

Taalthuis

Free online Dutch course

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Taalthuis
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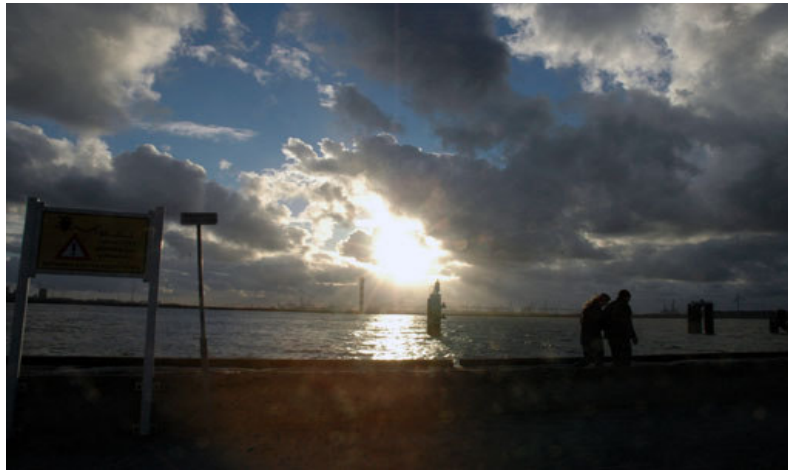
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Introduction

Learning Dutch might not be the easiest thing in the world, it's also certainly not the toughest thing: grammar and spelling are - much more than English - tied to strict rules that usually can be explained in a few lines.

Still, it's good to have a good teacher to guide you. If you want to do it all by yourself, you might use this **Free Online Dutch Course**: it contains all the basic grammar, vocabulary and even pronunciation rules you need and even a lot of online exercises and tests. All the content of this book is also available online. It might be a good idea to use this book in combination with the site and its videos and interactive tests.



If you feel you still need some help, or just like to contact people who might run into the same problems, you'll be happy to learn there's a forum hardly any question remains unanswered.



Beginners course

The beginners lessons have the following parts:

- Intro: a brief description of the lesson's contents.
- Texts: either short monologues or dialogues, connected to wave files, or long reading texts (for the higher levels). The texts are introduced with a short explanation.
- Vocabulary: new words in this lesson.
- More....: connected grammar lessons and word or phrase lists.
- A self-grading test to check your vocabulary, grammar, reading and listening skills.

No matter how advanced you are, it never hurts to start at the very first lesson...

Lesson 1 - *Wat is dit?*

Intro

This lesson gives you a brief introduction to the Dutch language. You'll learn your first Dutch words, you'll get an idea of how sounds relate to writing in Dutch, you'll get familiar with 'niet' and 'geen' and you'll be introduced to 'de' and 'het'.

Text 1.1 - *Dit is...*

- Wat is dit?
- Dit is een pen.
- Is de pen zwart?
- Ja, de pen is zwart



- Wat is dit?
- Dit is een boek.
- Is het boek rood?
- Nee, het boek is groen.



You might have noticed that there are two definite articles (words meaning 'the' in English): '*de*' and '*het*'. It might be interesting to know that masculine and feminine words have '*de*' and neuter words have '*het*', but that doesn't always help you that much, because in most cases there's no way of telling whether a word is masculine, feminine or neuter. Only for people and animals this might help you. Like in:

- de man (- *the man*)
- de vrouw (- *the women*)
- het kind (- *the child*)

Text 1.2 - *Is dit een pen?*

Is dit een pen?

- Nee, dat is geen pen, dat is een potlood.



• Is dit een boek?

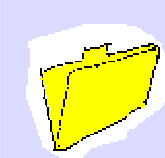
- Nee, dat is geen boek.

Dat is een map.

• Is de map oranje?

- Nee, de map is niet oranje.

De map is geel.



You could say 'geen pen' means 'not a pen' or just 'no pen'. In fact 'geen' is used for nouns and 'niet' is used for other types of words:

- geen man - no man
- niet goed - not good

Text 1.3 - Alfabet

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

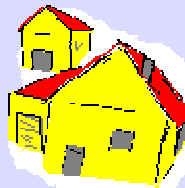
Study this well, it might get you into trouble if you don't know how to spell in Dutch!
Pay special attention to the A, E, I and J

Text 1.4 - Welke kleur...?

- Welke kleur heeft deze auto?
- Deze auto is wit.
Die auto is blauw.



- Dit huis is groot,
dat huis is klein.



- Welke kleur is dit?
- Deze kleur is bruin.



This and *that* in Dutch translate as follows:

- For 'de' words *this* is 'deze' and *that* is 'die'
- For 'het' words *this* is 'dit' and *that* is 'dat'

In short (hier - over here, daar - over there):

	<i>hier</i>	<i>daar</i>
de	deze	die
het	dit	dat

Vocabulary

<i>het alfabet</i>	the alphabet
<i>de auto</i>	the car
<i>blauw</i>	blue
<i>bruin</i>	brown
<i>het boek</i>	the book
<i>daar</i>	there, over there
<i>dat</i>	that
<i>de</i>	the
<i>deze</i>	this, these
<i>die</i>	that, those
<i>dit</i>	this, these
<i>een</i>	a, an
<i>geel</i>	yellow
<i>goed</i>	good
<i>groot, grote</i>	big
<i>groen</i>	green
<i>heeft</i>	has
<i>het</i>	it, the
<i>hier</i>	here, over here
<i>het huis</i>	the house
<i>ja</i>	yes
<i>het kind</i>	the child
<i>klein, kleine</i>	small
<i>de kleur</i>	the color
<i>de man</i>	the man
<i>de map</i>	the folder
<i>nee</i>	no
<i>oranje</i>	orange
<i>de pen</i>	the pen
<i>het potlood</i>	the pencil
<i>rood</i>	red
<i>de vrouw</i>	the women
<i>wat</i>	what
<i>welk, welke</i>	which
<i>wit</i>	white
<i>zwart</i>	black

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study:
 - Grammar pages: *'Of course, 'de' and 'het' (theory + exercises)*
 - Grammar pages: *basic pronunciation and spelling*
 - Lists & sounds: *colors*
- To get familiar with some Dutch words, you could stick notes with the appropriate words in Dutch on objects around you.

Here's a list to start with:

- the chair - de stoel
- the door - de deur
- the table - de tafel
- the couch - de bank
- the tv - de televisie
- the cupboard - de kast
- the bookcase - de boekenkast
- the wall - de muur
- the ash tray - de asbak
- the carpet - het vloerkleed
- the rug - het kleedje
- the lamp - de lamp
- the window - het raam
- the clock - de klok
- the phone - de telefoon
- the plant - de plant

Lesson 2 - *Wie ben jij?*

Intro

This lesson teaches you how to introduce yourself. You'll learn how to tell what your name is, what country you're coming from and where you are living. Of course, you'll also learn how to ask questions on this, so after this lesson you should be able to have a real brief conversation in Dutch. You'll also learn a bit on being formal and informal (u and jij), on verb infinitives and on the Dutch version of 'to be'.

The title of this lesson *Wie ben jij?* (means 'who are you?' shows you a question word (*wie*), a form of the verb *zijn* ('to be') and a personal pronoun (*jij*). We'll be dealing with all three of these items, but let's first deal with the function of the phrase: asking someone's name.

Here's a little conversation in which it is used:

Text 2.1 - *Ik ben Heidi*

- Wie ben jij?
- Ik ben Heidi.
- Waar kom je vandaan?
- Ik kom uit Nederland.
- Waar woon je?
- Ik woon in Leiden.

Question words can be confusing: the Dutch word *hoe*, sounds like the English 'who', but means 'how', while the Dutch word *wie*, meaning 'who', sounds like the English 'we', which is *wij* in Dutch and that sounds more or less like 'why', but that's *waarom* in Dutch. That's why the next text is a simple listing of question words:

Text 2.2 - *Question words*

wie	who
wat	what
waar	where
waarom	why
hoe	how

There are more ways to ask or tell a name. The next text does not only give alternative phrases, it also introduces *u* for second person singular instead of *jij*. This is a matter of being formal instead of informal. In contemporary Dutch, you would be formal to adult strangers and business contacts and informal to colleagues, friends and children. To relatives, most Dutch people are informal, but quite some people are still using *u* to address their parents and (even more) grandparents.

Text 2.3 - *Hoe heet u?*

Hoe heet u?

Mijn naam is Conti

Mijn voornaam is Gianni

Mijn achternaam is Conti

Uit welk land komt u?

Ik kom uit Italië

A conversation like this could be continued with questions and answers in the next text. A few remarks to go with it:

- Always use the article when mentioning the street: *..ik woon in de Dapperstraat ...*
- Telling where you live, for *...straat* you use *in*, for *...plein* (square) you use *op* or *aan* (*ik woon op/aan het Leidseplein*), for *...gracht*, you use *aan*(*... aan de Herengracht*), for the number you use *op* (*op nummer 38*).
- Just saying the word *Aangenaam* is the most common way of saying 'pleased to meet you' (literally: *aangenaam met u kennis te maken*).
- The phrase *Wat doet u?* is commonly used to inquire about someone's occupation.

Text 2.4 - *Aangenaam*

Aangenaam

Ik woon in Amsterdam

In de Dapperstraat

Op nummer 15

Mijn meisjesnaam is Agneta Magnusson

Ik ben getrouwd met een Nederlandse man.

Wat doet u?

We've been using a few verbs now, though not always infinitives (you need those to look them up in the dictionary). Note that the infinitive almost always ends on -en: *ik kom* - infinitive: *komen* (exceptional, nevertheless: knowing the Dutch spelling you would perhaps expect 'kommen'...) *ik heet* - infinitive: *heten* *ik doe* - infinitive: *doen* Exceptions are: *gaan* (to go), *staan* (to stand) and *zijn* (to be). Since *zijn* is not only very irregular (like 'to be' is in most languages), but also the most used verb, it would be a good idea to learn all the forms for present and past right now:

	<i>present past</i>	
ik ('I')	ben	was
jij/je ('you')	bent	was
u ('you')	bent	was
hij ('he')	is	was
zij/ze ('she')	is	was
wij/we ('we')	zijn	waren
jullie ('you')	zijn	waren
zij/ze ('they')	zijn	waren

This brings us to the personal pronouns. Above here, you see all the forms for the subject. You'll notice that most forms with *-ij* in them also have a form with *-e* (like *jij* could also be *je*). The general rule is that you can always use the 'proper' form with *-ij*, but most Dutch people would use the *-e* form unless there's a special emphasis.

Another thing that might puzzle you is the form *jullie* for 'you'. This is the form for informal and plural (something like 'you guys') - for formal plural you should still use *u*. In short:

	<i>formal informal</i>	
singular	u	jij/je
plural	u	jullie

Vocabulary

<i>aan</i>	at, to
<i>aangenaam</i>	pleased (to meet you)
<i>de achternaam</i>	the surname
<i>doen</i>	to do
<i>getrouwd</i>	married
<i>de gracht</i>	the canal, the moat
<i>heten</i>	to be named
<i>hoe</i>	how
<i>ik</i>	I
<i>in</i>	in
<i>jij/je</i>	you
<i>komen</i>	to come
<i>leven</i>	to live, to be alive
<i>met</i>	with
<i>het meisje</i>	the girl
<i>de meisjesnaam</i>	the maiden name
<i>de naam</i>	the name
<i>het nummer</i>	the number
<i>het plein</i>	the square
<i>de straat</i>	the street
<i>u</i>	you
<i>uit</i>	out (of), from
<i>vandaan</i>	from
<i>de voornaam</i>	the first name
<i>waar</i>	where
<i>waarom</i>	why
<i>wie</i>	who
<i>wonen</i>	to live, to be living
<i>zijn</i>	to be

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study:
 - Grammar pages: *verbs - general*
 - Grammar pages: *verbs - present*
 - Lists & sounds: *numbers*
- Repeat this pronunciation exercise a few times (every first word is English, every second word is Dutch):
'How' is *hoe*,
'who' is *wie*,
'we' is *wij*,
'why' is *waarom*.

Lesson 3 - *Alles goed?*

Intro

This lesson deals with common greetings and small talk. Furthermore, you'll get some theory on adjectives (when you have to add an -e), learn all about the parts of the day and you'll be introduced to the art of Dutch time telling.

The Dutch greet each other informally with *Hoi* or *Hallo*, or (a bit) more formally with their versions of 'good morning', 'good afternoon', etcetera. A simple '*dag*' is also used, though mostly it's followed by someone's name. In case one wants to be formal, someone could use the Dutch equivalents to 'Mister' and 'Misses': *meneer* and *mevrouw*. Note that *mevrouw* is used for both married and unmarried women.

The same word - *dag* - can be used to say goodbye - though in that case the *-a-* is much more stretched. Other current goodbyes are *tot ziens* (a bit formal) and *doei* (very informal).

Text 3.1 - Greetings

- Hallo
- Goedemorgen.
- Goedemiddag
- Goedenavond
- Goedenacht
- Dag meneer Jansen
- Tot ziens
- Doei

When meeting someone you know, you might show some interest in how someone is doing - even in Dutch this is a common thing to do. The commonly used phrases and replies are listed below. Because it's sometimes hard to translate literally, the meanings of the phrases are listed too.

The phrase *Hoe gaat het ermee?* can also be used without *ermee* (means literally 'with it') or with *met je* (means 'with you'). The same goes for *Hoe is het ermee?*

Text 3.2 - *Hoe gaat het?*

- Hoe gaat het ermee? *How are you?*
- Alles goed? *Is everything going well?*
- Prima *(I'm) fine, (everything's) great.*
- En met jou? *And (how are) you?*
- Hoe is het met je? *How are you?*
- Ach, het gaat wel. *Well, it could be better.*

So please note that the phrase *Het gaat wel* does not mean that 'all goes well', even though the Dutch *wel* can in fact be translated as 'indeed'.

Adjective + -e...

Another thing you might have noticed: the word *goed* (means 'good') is also in words like *goedemorgen*. Indeed, *goedemorgen* literally translates as 'good morning' and it shows how fond the Dutch are of writing two words as one. Nevertheless it's quite exceptional that an adjective is attached to a noun like that: it is common, but only for noun combinations.

What's not exceptional: the adjective *goed* does have an extra *-e* in *goedemorgen*. This is the case for most adjectives if standing before a noun. The only case in which it doesn't happen is when an adjective stands before a *het*-word and the article *een* is used (or *geen*, which could be seen as *niet een*).

The table down here might make this more clear: *boek* is taken as a *het*-word, *pen* is taken as a *de*-word and *goed* is used as the adjective before the noun:

<i>de pen</i>	<i>het boek</i>
de goede pen	het goede boek
een goede pen	een goed boek

Now this is not all there is to it yet. If you add an *-e* to an adjective, you get an extra syllable and if you studied the basic spelling and pronunciation (see grammar pages), you know that the spelling of the word might change, because there's an extra adjective.

Take, for example the adjectives *groot* (big) and *dom* (stupid). They both are one syllable words, the first one has a 'long' *-o-* and because this sound doesn't end the syllable (the *t* does) it has to be doubled. The *-o-* in the word *dom* though is a 'short' one, so it has to be single. The *-m* that follows it doesn't have to be doubled, because it's the end of a word, and the end of a Dutch word never has a double consonant.

Now when the *-e* is added, both words become two syllable words: *gro-te* and *dom-me*. The adjective *groot* loses an *-o-* because the first syllable now ends on a vowel and in that case it's automatically 'long' so it doesn't have to be doubled anymore. This would also happen to the word *dom* if we would just add the *-e*: it would become *domme* with a 'long' sounding *-o-* and we want to keep it short. Thus we add an *-m-*, which causes the syllable-split to be between the *m*'s, so the *-o-* stays 'short'. In full sentences:

- *De man is dom - het is een domme man.*
- *De man is groot - het is een grote man.*

With the greetings, you've also more or less been introduced to the parts of the day (morning, afternoon, ...). In Dutch they're not that different from English, though evening and night might be used a little different from their Dutch equivalents:

Text 3.3 - Dag & nacht

<i>time</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>this ...</i>	<i>in the ...</i>
06.00-18.00	de dag	vandaag	overdag
06.00-12.00	de morgen	vanmorgen	's morgens
	de ochtend	vanochtend	's ochtends
12.00-18.00	de middag	vanmiddag	's middags
18.00-24.00	de avond	vanavond	's avonds
24.00-06.00	de nacht	vannacht	's nachts

By the way, the *'s* is a shortened version of the old Dutch article *des*. Like many other ancient forms (*der, den, ter, ten* ...) in modern Dutch it is only used in certain expressions.

In the table above here, you see the time indicated in a 24 hour digital form. In writing, the Dutch often do that, instead of using AM and PM equivalents. In speaking though, they use just twelve hour indications and add *'s morgens*, *'s middags*, *'s avonds* or *'s nachts* to it.

In short, time telling in Dutch is done as follows:

- For the full hour, the number is just followed by the word *uur* (means 'hour'): *acht uur*, *negen uur*,...
- Quarter (15 minutes) is *kwart*.
- Past the hour is over, before the hour is *voor*.
- Half is the same in Dutch: *half*...
- But in Dutch you count towards the next hour: half past six is half *zeven* in Dutch (you can try to get used to this by remembering that half past six can actually be seen as halfway seven).
- between twenty past the hour and twenty to the next hour, you count using the half hour.

For most foreigners it takes some time to get used to this, but once you are, you see the logic of the system.

