

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Catching up with an Old Dutch Friend

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#1

DIALOGUE - DUTCH

MAIN

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!
7. M : What a surprise!
8. A : Yes!

VOCABULARY

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

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ja, wij gaan ook op vakantie. "Yes, we also go on holiday."	Hij gooit een steen. "He throws a rock."
Dat was een grote verrassing! "That was a big surprise!"	Hallo Mies hoe gaat het? "Hello Mies, how are you?"
Hallo Adam. "Hello, Adam."	Ik voel me goed. "I feel good."
Dat is een goed Japans restaurant. "That's a good Japanese restaurant."	Ga je naar de film met me? "Will you go to the movies with me?"
Hoe gaat het met u? "How are you?"	Ja, ik spreek het heel goed. "Yes, I speak very well."
Ik ben afgelopen week ook naar de tandarts geweest. "I also went to the dentist last week."	Ga je ook op vakantie? "Are you also going on a holiday?"

Ik en mijn vrienden.

"Me and my friends."

De vrouw geeft de kinderen les.

"The woman is teaching the children."

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").