**Dutch swear words**

At first, I hesitated to write this blog. Aren’t you all decent students? But still, I know that for quite a few of you, your first words in Dutch weren’t in the 1000 most common vocabulary list (link). The first words you learned were Dutch swear words.

Let’s take a look at some of the most frequent Dutch words that you won’t learn in your normal learning material.

Disclaimer: be aware all the words in this text are swear words, so be very careful if you think of using one of them in everyday life.

**The most popular swear words**

Without further introduction, let’s just start with the two most common swear words: *godverdomme* en *kut*!

Both can be used as an expression of anger or pain. *Godverdomme* literally translates to the English goddamnit. *Kut* sounds like the c-word in English. Whereas in English you couldn’t get away with using this, in Dutch it is not the end of the world. But again, it is still a word my mother would forbid you to use.

The way people use asshole in English, is *klootzak* in Dutch. The female versions would be *kutwijf* or the English loanword *bitch*.

**Diseases**

What makes swearing in Dutch stand out from other languages is the free use of diseases. And it’s not a new phenomenon. In fact, most of the diseases used are pretty old-fashioned words.

* *tyfuslijer* (someone that has typhoid)
* *tering* (tuberculosis)
* *klere* (cholera)

And nowadays the word you, unfortunately, hear more and more is *kanker* (cancer).

For you as a foreigner, this swearing with diseases is probably strange and offensive. But the fact is, that’s how the Dutch do it.

**English swear words in Dutch**

As you can see the Dutch are inventive when it comes to Dutch swear words. Foreign words have also made their way into daily life. Some of them, and especially English swear words, are even among the most popular.

Three English swear words are top of the most frequently used: shit, fuck and fucking. The first two are primarily words to express negative feelings like anger or pain. So if a Dutch person stubs his toe against the edge of the bed, don’t be surprised to hear a good old fashioned fuck or shit (although a Dutch translation, *kak,* has made a jump in popularity).

You missed the train? ‘Shit!’

What I’ve heard from foreigners, and especially the English, is that they are surprised by the liberal use of these words.

And then there’s the word, fucking. This word is, unlike in English, is not entirely strange to use in a lot of situations. It has even become a Dutch loanword, *fokking* (meaning ‘heel erg’ or ‘very’). I just looked it up, and it is even in the Dutch dictionary.

So how do you use it? Often fucking or *fokking* comes before a word that is really important, or to emphasize the word after it.

* Ik ben echt fokking moe.
* Dat was fokking grappig.

So here they are: some Dutch swear words. Again, I would like to point out the fact that these words are swear words. So if you want to use them, be aware of their meaning.

(Link naar video)