

**A GRAMMAR OF THE DUTCH  
LANGUAGE: BASED ON THE WORKS OF  
VAN DALE AND DE  
GROOT, AND LARGELY ILLUSTRATED BY  
QUOTATIONS FROM THE LITERATURE OF  
HOLLAND**

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A Grammar of the Dutch Language: Based on the Works of Van Dale and De Groot, and Largely Illustrated by Quotations from the Literature of Holland by A. L. Snell

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**A. L. SNELL**

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DUTCH LANGUAGE

*BASED ON THE WORKS OF VAN DALE  
AND DE GROOT*

AND

LARGELY ILLUSTRATED BY QUOTATIONS FROM  
THE LITERATURE OF HOLLAND.

BY

A. L. SNELL, B.A.,

*Late Head Master of Hanover School, and sometime Assistant-Master at the  
Grey Institute, Port Elizabeth, and at Crahanstown Public School,  
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TO

PHILIP WATERMEYER, Esq.,

FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, AND  
LATE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES,

*I dedicate this work,*

AS SOME SLIGHT RETURN FOR THE COUNTLESS ACTS OF  
FRIENDSHIP OF THE PAST.

## PREFACE.

This work is the outcome of eighteen months' employment of spare moments. I say "spare moments," for my spare hours have been fully occupied with professional study. It is, further, an honest attempt to place in the hands of the Englishmen of the Cape who may be unacquainted with Dutch such a comprehensive grammar of the language as has not yet appeared in their own tongue. And I trust that students who may find it convenient to use a Dutch grammar written in English will accept this as a help. I believe that no difficulty has been left ungrappled with, and that it contains well-nigh all that will render their study interesting and fruitful.

I have in the title-page stated that this work is based on those of Van Dale and De Groot. I believe that nothing of importance advanced by those two grammarians has been omitted by me. But while making them my chief authorities I have by no means excluded whatever seemed worth inserting from other sources. Then, too, I have been very much helped by Lango's German Grammar, and for the chapter on the Irregular Verbs I found Morris's "Historical Outlines of English Accidence" invaluable.

Immediately after my return to the Cape I have promised the publishers to prepare a companion work to this, in the shape of a book of exercises. I hope, if health allows, to have this ready for the press by the end of 1885. One or two mistakes have been allowed to pass uncorrected, but they will be found duly noticed in the short list of Errata. I shall be glad if others that may be noticed are pointed out to me, that they may be corrected in a future edition.

I have to offer my most sincere thanks to Mr. S. van Stralen, of the British Museum, and to my friend Mr. W. Durning, of Hanover, for much valuable help cheerfully rendered. To the latter I am especially grateful, the whole of the first chapter being the result of a long interview with him.

In conclusion, almost every line of the MS. was written in pain, which will account for any shortcomings on my part. I do not say this to deprecate criticism; all I ask is, let it be fair and kind. I shall be only too ready to make any alterations that may be pointed out as necessary.

A. L. S.

LONDON: 39 MARK LANE,  
CHRISTMAS, 1884.



A GRAMMAR  
OF THE  
DUTCH LANGUAGE.

CHAPTER I.

THE ALPHABET.—PRONUNCIATION OF THE LETTERS.

ERRATA.

Page	72	for	<i>achtienhonderd</i>	read	<i>achtienhonderd</i> .
"	88	"	<i>zijn</i> (F. of <i>zijn</i> , its)	"	<i>zijne</i> .
"	"	"	<i>mijn zuster</i>	"	<i>mijne zuster</i> .
"	"	"	( <i>dat</i> )	"	( <i>dat</i> ).
"	144	"	<i>vermaakte</i>	"	<i>vermaakt</i> .
"	170	"	<i>Dantzenberg</i>	"	<i>Dautzenberg</i> .