Perhaps this is of some help:

Text 3.4 - Tijd - time

Hoe laat is het?	What time is it?
Het is negen uur	It's 09.00
Het is tien over negen	It's 09.10
Het is kwart over negen	It's 09.15
Het is half tien	It's 09.30
Het is tien voor half tien	It's 09.20
Het is vijf over half tien	It's 09.35
Het is kwart voor tien	It's 09.45
Het is vijf voor tien	It's 09.55

Vocabulary

<i>alles</i>	everything
<i>de avond</i>	the evening
<i>de dag</i>	the day
<i>dag</i>	hello, bye
<i>doei</i>	bye (informal)
<i>dom</i>	stupid
<i>het half</i>	the half
<i>hallo</i>	hello
<i>het kwart</i>	the quarter
<i>laat</i>	late
<i>meneer (=mijnheer)</i>	sir, mister
<i>met (=mee)</i>	with
<i>mevrouw</i>	madam, miss, misses
<i>de middag</i>	the afternoon
<i>de morgen</i>	the morning
<i>de nacht</i>	the night
<i>over</i>	past
<i>prima</i>	fine, great
<i>tot</i>	untill
<i>tot ziens</i>	goodbye
<i>het uur</i>	the hour
<i>voor</i>	before, for, in front of
<i>wel</i>	indeed
<i>zien</i>	to see

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study:
 - Grammar pages: *adjectives (+ exercises)*
 - Grammar pages: *basic pronunciation and spelling* (again)
- Try to train yourself in telling the time by telling for .00, .05, .10, .15, .20, .25, .30, .35, .40, .45, .50, and .55 minutes after *every* hour.

Lesson 4 - *Mag ik twee pils?*

Intro This lesson deals with ordering in restaurants and pubs, offering and accepting (or not accepting) drinks, and on how to say things like 'sorry', 'please' and 'thank you' in Dutch. Furthermore, there's some theory on small words that don't mean anything and there are some remarks on how to behave when visiting Dutch people.

In any Dutch shop, restaurant or cafe, somebody might approach you and say something that sounds like 'zecuma'. In fact, what they want to say is *zegt u het maar* - the most currently used phrase to indicate that you can tell them what you want to order or buy. The phrase is: *zegt u het maar*.

Also the word *natuurlijk* (means 'of course') is often pronounced as if it was something else, like '*tulek*'. It could be an answer to your order or to your question if something is available.

Ordering however, is quite simple. You say what you want and let it be followed by *alstublieft* ('please') or you first say *Mag ik* (means 'Can I have') plus the item you want (note that in phrases like this there's often no 'have', just 'Can I' or 'May I' in Dutch).

Text 4.1 - *Zegt u het maar*

- Zegt u het maar
- Mag ik twee pils?.
- Een koffie en een thee, alstublieft.
- Heeft u warme chocola?
- Natuurlijk
- Nee, het spijt me, dat hebben we niet.

The phrase *Het spijt me* means 'Im deeply sorry'. In situations that are not very formal also the English word 'sorry' will do very well.

The word *Alstublieft* is in fact the formal form (it contains *u*) - *alsjeblieft* is the informal version. These two do not only mean 'please': they also mean something like 'here you are' and are used when something is being given to you. A natural reply would be one of the phrases that mean 'thank you': *dank u wel* (formal), *dank je wel* (informal) or *bedankt* (can be used in formal and informal situations). The word *wel* is optional: it makes the same difference as 'very much' does in 'thank you very much'.

Here are the phrases for please/here you are and thank you:

Text 4.2 - *Alstublieft...*

- Alstublieft
- Alsjeblieft.
- Kijkt u eens.
- Dank u wel
- Dank je
- Bedankt

In letters you can also read things like *hartelijk dank* ('profound thanks') or *dank u vriendelijk* ('thank you kindly') but they are hardly ever used in spoken Dutch.

In the first phrase in the first text - *zegt u het maar* - you also see one of those words that often occur in Dutch phrases without having a meaning. Or rather: they do have a meaning - if you look them up in the dictionary, you'll find something, but it doesn't apply in many phrases.

The most frequently used are: *maar* (can mean 'but'), *eens* (can mean 'once'), *even* (can mean 'shortly') and *hoor* (can mean 'hear'). To the first three you can often attribute the meaning of 'just' (*zegt u het maar* - 'just you say it') but that becomes hard when there's two or three of them (*kijk maar eens* - 'just look').

In general it's best to state that if they do not represent their literal meaning, they are there to make a sentence friendlier and smoother.

This doesn't apply to the word 'hoor', however. This particular word really doesn't have any meaning when it appears at the end of a sentence. It's just there as an extra sound to be able to give the sentence the right intonation, which could be severe, ironic, angry, or whatever else the speaker wants to express.

Here are some examples. Because these small words can have a subtle effect on the meaning, there's an English phrase to indicate what's being said.

Text 4.3 - *Kom eens*

- Kom eens even hier *'Just come here, (please)'*
- Ga maar, hoor. *Just go (it's alright)*
- Laat maar *Just leave it.*
- Laat maar zitten *Leave it - keep the change*
- Nee, hoor. *No, (absolutely not).*

If you visit a Dutch person, you'll probably be asked what you want to drink. The question will probably just be:

- *Wat wil je drinken?* ('what do you want to drink?' - watch out: *willen* = 'to want'),
- *Koffie?* ('coffee?') or the more formal
- *Kan ik u iets te drinken aanbieden?* ('can I offer you something to drink?')

You could reply with *ja, lekker* ('yes, (that would be) nice') if you want the thing you've been offered or *nee, bedankt* if you don't want it. There's no Dutch equivalent of 'no I'm fine, thank you' and you **only** say 'thank you' if you do **not** want it (so there's no such thing as 'yes, thank you') - in fact if you just say *bedankt* or *dank u*, a regular Dutchman would probably conclude that you do not want the thing he just offered ...

Like most western countries, in the Netherlands you will not be offered a lot to eat - on the contrary, the Dutch are very greedy on food. Older people in the Netherlands often have a special ritual concerning cookies: they take a bin with small cookies out of their cupboard to open it and offer you just one. After that, they close it and put it back in the cupboard.

It's very unusual to an opened bin on the table and it's very unpolite to take anything to eat that is not explicitly presented to you.

The Dutch are used drink loads of coffee, at any time. Sometimes they drink tee, though never with milk - if you're used to milk in your tee, you explicitly have to ask for it, even in most restaurants.

In their coffee they often pour some milk - they have special *koffiemelk* for it.

Here are some phrases you may find useful:

Text 4.4 - *Kopje koffie?*

- Kopje koffie?
- Wat wil je drinken?
- Kan ik u iets te drinken aanbieden?
- Suiker en melk?
- Alleen suiker
- Wil je koffie of thee?
- Iets fris, graag.

The last phrase means 'something without alcohol, please'. The word *graag* is quite often used instead of *alstublieft/alsjeblief*, meaning 'please', but it can't be used in a question.

Vocabulary

<i>aanbieden</i>	to offer
<i>alsjeblieft</i>	please, here you are
<i>alstublieft</i>	please, here you are
<i>bedanken</i>	to thank
<i>bedankt</i>	thanks
<i>dank u/je</i>	thank you
<i>de chocola</i>	the chocolate
<i>drinken</i>	to drink
<i>fris</i>	fresh, cool, soft drinks
<i>graag</i>	please, favourable
<i>horen</i>	to hear
<i>iets</i>	something
<i>kijken</i>	to look
<i>de koffie</i>	the coffee
<i>het kopje</i>	the cup
<i>laten</i>	to let, to leave
<i>lekker</i>	nice, tasty
<i>maar</i>	but, 'just'
<i>de melk</i>	the milk
<i>mogen</i>	to may, to can, to be allowed
<i>natuurlijk</i>	of course
<i>de pils</i>	the lager beer
<i>spijten</i>	to regret
<i>de suiker</i>	the sugar
<i>de thee</i>	the tee
<i>warm</i>	warm
<i>willen</i>	to want
<i>zeggen</i>	to say
<i>zitten</i>	to sit, to be

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study:
 - Grammar pages: *words like maar, eens and even (+ exercises)*

You could also take a look at these pages - but at this level it would be too much to remember all the listed words and phrases, so just browse and pick what you think you might need:

- Lists and sounds: *Eating out - uit eten*
 - Lists and sounds: *List of drinks and dishes*
- With the help of the above mentioned list of drinks and dishes and the phrases you learned in this lesson, you could imagine yourself, sitting in a restaurant and order. What would you say...?

If you're in the Netherlands you could now just go for it and order away in a restaurant. If you're not, you could find a friend and 'simulate'...

Lesson 5 - *Hoeveel kost dat?*

Intro

This lesson deals with shops, buying, selling, prices and money. There will be some attention for diminutives and for sentence structures in Dutch.

You're already familiar with *zegt u het maar* - the most currently used phrase not only in restaurants and pubs, but - even more - in shops. Telling what you want to buy is just as easy as ordering: you say what you want and let it be followed by *alstublieft* ('please') or you first say *Mag ik* (means 'Can I have') plus the item you want.

The rest of the conversation in a shop mostly contains just standard phrases like *Anders nog iets?* ('anything else?'), *Dat was het* ('that's all') and *Hoeveel is het?* ('How much is it?').

Here's a standard kind of conversation:

Text 5.1 - *Een kilo tomaten*

- Zegt u het maar
- Mag ik een kilo tomaten?
- Mag het ietsje meer zijn?
- Ja, hoor.
- Kijkt u eens
- Anders nog iets?
- Nee, dat was het.
- Hoeveel is het?
- € 4,10
- Alstublieft
- Heeft u er een dubbeltje bij?
- Nee, sorry. Ik heb helemaal geen kleingeld.

The phrase *Mag het ietsje meer zijn?* means 'May it be a little bit more?' (strange enough it's never asked if it can be a bit less). In fact *iets* already means 'a bit' (also: 'something' like in *anders nog iets* which means 'anything else') - the *-je* suffix makes it even smaller.

This *-je* suffix can also be *-tje*, *-etje* or *-pje* (often after an m) and is called 'diminutive', or in Dutch *verkleining*. It's used quite a lot in Dutch, either to make things smaller or to make thing look more innocent. A 'little book', for example, is *een boekje*, a 'small tabel' is *een tafeltje* and a little flower *een bloempje*. Another example: a business like appointment is *een afspraak*, but a date is *een afspraakje* - so here the *-je* is used to make it look "more innocent" (even if it's the big date you've been trying to get for years...).

Diminutives may also occur in certain situations or expressions where they do not seem to have a function. In a shop, a kilo might become *een kilootje*, but it's still the same 1000 gram; you might be addressed as *meneertje* or *mevrouwetje* while you might not be very small or innocent; a cup of coffee will mostly be *een kopje koffie*, no matter how big it is. In those cases the diminutives are just to be considered part of the expression or perhaps to express some kind of sympathy.

The word *dubbeltje*, as used above (*Heeft u er een dubbeltje bij?* - 'Do you have 10 cents with it?') even doesn't have a non-diminutive form.

The diminutives are also used a lot by foreigners, because a diminutive is always a *het*-word

This brings us to Dutch coins and notes. Here's an overview:



Text 5.2 - Geld

- De cent - 1 cent (1)
- De stuiver - 5 cent (2)
- Het dubbeltje - 10 cent (3)
- De euro - € 1,- (4)
- Het vijfje - € 5,- (5)
- Het tientje - € 10,- (6)
- Het briefje van 20 - € 20,- (7)
- Het briefje van 50 - € 50,- (8)
- Het briefje van 100 - € 100,- (9)
- Het briefje van 1000 - € 1000,- (10)

Additional remarks:

1. The euro sign is €.
2. Between euro's and cents, there's a comma, not a dot: dots are used for thousands, comma's for the separation of decimals.
3. The word briefje means literally 'note', so it can also refer to a memo.
4. In spoken Dutch, euro and cent are used only as singulars, unless one speaks of coins. So € 100,15 is *honderd euro en vijftien cent*.
5. A Dutchman mostly leaves cent away, though: *honderd euro vijftien*.

The phrases you've learned by now, have two kinds of sentence structures:

1. subject - verb - rest
This is a **basic** sentence structure.
It's used in simple statements.
Example:

Ik heb helemaal geen kleingeld
subject verb rest

2. verb - subject - rest
This is an **inverted** sentence structure
It's used when: - the sentence is a direct question or request, - if something comes before the subject, and it's not one word, separated by a comma (like *oh, ah, ja, nee, meneer, mevrouw*, etcetera).
Examples:

Mag ik een kilo tomaten?
verb subject rest
's Morgens drink ik koffie
"something else" verb subject rest

4. For English speakers this structure is not that hard as long as it's a question: in English you do the same thing, although the verb you start the question with is quite often 'to do'. In Dutch you don't: instead of 'do you want coffee', you simply ask 'Want you coffee'.
5. The inversion if something comes before the subject is much harder to get used to. It's important though, to get it right when you're still at the first level, because later on, it just gets harder.
6. Quite often, the thing that comes before the subject is a statement of time (like 's morgens in the above sentence) or place.

Another thing in Dutch sentence structure that's hard to get used to: **if there's two verbs, the second one is usually placed at the end**. You might already have noticed this in *Mag het ietsje meer zijn?*: the first verb, *Mag* ('May/Can'), is at the beginning (inverted structure) and the second one, *zijn* ('be'), is at the end.

Here's two more examples:

Wilt	u	misschien iets	drinken?
<i>Want</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>perhaps</i>	<i>something to drink?</i>
<i>verb #1 subject rest ...</i>		<i>...</i>	<i>verb #2</i>
Ik	wil	een kilo appels	kopen
<i>I</i>	<i>want</i>	<i>a kilo</i>	<i>apples to buy</i>
<i>subject verb #1 rest ...</i>		<i>...</i>	<i>verb #2</i>

The above mentioned kilo is well known as being 1000 grams. Because some other words concerning weights might cause some confusion, here's is listing:

Text 5.3 - Gewicht			
• een kilo	= 1000 gram	= 2 pond	
• een pond	= 500 gram	= 5 ons	
• een ons	= 100 gram	= 1/10 kilo	
• anderhalf pond	= 750 gram	3/4 kilo	

Vocabulary

<i>anderhalf</i>	one and a half
<i>anders</i>	else; different
<i>de appel</i>	the apple
<i>bij</i>	with, at
<i>de brief</i>	the letter
<i>het briefje</i>	the note
<i>de cent</i>	the cent
<i>het dubbeltje</i>	ten cents coin
<i>er</i>	there; it
<i>de/het gram</i>	the gram
<i>de euro</i>	the euro
<i>helemaal</i>	totaly
<i>hoeveel</i>	how much
<i>de/het kilo</i>	the kilo
<i>het kleingeld</i>	the change
<i>kopen</i>	to buy
<i>meer</i>	more
<i>nog</i>	still; yet
<i>de/het ons</i>	100 gram
<i>de/het pond</i>	500 gram
<i>de stuiver</i>	5 cents coin
<i>het tientje</i>	10 euro note
<i>van</i>	of; from
<i>het vijfje</i>	5 euro note

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should **just** take a look at (don't do the exercises yet, save them until you're at level 2):
 - Grammar pages: *constructing sentences*
 - Grammar pages: *verb couples*

You could also take a look at these pages - but at this level it would be too much to remember all the listed words and phrases, so just browse and pick what you think you might need:

- Lists and sounds: *Shopping - Boodschappen doen (1)*
 - Lists and sounds: *Shopping - Boodschappen doen (2)*
 - Lists and sounds: *List of shops*
- With the help of the above mentioned lists and the phrases you learned in this lesson, you could make yourself a list of things you would like to buy and imagine the conversation that would take place in the shops (of course, you shouldn't go to the supermarket ...).

Lesson 6 - *Tweede straat links*

Intro This lesson deals with addressing people, and asking and giving directions. There will also be a lot of attention for the present tense of verbs - both regular and irregular forms.

If you're lost somewhere in the Netherlands, you might want to ask someone for directions and the first thing you want is to address someone without being too impolite.

That's probably not going to be very hard: besides the fact that the Dutch don't consider someone impolite very quickly, addressing someone in Dutch can be very simple, since you could just use a simple 'sorry'. If you want to say a bit more than that, you could try *Pardon, meneer* or *Pardon, mevrouw* (note that in Dutch the emphasis is on the last syllable!), perhaps followed by *Mag ik u iets vragen?* ('may I ask you something?').

The reply you get is mostly a friendly *Ja, hoor, Natuurlijk* or *Zegt u het maar*, after which you can ask your question.

Your question could have different forms:

Text 6.1 - *Ik zoek ...*

- Waar is het Vondelpark?
- Kunt u mij vertellen waar het Rembrandtplein is?
- Weet u waar de Vermeerweg is?
- Ik zoek de Ruysdaelstraat.
- Ik ben op zoek naar de Herengracht.

In fact *Ik zoek* and *Ik ben op zoek* would both be translated as 'I'm looking for'. The other phrases should be quite clear ('Where is..., Can you tell me where ..., Do you know where ...').

Here's a complete conversation:

Text 6.2 - *Pardon meneer ...*

- Pardon meneer, mag ik u iets vragen?
- Ja, hoor.
- Weet u waar de Vermeerweg is?
- Ehmmm, even kijken...
- ... u moet hier rechtdoor...
- ... bij de stoplichten gaat u rechtsaf...
- ... dan bij de volgende kruising weer rechts...
- ... en dan de tweede straat links.
- Dank u wel, meneer.
- Graag gedaan.

