

Dutch Style Guide

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1 About this style guide

This style guide is intended for the localization professional working on localized products that run on a Microsoft platform. It's not intended to be a comprehensive coverage of all localization practices, but to highlight areas where Microsoft has specific preferences or deviates from standard practices for Dutch localization.

The primary goal of this guide is to help you understand and learn how to address all of the necessary linguistic and stylistic nuances of Dutch during the localization of your products and services.

The style guide covers guidelines and recommendations for translating the Microsoft voice into Dutch including words, grammatical structures, the needs of the audience, and the intent of the text that are to be considered. Each of these areas is supplemented with samples.

Other language considerations covered in this style guide are accessibility, trademarks, geopolitical concerns and specific software considerations.

We welcome your feedback, questions and concerns regarding the style guide. Please send your feedback via [Microsoft Language Portal](#).

1.1 Recommended style references

Unless this style guide or the [Microsoft Language Portal](#) provides alternative instructions, use the orthography, grammar, and terminology in the following publications:

Normative references

When more than one solution is possible, consult the other topics in this style guide for guidance.

1. Woordenlijst Nederlandse taal ('Groene boekje') (2005). Den Haag: SDU Uitgevers.
2. Van Dale Groot woordenboek van de Nederlandse taal (2005). Veertiende druk. Utrecht – Antwerpen: Van Dale Lexicografie.
3. Jan Renkema, Schrijfwijzer (2012). Vijfde editie. Amsterdam: Boom uitgevers
4. <http://woordenlijst.org/>
5. <http://taalunieversum.org/>

Microsoft User interface reference

A helpful reference is the [Windows User Experience Interaction Guidelines](#).

2 Microsoft voice

Microsoft's brand personality comes through in our voice and tone—what we say and how we say it. The design of Microsoft products, services, and experiences hinges on crisp simplicity.

Three principles form the foundation of our voice:

- **Warm and relaxed:** We're natural. Less formal, more grounded in honest conversations. Occasionally, we're fun. (We know when to celebrate.)
- **Crisp and clear:** We're to the point. We write for scanning first, reading second. We make it simple above all.
- **Ready to lend a hand:** We show customers we're on their side. We anticipate their real needs and offer great information at just the right time.

The Microsoft voice targets a broad set of users from technology enthusiasts and casual computer users. Although content might be different for different audiences, the principles of Microsoft voice are the same. However, Microsoft voice also means keeping the audience in mind. Choose the right words for the audience: use technical terms for technical audiences, but for consumers use common words and phrases instead.

These key elements of Microsoft voice should extend across Microsoft content for all language locales. For each language, the specific choices in style and tone that produce Microsoft voice are different. The following guidelines are relevant for US English as well as many other languages.

Guidelines

Keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Write short, easy-to-read sentences.
- Avoid passive voice—it's difficult to read and understand quickly.
- Be pleasant and ensure that explanations appear individualized.
- Avoid slang and be careful with colloquialisms—it's acceptable to reassure and connect with customers in a conversational tone, but be professional in doing so.

2.1 Choices that reflect Microsoft voice

Translating into Dutch in a way that reflects Microsoft voice means choosing words and grammatical structures that reflect the same style as the source text. It also means considering the needs of the audience and the intent of the text.

The general style should be clear, friendly and concise. Use language that resembles conversation observed in everyday settings as opposed to the formal, technical language that's often used for technical and commercial content.

When you're localizing source text written in Microsoft voice, **feel free to choose words that aren't standard translations** if you think that's the best way to stay true to the intent of the source text.

Because Microsoft voice means a more conversational style, literally translating the source text may produce target text that's not relevant to customers. To guide your translation, consider the intent of the text and what the customer needs to know to successfully complete the task.

2.1.1 Flexibility

It's important for translators to modify or rewrite translated strings so that they are more appropriate and natural to Dutch customers. Try to understand the whole intention of the sentences, paragraphs, and pages, and then rewrite as if you are writing the content yourself. It will make the content more perfect for Dutch users. Sometimes, you may need to remove any unnecessary content.

English example	Dutch example
If you enjoyed these games in the past, you'll like them even better now.	Als je deze games vroeger al leuk vond, ga je ze nu nog leuker vinden:
This helps alert you to deceptive websites that try to trick you with misleading addresses and can help reduce the chances of compromising your personal information.	Zo wordt u gewaarschuwd voor websites die u met misleidende adressen om de tuin proberen te leiden en wordt de kans kleiner dat uw persoonlijke gegevens in verkeerde handen vallen.
Developers can go to the application management site to find the apps they are looking for.	Ontwikkelaars kunnen op de site voor applicatiebeheer de apps vinden die ze nodig hebben.

2.1.2 Word choice

Terminology

Use terminology from the [Microsoft Language Portal](#) where applicable, for example key terms, technical terms, and product names.

See below specific terminology that should be used in WOL Merchandizing files.

en-US term	Approved Dutch term	WOL/WL Merchandizing	Comments
Swipe	Vegen	Swipe	Only for marketing content and not on Help pages where direct reference to UI is made
Touch / Multi-touch	Aanraking/Multi-aanraking	Touch / Multi-touch	Can be generally used
Pin	Vastmaken	Vastpinnen	Only for marketing content and not on Help pages where direct reference to UI is made

Short word forms and everyday words

Microsoft voice text written in US English prefers short, simple words spoken in everyday conversations. In English, shorter words are friendlier and less formal. Short words also save space on screen and are easier to read quickly. Precise, well-chosen words add clarity, but it's important to be intentional about using everyday words that customers are accustomed to.

The following table lists some common words that are used for Microsoft voice in US English.

en-US word	en-US word usage
app	Use <i>app</i> instead of <i>application</i> or <i>program</i> .
pick, choose	Use <i>pick</i> in more fun, less formal or lightweight situations ("pick a color," not "choose a color") and <i>choose</i> for more formal situations (don't use <i>select</i> unless necessary for the UI).

drive	For general reference to any drive type (hard drive, CD drive, external hard drive, etc.). Use specific drive type if necessary.
get	Fine to use as a synonym for "obtain" or "come into possession of" but avoid for other general meanings.
info	Use in most situations unless "information" better fits the context. Use "info" when you point the reader elsewhere ("for more info, see <link>").
PC	Use for personal computing devices. Use <i>computer</i> for situations about PCs and Macs. Don't switch between <i>PC</i> and <i>computer</i> .
you	Address the user as <i>you</i> , directly or indirectly through the use of first- and second-person pronouns like "you." Avoid third-person references, such as "user," as they sound formal and impersonal.

In some cases, the Dutch Microsoft voice can also be conveyed through the use of shortened form of words and everyday words. Below you will find some examples of the usage of these forms. Other terms may apply, along the same lines. If you're in doubt whether a shortened form is appropriate, consult with the linguistic expert on your project.

en-US source term	Dutch word	Dutch word usage
app	<i>app</i>	The term <i>app</i> can be used for "small" applications which might be part of Windows 10. For "big" applications, such as Notepad or Office the use of <i>toepassing</i> or <i>programma</i> should be used.
pick, choose	<i>kiezen</i>	Use <i>kiezen</i> instead of <i>selecteren</i> to express a choice between various options.
PC	<i>pc</i>	Use for personal computing devices (<i>computer</i> for situations about PCs and Macs).
you	<i>u</i>	Address the user as <i>u</i> , directly or indirectly.

2.1.3 Word-to-word translation

For a more fluent translation, avoid word-to-word translation. If words are translated directly without overall understanding of the paragraph or the page, the content will not be natural and may even appear ridiculous, and our customers will not come again. Strict word-to-word translation makes the tone stiff and unnatural. Split the text into different sentences, if necessary, to simplify. Omit descriptors to make the text snappier.

English text	Correct Dutch translation	Incorrect Dutch translation
Express your feelings with emoticons	Uit uw gevoelens met emoticons	Geef uitdrukking aan uw gevoelens met emoticons
When you have finished selecting your product, click the Next button.	Klik op de knop Volgende als u het product hebt geselecteerd.	Wanneer u het product geselecteerd hebt, klikt u op de knop Volgende.
You may also find it easier to write complex formulas if parts of those formulas contain named, shorter formulas.	Complexe formules zijn ook eenvoudiger samen te stellen als ze bestaan uit kleinere formules die een naam hebben.	U kunt het ook gemakkelijker vinden om complexe formules te schrijven als onderdelen van die formules benoemde, korte formules bevatten.

2.1.4 Words and phrases to avoid

Microsoft voice avoids an unnecessarily formal tone. The following table lists US English words that add formality without adding meaning, along with more common equivalents.

en-US word/phrase to avoid	Preferred en-US word/phrase
Achieve	<i>Do</i>
As well as	<i>Also, too</i>
Attempt	<i>Try</i>
Configure	<i>Set up</i>
Encounter	<i>Meet</i>
Execute	<i>Run</i>
Halt	<i>Stop</i>
Have an opportunity	<i>Can</i>
However	<i>But</i>
Give/provide guidance, give/provide information	<i>Help</i>
In addition	<i>Also</i>
In conjunction with	<i>With</i>
Locate	<i>Find</i>

Make a recommendation	<i>Recommend</i>
Modify	<i>Change</i>
Navigate	<i>Go</i>
Obtain	<i>Get</i>
Perform	<i>Do</i>
Purchase	<i>Buy</i>
Refer to	<i>See</i>
Resolve	<i>Fix</i>
Subsequent	<i>Next</i>
Suitable	<i>Works well</i>
Terminate	<i>End</i>
Toggle	<i>Switch</i>
Utilize	<i>Use</i>

en-US source	Dutch old word/phrase	Dutch new word/phrase
In addition	Tevens	<i>ook</i>
as well as	zowel... als...	<i>... en...</i>
refer to	betreffende	<i>deze, de (or leave it out)</i>
recommend	Aanbevelenswaardig, raadzaam	<i>aan te raden</i>
From	met ingang van	<i>vanaf</i>
give/provide guidance, give/provide information	bovengenoemde/vorenvermeld /etc.	<i>leave these references out, if the context is clear enough</i>
Mine, yours	mijnerzijds/uwerzijds	<i>van mij/van u</i>
in conjunction with	ten aanzien van/met betrekking tot/in verband met	<i>avoid these phrases, try write the sentences differently while keeping the general meaning</i>

2.2 Sample Microsoft voice text

The source and target phrase samples in the following sections illustrate the intent of the Microsoft voice.

