear in closed syllables (those ending in consonant clusters or long consonants) and long vowels appearing in open syllables. Árnason (2011) provides the following alternations:

Faroese vowel alternations^[2]

Monophthongs						
/i/	<u>linur</u>	[ˈli:nʊr]	'soft'	<u>lint</u>	[lɪnt]	'soft (N.)'
/e/	<u>frekur</u>	[ˈfue:(^h)kʊr ~ ˈfjeε:kʊr]	'greedy'	<u>frekt</u>	[fʊε ^h kt]	'greedy (N.)'
/y/	<u>mytisk</u>	[ˈmy:tɪsk]	'mythological'	<u>mystisk</u>	[ˈmΥstɪsk]	'mysterious'
/ø/	<u>høgur</u>	[ˈhø:ʊrʊ ~ ˈhøæ:ʊrʊ]	'high (M.)'	<u>høgt</u>	[hœkt]	'high (N.)'
/u/	<u>gulur</u>	[ˈku:lʊr]	'yellow'	<u>gult</u>	[kvʊlt]	'yellow (N.)'
/o/	<u>tola</u>	[ˈtʰo:la ~ ˈtʰoo:c:la]	'to endure'	<u>toldi</u>	[ˈtʰɔ:ltɪ]	'endured'
/a/	<u>Kanada</u>	[kʰa:nata]	'Canada'	<u>land</u>	[lant]	'land'
Diphthongs						
/vɪ/	<u>hvítur</u>	[kfvɪ:tʊr]	'white (M.)'	<u>hvítt</u>	[kfvɪ:t̥t̥:]	'white (N.)'
/ɛɪ/	<u>deyður</u>	[tei:jʊr]	'dead (M.)'	<u>deytt</u>	[tɛ:t̥t̥:]	'dead (N.)'
/ai/	<u>feitur</u>	[fai:tʊr]	'fat (M.)'	<u>feitt</u>	[faɪ:t̥t̥: ~ fci:t̥t̥:]	'fat (N.)'
/ɔɪ/	<u>gloyma</u>	[klovɪ:ma]	'to forget'	<u>gloymdi</u>	[klovimtɪ]	'forgot'
/ɛə/	<u>spakur</u>	[sprea:(^h)kʊr]	'calm (M.)'	<u>spakt</u>	[spakt̥]	'calm (N.)'
/ɔə/	<u>vátur</u>	[rɔ:tʊr]	'wet (M.)'	<u>vátt</u>	[vɔ:t̥t̥:]	'wet (N.)'
/ɛu/	<u>fúlur</u>	[fɛu:lu:r]	'foul (M.)'	<u>fúlt</u>	[fYlt̥]	'foul (N.)'
/ɔu/	<u>tómur</u>	[tʰɔ:tu:mʊr ~ tʰœu:mʊr]	'empty (M.)'	<u>tómt</u>	[tʰœmt̥ ~ tʰɔ:mt̥]	'empty (N.)'

Faroese avoids having aihatus between two vowels by inserting aglide between them.

There is considerable variation among dialects in the pronunciation of vowels.

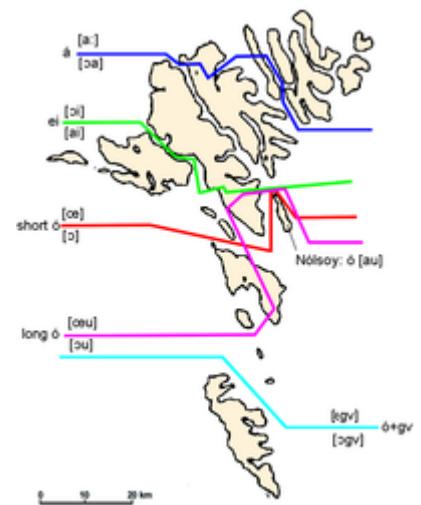
The only unstressed vowels in Faroese are short [a, i, ɔ]; these appear in inflectional endings: *áðrenn* (e.g. [ˈɑ:ðrenn] 'before'). Very typical are endings like *-ur*, *-ir*, *-ar*. The dative is often indicated by [ʊn].

