

DUTCH TREAT

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In the February 1976 Word Ways, Harry Mathews listed more than 250 French words which looked like English words but in reality had entirely different meanings. Here is an analogous list of Dutch words in English dress:

are	dank	happen	loot	rank	teen
arm	den	hark		reeds	thee
arts	die	hem	made	regent	trap
as	door	hoe	meet	rode	tree
at	dove	hoed	met	roman	turn
	drift	holler	mug	roof	
bad				rooster	vale
baker	elf	kale	nap	rots	van
balk	elk	keel	nut	ruin	vast
bang	erg	keep		rut	veer
bar	even	kind	pad		vent
bars	ever	knots	paling	slag	vies
beef			peel	slang	
beer	fat	lap	peen	slap	ware
beet	fee	last	peer	sleep	wand
bid	flits	leek	pet	slier	week
big		leer	pink	slim	wit
bits	gap	leg	platen	spin	wilt
boom	gelid	lever	platter	stalling	word
boon	gene	lied	poets	star	worst
boor	gist	lies	pop	stem	was
boos	glad	links	port	stomp	
brief	golf	long	prop	stout	zoom
brink	graven	look	put		
bruin		loom		tang	
	have	loop	ramp	tee	

Although few readers of Word Ways are familiar with Dutch, it is not hard to recognize the similarity between many Dutch and German words: elf (eleven), dank ((I) thank), arm (poor), kind (child), last (burden), slag (blow), wand (wall), and worst (sausage). Others, such as fee (fairy), roman (novel) and thee (tea), have French analogues. The word of greatest interest to English readers is probably pink (little finger), from which the English word pinkie is derived.