2.2.1 Address the user to take action

In general, end users should be addressed using the formal second person pronoun 'u'.

US English	Dutch target	Explanation
The password isn't correct, so please try again. Passwords are case-sensitive.	Het wachtwoord klopt niet, dus probeer het nog een keer. Wachtwoorden zijn hoofdlettergevoelig.	The user has entered an incorrect password so provide the user with a short and friendly message with the action to try again.
This product key didn't work. Please check it and try again.	De productcode is niet juist. Controleer de code en probeer het opnieuw.	The user has entered incorrect product key. The message casually and politely asks the user to check it and try again.
All ready to go	Alles is klaar.	Casual and short message to inform user that setup has completed, ready to start using the system.
Would you like to continue?	Wilt u doorgaan?	Use of the second person pronoun "you" to politely ask the user if they would like to continue. In Dutch, the polite form "u" is used.
Give your PC a name—any name you want. If you want to change the background color, turn high contrast off in PC settings.	Geef uw pc een gewenste naam. Als u de achtergrondkleur wilt wijzigen, schakelt u hoog contrast uit in de pc-instellingen.	Address the user directly using second person pronoun to take the necessary action. In Dutch, the polite form 'uw' is used.

2.2.2 Promote a feature

US English	Dutch target	Explanation
Picture password is a new way to help you protect your touchscreen PC. You choose the picture—and the gestures you use with	Het afbeeldingswachtwoord is een nieuwe manier om uw pc met touchscreen te beveiligen. U kiest de afbeelding (en de gebaren die u hierbij wilt	Promoting a specific feature with the use of em-dash to emphasize the specific requirements to enable the feature which in this

it—to create a password that’s uniquely yours.	gebruiken) om een wachtwoord te maken dat uniek is voor u.	situation is picture password. Dutch does not use em-dash.
Let apps give you personalized content based on your PC’s location, name, account picture, and other domain info.	Met apps kan inhoud worden weergegeven die is toegespitst op de locatie van uw pc, op uw naam en accountafbeelding en op andere domeininformatie.	Promoting the use of apps. Depending on the context of the string you can add familiarity to the text by using everyday words for example, PC

2.2.3 Provide how-to guidelines

US English	Dutch target	Explanation
To go back and save your work, click Cancel and finish what you need to.	Klik op Annuleren om eerst alles op te slaan waar u mee bezig was.	Short and clear action using the second-person pronoun. Dutch uses the polite form 'u'.
To confirm your current picture password, just watch the replay and trace the example gestures shown on your picture.	Als u uw huidige afbeeldingswachtwoord wilt bevestigen, bekijkt u de herhaling en volgt u de voorbeeldgebaren die op uw afbeelding worden getoond.	Voice is simple and natural. The user isn’t overloaded with information; we tell them only what they need to know to make a decision.

2.2.4 Explanatory text and support

US English	Dutch target	Explanation
The updates are installed, but Windows 10 Setup needs to restart for them to work. After it restarts, we’ll keep going from where we left off.	De updates worden geïnstalleerd, maar werken pas nadat Windows 10 Setup opnieuw is gestart. Hierna wordt de installatie van de updates voltooid.	The language is natural, the way people talk. In this case voice is reassuring, letting the user know that we’re doing the work. Use of "we" provides a more personal feel.
If you restart now, you and any other people using this PC could lose unsaved work.	Als u nu opnieuw opstart, kan er niet-opgeslagen werk verloren gaan van uzelf en andere personen die deze pc gebruiken.	Voice is clear and natural informing the user what will happen if this action is taken.
This document will be automatically moved to the right library and folder after you correct invalid or missing properties.	Dit document wordt automatisch naar de juiste bibliotheek en map verplaatst nadat u ongeldige of ontbrekende	Voice talks to the user informatively and directly on the action that will be taken.

	eigenschappen hebt gecorrigeerd.	
Something bad happened! Unable to locate downloaded files to create your bootable USB flash drive.	Er is iets fout gegaan. De gedownloade bestanden die nodig zijn om een opstartbaar USB-flashstation te maken, zijn niet gevonden.	Without complexity and using short sentences inform the user what has happened.

3 Language-specific standards

Information about Dutch-specific standards, such as phone number formats, date formats, currency formats, and measurement units are available from the [GoGlobal Developer Center](#).

3.1 Grammar, syntax and orthographic standards

This section includes information on how to apply the general language and syntax rules to Microsoft products, online content, and documentation.

3.1.1 Abbreviations

Common abbreviations

You might need to abbreviate some words in the UI (mainly buttons or options names) due to lack of space, but the general rule for Dutch is not to use abbreviations. For example, expressions such as "met betrekking tot" and "ten aanzien van" must be written in full instead of being abbreviated to, respectively, "m.b.t." and "t.a.v."

3.1.2 Acronyms

Acronyms are words made up of the initial letters of major parts of a compound term. Common examples are WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get), DNS (Domain Name Server), and HTML (Hypertext Markup Language).

Although we use the term "acronyms" in this section, since the Spellingactualisering 2005, we are now required to think of them as "letterwoorden" and "initialwoorden." A letterwoord is a word that's formed by the first letters of a name or any other word group, which is read as a word. (for example: havo, SLIP and RAS). An initialwoord is a word that's formed by the first letters of a name or any other word group, but which is read as a series of letters (for example: pc, dvd and ftp).

The most important rule is that we write an *initiaalwoord* or a *letterwoord* without any periods. We follow the capitalization of the abbreviated words. If an organisation uses a notation that deviates from this rule, we follow their notation. In software, this usually applies to names of products and standards.

Initiaalwoorden:

- pc* (personal computer)
- btw* (belasting toegevoegde waarde)
- dvd* (digital versatile disc)
- cd* (compact disc)
- NS* (Nederlandse Spoorwegen)

Letterwoorden:

- pin (persoonlijk identificatienummer)
- BuZa (Buitenlandse Zaken)

BUT: RAM

The second important rule applies to compounds and derivatives. For *letterwoorden* without capitals (and as *letterwoorden* or *initiaalwoorden* become more accepted, the capitalization disappears), the hyphen or apostrophe disappears when it's included in the compound or derivative. For *letterwoorden* that do have capitals, *and* for *initiaalwoorden*, the rule is that the capital and apostrophe are retained.

Examples:

aidsvirus	pincode	latrelatie
havoleerling	cd-romstation	btw-tarief
pc-gebruiker	AOW'er	tv-kijker
ADSL	RAM-geheugen	RAS-verbinding

When an acronym makes its first appearance in the text, we recommend spelling it out. Put the full term between brackets, immediately after the acronym. After this initial clarification, the acronym can be used without the full term. In software messages, the acronym must always be followed by the full form between brackets, because in software, there is no such thing as a "first appearance."

Example:

CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) is een procedure die wordt gebruikt bij het controleren op fouten tijdens gegevensoverdracht. CRC-foutcontrole maakt gebruik van complexe berekeningen...

If the acronym refers to a term that's not normally translated into Dutch, then only give the full English term. If the term that the acronym refers to does have a generally accepted translation, use the acronym followed by the Dutch term. In both cases, use only the acronym once the term has been clarified.

Examples:

DTP (Desktoppublishing)

SLIP (Serial Line Internet Protocol)

OLE (objecten koppelen en insluiten)

Compounds with acronyms

For the usage of a hyphen in compounds including acronyms, the rules for initialwoorden and letterwoorden apply that were described above.

Examples:

RAM-geheugen

LAN-verbinding

GUI-termen

No explanation

Acronyms that require no explanation include:

ADSL	MS-DOS	GUI
pc	ASCII	ANSI

EGA	VGA	PCI
ROM	UNIX	TCP/IP
cd-rom	dvd-rom	

Localized acronyms

Very few acronyms are localized in Dutch. Most of these are names of organizations or countries. If the name of a country or organization that consists of multiple words is localized, then so is the acronym for it.

Examples:

en-US source	Dutch target
UK	VK
UN	VN
WWF	WNF

3.1.3 Adjectives

In Dutch, handle adjectives in the following manner.

Where possible, English compound adjectives should not be translated literally, but described instead.

en-US source	Dutch target
copy-protected disk	tegen kopiëren beveiligde schijf
double-density disk	diskette met dubbele dichtheid
Microsoft FTP publishing	FTP-server van Microsoft voor internetpublicaties
web based	op het web gebaseerde

This rule only applies to compound adjectives.

Limit the number of adjectives in a sentence to avoid "breathless" style.

Niet-

Compounds with adjectives that start with "non-" in English get a hyphen behind the word "niet" in Dutch.

en-US source	Dutch target
non-contiguous	niet-aaneengesloten
non-Windows application	niet-Windows-toepassing
non-Microsoft	niet-Microsoft

Possessive adjectives

The frequent use of possessives is a feature of English language. In Dutch, possessive adjectives are handled about the same. However, in Microsoft translations, the use of the second person possessive, as in "uw computer," is to be avoided.

3.1.4 Articles

General considerations

Don't use articles with product names. This means writing "*Installeer Toolbar nu*" and not "*Installeer de Toolbar nu.*" There is one **exception**. When an adjective is used, an article is required: "De verbeterde Windows Live Mail."

Unlocalized feature names

Microsoft product names and non-translated feature names are used without definite or indefinite articles in English as well as in Dutch.

Example:

SharePoint Portal Server is een uitgebreide oplossing voor het beheer van e-mail, taken en contactpersonen.

Localized feature names

Translated feature names are handled in this way:

To indicate that it's a feature, capitalize the first letter and don't use the article.

