

Robinson Crusoe

Chapter 1: Het Begin van het Leven

Start in life



LANGUAGE

Dutch 



TRANSLATION

English 



LEVEL

A1 - Beginner



Dutch

1. **Mijn naam** is Robinson Crusoe. Ik ben geboren in 1632 in York, Engeland. **Mijn vader** kwam uit Duitsland. **Hij was** koopman. **Hij verdiende** goed geld. **Toen stopte hij** met werken. **Hij woonde** in York. **Hij trouwde** daar met mijn moeder. **Haar** familienaam **was** Robinson.

English

1. My name is Robinson Crusoe. I was born in 1632 in York, England. My father came from Germany. He was a merchant. He earned good money. Then he stopped working. He lived in York. He married my mother there. Her family name was Robinson.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
mijn naam	my name	kwam	came	stopte	stopped
is	is	uit	from	met	with
robinson crusoe	robinson crusoe	duitsland	germany	werken	working
ik	i	hij	he	woonde	lived
ben geboren	was born	was	was	trouwde	married
in	in	koopman	a merchant	daar	there
1632	1632	verdiende	earned	mijn moeder	my mother
york	york	goed	good	haar	her
engeland	england	geld	money	familienaam	family name
mijn vader	my father	toen	then	robinson	robinson



Language tips

Possessive Pronouns - Mijn/Haar (Related words: **Mijn naam, Mijn vader, Haar**)

Dutch possessive pronouns like 'mijn' (my) and 'haar' (her) work exactly like English. They always come before the noun they describe.

- mijn boek → my book
- zijn auto → his car
- haar huis → her house

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **woonde, stopte, verdiende, trouwde**)

Dutch past tense often adds -de or -te to the verb stem. 'Woonde' (lived), 'stopte' (stopped), and 'verdiende' (earned) all follow this pattern.

- ik werkte → I worked
- hij speelde → he played
- zij kookte → she cooked

Past Tense of 'Zijn' (To Be) (Related words: **was**)

The Dutch verb 'was' translates directly to English 'was/were'. It's irregular just like in English, changing from 'is' (is) to 'was' (was) in the past.

- ik was → I was
- hij was → he was
- wij waren → we were

Word Order with 'Toen' (Related words: **Toen, stopte, hij**)



When 'toen' (then) starts a sentence, Dutch keeps the verb second. 'Toen stopte hij' literally means 'Then stopped he', but in English we say 'Then he stopped'.

- Toen ging ik → Then I went
- Toen at zij → Then she ate
- Toen kwam hij → Then he came

Dutch

2. Ik had twee oudere broers. Eén broer was soldaat. Hij stierf in een oorlog in Vlaanderen. Ik weet niet **wat er met** mijn andere broer **gebeurde**. Mijn ouders wisten ook niet **wat er met** mij **gebeurde**. Ik was de derde zoon. **Mijn vader leerde** mij **geen vak**.

English

2. I had two older brothers. One brother was a soldier. He died in a war in Flanders. I don't know what happened to my other brother. My parents also didn't know what happened to me. I was the third son. My father didn't teach me a trade.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
had	had	vlaanderen	flanders	wisten	knew
twee	two	weet	know	ook	also
oudere	older	niet	not	mij	me
broers	brothers	wat	what	de derde zoon	the third son
eén broer	one brother	er	there	leerde	taught
soldaat	a soldier	mijn andere broer	my other brother	geen	no
stierf	died	gebeurde	happened	vak	trade
een oorlog	a war	mijn ouders	my parents		



Language tips

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **leerde, gebeurde**)

Dutch regular past tense adds -de or -te to the verb stem. 'Leerde' (taught) and 'gebeurde' (happened) follow this pattern.

- ik leerde → I taught
- het gebeurde → it happened
- hij werkte → he worked

Negation with 'Geen' (Related words: **geen, vak**)

'Geen' means 'no' or 'not any' and is used before nouns. It replaces 'een' (a/an) in negative sentences.

- geen tijd → no time
- geen geld → no money
- geen huis → no house

Word Order with 'Er' (Related words: **wat, er, met**)

'Er' often means 'there' in constructions like 'what happened there'. It's a placeholder word in Dutch.

- wat er gebeurde → what happened
- wie er kwam → who came
- waar er is → where there is

Possessive + Noun (Related words: **Mijn vader, My father**)



Dutch possessives come before the noun just like English: 'mijn vader' → 'my father'.

- jouw boek → your book
- haar huis → her house
- zijn auto → his car

Dutch

3. Ik **begon** **te dromen** **over** avontuur. Ik dacht de hele tijd **aan** reizen. Mijn vader was oud. Hij stuurde mij naar school. Hij **wilde** dat ik advocaat werd. **Maar** ik **wilde** **maar** één ding. Ik **wilde** naar zee **gaan**.

English

3. I began to dream about adventure. I thought about traveling all the time. My father was old. He sent me to school. He wanted me to become a lawyer. But I wanted only one thing. I wanted to go to sea.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
begon	began	reizen	traveling	advocaat	a lawyer
te dromen	to dream	oud	old	werd	became
over	about	stuurde	sent	maar	only
avontuur	adventure	naar	to	één ding	one thing
dacht	thought	school	school	zee	sea
de hele tijd	all the time	wilde	wanted	gaan	go
aan	about	dat	that		



Language tips

Infinitive with 'Te' (Related words: **begon, te dromen**)

Dutch uses 'te' + infinitive after certain verbs like 'beginnen' (to begin). 'Begon te dromen' means 'began to dream'.

- proberen te lezen → try to read
- vergeten te komen → forget to come
- leren te zwemmen → learn to swim

Prepositions - 'Aan' vs 'Over' (Related words: **over, aan**)

'Denken aan' means 'to think about', while 'dromen over' means 'to dream about'. Dutch uses different prepositions than English.

- denken aan → think about
- dromen over → dream about
- praten over → talk about

Modal Verb + Infinitive (Related words: **wilde, gaan**)

'Wilde' (wanted) is followed by an infinitive without 'te'. 'Ik wilde gaan' means 'I wanted to go'.

- kan zwemmen → can swim
- moet werken → must work
- wil eten → want to eat

'Maar' - Two Meanings (Related words: **Maar, maar**)

'Maar' can mean 'but' at the start of a sentence, or 'only/just' in other positions.

- Maar ik wil niet → But I don't want
- maar één → only one



• maar een beetje → just a little

Dutch

4. Mijn vader was **hier** boos **over**. Mijn moeder was ook boos. Al mijn vrienden zeiden dat ik thuis **moest blijven**. Maar iets in mij wilde gaan. Ik kon niet **stoppen met denken** aan schepen en de oceaan. Ik wist niet dat dit verlangen mij verschrikkelijke problemen **zou brengen**.

English

4. My father was angry about this. My mother was also angry. All my friends said that I should stay home. But something in me wanted to go. I couldn't stop thinking about ships and the ocean. I didn't know that this desire would bring me terrible problems.

Dutch	English
hier	here
boos	angry
over	about this
al	all
mijn vrienden	my friends
zeiden	said
thuis	home
moest	should

Dutch	English
blijven	stay
iets	something
gaan	to go
kon	could
stoppen	stop
denken	thinking
schepen	ships
en	and

Dutch	English
de oceaan	the ocean
wist	knew
dit verlangen	this desire
verschrikkelijke	terrible
problemen	problems
zou	would
brengen	bring



Language tips

'Hier' as 'About This' (Related words: **hier, over**)

'Hier' normally means 'here', but 'hierover' or 'hier...over' means 'about this'. Dutch splits this compound.

- daarover → about that
- waarover → about what
- erover → about it

Modal Verb 'Moest' (Related words: **moest, blijven**)

'Moest' (had to/should) is the past tense of 'moeten'. It's followed by an infinitive without 'te'.

- moest gaan → had to go
- kon komen → could come
- wilde zien → wanted to see

'Stoppen met' + Infinitive (Related words: **stoppen, met, denken**)

'Stoppen met' means 'to stop (doing something)'. It's followed by an infinitive or noun.

- stoppen met werken → stop working
- beginnen met lezen → start reading
- doorgaan met studeren → continue studying

Conditional 'Zou' (Related words: **zou, brengen**)

'Zou' expresses 'would' in Dutch. It shows something hypothetical or future in the past.

- zou komen → would come
- zou zijn → would be
- zouden gaan → would go



Dutch

5. Op een dag **riep** mijn vader mij naar zijn kamer. Hij was ziek met jicht. Hij **kon** niet lopen. Hij wilde serieus met mij praten. **Waarom wil je** weg? vroeg hij. **Je** hebt hier alles. **Je kunt** een goed leven hebben. **Je kunt** geld **verdienen**.

English

5. One day my father called me to his room. He was sick with gout. He could not walk. He wanted to talk seriously with me. "Why do you want to go away?" he asked. "You have everything here. You can have a good life. You can earn money."

Dutch	English
op	on
een dag	one day
riep	called
zijn kamer	his room
ziek	sick
jicht	gout
lopen	walk

Dutch	English
serieus	seriously
praten	talk
waarom	why
wil	do want
je	you
weg	go away
vroeg	asked

Dutch	English
hebt	have
alles	everything
kunt	can
een goed leven	a good life
hebben	have
verdienen	earn



Language tips

Past Tense - Riep (Related words: **riep, called**)

Dutch past tense often changes the vowel sound. 'Roepen' (to call) becomes 'riep' in past tense, just like English 'sing' becomes 'sang'.

- ik riep → I called
- hij liep → he walked
- zij sliep → she slept

Modal Verb - Kon (Related words: **kon, could**)

Dutch 'kon' is the past form of 'kunnen' (can). It means 'could' in English and is followed by an infinitive.

- ik kon niet → I could not
- hij kon zwemmen → he could swim
- wij konden gaan → we could go

Question Word Order (Related words: **Waarom, wil, je**)

In Dutch questions, the verb comes before the subject: 'Waarom wil je' (Why want you). English uses 'do': 'Why do you want'.

- Wat eet je? → What do you eat?
- Waar ga je? → Where do you go?
- Hoe heet je? → What is your name?

Infinitive After Modal (Related words: **kunt, verdienen**)

After modal verbs like 'kunnen' (can), Dutch uses the infinitive at the end: 'Je kunt geld verdienen' (You can money earn).

- ik kan lezen → I can read
- hij moet werken → he must work
- wij willen eten → we want to eat



Dutch

6. Hij **ging** **rechtop** in bed **zitten**. Zijn gezicht was ernstig. **Luister** naar mij, zoon. Arme mensen gaan naar zee. Zij moeten eten. Rijke mensen gaan naar zee **om** beroemd **te worden**. Maar jij bent **niet** **arm**. Je bent **niet** **rijk**. Je zit in het midden.

English

6. He sat up straight in bed. His face was serious. "Listen to me, son. Poor people go to sea. They must eat. Rich people go to sea to become famous. But you are not poor. You are not rich. You are in the middle."

Dutch	English
ging	sat
rechtop	straight up
in bed	in bed
zitten	sit
zijn gezicht	his face
ernstig	serious
luister	listen
zoon	son

Dutch	English
arme mensen	poor people
naar zee	to sea
zij	they
moeten	must
eten	eat
rijke mensen	rich people
om	to
beroemd	famous

Dutch	English
te worden	become
jij	you
bent	are
arm	poor
rijk	rich
zit	are
het midden	the middle



Language tips

Separable Verb - Rechttop zitten (Related words: **ging, rechttop, zitten**)

Dutch 'rechttop gaan zitten' means 'to sit up straight'. The infinitive 'zitten' goes to the end after 'gaan' (to go).

- hij ging staan → he stood up
- ik ga slapen → I go to sleep
- wij gaan eten → we go to eat

Imperative Mood (Related words: **Luister, Listen**)

Dutch commands use the verb stem: 'Luister!' (Listen!). This is simpler than English which sometimes adds 'do'.

- Kom hier! → Come here!
- Eet je brood! → Eat your bread!
- Ga zitten! → Sit down!

Om...te Construction (Related words: **om, te worden**)

Dutch uses 'om...te' + infinitive to express purpose (in order to). The infinitive goes at the end.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te slapen → to sleep
- om te leren → to learn

Negation - Niet (Related words: **niet, arm, rijk**)

Dutch 'niet' (not) usually comes before adjectives: 'niet arm' (not poor), 'niet rijk' (not rich).

- niet groot → not big
- niet mooi → not beautiful
- niet goed → not good

Dutch

English



7. **Het middenleven** is perfect, ging mijn vader verder. Arme mensen werken **te hard**. Hun lichaam breekt. Ze **hebben nooit genoeg** eten. Rijke mensen **hebben** andere problemen. Ze **maken zich zorgen** over hun geld. Ze **hebben** vijanden.

7. "The middle life is perfect," my father continued. "Poor people work too hard. Their body breaks. They never have enough food. Rich people have other problems. They worry about their money. They have enemies."

Dutch	English
het middenleven	the middle life
perfect	perfect
ging	continued
verder	further
werken	work
te	too

Dutch	English
hard	hard
hun lichaam	their body
breekt	breaks
ze	they
nooit	never
genoeg	enough

Dutch	English
eten	food
andere	other
maken zich zorgen	worry
hun geld	their money
vijanden	enemies



Language tips

Compound Nouns (Related words: **Het middenleven, middle life**)

Dutch often combines words to make new nouns: 'middenleven' (middle+life). English usually keeps them separate: 'middle life'.

- voetbal → football
- huiswerk → homework
- schooltas → school bag

Te + Adjective (Related words: **te, hard**)

Dutch 'te' before an adjective means 'too': 'te hard' (too hard). This is different from 'te' + infinitive.

- te groot → too big
- te klein → too small
- te duur → too expensive

Reflexive Verbs (Related words: **maken zich zorgen, worry**)

Dutch 'zich zorgen maken' (to worry) is reflexive. The pronoun changes with the subject: 'Ze maken zich zorgen'.

- ik maak me zorgen → I worry
- hij wast zich → he washes himself
- wij vervelen ons → we are bored

Word Order - Adverbs (Related words: **hebben, nooit, genoeg**)

Dutch adverbs like 'nooit' (never) often come between the verb and object: 'hebben nooit genoeg eten'.

- ik drink altijd koffie → I always drink coffee
- hij eet vaak brood → he often eats bread
- wij gaan soms → we sometimes go



8. Maar mensen in **het midden?** **Zij** hebben genoeg. **Ze** zijn gezond. **Ze** slapen goed 's nachts. Zelfs koningen wensen **dat ze** in **de middenklasse** geboren **waren**. De wijze mannen van vroeger **zeiden** het ook. **Ze** **wilden** net genoeg. **Dat** is wat jij hebt, mijn zoon.

8. But people in the middle? They have enough. They are healthy. They sleep well at night. Even kings wish that they were born in the middle class. The wise men of the past said it too. They wanted just enough. That is what you have, my son.

Dutch	English
mensen	people
zijn	are
gezond	healthy
slapen	sleep
goed	well
s nachts	at night
zelfs	even

Dutch	English
koningen	kings
wensen	wish
de middenklasse	the middle class
geboren	born
waren	were
de wijze mannen	the wise men
van	of

Dutch	English
vroeger	the past
het	it
ook	too
wilden	wanted
net	just
mijn zoon	my son



Language tips

Pronouns - Ze vs Zij (Related words: **Zij, Ze**)

Dutch uses 'zij' (formal) and 'ze' (informal) for 'they'. Both mean the same thing but 'ze' is more common in everyday speech.

- Zij hebben → They have
- Ze slapen → They sleep
- Ze zijn → They are

Articles - Het vs De (Related words: **het midden, de middenklasse**)

Dutch has two words for 'the': 'het' for neuter nouns and 'de' for common gender nouns. Both translate to 'the' in English.

- het kind → the child
- de man → the man
- het huis → the house

Past Tense - Waren (Related words: **waren, zeiden, wilden**)

The Dutch past tense 'waren' (were) shows that the action happened before. It changes based on the subject, just like in English.

- zij waren → they were
- wij zeiden → we said
- zij wilden → they wanted

Word Order - Dat Clauses (Related words: **dat, waren**)

After 'dat' (that), Dutch keeps the verb at the end of the clause. In 'dat ze...geboren waren', the verb 'waren' comes last.

- dat hij komt → that he comes
- dat zij werkt → that she works
- dat wij eten → that we eat



9. Mijn vader **bleef** praten. In de middenklasse **kun** je vrede hebben. Je kunt vrienden hebben. Je kunt van simpele dingen genieten. Je werkt maar **niet te** hard. Je hebt geld maar **niet** te veel. Je **hoeft niet te vechten** voor brood. Je kunt eerlijk leven en vredig sterven.

9. My father kept talking. "In the middle class you can have peace. You can have friends. You can enjoy simple things. You work but not too hard. You have money but not too much. You don't have to fight for bread. You can live honestly and die peacefully."

Dutch	English
bleef	kept
praten	talking
kun	can
vrede	peace
vrienden	friends
simpele	simple
dingen	things

Dutch	English
genieten	enjoy
werkt	work
te veel	too much
hoeft	have to
te	to
vechten	fight
voor	for

Dutch	English
brood	bread
eerlijk	honestly
leven	live
vredig	peacefully
sterven	die



Language tips

Past Tense - Bleef (Related words: **bleef, kept**)

Dutch 'bleef' (past tense of 'blijven') means 'stayed/kept'. The past tense changes the verb form from 'blijft' to 'bleef'.

