



Dutchies to be
Learn Dutch with Kim

BIG FAT DUTCH VERBS COURSE

Introduction of the past tenses + conjugation of regular verbs

In Dutch, we have three past tenses, and there are several names for them. We have the **imperfectum**, **perfectum** and **plusquamperfectum**. Other words for these three terms are:

<u>Latin term</u>	<u>Dutch term</u>	<u>English term</u>
• Imperfectum	onvoltooid verleden tijd	past simple
• Perfectum	voltooid tegenwoordige tijd	present perfect
• Plusquamperfectum	voltooid verleden tijd	past perfect

Fietsen (to bike)

1. Present: Ik **fiets** met mijn vriendin.
I bike with my friend/girlfriend.
2. Imperfectum: Ik **fietste** met mijn vriendin.
I biked with my friend/girlfriend.
3. Perfectum: Ik **ben** met mijn vriendin naar Amsterdam **gefietst**.
I have biked with my friend/girlfriend to Amsterdam.
4. Plusquamperfectum: Ik **was** met mijn vriendin naar Amsterdam **gefietst**.
I had biked with my friend/girlfriend to Amsterdam.

Rennen (to run)

5. Present: Wij **rennen** de hele middag.
We run the whole afternoon.
6. Imperfectum: Wij **renden** de hele middag.
We ran the whole afternoon.
7. Perfectum: Wij **hebben** de hele middag **gerend**.
We "have run" the whole afternoon.
8. Plusquamperfectum: Wij **hadden** de hele middag **gerend**.
We "had run" the whole afternoon.



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I. The forms:

Now let's look at how we made the forms for the 3 past tenses:

- For the conjugation of the verb in the **imperfectum**, you first look for the **stam** (*the root*) of the verb,¹ and then you do the following:

stam + de(n) or **stam + te(n)**
ren + den *fiets + te*

-de and **-te** are for the singular subjects and **-ten** and **-den** for the plural subjects. Why some verbs (like *fietsen* in sentence 2) get **-te(n)** and others (such as *rennen* in sentence 6) get **-de(n)**, I'll explain below.

- In the **perfectum** and **plusquamperfectum**, the **past participle** (*participium/voltooid deelwoord*) is formed as follows:

ge + stam + d or **ge + stam + t**
ge + ren + d *ge + fiets + t*

Note that not all verbs get **ge-** in front of the stam. Scroll to the end of this lesson to see which verbs don't get **ge-**!

- In sentences 3 and 4, we use a conjugation of the verb **zijn** for the auxiliary verb, and in sentences 7 and 8 a conjugation of the verb **hebben**.

In this short intro, we are only going to look at the spelling of regular verbs. If you want to learn more about when to use **hebben** or **zijn** for the (plusquam)perfectum, go to lesson 3 of this section, or watch this video: https://youtu.be/vVm_njBsu_I

II. When to add a D or T?

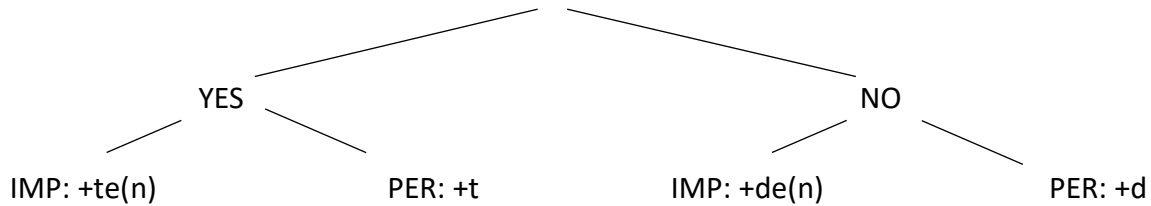
The rule for adding a **d** or **t** is based on what I like to call the *Sexy softketchup* rule.² Look at the last letter of the *stam* (or the *ik-vorm*, or in English the *root*) of the verb to see if it's in *Sexy softketchup*:

¹ If you want to learn more about how to make the stam, watch this video: <https://youtu.be/UFLrX3cyioc>

² You can watch the video about this rule here: <https://youtu.be/VslsGrgaMVw>



Sexy Softketchup



Whenever the *stam* ends on one of the **consonants** in **Sexy Softketchup** you add a **t**. In all other cases, you add a **d**. That's why the verb *fietsen* gets a **t** (root is *fiets*), and *rennen* gets a **d** (the root is *ren*). **-de** and **-te** are for the singular subjects and **-ten** and **-den** for the plural subjects.

It's important to keep two things in mind:

1. This applies to regular verbs. If you want to learn more about irregular verbs, go to the next lesson in this section course, or watch this video: <https://youtu.be/HAwNIIOkTb4>
2. We have two categories of verbs that behave a bit strangely. Those are verbs with a **z** or a **v** in the infinitive that changes into an **s** or **f** in the *stam*. Think of *reizen* and *gelooven* which become *reis* and *geloof* in the *stam*. However, the "underlying" stems of these verbs still end on a **z** and **v** (even though you don't write that), meaning that those letters are not in *Sexy softketchup*. The forms in the imperfectum and perfectum are therefore as follows:

Reizen > reis**de(n)** > gereis**d** (to travel)
Leven > leef**de(n)** > geleef**d** (to live)

III. Verbs that don't get **ge-** in the *past participle* (*participium/voltooid deelwoord*).

Verbs that don't get **ge-** in the past participle in the perfectum & plusquamperfectum are starting with either one of these prefixes:

Prefix:	Example	Stam	Imperfectum	Past participle
Ge-	gelooven (to believe)	geloof	geloofde(n)	geloofd
Her-	herkennen (to recognize)	herken	herkende(n)	herkend
Er-	erkennen (to acknowledge)	erken	erkende(n)	erkend
Ont-	ontmoeten (to meet)	ontmoet	ontmoette(n)	ontmoet
Ver-	veranderen (to change)	verander	veranderde(n)	veranderd
Be-	beloven (to promise)	beloof	beloofde(n)	beloofd