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Introduction

HOW TO USE THIS PHRASE BOOK?

The various sections of this book each describe particular, standard situations that will offer you the opportunity to try out your Dutch or require you to do so: arrival in the Netherlands or Belgium, at your hotel, travelling around, eating out, shopping, seeing the sights, filling up with petrol, possibly visiting a doctor. The sections - each marked by a small pictogram - then go on to give a large number of phrases and sentences. These are grouped in blocks of three lines: the first line supplies the English sentence (**bold**), the second the Dutch equivalent (**blue**) and the third gives as accurate a rendering as possible of the Dutch pronunciation. In some of the examples the English sentence is preceded by the symbol (◀), indicating that this is the reply or question you can expect to receive from the Dutch person you are talking to. The sections also provide a brief English-Dutch vocabulary relating to the specific situation they describe. Very often you can take different words from the vocabulary and slot them into the sentences shown above. You will find a more extensive vocabulary at the back.

We wish you every success in your attempts to master the Dutch pronunciation. And don't be put off by the widespread Dutch habit of immediately responding to a foreign accent by replying in English. This is well meant but can seriously hinder your progress in the language. If you insist on continuing in Dutch, though, people are sure to respect your efforts. After all, actually speaking a language is the only way of learning it.

HOLLAND OR THE NETHERLANDS?

Although foreigners often refer to the country as 'Holland' its official name is 'the Netherlands' - rather in the way that people say 'England' when they mean 'Britain'. It's only comparatively recently that the Dutch themselves started to make the distinction in everyday speech, and this even concerns the name of the language itself. For English speakers there is no problem - we just use the term 'Dutch'. The Dutch themselves, however, have two terms: the now generally accepted *Nederlands*, and *Hollands*. The latter is somewhat dated but still heard. For a closer understanding of the distinction we need to go back in history.

As early as the Middle Ages the seventeen earldoms (*graafschappen*), duchies (*herzogdommen*) and bishoprics (*bisdommen*) located in the delta formed by the three great rivers - the Rhine (*Rijn*), Meuse (*Maas*) and Scheldt (*Schelde*) - were known as 'the Netherlands' (*de Nederlanden*, meaning 'the low lands'). Although self-governing,

The comparative degree is followed by the word **dan** (than). When both parts are equal the construction **even/net zo ... als** (just as ... as) is used:

De man is **groter dan** de vrouw

(The man is taller than his wife)

De man is **even groot (net zo groot) als** de vrouw

(The man is just as tall as his wife)

THE ADVERB

Adverbs are not inflected but also have degrees of comparison:

De auto rijdt **snel** - The car rides fast

De auto rijdt **sneller** (dan ...)

De auto rijdt **het snelst**

Het kind tekent **mooi** - The child is drawing beautifully

Het kind tekent **mooier** (dan ...)

Het kind tekent **het mooist**

THE PERSONAL PRONOUN

Many personal pronouns have two versions: one (a) is used in written language and in stressed positions, whereas the other (b) is used in colloquial, everyday speech and in unstressed positions.

	nom.		gen.		dat.		acc.	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
<i>singular</i>								
1	ik	'k	mijn	m'n	mij	me	mij	me
2	jij	je	jouw	je	jou	je	jou	je
	u	-	uw	-	u	-	u	-
3	hij	-	zijn	z'n	hem	'm	hem	'm
	zij	ze	haar	d'r	haar	'r	haar	'r
	het	't	zijn	z'n	het	't	het	't
<i>plural</i>								
1	wij	we	ons	-	ons	-	ons	-
2	jullie	-	jullie	-	jullie	-	jullie	-
	u	-	uw	-	u	-	u	-
3	zij	ze	hun	-	hun/hen	ze	hun	ze

U is a polite form of address, that can be used both in the 2nd person singular and plural. Whether you have to use the polite **u** or the more informal **jij** depends on your relationship

with the person you speak to. When you are not sure which form to use, use **u** and wait for the other person to induce you to say **jij** (sg.) or **jullie** (pl.). The possessive pronoun **haar** (her) has an unstressed form (**d'r** in the genitive case, **'r** in the dative and accusative cases), but these forms are restricted to colloquial speech only. **Hun** en **hen** (them) can also apply to women (plural); the formal form **haar** is slightly outdated: **De vrouwen eisen haar rechten op** (The women demand their rights).

