

# Civil Registration: Birth Records

Netherlands “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

April 2016

## GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract genealogical information from a Dutch civil registration birth record by identifying key words and phrases.

## INTRODUCTION

Civil registration, or registering records with the government, was instituted in Belgium around 1795-1796 and in the Netherlands in 1811. The majority of the paragraph form Dutch birth records follow a particular format, though they may vary by location or time period. Generally speaking, the later the record the more likely it will be a pre-printed form with blanks filled in. In many cases, the registrar underlined the names of the father, mother, and child.

## HOW TO

Before you begin extracting genealogical information from documents written in Dutch, it is important to understand some grammatical concepts.

### Dutch grammar rules

In Dutch, the first verb is always the second part, or concept, of the sentence or clause, while any subsequent verbs are ‘kicked’ to the end of the sentence or clause. For example, the sentence “Today Jan appeared at city hall” would be written, in Dutch word order, “Today appeared Jan at city hall.”

	First concept	Second concept	other information	last concept
<b>English</b>	Today	Jan	appeared	at city hall
<b>Dutch</b>	Today	appeared	Jan	at city hall

If the sentence is, “He had appeared before me, the registrar of Venlo,” the sentence in Dutch would read, “He had before me, the registrar of Venlo, appeared.” The Dutch sentence could also read, “Before me, the registrar of Venlo, had he appeared.”

	First concept	Second concept	other information	last concept
<b>English</b>	He	had appeared		before me, the registrar of Venlo.
<b>Dutch</b>	He	had	before me, the registrar of Venlo	appeared.
<b>Dutch</b>	Before me, the registrar of Venlo	had	he	appeared.

One way to know if the verb has been kicked to the end of the sentence is that the verb will be conjugated in a specific way. In the second example above, the verb “to appear” is often translated as “compareren” in Dutch civil registration records. If the verb is the second concept, the verb would be conjugated as “compareerde”. If the verb is the second verb in the sentence, then it must be the last concept, and it is conjugated as “gecompareerd”. A verb beginning with the letters “ge-” is a good indication that it is at the end of the sentence or clause. The exception to this would be verbs beginning with the letters “ver-” among others.

### Sample Pre-Printed Form Birth Record

**1** Op heden den *Vierden* \_\_\_\_\_ dag der maand *Maart* \_\_\_\_\_ achttien honderd negen en negentig, is voor ons ondergetoekende Ambtenaar van den Burgerlijken Stand te AMERSFOORT, verschenen:

**3** *Leendert Hagenbeuk*, van beroep *arbeider*, \_\_\_\_\_  
**5** oud *zeven en dertig* jaren, wonende alhier, welke ons heeft verklaard: dat op den *vierden Maart* \_\_\_\_\_  
**7** *aan het Monnikenpad* wijk *6* numero *acht en twintig* \_\_\_\_\_ is geboren een kind van het  
**9** *mannelijk* geslacht, uit *Elisabeth Meijer*, zonder beroep, *zijn zachtgemote w.o.*  
**11** *van de mode* alhier \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**11** Van welke verklaring wij deze Akte hebben opgemaakt, in tegenwoordigheid van *Johannes van Rooij* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ van beroep *Landw.* oud *zeven en dertig* jaren, en van *Hermanus van Rooij* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ van beroep *arbeider* — oud *zeven en dertig* jaren, wonende beide alhier.  
 En hebben wij deze Akte, na godane voorlezing, onderteekend *met de getuigen. Verklaande de Comparant,*  
*met de Kunnere Schrijver uit hoofde het niet te hebben gehoord. Deelbaar*  
*van Rooij H van Rooij*

Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9396-8N9G-JV> : accessed 14 April 2016.

### Pre-Printed Birth Record Form Outline in English

Numbers below correspond with the line numbers in the printed form.

