# CALL A FRIEND DAY

## **Icelandic**



vinur (m), vinkona (f) friend



besti vinur (m), besta vinkona (f) best friend



**félagi**buddy,
companion



**náinn vinur** close friend



**vináttu** friendship



**nýr vinur** new friend



**gamall vinur** old friend



**óvinur** enemy



**að vera vinir** to be friends



**að styðja vin** to support a friend



að hanga með vinum to hangout with friends



að eyða tíma með vinum to spend time with friends



**að hafa gaman með vinum**to have fun with
friends



**að hlæja með vinum** to laugh with friends



**að gráta með vinum** to cry with friends



**vinum** to share with friends



**að annast vin** to care for a friend



**að vera tryggur vini** to be loyal to a friend



**að meta vin** to value a friend

#### COMMON EXPRESSIONS AND MORE VOCABULARY

- Greeting: Halló, hvernig hefur þú það? Hello, how are you?
- halló hello
- hvernig how
- að hafa to have
- **þú** you (singular)
- Greeting (informal): Sæll, hvernig hefur þú það? Hi, how's it going?
- sæll hello (sæl when greeting a female)
- Expressing Gratitude: Takk fyrir allt. Thanks for everything.
- Takk. Thanks. Thank you.
- Expressing Gratitude (informal): Takk, það þýðir mikið. Thanks, it means a lot.
- að þýða to mean (as in what one word means in another language)
- Friendship: Þú ert réttur vinur. You're a true friend.
- **þú ert** you are
- vinur friend (vinkona when referring to a female)
- Friendship (informal): Þú ert besti vinur minn. You're my best friend. (Þú ert besta vinkona mín when referring to a woman.)
- Closing: Sjáumst bráðum. See you soon.
- Closing (informal): Bless! Bye!
- Love: Ég elska þig. I love you.
- að elska to love
- Miss you: Ég sakna þig. I miss you.
- að sakna to miss (someone)
- Happy: Ég er svo gladur! I'm so happy! (For females: Ég er svo glöð!)
- Sad: **Ég er svo dapur.** I'm so sad.
- Humorous Promise: Ég mun alltaf taka þig upp þegar þú dettur
   eftir að ég hefi hætt að hlæja! I will always pick you up when you fall after I stop laughing!

# BRIEF GRAMMAR NOTES

## Greetings

- Halló! (HA-low) Hello
- Hæ! (same as English "hi") Hi
- Góðan dag (GOH-thahn dahg) Good morning
- Góðan daginn (GOH-thahn dah-ginn) Good day
- Gott kvöld (GOHT KVER-uld) Good evening
- Góða nótt (GOH-thah NOHT-t) Good night
- Bless! (BLEH-s) Goodbye (formal)
- Blessið! (BLEH-sith) Goodbye (plural)
- Bæ! (same as English "bye") Bye!

#### Gender in Icelandic

Icelandic has three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. The gender of a noun affects the article, adjective, and pronoun used with it.

- Masculine nouns: often end in -ur, -i, or -ar (e.g., maður, "man")
- Feminine nouns: often end in -a or -in (e.g., kona, "woman")
- Neuter nouns: often end in -i, -a or nothing (e.g., land, "land")

# Articles and Adjectives - only the nominative (as listed in the dictionary) is mentioned here

- Masculine: the masculine article is einn, the definite article ends in -inn and adjectives often end in -ur or double consonant such as -nn (e.g., góður maður, "good man")
- Feminine: the feminine article is ein, the definite article ends in in and adjectives often end in a single consonant such as -n or no
  ending (e.g., góð kona, "good woman"). Sometimes there is a
  vowel shift in the root such as in glaður maður "happy man" vs.
  glöð kona "happy woman".
- Neuter: the neuter article is eitt, the definite article ends in -ið and adjectives often end in -t, -tt or -ð (e.g., gott land, "good land")

#### ICELANDIC FRIENDSHIP CULTURE

#### **Strong Social Bonds**

Icelanders place a high value on strong social bonds and community. Friendships are often close-knit and long-lasting, with a strong emphasis on mutual support and trust.

