

Lesson 1

Introductie



Lesson Goals

Tick the boxes when you've achieved these lesson goals:

- I know **basic words and phrases** that are helpful when introducing myself.
- I understand how **nouns and (in)definite articles** are used in Dutch.
- I understand **subject pronouns** and how the **most important verbs** are **conjugated** in Dutch.
- I understand a **short conversation** in which two people introduce themselves.
- I can **give and obtain basic personal information** using basic phrases.
- I know how to **pronounce different sounds** in Dutch.

Lesson 1: Introductie

Vocabulary and Phrases

Q If you prefer learning the words and phrases through Quizlet, please go to: <https://quizlet.com/join/9rWbY8Anv> to find all the vocabulary lists for the Dutch A1 Course and practise them for free. Learn these words before the lesson to make sure you're able to understand the majority of example sentences and other materials that will be used.

Basic Phrases

Hallo	Hello	Hoe gaat het?	How are you?
Doei	Bye	Met mij gaat het goed.	I'm doing well.
Goedemorgen	Good morning	En jij?	What about you?
Goedemiddag	Good afternoon	Ik heet ...	My name is ...
Goedenavond	Good evening	Ik ben ... jaar oud.	I'm ... years old.
Dankjewel	Thank you	Ik woon in ...	I live in ...
Alsjeblijft	Please / Here you go!	Ik kom uit ...	I come from ...
Leuk je te ontmoeten!	Nice to meet you!	Tot ziens!	Until next time!

Frequently Used Nouns

de man	the man	(het) Nederlands	(the) Dutch (language)
de vrouw	the woman	(het) Belgisch	(the) Belgian (origin)
de jongen	the boy	(het) Vlaams	(the) Flemish (accent)
het meisje	the girl	(het) Engels	(the) English (language)
het mens	the person	de taal	the language
het dier	the animal	het woord	the word
het land	the country	de grammatica	the grammar
de naam	the name	het voorbeeld	the example
de leraar	the teacher	de opdracht	the exercise
de leerling	the student	de vraag	the question
de student		het antwoord	the answer
Nederland	the Netherlands	de les	the lesson
België	Belgium	de school	the school

Frequently Used Verbs

zijn	(to) be	hebben	(to) have
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Personal Pronouns

ik	I	het	it
jij	you (informal)	wij	we
u	you (formal)	jullie	you
hij	he	zij	they
zij	she		

Other Helpful Words

de, het	the	ja	yes
een	a(n)	nee	no
en	and	ook	also, as well

Other Helpful Phrases

Hoe zeg ik "___" in het Nederlands?	How do you say "___" in Dutch?
Wat betekent "___" in het Engels?	What does "___" mean in English?
Kun je dat herhalen?	Could you repeat that?
Hoe spel ik "___"?	How do I spell "___"?

Grammar Explanation

Nouns and Articles

When we start learning a new language, one of the first things we need to understand is how to talk about people and things. We do this by using words called nouns. Just like in many languages, Dutch has different types of nouns that are often accompanied by words called articles. In this lesson, we will explain what these terms mean, why they are important, and how to use them correctly.

Nouns

Nouns are the building blocks of language, as they are words that describe people, animals, or things. Take a look at some examples:

	DUTCH	ENGLISH
people	vrouw	woman
animals	dier	animal
things	land	country

The Indefinite Article

The definite article is equivalent to the English words 'a' and 'an'.

In Dutch, the indefinite article is 'een'. Like in English, the indefinite article does not indicate any specific person or thing and can generally be used with all countable nouns.

	DUTCH	ENGLISH
people	een vrouw	a woman
animals	een dier	an animal
things	een land	a country

Definite Articles

The definite article is equivalent to the English word 'the'.

In Dutch, nouns can be classified into two types: **de-nouns** and **het-nouns**. This distinction means that some nouns take the definite article 'de', while others take the definite article 'het'. Understanding this becomes more crucial when constructing longer sentences.

	DUTCH	ENGLISH
nouns with 'de'	de man	the man
	de taal	the language
nouns with 'het'	het land	the country
	het woord	the word

Determining the gender of a noun can be challenging as it is not easily predictable just by looking at the word itself. Therefore, it is helpful to learn the article and the noun together to make your learning process easier along the way.

Making Mistakes

Although there are some rules that can help you determine whether to use 'de' or 'het,' these rules do not apply to most nouns. As a result, it is almost inevitable that you will make some mistakes along the way.

It's important to remember that using 'de' instead of 'het' does not alter the meaning in the slightest, although not being completely correct. Many language learners, and even those who are (nearly) fluent, occasionally use the wrong definite article. Don't let it stop you from speaking or writing!

