

It fills in considerable detail on all the grammatical topics discussed in *Dutch: An Essential Grammar*, emphasizing contrast with English and distinguishing styles/levels of usage in the modern language.

There are appendices on letter writing, geographical proper nouns and abbreviations; in addition there is a glossary of grammatical terms.

Another contrastive grammar is:

W. de Moor and E. Copriau, *A Contrastive Reference Grammar English/Dutch*. Kapellen: Pelckmans, 1998.

A good Dutch grammar written in Dutch but intended for foreign students of the language is:

A.M. Fontein and A. Pescher-Ter Meer, *Nederlandse grammatica voor anderstaligen*. Utrecht: Nederlands Centrum Buitenlanders, 1998.

The authoritative Dutch description of the standard language, discussing innumerable subtleties of usage, is:

W. Haeseryn et al., *Algemene Nederlandse Spraakkunst*. Groningen: Martinus Nijhoff/Deurne: Wolters Plantyn, 2nd edn 1997 (2 vols).

Online version: <http://oase.uci.kun.nl/~ans/>

## 27.2 Dictionaries

There is also a wide variety of inexpensive, handily sized dictionaries. Some of them, however, are simply reprints of much older works and many of them do not include illustrative phrases. Since many of these dictionaries were originally intended for Dutch people learning English, some do not include noun genders—a feature that is essential to the English-speaking student.

Most of the dictionaries listed here are also available on CD-ROM.

A modern, moderately priced paperback dictionary that includes both examples illustrating usage and noun genders is:

*English–Dutch and Dutch–English Dictionary*. Kramers Pocket Dictionaries. Amsterdam/Brussels: Elsevier (2 vols).

Of the next two, the first is the more comprehensive Dutch–English dictionary and the second is a somewhat condensed version of it; all the Van Dale dictionaries are published by Van Dale Lexicologie, Utrecht/Antwerpen:

*Van Dale groot woordenboek Nederlands–Engels, Engels–Nederlands* (2 vols).

*Van Dale handwoordenboek Nederlands–Engels* (2 vols).

The authoritative large dictionary of the modern Dutch language is:

*Van Dale groot woordenboek der Nederlandse taal*. 14th edn 2005 (3 vols).

Two shorter versions of this are:

*Van Dale groot woordenboek hedendaags Nederlands*.

*Van Dale handwoordenboek hedendaags Nederlands*.

All the Van Dale dictionaries listed here are also available on CD-ROM. One of them includes, on the same disc, a very useful synonym dictionary, which gives considerable extra help with correct idiomatic usage:

*Groot woordenboek hedendaags Nederlands* and *Groot Synoniemenwoordenboek*. Van Dale elektronische bibliotheek.

Van Dale also publishes a dictionary especially written for those whose native language is other than Dutch:

*Van Dale Pocketwoordenboek Nederlands als tweede taal*.

About 14,000 of the most frequent and useful Dutch words are provided with simple definitions. Some 650 illustrations further clarify meanings.

*Basiswoordenboek Nederlands*.

A review of the few thousand most frequent words essential to the beginner.

Another such list is:

J. van de Pol, *Basiswoordenlijst Nederlandse taal*. Den Haag: Sdu/Antwerpen: Standaard, 1998.

An extremely useful dictionary is:

Bruce Donaldson, *Beyond the Dictionary in Dutch. A guide to correct word usage for the English-speaking student*. Muiderberg: Coutinho, 1990.

There are, of course, many other types of dictionary available to Dutch speakers, such as pronunciation, picture, etymological, slang and neologism, synonym, and frequency dictionaries, and many dictionaries dealing with specialized vocabularies. One that could be of particular use to the student

is the book—universally referred to as *Het Groene Boekje*—that does not include meanings but lists the officially sanctioned spelling of some 110,000 words, plus correct past tenses and plurals:

*Woordenlijst Nederlandse taal*. The Hague: Sdu/Antwerpen: Standaard, 2005.

Online version: <http://woordenlijst.org/>

### 27.3 Reading

Although there is a wide variety of stories and essays in print, there is still a shortage of thoroughly annotated reading material available to beginners. Because of the lamentable fact that published readers (such as the annotated *Reading Dutch* of a few years ago which can now be found only in libraries) tend to have very short lives in print, we will not attempt any list here.

The student who does not have access to Dutch bookstores or a library with a Dutch collection is probably best advised to make use—if possible—of electronic sources, our next category.

