

## Learning Dutch

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### Grammar (grammatica)

**Verbs** (werkwoorden (literally work words))

Irregular verb: to have/hebben

		<b>Present</b> (Tegenwoordige tijd)	<b>Past</b> (Verleden tijd)	<b>Past continuous</b> (Voltooid deelwoord)
I	Ik	heb	had	heb gehad
You (singular)	Je/jij	hebt	had	hebt gehad
He/she/it	Hij/zij/het	heeft	had	hebt gehad
We	Wij	hebben	hadden	hebben gehad
They	Zij	hebben	hadden	hebben gehad
You (plural)	Jullie	hebben	hadden	hebben gehad
You (singular, polite)	U	hebt/heeft	had	heeft gehad

In Dutch, we have three forms of 'you': singular (je/jij), plural (jullie) and singular polite (u).

The polite version we say to adults who are elder than you. The polite form uses the same verb as the normal singular form. The French 'vous' is split up in 'jullie' en 'u'.

The difference between je and jij is like the French tu and toi. (je=tu and jij=toi).

We don't say 'to' in the infinitive. Where in English it's 'to dream', we say 'dromen' in one word. Note that the infinitive is the we-form.

'She' and 'they' are both 'zij' in Dutch.

'U hebt' or 'U heeft' are both correct.

Irregular verb: to be/zijn

	<b>Tegenwoordige tijd</b>	<b>Verleden tijd</b>	<b>Voltooid deelwoord</b>
Ik	ben	was	ben geweest
Je/jij	bent	was	bent geweest
Hij/zij/het	is	was	is geweest
Wij	zijn	waren	zijn geweest
Zij	zijn	waren	zijn geweest
Jullie	zijn	waren	zijn geweest
U	bent	was	bent geweest

Sometimes, you see 'u is', but 'u bent' is more usual. You pronounce the 'u' just like the 'u' in the French word 'une'.

Regular verb: to dream/dromen

	<b>Tegenwoordige tijd</b>	<b>Verleden tijd</b>	<b>Voltooid deelwoord</b>
Ik	droom	droomde	heb gedroomd
Je/jij	droomt	droomde	hebt gedroomd
Hij/zij/het	droomt	droomde	heeft gedroomd
Wij	dromen	droomden	hebben gedroomd
Zij	dromen	droomden	hebben gedroomd
Jullie	dromen	droomden	hebben gedroomd
U	droomt	droomde	heeft gedroomd

In all the plural forms, the double oo changes to a single o in the present form.

The past is a bit easier than the present. In this case, the single forms end with 'de' and the plural forms end with 'den', but some other regular verbs end with 'te' and 'ten'.

In the past continuous, 'gedroomd' ends with a d, but some other verbs end with a t.

The de(n)/te(n) in the past form corresponds with the d or t in the past continuous.

Irregular verb: to walk/lopen

	<b>Tegenwoordige tijd</b>	<b>Verleden tijd</b>	<b>Voltooid deelwoord</b>
Ik	loop	liep	heb gelopen
Je/jij	loopt	liep	hebt gelopen
Hij/zij/het	loopt	liepen	heeft gelopen
Wij	lopen	liepen	hebben gelopen
Zij	lopen	liepen	hebben gelopen
Jullie	lopen	liepen	hebben gelopen
U	loopt	liep	heeft gelopen

In this case, the 'oo' from the present changes to the 'ie' in the past, but that's different with every verb.

In the past continuous, you sometimes use 'hebben' and sometimes 'zijn'. You can't know when to use which form.

The future is 'zal hebben', so it's 'zal' (will) and then the infinitive, for all the pronouns. This is for all verbs the same.

In English, you say the word 'do' very often. The Dutch don't say that at all.

### **Articles** (lidwoorden)

In Dutch, we have two articles: de and het. The 'e' in de is pronounced just like 'e' in the, but the 'e' in het is pronounced like the 'e' in get and let.

There's no way to know which one to use at which word, but 'de' is more used, so guess 'de' if you're not sure.

For the English article 'a', we use 'een'. In Dutch, there's no difference between 'a' and 'an'.

## Plural (meervoud)

In general, the Dutch language has two ways to make a plural: put –en or –s at the end of a sentence. Example: hoed – hoeden (hats) and beker – bekers (cups). You can't know when to use –en or –s, but –en is more usual. Exceptions: kind – kinderen (children) and ei – eieren (eggs). The 's' changes to a 'z': muis - muizen (mice) and the 'f' to a 'v': hoef – hoeven (hoofs). When the word has two of the same vowels, one disappears just like in the verbs 'droom-dromen'. Example: maan-manen (moons).

