

Dutch numbers from 1 to 100 and beyond

Dutch numbers from 0 to 20 are words to learn by heart; after that it is mostly regular, with one twist: the unit comes before the tens, in one word. So 21 is eenentwintig, one-and-twenty, and 45 is vijfenveertig. Here are the numbers in tables, then hundreds and thousands, years, ordinals, prices, phone numbers, the clock and the mistakes learners make most.

Dutch numbers from 0 to 20

The first twenty numbers have to be learned one by one, as in English. From 13 to 19 Dutch adds -tien (ten) to the unit, much like the English -teen, and two of them change the unit on the way: drie becomes der in dertien, and vier becomes veer in veertien. Elf and twaalf are words of their own, like eleven and twelve.

The Dutch numbers from 0 to 20

0

Dutch: nul

Note: also the 0 of a phone number

1

Dutch: een

Note: written één when it has to be clear that it means one

2

Dutch: twee

3

Dutch: drie

4

Dutch: vier

5

Dutch: vijf

6

Dutch: zes

7

Dutch: zeven

8

Dutch: acht

9

Dutch: negen

10

Dutch: tien

11

Dutch: elf

Note: a word of its own, like eleven

12

Dutch: twaalf

Note: a word of its own, like twelve

13

Dutch: dertien

Note: drie becomes der: not drietien

14

Dutch: veertien

Note: vier becomes veer: not viertien

15

Dutch: vijftien

16

Dutch: zestien

17

Dutch: zeventien

18

Dutch: achttien

Note: two t's: acht and tien

19

Dutch: negentien

20

Dutch: twintig

Note: from twee, but a form of its own

Numbers belong to the everyday basics every beginner course teaches, next to the 1,000 most common Dutch words, which have a list you can download.

The tens: twintig to honderd

The tens end in -tig, said with a weak vowel, roughly “tuch” with the ch of Scottish loch. Most of them are the unit plus -tig, with the same changes as in the teens, and 80 has a surprise.

The tens in Dutch

10

Dutch: tien

20

Dutch: twintig

30

Dutch: dertig

Note: der, as in dertien

40

Dutch: veertig

Note: veer, as in veertien: never viertig

50

Dutch: vijftig

60

Dutch: zestig

70

Dutch: zeventig

80

Dutch: tachtig

Note: starts with a t: not achtig

90

Dutch: negentig

100

Dutch: honderd

Note: usually no een in front

21 to 99: the unit comes first

From 21 on, Dutch says the unit first, then en (and), then the tens, all in one word: eenentwintig is one-and-twenty, vijfenveertig five-and-forty. German does the same (einundzwanzig), and older English did too, as in the nursery rhyme “four and twenty blackbirds.”

When en follows a number that ends in e, the e of en gets two dots, a trema, so the reader sees where the new syllable starts: tweeëntwintig, drieëntwintig, tweeëndertig.

Eenentwintig and vierentwintig need none.

Numbers from 21 to 99, with the unit first

21

Dutch: eenentwintig

Word for word: one and twenty

22

Dutch: tweeëntwintig

Word for word: two and twenty

23

Dutch: drieëntwintig

Word for word: three and twenty

24

Dutch: vierentwintig

Word for word: four and twenty

32

Dutch: tweeëndertig

Word for word: two and thirty

45

Dutch: vijfenveertig

Word for word: five and forty

57

Dutch: zevenenvijftig
Word for word: seven and fifty

68

Dutch: achtenzestig
Word for word: eight and sixty

76

Dutch: zesenzeventig
Word for word: six and seventy

83

Dutch: drieëntachtig
Word for word: three and eighty

99

Dutch: negenenennegentig
Word for word: nine and ninety

The order matters most when you listen. You hear the last digit first, so write it down first and put the tens in front when they come: zesenzeventig is a 6, then 70, so 76. This is how 67 and 76 get mixed up, in prices, house numbers and phone numbers alike.

Hundreds and thousands

Honderd (100) and duizend (1,000) usually go without een in front: honderd euro, duizend mensen. The hundreds and thousands put the number in front, in one word: tweehonderd, drieduizend. Miljoen and miljard are nouns and do take a word in front: een miljoen, twee miljard.

Hundreds, thousands and millions in Dutch

101 · honderdeen
120 · honderdtwintig
200 · tweehonderd
345 · driehonderdvijfenveertig
1.000 · duizend
1.500 · vijftienhonderd or duizend vijfhonderd
2.000 · tweeduizend
2.750 · tweeduizend zevenhonderdvijftig
10.000 · tienduizend
250.000 · tweehonderdvijftigduizend
1.000.000 · een miljoen
3.200.000 · drie miljoen tweehonderdduizend
1.000.000.000 · een miljard

Written out in words, a number is one word up to and including duizend. After duizend comes a space, and miljoen and miljard stand on their own, with a space before and after. That is the rule of the Taalunie, the body behind the official Dutch spelling: driehonderdvijfenveertig, tweeduizend zevenhonderdvijftig, drie miljoen

tweehonderdduizend.

