

Workbook – Successfully Passing Your NT2 Exams

Welcome to the masterclass '*Successfully Passing Your B1 Exams*'.

How great that you have taken the time to follow this masterclass.

My name is Elizabeth Bergsma, and I am the owner of Talk Dutch 2.

I have been teaching Dutch with great pleasure for over 7 years to expats and highly skilled migrants.

In this masterclass, I share the most important points you need to know for the exams.

All the information I explain can also be found in this workbook.

Preparation

This is what you need to know

You schedule your exams via www.inburgeren.nl

- You may take one exam per day.
- You can register eight weeks in advance.
- New exam dates are added regularly, especially when it is busy.
- Each exam costs €50.
- You can take the exams in: Zwolle, Rijswijk, Eindhoven, Utrecht, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam.

Always do the following:

1. Always start with the practice exams

This helps you understand what to expect, what you are already good at, and what you still need to improve.

2. Practice with time

If you are allowed 110 minutes during the real exam, also use 110 minutes while practicing. This helps prevent stress on the actual exam day.

3. Use good practice materials

- Good study books for each exam can be found at boomnt2.nl
- Free practice material is available via NT2 TaalMenu

4. Buy the correct dictionary

For Reading and Writing, you may use a dictionary.

Important: only the *Van Dale Pocket Dictionary Dutch as a Second Language (NT2)* is allowed.

[Van Dale Pocketwoordenboek Nederlands als tweede taal \(NT2\)](#)

5. Know the most common irregular verbs

These verbs help you understand the assignments better.

(see Appendix 1)

6. Focus on the right vocabulary

Focus on the 5,000 most frequently used Dutch words.

If you know these, you will understand about 90% of all texts and conversations.

(see Appendix 2)

Listening – What you need to know about the exam

The Listening exam consists of about 40 questions.

These belong to 5 or more listening texts, including 1 to 3 videos.

The exam lasts 90 minutes and you may not use a dictionary.

- You listen via headphones to short fragments
- After each fragment, you answer multiple-choice questions with three options
- You have 25 seconds to read the question and answers
- Then the fragment starts automatically
- You can listen only once

To pass, you must answer at least 25 questions correctly.

What will you hear?

You will hear people talking about:

- Work
- Study
- Daily life

The language is realistic:

You will hear different voices, slips of the tongue, repetitions and sometimes background noise

Speakers may have an accent, but no dialect.

The recordings are authentic and sound like real life.

How to prepare well?

1. Listen to podcasts regularly, such as:
 - *Een Beetje Nederlands*
 - *Echt Gebeurd*
 - *De Dag*
 - *Het Verhaal van Nederland*
2. Watch Dutch television, for example:
 - *NOS nieuws in makkelijke taal*
 - *Het Klokhuis*
 - *Goede Tijden Slechte Tijden*
3. Work on your vocabulary and verbs
 - The more you know, the more you understand
 - Use B1-level textbooks such as *Nederlands in Actie* or *In Zicht*
4. Use Dutch in real life
 - Speak as much as possible – then you also have to listen
5. Learn important signal words and sentence structures
 - Lists, contrasts, causes, conclusions
 - Sentence structure (inversion, main clauses, subordinate clauses)

Common mistakes (and how to avoid them)

- Thinking too long about a mistake
→ Move on. Focus on the next question. You don't have time to get stuck.
- Not reading all answer options
→ Always read all three. They often look very similar.
- Underestimating the exam
→ The Listening exam tests how accurately you listen.
Do not expect easy choices, You have to listen carefully.

Reading

During the Reading exam, you receive a book with texts.

The questions and answer options appear on the computer.

You will get 6 texts with in total 36 multiple-choice questions. You have 110 minutes to complete the exam.

If you answer 25 questions or more correctly, you pass.

Good to know: you may use the Van Dale NT2 pocket dictionary.

What is tested?

There are three types of questions:

1. Understanding
 - What is the topic?
 - What is the writer's intention?
 - What is the source of the text?
2. Content analysis
 - What does a part of the text mean exactly?
 - What is the conclusion?
 - How are sentences connected?
3. Searching
 - Can you find information in the text?
 - Can you organize information or combine two pieces of information?

How to prepare smartly

1. Use a step-by-step reading plan when practicing. Repeat this regularly.
(see Appendix 4)
2. Read the news 15 minutes every day. Start today.
Use apps such as NU.nl, NOS, AD, or Google News.
3. Write down new words.
In a notebook or on your phone (for example, message them to yourself).
4. Practice active reading. Ask yourself:
 - What is the topic?
 - Who is this text for?
 - What is the conclusion?
 - What does the writer mean?
5. Vary what you read. Not only news, but also:
 - Letters from your GP
 - Municipal information
 - Medicine leaflets

- Museum opening hours

This trains realistic situations.

