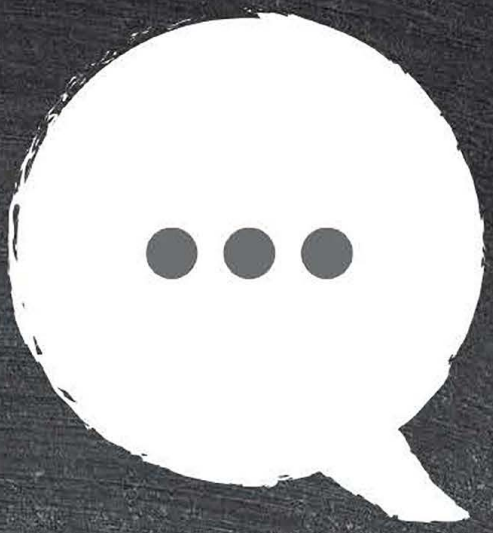
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LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1 Catching up with an Old Dutch Friend

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5 Cultural Insight

1

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DUTCH

1. M: Hallo, Anna? Hoe gaat het?
2. A: Hoi, Marijke!! Goed dank je, hoe gaat het met jou?
3. M: Goed, dank je wel.
4. A: Hoe gaat het met Jan?
5. M: Heel goed en met Bert en de kinderen?
6. A: Ook goed!
7. M: Wat een verrassing!
8. A: Ja!

ENGLISH

1. M: Hello, Anna? How's it going?
2. A: Hi, Marijke!! Good thanks, how is it going with you?
3. M: Good, thank you.
4. A: How is it going with Jan?
5. M: Very good, and with Bert and the children?
6. A: Also good!

CONT'D OVER

7. M: What a surprise!

8. A: Yes!

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
hoe gaat het	how are you, how's it going	phrase	
goed	fine, good	adjective	
hallo	hello (informal)	expression	
met	with	pronoun	
dank je	thank you	phrase	
met jou	with you	phrase	
dank je wel	thank you (very much)	phrase	
heel	very	adverb	
en	and	conjunction	
kinderen	children	noun	neuter
ook	also	adverb	
wat	what	adverb	
een	a	article	
verrassing	surprise	noun	common
ja	yes	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Dat is een goed Japans restaurant. "That's a good Japanese restaurant."	**Hallo Mies hoe gaat het?** "Hello Mies, how are you?"
Hallo Adam. "Hello, Adam."	**Hoe gaat het met u?** "How are you?"
Ja, ik spreek het heel goed. "Yes, I speak very well."	**Ik en mijn vrienden.** "Me and my friends."
De vrouw geeft de kinderen les. "The woman is teaching the children."	**Ga je ook op vakantie?** "Are you also going on a holiday?"
Wat is dat? "What's that?"	**Hij gooit een steen.** "He throws a rock."
Dat was een grote verrassing! "That was a big surprise!"	**Ja, wij gaan ook op vakantie.** "Yes, we also go on holiday."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Hallo is a standard Dutch greeting. You can use this with anyone. When greeting friends, you could also say *hoi*, which is more informal.

After you greet someone in Dutch, you would usually ask how he/she is. The standard question is ***Hoe gaat het?***, literally "How goes it?" To ask about other people, just add *met* plus a name (*met Michael, met Sandra*) to the end of this question.

The standard answer is ***Goed dank je*** ("good," "thank you"). You could also say *heel goed* ("very good").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Pronunciation.

Goed dank je, hoe gaat het met jou?

"Good thanks, how is it going with you?"

Dutch is quite easy in that the language is pronounced exactly as it is written. There are a few sounds you should pay attention to though.

One is certainly the throaty *CH* sound, which can be spelled either *ch* or *g*, as in *goed*, *gaat* or the city name *Utrecht*. This sound will take some practice, but once you master it, it's very fun to say!

The Dutch R is also quite different from the American R. It also comes from the throat. Practice saying names like *Bert* and *Marijke*, or even the word *verassing*.

Finally, pay attention to the vowels. The pronunciation of the vowels is a typical give-away for American tourists. The base vowels in Dutch are *A* (*gaat*), *E* (*heel*), *I* (*biet*), *O* (*ook*), *U* (*duur*) and *OE* (*hoe*). Additionally, each of these vowels can be long or short, and there are also several diphthongs, or vowel combinations.

If you keep this in mind as you imitate the native speakers, you will easily acquire a good accent in Dutch.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dutch Greetings

Dutch people use different greetings according to the time of day.

- In the morning, before noon, people say *goedemorgen* ("good morning").
- In the afternoon, even it's just one minute past noon, people say *goedemiddag* ("good afternoon").
- Starting from 5 P.M., it's time to start saying *goedenavond* ("good evening").
- There is also *goedenacht* ("good night"), but this is not a greeting. *Goedenacht* is only used to wish someone to "sleep tight," when they're going to sleep. If you want to say goodbye when leaving late at night, just say *dag* ("bye").

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2 Where in the Netherlands Do You Live?

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DUTCH

1. A: Woon je weer in Nederland?
2. M: Ja, ik woon weer hier. Ik woon weer in Amsterdam.
3. A: In het centrum?
4. M: Ja, en waar woon jij?
5. A: Ik woon ook in Amsterdam.
6. M: Werk jij in het centrum?
7. A: Ja, ik werk hier. Werk jij ook in het centrum?
8. M: Nee, ik werk thuis.

ENGLISH

1. A: Are you living in the Netherlands again?
2. M: Yes, I'm living here again. I'm living in Amsterdam again.
3. A: In the center?
4. M: Yes, and where do you live?
5. A: I also live in Amsterdam.
6. M: Do you work in the center?

CONT'D OVER

7. A: Yes, I work here. Do you also work in the center?

8. M: No, I work at home.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
je	you	pronoun	
Nederland	the Netherlands	noun	
wonen	live	verb	
hier	here	pronoun	
ik	I	pronoun	
weer	again	adverb	
in	in	preposition	
de	the	article	
het	the	article	
centrum	center	noun	neuter
waar	where	adverb	
jij	you (stressed)	pronoun	
werken	work	verb	
nee	no		
huis	house	noun	neutral
thuis	at home	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wat wil je? "What do you want?"	**Ik kom uit Nederland.** "I'm from the Netherlands."
Ik woon in een appartement in de stad. "I live in an apartment in the city."	**Dat zou hier in deze lade moeten zijn.** "That should be here in this drawer."
Ik heet Jacob. "My name is Jacob."	**Ik kom uit de Verenigde Staten.** "I'm from the United States."
Ik moet vanavond naar huis. "I have to go home tonight."	**Hier gaan we weer!** "Here we go again!"
In de tuin. "In the garden."	**Ik woon in New York.** "I live in New York."
Ik kom uit Nederland. "I'm from the Netherlands."	**Er heeft zich op het raam ijs gevormd.** "Ice has formed on the window."
Tokyo heeft een levendig stadcentrum. "Tokyo has a lively city center."	**Waar is het postkantoor?** "Where is the post office?"
Jij bent lang! "You are tall!"	**Sommige mensen werken 7 dagen per week.** "Some people work seven days a week."
De werknemers werken op het kantoor. "The employees work at the office."	**Nee, ik hou niet van klassieke muziek.** "No, I don't like classical music."
Waar is het huis? "Where is the house?"	**Het is een huis.** "It's a house."

Ik heb het thuis geleerd.

"I learned it at home."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. There are two words for "the" in Dutch: ***de*** and ***het***. *De* is used for almost all nouns and also for the plurals, like *de kinderen*. *Het* is only used for neuter nouns like *het centrum*.

2. In the dialogue, you saw both ***je*** and ***jij*** for "you". They both mean basically the same thing, but when you want to give it a bit more emphasis, you would use *jij*. In a normal question like "Do you live in the Netherlands?" (*Woon je weer in Nederland?*) you would use *je*. But then if you answer the question and want to follow up with "and you?", you're putting stress on the "you", so then you'd use *jij*: *en jij?*.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is conjugating regular verbs, part 1.
Ik woon ook in Amsterdam.
"I also live in Amsterdam."

Most Dutch verbs end in -en or -n. In order to conjugate a regular verb in Dutch, you need to remove the -en from the verb. This will give you the verb stem.

For example, we have the verb *werken* (to work). When you take away the -en, you get *werk*. *Werk* is the stem of the verb and it is also used when talking about yourself, using the word *ik* (I). *Ik werk* is "I work". To say "you work", you have to add a -t, so you get *jij werkt*. *Jij werkt* is "you work".

We can do the same with *wonen*. Take off the -en and you get *won*, the stem. In this case, we have to spell it *woon* with a double O in order to maintain the long vowel -- we'll cover this in more detail in lesson 7. So the first person is *ik woon* (I live) and the 2nd person is *jij woont* (you live).

Note that in questions, the final *-t* disappears from the *jij*-form. This makes questions faster to pronounce.

Waar woon jij? (Where do you live?)
Waar werk jij? (Where do you work?)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dutch Population

The Netherlands is the most densely populated country in the European Union. Amsterdam is the capital city. More than 40% of the total population lives in the Randstad. The Randstad is a huge urban area consisting of the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht. The Randstad is a melting pot of many different cultures from all over the world. In fact, the most culturally diverse cities are located in the Randstad. As of January 2011, the largest groups were from Morocco, Turkey, and Great Britain. (The United States came in 6th place.)

The Dutch define citizenship status using the terms *Autochtonen*, which are people whose parents were both born in the Netherlands and *Allochtonen*, which are people with at least one parent who wasn't born in the Netherlands.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3
Let's Drink Dutch Coffee

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DUTCH

1. A: Ik ben op weg naar een café.
2. M: Goed idee, ik ben toe aan koffie.
3. M: Is je man ook in Amsterdam?
4. A: Ja, Bert is ook in Amsterdam.
5. M: Is hij nu in het centrum?
6. A: Ja, wij werken allebei in het centrum.
7. M: Werken jullie elke dag?
8. A: Bert werkt elke dag en ik werk part-time.

ENGLISH

1. A: I'm on my way to a café.
2. M: Good idea, I'm in the mood for coffee.
3. M: Is your husband also in Amsterdam?
4. A: Yes, Bert is also in Amsterdam.
5. M: Is he in the center now?
6. A: Yes, we both work in the center.

CONT'D OVER

7. M: Do you guys work every day?

8. A: Bert works every day and I work part-time.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
op weg naar	on my way to	phrase	
café	café	noun	neutral
ik ben	I am	phrase	
koffie	coffee	noun	masculine
idee	idea	neuter	
toe zijn aan	to be in the mood for	phrase	
man	man, husband	noun	masculine
hij	he	pronoun	
nu	now	adverb	
wij	we	pronoun	
allebei	both	pronoun	
jullie	you (plural)	pronoun	
elk	every, each	pronoun	
dag	day	noun	masculine
kroeg	bar	noun	common

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ik ben op weg naar school. I'm on my way to school.	**Dit is een goed café.** This is a good café.
Ik ben blij. "I am happy."	**Ik heb mijn koffie graag zwart.** "I like my coffee black."
De man legt zijn idee uit. "The man is explaining the idea."	**Ik ben toe aan een koekje.** I'm in the mood for a cookie.
De man is aan het douchen. "The man is showering."	**Hij doet de afwas terwijl hij belt.** "He is doing the dishes while making a phone call."
Ik ben nu tien jaar een vegetariër . "I have been a vegetarian for ten years now."	**Wij begrijpen het.** "We understand."
Wij zijn allebei leraars. We are both teachers.	**Wanneer hebben jullie een vrije dag?** "When do you have a free day?"
Kunnen jullie me helpen? "Can you help me?"	**Ik kan elk nummer van Queen meezingen.** "I can sing along to every song from Queen."
Ik ben de hele dag aan het winkelen geweest. "I (female) spent the whole day shopping."	**Ik hou van lokale kroegjes.** "I like local pubs."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. ***Ik ben op weg naar...*** means "I am on my way to...", so the speaker had previously decided to go somewhere specific and was interrupted before arriving. It is a very common expression.

2. The expression ***ik ben toe aan...*** is best translated as "I'm in the mood for ..." Actually *toe* just means "towards"—it doesn't make sense if you translate the phrase literally. Just accept that as a phrase, *ik ben toe aan...* means "I'm in the mood for ..."

3. "To be" is an irregular verb in Dutch, just like in English. "I am" is *ik ben* and "he is" is *hij is*. We'll look at the other forms in the next lesson.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Regular Present Tense Verb Endings.
Werken jullie elke dag?
"Do you guys work every day?"

In this lesson we've seen the rest of the endings of regular verbs. Let's have a complete overview, using the verb *werken*.
ik werk - I work
jij werkt - you work (one person)
hij/zij/het werkt - he/she/it works
wij werken - we work
jullie werken - you work (plural)
zij werken - they work
So the plural is actually quite easy. No matter if you're talking about "we", "you", or "they", the form is always *werken*, just like the base form. Dutch verbs just have three forms in the present tense;
1. Without the *-en* and without any additional ending

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Times of the Meals in the Netherlands

Eleven o'clock in the morning is coffee time. A Dutch tradition is to visit family, friends or

neighbors around this time and have *koffie met een koekje* ("coffee with a cookie"). This can happen on the spur of the moment or can be pre-arranged. It is quite common to have a refill, but usually without a second cookie. When the Dutch are out around this time, it is very common for them to drink a cup in one of the many cafés or coffee shops. Traditionally, Dutch coffee is made by pouring hot water through a filter with ground coffee beans and served with milk and sugar.

After lunch, around 3 P.M, it's teatime. When at home, it is common to make a pot of tea and enjoy a cup or two, again with a biscuit or some chocolate.

Around five, it is *tijd voor een borreltje* ("time to have a drink before dinner") either at home or in *de kroeg* ("the bar"). The Dutch usually have dinner at around 6 P.M and after dinner they drink another cup of coffee.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4 An Exhausting Day in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. M: Zie je Josefien en Margreet nog wel eens? Waar wonen zij?

2. A: Josefien zie ik niet vaak. Zij woont niet in Amsterdam.

3. M: Oh, jammer! En Margreet?

4. A: Margreet woont nog hier. Ik zie haar vaak maar niet elke dag.

5. A: Zij werkt ook part-time. Wij drinken soms samen een kopje koffie.

6. M: Is dit het café?

7. A: Ja, we zijn bij het café.

8. M: Gelukkig, ik ben moe, ben jij ook moe?

9. A: Kom, we gaan naar binnen.

ENGLISH

1. M: Do you still see Josefien and Margreet occasionally? Where do they live?

2. A: I don’t see Josefien often. She doesn’t live in Amsterdam.

3. M: What a pity! And Margreet?

4. A: Margreet still lives here. I see her often but not every day.

CONT'D OVER

5. A: She also works part-time. We sometimes drink a cup of coffee together.

6. M: Is this the café?

7. A: Yes, we are at the café.

8. M: Thank god, I'm tired, are you also tired?

9. A: Come on, let's go inside.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
nog	still	adverb	
wel eens	occasionally	adverb	
zien	to see	verb	
soms	sometimes	adverb	
moe	tired	adjective	
niet	not	adverb	
vaak	often	adverb	
samen	together	adverb	
kopje	cup	noun	neuter
dit	this	pronoun	
bij	at	preposition	
kom	come on	phrase	
binnen	inside	adverb	

gaan	to go	verb
naar	to	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Beantwoord die vraag nog eens alstublieft. "Answer that question once again, please."	**Laten we die film nog een keer kijken.** "Let's see that movie once more."
Iedereen heeft wel eens behoefte aan vakantie. "Everyone needs a vacation sometimes."	**Zonder bril kan ik niet goed zien.** "Without glasses I can't see well."
Hij zag een mooie vrouw. "He saw a beautiful woman."	**Ik wil dat programma zien.** "I want to see that program."
Soms is het heel moeilijk om in het abstract te denken . "Sometimes it is very difficult to think in abstract ways."	**Waarom ben je zo moe?** "Why are you so tired?"
Ik voel me moe. "I'm tired."	**Dat mag niet.** "That is not allowed."
Het gaat niet gebeuren. "It's not going to happen."	**Denk je vaak aan chocolade?** "Do you often think of chocolate?"
Wij gaan samen naar het pretpark. "We are going to the amusement park together."	**Wil je een kopje koffie drinken?** Do you want to drink a cup of coffee?

Dit huis is duur. "This house is expensive."	**Bij de bioscoop links afslaan.** "Turn left at the cinema."
Kom maar, we gaan naar school! Come on, we're going to school!	**Waar gaan we heen vandaag?.** "Where will we go today?"

