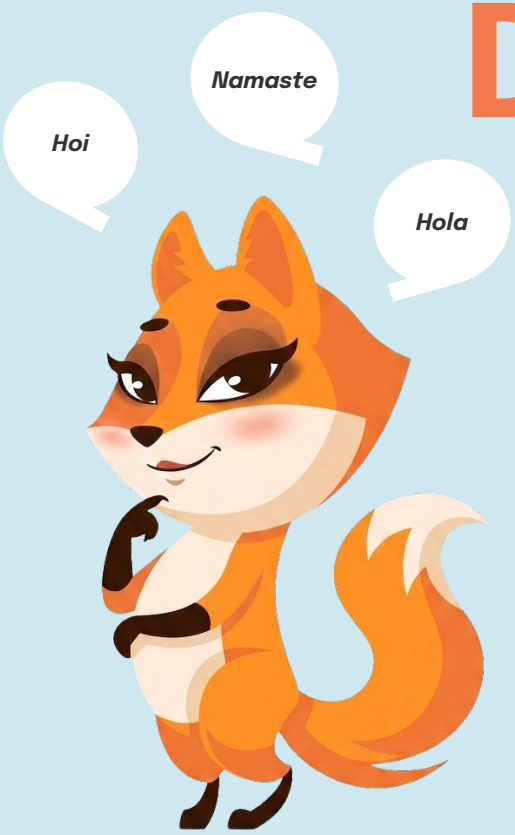
Dutch Quick Start Guide

Fall in Love with Dutch

& get your Certification



Flowently
language sessions

What to Expect
from Your Dutch Quick Start Guide

Just arrived in the netherlands? Just arrived at the company?
This Dutch Quick Start Guide is made for you, the curious, open-minded expat who wants to feel at home fast.

In this compact guide, you'll get a fun and practical introduction to Dutch language and culture. Discover how learning Dutch can make your life easier and way more connected at work with colleagues and in daily life with locals.

10 Dutch Magic Phrases
You'll discover 10 Dutch Magic Phrases that will help you survive (and even thrive!) during your first week, plus a pronunciation guide so you don't accidentally order something weird.

Social Dutch
Want to know how to actually talk to Dutch people? Our section on Social Dutch gives you real-life tips for small talk, and the explanation of that famous word: gezellig!

Top 5 Mistakes
We'll also share the Top 5 Mistakes expats make when learning Dutch – and how to avoid them. Think of it as insider knowledge from people who've been there.

Mini Language Quiz
Bonus: Test your skills with a Mini Language Quiz.

Lets go!



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10 Dutch Magic Phrases
to Survive Your First Week

From “nice to meet you” to “Can I have a coffee, please?” Learn some practical phrases for everyday situations, with pronunciation tips.

Hallo! / Hoi!
(hah-LOH / hoy!)
Hello! / Hi!
It’s short, friendly and informal

Hoe heet je?
(Hoo hey yuh?)
What is your name?

Ik heet …
(ik heyt …)
My name is …

Aangenaam!
(AHN-guh-naam!)
Nice to meet you!
Introduce yourself formally.

Hoe gaat het?
(hoo ghaat het?)
How are you?

Goed, dank je. En met jou?
(ghoot, dunk yuh, en met yau?)
Good, thank you. And you?

Mag ik een koffie, alsjeblieft?
(mahgh ik un KOFF-ee, AHL-shuh-BLEEFT*?)*
May I have a coffee, please?

Alsjeblieft!
(AHL-shuh-BLEEFT!)
Here you are!

Dankjewel!
(DAHNK-yuh-VEL!)
Thank you!

Graag gedaan!
(GHRAAgH guh-DAHN!)
You're welcome!

Spreekt u Engels?
(spraykt oo ENG-uls?)
Do you speak English?

Waar kom je vandaan?
(VAHR kom yuh vun-DAHN?)
Where are you from?

Ik kom uit Frankrijk.
(ik kom owt FRAHNK-rike)
I'm from France.

Tot ziens!
(TOT zeens!)
See you!

Inderdaad!
(IN-der-DAAHT!)
Indeed!

Lost in translation? Bit tired at the end of the day? Did someone say something you totally don't understand? Just smile and say, "Inderdaad!" – and everyone will be happy!

Social Dutch
Blend in like a pro

Meeting your colleagues

Dutch	Pronunciation	English
Teun: Hoi, jij bent nieuw toch? Ik ben Teun.	*(hoy, yie bent nuy togh?* *ik ben TUN.)*	Hey, you're new right? I'm Teun.
Vipul: Ja, klopt. Ik ben Vipul.	*(yah, klopt. ik ben VEE-pool.)*	Yes, I'm Vipul.
Teun: Leuk, welkom! Alles goed?	*(*luke, *VEL-kom! AL-luhs ghoot?)*	Nice, welcome! All good?
Vipul: Ja hoor, gaat goed.	*(yah hoor, ghaht ghoot.)*	Yeah, it's going well.
Teun: Top. Bevalt het?	*(top. buh-VALT hut?)*	Cool. You liking it?
Vipul: Ja, zeker. Leuk team.	*(yah, SAY-ker. luke teem.)*	Yes, definitely. Nice team.
Teun: Mooi. Vragen?	*(moy. VRAH-ghun?)*	Great. Questions?
Vipul: Nee, komt goed.	*(nay, komt ghoot.)*	No, I'll figure it out.

