

Dit zijn haar boeken.

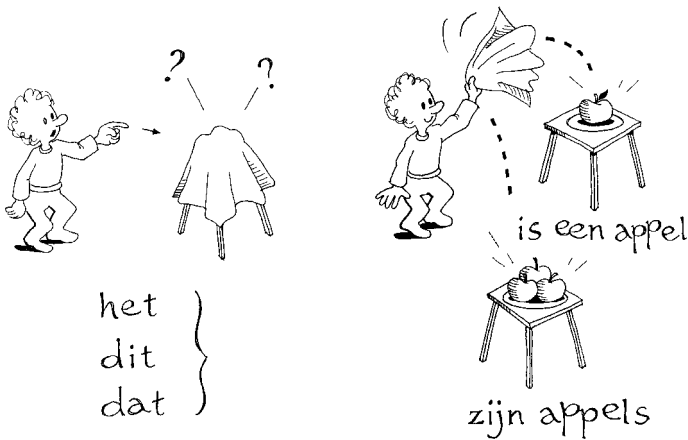
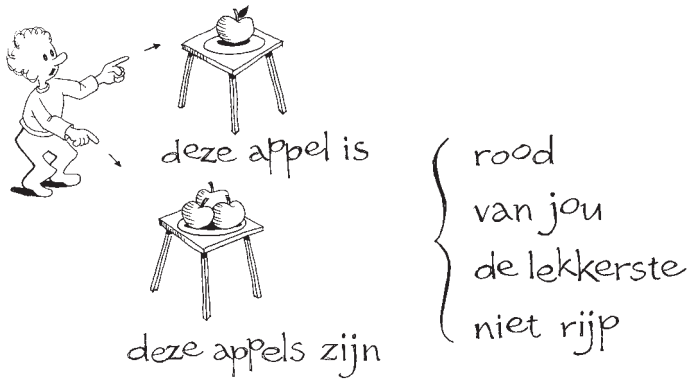
These are her books.

This is the same for articles:

Wie is dat? Het zijn de burens.

Who is that? It's the neighbors.

Here is how to remember it.



The unspecified thing (demonstrative) is modified by noun and verb.

		NOUN	
		sg.	pl.
common		tuin	tuinen
	neuter	huis	huizen
DEFINITE ARTICLE or DEMONSTRATIVE		de	deze
		het	dit
		dat	die

		NOUN	
		sg.	pl.
c.		tuin	tuinen
	n.	huis	huizen
INDEFINITE ARTICLE		een*	-

* may be missing in sing.: "mass" nouns

"count" nouns: *tuin-tuinen*,
huis-huizen, *dag-dagen*, *reis-reizen* ...

"mass" nouns: *water*, *melk*,
bier, *zand*, *verkeer*,
schoonheid ...

4.3.1 Let's try it

de, het, een, deze, die, dat, dit or nothing?

Er loopt _____ kat in onze tuin. _____ kat is pikzwart.

Gebruik je _____ melk en _____ suiker in je koffie?

Daar loopt _____ politieagent. _____ politieagent kan ons vast wel helpen.

Onze computer is kapot. Morgen gaan wij _____ nieuwe computer kopen.

In _____ klas zitten vijf jongens en een meisje. _____ jongens komen uit _____ Verenigde Staten en _____ meisje komt uit Canada.

Dit is mijn oudste broer. _____ woont in Frankrijk.

Wat is _____ Lange Voorhout? _____ is _____ straat in Den Haag.
_____ is _____ straat waar veel ambassades gevestigd zijn.

Chapter 5

Personal pronouns and the verb

5.1 Subject forms

The subject forms of personal pronouns are:

Singular			Plural			
Person	Stressed	Unstressed	English	Stressed	Unstressed	English
1	ik	'k	I	wij	we	we
2	jij	je	you (informal)	jullie	(je)	you (informal)
	u	–	you (formal)	u (+ verb in singular)	–	you (formal)
3	hij	ie (after verb)	he	zij	ze	they
	zij	ze	she			
	het	't	it			

Most pronouns have two forms:

- 1 The emphatic or stressed form: used regularly in writing, but used in speaking only for particular emphasis on the person.
- 2 The non-emphatic or unstressed form: used in speaking where the emphasis is usually not on the pronoun but on the accompanying verb. Non-emphatic forms are often used in less formal writing, though **ie** is almost never used in writing. All unstressed forms except **ie** are pronounced with a very short **e** sound. **'t/'k** usually merge almost completely with the following word, as in English “’twas.”

Note: In order to avoid confusion, or misuse of the unstressed form, it is best to always use the stressed form, because it is always correct to use the stressed form, but not always correct to use the unstressed form:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| A: Wie heeft dat gedaan? | A: Who did it? |
| B: Ik. | B: I did. |
| A: Jij? | A: You? |
| B: Ja, ik. | B: Yes, me. |

5.1.1 The pronoun *u*, *jij*, *jullie*

This pronoun is used as a polite form to casual acquaintances, strangers, superiors and in general to persons a generation older. Like English “you,” it can refer to one person or several people, but its accompanying verb form remains singular. The familiar **jij**, **jullie** are used for relatives, close friends and anyone under the age of 18. Generally speaking, it is advisable to translate English “you” by **u** unless there is a specific reason for using **jij** or **jullie**. That said, the trend is to expand the use of **jij** and **jullie**.

5.2 Use of pronouns

Since things in Dutch may have one of two genders, **het** “it” must be used only for those nouns that are neuter and **hij** for all others, even though to a speaker of English this seems to violate a feeling that inanimate objects cannot be personalized with the word “he”:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| de garage: | hij (die) is groot | the garage: it is large |
| de organisatie: | (zij) die is groot | the organization: it is large |
| het huis: | het is wit | the house: it is white |

However, **het** is used in the introductory phrase “it is,” “they are,” when the object(s) or person(s) have not been specifically named as yet:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Het is onze auto. | It is our car. |
| Het zijn onze sleutels. | They are our keys. |
| Het zijn hun collega's | They are their colleagues. |

5.2.1 Let's try it

Fill in the appropriate personal pronoun:

- 1 Mijn neefje komt op bezoek. _____ is vier jaar.
- 2 Zijn vrouw is een beetje ziek. _____ heeft last van de hitte.
- 3 _____ ben een beetje ziek.
- 4 Wij gaan naar de dierentuin. Gaat _____ ook mee, meneer Kroes?
- 5 Jij hebt vijf kleinkinderen. Vind _____ het leuk om opa te zijn?
- 6 Tot morgen, Hans. Hoe laat kom _____?

5.3 Present tense

Dutch verbs are always cited in the infinitive form. This, with a few exceptions to be discussed in the following chapter, regularly ends in **-en**. In order to conjugate a verb this ending is removed, leaving the stem of the verb, to which the appropriate personal endings are then added. In the present tense the verb assumes only three different forms:

helpen to help

stem = infinitive – **-en** = help

Singular		Plural	
Ik help	Help ik?	Wij helpen	Helpen wij?
Jij helpt	Help jij?	Jullie helpen	Helpen jullie?
Hij, zij, het helpt	Helpt hij, zij, het?	Zij helpen	Helpen zij?
U helpt	Helpt u?		

Note 1: When the pronoun **u** is used, whether it addresses one or more people the verb is always singular.

Note 2: When **jij/je** follows the verb and its subject, the verb always drops the ending **-t**, but not the **t** of the stem (**zit je, praat je**):

Hij geeft je een appel.

He gives you an apple.

(Here **je** is the indirect object and doesn't change the verb form.)