Some additional notes:

- The phrase *even kijken*, is often used like the English 'let's see', to take some time to think.
- The phrase *Graag gedaan* means literally 'done with pleasure' and has the same function as the English 'My pleasure'. Another phrase that's frequently used as a reply to someone thanking is the more formal *tot uw dienst* ('at your service').
- For more phrases on 'showing the way', see 'lists & sounds'.
- The words for right, left and straight on are: *rechts*, *links*, *rechtdoor*. You could translate *rechtsaf* and *linksaf* as '**to the** right' and '**to the** left'.
- The Dutch words for 'first, second, third, fourth, fifth' are: *eerste*, *tweede*, *derde*, *vierde*, *vijfde*. In fact for all the numbers up until 'nineteen' you add *-de* (like in *zesde*) except for 'one' (*eerste*) and 'eight' (*achtste*). The rest gets *-ste*.

In the phrases above there two verbs - *kunnen*, *mogen* and *moeten* - that form, together with *willen* and *zullen* a group that's quite particular. First, they can be used on their own, where you would expect another verb. You might have noticed that in the phrases on shopping and ordering: in Dutch *Mag ik een appelsap* is sufficient to get an appeljuice, while in English you would say 'May I **have** an appeljuice'. The same thing is seen in *Ik moet naar het toilet* which means I have to **go** to the toilet'...

Second, these verbs are - except for *moeten* - irregular in present tense. Fortunately, together with *hebben* and *zijn*, they're the only ones.

To know what makes them irregular, of course, you first have to know what happens to regular verbs in Dutch - and that's explained in a few lines:

- from the infinitive of the verb, you take off the *-en*,
- you take care that what's left does not end on a *-v-* or *-z-* (change them to *-f-* and *-s-*) or on a double consonant (just make it single),
- if there's a long vowel in the infinitive - like the *-o-* in *lopen* ('to walk') - you have to double it to keep it long - like *loop*,
- now you have the form for the first person singular,
- for second and third person singular, add a *-t*,
- however, you don't have a double *-t-* at the end of a verb: *eet* does not get an additional *-t* in *jij eet*.
- for plurals, just use the infinitive form, so including the *-en*,
- for *jij* there's something exceptional happening when subject and verb are switched (inversion): the form loses the *-t*. So, for *schrijven* ('to write') it would be:
jij schrijft - schrijf jij
This happens only for *jij* or *je*, not for *u*, *hij*, *zij* and *het*: they keep their *-t*.

Here are a few regular verbs: *fietsen* (to ride a bicycle), *geloven* (to believe - watch what happens to the *-o-* and the *-v-*), *stoppen* (to stop) and *eten* (to eat - no extra *-t* here)

Text 6.3 - Present - regular verbs

infinitive	fietsen	geloven	stoppen	eten
ik	fiets	geloof	stop	eet
jij	fietst	gelooft	stopt	eet
u	fietst	gelooft	stopt	laat
hij/zij/het	fietst	gelooft	stopt	eet
wij	fietsen	geloven	stoppen	eten
jullie	fietsen	geloven	stoppen	eten
zij	fietsen	geloven	stoppen	eten

The irregular verbs *kunnen*, *zullen*, *willen* and *mogen* look like this:

Text 6.4 - Present - irregular verbs

infinitive	kunnen	zullen	willen	mogen
ik	kan	zal	wil	mag
jij	kan/kunt	zal/zult	wil/wilt	mag
u	kan/kunt	zal/zult	wil/wilt	mag
hij/zij/het	kan	zal	wil	mag
wij	kunnen	zullen	willen	mogen
jullie	kunnen	zullen	willen	mogen
zij	kunnen	zullen	willen	mogen

So, for three of the verbs there are two forms you can choose for second person singular. Nevertheless, it's easiest to remember just that you can use *kan*, *zal*, *wil* en *mag* for all singulars.

Vocabulary

<i>de appelsap</i>	the appeljuice
<i>de dienst</i>	the service
<i>(de) eerste</i>	first
<i>eten</i>	to eat
<i>fietsen</i>	to ride a bicycle
<i>geloven</i>	to believe
<i>kunnen</i>	to can
<i>links</i>	left
<i>linksaf</i>	to the left
<i>mij</i>	me
<i>moeten</i>	to must, to have to
<i>pardon</i>	(I beg your) pardon
<i>recht</i>	straight
<i>rechtdoor</i>	straight on
<i>rechts</i>	right (direction)
<i>rechtsaf</i>	to the right
<i>schrijven</i>	to write
<i>het stoplicht</i>	the traffic light
<i>stoppen</i>	to stop
<i>het toilet</i>	the toilet
<i>uw</i>	your
<i>vertellen</i>	to tell
<i>vragen</i>	to ask
<i>weg</i>	the road, way
<i>weten</i>	to know
<i>zoeken</i>	to look for
<i>zullen</i>	to shall, will

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study:
 - Grammar pages: *Verbs- present*
 - Lists and sounds: *Showing the way*
- You can exercise giving directions by trying to describe the way to your work, the nearest bus station, the nearest supermarket and the post office in Dutch.
- Try to make a habit of giving all the forms in the present tense for every new verb you learn (kijken - ik kijk - jij kijkt - hij/zij kijkt - wij kijken - ...). You might also give all these forms in an inverted sequence (kijken - kijk ik? - kijk jij? - ...).

Lesson 7 - *Ga je mee?*

Intro This lesson teaches you how to invite someone to go out and how to respond to an invitation. Furthermore, you'll be introduced to the past and perfect tense (both regular and irregular) and to separable verbs.

If you feel like going out and you like to invite someone to come along, there are a few phrases you could use:

Text 7.1 - *Zullen we ...*

- Zullen we naar de bioscoop gaan?
- Ga je mee naar het theater?
- Ga je mee iets drinken?
- Heb je zin om naar een concert te gaan?
- Laten we vanavond uitgaan.

You can translate *Zullen we* bij 'Shall we...' and *Laten we...* by 'Let's...', but the other phrases are a bit more difficult.

Ga je mee translated word by word would be 'Go you along'. If it's combined with an activity in the form of a verb, the verb is simply the infinitive and you do not need a preposition. This results in a type of phrase you hear a lot in Dutch, for the Dutch make verbs out of a lot of activities. This often surprises English speakers. For example, inviting someone to go and play tennis, have lunch or enjoy a picnic would be:

- *Ga je mee tennissen?*
- *Ga je mee lunchen?*
- *Ga je mee picknicken?*

If someone invites you like this and you can't accept, you could simply say *ik kan niet* ('I can't') or *Nee, sorry, ik moet...* ('No, sorry, I have to ...') and pick whatever you need:

- ... *mijn haar wassen*
- ... *naar de Nederlandse les*
- ... *babysitten*
- ... *huiswerk maken*
- ... *vroeg naar bed*
- ... *naar de verjaardag van mijn tante*

Of course, you can also accept an invitation, for example with an enthusiastic 'Ja, leuk!', 'Graag' or 'Doen we!'.

Here's a complete conversation on this theme:

Text 7.2 - Naar de film

- Heb je zin om naar de film te gaan?
- Welke film?
- Die nieuwe film van Paul Verhoeven.
- Ja, leuk! Wanneer?
- Morgenavond?
- Nee, sorry, morgenavond kan ik niet.
- Zaterdagavond dan misschien?
- Even kijken ... ja, dan kan ik wel.
- Goed! Hoe laat spreken we af?
- Om 8 uur?
- Prima. Waar? Bij café Helmers?
- Goed. Afsproken.
- Zal ik kaartjes reserveren?
- Ja, doe jij dat maar.

The word *Afsproken* ('agreed') is the **past participle** of an **irregular** and **separable verb**. This looks like a lot of grammar, but it still fits in one chapter: below here, all this is going to be explained.

On 'talking about the past': you can do this in Dutch like you can do it in English: by using the past tense and by using the perfect tense. And the verbs you use for this can be regular or irregular.

First the regular ones. For finding the right form for these, you use the first person singular in present (mostly the infinitive form without *-en*). So for *fietsen*, you take *fiets* and for *rennen* you take *ren* (see the previous chapter for remarks on double vowels or consonants and on what happens to *-v-* and *-z-*).

And this is what happens to these verbs in the past (yellow) and perfect (blue) tense:

Text 7.3 - Past and perfect - regular verbs

infinitive	fietsen	rennen
ik	fietste	rende
jij	fietste	rende
u	fietste	rende
hij/zij/het	fietste	rende
wij	fietsten	renden
jullie	fietsten	renden
zij	fietsten	renden

ik	heb / ben	gefietst
ik	heb / ben	gerend

So, the verb *fietsen* gets *-de(n)* for the past and *ge-* plus *-d* for the perfect tense, while *rennen* gets *-te(n)* for the past and *ge-* plus *-t* for the perfect tense. The thing that happens to *fietsen* happens to all the regular verbs that end on *-t*, *-k*, *-f*, *-s*, *-ch* and *-p* when the *-en* is taken of the infinitive (to remember these, the Dutch use the word '*kofschip*' and what happens to *rennen*, happens to the rest of the verbs.

The form of the verb used in the perfect tense is called the past participle. This form - used together with *hebben*, *zijn* or *worden* ('to be', 'to become') - usually starts with *ge-*, but not always: if a verb (already) starts with non-seperable prefixes like *ge-*, *her-*, *be-*, *ver-*, *ont-* or *mis-*, it does not get (an additional) *ge-*.

Unfortunately the verbs that are used most, are irregular (same as in English...), and you have to learn those one by one from the list at the grammar pages.

On the other hand, because they're used that much, most students develop a kind of intuition on irregular verbs even before they learned the whole list. This probably has to do with the fact that there are still some regularities:

- verbs with the same vowels often have the same conjugation (*blijven*, *bleef*, *gebleven* - *krijgen*, *kreeg*, *gekregen* - *kijken*, *keek*, *gekeken*),
- most past participles get *-en*.

A lot of regular and irregular verbs get prefixes in Dutch and mostly those prefixes are to be seperated (and put at the end of the phrase) in simple present and past. These prefixes often change the meaning of a verb quite drastic, but they don't change the conjugation.

A few examples: *nakijken* ('to check'), *doorgaan* ('to continue') and *opstaan* ('to stand up, to get up, to rise').

Text 7.4 - Seperable verbs

infinitive	nakijken
present	ik kijk de tekst na
past	ik keek de tekst na
perfect	ik heb de tekst nagekeken
infinitive	doorgaan
present	wij gaan niet door
past	wij gingen niet door
perfect	wij zijn niet doorgegaan
infinitive	opstaan
present	hij staat om 7 uur op
past	hij stond om 7 uur op
perfect	hij is om 7 uur opgestaan

So: if separated from the verb, the prefix usually comes at the end of the sentence and when reunited with the verb in the past participle (usually the form starting with *ge-*), the two are written as one again.

By the way, the prefix always get an emphasis in the verb (***door****gaan*) or in the sentence (*Hij gaat niet **door***). Only non-seperable prefixes do not get any emphasis.

Vocabulary

<i>afspreken</i>	to agree
<i>babysitten</i>	to babysit
<i>het bed</i>	the bed
<i>de bioscoop</i>	the cinema
<i>het café</i>	the pub
<i>het concert</i>	the concert
<i>dan</i>	than, then
<i>de film</i>	the movie
<i>gaan</i>	to go
<i>het haar</i>	the hair
<i>het huiswerk</i>	the homework
<i>het kaartje</i>	the ticket, the card
<i>de les</i>	the lesson
<i>leuk</i>	nice, cute
<i>lopen</i>	to walk
<i>lunchen</i>	to have lunch
<i>maken</i>	to make
<i>mee/met</i>	with, along
<i>misschien</i>	maybe, perhaps
<i>naar</i>	to, at
<i>nieuw</i>	new
<i>picknicken</i>	to have a picnic
<i>rennen</i>	to run
<i>reserveren</i>	to book
<i>spelen</i>	to play
<i>tennissen</i>	to play tennis
<i>het theater</i>	the theater
<i>uitgaan</i>	to go out
<i>vroeg</i>	early
<i>wassen</i>	to wash
<i>de zin</i>	the desire, the sentence

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study
 - Grammar pages: *Verbs - past*
 - Grammar pages: *Verbs - perfect*
 - Grammar pages: *Irregular verbs*
 - Grammar pages: *Exercises - Verbs*
 - Grammar pages: *On separable and non-separable verbs (+ exercises)*
- You could exercise inviting someone by finding another student and inviting him/her to the theater, movies, etcetera. You could agree that the invited person turns down the invitation with a reasonable excuse.
- Try to exercise past and perfect tenses by changing present tense sentences you hear into past and perfect.

Lesson 8 - *Momentje...*

Intro This lesson teaches you how to place and accept phone calls. There's also some information on postal services in the Netherlands. Furthermore, you'll learn how to make plurals and you'll get some theory on passive sentences.

The first thing you should know about phoning in the Netherlands is that a lot of Dutch people find it quite rude that some people answer the phone without saying their names. So don't answer with *Hallo, Ja?* or with your phone number, but with *Met xxx, U spreekt met xxx* or *xxx, goedemorgen* (or *-middag* or *-avond*).

Text 8.1 - *Met Kees Vermeulen...*

- Met Kees Vermeulen, goedenavond.
- Goedenavond, met Katja.
- Ha, dag Katja. Alles goed?
- Ja hoor, prima. En met jou?
- Uitstekend.
- Zeg, is Ineke er ook?
- Ik zal even kijken. Momentje ...
- ... nee, het spijt me, Ineke is net weg.
- Weet je ook hoe laat ze thuis is?
- Ik heb geen idee.
- Kun je vragen of ze me terugbelt?
- Ja, dat is goed.
- Ik ben tot twaalf uur wakker.
- Ik zal het doorgeven
- Goed, bedankt.
- Graag gedaan hoor. Dag Katja.
- Tot ziens.

It's quite common to ask *Is ... er ook*, while *ook* just means 'too, also' and does not really make any more sense than saying *Tot ziens* at the end of a telephone conversation with someone you'll probably **hear** before you **see** him or her. In the case of *ook*: just don't translate it if it doesn't make any sense - it means something like 'by the way...'. In case of *tot ziens*: to most Dutch people, it seems less silly to use this common way of saying goodbye, than to use something like 'tot horens' - though some Dutch people do use this.

Just to check if you got it right, here's the translation:

- (you're speaking) with Kees Vermeulen, good evening.
- Good evening, (you're speaking) with Katja.

- Hey, hi Katja. Everything o.k.?
- Yes, fine. And you?
- Excellent.
- Is Ineke there?
- I'll take a look. One moment ...
- ... no, I'm sorry. Ineke has just gone out.
- Do you know what time she's (going to be) home?
- I've no idea.
- Can you ask if she (could) return my call ('calls me back')
- Yes, that's o.k.
- I'll be awake untill twelve.
- I'll pass it (the message) on.
- O.k., thanks.
- My pleasure. Bye Katja.
- Bye.

If you call a company, of course the phone is picked up with the company name, often followed by the name of the department (afdeling) and person. If you want to know what phrases to use to get to someone in a company, go to 'lists & sounds' and click on 'Phoning'.

Up until the 1980's telephone and mail services were exclusively delivered by the Dutch PTT. At the end of the 80's, this company was completely privatized (so it's no longer related to the government) and the telephone and postal services were separated: the phone company is now called *PTT Telecom* and the postal services are into *KPN (Koninklijke PTT Nederland)*.

As far as phoning is concerned, there is quite some competition now. But for regular postal services there hardly is, except for express mail. The regular mail boxes are emptied by KPN and the stamps on the letters are sold by the same company.

Some mail related words and phrases you might need:

Text 8.2 - Mail

• het postkantoor	the post office
• Mag ik tien postzegels van 80 cent?	Can I have ten 80 cent stamps?
• Deze brieven moeten naar het buitenland.	These letters are to be going abroad
• Wat voor postzegel moet er op deze brief?	What stamp should be on this letter?
• Ik wil dit pakje aangetekend versturen.	I want to send this package by registered mail
• per luchtpost	by air mail
• per expresse	by express mail
• drukwerk	printed paper
• port betaald	postage paid
• de postbus	P.O. Box

• Op brievenbussen:	On postboxes:
• streekpost	local mail
• overige bestemmingen	other destinations
• Hoe laat wordt de brievenbus geleegd?	At what time the postbox is being emptied?

In the phrases above, you can see the major two different kinds of plurals: on -s and on -en in *postzegels* and *bestemmingen*. Here's the main rule for plurals - for more details, please study the pages on plural in the grammar section:

- Words that end on a syllable that includes a 'toneless -e' (like in *de*), usually get an -s:
 - *de tafel* - *de tafels*
 - *de vader* - *de vaders*
 - *de haven* - *de havens*
- Words that end on a vocal usually get an -s with an apostrophe (') to keep the sound 'long':
 - *de taxi* - *de taxi's*
 - *de agenda* - *de agenda's*
 - *de radio* - *de radio's*
- Other words usually get -en:
 - *het boek* - *de boeken*
 - *de krant* - *de kranten*
 - *de vrouw* - *de vrouwen*

In text 2, this sentence may have drawn your attention:

Hoe laat wordt de brievenbus geleegd?

This is called a 'passive construction'. In English you use forms like '... is being...', '...has been ...', when in Dutch you use the verb *worden* (more or less 'to become') or the verb *zijn* (for the perfect tense).