### 27.4 The Internet

Because of rapid change, this paragraph will list only a few of the most reliable sources. For a variety of regularly updated information on electronic language sources, the reader is urged to consult the Routledge website: [www.routledge.com/9780415423076](http://www.routledge.com/9780415423076).

There is abundant reading material in Dutch on the Internet, although most of it is not specifically aimed at beginners. All the major daily newspapers and one of the best-known weeklies in the Netherlands maintain a web page, for instance: check [www.kranten.com](http://www.kranten.com) for headlines of national and regional Dutch papers and the main Belgian newspapers. All are linked to the newspaper concerned.

Some main web pages:

<i>NRC-Handelsblad</i>	<a href="http://www.nrc.nl">www.nrc.nl</a>
<i>Het Parool</i>	<a href="http://www.parool.nl">www.parool.nl</a>
<i>De Telegraaf</i>	<a href="http://www.telegraaf.nl">www.telegraaf.nl</a>
<i>De Volkskrant</i>	<a href="http://www.volkskrant.nl">www.volkskrant.nl</a>
<i>De Groene Amsterdammer</i>	<a href="http://www.groene.nl">www.groene.nl</a>

*Note:* More and more newspapers are offering short video clips on their websites. Note also that for some newspapers you have to log in. Registration is free.

In Belgium:

*De Standaard*                      **[www.standaard.be](http://www.standaard.be)**

*Gazet van Antwerpen*        **[www.gva.be](http://www.gva.be)**

*De Morgen*                        **[www.demorgen.be](http://www.demorgen.be)**

Everything related to Dutch public television and radio can be found on the website:

**<http://portal.omroep.nl/>**

Those interested in hearing Dutch short-wave broadcasts can find the schedule on the web page of the *Radio Nederland Wereldomroep*:

**[www.radionetherlands.nl](http://www.radionetherlands.nl)**

The most reliable source of information on recent novels and stories, usually including some samples, is the website of the *Nederlands Literair Productie- en Vertalingenfonds*:

**[www.nlpvf.nl](http://www.nlpvf.nl)**

The Digital Library for Dutch literature (DBNL), **<http://www.dbnl.nl/>**, has an enormous archive with books for those whose reading capacity is already rather good.

There are introductory Dutch courses on the Internet, but what is currently available changes very rapidly. Some suggestions are available on the Routledge website.

The student who has access to the Internet is urged to become familiar with the website of the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union), an intergovernmental organization that in many ways promotes the Dutch language and letters in the Low Countries and abroad. The site contains a number of links to many pages concerning the Dutch language:

**<http://taalunieversum.org/>**

A society in the Netherlands called the *Genootschap Onze Taal* publishes an engagingly written monthly newsletter full of interesting articles about all aspects of the modern Dutch language. Its website offers information and links to other sites on dictionaries, spelling questions, hints on usage, history of the language and—perhaps most importantly—Dutch language courses:

**www.onzetaal.nl**

Links to many further sources of information concerning the Low Countries can be found on the official governmental sites in the Netherlands and Flanders:

**www.minbuza.nl**

**www.vlaanderen.be**

## 27.5 Other resources

Detailed updated information on these can also be found on the Routledge website. Several Dutch introductory courses available in bookstores include one or two CDs. One of these, consisting of a textbook and two audio CDs, is:

Gerda Bodegom and Bruce Donaldson, *Colloquial Dutch 2: The next step in language learning*. London and New York: Routledge, 2005.

The book consists of 12 units on a variety of subjects dealing with modern life in the Netherlands. Each recorded unit is comprised of texts, dialogues and audio exercises and the book contains language reviews, written exercises, explanatory material and vocabulary.

For a more basic introduction to the language, you can use:

Bruce Donaldson, *Colloquial Dutch*. London and New York: Routledge, 2008.

Among other introductory courses that include CDs and CD-ROMs, perhaps the most ambitious is:

*Help! Een cursus Nederlands voor anderstaligen: 1. Kunt u mij helpen?; 2. Kunt u mij even helpen?; 3. Zal ik u even helpen?* Utrecht: Nederlands Centrum Buitenlanders.

## 27.6 Histories of the Dutch language

The most thorough presentation of the Dutch language is:

Pierre Brachin, *The Dutch Language: A survey*. Leiden: Brill, 1985.

A brief description of the language, offering a sketch of its history and its place within the Germanic language family, is: