

# Dyrk sproget – en kreativ sprogkonkurrence for gymnasieelever Skoleåret 2020/21 Engelsk – underemne 2 Studying abroad



Det Nationale  
Center for  
Fremmedsprog

## Introduction

When studying abroad, whether you study abroad as a Dane or you come to Denmark as an exchange student, it might be more of a challenge than at first sight. Just communicating in a different language and not having anybody to help you when you are short of a word or a phrase can be quite stressful. So can being unable to identify certain customs and traditions. Why, for example, are teachers in many parts of the English-speaking world addressed by their last name, and why do you need a hall pass to go to the toilet during class in the US? Those are some of the challenges you might face when going abroad.

The following exercises are supposed to raise your awareness towards some of the challenges exchange students meet. Hopefully, you might be able to incorporate some of the ideas into your video for the competition, but that is completely up to you.

In the video, you must focus on what advantages a year abroad could give you, and why coming to Denmark or going abroad will be a smart choice when learning a language. What could make you grow as a student both personally and academically, and how would you improve your language skills as well as your cultural awareness of the country you visit.

## Studying abroad

Below is a short text explaining why you should study abroad from the website [Go Abroad](#).

Translate the text into Danish.

Ah, the age-old question: Why study abroad? Well, to put it simply: to change your frickin' life. That's right, we said it. Studying abroad is truly a life-shifting experience. There are personal, academic, and even career benefits of studying abroad. It's a chance to try something totally new and scary, or to fully immerse yourself in something you know well.

You'll laugh, you'll learn, and you'll live life to a degree you wouldn't have been able to before. It really is a rollercoaster. The disadvantages of studying abroad shouldn't be ignored. It's not all rainbows and sunshine. But the challenges you'll face will help you grow.

If you're tempted by the idea of busting out of your routine and going on an adventure, you've landed in the right place. We hope it isn't too difficult to convince you to see why study abroad is important.

## Same, same – but not really

Although Americans and Britons seem to be speaking the same language, there is a world of difference, and often they will use different words for that is essentially the same thing. Below is a list of words that are different in American and British English

British English	American English
Trousers	Pants
Flat	Apartment
Lorry	Truck
Crisps	Chips
Biscuit	Cookie
Chips	French fries
Ground floor	First floor
Rubber	Erazor

1. Create a list with an additional 10 words that are different in British and American English
2. Create a short dialogue between two or more people in which communication collapses, because one of the people have used a British word in an American context or vice versa.
3. Act out the dialogue in front of your class.

British English	American English

British English	American English

### Dialogue

Single words are not the only issue that can create problems. There are a number of idioms that are different in British and American English. Here are just a few examples.

<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
I wouldn't touch you with a bargepole	I wouldn't touch you with a ten-foot pole
Take it with a pinch of salt	Take it with a grain of salt
Sweep it under the carpet	Sweep it under the rug
To put a spanner in the works	To throw a [monkey] wrench into
To touch wood	To knock on wood
A drop in the ocean	A drop in the bucket
It's down to you	It's up to you

**Exercises:**

1. Explain how the idioms in British and American English differ

2. Explain what the idiom means in English

3. Find the closest matching idiom in Danish

There are further differences between British and American English than just single words and idioms. Americans and Britons also use different prepositions. It can sometimes be quite confusing. Here are just few examples.

<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
At the weekend	On the weekend
To fill in a form	To fill out a form
To play in a team	To play on a team
To cater for somebody	To cater somebody
Different to	Different from
Monday to Saturday	Monday through Saturday
Wait on line	Wait in line
Write to	Write

### Exercises

1. Try finding three additional examples of prepositions that are used differently in American and British English

2. Write six sentences, three in British English and three in American English, in which you use examples from the table above.

<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>

3. Translate the examples from the table into Danish

## Jumbled sentences

Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form two meaningful texts.

### Jumbled sentences I:

1. most beneficial experiences for a college student.
2. Studying abroad may be one of the
3. Consider holidaying in Sweden.
4. By studying abroad, students have the opportunity to study in a foreign nation
5. You can travel abroad, though certain restrictions apply.
6. Travellers from countries where the health risks are similar
7. and take in the allure and culture of a new land.
8. to or lower than in the Netherlands are welcome to spend their holiday here.

