

## 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



# ABOUT DUTCH

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* *flaams*), 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 ® and ®