



Learning Indonesian

September 2016

This informal PDF is made up of fun Indonesian language tips that we've posted on Facebook and elsewhere in the past. We've compiled them into a summary for you.

This Month's Learning Tip...

Trouble Finding Time or Motivation? ...start with Tiny Study Habits!

Daily exposure to your target language has three extremely positive effects.¹

First, it has been shown to significantly improve how long it takes to become proficient. Daily study helps you learn faster, even if you don't study more hours. So, doing an hour once a week is not the same as doing 8-10 minutes a day. You will achieve your goals faster with daily study.

Second, We end up transitioning your learning time away from something you *try fit in*. You form a daily habit, making it automatic. It's just like brushing your teeth or eating dinner at a certain time. Choice, motivation and other factors are very much reduced when you are performing a habit. **A habit takes effort to break, not to do.** Our goal with a tiny study habit is to make an automatic habit that you just do. No motivation required!

The third effect is the combination of first two. By forming a daily habit which is difficult to break and by studying the language daily, you are dramatically improving your chances of achieving the end goal of learning Indonesian.

So, **Habit + Daily Study = Higher % of Success.** We see this extremely strong correlation for our Premium users who use our vocabulary flashcard tool. We see those that study daily and around the same time of day go on to complete and test better on vocabulary recall. Those that study daily and habitually learn faster and better.

¹ if you have any questions on the science behind these points and habits, please email us! Motivation and language learning is a huge area of study for us and we have some great outside resources for anyone curious.

So, how do we actually intentionally form a good habit like this? The good news is that this is a big area of study and there is great practical research on how to implement it in practice.

Here's one way that works to start **forming a daily habit** of learning.

- Start **VERY SMALL** and be consistent.
- LINK** a small learning activity to the end of an existing (unrelated!) habit.
- Complete the learning activity.

Something you already do daily —LINK— NEW HABIT!

It may sound counterintuitive, but it's much easier to develop a new habit by *linking* it with an existing habitual activity that you already do automatically, even if it's unrelated to learning.

Some examples of existing habits you can *link* your learning to:

- When I put the kids to sleep...
- When I stop my car at a red light...
- When I come back from a restroom break...
- When I finish dinner...
- When I get home from work...
- When I finish my coffee/tea break...
- After I brush my teeth...

There are hundreds of small daily activities you do each day that can be used to link to and **trigger** your learning habit.

Once you identify good habit triggers like these in your own life, you can attach a very small new learning behavior to them. Here are some useful behaviors that will absolutely lead to daily progress.

- I will quickly describe to myself what I see around me in Indonesian.
- I will describe what I did yesterday or what I plan to do today in Indonesian.

- ☑ I will post an Indonesian sentence to the Learning Indonesian Facebook group.
- ☑ I will practice flashcards for 30 seconds.
- ☑ I will play 60 seconds of Learning Indonesian audio.
- ☑ I will read 3 sentences from an Indonesian news website.

While these may seem like tiny, nearly useless activities, they have a cumulative effect. For example, if you played 1 minute of audio material each day, it will add up to hours of learning over the course of a few months. Hours of learning you were not doing before. Reading 3 sentences a day adds up to reading and understanding 3 extra pages of text in just a month.

It's certainly not an aggressive schedule. This approach is about habit-forming and daily results.

You can and will do more than 30 seconds of this or 60 seconds of that. Once you start, doing it longer is natural and easy. You will not be able to help yourself from adding a bit more time. Remember, these are *just* habit triggers. **You will build on them and do more than you have chosen as the minimum.**

Words and Phrases Posted for Discussion

Each one of the following were posted to the Facebook Group (<http://www.Facebook.com/groups/learnindo/>) for group discussion and practice. The goal is simple. Try to use the word in a sentence. Discuss with others how the word is used.

While writing whole sentences can be difficult in the beginning, there's nothing stopping you from reading the examples and thinking about what you can say. People further along in the course will be able to post detailed, nuanced sentences. You can read along and even post simple replies with what you do know. Remember, daily practice is what matters most towards building effective language skills.



Sudah waktunya... or Sudah saatnya...

It's about time...

Sudah waktunya / saatnya mereka menikah.	It's about time they got married.
Mari kita makan.	Let's eat.