To THE READER.—Please take a pen and make these corrections at once.

d	day	more like t	tint	<i>stand</i> <i>lezen</i> <i>e-del</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">AND ALSO BEGINNING OF syllables. At the end of syllables. When long—that is, at the end of syllables, or when it alone con- stitutes a syllable. When short—that is, when in the middle or at the end of a word. Double <i>e</i> is always long: <i>steen</i>.</p>
e	ay	a	fate	<i>hem</i> <i>sterkte</i>	
f	eff	e	met	<i>fout</i>	

LETTER	NAME	PRONOUNCED LIKE	IN	EXAMPLES	REMARKS
g	gay	A strong guttural: no corresponding sound in English.		<i>dag</i> <i>goed</i>	When at the end or at the beginning of syl- lables.
			g	French <i>gema</i>	<i>plantage</i>
h	hah	h	hard	<i>halen</i>	Always aspirated.
		ee	deer	<i>voor</i>	When long—that is, when it alone con- stitutes a syllable.
i	ee	i	pi-ty	<i>lid</i>	When short.
j	yay	y	year	<i>jong</i>	
k	kah	k	kind	<i>kaart</i>	
l	el	l	love	<i>lossen</i>	
m	em	m	mind	<i>maxten</i>	
n	en	n	net	<i>nodig</i>	
		o	over	<i>ho-ven</i> <i>o-ven</i>	When long—that is, when at the end of syllables, or when it alone constitutes a syllable.
o	oh	o	lot	<i>stof</i>	When short—that is, when in the middle of syllables.
p	pay	p	pain	<i>papier</i>	
q	qu	kw	question	<i>quistantie</i>	
r	err	k	king	<i>quadrille</i>	In pure French words. But a more forcible sound than r in Eng- lish.
		r	ring	<i>raden</i>	Always sharp—never like z.
s	ess	s	sister	<i>sabel</i>	
t	tay	t	table	<i>toren</i>	
		ts	boots	<i>gratie</i>	In words derived from the Latin.
		u	French u	<i>bu-ron</i> <i>u-lieden</i>	When long—at end of syllables, or when it constitutes a syllable in itself.
u	u	u	shun	<i>burger</i>	When short—in the middle of syllables.
v	vay	v	vain	<i>veld</i>	For exceptions, see § 440.
w	way	v	valley	<i>worden</i>	
x	ex	ks	books	<i>Xenophon</i> <i>Alexander</i>	Only in foreign words.
y	ee	ee	bee	<i>Cyrus</i>	
z	zet	s	rephyr	<i>zingen</i>	For exceptions, see § 407.

THE ALPHABET.

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§ 2.—DIPHTHONGS AND COMPOUND VOWELS.

LETTERS	NAME	PRONOUNCED LIKE IN		EXAMPLES	REMARKS
		LIKE	IN		
ai	i	y	by	<i>ail</i>	See below, § 10 No corresponding sound in English. <i>f. in Dutch (Partly)</i>
ei, ij	ey	a	fate	<i>zeil, bijl</i>	
ui				<i>stuiten</i>	
au	ow	ow	how	<i>Paus</i>	Old spelling: one a is now omitted.
ou	ou	ou	sound	<i>schout</i>	
aa	ah-ee			<i>waai</i>	
oo	oh-ee			<i>mooi</i>	
oei	oh'ee			<i>boei-jen</i>	
oau	ow			<i>paus</i>	
eeu	ay-û			<i>leeuw</i>	
leu	ee-û			<i>nieuw</i>	

§ 3.—COMPOUND CONSONANTS.

LETTERS	NAME	PRONOUNCED LIKE IN		EXAMPLES	REMARKS
		LIKE	IN		
ch		ch	loch	<i>kracht</i>	A stronger guttural than <i>g</i> . In words of Greek origin.
ph		f	(Scotch) father	<i>Philippus</i>	
th		t	tent	<i>thee</i>	

§ 4.—Every simple letter is pronounced, or at least influences the pronunciation of another letter in some way.

§ 5.—Letters are divided into vowels and consonants. The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u*, with the compounds *ie, eu, oe*; the diphthongs have been given above: the remaining letters are consonants.

§ 6.—The vowels have their long, natural pronunciation, as in: *dagen, weken, wiegen, boter, muren, leugen, boeken*, or they are short, as in: *dag, val, rit, slot, blok, dan*.

§ 7.—The double vowels *aa, ee, oo*, and *uu*, are pronounced like long *a, e, o*, and *u*, respectively.