

## E-Intercultural Awareness

### Get in touch with the Dutch

Food for thought and discussion! Check the 18 statements on Dutch society and culture below. What do you consider true or false? How would you consider these statements compared to your own culture? How much are people aware of their own - perhaps unconscious - cultural preferences?

1. Love of the home is central to Dutch mentality.
2. Dutch people have a reputation as big spenders.
3. When Dutch people take off their jackets and roll up their sleeves, it is a sign that they are getting down to work.
4. Religious tolerance is one of the outstanding features of Dutch history.
5. The Dutch usually think they have truth on their side.
6. Dutch people tend to be very conscious of their rights.
7. Dutch people dislike presentations full of facts and figures.
8. Dutch people feel that their work and private lives should be separate.
9. Dutch employees would not question their boss, even if they are given an order they think is wrong.
10. The Dutch are among the most socially responsive of nations.
11. Dutch people can show great stubbornness.
12. Knowledge is normally the source of authority in Dutch management.
13. Dutch people are extremely analytical when negotiating.
14. The Dutch separate negative judgement about things they dislike from the people who produce these things.
15. Engineers have a high status in the Netherlands.
16. Dutch people shake hands less than English.
17. All Dutch companies are hierarchical.
18. Dutch are well-known for long debate.



Language  
Manners  
Institutions  
Arts  
Religion  
Dress  
Food  
Rituals/Customs/Traditions

Beliefs  
Ideals  
Norms  
Concepts  
Roles

Values  
Desires  
Assumptions  
Tastes  
Attitudes

## Dutch expressions & sayings

Zoals het klokje thuis tikt, tikt het nergens. / As the clock ticks at home, it doesn't tick anywhere.

Oost, West, thuis best. / East, West, home is best.

Meten is weten. / Measuring is knowing

Met de deur in huis vallen. / Get straight to the point.

Het zekere voor het onzekere nemen. / Making sure.

Met beide benen op de grond staan. / With both feet on the ground

Zuinigheid met vlijt bouwt huizen als kastelen. / Frugality with diligence, builds houses like castles.

Op de kleintjes letten. / To economize.

## Why isn't the Netherlands under water?



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