Ik ga naar Rome.

"I go to Rome."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. ***Waar*** is a question word. When you use a question word, note that the verb comes immediately after. This is called an open question, one which you can't answer with a simple yes or no. There are different question words, but they all follow the same pattern.

2. ***Jammer*** is Dutch exclamation like "it's a pity": *Oh jammer!* Use this sometime and you will sound just like a native.

3. ***Gelukkig*** is another Dutch exclamation, literally meaning "lucky". It's used like "thank God".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is negation and "to be".
Zij woont niet in Amsterdam.
"She doesn't live in Amsterdam."

To make a Dutch sentence negative, just add *niet* (not). For example:
Ik ben niet moe. (I am not tired.)
Hij woont niet hier. (He doesn't live here.)
Wij werken niet. (We don't work.)
Ik werk in Amsterdam, niet in Rotterdam. (I work in Amsterdam, not in Rotterdam.)
We should also talk about the irregular verb *zijn* (to be). We've seen several forms of it now. Here's the complete overview:

ik ben (I am)
jij bent (you are)
hij/zij/het is (he/she/it is)
wij zijn (we are)
jullie zijn (you are)
zij zijn (they are)

Just like for regular verbs, the plural forms are exactly the same as the dictionary form of the word; they are always *zijn*, and *zijn* is also what you would find in a dictionary. *Hij is* (he is) is exactly like in English, so it shouldn't be hard to remember. Then there's *ik ben* and *jij bent*, which use a completely different word stem. They still have the endings that we'd expect, though, with the *-t* ending for *jij*. And just as with regular verbs, the *-t* in *jij bent* is dropped for a question, so you get *ben jij?* (are you?).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dutch Workforce

Almost half (48.3%) of the Dutch workforce works part-time. In the past, it was very common to work five days per week, but this is no longer the case. More and more, people choose to work only for four days. Men are usually the ones who work full-time.

The Dutch have a name for couples where one partner works full-time and the other part-time -- they are called *anderhalfverdieners* (one-and-a-half-earners). Most women wouldn't want to change this arrangement because it gives them time to be with their children and to enjoy life.

Spare time to spend with the family is very important for the Dutch. Therefore, it is possible to spread the 36-hour week over four days. This means that people don't earn less; they have four nine-hour days and an extra free day.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5 Having Kids in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. A: Ik heb zin in koffie met iets lekkers.
2. M: Hebben ze hier lekkere koffie?
3. A: Ja, de koffie is erg goed.
4. M: Oké, ik neem ook koffie.
5. M: Hebben Bert en jij kinderen?
6. A: Wij hebben twee kinderen. En jij? Heb je kinderen?
7. M: Ja, wij hebben ook twee kinderen.
8. A: Je hebt een druk leven.
9. M: Jan heeft een druk leven. Ik heb een goed leven.

ENGLISH

1. A: I feel like coffee with something tasty.
2. M: Do they have good coffee here?
3. A: Yes, the coffee is very good.
4. M: Okay, I'll also have [take] coffee.
5. M: Do you and Bert have children?

CONT'D OVER

6. A: We have two children. And you? Do you have children?

7. M: Yes, we also have two children.

8. A: You have a busy life.

9. M: Jan has a busy life. I have a good life.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
met	with	pronoun	
iets	anything	pronoun	
zin	sense, sentence	noun	common
ze	they (unstressed)	pronoun	
lekker	tasty, delicious	adjective	
hebben	to have	verb	
erg	very much, very	adverb	
nemen	to take	verb	
twee	two (2)	noun	feminine
een	a	article	
druk	busy	adjective	
leven	life	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hoe gaat het met u? "How are you?"	**De titel van een boek zegt iets over het boek zelf.** "The title of a book says something about the book itself."
Is er iets dat ik voor je kan doen. "Is there anything I can do for you?"	**Zij hebben blijkbaar geen zin in ijs.** "They obviously are not hungry for icecream."
Ze bouwen een nieuwe bioscoop. "They are building a new cinema."	**De appeltaart van mijn moeder is erg lekker.** "My mother's apple pie is delicious!"
Jenever smaakt erg lekker. "Jenever tastes really delicious."	**Het meisje had een spaarvarken.** "The girl had a piggy bank."
Ik zou graag een hamburger willen. "I would like to have a hamburger."	**Dat is een erg groot huis.** "That is a very big house."
Ik neem het met me mee. "I will take it with me."	**Zij hebben twee huizen** "They have two houses."
Hij gooit een steen. "He throws a rock."	**De luchthaven is een drukke plaats waar de meeste mensen zich aan ergeren.** "The airport is a busy place that most people are annoyed by."
Zij heeft een gelukkig leven gehad. "She had a happy life."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. The phrase ***ik heb zin in...*** is a common expression used to show that you feel like eating something. It shows that you are thinking about it.

2. The phrase ***koffie met iets lekkers*** shows that the speaker probably wants some cake. When the Dutch want to eat something but they don't know exactly what they want they often say *ik heb zin in iets lekkers* (I feel like something tasty). *lets lekkers* can, of course, mean different things, but in general it is used to refer to something sweet.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is "to have".
Jan heeft een druk leven. Ik heb een goed leven.
"Jan has a busy life. I have a good life."

In this lesson we're going to take a look at the verb *hebben* (to have), which is an irregular verb. The endings are as expected, but the stem changes between *heb*, *hebb*, and *heef*. Here are the forms:
ik heb I have
jij hebt you have
hij/zij/het heeft he/she/it has
wij hebben we have
jullie hebben you have
zij hebben they have
There is actually a reason that *ik heb* ends in one consonant only. It's that Dutch stems cannot end in a double identical consonant. You will never see a word ending in two B's, two T's, two N's or the like in Dutch. So *ik heb* only ends in one B. The same rule applies to *jij hebt*. A Dutch word can only contain a double identical consonant when they are part of separate syllables, as in heb-ben, where the first B is at the end of the first syllable, and the other B is at the beginning of the second syllable. This explains why we see *ik heb*, *jij hebt* with one B, but *wij hebben* with two B's. It does not explain the form *hij heeft* - the F in there is just plain irregular.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dutch Family Agenda

Although Dutch parents have a busy “family agenda”, the time that they spend with their children has almost doubled since 1980. Among educated and uneducated parents, the time spent on their children doesn’t differ; what differs is what they do with this time.
Compared to parents with lower levels of education, more educated parents spend more time (3.3 hours vs. 2.4 hours) reading stories, taking walks, and playing inside with their children.

What do Dutch parents strive for in raising their children? According to research by the social and cultural planning agency, the most important traits are a sense of responsibility, self-confidence, consideration for others, respect for the elderly, and good manners.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6 Would You Like To Order?

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DUTCH

1. Serveerster: Bent u klaar om te bestellen?
2. M: Ja, twee koffie graag.
3. A: Wat voor gebak heeft u?
4. Serveerster: Wij hebben appeltaart. Wij hebben lekkere appeltaart.
5. A: Waar staat de appeltaart?
6. Serveerster: Waarom vraagt u dat?
7. A: Ik houd niet van koude appeltaart.
8. M: Ik hou ook niet van koude appeltaart.
9. Serveerster: De appeltaart is niet koud. Wij hebben warme appeltaart.
10. M: Oké, twee koffie en twee stukken appeltaart, alstublieft.
11. Serveerster: Dank u wel.

ENGLISH

1. Waitress: Are you ready to order?
2. M: Yes, two coffees please.
3. A: What kinds of pastries do you have?

CONT'D OVER

4. Waitress: We have apple pie. We have delicious apple pie.

5. A: Where is [stands] the apple pie?

6. Waitress: Why do you ask [that]?

7. A: I don’t like cold apple pie.

8. M: I also don't like cold apple pie.

9. Waitress: The apple pie is not cold. We have warm apple pie.

10. M: Okay, two coffees and two pieces of apple pie, please.

11. Waitress: Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
stuk	piece	noun	neuter
warm	warm	adjective	
om te	in order to	particle	
bestellen	to order	verb	
klaar	clear; ready	adjective	
gebak	pastry	noun	neuter
houden van	to like, love	verb	
graag	please; gladly	interjection/adverb	
wat voor	what kind of	phrase	

appeltaart	apple pie	noun	feminine
staan	to stand	verb	
waarom	why	adverb	
vragen	to ask	verb	
koud	cold	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Een stuk rood papier. "A piece of red paper."	**Ik zwem graag op warme dagen.** "I like to swim on warm days."
De soep moet warm zijn. The soup must be warm.	**Sommige vrouwen zijn verbaasd om te ontdekken dat ze zwanger zijn.** "Some women are surprised to discover that they are pregnant."
Wat heb je besteld? What did you order?	**Ik ben klaar!** Dutch "I'm ready!"
Ik hou van gebakken. I like pastries.	**Mijn broertje houdt van interactieve spelletjes.** "My brother likes interactive games."
Wat zou je graag willen eten? "What would you like to eat?"	**Ik ga graag met de metro.** "I like to go by metro."
Wat voor boeken lees je? What kind of books do you read?	**De appeltaart van mijn moeder is heerlijk!** "My mother's apple pie is delicious!"

Elk jaar wordt er door een Nederlands krant een 'appeltaarten test' georganiseerd. "Every year there is a National Apple pie contest organized by a Dutch newspaper."	**Jouw appeltaart is heel lekker.** "Your apple pie is very tasty."
De man staat. "The man is standing."	**Waarom eten we geen maaltijd buiten de deur?** "Why don't we go out for meal?"
Ik vraag hem zijn naam en adres. "I'll ask him his name and address."	**Het is niet gemakkelijk om hulp aan anderen te vragen.** "It is not easy to ask for assistance from others."
Het is koud. "It's cold."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Waarom" (why) is another question word, as is "wat voor" (what kind of). In both cases, we start the question with the question word and continue with the main verb.
2. The word "graag" can have different meanings in Dutch. In the sentence "twee koffie graag", it can be substituted with "alstublieft", which can also mean "please". "Alstublieft" is the polite form of "alsjeblieft", which is used when talking to friends.
3. About the verb "houden": Anna says "ik houd" whereas Marijke says "ik hou". When you follow the stem rule and take away the -en from the verb, you get "houd", so Anna would be right. But in the case of this verb, and some other verbs, both forms are correct. You can use either "ik hou" or "ik houd" in writing and speaking. Just be consistent; don't use them both in one conversation.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is usage of "u".

Wat voor gebak heeft u?

"What kind of pastries do you have?"

"U" is a polite way of saying "you", similar to the French "vous" or German "Sie". We use "u" when talking to strangers, to people who are older, or who are of higher status.

In all regular verbs, the “u” form gets the -t ending, just like the "jij" or "hij" form (grammar books call it the 2nd and 3rd person singular). For example “u werkt" (you work), "u woont" (you live), "u neemt” (you take). The equivalent form of "zijn" is "u bent" (you are). The form of "hebben" can be either "u hebt" or "u heeft" (you have). Both forms are commonly used, both in written and in spoken language.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The words “alstublieft” (polite) and “alsjeblieft” (informal) are used a lot. In general alstublieft can translate, roughly, into various English terms and phrases.

1. "Please."
2. "Here you go." — giving and receiving of things.
3. "You're welcome."

In general, Dutch people are polite but they believe in equality. When you start a conversation by using the “u” form, they will quickly tell you to use the “je/jij” form.

Although Dutch people are friendly and tolerant, they tend to keep to themselves. They do not immediately come to talk to you as a stranger. When you have a conversation, they tell you frankly what they think and will not opt for polite phrases to explain a situation.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7 Dividing your Dutch Chores

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DUTCH

1. M: Wie kookt er bij jullie thuis?
2. A: Ik kook samen met mijn man. Wij koken altijd samen.
3. M: Vinden jullie koken leuk?
4. A: Ik houd niet zo van koken maar mijn man vindt het heel leuk.
5. M: Mijn man kookt niet maar hij doet de afwas.
6. A: Mijn man en ik haten de afwas.
7. M: Wie doet de boodschappen bij jullie thuis?
8. A: Wij doen de boodschappen ook samen.

ENGLISH

1. M: Who cooks [there] in your home?
2. A: I cook along with my husband. We always cook together.
3. M: Do you like cooking?
4. A: I don’t like cooking but my husband likes it very much.
5. M: My husband doesn’t cook but he does the dishes.
6. A: My husband and I hate the dishes.

CONT'D OVER

7. M: Who does the shopping in your home?

8. A: We also do the shopping together.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
koken	to cook	verb	
er	there	pronoun	masculine, feminine
wie	who	adverb	
vinden	to find	verb	
mijn	my	pronoun	
altijd	always	adverb	
leuk	nice	adjective	
leuk vinden	like	verb	
zo	so, like that	adverb	
heel	very	adverb	
maar	but	conjunction	
doen	to do	verb	
de afwas doen	to do the dishes	verb	
haten	to hate	verb	
de boodschappen doen	to do the (grocery) shopping	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Zijn vrouw kan heerlijk koken. "His wife can cook very well."	**Ja ik ben er twee keer geweest.** "Yes, I've been there twice."
Van wie is dit? "Whose is this?"	**Kun je mijn lineaal vinden?** "Can you find my ruler?"
Mijn naam is David Smith. "My name is David Smith."	**Ik ga altijd om zes (6) uur in bad.** "I always take a bath at 6 o'clock."
Wat een leuk feest. "What a nice party."	**Het was leuk je gesproken te hebben.** "It was nice talking to you."
Ik houd van zoetigheid, vooral chocolade. "I like sweets, chocolate in particular."	**Ik vind het leuk om naar een museum te gaan.** "I like to go to a museum."
Zo is het niet! "It's not like that!"	**Ja, ik spreek het heel goed.** "Yes, I speak very well."
Ik verkies thee, maar koffie is ook goed. "I prefer tea but coffee is okay as well."	**Ik heb zo veel werk te doen!** "I have so much work to do!"
Hij doet de afwas terwijl hij belt. "He is doing the dishes while making a phone call."	**Ik haat worst.** I hate sausage.
Gezinnen doen ongeveer een keer per week boodschappen. "Grocery shopping should be done about once per week for families."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. “Wie” is another question word. The most common ones are: wie (who), wat (what), wat voor (what kind of), welk (which one), and waar (where).
2. "Leuk vinden" is a set expression. Literally, "leuk vinden" translates to "to find nice", but it's often used as "to like".
3. "Doen" (to do) appears in many expressions, for example "de afwas doen" (to do the dishes) and "de boodschappen doen" (to do the grocery shopping). Literally, "de boodschappen doen" translates to "to do the errands", because "boodschappen" is "errands", but the expression has come to mean "to go grocery shopping".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is stem changes in the present tense.
Mijn man kookt niet maar hij doet de afwas.
"My husband doesn't cook but he does the dishes."

In the dialogue, we saw the verb *koken*. This verb's spelling changes a bit when putting it in different forms. Many Dutch verbs behave similarly. The key is to preserve the pronunciation of long and short vowels.

In the case of "koken" (and also of "wonen"), the O is long. "Koken" has two syllables: ko-ken. As the O is at the end of a syllable, it is long. When there's a vowel at the end of a syllable, it is always long. When there's a consonant at the end of a syllable as in "afwas", the vowel is short. Actually "afwas" has two short vowels, because both syllables end in a consonant: af-was.

This business of long and short syllables becomes important when we're conjugating a verb, or adding the plural ending to a noun. For example, when we say "ik kook" (I cook), we suddenly have a syllable ending in a consonant, so the O would be pronounced short. That is why we suddenly spell "ik kook" with two O's instead of just one. Adding another O makes the vowel long again in order to preserve the original pronunciation.

The same thing happens for "wonen" -- "ik won" would be a short vowel, so we spell it "ik woon" with two O's. And same for "haten" (to hate) - the "ik" form is spelled with two A's, "ik haat", in order to preserve the long vowel. If spelled with just one A, the word would be pronounced with a short vowel.

So based on this rule, the full conjugation of "koken" is as follows.

ik kook wij koken
jij kookt jullie koken
hij/zij/het kookt zij koken

CULTURAL INSIGHT

According to studies, the more hours a woman works, the more time her partner spends on household chores. Dutch men are not averse to helping out with the household chores. In Dutch families, the boys have to do the same chores as the girls -- there is no difference -- hence the logical assumption that they continue to help out when they have a partner of their own.

