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FOR BEGINNERS
CEFR TARGET

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A2

hallo

**TARGET:
LANGUAGES**

**LEARN
DUTCH**
Beginner level
A2

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**Adapted for English speakers
by Elise Bradbury**



**THE
TARGET: LANGUAGES
SERIES**

THE COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE FOR LANGUAGES

When, exactly, can someone say they ‘speak’ a foreign language? When can they claim to speak it ‘correctly’ and fluently? Language mastery is an issue that has long exercised educationalists and linguists. It might have remained a topic of academic debate, and language acquisition just another subject on the educational curriculum, were it not for the fact that today’s learners need to demonstrate or prove the skills they have acquired, especially when working in a professional environment, applying for a job, or even moving to another country.

Various systems and scales have been developed to measure language proficiency, including the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the ALTE Framework and, in the United States, the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines and the ILR Scale.

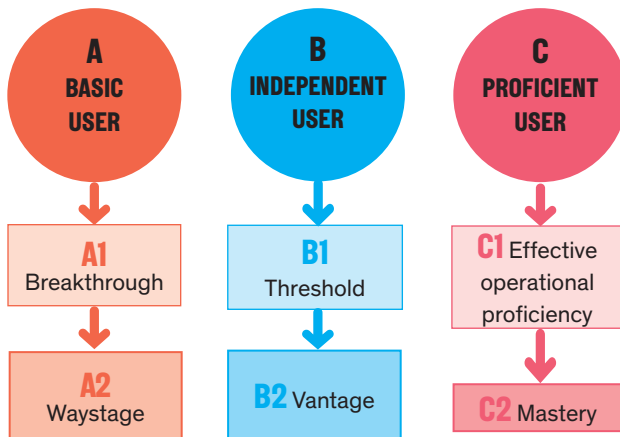
In the European Union, which has more than 20 official languages (among the 120 or so spoken throughout Europe as a whole), the assessment issue has been a particularly critical question. This is why in 2001 the Council of Europe designed the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL). The main purpose of this initiative was to provide a method for learning, teaching and assessing that applies to all European languages so that they can be learned and practised more easily. Another of the original aims of the CEFRL, in addition to encouraging Europe’s citizens to travel and to interact with each other, was to put some order into the multiple private assessment tests that were in use before then and were, in most cases, specific to just one language.

More than 20 years after the CEFRL was rolled out, it has proven hugely successful, not only in Europe but throughout the world. Now available in some 40 languages, the framework is widely used by educators, course designers, human resource managers and companies, who “find it advantageous to work with stable, accepted standards of measurement and format”.¹

¹“Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: learning, teaching, assessment”, Council of Europe, 2001

CEFRL LEVELS AND CATEGORIES

The Common European Framework comprises 3 broad categories and 6 common levels of competency:



Each level of competency comprises detailed 'descriptors' of language proficiency and communication:

- spoken and written production
- reception (listening and reading comprehension)
- spoken and written interaction
- spoken and written mediation
- non-verbal signals.

For this Target: Languages course, we have restricted the communication activities to reception and basic production. Interaction, mediation and non-verbal communication will be learned at a later stage by meeting and interacting with native speakers, either in person or online.

A2 LEVELS AND SKILLS

At Level A2, the learner can:

- understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary
- read short texts and find information in simple materials
- understand short, simple personal letters
- communicate in simple, routine tasks
- describe in simple terms one's family and others, living conditions, educational background and job
- write short, simple notes and messages.

Most self-study methods refer to one of the CEFRL levels, generally B2, but few have been produced with those requirements specifically in mind. The Target: Languages collection has been designed using the descriptors and competencies outlined in the reference framework. The content of the dialogues has been enhanced with respect to the baseline specifications in order to meet the real needs of today's users. And, faithful to the Assimil philosophy, every effort has been made to make the learning experience enjoyable.

A word of advice to learners

By listening carefully to the dialogues, reading and understanding the grammatical explanations, and completing all the exercises, you will reach Level A2. There is no specific timeframe, so you can choose the pace that you feel comfortable with. But when you reach the end of the course, that's when the work really begins! You must immerse yourself in the language, taking every opportunity to talk with native speakers, watch movies, read books, articles and blogs – in short, to take every opportunity for using the knowledge you have acquired. That is the first most important step on the road to mastery, however it is officially measured!