- [a] – *bátar* ['bɔ:a:tau] ('boats'), *kallar* ['kʰatlaʊ] ('[you] call')
- [i] – *gestir* ['tʃɛstɪr] ('guests'), *dugir* ['tu:ɪr] ('[you] can')
- [ɔ] – *bátur* ['bɔ:a:tʊr] ('boat'), *gentur* [tʃɛntʊr] ('girls'), *rennur* ['rɛn:ʊr] ('[you] run').

In some dialects, unstressed short /ʊ/ is realized as [ø] or is reduced further to [ə]. /i/ goes under a similar reduction pattern as it varies between [ɪ ~ ɛ ~ ə] so unstressed /ʊ/ and /i/ can rhyme. This can cause spelling mistakes related to these two vowels. The following table displays the different realizations in different dialects.

Unstressed /i/ and /u/ in dialects^[3]

Word	Borðoy Kunoy Tórshavn	Viðoy Svínoy Fugloy	Suðuroy	Elsewhere (standard)
<i>gulur</i> ('yellow')	[ˈku:leɪr]	[ˈku:leɪr]	[ˈku:lør]	[ˈku:lʊr]
<i>gulir</i> ('yellow' pl.)	[ˈku:leɪr]	[ˈku:leɪr]	[ˈku:lør]	[ˈku:lɪr]
<i>bygdin</i> ('town')	[ˈpíktɪn]	[ˈpíktən]	[ˈpíktøn]	[ˈpíktɪn]
<i>bygdum</i> ('towns' dat. pl.)	[ˈpíktøn]	[ˈpíktən]	[ˈpíktøn]	[ˈpíktøn]



Map showing major Faroese isoglosses

Skerping

The so-called "skerping" ([ʃɛspɪŋk] 'sharpening')^[4] is a typical phenomenon of fronting back vowels before [kv] and monophthongizing certain diphthongs before long [tʃ:]. Skerping is not indicated orthographically

- [ɛgv]: Jógvan ['jɛkvən] (a form of the name John), Gjógv [tʃɛkv] ('cleft')
- [ígv]: kúgv [kʰíkv] ('cow'), trúgva ['tʂíkvə] ('believe'), but: trúleysur ['tʂʰeuləsʊr] ('faithless')
- [ɛtʃ:]: heyggjur ['hɛtʃ:ʊr] ('high'), but heygnum ['hɛi:nʊm] ('high [dat. sg.]')
- [ɔtʃ:]: nýggjur ['nɔtʃ:ʊr] ('new [M.]'), but nýtt [nɔiht:] ('New [Nn.]')
- [atʃ:]: beiggi ['patʃ:ɪ] ('brother')
- [ɔtʃ:]: oyggj [ɔtʃ:] ('island'), but oynna ['ɔitn:a] ('island [acc. sg.]')

Skerping

Written	Pronunciation	instead of
-ógv-	[ɛkv]	*[ɔukv]
-úgv-	[íkv]	*[uukv]
-eyggj-	[ɛtʃ:]	*[ɛitʃ:]
-íggj-, -ýggj-	[ɔtʃ:]	*[vitʃ:]
-eiggj-	[atʃ:]	*[aitʃ:]
-oyggj-	[ɔtʃ:]	*[ɔitʃ:]

Consonants

		Labial	Dental/Alveolar		Retroflex	Palatal	Velar/Glottal
			central	lateral			
Nasal		m	n			ɳ	ɳ
Stop	plain	p	t			tʃ	k
	aspirated	pʰ	tʰ			tʃʰ	kʰ
Fricative	voiceless	f	s	tʃ	s	tʃ	h
	voiced	v					
Approximant		ɿ	ɿ		j		