Although Dutch men help with the household chores, it is still the women who do the majority of them. Women spend approximately 23 hours per week on household chores whereas men only spend 14 hours. When it comes to the children, men take an active part in their upbringing and care. It is equally possible for the husband to take parental leave from his job to take care of the children as it is for women.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8 Let's Stay in touch in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. A: Wil je nog een kopje koffie?
2. M: Nee, ik wil geen koffie meer.
3. A: Nu je weer hier woont, blijven we in contact, hè.
4. M: Natuurlijk, wil je mijn telefoonnummer hebben?
5. A: Ja, en mijn telefoon nummer is: 06-17723404.
6. M: Mijn nummer is 06-93820518.
7. A: Ik moet straks naar de markt om bloemen te kopen.
8. M: Ik ben gek op bloemen. Ik wil ook bloemen kopen.
9. A: Een goed idee, we gaan samen naar de markt.

ENGLISH

1. A: Do you want another cup of coffee?
2. M: No, I don’t want any more coffee.
3. A: Now that you live here again, we’ll stay in contact, right?
4. M: Of course, do you want to have my phone number?
5. A: Yes, and my phone number is: 06-17723404.

CONT'D OVER

6. M: My number is 06-93820518.

7. A: I need [to go] to the market in a while to buy flowers.

8. M: I'm crazy about flowers. I want to buy flowers too.

9. A: A good idea, we [can] go to the market together.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
geen	not any, none, neither, nobody	pronoun	
meer	more (anymore)	adverb, adjective	
willen	to want	verb	
blijven	to stay	verb	
markt	market	noun	masculine
nu	now	adverb	
natuurlijk	of course, naturally	adverb	
telefoonnummer	phone number	noun	neutral
moeten	must, have to, should	verb	
straks	in a while, later	adverb	
naar	to	adverb	
bloem	flower	noun	feminine
kopen	to buy	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Zij heeft drie pinda's, ik heb er geen. "She has three peanuts, I've none."	**De zwaan zwemt in het meer.** "The swan is swimming in the lake."
We lopen nu al meer dan uur in het rond. "We were walking around for more than an hour."	**Ik wil vandaag vroeg gaan slapen.** "I want to go to sleep early today."
Hij wil chinees eten maar zij wil italiaans. "He wants Chinese food, but she wants Italian."	**Ik wil een pen kopen.** "I want to buy a pen."
Ze blijft nooit lang op een plek. "She never stays long at the same place."	**Na de les wil ik dat je blijft en dat je het schoolbord uitwist.** "After class I want you to stay and erase the blackboards."
Ik koop mijn vis op de markt. "I buy my fish at the market."	**Ik heb het nu erg druk.** "I am very busy now."
Luister nu even naar me. "Now, please listen to me."	**Ik ben nu tien jaar een vegetariër .** "I have been a vegetarian for ten years now."
Wat is jouw telefoonnummer? "What is your phone number?"	**We moeten allemaal elke kans waarnemen die we tegen komen.** "We all have to explore every opportunity we can."
Ik moet vijftig euro wisselen. "I have to change fifty euro."	**Wij gaan haar straks verrassen.** "We will surprise her later."

Ik ga naar Rome. "I go to Rome."	**Zij kreeg een mooie gele bloem.** "She received a beautiful yellow flower."
Mijn favoriete bloem is de tulp. "My favorite flower is the tulip."	**Hij geeft elke ochtend de bloemen water.** "He waters flowers every morning. "
Deze bloemen alstublieft. "These flowers please."	**Hij koopt vanwege zijn hond een huis naast een rivier.** "He will buy a house next to the river for his dog."
Ik wil een nieuwe auto kopen. "I want to buy a new car."	**Als je korting wilt hebben moet je er drie kopen.** "You have to buy three if you want to get the discount."
Waarom koop je de volgende keer niet meer boodschappen? "Why don't you buy more groceries next time?"	**Hij wil een snelle auto kopen.** "He wants to buy a fast car."
Als ik honger heb koop ik altijd te veel kruidenierswaren. "I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry."	**Ik koop mijn brood bij de bakker.** "I buy my bread at the bakery."
Waar koop jij je spijkerbroeken? "Where do you buy your jeans?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Hè" here means that the speaker is asking for confirmation. "Blijven we in contact, hè." is like saying "We'll stay in contact, right?" or "We'll stay in contact, won't we?". "Hè" is versatile though. It can also be used when someone is irritated. For example, you might say “Hè, stop” which would then be translated as “Jeez, stop it now”.
2. "Moeten" (must) can be used without another verb in Dutch. You can say the equivalent of "I must to the market" and it is perfectly acceptable. The implied verb is "to go", of course: "I must go to the market".
3. The expression “ik ben gek op...” is a common way to say that you really like something. It can be used in combination with anything you want. For example: "ik ben gek op koffie" or "ik ben gek op appeltaart".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is numbers and "geen".
Mijn nummer is 693 0820518.
"My number is 693 0820518."

The numbers 0 to 10 are as follows.

0	nul	6	zes
1	één	7	zeven
2	twee	8	acht
3	drie	9	negen
4	vier	10	tien
5	vijf		

You know that when we want to negate a sentence we use the word “niet” close to the word we want to make negative. But if we want to make a noun negative, that is, if we want to say we don’t have any, we use “geen”.
Ik houd niet van bloemen. = I don't like flowers,
Ik heb geen bloemen. = I don't have any flowers.
The "geen" takes the place of "not any" or “none”.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Flowers are important for the Dutch. It is common to buy flowers at the market or in a flower shop for yourself or as a gift for when you are invited to attend an event, such as a birthday party.

The Netherlands is famous for its flowers and export of flowers. The tulip is the most famous of these. Tulips do not originate in the Netherlands, however; they didn't grow there until the 16th century when Carolus Clusius was given some tulip bulbs by the ambassador of Austria. The ambassador had been given these bulbs as a gift by the Sultan of Turkey.

A famous place in the Netherlands to admire all kinds of flowers is the Keukenhof park. The park is unique, world famous, and has been one of the most popular destinations in the Netherlands for sixty years.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9 Going Dutch in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. A: Ik roep de serveerster.

2. M: Ja, dan betalen we en gaan we naar de markt.

3. Serveerster: Kan ik u helpen?

4. A: Wij willen graag betalen.

5. Serveerster: Één ogenblik alstublieft.

6. Serveerster: Dat is twee maal 2.26 voor de koffie en twee maal 1.95 voor de appeltaart. Dat is 8.42 euro in totaal.

7. M: Ik betaal wel.

8. A: Nee, we betalen ieder de helft. Jij betaalt 4.21 euro en ik ook.

9. M: Geen probleem. Ben je klaar?

10. A: Ja. Dag mevrouw!

11. M: Dag mevrouw.

12. Serveerster: Dank u wel. Tot ziens.

ENGLISH

1. A: I'll call the waitress.

CONT'D OVER

2. M: Yes, then we'll pay and go to the market.

3. Waitress: Can I help you?

4. A: We would like to pay.

5. Waitress: One moment please.

6. Waitress: That is twice 2.26 for the coffee and twice 1.95 for the apple pie. That's 8.42 euros in total.

7. M: I'll pay.

8. A: No, we'll each pay half. You pay 4.21 euros and I will too.

9. M: No problem. Are you ready?

10. A: Yes. Goodbye madam!

11. M: Goodbye madam!

12. Waitress: Thank you very much. See you later.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
serveerster	waitress	noun	feminine
dan	then	adverb	
roepen	to call	verb	
helpen	to help	verb	

betalen	to pay	verb	
ogenblik	moment	adverb	
maal	time	noun	common
voor	for	preposition	
totaal	total	noun	neuter
ieder	every, each	pronoun	
helft	half	noun	common
probleem	problem	noun	neutral
mevrouw	madam, Mrs., Ms.	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Onze serveerster was echt knap, vind je niet? "Our waitress was really cute, don't you think?"	**Dan hebben we een probleem...** "Then we have a problem..."
Ik roep de ober. "I'll call the waiter."	**Ik zal je roepen om zeven uur.** "I'll call you at seven o'clock."
Hij helpt haar in het huishouden. "He helps her with domestic chores."	**Komen om te helpen.** "Come to help."
De klant betaalde bij de kassa. "The customer paid at the register."	**Ik betaal altijd contant.** "I always pay cash."
Heeft u een ogenblik geduld? "Do you have a moment of patience?"	**Hij komt hier een maal per maand.** "He comes here once a month."

Voor wie is dat gebakje? "Who's cake is that?"	**Wat voor werk doet** "What do you do?"
Hij is echt een totale idioot. "He is really a total idiot."	**Ik doe iedere morgen boodschappen.** "I go shopping every morning."
Ieder van ons ervaren een flashback op een bepaald punt in ons leven. "All of us experience a flashback at some point in our lives."	**De helft van de appels is rot.** "Half of the apples are rotten."
Ongeveer de helft van alle Amerikaanse huwelijken eindigt in een echtscheiding. "About half of all American marriages end in divorce."	**Er is een probleem met de motor.** "There is a problem with the engine."
Dit is mevrouw Jansen. "This is Mrs. Jansen."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. When leaving an establishment, it is considered polite to say goodbye to your server. This can be done by saying “dag mevrouw” (literally, goodbye madam) for women and “dag meneer (goodbye sir) for men. “Tot ziens” is another way to say goodbye, similar to the English “see you later”. Literally it means “until I see you”. A more informal way is “doei” (bye).
2. "Kan ik u helpen?" is a phrase you'll hear a lot in the Netherlands. "Kan ik u helpen?" means "Can I help you?". The "kan" is "can". "Ik kan" is "I can". Unfortunately, the other forms of this verb are a bit irregular, so we'll look at them in more detail later on.
3. "Wel" can mean “very” in sentences like "dank u wel" (thank you very much). "Wel" can also be used in an exclamation when you want to insist on or emphasize something, for example "ik ga wel" (I do go, I WILL go).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is larger numbers.

Dat is 8.42 euro in totaal.

"That's 8.42 euros in total."

Let's take a look at larger numbers today.
11 elf 16 zestien
12 twaalf 17 zeventien
13 dertien 18 achtien
14 veertien 19 negentien
15 vijftien 20 twintig
21 eenentwintig 26 zesentwintig
42 tweeënveertig 95 vijfennegentig
30 dertig 70 zeventig
40 veertig 80 tachtig
50 vijftig 90 negentig
60 zestig 100 honderd

CULTURAL INSIGHT

“Going Dutch” is a term that indicates that everyone in the group pays for themselves, rather than one person paying for everyone, particularly at a restaurant or bar. When going out with a friend, like our friends in the dialogue, it is more common to just split the bill evenly.

In the Netherlands, tipping is not compulsory. Most people do tip in a restaurant, but if you don't, the staff won’t be upset. When tipping, it is customary to leave a tip of between 5% and 10%. The Dutch tip at a restaurant but not at a fast food restaurant or snack bar.

It is very common to pay with “plastic money” in the Netherlands. Most Dutch people use their bank card to pay for any purchases they make -- it is called “pinnen” (derived from the word “pin code”). Most supermarkets and shops prefer their customers to use this payment method even for very small amounts and have signs in their shops to encourage them to “pin”.
When using this method, the customer is asked to type in his “pin” in a device. This can only be done when you have a Dutch bank pass. Foreigners can pay using their credit cards or, of course, cash.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10 Let's go Shopping for Flowers at the Dutch Market

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DUTCH

1. M: Deze bloemenmarkt is erg beroemd.

2. A: Ja, dit is de bloemenmarkt waar elke toerist komt.

3. M: Kijk, die bloemen zijn mooi. Ik ben echt gek op bloemen.

4. A: Die man verkoopt mooie tulpen.

5. M: Ja, maar deze man verkoopt ook tulpenbollen. Ik denk dat ik mijn bloemen hier koop.

6. A: Dat is een goed idee.

7. M: De prijs van het pakje tulpenbollen staat daar. Die pakjes zijn niet duur.

8. A: Koop jij hier je tulpenbollen bij deze man dan koop ik mijn bloemen daar bij die man.

9. M: Oké, als ik hier klaar ben, gaan we samen daar die bloemen kopen.

ENGLISH

1. M: This flower market is very famous.

2. A: Yes, this is the flower market where every tourist comes.

3. M: Look, those flowers are beautiful. I'm really crazy about flowers.

CONT'D OVER

4. A: That man is selling beautiful tulips.

5. M: Yes, but this man is also selling tulip bulbs. I think that I'll buy my flowers here.

6. A: That's a good idea.

7. M: The price of the package of tulip bulbs is there. Those packages aren't expensive.

8. A: You buy your tulip bulbs here from this man and then I'll buy my flowers there from that man.

9. M: Okay, when I'm done here, we'll go there together to buy the flowers.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
toerist	tourist	noun	masculine
kijken	to look	verb	
beroemd	famous	adjective	
prijs	price	noun	feminine
echt	real; really, truly	adjective/adverb	
mooi	beautiful	adjective	
verkopen	to sell	verb	
tulp	tulip	noun	feminine
bol	ball, bulb	noun	common
denken	to think	verb	

kopen	to buy	verb	
daar	there	adverb	
pakje	package	noun	neuter
duur	expensive	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

De toerist neemt foto's van de dieren. "The tourist is taking pictures of the animals."	**Ze kon niet stoppen met kijken naar het scherm.** "She couldn't stop looking at the screen."
De vader kijkt naar zijn zoon. "The father is looking at his son."	**Michael Jackson is nog steeds beroemd.** "Michael Jackson is still famous."
Kun je de prijs verlagen? "Can you lower the price?"	**De prijs is goedkoop.** "The price is cheap."
Ik vind deze film echt leuk! "I really like this movie!"	**Een echte componist kan de manier veranderen waarop muziek wordt gespeeld en ervaren.** "A true composer can change the way music is played and experienced."
Dat is een echt schilderij van Van Gogh. "That is a real painting by Van Gogh."	**Veel mannen kiezen voor mooie vrouwen, zonder veel op de inhoud te letten.** "Many men choose women who are beautiful but don't have much substance to them."

Je hebt een bijzonder talent nodig om iets te verkopen. "You need a special skill to sell something."	**Ze heeft besloten om alles te verkopen.** "She decided to sell everything."
De kinderen verkochten limonade. "The children sold lemonade."	**Een mooie gele tulp.** "A beautiful yellow tulip."
In het dorp Limmen kun je meer dan 3500 verschillende soorten tulpen vinden. "In the town of Limmen you will find more than 3500 different kinds of tulip."	**De koeien bij mij achter eten alleen maar tulpen.** "The cows behind my house only eat tulips."
Uit tulpenbollen kan men zijn eigen tulpen groeien. "From tulip bulbs you can grow your own tulips."	**Zij denken dat wij niet weten van hun plannen.** "They think that we don't know their plans."
Denk niet te lang na over het antwoord. "Do not think about the answer too much."	**Denk je vaak aan chocolade?** "Do you often think of chocolate?"
Hij koopt vanwege zijn hond een huis naast een rivier. "He will buy a house next to the river for his dog."	**Ik wil een nieuwe auto kopen.** "I want to buy a new car."
Als je korting wilt hebben moet je er drie kopen. "You have to buy three if you want to get the discount."	**Waarom koop je de volgende keer niet meer boodschappen?** "Why don't you buy more groceries next time?"

Hij wil een snelle auto kopen. "He wants to buy a fast car."	**Als ik honger heb koop ik altijd te veel kruidenierswaren.** "I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry."
Ik koop mijn brood bij de bakker. "I buy my bread at the bakery."	**Waar koop jij je spijkerbroeken?** "Where do you buy your jeans?"
Zet de boodschappentassen alstublieft daar. "Please, put the shopping bags there."	**Ik heb je telefoon daar laten liggen.** "I left your phone over there."
Ze had vijftig minuten nodig om daar te komen. "It took her fifty minutes to get there."	**Er zijn daar meer dan een miljoen mensen.** "There are more than a million people."
Ik wil een pakje tulpenbollen, alstublieft. "I would like a package of tulip bulbs, please."	**Hij heeft de meest dure wijn van de drankenier.** "He got the most expensive wine in the liquor shop."
In Tokio wonen is duur. "It is expensive to live in Tokyo."	**Die auto is te duur; ik koop 'm niet.** "That car is too expensive; I won't buy it."
Dat is een dure TV. "That is an expensive TV."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Bloemenmarkt" (flower market) and "tulpenbollen" (tulip bulbs) are compound nouns. Dutch is like German in that you can stick words together and create longer words that way.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is demonstrative pronouns.
Die man verkoopt mooie bloemen.
"That man is selling beautiful flowers."