Here's an overview, comparing active phrases to passive equivalents. What happens in the first three sets is, that a dog is biting a man - in the last three, the man beats the dog:

Text 8.3 - Active & passive

Active	Passive
• De hond bijt de man	De man wordt gebeten
• De hond beet de man	De man werd gebeten
• De hond heeft de man gebeten	De man is gebeten
• De man slaat de hond	De hond wordt geslagen
• De man sloeg de hond	De hond werd geslagen
• De man heeft de hond geslagen	De hond is geslagen

The passive sentences would be translated in English as follows:

- De man wordt gebeten - The man is being bitten.
- De man werd gebeten - The man was being bitten.
- De man is gebeten - The man has been bitten.
- De hond wordt geslagen - The dog is being beaten.
- De hond werd geslagen - The dog was being beaten.
- De hond is geslagen - The dog has been beaten.

Vocabulary

<i>aantekenen</i>	to register (mail)
<i>de agenda</i>	the agenda, planner
<i>de bestemming</i>	the destination
<i>betalen</i>	to pay
<i>bijten</i>	to bite
<i>de brievenbus</i>	the postbox
<i>het buitenland</i>	foreign countries
<i>het drukwerk</i>	printed paper
<i>de expresse</i>	express mail
<i>de haven</i>	the harbour
<i>de hond</i>	the dog
<i>het idee</i>	the idea
<i>leggen</i>	to empty
<i>de luchtpost</i>	air mail
<i>het moment</i>	the moment
<i>net</i>	just
<i>ook</i>	also
<i>overig</i>	other
<i>het pakje</i>	the packet
<i>per</i>	per, by
<i>de port</i>	the postage
<i>de postbus</i>	the P.O. box
<i>het postkantoor</i>	the post office
<i>de postzegel</i>	the stamp
<i>de radio</i>	the radio
<i>slaan</i>	to beat
<i>de streekpost</i>	local mail
<i>de tafel</i>	the table
<i>de taxi</i>	the taxi
<i>terug</i>	back, returned
<i>thuis</i>	home, at home
<i>uitstekend</i>	excellent
<i>de vader</i>	the father
<i>versturen</i>	to send away
<i>wakker</i>	awake
<i>weg</i>	away

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study
 - Lists & sounds: *Phoning*
 - Grammar pages: *On plural (+ exercises)*
- You could exercise phoning by finding another student and practice simple phone calls in Dutch.
- Try to exercise passive sentence constructions by changing as many active phrases to passive ones for a while.

Lesson 9 - *Invullen in blokletters*

Intro This lesson teaches you how to give detailed information about yourself (especially when using forms). You'll also learn about reflexive verbs and you'll get a complete overview of all kinds of pronouns.

Civil servants (*ambtenaren*) in the Netherlands can sometimes be very helpful to foreigners, trying to speak clearly and use as little difficult expressions as they can. But mostly they're like most of their colleagues in other countries: having little patience (while asking a lot ...), speaking very quick, using a lot of expressions that are even hard to understand by Dutch people.

It helps though, if you know what they could be saying or asking. Here's a standard kind of conversation to give you a few words and phrases that might be of some help:

Text 9.1 - *Wat is uw naam?*

- Wat is uw naam?
- Smits, Karel Anton Smits.
- Kunt u uw achternaam voor me spellen?
- Ja, s-m-i-t-s
- Dank u wel. Wat is uw adres?
- Vermeerstraat 12, Amsterdam.
- En de postcode?
- 1016 XS
- Wanneer bent u geboren?
- Ik ben geboren op 20 augustus 1956
- Wat is uw beroep?
- Ik ben autoverkoper.
- Bent u getrouwd?
- Ja
- Heeft u kinderen?
- Ja, ik heb een zoon en een dochter.
- Wat is uw nationaliteit?
- Ik ben Nederlander.

For spelling your name, it's important that you studied the alphabet (see pronunciation page in the grammar section), for errors are easily made (especially on a, e and i).

Of course you don't have that problem when filling in (/out) a form. Further down you'll find an example of a form with the data of the above mentioned Mr. Smits. But first some notes on these data:

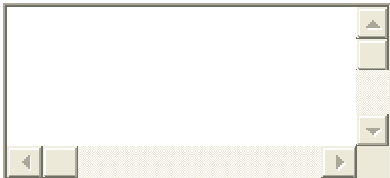
- Note that in Dutch you write or mention **day-month-year** when a date is asked.
- Try to remember *Ik ben geboren...* as well as you can: a lot of English speakers make embarrassing mistakes on this phrase ("*Ik was geboord*" ...).
- Addresses in the Netherlands are written as follows:
Name
Street Number
Zipcode City
- Couples that are *saamenwonend* ('living together') have practically the same rights and duties as those who are married. And for gay or lesbian couples it's the same story (they can also get married in the Netherlands).
- A girorekening (Postbank account) has less numbers than a bankrekening (regular bank account) but furthermore nowadays it's the same type of account with the same possibilities.

Text 9.2 - Formulier

Achternaam	:	Smits
Voornamen	:	Karel, Anton
Adres	:	Vermeerstraat 12
Postcode	:	1016 XS
Woonplaats	:	Amsterdam
Telefoon	:	020-6112243
Fax	:	020-6694989
Beroep	:	Autoverkoper
Werkgever	:	Van Sorge Automobielen BV
Nationaliteit	:	Nederlands
Geboortedatum	:	20-08-1956
Geboorteplaats	:	Amsterdam
Geboorteland	:	Nederland
Geslacht	:	man
Burgerlijke staat	:	gehuwd
Giro-/bankrekening	:	44.23.15.90
Kenteken van de auto	:	RH-60-FH

Ik wil me aanmelden als nieuw lid.

Ik wil informatie toegestuurd krijgen.

Opmerkingen : 

Plaats :

Datum :

Handtekening:

In the form above, there is one sentence that contains a reflexive verb: *Ik wil me wel/niet aanmelden als nieuw lid.* The infinitive here, is *zich aanmelden* (to check in, to register): if the dictionary states that *zich* ('oneself') belongs to a verb it means it's a reflexive one. This is a kind of verb that requires the subject to be an object too. In English, you can do this with some verbs (I'm washing myself, I find myself ..., I'm exerting myself), but in Dutch you have to do this to quite a lot of verbs.

A few examples:

- *zich herinneren* - to remember
- *zich schamen* - to be ashamed
- *zich vergissen* - to be mistaken
- *zich verheugen op* - to look forward to
- *zich voorstellen* - to imagine

Some other verbs can be reflexive: they require an object and this could be the subject. Examples:

- *(zich) bewegen* - to move
- *(zich) scheren* - to shave
- *(zich) wassen* - to wash

Here are some phrases with these verbs. Note that the reflexive pronoun is always placed after the first verb:

Text 9.3 - Reflexive verbs (examples)

Ik herinner me zijn naam niet.
Zij schaamde zich diep voor haar fout.
Hij heeft zich helemaal vergist.
Zij zal zich verheugen op haar huwelijk.
Kun je je voorstellen hoe zwaar zijn leven is?
Hij kan zich niet meer bewegen.
Zij heeft zich vandaag nog niet geschoren.
Hij wast zich elke ochtend.

The reflexive pronouns you need for the reflexive verbs are listed below. And while we're at it, we might as well take a look at object and possessive pronouns as well:

Text 9.4 - Pronouns

subject	object	possessive	reflexive
ik	mij	mijn	me
jij	jou	jouw	je
u	u	uw	zich
hij	hem	zijn	zich
zij	haar	haar	zich
het	het	zijn	zich
wij	ons	ons/onze	ons
jullie	jullie	jullie	je
zij	ze - hun	hun	zich

A few notes on this:

- Many pronouns have two versions: one for regular use and one to use if the pronoun has a specific emphasis (the 'proper' version):
 - *mij* and *mijn* are usually *me* and *m'n*
 - *jij*, *jou* and *jouw* are usually *je*
(*Herinner jij je jouw verjaardag?* - *Herinner je je je verjaardag?*)
 - *zijn* is usually *z'n*
 - *het* is usually *'t*
 - *zij* is usually *ze*
 - *wij* is usually *we*
- The same goes for *ze* and *hun* (object, third person plural): normally you would use *ze*, but if you need a special emphasis, you use *hun*.
- Officially, for object third person plural ('them') there are two forms: *hun* and *hen*. The grammar rules state that
 - *hen* should be used for direct object and after prepositions and
 - *hun* should be used for indirect object.

This is a purely artificial difference though: most Dutch people don't get it right - in colloquial Dutch *hun* is mostly used for all object forms.

- In spoken Dutch, you even hear *hun* being used as a subject form for third person plural. This is still considered absolutely wrong, though.
- The possessive *ons* is used for het-nouns (*ons huis*) and *onze* for de-nouns (*onze tuin*).

Vocabulary

<i>achter</i>	after, behind
<i>het adres</i>	the address
<i>de ambtenaar</i>	the civil servant
<i>de autoverkoper</i>	the car salesman
<i>het beroep</i>	the profession
<i>(zich) bewegen</i>	to move
<i>burgerlijk</i>	civil
<i>de datum</i>	the date
<i>de dochter</i>	the daughter
<i>elk</i>	each
<i>de fax</i>	the fax
<i>de fout</i>	the mistake
<i>de geboorte</i>	the birth
<i>geboren (ik ben...)</i>	born (I was)
<i>het geslacht</i>	the gender
<i>de handtekening</i>	the signature
<i>zich herinneren</i>	to remember
<i>het huwelijk</i>	the marriage
<i>het kenteken</i>	the (car) registration number
<i>het land</i>	the land, the country
<i>het leven</i>	life
<i>meer</i>	more, anymore
<i>de nationaliteit</i>	the nationality
<i>de Nederlander</i>	the Dutchman
<i>de plaats</i>	the place, also: the town
<i>de postcode</i>	the zipcode, postal code
<i>de rekening</i>	the account
<i>samenwonen</i>	to live together
<i>zich schamen</i>	to be ashamed
<i>(zich) scheren</i>	to shave
<i>spellen</i>	to spell
<i>de staat</i>	the state
<i>de telefoon</i>	the telephone
<i>trouwen</i>	to get married
<i>vandaag</i>	today
<i>zich vergissen</i>	to be mistaken
<i>de verjaardag</i>	the birthday
<i>zich verheugen op</i>	to look forward to
<i>zich voorstellen</i>	to imagine

<i>de werkgever</i>	the employer
<i>de woonplaats</i>	place of residence
<i>de zoon</i>	the son
<i>zwaar</i>	heavy, tough

More ...

- Grammar pages: *Pronunciation & spelling* (again)
 - Grammar pages: *Pronouns* (+ exercises)
 - Grammar pages: *Reflexive verbs* (+ exercises)
- Imagine some people around you - you can use some peaces of paper on which you can write their names: let there be one male, one female, one couple, one person you can be informal to and one you can be formal to. Now give everyone, including yourself, a book and then tell which book belong to who: *dit is mijn boek, dat is jouw boek, dat is uw boek, dat is zijn boek*

Now hand over a pen to every person and say what you do while you're doing it: *ik geef de pen aan jou, aan hem, aan haar...*

- Try to fill in the form above with your own data.

Lesson 10 - *Een beetje Nederlands*

Intro

This lesson teaches you a few expressions that you may need as soon as you try to talk Dutch to Dutch people. There's also some attention for comparatives and superlatives, and for opposites. Furthermore, you'll learn when to put a verb at the end of a phrase.

If you want to speak Dutch with a Dutch person, you often have to insist on this, because most Dutch people love to show how good their English is. Nevertheless, once they speak Dutch, you might suddenly find it quite hard to communicate, because they seem to forget that they're talking to a foreigner who's still in the process of learning Dutch. You might like to try one of these, then:

- *Langzaam!*
(*'Slowly!'*)
- *Kunt u alstublieft wat langzamer praten?*
(*'Can you please speak a bit slower?'*)
- *Wat zegt u?*
(*'What are you saying?'*)
- *Kunt u dat nog een keer zeggen?*
(*'Can you say that one more time?'*)

Nevertheless, Dutch people can be very helpful, once they know you're trying to learn their language and realize that speaking slow and clearly is important to you.

Here's a list of phrases you can use when practising your conversation skills:

Text 10.1 - *Spreekt u Nederlands?*

• Pardon meneer, spreekt u Nederlands?	Excuse me sir, do you speak Dutch?
• Ik spreek een klein beetje Nederlands.	I speak a little Dutch.
• Hoe zeg je dat in het Nederlands?	How do you say that in Dutch?
• Kunt u wat langzamer praten, alstublieft?	Can you speak a bit slower, please?
• Niet zo snel, alstublieft.	Not so fast, please.
• Kunt u wat harder praten?	Can you speak a bit louder?
• Ik begrijp u niet.	I don't understand (comprehend) you.
• Ik versta u niet.	I'm not understanding (hearing) you
• Wat betekent dat?	What does that mean?
• Wat bedoel je?	What do you mean?
• Dat meen je niet!	You don't mean it!

There are two English verbs that often cause misunderstandings when translated: 'to understand' and 'to mean'. That's why in the phrases above these verbs have been used subsequently:

- ***begrijpen*** is 'to understand' in the sense of 'to comprehend': *Ik begrijp het niet* could be translated as 'I don't get it'.
- ***verstaan*** is 'to understand' in the sense of to hear clear and loud enough: *Ik versta je niet* is said by someone who wants you to speak louder or clearer.
- ***betekenen*** is 'to mean' in the sense of 'to signify' or 'to be translated as': if you don't know the meaning of a word, you ask: *Wat betekent dat woord?*
- ***bedoelen*** is 'to mean' in the sense of 'to imply' or 'to intend': *Hij bedoelt het goed* means that 'He means well'.
- ***menen*** is to mean in the sense of 'to be serious': *Meen je dat?* is asked by someone who wants to know if you're being serious.

In the phrases above you can find what is called a comparative: ***langzamer***. The original form *langzaam* is extended with *-er* and because of the Dutch spelling rules (lesson 1) there's one *-a-* less.

Except for the one *-a-* thing, this is the same as what happens in English: 'thin-thinner' is in Dutch *dun-dunner* and even irregular forms are a lot alike: 'good-better' is in Dutch *goed-beter*.

And there's more good news, for the superlative is almost the same: in English you add *'-est'* ('thinnest'), in Dutch just *-st* (*dunst*). Usually the article *het* is used for the superlative (*Dit boek is **het** dunst*).

The only tricky thing, is that you have an extra *-d* if the word ends on a *-r*

More good news: the list of irregular ones is very short:

- goed-beter-best
- graag-liever-liefst
- veel-meer-meest
- weinig-minder-minst

Here's a list of examples, which is at the same time a list of opposites:

Text 10.2 - <i>Comperative & superlative</i>		
adverb	comperative	superlative
goedkoop	goedkoper	goedkoopst
duur	duurder	duurst
hoog	hoger	hoogst
laag	lager	laagst
groot	groter	grootst
klein	kleiner	kleinst
schoon	schoner	schoonst
vies	viezer	viest
mooi	mooier	mooist
lelijk	lelijker	lelijkst
oud	ouder	oudst
jong	jonger	jongst
kort	korter	kortst
lang	langer	langst
moeilijk	moeilijker	moeilijkst
(ge)makkelijk	(ge)makkelijker	(ge)makkelijkst
licht	lichter	lichtst
donker	donkerder	donkerst
zwaar	zwaarder	zwaarst
heet	heter	heetst
warm	warmer	warmst
koud	kouder	koudst
slim	slimmer	slimst
dom	dommer	domst
smal	smaller	smalst
breed	breder	breedst

One of the most difficult things to learn for English speakers, is putting the verb at the end of a phrase at the appropriate moment. Not that the rules are so hard, it's just that it feels weird as long as you're not used to it.

Let's take a look at these sentences:

1. 'I ask if he **speaks** Dutch with his friends'
*Ik vraag of hij Nederlands met zijn vrienden **spreekt**.*
2. 'He can't ride a bike because he **has had** an accident.'
*Hij kan niet fietsen omdat hij een ongeluk **heeft gehad**.*

Both sentences here are conjunctions: combinations of independent sentences. In the first sentence *Ik vraag ...* is one original sentence and *Hij spreekt Nederlands met zijn burens* is the other one. They're combined through the conjunctive word *of* and this word (when meaning 'if'), causes the verb(s) to be at the end.

In the second sentence the original sentences *Hij kan niet fietsen* and *Hij heeft een ongeluk gehad* are combined through the conjunctive word *omdat* ('because'), which also causes the verb(s) to be at the end.

In conjunctions like this, there are just a few conjunctive words that do not cause the verb(s) to be at the end:

- en ('and')
Ik kom thuis en het eten is klaar.
- maar ('but')
Ik kom thuis, maar het eten is nog niet klaar.
- want ('because')
Hij kan niet fietsen want hij heeft een ongeluk gehad
- of (when it means 'or')
Hij is thuis of hij is bij zijn moeder.
- dus (conclusive 'so')
Hij is niet thuis, dus hij is bij zijn moeder or
Hij is niet thuis, dus is hij bij zijn moeder

After these conjunctive words, you have a normal phrase or inversion, but not all verbs at the end.

Here's a little text with a lot of conjunctions. The conjunctive words are bold:

Text 10.3 - Conjunctions

Nederland is een land **dat** veel water heeft.

