

SWEDISH

COUNTRIES: Sweden
Some coastal areas of Finland
Estonia

POST: Stockholm

Swedish has remarkable musical and poetic qualities. It belongs in the Scandinavian language group. It has been influenced by Latin and Greek and has also opened its doors to words from French, Dutch, German and Danish. It is a language that is becoming increasingly simplified. With time, the feminine gender is falling into disuse, conjugations are becoming shorter and the subjunctive is no longer part of the spoken language.

For simple words, Swedish has a two-syllable accent called the "Swedish accent" that is distinct from the emphatic stress common to the Germanic group. Swedish is rich in coloured vowels, especially in the unaccentuated syllables. The Swedish sentence also has a particular melody: it is a regular curve of sound that produces the effect of a wave rising and falling at almost regular intervals. The forms of written Swedish are considerably simplified in the spoken language: the terminal consonants are not pronounced, the words are syncopated, and so on.

Swedish has a very fastidious form of address. The person to whom respect is being shown is spoken to in the third person singular and given his official title.