- /f, v/ are normally labiodental^[5]
 - Intervocalic /v/ is normally an approximant [v], whereas word-initial /v/ varies between an approximant [v] and a fricative [v̯].^[5]
- /n/ is dental [n], whereas /tʰ, t/ vary between being dental [tʰ, t] and (less commonly) alveolar [tʰ, t].^[5]
- Initial /l/ is dental [l] or alveolar [l]. Postvocalic /l/ may be more of a postalveolar lateral [l̪], especially after back vowels.^[5]
- /tʃʰ, tʃ/ are palato-alveolar, and vary between stops [tʃʰ, tʃ] and affricates [tʃʰ, tʃ].^[6]
- /ɳ, kʰ, k/ are velar, whereas /h/ is glottal.^[7]

There are several phonological processes involved in Faroese, including:

- Liquids are devoiced before voiceless consonants
- Nasals generally assume the place of articulation and laryngeal settings of following consonants.
- Velar stops palatalize to postalveolar affricates before /i:, ɪ, e:, ε, εi, j/.
- /v/ becomes /f/ before voiceless consonants
- /s/ before another consonant becomes /ʃ/ after /εi, ai, ɔi/
- /sk/ becomes /ʃ/ before /i:, ɪ, e:, ε, εi, j/ (but in morphological forms often /stʃ/ word internally i.e. elski [ɛstʃɪ] 'I love')
- /ʃ/ retroflexes itself as well as following consonants in consonant clusters, yielding the allophones [ʂ, ɿ, t, ɳ] while /ʃ/ itself becomes [ʂ], example: (rd) [ɿt]; preaspirated consonants devoice the rhotic: example (rt) [ʈ]; (rs) is usually [ʂ] (only in some loanwords [ɿʂ]). Voiceless [ʈ] is usually realised as [ʂ].
- Pre-stopping of original (ll) to [tl] and (nn) to [tn].
- Intervocally the aspirated consonants become pre-aspirated unless followed by a closed vowel. In clusters, the preaspiration merges with a preceding nasal or apical approximant, rendering them voiceless, example (lnt) [ɳt]

Omissions in consonant clusters

Faroese tends to omit the first or second consonant in clusters of different consonants:

- *fjals* [fjals] ('mountain's') instead of *[*fjatl*] from [*fjatl*] (*nom.*). Other examples for genitives are: *barns* ['pans] ('child's'), *vatns* [vaŋs] ('water's').
- *hjálpti* [jɔ́pti] ('helped') past sg. instead of *[*jɔ́ptpa*] from *hjálpa* ['jɔ́tpa]. Other examples for past forms are: *sigldi* ['sílti] ('sailed'), *yrkti* ['ɪrti] ('wrote poetry').
- homophone are *fylgdi* ('followed') and *fylgdi* ('caught birds with a net'): ['fylt̥i].
- **skt** will be:
 - [st] in words of more than one syllable: *føroyiskt* ['fø:riſt] ('Faroese' n. sg.;) *russiskt* ['rʊs:ist] ('Russian' n. sg.), *íslendskt* ['ʊlɛndʒt̥st] ('Icelandic' n. sg.).
 - [kst] in monosyllables: *enskt* [ɛŋkst̥] ('English' n. sg.), *danskt* [taŋkst̥] ('Danish' n. sg.), *fransk* [fuaŋkst̥] ('French' n. sg.), *spansk* [spaŋkst̥] ('Spanish' n. sg.), *svenskt* [svɛŋkst̥] ('Swedish' n. sg.), *tyskt* [tʰɔŋkst̥] ('German' n. sg.).
 - However [st] in: *írskt* [ʊſt̥] ('Irish' n. sg.), *norsk* [nɔſt̥] ('Norwegian' n. sg.)

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2. Árnason (2011) p. 68.
3. Þráinsson (2004), p. 350.
4. Þráinsson et al. use the term "Faroese Verschärfung"
5. Árnason (2011) p. 115.
6. Árnason (2011) p. 116.
7. Árnason (2011) p. 114.

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