

KISS HAS THE BEST METHOD – WHY?

The KISS method – a part of the KISS Concept – is based on four major components:

- A unique understanding of *how Danish is different* from all other languages
- Strong focus on the formation of right and wrong *language habits*
- Our own, completely different approach to teaching Danish *pronunciation*
- Highly organized and detailed *procedures* in class for students as well as for teachers

1. Danish is different from all other languages in two ways: It has an extremely fixed sentence structure and a pronunciation which is very difficult to pick up by ear.

- ✓ The schematic or rigid nature of the Danish *sentence patterns* (fixed places for the various parts of the sentence) is an advantage as soon as you have had it explained.
- ✓ The fact that Danish fools your ear is a clear disadvantage. Very often, if you repeat what you hear, it comes out wrong no matter how hard you listen. To overcome this, students need a clear understanding of the nature and function of *vowels and consonants* as well as of the Danish "glottal stop". Only KISS provides this understanding, and we do it right from the beginning (Level 1).

2. The KISS method is based on the concept of *habit* – a crucial factor when learning Danish.

- ✓ You need to form the *right habits* as soon as possible. Good Danish must be learned quickly to avoid the formation of *wrong habits*. They come so easily when you are living in the country and want to try out what you pick up.
- ✓ Right from the beginning, we give our students very specific and detailed instructions in exactly what to do and how to do it, also in terms of the Danish *pronunciation*. This is a necessary basis for the formation and reinforcement of correct pronunciation habits.

3. The KISS method includes a very different way of teaching the *Danish pronunciation*.

- ✓ Many years ago we decided that the official phonetic system (descriptions of language sounds, etc.) is not suited to the very special task of teaching Danish pronunciation to foreigners. We therefore developed our own models, descriptions and techniques for teaching the pronunciation, including the Danish "glottal stop".
- ✓ All other schools stick with the traditional system – and KISS is, consequently, the only school which is able to teach students the Danish glottal stop

4. The KISS method implies that each meeting is *highly organized*

- ✓ Students as well as teachers know what is expected of them at each meeting. Our highly programmed system prescribes detailed procedures for each type of exercise and test and the order in which they are taken. In terms of *homework*, students always know exactly what to prepare for and how to prepare.
- ✓ All *teachers* follow the same plan and procedures at each class meeting. This saves a lot of discussion time, uncertainty and individual solutions in class. It also means that a class can change teacher without disruption. Naturally, teachers share the *criteria for passing* (or not passing) students to the next level.