Example:

Ga naar Bureau-accessoires en start Rekenmachine.

Articles for English borrowed terms

When faced with an English loan word previously used in Microsoft products, consider these options:

- Motivation: Does the English word have any formally motivated features that would allow a straightforward integration into the noun class system of the Dutch language?
- Analogy: Is there an equivalent Dutch term whose article could be used?
- Frequency: Is the term used in other technical documentation? If so, what article is used most often?

The internet may be a helpful reference here.

Check the [Microsoft Language Portal](#) to confirm the user of a new loan word and its proper article to avoid inconsistencies.

3.1.5 Capitalization

Product names follow the source capitalization. In sentences and headings, only use uppercase at the beginning of the sentence:

Correct: "Windows Live Toolbar: De snelste zoekresultaten. Download Windows Live Toolbar gratis!"

Incorrect: "Windows Live Toolbar: de Snelste Zoekresultaten. Download Windows Live Toolbar Gratis!"

Always use uppercase in the following cases:

- At the beginning of each module descriptor title: "Start | Geavanceerd zoeken | Mijn voorkeuren | Site aanmelden | Help";
- For each descriptor of a graphic for functional element ("Klik op de knop Zoeken," "Klik op het tabblad Opties");
- When referring to UI elements: "Kies een provincie uit de lijst en klik op Zoeken.";

- When referring to keys (T, Shift, Alt), key combinations should be rewritten using the plus sign (+): "Ctrl+C";
- Also remember that the first word following a colon should not be written with a capital in Dutch, unless there is more than one sentence after the colon. In that case, the first word should be written with a capital. For more information, see the topic "Colon and bulleted lists" in the "Punctuation" section further on in this guide.

Also use accents on uppercase letters to avoid pronunciation problems: "TWEE KOPIEËN, GEÏNTEGREERD, GEÏNITIALISEERD, GEÛPLOAD, BELGIË." Use lowercase in months and days: "januari, februari, etc," "maandag, dinsdag, etc."

3.1.6 Compounds

The parts of a compound noun in English are often separated by a space or hyphen. In Dutch, however, we usually write compounds as a single word.

en-US source	Dutch target
text object	tekstobject
pie chart	cirkeldiagram
lap-top computer	laptopcomputer

Compounds should be understandable and clear to the user. Avoid overly long or complex compounds. Keep in mind that unintuitive compounds can cause intelligibility and usability issues.

Compounds with proper names, brand or product names

According to the Groene boekje, compounds with brand names are concatenated without hyphens, just as is the case with compounds with proper names (for example, "Philipslamp" and "Essotankstation"). This also applies to the final part of a multi-part compound. The capitalization is retained in the compound.

To improve readability and the word picture, we do use the hyphen in Microsoft texts. See also page 386 of the Schrijfwijzer (2012 edition). Onze Taal also mentions this option as a clearer alternative. For example, the Groene boekje recommends "Albert Heijnfiliaal" but allows "Albert Heijn-filiaal" as a clearer alternative. An additional reason for our preference is that the version with the hyphen indicates much more clearly that

the first two parts belong together (for example, both "Volkswagen Golfrijder" and "Volkswagen Golf-rijder" are allowed, but the second option shows more clearly that the final word is not really a compound in its own right, but that the first part goes with the preceding word).

Compounds with a word group that ends with a symbol, letter or digit get a hyphen (for example, in version indicators).

Examples:

Een Microsoft Windows-hulpprogramma	een Esso-tankstation
Een Microsoft-product	een Philips-lamp
Een Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer-bestand	een Intel Pentium-processor
Een Lotus 1-2-3-werkblad	een Pentium 4-processor
Middellandse Zee-gebied	Koningin Beatrix-estafette

3.1.7 Conjunctions

For en-US Microsoft voice, conjunctions can help convey a conversational tone. Starting a sentence with a conjunction can be used to convey an informal tone and style.

If the Dutch Microsoft voice can be conveyed through the use of conjunctions, then this section is applicable. The Dutch Microsoft voice can to some extent be conveyed through similar use of conjunctions or by leaving the conjunctions out, see the examples below.

en-US source text	Dutch old use of conjunctions	Dutch new use of conjunctions
As <product> gains features, there is a risk that older content may not display correctly.	Omdat <product> over steeds meer functies beschikt, bestaat het gevaar dat inhoud van oudere datum niet meer op de juiste wijze wordt weergegeven.	<i>Maar door deze nieuwe functies wordt oudere inhoud vaak niet meer juist weergegeven.</i>
	Als er kans op oververhitting bestaat, moet u direct contact opnemen met de systeembeheerder.	<i>Bel direct de systeembeheerder als de pc te warm wordt.</i>
	Het is ons streven om alles duidelijk uit te leggen.	<i>We proberen alles zo duidelijk mogelijk uit te leggen.</i>

Constructions with "om"

Sentences can only start with "om" if "om" indicates a purpose and starts a non-finite clause.

(-) Om steeds die om-ellende te moeten beredeneren, lijkt me geen pretje.
(+) Om een koppeling te maken met een diagram kunt u verschillende procedures volgen.

There is nothing wrong with using "om", but Microsoft prefers constructions without "om". See the following examples:

English	If you want to create a link to a diagram, you can follow several different procedures.
Dutch	U kunt verschillende procedures volgen om een koppeling te maken met een grafiek.
Dutch	Als u een koppeling met een grafiek wilt maken, kunt u verschillende procedures volgen.

In software messages the use of the om-construction is allowed. Constructions without "om" are also preferred here. Also prevent the use of "om" at the beginning of a sentence.

English	The current application will be terminated. Press any key to terminate the application.
Dutch	(-) De actieve toepassing moet worden afgesloten. Om de toepassing af te sluiten druk op een willekeurige toets.
Dutch	(-) De actieve toepassing moet worden afgesloten. Om de toepassing af te sluiten, drukt u op een willekeurige toets.
Dutch	(+) De actieve toepassing moet worden afgesloten. Druk op een willekeurige toets om de toepassing af te sluiten.
Dutch	(+) De actieve toepassing moet worden afgesloten. Sluit de toepassing door op een willekeurige toets te drukken.

See the Schrijfwijzer for more information.

3.1.8 Gender

Although gender does not play as important a role in Dutch as in many other languages, observe the rules governing the use of relative and possessive pronouns referring to feminine, masculine, and neutral nouns. For more details, see Schrijfwijzer (2012 edition), section 7.3.4. (pp. 298-302).

3.1.9 Genitive

Attaching a genitive "s" to (trademarked) product names is not feasible, as it could be interpreted as a modification of such names.

3.1.10 Localizing colloquialism, idioms, and metaphors

The Microsoft voice allows for the use of culture-centric colloquialisms, idioms and metaphors (collectively referred to as "colloquialism").

Choose from these options to express the intent of the source text appropriately.

- Don't attempt to replace the source colloquialism with a Dutch colloquialism that fits the same meaning of the particular context unless it's a perfect and natural fit for that context. Also keep in mind that a local colloquialism appropriate for one country may not be appropriate for another country.
- Translate the *intended* meaning of the colloquialism in the source text (not the literal translation of the original colloquialism in the source text), but only if the colloquialism's meaning is an integral part of the text that can't be omitted.
- If the colloquialism can be omitted without affecting the meaning of the text, omit it.

3.1.11 Nouns

General considerations

The parts of a compound noun in English are often separated by a space or hyphen. In Dutch, however, we usually write compounds as a single word.

en-US source	Dutch target
text object	tekstobject
pie chart	cirkeldiagram
lap-top computer	laptopcomputer

The use of a compound is not always the best solution. Dutch offers the possibility to clarify the relationship between the different components of a compound by using prepositions. In the following example, the Dutch translation is clearer than the English compound.

en-US source	Dutch target
driver information database	database met stuurprogrammagegevens

However, there are also many cases in which using compounds is preferred over using prepositions. Excessive use of prepositions can make sentences unnecessarily long and difficult to read. Consider the following examples:

English	The file name may be misspelled, or the file name extension was omitted. Enter a different file name.
Dutch	De naam van het bestand is verkeerd gespeld of de extensie van het bestand ontbreekt. Geef een andere naam voor het bestand op.
Dutch	De bestandsnaam is verkeerd gespeld of de bestandsextensie ontbreekt. Geef een andere bestandsnaam op.

English	Find a solution provider and download their cache/proxy plug-in.
Dutch	Zoek een provider van oplossingen en download de invoegtoepassing voor cache/proxy.
Dutch	Zoek een oplossingsprovider en download de cache-/proxy-invoegtoepassing.

Compounds with Dutch and English components

Compound nouns with Dutch and English components cause us problems because the English components are often not included in the Groene boekje (unless they are well-accepted English-language terms). This may lead to different spellings for certain compounds, making it hard to ensure consistency between software, documentation and Help. Therefore, use the following guidelines:

- Always try to find a translation first.
- Only leave a term in English if there are no other options (if it's a product name that can't be localized, or when, after consultation with the sub and Microsoft Language Excellence, the decision is made to use the English term). A consistent, correct spelling is easier to ensure with compounds without English components.

A compound of English words that's accepted in Dutch is written as a single word. This also applies to *three-part* compounds with two or three English components. In case of a *vowel clash*, or if one of the components is an *acronym, single letter, digit or symbol*, we use a hyphen.

online	accountmanager	businessclass
download	sciencefiction	voicemail
demi-john	e-mail	pay-tv
publicrelationschool	humanresourcesafdeling	lowbudgetfilm
onlinebestand	offlinewerkmap	online-Help

The following are separated by spaces, because they are considered word groups instead of compounds:

compact disc	(was compactdisc)
low budget	(was lowbudget)
slow motion	(was slowmotion)

Note: compounds using online/offline and a verb are spelled as two words. Compounds with a noun are spelled as one word.

offline gebruiken	online bankieren
offlinebestand	online-Help

Hyphens in compounds

In the following situations, among others, compounds are spelled with a hyphen:

- In compounds of English words that are accepted in Dutch, but in which a vowel clash occurs or in which one of the components is an acronym, individual letter, digit or symbol (as mentioned above).
- To improve readability, an optional hyphen can be used between the components (bodyart and also body-art, knowhowovereenkomst and also

knowhow-overeenkomst). This also applies to many compounds that only contain Dutch parts, such as valk-uil.

