

The School for Dutch

Our course methodology:

Survival, Small Talk, Conversation, Discussion and Views & Opinions are a set of 5 consecutive courses. On each level the triplet of orientation, exploring & clarifying and then 'doing and using' is the driving force. On each higher level the elements of the former level are taken in.

On the levels 1 and 2 the textbooks, dialogues, grammar concepts and drills we use are pretty fixed to make sure you lay a solid foundation and understand all the basics of Dutch. On the levels 3, 4, 5 we work with real life texts from the papers to explore more complex language concepts. Clarifying and extending vocabulary are always part of the lessons and the big chunk of conversation and debate will help you to practise the newly learned concepts. At home you have time to really 'digest' everything you learned with the online exercises which come with every lesson.

The exercises-online are completely in line with the lessons. The focus is to reinforce the concepts clarified in the class in an 'easy' and clear way. The adagio is "don't think & just do".

The differences in difficulty between each of the first 3 courses are significant. The difference between level 4 and 5 is more gradual, and is also depending on the group's individual strengths and weaknesses.

For all levels counts that all the things we explore and clarify are exercised in a real based context, in real life dialogues and in role play situations or discussion. So it's always your own context which is the playground to practise Dutch.

We work in small groups, generally in a range of between 4-12 people. It's not a traditional class situation, you work in two's and three's to get the maximum time to do and try out Dutch together with your fellow students.

We put great emphasis on pronunciation and articulation through the dialogues, the songs and all kind of rhythmical drills. Of course students get the necessary grammar, but grammar is not a goal in itself, that's to talk Dutch right from the start.

Our method focuses on communication, and you're going to learn the language including the grammar by communicating in Dutch with your sparring partners in the class and not through bookish ideas and book learning. You will be encouraged to do the same outside in shops, cafes, with colleagues and/or your partner at home.

If you are a new student and you are not sure on what level you should start your course please do the leveltest on our website and see what you already can handle. This test goes till level 2; if you pass the complete test we always decide together in a short telephone call if you can start at the levels 3, 4 or even 5. The talking abilities are always the most important factor. A course shouldn't be too easy and also not too difficult because we believe having fun is the key to make great progress in learning!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask!

Warm regards!

Wessel van der Heijden
Founder & teacher at The School for Dutch