

To change In Danish

At lave noget om (på) means to ‘remake’, things are being changed to come out quite differently. *Lave om* describes a major change carried out by an agent.

- Regeringen vil lave folkeskolen om. (The government intend to change/reorganize the public school)
- Jeg kan da ikke lave om på mig selv, du bliver nødt til at elske mig, som jeg er. (I can’t change, you’ve got to accept me as I am)

In addition Danish has a lot of similar ekspressions with *om* for redoing work: *Skrive om* (rewrite), *bygge om* (changing walls etc.), *sy om* (renew through sewing) etc.

At ændre describes an adjustment of a complex system. The changes leave the core recognizable. **At ændre sig** describes an organic and often gradual change:

- Jeg ændrede indstillingerne i kontrolpanelet. (I changed/adjusted the settings in the settings panel)
- Klimaet har ændret sig de sidste 10 år. (Climate has changed during the last 10 years)

At forandre describes an essential change – the core is changing/being changed and cannot be recognized. *Forandre* does not have an agent – it is something happening to you.

- P-pillen forandrede kvindernes situation. (The pill has changed the women’s situation)
- Han har forandret sig efter ulykken. (He has changed after the accident)

At skifte means to replace one thing with another:

- Han skifter sjældent underbukser. (He rarely changes his underwear)
- Kamæleoner skifter farve! (Lizards change colour)
- Jeg skiftede fly i Singapore. (I changed planes in Singapore)
- Vejret skifter en del i Danmark. (The weather is changing a lot in DK)

At bytte means to swap - to trade one thing for another:

- I Grønland var konebytning en institution i arbejdsdelingen. (In Greenland wife swap was an institution in the division of labour)
- Kan jeg få byttet den her motorsav til et træben? (Could I change this chainsaw for an artificial leg?)

At veksle is a financial transaction – or *to alternate*.

- Kan du veksle en tier. (Could you change 10 kr. for me?)
- Hans humør vekslede mellem håb og desperation. (His mood was changing between hope and desperation)