



E-Welcome

Saying hello

Good morning – Goedemorgen, goeiemorgen
 Good afternoon – Goedemiddag, goeiemiddag
 Good evening – Goedenavond, goeienavond
 Hello – Hallo
 Hello – Dag
 Hi, hey – Hi, he, hoi
 Bye – Dag
 See you – Tot ziens
 See you next time – Tot de volgende keer
 (you can say 'Dag' at any time of the day,
 when you come or go, always good)
 All 'doei, doeg, doedoei' come from 'dag' and
 are more informal.

Your first Dutch magic phrase

Mag ik een koffie, alsjeblieft?
 Alsjeblieft
 Dankjewel
 Graag gedaan

Mag ik een glas water, alstublieft?
 Alstublieft
 Dankuwel
 Graag gedaan

'Meeting someone'

How are you? – Hoe gaat het?
 How do you do? – Hoe gaat het met je?
 Good, thanks – Goed, dank je
 And you? – En met jou?
 I'm fine – Het gaat goed (met mij)
 All good – Alles goed
 How is it? – Hoe is het?
 Fine - Prima

What is your name? – Wat is je naam / hoe heet je?
 Mijn naam is..... / Ik heet.....
 Who are you? – Wie ben je? Ik ben

Nice to meet you - Aangenaam
 Where do you come from? Waar kom je vandaan?
 I'm from the US – Ik kom uit de Verenigde Staten
 From which town? – Uit welke stad? Ik kom uit Parijs

Personal pronouns and 'to be'/ zijn

I am	ik ben
You are	je bent (or emphasized 'jij')
You are	u bent (formal)
He is	hij is
She is	ze is (or emphasized 'zij')
We are	we zijn (or emphasized 'wij')
You are	jullie zijn
They are	ze zijn (or emphasized 'zij')

Question words

Wie, wat, waar, waarom, wanneer,
 hoe, welke, wat voor

Who, what, where, why, when
 how, which, what type of

Hidden Dutch politeness

The Dutch have a name...

One of the first things you'll learn in your Dutch course is 'dankjewel' and 'alsjeblieft'. 'Dankjewel, dank u wel, bedankt' all mean 'thank you'. 'Alsjeblieft' or 'alstublieft' has two different meanings, depending on the context it can mean 'please' or 'here you are'. When speaking English, even as a second language, we are used to saying a lot of 'please' as an expression of politeness and friendly communication. Compared to the Dutch language, you won't hear much 'alsjeblieft' on a daily basis. The Dutch are infamous for being direct and a bit rude, on top of which they aren't very generous with their 'alsjeblieft'.

Wacht even / Hold on please

What most people, including the Dutch, don't know is that we actually have a number of 'little' words that function as 'please'. We sprinkle these little words throughout our sentences, from early morning till late night. It really makes a huge difference if you say 'doe de deur dicht' or 'doe de deur even dicht', because 'even' is actually a hidden 'please'. If you leave out the 'even', suddenly the whole sentence becomes unfriendly, impolite even. So while 'wacht even' can mean 'hold on please', it can also mean 'wait a minute please' indicating that 'even' can mean 'please' as well as 'a while'.

Even, eventjes, maar, misschien, hoor, wel, eens

One of the most difficult aspects of the Dutch language is these little words, and knowing which one to use in what situation and where to put them in your sentences. What is the difference between 'kom even, kom eventjes, kom maar, kom eens, kom maar hoor, kom maar even'? That is not easy to explain, it's very sensitive and it all depends on context.

Little words, huge impact

Mostly, Dutch people aren't actively aware that these little words are a substitute for 'please'. Result: when they speak English, they don't put 'please' in their sentences, which makes their English a bit rude and impolite as well. Mind that when you speak Dutch and you don't use 'the little words' in a correct way, the Dutch will also find you a bit rude and impolite. Oh help!

Lost in the jungle of little words?

I hope that reading this article will help you in making your way through the jungle of little words. Do you want to learn how you can use them in daily conversations? Book a session with one of our tutors; only a real native can save you!



Video by Tim Artz

Herinnering aan Holland

Denkend aan Holland
zie ik breede rivieren
traag door oneindig
laagland gaan,
rijen ondenkbaar
ijle populieren
als hoge pluimen
aan den einder staan;
en in de geweldige
ruimte verzonken
de boerderijen
verspreid door het land,
boomgroepen, dorpen,
geknotte torens,
kerken en olmen
in een grootsch verband.
de lucht hangt er laag
en de zon wordt er
langzaam
in grijze veelkleurige
dampen gesmoord,
en in alle gewesten
wordt de stem van het water
met zijn eeuwige rampen
gevreesd en gehoord.

Thinking of Holland
I see wide rivers
slugging through
limitless low-lying land,
lines of implausibly
gauzy poplars
like feathered plumes
in far distances stand;
and sunken away
in the formidable vastness
the farmsteads
scattered are found,
tree clumps, villages,
pollarded steeples
churches and elms
in one great design bound.
the sky hangs low there
and in grey vapours of
colour
the sun there
is slowly blurred,
and in all the regions
the voice of the water
with its eternal disasters
is dreaded and heard.

Poem by Hendrik Marsman

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