Vroeger was er zelfs nog meer water.

Dat kun je zien **als** je op een oude kaart kijkt.

Veel van het water op die oude kaart is nu land **omdat** de Nederlanders er "polders" van hebben gemaakt.

Als je in zo'n polder woont, dan woon je onder de zeespiegel.

Veel buitenlanders vinden dat geen prettig idee, **hoewel** er hoge dijken rond de polders liggen.

Vocabulary

<i>als</i>	if, when
<i>bedoelen</i>	to mean, to intend
<i>begrijpen</i>	to understand, to comprehend
<i>best</i>	best
<i>betekenen</i>	to mean
<i>beter</i>	better
<i>breed</i>	broad, large
<i>de buitenlander</i>	the foreigner
<i>de dijk</i>	the dike
<i>donker</i>	dark
<i>dun</i>	thin
<i>duur</i>	expensive
<i>het eten</i>	the meal, the food, dinner
<i>goedkoop</i>	cheap
<i>hard</i>	hard, loud
<i>heet</i>	hot
<i>hoewel</i>	although
<i>hoog</i>	high
<i>jong</i>	young
<i>de kaart</i>	the map, the card
<i>keer</i>	the time
<i>klaar</i>	ready
<i>kort</i>	short
<i>koud</i>	cold
<i>laag</i>	low
<i>lang</i>	long
<i>langzaam</i>	slow, slowly
<i>lelijk</i>	ugly
<i>licht</i>	light
<i>liefst</i>	most preferable
<i>liever</i>	rather
<i>liggen</i>	to lie
<i>makkelijk</i>	easy
<i>meest</i>	most
<i>menen</i>	to mean, to be serious
<i>minder</i>	less
<i>minst</i>	least
<i>de moeder</i>	the mother
<i>moeilijk</i>	difficult

<i>mooi</i>	beautiful
<i>Nederlands</i>	Dutch
<i>omdat</i>	because
<i>het ongeluk</i>	the accident
<i>onder</i>	under, below
<i>oud</i>	old
<i>de polder</i>	the reclaimed land
<i>praten</i>	to talk
<i>prettig</i>	pleasant
<i>rond</i>	round, around
<i>schoon</i>	clean
<i>slim</i>	clever, bright
<i>smal</i>	narrow, tight
<i>snel</i>	quick
<i>veel</i>	much
<i>verstaan</i>	understand
<i>vies</i>	dirty
<i>de vriend</i>	the friend
<i>vroeger</i>	formerly
<i>het water</i>	the water
<i>weinig</i>	little, few
<i>de zeespiegel</i>	sea level
<i>zelfs</i>	even

More ...

- Before you move on to the next chapter you should study
 - Grammar pages: *Constructing sentences (+ exercises)*
 - Grammar pages: *Comparative & superlative*
- You could exercise inviting someone by finding another student and inviting him/her to the theater, movies, etcetera. You could agree that the invited person turns down the invitation with a reasonable excuse.
- Try to exercise past and perfect tenses by changing present tense sentences you hear into past and perfect.

Intermediate course

The intermediate lessons have the following parts:

- Plain text: a Dutch text - telling you something about life in the Netherlands.
- Listen: a RealAudio soundfile with the same text - you can listen to it while looking at the Dutch text, the English translation (see below) or both.
- Translation: the English translation of the text
- Text plus translation: both Dutch and English versions of the text.
- Text with gaps: a self grading, so called *cloze test* of the text.
- Exercise on grammar/vocabulary
- Test level 2 #...: a self-grading multiple choice test, more or less related to the text.

Lesson 1: Dit is Nederland

Dit is Nederland.



Nederland is een klein land in Europa.

De hoofdstad van Nederland is Amsterdam, maar de regering van Nederland vind je in Den Haag.

Nederland grenst aan Duitsland, België en Engeland. Nederland heeft twaalf provincies:

1. Groningen
2. Friesland
3. Drenthe
4. Overijssel
5. Flevoland
6. Gelderland
7. Utrecht
8. Noord-Holland
9. Zuid-Holland
10. Zeeland
11. Noord-Brabant
12. Limburg

De mensen in Nederland spreken Nederlands. Veel mensen spreken ook Engels en Duits.

Nederland heeft geen bergen. Maar er is veel water. Heel veel water.

Er wonen ongeveer 15 miljoen mensen in Nederland. De meeste van hen wonen in het westen van het land. Daar liggen de steden zo dicht bij elkaar dat ze soms samen als één stad met de naam 'de Randstad' worden aangeduid.

These are the Netherlands

These are the Netherlands

The Netherlands are a small country in Europe.

The capital of the Netherlands is Amsterdam, but you'll find the government of the Netherlands in the Hague.

The Netherlands shares borders with Germany, Belgium and England. The Netherlands have twelve provinces:

1. Groningen
2. Friesland
3. Drenthe
4. Overijssel
5. Flevoland
6. Gelderland
7. Utrecht
8. Noord-Holland
9. Zuid-Holland
10. Zeeland
11. Noord-Brabant
12. Limburg

People in The Netherlands speak Dutch. Many people also speak English and German.

The Netherlands have no mountains. But there is much water. Very much water.

There are approximately 15 million people living in the Netherlands. Most of them live in the West of the country. There the cities are situated so close to each other that they're sometimes seen as one city, being named 'de Randstad' (the belt city).

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - What are the plurals and diminutives?

Example:

- de man - *de mannen* - *het mannetje*

1. het land -
2. de stad -
3. de berg -
4. de vrouw -
5. het boek -
6. het huis -
7. de druif -
8. de boot -
9. de deur -
10. de radio -

Part 2 - What are the infinitives and what do they mean?

Examples:

- ik zie *zien* - *to see*
- gelopen *lopen* - *to walk*

1. het land grenst
2. hij ligt
3. ik vind
4. ik kijk
5. aangeduid
6. het wordt
7. hij heeft
8. jij leest
9. gedaan
10. zij schrijft

Lesson 2: Heb je al een fiets?



John Dag Heidi.

Heidi Hé, dag John. Hoe is het met je?

John Prima. En met jou?

Heidi Goed, hoor. Ik ben alleen doodmoe van het fietsen.

John Ja, wat een wind hè?

Heidi Nou. Zeg, en hoe gaat het op je werk?

John Druk, druk, druk. Ik heb helemaal geen tijd meer voor leuke dingen.

Heidi Kijk je wel een beetje uit? Ik bedoel, je moet ook wat ontspannen, hoor.

John Ja, ik weet het, maar je weet hoe dat gaat.

Heidi Doe je nog wel aan sport?

John Nou, eh, niet echt.

Heidi En hoe ga je naar je werk? Heb je al een fiets?

John Nee, ik sta nog steeds liever in de file.

Heidi Ja, kijk, je moet het natuurlijk zelf weten, maar ik maak me wel een beetje zorgen om je.

John Ach, lieve Heidi, dat is echt niet nodig. Maar ik moet nu toch echt verder, anders ben ik te laat.

Heidi Zul je voorzichtig rijden?

John Tuurlijk.

Heidi Groetjes thuis!

John Doe ik. Jij ook.

Do you already have a bicycle?

John Hello Heidi.

Heidi Hé, hello John. How are you?

John Fine. And you?

Heidi I'm ok (*don't translate 'hoor'...*). I'm just very tired of cycling.

John Yes, it's quite windy, isn't it?

Heidi Well, yes. Hey, and how are things at work?

John Busy, busy, busy. I really don't have time for enjoyable things anymore.

Heidi Would you please take care? I mean, you also have to relax.

John Yes, I know. But you know how things go.

Heidi Are you into some kind of sport?

John Well, not really.

Heidi And how are you travelling to work? Do you already have a bicycle?

John No. I rather get stuck in traffic (*file: traffic jam, queue of cars*).

Heidi Yeah well, look, of course it's your decision, but I do feel worried about you quite a bit.

John Oh well, dear Heidi, that's really not necessary. But now I do really have to move on.

Heidi Will you drive carefully?

John Of course.

Heidi My regards to your family!

John I'll do that. You too.

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - Change these sentences to past tense (all verbs are irregular) and start with the underlined word (watch the sequence...):

Example:

- Ik ga woensdag naar de markt.
 - *Woensdag ging ik naar de markt*
1. Jan is vaak ziek.
 2. Hij komt soms in de kerk.
 3. Ze hebben in Amsterdam een groot museum.
 4. Hij luistert graag naar klassieke muziek.
 5. Hij ziet een vogel in de tuin.
 6. Hij krijgt een fiets van zijn vader.
 7. Zij gaat graag naar buiten.
 8. Wij moeten eigenlijk naar huis.
 9. U eet misschien niet gezond.
 10. Wij zingen samen een Sinterklaaslied.

Part 2 - What are the opposites?

Examples:

- lang - kort
1. dik - ...
 2. breed - ...
 3. hoog - ...
 4. klein - ...
 5. veel - ...
 6. altijd - ...
 7. donker - ...
 8. zwaar - ...
 9. rijk - ...
 10. goed - ...

Lesson 3: Nieuwe schoenen



Verkoopster Goedemiddag, kan ik u helpen?

Marcel Ja, nou, eh, ik ben op zoek naar een paar nieuwe schoenen.

Verkoopster Aan wat voor schoenen denkt u?

Marcel Nou, ze moeten wel goed voor m'n voeten zijn. En zwart. En een beetje klassiek model, graag.

Verkoopster Wat vindt u van dit model?

Marcel Ja, niet zo gek.

Verkoopster Wat voor maat draagt u?

Marcel Vierenveertig.

Verkoopster Momentje, ik zal even wat voor u halen.

Marcel Ok

...

Verkoopster Zo. Ik heb hier dat model in uw maat en ook nog een ander model.

Marcel Ah, die zijn ook mooi, zeg. Mag ik die meteen even proberen?

Verkoopster Natuurlijk. Gaat u maar even zitten.

...

Verkoopster Hoe zitten ze?

Marcel Nou, ze lopen echt heel lekker. Hoe duur zijn ze?

Verkoopster fl 219,50

Marcel Tja, dat is niet goedkoop, maar goed. Ik neem ze toch maar.

Verkoopster U zult er zeker geen spijt van krijgen, meneer.

Marcel Eh, ik kan toch wel pinnen hier?

Verkoopster Natuurlijk.

New shoes

Saleswoman Good afternoon, can I help you?

Marcel Yeah, eh well, I'm looking for a new pair of shoes.

Saleswoman What kind of shoes are you thinking of?

Marcel Well, they have to be good for my feet. And black. And the model should be quite classic.

Saleswoman What do you think of this model?

Marcel Yes, it's not bad, really.

Saleswoman What size are you wearing?

Marcel 44

Saleswoman One moment. I'll get you something.

Marcel Ok

...

Saleswoman Right. Here I have that model in your size and also a different model.

Marcel Ah, they're also quite pretty (*don't translate 'zeg'*). Can I try them on straight away?

Saleswoman Of course. Please take a seat.

...

Saleswoman How do they fit?

Marcel Well, they walk quite comfortable. HHow much are they?

Saleswoman fl 219,50

Marcel Well, that's not really cheap. But still, I'll take them.

Saleswoman You will surely not regret it, sir.

Marcel Eh, I can 'pin' (*use a bankcard with pincode*) here, can't I?

Saleswoman Of course.

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - Combine these sentences, using the (conjunction word):

Example:

- Ik ben te laat. Mijn auto is stuk. (omdat)
 - *Ik ben te laat omdat mijn auto stuk is*
1. Wij gaan naar het strand. Het is mooi weer. (als)
 2. Hij heeft weinig geld. Hij heeft geen werk. (omdat)
 3. Hij rookt. Hij zit op de fiets. (terwijl)
 4. Hij at een banaan. Hij luisterde naar de radio. (toen)
 5. Hij ziet niets. Hij heeft zijn bril niet op. (want)
 6. Hij gaat naar huis. Ik blijf hier. (en)
 7. Zij kan niet komen. Morgen kan ze misschien wel. (maar)
 8. Hij heeft weinig geld. Hij werkt hard. (hoewel)
 9. Ze gaat naar de kapper. Ze gaat naar haar werk (voordat)
 10. Wij eten ijs. Wij eten soep. (nadat)

Part 2 - Which word doesn't belong here?

Example:

- hond - kat - boom - koe
 - *boom* (not an animal)
1. rood - groen - kaas - blauw
 2. lopen - fietsen - rijden - eten
 3. liggen - leren - staan - zitten
 4. steen - hout - ijzer - boek
 5. ijzer - goud - hout - koper
 6. voet - hand - schoen - knie
 7. hoed - klomp - schoen - laars
 8. broek - jas - schoen - pen
 9. mooi - leuk - lekker - lelijk
 10. nieuw - land - provincie – stad

Lesson 4: Twee zones, drie strippen



John Zeg, jij reist toch wel eens met de tram?

Heidi Elke dag, zowat.

John Kun jij me dan eens uitleggen hoe ik die strippenkaart moet gebruiken?

Heidi De strippenkaart? Weet je dat niet?

John Nee, ik ga nooit met de tram.

Heidi Kom je nooit in de stad, dan?

John Nee, bijna nooit. En als ik de stad in ga, dan ga ik met de auto.

Heidi Maar dan betaal je een fortuin aan parkeergeld!

John Ja, inderdaad. Daarom neem ik vanavond dus een keer de tram.

Heidi Je gaat de stad in vanavond?

John Ja, ik ga wat eten met iemand van m'n werk.

Heidi Leuk. Nou, let op. Je moet eerst uitzoeken hoeveel zones je reist. Dat kun je zien op de plattegrond bij de tramhalte.

John En elke zone is één strip?

Heidi Ja, maar je moet daar altijd nog een strip bijtellen. Dus als je twee zones reist, is dat drie strippen.

John En die moet ik alle drie stempelen?

Heidi Nee, je stempelt alleen de laatste strip. Kijk, je vouwt de kaart en duwt hem in de automaat. Die stempelt dan bovenop de strip.

John Ah. Ik snap het. Bedankt!

Heidi Graag gedaan. En veel plezier vanavond!

Two zones, three strips

John Hey, you do travel by tram sometimes, don't you?

Heidi Almost every day.

John So can you explain to me how I have to use that 'strippenkaart' (public transport card with 'strips' to be stamped)?

Heidi The 'strippenkaart'? Don't you know that?

John No, I never go by tram.

Heidi So you never go into town (here: the city centre)?

John No, almost never. And when I do go into town, I go by car.

Heidi But then you spend a fortune on parking costs!

John Yes, indeed. Therefore I'll take the tram for once, tonight.

Heidi You're going into town tonight?

John Yes, I'm going out for dinner with somebody I know from work.

Heidi Great. Well, listen closely. First you have to find out how many zones you're travelling. You can see that on the city map at the tram stop.

John And every zone is one strip?

Heidi Yes, but you always have to add one strip. So if you travel two zones, that's three strips.

John And I have to stamp all three of them?

Heidi No, you just stamp the last strip. Look, you fold the card and push it into the stamping machine. This machine stamps right on the strip.

John Ah. I get it. Thanks!

Heidi My pleasure. And have fun, tonight

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - *Fill in the right form of the (verb), both in present and past:*

Example:

- Ik (gaan) naar het station.
 - *ga - ging*
1. Gerard (komen) altijd te laat.
 2. (lopen) je naar je werk?
 3. Hij (kijken) de hele avond naar de televisie.
 4. Ik (eten) dinsdag bij Karin.
 5. Hij (moeten) naar de wc.
 6. Jij (mogen) niet in die kamer komen.
 7. (hebben) hij veel geld?
 8. Nicole (werken) de hele dag.
 9. (spreken) u Nederlands?
 10. Hij (drinken) altijd bier.

Part 2 - *Fill in the right preposition.*

Example:

- Ik zit ... een stoel.
 - Ik zit *op* een stoel
1. Ik fiets ... school.
 2. Ik geef het boek ... de leraar.
 3. Een kelder zit ... de grond.
 4. Ik werk ... IBM.
 5. Ik drink wijn ... het eten.
 6. Het is twee graden .../... nul.
 7. De boeken staan ... de kast.
 8. U spreekt ... Karel de Groot.
 9. Ik woon ... 1991 in Amsterdam.
 10. Jaques komt ... Zwitserland.

Lesson 5: Gefeliciteerd met je vriendin!



Heidi Ha die John. Zeg, harstikke gefeliciteerd met je vriendin!

John Ja, dank je wel. Heel lief van je. Maar eerlijk gezegd: ik vind het nog steeds gek.

Heidi Gek?

John Ja, dat Nederlanders altijd iedereen feliciteren als er iemand jarig is.

Heidi Doen ze dat in jouw land niet?

John Nee, natuurlijk niet. Wij feliciteren alleen degene die jarig is.

Heidi Tja, nou, nu je het zegt. Het is inderdaad wel een beetje vreemd.

John Maar weet je wat ik wel leuk vind? Die bloemen!

Heidi Hoe bedoel je?

John Nou kijk, als je iemand iets wilt geven en je kunt niets bedenken, dan geef je gewoon een bos bloemen.

Heidi Dat is inderdaad wel makkelijk, ja. Maar vertel eens, wat vind je nog meer vreemd aan Nederlanders?

John Oh, daar kan ik wel een boek over schrijven. Over hoe jullie patat eten, over jullie fietsen, over jullie politieke partijen, jullie wc's, jullie tolerantie ...

