



Survival Phrases - Indonesian (Volume 1) Lessons 1-30



Survival Phrases - Indonesian (Part 1) Lessons 1-30

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- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will wow hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn



Lesson 1: Thank You!

terima kasih



LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! And in this respect, Indonesia is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase there is no excuse not to bring with you to Indonesia. Again, I'll stress this over and over, a little a bit of the language can go such a long way!

In Indonesian "Thank you." is Terima kasih. The first word of the phrase, terima, means 'to accept'. This is followed by kasih, which in Indonesian means 'love'. And the entire expression again is terima kasih. Literally, you are saying "it is accepted with love".

Now in Indonesian there are other ways to express one's gratitude. Let's take a look at the informal way.

In Indonesian the informal way of expressing gratitude, like "thanks" in English, is makasih.

This phrase, which is a shortened form for "terima kasih", is used among friends, in other informal situations, and in more "relaxed" business situations such as shopping at the market, riding in a taxi, and so on. In Indonesian, shortened versions of expressions such as this are usually good indicators of informal language.

On the other hand, for very special occasions when someone goes above and beyond the call of being kind, when someone is extremely generous, or for any other time you're extremely grateful, we have the following phrases to express extreme gratitude:

In Indonesian the formal way of expressing extreme gratitude, like "Thank you very much" in English is Terima kasih banyak. We've already gone over the first two words of this expression – the first word terima means 'to accept'. And the second word kasih means 'love'. These two words are then followed by a new word banyak, which means 'many' or 'much'.

The informal way of expressing extreme gratitude, like "Thanks a lot" in English is Makasih banyak. We've already gone over the two words of this expression – the first word makasih is the shortened informal form for "terima kasih". And the second word banyak, means 'many' or 'much'.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Terima kasih.	Thank you.
Makasih.	Thanks.
Terima kasih banyak.	Thank you very much.

QUICK TIP

In Indonesia, there are a few ways to say "thank you", but all of them incorporate some form of the Indonesian idiom "terima kasih", which literally means "it is accepted (with) love".

The informal versions (makasih/makasih banyak) may be used not only with friends and family, but also in a number of "relaxed" business situations, such as buying something in the market or after a ride on a taxi.

By the same token, the formal versions (terima kasih/terima kasih banyak) should be used in more "official" situations, such as conducting business at an office, making a speech at a formal event such as a wedding, or writing a letter to anyone outside your circle of friends or family. These should also be used when one is talking with a stranger who is noticeably older or who has a higher professional title than the speaker.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with using the formal forms in all situations, and many speakers do opt for this strategy.

QUICK TIP 2

There are also "slang" versions of "thanks" and "thanks a lot", which are "trims" (another way of shortening "terima kasih"), "makasih banget", and "trims banget". The words "trims" and "banget" (which means 'very' or 'extremely') are typical of the slang spoken around Jakarta, the Indonesian capital. Nowadays, many young people from urban centers throughout Indonesia use these most informal forms. These are to be used only in casual conversations with close friends and family, preferably with those who are closest in age with the speaker.

Lesson 2: You're Welcome

Kembali



LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. Indonesians are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Indonesia, chances are good that you'll both hear and use them.

In Indonesian "You're welcome" is Kembali. The word literally means "to return".

Another way, this time a more informal way, of responding to a phrase of gratitude is Sama-sama. The expression is made up of the word sama, which means "the same", said twice. In this case, sama-sama means "the same to you". So altogether we have sama-sama. Literally this means "the same to you".

The last way, this time the most formal way, of responding to a phrase of gratitude is Terima kasih kembali. This expression is made up of two phrases that we already know. The first two words make up the expression "thank you" in Indonesian, which again is terima kasih. The third word is kembali, which means "to return".

So altogether we have Terima kasih kembali. Literally this means "I'm returning the thanks".

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Terima kasih kembali.	I'm returning the thanks.
Kembali.	You're welcome.
Sama-sama.	Same to you.

QUICK TIP

All the ways to say "you're welcome" in Indonesian, i.e. kembali, sama-sama, and terima kasih kembali, all involve the concept of reciprocity, which is an extremely important social value in Indonesian society. You can see this in the individual words, e.g. kembali 'to return' and sama 'the same'. So, when in Indonesia, if someone does a big favor for you, you are expected to return it in some way - it doesn't matter when, but it should happen. One of the greatest ways to do this is to host the initial giver personally when he or she happens to visit your country. Likewise, if you do a big favor for someone, he or she will have to return the favor to you in some way.

QUICK TIP 2

In some areas of Indonesia, don't be surprised if some people don't return your thanks (remember, that's "terima kasih") with any of the above expressions. Instead, these people might respond with a simple "ya" (yes). This is not meant to be rude at all. Instead, this may be a direct translation (linguists call them "calque") from their native languages, many of which do not have any phrases equivalent to "you're welcome". Instead, the appropriate response in many of those languages to expressions of gratitude is the equivalent of "yes". But, as a language learner, you should use the appropriate version of "you're welcome" any time someone offers you an expression of gratitude.

Lesson 3: This Please

Minta ini.



LESSON NOTES

In Indonesian, there actually is no one word that means "please" in this sense, surprisingly enough. Speakers of Indonesian must paraphrase in this instance. In order to ask for something, we must know the verb first, which is minta. This literally means "to request" or "ask for something".

However, this is not enough – you must actually mention requesting something to make this complete. So, let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This please." which in Indonesian is Minta ini. This literally means "I ask for this". In English, "this" comes before please. In Indonesian the word order is the opposite. In Indonesian the word for "this", ini, follows minta. Let's take a look at the word for this. "This" in Indonesian is Ini.

A more formal way of saying "This, please" is Boleh minta ini? This is simply the phrase Minta ini. meaning "This please", preceded by a new word, boleh, which means 'may' or 'be permitted to'. Literally the entire phrase means "May I ask for this, please?"

Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that" which is itu. The phrase "That please." is Minta itu.

Of course, there is a more formal way of saying "That, please", which is Boleh minta itu?. We've already learned all the words in this phrase: boleh means 'may' or 'be permitted to', minta, means 'to request' or 'to ask for something', and itu means 'that'. Literally the entire phrase means "May I ask for that, please?"

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Minta ini.	This please.
Boleh minta ini.	This please.
Minta itu.	That please.
Boleh minta itu.	That please.

QUICK TIP

In Indonesian, you should remember that there is no simple equivalent to the word "please" in the sense of asking for something. Instead, you must paraphrase it using the verb 'to ask for'/'to request'. This verb is *minta*. It's rather awkward, though, to say *minta* and point to something - you need to mention what you're pointing to after the verb, even if it's just mentioned as a demonstrative pronoun such as *ini* 'this' or *itu* 'that'. This results in *minta ini* '[I'm] asking for this' and *minta itu* '[I'm] asking for that'. To make this request more polite, you can add *boleh* to the beginning of the phrases.

QUICK TIP 2

When you point to something, it is considered rather uncouth to point with your index finger, although pointing at things is not as crass as pointing at people with your index finger. Alternate ways of pointing at things include pointing with your right thumb sticking out of a clenched fist (it's very important that it should be your right hand, since the left hand is considered ritually and physically unclean), pointing with your direct gaze very briefly, or sometimes even pointing with your pursed lips!



Lesson 4: Basic Greetings

Apa kabar?

LESSON NOTES

In Indonesian the phrase *Apa kabar?* can be used as a universal greeting. The first word *Apa* means 'what' This is followed by *kabar*, which in Indonesian is 'news'. So, this phrase literally means, "what's the news?", but basically it means "Hello, how are you?"

In Indonesian "Good morning" is *Selamat pagi*. The first word *Selamat* means 'safe' or 'blessed'. This is followed by *pagi*, which in Indonesian is 'Morning'.

In Indonesian "Good day" is *Selamat siang*. The first word *selamat* means 'safe' or 'blessed'. This is followed by *siang*, which in Indonesian is midday, from 11 AM – 3 PM.

In Indonesian good afternoon is *Selamat sore*. The first word *Selamat* means 'safe' or 'blessed'. This is followed by *sore*, which in Indonesian is the afternoon, from 3 PM to around 6 PM.

And finally we have "good evening" which in Indonesian is *Selamat malam*. The first word *Selamat* means 'safe' or 'blessed'. This is followed by *malam*, which in English is 'evening' or 'night'.

The great thing about these phrases is that you can use these with everybody and anybody, from friends and family to the village head and even the Sultan of Yogyakarta if you ever get a chance to speak with him, of course. You will always be polite with these expressions, so use them often when the time is right!

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Apa kabar?	Hi, how are you?
Selamat pagi.	Good morning.
Selamat siang.	Good day (11AM – 3PM)
Selamat sore.	Good afternoon (3PM – 6PM)
Selamat malam.	Good evening (6PM and onward)

QUICK TIP

Selamat pagi 'good morning' and *selamat malam* 'good evening' are straightforward enough, but how do you distinguish *selamat siang* from *selamat sore*?

Here's a helpful little mnemonic device you can use. Siang is the time of day (assuming that it's sunny and clear, of course) when the sun is overhead and is at its strongest, which is the period from 11AM to about 3PM. After that, the sun becomes "sore" and tired from being up high in the sky during all that time. This is Indonesian sore ['so.reh], which lasts from 3PM to about 6PM. Then, after that, the sun sets, and it becomes malam, the evening.

QUICK TIP 2

Pronunciation note: the word selamat 'happy; blessed' has a schwa-like vowel (e.g. like [ə] in sofa) typographically represented by [e] called a pepet in Indonesian. Now, in fast speech, pepet vowels can disappear when they precede a stressed (or "accented") syllable. In selamat, the second syllable is stressed, so the pepet [e] in the first syllable is often not pronounced, resulting in something like sla-mat.