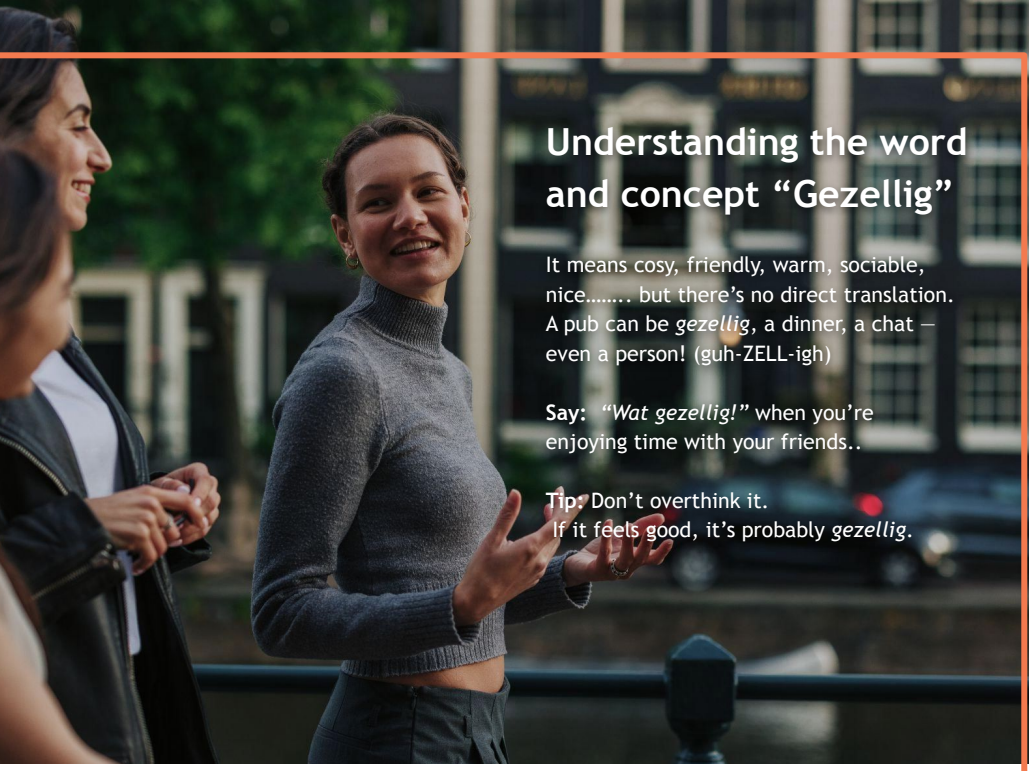
Workplace social talk

The Dutch are informal, even at work.

Ask: *"Hoe was je weekend?"*
(hoo wahs yuh WEEK-end?)
How was your weekend?

Or:*"Heb je nog plannen voor vanavond?"*
(heb yuh nogh PLAH-nun for vahn-AHV-ond?)
Do you have any plans for tonight?

Tip: Don't be shocked by blunt honesty. It's not rude — it's Dutch.



Understanding the word and concept “Gezellig”

It means cosy, friendly, warm, sociable, nice…….. but there’s no direct translation. A pub can be *gezellig*, a dinner, a chat — even a person! (guh-ZELL-igh)

Say: *“Wat gezellig!”* when you’re enjoying time with your friends..

Tip: Don’t overthink it. If it feels good, it’s probably *gezellig*.

In the canteen

Dutch	Pronunciation	English
Emma: Hoi John, koffie of soep?	*(hoy John, KOFF-ee of soop?)*	Hey John, coffee or soup?
John: Soep, ik heb trek.	*(soop, ik hep trek.)*	Soup, I’m hungry.
Canteen crew: Hoi! Wat kan ik voor jullie doen?	*(hoy! vaht kan ik for YUL-lee dun?)*	Hey! What can I get you?
Emma: Twee keer soep graag.	*(tway ker soop ghrahgh.)*	Two soups please.
Canteen crew: Welke?	*(VEL-kuh?)*	Which ones?
John: Tomatensoep.	*(toh-MAH-tuhn-soop.)*	Tomato soup.
Emma: Ik ook. Bedankt!	*(ik ohk.* (buh-DAHNGKT) *!)*	Me too. Thanks!
Canteen crew: Eet smakelijk.	*(AYT SMAH-kuh-lik.)*	Enjoy your meal.

Top 5 Mistakes Expats Make
& How to Avoid Them

Fun and relatable slip-ups we've all made, plus simple grammar hacks to keep you sounding sharp. *funny, useful, and painfully familiar.*

1. **Too direct with "I want"**

❌ ***"Ik wil koffie!"* → Bossy toddler vibes.**

★ *"Mag ik een koffie, alstublieft?"* = Polite & Dutch-approved

Bonus: Add a smile and a *"Dank je wel!"* for extra charm.

