



THE SECRET OF CHIMNEYS

Het Geheim van Chimneys

Agatha Christie

ENGLISH
DUTCH

English • Dutch Parallel Text Edition

Voor leerlingen van het Nederlands

Read the classic novel side-by-side in both languages

A LANGUAGE LEARNER'S EDITION

Churvaness! The Secret of Chimneys — A Bilingual Edition (English → Dutch)

Sentence-by-sentence bilingual reading for Dutch learners

Churvaness! Team

This book is available at

<https://leanpub.com/churvaness-chimneys-dutch>

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Dutch Cheat Sheet

Pronunciation

Dutch spelling is largely regular once you know the rules. A few sounds have no exact English equivalent.

Alphabet & Key Sounds

Letter(s)	Sound (English approximation)	Example
a (short)	<i>a</i> as in calm	appel (apple)
a (long)	<i>aa</i> as in father	maan (moon)
e (short)	<i>e</i> as in bet	bed (bed)
e (long)	<i>ay</i> as in say (without the glide)	zee (sea)
e (schwa)	<i>e</i> as in brother (unstressed "uh")	de (the)
i (short)	<i>i</i> as in bit	vis (fish)
i (long)	<i>ee</i> as in see (shorter)	bier (beer)
o (short)	<i>o</i> as in pot (British)	bot (bone)
o (long)	<i>o</i> as in go (without the glide)	boom (tree)
u (short)	<i>u</i> as in put (rounded lips)	uw (your)

Letter(s)	Sound (English approximation)	Example
u (long)	<i>ew</i> — no English equivalent; round lips, say “ee”	muur (wall)
ee	<i>ay</i> as in say (pure, no glide)	een (one)
ie	<i>ee</i> as in see	niet (not)
oe	<i>oo</i> as in fool	boek (book)
eu	<i>er</i> — no English equivalent; like French peu	neus (nose)
ui	No English equivalent; between “ow” and “eye”	huis (house)
au / ou	<i>ow</i> as in cow (more open)	blauw (blue), koud (cold)
ei / ij	<i>eye</i> as in eye (slightly different)	klein (small), bij (at)
aa / a (open syllable)	<i>a</i> as in father	laten (let)
oo	<i>o</i> as in go (long, pure)	groot (big)
uu	<i>ew</i> — round lips, say “ee”	muur (wall)
b	<i>b</i> as in boy	boot (boat)
d	<i>d</i> as in dog	dag (day)
f	<i>f</i> as in food	fiets (bicycle)
g	<i>ch</i> as in Scottish loch (throaty, voiced)	goed (good)
ch	Same as <i>g</i> — throaty <i>ch</i>	nacht (night)
h	<i>h</i> as in hat	hand (hand)
j	<i>y</i> as in yes	ja (yes)

Letter(s)	Sound (English approximation)	Example
k	<i>k</i> as in king (unaspirated)	kat (cat)
l	<i>l</i> as in love (clear, not dark)	land (land)
m	<i>m</i> as in man	man (man)
n	<i>n</i> as in no	nee (no)
p	<i>p</i> as in spin (unaspirated)	paard (horse)
r	Rolled or guttural (varies by region)	rood (red)
s	<i>s</i> as in say	schip (ship)
t	<i>t</i> as in stop (unaspirated)	tafel (table)
v	<i>v</i> as in very (softer, closer to f)	vader (father)
w	<i>w</i> as in wet (lips rounded)	water (water)
z	<i>z</i> as in zoo (softer)	zee (sea)
sch	<i>sg</i> — s + throaty ch; at end of word: s	schip (ship), fantastisch (fantastic)
ng	<i>ng</i> as in sing	lang (long)
nk	<i>nk</i> as in bank	bank (bench)

Stress

Stress usually falls on the first syllable of the root word. Prefixes like *be-*, *ge-*, *ver-*, *ont-* are unstressed. Compound words stress the first component.

- **wa**-ter (water), **Am**-ster-dam

- be-**grij**-pen (understand), ver-**haal** (story)
- **zee**-man (sailor — literally “sea-man”)

Final Devoicing

Voiced consonants become unvoiced at the end of a word:

- *b* sounds like *p*: heb → “hep”
- *d* sounds like *t*: hond → “hont”
- *v* sounds like *f*: schrijf → “schreif”
- *z* sounds like *s*: reis → “reis” (s-sound)

* * *

Basic Grammar

Word Order

Dutch word order is one of its trickiest features:

Main clause (V2 rule): The conjugated verb **MUST** be the second element. The subject need not be first.

- *Ik zie de walvis.* (I see the whale — subject first.)
- *Vandaag zie ik de walvis.* (Today see I the whale — time expression first, verb stays second, subject moves after verb.)
- *De walvis zie ik.* (The whale see I — object first for emphasis.)

Subordinate clause (SOV): All verbs go to the end.

- *Ik denk dat hij de walvis **ziet**.* (I think that he the whale sees.)
- *Hij zei dat hij de walvis **had gezien**.* (He said that he the whale had seen.)

Yes/no questions: Verb first.

- *Zie jij de walvis?* (See you the whale?)

Commands: Verb first.

- *Zie de walvis!* (See the whale!)

Articles

Two definite articles, one indefinite:

	Definite	Indefinite
Common gender (<i>de</i>)	de man, de zee	een man, een zee
Neuter (<i>het</i>)	het schip, het water	een schip, een water

- Roughly 75% of nouns are *de*-words. Learn *het*-words as you go.
- Plural is always *de*: **de** schepen (the ships), **de** mannen (the men).
- Diminutives (ending in *-je*, *-tje*, *-pje*, *-kje*, *-etje*) are always *het*: **het** scheepje (the little ship).

Nouns

Plural is usually **-en** or **-s**:

Singular	Plural	Rule
man	mann en	most nouns
vrouw	vrouw en	most nouns
tafel	tafel s	nouns ending in -el, -em, -en, -er, -je
schip	schep en	short vowel → doubled consonant in plural (keep vowel short)
boot	bot en	long vowel → single vowel in plural (keep vowel long)

There are irregular plurals: *stad* → *steden* (city), *kind* → *kinderen* (child).

No case system — nouns don't change form except for plural. The genitive is expressed with *van*: *de staart van de walvis* (the tail of the whale).

Adjectives

Adjectives get **-e** before most nouns. The exception: no -e for singular neuter nouns with *een* or no article.

	De-word	Het-word
With definite article	de grote walvis	het grote schip
With indefinite article	een grote walvis	een groot schip (no -e!)
With no article	grote walvis	groot schip (no -e!)
Predicative	De walvis is groot.	Het schip is groot.

Material adjectives end in **-en**: *houten* (wooden), *gouden* (golden), *zilveren* (silver).

Verbs

Three main groups: weak (regular), strong (vowel change), and irregular.

Present tense:

Person	Weak (werken — to work)	Strong (zien — to see)
ik (I)	werk	zie
jij/u (you)	werkt	ziet
hij/zij/het (he/she/it)	werkt	ziet
wij (we)	werken	zien
jullie (you all)	werken	zien
zij (they)	werken	zien

Note: When *jij* follows the verb (in questions), the -t drops: *Werk jij?* (Do you work?), *Zie jij?* (Do you see?).

Past tense:

Type	Rule	Example
Weak	stem + -de(n) or -te(n)	werkte, werkten
Strong	vowel change	zag, zagen (saw)

The 't kofschip rule: if the verb stem ends in t, k, f, s, ch, or p, the past ending is **-te(n)**; otherwise **-de(n)**. Example: werk (stem ends in k → 't kofschip) → werkte. Speel (stem ends in l → not in 't kofschip) → speelde.

Common strong verbs:

Infinitive	Past Sg.	Past Pl.	Past Participle	Meaning
zijn	was	waren	geweest	to be
hebben	had	hadden	gehad	to have
worden	werd	werden	geworden	to become
zullen	zou	zouden	—	shall / will
kunnen	kon	konden	gekund	can
mogen	mocht	mochten	gemogen	may
willen	wilde	wilden	gewild	to want
gaan	ging	gingen	gegaan	to go
komen	kwam	kwamen	gekomen	to come
doen	deed	deden	gedaan	to do
zien	zag	zagen	gezien	to see
zeggen	zei	zeiden	gezegd	to say
geven	gaf	gaven	gegeven	to give
nemen	nam	namen	genomen	to take
spreken	sprak	spraken	gesproken	to speak
staan	stond	stonden	gestaan	to stand
liggen	lag	lagen	gelegen	to lie
zitten	zat	zaten	gezeten	to sit
lopen	liep	liepen	gelopen	to walk
roepen	riep	riepen	geroepen	to call

Perfect tense: *hebben* or *zijn* + past participle.

- *Ik heb de walvis gezien.* (I have seen the whale.)
- *Hij is naar zee gegaan.* (He has gone to sea.)

Past participles of weak verbs: **ge-** + stem + **-d/-t**. Strong verbs: **ge-** + stem (vowel changed) + **-en**.