Lesson 5: Parting Greetings

Selamat tinggal



LESSON NOTES

Today we'll introduce parting greetings. There are two formal phrases and four informal phrases in Indonesian. Let's go over the two formal ones first.

Upon parting, if your listener is staying in the area, the expression that is used is Selamat tinggal which literally means 'happy staying'. Let's take a look at the individual words. The first word Selamat means 'happy' or 'blessed'. This is followed by tinggal, which in Indonesian is 'to stay'.

On the other hand, if your listener is leaving the area, the expression that is used is Selamat jalan which literally means 'happy going'. Let's take a look at the individual words. The first word Selamat means 'happy' or 'blessed', as we've said before. This is followed by jalan, which in Indonesian is 'to leave' or 'to go'.

Lets take a look at the three informal parting expressions.

In Indonesian a more casual way of saying goodbye, like 'bye' in English, is Da-da. This phrase is used among friends and in other casual situations.

If you want to say something like "see you later" in English, there are three ways to do this in Indonesian.

The first one is Sampai ketemu, which literally means 'Until we happen to meet'. Let's take a look at the individual words. The first word Sampai means 'until'. This is followed by ketemu, which in Indonesian is 'happen to meet'.

The second one is Sampai jumpa, which literally means 'Until we meet'.

Let's take a look at the individual words. The first word Sampai means 'until', as we've said before. This is followed by jumpa, which in Indonesian is 'to meet'.

The last of these is Sampai nanti, which literally means 'Until later'. Let's take a look at the individual words. The first word Sampai means 'until', as we've said before. This is followed by nanti, which in Indonesian is 'later'.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Selamat tinggal.	Goodbye (to person staying)
Selamat jalan.	Goodbye (to person leaving)
Da-da.	Bye! [Usually accompanied by waving.]
Sampai ketemu.	Until we happen to meet.
Sampai jumpa.	Until we meet.
Sampai nanti.	Until later.

QUICK TIP

The formal versions of 'goodbye' come in two forms: selamat tinggal, which one says if the speaker is leaving but the listener is staying (tinggal 'to stay'); and selamat jalan, which one says if the listener is leaving (jalan 'to go, to move'). If both people leave, they say selamat jalan to each other. Generally though, these expressions are very formal and are typically used if the speaker and listener do not anticipate meeting again anytime soon.

In cases where both parties will meet soon after the parting, it is more appropriate to use the more informal greetings that contain sampai 'until', e.g. sampai ketemu (until we happen to meet [again]), sampai jumpa (until we meet [again].), and sampai nanti (until [we meet] later).

QUICK TIP 2

Pronunciation note: In the word sampai 'until', the diphthong (i.e. combination of two different vowels pronounced as a single vowel) spelled [ai] in Indonesian is most often pronounced as [e] like in bed. This is usually the case for [ai] word-finally; if [ai] occurs in the middle of the word, this pronunciation change does not occur.



Lesson 6: Where Is The Bathroom?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover an extremely important phrase, "Where is the bathroom?"

In Indonesian "Where is the bathroom?" is Kamar kecil dimana?.

Let's take a look at the components. The first word kamar means 'room'. This is followed by kecil, which in Indonesian is 'small' or 'little'. So to recap here, we have kamar kecil. Literally this means 'the small room' or 'bathroom'. One small note: typographic [c] in Indonesian is always pronounced "ch" as in "chicken". Now, let's take a look at the final word dimana which means 'where?'.

So altogether we have Kamar kecil dimana?. Literally this means "The bathroom, where is it?".

There is another way of asking "Where is the bathroom?", which is Dimana kamar kecil?

Since we already have learned the first way of asking "Where is the bathroom?", which is Kamar kecil dimana?, this phrase is simply a reordering of the words for 'bathroom' kamar kecil and 'where?' dimana. This time, we say Dimana kamar kecil?. Literally this means "Where is the bathroom?"

What's the difference between the two phrases, you may ask? Well, for our purposes here, not much. In fact, in most situations, you can use either. It's just that the first expression Kamar kecil dimana? is slightly more frequent, but just slightly.

There's also another word for bathroom, which is WC. This is actually the Indonesian pronunciation of the British acronym "WC", or "water closet". This is used quite often, and can substitute kamar kecil in any phrase we've learned so far.

Now when you finally get to the bathroom there may be one last hurdle. Sometimes, only the words for "men" and "women" are printed on the doors, and in Indonesian, there are two versions for each. The words for 'men' are laki-laki or pria. The words for women are perempuan or wanita. Just remember: laki-laki always occurs with perempuan, while pria always occurs with wanita.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Kamar kecil dimana?	The bathroom, where is it?
Dimana kamar kecil?	Where is the bathroom?

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
Kamar kecil	bathroom
WC	Bathroom, acronym of British "water closet".
Laki-laki	Men, male
Perempuan	Women, female
Pria	Men, male (originally from Javanese)
Wanita	Women, female (originally from Javanese)

QUICK TIP

Most of the toilets in Indonesia are of the Western sit-down style nowadays, but there are still many non-Western toilets, i.e. these are of the squat type, or in other cases, simply a hole in the ground. You simply squat over the toilet or hole in these cases.

When you are finished, if there is no flushing mechanism, you should take a dipper (gayung) that should be near or next to a large basin of water known as a bak and fill it with water. Then, you simply flush the toilet by pouring water from the dipper. Also, the plumbing in these toilets usually cannot handle toilet paper, so used toilet paper should be disposed of in a small garbage bin that should be in the room.

QUICK TIP 2

In Indonesia, only the more exclusive resorts or restaurants are guaranteed to have toilet paper in the bathrooms. So, be sure to bring a small roll or package of toilet paper whenever you need to use the bathroom. Also, if you consider yourself a purist, always use your left hand to handle and use toilet paper since this hand is traditionally used to clean yourself. (That's also why there's a strong taboo for using your left hand for just about everything else.)



Lesson 7: Do You Speak English? Apa bisa berbahasa Inggris?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover another extremely important phrase, "Can you speak English?" Using this phrase as opposed to speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one if the party you're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot respect to show that you took the effort to learn even a little bit of the language, and for these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this phrase.

In Indonesian Do you speak English? is Apa bisa berbahasa Inggris?.

The first word apa means 'what'. This is followed by bisa, which in English is 'can' or 'be able to'. The next word berbahasa means 'to speak a language'. The final word Inggris means 'English' or 'England'.

So altogether we have Apa bisa berbahasa Inggris?. Literally this means 'Can you speak English?'.

Now let's try a different language. How about Japanese?. 'Can you speak Japanese?'. Apa bisa berbahasa Jepang?. The word for Japanese or Japan is Jepang. Here, just the word for the language changes. The rest stays the same.

Nowadays in Indonesia English is studied at schools, so the number of speakers is increasing; however, there are still many people who don't speak English.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Apa bisa berbahasa Inggris?	Can you speak English?
Apa bisa berbahasa Jepang?	Can you speak Japanese?

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
berbahasa	to speak a language
bahasa	language
bahasa Indonesia	Indonesian language

Indonesian	English
bahasa Perancis	French language
bahasa Spanyol	Spanish language
bahasa Cina/Tionghoa	Chinese language ("Tionghoa" is more neutral than "Cina", which is considered slightly derogatory in some circles.)
bahasa Korea	Korean language
bahasa Rusia	Russian language

QUICK TIP

The proper name of the Indonesian language in Indonesian is Bahasa Indonesia, not "Bahasa". You'll find that many people make the mistake of referring to Indonesian as "Bahasa". You can show them the proverbial light by explaining to them that bahasa simply means "language", as bahasa Inggris means 'English language', bahasa Cina/Tionghoa means 'Chinese language', bahasa Jepang means 'Japanese language', and so on.

QUICK TIP 2

Even though Indonesian is spoken by the majority of people in Indonesia today, you still might encounter people who can't even speak Indonesian – they can only speak their own native languages.

If this happens to you, all you need to do is get a local who looks about high-school age or older (not much older, mind you, although this might change depending on when you happen to be reading this!) who might also happen to be studying English or some other language of your choice. Many people study English nowadays, so you'll probably have a better chance with that. Have them act as your interpreter on your behalf, and then offer repayment for their services by buying them a meal, giving them a small gift of some sort, or something similar. (Remember that reciprocity is a HUGE social value in Indonesian society - this is certainly no exception.)

Lesson 8: I Don't Understand

Saya tidak mengerti.



LESSON NOTES

"I don't understand" is going to be a very useful phrase because most of the time, maybe even almost 100% of the time, you won't understand. Indonesian sounds very different from English in the beginning there will likely be an adjustment period during which your ears get used to Indonesian.

In Indonesian "I don't understand" is *Saya tidak mengerti*. The first word *saya* means "I". This is followed by *tidak*, which in Indonesian is "not". So to recap here, we have the parts of sentence up to here *Saya tidak*. Literally this means "I don't". Let's take a look at the last word *mengerti* which means 'to understand'.

So altogether we have *Saya tidak mengerti*. Literally this means 'I don't understand'.

Another, more informal way to express "I don't understand." is *Nggak ngerti*. The first word *nggak* is a shortened, more informal form of *tidak*, which means 'not'. This is followed by *ngerti*, which in Indonesian is a shortened form of *mengerti*, which means 'to understand'.

So altogether we have *nggak ngerti*. Literally this means "Don't understand". We don't really need the pronoun "I" here since in most cases, it's assumed that you're talking about yourself.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
<i>Saya tidak mengerti.</i>	I don't understand (formal)
<i>nggak ngerti</i>	[I] don't understand (informal)

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
<i>mengerti</i>	to understand (formal)
<i>ngerti</i>	to understand (informal)
<i>tidak</i>	No; not
<i>nggak</i>	No; not (informal)

QUICK TIP

Pronunciation tip: Indonesian has velar nasal consonants, represented by [ng], in the beginning of words such as *ngerti*. This [ng] is like the “ng” at the end of “sing”, but never like the “ng” as in “finger”. For many beginners, this will be difficult to pronounce, but this sound is essential in the language. So, a helpful activity is to isolate the “ng” at the end of “sing” and pronounce it by itself repeatedly. Then, a vowel should be gradually introduced after the [ng] and repeated.

