Elementary Swedish grammar, combined with exercises, reading lessons and conversations

Fort Henri
ELEMENTARY
SWEDISH GRAMMAR

COMBINED WITH
EXERCISES, READING LESSONS AND CONVERSATIONS

BY

HENRI FORT.

SECOND EDITION.

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The method of Gaspey-Otto-Sauer is my own private property, having been acquired by purchase from the authors. The text-books made after this method are incessantly improved. All rights, especially the right of making new editions, and the right of translation for all languages, are reserved. Imitations and fraudulent impressions will be prosecuted according to law. I am thankful for communications relating to these matters.

Heidelberg. 

Julius Groos.
Preface.

The second edition of this "Elementary Swedish Grammar" has undergone many alterations in the text of the exercises, most of which have been taken from the best class-books used in Swedish schools.

The chief features of the second edition consist in the adaptation of the phonetical system of the "Association phonétique internationale" and the application of the new Swedish orthography in accordance with the Royal Circular of the 7th of April, 1906.

Special care and attention have been devoted to the phonetical transcription of the sounds and to the accentuation of the words occurring in the text, but it should be remembered here that each word has been treated individually and accented accordingly, no mention being made of the "melodious" accent, which would be quite out of place in an elementary book of this kind.

The author hopes that the second edition, which is a great improvement over the first, will meet with the favour of and prove useful to all those who begin learning the Swedish language.

He has much pleasure in thanking Mr. W. G. Priest, of London, who revised the manuscript of the English part, and Miss A. E. Millberg, of Berlin, who had the great kindness to read the Swedish part and helped him with her valuable advice.

Cognac, December, 1910.

H. Fort.
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## Pronunciation.

### § 1. The Alphabet.

1. The Swedish alphabet consists of 29 letters, which are represented and named as follow:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>V</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>w₁</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>yee</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>koh</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>z</td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>ell</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>å</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>emm</td>
<td>Ä</td>
<td>ä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>en</td>
<td>Ö</td>
<td>ö</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>ei</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Of these letters *a, e, i, o, u, y, å, ä, ö* are vowels and the others are consonants.

   a) *a, å, o and u* are called **hard** vowels.

   b) *e, i, ö and y* are called **soft** vowels.

   c) *å, ä and ö* are called **modified** vowels.

   d) *a, e, i, o, u and y* are called **simple** vowels.

---

1 *W* occurs only in a few names of persons, towns and countries etc.

2 See the following chapter.

   Elementary Swedish Grammar.
§ 2. Accentuation.

The Swedish accentuation is represented by the following signs:

1) ' which indicates the strong accent
2) · · · mid-strong accent
3) ' · · weak accent
4) · · secondary weak accent.

These signs, when placed,

a) after a vowel indicate that this vowel is long,
b) after a consonant that the preceding vowel is short.

Ex.: 1) a) bad [baːd], bath.
1) b) all [ɔːl], all.
2) a) bada [baːda], to bathe.
2) b) alla [aːla], all (pl.).
3) a) mogenhet [mɔːɡenheɪt], maturity.
3) b) fattig [fætɪɡ], poor.
4) a) promenad [prɔːmənaːd], walk.
4) b) destillerä [destɪlɛːra], to distill.

§ 3. Pronunciation of the letters.

I. Vowels.

1. A.

Swedish a is pronounced:

1) In long syllables like «a» in «father» like German «a» in «Bate» and French «â» in «âme».

   Phonetic transcription: a.

   Ex.: a) apa [aːpa], monkey.
   b) skada [skɔːda], damage.
   c) bra [bra], well.

2) In short syllables it has no equivalent sound in English. It nearly resembles English «u» in «fun» and corresponds to German «a» in «Blatt» and French «a» in «capital».

   Phonetic transcription: a.

   Ex.: a) alster [alːstor], product.
   b) pæcke [pækɛ], package.
   c) docka [dɔkːa], doll.
2. E.

Swedish e is pronounced:

1) in long syllables nearly like «a» in «name» and «ai» in «sail», German «e» in «fchlen» and French «é» in «blé».

Phonetic transcription: e.

Ex.: a) ek [ɛk], oak.
b) fel [feːl], mistake.

2) in short syllables:


Phonetic transcription: æ.

Ex.: a) verk [værk], work.
b) herr [hær], sir.

b) like «e» in «better», German e in «Gaffe» and final «e» in French words such as «porte» after the pronunciation used in the South of France, in the final syllables in -e, -el, -er.

Phonetic transcription: å.

Ex.: a) gosse [gosː], boy.
b) fügel [fuːɡɛl], bird.
c) kloster [kloːstər], monastery.

3) like «e» in «there» and «ai» in «hair» in all other cases.

Phonetic transcription: ë.

Ex.: fest [fesːt], feast.
penna [penːə], pen.

Except in a few words such as: ett, svedd, hemma, when it has nearly the sharp sound of «i» in «middle».

3. I.

Swedish i is pronounced:

1) in long syllables like «ee» in «meet».

Phonetic transcription: i.

Ex.: a) isa [iːsa], to ice.
b) piga [piːɡa], maid.
c) bogeri, [boːɡəɾi], bakery.

2) in short syllables like «i» in «miss».

Phonetic transcription: i (as above).

