

17 April 2012

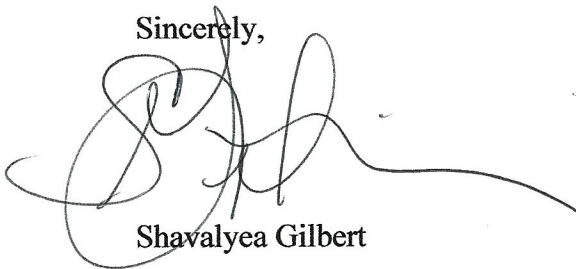
To Whom It May Concern,

It gives me great pleasure to write a recommendation for Mr. Bally Bakker. Since 2011 September, Bally has taught my beginner-level Dutch course. I moved to The Netherlands in 2011 June with no knowledge of the Dutch language. As a result of Bally's teaching methods, my Dutch language skills have improved vastly. The following characteristics make Bally a great teacher:

- **RESPONSIVE:** He always answers questions when asked and responds well to the non-verbal communication clues of students. Additionally, if a student suggests implementing something new into class, if he believes it will strengthen the knowledge of others, he will execute the idea.
- **KNOWLEDGEABLE:** He knows the Dutch language and culture very well which allows him to present material in ways that engage different types of learners (creative thinkers, analytical, etc.). In addition, he has the ability to teach with or without a textbook which was very impressive.
- **EMPATHETIC:** He tries to ensure that he understands each student's need but will still challenge them to learn more.
- **DEPENDABLE:** He is always available via email or phone if there are questions. He also arrives on time for class and is never a "no show."
- **SOCIAL NATURE:** He has great interpersonal skills which makes learning Dutch very comfortable. He encourages discussions about culture, politics, and entertainment and challenges students to share the discussions in Dutch.
- **TECHNOLOGICALLY SAVVY:** He infuses the use of websites & Youtube videos to enforce information that is learned in the lesson.

Bally's enthusiasm and love for teaching makes learning Dutch more fun. Overall, I have been very pleased with the tutelage of Mr. Bally Bakker. I recommend him without any reservation to anyone who is seeking to learn the Dutch language and culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shavalyea Gilbert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shavalyea Gilbert