For the sake of completeness, the “ng” like in “finger” is spelled [ngg] in Indonesian, like in the word *nggak*.

QUICK TIP 2

Indonesian, much like Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and many other languages, allows for the omission of overt "subjects", especially when one is talking about him/herself and his/her listener. The context makes this obvious. In *nggak ngerti*, for example, there is little need to add *saya* 'I' because it is presumed that the speaker is talking about him/herself. Only in cases where there might be some confusion do speakers mention someone or something through a pronoun or other form.



Lesson 9: Once Again, Slowly Please

Tolong diulangi sekali lagi.

LESSON NOTES

There will be many times when the Indonesian around you, or coming at you, is fast and furious, and you may not catch all, or any of it. In instances like this asking the speaker to say it again can prove the difference between understanding a crucial piece of information or spending the rest of the day trying to figure out just what was said. So that you can get a feel for the language and tune your ear, you should use the following phrase over and over!

In Indonesian "Once again please." is Tolong diulangi sekali lagi. The first word tolong means 'help'. This is followed by diulangi, which in Indonesian is 'to be repeated'. So to recap here, we have Tolong diulangi. Literally this means "Please repeat it" Let's take a look at the next word sekali, which means 'once'. And then, the last word is lagi, which means 'again'.

So altogether we have Tolong diulangi sekali lagi. Literally this means "Please repeat it once more".

At times, even repetition of what is said isn't enough to understand the speaker, as the words are still too fast. For instances like this, you can use the phrase "Slowly please." In Indonesian "Slowly please" is Tolong pelan-pelan. We've already gone over the first word tolong, which means 'help'. This is followed by pelan-pelan, which in Indonesian is "slowly". So altogether we have Tolong pelan-pelan. Literally this means "Please, slowly".

These phrases can be combined as well, if you want to say "Once again slowly please." Tolong diulangi pelan-pelan sekali lagi.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Tolong diulangi sekali lagi.	Please repeat it one more time.
Terlalu cepat!	Too fast!
Tolong pelan-pelan.	Slowly please.

QUICK TIP

About the word tolong: the original meaning of this is 'help', but it can also be used to request that something be done on the speaker's behalf. And this is usually used with people who are older than the speaker, or other people who have a higher social standing because of their profession, i.e. anyone who warrants a great deal of respect. For people of the same age and younger, the verb coba 'to try' can also be used. This can substitute tolong in any phrase.

QUICK TIP 2

One of the quickest ways to train your ear for conversational Indonesian is to immediately repeat (softly) a phrase that catches your attention after hearing it, no matter how you stumble through it, write it down if you can (so you can recall it later), and ask someone what the phrase means. If you've misheard it the first time around, he/she will be happy to help you talk through it. Also note: intonation, speed, deleted vowels/consonants, stressed/accented syllables, and so on. This exercise will help you gradually attain more fluent-sounding Indonesian, which will impress any Indonesian.



Lesson 10: Apologies

Minta ma'af.



LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. Now, as you haven't quite mastered Indonesian it's probably very prudent to go over the phrases for apologizing as they just might come in handy.

We'll start with "I'm sorry" or Ma'af.

This phrase is used when you ask for someone's attention, like for example when you want to ask the name of the street, you can put Ma'af at the beginning of the phrase. You can also use Ma'af when you hurt someone in any way. In other words, this is the most general way of expressing an apology in Indonesian.

Next we'll take a look at a more formal way of apologizing, which means something like, "I'm asking for forgiveness" in English. The phrase is Minta ma'af. Minta is the verb to request or ask for something, so to ask for forgiveness is Minta ma'af.

There's an even a more formal way still – this is actually the most formal way of apologizing. Again, this is close to "I'm asking for forgiveness" in English. The phrase is Mohon ma'af. Mohon is the most formal verb to request or ask for something, so the most formal way to ask for forgiveness is Mohon ma'af.

These more formal phrases are used when you want to show some respect to your addressee, so you would use this with people who are considerably older than you are, with people during more official business type of situations, and in formal letters.

Now, what if someone says this to you? In the case that someone uses this expression towards you, the proper response is Tidak apa-apa. This actually means "it's nothing" but it's not considered casual – this is the standard response to an apology in Indonesian.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Minta ma'af.	to ask for forgiveness (medium formality)
Mohon ma'af.	to ask for forgiveness (highest formality)
Tidak apa-apa.	No problem (idiom). Literally, "it's nothing".
Nggak apa-apa.	No problem. (informal)

VOCABULARY

Indonesian

ma'af

English

sorry

QUICK TIP

There are plenty of body gestures and movements which may be innocuous in other countries, but are considered quite rude or even taboo in Indonesia. Some of these include:

- ⌘ Touching someone's head, which debases the head as the seat of a person's soul;
- ⌘ Giving or receiving anything with the left hand, which is considered unclean;
- ⌘ Standing with arms akimbo;
- ⌘ Pointing or touching anything with your feet, which are in direct contact with the ground and therefore impure;
- ⌘ Directly staring into anyone's eyes. This is used as a punishment by parents, and will certainly make most children cry. For adults, this is taken as a direct threat.

However, if you cannot avoid doing a taboo action at the time, you should at least say ma'af before you actually do it.

QUICK TIP 2

Tidak apa-apa 'no problem' is a very useful phrase, and it emphasizes the high value Indonesians place on social harmony. To show anger or any other type of strong feelings (except in the case of happiness, perhaps, when the situation is appropriate) is highly undesirable. So, this phrase is indispensable, especially when doing so would get rid of a lot of tension.



Lesson 11: How Many People?

Halo, silahkan masuk.

LESSON NOTES

There is a wide variety of Indonesian food, and your job as a visitor is to eat as much of as many things as possible! However, before you start eating, you have to get the table! So in today's lesson we'll cover getting to the table in a restaurant. As for ordering...well, you'll just have to hang on until next week.

When entering a restaurant in Indonesia you will be greeted with Halo, silahkan masuk. The first word halo is from the English 'hello'. This is followed by silahkan, which in Indonesian is 'please go ahead'. Now let's go over the last word masuk, which in Indonesian means 'to enter'. So altogether we have Halo, silahkan masuk. Literally this means 'Hello, please come in.'

Now usually the first question you'll be asked is "How many people in your party?" which in Indonesian is Ada berapa orang?. The first word ada means 'there is' or 'there are'. This is followed by berapa, which in Indonesian is 'how much' or 'how many'. Now let's go over the last word orang, which in Indonesian means 'person'. So altogether we have Ada berapa orang?. Literally this means 'There are how many people?'

Now let's go over how to answer.

In Indonesian there is a classifier for people which is orang.

Let's just briefly go over the numbers 1-5 here – we'll get into numbers in more detail in a future podcast. So here are the numbers 1-5 in Indonesian:

'one' is satu.

'two' is dua.

'three' is tiga.

'four' is empat or simply pat.

And 'five' is lima.

And now let's put them together in order to answer the question, "Ada berapa orang?":

'one person' is... NOT satu orang, but rather seorang. When you use classifiers in Indonesian, the numeral one gets reduced to "se-", thus seorang.

'two people' is dua orang.

'three people' is tiga orang.

'four people' is empat orang or pat orang.

And 'five people' is lima orang.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Halo, silahkan masuk.	Hello, please come in.
Ada berapa orang?	There are how many people?

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
seorang	one person
dua orang	two people
tiga orang	three people
empat orang (pat orang)	four people
lima orang	five people

QUICK TIP

If all members of your party are arriving separately, chances are that the other members will be late to some degree. In Indonesia, this is known as jam karet, which literally means "rubber time". This means that people usually take their time getting ready to go to social functions, and since there are those expectations, functions usually start later than their stated time as well. In fact, as a rule, if you are invited by someone else to a function at a restaurant, plan on arriving about 15-20 minutes after the appointed time. This is considered to be sufficiently "on time". It is considered much worse to arrive too early.

QUICK TIP 2

If you are in Indonesia on business, one thing to note is that meals in restaurants are not good places to discuss business, as this is an extremely important social gathering. So, unless your hosts explicitly ask about business-related matters, it would not be prudent for you to bring them up.

Lesson 12: Smoking or Non-Smoking tempat dilarang merokok



LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover getting a table in the section of the restaurant you want. . In Indonesia smoking in restaurants is still accepted, but there are occasions when you can ask for a non-smoking seat. Or, perhaps you would like a smoking seat. Either way let's cover that first. Now remember when you enter a restaurant you'll hear Halo, silahkan masuk. This will likely be followed by one of the following.

"Non-smoking" in Indonesian is tempat dilarang merokok. The first word tempat is a relative pronoun meaning 'the one that is'. The next word, dilarang means 'forbidden'. This is followed by merokok, which in English is 'to smoke'. So altogether we have tempat dilarang merokok which means 'the place where it is forbidden to smoke'.

On the other hand, the "Smoking section" is tempat merokok. The first word tempat means "place". This is followed by merokok, which in Indonesian means 'to smoke'. So altogether we have tempat merokok, which means 'the place for smoking'.

Now you can beat them to the punch by saying how many people in your party and non-smoking first. You can also follow this with the number of people in your party. For example, if you'd like a table for three in the non-smoking section, you should say: Ada tiga orang. Boleh ke tempat dilarang merokok?

Now, second-hand smoke may not be the only obstacle on your path towards the perfect meal, as you may not like the location of the table selected for you. Perhaps you want a table by the window, or one not next to the kitchen door! In Indonesian "May we sit there?" is Boleh duduk disana?. The first word boleh means may. This is followed by duduk, which in English is 'to sit'. The last word is disana, which means 'over there'. So altogether, we have the phrase Boleh duduk disana?.

