

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S1 #1

## Meeting a New Dutch Coworker

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# DIALOGUE - DUTCH

## MAIN

1. Directeur : Goedemorgen iedereen. We hebben een nieuwe collega. Dit is Mevrouw van Dale.
2. Mevrouw van Dale : Goedemorgen, leuk u te ontmoeten.
3. Directeur : Mevrouw van Dale, waar hebt u gestudeerd?
4. Mevrouw van Dale : Ik heb in Leiden gestudeerd. Nederlands en Spaans.
5. Directeur : Oh! Dus u heeft ook Spaans geleerd?
6. Mevrouw van Dale : Ja, die taal heb ik ook geleerd. Ik heb als kind ook in Spanje gewoond.
7. Directeur : En waar heeft u hiervoor gewerkt?
8. Mevrouw van Dale : Ik heb op verschillende scholen in Rotterdam lesgegeven.

## ENGLISH

1. Director : Good morning, everybody. We have a new colleague. This is Mrs. van Dale.
2. Mrs van Dale : Good morning, nice to meet you.
3. Director : Mrs van Dale, where have you studied?
4. Mrs van Dale : I've studied in Leiden; Dutch and Spanish.
5. Director : Ah! So you've learned Spanish as well?
6. Mrs van Dale : Yes, I've studied that language as well. As a child I also lived in Spain.
7. Director : And where have you worked before?
8. Mrs van Dale : I've taught at several schools in Rotterdam.

## VOCABULARY

Dutch	English	Class	Gender
hiervoor	before this	adverb	
directeur	director	noun	masculine
als	as, if	conjunction	
nieuw	new	adjective	
iedereen	everyone, everybody	pronoun	
collega	colleague	noun	masculine
kind	child	noun	
verschillend	different, various	adjective	
studeren	to study	verb	
ook	also	adverb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hiervoor werkte ik als vertaler.</p> <p>"Before this I worked as a translator."</p>	<p>De directeur is een erg serieuze man.</p> <p>"The director is a very serious man."</p>
<p>Als je de mogelijkheid hebt, bezoek dan Japan.</p> <p>"If you have the opportunity, visit Japan."</p>	<p>Als je de mogelijkheid hebt, bezoek dan Japan.</p> <p>"If you have the opportunity, visit Japan."</p>
<p>Het is niet zo makkelijk om steeds maar nieuwe ideeën te creëren.</p> <p>"It's not so easy to keep creating new ideas."</p>	<p>Ik begin maandag met een nieuwe baan.</p> <p>"I'll start a new job on Monday."</p>
<p>Gefeliciteerd met uw nieuwe auto.</p> <p>"Congratulations on your new car."</p>	<p>Heeft iedereen vrij met Pasen?</p> <p>"Is everybody free on Easter?"</p>
<p>Niet iedereen is even zorgvuldig als sommige anderen.</p> <p>"Not everyone is as meticulous as some people are."</p>	<p>Heeft iedereen vrij met de Pasen?</p> <p>"Is everybody free on Easter?"</p>
<p>Ik heb met de meeste van mijn collega's voor vele jaren gewerkt.</p> <p>I have worked with most of my colleagues for many years.</p>	<p>David en ik zijn collega's.</p> <p>David and I are colleagues.</p>
<p>Mijn collega's zijn mijn vrienden geworden.</p> <p>"My colleagues have become my friends."</p>	<p>Het directielid vertrok met een collega.</p> <p>"The company executive left with a colleague."</p>

<p>Toen ik nog een kind was reed ik elke dag op mijn fiets naar school.</p> <p>"When I was a child I used to ride my bike to school every day."</p>	<p>Ik heb een (1) kind.</p> <p>"I have one child."</p>
<p>Ik ga graag naar een restaurant met verschillend eten.</p> <p>"I like to go to a restaurant with diverse food."</p>	<p>Ik studeer aan de Universteit van Amsterdam.</p> <p>"I study at the University of Amsterdam."</p>
<p>Ik studeer aan de Universteit van Amsterdam.</p> <p>"I study at the University of Amsterdam."</p>	<p>Ik studeer op school altijd erg hard.</p> <p>"I always study hard at school."</p>
<p>Hij studeerde Frans en reisde toen naar West-Afrika.</p> <p>"He studied French, and then traveled to western Africa."</p>	<p>Mijn broer studeert elke dag 3 uur.</p> <p>"My brother studies every day for 3 hours."</p>
<p>Ik studeer de hele dag en vaak ook 's avonds.</p> <p>"I study all day and very often in the evening as well."</p>	<p>Ik studeer iedere avond.</p> <p>"I study each evening."</p>
<p>Ik ben afgelopen week ook naar de tandarts geweest.</p> <p>"I also went to the dentist last week."</p>	<p>Ga je ook op vakantie?</p> <p>"Are you also going on a holiday?"</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***als kind* "as a child"**

The Dutch *als* usually means "if," but in this sentence it is used as "when." So *als kind* means "when I was a child."

In English the difference between "if" and "when" is fairly obvious, but in Dutch there can be some confusion. For example, *als het regent* and can be both "if it rains" and "when it rains." Officially, however, "if" should be *als* and "when" should be *wanneer*.