Heidi Ach, ik weet niet of wij zo tolerant zijn. Ik moet toegeven dat het er wel vaak op lijkt of we dat zijn, maar misschien is dat ook wel gewoon onverschilligheid.

John Denk je dat?

Heidi Het interesseert ons niet wat iemand gelooft, wat iemands sexuele voorkeur is, wat iemand rookt of drinkt, zolang iemand maar betaalt.

John En weet je wat het meest interessant is aan Nederlanders?

Heidi Nou?

John Hun zelfkritiek.

Congratualations on your girlfriend!

Heidi Hey yo John. Lot's of congratualations on your girlfriend!

John Yes, thank's a lot. Very sweet of you. But to be honest: I still find it weird.

Heidi Weird?

John Yes, that Dutch people always congratulate everyone when someone is having birthday.

Heidi Don't they do that in your country?

John No, of course not. We congratualate only the one who's having birthday.

Heidi Yes, well, know that you mention it. It's quite weird indeed.

John But you know what I like? Those flowers!

Heidi What do you mean?

John Well, look, if you want to give someone something and you can't think of something, you just give a bunch of flowers.

Heidi That quite convenient indeed. But tell me, what else do you find strange about Dutch people?

John Oh, I could write a book on that. On how you eat fries, on your bicycles, on your political parties, your toilets, your tolerance...

Heidi Well, I don't know if we're that tolerant. I have to admit that it often looks like we are, but perhaps it's really just indifference.

John Do you think so?

Heidi It doesn't interest us what someone believes, what someone's sexual preference is, what someone smokes or drinks as long as someone pays.

John And do you know the most interesting thing about Dutch people?

Heidi Well?

John Their self-criticism

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - *Make plurals out of all singular forms:*

Example:

- Ik eet de banaan.
 - *Wij eten de bananen*
1. Ik schrijf de brief.
 2. Hij eet de appel
 3. Jij komt te laat.
 4. U zit op de stoel.
 5. Ik koop het huis.
 6. Jij hebt veel geld.
 7. Zij houdt van mij.
 8. Ik praat met jou.
 9. De man repareert de kast.
 10. De beer eet het dropje.

Part 2 - *Fill in 'niet' or 'geen'.*

Example:

- Dit is ... stoel.
 - Dit is *geen* stoel
1. Hij is ... op school.
 2. Ik praat ... met de leraar.
 3. Hij is ... gek.
 4. Ik werk ... bij IBM.
 5. Ik drink ... wijn bij het eten.
 6. Kom je ... op mijn verjaardag?
 7. De boeken staan ... in de kast.
 8. Dat is ... gulden, dat is een Belgische frank.
 9. Ik woon ... in Amsterdam.
 10. Dat is ... goede zin.

Lesson 6: Een klein kindje



Ronald Dag Carla, wat fijn je te zien.

Carla Hoi Ronald. Dat is lang geleden dat ik jou zag.

Ronald Hoe voel je je nu na de bevalling?

Wel goed. Maar ik ben blij dat mijn zoontje nu eindelijk is geboren. Mijn buik

Carla was zo groot geworden de laatste weken! Wil je naar het kindje gaan kijken?

Hij ligt in het wiegje te slapen.

Ronald Ach, wat is hij klein zeg.

Carla Ja en alles zit erop en eraan. Twee oortjes en een neusje en tien kleine vingertjes.

Ronald En tien kleine teentjes?

Carla Ja, die ook. Toe maar, kijk maar even.

Ronald Ik las op het geboortekaartje dat jullie hem twee namen hebben gegeven.

Carla Ja, hij is naar zijn opa genoemd. Die heet ook Arend Jan. Opa is apetrots op zijn eerste kleinzoon.

Ronald Nou, als ik dat kleintje eens bekijk. Hij lijkt zelfs wel een beetje op zijn opa.

Carla Vind je dat?

Ronald Ja, hij is ook zo kaal...

A little baby

Ronald Hello Carla, how nice to see you.

Carla Hi Ronald. Long time no see.

Ronald How do you feel, now that you've given birth?

I'm doing fine. But I'm very glad that my son finally has been born. My belly

Carla had grown enormously the last couple of weeks! Do you want to take a look at the baby? He's sleeping in his little cradle.

Ronald Ah, he's so tiny.

Carla Yes, and it has everything it should have. Two little ears, a little nose and ten little fingers.

Ronald And ten little toes?

Carla Yes, those too. Go ahead and take a look.

Ronald I've read on the birth announcement card that you've given him two names.

Carla Yes, we've named him after his grandfather. His name was Arend Jan too. Granddad is very proud of his first grandson.

Ronald Well, when I look at that little baby. He looks even a bit like his granddad.

Carla Do you think so?

Ronald Yes, he's also bold like that...

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - What are the infinitives of the underlined verbs and what do they mean?

Examples:

- Ik slaap - *slapen* - to sleep
- Ik heb gelopen - *lopen* - to walk

1. Ik zag jou
2. Mijn buik is groot geworden
3. Ik las het kaartje
4. Ik noem de hond 'Theo'
5. Hij lijkt op zijn opa
6. Hartelijk gefeliciteerd
7. Ik moet dat toegeven
8. Ik rook niet meer.
9. Hij heeft het niet gedaan
10. Wij betalen zo snel mogelijk

Part 2 - What are past participles?

Example:

- Ik heb (feliciteren) - *Ik heb gefeliciteerd*

1. Ik heb (zien) -
2. Ik heb (kijken) -
3. Ik heb (slapen) -
4. Ik heb (geven) -
5. Ik heb (noemen) -
6. Ik heb (bekijken) -
7. Ik heb (vinden) -
8. Ik ben (zijn) -
9. Ik ben (worden) -
10. Ik heb (hebben) -

Lesson 7: Nieuws



Goedemorgen, dit is de radionieuwsdienst verzorgd door het ANP.

Vanochtend heeft een groep jongeren gedemonstreerd tegen de plannen van de minister van Onderwijs om de OV-kaart af te schaffen. Een woordvoerder van de studenten verklaarde dat de studenten al veel te weinig geld hebben. Zij zijn volgens hem niet in staat om naast hun dagelijkse uitgaven ook nog voor het openbaar vervoer te betalen. Er liepen ook enkele ouders mee in de optocht, omdat veel studenten niet meer in het weekend naar huis zullen reizen als de OV-kaart niet meer geldig is. Vanmiddag zal de minister van Onderwijs deze zaak met enkele studenten bespreken.

En dan nu het weer. Het is vandaag een bewolkte dag met af en toe wat regen. De temperatuur is ongeveer 19 graden.

Dan staan er nog files op de volgende wegen. Op de A2 richting Utrecht staat vanwege een ongeluk een file van 10 kilometer. In de omgekeerde richting staat een file van 5 kilometer door kijkers.

Wij wensen u nog een prettige dag.

News

Good morning, this is the radio news service, provided by the ANP (general Dutch Press).

A group of young people demonstrated this morning against the plans of the secretary of Education to counteract the OV-card (Free public transport for students). A spokesman of the students declared that the students already have to little money. They won't be able to pay for public transport in addition to their daily expenses. A few parents joined the procession, because many students won't be able to come home in the weekends if the OV-card isn't valid anymore. This afternoon the secretary of Education will discuss this matter with a few students.

And now today's weather. It's a cloudy day today with a few cloudbursts every now and then. The temperature is about 19 degrees Celsius.

Traffic Jams are at the following roads. Because of an accident there is a traffic jam of 10 kilometers at the A2, in the direction of Utrecht. In the opposite direction there's a 5 kilometer jam because of spotters.

We wish you a pleasant day

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - *Change these sentences to past tense en turn them into questions:*

Example:

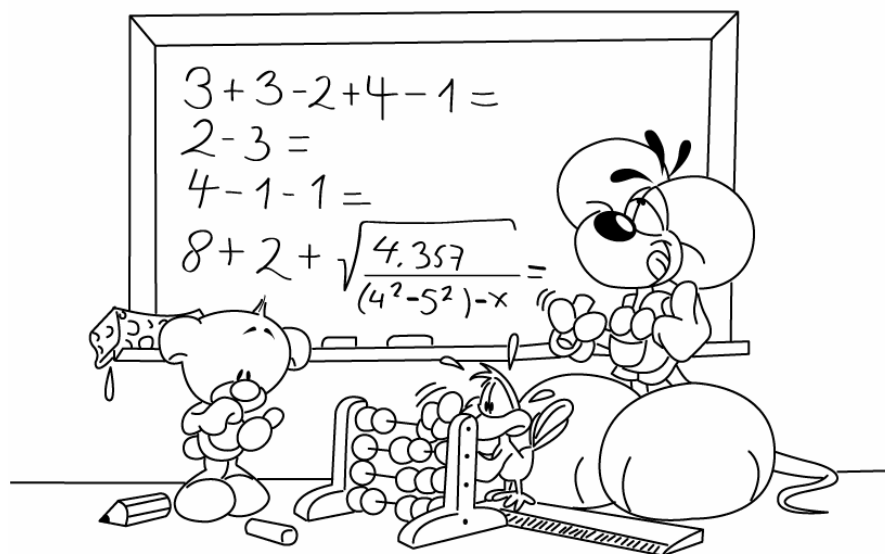
- Dit is het nieuws.
 - *Was dit het nieuws?*
-
1. Hij verzorgt het nieuws
 2. Een groep jongeren demonstreert.
 3. Er lopen ouders mee.
 4. Hij verklaart dat hij boos is.
 5. De minister bespreekt de kwestie.
 6. Ze reizen naar huis.
 7. De OV-kaart is niet meer geldig.
 8. Het regent.
 9. Er staan files op de A10.
 10. Hij wenst ons een prettige dag.

Part 2 - *What are the opposites?*

Examples:

- lang - *kort*
-
1. licht (2x) - ...
 2. moeilijk- ...
 3. duur - ...
 4. koud - ...
 5. oud (2x) - ...
 6. ver - ...
 7. laag - ...
 8. weinig - ...
 9. arm - ...
 10. snel - ...

Lesson 8: Het Nederlandse Schoolstelsel



In Nederland hebben de kinderen een leerplicht tot hun 16e jaar. Bij ons gaan bijna alle kinderen vanaf 4 jaar naar de basisschool. Ze hoeven niet zo jong te beginnen, want het is pas verplicht als zij 5 jaar zijn geworden.

De basisschool bestaat uit 8 groepen. De jongste kinderen beginnen in groep 1 en de oudste zitten in groep 8.

Als zij de basisschool hebben afgemaakt, meestal zijn ze dan 12 jaar oud, gaan ze naar het Voortgezet Onderwijs. Dat is een grote verandering, want de kinderen krijgen dan te maken met meerdere docenten en moeten ze huiswerk maken.

Naar welk type voortgezet onderwijs zij gaan, hangt af van hun prestaties op de basisschool. De basisschool adviseert het kind bij het maken van een keuze uit de verschillende soorten: MAVO, HAVO of VWO. Het kind kan ook naar een VBO of IVBO gaan. Dit zijn technische of vakscholen. Ieder type voortgezet onderwijs begint met een basisvorming.

In Nederland bestaan er ook de 'scholengemeenschappen.' Dit zijn scholen met meerdere typen voortgezet onderwijs. Dat is makkelijk voor kinderen die willen wisselen van type, omdat zij het onderwijs te makkelijk of te moeilijk vinden. Ze hoeven dan niet naar een totaal andere school.

The Dutch Educational system

In the Netherlands there's compulsory education for children till they've turned 16. Almost all children in the Netherlands start primary school as they're four years old. They don't have to start so soon, since education only becomes compulsory once a child reaches the age of five.

The primary school consists out of 8 groups. The youngest children start in group 1 and the oldest are in group 8.

When they've finished primary school, usually when they're 12 years old, they have to go on to a secondary school. This is a big change, because then they have to deal with several teachers and have to do homework.

Which kind of secondary school the children will attend, depends on their efforts at primary school. This primary school advises the child to choose between MAVO (junior general secondary education), HAVO (senior general secondary education) and VWO (pre-university education). The child can also choose to go to VBO or IVBO. These are vocational schools. All courses begin with 'basic secondary education'.

The Netherlands also has combined schools. These are schools with more types of secondary education. This comes in handy for children who want to change school type, because the education is too easy or too difficult for them. They don't have to go to a completely different school.

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - Combine these sentences, using the (conjunction word):

Example:

- Hij ziet niets. Hij heeft zijn bril niet op. (want)
 - *Hij ziet niets want hij heeft zijn bril niet op.*
1. Hij gaat naar school. Hij is 4 jaar. (als)
 2. Hij gaat niet naar school. Hij is ziek. (omdat)
 3. Hans zit in groep 1. Laura zit in groep 3. (en)
 4. Hij heeft geen tijd. Hij moet huiswerk maken. (want)
 5. Zij is nog jong. Ze weet al veel. (maar)
 6. Hij gaat naar de HAVO. Hij leert goed. (als)
 7. Hij gaat naar een andere school. Deze school is te moeilijk voor hem.(omdat)
 8. Hij heeft veel geld. Hij werkt niet hard. (hoewel)
 9. Ze gaan naar de basisschool. Ze gaan naar het Voortgezet Onderwijs. (voordat)
 10. Wij maken de oefening. Wij hebben de tekst gelezen. (nadat)

Part 2 - Which word doesn't belong here?

Example:

- huis - kasteel - film - boederij
 - *film* (not a building)
1. MAVO - HAVO - VWO - ANP
 2. sok - schilderij - trui - jas
 3. leraar - school - klas - boom
 4. steen - geld - ijzer - papier
 5. onderwijs - feest - taart - verjaardag
 6. zones - strippen - bus - knie
 7. bus - trein - tram - fiets
 8. regen - water - rivier - steen
 9. huis - file - auto - ongeluk
 10. letter - woord - zin - brief

Lesson 9: Een feestje



(Tringgggg)

Paul Hoi Margreet, je spreekt met Paul.

Margreet Dag Paul, hoe gaat het met je?

Paul Ja goed, maar ik heb je hulp nodig. Ik geef vanavond een feestje, weet je nog?

Margreet Mmm, ter gelegenheid van je afstuderen, toch? Nog gefeliciteerd.

Paul Dank je wel. Ik ben nu een lijstje met boodschappen aan het maken, want ik moet nog zoveel spullen in huis halen. Maar ik kan niks verzinnen.

Margreet Nou, vertel me maar wat je al hebt.

Paul Ok, eh.. komkommer met dipsaus, zoutjes en snacks en ik heb zelf twee taarten gebakken. Ik hoop dat ze gelukt zijn. Ik heb ze nog niet geproefd.

Margreet Vergeet niet om frisdrank en sinaasappelsap te kopen. Wat heb je eigenlijk voor borrelhapjes voor bij de wijn?

Paul Oh, dat is een goeie, daar heb ik nog niet aan gedacht.

Margreet Je moet wat kaas kopen, dat is lekker. En misschien wat toast.

Paul Goed idee. Nou, heb je nog iets wat ik echt niet moet vergeten?

Margreet Ja, vergeet vooral niet om extra servetjes te kopen, want ik neem mijn vriend mee.

A party

(Tringgggg)

Paul Hi Margreet, this is Paul

Margreet Hello Paul, how are you?

Paul Fine, but I need your help. I'm throwing a party this evening, remember?

Margreet Mmm, because of your graduation, right? Congratulations.

Paul Thank you. I'm drawing up a grocery list, because I still have to get many things from the shop. But I can't think of anything.

Margreet Well, why don't you tell me what you've got?

Paul Ok, ehr.. I got: cucumber with dipping, salty biscuits and snacks and I baked two pies. I hope they worked out, I didn't taste them yet.

Margreet Don't forget to buy some softdrinks and orange juice. What do you have for titbits that go with the wine?

Paul Oh, that's a good one. I didn't think of that yet.

Margreet You should buy some cheese, that tastes good. And perhaps some toast.

Paul Good idea. Well, can you think of something I really mustn't forget?

Margreet Yes, don't forget to bring extra napkins.. I'm bringing my boyfriend.

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - *Fill in the right form of the (verb), both in present and past:*

Example:

- Ik (gaan) naar huis
 - *ga - ging*
1. Ik (spreken) met Paul.
 2. Het (gaan) goed met hem.
 3. Ik (hebben) je hulp nodig
 4. Wij (geven) een feestje.
 5. Hij (halen) veel spullen in huis.
 6. Het meisje (kopen) een pak appelsap.
 7. De leraar (vertellen) iets over zijn land.
 8. Karel (bakken) een grote taart.
 9. Pierre (proeven) de wijn.
 10. Hij (vergeten) zijn pen.

Part 2 - *Fill in the right preposition.*

Example:

- Ik zit ... een stoel.
 - Ik zit *op* een stoel
1. U spreekt ... mevrouw De Groot.
 2. Gefeliciteerd ... je afstuderen.
 3. Ik heb lekkere hapjes ... de wijn.
 4. Hij koopt een cadeau ... zijn vriendin.
 5. Heb je nog gedacht ... zijn verjaardag?
 6. Ik schrijf een brief ... mijn vader.
 7. Ik ben boos ... haar.
 8. Gaat hij elke dag ... school?
 9. Er staat een file ... de A2.
 10. Kom je vanavond ... tijd?

Lessaon 10: Te koop...