Between 1,100 and 1,999 Dutch often counts in hundreds, as English does with “fifteen hundred”: vijftienhonderd euro. Duizend vijfhonderd euro is just as correct.

Years

Years from 1100 to 1999 are said in hundreds: 1945 is negentienhonderdvijfenveertig, one word, because there is no duizend in it. From 2000 on, Dutch uses duizend: 2026 is tweeduizend zesentwintig, with the space after duizend. You will also hear twintig zesentwintig. In a sentence the year needs only in: in 1945, in 2026.

In a date, Dutch normally uses the plain number, not the ordinal: 5 mei is vijf mei. The days, the months and the way the Dutch write a date are on the page about days and months in Dutch.

Ordinals: eerste, tweede, derde

Ordinals (first, second, third) add -de or -ste to the number. Eerste and derde are irregular. Achtste, the tens from twintigste up, honderdste, duizendste and miljoenste take -ste; the rest take -de. In a longer number the last part decides: eenentwintigste (21st) and honderdste (100th), but honderdeerste (101st), honderdtweede (102nd) and duizendvierde (1,004th).

Dutch ordinals, with the short forms

1st

Dutch: eerste

Short form: 1e or 1ste

2nd

Dutch: tweede

Short form: 2e or 2de

3rd

Dutch: derde

Short form: 3e or 3de

4th

Dutch: vierde

Short form: 4e or 4de

5th

Dutch: vijfde

Short form: 5e or 5de

8th

Dutch: achtste

Short form: 8e or 8ste

9th

Dutch: negende

Short form: 9e or 9de

10th

Dutch: tiende

Short form: 10e or 10de

19th

Dutch: negentiende

Short form: 19e or 19de

20th

Dutch: twintigste

Short form: 20e or 20ste

21st

Dutch: eenentwintigste

Short form: 21e or 21ste

100th

Dutch: honderdste

Short form: 100e or 100ste

1,000th

Dutch: duizendste

Short form: 1000e or 1000ste

Both short forms are correct. The letters stay on the line, with no hyphen and no raised letters needed: de 3e verdieping, voor de 2de keer. Floors count from the ground floor, de begane grond, so de eerste verdieping is one floor up: the second floor in American English.

Prices and the decimal comma

Dutch writes a comma where English writes a decimal point, and a period (or a space) where English writes a comma between thousands. So 1,5 is one and a half, and 1.500 is fifteen hundred. Price tags, receipts and bills use the Dutch signs.

In writing, the euro sign comes first, usually with a space: € 2,50. Say it as twee euro vijftig, or at the register just twee vijftig. A whole amount is often written with a comma and a short line, € 5,-, or as € 5,00. Cents on their own are cent: vijftig cent.

Prices and decimals, written and said

€ 2,50

Said: twee euro vijftig

In English: 2.50 euro

€ 6,50

Said: zes euro vijftig

In English: 6.50 euro

€ 0,95

Said: vijfennegentig cent

In English: 95 cents

€ 12,99

Said: twaalf euro negenennegentig

In English: 12.99 euro

€ 5,-

Said: vijf euro

In English: 5 euro, no cents

€ 1.250

Said: twaalfhonderdvijftig euro

In English: 1,250 euro

1,5 liter

Said: anderhalve liter or een komma vijf liter

In English: 1.5 liters

Phone numbers

A Dutch mobile number has ten digits and starts with 06: 06 12 34 56 78, also written 06-12345678. From abroad the 0 drops and the country code goes in front: +31 6 12 34 56 78. Zero is nul, so every mobile number starts with nul zes.

There is no single way to read the rest. Some people say it digit by digit, others in pairs, so be ready for both:

- **nul zes, één twee, drie vier, vijf zes, zeven acht** (digit by digit)
- **nul zes, twaalf, vierendertig, zesenvijftig, achtenzeventig** (in pairs)

In pairs the unit-first order comes back: in vierendertig you hear the 4 before the 3. When a number goes too fast, ask Kunt u het nummer herhalen? (Can you repeat the number?) or Iets langzamer, alstublieft. (A bit slower, please.)

Telling the time: half vier is 3:30

The clock uses the same numbers, with one trap: half counts toward the next hour. Half vier is 3:30, half on the way to four, not half past four. Kwart over drie is 3:15 and tien voor zes is 5:50. In writing, Dutch uses the 24-hour clock, usually with a dot: 18.00 uur.