<sup>1</sup>On today (full date written out), <sup>2</sup>before us (name and legal description of the civil recorder) appeared: <sup>3</sup>(informant, occupation), <sup>4</sup>age (age) years, living here, who declared, that on (day, month, <sup>5</sup>year), (time), within this municipality in the house <sup>6</sup>(residence) is born a child of the <sup>7</sup>(male/female) sex, of (name of parents, occupation, <sup>8</sup>residence), <sup>9</sup>which child shall be named (child's name). <sup>10, 11</sup>Of which declaration we this act have made, in the presence of...

## Sample Handwritten Birth Record

In het Jaar Ende in den acht-honderd derlijden twaalfden dag der maand  
 Juny des voormiddagts te, half elf ure <sup>2</sup> is voer ons <sup>3</sup> Gecompareerde  
 Lid van den Raad der stad Amersfoort by verandering van den Heerlicher Amb-  
 tenaar van den Burgerlyken Raad der stad Amersfoort <sup>4</sup> Albericus  
 van der Waal <sup>5</sup> een kind van het mannelijk <sup>6</sup> geslacht <sup>7</sup> geboren binnen dese stad  
 op den den twaalfden Juny des nachts te, twee uren <sup>8</sup> cel hem declaraat  
 en afswertze van Eeden vord tweeentwintig Jaar des selts huisvrouw en allen  
 welk kind hy verklaard te zullen gevein <sup>9</sup> de soornant van Teer lidem van  
<sup>10</sup> Verklaring en voortelling <sup>10</sup> in eigenbaandigheid van Jan Kad oud zes  
en edelyk van Daggelede en Jan Odenhof oud syfent zittig van Daggelede  
 wonende beiden alhier als getuigen veritagt. En he been <sup>11</sup> deze acte na redene  
 voor leking ondertekend, verklaerende de Comparsant afgetuigen niet te  
 kunne schryven opz datte als ooren.

M. W. H. J. van der Waal

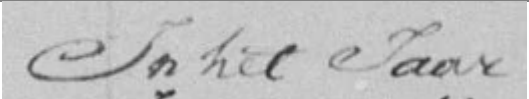
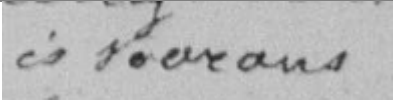
Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9398-5BQ3-N> : accessed 13 April 2016.

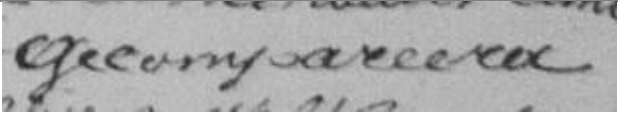
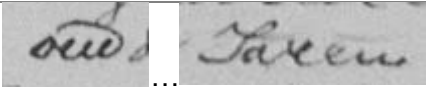
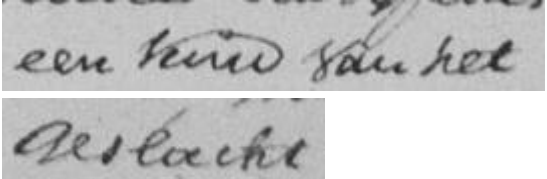
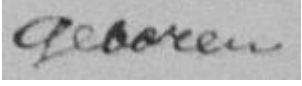
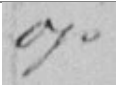
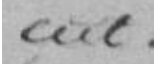
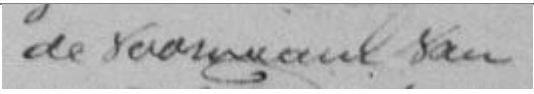
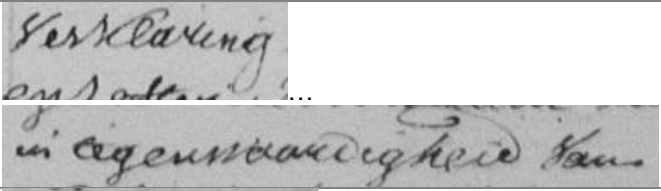
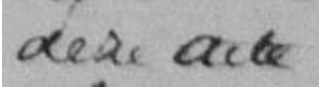
## Handwritten Birth Record Outline in English

In the year <sup>1</sup> (full date written out), at (time), before us <sup>2</sup> (name and legal description of the civil recorder) appeared <sup>3</sup> (name of informant) age <sup>4</sup> (age) years <sup>4</sup>, (status/occupation), residing (location), who presented a child of the <sup>5</sup> (male/female) sex <sup>5</sup>, born <sup>6</sup> in (location) on <sup>7</sup> (full date written out) at (time) of <sup>8</sup> (name of parents, age, status/occupation), which child he declared should be given the name of <sup>9</sup> (child's name). The reported declaration <sup>10</sup> and presentation occurred in presence of <sup>10</sup> (names of witnesses, age, status/occupation, residence) as witnesses. And we, this act, after having read, signed...

## Key Words

The following key words will indicate the essential genealogical information. Depending on the context, the information may come before or after the key word. Note that the Dutch words and phrases are written in standardized Dutch. In some cases, the examples provided may differ in spelling, capitalization, or even word choice. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines.

English	Dutch	Information given	Example
<b>1.</b> In the year... variant: On the...	In het jaar... variant: Op den...	<u>followed</u> by date of registration, written out	
<b>2.</b> is before us...	is voor ons...	<u>followed</u> by the name and legal description of the registrar	

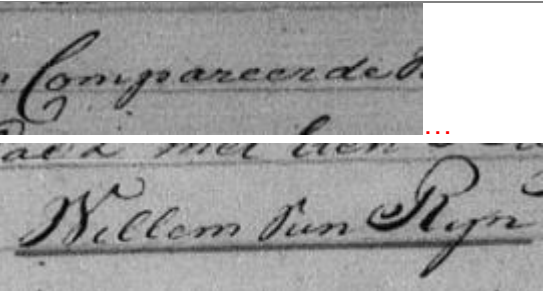
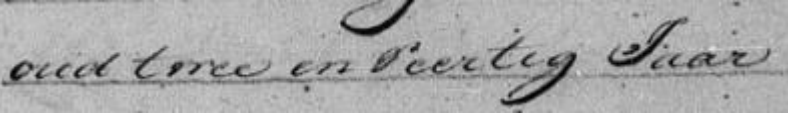
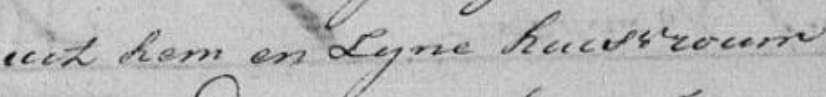
<b>3.</b> appeared...	ge- compareerd... variant: verschenen...	<u>followed</u> by the informant's name, usually the father	
<b>4.</b> age... years	oud...jaren (or jaar)	<u>between</u> these words will be his age	
<b>5.</b> a child of the...sex	een kind van het... geslacht	<u>between</u> these words is the sex of the child	
<b>6.</b> born...	geboren...	usually <u>followed</u> by information about the birth. Alternatively, it may appear after the information about the parents.	
<b>7.</b> on the...	op den...	<u>followed</u> by the date of birth written out	
<b>8.</b> of...	uit...	<u>followed</u> by the names of the parents; usually separated by the word "en"	
<b>9.</b> the given name of...	de voornaam van...	<u>followed</u> by the name of the child	
<b>10.</b> declaration ...in presence of	verklaring... in tegen- woordigheid van...	<u>after</u> these words will be the names of the witnesses	
<b>11.</b> this act...	deze akte...	<u>followed</u> by the formulaic end of the document, indicating the end of all genealogical information	