2. **Saying "I'm hot" the wrong way**

❌ ***Ik ben heet* → Sounds like you're announcing your sex appeal.**

★ *Ik heb het warm* = I'm warm/hot (temperature)

Tip: Dutch people *have* feelings and conditions –

ik heb trek (feeling hungry), *ik heb dorst*, *ik heb pijn*.



3. **Using "je" and "u" in the same breath.**

❌ ***Kunt u mij helpen? Weet je waar de tram is?***

★ Stay consistent: *je/jij* for informal, *u* for formal.

Use *u* at the doctor's office, and *je* with the barista.

4. **Overthinking "DE" and "HET"**

❌ ***"Het meisje, het tafel, het stoel…"***

★ *"Het meisje, de tafel, de stoel"*

Hack: Learn nouns with their article. Repeat: *de fiets*, *het huis*.

Fun facts:

- 75% of Dutch nouns are DE words (yay! odds are on your side)
- HET is for all diminutives (het biertje, het meisje)
- DE is for people (de man, de vrouw, de collega)

5. **Waiting for perfect Dutch before speaking**

❌ **"I'll talk when I know all the grammar."**

★ Talk now. Mistakes are how you learn.

Real Dutch happens in cafés, markets, and on bikes – not in your head.

Mini Language Quiz

Curious about your Dutch level?
Let's find out and help you move forward!

Test Your Skills!

1. What does “Gezellig” mean?
- a. Boring
- b. Cosy and fun
- c. Loud

2. How do you order a coffee politely in Dutch?
- a. “Ik wil koffie.”
- b. “Geef mij koffie.”
- c. “Mag ik een koffie, alstublieft?”

3. What’s the correct article? ___ fiets
- a. Het
- b. De
- c. Doesn’t matter

4. Which sentence is correct?
- a. “Ik ben heet.”
- b. “Ik heb heet.”
- c. “Ik heb het warm.”

5. You bump into someone at the market. What do you say?
- a. “Wat doe jij?!”
- b. “Sorry hoor!”
- c. “Laat maar!”

Score:
4-5 correct? You’re off to a great start! Keep going!
2-3 correct? Nice effort – you're ready to level up!
0-1 correct? No worries! That’s what we’re here for.



Ja, gezellig!

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Read more:
https://flowently.com/language-sessions/daily-dutch-in-30-h-explained/

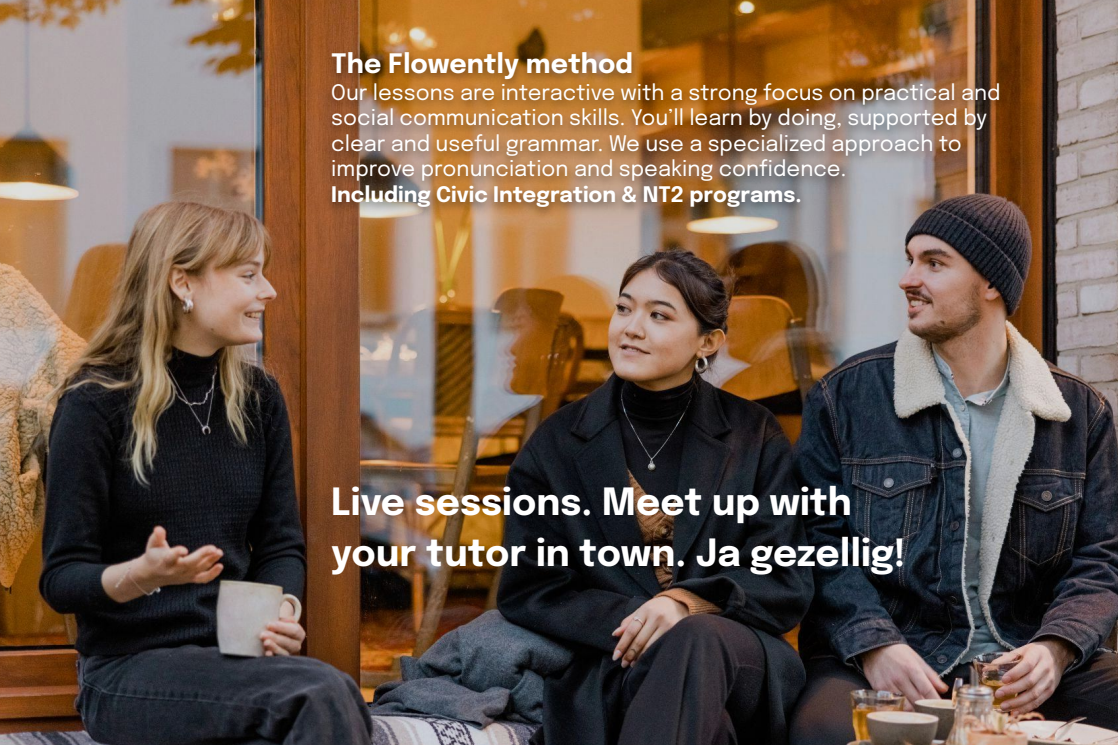
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