

# **Understanding Frisian**

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# Foreword

## Foarwurd

Welcome to this journey of enhancing your Frisian language skills. As highlighted on the back cover, this book serves as an advanced sequel to the initial 'Learn it Yourself' guide. Designed to be interactive and engaging, it is filled with a variety of exercises that cater to different learning paces and styles. To make the most of your experience, keeping a pen and paper handy is recommended for note-taking and practice.

Recognizing that learning a language can be challenging, this book is structured to be flexible. You may encounter some sections that are more time-consuming or difficult. Feel free to move past these initially and return to them later with fresh eyes and renewed perspective.

To add an element of fun and enhance your vocabulary, the book intersperses word search puzzles throughout its chapters. These puzzles are a delightful way to reinforce your learning and expand your Frisian lexicon.

This book is deliberately written in straightforward and simple English, ensuring it is accessible to a wide range of Frisian learners, regardless of their background. Dive in and enjoy the process of learning and discovery!

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# Regular Verbs

## Regelmjittige Tiidwurden

Understanding regular Frisian verbs is quite straightforward. Simply pick any regular verb and follow these rules. However, remember that these rules don't work for verbs ending in -je; they have different rules, which we'll cover later.

Here's how you do it:

### Present time:

Ik -  
Dû +st  
Hy/sy/it +t  
Wy/jim/sy/jo +e

### Past time:

Ik +te or +de  
Dû +test or +dest  
Hy/sy/it +te or + de  
Wy/jim/sy/jo +ten or +den

Here are some examples:

### to shine

Ik skyn  
Dû skynst  
Hy/sy/it skynt  
Wy/jim/sy/jo skine

Ik skynde  
Dû skyndest  
Hy/sy/it skynde  
Wy/jim/sy/jo Skynden

### to dream

Ik dream  
Dû dreamst  
Hy/sy/it dreamt  
Wy/jim/sy/jo dreame

Ik dreamde  
Dû dreamdest  
Hy/sy/it dreamde  
Wy/jim/sy/jo dreamden

### to reach or to achieve

Ik berik  
Dû berikst  
Hy/sy/it berikt  
Wy/jim/sy/jo berikke

Ik berikte  
Dû beriktest  
Hy/sy/it berikte  
Wy/jim/sy/jo berikten

The form "+de" is more commonly used than the "+te" form. You might be wondering when to use each of them. It actually depends on the final letter of the verb's base form.

If a verb's base ends with any of these letters - t, k, f, s, ch, p - then you use the "+te", "+test", and "+ten" forms. For all other endings, you should use "+de", "+dest", and "+den".

### **Present Perfect or 'Mulwurd'**

To form the present perfect of a verb, you need to add either 'd' or 't'. How do you decide which one to use? Just apply the rule from the previous section. Here are two examples to illustrate the use of present perfect verbs:

*I have dreamed*  
Ik haw dreamd

*I have reached*  
Ik haw berikt

Important to know about the 'wy', 'jim', 'sy' & 'jo' form  
Verbs that end with 's' or 'f' will change into 'z' and 'v'. Let's give you some examples.

#### **to heal or to recover**

Ik genê**s**  
Wy genê**ze**

#### **to read**

Ik lê**s**  
Jim lê**ze**

#### **to wander or to roam**

Ik swer**f**  
Jo swer**ve**

#### **to bury**

Ik begraa**f**  
Wy begrave

By now you probably already knew that words that end with -ch will change into -ge in the 'wy, jim, sy and jo-form'.

#### **to see**

Ik sjog**h**  
Jo sjog**ge**

#### **to lie**

Ik li**ch**  
Wy li**ge**

**Use the instructions to complete the tables below.**

to mean

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	mien	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

to miss or to lack

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	mis	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

to name or to mention

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	neam	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

to place

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	pleats	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

to refer

	<b>Notiid</b>	<b>Doetiid</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	ferwiis	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

to shove

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Present</b>
<b>Ik</b>	skow	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.



to spill

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	griem	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

Simple, isn't it? Below, you'll find a list of verbs. Your task is to place each verb into the right sentence, using the appropriate form.

Lien	Fiel	Diel	Hier	Bou
Lear	Swit	Doar	Hear	Fernij
Skear	Mien	Skyn	Foarspel	Swets
Ferdiel	Ferklaai	Dream	Stjoer	

1. Ik haw juster myn webside .....  
Yesterday I renewed my website.  
**Pronunciation:** [eek haw yus-ter meen vep-side-uh]
2. Dû ..... my in berjocht.  
You are sending me a message.  
**Pronunciation:** [doo ..... me in ber-yokht]
3. Jo ..... it ferhaal.  
You are sharing the story.  
**Pronunciation:** [yo ..... it fer-hahl]

4. Hy .....it skiep.  
He is shearing the sheep.  
**Pronunciation:** [he ..... it skeep]
5. Wy ..... troch it swiere wurk.  
We are sweating because of the heavy work.  
**Pronunciation:** [ve ..... trokh it svi-reh vurk]
6. Dizze man ..... in protte.  
This man brags a lot.  
**Pronunciation:** [diz-ze mon ..... in prot-te]
7. Wy ..... in nij hûs.  
We are building a new house.  
**Pronunciation:** [ve ..... in ney hoos]
8. Wy ..... net nei hûs.  
We do not dare to go home.  
**Pronunciation:** [ve ..... net nay hoos]
9. Wy ..... de winst.  
We are splitting the profit.  
**Pronunciation:** [ve fer-..... deh vinst]
10. Ik ..... oer in draak.  
I dreamed about a dragon.  
**Pronunciation:** [eek ..... oor in drahk]
11. Sy ..... har foar de ôfspraak.  
She dressed up for the appointment.  
**Pronunciation:** [se ..... har for deh ohfs-prahk]

12. Sy ..... har siik.  
She felt sick.  
**Pronunciation:** [se ..... har seek]
13. Wy ..... in nuver lûd.  
We heard a weird noise.  
**Pronunciation:** [ve ..... in nu-ver lood]
14. Wy hawwe in boat .....  
We have rented a boat.  
**Pronunciation:** [ve haw-veh in boat .....]
15. Ik haw in protte fan dy .....  
I have learned a lot from you.  
**Pronunciation:** [eek haw in prot-te fon dee .....]
16. Sy ..... myn auto foar in pear dagen.  
She is borrowing my car for a few days.  
**Pronun:** [si ..... meen luxe-wain for in pear dah-gen]
17. Sy ..... dat.  
She meant that.  
**Pronunciation:** [se ..... daht]
18. Hy ..... in protte lok.  
He predicted a lot of luck.  
**Pronunciation:** [he ..... in prot-teh lok]
19. Ik ..... ljocht op dy.  
I am shining light on you.  
**Pronunciation:** [eek ..... lyokht op dee]

**The right answers are on page 106, 107 & 108.**



to work

<b>Ik</b>	wurkje	wurke
<b>Dû</b>	wurkest	wurkest
<b>Hy/sy/it</b>	wurket	wurke
<b>Wy/jo/jim/sy</b>	wurkje	wurken
<b>Present Perfect:</b>	<b>Ik haw wurke</b>	

You're getting the hang of it, aren't you? The next few pages contain empty tables. Just follow the examples and fill them out.

to play (children)

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	boartsje	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.

to pay

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>P. Perfect</b>
<b>Ik</b>	betelje	.	.
<b>Dû</b>	.	.	.
<b>Hy/Sy</b>	.	.	.
<b>It</b>	.	.	.
<b>Wy</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jo</b>	.	.	.
<b>Jim</b>	.	.	.
<b>Sy</b>	.	.	.