- hij bleef → he kept
- ik ging → I went
- zij kwam → she came

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Related words: **kun, kunnen**)

Dutch 'kunnen' (can) is followed by an infinitive without 'te': 'kun je hebben' (can you have).

- ik kan zwemmen → I can swim
- je kunt eten → you can eat
- wij kunnen gaan → we can go

Negation - Niet (Related words: **niet, te**)

Dutch uses 'niet' for negation. It usually comes before what it negates: 'niet te hard' (not too hard).

- niet goed → not good
- niet hier → not here
- niet vandaag → not today

Infinitive Constructions (Related words: **hoeft, te, vechten**)

After 'hoeven' (need/have to), Dutch uses 'te' + infinitive: 'hoeft niet te vechten' (doesn't have to fight).

- hoef te gaan → have to go
- probeer te lezen → try to read
- begin te werken → begin to work



10. Toen **werd** zijn stem harder. Maar **als** je naar zee gaat? Je vindt alleen ellende. Ik waarschuw je nu. **Als** je **weggaat**, **zul** je lijden. Je **zult** alleen zijn. Je **zult** honger hebben. Je **zult** stormen en ziekte tegenkomen.

10. Then his voice became harder. "But if you go to sea? You find only misery. I warn you now. If you leave, you will suffer. You will be alone. You will be hungry. You will encounter storms and disease."

Dutch	English
zijn stem	his voice
harder	harder
als	if
gaat	go
vindt	find
alleen	alone
ellende	misery

Dutch	English
waarschuw	warn
nu	now
weggaat	leave
zul	will
lijden	suffer
zult	will
zijn	be

Dutch	English
honger	hungry
hebben	be
stormen	storms
ziekte	disease
tegenkomen	encounter



Language tips

Past Tense - Werd (Related words: **werd, became**)

Dutch 'werd' is the past tense of 'worden' (to become). It shows a change of state in the past.

- hij werd boos → he became angry
- het werd koud → it became cold
- zij werd moe → she became tired

Conditional - Als (Related words: **als, Als**)

Dutch 'als' means 'if' in conditional sentences. It introduces a condition: 'als je gaat' (if you go).

- als het regent → if it rains
- als je wilt → if you want
- als we gaan → if we go

Future Tense - Zullen (Related words: **zul, zult**)

Dutch uses 'zullen' + infinitive for future tense. 'Je zult lijden' means 'you will suffer'.

- ik zal komen → I will come
- je zult zien → you will see
- wij zullen helpen → we will help

Compound Words (Related words: **weggaat**)

Dutch 'weggaan' is a compound verb meaning 'to go away'. The particle 'weg' adds the meaning 'away' to 'gaan' (go).

- meegaan → go along
- thuiskomen → come home
- binnenkomen → come inside

Dutch 

English 



11. Hij **begon te huilen** toen hij over mijn broer praatte **die stierf**. Je broer luisterde ook **niet** naar mij. Hij wilde soldaat worden. Hij wilde roem. Nu is hij dood in een vreemd land. **Wil jij** ook ver van huis sterven? Mijn vader **kon niet** meer praten.

11. He began to cry when he talked about my brother who died. "Your brother also didn't listen to me. He wanted to become a soldier. He wanted fame. Now he is dead in a strange land. Do you also want to die far from home?" My father couldn't talk anymore.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
huilen	cry	luisterde	listened	wil	want
toen	when	soldaat	soldier	ver	far
mijn broer	my brother	worden	become	van	from
praatte	talked	roem	fame	huis	home
die	who	dood	dead	meer	anymore
je broer	your brother	een vreemd land	a strange land		



Language tips

Infinitive with Te (Related words: **begon, te, huilen**)

After 'beginnen' (to begin), Dutch uses 'te' + infinitive: 'begon te huilen' (began to cry).

- probeer te slapen → try to sleep
- vergeet te komen → forget to come
- leer te lezen → learn to read

Relative Pronoun - Die (Related words: **die, stierf**)

Dutch 'die' means 'who/that' for people and common gender nouns: 'broer die stierf' (brother who died).

- de man die werkt → the man who works
- het meisje dat speelt → the girl who plays
- mensen die komen → people who come

Past Tense Modal - Kon (Related words: **kon, niet**)

Dutch 'kon' is past tense of 'kunnen' (can). 'Kon niet praten' means 'couldn't talk'.

- ik kon niet → I couldn't
- hij wilde wel → he wanted to
- wij moesten gaan → we had to go

Word Order in Questions (Related words: **Wil, jij**)

Dutch questions invert subject and verb: 'Wil jij?' (Do you want?). The verb comes first.

- Kom je? → Are you coming?
- Heeft hij? → Does he have?
- Ga je mee? → Are you going along?

Dutch 

English 



12. Ik was **geraakt** door wat hij zei. Welke zoon **zou** dat niet zijn? Ik besloot thuis **te blijven**. Ik zou de zee vergeten. Ik zou mijn vader gelukkig maken. Maar mijn besluit duurde niet lang. **Na een paar dagen wilde ik** weer weg.

12. I was touched by what he said. Which son wouldn't be? I decided to stay home. I would forget the sea. I would make my father happy. But my decision didn't last long. After a few days I wanted to leave again.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
ik was	i was	ik zou	i would	lang	long
geraakt	touched	de zee	the sea	na	after
door	by	vergeten	forget	een paar dagen	a few days
zei	said	gelukkig	happy	weer	again
welke zoon	which son	maken	make	weg	leave
ik besloot	i decided	mijn besluit	my decision		
te blijven	to stay	duurde	lasted		



Language tips

Past Participle - Geraakt (Related words: **was, geraakt**)

Dutch past participles often start with 'ge-' like 'geraakt' (touched). They're used with 'zijn' or 'hebben' to form perfect tenses.

- ik was geraakt → I was touched
- hij heeft gezegd → he has said
- zij is gegaan → she has gone

Conditional Mood - Zou (Related words: **zou, would**)

Dutch uses 'zou/zouden' to express 'would' in conditional sentences. It shows hypothetical or polite situations.

- ik zou gaan → I would go
- zij zou helpen → she would help
- wij zouden komen → we would come

Infinitive with Te (Related words: **te blijven, to stay**)

Dutch often uses 'te' before infinitives (like English 'to'). 'Te blijven' means 'to stay'.

- tijd om te gaan → time to go
- probeer te slapen → try to sleep
- besloot te vertrekken → decided to leave

Word Order After Time (Related words: **Na, een paar dagen, wilde, ik**)

After time expressions like 'Na een paar dagen', the verb comes next, then the subject: 'wilde ik' (wanted I).

- Morgen ga ik → Tomorrow I go
- Gisteren zag hij → Yesterday he saw
- Vandaag eet zij → Today she eats



13. Ik wachtte een paar weken. **Toen** **praatte** **ik** met mijn moeder. Ik dacht dat zij **makkelijker** te overtuigen was dan mijn vader. Moeder, **zei** **ik**, ik ben nu achttien jaar oud. Ik kan **niet** **stoppen** met denken aan reizen. Als **ik** hier blijf, ben **ik** voor altijd ongelukkig.

13. I waited a few weeks. Then I talked with my mother. I thought that she was easier to convince than my father. "Mother," I said, "I am now eighteen years old. I cannot stop thinking about traveling. If I stay here, I am unhappy forever."

Dutch	English
ik wachtte	i waited
een paar weken	a few weeks
ik dacht	i thought
zij	she
makkelijker	easier

Dutch	English
te overtuigen	to convince
dan	than
moeder	mother
ik ben	i am
achttien jaar	eighteen years

Dutch	English
ik kan	i cannot
blijf	stay
ben	am
voor altijd	forever
ongelukkig	unhappy



Language tips

Time Expression Word Order (Related words: **Toen, praatte, ik**)

After 'Toen' (then), Dutch inverts the subject and verb: 'praatte ik' instead of 'ik praatte'.

- Toen ging hij → Then he went
- Nu eet zij → Now she eats
- Later kwam ik → Later I came

Comparative - Makkelijker (Related words: **makkelijker, easier**)

Dutch adds '-er' to make comparatives, just like English. 'Makkelijk' (easy) becomes 'makkelijker' (easier).

- groot → groter (big → bigger)
- klein → kleiner (small → smaller)
- mooi → mooier (beautiful → more beautiful)

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Related words: **kan, niet, stoppen**)

Dutch 'kunnen' means 'can/to be able to'. When used with 'niet', it becomes 'cannot'. The infinitive follows without 'te'.

- ik kan zwemmen → I can swim
- zij kan niet komen → she cannot come
- wij kunnen helpen → we can help

Direct Speech (Related words: **zei, ik**)

In Dutch dialogue, the verb 'zei' (said) often comes after the subject when introducing speech: 'zei ik' (said I).

- 'Ja,' zei hij → 'Yes,' he said
- 'Nee,' antwoordde zij → 'No,' she answered
- 'Kom,' riep ik → 'Come,' I called

Dutch 

English 



14. **Praat** **alsjeblieft** met vader, ging ik verder.
Vraag hem om mij één reis te laten maken. Als ik het niet leuk vind, kom ik naar huis. Ik beloof het. **Ik zal** twee keer zo hard **werken** om de verloren tijd **goed te maken**. Maar mijn moeder werd heel boos.

14. "Please talk with father," I continued. "Ask him to let me make one trip. If I don't like it, I come home. I promise. I will work twice as hard to make up for the lost time." But my mother became very angry.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
praat	talk	te laten	to let	ik zal	i will
alsjeblieft	please	leuk	like	twee keer	twice
vader	father	vind	find	zo	as
vraag	ask	kom	come	de verloren tijd	the lost time
hem	him	naar huis	home	te maken	to make
één reis	one trip	ik beloof	i promise	heel	very



Language tips

Imperative Mood (Related words: **Praat, Vraag**)

Dutch imperatives (commands) use the verb stem. 'Praat' means '(you) talk!' and 'Vraag' means '(you) ask!'

- Kom hier! → Come here!
- Eet je bord leeg! → Eat your plate clean!
- Ga zitten! → Sit down!

Polite Request - Alsjeblieft (Related words: **alsjeblieft, please**)

'Alsjeblieft' is the informal 'please' in Dutch. The formal version is 'alstublieft'.

- Help me alsjeblieft → Help me please
- Kom alstublieft binnen → Please come in (formal)
- Mag ik alsjeblieft...? → May I please...?

Future Tense - Zal (Related words: **Ik zal, werken**)

Dutch uses 'zullen' to form the future tense. 'Ik zal werken' means 'I will work'.

- hij zal komen → he will come
- wij zullen helpen → we will help
- zij zal studeren → she will study

Expression - Goed maken (Related words: **goed, te maken**)

'Goed maken' is a Dutch expression meaning 'to make up for' or 'to make good'. The word 'goed' modifies the infinitive 'maken'.

- een fout goed maken → to make up for a mistake
- het weer goed maken → to make it up
- schade goed maken → to compensate for damage



15. Hoe **kun je** dit vragen? **zei ze.** Je vader houdt van **je.** Hij wil het beste voor **je.** Hij **zal** nooit met dit dwaze plan instemmen. En ik **zal** het **niet** vragen. Ik **zal je niet** helpen je leven te verwoesten!

15. "How can you ask this?" she said. "Your father loves you. He wants the best for you. He will never agree to this foolish plan. And I will not ask. I will not help you destroy your life!"

Dutch	English
hoe	how
dit	this
vragen	ask
ze	she
je vader	your father

Dutch	English
houdt	loves
wil	wants
het beste	the best
zal	will
met	to

Dutch	English
dit dwaze plan	this foolish plan
instemmen	agree
helpen	help
je leven	your life
te verwoesten	destroy



Language tips

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Related words: **kun, je**)

Dutch 'kunnen' (can) is a modal verb that expresses ability or possibility. The form changes based on the subject: 'kun je' means 'can you'.

- ik kan → I can
- kun je? → can you?
- hij kan → he can

Past Tense - Zei (Related words: **zei, ze**)

Dutch 'zei' is the past tense of 'zeggen' (to say). In Dutch, many common verbs have irregular past forms that must be memorized.

- ik zei → I said
- hij zei → he said
- wij zeiden → we said

Future with Zullen (Related words: **zal**)

Dutch uses 'zullen' to form the future tense, similar to English 'will'. Notice how 'zal' appears multiple times to express future actions.

- ik zal gaan → I will go
- hij zal komen → he will come
- wij zullen zien → we will see

Negation with Niet (Related words: **niet**)

Dutch uses 'niet' for negation, similar to English 'not'. It often appears after the main verb or at the end of a clause.

- ik zal niet → I will not
- kom niet → don't come
- zij gaat niet → she doesn't go

Dutch 

English 



16. Maar mijn moeder **vertelde** mijn vader **wel** over ons gesprek. Later **hoorde** ik wat hij zei. Hij zuchtte diep. Hij zei tegen haar: Als **die jongen** thuis blijft, **kan** hij gelukkig **zijn**. Maar als hij naar zee gaat, wordt hij de ongelukkigste persoon op aarde. Ik **kan** geen toestemming geven.

16. But my mother did tell my father about our conversation. Later I heard what he said. He sighed deeply. He said to her: "If this boy stays home, he can be happy. But if he goes to sea, he will become the most unhappy person on earth. I cannot give permission."

Dutch	English
vertelde	did tell
wel	indeed
ons gesprek	our conversation
later	later
hoorde	heard
zuchtte	sighed

Dutch	English
diep	deeply
tegen	to
die jongen	this boy
blijft	stays
kan	cannot
gaat	goes

Dutch	English
wordt	will become
de ongelukkigste persoon	the most unhappy person
aarde	earth
geen toestemming	no permission
geven	give



Language tips

Wel - Emphasis Word (Related words: **wel**)

Dutch 'wel' adds emphasis meaning 'indeed' or 'did'. It confirms something that might be doubted or contrasts with a negative.

- Hij komt wel → He does come
- Ik wil wel → I do want to
- Zij heeft wel tijd → She does have time

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **vertelde, hoorde**)

Dutch regular past tense adds -de or -te to the stem. 'Vertelde' (told) and 'hoorde' (heard) are examples with -de.

- ik werkte → I worked
- zij speelde → she played
- wij kookten → we cooked

Die vs Deze (Related words: **die jongen**)

'Die' means 'that/those' for things further away, while 'deze' means 'this/these' for things nearby. Here 'die jongen' means 'that boy'.

- die man → that man
- deze vrouw → this woman
- die boeken → those books

Modal Verb Kunnen (Related words: **kan, zijn**)

Dutch 'kunnen' (can/to be able) is followed by an infinitive at the end. 'Kan...zijn' means 'can be'.

- ik kan zwemmen → I can swim
- zij kan lezen → she can read
- wij kunnen helpen → we can help



17. Ik wachtte bijna een jaar. In deze tijd probeerden mijn ouders alles. Zij wilden **dat** ik een vak **leerde**. Zij wilden **dat** ik in een winkel **werkte**. Maar ik weigerde. Ik kon **alleen aan** schepen en avontuur **denken**. Niets anders interesseerde mij.

17. I waited almost a year. During this time my parents tried everything. They wanted me to learn a trade. They wanted me to work in a shop. But I refused. I could only think about ships and adventure. Nothing else interested me.

Dutch	English
wachtte	waited
bijna	almost
een jaar	a year
in	during
deze tijd	this time

Dutch	English
probeerden	tried
een vak	a trade
leerde	learned
een winkel	a shop
werkte	worked

Dutch	English
weigerde	refused
denken	think
niets	nothing
anders	else
interesseerde	interested



Language tips

Dat - Subordinate Clauses (Related words: **dat, leerde**)

Dutch 'dat' introduces subordinate clauses meaning 'that'. The verb moves to the end in these clauses: 'dat ik...leerde'.

- Ik weet dat hij komt → I know that he comes
- Zij zegt dat jij slaapt → She says that you sleep
- Hij denkt dat wij wachten → He thinks that we wait

Past Tense -te Ending (Related words: **werkte**)

Verbs with stems ending in t, k, f, s, ch, p get -te in past tense. 'Werkte' (worked) follows this rule.

- ik kookte → I cooked
- zij stopte → she stopped
- wij lachten → we laughed

Alleen - Only/Alone (Related words: **alleen**)

'Alleen' can mean both 'only' or 'alone' depending on context. Here it means 'only' as in 'could only think'.

- Hij is alleen → He is alone
- Ik drink alleen water → I only drink water
- Zij komt alleen → She comes alone

Denken aan - Think About (Related words: **aan, denken**)

Dutch uses 'denken aan' (think to/at) where English uses 'think about'. Many Dutch verbs pair with specific prepositions.

- denken aan → think about
- wachten op → wait for
- kijken naar → look at

Dutch

18. **Toen ging ik** op een dag naar Hull. **Ik** had **geen plan om** weg **te lopen**. **Ik** was alleen op bezoek. Maar in Hull ontmoette **ik** een vriend. Zijn vader had een schip dat naar Londen **ging**. **Kom** met mij **mee!** zei mijn vriend.

English

18. Then one day I went to Hull. I had no plan to run away. I was only visiting. But in Hull I met a friend. His father had a ship that was going to London. "Come with me!" said my friend.



Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
ging	was going	lopen	run	een schip	a ship
op een dag	one day	op bezoek	visiting	londen	london
hull	hull	ontmoette	met	mee	along
geen plan	no plan	een vriend	a friend	mijn vriend	my friend
weg	away	zijn vader	his father		



Language tips

Word Order - Time First (Related words: **Toen, ging, ik**)

Dutch often puts time expressions early in the sentence. 'Toen' (then) starts the sentence, causing verb-subject inversion.

- Morgen ga ik → Tomorrow I go
- Gisteren kwam hij → Yesterday he came
- Nu eten wij → Now we eat

Om te + Infinitive (Related words: **om, te, lopen**)

Dutch uses 'om te' before infinitives to express purpose (in order to). English often just uses 'to'.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te slapen → to sleep
- om te werken → to work

Geen vs Niet (Related words: **geen plan**)

'Geen' negates nouns (no/not any), while 'niet' negates verbs and adjectives. 'Geen plan' means 'no plan'.

- geen tijd → no time
- niet mooi → not beautiful
- geen geld → no money

Imperative - Kom! (Related words: **Kom, mee**)

Dutch imperatives (commands) use the verb stem. 'Kom!' means 'Come!' The particle 'mee' adds 'along/with'.

- Ga weg! → Go away!
- Eet je bord leeg! → Eat your plate clean!
- Luister goed! → Listen well!

Dutch

19. Het kost je niets, ging hij verder. Het schip **van** **mijn vader** heeft ruimte. Londen is spannend. Je **zult** het geweldig **vinden!** Ik **had** nee **moeten** zeggen. Ik **had** naar huis **moeten** gaan. Maar ik **dacht** niet **na**. Ik bad niet.

English

19. "It costs you nothing," he continued. "My father's ship has space. London is exciting. You will find it wonderful!" I should have said no. I should have gone home. But I didn't think. I didn't pray.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
het kost	it costs	geweldig	wonderful	zeggen	said
het schip	the ship	vinden	find	gaan	gone
heeft	has	had	should have	na	through



ruimte	space	nee	no	bad	prayed
spannend	exciting	moeten	should		



Language tips

Modal Verbs - Had moeten (Related words: **had, moeten**)

Dutch 'had moeten' expresses obligation in the past that wasn't fulfilled. It translates to 'should have' in English.

- ik had moeten gaan → I should have gone
- hij had moeten werken → he should have worked
- wij hadden moeten luisteren → we should have listened

Future Tense - Zullen (Related words: **zult, vinden**)

Dutch uses 'zullen' to form the future tense. 'Je zult vinden' means 'you will find'.

- ik zal komen → I will come
- hij zal werken → he will work
- wij zullen eten → we will eat

Separable Verbs - Nadenken (Related words: **dacht, na**)

The verb 'nadenken' (to think through/reflect) splits in the past tense: 'dacht...na'. The particle 'na' moves to the end.

- ik denk na → I think about
- hij dacht na → he thought about
- wij denken na → we think about

Possession - Van (Related words: **van, mijn vader**)

Dutch uses 'van' (of) to show possession: 'het schip van mijn vader' literally means 'the ship of my father'.

- het huis van Jan → Jan's house
- de auto van mijn moeder → my mother's car
- het boek van de leraar → the teacher's book

Dutch

20. **Op** 1 september 1651 **stapte** ik **op** dat schip. Ik **schreef** niet naar mijn ouders. Ik **vroeg** niet **om** **de** **zegen** van mijn vader. Het was het begin van al mijn problemen. Het schip verliet Hull en ging de open zee **op**.

English

20. On September 1, 1651, I boarded that ship. I didn't write to my parents. I didn't ask for my father's blessing. It was the beginning of all my problems. The ship left Hull and went onto the open sea.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
1 september 1651	september 1, 1651	om	for	verliet	left
stapte	boarded	de zegen	the blessing	de open zee	the open sea
dat schip	that ship	het begin	the beginning	op	onto
schreef	wrote	mijn problemen	my problems		



Language tips



Separable Verb - Opstappen (Related words: **stapte, op**)

The verb 'opstappen' (to board/get on) separates in past tense: 'stapte...op'. The main verb comes first and the particle follows the object.

- ik stap op → I get on
- hij stapte op → he got on
- wij stappen op → we get on

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **schreef, vroeg**)

Dutch regular verbs in past tense often end in -te or -de. 'Schreef' and 'vroeg' are irregular past forms.

- schrijven → schreef → wrote
- vragen → vroeg → asked
- werken → werkte → worked

Articles with Abstract Nouns (Related words: **de zegen**)

Dutch uses articles with abstract nouns where English often doesn't: 'de zegen' (the blessing) vs. just 'blessing'.

- de liefde → love
- het geluk → happiness
- de vrijheid → freedom

Preposition - Om (Related words: **vroeg, om**)

Dutch 'vragen om' means 'to ask for'. The preposition 'om' is required with 'vragen' when requesting something.

- vragen om hulp → ask for help
- vragen om geld → ask for money
- vragen om advies → ask for advice

Dutch

21. Meteen begon de wind **te waaien**. De golven werden **groter** en **groter**. Ik **was** **nog nooit** op een schip **geweest**. Ik werd verschrikkelijk ziek. Mijn maag draaide. Mijn hoofd tolde. Maar erger dan de ziekte **was** de angst.

English

21. Immediately the wind began to blow. The waves became bigger and bigger. I had never been on a ship before. I became terribly sick. My stomach turned. My head spun. But worse than the sickness was the fear.

Dutch	English
meteen	immediately
de wind	the wind
waaien	blow
de golven	the waves
werden	became
groter	bigger

Dutch	English
was	had
nog nooit	never
geweest	been
verschrikkelijk	terribly
mijn maag	my stomach
draaide	turned

Dutch	English
mijn hoofd	my head
tolde	spun
erger	worse
de ziekte	the sickness
de angst	the fear



Language tips

Infinitive Construction - Te + Infinitive (Related words: **te, waaien**)

Dutch uses 'te' before infinitives after certain verbs: 'begon te waaien' (began to blow). Similar to English 'to'.



- begon te lopen → began to walk
- probeer te slapen → try to sleep
- vergat te komen → forgot to come

Past Perfect - Was geweest (Related words: **was, geweest**)

Dutch 'was...geweest' forms the past perfect, indicating an action completed before another past action. Similar to English 'had been'.

- ik was geweest → I had been
- hij had gezien → he had seen
- wij waren gekomen → we had come

Comparative - Groter (Related words: **groter**)

Dutch adds -er to adjectives for comparison, just like English: 'groot' → 'groter' (big → bigger).

- klein → kleiner → smaller
- oud → ouder → older
- jong → jonger → younger

Negation - Nog nooit (Related words: **nog nooit**)

Dutch 'nog nooit' means 'never' (literally 'still never'). It's stronger than just 'nooit' and emphasizes never having done something.

- nog nooit gezien → never seen
- nog nooit gedaan → never done
- nog nooit gehoord → never heard

Dutch

22. **De storm** **werd** sterker. **Het schip** klom op reusachtige golven. Dan **stortte** het **neer** in diepe dalen van water. Elke keer dat we naar beneden gingen, dacht ik dat we nooit meer boven **zouden** komen. Ik was zeker dat we allemaal **zouden** sterven. **De golven** **zouden** mijn graf zijn.

English

22. The storm became stronger. The ship climbed on huge waves. Then it crashed down into deep valleys of water. Every time we went down, I thought that we would never come up again. I was certain that we all would die. The waves would be my grave.

Dutch	English
de storm	the storm
sterker	stronger
klom	climbed
reusachtige	huge
golven	waves
dan	then
stortte	crashed
neer	down

Dutch	English
in	into
diepe	deep
dalen	valleys
water	water
elke keer dat	every time that
we	we
naar beneden	down
gingen	went

Dutch	English
nooit meer	never again
boven	up
zouden	would
komen	come
zeker	certain
allemaal	all
mijn graf	my grave



Language tips



Past Tense - Werd (Related words: werd, became)

Dutch past tense verbs like 'werd' (became) change their form. In English, we use simple past forms that stay the same for all persons.

- hij werd → he became
- zij werd → she became
- wij werden → we became

Articles - Het vs De (Related words: Het schip, De storm, De golven)

Dutch has two words for 'the': 'het' for neuter nouns and 'de' for common gender nouns. Both translate to 'the' in English.

- het schip → the ship
- de storm → the storm
- het water → the water

Word Order - Separable Verbs (Related words: stortte, neer)

Dutch 'stortte...neer' (crashed down) is a separable verb. The particle 'neer' moves away from the verb in past tense.

- het stortte neer → it crashed down
- ik viel neer → I fell down
- zij kwam aan → she arrived

Modal Verb - Zouden (Related words: zouden)

Dutch 'zouden' expresses 'would' in English. It's often used for hypothetical situations or future in the past.

- we zouden komen → we would come
- ik zou gaan → I would go
- zij zouden sterven → they would die

Dutch

23. "O God!" **bad** ik. "Red mij! Als **u** mij laat leven, ga ik **naar** huis. **Ik zal naar** mijn vader luisteren. **Ik zal** nooit meer **naar** zee gaan. Ik beloof het! Ik zie nu dat hij gelijk had. Het middenleven is het beste!"

English

23. "Oh God!" I prayed. "Save me! If you let me live, I will go home. I will listen to my father. I will never go to sea again. I promise! I see now that he was right. The middle life is the best!"

Dutch	English
o god	oh god
red	save
u	you
laat	let

Dutch	English
ga	go
luisteren	listen
meer	again
ik zie	i see

Dutch	English
gelijk	right
had	was



Language tips

Past Tense - bad (prayed) (Related words: bad)

'Bad' is the past tense of 'bidden' (to pray). Dutch past tense often looks very different from the infinitive form, unlike English where we just add -ed.

- Ik bad tot God - I prayed to God
- Hij bood hulp - He offered help
- Zij vroeg om hulp - She asked for help



Formal You - u (Related words: **u**)

Dutch uses 'u' as the formal way to say 'you', especially when speaking to God, elders, or in formal situations. It's like the old English 'thou' but still commonly used.

- u bent - you are (formal)
- jij bent - you are (informal)
- Kunt u mij helpen? - Can you help me?

Future Tense - zal (Related words: **Ik zal**)

'Zal' expresses future actions, like English 'will'. In Dutch, you use 'zal' + infinitive at the end of the sentence.

- Ik zal komen - I will come
- Hij zal helpen - He will help
- We zullen zien - We will see

Direction - naar (Related words: **naar**)

'Naar' means 'to' when indicating direction or movement. It's used before places (naar huis) and with verbs of movement (naar zee gaan).

- naar school - to school
- naar bed - to bed
- naar de winkel - to the store

Dutch

24. Ik dacht aan de tranen **van** mijn vader. Ik herinnerde **me** de waarschuwingen **van** mijn moeder. Mijn geweten deed pijn. Ik was een slechte zoon **geweest**. Ik was zonder toestemming **weggegaan**. Ik had hun hart **gebroken**. En nu strafte God mij.

English

24. I thought of my father's tears. I remembered my mother's warnings. My conscience hurt. I had been a bad son. I had left without permission. I had broken their heart. And now God punished me.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
aan	of	deed	did	ik had	i had
de tranen	the tears	pijn	hurt	hun hart	their heart
ik herinnerde	i remembered	een slechte zoon	a bad son	gebroken	broken
me	myself	zonder	without	strafte	punished
de waarschuwingen	the warnings	toestemming	permission	god	god
mijn geweten	my conscience	weggegaan	left		



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - herinnerde me (Related words: **herinnerde, me**)

Some Dutch verbs need 'zich' or 'me' (myself). 'Zich herinneren' means 'to remember'. The 'me' shows the action reflects back to the subject.

- Ik was me - I washed myself
- Hij voelt zich ziek - He feels sick
- Wij amuseren ons - We enjoy ourselves



Past Perfect - geweest (Related words: geweest)

'Geweest' is the past participle of 'zijn' (to be). With 'was' it forms the past perfect, showing an action completed before another past action.

- Ik ben geweest - I have been
- Hij had gegeten - He had eaten
- Zij was gekomen - She had come

Possession - van (Related words: van)

'Van' means 'of' and shows possession. Dutch uses 'van' where English might use 's (father's tears = de tranen van mijn vader).

- het boek van Jan - Jan's book
- de auto van mijn broer - my brother's car
- het huis van de burens - the neighbors' house

Past Participles - weggegaan/gebroken (Related words: weggegaan, gebroken)

Dutch past participles often start with 'ge-' and are used with 'hebben' or 'zijn' to form perfect tenses. They go at the end of the sentence.

- Ik heb gelezen - I have read
- Zij is vertrokken - She has left
- Wij hebben gewacht - We have waited

Dutch

25. De hele nacht **ging** de storm **door**. Ik deed belofte na belofte aan God. **Ik zou** braaf zijn. **Ik zou** altijd mijn ouders gehoorzamen. **Alsjeblieft**, **alsjeblieft**, laat mij leven! Elke golf leek klaar **om** ons **te** doden.

English

25. The whole night the storm continued. I made promise after promise to God. I would be good. I would always obey my parents. Please, please, let me live! Every wave seemed ready to kill us.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
de hele nacht	the whole night	braaf	good	klaar	ready
door	on	altijd	always	ons	us
ik deed	i made	gehoorzamen	obey	doden	kill
belofte	promise	elke golf	every wave		
aan	to	leek	seemed		



Language tips

Continuation - doorgaan (Related words: ging, door)

'Doorgaan' means 'to continue' or 'go on'. Here it's split: 'ging...door'. Many Dutch verbs split like this in main clauses.

- Het feest gaat door - The party continues
- Ik stop met werken - I stop working
- Zij komt binnen - She comes in

Conditional - zou (Related words: Ik zou)



'Zou' expresses conditional actions (would/should). It's the past tense of 'zullen' and is used for all persons in Dutch.

- Ik zou gaan - I would go
- Hij zou helpen - He would help
- Wij zouden komen - We would come

Infinitive Constructions - om te (Related words: **om, te, doden**)

'Om te' + infinitive means 'in order to' or simply 'to' when expressing purpose. The infinitive comes at the very end.

- om te eten - to eat
- om te slapen - to sleep
- klaar om te gaan - ready to go

Please - Alsjeblieft (Related words: **Alsjeblieft**)

'Alsjeblieft' is the informal way to say 'please' in Dutch. It literally means 'if you please'. The formal version is 'alstublieft'.

- Alsjeblieft, help me - Please, help me
- Dank je wel, alsjeblieft - Thank you, please
- Alstublieft meneer - Please sir

Dutch

26. Maar de volgende ochtend veranderde **er** iets. De wind **werd** kalmer. De golven **werden** kleiner. De zon **kwam** **tevoorschijn**. En plotseling zag de oceaan **er** niet zo verschrikkelijk uit. Het was **eigenlijk** **best** mooi. Mijn ziekte was weg. Mijn angst verdween ook.

English

26. But the next morning something changed. The wind became calmer. The waves became smaller. The sun came out. And suddenly the ocean did not look so terrible. It was actually quite beautiful. My sickness was gone. My fear disappeared too.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
de volgende ochtend	the next morning	zag	looked	mooi	beautiful
veranderde	changed	zo	so	mijn ziekte	my sickness
kalmer	calmer	verschrikkelijk	terrible	weg	gone
kleiner	smaller	uit	out	mijn angst	my fear
de zon	the sun	het was	it was	verdween	disappeared
tevoorschijn	out	eigenlijk	actually		
plotseling	suddenly	best	quite		



Language tips

Past Tense Plural - werden (Related words: **werd, werden**)

'Werden' is the past tense plural of 'worden' (to become). In Dutch, past tense verbs change form for singular and plural subjects.

- Hij werd ziek - He became sick
- Zij werden ziek - They became sick
- Het werd koud - It became cold

Separable Verb - tevoorschijn komen (Related words: **kwam, tevoorschijn**)



'Tevoorschijn komen' means 'to appear' or 'come out'. In main clauses, the verb splits with 'kwam' in second position and 'tevoorschijn' at the end.

- De maan komt tevoorschijn - The moon appears
- Hij kwam binnen - He came in
- Zij gaat weg - She goes away

Er + Verb Construction (Related words: **er**)

'Er' can mean 'there' in existential sentences. 'Er zag...uit' uses 'er' as a filler word, common in Dutch when describing appearances.

- Er is een probleem - There is a problem
- Het ziet er mooi uit - It looks beautiful
- Er zijn mensen - There are people

Adverbs - eigenlijk/best (Related words: **eigenlijk, best**)

'Eigenlijk' means 'actually' and 'best' can mean 'quite' or 'rather'. Dutch uses many small words to soften or emphasize statements.

- Het is best leuk - It's quite nice
- Eigenlijk wel - Actually yes
- Best goed - Quite good

Dutch

27. Mijn vriend vond mij op het dek. Hij lachte en sloeg op mijn schouder. Je was bang vannacht, hè? **Dacht je** dat **die kleine wind** ons zou doden? **Ik kon** zijn woorden niet geloven. Kleine wind? zei ik. Het was een verschrikkelijke storm!