- If the final letter of one component and the first letter of the next can spell a diphthong. See the topic **Vowel clash** below.
- Certain combinations that are treated as compounds, such as combinations with equally important parts (singer-songwriter), compounds that also have a hyphen in English (up-to-date), combinations of which the left part is no or non (non-profit, no-nonsensepolitiek), combinations whose right part is an English prepositional adverb (lay-out, back-upbestand, stand-by, all-invakantie).

contrastrijker	contrast-rijker
disketteenheid	diskette-eenheid
zwart/wit-dia	zwart-witdia
identiteitschip	identiteits-chip

Vowel clash

When the following vowel combinations appear between two words in a compound, a hyphen must be used: a-a, a-e, a-i, a-u, e-e, e-i, e-u, i-e, o-e, o-i, o-o, o-u, u-i en u-u.

When the following vowel combinations occur between two words in a compound, it's not necessary to use a hyphen:

ao, ea, eo, ia, io, iu, oa, ua, ue, uo, aj, ej, oj, uj, iji (ij + i), ay, ya, ey, ye, iy, yi, oy, yo, uy en yu.

The combinations i + j, e + ij, e + ui and i + i result in a vowel clash in a compound (gummi-jas), but not in a single-part word or a derivative (beijveren).

gala-avond	gummi-jas	poëzie
cameraopstelling	koffieautomaat	ruïne
bureau-inhoud	cadeauabonnement	onderzeeër
maximumprijs	geuit	college-uitstap
minimumprijs	beijveren	vanille-ijs

Linker/rechter, maximum/minimum

The use of "linker" and "rechter" before a noun often causes problems. Within Microsoft, we concatenate "linker" and "rechter" to the appropriate noun for consistency.

"Maximum" and "minimum" are nouns and should always be concatenated to the words that follow them within a compound, if they mean maximal and minimal. "Maximum" and "minimum" can't be used as adjectives.

rechtermarge	maximumprijs
rechtermuisknop	minimumprijs
linkerbenedenhoek	

But:

Het maximum aantal deelnemers (vanwege het zelfstandig naamwoord achter "maximum aantal")
--

Standaard

If 'standaard' is used adjectivally and is tightly linked to the noun that follows it, we usually concatenate the two.

standaardbrief
standaardmap
standaardgeheugenconfiguratie

Audio/video

Unlike in English, audio and video can't be used as individual nouns, but only as prefixes to other nouns.

audio instellen	audio-instellingen
instellingen voor video	video-instellingen

Naturally, the same rule applies to audioweergave, videoweergave. You may also use beeldweergave, geluidswaergave etc instead.

Help

Compounds that start with the word 'Help', referring to the online documentation, use a hyphen to indicate that the word has that specific meaning.

Help-tekst	Help-onderwerp
Help-venster	Help-index

Acronyms and numbers

If a compound noun contains an acronym or a number, both parts are separated by a hyphen.

VGA-kaart	386-modus
-----------	-----------

This does not apply to compounds with word groups. If the first part of the word group is a cardinal number, then we concatenate it in the three-part compound. But if the cardinal number is written with digits, we use a space.

3,5 inchdiskettes	64 bitsprocessor
vijftigeurobiljet	50 eurobiljet
eenaprilgrap	1 aprilgrap

In compounds with numbers, shortened units and a noun, the number and the unit are concatenated and a hyphen is added between the unit and the noun.

600MHz-processor	30km-zone
35mm-dia	230V-aansluiting

Concatenations involving prepositions

Note the spelling of concatenations involving prepositions, as in the following examples:

Boven aan de pagina

Consult the Schrijfwijzer for general rules on word formation.

Plural formation

Consult the Woordenlijst Nederlandse taal for information on plural formations. If two plural forms are possible for a word, for example, "typen" and "types," the plural ending with "en" must be used.

Note: use "datums" for the plural of "datum."

3.1.12 Numbers

This topic includes guidelines when to use numerals (symbol that represents a number. for example, 1, 2, 3, 234, etc.) and when to spell out numbers (one, two, three, two hundred and thirty-four) and other aspects for the particular language.

Cardinals

Write cardinal numbers as digits when they refer to numbered pages, chapters, figures etcetera.

Examples: chapter 9 page 3 figure 1

Use digits to refer to numbers that are displayed as digits on screen.

Examples: document 2 line 8 column 30

Use digits to refer to units of measurement and time, percentages, street numbers etcetera, except in sentences where the unit's stated in full.

Examples: 3,5 inch 360 kB van 16:00 tot 18:30 uur 12% **BUT:** Van Amsterdam naar Parijs is vierhonderdvijftig kilometer.

In all other cases, refer to the Schrijfwijzer.

3.1.13 Prepositions

Be aware of proper preposition use in translations. Many translators, influenced by the English language, omit them or change the word order.

For interface terminology, the use of prepositions can sometimes cause problems. For that reason, the prepositions have been standardized for a number of phrases, so that

everyone uses the same prepositions. For the following common phrases, these prepositions must be used:

Kies de opdracht Plakken in het menu Bewerken
Klik op de knop Plakken op de werkbalk
Klik op de knop Ovaal in de werkset
Plaats de tekst op het Klembord
Verwijder de vermelding uit de lijst
Plaats de tekst in de lijst

For the Microsoft voice, use of prepositions is another way to help convey a casual or conversational tone. Starting or ending a sentence with a preposition is acceptable practice in conveying Microsoft voice.

3.1.14 Punctuation

Comma

Use a comma in situations where a sentence would otherwise be too long or complicated, or where omission of the comma could cause confusion. Don't use the comma to separate two sentences. Consult the Schrijfwijzer for more information on how the comma is used in Dutch.

Colon and bulleted lists

Use colons to introduce lists and at the end of a sentence that introduces a procedure.

In dit hoofdstuk wordt beschreven hoe u: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voetnoten in een document kunt plaatsen.• Commentaar in een document kunt opnemen.
Het hele document selecteren: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Druk op Ctrl+Home.2. Druk op Ctrl+Shift+End.

If the colon is followed immediately by more text, the first word after the colon does not get a capital, if the item following the colon is a single sentence.

Opmerking: met behulp van de liniaal kunt u de marges instellen in verschillende secties van het document.

Er zijn drie typen velden: naamvelden, adresvelden en plaatsnaamvelden.

If the colon is followed by more than one sentence, the first word after the colon is capitalized.

Scenario: U bent de accountmanager van The Garden Company en u wilt een brief bekijken en afdrukken. De brief dient als antwoord op een verzoek om informatie over een project dat u tijdens een wetenschapsmarkt wilt uitvoeren.

Dashes and hyphens

Three different dash characters are used in Dutch:

- the normal hyphen;
- the nonbreaking hyphen;
- the N-dash (ANSI code 0150).

Normal hyphen

The hyphen is used to connect the components of a compound term.

bestand met het kenmerk Alleen-lezen

PowerPoint-presentatie

client/server-verificatie

It's also used as an ellipsis marker for a component that has been omitted. It can't be used for ellipsis of a whole word.

hoofd- en kleine letters

vaste en verwisselbare schijven

hard- en software

computerverkopers en -gebruikers

Consult the Schrijfwijzer for more information.

In software, hyphenation is only allowed in situations where the space is limited or the lay-out requires it. Generally, avoid hyphenation.

The hyphen is also used as the minus sign.

Nonbreaking hyphen

In all cases where a word or word combination can't be broken down in the location of the hyphen, (for example, pages 12-14, MS-DOS etcetera), a nonbreaking hyphen should be used. Use the key combination Ctrl+Shift+HYPHEN (-) to insert this hyphen into the text.

Lotus 1-2-3
MS-DOS
pagina 114-120

En dash and em dash

Don't use the En or Em-dash. Any En or Em dashes that appear in English text must be replaced by commas or brackets.

Ellipses (suspension points)

Avoid the use of dots to mark ellipses/suspension points, except in captions consisting of multiple parts, and in truncations.

Examples:

De cellen die u op deze manier hebt geselecteerd... ... kunnen eindeloos worden gekopieerd

Keep in mind the following when using ellipses/suspension points:

- **The English "ing" form...**

English status messages using the present participle ("ing" form) often result in truncations at runtime, in which the most important part of the message is invisible to the user. This has to do with the limited amount of space available to the user. Often the translator does not know how much space is available. Usually, there is hardly any more character space available for Dutch than for English. Therefore, we prefer translations

that are not much longer, or even shorter, than the English. In that case, suspension points can indicate that something will take a certain amount of time.

Note: when suspension points are used in English, they must be used in Dutch as well.

English	Uninstalling software...
Dutch	(-) bezig met het ongedaan maken van de installatie van de software
Dutch	(-) De software wordt verwijderd
Dutch	(-) De software wordt verwijderd...
Dutch	(+) Software verwijderen...

English	Searching for updates
Dutch	(-) bezig met het zoeken naar updates
Dutch	(-) Er wordt gezocht naar updates.
Dutch	(+) Updates zoeken...

English	Deleting temporary files
Dutch	(-) bezig met het verwijderen van de tijdelijke bestanden
Dutch	(-) De tijdelijke bestanden worden verwijderd.
Dutch	(+) Tijdelijke bestanden verwijderen...

- **Please wait (while)**

The same applies to constructions with "Please wait" and "Please wait while." These are often translated with "Een ogenblik geduld terwijl..." Depending on the speed of the computer and the length of the text, the user may not see the final part of the text. Therefore, it's recommended to split the Dutch translation into two parts, with the most important information in the first sentence.

English	Please wait while Windows copies the files to disk.
Dutch	(-) Een ogenblik geduld terwijl Windows de bestanden naar schijf kopieert.
Dutch	(+) De bestanden worden naar schijf gekopieerd. Een ogenblik geduld...

Period

A period between an abbreviation that's at the end of a sentence, is also the period that finishes the sentence and should not be followed by another period.

- **Numbered lists**

In American Numbered lists, the digit's not followed by a period. In Dutch, we put a period behind the digit.

English	Dutch
1 abc	1. abc
2 def	2. def
3 ghi...	3. ghi

- **Acronyms**

Acronyms and units of measurement are not spelled with periods.

kB	mm
ASCII	VGA

- **Separator**

The period is used as a separator in the following situations:

- Thousands (but not in years, postal codes, phone numbers etcetera):

1.000.000

- Version numbers:

PowerPoint 11.0

- File names:

Autoexec.bat

Quotation marks

In US source strings, you may find software references surrounded by English quotation marks. Unlike in the English source texts, we use single quotation marks to mark names of chapters, sections and appendixes of manuals.

If the use of single quotation marks affects the functionality, use double quotation marks.

See chapter 10, "Search and Replace."

In English, file names and other variables are often placed between quotation marks. In Dutch, we omit these.

en-US source	Dutch target
Do you want to save the changes in "Sales.xls"?	Wilt u de wijzigingen in Verkoop.xls opslaan?

Parentheses

In Dutch, there is no space between the parentheses and the text inside them. Parentheses can be used to add a comment or a clarification to body text.

Examples:

Er wordt een sterretje (*) naast de documentnaam geplaatst. Hiermee wordt aangegeven dat deze documentnaam is geselecteerd.

Vul de gewenste gegevens (getallen) op de stippellijn in.

Also use parentheses when you add the full form of an acronym.

Example:

XML (Extended Markup Language)

3.1.15 Sentence fragments

For the Microsoft voice, use of sentence fragments helps convey a conversational tone. They are used whenever possible as they are short and to the point.

en-US long form	en-US sentence fragment
Use the following steps.	Here's how

The Microsoft voice can be conveyed to some extent through the use of sentence fragments in Dutch too, but avoid using too popular phrases just for their own sake.

en-US source text	Dutch long form	Dutch sentence fragment
Use the following steps.	Gaat u als volgt te werk:	Doe het volgende:
	Achter elke zin hoort een punt te staan.	Achter elke zin hoort een punt.
	De weergave van deze film is erg goed.	Deze film ziet er goed uit.
	Dit document wordt niet voor publieke kennisgeving beschikbaar gesteld.	Dit document wordt niet openbaar gemaakt.

3.1.16 Split infinitive

Avoid splitting the infinitives of compound verbs or verbs that include a preposition. This applies regardless of whether the infinitives can be split according to the grammar rules.

Examples:

(-) Klik op Opslaan als u op wilt slaan

(+) Klik op Opslaan als u wilt opslaan
--

3.1.17 Symbols & nonbreaking spaces

Microsoft products often use special characters, either on-screen, in descriptive text or in key combinations.

In English, most special characters have a name (ampersand, dollar sign, etc). This is not always the case in Dutch and sometimes we use a description instead. The following list contains the most used special characters and their American and Dutch names.

Character	English	Dutch
'	Accent acute	Accent aigu (')
^	Accent circumflex	Accent circonflexe (^)
`	Accent grave	Accent grave (`)
&	Ampersand	&-teken
<>	Angle brackets	Punthaken (<>)
'	Apostrophe	Apostrof (')
*	Asterisk	Sterretje (*)
@	At sign	Apenstaartje (@); @-teken
\	Backslash	Backslash (\)
{ }	Braces	Accolades ({ })
[]	Brackets	Vierkante haken ([])
^	Caret	Caret-teken (^)
« »	Chevrons	Dubbele punthaken (« »)
»	Closing chevron	Teken »
©	Copyright symbol	Copyrightsymbool (©)
-	Dash	Koppelstreepje (-)
°	Degree symbol	Gradenteken (°)

Character	English	Dutch
\$	Dollar sign	Dollarteken (\$)
...	Ellipsis	Weglatingsteken (...)
—	Em dash	Em-streepje (—)
–	En dash	En-streepje (–)
=	Equal sign	Gelijkteken (=)
!	Exclamation point	Uitroepteken (!)
>	Greater-than sign	Groter-dan-teken (>)
-	Hyphen	Afbreekstreepje (-)
"	Inch mark	Dubbel aanhalingsteken (")
<	Less-than sign	Kleiner-dan-teken (<)
-	Minus sign	Minteken (-)
#	Number sign	Hekje (#)
«	Opening chevron	Teken «
¶	Paragraph mark	Alineateken (¶)
()	Parenthesis	Ronde haken ()
%	Percent sign	Procentteken (%)
	Pipe	Sluisteken ()
+	Plus sign	Plusteken (+)
±	Plus-or-minus sign	Plusminusteken (±)
?	Question mark	Vraagteken (?)
®	Registered trademark symbol	Registratieteken (®)
§	Section symbol	Paragraafteken (§)

Character	English	Dutch
/	Slash	Slash (/)
~	Tilde	Tilde (~)
_	Underscore	Onderstrepingsteken (_)

Nonbreaking spaces () should only be used if they are also present in the US source. Otherwise, it's recommended to use a blank space as nonbreaking spaces can cause functionality issues.

3.1.18 Verbs

For US English Microsoft voice, verb tense helps to convey the clarity of Microsoft voice. Simple tenses are used. The easiest tense to understand is the simple present, like we use in this guide. Avoid future tense unless you're describing something that will really happen in the future and the simple present tense is inapplicable. Use simple past tense when you describe events that have already happened.

en-US old use of verb tense	en-US new use of verb tense
After you're finished installing the tool, the icon will appear on your desktop. ["are finished" is in present perfect tense]	After you finish installing the tool, the icon appears on your desktop. ["finish" is in simple present tense]

The Dutch Microsoft voice can be conveyed similarly through the use of verb tense, but this has already been a guideline for translation into Dutch. In general, try to use the simple present tense (onvoltooid tegenwoordige tijd) or the simple past tense (onvoltooid verleden tijd).

Examples:

en-US source text	Dutch incorrect use of verb tense	Dutch correct use of verb tense
After you're finished installing the tool, the icon will appear on your desktop. ["are finished" is in present perfect tense]	Nadat u de installatie van het hulpprogramma hebt beëindigd, zal het pictogram worden weergegeven op het bureaublad.	Nadat u het hulpprogramma hebt geïnstalleerd, wordt het pictogram op het bureaublad weergegeven.

	Als u een verouderde versie van dit programma had gebruikt, zou het mogelijk zijn dat de nieuwe functies niet werken.	Als u een verouderde versie van het hulpprogramma gebruikt, werken nieuwe functies misschien niet.
	Over twee eeuwen, zal dit nog steeds werken.	Dit werkt over twee eeuwen nog steeds.

Order of finite verb and past participle

In written texts, the finite verb should be placed before the past participle.

(-) Nadat u de software geïnstalleerd hebt, dient u deze te configureren.
(+) Nadat u de software hebt geïnstalleerd, dient u deze te configureren.

However, this only applies if the past participle is treated as a verb (indicating an action), and not as an adjective (indicating a state). For adjectival uses, the preferred order described above is incorrect. Compare the following sentences

(-) De gebruiker kwam tot de conclusie dat de Help-index was uitgebreid.
(+) De gebruiker kwam tot de conclusie dat de Help-index uitgebreid was.

For more information consult the Schrijfwijzer.

4 Localization considerations

Localization means that the translated text needs to be adapted to the local language, customs and standards.

The language in Microsoft products should have the "look and feel" of a product originally written in Dutch, using idiomatic syntax and terminology, while at the same time maintaining a high level of terminological consistency, so as to guarantee the maximum user experience and usability for our customers.

4.1 Accessibility

Accessibility options and programs are designed to make the computer usable by people with cognitive, hearing, physical, or visual disabilities.

Hardware and software components engage a flexible, customizable user interface, alternative input and output methods, and greater exposure of screen elements.

General accessibility information can be found at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/>.

4.2 Applications, products, and features

Product and application names are often trademarked or may be trademarked in the future and are therefore rarely translated. Occasionally, feature names are trademarked, too (for example, IntelliSense™). Before translating any application, product, or feature name, verify that it's in fact translatable and not protected in any way. This information can be obtained [here](#).

For guidelines on the spelling of brand names, consult the [Compounds](#) section.

Version numbers

Version numbers always contain a period (for example, Version 4.2).

Version numbers are usually also a part of version strings, but technically they are not the same.

4.3 Trademarks

Trademarked names and the name Microsoft Corporation shouldn't be localized unless local laws require translation and an approved translated form of the trademark is available. A list of Microsoft trademarks is available [here](#).

4.4 Geopolitical concerns

Part of the cultural adaptation of the US-product to a specific market is the resolution of geopolitical issues. While the US-product is designed and developed with neutrality and a global audience in mind, the localized product should respond to the particular situation that applies within the target country/region.

Sensitive issues or issues that might potentially be offensive to the users in the target country/region may occur in any of the following:

- Maps
- Flags
- Country/region, city and language names
- Art and graphics
- Cultural content, such as encyclopedia content and other text where historical or political references are present

Some issues are easy to verify and resolve. The localizer should have the most current information available. Maps and other graphical representations of countries/regions should be checked for accuracy and existing political restrictions. Country/region, city, and language names change on a regular basis and should be checked, even if previously approved.

