

## Months of the year

<b>januari</b>	January
<b>februari</b>	February
<b>maart</b>	March
<b>april</b>	April
<b>mei</b>	May
<b>juni</b>	June
<b>juli</b>	July
<b>augustus</b>	August
<b>september</b>	September
<b>oktober</b>	October
<b>november</b>	November
<b>december</b>	December

*Note:* the names of the days and months are *not* capitalized in Dutch.

In dates, Dutch ordinarily uses a cardinal number:

<b>één januari</b>	the first of January, January first
<b>vrijdag, veertien februari</b>	Friday, February fourteenth
<b>op zeventwintig maart</b>	on the twenty-seventh of March

Although, occasionally, ordinals are used as well:

**Het is vandaag de achtste april.**

Today is the eighth of April.

**De vijftiende mei valt dit jaar op een dinsdag.**

The fifteenth of May falls on a Tuesday this year.

When the month is not given, ordinal numbers are obligatory:

**vrijdag de dertiende**

Friday the thirteenth

**De vijftiende valt dit jaar op een zondag.**

The fifteenth this year is on a Sunday.

**Wanneer is je examen?**

When is your exam?

**Op de zevenentwintigste.**

On the twenty-seventh.

The normal way of writing dates is to use the numeral, which then precedes the name of the month. Note carefully that this order is kept when the date is written entirely in numbers:

**25 juni 1997**      **(25–6–1997)**      June 25, 1997 (6–22–1997)

**4 juli 2001**      **(4–7–2001)**      July 4, 2001 (7–4–2001)

Before 2000, the year is commonly expressed in hundreds:

**1492**      **veertien (honderd) tweeënegentig**

**1999**      **negentien (honderd) negenennegentig**

After 2000, the year is expressed in thousands (at least for the first decade or so). Dutch usually doesn't express a number like 2200 in hundreds, but in thousands and hundreds: **tweeduizend tweehonderd**:

**2001**      **tweeduizend één**

**2035**      **tweeduizend vijfendertig**  
(or **twintig vijfendertig**? It is still impossible to say how this will develop in the future)

**10.3.1 Let's try it**

Answer the following questions:

Wanneer ben je geboren?

Op welke dag ben je jarig?

Welke dag is het vandaag?

In welk jaar leven we nu?

**10.4 Units of currency, measures and time****10.4.1 Currency**

Before the introduction of the euro, the unit of currency was different for the Netherlands and Belgium. Belgium had the Belgian *frank* and the

Netherlands had the *guilder*. There were colloquial names for some of the coins or notes, but that has changed with the euro. In what way it will affect the Dutch language is not clear yet. The symbol for the euro is €.

#### 10.4.2 Measures

Length: **centimeter, meter, kilometer**

Liquid volume: **liter**

Weight: **gram, ons, pond, kilo**

Used in the plural only when the individual units are emphasized and when they are not preceded by a definite number. When preceded by a definite number, the singular form is used:

**Wij berekenen een afstand, lengte, breedte in centimeters, meters en kilometers en gewichten in kilo's en grammen of in ponden. Wij meten water in liters.**

We measure a distance, length or width in centimeters, meters and kilometers and weights in kilograms and grams or in pounds. We measure water in liters.

but:

**Dat is dan vijftig euro samen.**

That is fifty euros all together.

**Dat kost vier euro, vijfendertig (cent).**

That costs four euros and thirty-five cents.

**Brugge is twintig kilometer van Oostende.**

Brugge is twenty kilometers from Oostende.