Demonstrative pronouns are words like "this", "that", "these", or “those”. These words point to something. In Dutch, the form of the demonstrative pronouns depends on the gender of the noun (de or het), whether it is singular or plural, and if it is close by (hier = here) or far away (daar = there) from the speaker.

A good overview is the following:
Hier (here)

- "de" words - deze stoel (this chair)
- "het" words - dit huis (this house)
- Plural (both de & het) - deze stoelen, deze huizen (these chairs, houses)

Daar (there)

- "de" words - die stoel (that chair)
- "het" words - dat huis (that house)
- Plural (both de & het) - die stoelen, die huizen (those chairs, houses)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Many cities have flower markets, but the “bloemenmarkt” in Amsterdam is quite unique. It is situated on a canal (Singel), so it is actually a floating flower market!

It seems like a strange place for a flower market, but there is a good reason for why it floats on the canal. When the market was first established in 1862, the plants and flowers sold there

were brought to Amsterdam on barges via canals from various parts of the city. It was easier to organize the market on the water than transport all the plants and flowers to land.

Nowadays, of course, fresh flowers are still brought in every day, but by land and no longer via the canals. The market stalls still rest on barges, but the barges are permanently anchored there.

People visit the flower market not only when they want to buy flowers. It is also a beautiful place to have a walk among the beautiful and fragrant flowers. Both tourists and locals can be seen visiting the market just to enjoy the atmosphere.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11 Beautify your Dutch Home with Roses

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5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

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DUTCH

1. A: Die rozen zijn rood, ik houd van rode rozen.

2. M: Ik vind witte bloemen erg mooi. Het geeft niet wat voor bloemen als ze maar wit zijn.

3. A: Kijk daar, wat een leuk plantje. Ik heb kleine planten thuis. Die geven een gezellige atmosfeer.

4. M: Ik heb geen planten thuis maar wel altijd verse bloemen. Ben je klaar?

5. A: Ja. We gaan naar huis. Ben je met de auto?

6. M: Nee, ik neem altijd de tram.

7. A: Ja, het openbaar vervoer is erg goed. We houden contact, hè?

8. M: Ja! Tot ziens!

ENGLISH

1. A: Those roses are red, I love red roses.

2. M: I find white flowers very beautiful. It doesn't matter what kind of flowers they are as long as they're white.

3. A: Look there, what a nice little plant. I have small plants at home. They [those] give a cozy atmosphere.

CONT'D OVER

4. M: I have no plants at home but always fresh flowers. Are you ready?

5. A: Yes. We're going home. Did you [come] by car?

6. M: No, I always take the tram.

7. A: Yes, the public transportation is very good. We'll stay in contact, right?

8. M: Yes! See you!

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
openbaar vervoer	public transportation	noun	neuter
tram	tram	noun	common
rood	red	adjective	
wit	white	adjective	
roos	rose	noun	feminine
klein	small	adjective	
geven	to give	verb	
plant	plant	noun	common
gezellig	cozy, comfortable	adjective	
atmosfeer	atmosphere	noun	common
vers	fresh	adjective	
we	we	pronoun	
auto	car	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ik gebruik elke dag het openbaar vervoer. "I use public transportation every day."	**Amsterdam, Den Haag en Rotterdam zijn de enige steden die nog een tram hebben.** "Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam are the only cities that have trams."
Ga met de tram! "Go by tram!"	**De man kijkt naar de rode muur.** "The man is facing the red wall."
Ik droom van een witte Kerstmis. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas."	**De witte lotus drijft aan de oppervlakte van de vijver.** "The white lotus is floating on the surface of the pond."
Nederlanders geven graag rozen met Valentijnsdag. "Dutch people love to give roses for Valentine's Day."	**Rozen sieren elke tuin en maken het mooier.** "Roses can adorn any garden and make it more beautiful."
Ons huis is te klein voor ons. "Our house is too small for us."	**Een klein biertje alstublieft.** "A small beer please."
Ik geef je wat chocolade. "I will give you some chocolate."	**Veel medicijnen van tegenwoordig komen van planten gevonden in het regenwoud.** "Many modern medicines come from plants found in the rain forest."
Dit is zo'n gezellig huisje! "This is such a cozy little house!"	**De atmosfeer bestaat hoofdzakelijk uit stikstof en zuurstof.** "The atmosphere consists mainly of nitrogen and oxygen."

Verse vruchtensap is een prima manier om elke dag mee te beginnen. "Fresh fruit juice is a great way to start any day."	**We hebben veel foto's genomen.** "We took many pictures."
Mijn auto heeft een lekken band. "My car has a flat tire."	**De meest verkochte automerken in Nederland zijn Peugeot en Volkswagen.** "The best selling car brands in the Netherlands are Peugeot and Volkswagen."

Ik heb een Franse auto.

"I have a French car."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Het geeft niet" is an expression meaning "it doesn't matter". Literally, this means "it doesn't give", but based on that you'd never guess that the meaning is actually "it doesn't matter".
2. The word “gezellig” is one of the most difficult concepts to grasp if you’re not a native Dutch speaker. According to Wikipedia, this word is considered to be an example of untranslatability. “Gezellig”, some might say, is the heart of Dutch culture. “Gezellig” is something like cozy, nice, comfortable, quaint, friendly, relaxing or enjoyable. It can be used to refer to people (een gezellige man), rooms (een gezellig kamer), movies, companies, friends, or an evening out. One thing is for sure -- "gezellig" is always something positive.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is adjectives.
Die rozen zijn rood, ik houd van rode rozen.
"Those roses are red, I love red roses."

Like in English, an adjective can stand in two places: either before the noun, or after the verb

"to be".
een witte bloem (a white flower)
de bloem is wit (the flower is white)
When an adjective is not directly in front of a noun, it appears in its basic form (wit). When it's in front of a noun, it gets an additional -e at the end (witte bloem). You should always follow this rule and be sure to pronounce the adjective's -e ending.
There is only one exception. We don't add an -e when:
- the noun that follows is neuter and singular (a "het" word)
- the sentence contains "een" or "geen"
Be careful, both of these conditions must be met at the same time. If one of them isn't true, the adjective still gets the -e ending.
het ronde gezicht
een ronde tafel
BUT: een rond gezicht.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

There's good public transport in the Netherlands. In the larger cities, it is a fast way to travel. Trains are an excellent way to visit neighboring cities, because trains are faster and more efficient. In Amsterdam, public transport is also preferable to a car. Only a bike might be more convenient.

Traveling by car in the center of a large city like Amsterdam is almost impossible. The city center is not built for cars. The small streets and canals are often too narrow for the amount of traffic that now passes through them. A funny fact is that one of the leading GPS navigation companies for cars in the Netherlands has its headquarters in Amsterdam. Anyone who wants to drive their car through the narrow streets and canals needs all the help they can get. The old town is simply not designed for modern traffic.

And to make things even more complicated, trams and bicycles are the boss in the city and finding a parking place is a sport in itself.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12 Could you Follow a Strict Dutch Cleaning Regime?

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DUTCH

1. M: Waar is de rode vaas?

2. Bert: Die staat daar bij die vazen.

3. B: Dat zijn mooie bloemen. Kijk, één bloem ligt op de grond.

4. M: Wij moeten opruimen. Jij gaat deze kamer opruimen dan ga ik die kamers opruimen.

5. B: Oké. Moet dit boek bij die boeken?

6. M: Ja, en die foto op de grond moet bij deze foto's.

7. B: Ik ga op mijn knieën en pak de foto. Au, mijn knie!

8. M: Ach, we gaan zitten.

9. B: Ik heb zin in een kopje koffie. Waar staan de kopjes?

ENGLISH

1. M: Where is the red vase?

2. Bert: It's over there by those vases.

3. B: Those are beautiful flowers. Look, one flower is on the floor.

4. M: We need to tidy up. You are going to clean this room and then I'm going to clean those rooms.

CONT'D OVER

5. B: Okay. Does this book have to [go] with those books?

6. M: Yes, and that photo on the floor has to [go] with these photos.

7. B: I'll go on my knees and get the photo. Ow, my knee!

8. M: Ah, we'll go sit.

9. B: I feel like a cup of coffee. Where are the cups?

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
liggen	to lay, lie	verb	
op	on	preposition	
vaas	vase	noun	common
opruimen	to tidy up, clean	verb	
grond	floor, ground	noun	common
kamer	room	noun	feminine
boek	book	noun	neutral
foto	photo	noun	feminine
knie	knee	noun	masculine
pakken	to take, get	verb	
zitten	to sit	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Het moet ergens in de kast liggen. "It must be somewhere in the closet."	**De papieren liggen verspreid over de grond.** "The papers are scattered on the floor."
Wie heeft de vaas gebroken? "Who broke the vase?"	**Ik ben drie dagen bezig geweest om de kamer op te ruimen.** "It took me three days to clean the room."
De grond is bedekt met sneeuw. "The ground is covered with snow."	**Dat grote huis heeft vijf kamers.** "That big house has five rooms."
Welke boek ben je aan het lezen? "What book are you reading?"	**De toerist neemt foto's van de dieren.** "The tourist is taking pictures of the animals."
We hebben veel foto's genomen. "We took many pictures."	**Ik speelde met de baby op mijn knie.** "I played with the baby on my knee."
Pak een boek en lees het! "Take a book and read it!"	**De kinderen zitten aan de picknicktafel.** "The children are sitting at the picnic table."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. “Au” (ouch/ow) is a typical expression of pain in Dutch. When you bump into something or hit your head, this would be a word which expresses what you feel. It is pronounced short and staccato, or sometimes a bit more prolonged. When young children use it, they usually make it sound very long like (auw au auwwww), showing in this way that they need attention.
2. “Ach” is a word that can show pity. In this lesson's dialog, we might translate it as "ah, poor thing". "Ach" can also be used to show irritation though, e. g. “Ach hou op” (Ah stop it).
3. "Moet dit boek bij die boeken?" is another expression where you'd expect a verb, but where Dutch does without. In English, you might say "Does this book have to GO with these books?" or more likely "Should I put this book with these books?".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the plural form.

Dat zijn mooie bloemen.

"Those are beautiful flowers."

Today we'll look at how to form the plural of Dutch nouns. In Dutch, there are basically two regular forms of plural nouns: those which end in -en and those which end in -s. Then, inevitably, there are also the irregular ones.

The regular form of the plural is -en. Beware of some spelling changes, just as with conjugating verbs.

For example

de krant de kranten (newspaper)

de stoel de stoelen (chair)

BUT:

de man de mannen (man)

(using a double consonant to keep the vowel short)

het huis de huizen (house)

(the S is replaced by a Z)

There are also plurals that end in -s. These include all words that end in an unstressed -er, -aar, -e, -em, -je, and a few other endings.

de bezem de bezems (broom)

de bakker de bakkers (baker)

het meisje de meisjes (girl)

Also many words of foreign origin get the ending -s. When these words end in a vowel, we also use an apostrophe.

het restaurant de restaurants (restaurant)

de computer de computers (computer)

de auto de auto's (car)

de baby de baby's (baby)

Finally, there are a few irregular nouns (like "de stad - de steden", with the familiar -en ending but changing the vowel), but we'll learn these as they come up.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Dutch are avid cleaners. According to studies, over a quarter of the Dutch cleans their houses every day.

This is nothing new; the Dutch pride themselves on their clean houses and their habits of cleanliness. According to the government in the 1950's, keeping house was also an activity that required training, and public information films were shown. "Order and regularity" was the slogan.

Each day of the week had special tasks assigned to it:
Monday was washing day, Tuesday was for ironing, Wednesday was for cleaning the cellar or pantry, Thursday was for cleaning the bedrooms and the windows (both inside and out) every other week, Friday was for the living room, dining room, kitchen, and hallway. Saturday was for the garden, if there was one, and Sunday was for church.

Of course, nowadays people don't follow these rules, but keeping the house clean and tidy is an important part of being Dutch.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13 Who's in these Dutch Family Photos?

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#13

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DUTCH

1. M: Hoe gaat het met je knie?
2. B: Goed. Wil je deze foto's zien?
3. M: Ja. Kijk, dat zijn mijn ouders. Dit is m'n moeder en dat is m'n vader.
4. B: En op deze foto staat jouw zus met haar zoon en d'r dochter.
5. M: Hebben wij een foto van onze oma en opa?
6. B: Nee, maar wel een foto van mijn broer met zijn vrouw en z'n hond.
7. M: Staan hun kinderen op de foto?
8. B: Nee. Kijk, dit is een foto van ons huis met onze ouders. Wie is dit?
9. M: Haha, dat is jullie hond!

ENGLISH

1. M: How is it going with your knee?
2. B: Good. Do you want to see these photos?
3. M: Yes. Look, that's my parents. This is my mother and that is my father.
4. B: And in this photo is your sister with her son and her daughter.
5. M: Do we have a photo of our grandma and grandpa?

CONT'D OVER

6. B: No, but we do have a photo of my brother with his wife and his dog.

7. M: Are their children in the photo?

8. B: No. Look, this is a photo of our house with our parents. Who is that?

9. M: Haha, that is your dog!

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
moeder	mother	noun	feminine
vader	father	noun	masculine
ouders	parents	noun	common
zus	sister	noun	feminine
broer	brother	noun	masculine
jouw	your (stressed)	pronoun	
haar	her	noun	
zoon	son	noun	masculine
dochter	daughter	noun	feminine
oma	grandma	noun	common
opa	grandpa	noun	common
vrouw	woman, wife	noun	feminine
hun	their		
hond	dog	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

De jonge eenden volgen de moeder eend. "The ducklings are following the mother duck."	**De vader kijkt naar zijn zoon.** "The father is looking at his son."
Het is hartverwarmend om ouders te zien herenigen met een kind. "It is heartwarming to watch parents reunite with a child."	**Ouders moeten de beoordeling van de filmkeuring controleren alvorens hun kind er naar te laten kijken.** "Every parent should check a movie's rating before allowing their child to watch it."
Hij is mijn oudere broer en zij is mijn jongere zus. "He is my older brother, and she is my younger sister."	**Mijn broer ligt in het ziekenhuis.** "My brother is in the hospital."
Zij is jonger dan mijn broer. "She is younger than my brother."	**Hoe lang is het fietsen van hier naar jouw huis?** "How long does it take from here to your house by bike?"
Haar moeder is eigenlijk zestig (60) jaar oud. "Her mother is actually sixty years old."	**Die fiets is van haar.** "That bicycle is hers."
De zoon van mijn opa is mijn vader. "My grandfather's son is my father."	**Onze dochter is een professor op de universiteit en onze zoon een zakenman.** "Our daughter is a university professor, and our son is a businessman."

De vader kijkt naar zijn zoon. "The father is looking at his son."	**De moeder las haar dochter een boek voor.** "The mother read a book to her daughter."
Oma kijkt heel graag televisie. "Grandma loves to watch TV."	**Opa spreekt heel traag.** "Grandpa speaks very slowly."
De vrouw knuffelt de echtgenoot. "The wife is hugging the husband."	**De man en vrouw maken elke avond avondeten.** "The man and woman make dinner every night."
De vrouw wordt wakker. "The woman is waking up."	**Kinderen doen eerder hun vrienden dan hun ouders na.** "Children imitate their friends rather than their parents."
Men zegt dat een hond een man zijn beste vriend is. "It is said that the dog is man's best friend."	**De harige hond rent achter de bal aan.** "The shaggy dog is running after a ball."
De jongen heeft een hond als huisdier. "The boy has a pet dog."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Staat" (stands) is used much more often in Dutch than in English. For example, in this dialogue we heard "op deze foto staat jouw zus met haar zoon" (in this photo your sister "is standing" with her son). In Dutch, people are much more likely to specify that something is "standing", "lying" or "sitting" somewhere, rather than simply saying that it “is” there, as we do in English.

2. In the dialogue, we can see that the speaker uses “ons huis” en “onze ouders”. What’s the difference? It has to do with the noun being a “het-woord” or a “de-woord”. When the noun following is a “het-woord”, we use “ons”, e. g. "het boek - ons boek". But if it the noun following is a “de-woord”, we use “onze”, e. g. "de koffie - onze koffie".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is possessive pronouns.
En op deze foto staat jouw zus met haar zoon en d'r dochter.
"And in this photo is your sister with her son and her daughter."

