

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #1

## What Are You Doing in the Netherlands?

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# 1

## DUTCH

1. Selma: Hee Karin, wat ben je aan het doen?
2. Karin: Hee Selma, ik ben aan het studeren.
3. Selma: Ik zit televisie te kijken. Er is schaatsen op TV. Heb je zin om langs te komen?
4. Karin: Ja, gezellig. Ik ben hartstikke moe en ik ben het studeren zat.
5. Selma: Komt je man ook? Of is hij nog aan het werken?
6. Karin: Nee, Jan is niet aan het werken. Hij ligt al te slapen.

## ENGLISH

1. Selma: Hi, Karin, what are you doing?
2. Karin: Hi, Selma, I'm studying.
3. Selma: I'm watching television. There's speed skating on TV. Would you like to come over?
4. Karin: Yes, I would love to. I'm very tired, and I'm fed up with studying.
5. Selma: Is your husband coming as well? Or is he still working?
6. Karin: No, Jan is not working. He's sleeping already.

## VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
moe	tired	adjective	
studeren	to study	verb	
televisie	television	noun	feminine
kijken	to watch	verb	
schaatsen	speed-skating	noun	neuter
hartstikke	very, totally	adverb	
het zat zijn	to be fed up (with something)	verb	
man	husband	noun	masculine
slapen	to sleep	verb	
al	already	adverb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Waarom ben je zo moe?</b></p> <p>"Why are you so tired?"</p>	<p><b>Ik voel me moe.</b></p> <p>"I'm tired."</p>
<p><b>Ik studeer aan de Universteit van Amsterdam.</b></p> <p>"I study at the University of Amsterdam."</p>	<p><b>Ik studeer aan de Universteit van Amsterdam.</b></p> <p>"I study at the University of Amsterdam."</p>
<p><b>Ik studeer op school altijd erg hard.</b></p> <p>"I always study hard at school."</p>	<p><b>Hij studeerde Frans en reisde toen naar West-Afrika.</b></p> <p>"He studied French, and then traveled to western Africa."</p>
<p><b>Mijn broer studeert elke dag 3 uur.</b></p> <p>"My brother studies every day for 3 hours."</p>	<p><b>Ik studeer de hele dag en vaak ook 's avonds.</b></p> <p>"I study all day and very often in the evening as well."</p>

<p><b>Ik studeer iedere avond.</b></p> <p>"I study each evening."</p>	<p><b>De televisie staat aan.</b></p> <p>"The television is switched on."</p>
<p><b>Ik kijk altijd naar deze tv-show.</b></p> <p>"I always watch this TV show."</p>	<p><b>Gewoonlijk kijk ik geen sport maar voor gister heb ik een uitzondering gemaakt.</b></p> <p>"Usually, I don't watch any sports but I made an exception yesterday."</p>
<p><b>Ik kijk in de spiegel.</b></p> <p>"I'm looking in the mirror."</p>	<p><b>De fans kijken naar een wedstrijd.</b></p> <p>"The fans are watching a game."</p>
<p><b>Schaatsen is mijn favoriete sport.</b></p> <p>"Speed-skating is my favorite sport."</p>	<p><b>Ik ben hartstikke verliefd op hem.</b></p> <p>"I'm totally in love with him."</p>
<p><b>Ik ben het zat!</b></p> <p>"I'm fed up with it!"</p>	<p><b>Wanneer ben je met jouw man getrouwd?</b></p> <p>"When did you marry your husband?"</p>
<p><b>Ik slaap gemiddeld 8 uur per nacht.</b></p> <p>"On average, I sleep 8 hours a night."</p>	<p><b>Ben je er al?</b></p> <p>"Are you there already?"</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***schaatsen*** ("speed skating")

In this conversation, we used the verb *schaatsen* as a noun, because Selma is talking about the sport speed skating. If you want to use a verb as a noun, use the infinitive. Sometimes it's preceded by the article *het*: verbs that we use as a noun are always neuter.

### ***hartstikke***

We use *hartstikke* quite often, but only in spoken (and casual) language. Use it instead of *heel* or *erg*, both meaning "very," and you'll sound like a native!

### ***man***

Another word for *man* is *echtgenoot*, which is slightly more formal.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Describing What You Are Doing.

*Hij ligt al te slapen.*

"He is sleeping already."

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In the conversation, Karin said *ik ben aan het studeren* ("I am studying"),

and Selma answered *Ik zit televisie te kijken* ("I am watching television").

Both Karin and Selma express that they are in the middle of an activity: Karin is studying, and Selma is watching television.

The two most common ways in Dutch to express that your activity is still ongoing are as follows:

### 1. *zijn + aan het + [infinitive]*

**For Example:**

1. *Ik ben aan het lezen.*  
"I am reading."
2. *Hij is aan het slapen.*  
"He is sleeping."
3. *Wij zijn aan het praten.*  
"We are talking."

### 2. *zitten/staan/liggen + te + [infinitive]*

**For Example:**

1. *Ik zit te lezen.*  
"I am reading (while sitting)."
2. *Hij ligt te slapen.*  
"He is sleeping (while lying down)."
3. *Wij staan te praten.*  
"We are talking (while standing)."

## Conjugation

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1. Still remember the conjugation of the irregular verb *zijn* ("to be")? Use the correct conjugation: *ik ben/jij bent/hij is...aan het lezen!* ("I am"/"you are"/"he is...reading"). The words *aan het* + [infinitive] indicate that the action is going on.

2. In the Absolute Beginner series, you've learned that in Dutch you often indicate whether something or someone is "sitting," "standing," or "lying" while doing something, whereas in English you just say that it or he "is."

**For Example:**

1. *Het boek ligt op tafel.*  
"The book is on the table." (literally, "the book is lying on the table")

It's the same for the examples below.

**For Example:**

1. *Ik ben aan het lezen.*  
"I am reading."
2. *Ik zit te lezen.*  
"I am sitting and reading."

The meaning is the same, but in the second sentence, we added information on how you are reading the book. For now, only try to recognize these two forms of expressing that you are in the middle of an activity. We'll practice later on.

**Examples From the Dialogue**

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1. Selma: *wat ben je aan het doen?*  
"What are you doing?"
2. Selma: *Of is hij nog aan het werken?*  
"Or is he still working?"
3. Karin: *Hij ligt al te slapen.*  
"He is sleeping already."

**CULTURAL INSIGHT**

## The Netherlands: A Sport-Minded Country

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Selma is watching speed skating on TV, as a lot of Dutch people do in the wintertime. Dutch people are not only fond of watching sports, but they also love to do it themselves!

Nearly 5 million people are registered sports club members; that is, nearly one-third of the Dutch population! There are thousands of organizations, ranging from national sports authorities to a variety of small local clubs.

The number one sport in the Netherlands is football. Dutch football players Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten, and Ruud Gullit are famous and well known around the world. Ice skating is also an important part of the Dutch sports heritage. Most winters it's not freezing long enough to skate on natural ice, so most people go to indoor ice rinks. If it freezes long enough, one of the longest skating marathons on natural ice in the world is held in the province of Friesland: *de Elfstedentocht* (literally, "the Eleven Cities tour").

Hockey is also played widely, cycling is very popular, and tennis clubs can be found in almost every town. Swimming, gymnastics, athletics, korfbal, rowing, and equestrian sports are also widely practiced, among a variety of other sports.