Sudah waktunya / saatnya (kita) makan.	It's about time (for us) to eat.
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Mata

Mata means eye.

Wait? Why such a simple word? Because **Mata** is the basis of a number of useful idioms and expressions!

I sometimes take the time to research the etymology of Indonesian words. **Mata** is from Proto-Austronesian, the ancient root language of Malay, Javanese, Balinese, Tagalog, Maori, all Polynesian languages (including Hawaiian!), and even the native languages of Madagascar. The speakers of this language traveled from what is believed to be Formosa (Taiwan) sometime between 5000 and 7000 years ago. Most words in Indonesian are either from Austronesian or Sanskrit (from Hindu-Buddist settlement from India around the 6th & 7th centuries AD) with Arabic very well represented for many religious terms. Agama (religion), however, is a Sanskrit word!

Generally, core base words related to everyday life come from Austronesian roots. Words related to society, culture, art and education often come from Sanskrit. Many religious terms come from Arabic. It's fun to research how all these languages share a common heritage.

Mata is cognate (shares a root with):

Tagalog & Maori	Mata
Malagasy (Madagascar)	Maso
Hawaiian	Maka

Mata uang	Currency
Matahari	The sun
Mata air	Spring (source of water)
Mata-mata	Spy
Main mata	To wink (play eye)
Air mata	Tear (eye water)
Kaca mata	Eye glasses
Mata kaki	Ankle
Mata keranjang	Womanizer (literally, basket eye!)
Mata pencaharian	Source of living



Lagipula

Besides or moreover. It's sometimes written as **lagi pula**. From **lagi**, meaning more and **pula** meaning also (like **juga**).

Saya tidak bisa datang ke rumahmu besok malam. Saya harus kerja. Lagipula, saya juga harus jemput Tony dari airport.	I can't come to your house tomorrow evening. I have to work. Moreover, I also have to pick Tony up from the airport.
Saya suka buah mangga. Rasanya manis. Lagipula, harumnya mengingatkan saya kepada rumah ibu di Jakarta.	I like mangoes. The taste is sweet. Besides, the smell reminds me of my mother's house in Jakarta.



Apa lagi ... ?

What else ... ?

Kalian mau pesan apa lagi?	What else do you (all) want to order?
Anda perlu (mem)bicara(kan) apa lagi?	What else do you need to talk about?
Apa lagi yang perlu kita siapkan?	What else do we need to prepare?

Fluency and Language Learning Goals

We also discussed Fluency and Language Learning Goals. Here's one of the comments we made in the conversation:

Fluency is the ability to express yourself in a flowing manner. It doesn't necessarily mean that every word you say is correct or nuanced. It doesn't mean every phrase and construction is perfect. It means you are speaking without the need to translate in your head and you are working around your own vocabulary limits. Well, you may do a little translation, but not enough to slow you down. Your speech flows. It may not be nuanced, but it flows. You can be fluent with a small vocabulary.

So, A1 and A2 are beginner-level. This means you are almost certainly doing that "inner translating" thing. A few words and phrases come naturally without translation. **Maaf! Apa itu? Selamat pagi! Di mana mobil kami?** These you understand and speak without thinking. Why?

Because you have practiced them to the point of them having meaning without an intermediate English step.

B1/B2 expands upon this level and more and more words and collections of words start to hit you without being translated. You start to hear unfamiliar phrases. At the B1 level, you still have to think about them and sometimes you don't understand what seems obvious. Later though, with more practice and a larger vocabulary, these words and expressions hit you without translation. You're ready to develop some conversational skills if you haven't already, but you're often working around a word you don't know. Your word order is still a bit off, but you're stringing together understandable speech and writing. At the end of lesson 72 of Learning Indonesian Premium, you should be at or near this stage. You feel like more words and phrases are useful, but conversation is what's really leading to improvement. Beginnings of the value of immersion.

At B2, you follow along with basic everyday conversations about things you're familiar with, but really can't follow something you're not. Say, a courtroom transcript or an academic text. You can talk to pretty much everyone about basic life, tell your story well, start to have some nuance in your usage and richer adjective/adverb. You are not translating much, but you are thrown for a loop sometimes when you hear unfamiliar phrasing. You need to be having conversations to improve your usage here because studying words and phrases is just not enough to get better. You can live and work. Immersion is the fastest way to get better.