Words like "my", "your", "our", "their" and so on are called possessive pronouns. We have already seen some of them in previous lessons and this lesson covers the rest of them.
Unlike in French or German, the possessive pronouns (except for “ons/onze”) do not change in Dutch. They never receive any ending. This makes them quite simple. However, you need to be aware that a lot of the possessive pronouns can be translated in two ways, depending on the stress.
Here is the complete list of Dutch possessive pronouns.
my - mijn (normal) - m'n (unstressed)
your (singular) - je (normal) - jouw (for emphasis)
your (formal) - uw
his - zijn (normal) - z'n (in informal speech)
her - haar (normal) - d'r (in informal speech)
our - ons / onze
your (plural) - jullie (normal) - je (in informal speech)
their - hun
For a beginner, it's okay to always use the "normal" form, but you should be able to understand the other forms when Dutch people use them.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Dutch love pets. According to a recent survey, there are 30.7 million pets in the Netherlands. Cats are the most popular; of all pet-owning families, 47% have a cat and 36% have a dog. Rabbits come in third place.

More than 80% of the pet owners consider their pet to be a member of the family and treat it accordingly. A recent study showed that one in three pet owners will take a day off to take care of his sick pet.

In 1864, the Association to Protect the Animals was founded, and by 1875, the association already had 2000 members. It continued growing, and by 1920, it was so large that it needed permanent employees. It has continued to grow and become more and more active in all aspects of animal life. In 2009, the association had 200,000 members -- about 14% of the total population.

In August 2011, the oldest cat in the world (according to the Guinness Book of World Records), 25 years old, lived in the Netherlands.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 Dutch Daily Life

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DUTCH

1. M: Goed, ophouden met die foto's, ik moet koken. De kinderen komen straks, kan je me helpen?

2. B: Ja, geef mij de aardappels, dan geef ik jou de tomaten.

3. ...

4. Loes: Hallo, ik ben thuis.

5. M: Dag, lieverd. Waar is je broer, ik zie hem niet?

6. L : Nee, hij is bij Annie, in haar huis. Haar zus is daar ook.

7. M: Doen ze hun huiswerk?

8. L: Hij geeft wiskunde les aan hen. Hij komt straks.

9. M: Kom, ons eten is bijna klaar. Je vader kookt 't.

ENGLISH

1. M: Good, let's stop with the photos, I must cook. The children are coming in a while, can you help me?

2. B: Yes, give me the potatoes, then I'll give you the tomatoes.

3. …

4. Loes: Hello, I'm home.

CONT'D OVER

5. M: Hi, dear. Where is your brother, I don't see him?

6. L: No, he's with Annie, at her house. Her sister is there too.

7. M: Are they doing their homework?

8. L: He's teaching them math. He'll come later.

9. M: Come, our food is almost ready. Your father is cooking it.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
bijna	almost	adverb	
komen	to come	verb	
aardappel	potato	noun	masculine
ophouden	to stop	verb	
lieverd	darling, dear	noun	common
tomaat	tomato	noun	feminine
huiswerk	homework	noun	neutral
wiskunde	math	noun	feminine
les	lesson	noun	feminine
lesgeven	to teach	verb	
eten	to eat	verb	
eten	food	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

De gootsteen is bijna vol. "The sink is almost full."	**Kom hier.** "Come here."
Wil je naar mijn huis komen? "You want to come to my house?"	**Er zijn meer dan 200 verschillende soorten aardappelen in Nederland.** "There are more than 200 kinds of potatoes in the Netherlands."
De aardappel komt van oorsprong uit Peru. "Potatoes come from Peru."	**Stel u voor dat ge begint te hikken en niet meer kunt ophouden.** "Imagine that you begin to hiccup and can't stop."
En wat wil jij, lieverd? "And what would you like, dear?"	**Tomaten zijn erg gezond.** "Tomatoes are very healthy."
Is een tomaat een fruit of een groente? "Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable?"	**Aan de keukentafel doen we ons huiswerk en spelen we spelletjes.** "We do homework and play games at the kitchen table."
Ik volg lessen in Duits en wiskunde. "I'm taking a class in German and one in mathematics."	**Hoe was de Franse les?** "How was the French lesson?"
De vrouw geeft de kinderen les. "The woman is teaching the children."	**De familie is avondeten aan het eten.** "The family is eating dinner."
Wat zou je graag willen eten? "What would you like to eat?"	**Wat is je favoriete eten?** "What is your favorite food?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Ophouden met die foto's" is literally "to stop with the photos", but it can be used like "let's stop with the photos".
2. "Bij" is like saying "at someone's place". "Bij Annie" means "at Annie's place". If you know German, it's the same as German "bei", and in French it would be "chez". Unfortunately, English lacks this useful word.
3. In the dialogue, both "hen" and "hun" were used to mean "their". The official rule is that ‘hen’ should be used for the direct object and after prepositions and ‘hun’ is for the indirect object. However, the Dutch people themselves often don't know the difference and "hen" is used less and less. If you use "hun" all the time, that's fine.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is object pronouns.
Hij geeft wiskunde les aan hen.
"He's giving them a math lesson."

Object pronouns are words like "me", "him", "her", "it", "us", "them" and so forth. They refer to people who are the object of a sentence, for example as in "I give him the newspaper". Just like regular Dutch pronouns, object pronouns also have a stressed and an unstressed form.
For example, the word "me" can be translated as "me" or "mij". "Me" is unstressed and "mij" is stressed. In the sentence "give me your pen" (geef me je pen), Dutch people would use the word "me", because it's not really important, the pen is the important part of the sentence. On the other hand, if you're saying "for me, a glass water" (voor mij een glas water), the "me" is stressed and translated as "mij", because you're distinguishing yourself from other people who may order something else.
Here's an overview of the Dutch object pronouns.
stressed unstressed translation
mij me me
jou / u je / u you (informal / formal)
hem ‘m him
haar d’r her
het ‘t it
ons us
jullie / u you (plural)
hen / hun ze them

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dutch High Schools are different from those in the United States. Children go on to high school upon leaving primary school at the age of twelve. There is no such thing as middle school in the Netherlands. In the first years, students are required to take between nine and thirteen subjects simultaneously. Later on, they can choose a syllabus according to what they want to do after their compulsory education. Compulsory education is from age 5 to 16.

As of 2011, students in secondary education have a new subject called ‘maatschappelijke stage’ (social training), which states that all pupils have to do 30 hours of volunteer work. This volunteer work is done for a non-profit organization and should be fun, informative, useful, and challenging. Where exactly the student volunteers depends mainly on the preference of the individual student. The student, while volunteering, is overseen by a supervisor from the organization where the internship is. This new subject was called for, according to the Dutch government, because young people wouldn’t do any volunteering on their own otherwise.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15 A Stressful Morning in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. M: Wakker worden! Sta op!
2. L: Ik kom zo.
3. M: Nee, kom nu!
4. M: Eten jullie snel je ontbijt en Bert, breng hem naar school!
5. B: Haal je boeken, Jeroen! We gaan.
6. ...
7. L: Goedemorgen. Waar is mijn broer?
8. M: Op school. Ga zitten en eet je ontbijt! Ga even zitten!
9. L: Geef de melk eens.
10. M: Pak even een kopje! Doe hagelslag op je brood!
11. L: Schreeuw niet zo!
12. M: Haal je boeken en ga naar school!
13. L: Dag!
14. M: (pffff) Ik ben toe aan koffie.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. M: Wake up! Get up!

2. L: I'll come soon.

3. M: No, come now!

4. M: Eat your breakfast quickly and Bert, take him to school!

5. B: Fetch your books, Jeroen! Let's go.

6. …

7. L: Good morning. Where is my brother?

8. M: At school. Sit down and eat your breakfast! Sit down real quick!

9. L: Give [me] the milk.

10. M: Just get a cup! Put [do] chocolate sprinkles on your bread!

11. L: Don't shout like that!

12. M: Fetch your books and go to school!

13. L: Bye!

14. M: (pffff) I feel like coffee.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender

wakker worden	wake up	verb	
wakker	awake	adjective	
worden	to become	verb	
ontbijt	breakfast	noun	neuterv
snel	quick, fast	adjective	
ontbijten	to have breakfast	verb	
brengen	to bring, take somewhere	verb	
school	school	noun	feminine
halen	to fetch, get	verb	
melk	milk	noun	feminine
hagelslag	chocolate sprinkles	noun	common
brood	bread	noun	neutral
schreeuwen	to shout, scream	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

De jongen wordt wakker en verlaat zijn bed. "The boy wakes up and leaves his bed."	**De vrouw wordt wakker.** "The woman is waking up."
Ben je nog steeds wakker? "Are you still awake?"	**De rups werd een vlinder.** "The caterpillar became a butterfly."
Ik eet elke dag ontbijt. "I eat breakfast everyday."	**Hij heeft snel Russisch verworven.** "He acquired Russian quickly."

We hebben nauwelijks genoeg tijd om te ontbijten. "We hardly have time to eat breakfast."	**Wie weet wat de toekomst ons brengt.** "Who knows what the future will bring us."
Ik heb het op school geleerd. "I learned it in school."	**Ga naar de dokter om je recept te halen!** "Go to the doctor to get your prescription!"
Melk is een erg gezonde drank. "Milk is a very healthy beverage."	**Koffie met melk alstublieft.** "Coffee with milk please."
Hagelslag is heel lekker. "Chocolate sprinkles are very delicious."	**Ze begon te schreeuwen, en ik liep weg.** "She started screaming, and I ran away."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Wakker worden" is an expression meaning "to wake up". The expression consists of "wakker" (awake) and "worden" (to become), so you're literally saying "become awake", but in Dutch, it's the most natural way to tell someone to wake up.
2. "Sta op" is literally "stand up", but it can also mean "to get up".
3. The mother in this dialogue is giving a lot of commands, but sometimes she uses the words ‘even’ and ‘eens’. The particle ‘eens’ gives the imperative a friendlier tone. The participle ‘even’ has a similar meaning; it makes the imperative more casual. It shows that it should take the other person no time or effort to carry out the command. We could compare it to saying "real quick", as in "Can you take out the trash real quick?"

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the imperative.

Pak even een kopje! Doe hagelslag op je brood!

"Just get a cup! Put chocolate sprinkles on your bread!"

When we give orders or commands, we use the imperative, which is just the stem of the verb. The same forms are used to talk to one person or to a group of persons.
Ga zitten! (sit down, to one person)
Ga zitten! (sit down, to a group)
We can also add a subject, then it's "gaan" when talking to several people.
Ga jij even zitten! (can you sit down)
Gaan jullie even zitten! (can you (plural) sit down)
When talking formally to someone, you should use the ‘u’ form. For the imperative, we swap the "u" and the verb here. Normally, it's "u gaat", but the command is "gaat u".
Gaat u zitten! (sit down, sir/ma'am)
If on the other hand you want to be very stern, like a father scolding a child or like a policeman or teacher, use just the infinitive, which is the dictionary form of a word.
Doorlopen! (move on!)
Opletten! (pay attention!)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Nine out of ten Dutch people eat breakfast and they mostly eat at home at the breakfast table, according to research by TNS Nipo in 2003.
The Dutch prefer to eat brown bread with cheese or sweet toppings. On the weekends they might eat more pastries and croissants.
Besides sweet toppings and cheese, on the weekends there are more meats and salads on the table. During the week, they generally take half an hour for their breakfast, but on the weekends it can double.

A typical Dutch breakfast contains, besides bread, jam, butter, milk, tea and coffee, some other things that you most likely won’t see anywhere else.
One of these products is ‘hagelslag’. Hagelslag are a kind of chocolate sprinkles, and Dutch people like to put them on a slice of bread. You should always use butter, or else the hagelslag will go everywhere but your mouth when you take a bite. Most people use these sprinkles to decorate cakes, but the Dutch put it on their bread.

Another typical Dutch product eaten for breakfast is ontbijtkoek. Ontbijtkoek (breakfast cake) is a kind of spicy cake. It is light brown and is spiced with cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. It tastes sweet and spicy and is usually topped with butter.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16 Going to see the Dutch Doctor

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DUTCH

1. Assistant: Huisartsenpraktijk Jansen, goedemorgen.

2. M: Goedemorgen, kunt u mij helpen?

3. A: Natuurlijk mevrouw.

4. M: Ik wil graag een afspraak maken voor woensdag.

5. A: U wilt voor woensdag een afspraak maken?

6. M: Ja, kan ik op woensdag komen?

7. A: Kunt u op woensdagmiddag komen?

8. M: Nee, dan kan ik niet. Kan het in de ochtend?

9. A: Het spijt me maar de dokter heeft dan geen tijd. U kunt op dinsdagochtend komen.

10. M: Goed, ik kom op dinsdagochtend. Kunt u het nieuwe adres van de praktijk geven?

ENGLISH

1. Assistant.: General practice Jansen, good morning.

2. M: Good morning, can you help me?

3. A: Of course ma'am.

CONT'D OVER

4. M: I'd like to make an appointment for Wednesday.

5. A.: You want to make an appointment for Wednesday?

6. M: Yes, can I come on Wednesday?

7. A: Can you come on Wednesday afternoon?

8. M: No, I can't then. Can it [be] in the morning?

9. A: I'm sorry but the doctor has no time. You can come on Tuesday morning.

10. M: Good, I'll come on Tuesday morning. Can you give [me] the new address of the practice?

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
huisarts	general practitioner	noun	common
huisartsenpraktijk	general practice	noun	common
kunnen	can, to be able to	verb	
afspraak	appointment	noun	common
dokter	doctor, physician	noun	common
middag	midday, afternoon	noun	common
ochtend	morning	noun	masculine
het spijt me	I'm sorry	phrase	
nieuw	new	adjective	

tijd	time	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ik ga even de huisarts opbellen. "I'm just going to call the general practitioner."	**Waar is de huisartsenpraktijk?** "Where is the general practice?"
Kunnen jullie me helpen? "Can you help me?"	**Hij kan Japans schrijven.** "He can write Japanese."
Mijn zoon heeft een afspraak met de dokter. "My son has a doctor's appointment."	**Een dokter werkt in een ziekenhuis.** "A doctor works in a hospital."
De winkel gaat om drie uur's middags open. "The shop will open at 3 P.M."	**Ik jog in de ochtend.** "I jog in the morning."
Het spijt me dat ik te laat ben. "I'm sorry for being late."	**Ik begin maandag met een nieuwe baan.** "I'll start a new job on Monday."
Gefeliciteerd met uw nieuwe auto. "Congratulations on your new car."	**Hebben jullie tijd vanavond?** "Do you have time tonight?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. The days of the week in Dutch are as follows. maandag (Monday), dinsdag (Tuesday), woensdag (Wednesday), donderdag (Thursday), vrijdag (Friday), zaterdag (Saturday), zondag (Sunday). In Dutch, all of these days are written with a lowercase letter and not with a capital letter.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the modal verbs "kunnen" and "willen".

Kunt u op woensdagmiddag komen?

"Can you come on Wednesday afternoon?"

Let's look at the conjugation of "kunnen" (can) and "willen" (to want). They are not completely regular.

ik kan wil
jij kunt / kan wilt / wil
u kunt / kan wilt / wil
hij/zij/het kan wil
wij kunnen willen
jullie kunnen willen
zij kunnen willen

For these verbs you can see that in the second person singular there are two possibilities. The difference is that the informal form both in written and spoken language is the form without the -t (kan/wil/zal). The more formal form is the one with the added -t (kunt/wilt/zult).

In a sentence in the present tense, the modal verb (kunnen/willen/zullen, etc.) takes the second place in a sentence and is conjugated, meanwhile the action verb becomes an infinitive and goes to the end of the clause. Note the different word order from English.

For example:

Zij kan op vrijdag niet komen. = She can't come on Friday.
Ik wil graag een krant kopen. = I would like to buy a newspaper.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A huisarts is a family doctor or general practitioner. Everyone has one, you need to register yourself, and his/her practice should be relatively close to your home. You'll need a referral from a huisarts to receive non-urgent medical treatment from a hospital or from another specialist health provider (like a physical therapist).

Many practices have a spreekuur (consultation hour) where you can consult your doctor. After hours, at weekends or during holidays you'll hear a recorded message on their telephone telling you how to contact on-call medical services. These are called huisartsenposten (a centre combined of different doctors and medical staff). You can only go to such a center after calling them in advance.

Don't expect a lot of medication in the Netherlands; Dutch doctors are generally reluctant to hand out antibiotics, for instance, which can be very strange for non-natives.