English

27. My friend found me on the deck. He laughed and hit my shoulder. "You were scared last night, right? Did you think that small wind would kill us?" I could not believe his words. "Small wind?" I said. "It was a terrible storm!"

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
vond	found	bang	scared	zijn woorden	his words
het dek	the deck	vannacht	last night	geloven	believe
hij lachte	he laughed	hè	right	kleine wind	small wind
sloeg	hit	dacht	did think	een verschrikkelijke storm	a terrible storm
mijn schouder	my shoulder	die kleine wind	that small wind		
je was	you were	ik kon	i could		



Language tips

Tag Questions - hè (Related words: **hè?**)

'Hè' at the end of a sentence is like English 'right?' or 'eh?'. It asks for confirmation and makes the statement into a question.

- Je komt, hè? - You're coming, right?
- Mooi weer, hè? - Nice weather, eh?
- Je bent moe, hè? - You're tired, aren't you?



Past Tense Questions (Related words: **Dacht, je**)

Dutch questions in past tense start with the verb. 'Dacht je' means 'Did you think'. The word order changes from statement to question.

- Zag je dat? - Did you see that?
- Kwam hij? - Did he come?
- Had je tijd? - Did you have time?

Demonstrative - die (Related words: **die kleine wind**)

'Die' means 'that' and points to something mentioned before. It agrees with the noun's gender. 'Die' is used with de-words.

- die man - that man
- dat huis - that house
- die vrouw - that woman

Modal Verb - kon (Related words: **Ik kon**)

'Kon' is the past tense of 'kunnen' (can/to be able). Dutch modal verbs in past tense look very different from their infinitive forms.

- Ik kan zwemmen - I can swim
- Ik kon niet slapen - I couldn't sleep
- Hij kon komen - He could come

Dutch

28. Hij lachte harder. Dat was niets! Wacht tot je een echte storm ziet. Je bent **gewoon** een nieuwe zeeman. **Je zult** leren. Kom, **laten we** punch **drinken**. **Laten we** je eerste keer op zee vieren! We gingen onder het dek **om te drinken**.

English

28. He laughed harder. "That was nothing! Wait until you see a real storm. You are just a new sailor. You will learn. Come, let's drink punch. Let's celebrate your first time at sea!" We went under the deck to drink.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
dat was	that was	een nieuwe zeeman	a new sailor	je eerste keer	your first time
wacht	wait	je zult	you will	op	at
tot	until	leren	learn	vieren	celebrate
een echte storm	a real storm	laten	let	we gingen	we went
ziet	see	we	us	onder	under
je bent	you are	punch	punch		
gewoon	just	drinken	drink		



Language tips

Let's Construction - laten we (Related words: **laten, we**)

'Laten we' means 'let's' and is used for suggestions. The verb that follows is always in the infinitive form at the end.

- Laten we gaan - Let's go
- Laten we eten - Let's eat
- Laten we beginnen - Let's begin



Future Tense - zult (Related words: Je zult)

'Zult' is the future tense of 'zullen' for 'je/jij' (you). It's more formal than 'zal' but means the same: 'will'.

- Je zult zien - You will see
- Hij zal komen - He will come
- Wij zullen helpen - We will help

Purpose Infinitive - om te (Related words: om, te, drinken)

'Om te' + infinitive expresses purpose ('in order to'). The infinitive verb always comes at the very end of the sentence.

- Ik ga naar de winkel om melk te kopen - I go to the store to buy milk
- Hij komt om te helpen - He comes to help
- We stoppen om te eten - We stop to eat

Adverb - gewoon (Related words: gewoon)

'Gewoon' means 'just' or 'simply'. It's used to downplay something or indicate normalcy. Very common in everyday Dutch.

- Het is gewoon een kat - It's just a cat
- Doe maar gewoon - Just act normal
- Gewoon proberen - Just try

Dutch

29. We **dronken**. We **lachten**. En in één nacht **vergat ik** al mijn beloftes aan God. **Ik vergat** mijn angst. **Ik vergat** de wijsheid van mijn vader. De oceaan was kalm. Mijn geweten **ook**. **Ik** duwde alle serieuze gedachten weg. **Als** ze probeerden terug te komen, dronk **ik** meer punch.

English

29. We drank. We laughed. And in one night I forgot all my promises to God. I forgot my fear. I forgot the wisdom of my father. The ocean was calm. My conscience too. I pushed all serious thoughts away. When they tried to come back, I drank more punch.

Dutch	English
dronken	drank
lachten	laughed
één nacht	one night
vergat	forgot
mijn beloftes	my promises

Dutch	English
de wijsheid	the wisdom
kalm	calm
duwde	pushed
alle	all
serieuze	serious

Dutch	English
gedachten	thoughts
als	when
terug	back
dronk	drank
meer	more



Language tips

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: dronken, lachten)

Dutch past tense often ends in -te/-de for singular and -ten/-den for plural. 'Dronken' (we drank) shows the plural -en ending.

- wij dronken → we drank
- zij lachten → they laughed
- ik werkte → I worked

Word Order - Subject First (Related words: Ik, vergat)



Dutch keeps the same subject-verb order as English in simple sentences. 'Ik vergat' directly translates to 'I forgot'.

- Ik vergat → I forgot
- Hij dronk → He drank
- Wij lachten → We laughed

Ook - Word Placement (Related words: **ook**)

Dutch 'ook' (also/too) typically comes at the end of short sentences, just like English 'too'.

- Ik ook → Me too
- Hij komt ook → He comes too
- Dat is goed ook → That's good too

Als - Subordinating Conjunction (Related words: **Als**)

Dutch 'Als' means 'when' or 'if' depending on context. Here it introduces a time clause meaning 'when'.

- Als het regent → When it rains
- Als je wilt → If you want
- Als hij komt → When he comes

Dutch

30. In vijf of zes dagen voelde ik **me** als een echte zeeman. Ik **was** **trots** op **mezelf**. Ik had mijn eerste storm overleefd. Ik **was** **geen lafaard**. Ik **zou** **avonturen** **beleven**. Ik **zou** de wereld zien. Wat wist mijn vader van het leven?

English

30. In five or six days I felt like a real sailor. I was proud of myself. I had survived my first storm. I was not a coward. I would have adventures. I would see the world. What did my father know about life?

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
vijf	five	trots	proud	geen lafaard	not a coward
of	or	op	of	avonturen	adventures
zes	six	mezelf	myself	beleven	have
dagen	days	mijn	my	de wereld	the world
voelde	felt	eerste	first	zien	see
als	like	storm	storm	van	about
een echte zeeman	a real sailor	overleefd	survived	het leven	life



Language tips

Past Tense - Was/Were (Related words: **was, trots**)

Dutch 'was' means 'was' for singular subjects. The plural form 'waren' means 'were'. Both are past tense forms of 'zijn' (to be).

- ik was → I was
- zij waren → they were
- hij was → he was

Reflexive Pronouns - Me/Mezelf (Related words: **me, mezelf**)

Dutch uses 'me' and 'mezelf' like English 'myself'. 'Me' is weaker emphasis, 'mezelf' is stronger.



- ik voel me → I feel
- trots op mezelf → proud of myself
- ik was me → I washed myself

Modal Verb Zou - Would (Related words: **zou, avonturen, beleven**)

Dutch 'zou' expresses 'would' for future in the past or conditional meanings. It comes from 'zullen' (will/shall).

- ik zou gaan → I would go
- hij zou komen → he would come
- wij zouden zien → we would see

Geen vs No/Not (Related words: **geen lafaard**)

Dutch 'geen' means 'no' or 'not a' before nouns. It negates the existence of something.

- geen geld → no money
- geen tijd → no time
- geen probleem → no problem

Dutch

31. Maar ik was een dwaas. God **had** mij een waarschuwing **gegeven**. De storm was een kans **om terug te keren**. Ik **had moeten luisteren**. De volgende storm zou **veel, veel** erger zijn. Het zou mij bijna doden.

English

31. But I was a fool. God had given me a warning. The storm was a chance to return. I should have listened. The next storm would be much, much worse. It would almost kill me.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
een dwaas	a fool	terug	return	de volgende storm	the next storm
een waarschuwing	a warning	keren	return	veel	much
gegeven	given	moeten	should have		
een kans	a chance	luisteren	listened		



Language tips

Past Perfect - Had Gegeven (Related words: **had, gegeven**)

Dutch uses 'had' + past participle like English. 'Had gegeven' means 'had given'. The participle often starts with 'ge-'.

- had gezien → had seen
- had gemaakt → had made
- had gehoord → had heard

Infinitive Construction - Om te (Related words: **om, terug, te, keren**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose ('in order to'). The infinitive splits around 'te'.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te slapen → to sleep
- om te leren → to learn

Modal Perfect - Had Moeten (Related words: **had, moeten, luisteren**)

Dutch 'had moeten' means 'should have'. It combines past tense 'had' with the modal 'moeten' (must/should).



- ik had moeten gaan → I should have gone
- zij had kunnen komen → she could have come
- wij hadden willen helpen → we would have wanted to help

Repetition for Emphasis (Related words: **veel,, veel**)

Dutch repeats words for emphasis just like English. 'Veel, veel' means 'much, much' to stress intensity.

- heel, heel groot → very, very big
- lang, lang geleden → long, long ago
- erg, erg mooi → very, very beautiful

Dutch

32. Zes dagen na **het verlaten van** Hull bereikten we Yarmouth Roads. Dit **was** een plek waar schepen wachtten op goede wind. De wind **was** tegen ons **geweest**. Onze reis **was** langzaam. Veel schepen uit Newcastle **waren er ook**. We **lieten** ons anker **vallen** en wachtten. We bleven daar zeven of acht dagen.

English

32. Six days after leaving Hull we reached Yarmouth Roads. This was a place where ships waited for good wind. The wind had been against us. Our journey was slow. Many ships from Newcastle were there too. We dropped our anchor and waited. We stayed there seven or eight days.

Dutch	English
het verlaten	leaving
bereikten	reached
yarmouth roads	yarmouth roads
een plek	a place
waar	where
wachtten	waited
op	for

Dutch	English
goede	good
wind	wind
tegen	against
onze	our
reis	journey
langzaam	slow
veel	many

Dutch	English
newcastle	newcastle
lieten	dropped
ons anker	our anchor
vallen	drop
bleven	stayed
zeven	seven
acht	eight



Language tips

Nominalized Verbs - Het Verlaten (Related words: **het verlaten, van**)

Dutch can turn verbs into nouns using 'het' + infinitive. 'Het verlaten' means 'the leaving' or 'leaving'.

- het eten → eating/the eating
- het lopen → walking
- het zwemmen → swimming

Past Perfect - Was Geweest (Related words: **was, geweest**)

Dutch 'was geweest' means 'had been'. It combines past tense 'was' with participle 'geweest' (been).

- was gekomen → had come
- was gegaan → had gone
- waren geweest → had been (plural)

Er as There (Related words: **waren, er, ook**)

Dutch 'er' often means 'there' in existence statements. It's different from 'daar' which means 'there' as a location.



- er is → there is
- er zijn → there are
- er was → there was

Laten + Infinitive (Related words: **lieten, vallen**)

Dutch 'lieten...vallen' literally means 'let fall' but translates to 'dropped'. This is a common Dutch construction.

- liet vallen → dropped
- laat gaan → let go
- liet zien → showed

Dutch

33. De wind **was** nog steeds slecht. Hij waaide uit het zuidwesten. We **konden** niet de rivier op **varen**. Na vier dagen werd de wind sterker. Veel sterker. Maar onze zeelieden maakten **zich** **geen** zorgen. Ze zeiden dat Yarmouth Roads veilig **was**.

English

33. The wind was still bad. It blew from the southwest. We could not sail up the river. After four days the wind became stronger. Much stronger. But our sailors did not worry. They said that Yarmouth Roads was safe.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
nog steeds	still	konden	could	zeelieden	sailors
slecht	bad	de rivier	the river	maakten	made
hij	it	op	up	zich	themselves
waaide	blew	varen	sail	zorgen	worries
het zuidwesten	the southwest	vier	four	veilig	safe



Language tips

Past Tense - Was/Waren (Related words: **was, waren**)

Dutch uses 'was' for singular and 'waren' for plural in the past tense. English uses 'was' for I/he/she/it and 'were' for you/we/they.

- hij was → he was
- wij waren → we were
- het was koud → it was cold

Reflexive Pronoun - Zich (Related words: **zich**)

Dutch 'zich' is a reflexive pronoun meaning 'themselves/himself/herself'. It shows the action affects the subject.

- zich zorgen maken → to worry
- zich wassen → to wash oneself
- zich voorstellen → to introduce oneself

Negation - Geen (Related words: **geen**)

Dutch 'geen' means 'no' or 'not any' and is used before nouns. It replaces the indefinite article.

- geen zorgen → no worries
- geen tijd → no time
- geen geld → no money



Modal Verb - Konden (Related words: **konden, varen**)

Dutch 'konden' is the past tense of 'kunnen' (can). Modal verbs in Dutch are followed by an infinitive at the end.

- wij konden zwemmen → we could swim
- hij kon lezen → he could read
- zij konden komen → they could come

Dutch

34. **Ons** anker was sterk. **Ons** schip was goed. Dus de mannen dronken en **lachten**. Ze vertelden verhalen. Ze **speelden** kaart. Ik probeerde zoals hen **te doen**. Ik **wilde** een echte zeeman **zijn**. Alles leek goed.

English

34. Our anchor was strong. Our ship was good. So the men drank and laughed. They told stories. They played cards. I tried to do like them. I wanted to be a real sailor. Everything seemed good.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
ons	our	de mannen	the men	probeerde	tried
anker	anchor	vertelden	told	zoals	like
sterk	strong	verhalen	stories	hen	them
schip	ship	speelden	played	te doen	to do
dus	so	kaart	cards	zijn	to be



Language tips

Possessive - Ons (Related words: **Ons**)

Dutch 'ons' means 'our' and doesn't change form before nouns. It's simpler than English possessives.

- ons huis → our house
- ons kind → our child
- onze auto → our car (with de-words)

Past Tense Patterns (Related words: **lachten, speelden**)

Dutch past tense often adds -te/-de to the verb stem. 'Lachten' (laughed) and 'speelden' (played) show this pattern.

- werkte → worked
- kochten → bought
- leefden → lived

Infinitive with Te (Related words: **te doen**)

Dutch uses 'te' before infinitives after certain verbs, like 'probeerde te doen' (tried to do).

- begon te lopen → began to walk
- vergat te komen → forgot to come
- leerde te zwemmen → learned to swim

Modal Verb - Wilde (Related words: **wilde, zijn**)

'Wilde' is the past tense of 'willen' (want). After modal verbs, Dutch puts the infinitive at the end.

- hij wilde eten → he wanted to eat
- wij wilden gaan → we wanted to go
- zij wilde slapen → she wanted to sleep



Dutch

35. Maar op de achtste ochtend veranderde alles. De wind werd wild. De kapitein **beval** alle mannen te werken. **Haal** de topmasten naar beneden! schreeuwde hij. **Bind** alles vast! **Bereid** je voor op een storm! De zeelieden sprongen **om te gehoorzamen**. Ze wisten dat dit serieus was.

English

35. But on the eighth morning everything changed. The wind became wild. The captain ordered all men to work. "Bring the topmasts down!" he screamed. "Tie everything down! Prepare for a storm!" The sailors jumped to obey. They knew that this was serious.

Dutch	English
de achtste ochtend	the eighth morning
wild	wild
de kapitein	the captain
beval	ordered
mannen	men
te werken	to work

Dutch	English
haal	bring
de topmasten	the topmasts
schreeuwde	screamed
bind	tie
vast	down
bereid	prepare

Dutch	English
je	yourself
een storm	a storm
de zeelieden	the sailors
sprongen	jumped
te gehoorzamen	obey
serieus	serious



Language tips

Ordinal Numbers (Related words: **achtste**)

Dutch ordinal numbers like 'achtste' (eighth) use -de or -ste endings. They work like adjectives before nouns.

- eerste dag → first day
- tweede keer → second time
- derde huis → third house

Imperative Mood (Related words: **Haal, Bind, Bereid**)

Commands in Dutch use the verb stem: 'Haal!' (Bring!), 'Bind!' (Tie!). It's direct and urgent.

- Kom hier! → Come here!
- Ga weg! → Go away!
- Stop nu! → Stop now!

Irregular Past - Beval (Related words: **beval**)

'Beval' is the irregular past tense of 'bevelen' (to order). Some Dutch verbs change their stem vowel in the past.

- gaf → gave
- kwam → came
- zag → saw

Purpose with Om Te (Related words: **om, te gehoorzamen**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose ('in order to'). It shows why someone does something.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te leren → to learn
- om te helpen → to help

Dutch

English



36. Tegen **de middag** **waren** **de golven** als bergen. Ons schip ging op en neer, op en neer. Water sloeg over **het dek**. Een keer, twee keer, dachten we dat ons anker los **was** **geraakt**. De kapitein beval een ander anker uit te gooien. Nu hadden we twee ankers die ons vasthielden.