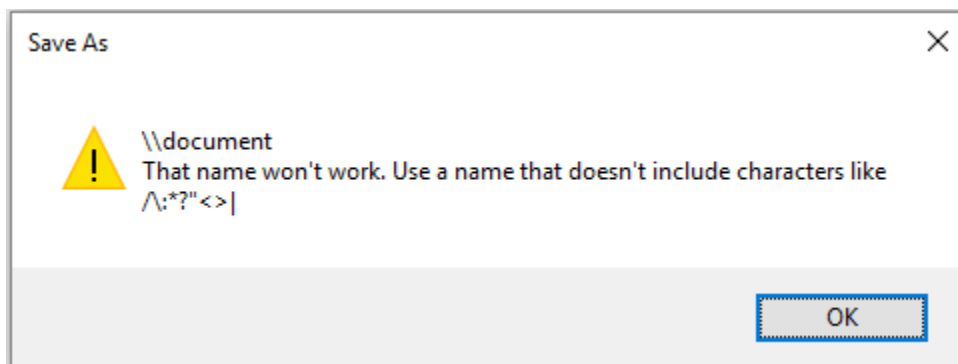
A thorough understanding of the culture of the target market is required for checking the appropriateness of cultural content, clip art and other visual representations of religious symbols, and body and hand gestures.

4.5 Software considerations

This section refers to all menus, menu items, commands, buttons, check boxes, and other UI elements that should be consistently translated in the localized product.

4.5.1 Error messages

Here is an example:



Error messages are messages sent by the system or a program, informing the user of an error that must be corrected in order for the program to keep running. The messages can prompt the user to take action or inform the user of an error that requires restarting the computer.

Considering the underlying principles of Microsoft voice, translators are encouraged to apply them to ensure target translation is more natural, empathetic and not robot-like.

Dutch style in error messages

Use consistent terminology and language style in the localized error messages, and not just translate them as they appear in the US product.

General

The style of error messages should be neutral and direct, and clearly communicate the intended message to the user. Cryptic language and newspaper headline style must be avoided. Verbs should be in the present tense. And naturally, sentences must be correct, grammatical Dutch sentences.

Translate everything

All information in an error message must be translated. In case of the more technical error messages, such as error messages that occur in Windows 10 or ODBC, this may mean that research must be carried out. Leave no terms in English unless the glossary prescribes this.

Style

The space that's available for an error message is often limited and text translated into Dutch is on average twenty to thirty percent longer than the original English text. For that reason, it's important to find a balance between the available space and a good, direct translation of the message. However, it's not recommended to start out by abbreviating messages, or to copy the often cryptic style of the English text. While translating error messages, the goal should be to communicate all information as accurately as possible to the user, in a direct, friendly style and in sentences that are as complete as possible. Don't let fear lack of space lead you to preemptively remove articles and prepositions. Articles and prepositions may only be omitted if this solves actual problems with lack of space!

English	Problem converting equation. Continue with document conversion?
Dutch	(-) Er is een probleem opgetreden bij converteren van vergelijking. Wilt u toch doorgaan met conversie van document?
Dutch	(+) Er is een probleem opgetreden bij het converteren van een vergelijking. Wilt u toch doorgaan met de conversie van het document?

When using articles and propositions, do keep in mind that you use them consistently.

English	An error occurred while trying to update the Stored Settings file.
Dutch	(-) Er is een fout opgetreden bij bijwerken van het bestand met opgeslagen instellingen.
Dutch	(-) Er is een fout opgetreden bij het bijwerken van bestand met opgeslagen instellingen.
Dutch	(+) Er is een fout opgetreden bij het bijwerken van het bestand met opgeslagen instellingen.

Do keep in mind that the English text may be followed by placeholders or variables. Don't put a period at the end of a sentence if there is no period in English, unless you're certain that this is correct.

English	Disk full
Dutch	Schijf vol.

The text may be followed by a variable to be pulled in later.

English	Disk full when writing to drive %1
----------------	------------------------------------

The result in Dutch would then be:

Schijf vol.bij het schrijven naar station %1.

Note: with longer messages, you will not be sure if an error message fits into a dialog until after you have translated the error message and have reviewed it in a build of the program. A rule of thumb for translating error messages: if a US error message has a forced line break (code \n), then add a line break to the Dutch version after the same number of characters. If you don't do this, the sentence may be broken up by the dialog box and immediately after that by the line break code \n.

Consistency

For translating error messages, consistent use of terminology is paramount. Use the glossary that's handed off with the project and the standard glossaries for the correct terminology and the correct software references. Also be consistent in general language use.

Don't translate like this:

English	Error restoring network connections
Dutch	(-) Fout bij het herstellen van de netwerkverbindingen

and next:

English	Error selecting drive
Dutch	(-) Fout bij selecteren van station.

Don't personify

Avoid personifying program names. In the example below, Microsoft Excel can be omitted from the Dutch sentence without causing any problems:

English	Microsoft Excel can't display the information
Dutch	(-) Microsoft Excel kan de gegevens niet weergeven
Dutch	(+) De gegevens kunnen niet worden weergegeven.

Variables are often used in error messages. This means that sometimes the use of personification can't be avoided. However, personification is only allowed when there is insufficient space. In very long constructions, the use of personification can prevent this problem.

"%s" can't display the information.
%s kan de gegevens niet weergeven.

Testing

An error message that looks good on paper may be unclear and difficult to read on screen. Therefore, it's recommended that you test the style and content of error message on-screen on a regular basis.

Variables

Translating error messages in which variables are used should be done with care. Always check if all the variables in the US error message have also been included in the translated error message. It's also important to keep in mind that nouns of different gender may be substituted for a variable. This may have consequences to the use of articles, adjectives, word order etc.

Can't read the selected "%s."

In this sentence, the variable %s may refer to a noun of neuter or non-neuter gender, for example "file" or "folder". Therefore, the recommended translation is as follows:

Geselecteerde %s kan niet worden gelezen.

This would result in a grammatically correct sentence at runtime, whether it would look like this:

Geselecteerde bestand kan niet worden gelezen.

Or like this:

Geselecteerde map kan niet worden gelezen.

There are different types of variables. The three most important ones are "%s," "%d" en "%c." %s is a string (text, including numbers), %d is a digit (always a number) and %c is a single character (such as a station name).

Don't place variables at the beginning of a sentence, because it's not always clear if the replacement text at runtime starts with a capital letter.

Quotation marks in error messages

In American error messages, variables are often placed between quotation marks. In the Dutch error message, these quotation marks have to be removed.

Do you want to save the changes in "%s"?
Wilt u de wijzigingen in %s opslaan?

Sometimes, quotation marks have to be used for different reasons. In those cases, use only single quotation marks.

Spaces in error messages

Keep in mind that the US messages often have two spaces after the period. This must always be changed to a single space.

Compounds

English error messages often contain compounds of three or more nouns that are hard to translate into Dutch. If these compounds are translated literally into Dutch, this results in awkward translations that are grammatically and stylistically bad and sometimes plainly wrong. In these cases, always try to give a description.

English	Error opening address book provider root container.
Dutch	(-) Fout bij openen van adresboekprovider hoofdcontainer.
Dutch	(+) Fout bij het openen van de hoofdcontainer van de adresboekprovider.

For more information, consult the [Compounds](#) section.

Standard phrases in error messages

When translating usual phrases, standardize. Note that sometimes the US uses different forms to express the same thing.

These phrases commonly occur in error messages. When you translate them, try to use the provided target phrases. However, feel free to use other ways to express the source meaning if they work better in the context.

Examples:

An error occurred while; An error occurred in

Error messages with this construction are translated with Er is een fout opgetreden bij.

English	An error occurred while writing a data file.
Dutch	(-) Tijdens het opslaan van een gegevensbestand is een fout gevonden.
Dutch	(+) Er is een fout opgetreden bij het schrijven van een gegevensbestand.

Are you sure

Error messages with this construction are translated with Weet u zeker dat.

Are you sure you want to remove this driver?
Weet u zeker dat u dit stuurprogramma wilt verwijderen?

Can't/unable/not possible

Can't open the file "%s."
(+) Het bestand %s kan niet worden geopend.
(+) Kan het bestand %s niet openen.

File "%s" could not be found.
(+) Het bestand %s is niet gevonden.
(+) Kan het bestand %s niet vinden.

Unable to open file.
(+) Het bestand kan niet worden geopend.
(+) Kan het bestand niet openen.

No longer able to read "%s"

(+) %s kan niet langer worden gelezen.

(+) Kan het bestand %s niet meer lezen.

No longer able to read "%s"

(+) %s kan niet langer worden gelezen.

(+) Kan het bestand %s niet meer lezen.

Not possible to read file now.

(+) Het bestand kan nu niet worden gelezen.

(+) Kan het bestand nu niet lezen.

The tape can't be read.

(+) De band kan niet worden gelezen.

(+) Kan de band niet lezen.

NOTE: although two variants exist for this type of error message, it's recommended to use one of the two variants within a single product, as much as possible.

Do you want to continue? Do you really want to do this? Continue?

Always translate these constructions as Wilt u toch doorgaan? of Wilt u doorgaan?, depending on the context.

You're about to delete the report "%s." Do you really want to do this?

U staat op het punt om het rapport %s te verwijderen. Wilt u toch doorgaan?

Some data in existing non-selected cells will be lost. Do you want to continue?

Sommige gegevens in bestaande, maar niet-geselecteerde cellen zullen verloren gaan. Wilt u toch doorgaan?

Some data in existing cells will be lost. Continue?

Sommige gegevens in bestaande cellen zullen verloren gaan. Wilt u toch doorgaan?

Corrupt/Critical/Fatal/Invalid/Wrong

Corrupt is translated as beschadigd.

Critical is translated as kritiek.

Fatal is translated as onherstelbaar.

Invalid is translated as ongeldig.

Wrong is translated as onjuist.

The file "%s" is corrupted.

Het bestand %s is beschadigd.

A critical error has occurred.

Er is een kritieke fout opgetreden.

A fatal error has occurred.

Er is een onherstelbare fout opgetreden.

Invalid column specified. Column values must be in the range A to IV.

Ongeldige kolomaanduiding. Kolomaanduidingen moeten liggen in het bereik van A tot IV.

BUT:

English	Invalid number "%d."
Dutch	(-) Ongeldig getal %d.
Dutch	(+) %d is geen geldig getal.

Not found/not available/there are no...

