

WRITING WORKSHEETS

Must-Know Dutch Idioms

Over koetjes en kalfjes praten.

Ove



Always wanted to speak Dutch?

This PDF is great for writing practice. But, if you want to speak, you'll want a resource that's designed to get you speaking — our special conversational lessons. So access our FREE DutchPod101 lessons and start speaking in the next few minutes.

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1. Over koetjes en kalfjes praten.

Literal Translation: talk about little cows and little calves

Meaning: small talk

2. Nu komt de aap uit de mouw.

Literal Translation: now the monkey comes out of the sleeve

Meaning: let the cat out of the bag

3. Een frisse neus halen.

Literal Translation: get a fresh nose

Meaning: getting some fresh air

4. ieder dubbeltje omdraaien

Literal Translation: turn every ten cents

Meaning: have a very economic mindset

5. het Spaans benauwd krijgen

Literal Translation: become Spanish breathless

Meaning: state of fear or anxiety

6. de lakens uitdelen

Literal Translation: distribute the sheets

Meaning: be in charge

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7. iets onder de knie hebben

Literal Translation: have something under the knee

Meaning: master something

8. een appeltje met iemand te schillen hebben

Literal Translation: have a little apple to peel with someone

Meaning: be angry at someone and wish to pay him back

9. alsof er een engeltje over je tong piest

Literal Translation: as if an angel is peeing on your tongue

Meaning: the food tastes great

10. met de deur in huis vallen

Literal Translation: fall with the door into the house

Meaning: get straight to the point

11. het regent pijpenstelen

Literal Translation: it's raining pipe-stems

Meaning: heavy rain

12. met je neus in de boter vallen

Literal Translation: fall with your nose in butter

Meaning: be at the right place at the right time

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13. Ben je van de trap gevallen?

Literal Translation: Did you fall down the stairs?

Meaning: asked someone who had a drastic haircut

14. op zijn tandvlees lopen

Literal Translation: walk on one's gums

Meaning: be exhausted

15. komkommertijd

Literal Translation: cucumber time

Meaning: the quiet summer period when little happens

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