If the table you desire is close by, "May we sit here?" is Boleh duduk disini?. In this case, everything stays the same except for the final word disini, which means "here".

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Boleh duduk disana?	May we sit there?
Boleh duduk disini?	May we sit here?

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
tempat dilarang merokok	non-smoking section
tempat merokok	smoking section

QUICK TIP

Non-smoking sections are still rare in restaurants in Indonesia, simply because many men (but not too many women) still smoke profusely. Remember that Indonesia is the land of the clove cigarette, known as the kretek. You'll immediately notice the distinctive smell of these cigarettes, which are mass produced by factories mostly located in Java. In some cases, you may even be offered a cigarette. If you don't smoke, you can either reply Ma'af, tidak boleh (Sorry, I'm not allowed to) or Ma'af, tidak bisa (Sorry, I'm not able to).

QUICK TIP 2

Pronunciation tip: Word-final [k] in Indonesian is pronounced as a glottal stop, like the middle stop that occurs in the English exclamation, "Uh-oh". This is a very prevalent sound in Indonesian, and yet it's a convention that many foreign speakers forget to follow properly.

Also, voiceless Indonesian stops, i.e. [p], [t], [k] and [c], are always unaspirated (i.e. with no puff of air afterward) yet tense. One test you can do is to hold a piece of thin paper loosely in front of your face. Pronounce a word that has at least one of these voiceless stops. If the paper moves in a burst when you pronounce the voiceless stops, you are aspirating, which is not the proper pronunciation of these consonants. Repeat until you are able to pronounce these consonants without moving the paper with your breath in any way.



Lesson 13: Restaurant 1

Jangan pakai es!



LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover getting by at the table. First you may have to get a hold of the staff. You can accomplish this by saying Permisi which means 'excuse me'.

Once at the waiter or waitress comes to your table, you can go with the standard point and "This please."

In Indonesian "This please." is Boleh minta ini?. The first word boleh means 'may'. This is followed by minta, which in Indonesian is 'to ask for'. The last word is ini, which means "this".

Now if you're feeling ambitious, you could go for "What do you recommend?", or more naturally for Indonesian, "What's the most delicious thing?".

In Indonesian "What's the most delicious thing?" is Yang mana yang paling enak? The first word yang mana means 'which one'. This is followed by yang, which means 'the one that'. This is followed by paling, which in Indonesian is 'most'. The last word is enak, which means 'delicious' or 'pleasant'. The entire phrase is: Yang mana yang paling enak? Literally, this means 'Which is the most delicious?'

Now here are more phrases that will come in handy - they have to do with water and ice!

In Indonesia the local tap water's not safe to drink – at all. If you need some water, order some bottled water by asking Boleh minta air minum? We already know the first two words, which are boleh, which means 'may' or 'to be permitted'; and minta, which means 'to request' or 'ask for something'. This is followed by air, which in Indonesian is 'water'. The last word is minum, which means 'to drink'. Boleh minta air minum? Literally, this means 'May I ask for some drinking water?'

Now on to the ice issue! Whether it is a health concern or economic decision, in Indonesian "No ice please." is Jangan pakai es!. The first word jangan means 'don't'. This is followed by pakai, which in Indonesian is 'to use'. The last word is es, which means 'ice'. Jangan pakai es!

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Boleh minta ini?	May I ask for this?
Yang mana yang paling enak?	What's the most delicious?

Indonesian	English
Boleh minta air minum?	May I ask for some drinking water?
Jangan pakai es!	No ice please.
Permisi.	Excuse me.

QUICK TIP

There are many small restaurants in Indonesia where the servers do not take your order. Instead, you have to write down the order yourself, give it to the server, and then he or she will bring your food once it's ready. You know when you have entered into one of these places by the following clue: menus will already be set at each table, accompanied by a few pens and a restaurant pad where you list down your items and quantities for each item.

QUICK TIP 2

There is a popular type of restaurant called nasi Padang (named after the Padang region in Sumatera) which is almost like a buffet. Instead of a menu, all the dishes that the restaurant offers are laid out on the table. You only pay for what you eat, but please be courteous and avoid "taking a little taste" and not consuming most of the dish afterward, because the unused dishes are served to the next party.

Lesson 14: Restaurant 2

Silahkan makan.



LESSON NOTES

Table manners are a must wherever you go! In this lesson we'll cover some basic table etiquette when sitting down for a meal in Indonesia.

Now, whether you're in a restaurant or at a dinner party with a group of people, it's important for you to know who the host is and follow his or her lead. When you're dining as a group, as soon as the food is set out, **DON'T** set off right away and start digging in – that's really impolite. Instead, wait for your host to invite you to start eating with the phrase *Silahkan makan*, which means 'please go ahead and eat'.

OK, fine so far – but what's this? There's a fork and spoon, but no knife. Hmm... What do you do? Well, in Indonesia, like in many Southeast Asian countries, when you have these eating utensils out, the fork is held in your left hand while the spoon is held in the right hand. Why? It's because you will scoop up rice plus little bits of the other dishes with your spoon and put it in your mouth – and remember that Indonesians consider the left hand really unclean. And the food is usually soft enough to cut with a fork, or already cut into bite-sized pieces, so knives are usually unnecessary at the dining table.

Alright, you can deal with that – but sometimes you'll find nothing but a small bowl of water at the table. What do you do then? This is great, because this actually signals that you can use your hands to eat! Well, just your right hand – remember the all-important taboo against the left hand. The Indonesian style of eating with your hands, called *pakai tangan*, is a rather sophisticated technique – you should only use your fingertips. And at no time should any of your fingers be actually put inside your mouth. Don't lick your fingers either, by the way. A helpful thing to do is to observe some local people eating *pakai tangan* – you'll catch on to the technique, sooner or later.

As Indonesia is known for its great food, you are bound to get some truly great food, and therefore need the word for delicious!

In Indonesian "This is delicious" is *Enak!*. This is really easy, since the word *Enak!* simply means 'delicious'.

To say something is really delicious, the phrase is *Enak sekali!* We already know the first word *Enak*, which means 'delicious'. This is followed by *sekali*, which means 'very'. So, altogether we have *Enak sekali!*, which literally means 'Very delicious!'

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Silahkan makan.	Go ahead and eat.
Ayo, makan!	Come on, let's eat!
Enak!	Delicious!
Enak sekali!	Very delicious!

QUICK TIP

Some basic points of Indonesian dining etiquette:

- ⌘ As soon as the food is set out, **DO NOT** start eating right away. Instead, wait for your host to invite you to start eating with the phrase *Silahkan makan*, which means 'please go ahead and eat'. In more informal settings, the host usually says, *Ayo, makan!* ('Come on, let's eat!').
- ⌘ In Indonesia, like in many Southeast Asian countries, the only utensils that are set out are a fork and spoon. The fork is held in your left hand while the spoon is held in the right hand. The food is usually soft enough to cut with a fork, or already cut into bite-sized pieces, so knives are usually unnecessary at the dining table.
- ⌘ If there are no utensils laid out, this usually means that you can eat your meal with your right hand – remember that the left hand is considered unclean.
- ⌘ The Indonesian style of eating with your hands (*pakai tangan*) is a rather sophisticated technique – you should only use your fingertips. And at no time should any of your fingers be actually put inside your mouth. Don't lick your fingers either.
- ⌘ Avoid involved conversations, unless you are asked something.

QUICK TIP 2

Enak is another word with multiple meanings in Indonesian. It's most frequently used as a word for 'delicious', but it can also be used for situations that are particularly pleasant, such as a massage, nice weather, the atmosphere of a good party, the arrival of good news, and so on. In short, this is an extremely versatile way of expressing your pleasure about something.



Lesson 15: Restaurant 3

Minta bon, ya?

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover getting out of the restaurant. First you may have to get a hold of the staff. Again you can accomplish this by saying Permisi. Once at your table, you can ask for the check.

In Indonesian "Check please." is Minta bon, ya?. The first word minta means 'to request' or 'ask for'. This is followed by bon, which in Indonesian is the 'check' or 'bill'. The last word ya, simply means 'yes' or 'alright'. Minta bon, ya?.

Now if you'd like to tell them how good the food is or if you're eating with someone and you want to let them know how good you feel the food is you can say: Enak!. Don't forget to say thank you, which is Terima kasih.

In Indonesia it is not common practice to tip, so your amount will be on check. In areas such as Bali and Java, where there are plenty of tourists, many restaurants will also add a service charge, sometimes up to 10% in some areas.

One last useful phrase has to do with credit cards. In Indonesian "Can I use a credit card?" is Kartu kredit boleh dipakai? The first word kartu means 'card'. This is followed by kredit, which simply means 'credit'. Notice that in Indonesian, the modifier kredit follows the thing that it modifies, kartu, which is exactly the opposite of what happens in English. This is followed by boleh, which means 'may' or 'be permitted to'. The last word dipakai, means 'to be used'. Kartu kredit boleh dipakai?. This literally means, "May a credit card be used?"

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Permisi!	Excuse me!
Minta bon, ya?	The check, please.
Terima kasih.	Thank you.
Kartu kredit boleh dipakai?	May I use a credit card?

QUICK TIP

In Indonesia, it is customary to have the one who initiated the meeting (usually the host) to foot the entire bill. However, this usually does not run smoothly as one might expect – usually there's some rather playful jostling over exactly who gets to pay the bill. Remember, there is

some considerable local social prestige for the person who ends up paying. At some point, you should return the favor through offering to pay the next time you eat out (or something else), as reciprocity factors highly in this situation.

Finally, avoid “going dutch”, if possible – to suggest this outright is quite rude.

QUICK TIP 2

In Indonesia, it's not customary to tip (and in some areas, there may be an added service charge on top of the cost of food and drinks), but if you personally feel that the service was exceptional, you can discreetly give your server a token amount. If he or she really feels uncomfortable about it, you can donate it to the local mosque, temple, or church.