C1/C2 - You can live and work in the country and talk about anything with locals. You pick up slang and idioms. You sometimes come across words you don't know, but you can figure them out most of the time. Just as you do in English. You can read anything and write your mind. You do not translate in your head. Most people call this "fluent", but that really started back around the late B1/B2 stage if you are practicing conversations. This is proficiency. You may, in fact, be as good a speaker of Indonesian as the Indonesians you meet.

Selected Previous Discussion Points

In case you missed them, here are some useful posts we made on Facebook in the past.



In many cases, *apa* can be used in front of or at the end of a question.

Apa makanan kesukaanmu?
Makanan kesukaanmu apa?

What is your favorite food?

Apa itu? Itu apa?	What is that?
Apa yang kamu mau? Kamu mau apa?	What do you want?
Apa yang Ida sedang makan? Ida sedang makan apa?	What is Ida eating?



What are you doing?

Sedang means in the process of or in the middle of.

Kamu sedang apa?	What are you doing? (You in the middle of what?)
Melakukan / lakukan	to do
Apa yang kamu sedang lakukan?	What are you in the middle of doing?



Why? Mengapa, kenapa and kok.

Indonesian has several words for **why**. **Mengapa** is most formal. You'll usually only find it in written or very formal speech. **Kenapa** is used in everyday Indonesian. **Kok** even more informal, with a meaning closer to **how come?** in English.

Mengapa kamu senang sekali hari ini? Kenapa kamu senang sekali hari ini? Kok kamu senang sekali hari ini?	Why are you very happy today?
Mengapa kamu suka yang ini, bukan yang itu? Kenapa kamu suka yang ini, bukan yang itu? Kok kamu suka yang ini, bukan yang itu?	Why do you like this one, not that one?



Here is how to say "What's up?" or "What's the matter?"

Ada apa?	What's up? (there is/exists what?)
Kenapa kamu?	What's the matter with you?

Notice the interesting use of **kenapa**? If you try to do a direct translation of **Kenapa kamu?** to **Why you?**, it doesn't make much sense!

Kenapa here has an idiomatic meaning close to "what is the cause or reason for something?". So **Kenapa kamu?** is like asking "What's the cause/reason for your state?".



Several ways to ask for somebody's opinion or idea

Apa yang kamu pikir?	What do you think?
Apa ide kamu?	What is your idea?
Apa pendapat kamu?	What is your opinion?



Betul literally means "correct", but did you know that kebetulan means "by chance" or "coincidentally"?

Saya bisa bantu. Kebetulan saya bisa bicara bahasa Indonesia.	I can help. Coincidentally, I can speak Indonesian.
Kebetulan kami akan ada di Ubud minggu depan.	Coincidentally, we will be in Ubud next week.
Kebetulan saya suka makanan pedas.	Coincidentally, I like spicy food.



Two useful words to learn: bertanya (to ask) and berkata (to say)

Saya bisa bantu. Kebetulan saya bisa bicara bahasa Indonesia.	I can help. Coincidentally, I can speak Indonesian.
Boleh saya bertanya [kamu]?	May I ask [you]?
Kamu mau tanya apa?	What do you want to ask?
Tina berkata dia suka makanan Indonesia.	Tina said she likes Indonesian food.
Kamu berkata apa?	What did you say?

Notice in one of the examples above, the **ber-** prefix is omitted. This is common in conversational Indonesian.



Traffic Jam!

If you live in Indonesia or have been to Indonesia, you might have experienced heavy traffic jams. The word for traffic jam is **macet**. Two important words related to **macet** are **jam karet** (rubber time, meaning "flexibly late") and **tepat waktu** (on time). Another word for late is **telat**.

So if your friend is going to be late, you can say:

Macet	Traffic jam
Jam karet	Flexibly late (rubber time)
Jangan jam karet! Jangan telat!	Don't be late!
Coba tepat waktu!	Try to be on time!



You know that *satu* means “one.” Did you know that *satu-satunya* means “the only one”?

Kaylee anak perempuan kami satu-satunya.	Kaylee is our only daughter.
Am I the only one who likes durian fruit?	Am I the only one who likes durian fruit?