**drie kilo sinaasappels en honderd gram wilde paddestoelen**  
three kilograms of oranges, and a hundred grams of wild mushrooms

**anderhalf pond appels**  
one and a half pounds of apples

**twee ons ham**  
two ounces of ham

**drie liter melk**  
three liters of milk

*Note:* In the case of weights and measures, the noun immediately follows the unit of measurement, without any joining preposition as in English:

**vijf kilo kaas**                      five kilos of cheese

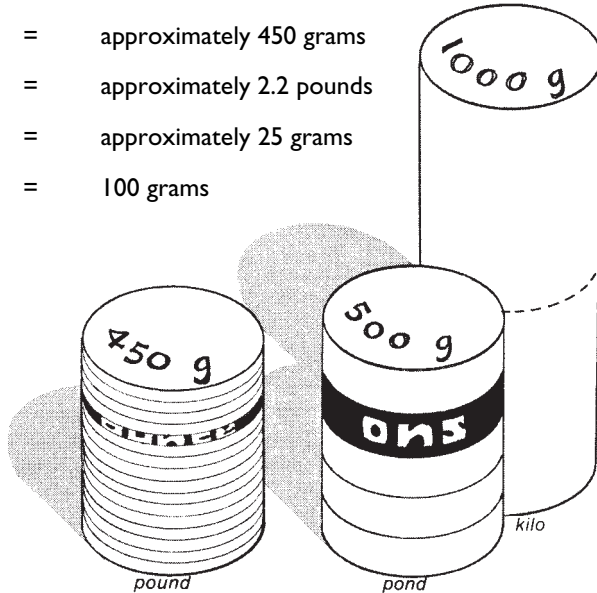
**twee liter melk**                    two liters of milk

one pound                    =                    approximately 450 grams

**eén kilo**                                =                    approximately 2.2 pounds

one ounce                    =                    approximately 25 grams

**eén ons**                                =                    100 grams



#### 10.4.3 Time

**Er zijn twaalf maanden in één jaar.**

There are twelve months in a year.

**Er zijn 365 dagen in één jaar.**

There are 365 days in a year.

**Eén jaar heeft 52 weken.**

One year has 52 weeks.

#### 10.4.4 By the way

Many expressions of time and number seem unpredictable and thus idiomatic from the point of view of English:

**Zij zijn met z'n tweeën.**

There are two of them, they're a twosome.

**10**

Numbers  
and dates,  
currency and  
measure-  
ment, telling  
the time

**Wij zijn met ons drieën.**

There are three of us, we're a threesome.

**De hoeveelste is het vandaag?**

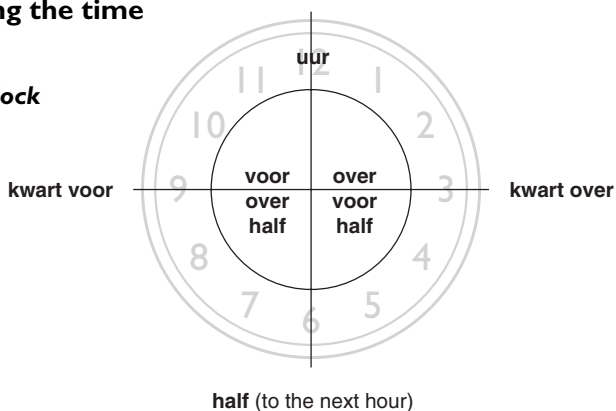
What's the date today?

**Hebt u terug van 25 euro?**

Do you have change for 25 euros?

<b>van de week</b>	this week
<b>vrijdag over een week</b>	a week from Friday
<b>over veertien dagen</b>	in two weeks
<b>over een maand of drie</b>	in two or three months
<b>een jaar of tien</b>	around ten years
<b>een stuk of vijf appels</b>	about five apples
<b>ongeveer vijf appels</b>	about five apples

*Note:* The last examples express an approximate number and they do so by using the unstressed *een*, “a,” and not the stressed *één* “one.”

**10.5 Telling the time****10.5.1 The clock**

The Dutch method of telling time differs from the English. The principal reason for this is the fact that the half hour is treated as just as important a point in time as the hour itself: whereas in English, the minutes are reckoned in relation to the hour, in Dutch they are reckoned in relation to both the hour *and* the half hour: