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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 3: Please in Dutch

Alstublieft.

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson, we will look at the word "Please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Dutch, "Please" is Alstublieft. Alstublieft. Let's break it down by syllable. Als-tu-blieft. Now let's hear it once again. Alstublieft.

The easiest way to use "Please" is to point at something while saying Alstublieft, but let's try to build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This, please," which in Dutch is Deze alstublieft. In English, "this" comes before "please." In Dutch, the order is the same. So we have Deze alstublieft.

Let's look at the word for "this." In Dutch, "this" is deze or dit. deze or dit. And once again, deze or dit.

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that," which is die or dat. The phrase, "That, please," is Die alstublieft. Die alstublieft. Let's break it down by syllable. Die als-tu-blieft. Now let's hear it once again. Die alstublieft.

If you forgot or don't know the name of the object you're asking for, it's okay to point at it and say, Deze alstublieft, or Die alstublieft. However, it sounds a little unnatural. The best way to ask for something would be alstublieft and then the name of the object you want to buy. For example, you could say, Een krant alstublieft, or "A newspaper, please," or Een brood alstublieft, which is, "Bread, please." Once again, een, which is "a," krant "newspaper" alstublieft. Een krant alstublieft. Een brood, which is literally, "a bread," alstublieft. Een brood alstublieft

The sentence order is the same as in English. Subject + "Please."

PHRASES

Dutch	English
Dit/Deze alstublieft.	This, please.
Die/Dat alstublieft.	That, please.

VOCABULARY

Dutch	English
dit	this
dat	that
alstublieft	please
bevallen	to please

QUICK TIP

Like many other languages, the Dutch language also has formal and informal words, depending on the situation. Alstublieft is formal and Alsjeblieft is informal. Of course, the safest way is to use the formal form, Alstublieft.

QUICK TIP 2

Pointing at people is considered very rude in the Netherlands. However, if one points at an object in order to explain what one wants, that is perfectly fine.