



DUTCH LANGUAGE TUTORIAL

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Introduction

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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Basic Dutch Phrases	6
Pronunciation.....	9
Alphabet.....	10
Nouns and Gender	10
Articles & Demonstratives.....	11
Subject Pronouns	12
To Be & to Have	13
Useful Words.....	15
Question Words	16
Numbers.....	17
Days of the Week	19
Months of the Year	20
Seasons	21
Directions	21
Colors & Shapes	22
Time	23
Weather	24
Family & Pets.....	25
To Know People and Facts.....	27
Formation of Plural Nouns	28
Possessive Adjectives	30
To Do and to Make	31
Work.....	32
Prepositions	34
Countries and Nationalities	35
Negative Sentences.....	37
To Come and to Go.....	38
To and From Countries and Cities	38
Conjugating Regular verbs.....	39
Irregularities in Regular verbs	40
Modal Verbs	42

Reflexive Verbs.....	43
Verbs followed by Prepositions.....	45
Separable Prefixes.....	46
Inseparable Prefixes.....	46
Present Perfect or Past Indefinite Tense.....	47
Irregular Past Participles.....	49
Food and Meals.....	51
Fruits, Vegetables and Meat.....	52
Commands.....	53
Word Order.....	54
Coordinating & Subordinating Conjunctions.....	55
Blijven and Laten.....	56
Staan, liggen and zitten.....	56
Places.....	57
Transportation.....	58
Simple Past Tense.....	59
Irregular Stems in Simple Past Tense.....	60
House and Furniture.....	61
Clothing & Accessories.....	63
Future Tense.....	64
Verb Meanings.....	65
Inflections of Adjectives.....	66
Adjectives.....	67
Comparative and Superlative.....	69
Sports.....	71
Nature.....	72
Object Pronouns.....	74
Parts of the Body.....	75
Relative Pronouns.....	77
Uses of Er.....	78
Animals.....	79
Infinitive Constructions.....	82
Past Perfect Tense.....	83
Conditional.....	83

Diminutives	84
Present Participle	85
Passive Voice	86
Holiday Phrases	87
National Anthems	88
Dutch Realia	90
Other Resources	100

Basic Dutch Phrases

Good Morning	Goedemorgen	<i>khoo-duh-mawr-ghuh</i>
Good Day	Goedemiddag	<i>khoo-duh-mih-dahkh</i>
Good Evening	Goedenavond	<i>khoo-duh-nah-fohnt</i>
Good Night	Goedenacht	<i>khoo-duh-nahkht</i>
Hi / Bye	Hoi / Hallo / Daag / Doei	<i>hoy / hah-loh / dahk / doo-ee</i>
Goodbye	Tot ziens	<i>toht zeens</i>
See you later (in the same day)	Tot straks	<i>toht straks</i>
See you soon	Tot zo	<i>toht zoh</i>
Please	Alstublieft / Alsjeblieft	<i>ahlst-ew-bleeft / ahl-shuh-bleeft</i>
Thank you	Dank u wel / Dank je wel	<i>dahnk-ew-vehl / dahnk-yuh-vehl</i>
Thank you very much	Hartelijk bedankt	<i>hahr-tuh-lik buh-dahnkt</i>
You're welcome (don't mention it)	Graag gedaan	<i>khrahkh khuh-dahn</i>
I'm sorry / Excuse me	Sorry	<i>saw-ree</i>
Pardon me (didn't understand)	Pardon, wat zei u?	<i>pahr-dohn, vat zay ew</i>
Yes / No	Ja / Nee	<i>yah / nay</i>
How are you? (formal)	Hoe gaat het met u?	<i>hoo khaht ut meht ew</i>
How are you? (informal)	Hoe gaat het?	<i>hoo khaht ut</i>
Fine / Very well	Goed / Heel goed	<i>khoot / hayl khoot</i>
So so / Bad	Het gaat / Slecht	<i>uht khaht / slehkht</i>
I'm tired / sick.	Ik ben moe / ziek	<i>ik ben moo / zeek</i>
I'm hungry / thirsty.	Ik heb honger / dorst	<i>ik heb hohng-ur / dohrst</i>
What's your name? (formal)	Hoe heet u?	<i>hoo hayt ew</i>
What's your name? (informal)	Hoe heet je?	<i>hoo hayt yuh</i>