Separable verbs: Dutch has many verbs where a prefix separates and moves to the end.

- *aankomen* (to arrive) → *Ik kom morgen **aan***. (I arrive tomorrow.)
- *opstaan* (to stand up) → *Hij staat vroeg **op***. (He gets up early.)
- In subordinate clauses, they rejoin: *Ik denk dat hij vroeg **opstaat***.

Negation

Use **niet** (not) or **geen** (no, not a):

- *niet* negates verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases: *Ik zie de walvis **niet***. (I don't see the whale.)
- *geen* negates indefinite nouns (replaces *een*): *Ik heb **geen** geld*. (I have no money. — literally "I have no money.") vs *Ik heb het geld **niet***. (I don't have the money.)

Questions

Yes/no questions: verb first.

- *Zie je de walvis?* (Do you see the whale?)

Wh-questions: question word + verb + subject.

- *Waar is de walvis?* (Where is the whale?)
- *Wat zie je?* (What do you see?)
- *Wie is dat?* (Who is that?)

Diminutives

The diminutive **-je** (and variants *-tje*, *-pje*, *-kje*, *-etje*) is extremely common in Dutch — far more than in English or German. It conveys smallness, affection, informality, or belittling:

- *ship* (ship) → *scheepje* (little ship)
- *man* (man) → *mannetje* (little man, male animal)
- Used constantly in everyday speech with no particular “small” meaning.

* * *

Function Words

These words appear constantly and never get superscript numbers in the bilingual text.

Articles & Demonstratives

Dutch	English	Notes
de	the	common gender
het	the	neuter
een	a, an	indefinite
deze	this, these	de-words, proximal
dit	this	het-words, proximal
die	that, those	de-words, distal
dat	that	het-words, distal
zulk	such	
zo'n	such a	

Pronouns

Personal:

Person	Subject	Object	Possessive
1st sg.	ik	mij / me	mijn
2nd sg. (informal)	jij / je	jou / je	jouw / je
2nd sg. (formal)	u	u	uw
3rd sg. m.	hij	hem	zijn
3rd sg. f.	zij / ze	haar	haar
3rd sg. n.	het	het	zijn
1st pl.	wij / we	ons	ons / onze
2nd pl.	jullie	jullie	jullie
3rd pl.	zij / ze	hen / hun / ze	hun
Impersonal	men	men	—
Reflexive	zich	zich	zijn / haar / hun eigen

Other pronouns:

Dutch	English
wie	who
wat	what
welke	which
wiens / wier	whose
iemand	someone
niemand	no one
iets	something
niets	nothing
iedereen	everyone
alles	everything
elk / ieder	each, every
beide	both
enkele / sommige	some
veel	many, much
weinig	few, little

Dutch	English
meer	more
meest	most

Prepositions

Dutch	English	Dutch	English
aan	on, at, to	achter	behind
bij	at, near, with	binnen	inside
boven	above	buiten	outside
door	through, by	gedurende	during
in	in, into	jegens	towards
langs	along	met	with
naar	to, towards	naast	beside
om	around, at (time)	onder	under
op	on, upon	over	over, about
per	by, per	rond	around
sinds	since	te	at, to
tegen	against	tegenover	opposite
tot	until	tussen	between
uit	out of, from	van	of, from
voor	for, before	volgens	according to
zonder	without		

Conjunctions

Coordinating (no word-order change):

Dutch	English
en	and
of	or
maar	but
want	because, for
dus	so, therefore

Subordinating (verb goes to end of clause):

Dutch	English
dat	that
omdat	because
als	if, when
wanneer	when
terwijl	while
hoewel	although
zodat	so that
tenzij	unless
voordat	before
nadat	after
sinds	since
totdat	until
of	whether (indirect question)
zoals	as, like

Adverbs & Particles

Dutch	English	Dutch	English
niet	not	wel	indeed, actually (affirmative)
ook	also, too	nog	still, yet
al	already	alweer	again
maar	only, just	slechts	merely, only
zelfs	even	toch	still, nevertheless
dan	then	toen	then (past)
nu	now	straks	soon, later
daar	there	hier	here
waar	where	er	there (weak, existential)
er is / er zijn	there is / are		
heel	very, whole	erg	very
veel	much, many	weinig	little, few
genoeg	enough	te	too (much)
graag	gladly	liever	rather, prefer
misschien	perhaps	vast	surely, probably
samen	together	alleen	alone, only
terug	back	weer	again
weg	away	thuis	at home
buiten	outside	binnen	inside

Question Words

Dutch	English
wie	who
wat	what
waar	where
wanneer	when
waarom	why
hoe	how
hoeveel	how much / many
welke	which
wiens	whose
waarvandaan	where from
waarheen	where to

Numbers

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
nul	één	twee	drie	vier	vijf	zes	zeven	acht	negentien	

11	12	13	14	15	20	100	1000
elf	twaal	dertien	veertien	vijftien	twintig	honderd	duizend

Compound numbers: 21 = *éénentwintig* (one-and-twenty — note the reversed order, like older English “one and twenty”).