Lesson 16: Counting 1 - 10

satu



LESSON NOTES

This lesson is very straightforward, as we're going to cover counting zero through ten. Let's jump right in.

1 satu

2 dua

3 tiga

4 This has two forms - empat/pat

5 lima

6 This also has two forms - enam/nem

7 tujuh

8 delapan

9 sembilan

10 sepuluh

0 This also has two forms - nol/kosong

Counting things in Indonesian is very straightforward as the number precedes the thing being counted – except in the cases for “one”. Often, the word for ‘one’ satu is reduced to a numeral prefix se-. So, ‘one person’ is seorang. ‘Two people’ follows the regular pattern dua orang, with the numeral first, and then the thing being counted.

With numerals, there are no special plural forms for nouns, nor is there any gender marking in Indonesian.

VOCABULARY

Indonesian

satu

English

one

Indonesian	English
duo	two
tiga	three
empat ~ pat	four
lima	five
enam ~ nem	six
tujuh	seven
delapan	eight
sembilan	nine
sepuluh	ten
seorang	one person
orang	person
nol	numeral zero
kosong	zero

QUICK TIP

You may have noticed that the forms for 'four' empat and 'six' enam have shortened forms as well. Thus, empat 'four' becomes pat, while enam 'six' becomes nem. Why is this? As you may recall from past lessons, Indonesian has a schwa-like vowel, like the [a] in sofa, called a pepet. Recall that the pepet vowel tends to disappear before stressed or accented syllables. In these two words, the second syllable is stressed, so the pepet vowel can be omitted. Note also that the [m] is also omitted in the shortened form for 'four' (pat) – however, this is highly variable since some people do actually pronounce the [m] in the beginning, but very slightly.

QUICK TIP 2

In Indonesian, there are also two words for 'zero': nol and kosong. Nol is used for the proper numeral. Kosong, on the other hand, literally means 'empty'. So, this is used in pretty much the same way English speakers use the syllable "oh" to stand for zero, e.g. telephone numbers, serial codes, and the like.



Lesson 17: Counting 11 - 100 juta



LESSON NOTES

Today we're going to continue on with counting as we cover 11-100.

Let's just quickly review 1-10. review 1-10

In Indonesian counting from 11-20 is also very straightforward so let's jump right in.

11 sebelas

12 duabelas

13 tigabelas

14 empatbelas

15 limabelas

16 enambelas

17 tujuhbelas

18 delapanbelas

19 sembilanbelas

20 duapuluh

Numbers from 21-99 are formed by combining numbers we have already covered, so '21' is '20' which is duapuluh and 'one' which is satu, duapuluh satu. And the rest of the numbers up to 99 are constructed in much the same way: the multiple of ten, which we'll get to in a moment, plus the "ones" numeral. Here are the other multiples of ten:

30 tigapuluh

40 empatpuluh

50 limapuluh

60 enampuluh

70 tujuhpuluh

80 delapanpuluh

90 sembilanpuluh

Finally we have the number for 100, which is seratus. For other multiples of a hundred, simply add different numerals, just like we did for multiples of ten, to the hundreds root, which is ratus.

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
sebelas	eleven
duabelas	twelve
tigabelas	thirteen
empatbelas ~ patbelas	fourteen
limabelas	fifteen
enambelas	sixteen
tujuhbelas	seventeen
delapanbelas	eighteen
sembilanbelas	nineteen
duapuluh	twenty
dua puluh satu	twenty-one
dua puluh dua	twenty-two
tiga puluh	thirty
empat puluh ~ pat puluh	forty
lima puluh	fifty
puluh	multiple of ten
seratus	one hundred
dua ratus	two hundred

QUICK TIP

In addition to the numbers featured in the podcast, it would be to your advantage to learn the higher order numbers as well, especially when dealing with money.

- ⊗ ribu 'thousand', e.g. seribu 'one thousand', dua ribu 'two thousand'
- ⊗ puluh ribu 'ten thousand', e.g. sepuluh ribu 'ten thousand', dua puluh ribu 'twenty thousand'
- ⊗ ratus ribu 'hundred thousand', e.g. seratus ribu 'one hundred thousand', dua ratus ribu 'two hundred thousand'
- ⊗ juta 'million', e.g. sejuta 'one million', dua juta 'two million'

QUICK TIP 2

Quick spoken shorthand tip: Often, Indonesian speakers will use the word *setengah*, which literally means 'one half', but can be used in informal situations to indicate "half" of any exponent of ten. So, for example, the more formal, thorough way to say '2,500' is *dua ribu lima ratus*. On the other hand, using this shorthand tip, you can say *dua ribu setengah*, which literally means 'two thousand + one half ($1,000/2=500$)', i.e. 2,500.

However, be careful if you decide to use this numeric shorthand, since in the middle of rapid-fire conversation, if you're talking about a bunch of numbers and figures, you can easily forget which exponent of 10 you're talking about!

Lesson 18: How Much? Berapa?



LESSON NOTES

This lesson covers a phrase for all of you shoppers out there, as we'll look at the phrase "How much?" Depending on your shopping habits, this just may be the most useful phrase we cover!

In Indonesian 'How much?' is Berapa?. Shopping, at the market, at an eatery, depending on your spending habits this may be an extremely high frequency phrase!

The most rudimentary way of using 'How much?' is pointing at something while saying Berapa?, but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, 'How much is this?' which in Indonesian is Berapa ini?. The first word berapa means 'How much?', as we've mentioned before. This is followed by ini, which in Indonesian is 'this'. So altogether we have Berapa ini? which literally means 'How much this?'

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is itu. The phrase "How much is that?" is Berapa itu?. Now let's hear it once again Berapa itu?.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Berapa?	How much?
Berapa ini?	How much is this?
Berapa itu?	How much is that?

QUICK TIP

Sometimes, shops in Indonesia will have price tags on the merchandise, so you might think that asking these questions would be a waste of time. Not really - if you're willing to buy more from the shop, you can actually get a small bulk purchase discount most of the time. Also, be on the lookout and ask around for some promotions, or promosi, that are not advertised, but which the shopkeepers are still keenly aware of. Department store prices, however, are absolutely fixed.

QUICK TIP 2

On the other hand, for things such as CDs, cigarettes, electronics, film, and other items of that nature, the prices are pretty much fixed and cannot be lowered by any significant degree. This is especially true if the item has a strip or sticker with the word *lunas* and the official national seal (you'll recognize this immediately by the big garuda eagle motif) attached. *Lunas* means 'paid' or 'settled', and basically this means that the government regulates the prices these items can be sold for, and that the merchants themselves only get so much profit. In other words, you can't get these prices lowered much.



Lesson 19: Lower the Price Please

Bisa turun sedikit, ya?

LESSON NOTES

The phrase covered in this lesson is related to the phrase "How much?" which in Indonesian is Berapa?. We also introduced "How much is this?" Berapa ini?, and "How much is that? Berapa itu?. Now, when you come to Indonesia one of the most interesting and fun things to do is haggle at the market! So when you're at the market and talking prices, there is another phrase that will come in very handy! That phrase is "Lower the price please."

In Indonesia "Lower the price please." is Bisa turun sedikit, ya?. The first word bisa means 'to be able'. This is followed by turun, which means 'go down'. This is followed by sedikit, which means 'a little bit'. Now, let's take a look at the final word ya which means 'yes' or 'alright'. So literally this would be "Can go down a bit, yeah?"

Another phrase that can be used in combination with this is "Too expensive." which in Indonesian is Terlalu mahal!.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Bisa turun sedikit, ya?	Please lower the price.
Terlalu mahal!	Too expensive.
Boleh tawar disini?	May I haggle here?

QUICK TIP

When you haggle in Indonesia, remember to take your time and look around the shop casually at first – shopkeepers usually notice people who want to buy things in a hurry, and raise their prices accordingly.

When you see an item you would like to know more about, ask Berapa ini? or Berapa itu? and let the shopkeeper make the first offer, which will usually be too high. Once you get a response, make a counteroffer. In my experience, for most items, start at about 40% of the original price. If you're going for high-quality items, start at about 60% of the original price if you're just a beginner, and 50% if you consider yourself skillful and persuasive. This will, of course, elicit a playful protest from the shopkeeper and another offer, this time significantly lower than the initial offer. Then you keep going with counteroffers until you are satisfied with one of the offers.

If you're an exceptional bargainer, you can reduce the price to about half or even more off the original price; most people end up paying about 60% of the original price. That percentage is higher for higher quality goods. And remember to have fun doing it

QUICK TIP 2

Here are a few more things to keep in mind before you do your first major haggling session in Indonesia:

- ⊖ Locals pay the lowest prices; non-local fellow islanders pay the next lowest; other Indonesians pay a little bit more; non-Indonesians pay the highest prices. Before you get troubled by this, please put this in perspective - your average Indonesian gets by with only a couple U.S. dollars per day.
- ⊖ A good strategy to take is to simply walk away after the shopkeeper refuses your final offer. More often than not the shopkeeper will call you back and accept your offer.
- ⊖ Try to go shopping as early as possible. Shopkeepers are more inclined to take a lower offer in the morning, and if you're the first customer of the day, they will seriously consider it. If they can make a sale with the first customer that walks in their shop, they believe that it will give them good sales for the rest of the day. In fact, they will ritually "swat" the rest of their merchandise with your money to ensure this good luck.
- ⊖ But whatever you do, DON'T renege on your offer once it's accepted. This is extremely bad form.



Lesson 20: Currency

rupiah



LESSON NOTES

In Indonesia the currency is the rupiah with denominations consisting of 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, and 100,000. As of August 2008 the exchange rate is roughly Rp 9.300 to one US dollar and roughly Rp 8.400 to 100 Japanese Yen. The currency in present circulation includes Rp. 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, and 100,000 bills and Rp. 50, 100, and 500 coins which are called mata uang, literally meaning “money eye”.

