



Dutchies to be  
Learn Dutch with Kim

## BIG FAT DUTCH VERBS COURSE

### The verbs HEBBEN & ZIJN

This is the **summary** about the two most common verbs in Dutch: **hebben** and **zijn**. You can download this file and do the extra tests. Let's start with some important sentences from the video:

#### Important sentences (you can also listen to the audio file!)

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Ben</b> je er klaar voor?      | Are you ready?                                      |
| 2. <b>Heb</b> je er zin in?          | Are you looking forward to it / excited?            |
| 3. Ik <b>ben</b> jarig.              | It's my birthday. (Lit: I am "adding a year".)      |
| 4. Ik <b>heb</b> honger/dorst.       | I am hungry/thirsty (Lit: I "have hunger/thirst".)  |
| 5. Ik <b>heb</b> zin in ....         | I feel like... / I am looking forward to...         |
| 6. Ik <b>heb</b> het druk.           | I am busy.  |
| 7. Wij <b>zijn</b> gelijk.           | We are equal.                                       |
| 8. Wij <b>hebben</b> gelijk.         | We are right.                                       |
| 9. Jullie <b>hebben</b> geluk.       | You are lucky.                                      |
| 10. Ik <b>heb</b> het naar mijn zin. | I'm having a fantastic time. / I'm enjoying myself. |

#### ZIJN → comparable to "to be"

With the verb **zijn** you can tell *who* you are, *what* you are, *where* you are, how your *mood* is. It's comparable to the English "to be". However, not always! Sometimes in English you use "to be" and in Dutch we use **hebben** instead of **zijn**. We will see this once we come to the verb **hebben**. The conjugations for **zijn** in the *present tense* are:

Ik	<b>ben</b>	
Jij / je	<b>bent</b>	but: <b>ben jij/je</b> <sup>1</sup>
U	<b>bent</b>	
Hij	<b>is</b>	
Zij / ze	<b>is</b>	
Het	<b>is</b>	
Wij / we	<b>zijn</b>	
Jullie	<b>zijn</b>	
Zij / ze	<b>zijn</b>	

<sup>1</sup> When the pronouns **je** and **jij** follow the verb (for instance in a sentence with inversion, or when it's a question, the verb loses its -t. This is ALWAYS the case! But ONLY for **je** & **jij**, NOT for **u**!



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## HEBBEN → comparable to “to have”

With the verb **hebben** you designate a “*possession*”, or in what kind of a *state* you are. On this latter occasion, you would typically use the verb “to be” in English and not “to have”. But in Dutch, we use **hebben** in these kinds of contexts, because it’s usually a noun that follows **hebben**, such as in “Ik **heb** *honger*” or “Ik **heb** *dorst*”. It’s “*de honger*” and “*de dorst*” and those are things that you “have”.

The conjugations for **hebben** in the *present tense* are:

Ik	<b>heb</b>	
Jij / je	<b>hebt</b>	but: <b>heb jij/je</b>
U	<b>hebt/heeft</b> <sup>2</sup>	
Hij	<b>heeft</b>	
Zij / ze	<b>heeft</b>	
Het	<b>heeft</b>	
Wij / we	<b>hebben</b>	
Jullie	<b>hebben</b>	
Zij	<b>hebben</b>	

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<sup>2</sup> U can also take “**heeft**”! A lot of the Dutch say “u **heeft**” instead of “u **hebt**”.