Grammar and Vocabulary Practise

Nouns and Articles

After reading the grammar sheet on the previous page you should now be able to apply all of the new knowledge. Do the exercises below to see how well you understand everything. Feel free to use the grammar sheet in case you need some support.

Opdracht 1 - Checkpoint



Participate in the 'Checkpoint' session. If you make a mistake, write down the word and its translation in the list below so you know which words to revise after the lesson.

DUTCH	ENGLISH

DUTCH	ENGLISH



Opdracht 2 - Connect the article

Take a look at the vocabulary list and connect the correct nouns to their corresponding definite articles.

de

het

- man
- dier
- mens
- vrouw
- leraar
- antwoord
- voorbeeld
- student

Grammar Explanation

Simple Present Tense

In order to start creating sentences we need to know how to describe the thing or person doing something (the subject) and the action they're performing (the verb). For the subject we can either use nouns or subject pronouns. In this lesson we will take a look at what these terms mean and how to use them properly.

Subject Pronouns

Subject pronouns are words used as substitutes for someone or something's name. They represent the subject (the person or thing performing the action). To learn subject pronouns, we can simply rely on their translations:

	DUTCH	ENGLISH		DUTCH	ENGLISH
1 st	ik	I	1 st	wij	we
2 nd	jij	YOU (formal)	2 nd	jullie	YOU (plural)
	u	YOU (informal)		3 rd	zij
3 rd	hij	he			
	zij	she			
	het	it			

As you can see, there's an informal and a formal way to say 'you'. The informal is used in the majority of situations. The formal version is mainly used when speaking to elderly people. Moreover, the use of the formal form is more dominant with most Flemish speakers.

Stressed or Unstressed

Most of the personal pronouns ending in **-ij** are only used when we want to put emphasis on who is performing the action. The unstressed variant is used more frequently than the stressed variant. It is easily made by changing **-ij** to **-e**.

	STRESSED	UNSTRESSED
1 st	jij	je
2 nd	zij (s)	ze
1 rd	wij	we
3 rd	zij (p)	ze

Conjugating 'zijn' (to be) en 'hebben' (to have)

The simple present tense is the easiest and most common tense we use to talk about the present. Before we look at how this works with all kinds of different verbs, we'll now focus on the word **'zijn'** (to be) which is the most frequently used verb in the Dutch language.

	DUTCH	ZIJN	ENGLISH		DUTCH	ZIJN	ENGLISH
1 st	ik	ben	I am	1 st	wij	zijn	we are
2 nd	jij	bent	you are	2 nd	jullie		you (p) are
	u			3 rd	zij		they are
3 rd	hij	is	he is				
	zij		she is				
	het		it is				

Another important verb is **'hebben'** (to have):

	DUTCH	ZIJN	ENGLISH		DUTCH	ZIJN	ENGLISH
1 st	ik	heb	I have	1 st	wij	hebben	we have
2 nd	jij	hebt	you have	2 nd	jullie		you (p) have
	u			3 rd	zij		they have
3 rd	hij	heeft	he has				
	zij		she has				
	het		it has				

Grammar Practise

Simple Present Tense

After reading the grammar sheet on the previous page you should now be able to apply all of the new knowledge. Do the exercises below to see how well you understand everything. Feel free to use the grammar sheet in case you need some support.

Opdracht 1 - Replace the subject

Which subject pronoun could replace the subject of the following sentences? Rewrite the sentence with the subject pronoun.

- 1 **De man** is Nederlands. _____
- 2 **Carla** is Belgisch. _____
- 3 **Het dier** is lief. _____
- 4 **Jij en ik** zijn studenten. _____
- 5 **De vrouw en de man** leren Nederlands. _____

Opdracht 2 - Conjugating 'zijn'

Fill in the correct conjugation of the verb 'zijn' in the blanks. Then, translate the sentences to English.

- 1 Hij _____ een leraar. _____
- 2 Ik _____ een leerling. _____
- 3 Jan en Meike _____ Nederlands. _____
- 4 Jullie _____ Engels. _____
- 5 Wij _____ studenten. _____
- 6 Jij _____ Vlaams. _____

Opdracht 3 - Conjugating 'hebben'

Fill in the correct conjugation of the verb 'hebben' in the blanks. Then, translate the sentences to English.