When the word only has one vowel, the consonant doubles: kam-kammen (combs) and stuk-stukken (pieces).

## Words (woorden)

I am	<i>ik heet</i>	(literally 'Je m'appelle' in French)
I live in	<i>Ik woon in</i>	
I'm ... years old	<i>Ik ben ... jaar</i>	(we usually don't say old (oud) in that sentence)
Cheese	<i>Kaas</i>	

## Countries and nationalities (landen en nationaliteiten):

The Netherlands/Dutch	<i>Nederland/ Nederlands</i>
Great-Britain/British	<i>Groot-Brittanië/Brits</i>
Belgium/Belgian	<i>België/Belgisch</i>
France/French	<i>Frankrijk/Frans</i>
Germany/German	<i>Duitsland/Duits</i>
Finland/Finnish	<i>Finland/Fins</i>
Denmark/Danish	<i>Denemarken/Deens</i>
Norway/Norwegian	<i>Noorwegen/Noors</i>
Sweden/Swedish	<i>Zweden/Zweeds</i>

## Counting (tellen):

een	elf	30 = dertig
twee	twalf	40 = veertig
drie	dertien	50 = vijftig
vier	veertien	60 = zestig
vijf	vijftien	70 = zeventig
zes	zestien	80 = tachtig
zeven	zeventien	90 = negentig
acht	achttien	100 = honderd
negen	negentien	
tien	twintig	

When the English say twenty-one, the Dutch say it backwards and say een-en-twintig (literally one-and-twenty). We are aware this is very confusing. Actually it's without the – but that's for clearness (so 21 = eenentwintig and 22 = twee-en-twintig = tweeëntwintig because of the vowel clash). In Dutch, it isn't one-hundred but just hundred, spelled like honderd.

Days of the week (dagen van de week):

maandag  
dinsdag  
woensdag  
donderdag  
vrijdag  
zaterdag  
zondag

Names of the months (namen van de maanden):

januari  
februari  
maart  
april  
mei  
juni  
juni  
augustus  
september  
oktober  
november  
december

Notice that the names of the days and months are written with a **lowercase letter**.

Colours (kleuren):

Red	<i>rood</i>	
Blue	<i>blauw</i>	
Yellow	<i>geel</i>	
Green	<i>groen</i>	
Purple	<i>paars</i>	
Orange	<i>oranje</i>	(But the fruit orange is sinaasappel in Dutch!)
Pink	<i>roze</i>	
Brown	<i>bruin</i>	
Black	<i>zwart</i>	
White	<i>wit</i>	
Grey	<i>grijs</i>	

Directions (windrichtingen)

North	<i>noord</i>	(Again, notice the lowercase letter!)
South	<i>zuid</i>	
East	<i>oost</i>	
West	<i>west</i>	

### **Words we use too much** (woorden die we te vaak gebruiken)

Diminutives: to make a word a diminutive, put 'je' at the end of the word. Sometimes it's 'tje' or 'pje' instead of 'je'. Example: hond**je** (little dog), cd'**tje** and bloemp**je** (little flower). Everything can be a diminutive, even the sun (zon, zonnetje). Also, when a noun ends with 'je' (or 'tje' or 'pje'), the article is always 'het'.

The word 'girl' (meisje) is always a diminutive.

hè?/toch?: isn't it? at the end of a sentence.

Gewoon: can mean 'just' or 'usual'. Fits in every sentence.

Zitten: literally: to sit, but also used as 'to be'. For example: 'I **am** in school' is 'Ik **zit** op school'. Worse: it's possible to stand sitting. Example: 'I **was** standing here' is 'Ik **zat** hier te staan'.

### **Pronouncing** (uitspraak)

I can't help with pronouncing just by typing, but I'll try.

The Dutch language has many vowels and to be honest, we're quite proud of it. To pronounce them, you have to articulate well. We pronounce the letter 'g' just like they do in the Hebrew language, so it sounds harder and from the throat. The letter combination 'ng' is pronounced like the English 'g'. In contrary to French, all written letters are pronounced, with only very few exceptions.

Links to YouTube videos:

I found someone on YouTube who explains Dutch pronouncing really well.

Vowels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3cmrA7jM4E>

Pronouncing the 'g': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrI2-bZ7wpc>