Ex.: a) irrä [irːa], to err.
b) minska [minːska], to decrease.
4.  O.

Swedish o is pronounced:

1) in long syllables:

a) nearly like «o» in «go» or «oa» in «goat» in a few words of foreign origin ending in -ob, -of, -ok, -om, -on, -op, -or, -os, -ov, -log and in some other words such as: kol, son, sova etc.

   Phonetic transcription: o.

   Ex.: garderob [gar’dor’ob], wardrobe.
   filosof [fil’osof’], philosopher.
   epok [ep’ok’], epoch.
   symbol [symbo’l], symbol.
   ekonom [ek’ono’m], economist.
   polygon [pol’iɡon’], polygon.
   mikroskop [mik’roskop’], microscope.
   korridor [kor’iɡor’], corridor.
   metamorfos [meta’morfo’ːs], metamorphose.
   alcov [al’kɔv’], alcove.
   dialog [di’alɔɡ’], dialogue.
   kol [ko’ːl], coal.
   son [so’ːn], son.
   sova [so’ːva’], to sleep.

β) like «o» in «more», «oa» in «broad» and «oo» in «door» in a few words before -rl, -rd, -l and -v.

   Phonetic transcription: o.

   Ex.: a) sort [sɔ’ːr], murmur.
   b) order [ɔ’rder’], order.

γ) like «o» in «to lose», «oo» in «too» or «u» in «rule» in many monosyllables at the end of a long syllable and at the beginning of a word when forming a syllable of its own.

   Phonetic transcription: o.

   Ex.: ord [ɔ’ːrd], word.
   stol [stɔ’ːl], chair.
   ro [rɔ’ː], rest.
   bröder [brɔ’dɛr’], brother.
   ockant [ɔ’kɛk’t], unknown.

2) in short syllables:

a) like «o» in «clock» in most cases:

   Phonetic transcription: o.

   Ex.: a) lock [lɔk’], curl.
   b) ollon [ɔ’ːlɔn’], mast.

β) like «oo» in «book», «u» in «put» in a few monosyllables, at the end of a short syllable and in the plural termination -or.
Pronunciation.

Phonetic transcriptions: ω.

Ex.: a) ost [ost], cheese.
    b) rodd [rod], rowing.
    c) kvitto [kvitω], receipt.
    d) vokal [vokal], vowel.
    e) skolor [skɔːlɔːr], schools.
    f) dockor [dɔkɔːr], dolls.

5. U.

Swedish u has two different sounds.

1) In long syllables it has a sound peculiar to the Swedish language and has no equivalent in English. It is not unlike French «u» in «pure» and German «ü» in «führen». This sound is obtained in rounding the lips as closely as possible and pronouncing i whilst with drawing the tongue and the lower lip backwards.

    Phonetic transcription: u.

Ex.: a) ur [uːr], watch, clock.
    b) gud [ɡuːd], god.
    c) hus [hʉːs], house.
    d) tu [tʉː], two.
    e) bjuda [bjʉːda], to invite.

N.B. In unaccented syllables, u, has a somewhat more open sound:

Ex.: a) rubin [rʊ'bɪn], ruby.
    b) (till) salu [sɑːlʊ], (for) sale.

2) In short syllables it has also a sound peculiar to the Swedish language and which is nearly like English «u» in «put», «ou» in «could» or German «u» in «jung».

    Phonetic transcription: u.

Ex.: a) under [un'dɔr], wonder.
    b) kund [kʊn'd], customer.
    c) stund [stʊn'd], moment.
    d) faktum [faŋktʊm], fact.
    e) furstinna [fuːstɪn'na], princess.
    f) rum [rum], room.

6. Y.

Swedish y has:

1) In long syllables a close sound nearly like French «u» in «dune» or German «ü» in «Sügel».
Pronunciation.

Phonetic transcription: y.
Ex.: a) yra [y'ra:], whirl.
    b) myra [my'ra:], ant.
    c) by [by:], village.

2) in short syllables an open sound nearly like French «u» in «lustre», «rustre» and German «ü» in «flüßern».

Phonetic transcription: y.
Ex.: a) ynka [yn'ka:], to pity.
    b) systeer [systee'ra:], sister.

7. Ä.

Swedish å is pronounced:

1) in long syllables like «o» in «go», «oa» in «coat» and German «ø» in «Sañ».

    Phonetic transcription: o.
    Ex.: a) är, [o're:], year.
    b) äka [o'ka:], to drive.
    c) pøse [po'se:], bag.
    d) gø [go:], to go.
    e) trød [tro:ld], thread.

2) in short syllables like «o» in «clock» and German «ö» in «Bølf».

    Phonetic transcription: o.
    Ex.: a) äska [os'ka:], thunder.
    b) søll [sol:], sieve.
    c) møtt [mot:], measure.
    d) søng [sø:n], song.
    e) røtta [rot'a:], rat.

8. Ä.

Swedish ä is pronounced:

1) in long syllables:

    a) before r followed by a consonant like «a» in «parish» but longer and German «ä» in «gefändich».

        Phonetic transcription: æ,
        Ex.: ärta [ær'ta:], wagtail.
        järn [je'r:n], iron.
        gärna [ge'rna:], willingly.

    b) in all other cases like «e» in «there» or «ai» in «hair».