English	File not found.
Dutch	(-) Bestand niet aanwezig.
Dutch	(+) Het bestand is niet gevonden.

English	No network adapter found.
Dutch	(-) Geen netwerkadapter gevonden.
Dutch	(+) Er is geen netwerkadapter gevonden.

English	Value not found in Configuration Registry
Dutch	(-) Waarde niet gevonden in het Configuratieregister.
Dutch	(+) Geen waarde gevonden in het Configuratieregister.

English	Permanent connection not available.
Dutch	(-) Permanente verbinding niet voorhanden.
Dutch	(-) Alle permanente verbindingen zijn bezet.
Dutch	(+) Er is geen permanente verbinding beschikbaar.

English	There are no available interrupts. The sound card will not work
Dutch	(-) Geen interrupts. De geluidskaart zal niet werken.
Dutch	(+) Er zijn geen interrupts beschikbaar. De geluidskaart zal niet werken.

Extremely low on memory/Not enough memory

For these expressions, Dutch translations usually use onvoldoende.

English	Extremely low on memory. Please save your work and close other applications to free up memory and continue.
Dutch	(-) Er is uitermate weinig geheugen beschikbaar. Sla wijzigingen op en sluit andere toepassingen af om geheugen vrij te maken en probeer het opnieuw.
Dutch	(+) Er is onvoldoende geheugen beschikbaar. Sla wijzigingen op en sluit andere toepassingen af om geheugen vrij te maken en probeer het opnieuw.

Note the translation of "your work."

English	There is not enough memory available to load "%s."
Dutch	(-) Er is niet genoeg geheugen beschikbaar om %s te laden.
Dutch	(+) Er is onvoldoende geheugen beschikbaar om %s te laden.

English	Sorry, there was not enough memory to translate some pictures.
Dutch	(-) Er is niet genoeg geheugen om een aantal figuren te converteren.
Dutch	(+) Er is onvoldoende geheugen om een aantal figuren te converteren.

English	System disk is locked or full and memory is nearly full. Save your work.
Dutch	(-) De systeemschijf is vergrendeld of vol en er is bijna geen geheugen meer beschikbaar. Sla wijzigingen op.
Dutch	(+) De systeemschijf is vergrendeld of vol en er is onvoldoende geheugen beschikbaar. Sla wijzigingen op.

Not enough (disk) space

Not enough wordt altijd vertaald met onvoldoende.

English	There is not enough free disk space to install MS-DOS.
Dutch	(-) Er is niet voldoende ruimte op de schijf voor de installatie van MS-DOS.
Dutch	(+) Er is onvoldoende ruimte op de schijf voor de installatie van MS-DOS.

English	Your computer does not have enough available space to install the selected programs.
Dutch	(-) Uw computer heeft niet genoeg ruimte beschikbaar om de geselecteerde programma's te installeren.
Dutch	(+) Er is onvoldoende schijfruimte beschikbaar op de computer voor de installatie van de geselecteerde programma's.

Occurred

Occurred is used frequently in the English error messages and is generally translated AS optreden.

English	A write fault occurred.
Dutch	(-) Schrijffout.
Dutch	(+) Er is een schrijffout opgetreden.

English	General error has occurred.
Dutch	(-) Algemene fout.
Dutch	(+) Er is een algemene fout opgetreden.

Please/sorry

Please and Sorry in error messages are not translated.

English	Please cancel Setup and make more room, and then run Setup again.
Dutch	(+) Sluit Setup af en maak ruimte vrij op de schijf. Voer Setup vervolgens opnieuw uit.
Dutch	(+) Het bestand kan niet worden geopend omdat een gedeelte ontbreekt.

IMPORTANT

When the user is asked to wait until a certain operation has been performed by the program, the following expression must always be used:

(+) Een ogenblik geduld.	
(-) Even wachten a.u.b.	
(-) Even geduld a.u.b.	
(-) Een ogenblik geduld a.u.b.	

Please verify...

Please verify is translated as Controleer of.

English	Drive %c: does not exist. Please verify the appropriate drive was given.
Dutch	(+) Station %c: bestaat niet. Controleer of het juiste station is ingevoerd.

English	Can't create the %s file. Please verify that the correct path and filename are given.
Dutch	(+) Het bestand %s kan niet worden gemaakt. Controleer of het juiste pad en de juiste bestandsnaam zijn ingevoerd.

Successfully

"Successfully" is usually omitted from the translation.

English	The operation was successfully completed.
Dutch	(+) De bewerking is voltooid.

English	You have successfully defined the following document profile:
Dutch	(+) U hebt het volgende documentprofiel gedefinieerd.

Your

Where possible, "your" should always be translated neutrally with an article.

English	The sound card is not detected in your machine.
Dutch	(-) Kan de geluidskaart niet vinden in uw computer.
Dutch	(+) Kan de geluidskaart niet vinden in de computer.

English	This will end your Windows session.
Dutch	(-) Hiermee sluit u uw Windows-sessie af.
Dutch	(+) Hiermee sluit u de Windows-sessie af.

Then

The English "then" must always be translated with 'vervolgens', and not with 'dan'. Sentences with 'als-dan' should be avoided.

English	Please cancel Setup and make more room, and then run Setup again.
Dutch	(-) Sluit Setup af en maak ruimte vrij op de schijf. Voer Setup dan opnieuw uit.
Dutch	(+) Sluit Setup af en maak ruimte vrij op de schijf. Voer Setup vervolgens opnieuw uit.

Error messages containing placeholders

When localizing error messages containing placeholders, try to anticipate what will replace the placeholder. This is necessary for the sentence to be grammatically correct when the placeholder is replaced with a word or phrase. Note that the letters used in placeholders convey a specific meaning.

Examples:

%d, %ld, %u, and %lu means <number>

%c means <letter>

%s means <string>

Examples of error messages containing placeholders:

"Checking Web %1!d! of %2!d!" means "Checking Web <number> of <number>."

"INI file "%1!-.200s!" section" means "INI file "<string>" section."

4.5.2 Keys

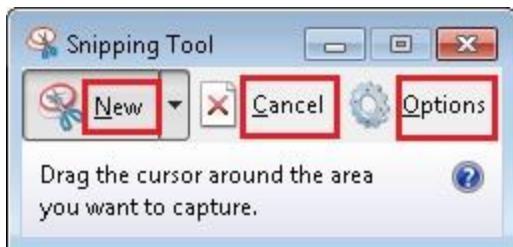
In English, references to key names, like arrow keys, function keys and numeric keys, appear in normal text (not in small caps).

English key name	Dutch key name
Alt	Alt
Backspace	Backspace
Break	Break
Caps Lock	Caps Lock
Ctrl	Ctrl
Delete	Delete
Down Arrow	Pijl-omlaag
End	End
Enter	Enter
Esc	Esc
Home	Home
Insert	Insert
Left Arrow	Pijl-links
Num Lock	Num Lock
Page Down	Page Down
Page Up	Page Up
Pause	Pause
Right Arrow	Pijl-rechts
Scroll Lock	Scroll Lock
Shift	Shift
Spacebar	Spatiebalk
Tab	Tab

English key name	Dutch key name
Up Arrow	Pijl-omhoog
Windows key	Windows-toets
Print Screen	Print Screen
Menu key	Menutoets

4.5.3 Keyboard shortcuts

Sometimes, there are underlined or highlighted letters in menu options, commands or dialog boxes. These letters refer to keyboard shortcuts, which help the user to perform tasks more quickly.



There are a number of rules for keyboard shortcuts assignment, which should be applied in this order:

1. No double keyboard shortcuts may occur.
2. Don't use letters or digits between brackets to indicate a keyboard shortcut. (The only exception is when there are no letters left in a dialog.)

(-) Selectievakje inschakelen (<u>x</u>)
(+) <u>S</u> electievakje inschakelen

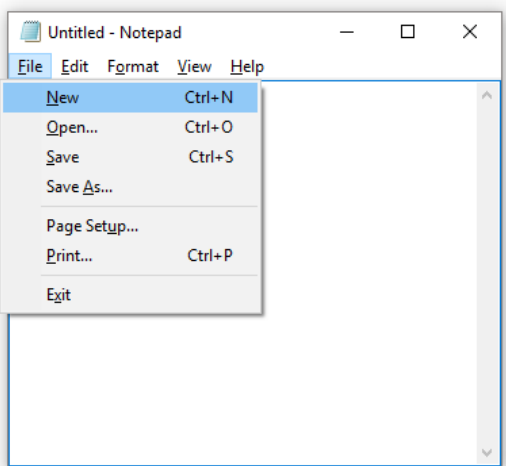
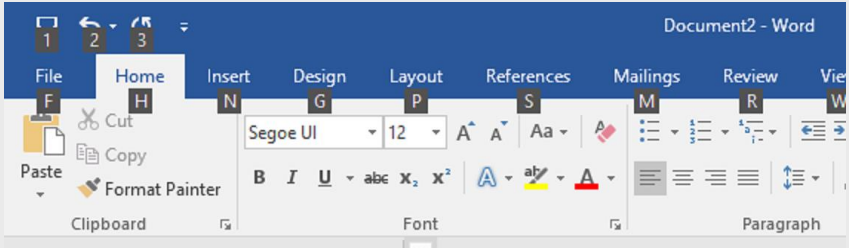
3. As much as possible, try to use the same keyboard shortcuts within a product for a term that appears in multiple places. Such as B for the Bladeren button.
4. Avoid the use of g, j, y, p and q, and of i, especially in ij. It's often hard to figure out where the underlining is if these letters are used.
5. Use the first letter of the most important word in an option.