Time Words

Dutch	English
vandaag	today
morgen	tomorrow
gisteren	yesterday
vanmorgen	this morning
vanavond	this evening
vannacht	tonight
nu	now
toen	then (past)
dan	then (future)
altijd	always
nooit	never
vaak / dikwijls	often
soms	sometimes
vroeg	early
laat	late
straks	soon, in a moment
dadelijk	right away
al	already
nog	still
pas	only just

* * *

Common Phrases

English	Dutch
Hello	Hallo / Dag
Good morning	Goedemorgen
Good afternoon	Goedemiddag
Good evening	Goedenavond
Goodbye	Tot ziens / Dag
See you later	Tot later / Tot straks
Yes / No	Ja / Nee
Please	Alsjeblieft / Alstublieft (formal)
Thank you	Dank je / Dank u (formal)
You're welcome	Graag gedaan
Excuse me / Sorry	Sorry / Pardon
How are you?	Hoe gaat het?
Fine, thanks	Goed, dank je
Oh!	O! / Ach!
Alas!	Helaas!
Well!	Nou!
Hurrah!	Hoera!
Ah!	Ah!
What!	Wat!
God!	God!
By God!	Bij God!
The devil!	De duivel! / Verdorie!
Dear me!	Lieve hemel!

* * *

Language-Specific Notes

Dutch is Close to English

Dutch and English are both West Germanic languages. Many basic words are cognates that you'll recognize:

Dutch	English	Dutch	English
water	water	land	land
schip	ship	vis	fish
hand	hand	voet	foot
dag	day	nacht	night
zon	sun	maan	moon
goed	good	koud	cold
drinken	drink	eten	eat
helpen	help	komen	come
zitten	sit	staan	stand

But watch out for false friends:

- *wil* = want (not will — that's *zal*)
- *slim* = clever (not slim — that's *slank*)
- *braaf* = well-behaved (not brave — that's *dapper*)
- *meer* = lake (but also means “more”)
- *door* = through (not door — that's *deur*)
- *zijn* = his (but also means “to be”!)
- *waar* = true (but also means “where”)

Compound Words

Like German, Dutch loves compound nouns. They're written as one word with no spaces:

- *walvisvaart* = whaling (walvis + vaart — whale + voyage)
- *scheepsjongen* = cabin boy (schip + jongen — ship + boy)
- *zeeman* = sailor (zee + man — sea + man)
- *doodskist* = coffin (dood + kist — death + chest)

In the translation, superscript numbers mark the meaningful roots within compounds.

The Ubiquitous “er”

Dutch uses the particle **er** constantly — it has no single English equivalent:

- Existential: *Er is een walvis.* (There is a whale.)
- Locative: *Ik ben er.* (I am there.)
- Partitive: *Ik heb er drie.* (I have three of them.)
- With prepositions: *ermee* (with it), *ervan* (of it), *erop* (on it)

You’ll see *er* everywhere in the translation. It’s never numbered.

Formal vs. Informal “You”

Dutch distinguishes *jij/je* (informal) and *u* (formal). Moby Dick uses informal among sailors, formal in hierarchical or respectful contexts. The translation follows the same pattern.

Nautical Dutch

The Netherlands has a rich maritime history, and Dutch has an extensive nautical vocabulary that maps naturally onto Moby Dick:

English	Dutch
harpoon	harpoen
mast	mast
sail	zeil
anchor	anker
deck	dek
bow	boeg
stern	achterstevan
starboard	stuurboord
larboard / port	bakboord
whale	walvis
whaling	walvisvaart

English	Dutch
whaler	walvisvaarder
blubber	blubber / spek
captain	kapitein
crew	bemannings
voyage	reis / vaart

Dutch contributed many nautical terms to other languages (including English words like *yacht* from *jacht*, *skipper* from *schipper*, *buoy* from *boei*, *deck* from *dek*).

* * *

Now turn to Chapter 1 and begin reading.

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CHAPTER 28. King Victor

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CHAPTER 29. Further Explanations

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CHAPTER 30. Anthony Signs on for a New Job

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CHAPTER 31. Sundry Details

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