SPEED DATING WITH THE LOW COUNTRIES

Cultural Encounters with Flanders & the Netherlands
September 10 - Columbia University, September 11 - TimesCenter

Dutch for beginners

Alle Nederlanders en Belgen spreken twee of meer talen (al-lar nay-der-lan-ders en bel-khen spray-ken tvay of mayr taa-lern) All Dutch and Belgian people speak two or more languages. And you can do that too.

Why not learn Dutch?
Discover Dutch

Do you know less about the Dutch culture than about the Paraguayan culture? Does Ukraine sound as strange as the language of the people who founded your city, the Dutch? This is your chance. De Nederlandse Taalunie - the Dutch Language Union - aims at a worldwide broadening of familiarity with the Dutch language and the culture of the Low Countries and Surinam. Every two years, in different places all over the world “Days of Dutch” will be organized together with local partners. During these Days, the focus is on the Dutch language and the culture of the Low Countries and Surinam as presented in literature, music, film, theater, etcetera. New York will be the location of the first of these Days. Its motto is, “Speed Dating with the Low Countries - Cultural Encounters with Flanders and the Netherlands.”

Sentences to use when you meet someone from the Netherlands or Flanders

Prettig met u kennis te maken. (pret-tikh met uw ken-nis te maa-kern) Nice to meet you!

Een momentje, alstublieft! (Ern moo-men-tjer, alst-uw-bliet) Just a moment, please!

Hebben uw voorouders echt New York gesticht? (Heb-behn uw voor-ow-ders ekht New Yok ger-stikht?) Did your ancestors really found New York?

Wat vindt u van onze stad? (vat vint uw van on-ze stat?) How do you like our city?

Cookies, Coleslaw, and Stoops

Cookies, Coleslaw, and Stoops shows how the Dutch heritage extends to far outside New York and can even be traced in the Amerindian languages. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, new waves of Dutch and Flemish immigrants came to the United States; they, too, enriched the American English vocabulary.

What have been the fortunes of Dutch in the US? For how long has it been spoken, and has it remained unaltered? How great was and is the influence of Dutch on American English? What Dutch words have been borrowed into Amerindian languages? In this book, the well-known linguist Dr Nicoline van der Sijjs discusses these and other questions.

On September 10th minister Ronald Plasterk presents this book.
**Dutch is going strong**

Dutch is one of the 23 official languages of the European Union. Dutch is also one of the four official languages of the Union of South American States, Unasur, which includes Suriname.

If you are living in New York or elsewhere in the USA, Dutch might very well be the language of one of your ancestors. Yet, it isn’t Latin. Dutch is a living language spoken by 23 million people, mostly Europeans, who are using it in their daily lives and pass it on to their children. Not only has Dutch earned its place on the Internet, it is also flourishing in journalism and science, while Dutch literature is blooming. There is also an increasing interest among non-native speakers across the world to learn the language. All over the world more than ten thousand students are currently studying Dutch.

As a living language Dutch is constantly evolving. In so doing it remains suited to the demands of our times. To a great extent this is seen as a spontaneous process. However, every now and again there is a clear need to coordinate the efforts of the various stakeholders that are striving to maintain Dutch as a living language. To advance and facilitate this process across the Dutch-speaking regions in the world, the Nederlandse Taalunie (the Dutch Language Union) was established in 1980. Its motto is ‘Nederlands zonder drempels’ (Dutch without barriers). This means that each language user should receive the support he or she needs, whenever and however they choose to use the language. In offering this support, the Dutch Language Union thus respects each individual’s style of speech and writing.

The Dutch Language Union’s most important tasks have to do with providing directives and advise concerning the Dutch language, the support of the position of the Dutch language in Europe as well as globally, the promotion of Dutch for digital applications and technologies, the advancement of teaching Dutch as a native and foreign language, the advancement of Dutch literature, and the encouragement of reading.

**Peter Stuyvesant**, originally Pieter Stuyvesant (1612-1672): a major figure in the early history of New York City. The Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York, United States is named after him. The name Stuyvesant is Dutch. It refers to the village Stuifzand in the Netherlands. Stuyvesant could be translated as drifting sand.

**Theodore Roosevelt** (1858 –1919) was the 26th President of the United States. The name Roosevelt is Dutch, meaning: field of roses.

**Cornelius Vanderbilt** is the patriarch of the wealthy Vanderbilt family. He created railroad and shipping empires. His descendants went on to build great Fifth Avenue mansions, Newport, Rhode Island summer cottages, the famous Biltmore House and various other exclusive homes. The name Vanderbilt is Dutch. It refers to the village De Bilt near Utrecht.

**Martin Van Buren** (1782 –1862) was the eighth President of the United States from 1837 to 1841. He was the only president whose mother tongue was not English, as he grew up in Dutch. The name Van Buren refers to the Dutch village Buren (meaning: neighbours).