#### **Þetta reddast (It Will All Work Out)**

Icelanders have a relaxed and optimistic approach to life, embodied in the phrase "petta reddast" (it will all work out). This attitude helps foster a sense of calm and trust in friendships.

#### **Nature and Outdoor Activities**

Iceland's unique and breathtaking landscapes play a significant role in shaping the country's culture and friendships. Icelanders often bond over outdoor activities like hiking, glacier hiking, or exploring the stunning natural beauty of the island.

#### **Direct Communication and Humor**

Icelanders value direct and honest communication in their friendships. They also have a dry, sarcastic sense of humor, which can sometimes be misunderstood by foreigners but is an integral part of Icelandic social interactions.

#### Respect for Personal Space and Independence

Icelanders respect each other's need for personal space and independence. This balance between closeness and individuality helps maintain healthy and fulfilling friendships.

# ICELANDIC FRIENDSHIP CULTURE (CONTINUED)

#### **Celebrating Traditions Together**

Icelanders enjoy celebrating traditional holidays and events with friends, such as:

- **Þorrablót** (Thorrablot), a midwinter festival
- **sumardagurinn fyrsti** (First Day of Summer), a celebration of the arrival of summer
- **jól** (Christmas), often celebrated with traditional foods and activities

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#### **Community-Oriented**

Icelandic friendships are often deeply rooted in the community. Icelanders tend to prioritize community involvement and social responsibility, which strengthens social bonds and fosters a sense of belonging.

Overall, friendship in Icelandic culture is characterized by strong social bonds, a love for nature, and a relaxed, optimistic approach to life.



# PRONUNCIATION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Icelandic pronunciation can be challenging for non-native speakers, so I highly recommend watching online videos or if you're fortunate enough to have an Icelandic buddy, practice with them. But as a starting point or just a quick reference to have on the go, here's a basic guide.

## **Vowels**

- a: pronounced like "a" in "father"
- á: pronounced like "ow" in "now"
- e: pronounced like "e" in "pet"
- **é**: pronounced like a combination of the "y" consonant in English and "eh" in "meh"
- i: pronounced like "i" in "hit"
- i: pronounced like "ee" in "meet"
- o: pronounced like "o" in "hot"
- **ó**: pronounced like "o" in "go"
- u: pronounced like "u" in "put"
- ú: pronounced like "oo" in "boot"
- y: pronounced like "i" in "hit" (but with rounded lips)
- **ý**: pronounced like "ee" in "meet" (but with rounded lips)

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#### **Consonants**

- **b**: pronounced like "b" in "bat"
- d: pronounced like "d" in "dog"
- **ð**: pronounced like the "th" in "the" (voiced)
- f: pronounced like "f" in "fox"
- g: pronounced like "g" in "go" (but sometimes like "y" in "yes")
- **h**: pronounced like "h" in "house"
- j: pronounced like "y" in "yes"
- k: pronounced like "k" in "kite"
- I: pronounced like "l" in "love"
- m: pronounced like "m" in "mother"
- n: pronounced like "n" in "night"
- p: pronounced like "p" in "pat"
- r: pronounced like a guttural, rolled "r" (similar to Spanish or Arabic)
- s: pronounced like "s" in "sat"
- t: pronounced like "t" in "tot"
- v: pronounced like "v" in "vet"
- x: pronounced like "ks" in "kicks"
- **b**: pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (voiceless)

#### **Diphthongs**

- ai: pronounced like "i" in "bite"
- au: pronounced like "ou" in "house"
- ei: pronounced like "ay" in "play"
- ey: pronounced like "ay" in "play"
- oi: pronounced like "oy" in "boy"
- ou: pronounced like "oo" in "boot"

#### Special tips

- "ll" in Icelandic is pronounced like the "tl" in English
- Icelandic words often have a stress on the first syllable.
- The letter "r" is rolled, so practice your rolled "r"s!
- Pay attention to the accents on vowels, as they can change the pronunciation significantly.