That would make "when it rains, I never go to the beach" *wanneer het regent, ga ik niet naar het strand*, but in actuality most people will use *als het regent*.

For example:

1. *Als kind was ik altijd moeilijk.*  
"As a child I was always difficult."

***We hebben een nieuwe collega.* "We have a new colleague."**

*We hebben* means "We have" and *een nieuwe collega* is "a new colleague."

This is a sentence used to start an introduction, like an opening sentence before the more substantive part of the introduction speech starts. A more formal way to say it would be "Please allow me to introduce...," or in Dutch, *Staat u mij toe .. voor te stellen*, but that would immediately turn it into a very official event and might give the wrong impression.

For example:

1. *We hebben een nieuwe collega. Laten we een borrel drinken.*  
"We have a new colleague. Let's have a drink."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is Using the Present Perfect tense for Self-Introductions**

***Ik heb in Leiden gestudeerd. Nederlands en Spaans***

**"I have studied in Leiden; Dutch and Spanish."**

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The present perfect tense is used to explain that something has happened in the past, but it does not specify at what time exactly.

In Dutch the present perfect is called the *voltooid tegenwoordige tijd* and is used in exactly the same way as in English.

### Formation

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The "present perfect" (*voltooid tegenwoordige tijd*) is made with a subject [noun, pronoun, or proper name] + the modal verb *hebben* (*heb*) + the main verb (past participle).

For example, when used with a proper name:

1. *Mevrouw van Dale heeft gestudeerd.*  
"Mrs van Dale has studied."

And with a pronoun:

1. *Ik heb in Leiden gestudeerd.*  
"I have studied in Leiden."

*In Leiden* is extra information about the place, and this will not change in other tenses.

In this case we don't know which years she spent studying as the present perfect doesn't specify an exact time.

The present perfect tense can also be used to say that something started in the past, but is still going on.

For example:

1. *Ik woon sinds 2011 in Singapore.*

"I have lived in Singapore since 2011," with the implication that I am still living there.

In the simple past (in Dutch: *onvoltooid verleden tijd*), you can be more precise. For example, you would use it to say *In 1999 woonde ik in Singapore* ("In 1999 I lived in Singapore").

So in the dialogue, when the new teacher is introducing herself and telling a bit about her past, she uses the present perfect.

Dialogue lines in which you will find the present perfect tense:

<i>Directeur: Mevrouw van Dale, waar <b>hebt u gestudeerd?</b></i>	Director: Mrs van Dale, where have you studied?
<i>Mevrouw van Dale: <b>Ik heb</b> in Leiden <b>gestudeerd</b>. Nederlands en Spaans.</i>	Mrs van Dale: I've studied in Leiden; Dutch and Spanish.
<i>Directeur: Oh! Dus <b>u heeft</b> ook Spaans <b>geleerd?</b></i>	Director: Ah! So you've learned Spanish as well?
<i>Mevrouw van Dale: Ja, die taal <b>heb ik</b> ook <b>geleerd</b>. Ik heb als kind ook in Spanje gewoond.</i>	Mrs van Dale: Yes, I've studied that language as well. As a child I also lived in Spain.
<i>Directeur: En waar <b>heeft u</b> hiervoor <b>gewerkt?</b></i>	Director: And where have you worked before?
<i>Mevrouw van Dale: <b>Ik heb</b> op verschillende scholen in Rotterdam <b>lesgegeven</b>.</i>	Mrs van Dale: I've taught at several schools in Rotterdam.

Compare the following sentences:

Present perfect: *Ik heb in China gereisd.* ("I have travelled in China.")

Simple past: *In 1987 reisde ik in China.* ("In 1987 I travelled in China.")

Present perfect: *Ik heb altijd veel aan sport gedaan.* ("I have always done a lot of sports.")

Simple past: *Op school deed ik veel aan sport.*("When I was at school I used to do a lot of sports.")

So you could say that the new teacher uses the present perfect to give some information about her former career, but without being too specific.

### Examples from the dialogue:

1. *En waar hebt u hiervoor gewerkt?*  
"And where have you worked before?"
2. *Ik heb op verschillende scholen in Rotterdam lesgegeven.*  
"I've taught at several schools in Rotterdam."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Ik heb altijd in Leiden gestudeerd, maar nooit in andere steden.*  
"I've always studied in Leiden, but never in other cities."
2. *En waar hebt u hiervoor gewerkt? Ook in het onderwijs?*  
"And where did you work before? Also in education?"
3. *Ik heb als kind ook in Spanje gewoond, maar daarna alleen maar in Nederland.*  
"As a child I'd lived in Spain, but after that only in the Netherlands."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Formal versus Informal Relationships and Language

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It is always difficult to make the right choice between formal and informal language. In Holland this will depend on a lot of factors. The type of relationship between two people matters of course, but age, background and education also have an influence on how you speak.

Holland used to be much more formal than it is now, but since the sixties things have become more relaxed. It is now perfectly acceptable to start a conversation using the informal *je* instead of the formal *u* (both meaning "you"), when talking to somebody of the same age and status. Of course when addressing a prime minister, CEO or somebody else with a high position, you use *u*.

When unsure, always start with formal language or ask *mag ik 'je' zeggen?*, meaning "May I use *je*?" or, in practice, "Can we be on a first-name basis?"