Typical mistakes

- **Dertien or dertig.** 13 and 30 sound close, and so do 14 and 40. Both are often stressed on der, so the stress does not help much. The reliable cue is the end: a full, clear ie in dertien, like English teen, and a short, weak -tig in dertig. If you are not sure, ask: Dertien of dertig?

- **Vier, but veertien and veertig.** Never viertien or viertig. In the same way drie becomes dertien and dertig. And 80 is tachtig, with a t in front, while 18 is achttien, with two t's in the middle.

- **The tens first.** Twintig een is not a Dutch number. It is eenentwintig: the unit first, one word.

- **Een or één.** The accents are needed only for the number one when it could be read as the article (a, an): Ik heb één kind is one child, Ik heb een kind is a child. Using them elsewhere is not wrong. When één starts a sentence it is written Eén (Één is also seen). Inside a longer number there are no accents: eenentwintig, honderdeen.

- **Twee euro's.** For an amount the unit stays singular after a number: twee euro, drie kilo, vijfhonderd gram, vijf jaar, twee uur. Euro's is for the coins themselves, Ik heb drie euro's in mijn zak (three euro coins in my pocket), and the plural is standard after honderden, duizenden and miljoenen: duizenden euro's. Months, weeks and minutes do take the plural: drie maanden, twee weken, tien minuten.

- **The comma and the period.** 2,5 is two and a half; 2.500 is two thousand five hundred. Read a Dutch bill with the Dutch signs in mind.

- **Half vier as half past four.** It is 3:30: half an hour to four.

See it in a text

The free texts on this site use numbers where a beginner meets them: at the checkout, at the market, on a door and on the clock. Each sentence below is quoted word for word from its text.

- **Dat is samen 48 euro.** That comes to 48 euro. (Kaart geweigerd, A1)

- **'Ik heb alleen twintig euro,' zegt Fatou zacht.** "I only have twenty euro," Fatou says softly. (twintig euro, not euro's. Kaart geweigerd, A1)

- **'Dat is dan zes euro vijftig. Pinnen of contant?'** "That will be 6.50 euro. Card or cash?" (Op de markt, A2)

- **'Eén,' zegt ze. 'Niet twee.'** "One," she says. "Not two." (Eén with an accent: the number, not the article. Controle, A1)

- **Luca staat op zijn balkon, op de derde verdieping.** Luca is standing on his balcony, three floors up. (De deur, A1)

- **Om zeven uur maakt ze het ontbijt. Om kwart over zes gaat ze altijd weg.** At seven she makes breakfast (at work, in a care home). She always leaves home at a quarter past six. (Een uur te vroeg, A1)

- **Nu is het half zeven.** Now it is 6:30. (half zeven: half on the way to seven. Geen stroom , A1)

- **Op de deur staat: ‘Zondag geopend van 12.00 tot 18.00 uur.’** The sign on the door says: “Open on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.” (Melk op zondag, A1)

Read next

Kaart geweigerd is an A1 story at a supermarket checkout, with audio and a glossary: a cart full of things for a child's party, a bank card that does not work, and numbers all the way through, from the six people in the line to the 48 euro at the register and the date on the card. Read it once for the story, then again and say every number out loud. More stories at this level are in the free A1 texts.

For a whole book at this level, Fairy Tales is the A1 volume of the Dutch Readers series: eight famous fairy tales, from Little Red Riding Hood to The Little Mermaid, retold in easy Dutch, with a glossary and questions after every tale. It is out now as a paperback.

How do you count to ten in Dutch?

Eén, twee, drie, vier, vijf, zes, zeven, acht, negen, tien. Zero is nul. Eleven and twelve are elf and twaalf, and from 13 the numbers end in -tien: dertien, veertien, vijftien.

Why is 21 eenentwintig in Dutch?

Because Dutch says the unit before the tens, joined by en (and): one-and-twenty. German does the same, and older English did too (four and twenty blackbirds). The whole number is one word, with a trema where en follows an e: tweeëntwintig.

When do you write één with accents?

The accents are needed only when it means the number one and could be read as the article een (a, an): Ik heb één kind is one child, Ik heb een kind is a child. Using them elsewhere is not wrong. When één starts a sentence it is written Eén (Één is also seen). Longer numbers have no accents: eenentwintig, honderdeen.

How do you say 2026 in Dutch?

Tweeduizend zesentwintig, with a space after duizend when you write it out; you will also hear twintig zesentwintig. Years from 1100 to 1999 are said in hundreds and written as one word: 1945 is negentienhonderdvijfenveertig.