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Absolute Beginner S1 #17 Asking the Way in Dutch

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DUTCH

1. M: Neemt u mij niet kwalijk, mevrouw, weet u waar de Frans Halsstraat is?

2. Mevr.: Ja, als u hier langs het Stedelijk Museum loopt en dan links af bij het Museumplein.

3. Mevr.: Dan loopt langs het Van Gogh Museum rechtdoor naar het Rijks Museum.

4. Mevr.: Bij het Rijks Museum slaat u rechts af en loopt u door tot u bij de Hobbemakade komt.

5. Mevr.: Daar slaat u links af tot de Stadhouderskade, daar rechts en dan is het de tweede straat aan uw rechterhand.

6. M: Dus, linksaf naar het Museumplein, en bij de Stadhouderskade niet de eerste maar de tweede straat aan mijn rechterhand.

7. Mevr: Ja.

8. M: Dank u wel, mevrouw.

9. Mevr.: Graag gedaan.

ENGLISH

1. M: Excuse me, ma'am, do you know where Frans Hals Street is?

CONT'D OVER

2. Lady: Yes, if you walk here past the Stedelijk Museum and then to the left at the Museumplein.

3. Lady: Then walk past the Van Gogh Museum straight ahead toward the Rijks Museum.

4. Lady: At the Rijks Museum you'll turn right and walk straight until you come to the Hobbema Quay.

5. Lady: There you'll turn left until the Stadhouder Quay, [take a] right there and then it's the second street on your right.

6. M: So, to the left toward the Museumplein, and at the Stadhouder Quay not the first but the second street on my right.

7. Lady: Yes.

8. M: Thank you very much, ma'am.

9. Lady: You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
neemt u mij niet kwalijk	excuse me	phrase	
kwalijk	evil, nasty	adjective	
weten	to know	verb	
als	if	conjunction	
straat	street	noun	masculine

langs	along, past	preposition	
links	left	noun	neutral
links af	to the left	adverb	
rechts	right	noun	neutral
rechts af	to the right	adverb	
afslaan	to turn (direction)	verb	
rechtdoor	straight ahead	adverb	
graag gedaan	you're welcome	expression	
gracht	canal	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Neemt u me niet kwalijk, kunt u me de suiker aangeven? "Excuse me, could you pass me the sugar?"	**Soms zijn experimenten de enige manier om te weten of iets zal werken.** "Sometimes experiments are the only way to know if something will work."
Als je de mogelijkheid hebt, bezoek dan Japan. "If you have the opportunity, visit Japan."	**Je kan je auto parkeren in onze straat.** "You can park your car in our street."
Hoe heet deze straat? "What is this street called?"	**Ik hou van lopen langs de grachten.** "I love walking along the canals."
Bij de bioscoop links afslaan. "Turn left at the cinema."	**Mr John staat daar rechts.** "Mr. John stands there on the right."

De vrachtwagen draaide scherp af naar rechts. "The truck turned sharply to the right."	**Bij de bioscoop links afslaan.** "Turn left at the cinema."
Laten we rechtdoor gaan? "Let's go straight!"	**Graag gedaan!** "You're welcome!"
Een huis aan een gracht is erg duur. "A house on a canal is very expensive."	**De grachten van Amsterdam zijn s-avonds verlicht.** "The Amsterdam Canals light up at night."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. In the dialogue, you heard different references to streets. You may hear straat, plein, and kade, but there is also gracht and laan. What's the difference between all of these? The Dutch name for a street is 'straat'. Dutch street names are always written with a capital letter. A 'plein' is a square. These can be large, like the Dam Square in Amsterdam, or very small with no traffic allowed. Then there is the 'kade', which is a quay. These are remnants from older times when ships were still used for transport within the city. The 'gracht' is the canal which refers to the water itself more than to the street. That's why you would say, "Ik woon OP de gracht", but "IN een straat". And than there's 'laan', a lane, and this is usually used for broader streets with lots of trees.
2. "Aan mijn rechterhand" simply means "on my right" or "on my right-hand side".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is ordinal numbers.
Het is de tweede straat aan uw rechterhand.
"It is the second street on your right."

In Dutch there are two endings for ordinal numbers: -de and -ste.
The ordinal numbers 2-19 all end in -de, which is composed of the cardinal number plus -de.

Note that the Dutch word for ‘first’ is irregular.
1e eerste first
2e tweede second
3e derde third
4e vierde fourth
5e vijfde fifth
10e tiende tenth
15e vijftiende fifteenth
19e negentiende nineteenth
From 20 and upwards the ordinal numbers are formed with the cardinal number plus -ste.
20e twintigste 20th
30e dertigste 30th
59e negenenvijftigste 59th
100e honderdste 100th
Above 100, you say "honderd" and then the number as above.
115e honderdvijftiende 115th
118e honderdachtiende 118th

CULTURAL INSIGHT

With more than 50 museums, Amsterdam is big on art. From world-renowned collections to lesser-known ones, Amsterdam's museums offer art, history, and in recent years, photography and multimedia exhibitions.

Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum houses the largest collection of paintings by Vincent van Gogh in the world. It gives visitors the chance to track the artist's developments over time and compare his paintings to works by other artists from the 19th century. The museum’s permanent collection includes paintings, drawings, and letters.

The Rijksmuseum, or the Dutch National Museum, is the country’s largest museum. It houses a great collection of 17th-and 18th-century Dutch art. The exhibition shows visitors the evolution of the Dutch Golden Age, a time when the Netherlands's colonization and trade efforts made it the richest country in the world. Besides being a great museum, the massive Neo-Gothic building itself is also worth checking out.

Het Stedelijk Museum is nowadays a museum of Modern Art. When it opened its doors in 1895, it initially showed the estate of Sophia Augusta Lopez Suasso de Bruyn: a collection of

antiques, coins, jewelry, watches and other curiosities. The exhibits were presented in style rooms, whose component parts came from old canal houses. However, after World War II the museum became what it is today a museum with a modern approach to art.

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Absolute Beginner S1 #18 Talking about the Weather in Dutch

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DUTCH

1. Mevr.: Koud weer, vindt u niet?

2. M: Ja, en het waait ook harder en de lucht wordt grijzer.

3. Mevr.: De lente is dit jaar kouder dan de winter.

4. M: In de lente kan het warmer zijn dan in de zomer. In de herfst regent het het meest.

5. Mevr.: Gelukkig dat het straks zomer wordt.

6. M: Dan is het weer warmer, dan kunnen we in de zon op een terasje zitten.

7. Mevr.: Na de koudste winter in jaren met sneeuw en ijs is het een mooi vooruitzicht.

8. M: Aa, daar is mijn tram. Goedemiddag.

9. Mevr.: Goedemiddag, mevrouw.

ENGLISH

1. Lady: Cold weather, isn't it?

2. M: Yes, and it's also blowing harder and the sky is getting grayer.

3. Lady: Spring this year is colder than winter.

CONT'D OVER

4. M: In the spring it can be warmer than in the summer. In the fall it rains the most.

5. Lady: Fortunately it will be [become] summer soon.

6. M: Then the weather is warmer, and [then] we can sit in the sun on a terrace.

7. Lady: After the coldest winter in years with snow and ice, it's a nice forecast.

8. M: Ah, there's my tram. Good day.

9. Lady: Good day, ma'am.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
vooruitzicht	forecast, outlook	noun	neuter
weer	weather	noun	neutral
waaien	to blow (wind)	verb	
lucht	sky, air	noun	common
lente	spring	noun	masculine
grijs	gray	adjective	
zomer	summer	noun	feminine
herfst	fall, autumn	noun	common
regenen	to rain	verb	
zon	sun	noun	masculine

terrasje	terrace	noun	neuter
jaar	year	noun	neutral
sneeuw	snow	noun	feminine
ijs	ice	noun	neutral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Het weer is echt heerlijk vandaag. "The weather is really nice today."	**Het waait vaak erg hard in Nederland.** "It is often very windy in the Netherlands."
De walvissen komen naar boven om adem te halen. "The whales are coming up for air."	**Het vliegtuig vliegt in de lucht.** "The airplane is flying in the sky."
Tijdens het frisse lenteweer maakt ze graag een wandeling. "She likes taking a walk during the chilly spring weather."	**Grijze wolken zijn meestal een indicatie dat het gaat regenen.** "Gray clouds usually indicate rain."
Elk jaar gaan we in de zomer kamperen. "Every year in summer we will go camping."	**De bladeren van de bomen worden bruin in de herfst.** "The leaves of the trees turn brown in autumn."
Het regent en onweert. "It's raining and thundering."	**Grijze wolken zijn meestal een indicatie dat het gaat regenen.** "Gray clouds usually indicate rain."

Ze dachten dat hij de zoon van de zon was. "They thought he was the son of the Sun."	**Ik ben dertig jaar oud.** "I am thirty years old."
Volgend jaar ben ik een middelbare scholier. "I'll be a middle school student next year."	**Ik ben dertien jaar oud.** "I'm thirteen years old."
De sneeuw valt in het bos. "The snow is falling in the woods."	**Sneeuw heeft een mooie witte kleur.** "Snow has a beautiful white color."
Er heeft zich op het raam ijs gevormd. "Ice has formed on the window."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. In this dialogue, we saw the word “weer”. We have encountered it in a previous lesson and learned that it means “again”. In this dialogue, though, it means “weather”. If it is a noun, then it refers to the weather. "Het is koud weer" means "It is cold weather", while "het is weer koud" means "it is cold again".
2. Note the useful expression “vindt u niet” or “vind je niet”, which corresponds to the English “isn’t it” or “don’t you think?”

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is comparison.
De lente is dit jaar kouder dan de winter.
"Spring this year is colder than winter."

To say that something is "warmer", "colder", "nicer" or "more beautiful", Dutch uses the ending -er. This is actually the same ending as in English, except that in English, some words use

"more" (like "more beautiful"). In Dutch, the only possible way is to say "beautifuller". Similarly, you cannot say "most beautiful" in Dutch, but only "beautifullest", following the same pattern as "warmest", "coldest", "nicest" and so on. Here are some Dutch comparison forms.

hard harder hardst (hard)
warm warmer warmst (warm)
mooi mooier mooist (beautiful)
belangrijk belangrijker belangrijkst (important)
interessant interessanter interresantst (interesting)

There are also a few irregular forms, not many.

veel meer meest (much - more - most)
goed beter best (good - better - best)

To use these in a sentence, you need the word "dan" (than), for example "Peter is beter dan Mark" (Peter is better than Mark). To say he's the best, just add "de" or "het": "Peter is de best" (Peter is the best). It's all very similar to English.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The weather is important for the Dutch as it changes from day to day, which might be the reason why the Dutch mention it a lot in conversation. It is very common to comment on the weather as we can see in the dialogue.
There are four seasons in the Netherlands
lente = spring
zomer - summer
herfst = autumn
winter = winter

It can rain all year round, so the Dutch usually carry a small umbrella with them in their bag, but it rains mostly in autumn. Most of the days throughout the year, there are clouds in the sky that range from light gray to black.
The winters are moderate, but sometimes it freezes for a few days. When this happens, the Dutch hope that the rivers will freeze over so they can skate on the natural ice.

When it gets warmer, the Dutch long to sit on a “terrasje” (terrace). Almost every café has a terrace in front of it, and on warm days, they are full of people enjoying the sun.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19 Arrive at the Right Time in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. L: Ik wil morgen om twaalf uur naar de bieb, kan jij me brengen?

2. M: Ik heb een afspraak om half twee, dus dat kan.

3. J: En wie brengt mij dan naar voetballen? Wij spelen morgen om kwart over drie een wedstrijd.

4. M: Hoe laat moet je daar zijn?

5. J: We moeten daar om één uur zijn.

6. M: En hoe laat zijn jullie klaar?

7. J: We spelen de wedstrijd om kwart over drie, dus zijn we om vijf uur klaar.

8. M: Goed, we gaan om kwart voor twaalf weg, dan brengen we Loes naar de bieb. Daarna heb ik een half uurtje voor de boodschappen. En daarna breng ik je naar het voetballen. Om vijf uur kom ik jullie weer halen.

ENGLISH

1. L: I want to [go] to the library at twelve o'clock tomorrow, can you take me?

2. M: I have an appointment at half past one, so it's possible.

CONT'D OVER

3. J: And who's taking me to soccer then? We're playing a game at a quarter past three tomorrow.

4. M: At what time to you have to be there?

5. J: We have to be there at one o'clock.

6. M: And at what time will you be finished?

7. J: We're playing the game at a quarter past three, so we'll be finished at five o'clock.

8. M: Good, we'll leave at a quarter to twelve, then we'll take Loes to the library. After that I have a half hour for the grocery shopping. And afterwards I'll take you to soccer. At five o'clock I'll come pick you guys up again.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
daarna	afterwards	adverb	
weggaan	to leave, go away	verb	
morgen	tomorrow	noun	masculine
om	at	preposition	
uur	hour	noun	neutral
afspraak	appointment	noun	common
bibliotheek	library	noun	feminine
dus	so, thus	adverb	
voetbal	soccer	noun	neutral

spelen	to play	verb	
wedstrijd	game, match, competition	noun	common
laat	late	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Zaterdag zijn we naar de film geweest en daarna naar het restaurant. "On Saturday we went to the movies, then to the restaurant."	**Ga weg!** "Go away!"
Ik moet het morgen verzenden. "I have to send it tomorrow."	**Om elf uur uitchecken alstublieft.** "Check out at eleven o'clock, please."
Een uur kost drie euro. "One hour costs three euros."	**Mijn zoon heeft een afspraak met de dokter.** "My son has a doctor's appointment."
Ik studeer in de bibliotheek. "I am studying at the library."	**De pendeltijd naar het kantoor is een uur dus we vertrekken elke ochtend om zeven uur 's ochtends.** "The commute to the office is one hour, so we leave at 7 AM every morning."
De mascotte van het Nederlands Elftal is een oranje leeuw. "The mascot of the Dutch National team is an orange lion."	**De spelers spelen voetbal.** "The players are playing soccer."

Voetbal is werelds meest populaire sport. "Soccer is the word's most popular sport."	**Welke film werd er gister gespeeld?** "What movie was played yesterday?"
De atleten spelen voetbal. "The athletes are playing soccer."	**De fans kijken naar een wedstrijd.** "The fans are watching a game."

Hoe laat is het?

"What time is it?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "De bieb" is short for "de bibliotheek", which means library. Although started by high school students, this abbreviation is now widely used by people of all ages and it even appears in the largest Dutch language dictionary “de van Dale”.
2. "Dat kan", literally "that can", means "it is possible".
3. "Uurtje" is the diminutive of "uur"; "uur" is "hour" and "uurtje" is "little hour".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is telling time.
We zijn om vijf uur klaar.
"We'll be done at five o'clock."

Standard expressions for asking what time it is:
Hoe laat is het? (“What time is it?” or “At what time?”, literally "How late is it?")
Het is... (It is ....)
Some answers:
Hoe laat is het?
Het is vier uur. 4:00
Het is tien over vier. 4:10
Het is kwart over vier 4:15

Het is half vijf (before five, not after four!) 4:30
Het is kwart voor vijf 4:45
het is tien voor vijf 4:50
Het is vijf uur 5:00

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Dutch take punctuality for business meetings very seriously and expect that you will do the same. Always call with an explanation if you are going to be late. Lateness, missed appointments, postponements, changing the time of an appointment, or a late delivery all weaken trust and can ruin relationships.

The same is true for friendly visits; when you are asked to be there at a certain time, it is considered polite to arrive exactly on time.
When you are asked to be “rond 7 uur” (around 7) then you should never be early. It would be considered rude, so only in this case is it advisable to be ‘fashionably’ late. Not too late, mind you.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20 A Wrong Number in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. M: Met Marijke.

