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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 3: Please (This Please)

Tack

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson we'll take a look at "Please", as in asking for something.

In Swedish "please" is "tack". The easiest way to use "tack" is pointing at something while saying "tack". To be a bit more specific, you can say "den här, tack" which means "it here please". In Swedish "this" comes before please. In Swedish the word order is the same.

When talking about something further from you, you should use "den där". Literally this means "it there". To ask for it you should say "den där, tack".

QUICK TIP

"Tack" is not the only way to say please. We also have the word "Snälla" which means kind. This is used when you want to put the please in front of the sentence instead of the end. For instance, "Please, stop" would be "Snälla, sluta." This is to make the request a little more determined. In addition, this word could be used as in the following example: "Can I have this, please please please" "Kan jag få den här, snälla snälla snälla."

QUICK TIP 2

You are going to buy a little souvenir and you find a T-shirt with a cartoon moose. Just take the t-shirt and give it to the clerk while saying "Den här, tack" ("This, please.")

The word 'please' in this situation is the same word as 'thanks'. The Swedes like to thank a lot, and to be extra Swedish instead of saying just "tack" you could say "tack på förhand" which means "thanks in advance". This is not appropriate in a local store since the service will not take more than a couple of minutes to perform. Save "thanks in advance" ("tack på förhand") for more special occasions. You might use "tack på förhand" if you want something to be done in your hotel room while you are away. This would be a nice way to thank the person for the job, making the request even a bit politer.