

ANGLO-DUTCH Translation Guide – do we get the message?

Translation Guide		
<i>What the British say</i>	<i>What the British mean</i>	<i>What the Dutch understand</i>
I hear what you say	I disagree completely	He ^a accepts my point of view
You must come by for dinner sometime	Just being polite; Goodbye!	He will invite me for dinner in the course of time
Very interesting	I don't agree	He likes my idea
With the greatest respect	You must be a fool, I have a better suggestion (polite disagreement)	He respects me/my view
I'm sure it's my fault	It's your fault!	It is his fault
That is an original point of view	You must be crazy	They like the idea
I almost agree	I don't agree	He almost agrees
You'll get there (eventually)	No way you will make it	Encouragement to go on
I'll bear it in mind	I won't do anything about it	He will use it when appropriate
Could we consider some other options	I don't like your idea	He is still in the process of thinking
I would suggest	Do it as I want you to	An open suggestion
By the way	The primary purpose is	Not very important
Perhaps you could give this some more thought	Don't do it, it's a bad idea	Consider possible road blocks
I am a bit disappointed that	I am very upset and angry that	It doesn't really matter
Quite good	A bit disappointing	Quite good
Not bad	(very) good	Average or poor
Please consider	Do it or forget it	He leaves it up to me
I have a further suggestion	Take it or leave it	He leaves it up to me
The idea described is rather original	Bullshit	It's a good idea
I have a few preliminary suggestions	I strongly suggest you to follow my suggestions	Don't change anything until final suggestions have been made
Reads well	Really good	Average
I am somewhat disturbed by the idea	I am crossed	He is not feeling too comfortable about it
A few issues that need to be addressed	A whole lot needs to be changed	2-3 issues need rewriting
An issue that worries me slightly	A great worry	A minor issue
I am sorry, we have to reject your paper on priority grounds	Your paper sucks	My paper nearly made it
I am sorry to disappoint you on this occasion	I could not care less	He is sorry
^A Where "he" is mentioned "she" can also be read		

Nannette Ripmeester is Director of Expertise in Labour Mobility specialising in customised solutions for international labour mobility. With over 20 years of experience in working for governments, companies and higher education institutions, Nannette holds double-sided knowledge on what makes people mobile and internationally employable. Follow her and the ELM team on twitter: @labourmobility

Articles:

Separated by a Common Translation? How the Brits and the Dutch communicate. Bart Rottier, Nannette Ripmeester, Andrew Bush, Pediatric Pulmonology, December 2010.

How To Say "This Is Crap" In Different Cultures. Erin Meyer, Harvard Business Review, HBR Blog Network, February 25, 2014.

We all speak English, don't we? <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/we-all-speak-english-dont-nannette-ripmeester?trk=prof-post>, 10 September 2015, LinkedIn.