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**Do you know these people?**

Hebt u onze fijne keuken al geproefd? (hept uw on-ze fay-ner kuu-kern al ghe-proof) Have you already tasted our fast food?

Nou, wij eten dit elke dag en we worden er niet ziek van. (Now, vay ay-tern dit el-ker dakh en vay vor-dem er neet seek van.) Well, we eat this every day and we are still alive.

help me! (help mer) Help me!

een goed boek (ern khood book) A good book

koffie (kof-fee) Coffee

een groot succes (ern khruat suk-ses) A great success

jong en blond (yong en blond) Young and blond

oud en grijs (out en khrays) Old and grey
Whether you live in China, Namibia or the United States, Dutch offers a window into another world. It’s possible to study Dutch either as a major or minor subject in over forty countries, and thousands of students across the world enjoy the challenge.

Taaluniecentrum NVT (The Language Union Centre for Dutch as a Foreign Language)
The Centre provides information, resources and support to teachers of Dutch as a foreign language. At the Centre teachers can consult teaching materials, get advice on teaching methods, take advanced courses, or attend conferences. Tools for testing and certifying students are also available. In addition, the Centre organizes promotional events. The Centre is based in Brussels (Saintelettesquare 19, 1000 Brussels) www.taaluniecentrum-nvt.org

Financial support for Dutch Studies abroad
The Language Union provides grants to foreign universities offering studies in Dutch. Financial support is available to set up a course, buy books and journals, as well as to equip classrooms. The Language Union also gives additional support to help improve the quality of courses by, for example, providing training for teachers. www.taalunieversum.org/neerlandistiek

Dutch Summer Schools
Anyone learning Dutch abroad should take a walk round Amsterdam or Antwerp and visit the Rijksmuseum or Rubenshuis at least once during their studies. For many students the Language Union makes this possible through the Dutch language and Culture Summer Schools it organizes every year in the Netherlands and Flanders. www.taalunieversum.org/taalunie/zomercursus_voor_studenten

Dutch: a world language

The Dutch Language Union in brief
The Dutch Language Union is a government organization in which The Netherlands, Flanders and Suriname combine their strengths to serve the Dutch language, the teaching of it, and its literature.

Dutch is spoken by over 15 million people in the Netherlands, 6 million in Flanders and 400,000 in Suriname, making it the European Union’s seventh most widely-spoken language. With 22 million speakers, Dutch is more widely used than for example Swedish (9 million speakers) or Greek (15 million speakers). On a worldwide scale Dutch ranks a long way behind Chinese (with 870 million native speakers), Spanish (322 million) and English (309 million). And yet, on the list of 6,000 languages spoken around the world Dutch ranks between the 45th and 50th place.

The most comprehensive dictionary in the world is the Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal (the Dictionary of the Dutch Language), published in several editions between 1864 and 1998. It consists of forty large volumes with a total of 91,610 columns on 45,805 pages. In it 400,000 words are defined and discussed. The definitions are illustrated by 1.7 million quotations. The dictionary contains approx. 50 million words. The WNT is available online free of charge: http://www.wnt.inl.nl/

Around 10,000 foreign students are studying Dutch at 220 universities in 40 different countries across the world. From Kuala Lumpur to Moskow and right here in New York at Columbia, Cornell and State University of New York, Dutch is taught as an academic discipline.

Some record-breaking figures

\[ \text{paar-dern in Dutch is not pardon, but horses} \]
\[ \text{bek in Dutch is not back, but beak} \]

But beware! Dutch may look like English, but it is not always what it seems.

\[ \text{Het went wel} \] is not ‘it went well’, but ‘you’ll get used to it’.
\[ \text{Een wildrooster} \] is not a wild rooster, but a cattle grid.

\[ \text{Slim is not slim, but smart, clever.} \]
\[ \text{Een gang} \] is not a bunch of villains, but a corridor.

Dutch also may sound like English, but don’t let yourself be fooled!

\[ \text{payn in Dutch is not pain, but carrot} \]
So pain in your back is a carrot in your beak.
Some useful phrases and how to pronounce them:

Goedemorgen (kho-der mor-khern) Good morning!
Goedenavond (kho-der naa-font) Good evening!

Hoe gaat het met u? (who khaat hert uw?) How are you?
Tot ziens! (tot sees) Goodbye!

Speed Dating with the Low Countries? How to date a country? In this case: even more than one country. The idea is simple. Leading personalities from the Dutch and Flemish cultural scenes are invited to represent their country during short face-to-face encounters. And you could meet some of them.

Expect a diversified program with often astonishing, moving and compelling performances by contemporary authors, actors, musicians and directors. This two day mini-festival is organized by the Dutch Language Union, Flanders House and the Columbia University Department of History.