2. M: Hallo, u spreekt met Marijke.

3. M: Ik versta u niet. Kunt u dat herhalen?

4. M: Kunt u wat langzamer praten.

5. M: Het spijt me maar ik begrijp u niet. Loes, kom eens hier. Iemand belt op maar ik begrijp hem niet.

6. L: Hallo, met Loes.

7. L: U spreekt te snel. Kunt u langzaam praten, ik spreek maar een beetje Spaans.

8. L: Nee, hier woont geen meneer DaGosta. Dat geeft niet. Dag, meneer.

ENGLISH

1. M: This is Marijke.

2. M: Hello, you are speaking with Marijke.

3. M: I don’t understand you. Can you repeat that?

4. M: Can you speak a bit slower?

CONT'D OVER

5. M: I'm sorry but I don't understand you. Loes, come here a moment. Someone is calling but I don't understand him.

6. L: Hello, this is Loes.

7. L: You are speaking too fast. Can you speak slowly, I speak only a little Spanish.

8. L: No, no Mr. DaGosta lives here. That's okay. Good bye, sir.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
spreken	to speak	verb	
herhalen	to repeat	verb	
praten	to talk	verb	
Spaans	Spanish	noun	neuter
langzaam	slow	adjective	
begrijpen	to understand	verb	
iemand	someone	pronoun	
opbellen	to call up, phone	verb	
te	too (much)	adverb	
een beetje	a little	adverb	
meneer	sir, Mr.	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kunt u harder spreken? "Can you speak louder?"	**We spreken elkaar elke dag!** "We speak to each other every day!"
We herhalen het twee maal. "We repeat it twice."	**Herhaal de vraag alstublieft.** "Repeat the question please."
Hij praatte over zijn nieuwe project. "He talked about his new project."	**Praat niet met volle mond, alsjeblieft!** "Please don’t talk with your mouth full!"
De operator is aan het praten met de klant. "The operator is talking with a customer."	**Kun je in het Spaans tellen?** "Do you know how to count in Spanish?"
Kunt u alstublieft langzamer rijden? "Could you drive slowly, please?"	**Wij begrijpen het.** "We understand."
Begrijp je die vraag? "Do you understand that question?"	**Er is iemand overleden.** "Somebody has died."
Eer betonen aan iemand die overleden is, houdt verschillende dingen in voor verschillende mensen. "Paying homage to someone who has left means different things to different people."	**Alleen iemand met kenmerkende eigenschappen of kenmerken wordt onthouden.** "Only someone who has distinctive traits or characteristics will be remembered."
Ik ga even de huisarts opbellen. "I'm just going to call the general practitioner."	**Deze tafel is te laag voor me.** "This table is too low for me."

Ja, ik spreek het een beetje. "Yes, I speak a little."	**Een beetje concurrentie in het leven is gezond.** "A little competition in life is healthy."

Dit is meneer Smit.

"This is Mr. Smith."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Verstaan" and "begrijpen" both mean "to understand". The difference is that when you use ‘ik begrijp het niet’, then it means that the other person has to explain using easier language. When you use ‘ik versta het niet’, then the other person has to speak slower or more clearly. So "verstaan" is about being able to hear the words, and "begrijpen" is about understanding the meaning of the words.
2. "Maar een beetje" means "only a little". In this case, "maar" doesn't mean "but", it means "only". You could say "Ik spreek maar een beetje Nederlands" (I only speak a little Dutch).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is word order.
Kunt u dat herhalen?
"Can you repeat that?"

The standard word order in Dutch is subject - verb - when - what - where, as in the sentence "Ik drink morgen koffie uit een kopje."
You can start with your subject but also with another part of the sentence, as long as you put the verb in second position.
"Morgen drink ik koffie uit een kopje."
"Koffie drink ik morgen uit een kopje."
"Uit een kopje drink ik morgen koffie."
Note that in the last example, “uit een kopje” functions as one unit, so the verb is still considered to be in the second position.
When making a question, the verb comes before the subject. Only a question word may

come before the verb then.
Drink ik koffie? = Am I drinking coffee?
Wat drink ik? = What am I drinking?
If a sentence contains two verbs, then the first word is in the second position and the other verb is placed at the end of the sentence in its infinitive form.
Ik kan melk drinken. = I can drink milk.
If the verb starts with a preposition, then the preposition splits off and goes to the end of the sentence. Weggaan

CULTURAL INSIGHT

When answering the phone, you should say "met" (meaning "you're speaking with") and then your name. You can use your first name (Marijke) or last name (Jansen) or both (Marijke Jansen). Then, the caller answers by saying his or her name. This is important to complete before asking to speak to another person or beginning to talk about something else, so that both parties know who they are talking to.

When children pick up the phone, they state their first and last name so they won't be confused with their parents.
When picking up the phone in somebody else's house, you should answer with "met het huis van Marijke Jansen" (with the residence of Marijke Jansen). This way, the caller knows that they reached the right place but not the right person.

The Dutch are (in theory) strict about cell phones. On trains, there are special carriages where you are not allowed to use your cell phone. When people do use them, it is frowned upon and the train conductor can even ask you to leave. In general, it is frowned upon when to talk on one's phone in public, especially in shops, or even worse, when you are standing in line at the checkout.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21 Running the Dutch Birthday Gauntlet

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DUTCH

1. M: Het is de verjaardag van Anna. Ik mis haar een beetje dus gaan we maar even bij haar langs. Leuk toch, samen bij haar op bezoek.

2. L: Ik wil wel naar haar toe maar nu heb ik even geen zin. Ik vind het niet leuk om iedereen te feliciteren.

3. M: Dat kan vervelend zijn, maar je zegt ‘gefeliciteerd met Anna’ tegen iedereen.

4. L: Neem pappa maar mee, die vindt het leuk op zo’n verjaardag.

5. M: Goed dan maar met pappa.

6. L: Wat ga je voor haar kopen?

7. M: Ik weet het nog niet, misschien bloemen of een boek.

8. L: Het is beter om een boekenbon te geven.

9. M: Ja, dan ga ik nu even naar de boekenwinkel om zo’n boekenbon te kopen.

ENGLISH

1. M: It’s Anna’s birthday. I miss her a bit, so let’s go drop by. It’ll be fun, visiting her together.

2. L: I would like to go to her place but I just don’t feel like it right now. I don’t find it fun to congratulate everyone.

CONT'D OVER

3. M: It can be boring, but you say ‘congratulations on Anna[’s birthday]’ to everybody.

4. L: Just take daddy, he finds birthdays fun.

5. M: Fine then, just with daddy.

6. L: What are you going to buy for her?

7. M: I don’t know yet, maybe flowers or a book.

8. L: It’s better to give a gift certificate for books.

9. M: Yes, then I’ll just go to the bookstore to buy a gift certificate.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
winkel	shop, store	noun	common
bon	coupon, gift certificate; receipt	noun	common
verjaardag	birthday	noun	masculine
missen	to miss	verb	
langs gaan	to visit	verb	
iedereen	everyone, everybody	pronoun	
op bezoek gaan	to visit	verb	
feliciteren	to congratulate	verb	
vervelend	annoying, boring	adjective	

pappa	daddy	noun	common
misschien	perhaps, maybe	adverb	
beter	better	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

In het centrum zijn veel winkels. "There are lots of shops in the city centre."	**De winkel gaat om drie uur's middags open.** "The shop will open at 3 P.M."
Ik wil geen verdomde bon, geef me gewoon geld! "I don't want a bloody voucher, just give me cash!"	**Morgen is het mijn verjaardag.** "It's my birthday tomorrow."
We missen je heel erg. "We miss you very much."	**Niet iedereen is even zorgvuldig als sommige anderen.** "Not everyone is as meticulous as some people are."
Heeft iedereen vrij met de Pasen? "Is everybody free on Easter?"	**We zijn van plan om morgen bij meneer Smith op bezoek te gaan.** "We plan to visit Mr. Smith tomorrow."
Laat mij u feliciteren met uw succes. "Let me congratulate you on your success."	**Gisteren werd ik een god, maar ik vond dat te vervelend, dus vandaag werd ik een duivel.** "Yesterday I became a god, but found that too boring, so today I became a devil."

Ik ben dan misschien ongelukkig, maar ik ben niet van plan zelfmoord te plegen. "Maybe I am unhappy, but I don't intend to kill myself."	**Soms is het beter een amateur te zijn dan een professional, want dan kun je meer van de hobby genieten.** "Sometimes being an amateur is better than being a professional because you can enjoy the hobby more."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. ‘Bij haar langs gaan’ and ‘op bezoek gaan’ are both synonyms for ‘to visit’. ‘Bij iemand langs gaan’ is informal, something friends may say to each other: “Ik kom morgen even langs” (I’ll drop by your house / I’ll come over). In contrast, “op bezoek gaan“ can be used both formally and informally. "Ik kom morgen bij je op bezoek" (I’ll come and visit you tomorrow). "Ik kom graag bij u op bezoek" (I like visiting you).
2. "Boekenbon" (gift certificate for books) and "boekenwinkel" (bookshop) are both compound nouns based on "boek". They use the plural "boeken" rather than "boek" as a base form because you can buy several books there, and also because the words flow better like this.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is particles.
Ik wil wel naar haar toe maar nu heb ik even geen zin.
"I would like to go to her place but I just don't feel like it right now."

The little words maar, wel, even and nu can give a sentence a completely different meaning. They give an extra color to the sentence, to emphasize contrast, to express irritation, to express doubt, to soften a statement, or to give brusque advice. When speaking you can alter the tone of your voice, but in writing that’s impossible; that’s where these words come in. They are hard to translate, however.

Examples for each.

wel

Wat is er dan? What’s the matter?

Wat is er dan wel? If it’s not this then what is it?

nu

Dat is de tweede keer. That's the second time.

Dat is nu de tweede keer. That's the second time now (please be more careful).

maar

Dan moet je een kopje koffie nemen. Then you have to have a cup of coffee.

Dan moet je maar een kopje koffie nemen. Then you just have to have a cup of coffee (seeing that there's nothing else).

even

Mag ik de koffie? Can I have the coffee?

Mag ik de koffie even? Can I have the coffee please?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

At birthday parties, one does not only congratulate the person having his or her birthday, but the guest shakes hands with all other guests already present and congratulates each and everyone of them, saying something like 'gefeliciteerd met Marijke' (congratulations on Marijke's birthday), or, when the relationship is known, 'gefeliciteerd met u zoon/dochter/ broertje/vriend, etc.' (congratulations on your son's/daughter's/brother's/friend's birthday).

De Verjaardagskalender (Birthday Calendar)

The Dutch have a special birthday calendar that is a kind of hanging notebook with the 12 months of the year, and they use it to write down all the birthdays of family and friends on it. So that they won't forget to look at it, it is usually hung in the bathroom. With every visit, they can see if someone has a birthday coming up.

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Absolute Beginner S1 #22 Choosing Hobbies is Hard in the Netherlands

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DUTCH

1. M: Ik denk dat ik een nieuwe hobby ga beginnen. Doe je mee?

2. L: Goed idee. Ik vind zwemmen leuk en ik vind fietsen leuk.

3. M: Ik vind zwemmen leuk, maar ik houd niet van fietsen.

4. L: Dan gaan we met zwemmen beginnen of we gaan iets anders doen.

5. M: Ik wil ook wel fietsen, want ik weet dat jij dat erg leuk vind.

6. L: Waarom gaan we niet op dansen, of we gaan een cursus volgen.

7. M: We kunnen naar de Volksuniversiteit, want je kan daar uit heel veel cursussen kiezen.

8. L: Je kan kiezen uit zoveel cursussen dat je door de bomen het bos niet meer ziet. (haha)

9. M: Goed. Morgen gaan we met een cursus beginnen.

ENGLISH

1. M: I think that I'm going to start a new hobby. Will you join in?

2. L: Good idea. I find swimming fun and I find biking fun.

3. M: I find swimming fun, but I don't like biking.

4. L: Then we'll begin with swimming or we'll do something else.

CONT'D OVER

5. M: I'd like to bike too, because I know that you find it really fun.

6. L: Why don't we go dancing, or take a class.

7. M: We can go to the Volksuniversiteit, because you can choose from a lot of courses there.

8. L: You can choose from so many courses that you can't see the forest for the trees. (haha)

9. M: Good. Tomorrow we'll start [with] a course.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
bos	forest	noun	neuter
hobby	hobby	noun	common
beginnen	to start	verb	
meedoen	to join in, participate	verb	
fietsen	to ride a bike	verb	
zwemmen	to swim	noun	
dansen	to dance	verb	
cursus	course	noun	common
volgen	to follow	verb	
veel	a lot	adverb	
zoveel	so many/much	adverb	
kiezen	to choose	verb	

boom	tree	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ze verdween langzaam in het nevelige bos. "She slowly disappeared into the foggy forest."	**Vissen is een ontspannen hobby.** "Fishing is a relaxing hobby."
Het begint te regenen. "It's starting to rain."	**Ik begin maandag met een nieuwe baan.** "I'll start a new job on Monday."
Het leven is als fietsen -- om in balans te blijven moet je in beweging blijven. "Life is like riding a bicycle—to keep your balance you must keep moving."	**De zwaan zwemt in het meer.** "The swan is swimming in the lake."
De octopus zwemt onder water. "The octopus is swimming underwater."	**Ik hou van zwemmen.** "I like swimming."
Om te kunnen dansen gaan we elke zaterdagavond naar de club. "We go to the club every Saturday night so we can dance."	**De cursus begint om twaalf uur 's middags.** "The course starts at noon."
De jonge eenden volgen de moeder eend. "The ducklings are following the mother duck."	**De stad Parijs heeft veel charme.** "The city of Paris has a lot of charm."

Naar het strand gaan is voor veel mensen het ideaal om een geweldige tijd te hebben. "Hitting the beach is some people's idea of a great time."	**Er zitten zoveel elementen in elk scenario dat mensen die aan de buitenkant staan, beter niet oordelen.** "There are so many elements to every scenario that people who are on the outside shouldn't judge."
Veel mannen kiezen voor mooie vrouwen, zonder veel op de inhoud te letten. "Many men choose women who are beautiful but don't have much substance to them."	**De bladeren van de bomen worden bruin in de herfst.** "The leaves of the trees turn brown in autumn."
De apen bevinden zich in de boom. "The monkeys are in the tree."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Door de bomen het bos niet meer zien" is a Dutch saying meaning "Can't see the forest for the trees". It's an exact translation of the English saying, actually. In this dialogue, Loes means there are so many different courses that it will be difficult to choose just one.
2. "Mee" is a Dutch verb prefix that means "along". "Meekomen" is "to come along", "meegaan" is "to go along" and "meedoen" would be "to do along" - in English you'd say "to join in [an activity]". There can be lots of words with "mee" in Dutch; it's more common than in English. And in a sentence, the "mee" will always be placed at the end.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is coordinating conjunctions.
Ik vind zwemmen leuk, maar ik houd niet van fietsen.
"I find swimming fun, but I don't like biking."

Today we will take a look at coordinating conjunctions in Dutch. These are words that connect two sentences. In Dutch, the words are "en" (and), "of" (or), "want" (because), and "maar" (but).

Marijke gaat zwemmen, of zij gaat fietsen. = Marijke goes swimming or she goes biking.

Marijke houdt van zwemmen en Loes houdt van fietsen. = Marijke likes swimming and Loes likes biking.

Marijke houdt van zwemmen, maar ze houdt ook van fietsen = Marijke likes swimming, but she also likes biking.

Marijke houdt van zwemmen, want ze houdt van water = Marijke likes swimming, because she likes water.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Dutch often like to take ‘cursussen’ (short courses). Many ‘cursussen’ are offered by local clubs but there are also the ‘volksuniversiteiten’ (lit. university of the people), a kind of adult education centre where many courses are offered. These courses can last from a few weeks up to a few months in length. There are ‘volksuniversiteiten’ in 400 locations offering more than 2000 different courses. People can choose from 30 languages as well as courses on art, culture, and more.

The Dutch also like ‘fietsen (to bike).

There is a lot of cycling in the Netherlands. In no other country in the world with a similar level of wealth do people cycle as much. The Dutch bike mainly because they find it a comfortable and reliable means of transportation; 84% of Dutch people have a positive opinion of bikes. The Dutch like bikes because they are quiet, there are no annoyances, no delays, they are always on time, and are cheap. Their independence and flexibility make them highly valued, only slightly less than cars.

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Absolute Beginner S1 #23 Are you Dreaming in Dutch of a Greek Holiday?

