



# Dutch

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# Dutch

**PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY**

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# acknowledgments

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Annelies Mertens for the comprehensive translations and the cultural information.

Annelies is a native Dutch speaker hailing from the Kempen region in Belgium. At the age of 18 she moved to the Flemish 'student city' of Leuven to study Arts and Linguistics. After obtaining her Honours in Romance studies and graduating as a French and Spanish teacher, she moved to the baroque port city of Antwerp to sample more of the good things life (and Belgium) have on offer. Having travelled the length and breadth of Europe as a kid with mum and dad, Annelies has continued to travel as often as she can to all corners of the world, and now lives in Melbourne, Australia with husband Tony, and works at Lonely Planet as a Managing Editor. During her visits to Belgium she indulges in the cuisine, the vibrant cultural life, the most *gezellige* pubs imaginable, the beers, the chocolates, and can be seen wandering seemingly aimlessly through its historic cities.

Annelies would like to thank colleague and fellow native Dutch speaker Barbara Delissen, originally from Gouda, the Netherlands, for providing extra Dutch language and cultural expertise, as well as support during the production of this book. Thanks also to editor Brana Vladislavljevic with whom the manuscript was in super-safe and capable hands. Last but not least, a big thank you to Moeke, Katleen, Tony, Els, Dirk and Jules – you all know why!

Thanks also to Wendy Wright for the inside illustrations.



## make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

### finding things in this book

For easy navigation, this book is in sections. The Basics chapters are the ones you'll thumb through time and again. The Practical section covers basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. The Social section gives you conversational phrases, pick-up lines, the ability to express opinions – so you can get to know people. Food has a section all of its own: gourmets and vegetarians are covered and local dishes feature. Safe Travel equips you with health and police phrases, just in case. Remember the colours of each section and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the two-way traveller's Dictionary for the word you need.

### being understood

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language. Start with them to get a feel for how the language sounds. The pronunciation chapter in Basics will explain more, but you can be confident that if you read the coloured phrase, you'll be understood. As you become familiar with the spoken language, move on to using the actual text in the language which will help you perfect your pronunciation.

### communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. 'Local talk' boxes show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. 'Listen for ...' boxes supply the phrases you may hear. They start with the language (so a local can find the phrase they want and point it out to you) and then lead in to the phonetic guide and the English translation.

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# dutch



EUROPE



0 50 km  
0 30 mi

NORTH SEA



■ Dutch-speaking areas   ■ French-speaking areas   ■ German-speaking areas

For more details, see the **introduction**.

When it comes to Dutch, you can safely put aside those negative stereotypes about ‘double Dutch’. The reality is that Dutch and English are closely related, both being members of the Germanic family of languages. Such are the similarities that Bill Bryson was moved to remark in *Neither Here Nor There* that ‘when one hears Dutch, one feels one ought to be able to understand it.’

The connection between English and Dutch has been reinforced by numerous word borrowings – some 2000 English words are said to be of Dutch origin. The impetus behind this phenomenon was the Dutch Golden Age (1584–1702), when the Dutch sailed across the seven seas founding colonies and establishing a trading empire. As you might expect, many of the adopted words are of maritime origin: buoy, dock, skipper, whiting and yacht are only a few.

## at a glance ...

### language name:

Dutch

### name in language:

*Nederlands*

*ney-duhr-lants*

### language family:

Germanic

### approximate number of speakers: 20 million

### close relatives:

Afrikaans, English, Frisian, German

### donations to English:

buoy, cookie, cruise, dock, landscape (among many others)

Dutch is more than just the language spoken in the Netherlands. Flemish (*Vlaams* *vlaams*), spoken in the northern part of Belgium (known as Flanders), is really the same language as Dutch, but for historical and cultural reasons the name ‘Flemish’ is often used. Officially, eg in the school curriculum, it’s always referred to as *Nederlands* *ney-duhr-lants* (Dutch). There are slight differences in pronunciation and vocabulary between Flemish and the Dutch spoken in the Netherlands. In this phrasebook, the differences are indicated with ① and ②

(signifying the Netherlands and Belgium). Both countries are members of the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union), the supreme authority on modern language standards. The same rules for spelling and grammar are followed throughout both countries and the same dictionaries are used as reference. There are also some dialect divisions within the language as a result of historical circumstances, but they are limited to the spoken language and informal surroundings only. Everyone is taught standard Dutch at school. The standard language is based on the northern dialects, mainly as spoken around Amsterdam. Due to historical events, Dutch is also spoken by a few thousand mainly older people in the very northeastern corner of France, around the city of Dunkirk.

With over 20 million speakers, Dutch has a strong presence on the world linguistic stage. The explorers and traders of the Dutch Golden Age, who brought their language to many corners of the globe, helped establish it as an official language in Aruba, the Dutch Antilles and Suriname. The greatest achievement of the Dutch linguistic expansion is its famous offspring, Afrikaans, now considered a separate language and spoken by around six million people in South Africa.

Some travellers might wonder about the necessity of using Dutch when so many Dutch and Flemish people seem to speak excellent English. While it's true that the Dutch and Flemish are avid linguists, a little effort on your part to speak the local language will be warmly received as a sign of goodwill. And remember that a country's language is also a key to its culture. Taking this book with you will open the door to a truly *gezellige khuh-ze-li-khuh* travel experience. If you want to discover firsthand the true meaning of this quintessentially Dutch word ('convivial' just doesn't do it justice), then don't leave home without this little book!

## abbreviations used in this book

<b>a</b>	adjective	<b>m</b>	masculine
<b>adv</b>	adverb	<b>n</b>	neuter (after Dutch)
<b>ⓑ</b>	Belgium	<b>n</b>	noun (after English)
<b>f</b>	feminine	<b>Ⓝ</b>	the Netherlands
<b>Ind</b>	Indonesian (food)	<b>pl</b>	plural
<b>inf</b>	informal	<b>pol</b>	polite
<b>lit</b>	literal	<b>sg</b>	singular