Voor onze vrolijke zoon van 4 zoeken wij een aardige oppas . Voor 2-3 middagen p.w., event. vakanties. Omgeving centrum van A'dam. Tel: 020 -6867473.	Gratis op te halen poesjes , drie mnd. oud. Tel. 086-8463726.
T.k. gevr. Tuinstoelen , merk Austin, liefst wit. Tel. 039-8775643 (alleen 's avonds).	Wij zoeken voor marktonderzoek: kopers/gebruikers van Tabs (tabletten) voor in de wasmachine van de merken OMO, Sunil en Dixan. Wij zoeken zowel vrouwen die tevreden zijn over het wassen met tabs, als vrouwen die daar juist niet tevreden over zijn. Leeftijdsindicatie 24-55 jaar. Voor uw deelname ontvangt u een kleine vergoeding. Selectiebureau Profiel tel. 070-49726453.
Te koop: 2 damesfietsen , z.g.a.n. trommelremmen en 3 versnellingen. Tel. 020-6694373.	Eiken tv-kast z.g.a.n. 100,- bel nu tel 020-5849302 na 18:00 svp.
T.k. gevr. tweepersoonsbed met matras 140 x 200. Te koop: parkiet (geel met groen) met kooi, zangzaad gratis bijgeleverd. Tel. 020-4081999	U maakt mij erg blij met jokers uit speelkaarten. Dubbelen geen bezwaar. Tel. 050-3729173
Vlooiemarkt in sporthal Zeeburg, Zeeburgerdijk 620, A'dam. Aankomende zaterdag tussen 10:00 -17:00.	Goed tehuis gezocht voor twee lieve poezen van elf jaar oud. Info tel. 070-5904463
Heeft u geen tijd voor uw strijkwerk ? Ik doe het voor u. De ene dag gebracht, de volgende dag kan u het weer ophalen. Tel. 020-6694297 (niet bellen tot 18:00)	Een vrolijke, serieuze en oprechte man zoekt dito vrouw om een relatie mee te beginnen. Bel je me op? Tel. 020 -68846372

For sale...

We seek a friendly babysitter for our cheerful son who is 4 years old. For 2-3 afternoons per week, possibly during holidays. Neighborhood of Amsterdam. Tel: 020 -6867473.	Fetch free kittens, three months old. Tel. 086-8463726.
We seek lawn chairs, branch Austin, preferably white. Tel. 039-8775643 (only evenings).	For our marketing research we seek buyers/users of Tabs (tablets) for (in) the washing machine by the brand OMO, Sunil and Dixan. We're looking for women who are satisfied about washing with the tabs as well as women who aren't. Age-indication is 24-55 years. You receive a small allowance. Selection agency Profiel, tel. 070-49726453.
For sale: 2 lady's bikes, as good as new, drumbrake and derailleur. Tel. 020-6694373.	An oak TV box as good as new 100,-. Call now tel 020-5849302. Please call after 18:00.
We seek double bed with matras 140 x 200. For sale: parakeet (yellow and green) with cage, bird seed comes with the bird. Tel. 020-4081999	You make me very happy with joker playing cards. Double cards are no problem. Tel. 050-3729173
Fleemarket in sports hall Zeeburg, Zeeburgerdijk 620, A'dam. Upcoming Saturday between 10:00 and 17:00.	We're looking for a good home for two sweet cats of eleven years old. Info tel. 070-5904463
You don't have time for your ironing? I'll do it for you. Brought one day, you can pick it up the next day. Tel. 020-6694297 (don't call untill 18:00)	A cheerful, serious and honest man seeks a similar women to start a relationship. Will you call me? Tel. 020 -68846372

Exercise - Grammar and vocabulary training

Part 1 - *Make singulars out of all plural forms:*

Example:

- Wij eten de bananen
 - *Ik eet de banaan*
-
1. Wij hebben geen vakanties
 2. De poesjes spelen met de ballen.
 3. Wij zitten op de stoelen.
 4. Waar zijn jullie fietsen?
 5. Wij kopen de kasten
 6. De parkieten zingen niet.
 7. De spelers pakken de kaarten.
 8. De poezen hebben vlooiën.
 9. Wij liggen op de bedden.
 10. De mannen strijken de broeken.

Part 2 - *Make correct sentences out of these words*

Example:

- op - geen - matras - dat - op - bed - ligt - er
 - *Er ligt geen matras op dat bed*
Op dat bed ligt geen matras
-
1. een - gekocht - nieuwe - fiets - hij - heeft
 2. met - de - gesproken - leraar - ik - heb
 3. ik - het - doe - u - voor
 4. wij - geen - hebben - voor - strijkwerk - tijd
 5. wij - een - oppas - voor - zoon - zoeken - onze
 6. met - vriendin - je - van - gefeliciteerd - harte - !
 7. op - zijn - lijkt - de - baby - opa
 8. het - een - bewolkte - dag - wordt - vandaag
 9. naar - onze - kinderen - gaan - school - niet - vandaag
 10. ik - mijn - vriend - mee - naar - het - neem - feestje

Theory

At the site there's not only some explanation, but also a few exercises and answers to check if you really understood everything.

About *de* en *het*

One of the most frustrating things for those who learn Dutch at an adult age, is knowing when a word is a *het* word and when it is a *de* word. I'm not going to tell here that there is a method that deletes all frustrations, but I do have a few hints that should make it a bit easier.

To begin with the reason for all this: there are masculine words, feminine words and neuter words. All masculine and feminine words get *de* while all neuter words get *het*. A good way to remember this is simply to:

- think of 'the man, the woman and the child', since this will be: ***de* man, *de* vrouw en *het* kind.**

Though there is mostly not a very good reason for things to be masculine, feminine or neuter there are a few indications:

- all words that are made smaller with (e)(t)je are neuter (*de* vrouw - *het* vrouwtje, *de* man - *het* mannetje),
- practically all words that end on standard suffixes like *-ing*, *-ij*, *-ie*, *-e* and *-heid* are feminine (*de* vereniging, *de* bakkerij, *de* politie, *de* dame, *de* moeilijkheid),
- all infinite verbs used as nouns are neuter (*het* eten, *het* fietsen),
- words starting with standard prefixes like *ge-*, *ver-*, *ont-* and *be-* and not ending on *-ing* are neuter (*het* gevaar, *het* verhaal, *het* ontzag, *het* beslag),
- words ending on *-el* or *-er* are quite often *de*-words (*de* tafel, *de* beker),
- buildings, however, are often *het*-words (*het* theater, *het* huis, *het* station - just not *de* bioscoop, since that ends on *-scoop*, which is one of those standard suffixes),
- in plural all words get *de* (*de* vrouwtjes, *de* boeken)
- and, naturally, all words referring to persons (individuals) are *de*-words (*de* minister, *de* bakker).

Now, you could decide not to bother, producing a soundsomewhere between *de* en *het* (...*edth*...) in case of doubt, but think of the consequences of the difference:

- meaning 'this' and 'that', *de*-words get *deze* and *die*, while *het*-words get *dit* and *dat*,
- meaning 'which' (or sometimes 'what'), *de*-words get *welke* and *het* words get *welk*,
- meaning 'our', *de*-words get *onze*, while *het*-words get *ons*,
- adjectives end on an extra *e* (always pronounced in Dutch!) standing before a noun, **except** when this is an indefinite (using *een*) *het*-word: *de* groene pen, *een* groene pen, *het* groene boek, *een* **groen** boek).

If the learning of this *de/het* difference is really important to you, I would advise you to make a list of all *het*-words you find: there are less of them than there are *de*-words.

Finally, when you really need to know, look in your dictionary. When it doesn't say straightforward if the word is *de* or *het*, it might very well tell you indirectly, by putting (*m*), (*v*), or (*o*) behind the word. Since the *m* stands for *mannelijk* (masculine), the *v* for *vrouwelijk* (feminine) and the *o* for *onzijdig* (neuter) you'll know what to use. And for words having two or even three of those, like *affiche* (*o* & *v(m)*), you are free to make your own choice.

Constructing sentences

1 - Basic sequence

Like in most languages, the basic sentence starts with the subject, followed by the (first) verb. Something typical for Dutch though, is that all other verbs are basically placed at the end of the sentence.

Most basic:

subject - 1st verb - (when/where/how/object) - (other verbs)

Example:

Hij - heeft - gisteren - thuis - snel - de was - gedaan.

But:

- the when/where/how sequence is often just optional and the object can often also be the first of these four,
- if there is a preposition added to the *when, where, how* or *object*, it can also be placed after the *other verbs*.

2 - Inversion

Often the subject and 1st verb are switched, so that the subject follows the verb. This occurs when:

- The sentence is a question.
Not something strange to English speakers, though in English it only sounds right with some specific verbs. A sentence like *Weet jij dat?* could hardly be translated as *Know you that?*
- The sentence is a command or instruction.
Also not strange to English speakers (*come here, be there, don't you do that*).
- A non-subject part of the sentence comes first.
Usually this would be *when, where* or *how* and incidentally the object. Watch out, though: each of those positions could not only be filled by a single word, but also by a long phrase.

3 - Extraposition

The most weird constructions to English speakers might be those with all the verbs (including the first) at the end. This occurs when there is a conjunctive word connecting two phrases.

Example (with *dat* as a conjunctive word):

Ik denk dat hij gisteren thuis snel de was gedaan heeft.

But:

- the sequence of the verbs at the end doesn't really matter here, so it could as well be *heeft gedaan*,
- this extraposition does **not** apply when the conjunctive word is *en, maar* or *want*,
- when the conjunctive word is *dus* you can choose between a basic sequence and inversion,
- when *of* is the conjunctive word and it means *or*, this extraposition does **not** apply, but it **does** apply when *of* means *if*.

On plural

It's impossible to give all the rules for making plurals, but here are a few guidelines:

- Words that end on a syllable that includes a 'toneless -e' (like in *de*), usually get an -s:
 - *de tafel* - *de tafels*
 - *de vader* - *de vaders*
 - *de haven* - *de havens*
- Words that end on a vocal usually get an -s with an apostrophe (') to keep the sound 'long':
 - *de taxi* - *de taxi's*
 - *de agenda* - *de agenda's*
 - *de radio* - *de radio's*
- Other words usually get -en:
 - *het boek* (book) - *de boeken*
 - *de krant* (paper) - *de kranten*
 - *de vrouw* (women) - *de vrouwen*
- Watch out with the spelling of vocals, though: if there's a **'long', double vocal** it usually becomes **a single one, followed by a single consonant**, if it's a **'short, single vocal**, it usually stays **single, but followed by a doubled consonant**:
 - *de boot* (boat) - *de boten*
 - *het bot* (bone) - *de botten*
 - *de maan* (moon) - *de manen*
 - *de man* (man) - *de mannen*
- If there's an -f at the end, it usually becomes a -v unless the English version of the word has a '-ph' where the Dutch version has -f:
 - *de brief* (letter) - *de brieven*
 - *de graaf* (duke) - *de graven*
 - *de paragraaf* (paragraph) - *de paragrafen*
- If there's an -s at the end, it often becomes a -z. There's no rule though, to tell for which words or sounds this happens, you just have to remember this for each word:
 - *de kaars* (candle) - *de kaarsen*
 - *de laars* (boot) - *de laarzen*
 - *het kruis* (cross) - *de kruisen*
 - *het huis* (house) - *de huizen*
- Unfortunately, besides all this, there are a lot of hard to remember exceptions:
 - *de dag* (day) - *de dagen*
 - *het dak* (roof) - *de daken*
 - *het glas* (glas) - *de glazen*
 - *het bedrag* (amount) - *de bedragen*
 - *het gat* (hole) - *de gaten*
 - *het graf* (grave) - *de graven* (compare to 'de graaf'...)
 - *het dal* (valley) - *de dalen*
 - *het vat* (barrel) - *de vaten*
 - *de het schip* (ship) - *de schepen*
 - *de smid* (blacksmith) - *de smeden*
 - *het lid* (member) - *de leden*
 - *de stad* (town) - *de steden*
 - *de oom* (uncle)- *de ooms*
 - *de broer* (brother) - *de broers*
 - *de musicus* (musician) - *de musici*
 - *de timmerman* (carpenter) - *de timmerlieden* or *de timmerlui* (all professions on -man have -lieden or -lui for plural)

Pronouns

subject	object	possessive	reflexive
ik	mij	mijn	me
jij	jou	jouw	je
u	u	uw	zich
hij	hem	zijn	zich
zij	haar	haar	zich
het	het	zijn	zich
wij	ons	ons/onze	ons
jullie	jullie	jullie	je
zij	ze - hun	hun	zich

A few notes on this:

- Many pronouns have two versions: one for regular use and one to use if the pronoun has a specific emphasis (the 'proper' version):
 - *mij* and *mijn* are usually *me* and *m'n*
 - *jij*, *jou* and *jouw* are usually *je*
(Herinner **jij je jouw** verjaardag? - Herinner **je je je** verjaardag?)
 - *zijn* is usually *z'n*
 - *het* is usually *'t*
 - *zij* is usually *ze*
 - *wij* is usually *we*
- The same goes for *ze* and *hun* (object, third person plural): normally you would use *ze*, but if you need a special emphasis, you use *hun*.
- Officially, for object third person plural ('them') there are two forms: *hun* and *hen*. The grammar rules state that
 - *hen* should be used for direct object and after prepositions and
 - *hun* should be used for indirect object.

This is a purely artificial difference though: most Dutch people don't get it right - in colloquial Dutch *hun* is mostly used for all object forms.

- In spoken Dutch, you even hear *hun* being used as a subject form for third person plural. This is still considered absolutely wrong, though.
- The possessive *ons* is used for het-nouns (*ons huis*) and *onze* for de-nouns (*onze tuin*).

Verbs - general

Dutch verbs can, like the English ones, be divided into regular and irregular verbs (for experts: to keep it simple, I'm skipping the weak/strong division). I'll give you the regularities and then the irregularities for each tense.

But before that, something about the used tenses. Speaking Dutch, you'll basically need four of them:

present tense	- onvoltooid tegenwoordige tijd (ott)
past tense	- onvoltooid verleden tijd (vtt)
present perfect tense	- voltooid tegenwoordige tijd (ovt)
past perfect tense	- voltooid verleden tijd (vvt)

Please note that the first two are used in much more cases than in English. When you're a beginner you could restrict yourself for quite a while to using only those. You could for example just use 'ik zie haar' in situations where you would use the English (more specific) phrases:

- I see her
- I am seeing her
- I will be seeing her
- I'm going to see her

Verbs - present

Let's take a very common Dutch word: *fietsen* - which means 'to ride a bicycle'. For the different persons it shows the following forms:

singular	plural
1 - ik fiets	wij fietsen
2 - jij fietst - fiets jij (u fietst)	jullie fietsen u fietst
3 - hij/zij fietst	zij fietsen

So the form for *ik* is the verb without the *-en* part (this we call 'de stam'). And:

- If it should end on a 'long' vowel it has to become a double one: for *nemen* (to take) it will be *ik neem* and for *lopen* (to walk) it should be '*ik loop*'. There are a few exceptions, though - for *komen* (to come), for example it should be *ik kom*.
- Dutch words never end on double consonants, so for the *ik*-form you also take half of a double consonant away. For *rennen* (to run) it would thus be *ik ren* and not *ik Renn*.
- Dutch words also never end on a *v* or a *z*. They become *f* and *s*. So for *blazen* (to blow) it will be *ik blaas* and for *beloven* (to promise) it will be *ik beloof*.

You take this form and add a *t* for the second and third person singular, but you take it off again when the subject *jij* or *je* comes after the verb instead of before.

For plural you simply always take the infinitive form. The only exception is when you use *u*: this form for 'you', used when it has to be polite, can be used for singular and plural, but keeps the singular form.

The few irregular verbs in the present tense are only irregular for singular forms - plural forms always get the infinitive form:

hebben (to have): ik heb, jij hebt, u hebt/heeft, hij/zij heeft
kunnen (to can, to be able to): ik kan, jij kan/kunt, u kan/kunt, hij/zij kan
mogen (to may, to be allowed to): ik mag, zij mag, hij/zij mag
willen (to want): ik wil, jij wil/wilt, u wil/wilt, hij/zij wil
zijn (to be): ik ben, jij bent, u bent, hij/zij is
zullen (to shall, to will): ik zal, jij zal/zult, u zal/zult, hij/zij zal

Verbs - past (regular)

For regular verbs, the past tense has two possibilities: *-de(n)* or *-te(n)* behind the *ik*-form of the present tense. You have to take *-te* for singular and *-ten* for plural if this form ends on a *k, f, s, ch, p, t* or *x*. To remember this, I use the word *kofschiptaxi*, containing all these consonants. If the *ik*-form does not end on one of those, you take *-de* for singular and *-den* for plural.

So for the verb *fietsen*, having an *ik*-form that ends on *s*, which is one of the consonants in *kofschiptaxi*, it will be:

singular	plural
1 - ik fietste	wij fietsten
2 - jij fietste	jullie fietsten u fietste
3 - hij/zij fietste	zij fietsten

And for the verb *rennen* (to run), not having an *ik*-form that ends on one of the consonants in *kofschiptaxi*, it will be:

singular	plural
1 - ik rende	wij renden
2 - jij rende	jullie renden u rende
3 - hij/zij rende	zij renden

Two remarks on all that:

1. Sometimes you get double *t* or double *d* where this looks quite weird even to native speakers. The present forms *ik antwoord* - *wij antwoorden* (I/we reply) for example, will be in the past tense *ik antwoordde* - *wij antwoordden*, and the past of *ik plant* - *wij planten* (I/we plant) becomes '*ik plantte* - *wij plantten*'.
2. Where infinitive forms have a *v* or *z* that becomes *f* or *s* in the *ik*-form, you must still think of the original *v* or *z* when you choose between *-te(n)* or *-de(n)*. And since *v* and *z* are not in *kofschiptaxi* you get *-de(n)*.

