DUTCH AND FLEMISH SINTERKLAAS

12 Sinterklaas songs and what they mean in English

Each Dutch title, what it means in English and how to say it, in the order families sing them.

Waiting for him: songs 1–4

1	**Zie ginds komt de stoomboot** *“Look, there comes the steamboat”*	SAY IT zee **khints** komt duh **stohm**-boht
2	**Wie komt er alle jaren** *“Who comes every year?”*	SAY IT vee **komt** er **ah**-luh **yah**-ruhn
3	**Hij komt, hij komt** *“He’s coming, he’s coming, that dear, good saint”*	SAY IT hay **komt**, hay **komt**
4	**Hoor de wind waait door de bomen** *“Hear the wind blow through the trees”*	SAY IT **hohr** duh **vint vight** dohr duh **boh**-muhn

Shoe evenings: songs 5–8

5	**Sinterklaas is jarig** *“It’s Sinterklaas’s birthday”*	SAY IT sin-ter-**klahs** is **yah**-rukh
6	**Sinterklaas kapoentje** *“Sinterklaas, little capon”*	SAY IT sin-ter-**klahs** kah-**poon**-tyuh
7	**Zachtjes gaan de paardenvoetjes** *“Softly go the horse’s hooves”*	SAY IT **zahkh**-tyuhs **khahn** duh **pahr**-duh-voo-tyuhs
8	**Hoor wie klopt daar, kinderen** *“Listen, children, who’s knocking?”*	SAY IT **hohr** vee **klopt** dahr, **kin**-duh-ruhn

Presents and goodbye: songs 9–12

9	**Zie de maan schijnt door de bomen** *“See the moon shining through the trees”*	SAY IT zee duh **mahn skhaynt** dohr duh **boh**-muhn
10	**De zak van Sinterklaas** *“Sinterklaas’s sack”*	SAY IT duh **zahk** vahn sin-ter-**klahs**
11	**O, kom er eens kijken** *“Oh, come and have a look”*	SAY IT oh, **kom** er ayns **kay**-kuhn
12	**Dag Sinterklaasje** *“Goodbye, dear Sinterklaas”*	SAY IT **dahkh** sin-ter-**klah**-shuh

In “Say it”, the bold part is stressed, kh is the throaty Dutch g (close to the ch in Scottish loch), and oo sounds as in moon. Close, not exact.

What each song is about, the old words explained, and three first verses with English translations: **linktapes.com/ideas/sinterklaas-songs**. Link Tapes lets a family collect its Sinterklaas songs on one shared tape.