Pilih (to choose) and pilihan (a choice).

When you are shopping for fruits, you might want to ask the vendor...

Boleh saya pilih?	May I choose?
Saya tidak tahu mau pilih yang mana. Semuanya bagus!	I don't know which one I want to choose. All are good!
Kamu pilih yang mana?	Which one did you choose?
Ini pilihan saya.	This is my choice.



Bawa (to bring)

Hari ini akan hujan. Jangan lupa bawa payung!	Today is going to rain. Don't forget to bring an umbrella!
Aduh! Saya lupa bawa uang saya.	Ouch! I forgot to bring my money.
Hari ini saya bawa teman saya, Tony.	Today I brought my friend, Tony.



With a happy and sincere heart...

If someone asks you for a help, you can respond by saying **dengan senang hati!**, meaning “with a happy heart!”. This is where we might say “With pleasure!” in English.

Tulus means “sincere” so **dengan tulus hati** means “with sincere heart” or “sincerely.”

Pak, boleh minta bantu? Dengan senang hati!	Sir, can you help? With pleasure!
Saya percaya dengan tulus hati bahwa dia tidak berbohong.	I sincerely believe that she is not lying.
Saya harap dengan tulus hati bahwa kita akan berjumpa lagi.	I sincerely hope that we shall meet again.



My Treat!

Imagine that you and your Indonesian friends are in a restaurant and you want to treat them (pay for their food). How would you say “Let me treat you!”? To treat is **traktir**.

Let me treat you!	Mari saya traktir kamu!
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Try saying it! I am sure your friends will be very happy. When they thank you, you can respond by saying **Dengan senang hati!**



A Few words based on the word **tarik** (to pull).

Tarik	To pull
Menarik	interesting or attractive
Tertarik	interested or attracted
Film itu sangat menarik.	That movie is very interesting.
Saya sangat tertarik dengan topik itu.	I am very interested with that topic.
Ida perempuan yang sangat menarik.	Ida is a very interesting/attractive woman.
Saya tertarik dengan dia.	I am interested in/attracted to her.



Here are some ways to say... Really? (Is that real?)

Yang benar?	True?
Masa sih? (informal)	Come on?
Oh ya? (informal)	Oh yeah?



A Little Slang

Indonesians who live in big cities, such as Jakarta, love to use slang terms. Here are some interesting ones:

Bahasa gaul	Slang language	slang
udah	sudah	Already
Gua / Gue	Saya / Aku	I
Elu / Lu / Lo	Anda (Kamu/Engkau)	You
Duit	Uang	Money

Indonesian slang is always evolving. The best way to learn how and when it use it is to have conversations with young people who live there. You won't be able to avoid learning it!



The word for shoe (**sepatu**) is related to the word "sabotage" and "ciabatta" (a type of bread)?

Sepatu has the same root word as "zapato" (Spanish), "sapato" (Portugese), "ciabatta" (Italian for "slippers"; also a type of bread) and "savate" and "sabot" (French).

The urban myth is that "sabotage" comes from the word for "shoe" since French workers used to throw their old shoes into machinery in order to sabotage their factory.



Common, informal words for **bilang** (to say) and **beri** (to give).

Another word for “to say” is **kata** / **berkata** and for “to give” is **kasih**.

Dia bilang saya dia suka kamu. Dia berkata kepada saya dia suka kamu.	He told me that he likes you.
Tolong beri saya sedikit sambal. Tolong kasih saya sedikit sambal.	Please give me a little sambal.
Kamu ada di Jakarta? Kok kamu tidak bilang?	You are in Jakarta? How come you did not say?



Want to speak like an Indonesian? Try using acronyms.

Indonesians love using acronyms or abbreviations. For example, **PD** (pronounced like a soft PAY-DAY) means **Percaya Diri** (self-confident)

Percaya diri PD	Self-confident (to believe in self)
Kamu PD sekali!	You are very self-confident!



Bingung? Confused?

If you don't understand something, you can say **Saya tidak mengerti**. (I don't understand) or **Saya bingung**. (I am confused).



How would you say that something is extraordinary?

