

Social Dutch 1 at – introduction letter

Introduction

Welcome to our beginners course in Dutch, Social Dutch blended learning. This course consists of 28 hours, divided in two contact hours per week and 1.5 to 2 hours of self-study. The self-study should be done after the session with your teacher.

Book

We work with *Start.nl deel 1*. The editor is: Coutinho. Please make sure that you have the book when the course starts. You cannot use a second hand book or copies, because the book is web-based and every book contains a unique access code.

You can find the **website** and your **unique access code** on the 2nd page of your book.

Self-study

For the self-study, you have access to a digital learning environment by using the code in your course book. The self-study includes the following activity:

Preparation:

- dialogue + exercises
- grammar
- vocabulary

If you think you need to practice some more, you could also do:

Consolidation:

- do more grammar exercises
- do more vocabulary exercises
- do the listening and understanding exercises

Test:

- do the written test.

Class

The group sessions take place once a week. Each session takes two hours. During the sessions with your teacher, you will improve your listening and speaking skills by doing all kind of interactive exercises with your fellow students. You can also ask questions about the grammar. Note that the focus lies on communication and not on grammar or writing.

Assessment

In the middle and at the end of the course there is an oral test. There is also an online test (writing) after every chapter. This test is not compulsory. However, we advise you to do the tests if you want to continue later on with a regular Dutch course (NLA2). Note that you will always need an oral and written intake if you want to continue with a regular NLA2-course.

Participation

If you know you are going to miss a class, please be so kind as to inform your teacher before the class takes place.

Please note that:

- You have to attend at least 5 group sessions.
- You cannot join another group.
- You cannot change the date of your oral exam and there is no re-sit.

For questions concerning the courses and payments, please check our website (www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/languages).

Certificate

At the end of this course, you will have reached level A1-. Your progress will be continually assessed and the final grade is based upon the first assessment (50%) and the final assessment (50%).

If your average grade is at least 6, you will receive a certificate. This certificate will be sent to you digitally by the Education Office of the Language Centre.

The number of credits earned after successfully concluding this course is the equivalent of 1 ECTS according to Maastricht University's guidelines. Please consult with your Faculty / home university if these credits will be accepted as part of your programme.

Follow-up course

Lastly, if you intend to continue your education, please remember to register for a follow-up course in time. Via the hyperlink below, you can see on which dates the registration for all other periods will open.

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/about-um/other-offices/language-centre/practical-course-information>

On behalf of the Dutch Department, we would like to wish you a very pleasant and effective course.