QUICK TIP

Who's who on the current version of Indonesian banknotes:

Rp 1000: Captain Pattimura, a soldier from Ambon, Maluku who led a rebellion against the Dutch. Hanged in December 1817.

Rp 5000: Tuanku Imam Bonjol, from Pasaman, Sumatra. Also led a major resistance against the Dutch.

Rp 10.000: Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin, from Palembang, Sumatra. National hero.

Rp 20.000: Otto Iskandar Dinata. Another national hero.

Rp 50.000: I Gusti Ngurah Rai from Bali. Led a heroic last stand of resistance against the Dutch. He and his soldiers were killed on the site known today as Margarana, Tabanan, Bali.

Rp 100.000: Presiden Sukarno and Wakil Presiden Mohammad Hatta, the first President and Vice President of Indonesia respectively after the country formally gained its independence on August 17, 1945.

QUICK TIP 2

When you travel around Indonesia, it's really wise to carry smaller denominations with you, especially Rp 1.000 and Rp 5.000 bills if you're planning to travel around the more isolated parts of the country. You'll often hear these denominations referred to as uang kecil, or 'small money'. It can even be difficult to break a Rp 10.000 rupiah note in these isolated parts, let alone a Rp

20.000 note or larger. On the other hand, remember that most international airports require that you pay an airport departure tax of around Rp 150.000, so be sure to keep at least a couple of large bills before you leave the country.



Lesson 21: Riding the Bus

Apa bis ini akan ke Stasiun Besar Tugu?

LESSON NOTES

The bus is an important means of transportation. However, before you get on the bus you probably want to confirm if the bus is going to your destination. We can accomplish this by asking "Will this bus go to" and then add in a destination. In today's lesson we'll use Stasiun Besar Tugu or Grand Tugu Station in the city of Yogyakarta on the island of Java. In Indonesian "bus station" is stasiun bis. So our original location is Stasiun Bis Yogyakarta.

So in Indonesian 'Will this bus go to Stasiun Besar Tugu' is Apa bis ini akan ke Stasiun Besar Tugu? The first word apa means 'what'. This is followed by bis, which in Indonesian is 'bus'. This is followed by ini, which means 'this'. So to recap here, we have Apa bis ini. Literally this means 'Does this bus...' Let's take a look at the next akan which is the future marker. This is followed by ke, which in Indonesian is 'to' or 'towards'. Finally, we have our station name Stasiun Besar Tugu which means Grand Tugu Station.

So altogether we have Apa bis ini akan ke Stasiun Besar Tugu?. Literally this means 'Will this bus go to Grand Tugu Station?'.

Once you have the right bus there are a few things you need to know about riding the bus:

In Indonesia, when you get on the bus, you usually pay your fare to the konduktur conductor when you first get on the bus. The fare called a tarif, which is a flat fee, is usually around a couple thousand rupiah. In Yogyakarta, the flat fee is Rp 2000, which you can pay in coins or bills.

PHRASES

Indonesian

Apa bis ini akan ke Stasiun Besar Tugu?

English

Will this bus go to Stasiun Besar Tugu?

QUICK TIP

In Indonesia, when you first get on the bus, you usually pay your fare to the konduktur (conductor). The fare (called a tarif), which is a flat fee, is usually around a couple thousand rupiah. For example, in the city of Yogyakarta, located near the southern central coast of the island of Java, the flat fee is Rp 2000, which you can pay in coins or bills.

QUICK TIP 2

The city bus (*bis kota*) is certainly a colorful and adventurous way of getting around locally in Indonesia. The buses themselves vary greatly in quality, from ones that have air conditioning and relatively clean seats, or an older model, with open windows, sometime uncomfortable seats, and noisy engines. Despite these shortcomings, you are guaranteed to meet a wide swath of urban Indonesian society. Every traveler should ride the local bus at least once during their stay – that is, if your area even has a local bus system. We'll get into other types of local transport in a later podcast.



Lesson 22: Riding the Bus 2

Halte depan yang mana?

LESSON NOTES

Once on the bus, you'll hear announcements informing the passengers of where the bus will stop next. Now, in the case that there is no English announcement, you may not catch the location just announced. So the phrase "What is the next stop?" may be indispensable.

In Indonesian "What is the next stop?" is Halte depan yang mana?. The first word halte means a vehicle stop. This is followed by depan, which in English is 'next'. So to recap here, we have halte depan. Literally this means 'the next stop' Let's take a look at the last word yang mana which means 'which one?'. So altogether we have Halte depan yang mana?. Literally this means 'Which is the next stop?'

Another way of inquiring could be asking if your desired destination is the next stop. For this phrase we'll use Universitas Gajah Mada or Gajah Mada University in Yogyakarta, as the destination. So the phrase "Is Universitas Gajah Mada the next stop?" is Apa Universitas Gajah Mada yang halte depan?. The first word apa means 'what'. This is followed by our destination Universitas Gajah Mada, or Gajah Mada University. After that, we have yang, which is a relative pronoun, like 'the one that' in English. Literally this means 'Is Universitas Gajah Mada the one that...' Let's take a look at the next word halte which means 'vehicle stop', which we've already mentioned. Let's take a look at the last word depan which means next, as we've also mentioned. So altogether we have Apa Universitas Gajah Mada yang halte depan?. Literally this means 'Is Gajah Mada University the next stop?'

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Halte depan yang mana?	What is the next stop?
Apa X yang halte depan?	Is X the next stop?

QUICK TIP

When you get off a bus in Indonesia, drivers usually stop (more of a pause, actually) at a bus stop VERY briefly, to let passengers on and off. You will need to be by an exit at least by the stop before your intended one because of this all-too-brief stop. For that reason, wear shoes that will be comfortable, just in case you need to actually jump out (yes, that's right – jump out) the exit.

QUICK TIP 2

Also, when you ride the bus, or any other crowded mode of public transportation, be vigilant against would-be pencopet 'pickpockets'. Indonesia, as a developing nation, still has this annoying crime, and many incidents occur on public transport. If you notice anyone going through your things, be sure to yell out "COPET!" to get other people's attention.



Lesson 23: Riding the Bus 3

Berapa tarifnya ke Jakarta?

LESSON NOTES

When traveling long distances in Indonesia, the bus can be a cheap way of getting there. In today's lesson we're going to work on getting a ticket. This time we'll use Jakarta as our destination. Let's say the city name once more Jakarta. This city, which is the capital of Indonesia, is located on the Northwestern coast of the island of Java.

In Indonesian "Ticket to Jakarta please." is *Minta karcis ke Jakarta, ya?*. The first word *minta* means 'to request' or 'ask for'. This is followed by *karcis*, which in Indonesian means 'ticket'. So to recap here, we have *minta karcis*. Literally this means ask for a ticket. Let's take a look at the next word *ke* which means 'to' or 'towards'. Then we have our destination, Jakarta. Finally, we have *ya* which means 'yes' or 'alright'. So altogether we have *Minta karcis ke Jakarta, ya?*. Literally this means '[I] ask for a ticket to Jakarta, alright?'

Now if you want to buy more than one ticket, for example if you wanted to buy 2 tickets, you can accomplish this by saying *dua karcis*. Notice that we simply add *dua* to *karcis*. Bus tickets in Indonesia are on a first come first serve basis, so you may sit anywhere.

Now you might also need to ask "How much is it to your desired destination." For this example, we'll use the same destination as above. In Indonesian "How much is it to Jakarta?" is *Berapa tarifnya ke Jakarta?*. We can see here that "To Jakarta" follows "How much is the fare?", which is *berapa tarifnya*.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Minta karcis ke Jakarta, ya?	Ticket to Jakarta please.
Berapa tarifnya ke Jakarta?	How much is it to Jakarta?

QUICK TIP

There are many types of buses that people use to travel between cities, which are known as *bis antar kota*, or 'buses between cities'. There are several bus classes to choose from:

∞ The super luxury class includes almost unbearably cold AC, a bad movie or two shown on the bus TV, a snack box, and rather comfortable seats.

∞ The economy class buses, on the other hand, usually do not have AC or any entertainment of any kind – which might be a relief for people really sensitive to extremely loud videos or music. Depending on how old the bus is, the seats might be uncomfortable for people 6' (1.82 m) or taller - Indonesians on average are not that tall.

QUICK TIP 2

There are also intra-city night bus services, known as *bis malam* 'evening bus', which do the majority of travel during the night. This is often an adventure in itself, as drivers tend to go at seemingly breakneck speeds. If the journey is long enough, your bus ticket will also include a meal or two at a roadside buffet diner, which may vary widely in quality. Also, if your journey includes a short ferry ride (like the popular Java-Bali routes), there will be plenty of vendors who go up and down the aisle usually selling local snacks - the best bet would be any of the packaged chips, crackers, nuts, and boiled peanuts still in their shells and sometimes on their original stems.



Lesson 24: Riding the Local Transportation

Berapa ongkosnya?



LESSON NOTES

Indonesia has plenty of local public transportation options. Even better still, the transportation options change when you go from one region or island to another, so if you were to make a cross-country trip, you'd probably have a colorful adventure riding on all these types of local public transport. Let's talk about some of these unique modes of transportation.

The first one we'll go over is called the becak, the covered pedicab. The carriage where the passenger sits is located in front of the driver, who drives the becak with a tricycle-like vehicle.

The second one we'll go over is the ojek, which is not so much a separate mode of transport, but a special transportation arrangement. For ojek, you basically pay someone to ride on the back of his or her motorbike. This is especially useful if you yourself do not drive one. In fact, this may be your only option in many of the isolated parts of the country.

The last type I'll describe today is called a bemo or kol, which is a mini-van of sorts. These have set routes, and the fare is usually determined by the distance traveled.