* Comparative competency scales

CEFRL	ACTFL	ILR
A1	Novice Low Novice High	0 0+
A2	Intermediate Low Intermediate Mid	1
B1	Intermediate High	1+
B2	Advanced Advanced Plus	2 2+
C1	Superior	3 3+
C2	Distinguished	4 4+

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I

FIRST

CONTACT

1. FIRST ENCOUNTER

EERSTE KENNISMAKING

AIMS

- SAYING HELLO
- INTRODUCING YOURSELF
- ASKING SOMEONE THEIR NAME AND WHERE THEY LIVE
- SAYING GOODBYE

TOPICS

- INFORMAL AND FORMAL ADDRESS
- INFINITIVES AND THE PRESENT TENSE

HELLO

(Informal)

Mark: Hello.

Hostess: Hello (*Day*). * What are your names (*How are-called you [pl.]*)?

Mark: My name is (*I am-called*) Mark Jansen.

Bernie: And I'm Bernie.

Hostess: Have you come (*Come you*) for the cheese-tasting?

Mark: Yes.

Hostess: Do you live on (*Live you in the*) Tulips Street?

Mark: Yes, we live at (*on*) number 6.

Hostess: Good, you are (*stand*) on the list.

Mark: Great, thanks, and see you later (*until soon*).

Hostess: See you later.

(Formal)

Hostess: Good afternoon (*Good-day*). What's your name?

Mr Peters: Jasper Peters.

Hostess: Have you also come for the cheese-tasting?

Mr Peters: Yes.

Hostess: And where do you live?

Mr Peters: On (*the*) Birches Lane.

Hostess: In Amsterdam?

Mr Peters: No, in Zaandam.

Hostess: Oh, pardon me!

* The words in parentheses and italics are literal translations of the Dutch to help you pick up the vocabulary and syntax.

Mark: Hallo.

Hostess: Dag. Hoe heten jullie?

Mark: Ik heet Mark Jansen.

Bernie: En ik heet Bernie.

Hostess: Komen jullie voor de kaasproeverij?

Mark: Ja.

Hostess: Wonen jullie in de Tulpenstraat?

Mark: Ja, we wonen op nummer 6 (zes).

Hostess: Goed, jullie staan op de lijst.

Mark: Prima, bedankt en tot straks.

Hostess: Tot later.

Hostess: Goedendag. Hoe heet u?

Meneer Peters: Jasper Peters.

Hostess: Komt u ook voor de kaasproeverij?

Meneer Peters: Ja.

Hostess: En waar woont u?

Meneer Peters: In de Berkenlaan.

Hostess: In Amsterdam?

Meneer Peters: Nee, in Zaandam.

Hostess: O sorry!

■ UNDERSTANDING THE DIALOGUE SOME USEFUL STARTING POINTS

- **Hallo** *Hello* is a very common greeting. It is more informal than **Goedendag**, literally 'Good day', of which **Dag** is the short form.
- **Hoe heten jullie?** *What are your names?* ('How are-called you?'). Note that **jullie** is the informal plural *you*, used to address more than one person. The verb **heten** means *to be called, to be named*. The formal *you* is **u**, which has a different verb conjugation. There is also an informal singular *you* (**jij**), but we'll get to that later! See the section below for more about informal and formal address.
- **kaasproeverij** *cheese-tasting* is a compound word formed from two words: **kaas** and **proeverij**. We see the same thing with **Tulpenstraat** *Tulips Street* and **Berkenlaan** *Birches Lane*.
- The article **de** *the* is used before a street name: **in de Tulpenstraat** *in Tulips Street* (note the singular nouns **de tulp** *tulip* and **de berk** *birch*).
- The preposition **op** means *on* (to give an address in Dutch, you use *on* rather than *at*: **op nummer 6** *at number 6*; **op de lijst** *on the list*).
- **staan** *to be (standing)* is the verb used for things that are written or printed.
- **bedankt** *thanks* and **sorry** are very commonly used and are fairly informal.
- The preposition **tot** *until* is used in expressions such as **tot straks** *see you soon*, **tot later** *see you later*.

INFORMAL AND FORMAL ADDRESS

Unlike modern English, Dutch has two registers for addressing others: informal and formal. The informal second-person pronouns **jij** (singular) and **jullie** (plural) are generally used when speaking to family, friends and colleagues. Today, they are also often used between people that don't know each other, especially people of the same age, and even by companies addressing their clients. The second-person formal pronoun **u** (which is both singular and plural) is mainly used in conversations with superiors (although you will also hear the informal in these contexts), older people or in official settings.

Generally speaking, if the person you are speaking to introduces themselves with their first name, you can use the informal. But in situations in which it is important to show respect or to create a certain distance, opt for the formal address (**u**).