### Jumbled sentences II:

1. "The Story of an Hour" follows Louise Mallard as she deals
2. After being informed of her husband's tragic death in a railroad accident by Richards,
3. having slit his throat during the operation.
4. a close friend of Brently, Louise reacts with immediate grief.
5. At the camp, the father is forced to perform an emergency caesarean section using a jack-knife,
6. has been summoned to a Native American or "Indian" camp to deliver a baby.
7. with the news that her husband, Brently Mallard, has died.
8. with Nick as his assistant. Afterward, the woman's husband is discovered dead,
9. Louise heads to her room and gradually comes to the realization that she is happy that her husband has died.
10. In the story Nick Adams' father, a country doctor,

### Jumbled sentences III:

1. and voted 221–212 to impeach him for obstruction of justice.
2. Robert Mueller testified in July, this number grew to around 140 representatives.
3. Impeachment proceedings were based on allegations that Clinton had illegally lied.
4. Clinton was impeached on December 19, 1998 by the House of Representatives.
5. The House voted 228–206 to impeach him for perjury to a grand jury
6. Fewer than 20 representatives in the House supported impeachment by January 2019;
7. Democrats were divided on the question of impeachment.
8. Clinton was only the second U.S. president (after Andrew Johnson) to be impeached.
9. after the Mueller Report was released in April and special counsel
10. During much of Trump's presidency,

## Yo teacher

All across the world teachers are addressed differently. In most of the English speaking world, teachers are addressed by their last name or their academic title, if they for example have a doctoral degree (Phd). The example below are all examples of actual emails that have been seen to English teachers, and they are all examples how not to address your teacher. The examples are from the blog [Teaching College English](#).

A. Ms. W!!!!

Wazzup? girl tell me what we have to do for Friday bcuz I take 3 claeses and wrk 15 hrs/wk and I dont have time 2 git to a comupter to look n e thing up I rlly like your cls bcuz your funny well let me know cuz im a rlly gd stdt and need a A in youâ€™re cls.

[no signature]

B. Mr. XXX,

Why did you give me an F? I attended most of the classes and at least tried to understand the materials. I think I deserved at least a passing grade. I studied hard for the exam in hopes that I would at least pass the class. Now I am behind another 2 semesters because I have to retake this class and then take Managerial Acct. Can you please reconsider? Hope to hear from you soon.

Thanks, George

C. Janet,

You don't actually know me, but my boyfriend, StudentX, is in your CourseY. I would just like to apologize for the fact that he was not in class on Monday. He did something really schetchy this weekend and I sort of punched him in the face. He was too embarassed to come to class with the black eye, and it was my fault--although if he hadn't done it neither would I--and I'm sure he'll be in class on Friday.

Really sincerely,  
Girlfriend

D. what's up sherry

i left my test in the back of the classroom. i was hoping you could pick it up and give me comments on it and also maybe make a study schedule for me so i know how to improve. i know ur busy so thanks

E. I Submitted my papewr on time, but I forgot to check the in text citation and submitted a copy with them all messed up, anyway I resubmitted it today to fix this, but i know that' late, so just letting you know the paper part was in on time, but the in text citation was not.

### Excercise

1. Decide how you would address each of the teachers in the examples above

2. Make a stylistic analysis of each of the examples above. The analysis must include vocabulary, syntax, sentence structure and level of formality.

3. Write a reply to each of the examples. You must answer the messages politely and use proper spelling and grammar.

## Exchange experiences

Read the two texts in the links below. The first text is about American Katelyn Mistele and her experience as an exchange student in Denmark. In the second text you meet Danish Sofie Nehlsen, who has spent a year as an exchange student in the US.

1. <https://fisher.osu.edu/blogs/global/2018/04/11/my-danish-high-school-experience>
2. <https://knightlifeneews.com/18062/opinion/the-wonders-of-america-danish-exchange-student-experiences-the-complexities-of-u-s-culture/>

### Questions:

1. How are the two exchange experiences similar?

2. How are the two exchange experiences different?

3. What surprised you the most while reading about Mistele's experience of studying in Denmark?

4. What surprised you the most about Nehlens' exchange experience?



5. If you could have helped Mistele have an even better exchange experience, what would you have done?

6. Nehlsen mentions that she struggled quite a bit with the language. If you were an exchange student what would stress you most about having to speak English all the time?

7. What is the difference between a "booty dial" and a "butt dial"?

8. Can you think of other examples (booty dial vs. butt dial) that are very similar but mean something completely different?

9. In her text, Nehlen mentions that Danish students are not as open-minded as Americans when it comes to wearing certain clothes at school. Do you agree with her - why, why not?

10. If you could ask Mistele 3 questions, what would they be?

11. If you could ask Nehlsen 3 questions, what would they be?

12. If you had the chance of spending a year as an exchange student, where would it be and why?

## English is my best

You have been chosen as a student ambassador for a Danish organisation that promotes language learning. Your job is to connect with young people and through memes and gifs show examples of either bad English or situations in which people have been gravely misunderstood because of English miscommunication.

One example could be not knowing the difference between a butt dial and a booty dial, and another example could be former Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen's "I made this banging" at COP15. The last example could be a photo from a local shop that is using apostrophes incorrectly.

