



Dutchies to be
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DUTCH FOR INTERMEDIATES

Les 7 – Verbs with prepositions

In this class, we're going to look at verbs with prepositions. I have made three categories: (1) the preposition is optional, (2) the preposition is mandatory, and (3) the meaning of the verb changes when you use a (different) preposition. We're also going to look at three prepositions that sometimes change their forms when you use them. For example in a question with *waar*. Those prepositions are **naar**, **met**, and **uit**.

Before we dive into those categories, I want to mention a couple of important things.

- In lesson 13 of the [Dutch beginners' course](#) you can find an introduction to Dutch prepositions. In that class, I am teaching you basic prepositions that we use for stating a position.¹ I have also included them in the list below.
- In [lesson 18](#) of this course, I will cover other important prepositions.
- In this lesson, I am only introducing the three verb categories. We're not looking into complex sentence structures that can occur when you have separable verbs (consisting of a preposition as prefix) or reflexive verbs in combination with a preposition. Or worse: if the verb is separable AND reflexive and also has a preposition. In lessons 8 and 9, you're going to learn about separable and reflexive verbs first. And I have included an extra lesson about the sentence structure when combining these separable and reflexive verbs with prepositions.

Important Dutch prepositions

Here you find a list of important Dutch prepositions. Most of them are used for positions (first column) and other kinds of usages. I only give different types of English translations. You can see examples in the combinations with the verbs, and later also in lesson 18.

	Position	In other usages
1. In	in	in/at
2. Op	on/at	in/on/at
3. Onder	under/below	among(st)
4. Boven	above/over	above/beyond
5. Uit	out	of/from
6. Aan	on/at	to/of/about
7. Om	around	at/to/for
8. Voor	in front of	for/before

¹ You can find the video about this here: <https://youtu.be/llsJtRu5stI>



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9. Achter	behind/after	after
10. Naast	next to/beside	aside
11. Tegen	against	to/against
12. Tegenover	facing	before
13. Bij	by/close to/near	with/at/by
14. Tussen	between	among
15. Naar	x	to/for
16. Over	over/above/across	about
17. Door	through	through/by/because of
18. Met	x	with/to
19. Tot	x	to/as far as/until
20. Van	x	from/of

The three categories

I. Category 1: Verbs with optional prepositions.

In this category, we find verbs that are usually used with prepositions but can also go without. And with or without preposition, they still mean the same. In this category you can place all the verbs that either indicate a position (**zitten, liggen, staan, hangen**) or a movement (**rennen, lopen, rijden, vliegen, fietsen**, etc.) For these verbs it is possible to make sentences without prepositions. Still, most of the time, you use a preposition to either specify the position or the direction of the movement.

1. **Zitten** (to sit)

Ik **zit**.

I am sitting.

Ik **zit op** de bank.

I am sitting on the couch.

Ik **zit in** de auto.

I am sitting in the car.

2. **Staan** (to stand)

Jij **staat**.

You are standing.

Jij **staat achter** de tafel.

You are standing behind the table.

Jij **staat naast** de muur.

You are standing next to the wall.

3. **Fietsen** (to cycle)

Hij **fietst**.

He is cycling.



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Hij **fietst naar** zijn werk.

He cycles to work.

Hij **fietst over** de brug.

He cycles over/across the bridge.

4. **Vliegen (to fly)**

Wij **vliegen**.

We are flying.

Wij **vliegen met** het vliegtuig **naar** Spanje.

We fly to Spain by plane.

Other frequent verbs that you can use with or without prepositions are for instance:

1. **Bewaren (voor & in) – to keep (for/in)**

Ik **bewaar** de sleutel.

I keep the key.

Ik **bewaar** de sleutel **voor** jou.

I keep the key for you.

Ik **bewaar** de sleutel **in** mijn portemonnee.

I keep the key in my wallet.

2. **Heten (naar) to be called (after)**

Ik **heet** Kim.

My name is Kim.

Ik **heet naar** mijn tante.

I am called after my aunt.

3. **Blijven (op & met) – to stay (at/with)**

Ik **blijf** nog even hier.

I will stay here for a while.

Ik **blijf** nog even **op** dit feestje.

I will stay at this party for a while.

Blijf je **bij** me?

Will you stay with me?

4. **Geld verdienen (met) – to make money (with/by)**

Ik **verdien** heel veel *geld*!

I make a lot of money!

Verdien jij ook veel *geld*?

Do you also make a lot of money?

Ik **verdien** geld **met** online cursussen.

I make money with online courses.



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II. Category 2: Verbs with mandatory prepositions

Verbs in this category always need to have a preposition; otherwise, the sentence is not (entirely) complete or doesn't make sense.

1. **Besteden aan** (to spend on)
Hoeveel geld **besteed** jij **aan** kleding? How much money do you spend on clothes?
2. **Denken aan** (to think of/about)
Denk je weleens **aan** mij? Do you ever think of/about me?
3. **Vergelijken met** (to compare to/with)
Mijn moeder **vergelijkt** mij
altijd **met** mijn broer!! My mother always compares me to my brother!!

III. Category 3: Verbs that change meaning with a (different) preposition

Verbs in this category mean something else without a preposition or with a different preposition. For instance:

1. **Houden** (to keep/hold)
Ik **houd** mijn katjes! I keep/hold my cats (kittens!)

Houden van (to love/like)
Ik **houd van** mijn katjes! I love my cats (kittens!)
2. **Uitkijken voor** (to watch out for)
In Australië moet je **uitkijken voor** slangen! In Australia you have to watch out for snakes!

Uitkijken naar (to look forward to)
Ik **kijk** erg **naar** mijn vakantie in Australië **uit**! I am really looking forward to my vacation in Australia!
3. **Gaan** (as an auxiliary verb = will)
Ik **ga** boodschappen doen. I will do groceries.



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Gaan naar (to go to)

We **gaan** morgen **naar** Australië.

We are going to Australia tomorrow.

Gaan over (to be about)

Het artikel **gaat over** slangen in Australië.

The article is about snakes in Australia.

The three prepositions that change forms

The prepositions **naar**, **met**, and **uit** change forms when you are, for example, asking an open question with *waar*.

1. *Waar* **ga** jij **naartoe**?
Ik **ga naar** Australië.

Where are you going?
I am going to Australia.

2. *Waar* **verdien** jij je geld **mee**?
Ik **verdien** mijn geld **met** cursussen maken.

How do you make your money?
I make my money with making courses.

3. *Waar* **kom** je **vandaan**?
Ik **kom uit** Nederland.

Where are you from?
I am from the Netherlands.

These three prepositions also change in sentences with the word **er**. You can learn more about that in lesson 21 of this intermediate course.