- 1 De man _____ een vrouw. _____
- 2 Je _____ een les. _____
- 3 We _____ een dier. _____
- 4 Ik _____ een voorbeeld. _____
- 5 Jan en Petra _____ een vraag. _____
- 6 U _____ het antwoord. _____

Opdracht 4 - Translation

Translate the sentences below, using the vocabulary list and the grammar instructions from this lesson.

- 1 You are a student. _____
- 2 I have a lesson. _____
- 3 English is a language. _____
- 4 The man and the woman have an animal. _____

Reading

Nice to meet you!

Read the conversation between two Dutch people below. Mark all the words you don't know and try to find their translation in the vocabulary list or in a dictionary / with a translator. When you've finished, answer the questions below.



Hallo!

Goedemorgen!

Hoe gaat het?

Met mij gaat het goed. Hoe gaat het *met jou*?

Met mij gaat het *ook* goed.

Wat is je naam?

Mijn naam is Rosa. Wat is jou naam?

Mijn naam is Jasper. Waar kom je vandaan?

Ik kom uit Amsterdam, ik ben Nederlands. En jij?

Ik kom uit Antwerpen. Ik ben Belgisch.

Leuk je te ontmoeten!

Leuk je te ontmoeten, tot ziens!

Opdracht 1 – Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions below, based on the conversation you've just read.

1 At what time of day does this conversation take place?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening

2 Are Rosalie and Jasper from the same country?

- Yes, but they live in different cities.
- No, Rosalie is from the Netherlands and Jasper is from Belgium.
- No, Rosalie is from Belgium and Jasper is from the Netherlands.

3 What do you think the phrase '*met jou*' means?

Writing and Speaking


Introduce Yourself

In this lesson we're going to create some phrases that are specific to our personal situation. From there, we can start having a basic conversation in which we introduce ourselves.

Opdracht 1 – Student ID

Fill out the gaps in the student ID with information about yourself. Use the vocabulary list, a dictionary or a translator.

CONVAMIGO | Student ID

Naam	<input type="text"/>	
Leeftijd	<input type="text"/>	
Woonplaats	<input type="text"/>	
Nationaliteit	<input type="text"/>	

Opdracht 2 – Question and Answer

Look at the questions on the left side and answers on the right side. Connect the questions to the answer that corresponds.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Hoe gaat het? | 1 |
| Hoe heet je? | 2 |
| Hoe oud ben je? | 3 |
| Waar woon je? | 4 |
| Waar kom je vandaan? | 5 |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| a | Ik kom uit ... (nationaliteit) |
| b | Ik woon in ... (woonplaats) |
| c | Ik heet ... (naam) |
| d | Met mij gaat het goed. |
| e | Ik ben ... jaar oud. (leeftijd) |

Opdracht 3 – Speaking Practise

Now that you have a set of questions that you can ask and the answers that'll allow you to actually answer these questions you're going to have a conversation with one of your classmates.

For **5 minutes**, switch turns **asking and answering each other the questions from the previous exercise**. You'll speak to 3 different people in total. Find out all the information you can obtain through asking these questions.

Write down the information about your classmates below. After this exercise we'll do a little test to see how well everyone understood the people they've chatted with.

	Classmate 1	Classmate 2	Classmate 3
naam	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
leeftijd	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
woonplaats	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
nationaliteit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Extra Pronunciation

The Dutch language contains many different sounds. Some of them are similar to English and some of them are a little more difficult. Let's have a look at the different sounds and how we can make it easier to pronounce them.

Letters	Example Words	English Guide
ch / g	goed acht	Like a -k with a lot of air in the throat.
sch	school	English -s followed by the 'ch / g' sound
w	welkom	Similar to an English -v but with your top lip against your bottom lip
r	regen	Similar to rolled or regular English -r
j	jas	Like -y in 'yes'
sj	meisje	Like -sh in 'sheep'
tj	katje	Like -ch in 'chain'
aa	paard	Similar to -a in 'car' but more open.
ee	geel	Like -ai in 'hail'
ie	tien	Similar to -ea in 'neat' but a bit more closed.
oo	boos	Like the -oa in 'boat'
oe	boer	Like the -oo in 'pool'
eu	deur	Like the -u in 'hurt'
uu	muur	Similar to the -ew in 'new' but without closing the mouth
a	wat	Similar to the -a in 'what'
e	het	Like the -e in 'bed'
i	dit	Like the -i in 'bit'
o	pot	Like the -o in 'rock'
u	put	Like the -i in 'dirt'
ei / ij	Mei zij	Like the -i in 'like'
aai	haai	A combination of the -aa sound, followed by the -ie sound.
oei	doei	A combination of the -oe sound, followed by the -ie sound.
ooi	kooi	A combination of the -oo sound, followed by the -ie sound.
ou / au	blauw vrouw	Like the -ow sound in 'cow'
eeuw	leeuw	A combination of the -ee sound, followed by the -oe sound.
ieuw	nieuw	A combination of the -ie sound, followed by the -oe sound.
uw	duw	A combination of the -uu sound, followed by the -oe sound.
ui	trui	A combination of the -a sound, followed by the -uu sound.