Verschillen in <u>r</u> ij (r in rij is de keyboard shortcut)
Verschillen in <u>k</u> olom (k in kolom is de keyboard shortcut)

Keyboard shortcuts special options	Usage: is it allowed?	Notes
"Slim characters," such as l, l, t, r, f can be used as keyboard shortcuts	yes	This can only be used when there are no letters left in a dialog.
Characters with downstrokes, such as g, j, y, p and q can be used as keyboard shortcuts	no	
Extended characters can be used as keyboard shortcuts	no	
An additional letter, appearing between brackets after item name, can be used as keyboard shortcut	yes	This can only be used when there are no letters left in a dialog.
A number, appearing between brackets after item name, can be used as keyboard shortcut	yes	This can only be used when there are no letters left in a dialog.
A punctuation sign, appearing between brackets after item name, can be used as keyboard shortcut	no	
Duplicate keyboard shortcuts are allowed when no other character is available	no	
No keyboard shortcut is assigned when no more characters are available (minor options only)	yes	This can only be used when there are no letters left in a dialog.

Content writers usually just refer to “keyboard shortcuts” in content for a general audience. In localization, however, we distinguish the following terms:

Term	Usage
access key	A subtype of keyboard shortcut. A letter or number that the user types to access UI controls that have text labels. Access keys are assigned to top-level controls so that the user can use the keyboard to move through the UI quickly.

	<p>Example: F in Alt+F</p> <p>Example in UI localization: H&ome</p>  <p>In keyboard shortcuts, most access keys are used with the Alt key.</p>
<p>key tip</p>	<p>The letter or number that appears in the ribbon when the Alt key is pressed.</p> <p>In UI localization, the key tip is the last character present in the strings after the "&" character.</p> <p>Example: In UI localization Home`H</p> 
<p>shortcut key</p>	<p>A subtype of keyboard shortcut. A key that the user types to perform a common action without having to go through the UI. Shortcut keys are not available for every command.</p> <p>Example: Ctrl+N, Ctrl+V</p> <p>In keyboard shortcuts, most shortcut keys are used with the Ctrl key.</p> <p>Ctrl+letter combinations and function keys (F1 through F12) are usually the best choices for shortcut keys.</p>

4.5.4 Arrow keys

The arrow keys move input focus among the controls within a group. Pressing the right arrow key moves input focus to the next control in tab order, whereas pressing the left arrow moves input focus to the previous control. Home, End, Up, and Down also have their expected behavior within a group. Users can't navigate out of a control group using arrow keys.

4.5.5 Numeric keypad

Avoid distinguishing numeric keypad keys from the other keys, unless it's required by a given application. If it's not obvious which keys need to be pressed, provide necessary explanations.

4.5.6 Shortcut keys

Shortcut keys are keystrokes or combinations of keystrokes that perform defined functions in a software application. Shortcut keys replace menu commands and are sometimes given next to the command they represent. While access keys can be used only when available on the screen, shortcut keys can be used even when they are not accessible on the screen.

These key combinations, such as Ctrl+B or Shift+F12, are NOT localized. As a rule, we copy the US combinations exactly. However, there is an exception to the rule. The Dutch products must support multiple keyboard lay-outs: the US keyboard and the Belgian Azerty keyboard. This may mean that a key combination that's possible on a US keyboard can't be replicated on the Belgian keyboard. In those cases, the shortcut key combination must be localized. Keep in mind that the shortcut key combinations must always be tested with two different keyboard lay-outs.

Standard shortcut keys

US command	US English shortcut key	Dutch command	Dutch shortcut key
General Windows shortcut keys			
Help window	F1	Help	F1
Context-sensitive Help	Shift+F1	Contextafhankelijke Help	Shift+F1
Display pop-up menu	Shift+F10	Pop-upmenu weergeven	Shift+F10

US command	US English shortcut key	Dutch command	Dutch shortcut key
Cancel	Esc	Annuleren	Esc
Activate\Deactivate menu bar mode	F10	Menubalk activeren/deactiveren	F10
Switch to the next primary application	Alt+Tab	Schakelen naar de volgende toepassing	Alt+Tab
Display next window	Alt+Esc	Volgende venster weergeven	Alt+Esc
Display pop-up menu for the window	Alt+Spacebar	Pop-upmenu voor het venster weergeven	Alt+Spatiebalk
Display pop-up menu for the active child window	Alt+-	Pop-upmenu voor het actieve onderliggende venster weergeven	Alt+-
Display property sheet for current selection	Alt+Enter	N/A	Alt+Enter
Close active application window	Alt+F4	Actief toepassingsvenster sluiten	Alt+F4
Switch to next window within (modeless-compliant) application	Alt+F6	Schakelen naar volgende niet-modale venster binnen toepassing	Alt+F6
Capture active window image to the Clipboard	Alt+Prnt Scrn	Schermafdruck kopiëren naar Klembord	Alt+Prnt Scrn
Capture desktop image to the Clipboard	Prnt Scrn	Bureaubladafdruck kopiëren naar Klembord	Prnt Scrn
Access Start button in taskbar	Ctrl+Esc	Menu Start in taakbalk activeren	Ctrl+Esc
Display next child window	Ctrl+F6	Volgende onderliggende venster weergeven	Ctrl+F6
Display next tabbed pane	Ctrl+Tab	Volgende tabblad eergeven	Ctrl+Tab

US command	US English shortcut key	Dutch command	Dutch shortcut key
Launch Task Manager and system initialization	Ctrl+Shift+Esc	Taakbeheer en systeeminitialisatie starten	Ctrl+Shift+Esc
File menu			
File New	Ctrl+N	Nieuw...	Ctrl+N
File Open	Ctrl+O	Openen	Ctrl+O
File Close	Ctrl+F4	Sluiten	Ctrl+F4
File Save	Ctrl+S	Opslaan	Ctrl+S
File Save as	F12	Opslaan als	F12
File Print Preview	Ctrl+F2	Afdrukvoorbeeld	Ctrl+F2
File Print	Ctrl+P	Afdrukken	Ctrl+P
File Exit	Alt+F4	Afsluiten	Alt+F4
Edit menu			
Edit Undo	Ctrl+Z	Ongedaan maken	Ctrl+Z
Edit Repeat	Ctrl+Y	Opnieuw	Ctrl+Y
Edit Cut	Ctrl+X	Knippen	Ctrl+X
Edit Copy	Ctrl+C	Kopiëren	Ctrl+C
Edit Paste	Ctrl+V	Plakken	Ctrl+V
Edit Delete	Ctrl+Backspace	Verwijderen	Ctrl+Backspace
Edit Select All	Ctrl+A	Alles selecteren	Ctrl+A
Edit Find	Ctrl+F	Zoeken	Ctrl+F
Edit Replace	Ctrl+H	Vervangen	Ctrl+H
Edit Go To	Ctrl+G	Ga naar	Ctrl+G

US command	US English shortcut key	Dutch command	Dutch shortcut key
Help menu			
Help	F1	Help	F1
Font format			
Italic	Ctrl+I	Cursief	Ctrl+I
Bold	Ctrl+B	Vet	Ctrl+B
Underlined\Word underline	Ctrl+U	Onderstreept	Ctrl+U
Large caps	Ctrl+Shift+A	Hoofdletters	Ctrl+Shift+A
Small caps	Ctrl+Shift+K	Kleinkapitalen	Ctrl+Shift+K
Paragraph format			
Centered	Ctrl+E	Centreren	Ctrl+E
Left aligned	Ctrl+L	Links uitlijnen	Ctrl+L
Right aligned	Ctrl+R	Rechts uitlijnen	Ctrl+R
Justified	Ctrl+J	Uitvullen	Ctrl+J

4.5.7 English pronunciation

General rules

Generally speaking, English terms and product names left unlocalized in target material should be pronounced the English way. For instance, "Microsoft" must be pronounced the English way. However, if Dutch has an established pronunciation for a common term (such as "server"), use the local pronunciation. Pronunciation can be adapted to the Dutch phonetic system if the original pronunciation sounds very awkward in Dutch.

If numbers are involved, pronounce them in Dutch.

Example	Phonetics	Comment
SecurID	sekjoer ai die	
Release Pack	rielies pek	
Digest	daidjest	
Microsoft Windows Server 2016	maicrosoft windows server 2016	Numbers are pronounced the Dutch way. Microsoft is pronounced the English way.
Outlook Web Access	outloek web akses	
InfoPath	infoopath	
Exchange Server	extjeensj server	
Program Files	prokram fails	
SecurNAT	sekjoer nat	
ECHO_REQUEST	ekko rekwest	
proxy	proxie	
.NET	dot net	.NET is considered a product name
Skype	skaip	Product names are always pronounced the way they are pronounced in English

Acronyms and abbreviations

Strict acronyms are pronounced like real words. They should be pronounced the Dutch way.

Example	Phonetics
RADIUS	radius
RAS	ras
ISA	iesaa
LAN	lan

WAN	wan
WAP	wap
MAPI	mapie
POP	pop

Other abbreviations are pronounced letter by letter. They should be pronounced the Dutch way.

Example	Phonetics	Comment
ICMP	ie cee em pee	
URL	u er el	
TCP/IP	tee cee pee slash ie pee	
HTTP GET	ha tee tee pee gee ee tee	
Rqç.exe	er q cee punt exuh	
XML	ex em el	
HTML	ha tee em el	
SQL	es q el	
CD-ROM	cee dee rom	
ICMP	ie cee em pee	
OWA	oo wee aa	
IIS	ai ai es	Considered a product name, to be pronounced the English way

URLS

"http://" should be omitted; the rest of the URL should be read entirely.

"www" should be pronounced as wee-wee-wee.

The "dot" should be omitted, but can also be read out. If you read it out, then it must be pronounced the Dutch way, as "punt."

Example	Phonetics
http://www.microsoft.com/nederland	wee wee wee punt maicrosoft punt com slash nederland

Punctuation marks

Most punctuation marks are naturally implied by the sound of voice, for example, ? ! : ; ,

En Dash (–) are used to emphasize an isolated element. It should be pronounced as a comma, i.e. as a short pause.

According to the Dutch style guide rules Em-dashes should be replaced by comma's in the written localized Dutch audioscript.

Special characters

- Pronounce special characters such as / \ ~ < > + - using the approved Dutch translations. For example, \ will be pronounced backslash.

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