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The School for Dutch

General outline of our courses and how to determine your level.

All our courses focus on gaining command of spoken Dutch and feeling comfortable and confident in speaking the language as soon as possible. For this reason, we put great emphasis on pronunciation and articulation through dialogues, singing and all kind of rhythmical drills. Ofcourse students get the necessary grammar, but grammar is not a goal in itself, but the key is to talk Dutch right from the start.

Our method focuses on communication, and students are going to learn the language -including the grammar- by communicating in Dutch with their sparring partners in the class and not through 'bookish' ways of learning. We encourage the students to do the same outside in shops, cafes, with colleagues, friends and/or their partner.

Survival, small talk and conversation and discussion, represent successively higher levels in consecutive courses.

If you haven't followed one of our courses and you believe you should be at a higher level than the entry level, please do the online level test on the website: <https://www.learndutch.com/> (it's free)

Part of the testing procedure can be a short telephone conversation, to see how much you handle actively. Note that a course shouldn't be too easy, because that's not challenging, but it shouldn't be too difficult either, otherwise the whole process becomes frustrating.

The School for Dutch

Our learning philosophy

“Dutch the natural way“.

To talk is the first focus.

Pronunciation, articulation, dialoguing, conversations are the keywords and then comes grammar.



Our personal experience in theatre and creative writing has evolved into a unique training method. We believe that learning to communicate in a different language involves far more than just memorizing new words and grammar rules. Articulation and pronunciation are the keys and are more of a physical activity than a mental one. We therefore put a lot of emphasis on the physical elements of sound, intonation, articulation and rhythm.

Our aim is to make the language part of your physical system and turn it into a natural process. In other words, **'just do and don't think'**. Too much thinking means too much control, and that keeps you from talking.

Exploring, clarifying and internalizing a concept, then practicing it in conversation in class is the best preparation to taking it out into real life.

Using songs, language games, role playing, recent news events, daily dialogues and relevant stories we create a comfortable environment in which people feel free to work together. We focus on the individual student's needs and tailor our teaching methods accordingly.

A comfortable environment greatly increases a student's confidence to speak by **'trial and error'**. This leads them to explore new associations and to venture further based on what they already know. People learn better when they are having fun. In our classes people laugh at their own creative mistakes instead of avoiding them and, of course, making mistakes is an essential part of the learning process.



After all, daring to try is the first step. From then on **practice is the key.**

The School for Dutch

The exercises online

Students do their 'home work' through the exercises **online**, it's a tool with which they get used to and internalize in a playful and easy way grammar concepts and vocabulary. All the exercises and games are with audio. The idea behind the exercises is that the exercises are so clear and simple that doing them is training and a form of unconscious learning on the same moment. It's a digesting tool for all the aspects of the course material.

An exercise takes 5-6 minutes, and you can do it everywhere where you have entry to internet.

The Learndutch Community

In 2010 we launched The Learndutch Community, a platform on which all our students and ex-students can contact each other. In this way they can exchanges and share information, tip-offs and questions about all aspects regarding living in the Netherlands as an ex-pat.

At the same time The Learndutch Community is a framework within the students can do all kind of language games and exercises on an interactive base. These language games stimulates the students to keep on working on 'their Dutch' on their own and together.

The public part of the community is also on Facebook;
<https://www.facebook.com/learndutchcommunity>

The School for Dutch

Curriculum Survival Level 1

In this course you learn to handle a variety of straightforward situations such as shopping, eating out, talking about, work and family, asking directions, telling about your work, place of birth, your last or coming holiday etc.

It's the beginner's course but it's far from 'just' an elementary course. You are going to explore all the basic concepts of the Dutch language. The present tense, the negation, using the question words, direction and frequent words, one of the past tenses etc. etc.

Everything of the course is embedded in talking, in "doing the language".

- At the end you will be able to hold and understand not too complex conversations in the present and in the past.
- Course material can be adapted to the wishes of the participants.
- The group will get a rapport every week about what has been done and what would be the material for the next week. In this way students can keep track.

The School for Dutch

Curriculum Small Talk Level 2

This course is the logical follow up to the survival course. In this course students further their ability to hold a bit more complex conversations about daily topics such as: home, travel, family, work, tastes and preferences.

A number of grammar concepts will be practiced and extended, so that you can 'grow' step by step into more complex conversations. For instance you can use the three most important tenses, a few important conjunctions and all this in simple conversations about personal themes such as family, work, preferences, hobby's etc.

- At the end you will be able to hold and understand not too complex conversations in the present and in the past.
- Course material can be adapted to the wishes of the participants.
- If participants are not beginners we test their level of Dutch at the beginning, halfway and at the end we test again.
- The group will get a rapport every week about what has been done and what would be the material for the next week. In this way students can keep track.

The School for Dutch

Curriculum Conversation

Level 3

This course exists in the evening version in a lesson series of 10 X 1,5 hour.

The course can be easily adapted to the special needs of the student, by choosing the desired and the appropriate (reading) material. And also the amounts of hours can be adapted.

- In this course the student builds on his language skills by reading and preparing more extensive update articles from the papers. These articles are the base to extend vocabulary and for the talking and discussions in class, to increase fluency and confidence.
- All kind of grammar concepts will be explored, exercised and drilled, in a real conversational context. On this level we use the grammar sheet of the School for Dutch, mainly based on the grammar books: Beter Nederlands I + Beter Nederlands II. The sheets are a bit more simplified then these books.

The student is going to use more conjunctions, so he/she is able to formulate in a more complex way. He is going to handle the modal verbs, explore the passive form, the different sub-sentence constructions etc.

- The articles which the students have to prepare will be sent by e-mail together with an audio file.

Curriculum Discussion

Level 4

The discussion course builds on the curriculum of the conversation course; articles are a bit more complicated.

The School for Dutch

Price indication in-company courses *

Here you'll find the rates for private or in-company Dutch lessons.
The lessons are **tailor-made** and will focus on the exact needs of the students.

A lesson for	one person	€ 95*	per hour.
	two persons	- 100	- -
	three --	- 105	- -
	four --	- 110	- -
	five --	- 115	- -
	six --	- 120	- -
	seven --	- 125	- -
	eight --	- 130	
	nine --	- 135	
	ten --	- 140	
	eleven --	- 145	
	twelve --	- 150	

This an indication for in-company courses.

It's clear that the course costs per person will come down if more students participate in the course. Also the In-company prices include all the lesson materials: the book and the entry to the online exercises.
No extra costs.

There is of course a connection between price for in-company courses and individual evening courses. See the website for the individual evening courses.

- ✓ Testing at the beginning, halfway and at the end is included on request. (no extra costs)
- ✓ If the company is located outside Amsterdam, travelling time can be charged.
- ✓ Travelling costs are based on bus and train rates.