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DUTCH

1. M: Kan je me even helpen? Geef me eens een paar appels.

2. L: Hoeveel heb je er nodig? Er zijn zes appels hier.

3. M: Geef er maar vier. Ik maak een appeltaart.

4. L: Waar gaan we dit jaar op vakantie naar toe?

5. M: We gaan misschien naar Griekenland. Athene is een mooie stad. Er gaan veel toeristen naar Athene.

6. L: Maar je kan er niet op het strand liggen.

7. M: We kunnen ook naar een Grieks eiland gaan. Er zijn mooie eilanden in Griekenland.

8. L: En je kan er op het strand liggen. Gaan we daar dan naar toe? Leuk op een Grieks eiland in de zon.

9. M: Ik weet het niet. Pappa moet het ook goed vinden.

ENGLISH

1. M: Can you help me for a moment? Just give me a few apples.

2. L: How many of them do you need? There are six apples here.

3. M: Just give me four of them. I'm making an apple pie.

CONT'D OVER

4. L: Where are we going on vacation this year?

5. M: We might go to Greece. Athens is a beautiful city. Lots of tourists go to Athens.

6. L: But you can't lie on the beach there.

7. M: We can also go to a Greek island. There are beautiful islands in Greece.

8. L: And you can lie on the beach there. Are we going there then? Fun in the sun on a Greek island.

9. M: I don't know. Daddy also has to like it.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
een paar	a couple, a few	adverb	
appel	apple	noun	masculine
hoeveel	how much/many	pronoun	neuter
maken	to make	verb	
nodig	needed, necessary	adjective	
vakantie	vacation	noun	feminine
misschien	perhaps, maybe	adverb	
Griekenland	Greece	noun	
Athene	Athens	noun	
stad	city, town	noun	common

strand	beach	noun	neutral
Grieks	Greek	adjective	
eiland	island	noun	neutral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Het duurde me meer dan twee uur om een paar pagina's in het Engels te vertalen. "It took me more than two hours to translate a few pages of English."	**In de nederlandse provincie Gelderland is een plaats genaamd Appel.** "In the Dutch province of Gelderland there is a city named Appel."
Hoeveel kosten deze appels? "How much are these apples?"	**Hoeveel kost de tandpasta?** "How much is the toothpaste?"
Hoeveel boeken neem je mee naar school? "How many books do you take to school?"	**De man en vrouw maken elke avond avondeten.** "The man and woman make dinner every night."
Sommige mensen hebben een belangrijke impuls nodig om in actie te schieten. "Some people need a major impetus to move them into action."	**Af en toe hebben we het allemaal nodig om onze fantasieën voor een korte tijd uit te leven.** "Sometimes we all need to live our fantasies for a short while."
Iedereen heeft wel eens behoefte aan vakantie. "Everyone needs a vacation sometimes."	**Ik ben dan misschien ongelukkig, maar ik ben niet van plan zelfmoord te plegen.** "Maybe I am unhappy, but I don't intend to kill myself."

Turkije was sterker dan Griekenland. "Turkey was stronger than Greece."	**Athene is een oeroude stad.** "Athens is an ancient city."
De archeologen hebben een stad blootgelegd. "The archaeologists unearthed a city."	**Amsterdam is een mooie stad.** "Amsterdam is a beautiful city."
Naar het strand gaan is voor veel mensen het ideaal om een geweldige tijd te hebben. "Hitting the beach is some people's idea of a great time."	**Dit woord komt uit het Grieks.** "This word comes from Greek."
Een veerboot verbindt een eiland met het vasteland. "A ferry connects the island to the mainland."	**Aruba is een mooi eiland.** "Aruba is a beautiful island."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "Een paar" (a couple) is less specific in Dutch than it is in English. It could mean two, but it could also mean three or even four, so it is more like the English expression "a few".
2. "Waar... naar toe" means "where to", or "to where". "Naar" and "toe" both mean the same thing, so having them both next to each other in "waar... naar toe" is illogical, but that's just how it's said in Dutch.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the particle "er".
Er zijn mooie eilanden in Griekenland.
"There are beautiful islands in Greece."

‘Er’ can have many different meanings. In the dialogue we saw four of them.

1. "Er is" and "er zijn" are the same as saying "there is" and "there are" in English.

Er zijn mooie eilanden in Griekenland. (There are beautiful islands in Greece.)

2. With a verb that is not "to be", the function of ‘er’ can be to announce the subject while the actual word for the subject comes later on in the sentence.

Er gaan veel toeristen naar Athene. (Many tourists go to Athens. / There are many tourists going to Athens.)

3. ‘Er’ can also refer to a place, referring to a place that the listener knows or that has been mentioned before.

Je kan er niet op het strand liggen.

You can’t lie on the beach there. (referring to Athens)

4. ‘Er’ can also replace the phrase "of them" after a number.

Hoeveel appels wil je? - Geef er maar vier.

How many apples do you want? - Give me four of them.

"Er" is a crucial word to master if you want to speak correct Dutch.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A lot of people take holidays to warmer climates but many also stay in the Netherlands. There are some beautiful places to spend your holidays in the Netherlands. One of these is the Waddeneilanden (Wadden Islands). They are off the northwestern coast of the Netherlands. There are five islands, the biggest of which are populated. There are many smaller ones that are mainly nature preserves.

The Wadden Islands consist of Texel, Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland, and Schiermonnikoog. A favorite activity around the islands is ‘wadlopen’, which actually means walking on the sea bottom when the tide is low. You are only allowed to this with special guides as it can be dangerous. While you ‘loop wad’ you can enjoy the fantastic scenery of the islands. There are different tours you can take depending on your general fitness.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24 Booking a Greek Holiday in Dutch

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2 Dutch
2 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

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DUTCH

1. L: Hoera!!! We gaan naar een Grieks eiland.

2. B: We gaan ook naar Athene. We gaan ook naar een paar museums.

3. L: Krijg ik een eenpersoonskamer of moet ik op een tweepersoonskamer? Of nog erger gaan we samen op een vierpersoonskamer?

4. B: Je moet niet zoveel babbels hebben. Ik zal het reisbureau opbellen om de reis te bevestigen.

5. (belt het reisbureau op)

6. B: Goedemiddag, met meneer Jansen. Het gaat over de reis naar Kreta en over het boeken van de kamers. Kan ik de kamers nu reserveren?

7. B: Ja, wij willen graag twee tweepersoonskamers met uitzicht op het strand.

8. B: Wij komen aan op 22 juli en we gaan weg op 13 augustus.

9. B: Dank u wel mevrouw, ik zal morgen komen betalen. Goedemiddag.

ENGLISH

1. L: Hooray!!! We're going to a Greek island.

2. B: We're also going to Athens. We're also going to a few museums.

CONT'D OVER

3. L: Do I get a single room or do I have to [stay] in a double room? Or even worse, are we going to [stay] in a four-person room together?

4. B: You shouldn't demand so much. I'll call the travel agency to confirm the trip.

5. (calls the travel agency)

6. B: Good afternoon, this is Mr. Jansen. It's about the trip to Crete and about booking the rooms. Can I reserve the rooms now?

7. B: Yes, we would like two double rooms with a view of the beach.

8. B: We arrive on July 22nd and we leave on August 13th.

9. B: Thank you very much madam, I'll come pay tomorrow. Good afternoon.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
aankomen	to arrive	verb	
zullen	shall	verb	
uitzicht	view	noun	neuter
krijgen	to get	verb	
eenpersoonskamer	single room	noun	common
tweepersoonskamer	double room	noun	common
reis	trip, journey	noun	common
reisbureau	travel agency	noun	neutral

bevestigen	to confirm	verb
Kreta	Crete	noun
boeken	to book	verb
reserveren	to reserve	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

De brief zal morgen aankomen. "The letter will arrive tomorrow."	**Denk je dat de mensen op een dag de maan zullen koloniseren?** "Do you think mankind will someday colonize the Moon?"
Het uitzicht vanuit de slaapkamer is prachtig. "The view from the bedroom is beautiful."	**Als je binnen drie minuten je bord niet leeg hebt, krijg je geen toetje.** "If you don't clean your plate within three minutes, you won't get any dessert."
Ik wens een eenpersoonskamer met bad voor twee nachten. "I'd like to have a single room with a bath for two nights."	**Ik maakte gebruik van kaarten tijdens mijn reis.** "I made use of the maps during my journey."
Waar is het dichtstbijzijnde reisbureau? "Where is the nearest travel agency?"	**Bevestig de bestelling.** "Confirm the order."
Kreta is een zonnig eiland in Zuid-Griekenland. "Crete is a sunny island in southern Greece."	**Ik zou graag een kamer willen reserveren.** "I would like to reserve a room."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. “Hoera” (hooray) is a word used to celebrate; an expression of joy.
2. “Veel babbels hebben” (lit. have much blah-blah) is used to show that someone is demanding a lot, or that they should lower their voice.
3. In the dialogue, Marijke mentions two months: juli (July) and augustus (August). For good measure, here are the 12 months of the year in Dutch: januari, februari, maart, april, mei, juni, juli, augustus, september, oktober, november, december. The names of the month, like the days of the week, are not capitalized in Dutch.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the future tense.
Ik zal het reisbureau opbellen om de reis te bevestigen.
"I'll call the travel agency to confirm the trip."

There are three ways of expressing the future in Dutch.
1. Using the present tense.
The Dutch usually express the future with the present tense by adding a adverb that shows the future.
Zij komen morgen. (They will come tomorrow.)
Dat doe ik straks. (I’ll do it in a while)
2. Using the verb ‘gaan’.
The verb ‘gaan’ shows intention, just like the English “going to”.
Dat ga ik straks doen. (I’m going to do it in a while)
Wanneer ga je dat boek lezen? (When are you going to read that book?)
3. Using the verb ‘zullen’.
The verb ‘zullen’ is often used for promises, or shows that it is inevitable.
Ik zal het morgen doen. (I’ll do it tomorrow.)
We zullen dat nu doen. (We’ll do it now.)
The conjugation of ‘zullen’ is as follows.
Ik zal
jij zult / zal
u zult
hij/zij/het zal
wij zullen
jullie zullen
zij zullen

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Dutch book their summer holiday very early. For many Dutch people, the beginning of the New Year is generally a good time to start planning their holidays.

According to research, the Dutch start booking their vacations much earlier than other European countries, but early planning is something that Northern European countries have in common, as opposed to the last-minute planning that is common in Southern Europe.

Besides going to sunny countries for their holidays, the Dutch are big fans of camping. Many of them have trailers and in the summer they go camping in neighboring countries or in the Netherlands.

Wherever they decide to go, one thing is for certain. Holidays are very important, and if possible, they'll go twice a year: in the winter on a ski holiday and in the summer to a warmer climate.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25 Sending a Dutch Postcard from Greece

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7 Cultural Insight

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DUTCH

1. M: Kijk wat een mooie ansichtkaart, die ga ik naar oma sturen en die stuur ik naar mijn broer.

2. L: Deze is ook erg leuk, hoeveel moet ik er kopen...

3. B: Je hoeft ze niet allemaal nu te kopen. Je kan ze ook morgen kopen.

4. L: Nee, ik vind deze kaarten erg mooi. Ik koop ze meteen voor iedereen. Ik moet er zes kopen.

5. M: Zullen we deze kaart naar Anna sturen, dan schrijven we hem meteen.

6. M: Lieve Anna en Jan,

7. M: We zijn nu op Kreta. Het weer is warm en het hotel mooi.

8. M: De kinderen zwemmen veel in de zee en Bert en ik zitten lekker op het strand.

9. M: We eten ook vaak in restaurantjes die hier vlakbij zijn.

10. M: Het eten is erg lekker!!! We maken ook veel mooie foto's.

11. M: Ik kijk er naar uit om jullie weer te zien.

12. M: Groetjes van ons allemaal,

13. M: Bert, Marijke, Loes en Jeroen

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. M: Look what a beautiful postcard, I'm going to send it to grandma and I'll send that one to my brother.

2. L: This one is also really nice, I have to buy so many of them…

3. B: You don't need to buy them all now. You can also buy them tomorrow.

4. L: No, I find these postcards really beautiful. I'll buy them for everyone at once. I need to buy six of them.

5. M: Shall we write this card to Anna, than we'll write it immediately.**

6. M: Dear Anna and Jan,

7. M: We're in Crete right now. The weather is warm and the hotel beautiful.

8. M: The children are swimming in the sea a lot and Bert and I are sitting comfortably on the beach.

9. M: We also often eat in little restaurants that are near here.

10. M: The food is really tasty!!! We're also taking a lot of nice photos.

11. M: I look forward to seeing you guys again.

12. M: Greetings from all of us,

13. M: Bert, Marijke, Loes, and Jeroen

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
groetjes	greetings	expression	
uitkijken naar	to look forward to	verb	
vlakbij	near, close by	adverb	
hotel	hotel	noun	neutral
lieve...	dear...	adjective	
meteen	at once, immediately	adverb	
ansichtkaart	postcard	noun	masculine
kaart	card	noun	feminine
sturen	to send	verb	
allemaal	everyone, everybody	pronoun	
hoeven	to need	verb	
iedereen	everyone, everybody	pronoun	
schrijven	to write	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Geef hem de groetjes als je hem ziet. "In case you see him, please say hello to him for me."	**Ik kijk uit naar de zomervakantie.** "I'm looking forward to the summer vacation."
De zeep ligt vlakbij de spiegel. "The soap is near the mirror."	**Ik heb al een reservering voor een hotel.** "I have already made the hotel reservation."
Lieve meneer Potter... "Dear Mr. Potter..."	**Wacht niet langer, doe het meteen!** "Don't wait any longer, do it immediately!"

De posters zijn meteen van de muur afgehaald. "The posters were immediately removed from the wall."	**Ik heb twee ansichtkaarten ontvangen.** "I received two postcards."
Hoeveel kost die prepaid kaart? "How much is that prepaid card?"	**Ik wil graag dit pakketje naar Canada sturen.** "I'd like to mail this package to Canada."
We moeten allemaal elke kans waarnemen die we tegen komen. "We all have to explore every opportunity we can."	**Je hoeft je niet te schamen.** "You don't have to be ashamed."
Niet iedereen is even zorgvuldig als sommige anderen. "Not everyone is as meticulous as some people are."	**Heeft iedereen vrij met de Pasen?** "Is everybody free on Easter?"
Hij kan japans schrijven. "He can write Japanese."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. ‘Uitkijken naar’ is a verb together with a preposition. The preposition in this case changes the meaning of the verb. ‘Uitkijken’ means to be careful or watchful. It can also be used as a warning: ‘kijk uit!’ (be careful!). But with the ‘naar’ added, it becomes “to look forward to”.
2. The word ‘lekker’ can have different meanings. In the dialogue, we saw two of them. ‘Lekker eten’ is what we have already learned as ‘tasty food’, but in ‘lekker zitten’ it’s meant that we sit comfortably and relaxed, we are enjoying ourselves, or even that we are resting.
3. You might be wondering why Marijke said "Zullen we deze kaart naar Anna sturen, dan schrijven we HEM meteen" -- why is it "we write HIM immediately"? Anna is a woman, after all.

The "hem" here refers not to Anna, but to the postcard. The postcard is "de kaart" in Dutch. As the article is not "het", this word is not considered neuter, but masculine. So in Dutch, "I write the card" is not "I write it" but "I write him".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the modal verbs "hoeven" and "moeten".

Je hoeft ze niet allemaal nu te kopen.

"You don't need to buy all of them now."

Let's continue our study of Dutch modal verbs. Today we've encountered "hoeven te doen" (to need to do) and "moeten doen" (must do). The conjugation of “hoeven” is regular except for the F changing to V in the plural.

ik hoef = I need
jij hoeft = you need
hij/zij hoeft = he/she needs
wij hoeven = we need
jullie hoeven = you all need
zij hoeven = they need

"Hoeven" is particularly common in negative sentences.

Ze hoeft het boek niet te lezen. = She doesn’t need to read the book
Ze hoeft alleen maar te lezen. = She only has to read (nothing more).

The conjugation of "moeten" is:

ik moet = I must
je moet = you must
hij/zij moet = he/she must
wij moeten = we must
jullie moet = you all must
zij moeten = they must

Moeten is also a modal verb and therefore also needs an infinitive, but without ‘te’.

Ze moet het boek lezen. = She has to read the book.
Je moet niet schreeuwen. = You mustn’t shout.

‘Hoeven’ and ‘moeten’ have similar meanings, but there’s a difference. ‘Moeten’ is much more severe than ‘hoeven’. When you use ‘moeten’, it emphasizes the necessity of a situation; you must/have to do it, and you don’t have any choice. Whereas when you use ‘hoeven’, you do have a choice whether or not to do it (you can/may/are allowed to do it but it

is not mandatory).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Dutch still believe in sending postcards to each other. Even in the digital age we are living in, it is still considered a must to send a postcard home when you're on holiday.

According to the Dutch Postal Service, a staggering 53% of holiday goers still send an actual postcard home. In 2011, according to a study by the Dutch Postal Service, the Dutch received approximately 30 Christmas/New Year cards, 8 birthday cards, and 5 holiday cards, showing that the e-card is not as popular as many may believe. It's interesting to note that more than 75% of cards were written by women.

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2 Where in the Netherlands Do You Live?
3 Let's Drink Dutch Coffee
4 An Exhausting Day in the Netherlands
5 Having Kids in the Netherlands
6 Would You Like To Order?
7 Dividing your Dutch Chores
8 Let's Stay in touch in the Netherlands
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