

Dutch Sentence Structure series - Part 2 of 4

Dutch Sentence Structure

Part 2: Questions - Closed & Open Questions

What you will learn in this course:

- ✓ The two main question types in Dutch: closed and open questions
- ✓ How to form yes/no questions with simple inversion
- ✓ The most common question words (wie, wat, waar, wanneer, hoe...)
- ✓ The two word order patterns for open questions
- ✓ How welke and hoeveel questions work differently
- ✓ Practice exercises with answer key

LEVEL	FORMAT	PAGES
A0-A2	PDF Workbook	15 pages

Introduction

In Part 1, you learned how Dutch builds normal sentences and how inversion works. Now it's time to use that foundation to ask questions. Something you'll need constantly in real conversations.

Dutch has two main question types:

1. **Closed questions** → answered with yes or no
2. **Open questions** → answered with specific information, using a question word

How to use this workbook

Read each explanation carefully and study the examples before attempting the exercises. The answer key is at the end of this workbook.

PREVIEW — Dutch and You

Part 1 - Closed Questions

1.1. What is a Closed Question?

A closed question is a question that can be answered with ja (yes) or nee (no). It aims to confirm information, not to ask for new information.

The good news: forming a closed question in Dutch is simple.

The rule:

Move the verb to the front of the sentence (position 1). The subject moves to position 2. Add a question mark at the end.

1.2 Examples

NORMAL SENTENCE	CLOSED QUESTION
We gaan vanmiddag met onze nieuwe collega's lunchen.	Gaan we vanmiddag met onze nieuwe collega's lunchen?
Anna wil een softijsje met discodip.	Wil Anna een softijsje met discodip?
Je mag tijdens de vergadering vragen stellen.	Mag je tijdens de vergadering vragen stellen?

Notice:

The verb that moves to the front is always the FIRST verb (the conjugated one). Also, the same verb that never moves in inversion. Everything else stays in its normal position.

Part 2 - Open Questions

2.1. What is an Open Question?

An open question asks for specific information and uses a question word. Unlike closed questions, the answer is never just ja or nee.

Common question words

wie (who)	wat (what)	waar (where)
wanneer (when)	waarom (why)	hoe (how)
welk/welke (which)	hoe laat (what time)	hoeveel (how much/many)

2.2 Word Order - Type 1 (most question words)

This pattern works for **wie**, **wat**, **waar**, **wanneer**, **waarom**, and **hoe**.

Q-WORD	VERB	SUBJECT	TIME	WHO/ WHAT	WHERE	VERB 2/3
Wat	wil	je	vanavond			eten?
Wanneer	gaat	Jan		met pensioen?		
Wie	heeft			mijn pen?		
Waar	gaat	ze				studeren?

Vertalingen:

1. **What** would you like for dinner tonight?
2. **When** is Jan going to retire?
3. **Who** has my pen?
4. **Where** is she going to study?