



Dutchies to be
Learn Dutch with Kim

DUTCH FOR HIGHER INTERMEDIATES (A2>B1+)

ZOUDEN #1

Deze PDF hoort bij de les over ZOUDEN in de *Dutch for intermediates course*. Als je je daarvoor hebt aangemeld, kun je de theorie dus in les 12 vinden. Ik heb deze PDF (in het Engels) toch ook opgenomen in deze cursus, omdat het goed is de theorie nog een keer te herhalen voordat we in de andere PDF gaan kijken naar **zouden** + modale werkwoorden.

Section 1: The four functions of **zouden**

Technically, **zouden** is the imperfectum of **zullen**. However, I don't like to emphasize that since it has more functions than only stating something about the past, which is usually the function of a verb in the imperfectum. Only the first function that we're going to study has this meaning, and in the other three, it has different meanings.

I. Something that hasn't happened

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Ik zal jullie meer voorbeelden laten zien.
(plan/intention) | I will show you more examples. |
| 2. Ik zal in Amsterdam gaan wonen.
(plan) | I will live in Amsterdam. |
| 3. De trein zal van spoor 8B vertrekken.
(action) | The train will depart from track 8B. |
| 4. Het zal straks wel (gaan) regenen.
(probability/prediction) | It will be raining soon. |
| 5. Wij zullen op de kinderen passen.
(promise) | We will look after the children. |



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If these things didn't work out, we could replace **zal/zullen** with **zou/zouden**.

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|--|--|
| 1. Ik zou jullie meer voorbeelden laten zien, maar we hadden geen tijd meer. | I would have shown you more examples, but we ran out of time. |
| 2. Ik zou in Amsterdam gaan wonen, maar toen moest ik opeens naar Spanje verhuizen! | I was supposed to live in Amsterdam, but then suddenly I had to move to Spain! |
| 3. De trein zou van spoor 8B vertrekken, maar uiteindelijk vertrok hij van spoor 9. | The train was supposed to depart from track 8B, but eventually it departed from track 9. |
| 4. Het zou gaan regenen, maar toen kwam opeens de zon door! | It was supposed to rain, when suddenly the sun came through! |
| 5. Wij zouden op de kinderen passen, maar toen moesten we opeens werken! | We were supposed to look after the children, but suddenly we had to work! |

II. Dreaming about another reality

When you want to say something about “*what you would do if...*”, we use the “conditional”, and then you can also use **zouden**: “Wat **zou** je doen, als....?”

1. Als ik meer geld **zou hebben**, (dan) **zou** ik een huis **kopen**.
If I had more money, (then) I would buy a house.
2. Als ik een vogel **zou zijn**, (dan) **zou** ik de hele wereld over **vliegen**.
If I were a bird, (then) I would fly around the world.
3. Als ik de minister-president **zou zijn**, (dan) **zou** ik gezond eten goedkoper en ongezond eten duurder **maken**.
If I were the Prime Minister, (then) I would make healthy food cheaper and unhealthy food more expensive.



Let's take a look at the grammar of these sentences:

- They all start with a subordinate clause with "Als", meaning **zou** is positioned at the end of these subordinate clauses, together with the **infinitives**.
- After these subordinate clauses, we can find the main clauses with inversion of the verb **zou** and the subject **ik**. The **infinitives** are at the end of those main sentences.
- The use of "dan" is optional.

We call these kinds of sentences *conditionals* because only if you have A you would/could do B. In the examples given above, I used the verb **zouden** in sentences A and B. But you can also just use **zouden** in only one sentence or leave it out altogether! In that case, you have to change the **infinitive** into the main verb in the **imperfectum**.

1. Als ik meer geld **zou hebben**, (dan) **zou** ik een huis **kopen**.
2. Als ik meer geld **had**, (dan) **zou** ik een huis **kopen**.
3. Als ik meer geld **zou hebben**, (dan) **kocht** ik een huis.
4. Als ik meer geld **had**, **kocht** ik een huis.

All these sentences mean the same: "If I had more money, I would buy a house."

III. Wish/desire

In case you want to state something about a wish or desire, you can use **zouden** + *graag* / *weleens* and **willen** in front of the infinitive:

1. Ik **zou graag willen** parachutespringen. I would like to skydive.
2. Ik **zou weleens willen** parachutespringen. I would like to skydive someday.
3. Ik **zou graag** naar Latijns-Amerika **willen** verhuizen. I would like to move to Latin America.
4. Ik **zou weleens** de acteur van de serie Lucifer **willen** ontmoeten. I would like to meet the actor of the TV-show Lucifer.



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IV. Polite question

The last function for this class is asking a polite question with **zouden**. Compare the following A versions of the questions with their politer B versions:

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. A. Mag ik een glaasje water? | Can/may I have a glass of water? |
| B. Zou ik een glaasje water mogen ? | Could I have a glass of water? |
| | |
| 2. A. Kunnen we bij het raam zitten? | Can we sit by the window? |
| B. Zouden we bij het raam kunnen zitten? | Could we sit by the window? |
| | |
| 3. A. Wil je je schoenen uitdoen? | Could you take of your shoes? |
| B. Zou je je schoenen uit willen doen? | Would you mind taking off your shoes? |

You can see that if you use **zouden**, the modal verbs *mogen*, *kunnen* and *willen* are moving towards the end of the sentence, most of the time in front of another infinitive. The A versions are not necessarily impolite, but the B versions are just a bit more polite.

If you use **zouden** with another modal verb, you can usually translate them as follows in English:

- Zouden + willen = **would**
- Zouden + kunnen = **could**
- Zouden + mogen = **could**
- Zouden + moeten = **should**

You can learn more about this function in the following PDF about **zouden + modal verbs**.