International alt / rock star Sarah Bettens first came to public attention as the lead singer of K's Choice, which has received Gold and Platinum records in Europe and whose international radio hits include “Not An Addict,” “Believe,” and “Almost Happy.” Her latest solo CD, “Never Say Goodbye,” includes a unique mix of three new songs, favorites from her last two solo records, and covers of songs by iconic artists like Bonnie Raitt and Julie London. For you, Sarah Bettens will also perform the title song she composed for the Dutch film “Leef” (“Live”).

www.sarahbettens.com

Photo © Frank Clauwers
Can one set only one foot in America?

Philip Heylen (Belgium)

ON SEPTEMBER 10 ONLY

The city of Antwerp’s alderman for culture, tourism, libraries, monuments and ceremonial services, Philip Heylen, will tell the story of the Red Star Line, which between 1873 and 1935 carried almost three million emigrants aboard its ships from Antwerp to Canada and the USA. This enormous exodus left lots of traces. Join Philip Heylen on his epic journey “The Red Star Line migrants in Stories, Literature and the Arts.”

www.philipheylen.be

Can someone crucify himself?

Stefan Brijs (Belgium)

After the publication of his first novel “The Alteration”, Stefan Brijs was described in the media as “Flanders’ new literary hope”, and as a writer with “an exceptional talent”. Although Stefan Brijs wrote essays, short stories and biographies, it were his novels that made him famous. His book “The Angel Maker” was translated in ten languages and is currently being turned into a movie. Stefan Brijs will talk with you about this novel, about good versus bad, religion versus science, and brilliance versus madness.

www.stefanbrijs.be

Can one set only one foot in America?
Culinary madcap, photographer, a-rhythmic dancer and philanthropist Jan Rosseel began his career in the kitchens of top restaurants in New York (Le Cirque), France and the Netherlands. Desserts became his specialty and he acquired a true passion for chocolate. For this occasion we have found him willing to share his love for this product. The world’s best-tasting sweets... and you can learn how to make them yourself.

www.janrosseel.be
Is New York still New Amsterdam?

Can a nation forget about its history?

Peter Schoenaerts holds a Master's degree in Germanic languages (Dutch and English) and studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

He is the artistic director of the Belgian educational theater company Fast Forward. In recent years, he also taught and promoted the Dutch language in Belgium, the USA, and Indonesia. Having written several Dutch text books and a wide variety of publications, Peter Schoenaerts is the expert guide on your Dutch-English language tour.

www.peterschoenaerts.com
www.fast-forward.be
Photo © Lisa Hancock

Russell Shorto is a contributing editor at The New York Times Magazine and the director of the John Adams Institute in Amsterdam. He wrote the best-selling book “The Island at the Center of the World” about New York’s early years, when it was New Amsterdam. The hub of his research for this book was the New Netherland Project at the New York State Library, where the Dutch colony’s archives are being translated. Come and listen to Russell Shorto telling about his fascinating voyage of discovery, which took him from Lower Manhattan to the North Sea island of Texel.

www.russellshorto.com
Photo © Jennifer May
Who the heck lies on his back in a pasture that is being mowed?

Tommy Wieringa  
(The Netherlands)

An internationally translated writer of travelogues, essays and columns, it was with his fourth novel “Joe Speedboat”, about three boys creating havoc in a village, that Tommy Wieringa established his reputation as a heavyweight on the Dutch literary scene. About his latest novel, “Caesarion,” a critic wrote, “Tommy Wieringa now is one of the Big Ten of Dutch literature.” Take the opportunity to hear one of the Big Ten read from his dazzling novel “Joe Speedboat.”

www.tommywieringa.nl

Photo © Viviane Sassen

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Can there be a one man show with several musicians on stage?

Spinvis  
(The Netherlands)

Spinvis came from nowhere to explode on the Dutch music scene, conquering instantly the hearts of music critics and the public alike.

His latest theater show “Chamber Music” is a musical performance: a mixture of pop music and video art. In the media it was announced as “total art”. When performing Spinvis uses pre-recorded video musicians, live sampling and looping. Spinvis sings in Dutch, mostly about the complex relationship between the small inner world and the vast outer space.

www.spinvis.nl

Photo © Marte
Dutch Short Films
(The Netherlands)


These upcoming talents will move you, astonish you, enrich you, and make you laugh. You may even get a peek at the next Famke Janssen ...

Dynamo
(Belgium)

Whenever Dynamo gets out the drums, the air sparkles with electricity. This festive gang combines exotic percussion and wayward dance steps with circus performance to create a colorful and richly resonant act. Dynamo is formed by 23 young Belgian performers and their director Tom Permentier. In the summer of 2008 they conquered Russia. This year they will electrify New York.

www.cirkusinbeweging.be

Can you toast bread in a notebook?
You can find more information on the various activities and projects supported by the Dutch Language Union and order Language Union publications at taalunieversum.org/en. At the Dutch Language Union we are constantly increasing the amount of our material available in English. However, if you are unable to find the information you are looking for, please do let us know.

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