36. Around noon the waves were like mountains. Our ship went up and down, up and down. Water hit over the deck. Once, twice, we thought that our anchor had come loose. The captain ordered to throw out another anchor. Now we had two anchors that held us steady.

Dutch	English
tegen	around
de middag	noon
bergen	mountains
op en neer	up and down
over	over

Dutch	English
een keer	once
dachten	thought
los	loose
geraakt	come
een ander anker	another anchor

Dutch	English
uit te gooien	to throw out
hadden	had
ankers	anchors
die	that
vasthielden	held steady



Language tips

Past Tense - Waren (Related words: **waren, were**)

Dutch past tense 'waren' (were) is used for plural subjects. In English, 'were' also indicates past tense for plural subjects.

- zij waren → they were
- wij waren → we were
- de golven waren → the waves were

Articles - De/Het (Related words: **de middag, de golven, het dek**)

Dutch has two words for 'the': 'de' for common gender and 'het' for neuter. Both simply become 'the' in English.

- de boot → the boat
- het water → the water
- de zee → the sea

Repetition for Emphasis (Related words: **op en neer,, op en neer.**)

Dutch often repeats phrases for emphasis, like 'op en neer, op en neer' (up and down, up and down). This works the same way in English.

- heen en weer → back and forth
- steeds weer → again and again
- keer op keer → time after time

Word Order in Past Perfect (Related words: **was, geraakt**)

Dutch 'was geraakt' follows auxiliary + past participle pattern, similar to English 'had come' but using different auxiliary verbs.

- was gevallen → had fallen
- was gekomen → had come
- was gegaan → had gone

Dutch 

English 



37. Toen **sloeg** de echte storm **toe**. Ik heb **geen woorden** voor hoe verschrikkelijk het was. Zelfs de oude zeelieden waren bang. Ik zag angst in **hun ogen**. De kapitein liep vele keren langs **mijn hut**. Ik **hoorde** hem fluisteren: Heer, heb genade met ons!

37. Then the real storm struck. I have no words for how terrible it was. Even the old sailors were afraid. I saw fear in their eyes. The captain walked past my cabin many times. I heard him whisper: "Lord, have mercy on us!"

Dutch	English
sloeg	struck
de echte storm	the real storm
toe	struck
heb	have
geen woorden	no words
de oude zeelieden	the old sailors

Dutch	English
bang	afraid
zag	saw
angst	fear
hun ogen	their eyes
liep	walked
vele keren	many times

Dutch	English
langs	past
mijn hut	my cabin
fluisteren	whisper
heer	lord
genade	mercy
met	on



Language tips

Separable Verb - Toeslaan (Related words: **sloeg, toe**)

The verb 'toeslaan' (to strike) splits in past tense. The particle 'toe' moves to the end, becoming 'sloeg...toe'.

- de storm sloeg toe → the storm struck
- hij keek toe → he watched
- zij gaf toe → she gave in

Geen - Negation (Related words: **geen woorden**)

Dutch uses 'geen' to negate nouns (no/not any). It replaces the article 'een' or is used with plural nouns.

- geen tijd → no time
- geen geld → no money
- geen kinderen → no children

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **hoorde**)

Dutch past tense often adds -de or -te to the verb stem. 'Hoorde' (heard) follows the -de pattern for regular verbs.

- ik hoorde → I heard
- hij speelde → he played
- zij werkte → she worked

Possessive Pronouns (Related words: **mijn hut, hun ogen**)

Dutch 'mijn' means 'my', 'hun' means 'their'. These don't change form like in English (my/mine, their/theirs).

- mijn boek → my book
- hun huis → their house
- jouw tas → your bag

Dutch 

English 



38. We zijn allemaal verloren! bleef de kapitein fluisteren. We zijn allemaal dode mannen! Toen de kapitein **die woorden** zei, stierf mijn moed. **Deze man** **had** dertig jaar **gevaren**. **Als** hij bang was, waren we gedoemd. Ik bleef in mijn hut. Ik was bevroren **van** angst.

38. "We are all lost!" the captain kept whispering. "We are all dead men!" When the captain said those words, my courage died. This man had sailed for thirty years. If he was afraid, we were doomed. I stayed in my cabin. I was frozen with fear.

Dutch	English
verloren	lost
fluisteren	whispering
dode mannen	dead men
die woorden	those words

Dutch	English
mijn moed	my courage
deze man	this man
dertig jaar	thirty years
gevaren	sailed

Dutch	English
gedoemd	doomed
bleef	stayed
bevroren	frozen
van	with



Language tips

Demonstrative Pronouns (Related words: **die woorden, Deze man**)

Dutch 'die' means 'those' for plural, 'deze' means 'this'. They must agree with the noun's gender and number.

- die boeken → those books
- deze tafel → this table
- dat huis → that house

Past Perfect - Had + Past Participle (Related words: **had, gevaren**)

Dutch uses 'had' + past participle (gevaren) to show an action completed before another past action, just like English.

- had gevaren → had sailed
- had gezien → had seen
- was gekomen → had come

Conditional - Als (If) (Related words: **Als**)

Dutch 'als' means 'if' or 'when'. In conditional sentences, it introduces the condition just like English 'if'.

- als hij komt → if he comes
- als het regent → if it rains
- als ik tijd heb → if I have time

Van - Multiple Meanings (Related words: **van**)

Dutch 'van' can mean 'of', 'from', or 'with' depending on context. Here 'bevroren van angst' means 'frozen with fear'.

- van angst → with fear
- van Amsterdam → from Amsterdam
- het boek van Jan → Jan's book

Dutch

39. Ik **kon** niet **bewegen**. Ik **kon** niet **denken**. Ik had **om** de eerste storm **gelachen**. Ik had punch gedronken en mijn beloftes aan God vergeten. Nu **was** God echt boos. Deze storm **zou** ons allemaal **doden**. **Er was** deze keer geen ontsnapping.

English

39. I could not move. I could not think. I had laughed at the first storm. I had drunk punch and forgotten my promises to God. Now God was really angry. This storm would kill us all. There was no escape this time.



Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
bewegen	move	gedronken	drunk	deze keer	this time
om	at	vergeten	forgotten	geen ontsnapping	no escape
de eerste storm	the first storm	echt	really		
gelachen	laughed	deze storm	this storm		



Language tips

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Could) (Related words: **kon, bewegen, denken**)

Dutch 'kon' is the past tense of 'kunnen' (can). Modal verbs are followed by infinitives: 'kon niet bewegen' (could not move).

- kon zien → could see
- mocht gaan → was allowed to go
- wilde eten → wanted to eat

Lachen om - Phrasal Verb (Related words: **om, gelachen**)

Dutch uses 'lachen om' to mean 'laugh at'. The preposition 'om' is essential to the meaning, similar to English phrasal verbs.

- lachen om → laugh at
- denken aan → think about
- wachten op → wait for

Zou - Conditional Would (Related words: **zou, doden**)

Dutch 'zou' expresses 'would' in conditional sentences. It shows hypothetical or future-in-the-past situations.

- zou komen → would come
- zou helpen → would help
- zouden gaan → would go

Er - Existential There (Related words: **Er, was**)

Dutch 'er' often means 'there' in existential sentences (there is/was). 'Er was' means 'there was'.

- er is → there is
- er zijn → there are
- er was geen → there was no

Dutch

40. Eindelijk dwong ik **mezelf** om aan dek te gaan. Wat ik daar zag geeft mij nog steeds nachtmerries. De zee was zwart en wit van schuim. Golven **zo hoog als** kerken sloegen over ons heen. De wind **schreeuwde** als duizend demonen. Ik **hield** me stevig **vast** of ik zou worden weggevaagd.

English

40. Finally I forced myself to go on deck. What I saw there still gives me nightmares. The sea was black and white with foam. Waves as high as churches crashed over us. The wind screamed like a thousand demons. I held on tightly or I would be swept away.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
eindelijk	finally	zwart	black	duizend	a thousand
dwong	forced	wit	white	demonen	demons



aan dek	on deck	schuim	foam	hield	held
te gaan	go	zo hoog als	as high as	stevig	tightly
geeft	gives	kerken	churches	vast	on
nachtmerries	nightmares	sloegen	crashed	worden weggevaagd	be swept away



Language tips

Reflexive Verbs - Mezelf (Related words: **mezelf, myself**)

Dutch uses 'mezelf' (myself) with certain verbs like 'dwingen' (to force). This is more common in Dutch than English.

- ik dwing mezelf → I force myself
- hij wast zich → he washes himself
- zij kleedt zich aan → she dresses herself

Past Tense - Regular Pattern (Related words: **schreeuwde, screamed**)

Dutch past tense often uses '-de' or '-te' endings. 'Schreeuwde' (screamed) shows the regular '-de' pattern for past tense.

- hij werkte → he worked
- zij speelde → she played
- ik hoorde → I heard

Comparison - Zo...als (Related words: **zo hoog als, as high as**)

Dutch uses 'zo...als' for comparisons meaning 'as...as'. It works exactly like the English structure.

- zo groot als → as big as
- zo snel als → as fast as
- zo oud als → as old as

Separable Verb - Vasthouden (Related words: **hield, vast**)

Dutch 'vasthouden' (to hold on) splits in past tense: 'hield...vast'. The particle 'vast' moves away from the verb.

- ik houd vast → I hold on
- hij liet los → he let go
- wij keken op → we looked up

Dutch

41. Ik keek rond. **Twee** schepen bij ons **hadden** hun masten **omgehakt**. Een ander schip ongeveer een mijl weg **was aan het zinken**. Ik keek hoe het onder de golven verdween. Al die mannen verdronken in **het koude zwarte** water. **Nog twee** schepen waren losgeraakt van hun ankers.

English

41. I looked around. Two ships near us had chopped down their masts. Another ship about a mile away was sinking. I watched how it disappeared under the waves. All those men drowned in the cold black water. Two more ships had broken loose from their anchors.

Dutch	English
keek	watched
rond	around
bij	near
hun	their

Dutch	English
een ander schip	another ship
ongeveer	about
een mijl	a mile
was aan het zinken	was sinking

Dutch	English
het koude	the cold
zwarte	black
twee	two more
waren	had



masten	masts	al die	all those	losgeraakt	broken loose
omgehakt	chopped down	verdronken	drowned		



Language tips

Past Perfect - Hadden...omgehakt (Related words: **hadden, omgehakt**)

Dutch uses 'hadden' (had) + past participle for completed actions. 'Omgehakt' is the past participle of 'omhakken' (to chop down).

- zij hadden gezien → they had seen
- ik had gegeten → I had eaten
- wij hadden gewerkt → we had worked

Progressive Past - Was aan het (Related words: **was aan het zinken, was sinking**)

Dutch uses 'was aan het' + infinitive to show ongoing past action, like English 'was -ing'.

- hij was aan het lezen → he was reading
- zij waren aan het eten → they were eating
- ik was aan het werken → I was working

Adjective Order (Related words: **het koude, zwarte**)

Multiple adjectives in Dutch follow the same order as English: 'het koude zwarte water' → 'the cold black water'.

- de grote rode auto → the big red car
- een klein wit huis → a small white house
- het oude groene boek → the old green book

Nog - Still/More (Related words: **Nog, twee**)

Dutch 'nog' can mean 'still', 'yet', or 'more' depending on context. Here 'nog twee' means 'two more'.

- nog een → one more
- nog niet → not yet
- nog steeds → still

Dutch

42. **Die avond** smeekte onze bemanning de kapitein **om** onze masten **om te hakken**. Hij wilde het niet doen. Een schip zonder masten is hulpeloos. Maar de bootsman zei: **Als** we ze niet omhakken, zinkt het schip! De kapitein stemde eindelijk toe. Ze **moesten** het schip redden.

English

42. That evening our crew begged the captain to chop down our masts. He didn't want to do it. A ship without masts is helpless. But the bosun said: "If we don't chop them down, the ship will sink!" The captain finally agreed. They had to save the ship.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
die avond	that evening	hulpeloos	helpless	stemde	agreed
smeekte	begged	de bootsman	the bosun	moesten	had to
bemanning	crew	ze	them	redden	save
om te hakken	chop down	omhakken	chop down		
doen	to do	zinkt	will sink		



Language tips

Demonstrative - Die (Related words: **Die avond, That evening**)

'Die' means 'that' in Dutch. It changes based on the noun's gender: 'die' for common gender, 'dat' for neuter.

- die man → that man
- dat huis → that house
- die vrouw → that woman

Om te + Infinitive (Related words: **om, om te hakken**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose or intention, like English 'to' + verb.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te slapen → to sleep
- om te werken → to work

Conditional - Als (Related words: **Als, If**)

'Als' means 'if' or 'when' in Dutch. It introduces conditional sentences just like in English.

- als het regent → if it rains
- als ik tijd heb → if I have time
- als zij komt → if she comes

Modal Past - Moesten (Related words: **moesten, had to**)

Dutch modal verbs in past tense: 'moesten' (had to) from 'moeten'. Similar to English 'must' → 'had to'.

- ik wilde → I wanted
- hij kon → he could
- wij mochten → we were allowed

Dutch

43. Dus **hakten** ze **de voorste mast** om. KRAK! Hij viel in de zee. Maar nu schudde de hoofdmast verschrikkelijk. Hij zou **het schip** uit elkaar breken. Ze **moesten** die ook **omhakken**. Nu hadden we **helemaal geen** masten. We waren als een kurk in het water.

English

43. So they chopped down the front mast. CRACK! It fell into the sea. But now the mainmast shook terribly. It would break the ship apart. They had to chop that down too. Now we had no masts at all. We were like a cork in the water.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
hakten	chopped	schudde	shook	masten	masts at all
de voorste mast	the front mast	de hoofdmast	the mainmast	een kurk	a cork
om	down	uit elkaar	apart	het water	the water
krak	crack	breken	break		
viel	fell	helemaal geen	no		



Language tips

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **hakten, chopped**)

Dutch past tense often adds -te or -de to the verb stem. 'Hakten' (chopped) comes from 'hakken' and shows the plural past form.

- zij hakten → they chopped
- wij werkten → we worked
- jullie speelden → you played

Articles - De vs Het (Related words: **de voorste mast, het schip**)

Dutch has two definite articles: 'de' for common gender and 'het' for neuter nouns. Both translate to 'the' in English.

- de boom → the tree
- het huis → the house
- de tafel → the table

Modal Verbs - Moesten (Related words: **moesten, omhakken**)

The Dutch modal verb 'moesten' (had to) expresses necessity in the past. It's followed by an infinitive at the end.

- ik moest gaan → I had to go
- zij moesten werken → they had to work
- wij moesten eten → we had to eat

Negation - Helemaal geen (Related words: **helemaal geen, no**)

'Helemaal geen' means 'no...at all' or 'absolutely no'. It's stronger than just 'geen' (no).

- helemaal geen tijd → no time at all
- helemaal geen geld → no money at all
- helemaal geen probleem → no problem at all

Dutch

44. Ik **kan** **mijn angst** niet **beschrijven**. Ik **was** jong. Ik **had** de dood nog nooit zo dichtbij gezien. Maar erger dan de angst voor de dood **was** **mijn schuld**. Ik **had** mijn beloftes aan God gebroken. Ik **had** om Zijn eerste waarschuwing gelachen. Nu **zou** Hij mij **doden**.

English

44. I cannot describe my fear. I was young. I had never seen death so close. But worse than the fear of death was my guilt. I had broken my promises to God. I had laughed at His first warning. Now He would kill me.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
beschrijven	describe	dichtbij	close	mijn schuld	my guilt
jong	young	gezien	seen	zijn	his
de dood	death	voor	of	waarschuwing	warning



Language tips

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Related words: **kan, beschrijven**)



Dutch 'kan' (can) is a modal verb. It stays conjugated while the main verb 'beschrijven' becomes an infinitive at the end.

- ik kan zwemmen → I can swim
- hij kan lezen → he can read
- wij kunnen eten → we can eat

Past Tense - Was/Had (Related words: **was, had**)

Dutch uses 'was' for 'to be' and 'had' for 'to have' in the past, just like English. These are irregular verbs.

- ik was jong → I was young
- hij had tijd → he had time
- zij waren blij → they were happy

Possessive + Noun (Related words: **mijn angst, mijn schuld**)

Dutch possessives work like English: 'mijn' (my) comes before the noun. 'Mijn angst' becomes 'my fear'.

- mijn huis → my house
- jouw boek → your book
- haar tas → her bag

Would - Zou/Zouden (Related words: **zou, doden**)

Dutch 'zou' translates to 'would' in English. It's used for conditional situations or future in the past.

- hij zou komen → he would come
- ik zou gaan → I would go
- zij zouden helpen → they would help

Dutch

45. De woorden van mijn vader **kwamen** terug. Hij **had** **gelijk**. Ik was vervloekt. De storm werd erger. Zelfs de oude zeelieden zeiden **dat** **ze** nog nooit zoiets **hadden** **gezien**. Ons schip was zwaar met lading. Het rolde verschrikkelijk. Elke paar minuten schreeuwde een zeeman: **Ze** **gaat** zinken!

English

45. The words of my father came back. He was right. I was cursed. The storm became worse. Even the old sailors said that they had never seen anything like this. Our ship was heavy with cargo. It rolled terribly. Every few minutes a sailor screamed: "She's going to sink!"

Dutch	English
de woorden	the words
kwamen	came
vervloekt	cursed
zoiets	anything like this
ons schip	our ship

Dutch	English
zwaar	heavy
lading	cargo
rolde	rolled
elke	every
paar	few

Dutch	English
minuten	minutes
een zeeman	a sailor
gaat	is going
zinken	to sink



Language tips

Past Tense - Kwam/Kwamen (Related words: **kwamen**)

The verb 'komen' (to come) becomes 'kwam' for singular and 'kwamen' for plural in the past tense.

- ik kwam → I came
- zij kwamen → they came
- het kwam terug → it came back



Hebben Gelijk - To Be Right (Related words: **had, gelijk**)

Dutch uses 'gelijk hebben' (literally: to have right) where English uses 'to be right'. A common expression!

- hij heeft gelijk → he is right
- ik had gelijk → I was right
- jullie hebben gelijk → you are right

Ships Are Female (Related words: **Ze, gaat**)

In Dutch maritime language, ships are referred to as 'she' (ze), just like in English sailing tradition.

- ze vaart → she sails
- ze zinkt → she sinks
- ze is groot → she is big

Word Order - Subordinate Clause (Related words: **dat, hadden, gezien**)

After 'dat' (that), Dutch puts the verb at the end: 'dat ze...gezien hadden' (that they had seen).

- dat ik kom → that I come
- dat hij werkt → that he works
- dat wij eten hebben → that we have food

Dutch

46. Ik wist niet wat zinken betekende tot iemand het uitlegde. **Als** een schip zinkt of vergaat **loopt** het **vol** met water en gaat naar de bodem van de zee. Iedereen verdrinkt. Nu begreep ik het. We **zouden** allemaal **sterven** in dit koude, donkere water. Onze lichamen **zouden** nooit **gevonden** **worden**.

English

46. I didn't know what "to sink" meant until someone explained it. When a ship "sinks" or "perishes" it fills with water and goes to the bottom of the sea. Everyone drowns. Now I understood it. We would all die in this cold, dark water. Our bodies would never be found.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
betekende	meant	vol	full	donkere	dark
iemand	someone	de bodem	the bottom	onze lichamen	our bodies
uitlegde	explained	iedereen	everyone	gevonden	found
zinkt	sinks	verdrinkt	drowns	worden	be
vergaat	perishes	begreep	understood		
loopt	fills	koude	cold		



Language tips

Vollopen - To Fill Up (Related words: **loopt, vol**)

The verb 'vollopen' (to fill up) is separable. 'Loopt vol' means 'fills up' - the prefix 'vol' moves to the end.

- het loopt vol → it fills up
- de emmer loopt vol → the bucket fills up
- ik loop vol → I fill up

Passive Voice - Worden (Related words: **gevonden, worden**)

Dutch uses 'worden' + past participle for passive voice. 'Gevonden worden' means 'to be found'.



- gezien worden → to be seen
- gemaakt worden → to be made
- vergeten worden → to be forgotten

Als vs If/When (Related words: **Als**)

Dutch 'als' can mean both 'if' and 'when' in English. Context determines which translation fits best.

- als het regent → if/when it rains
- als ik kom → if/when I come
- als je wilt → if you want

Zou/Zouden + Infinitive (Related words: **zouden, sterven**)

For conditional sentences, Dutch uses 'zou/zouden' + infinitive: 'We zouden sterven' (We would die).

- ik zou gaan → I would go
- zij zouden komen → they would come
- het zou werken → it would work

Dutch

47. Toen zag ik iets dat **mijn bloed** deed bevriezen. De kapitein **was aan het bidden**. De bootsman **was aan het bidden**. Deze harde mannen die niets **vreesden** waren op **hun knieën** en smeekten God om genade. **Als** zij **aan het bidden waren**, waren we echt verloren. Ik viel ook op mijn knieën.

English

47. Then I saw something that made my blood freeze. The captain was praying. The bosun was praying. These hard men who feared nothing were on their knees and begged God for mercy. If they were praying, we were really lost. I also fell on my knees.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
mijn bloed	my blood	deze	these	smeekten	begged
deed	made	harde	hard	aan het bidden waren	were praying
bevriezen	freeze	vreesden	feared	mijn knieën	my knees
was aan het bidden	was praying	hun knieën	their knees		



Language tips

Continuous Past - Aan het (Related words: **was aan het bidden**)

Dutch uses 'was aan het + infinitive' to show ongoing action in the past. 'Was aan het bidden' means 'was praying'.

- hij was aan het lezen → he was reading
- zij was aan het koken → she was cooking
- wij waren aan het werken → we were working

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **vreesden**)

Dutch past tense for regular verbs often adds -de or -te. 'Vreesden' (feared) is the past tense of 'vreezen' (to fear).

- ik vreesde → I feared
- zij werkten → they worked
- hij speelde → he played

Possessive Pronouns (Related words: **mijn bloed, hun knieën**)



Dutch 'mijn' means 'my', 'hun' means 'their'. These possessives come before the noun just like in English.

- mijn huis → my house
- hun auto → their car
- jouw boek → your book

Word Order - Subordinate Clause (Related words: **Als, aan het bidden waren**)

In Dutch subordinate clauses starting with 'als' (if), the verb moves to the end: 'als zij aan het bidden waren' (if they were praying).

- als ik kom → if I come
- als hij weet → if he knows
- als wij gaan → if we go

Dutch

48. Midden in de nacht werd het erger. Een zeeman **kwam** van beneden **rennen**. **Wij hebben** een lek! schreeuwde hij. Vier voet water in het ruim! De kapitein **sprong op**. Alle handen aan de pompen! schreeuwde hij. Dit was onze laatste kans.

English

48. In the middle of the night it got worse. A sailor came running from below. "We have a leak!" he screamed. "Four feet of water in the hold!" The captain jumped up. "All hands to the pumps!" he shouted. This was our last chance.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
midden in de nacht	in the middle of the night	een lek	a leak	alle handen	all hands
werd	got	vier voet	four feet	aan de pompen	to the pumps
van beneden	from below	water	of water	schreeuwde	shouted
rennen	running	in het ruim	in the hold	onze laatste kans	our last chance
wij hebben	we have	sprong	jumped		



Language tips

Komen + Infinitive (Related words: **kwam, rennen**)

Dutch uses 'komen' + infinitive to show movement with purpose. 'Kwam rennen' means 'came running'.

- hij kwam lopen → he came walking
- zij kwam vliegen → she came flying
- wij kwamen aanrijden → we came driving

Direct Speech (Related words: **Wij hebben, een lek!**)

In Dutch direct speech, word order stays normal even in exclamations. 'Wij hebben een lek!' follows standard word order.

- Ik zie een schip! → I see a ship!
- Hij komt terug! → He's coming back!
- Zij weet het! → She knows it!

Separable Verb - Opspringen (Related words: **sprong, op**)

The verb 'opspringen' (jump up) separates in past tense. 'Sprong' stays in position 2, 'op' moves to the end.

- ik spring op → I jump up
- hij stond op → he stood up
- zij ging weg → she went away



Het Ruim - Nautical Terms (Related words: **het ruim**)

Dutch 'het ruim' means 'the hold' (storage area of a ship). Dutch uses 'het' for neuter nouns.

- het dek → the deck
- het zeil → the sail
- de mast → the mast

Dutch

49. Mijn hart stopte. Ik viel terug op mijn bed. Ik **kon** **niet** **bewegen**. **Er** **kwam** **water** binnen. We **zouden** **zinken**. Ik zou hier sterven in de koude donkere zee. Maar de zeelieden trokken **mij** **omhoog**. Jij ook! zeiden ze. Iedereen moet pompen of we sterven allemaal!

English

49. My heart stopped. I fell back on my bed. I could not move. Water was coming in. We would sink. I would die here in the cold dark sea. But the sailors pulled me up. "You too!" they said. "Everyone must pump or we all die!"

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
mijn hart	my heart	de koude donkere zee	the cold dark sea	moet	must
mijn bed	my bed	trokken	pulled	pompen	pump
binnen	in	omhoog	up		
zinken	sink	jij ook	you too		



Language tips

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Related words: **kon, niet, bewegen**)

Dutch 'kon' is the past tense of 'kunnen' (can). Modal verbs are followed by an infinitive: 'kon niet bewegen' (could not move).

- ik kan zwemmen → I can swim
- hij kon niet komen → he couldn't come
- wij konden zien → we could see

Er + Verb Construction (Related words: **Er, kwam, water**)

Dutch uses 'er' as a dummy subject like English 'there'. 'Er kwam water binnen' means 'Water was coming in' (literally: there came water in).

- er is een probleem → there is a problem
- er zijn mensen → there are people
- er komt regen → rain is coming

Conditional - Zouden (Related words: **zouden, zinken**)

Dutch 'zouden' expresses 'would' for conditional statements. 'We zouden zinken' means 'We would sink'.

- ik zou gaan → I would go
- hij zou helpen → he would help
- zij zouden komen → they would come

Object Pronouns (Related words: **mij, omhoog**)



Dutch 'mij' is the object form of 'ik' (I), meaning 'me'. 'Ze trokken mij omhoog' means 'They pulled me up'.

- hij ziet mij → he sees me
- zij helpt hem → she helps him
- wij kennen haar → we know her

Dutch

50. Dus **ging** ik naar de pompen. Ik **werkte** harder dan ik ooit in mijn leven had gewerkt. We deden het allemaal. Onze handen bloedden. Onze ruggen braken. Maar we **bleven pompen**. **Het water** bleef binnenkomen. We verloren de strijd. **Het schip** stierf.

English

50. So I went to the pumps. I worked harder than I had ever worked in my life. We all did it. Our hands bled. Our backs broke. But we kept pumping. The water kept coming in. We lost the fight. The ship died.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
de pompen	the pumps	handen	hands	pompen	pumping
ooit	ever	bloedden	bled	binnenkomen	coming in
mijn leven	my life	ruggen	backs	de strijd	the fight
gewerkt	worked	braken	broke		
deden	did	bleven	kept		



Language tips

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **werkte, worked**)

Dutch regular verbs in past tense add -te/-de to the stem. 'Werkte' (worked) adds -te because the stem ends in an unvoiced consonant.

- ik werkte → I worked
- hij speelde → he played
- zij kookte → she cooked

Past Tense - Irregular Verbs (Related words: **ging, went**)

Dutch has many irregular past tense forms that must be memorized. 'Ging' (went) is the past form of 'gaan' (to go).

- ik ging → I went
- hij had → he had
- wij deden → we did

Articles - Het vs De (Related words: **Het water, Het schip**)

Dutch uses 'het' for neuter nouns like 'het water' and 'het schip'. Both translate to 'the' in English.

- het water → the water
- het schip → the ship
- de strijd → the fight

Infinitive After Blijven (Related words: **bleven, pompen**)

After 'blijven' (to keep/continue), Dutch uses the infinitive form. 'Bleven pompen' means 'kept pumping'.

- wij bleven werken → we kept working
- hij bleef eten → he kept eating



• zij bleven lopen → they kept walking

Dutch

51. De kapitein **vuurde** kanonnen **af** om hulp te vragen. BOEM! BOEM! Ik had nog nooit scheepskanonnen gehoord. Ik dacht dat we uit elkaar braken. Ik **viel flauw** van angst. Ik viel neer op **het dek**. Een andere zeeman **schopte** me opzij en nam mijn plaats bij **de pomp**.

English

51. The captain fired cannons to ask for help. BOOM! BOOM! I had never heard ship cannons before. I thought we were breaking apart. I fainted from fear. I fell down on the deck. Another sailor kicked me aside and took my place at the pump.

Dutch	English
vuurde	fired
kanonnen	cannons
af	off
hulp	help
te vragen	ask for
boem	boom

Dutch	English
scheepskanonnen	ship cannons
gehoord	heard before
braken	were breaking
viel flauw	fainted
een andere zeeman	another sailor
schopte	kicked

Dutch	English
me	me
opzij	aside
nam	took
mijn plaats	my place
bij	at
de pomp	the pump



Language tips

Separable Verbs - Afvuren (Related words: **vuurde, af**)

In Dutch, 'vuurde...af' is a separable verb where 'af' moves to later in the sentence. In English, this becomes a single word 'fired'.

- hij vuurde af → he fired
- ik geef op → I give up
- zij komt aan → she arrives

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **vuurde, schopte**)

Dutch past tense often adds -de or -te to the verb stem. 'Vuurde' (fired) and 'schopte' (kicked) both follow this pattern.

- ik werkte → I worked
- hij speelde → he played
- zij hoorde → she heard

Compound Expression - Flauwvallen (Related words: **viel flauw**)

Dutch 'viel flauw' means 'fainted'. It's a fixed expression where 'flauw' (faint) combines with 'vallen' (to fall).

- ik val flauw → I faint
- hij viel flauw → he fainted
- zij valt flauw → she faints

Articles - Het vs De (Related words: **het dek, de pomp**)

Dutch 'het dek' uses 'het' for neuter nouns, while 'de pomp' uses 'de' for common gender. Both translate to 'the' in English.

- het schip → the ship
- de boot → the boat
- het water → the water



Dutch

52. Toen ik wakker werd, waren de dingen erger. Het water **was aan het winnen**. We **konden niet snel genoeg** pompen. Het schip **zou zinken**. Niets **kon** ons redden. Maar toen - een wonder! Een klein schip bij ons stuurde een boot.

English

52. When I woke up, things were worse. The water was winning. We couldn't pump fast enough. The ship would sink. Nothing could save us. But then - a miracle! A small ship near us sent a boat.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
wakker werd	woke up	snel genoeg	fast enough	een boot	a boat
de dingen	things	een wonder	a miracle		
was aan het winnen	was winning	een klein schip	a small ship		



Language tips

Progressive Past - Aan het (Related words: **was aan het winnen**)

Dutch 'was aan het winnen' expresses ongoing past action, similar to English 'was winning'. The construction uses 'aan het' + infinitive.

- ik was aan het lezen → I was reading
- hij was aan het werken → he was working
- zij waren aan het eten → they were eating

Modal Verb - Kunnen (Related words: **konden, kon**)

Dutch 'konden' (could) is the past tense of 'kunnen' (can). Modal verbs express ability, permission, or possibility.

- ik kan → I can
- ik kon → I could
- wij kunnen → we can

Word Order with Niet (Related words: **niet, snel genoeg**)

Dutch 'niet' (not) placement differs from English. It often comes before what it negates: 'niet snel genoeg' (not fast enough).

- niet hier → not here
- niet goed → not good
- niet vandaag → not today

Future in Past - Zou (Related words: **zou, zinken**)

Dutch 'zou' expresses 'would' or future from a past perspective. 'Het schip zou zinken' means 'The ship would sink'.

- ik zou gaan → I would go
- hij zou komen → he would come
- wij zouden helpen → we would help

Dutch

English



53. **Die dappere mannen** riskeerden hun leven **om** ons **te bereiken**. De golven gooiden hun kleine boot rond **als speelgoed**. Maar ze bleven komen. Onze zeelieden gooiden hen een touw. Na veel gevaar vingen ze het. Ze trokken hun boot dicht bij ons schip. Spring! schreeuwden ze.

53. Those brave men risked their lives to reach us. The waves threw their small boat around like a toy. But they kept coming. Our sailors threw them a rope. After much danger they caught it. They pulled their boat close to our ship. "Jump!" they shouted.

Dutch	English
die	those
dappere	brave
riskeerden	risked
hun leven	their lives
te bereiken	reach
gooiden	threw

Dutch	English
hun kleine boot	their small boat
speelgoed	a toy
komen	coming
onze zeelieden	our sailors
een touw	a rope
gevaar	danger

Dutch	English
vingen	caught
hun boot	their boat
dicht bij	close to
spring	jump
schreeuwden	shouted



Language tips

Demonstrative - Die (Related words: **Die, dappere, mannen**)

Dutch 'die' means 'those' when referring to plural nouns. It points to people or things at a distance.

- die mensen → those people
- die boeken → those books
- deze man → this man

Infinitive Purpose - Om te (Related words: **om, te bereiken**)

Dutch uses 'om...te' + infinitive to express purpose ('in order to'). 'Om ons te bereiken' means 'to reach us'.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te slapen → to sleep
- om te helpen → to help

Comparative - Als (Related words: **als, speelgoed**)

Dutch 'als' means 'like' or 'as' when making comparisons. 'Als speelgoed' translates to 'like a toy'.

- sterk als een beer → strong as a bear
- wit als sneeuw → white as snow
- snel als de wind → fast as the wind

Imperative Mood (Related words: **Spring!**)

Dutch commands use the verb stem. 'Spring!' is the imperative form of 'springen' (to jump), used for giving direct orders.

- Kom! → Come!
- Ga! → Go!
- Stop! → Stop!

Dutch 

English 



54. Eén voor één **sprongen** we in hun boot. Ik was zo bang dat ik me nauwelijks **kon** **bewegen**. **De zeelieden** moesten mij erin gooien als een zak aardappelen. Ik landde hard en lag daar **te trillen**. De kleine boot zat vol mannen. Water kwam over de zijkanten.

54. One by one we jumped into their boat. I was so afraid that I could barely move. The sailors had to throw me in like a sack of potatoes. I landed hard and lay there trembling. The small boat was full of men. Water came over the sides.

Dutch	English
eén voor één	one by one
boot	boat
nauwelijks	barely
erin	in
gooien	throw

Dutch	English
een zak	a sack
aardappelen	of potatoes
landde	landed
lag	lay
te trillen	trembling

Dutch	English
de kleine	the small
zat	was
mannen	of men
de zijkanten	the sides



Language tips

Past Tense - Regular Verbs (Related words: **sprongen, jumped**)

Dutch past tense uses different endings than English. 'Sprongen' (jumped) ends in -en for plural forms, while English just adds -ed.

- wij sprongen → we jumped
- zij werkten → they worked
- jullie liepen → you walked

Modal Verbs - Kunnen (Related words: **kon, bewegen**)

Dutch 'kon' means 'could' in English. Modal verbs express ability or necessity and are followed by an infinitive.

- ik kon zwemmen → I could swim
- hij moest werken → he had to work
- wij wilden eten → we wanted to eat

Articles with Plural (Related words: **De zeelieden**)

Dutch doesn't use an article with plural nouns where English does. 'De zeelieden' (the sailors) uses 'de' for the definite plural.

- de mannen → the men
- de kinderen → the children
- de boten → the boats

Te + Infinitive (Related words: **te trillen**)

Dutch uses 'te' before infinitives in certain contexts, like 'te trillen' (trembling/to tremble). This is similar to English 'to' but used differently.

- begon te lopen → started to walk
- probeerde te slapen → tried to sleep
- lag te wachten → lay waiting



55. Vijftien minuten later keek ik achterom. **Ons** schip ging onder de golven. De zee **slikte** het helemaal **op**. Nu begreep ik wat zinken betekende. **Al onze** lading, **al onze** bezittingen, alles naar de bodem van de zee. We **hadden** geluk dat we leefden.

55. Fifteen minutes later I looked back. Our ship went under the waves. The sea swallowed it completely. Now I understood what "sinking" meant. All our cargo, all our possessions, everything - to the bottom of the sea. We were lucky that we were alive.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
vijftien	fifteen	helemaal	completely	geluk	luck
achterom	back	zinken	sinking	leefden	were alive
slikte	swallowed	bezittingen	possessions		



Language tips

Separable Verbs - Opslikken (Related words: **slikte, op**)

In Dutch, 'op' separates from 'slikte' (swallowed up). The particle moves to the end of the clause, creating 'slikte...op'.

- at op → ate up
- dronk op → drank up
- maakte schoon → cleaned up

Possessive Pronouns (Related words: **Ons, onze**)

Dutch 'ons/onze' both mean 'our' but change based on the noun. 'Ons' is for neuter nouns, 'onze' for common gender and plurals.

- ons huis → our house
- onze auto → our car
- onze kinderen → our children

Al vs All (Related words: **Al, al**)

Dutch 'al' can mean 'all' or 'already' depending on context. Here 'al onze' means 'all our'.

- al het eten → all the food
- al klaar → already ready
- al onze spullen → all our things

Past Tense - Hebben (Related words: **hadden**)

The past tense of 'hebben' (to have) is 'had/hadden'. 'Hadden' is used for plural subjects (we/they).

- ik had → I had
- wij hadden → we had
- zij hadden geluk → they were lucky

Dutch

56. We konden het reddingsschip **niet bereiken**. De storm was **te sterk**. Dus roeiden we naar de kust. Het duurde uren. **Elke** golf probeerde onze boot om te gooien. **Elke** windvlaag probeerde ons te verdrinken. Mensen op het strand zagen ons komen. Ze renden **om te helpen**.

English

56. We couldn't reach the rescue ship. The storm was too strong. So we rowed to the coast. It took hours. Every wave tried to overturn our boat. Every gust of wind tried to drown us. People on the beach saw us coming. They ran to help.



Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
het reddingsschip	the rescue ship	uren	hours	het strand	the beach
bereiken	reach	golf	wave	zagen	saw
roeiden	rowed	om te gooien	to overturn	renden	ran
de kust	the coast	windvlaag	gust of wind	om te helpen	to help
duurde	took	te verdrinken	to drown		



Language tips

Negation with Niet (Related words: **niet, bereiken**)

Dutch places 'niet' (not) at the end of the clause or before what it negates. 'Konden...niet bereiken' means 'couldn't reach'.

- ik kan niet zwemmen → I cannot swim
- hij komt niet → he's not coming
- wij zien het niet → we don't see it

Te + Adjective (Related words: **te, sterk**)

Dutch 'te' before an adjective means 'too' in English. 'Te sterk' means 'too strong'.

- te groot → too big
- te klein → too small
- te moeilijk → too difficult

Om te + Infinitive (Related words: **om te helpen**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose (in order to). 'Om te helpen' means 'to help' or 'in order to help'.

- om te eten → to eat
- om te slapen → to sleep
- om te leren → to learn

Elke vs Every (Related words: **Elke, Every**)

Dutch 'elke' directly translates to English 'every'. It's used with singular nouns just like in English.

- elke dag → every day
- elke week → every week
- elke keer → every time

Dutch

57. **Eindelijk, eindelijk bereiken we** de kust. Mannen **trokken** onze boot op het zand. **We** waren veilig. Levend. Ik **viel** op het strand en **kon niet opstaan**. Ik leefde maar ik **voelde me** dood van binnen. God had mij gered maar waarom? Ik verdiende het **niet**.

English

57. Finally, finally we reached the coast. Men pulled our boat onto the sand. We were safe. Alive. I fell on the beach and could not get up. I was alive but I felt dead inside. God had saved me but why? I did not deserve it.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
onze boot	our boat	opstaan	get up	gered	saved



het zand	the sand	leefde	was alive	verdiende	deserved
levend	alive	van binnen	inside		



Language tips

Past Tense - bereiken (Related words: bereiken, trokken, viel)

In Dutch, past tense verbs often end in -te or -de. 'Bereikten' means 'reached' and shows an action that already happened.

- Wij bereikten - We reached
- Hij bereikte - He reached
- Ik trok - I pulled

Word Order - Verb Second (Related words: eindelijk, bereiken, we)

In Dutch main sentences, the verb always comes second. Notice how 'bereikten' comes right after 'eindelijk' at the start.

- Eindelijk komen we - Finally we come
- Nu gaan we - Now we go
- Morgen eet ik - Tomorrow I eat

Reflexive Pronouns - me (Related words: voelde, me)

Dutch uses reflexive pronouns like 'me' (myself) with certain verbs. 'Ik voelde me' means 'I felt (myself)' where English would just say 'I felt'.

- Ik voel me goed - I feel good
- Hij voelt zich ziek - He feels sick
- Wij voelen ons blij - We feel happy

Negation - niet (Related words: kon, niet, opstaan)

In Dutch, 'niet' (not) usually comes at the end of the sentence or before what it negates. It's different from English word order.

- Ik kan niet zwemmen - I cannot swim
- Hij komt niet - He doesn't come
- Wij eten niet - We don't eat

Dutch

58. De mensen van Yarmouth **waren** heel vriendelijk. Ze **gaven** ons eten en warme kleren. Ze **gaven** ons plaatsen **om te slapen**. De stadsambtenaren **gaven** ons geld. We **konden** naar Londen of terug naar Hull **gaan**. Ze behandelden ons **als** helden maar ik **voelde me als** een dwaas.

English

58. The people of Yarmouth were very friendly. They gave us food and warm clothes. They gave us places to sleep. The city officials gave us money. We could go to London or back to Hull. They treated us like heroes but I felt like a fool.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
de mensen	the people	warme	warm	de stadsambtenaren	the city officials
yarmouth	yarmouth	klereen	clothes	behandelden	treated
vriendelijk	friendly	plaatsen	places	helden	heroes
gaven	gave	te slapen	sleep		



Language tips

Past Tense - waren/gaven (Related words: **waren, gaven**)

Dutch past tense has two forms: singular and plural. 'Waren' (were) is plural, while 'was' would be singular. 'Gaven' (gave) is also plural past tense.

- Zij waren - They were
- Hij was - He was
- Wij gaven - We gave

Infinitive with 'om te' (Related words: **om, te slapen**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose (in order to). It's like English 'to' but Dutch adds the extra word 'om'.

- om te eten - to eat
- om te werken - to work
- om te lezen - to read

Modal Verb - konden (Related words: **konden, gaan**)

Modal verbs like 'kunnen' (can/to be able) change form in past tense. 'Konden' is the past tense plural form meaning 'could'.

- Wij konden gaan - We could go
- Ik kon zwemmen - I could swim
- Zij konden zien - They could see

Reflexive Construction - voelde me (Related words: **voelde, me, als**)

Dutch uses reflexive pronouns more than English. 'Zich voelen' (to feel) always needs a reflexive pronoun like 'me' (myself), while English often omits it.

- Ik voel me blij - I feel happy
- Hij voelt zich moe - He feels tired
- Wij voelen ons goed - We feel good

Dutch

59. Nu was mijn kans. Ik **moest** naar huis **gaan**. Ik **moest** aan de voeten van mijn vader **vallen** en **om vergeving smeken**. Hij **zou** mij terug **verwelkomen**. Zoals de verloren zoon in de Bijbel **zou** hij het gemeste kalf voor mij **slachten**. Hij dacht dat ik dood was. Wat een vreugde **om** mij levend **te zien**!

English

59. Now was my chance. I had to go home. I had to fall at my father's feet and beg for forgiveness. He would welcome me back. Like the lost son in the Bible, he would slaughter the fatted calf for me. He thought that I was dead. What joy to see me alive!

Dutch	English
mijn kans	my chance
moest	had to
aan	at
de voeten	the feet
vallen	fall

Dutch	English
vergeving	forgiveness
smeken	beg
verwelkomen	welcome
de verloren zoon	the lost son
de bijbel	the bible

Dutch	English
het gemeste kalf	the fatted calf
slachten	slaughter
een vreugde	a joy
te zien	see



Language tips

Modal Verb - moest (Related words: moest, gaan, vallen)

'Moest' is the past tense of 'moeten' (must/have to). In Dutch, modal verbs are followed by an infinitive at the end of the sentence.

- Ik moest werken - I had to work
- Hij moest eten - He had to eat
- Wij moesten wachten - We had to wait

Conditional - zou (Related words: zou, verwelkomen, slachten)

'Zou' expresses 'would' in Dutch. It shows something hypothetical or conditional. The main verb goes to the end as an infinitive.

- Hij zou komen - He would come
- Ik zou helpen - I would help
- Zij zouden gaan - They would go

Preposition 'om' for purpose (Related words: om, vergeving, smeken)

The word 'om' has different uses. Here it means 'for' when asking or begging for something. It's different from 'om te' + infinitive.

- om hulp vragen - to ask for help
- om geld vragen - to ask for money
- om advies vragen - to ask for advice

Infinitive Construction - te zien (Related words: om, te zien)

After certain expressions, Dutch uses 'te' + infinitive. This is similar to English 'to see' but the word order can be different.

- leuk om te horen - nice to hear
- tijd om te gaan - time to go
- klaar om te eten - ready to eat

Dutch

60. Maar **ik** **ging** **niet** **naar huis**. Waarom? **Ik** kan **het** **niet** uitleggen. Iets donkers duwde mij vooruit. Mijn verstand zei "Ga naar huis!" Maar mijn voeten **wilden** **niet** **gehoorzaam**. **Was** **het** het lot? **Was** **het** de duivel? **Was** **ik** vervloekt? **Ik** weet **het** **niet**. **Ik** weet alleen **dat** **ik** **niet** **naar huis** **ging**.

English

60. But I did not go home. Why? I cannot explain it. Something dark pushed me forward. My mind said "Go home!" But my feet did not want to obey. Was it fate? Was it the devil? Was I cursed? I do not know. I only know that I did not go home.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
uitleggen	explain	mijn verstand	my mind	het lot	fate
donkers	dark	ga naar huis	go home	de duivel	the devil
vooruit	forward	mijn voeten	my feet		



Language tips

Negation Position - **niet** (Related words: **ging, niet, naar huis**)

'Niet' (not) placement is tricky in Dutch. With direction phrases like 'naar huis', 'niet' comes before the phrase, not after the verb like in English.

- Ik ga niet naar school - I don't go to school
- Hij komt niet thuis - He doesn't come home
- Wij eten niet veel - We don't eat much

Past Tense - **wilden** (Related words: **wilden, gehoorzamen**)

'Wilden' is the past tense plural of 'willen' (to want). Even though 'voeten' (feet) is plural, Dutch still uses plural verb forms differently than English.

- Zij wilden eten - They wanted to eat
- De kinderen wilden spelen - The children wanted to play
- Wij wilden gaan - We wanted to go

Question Word Order (Related words: **Was, het, ik**)

In Dutch questions, the verb comes first. 'Was het...?' means 'Was it...?' This word order is consistent for all yes/no questions.

- Is hij thuis? - Is he home?
- Komt zij morgen? - Is she coming tomorrow?
- Heb jij geld? - Do you have money?

Subordinate Clause - **dat** (Related words: **dat, ik, ging**)

'Dat' (that) introduces a subordinate clause. In Dutch subordinate clauses, the verb moves to the end, which is different from English.

- Ik weet dat hij komt - I know that he comes
- Hij zegt dat zij werkt - He says that she works
- Wij horen dat het regent - We hear that it rains

Dutch

61. Mijn vriend vond mij na drie dagen. Hij **zag er verschrikkelijk uit**. Hij was **veranderd**. De storm **had** iets in hem **gebroken**. "**Hoe gaat** het?" vroeg hij zachtjes. Zijn stem was **anders**. De lachende jongen was weg. Nu **zag hij eruit** als een oude man.

English

61. My friend found me after three days. He looked terrible. He was changed. The storm had broken something in him. "How are you?" he asked softly. His voice was different. The laughing boy was gone. Now he looked like an old man.

Dutch	English
drie dagen	three days
zag er verschrikkelijk uit	looked terrible
veranderd	changed
gaat	are
het	you

Dutch	English
zachtjes	softly
anders	different
de	the
lachende	laughing
jongen	boy

Dutch	English
zag hij eruit	he looked
een	an
oude	old
man	man



Language tips

Past Perfect - had gebroken (Related words: **had, gebroken**)

Dutch uses 'had' + past participle just like English to show something happened before another past event. The storm had broken something before the friend arrived.

- Hij had gegeten - He had eaten
- Zij had gewerkt - She had worked
- Ik had gezien - I had seen

Separable Verbs - eruitzien (Related words: **zag er verschrikkelijk uit, zag hij eruit**)

The verb 'eruitzien' (to look/appear) splits in main clauses. 'Hij zag er...uit' means 'He looked'. The particle 'er' and 'uit' wrap around other words.

- Zij ziet er moe uit - She looks tired
- Het ziet er goed uit - It looks good
- Ik zie er ziek uit - I look sick

Adjectives Without Endings (Related words: **verschrikkelijk, anders, veranderd**)

After linking verbs like 'was' (was) or 'zien' (look), Dutch adjectives don't change form. Notice 'verschrikkelijk', 'anders', and 'weg' have no endings.

- Hij is groot - He is tall
- Zij wordt boos - She becomes angry
- Het lijkt mooi - It seems beautiful

Fixed Expression - Hoe gaat het? (Related words: **Hoe, gaat, het?**)

This common Dutch greeting literally means 'How goes it?' but translates to 'How are you?' in English. It's one of the most basic Dutch phrases to learn.

- Goed, dank je - Fine, thank you
- Het gaat wel - It's going okay
- Niet zo goed - Not so good

Dutch

62. Zijn vader was bij hem. **Toen hij hoorde** wie ik was, werd de oude kapitein heel serieus. "Jongeman," zei **hij**, "je **moet nooit meer** naar zee **gaan**. Deze storm is Gods waarschuwing aan jou. Je bent **niet** bedoeld **om** zeeman **te zijn**. Ga naar huis zolang het kan."

English

62. His father was with him. When he heard who I was, the old captain became very serious. "Young man," he said, "you must never go to sea again. This storm is God's warning to you. You are not meant to be a sailor. Go home while you can."

Dutch	English
bij	with
wie	who
kapitein	captain
jongeman	young man

Dutch	English
gods waarschuwing	god's warning
jou	you
bedoeld	meant
zeeman	sailor

Dutch	English
te zijn	be
zolang	while



Language tips

Word Order Change - Toen (Related words: **Toen, hij, hoorde**)

When a sentence starts with 'toen' (when), the verb comes before the subject. 'Toen hij hoorde' shows this inversion - the verb 'hoorde' comes at the end after 'hij'.

- Toen kwam zij - Then she came
- Toen at ik - Then I ate
- Toen ging hij weg - Then he left

Modal Verb - moet (Related words: **moet, gaan**)

The modal verb 'moet' (must) is followed by an infinitive at the end of the sentence. 'Je moet...gaan' means 'You must go'. The infinitive 'gaan' moves to the end.

- Ik moet werken - I must work
- Hij moet eten - He must eat
- Wij moeten slapen - We must sleep

Infinitive Construction - om te (Related words: **om, te zijn**)

'Om te' + infinitive means 'to' do something. 'Om zeeman te zijn' means 'to be a sailor'. This construction shows purpose or intention.