There are three ways in which personal pronouns can be made into possessive pronouns (both singular and plural):

- a. You may use the above mentioned genitive form.
 - b. You can use the dative form, preceded by **van**.
 - c. (less common) You can use the personal pronoun in a substantive way, adding **-e**.
-
- a. **Dit is mijn jouw/uw zijn ons jullie hun huis**
This is my/your/his/our/your/their house
 - b. **Dit huis is van mij jou/u hem ons jullie hen**
This house is mine/yours/his/ours/yours/theirs
 - c. **Dit huis is het mijne jouwe/uwe zijne onze hunne**

Except in the case of c. the possessive pronoun is never inflected. **Ons** (our) is an exception: it is almost always inflected to **onze** (except when a singular neuter word is used or when it is preceded by **van**).

Dit is onze auto	Dit zijn onze auto's
This is our car	These are our cars
Dit is ons kind	Dit zijn onze kinderen
This is our child	These are our children
Dit huis is van ons	Deze huizen zijn van ons
This house is ours	These houses are ours

As in all Germanic languages the possessive pronoun is guided by the gender of the owner and never of the objects owned. When the gender of a person or animal is known, a clear distinction is made between **zijn** (his) and **haar** (her):

De man rijdt in zijn auto - The man drives his car (the owner is male)

De vrouw pakt haar fiets - The woman takes her bicycle (the owner is female)

De man neemt de vrouw haar fiets af - The man deprives the woman of her bicycle (the subject is male, but the owner of the bike is female)

Het paard loopt naast haar veulen - The horse is walking next to her filly (it may be assumed that the horse is female)

As hardly a distinction can be made between masculine and feminine objects one almost always uses **zijn** (his): **Het land en zijn inwoners** (the country and its inhabitants).

Occasionally a 'possessive' inanimate object is regarded as feminine: **De stad en haar monumenten** (the city and its - lit. her - monuments).

◀ Do you want anything else?

Nog iets van uw dienst?

nogh eets van eww deenst?

◀ You can pay at the cash register

U kunt betalen aan de kassa

ew kunt betahlen ahn de kasah

Can I pay with a credit card?

Kan ik betalen met een creditcard?

kan ik betahlen meht en 'creditcard'?

Can I pay by debit card?

Kan ik pinnen?

kan ik pinen?

I'd like to exchange this

Ik wil dit graag ruilen

ik wil dit ghrahgh roelen

◀ You can exchange this at the customer service

U kunt dit ruilen bij de klantenservice

ew kunt dit roelen baiy de klanten'service'

Could I have a refund?

Kan ik het geld terugkrijgen?

kan ik heht ghehlt terughkraiighen?

No thank you, that will be all

Nee dank u, dat was het

nay dank ew, dat was heht

◀ You can change it within 8 days

U kunt het binnen 8 dagen ruilen

ew kunt heht binen aght dahghen roelen

◀ Do you have an account here?

Hebt u hier een rekening (lopen)?

hehpt ew heer en raykening (loopen)?

Can I use a bank card?

Kan ik betalen met een bankpas?

Kan ik betahlen meht en bankpas?

Here is the receipt

Hier is de kassabon

heer is de kasahbon

◀ No, you will receive a credit note

Nee, u krijgt een tegoedbon

nay, ew kraiigh en teghootbon

COLORS, PATTERNS, FABRICS

See the list under 'Clothes and shoes'.

WEIGHTS, MEASURES, QUANTITIES

a box

een doos

en doas

a tin, can

een blik *n*

en blik

a packet

een pak *n*

en pak

one piece

één stuk *n*

ayn stuk

a pair

een paar *n*

en pahr

a set

een set

en seht

a bottle

een fles

en flehs

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