

Notes on Norwegian numerals and denumerals

1. Cardinals

Norwegian numerals were 'reformed' in 1951. Although Norway has seen much spelling reform, this was the only governmentally initiated reform of the spoken language. The Danes count in partly the same fashion as e.g. Germans, ones before tens; *enogtyve* one.and.twenty '21' would be ok in Danish, and that is also the norm in Nw. Bokmål up to 1951, while the Swedes do like the English do, tens before ones e.g. *tjueto* twenty.two '21'.

2. Ordinals

Million and *milliard* are nouns. These numerals have no corresponding ordinals when they are multiplied.

3. Collectives

No collective denumerals.

4. Multiplicatives

No multiplicative denumerals. A syntactic construction is used instead e.g. *Jeg har møtt Brigitte fem ganger* 'I met Brigitte five times', whereas the Germans say *Ich habe Brigitte fünfmal getroffen*.

5. Compounding and numerals

Compounds that include numerals are very common.

åtteår gammel 'eight-year old'

Femårsplan 'five year plan'

Sekstagget 'that has six forks'

Skurken var enbeint og firefingret 'The villain was one-legged and four-fingered'.