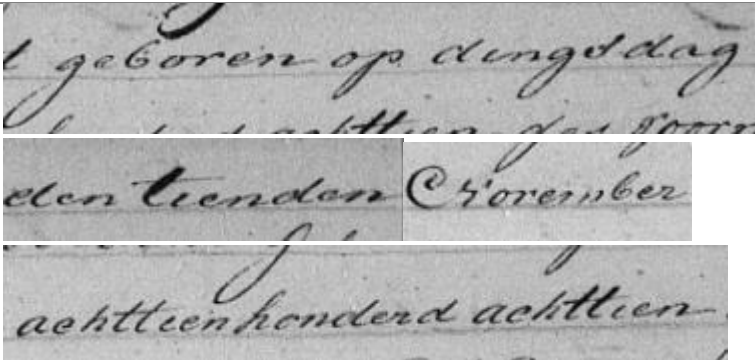
## Other Helpful Vocabulary Words

municipality	gemeente
city	stad
appeared	verschenen
today	heden
yesterday	gisteren
day before yesterday	eergisteren
male	mannelijk
female	vrouwelijk

## PRACTICE

The last page of this guide contains an image of a birth record. You can also view the image on FamilySearch by clicking [here](#), entry 18. For any unfamiliar words, use the FamilySearch word list, found at: [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Netherlands\\_Language\\_and\\_Languages](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Netherlands_Language_and_Languages)

<p>What is the father's name?</p>	<p>The name of the informant, who is usually the father, generally appears after the word <b>gecompareerd</b> but this case is tricky. The verb <b>compareerde</b> is in the second position in the sentence, which is followed by the name of the registrar, then by the name of the informant.</p>	 <p>Compareerde (line 2)...Willem van Rijn (line 7) appeared...Willem van Rijn</p>
<p>How old is he?</p>	<p>The age is found between the words <b>oud</b> and <b>jaar</b></p>	 <p>oud twee en veertig Jaar age two and forty years (42)</p>
<p>What is the</p>	<p>The names of the parents appear after the</p>	

<p>mother's name?</p>	<p>word <b>uit</b>. Here we confirm that the informant is the father.</p>	 <p>uit hem en zijne huisvrouw Adriana Plomp of him and his wife Adriana Plomp</p>
<p>What is the child's name?</p>	<p>The name of the child appears after the phrase <b>de voornaam van</b>.</p>	 <p>de voornaam van Hanna the given name of Hanna</p>
<p>When was the child born?</p>	<p>The birthdate is given after the phrase <b>geboren op</b>. Generally, the birth place would appear between <b>geboren</b> and <b>op</b>. In this case, the place is not given but the full date, including year, is written out.</p>	 <p>geboren op dinsdag den tienden November achttien honderd achttien born on Tuesday the tenth November eighteen hundred eighteen (10 November 1818)</p>

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.

N<sup>o</sup> 10

Op woensdag den elfden November achttienhonderd acht  
tien des voormenst ten negen uren Comparere de voor ons  
Geert Nicolaas Buddingh Schout en Secretaris en  
Willem Praet geassumereerd Lid in de Gemeente Raad  
van de Gemeente Indysche Provintie Zuid Holland en  
in die Kwaliteit belast met den Burgerlyken  
Stand der Gemeente Willem van Rijn daggelder  
oud twee en veertig Jaar wonende onder den Indysch  
denelke ons heeft voorgesteld een Kind van het vrou  
welyk geslacht geboren op dingsdag den tienden  
November achttienhonderd achttien des voormenst ten elf  
ten in de Huykenge Numero 16 onder den Indysch  
vuch hem en Lynne huwvrouw Adriana Pomp aan  
welk Dochtertje by de voornaam van Hanna heeft  
gegeven. Deze voorstelling en verklaring geschiede  
in tegenwoordigheid van Willem Overholt Landman  
oud een en zestig Jaaren en Wessel van den Bos Land  
man oud drie en veertig Jaar beide geboren als getuygen  
waarsan vry acte hebben opgemaakt die nagedane  
voorzaking door ons Beambten voornoemd behoortlyk  
is ondertekend daardes Comparant en de getuygen  
verklaarde niet te kunnen Schryven. — nocht tekeren

Willem Praet

J. Buddingh