Now that we're familiar with our options, let's make one stop and get on board. In Indonesian, the way to stop a public transport vehicle is Setop, Pak!. The first word setop means 'stop'. This is followed by Pak, which in Indonesian is 'sir' or 'mister' - virtually all drivers I've seen are male.

Once you've got one stopped, you should ask whether you can get on or not. In Indonesian, the way to do this is by asking: Boleh naik? The first word boleh means 'may' or 'be permitted to'. This is followed by naik, which in Indonesian is 'to get on'. So, altogether we have Boleh naik?, which means "May I get on?"

At this point, the driver may ask you Mau kemana?. The first word mau means 'to want'. This is followed by kemana, which in Indonesian is 'to go to'. So, altogether we have Mau kemana?, which means "Where do you want to go?"

If you're riding in a bemo or kol, you'll need to ask the driver how much the fare is. In Indonesian, "How much is the fare" is Berapa ongkosnya?. The first word berapa means 'how much'. This is followed by ongkosnya, which in Indonesian is 'the fare'. So, altogether we have Berapa ongkosnya?, "How much is the fare".

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Setop, Pak!	Stop, sir!
Boleh naik?	May I get on?
Mau kemana?	Where do you want to go?
Berapa ongkosnya?	How much is the fare?

QUICK TIP

If you're going by becak or ojek, there are no set fares, so you have to negotiate your fare. Here's how to do it.

- 1) Once the driver knows about your destination, he will usually make the first offer, which will usually be a bit too high.
- 2) To protest, you say mahal sekali, which means "Too expensive!"
- 3) Make your counteroffer. Go for about 40-50% of the first offer.
- 4) The driver then makes another offer, likely to be lower than the initial offer.
- 5) Repeat steps 4 and 5 until a fare has been settled.

Remember: it is considered extremely bad form for you to renege on your settled fare once you commit to a certain fare.



Lesson 25: Riding the Train

Minta karcis ke Yogyakarta, ya?

LESSON NOTES

In Indonesia riding the rails is one of the most interesting ways to get around for long distance destinations! In fact, traveling by train is one of the best ways to see everything Indonesia has to offer!

In Indonesia one can buy train tickets at the ticket gate window at the train station. When traveling long distances, there are several types of tickets, which we'll take a look at in a minute, but first let's work on first asking for the ticket. We can accomplish this by asking "Ticket to [your destination] please." Now, of course, we need a destination. So let's use Yogyakarta. This city is located in the South central part of the island of Java and is well known for its royal palace called the Keraton, as well as for its court art culture.

So, in Indonesian "One ticket to Yogyakarta please." is Minta karcis ke Yogyakarta, ya?. The first word minta means "to request" or "ask for". This is followed by karcis, which in Indonesian means 'ticket'. So to recap here, we have 'minta karcis'. Literally this means "ask for a ticket". Let's take a look at the next word ke which means "to" or "towards". Then we have our destination, Yogyakarta. Finally, we have ya which means "yes" or "alright".

So altogether we have Minta karcis ke Yogyakarta, ya?. Literally this means '[!]' ask for a ticket to Yogyakarta, alright?'.

Now if you want to buy more than one ticket, for example if you wanted to buy 2 tickets, you can accomplish this by saying dua karcis. Notice that we simply add dua to karcis.

Once we have established the destination, it is time to select the type of seat you want. in Indonesian "1st class" is Kelas Eksekutif. The first word kelas means 'class'. This is followed by eksekutif, which comes from the English "executive". Kelas Eksekutif literally means "executive class".

"Business class" is Kelas Bisnis. The first word kelas means 'class', which we've said before. This is followed by bisnis, which comes from the English "business". Kelas Bisnis, literally means "business class".

"Coach class" is Kelas ekonomi. The first word kelas means "class", which we've said before. This is followed by ekonomi, which comes from the English "economy". Kelas Ekonomi, literally means "economy class".

PHRASES

Indonesian

Minta karcis ke Yogyakarta, ya?

English

One ticket to Yogyakarta please.

VOCABULARY

Indonesian

Kelas Eksekutif

Kelas Bisnis

Kelas ekonomi

English

first class

business class

economy class

QUICK TIP

In Indonesia, most of the trains are solely located on the island of Java, which is not so hard to believe when you have a nation made up of over 13,000 islands, many of them no larger than a few hundred square miles. There are also a few of them on Sumatra, the large island to the northwest of Java. The other islands are either too densely forested (and therefore inaccessible, i.e. Kalimantan and Papua) or too small in surface area to warrant a viable railroad system.

QUICK TIP 2

The economy class trains provide the most local color, but make sure that you are prepared to do the locomotive equivalent of "roughing it". Like other economy class modes of transportation, economy trains usually have no air conditioning, rather stiff seats, and there are even stories of people bringing in small livestock and loads of fruit aboard! The business and executive class trains, though, provide all the comforts that you would expect from similarly classed trains in other countries: air conditioning, meal service, and comfortable seating.



Lesson 26: Riding a Taxi Ke Kraton Yogya.



LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll cover a phrase used to get you to your destination when riding a taxi. We'll look at the most basic way to express this, which is the word "to" followed by a destination. In today's lesson we'll use Kraton Yogya Yogya. This location is known for being a famous royal palace in the town of Yogyakarta, Central Java. So now let's go over what to say to the taxi driver to get there.

In Indonesian "to the Kraton Yogya" is Ke Kraton Yogya. The word for "to" in Indonesian is ke.

This is the most basic way of expressing where you would like to go. Well, actually just saying your desired destination should work, but speaking the local language is one of the most fun things you can do on your travels. So let's go over another option!

You can also say, "I would like to go to the Kraton Yogya", which in Indonesian is Saya mau ke Kraton Yogya. Let's take a look at the components. The first word saya means 'I' or 'me'. This is followed by mau, which in Indonesian is 'to want'. So to recap here, we have saya mau. Literally this means 'I want' Let's take a look at the next word ke which means 'to' or 'towards'. Finally, we have our destination, Kraton Yogya. So altogether we have Saya mau ke Kraton Yogya. Literally this means "I want to the Kraton Yogya".

In Indonesia, you are not expected to tip the driver. However if you feel that service has been exceptional, you can give a token amount.

One more helpful phrase when taking a taxi is "Here is fine." This phrase will allow you to get out of the taxi whenever and wherever you want. In Indonesian "Here is fine." is Disini cukup baik. The first word disini means "here". This is followed by cukup, which in Indonesian is "enough". Now let's take a look at the last word baik which means "fine". So altogether we have Disini cukup baik. Literally this means "It's fine enough here".

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Ke Kraton Yogya.	To the Kraton Yogya.
Saya mau ke Kraton Yogya.	I would like to go to the Kraton Yogya.
Disini cukup baik.	Here is fine.

QUICK TIP

Taxis are rather plentiful in the urban areas of Indonesia. Simply look for cars labeled “taksi”. Once you get inside, ensure that the driver turns on and resets the meter before you start heading to your destination.

If the driver claims that the meter is broken or simply refuses to turn on the meter, firmly insist that you will take another taxi. If you realize this too late, however, you have just chartered the entire taxi and will have to try to negotiate, and negotiate hard, once the driver makes his first offer. Most taxi drivers are honest, but there is always the danger of encountering an unmetered taxi.

QUICK TIP 2

The Kraton in Yogyakarta, Central Java, is one of the many illustrious palaces you can find on several islands in Indonesia. One must realize that present-day Indonesia is the site of at least two major empires, the Sriwijaya kingdom based near present-day Palembang on the island of Sumatra, and the Majapahit kingdom, based in East Java. These were extremely important powers a few centuries ago, and their relics include a whole array of palaces and monuments. There are actually functioning palaces in locales such as Yogyakarta and Surakarta (also known as Solo) in Central Java, Cirebon in northwest Java, several locations in Bali, and a few more in other islands.



Lesson 27: Where Can I Buy (Something)? Dimana bisa mencari payung?

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce you a phrase that will help you track down that specific something you're looking for. Today's phrase is "Where can I get/buy something." First we need something, so let's use the word payung which means "umbrella".

In Indonesian "Where can I get a umbrella?" is Dimana bisa mencari payung?. The first word dimana means 'where'. This is followed by bisa, which in Indonesian is 'to be able'. So to recap here, we have dimana bisa. Literally this means 'where can'. Let's take a look at the next word mencari which means 'to look for'. The last word of the phrase is our word for umbrella, payung. So altogether we have Dimana bisa mencari payung. Literally this means 'Where can I look for a umbrella?'.

Now to ask for a different item, we can just replace the word for "umbrella" with any other word and the phrase works just fine. Let's try a flashlight, which is obor, In Indonesian "Where can I get a flashlight?" is Dimana bisa mencari obor?. The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for. In this case it's obor.

This phrase will come in handy before leaving the hotel, talking with taxi drivers, or other people trying help you locate a desired item. Now that you're able to ask, you're going to get an answer...as we're running out of time, we're going to have cover that in a later lesson.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Dimana bisa mencari X	Where can I get/look for X?

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
topeng	mask
kaos	shirt
kain	cloth, usually for wrapping legs, like a skirt
pakaian	clothing
obat nyamuk	mosquito repellent
kelambu	mosquito net

Indonesian	English
obor	flashlight/torch
minuman	drinks/beverages

QUICK TIP

The verb “cari” means ‘to look for’ in Indonesian. When you use this word, don’t be tempted to literally translate from English and put the preposition untuk, which means ‘for’, after ‘cari’. This is considered grammatically incorrect.

In another vein, many shopkeepers will ask you, once you enter their shops and start perusing their wares, “Mau cari apa?”, which means “What do you want to look for?” To respond, you simply say “cari” and then the thing that you’re looking for.