All memes and gifs must show respect for other people and cultures.

## I want to go abroad because ...

You want to enter an exchange program at an international school of your choice. You decide the destination and type of school. To come into consideration for the exchange program, you must create a cover letter (motivational application letter) and a resume (CV) both written in English. In your cover letter, you must state why you want to apply for the exchange program, and why you would be a good fit.

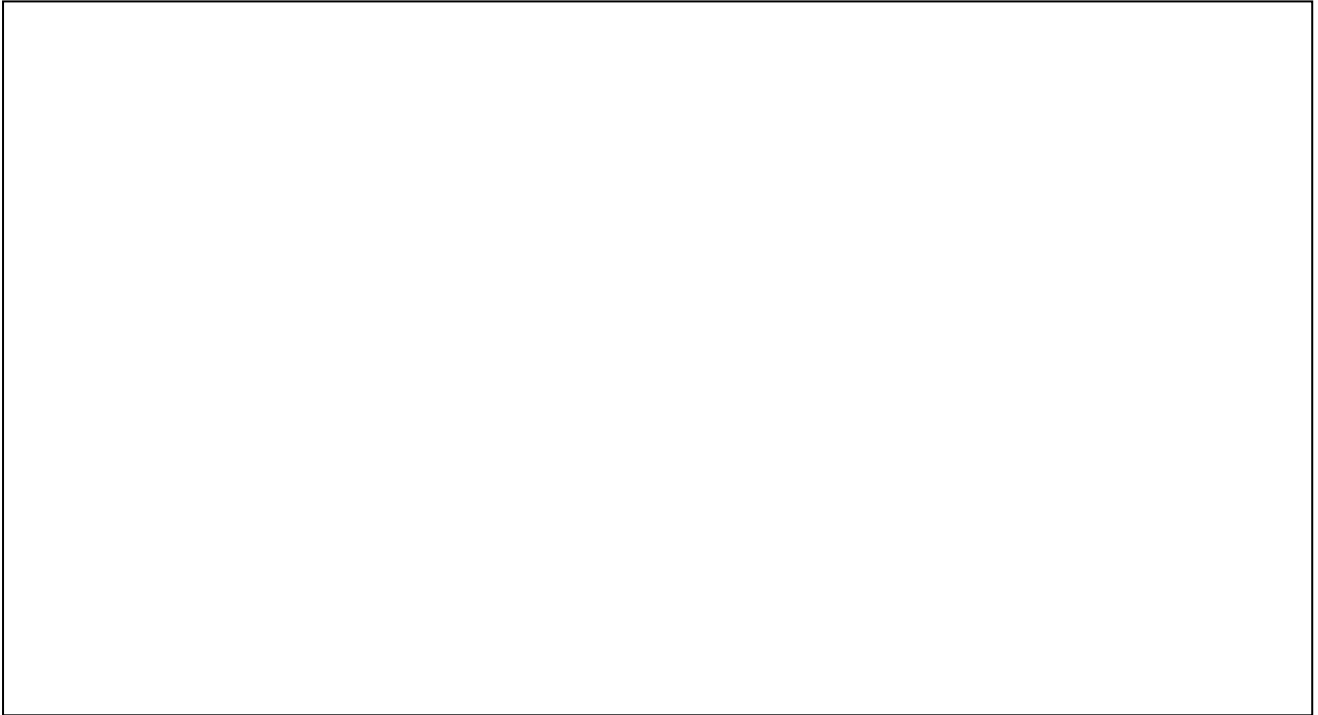
Inspiration for the cover letter: <https://youtu.be/RP1-L8s5oGk>

Inspiration for the resume: <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/high-school-resume-examples-and-writing-tips-2063554>

1. Write the cover letter in a Word document. Try using one of Word's templetates, but remember to use British or American formatting. The cover letter should be no longer than a single page.
2. Write the resume in a Word document. If you used a Word template for the cover letter, use the matching template for the resume. Remember to use British or American formatting.

## Welcome to Denmark

Your family has decided to host an exchange student for the coming school year. The exchange student knows very little about Denmark and Danish culture. The exchange student will attend the same school as you and has asked for a list of customs and traditions, so they will know how to blend in from the very first day. Create a top 10 of things the exchange student needs to know about your school.



## Hey teacher, can you help me now?

You just finished your first day as an exchange student. Things did not go to plan, and apparently there is a big difference between how Danish students behave compared to students in the rest of the world. You want to tell your best friend about your horrible day. Write a short message in which you explain all the things you apparently did wrong. You might find inspiration about how Danish students behave here:

<https://studyindenmark.dk/why-denmark/quality-of-life-1/what-are-the-danes-like>