Consonants

Consonants in Dutch are almost exactly the same as they are in English with only few exceptions:

The **-p**, **-t**, and **-k** are pronounced without aspiration (the little puff of air).

The **-g** is sometimes pronounced like the **-g** in 'genre'. This mainly happens in words borrowed from French:

Portfolio and Evaluation

Introductie

In this section you can check the progress you've made in this lesson. It should help you take a critical look at your strengths and weaknesses within the different skills that we've practised. At the end there will be some extra optional assignments you can do to make sure you maintain your new skills and are able to build on them in the future.

Exercises and Answers

Check the answers to all of the exercises on the next page. Mark how many answers you got right and wrong and check which topic you might still need to practise. Reach out to your teacher if you would like to receive extra exercises around any specific topic:

Topic	Exercises	Mistakes	Total Score
Grammar and Vocabulary: Nouns and Articles	2		8
Grammar: Simple Present Tense	1 – 4		21
Reading: Nice to meet you!	2		3
Writing and Speaking: Introduce Yourself	2		5

Vocabulary and Phrases

You've practised the vocabulary and phrases throughout sessions 1 and 2. Do one more round of revision and write down the words and phrases that you struggle with. Make sure to repeat these words throughout your next learning sessions. Don't forget you can learn the words and phrases through Quizlet. All lists for the course can be found at: <https://quizlet.com/join/9rWbY8Anv>

You'll find some space below to write down the words and phrases you need to practice still before the next lesson. Use the blue spaces for Dutch and the gray spaces for the translation of the words:

Words

Phrases

After you're done, start practicing with the **vocabulary** for **lesson 2**.

Portfolio work

In this chapter you've learned how to introduce yourself in Dutch. To round off the learning process around this topic, choose one of the following assignments to showcase your new knowledge.



Level 1 – Search and Translate

Use a dictionary or translator to find as many words as possible that would help you describe yourself better. Think about your profession, interests or other significant details.



Level 2 – Video

Create a short video in which you briefly introduce yourself, using the vocabulary and phrases from this chapter.

You can send your work to the teacher to get feedback on what you've created. Make sure to do this before 23:00 on the day before the next class takes place.

Answer Sheet

Lesson 1: Introductie

Grammar and Vocabulary Practise: Nouns and Articles

Opdracht 2 – Connect the article

De	→	<i>man – vrouw – leraar – student</i>
Het	→	<i>dier – mens – antwoord – voorbeeld</i>

Grammar Practise: Simple Present Tense

Opdracht 1 – Replace the subject

- 1 **Hij** is Nederlands.
- 2 **Zij** is Belgisch.
- 3 **Het** is lief.
- 4 **Wij** zijn studenten.
- 5 **Zij** leren Nederlands.

Opdracht 2 – Conjugating 'zijn'

- 1 Hij **is** een leraar.
- 2 Ik **ben** een leerling.
- 3 Jan en Meike **zijn** Nederlands.
- 4 Jullie **zijn** Engels.
- 5 Wij **zijn** studenten.
- 6 Jij **bent** Vlaams.

Opdracht 3 – Conjugating 'hebben'

- 1 De man **heeft** een vrouw.
- 2 Je **hebt** een les.
- 3 We **hebben** een dier.
- 4 Ik **heb** een voorbeeld.
- 5 Jan en Petra **hebben** een vraag.
- 6 U **heeft** het antwoord.

Opdracht 4 – Translation

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | You are a student | → | Jij (je) bent een student. |
| 2 | I have a lesson. | → | Ik heb een les. |
| 3 | English is a language. | → | Engels is een taal. |
| 4 | The man and the woman have an animal. | → | De man en de vrouw hebben een dier. |

Reading: Meet the Dutch

Opdracht 2 – Reading Comprehension

- 1 Morning ('goedemorgen')
- 2 No, Rosalie is from the Netherlands (*Amsterdam*) and Jasper is from Belgium (*Antwerpen*).
- 3 'with you'

Writing and Speaking: Introduce Yourself

Opdracht 2 – Reading Comprehension

- 1 D
- 2 C
- 3 E
- 4 B
- 5 A