Verbs - perfect (regular)

For the **perfect tense**, you need to make a pastparticiple (*ge*-form). You do that like this:

- take the present tense *ik*-form and add *ge*-to it,
- place a *-t* at the end when the *ik*-form ends on one of the consonants *inkofschiptaxi* and add *-d* when it doesn't.

So for *fietsen* it will be *ik hebgefiets**t***, and for *rennen* it will be *ik heb gerend*.

Three remarks on that:

1. To choose by listening between *-t* and *-d* for a past participle, in fact you could listen if the past gets *-te(n)* or *-de(n)*, which is easier to hear: the difference between just *-d* or *-t* at the end, as in past participles, is not heard in Dutch (they're both pronounced as *t*).
2. The past participles of verbs that have an infinitive form starting with *ge-*, *be-*, *ve-*, *re-*, or *ont-* do not get *ge-*. So for *betalen* (to pay) it will be *ik heb betaald* and **not gebetaald**.
3. For the perfect tense you mostly use *hebben*, like you use 'to have' in English. But there are - a bit more than in English - verbs or situations where you use *zijn* (to be). For example when you use a verb that means 'to go somewhere' **and** a direction is indicated. So it would be *ik heb in het park gefiets**t*** (I have been cycling in the park - no direction) but *ik ben naar het station gefiets**t*** (I have cycled to the station - clear direction).

Irregular verbs

The sad thing for languages like Dutch and English is that most of the frequently used verbs are **irregular**. I'll list the most important ones, but before I do that I have a few remarks.

- Note that most of them have vowel changes, both in past tense and past participle. In that case:
 - there is practically never *-t(e)(n)* or *-d(e)(n)* at the end,
 - the past participle practically always ends on *-en*.
- The list is far from complete. I listed the most current ones and I skipped derived forms that go the same way. I listed, for example *kopen*, *trekken* and *staan*, but I skipped *verkopen* (sell), *vertrekken* (leave), *bestaan* (exist) and *verstaan* (understand).
- The translation is quite incomplete. Many words just can't be translated properly without a few lines of explanation. So take your dictionary for details.
- With the past participles marked with * you use *zijn*, when they're marked with (*) you should use *zijn* when a direction is indicated and for the ones marked (**) you can use *zijn* as well as *hebben*. For the other ones you use *hebben*, unless they are used in a passive mode.

Infinitive (translation)	Past	Past participle
bakken (bake)	bakte	gebakken
beginnen (begin)	begon	begonnen
*bewegen (move)	bewoog	bewogen
bieden (offer)	bood	geboden
binden (bind)	bond	gebonden
blijken (appear)	bleek	gebleken
breken (break)	brak	gebroken
brengen (bring)	bracht	gebracht
buigen (bend, bow)	boog	gebogen
denken (think)	dacht	gedacht
doen (do)	deed	gedaan
dragen (carry, wear)	droeg	gedragen
drinken (drink)	dronk	gedronken
dwingen (force)	dwong	gedwongen
eten (eat)	at	gegeten
gaan (go)	ging	gegaan
gelden (be valid)	gold	gegolden
genieten (enjoy)	genoot	genoten
geven (give)	gaf	gegeven
hangen (hang)	hing	gehangen
hebben (have)	had	gehad
helpen (help)	hielp	geholpen
heten (be called)	heette	geheten
hoeven (need (denying))	hoefde	gehoeven
houden (hold)	hield	gehouden
kiezen (choose)	koos	gekozen
kijken (look, watch)	keek	gekeken
klinken (sound)	klonk	geklonken
komen (come)	kwam	gekomen
kopen (buy)	kocht	gekocht
kunnen (can, be able to)	kon	gekund
lachen (laugh)	lachte	gelachen
laten (let)	liet	gelaten
lezen (read)	las	gelezen
liggen (lay)	lag	gelegen
lijken (look like)	leek	geleken
lopen (walk)	liep	gelopen
moeten (have to, must)	moest	gemoeten
mogen (be allowed, may)	mocht	gemogen

nemen (take)	nam	genomen
roepen (call)	riep	geroepen
schenken (give, (poetic))	schonk	geschonken
scheppen (create)	schiep	geschapen
schieten (shoot)	schoot	geschoten
schuiven (shift, push)	schoof	geschoven
slaan (beat)	sloeg	geslagen
slapen (sleep)	sliep	geslapen
sluiten (close, shut)	sloot	gesloten
spreken (speak)	sprak	gesproken
springen (jump)	sprong	gesprongen
staan (stand)	stond	gestaan
steken (sting, stab)	stak	gestoken
sterven (die)	stierf	gestorven
treffen (hit)	trof	getroffen
trekken (pull)	trok	getrokken
vallen (fall)	viel	gefallen
vangen (catch)	ving	gevangen
vergeten (forget)	vergat	vergeten
verliezen (lose)	verloor	verloren
vinden (find)	vond	gevonden
vliegen (fly)	vloog	gevlogen
voorkómen (prevent)	voorkwam	voorkomen
vóórkomen (happen)	kwam voor	voorgekomen
vragen (ask)	vroeg	gevraagd
weten (know (something))	wist	geweten
wijzen (point)	wees	gewezen
winnen (win)	won	gewonnen
worden (become)	werd	geworden
zeggen (say)	zei	gezegd
zien (see)	zag	gezien
zijn (be)	was	geweest
zingen (sing)	zong	gezongen
zinken (sink)	zonk	gezonken
zitten (sit)	zat	gezet
zoeken (look for)	zocht	gezocht
zullen (will, shall)	zou	

Verb couples

In Dutch there are three ways of combining two verbs:

1. Using the **past participle**

You do this when the first verb is:

- **hebben** - to have
ik heb een tekening gemaakt (I have made a drawing)
- **zijn** - to be
de tekening is gemaakt - the drawing is made
- **worden** - to be(-come) (often is being)
de tekening wordt gemaakt (the drawing is being/(becomes)made)

2. Using the **infinitive**

You do this when the first verb is:

- **blijven** - to stay
hij blijft slapen - he's staying to sleep
- **gaan** - to go
hij gaat fietsen - he is going to ride a bicycle
- **komen** - to come
hij komt eten - he's coming to eat ('he's coming for dinner')
- **kunnen** - to can/to be able to
ik kan niet komen - I can't come
- **laten** - to let/to have something done
ik laat mijn haar knippen - I let my hair cut (have my hair cut)
ik laat hem gaan - I let him go
- **moeten** - to must/to have to
ik moet gaan - I have to go
- **mogen** - to may/to be allowed to
je mag dat niet doen - you are not allowed to do that
- **willen** - to want
ik wil eten - I want to eat
- **zullen** - to will/to shall
ik zal zien - I'll see
- **horen** when it literally means *to hear*
ik hoor hem schreeuwen - I hear him shout
- **voelen** - to feel
ik voel het groeien - I feel it growing
- **zien** when it literally means *to see*
ik zie de zon schijnen - I see the sun shining
- **leren** - to learn: optional
ik leer fietsen (most current) or
ik leer te fietsen - I'm learning to ride a bicycle

3. Using the **infinitive + te** You do this when the first verb is none of the above

Ik probeer te komen - I try to come
Ik begin het te leren - I'm beginning to learn it

Remarks on all this:

- Note that in Dutch there is no way to express the difference between English forms as in *The door is closed* and *The door has been closed*. Both become *De deur is gesloten*.
- There's also no difference for the Dutch between *He stays asleep*, *He remains sleeping* and *He is staying to sleep* - it's all *Hij blijft slapen*.

- So speaking Dutch you might try to use only the abovementioned combinations. There are more possibilities - you could even use up to five (theoretically even more) verbs in a sentence - but they're so complex that they're really just an invitation to make silly mistakes.

Reflexive verbs

Observe this sentence:

- *Ik vraag me af wat hij doet* (I wonder what he does).

In the form above, there is one sentence that contains a reflexive verb: the infinitive here, is *zich afvragen* (to wonder): if the dictionary states that *zich* ('oneself') belongs to a verb it means it's a reflexive one. This is a kind of verb that requires the subject to be an object too. In English, you can do this with some verbs (I'm washing myself, I find myself ..., I'm exerting myself), but in Dutch you have to do this to quite a lot of verbs.

A few examples:

- *zich herinneren* - to remember
- *zich schamen* - to be ashamed
- *zich vergissen* - to be mistaken
- *zich verheugen op* - to look forward to
- *zich voorstellen* - to imagine

Some other verbs can be reflexive: they require an object and this could be the subject. Examples:

- *(zich) bewegen* - to move
- *(zich) scheren* - to shave
- *(zich) wassen* - to wash

Here are some phrases with these verbs. Note that the reflexive pronoun is always placed after the first verb:

Ik herinner me zijn naam niet.
Zij schaamde zich diep voor haar fout.
Hij heeft zich helemaal vergist.
Zij zal zich verheugen op haar huwelijk.
Kun je je voorstellen hoe zwaar zijn leven is?
Hij kan zich niet meer bewegen.
Zij heeft zich vandaag nog niet geschoren.
Hij wast zich elke ochtend.

The reflexive pronouns you need for the reflexive verbs are listed below:

subject	reflexive
ik	me
jij	je
u	zich
hij	zich
zij	zich
het	zich
wij	ons
jullie	je
zij	zich

Comparative & superlative

Jouw auto rijdt langzamer dan mijn auto

In the phrase above you can find what is called a comparative: **langzamer**. The original form *langzaam* is extended with *-er* and because of the Dutch spelling rules (lesson 1) there's one *-a-* less.

Except for the one *-a-* thing, this is the same as what happens in English: 'thin-thinner' is in Dutch *dun-dunner* and even irregular forms are a lot alike: 'good-better' is in Dutch *goed-beter*.

And there's more good news, for the superlative is almost the same: in English you add *'-est'* ('thinnest'), in Dutch just *-st* (*dunst*). Usually the article *het* is used for the superlative (*Dit boek is **het** dunst*).

The only tricky thing, is that you have an extra *-d* if the word ends on a *-r*

More good news: the list of irregular ones is very short:

- goed-beter-best
- graag-liever-liefst
- veel-meer-meest
- weinig-minder-minst

Here's a list of examples, which is at the same time a list of opposites:

adverb	comperative	superlative
goedkoop	goedkoper	goedkoopst
duur	duurder	duurst
hoog	hoger	hoogst
laag	lager	laagst
groot	groter	grootst
klein	kleiner	kleinst
schoon	schoner	schoonst
vies	viezer	viest
mooi	mooier	mooist
lelijk	lelijker	lelijkst
oud	ouder	oudst
jong	jonger	jongst
kort	korter	kortst
lang	langer	langst
moeilijk	moeilijker	moeilijkst
(ge)makkelijk	(ge)makkelijker	(ge)makkelijkst
licht	lichter	lichtst
donker	donkerder	donkerst
zwaar	zwaarder	zwaarst
heet	heter	heetst
warm	warmer	warmst
koud	kouder	koudst
slim	slimmer	slimst
dom	dommer	domst

Nightmares of *er*

To a lot of foreigners *er* is a very confusing word. Not only can it mean a lot of things (like *there*, *it*, or just nothing), it is also hard to study since it is mostly pronounced as *d'r*, *'r* or even as hardly anything at all. Besides, it can also be found at several places in the sentence.

First a few examples:

- Woon je in Amsterdam? Ja, ik woon er al drie jaar. (*Do you live in Amsterdam? Yes, I'm living there for three years already.*)
- Er staat een paard in de gang. (*There's a horse standing in the hall*)
- Hoe gaat het ermee? (*How are you?*)
- Hoeveel kinderen heb je? Ik heb er drie. (*How many children do you have? I've got three.*)
- Je ziet er goed uit. (*You're looking good.*)

Only in the first two examples *er* is literally translated - in the other ones it could be translated, but that would mostly produce a weird sentence. Nevertheless, the use of *er* could very well be explained by its different possible meanings if you don't take 'meanings' too literal.

1 - *Er* means *there/here*

This could be (a) a not emphasized place, or (b) a non-particular subject.

(a) In the sentence *Ja, ik woon er al drie jaar* you could replace *er* by either *hier* ('right here') or *daar* ('over there') if you're pointing somewhere, but you're not doing that in this case.

(b) In the sentence *Er staat een paard in de gang*, you could do the same. If you want to say *Right here - and not over there - there is a horse standing in the hall*, you would indeed use *hier* and *daar*. *Hier - en niet daar - staat een paard in de gang*.

Note however, that we are talking about **een paard** - **a horse**, so a non-particular subject. If it would be **het paard** - **the horse**, we couldn't use *er*. We would either use *daar* or *hier*, or - even better - just start with the subject: *Het paard staat (hier/daar) in de gang*.

2 - *Er* means *it* or *them*

Consider these sentences, where the object is replaced:

- Ik zie de film - ik zie **hem** (*I see it*)
- Ik zie het programma - ik zie **het** (*I see it*)
- Ik zie de boeken - ik zie **ze** (*I see them*)

You see that for things you can use *hem* referring to *de* words, *het* referring to *het* words and *ze* referring to plurals.

Now consider these:

- Ik kijk naar de film - ik kijk **ernaar** (*I look at it*)
- Ik kijk naar het programma - ik kijk **ernaar** (*I look at it*)
- Ik kijk naar de boeken - ik kijk **ernaar** (*I look at them*)

So when there's a preposition, we use *er* to refer to *de* words, *het* words or plurals. And we place it not only before the preposition, but also attached to it (like *ernaar*, *erin*, *erop*, *ervan* etc.). There can however, in more complex sentences, be something (like a 'when', 'where' or 'how' statement, or simply *niet*) between *er* and the preposition:

- Ik kijk er niet naar.
- Ik kijk er vandaag liever niet naar.

Watch out, though: *er* is only used for things - for persons we use the appropriate pronouns:

- Ik kijk naar *hem/haar/jou/...*

3 - *Er* means of *them* when counting

When something is counted and not mentioned, you use *er* to refer to the object. You can use *van* meaning *of*, but you don't have to and mostly a Dutchman wouldn't think of using it:

- Hoeveel kinderen heb je? Ik heb er drie.
- Hoeveel auto's zie je? Ik zie er tien.
- Hoeveel huizen heb je? Ik heb er een.
- Heb jij een auto? Nee ik heb er geen.

So while in English you have the choice between *I have ten* or *I have ten of them*, in Dutch the current thing to say is only *Ik heb er tien* (for most English speaking students it somehow feels weird saying this and they need to practice it for a while to get it 'into the system').

4 - Expressions

A lot of Dutch phrases containing *er* are merely to be taken as expressions and not to be translated literally. In a grammatical sense *er* would have a meaning like mentioned above (*here/there/it/them/...*), but that doesn't always fully explain the form.

Take, for example *Hoe gaat het ermee?* It could be translated as *How goes it there with?* or even just *How goes it with it*, but that doesn't explain why this sentence is used this much (besides *Hoe gaat het*).

Or *Je ziet er goed uit*: it could be translated as something like *You look good out of it* - but that still doesn't make much sense.

So, in those cases, an expression is better just taken as it is without too much questioning about the grammatical form.

Words like *maar*, *eens* and *even*

Kijk eens!

Kom maar.

Wil je de deur even(tjes) opendoen?

Ga eens even opzij.

Kijk maar eens even door deze bril.

Although these sentences are hardly considered difficult to understand, they are not really easy to translate into English. They could result in something like:

Hey, look!

Just come over here, please.

Would you (please) just open the door?

Just move aside.

(Come on) just look through these glasses.

The problem is, that those little words like *maar*, *eens* and *even*(tjes) do not only have a literal meaning (but, once, shortly), but also a modifying function in the sentence. In a lot of cases you could say that they mean something like *just*, and are squeezed into the sentence to make it less direct and more polite. In fact, if you take a commanding sentence, you can just 'soften' it, by putting one (or some) of those words in it. For example *kom hier* is a quite rude command, while *kom eens hier* or *kom even hier* is a lot more friendly and *kom maar hier* could even be something like a very inviting gesture.

There are a few more words with similar functions, though *maar*, *eens* and *even* are the most frequently used. Take for example *gewoon* and *hoor*:

Je moet gewoon naar de tandarts.

Nou, tot ziens, hoor.

Here too, you could use *just* in your translation into English:

You just have to go to the dentist.

Well, just goodbye then.

Generally, whenever you notice those words are not making sense when you assign their literal meaning to them, you could leave them out, get the meaning of the sentence without them and keep in mind that someone is trying to be polite here.

But if you want to use those words correctly yourself, the best thing you could do is probably to analyze their use for a while, because they all have their specific contexts. It is impossible to give rules for that, but I noticed that a lot of students were able to develop a good sense for it, just by reading, listening and analyzing.

To give some indications (remember, these are no rules, just vague patterns):

- *maar* means often *just* in a reassuring way,
- *eens* and *even* often mean *just* in the sense of a friendly *come on* or just *hey*, or even *please* (mag ik even bellen - can I make a phone call please),
- *gewoon* mostly means *just* in the sense of 'no big deal',
- *hoor* often means something like *hey* or *listen*, but watch out: the meaning is very much depending on the tone of the voice and can vary from a reassuring to a reprimanding *hey*.