Tips to pass

- Read everything: titles, subheadings, captions.
 - Read the question carefully and all answer options.
 - Always find proof in the text – don't rely only on your feeling.
 - Don't worry about time. 110 minutes is enough.
-

Writing

The Writing exam consists of several tasks. You may choose the order yourself.

You will have 100 minutes to complete the exam. You may use the Van Dale NT2 dictionary

You pass if you score 67% or higher

You type your answers directly on the computer. There are 3 types of writing tasks

1. Sentence tasks
Short tasks where you complete or write a sentence.
Focus: grammar, conjunctions, word order.
2. Two tasks where you write or complete a short tekst.
For example, writing a short message, filling in a form, or completing a text.
Correct sentence structure is important.
3. Two short writing tasks
Short texts such as a note, message, or description of a situation.

Most tasks are about work or school, some about daily life.

Preparation

1. Know the most important conjunctions and how to use:
 - Main clauses
 - Subordinate clauses
 - Inversion
2. Keep it simple.
You get points for clarity and correct grammar, not for difficult words.
3. Learn signal words for:
 - Lists

- Contrasts
- Cause and effect
- Conclusions

4. Practice writing in daily life.

Text or email in Dutch with someone you feel comfortable with.

5. Let AI check your texts, for example with ChatGPT.

Example prompts:

- “Assess this as an NT2 teacher and explain my mistakes.”
- “How can I improve this text? I am preparing for my NT2 I exam.”

6. Practice daily with the Boom NT2 School chatbot, even if it’s just five minutes.

Common mistakes

- Worrying about time – you have enough time
 - Not checking your text – always reread
 - Forgetting parts of the assignment. If they ask to write about 5 topics, then do so.
 - Using the wrong tense (sometimes past tense is required)
-

How to pass the Speaking exam – Even if You are stressed

During the Speaking exam, you wear headphones and speak into a microphone.

You hear the assignment and read it on the screen.

Important: everyone starts speaking at the same time.

This may sound strange, but now you know and are prepared.

The exam lasts about 30 minutes and exists of two parts: short and medium-length speaking tasks. You can not use the dictionary. You pass with 62.5% correct answers.

You will hear a beep signals when to start speaking.

Another beep tells you when to stop.

There are two types of tasks

- Short speaking tasks
1–2 sentences, 20 seconds
- Medium-length speaking tasks
A few sentences with explanation, 30 seconds

Preparation

1. Let go of perfection.
Say what you can say, not what you would say in your native language.
2. Learn basic opinion phrases:
 - “Ik denk dat...”
 - “Volgens mij...”
3. Practice giving advice:
 - “Je zou kunnen...”
 - “Als ik jou was...”
4. Learn listing language:
 - “Eerst..., daarna..., tenslotte...”
5. Practice with a timer to feel how long 20 or 30 seconds is.

Common mistakes

- Thinking too complicated – keep it simple. Short sentences are good.
 - Wanting to tell the truth – it doesn’t have to be real
 - Stopping because you think it’s wrong – keep talking and correct yourself.
 - Making very long sentences
 - Panicking – breathe and start over. Focus on what you do know.
 - Continuing after you’re done. You don’t need to speak for all the 20 or 30 seconds
-

KNM exam – What You really need to know to pass

The KNM exam tests your knowledge of how life in the Netherlands works.
You need facts and understanding, not opinions.

Topics include:

- Health care
- Education
- Work and income
- Government and the rule of law
- History (including the Holocaust)
- Geography

- Housing
- Institutions
- Digital skills
- Norms and values in the Netherlands

There will be 40 questions. You pass with 28 correct answers. You will have 45 minutes
Questions are read aloud by the computer. You choose from three options.

Important new topics from 2025 onwards

Make sure you understand:

- The Holocaust
- DigiD (government login system)
- Right to a translator at the GP
- Practice nurse (praktijkondersteuner)
- Organ donation law
- MAP (Module Labour Market and Participation)
- Chamber of Commerce (KVK)
- Disability insurance (AOV)
- Compulsory education
- Employer requirements
- Diploma evaluation via IDW

How to prepare

- Do practice exams
- Use online materials and books
- Read carefully and calmly
- Don't choose too quickly
- Read all options

Common mistakes

- Reading too fast
- Not doing practice exams
- Thinking you already know everything

Good luck with your exam preparation!

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Irregular verbs
- Appendix 2: 5,000-word frequency list
- Appendix 3: Signal words
- Appendix 4: Reading step-by-step plan
- Appendix 5: Sentence structure and conjunctions