



Goesting in Taal

10 Flemish words and expressions you need to know if you're an international student in Flanders!

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Welcome to all international students who have come to Belgium to do an Erasmus or a Master's degree! Today, I would like to share with you **10 typical words and expressions** which are **crucial to student life** in Belgium!

1. Kot

If you are a student, chances are high that you are living in a kot. A kot is a student residence or a house shared with other students. Some example sentences:

Zijt ge op kot?

Are you in your kot?

Ik zit op kot in de Parijstraat.

I live in a kot in Parijsstraat.

2. Een pintje

As you have probably noticed, beer plays a pretty big role in student life in Belgium. We are the country of beer, after all. If you want to order a regular beer, like a Stella or a Jupiler, you ask for a "pintje".

Voor mij een pintje, alstublieft.

For me regular beer, please.

Ik heb pintjes koud staan.

I have beers in the fridge.

3. Brossen

Brossen means "to skip class". For the people studying in Leuven, you will know there is a bar in the Old Market called "den Brosser" (basically, the person who skipped class).

Hebt gij al vaak gebrost?

Have you skipped many classes?

Ik denk da'k voor ene keer ga brossen.

I think I'm going to skip class for once.

4. Ik ben door.

Ik ben door means "I'm leaving" or "I'm going home". This is the typical sentence we use when we leave a party. If someone says it to you, you can respond with "Salut", "Joe" or "Tot de volgende!" (which mean bye or see you next time)

5. Ik ben erdoor!

Though it resembles the previous expression, the meaning is completely different. Ik ben

erdoor means “I passed my exams!” which is of course great news, so we hope you will get the chance to use it. So take it easy on the “pintjes” and the “brossen” 😊

6. Eerste zit / tweede zit

“Eerste zit” and “Tweede zit” represent the two periods in which we need to do exams. Eerste zit is the first chance you get to take an exam (either in January or June) and Tweede zit is the period where you get to redo an exam if you failed the first time. (in August-September)

Ik heb tweede zit.

I need to redo some exams.

Ik ben er op alles door, in eerste zit!

I passed all my exams, in the first period!

7. De aula

De aula is the big room in which we have some of our classes and often also the graduation ceremony.

In welke aula moeten we zijn?

In which aula do we need to be?

Ik zit vanachter in de aula.

I’m in the back of the aula.

8. Een smoske

We already talked about pintjes, but of course a student also has to eat! One option could be a smoske. A smoske is a baguette with ham, cheese, mayonnaise and veggies. The name comes from the verb “smossen”, which means “to spill”, probably because of all of that mayonnaise.

9. Zeveren

Not everything about student life needs to be serious. Sometimes, it’s also nice to just hang out with friends and to kid around and philosophize about life. This is what we call “zeveren”, to talk about random stuff, to bullshit or to kid around.

Ik ben maar aan’t zeveren.

I’m just kidding around.

Hij is weer aan’t zeveren zenne.

He’s talking nonsense again.

10. Zalig!

And finally, if there is one word you definitely need to remember from this list, it’s definitely the last one: zalig, which means “awesome!” or “amazing!”.

Zalig feestje!

Awesome party!

Zalige plaat!

Awesome song!

Hoe was’t gisteren? – Echt zalig!

How was it yesterday? – Really awesome!

20 more typical Flemish sentences for student life

Hey, hoe is't?	Hey, how are you?
Wat willen jullie drinken?	What do you guys want to drink?
Waar spreken we af?	Where do we meet?
Om welk uur? / Hoe laat?	At what time?
Hebt ge zin om deze(n) avond iets te gaan drinken?	Do you feel like going for a drink tonight?
Waar hebben we les?	Where do we have class?
Amai, dit is saai.	Wow, this is boring.
Dat was interessant!	That was interesting!
Ik kan niet, ik moet blokken.	I can't, I have to study.
Zijt ge op kot?	Are you at your place?
Waarom niet!	Why not!
Komt ge af?	Do you want to join?
Mijne fiets staat aan ...	My bike is at ...
Ik heb honger. Gaan we ... halen?	I'm hungry. Wanna go get ... ?
Ik moet efkes naar de winkel.	I need to quickly go to the shop.
Der is een feestje vanavond in de ...	There is a party tonight at the ...
Mag ik uw notities lenen?	Can I borrow your notes?
Heeft er iemand zin in ne koffie?	Does anyone feel like having a coffee?
Tegen wanneer moeten we dat indienen?	By when do we need to submit that?
Ik moet efkes langs mijn kot passeren.	I need to quickly drop by my place.

Want to learn more?

Then definitely check out

- our free 10 Day Flemish Crash Course at my.goestingintaal.com!
- our Survival Guide for International students!
 - pocket-size, 189 pages, 11 euro / 13,5 euro including audio
 - for sale at Standaard Boekhandel, ACCO or on our [webshop](#)
- Our [Facebook page](#)!