- Om te leren - To learn
- Om te kopen - To buy
- Om te zien - To see

Negation - niet/nooit (Related words: **nooit, meer, niet**)

Dutch uses 'niet' (not) and 'nooit' (never) for negation. 'Nooit meer' means 'never again'. Notice how 'niet' comes before what it negates: 'niet bedoeld'.

- Niet hier - Not here
- Nooit alleen - Never alone
- Niet nu - Not now

Dutch

63. **"Zal uw zoon stoppen** met varen?" vroeg ik. De kapitein schudde zijn hoofd. "Dat is anders. Het is zijn werk. Het is zijn leven. Maar jij? Je kwam voor avontuur. En **kijk** wat er gebeurde Misschien ben je vervloekt. Misschien ben je zoals Jona in de Bijbel."

English

63. "Will your son stop sailing?" I asked. The captain shook his head. "That is different. It is his work. It is his life. But you? You came for adventure. And look what happened! Maybe you are cursed. Maybe you are like Jonah in the Bible."

Dutch	English
uw zoon	your son
varen	sailing
zijn hoofd	his head
zijn werk	his work

Dutch	English
zijn leven	his life
kijk	look
wat er gebeurde	what happened
misschien	maybe

Dutch	English
ben	are
jona	jonah



Language tips

Future with 'zal' (Related words: **Zal, stoppen**)

Dutch forms the future tense with 'zullen' + infinitive. 'Zal...stoppen' means 'will stop'. The infinitive goes to the end of the sentence.

- Ik zal komen - I will come
- Hij zal helpen - He will help
- Zij zal gaan - She will go

Formal 'you' - uw (Related words: **uw zoon**)

'Uw' is the formal way to say 'your' in Dutch, used with older people or in formal situations. The informal version would be 'jouw'.

- Uw naam - Your name
- Uw huis - Your house
- Uw familie - Your family

Existential 'er' (Related words: **er, gebeurde**)

In 'wat er gebeurde' (what happened), 'er' doesn't translate directly to English. It's used in Dutch to introduce existence or occurrence of something.

- Er is een probleem - There is a problem
- Er komt een storm - A storm is coming
- Er was niemand - There was nobody

Question Words (Related words: **wat, kijk**)

Dutch question words often match English: 'wat' (what), 'kijk wat' (look what). Questions in Dutch use the same inversion as English.

- Wat is dat? - What is that?
- Wie ben jij? - Who are you?
- Waar ga je? - Where are you going?

Dutch

64. Toen **werd** hij boos. Zijn zoon had hem mijn verhaal verteld. "**Wat voor** dwaas **loopt weg** van een goede vader? **Wat voor** dwaas **gooit** een comfortabel leven weg? Ik **zou** niet weer met jou **varen** voor duizend pond! Je brengt ongeluk! Je veroorzaakt de dood!"

English

64. Then he became angry. His son had told him my story. "What kind of fool runs away from a good father? What kind of fool throws a comfortable life away? I would not sail with you again for thousand pounds! You bring bad luck! You cause the death!"

Dutch	English
zijn zoon	his son
mijn verhaal	my story
verteld	told
wat voor	what kind of

Dutch	English
loopt weg	runs away
een	a
gooit	throws
comfortabel	comfortable

Dutch	English
duizend pond	thousand pounds
brengt	bring
ongeluk	bad luck
veroorzaakt	cause



dwaas	fool	leven	life	de dood	the death
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Language tips

Past Tense - 'werd' (became) (Related words: **werd**)

In Dutch, 'worden' (to become) changes to 'werd' in the past tense for he/she/it. This is similar to how English 'become' changes to 'became'.

- Hij werd boos - He became angry
- Zij werd moe - She became tired
- Het werd koud - It became cold

Word Order - Dutch Questions (Related words: **Wat voor, loopt, gooit**)

Dutch questions often start with question words like 'Wat voor' (What kind of). The verb comes right after the question word, followed by the subject.

- Wat voor man is hij? - What kind of man is he?
- Wat doet hij? - What does he do?
- Waar gaat zij? - Where does she go?

Modal Verb - 'zou' (would) (Related words: **zou, varen**)

The Dutch word 'zou' means 'would' and shows conditional meaning. It's followed by other verbs at the end of the sentence in Dutch.

- Ik zou gaan - I would go
- Hij zou helpen - He would help
- Wij zouden eten - We would eat

Separable Verb - 'weglopen' (Related words: **loopt weg**)

Dutch has separable verbs where the prefix splits from the main verb. 'Weglopen' (to run away) becomes 'loopt weg' when conjugated, with 'weg' moving to the end.

- Hij loopt weg - He runs away
- Ik sta op - I get up
- Zij gaat mee - She goes along

Dutch

65. Zijn woorden deden pijn. Maar ik zei niets. Ik had te veel trots **om** **toe te geven** **dat** hij gelijk had. Hij bleef praten. "Let op mijn woorden. Als je niet naar huis gaat, **zul** je ramp na ramp tegenkomen. De vloek van je vader zal je volgen. Je **zult** lijden tot je wenst **dat** je dood **was.**"

English

65. His words hurt. But I said nothing. I had too much pride to admit that he was right. He kept talking. "Pay attention to my words. If you don't go home, you will meet disaster after disaster. The curse of your father will follow you. You will suffer until you wish that you were dead."

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
deden pijn	hurt	mijn woorden	my words	volgen	follow
trots	pride	ramp	disaster	wenst	wish
toe te geven	admit	tegenkomen	meet	was	were
let op	pay attention to	de vloek	the curse		



Language tips

Past Tense - 'deden' (did) (Related words: **deden**)

The verb 'doen' (to do) becomes 'deden' in past tense for plural subjects. Here 'woorden' (words) is plural, so we use 'deden'.

- De woorden deden pijn - The words hurt
- Zij deden het werk - They did the work
- Wij deden ons best - We did our best

Infinitive Construction - 'om te' (Related words: **om, toe te geven**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose (in order to). This is similar to English 'to' but Dutch adds 'om' before it.

- Om te eten - To eat
- Om te slapen - To sleep
- Om te begrijpen - To understand

Future Tense - 'zul/zult' (Related words: **zul, zult**)

Dutch forms the future tense with 'zullen' + infinitive. 'Zul je' means 'you will', and 'zult' is another form of the same verb.

- Je zult zien - You will see
- Ik zal komen - I will come
- Hij zal helpen - He will help

Word Order with 'dat' (Related words: **dat, was**)

After 'dat' (that), Dutch changes word order. The verb moves to the end of the clause. This is different from English.

- ...dat je dood was - ...that you were dead
- ...dat hij komt - ...that he comes
- ...dat ik eet - ...that I eat

Dutch

66. We **gingen uit elkaar**. Ik zag hen **nooit meer**. Ik had geld in mijn zak van de vriendelijke mensen van Yarmouth. Ik **kon** naar huis **gaan** naar York. Of ik **kon** naar Londen **gaan** en een ander schip **vinden**. De keuze was **aan** mij. Maar schaamte nam mijn beslissing voor mij.

English

66. We parted ways. I never saw them again. I had money in my pocket from the kind people of Yarmouth. I could go home to York. Or I could go to London and find another ship. The choice was mine. But shame made my decision for me.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
gingen uit elkaar	parted ways	een ander	another	nam	made
mijn zak	my pocket	de keuze	the choice	mijn beslissing	my decision
de vriendelijke	the kind	schaamte	shame		



Language tips

Separable Verb - 'uit elkaar gaan' (Related words: **gingen uit elkaar**)



This is a separable verb phrase meaning 'to part ways'. In the past tense, 'gingen' is the main verb and 'uit elkaar' stays together at the end.

- We gaan uit elkaar - We part ways
- Zij gingen weg - They went away
- Ik kom mee - I come along

Double Negation - 'nooit meer' (Related words: **nooit meer**)

Dutch uses 'nooit meer' (never again) where 'nooit' means 'never' and 'meer' adds emphasis. This is stronger than just 'nooit'.

- Ik zie hem nooit meer - I never see him again
- Nooit meer! - Never again!
- Zij komt nooit meer - She never comes again

Modal Verb - 'kon' (could) (Related words: **kon, gaan, vinden**)

The verb 'kunnen' (can/to be able) becomes 'kon' in past tense for I/he/she. It's followed by an infinitive at the end.

- Ik kon zwemmen - I could swim
- Hij kon niet komen - He couldn't come
- Zij kon het zien - She could see it

Preposition - 'aan' with ownership (Related words: **aan**)

Dutch uses 'aan' to indicate something belongs to or is up to someone. 'De keuze was aan mij' literally means 'The choice was to me'.

- Het is aan jou - It's up to you
- De beslissing is aan hem - The decision is his
- Dat is aan mij - That's mine to decide

Dutch

67. **Hoe kon ik** naar huis gaan? Iedereen zou om mij lachen. "Daar is de jongen **die** wegliep naar zee!" zouden ze zeggen. "Eén storm en hij kwam huilend naar huis!" **Ik kon die** schaamte niet **onder ogen zien**. Mijn trots was sterker dan mijn gezond verstand. Dit is **de waanzin** van **de jeugd**.

English

67. How could I go home? Everyone would laugh at me. "There is the boy who ran away to sea!" they would say. "One storm and he came crying home!" I could not face that shame. My pride was stronger than my common sense. This is the madness of youth.

Dutch	English
lachen	laugh
de jongen	the boy
wegliep	ran away
zeggen	say

Dutch	English
eén	one
huilend	crying
onder ogen zien	face
mijn trots	my pride

Dutch	English
gezond verstand	common sense
de waanzin	the madness
de jeugd	youth



Language tips

Word Order in Questions (Related words: **Hoe, kon, ik**)

Dutch questions invert the subject and verb. 'Hoe kon ik' (How could I) shows the verb 'kon' before the subject 'ik'.



- Waar ga jij? - Where do you go?
- Wat doet hij? - What does he do?
- Wanneer komt zij? - When does she come?

Relative Pronoun - 'die' (who/that) (Related words: **die**)

Dutch uses 'die' as a relative pronoun for people and things. It connects two parts of a sentence, like English 'who' or 'that'.

- De man die loopt - The man who walks
- Het boek die ik lees - The book that I read
- De vrouw die zingt - The woman who sings

Fixed Expression - 'onder ogen zien' (Related words: **onder ogen zien**)

This Dutch expression literally means 'to see under eyes' but translates to 'to face' something. The infinitive stays together at the end.

- De waarheid onder ogen zien - To face the truth
- Ik moet het onder ogen zien - I must face it
- Hij wil het niet onder ogen zien - He doesn't want to face it

Articles with Abstract Nouns (Related words: **de waanzin, de jeugd**)

Dutch often uses articles (de/het) with abstract nouns where English doesn't. 'De waanzin' (the madness) and 'de jeugd' (youth) both take 'de'.

- De liefde - Love
- Het geluk - Happiness
- De vrijheid - Freedom

Dutch

68. We **schamen ons** niet **om** verkeerd **te doen**.
Maar we **schamen ons om** het goed **te maken**.
We **schamen ons** niet **om** dwazen **te zijn**. Maar we **schamen ons om** wijs **te worden**. **Dus ging ik**
naar Londen. Op de weg **vocht ik** met mezelf. Maar
trots **won** elk argument.

English

68. We are not ashamed to do wrong. But we are
ashamed to make it right. We are not ashamed to be
fools. But we are ashamed to become wise. So I went to
London. On the way I fought with myself. But pride won
every argument.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
schamen	are	te maken	make	won	won
ons	ashamed	dwazen	fools	elk	every
verkeerd	wrong	wijs	wise	argument	argument
te doen	do	de weg	the way		
goed	right	vocht	fought		



Language tips

Reflexive Verb - 'zich schamen' (Related words: **schamen, ons**)

The verb 'schamen' (to be ashamed) is reflexive in Dutch, always used with 'zich/ons/me'. 'We schamen ons' means 'We are ashamed'.



- Ik schaam me - I am ashamed
- Hij schaamt zich - He is ashamed
- Jullie schamen je - You are ashamed

Infinitive with 'om te' (Related words: **om, te doen, te maken, te zijn, te worden**)

Dutch uses 'om te' + infinitive to express purpose or after certain expressions. This translates to English 'to' + verb.

- Om te leren - To learn
- Om te begrijpen - To understand
- Het is tijd om te gaan - It's time to go

Word Order with 'Dus' (Related words: **Dus, ging, ik**)

When 'dus' (so/therefore) starts a sentence, Dutch inverts the subject and verb. 'Dus ging ik' shows the verb 'ging' before subject 'ik'.

- Dus komt hij - So he comes
- Dus eet zij - So she eats
- Dus gaan wij - So we go

Past Tense - 'vocht/won' (Related words: **vocht, won**)

These are past tense forms. 'Vechten' (to fight) becomes 'vocht', and 'winnen' (to win) becomes 'won' for I/he/she.

- Ik vocht hard - I fought hard
- Hij won de prijs - He won the prize
- Zij vocht terug - She fought back

Dutch

69. **In Londen bleef ik** enige tijd. De herinnering **aan** de storm **begon te vervagen**. Mijn angst werd zwakker. Mijn verlangen naar avontuur werd sterker. **Ik dacht** minder **aan** thuis. **Ik dacht** minder **aan** de tranen van mijn vader. **Ik dacht** minder **aan** **Gods** waarschuwingen.

English

69. In London I stayed some time. The memory of the storm began to fade. My fear became weaker. My desire for adventure became stronger. I thought less of home. I thought less of my father's tears. I thought less of God's warnings.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
enige tijd	some time	zwakker	weaker	minder	less
de herinnering	the memory	mijn verlangen	my desire	gods	god's
te vervagen	to fade	naar	for	waarschuwingen	warnings



Language tips

Inverted Word Order with Location (Related words: **In, Londen, bleef, ik**)

When a sentence starts with a place or time, Dutch inverts the verb and subject. 'In Londen bleef ik' puts the verb before the subject.

- In Amsterdam woon ik - In Amsterdam I live
- Morgen ga ik - Tomorrow I go
- Daar staat hij - There he stands

Infinitive Construction - 'begon te' (Related words: **begon, te vervagen**)



Dutch uses 'beginnen te' + infinitive (to begin to). The 'te' comes before the infinitive verb at the end.

- Hij begint te lopen - He begins to walk
- Wij beginnen te eten - We begin to eat
- Zij begon te zingen - She began to sing

Preposition 'aan' - Multiple Uses (Related words: **aan, dacht**)

Dutch 'aan' can mean 'of/about' when used with thinking (denken aan). It's different from its other meanings like 'on' or 'to'.

- Denk aan mij - Think of me
- Ik denk aan jou - I think of you
- Hij denkt aan het werk - He thinks about work

Genitive with 's' - 'Gods' (Related words: **Gods**)

Dutch adds 's' to show possession for names and some nouns. 'Gods' means 'God's', similar to English but without the apostrophe.

- Jans boek - Jan's book
- Peters huis - Peter's house
- vaders auto - father's car

Dutch

70. Eindelijk maakte ik mijn keuze. Ik **zou** een ander schip vinden. Ik **zou** het opnieuw proberen. Ik **zou** bewijzen **dat** ik geen lafaard was. Ik **zou** iedereen **laten zien** **dat** ik een zeeman **kon** **zijn**. Ik was **de** **grootste** dwaas die ooit leefde. En ik **zou** duur betalen voor mijn dwaasheid.

English

70. Finally I made my choice. I would find another ship. I would try again. I would prove that I was not a coward. I would show everyone that I could be a sailor. I was the biggest fool who ever lived. And I would pay dearly for my foolishness.

Dutch	English	Dutch	English	Dutch	English
maakte	made	geen	not a	duur	dearly
mijn keuze	my choice	lafaard	coward	betalen	pay
opnieuw	again	laten zien	show	mijn dwaasheid	my foolishness
proberen	try	de grootste	the biggest		
bewijzen	prove	leefde	lived		



Language tips

Conditional 'zou' - Repeated Use (Related words: **zou**)

Dutch uses 'zou' (would) repeatedly to express future intentions or conditional actions. Each sentence can start with the same structure.

- Ik zou gaan - I would go
- Hij zou helpen - He would help
- Wij zouden komen - We would come

Causative 'laten' + Infinitive (Related words: **laten zien**)

'Laten' means 'to let/make/have someone do something'. 'Laten zien' literally means 'let see' but translates to 'show'.



- Laat me zien - Show me
- Hij laat het vallen - He drops it
- Wij laten hen gaan - We let them go

Superlative - 'de grootste' (Related words: **de grootste**)

Dutch superlatives use 'de' + adjective + 'ste'. 'Groot' (big) becomes 'de grootste' (the biggest).

- De kleinste - The smallest
- De mooiste - The most beautiful
- De beste - The best

Word Order in 'dat' Clauses (Related words: **dat, kon, zijn**)

After 'dat' (that), Dutch moves the verb to the end. 'dat ik een zeeman kon zijn' puts 'kon zijn' at the end.

- ...dat hij komt - ...that he comes
- ...dat ik eet - ...that I eat
- ...dat zij werkt - ...that she works