◆ GRAMMAR

FORMAL ADDRESS

As the formal **u** *you* can be used to address one person or a group of people, there is only one verb conjugation to remember for any formal situation. For example:

Hoe heet u? *What's your name? or What are your names?*

Komt u ook voor de kaasproeverij? *Have you (on your own / you both / you all) also come for the cheese-tasting?*

▲ CONJUGATION

INFINITIVES AND THE PRESENT TENSE

Dutch infinitives (the unconjugated form of a verb) almost always end in **-en**: **heten** *to be called*; **komen** *to come*; **wonen** *to live*, etc.

The second-person plural (informal) is identical to the infinitive:


jullie heten *you are called*; **jullie komen** *you come*; **jullie wonen** *you live*.

In the formal present tense, the **-en** of the infinitive is replaced with **-t** (i.e. the verb stem + **-t**, unless the stem already ends in **-t**):*

u heet *you are called*; **u komt** *you come*; **u woont** *you live*.

* The vowel in the verb stem is doubled when some verbs are conjugated. For more on spelling rules, see lessons 3, 4, 8 and 10.

◆ EXERCISES

The exercises accompanied by audio are indicated with a speaker icon.  In these cases, first listen to the recording, then answer the exercise questions. You may need to select 'Pause' if there are several steps. The exercise answers can be found at the end of the book.

1. LINK EACH QUESTION TO THE CORRECT RESPONSE.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| a. Hoe heet u? | • | • 1. We wonen in de Tulpenstraat. |
| b. Hoe heten jullie? | • | • 2. Meneer Peters. |
| c. Waar wonen jullie? | • | • 3. In Zaandam. |
| d. Waar woont u? | • | • 4. Ik heet Mark. Ik heet Bernie. |

2. CHOOSE THE CORRECT PREPOSITION FOR EACH SENTENCE.

- a. Ik woon **in/op** de Berkenlaan. c. Op/Tot later!
b. We wonen **in/op** nummer 6. d. U staat **om/op** de lijst.

3. COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE WITH THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB.

- a. Jullie (wonen) in Amsterdam.
b. (Heten) jullie Mark en Bernie?
c. (Komen) u voor de kaasproeverij?
d. En waar (wonen) u?



4. (I) READ THESE VERBS AS YOU LISTEN TO THE AUDIO: **HEET, HETEN, KOMT, STAAN, WOONT, WONEN.**
(II) COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE WITH THE CORRECT VERB FROM THE LIST ABOVE AND THEN READ THE SENTENCE OUT LOUD.
(III) LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND CORRECT YOUR ANSWERS IF YOU NEED TO.

Example: Hoe jullie? → Hoe heten jullie?

- a. Waar jullie?
b. u voor de proeverij?
c. De kaasmaker (*cheesemaker*) meneer Peters.
d. jullie op de lijst?
e. u in Amsterdam?

● VOCABULARY

Note: These are the words from the lesson, listed in order of their appearance. The nouns appear with the definite article *the*: this is because in Dutch, *the* can be either **de** or **het**, depending on the type of noun it is used with.

We'll explain this in the next lesson, but for now just remember that when you come across a new word, it's best to try to learn the noun and the article together.

Hallo! / Dag! *Hello!* (informal)

de hostess *hostess*

Hoe? *How?*

heten *to be called, to be named*

jullie *you* (informal plural)

ik *I*

en *and*

komen *to come*

voor *for*

de kaasproeverij *cheese-tasting*

Ja. *Yes.*

Nee. *No.*

wonen *to live*

in *in*

de straat *street*

de tulp *tulip* (**tulpen** *tulips*)

we *we*

op *on*

het nummer *number*

goed *good*

staan *to be* (*standing or upright*)

de lijst *list*

Prima! *Great!*

Bedankt. *Thanks.*

tot *until*

straks *soon*

later *later*

Goedendag. *Good afternoon.*

Hello. (formal)

u *you* (formal singular & plural)

de meneer *mister*

ook *also*

Waar? *Where?*

de laan *lane*

de berk *birch* (**berken** *birches*)

O! *Oh!*

Sorry. *Excuse me. Sorry.*

de kaasmaker / de kaasmaakster
cheesemaker (m./f.)



AUDIO CONTENT IS ACCESSIBLE ON:



**TARGET:
LANGUAGES**

DESIGNED BY ASSIMIL,
THE #1 SELF-STUDY
LANGUAGE SPECIALIST
IN FRANCE SINCE 1929

LEARN DUTCH

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