My name is (I'm called)...	Ik heet...	<i>ik hayt...</i>
I am...	Ik ben...	<i>ik ben</i>
Nice to meet you.	Aangenaam (kennis te maken)	<i>ahn-guh-nahm (ken-nis tuh mah-kuh)</i>
Mister / Misses / Miss	meneer / mevrouw / mejuffrouw	<i>muh-nayr / muh-frow / muh-yuh-frow</i>
Where are you from? (formal)	Waar komt u vandaan?	<i>vahr kawmt ew fun-dahn</i>
Where are you from? (informal)	Waar kom je vandaan?	<i>vahr kawm yuh fun-dahn</i>
I am from the Netherlands.	Ik kom uit Nederland.	<i>ik kawm owt nay-der-lant</i>
Where do you live? (formal)	Waar woont u?	<i>vahr vohnt ew</i>
Where do you live? (informal)	Waar woon je?	<i>vahr vohn yuh</i>
I live in America.	Ik woon in Amerika.	<i>ik vohn in ah-meh-ree-kah</i>
How old are you? (formal)	Hoe oud bent u?	<i>hoo owt bent ew</i>
How old are you? (informal)	Hoe oud ben je?	<i>hoo owt ben yuh</i>
I am ____ years old.	Ik ben ... jaar (oud).	<i>ik ben ... yahr owt</i>
Do you speak Dutch? (formal)	Spreekt u Nederlands?	<i>spraykt ew nay-der-lahnds</i>
Do you speak English? (informal)	Spreek je Engels?	<i>sprayk yuh ehng-uhs</i>
I [don't] speak...	Ik spreek [geen]...	<i>ik sprayk [khayn]</i>
I don't speak ... very well.	Ik spreek niet zo goed...	<i>ik sprayk neet zoh khoo</i>
I [don't] understand.	Ik begrijp het [niet.]	<i>ik buh-khraip ut neet</i>
I [don't] know.	Ik weet het [niet.]	<i>ik vayt ut [neet]</i>
How much is it?	Wat kost het?	<i>vat kohst ut</i>
I'd like...	Ik wil graag...	<i>ik vil khrahk</i>
Cheers!	Proost!	<i>prohst</i>
Have fun!	Veel plezier!	<i>fayl pleh-zeer</i>

Good luck!	Veel succes!	<i>fayl suk-sehs</i>
Be careful!	Wees voorzichtig!	<i>vays fohr-zikh-tikh</i>
That is great / terrible!	Dat is geweldig / vreselijk!	<i>dat is khuh-vehl-duhkh / fray-zuh-likh</i>
I love you. (informal)	Ik hou van je.	<i>ik how fahn yuh</i>
I love you (all).	Ik hou van jullie.	<i>ik how fahn juh-lee</i>
How funny / odd!	Wat vreemd!	<i>vaht fraymt</i>
What a pity!	Wat jammer!	<i>vaht yah-mer</i>
What is this / that?	Wat is dit / dat?	<i>vut iss dit / dut</i>

In the pronunciations, kh denotes a uvular guttural sound.

Meneer, mevrouw and mejuffrouw are all written with a small letter when they precede a name. When typing, **de Heer** is used instead of meneer and **Dhr.** is used on envelopes. Mevrouw and mejuffrouw are abbreviated as Mevr. and Mej. In addition, Mw. can be used as an equivalent of the English Ms.

Pronunciation

Dutch letters	English sound
ch	guttural sound, made at back of mouth
sch	s followed by guttural ch sound
g	same as ch, guttural sound from back of mouth
w	like v before r, otherwise like w but with bottom lip against top teeth
v	like v, but sometimes closer to f
r	either rolled or guttural
j	y as in yes
sj	sh as in ship
tj	ch as in chip
aa	ah as in father, but longer
ee	ay as in hail, but shorter
ie	ee as in neat, but shorter
oo	oh as in boat
oe	oo as in pool, but shorter
eu	ur as in hurt, but with lips rounded
uu	ew, but with lips rounded (sound not found in English)
a	ah as in father, but shorter
e	eh as in bed
i	ih as in bit
o	aw as in paw, with lips rounded
u	ir as in dirt, but very short
ei / ij	between the sounds in "light" and "late"
aai	combination of aa and ie
oei	combination of oe and ie
ooi	combination of oo and ie
ou / au	like ow, as in house
eeuw	combination of ee and oe
ieuw	combination of ie and oe
uw	combination of uu and oe
ui	combination of a and uu

The consonants s, f, h, b, d, z, l, m, n, and ng are pronounced the same way in Dutch as in English. P, t, and k are pronounced without the puff of air (called aspiration.) Sometimes the g is pronounced like zh in words borrowed from French. One last vowel sound is found in various Dutch spellings. It is pronounced like uh, as in **along** or **sofa**. For example, this sound is found in **de** (the), **een** (a), **aardig** (nice), and **vriendelijk** (kind).

Alphabet

a	ah	j	yay	s	ess
b	bay	k	kah	t	tay
c	say	l	ell	u	ew
d	day	m	emm	v	fay
e	ay	n	enn	w	vay
f	eff	o	oh	x	eeks
g	khay	p	pay	y	ee-grek
h	hah	q	kew	z	zett
i	ee	r	air		

Nouns and Gender

All nouns have a gender in Dutch, either common (**de** words) or neuter (**het** words). It is hard to guess which gender a noun is, so it is best to memorize the genders when memorizing vocabulary. However, two-thirds of Dutch words are common gender (because the common gender has combined the former feminine and masculine genders.) It may be easier to memorize which nouns are neuter, and then assign common gender to the rest.

All diminutives (words ending in **-je**) and infinitives used as nouns, as well as colors, metals, compass directions, and all words that end in **-um**, **-aat**, **-sel**, **-isme** are neuter.

Most nouns beginning with **ge-** and ending with **-te** are neuter, as are most nouns beginning with **ge-**, **be-**, and **ver-**.

Common noun endings include: **-aar**, **-ent**, **-er**, **-es**, **-eur**, **-heid**, **-ij**, **-ing**, **-teit**, **-tie**.