QUICK TIP 2

When you go shopping in Indonesia, specifically for your oleh-oleh (souvenirs), every region in Indonesia has particular specialties. Some of these regional specialties are listed below:

- ⊖ Central Java: batik cloth, leatherwork, leather shadow puppets (wayang kulit), hornwork, antiques
- ⊖ Bali: woodcarving, ikat cloth (threads are tied and dyed before being woven together), masks, shadow puppets, paintings, stone carvings, gold-leafed items
- ⊖ West Java: wooden rod puppets (wayang golek), batik
- ⊖ Minangkabau country, Central Sumatra: silk cloth, woven articles, metal jewelry and accoutrements



Lesson 28: Where Is There A...?

Ada bank yang dekat dari sini?.

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce you to another useful phrase for the place where you can get that something specific. Today's phrase is "Is there a place near here?" First we need a place, so let's use the word bank which means "bank".

In Indonesian "Is there a bank near here?" is Ada bank yang dekat dari sini?. The first word ada means 'there is'. This is followed by bank, which is the word for "bank". So to recap here, we have Ada bank. Literally this means "There is a bank". Let's take a look at the next word yang which means "the one that". This is followed by dekat, which means "near" or "close". The next word is dari, which means "from". Finally, we have the word sini, which means "here". So altogether we have Ada bank yang dekat dari sini?. Literally this means "Is there a bank that's near from here?".

Now to ask for a different place, we can just replace the word for bank with any other word and the phrase works just fine. Let's try "the pharmacy"; In Indonesian "Is there a pharmacy near here?" is Ada apotik yang dekat dari sini?. The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for. In this case it's the pharmacy, apotik.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Ada bank yang dekat dari sini?	Is there a bank near here?

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
apotik	pharmacy
kantor pos	post office
museum	museum
wartel	telephone office
warnet	internet cafe
toko	shop
restoran	restaurant
kantor	office
kedutaan besar	embassy

Indonesian	English
konsulat	consulate office

QUICK TIP

The verb *ada* is an interesting word. This is the existential verb in Indonesian, and like many languages that have distinct existential verbs, this verb can either mean the existence of something, just like in the phrases we've learned about today, or it can indicate the possession of something. In fact, if you want to say that you have something, you can just say "saya ada..." and then say what you have afterwards. So, *ada* is a very versatile verb that you will hear often in Indonesian.

QUICK TIP 2

The word *yang* is also a versatile word in Indonesian. This marks relative clauses, i.e. 'the one that...' In this lesson, we have *yang dekat* 'the one that is near'. You can use about any descriptive verb in this construction: *yang mahal* 'the expensive one'; *yang murah* 'the cheap one'; *yang ada disini* 'the one that's here'.

Lesson 29: Directions

Ada di sebelah kiri.



LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce you directions that will help you find the place you are looking for. Previously we introduced, "Is there a place near here?" and "Where is there a something?" But while we can now ask, we haven't addressed understanding the answer. Today we're going to work on understanding what is said. So today we'll go over basic directions. First we have, "go straight."

In Indonesian "go straight." is Jalan terus. The first word jalan means "to go". This is followed by terus, which in Indonesian is "straight" or "onward". So altogether we have Jalan terus. Literally this means "Go straight".

Now we're going to work on turning. Let's try "turn right"; In Indonesian "turn right" is Belok kanan. The first word belok means "to turn". This is followed by kanan, which in Indonesian is "right".

Now "turn left"; In Indonesian "turn left" is Belok kiri. The first word belok means "to turn" as we've mentioned before. This is followed by kiri, which in Indonesian is "left".

Now, if you want to make the directions more specific, such as "Turn right at the light", "at the end of the block", and so on, here are some additional items that you can add to your repertoire:

"At the traffic light" is di lampu lalu lintas. Remember from our other podcasts that "di" is the preposition meaning "in" or "at". The other new word lampu lalu lintas "traffic light, is made up of two words. The first word lampu means "light", while the second word, a compound actually, lalu lintas means "traffic".

"At the end of the block" or more appropriately "at the corner" is di pojok. The first word is our friendly preposition again, di, meaning "in" or "at". The second word is pojok which means "the corner".

In Indonesian "It's on the right." is Ada di sebelah kanan. The first word ada means "to exist" or "there is". This is followed by di, which is our friendly preposition yet again "di" which means "in" or "at". So to recap here, we have ada di. Literally this means "it's there at". Let's take a look at the next word sebelah which means "side". The last word kanan, if you remember, means "right". So all together we have Ada di sebelah kanan. Literally this means "It's there on the right side".

In Indonesian "It's on the left." is Ada di sebelah kiri. In this case, you simply replace the word for "right", kanan with the word for "left", kiri. The entire phrase again: Ada di sebelah kiri.

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Jalan terus.	Go straight.
Belok kanan.	Turn right.
Belok kiri.	Turn left.
Ada di sebelah kanan.	It's on the right side.
Ada di sebelah kiri.	It's on the left side.

VOCABULARY

Indonesian	English
kanan	right
kiri	left
lampu lalu lintas	traffic light
pojok	the corner

QUICK TIP

If you're asking for directions in Indonesian, you have to be a bit careful how you phrase your question, especially when it comes to asking about the exact locations of landmarks.

If you ask any of the locals "is this the way to...", which is *Apa ini jalannya ke ...?*, most likely the person you're asking will want give you some sort of agreeable response, even if that takes you in the opposite direction from your final destination.

Because of that, it is better to frame your question like this: *Dimana ada ...?*, which means "Where is...?" Of course, you'll have to mention what the destination is first. If you do it this way, then locals will be more at ease to give you more accurate directions.

QUICK TIP 2

In Bali, you will actually hear another spatial orientation system being used. Instead of *kanan* and *kiri* (right and left), or even the north/south compass directions, the traditional Balinese system goes something like this:

- ⊗ **Kaja**: mountainward, the most sacred direction
- ⊗ **Kangin**: sunrise-ward
- ⊗ **Kelod**: seaward, the most profane direction
- ⊗ **Kauh**: sunset-ward

These direction names are not only important in terms of moving about in a physical space, but they are important in a ritual, cosmological sense in Bali. The Balinese believe that the deities live in the mountains, while most of the demons originate from the other direction, i.e. from the sea.

Every traditional building in Bali is built according to this directional orientation as well - the dirtier areas (kitchen, refuse area) are located on the *kelod* side, while the sleeping quarters of the eldest members of the family compound are located on the *kaja* side. The most important structure, the house temple, is located at the most sacred corner of the space, the *kaja-kangin* corner.

Lesson 30: Can You Take My Picture?

Satu, dua, tiga, yyya!



LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce a phrase that is certain to come in handy for capturing your memories on film. Indonesia is full of beautiful scenery, and there are times when you'll want to be in the picture or have everyone in your party in the picture. Therefore, there are times when the question, "Can you take our/my picture?" will be invaluable!

In Indonesia "Can you take our/my picture?" is *Tolong potret, ya?*. The first word *tolong* means "help" or "please do something for me". This is followed by *potret*, which in Indonesian is "take a picture". So to recap here, we have *tolong potret*. Literally this means "please take a picture for me". Let's take a look at the last word *ya* which means "yes" or "alright". So altogether we have *Tolong potret, ya?*. Literally this means "Please take a picture of me, alright?". The verb remains the same no matter whether you're saying "can you take our picture?" or "can you take my picture?"

In English, before someone takes a picture, the person taking the picture may say, "1, 2, 3. Cheese." In Indonesian, people usually just count 1-3, which, as a reminder, is *satu, dua, tiga*. Some people will utter that ultra-versatile exclamatory particle, *ya*, which means "yes" or "alright" after the count. This would then be *satu, dua, tiga, yyya!*

So if you're taking the picture, you'll say this. And if you having your picture taken, you'll hear this!

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Tolong potret, ya?	Take a picture of me/us please.
Satu, dua, tiga, ya!	One, two three, cheese!
Tekan kenop.	Press the button.

QUICK TIP

Photos of yourself and your family are a very good way to start up a friendly conversation with the local people. When people first meet you in Indonesia, they will be curious about many things about you and your family – much like an Indonesian version of "Twenty questions". Many of these questions will seem a bit invasive to Westerners, but they are simply trying to make small talk and relate to you.

If you have photos of you and your family, for example with your parents and siblings, or your spouse and children, your new Indonesian conversation partner will be satisfied in knowing that you have a family just like him or her, and that you obviously have done an impressive thing such as traveling on your own. In Indonesia this is still considered somewhat unusual since most people there are still strongly group and family-oriented.

QUICK TIP 2

If your camera is the digital type, then there's little worry of where your shots will be processed. The only thing you might need to know is where to find additional cards if you happen to run out of space - in the urban areas, simply go to the nearest large department store (*toko serba ada*). However, it is highly advisable to bring an extra card from home to save you the hassle of trying to locate additional storage. Plus, if you're traveling off the beaten track, your chances of finding a store that carries digital camera cards are close to nil.

If you still take photos the old-fashioned way, i.e. with physical film, there are plenty of shops that do quite a decent job of developing your pictures, especially if they're on color film. B/W film processing is much more difficult to find, and slide film processing is more difficult still. Don't forget to bring plenty of film - you will go through your rolls quickly, and sometimes the film that shops stock isn't exactly the freshest quality.



Survival Phrases - Indonesian (Part 1 end)



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In Part 2 the following are just a few of the topics you'll master:

- ★ Taking a taxi without being taken advantage of
- ★ Getting around and asking directions and actually understanding the answer!
- ★ Learning Indonesian using Indonesian, and making lots of friends in the process
- ★ Making the most of a hotel stay, and exploring alternatives to the beaten path
- ★ Visiting the Post office and mailing thing home
- ★ Phone rentals and phone cards, don't travel without one!
- ★ Critical phrases for vegetarians and allergy sufferers!
- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly

- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will wow hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn

Finally, thank you again!

If you have a story to share about how Survival Phrases - Indonesian helped you with your travels, business, or personal relationships, we would love to hear about it!

Please e-mail us contactus@survivalphrases.com