Luar	Outside (of)
Biasa	Ordinary
Luar biasa	Extraordinary
Hebat	Great / Superb
Masakanmu luar biasa enak!	Your cooking is extraordinarily delicious!
Kamu bisa bicara tiga bahasa? Hebat sekali!	You can speak three languages? Great!



What do you want to do today?

Buat	To make / to do
(Me)lakukan	To do
Luar biasa	Extraordinary

Hebat	Great / Superb
Masakanmu luar biasa enak!	Your cooking is extraordinarily delicious!
Kamu bisa bicara tiga bahasa? Hebat sekali!	You can speak three languages? Great!
Kamu mau buat apa hari ini? Kamu mau (me)lakukan apa hari ini?	What do you want to do today?
Ngapain	Do something / do whatever very informal, slangy based on "apa"
"Kamu mau ngapain hari ini?"	What do you want to do today? (Very informal and casual)
Kamu punya rencana apa hari ini?"	What plans do you have today?



The particle **Loh is used to indicate surprise or disbelief.**

Loh, kok kamu datang pagi-pagi sekali?	How come you came very early in the morning?
Loh, kok kamu makan kue ini? Ini kue untuk ibumu.	How come you ate this cake? This cake is for your mother.
Loh, kok mahal sekali?	How come [something] is very expensive?
Dia datang loh!	She arrived. (You didn't expect that she would come).



Two words that mean "Of course/certainly" are **tentu and **pasti**.**

(Apakah) kamu bisa datang ke rumah saya nanti malam?	Can you come to my house tonight?
Tentu! / Pasti!	Of course!
Kalau ada makanan enak, tentu/pasti saya akan datang.	If there is good food, I will certainly come.
Apakah kamu suka nasi goreng Indonesia?	Do you like Indonesian fried rice?
Tentu! / Pasti!	



Three positive adjectives to describe people's character

Jujur	honest
Sopan	polite

Sabar	patient
Saya suka dia karena dia sopan dan jujur sekali.	I like him because he is polite and very honest.



Three positive adjectives to describe physical appearance of someone

Cantik	Beautiful (for a girl or woman)
Ganteng	Handsome (for a boy or man)
Mempesona	Dazzling or Charming (for both)



When to use what when. What?

Kapan, **waktu** and **ketika** all mean **when**. However, **kapan** is used when we ask a question (When do you...?). **Waktu** and **ketika** are used in the middle of a sentence to indicate "at the time when."

Kapan kamu akan pergi ke Bali?	When will you go to Bali?
Saya sedang makan malam ketika/waktu kamu telepon.	I was eating dinner when you called.



Two very useful words to know: **perlu** (need to) and **harus** (have to).

Saya perlu berterima kasih kepada Ida. Dia banyak membantu saya.	I need to thank Ida. She helped me a lot.
Saya perlu ambil uang tunai sekarang. Di mana mesin ATM terdekat?	I need to withdraw cash now. Where is the closest ATM machine?
Kamu harus coba kue coklat ini!	You have to try this chocolate cake!
Kamu harus datang ke pesta saya! Tony akan ada di sana.	You have to come to my party. Tony will be there.



Jadi can have two useful meanings.

Jadi can mean "so" or "therefore".

Jadi, kalian mau makan di mana?	So, where do you want to eat?
Saya sangat capek jadi saya akan tinggal di rumah hari ini	I am very tired therefore I will stay at home today.
Jadi, kamu suka yang mana?	So, which one do you like?

As a verb, **jadi** can also mean "to become" or "to be finished." For example:

Susan sudah menjadi seorang dokter	Susan has become a doctor.
(Asking a child) Kamu mau jadi apa ketika kamu besar?	What do you want to become when you are grown up?
Mari makan! Nasi gorengnya sudah jadi	Let's eat! The fried rice is done.



Here are several ways to say "Tell me about yourself."

Tentang	About (a topic)
Cerita	A story
Bercerita / ceritakan	To tell a story
Ceritakan kepada saya tentang diri Anda	Tell (to) me about yourself
Ceritakan tentang diri Anda.	To tell about yourself
Ceritakan sedikit tentang diri Anda	Tell a little about yourself
Coba cerita tentang dirimu	Try to tell about yourself
Apakah kamu bisa bercerita tentang diri kamu?	Can you tell (a story) about yourself?



Both **pindah** and **gerak** mean "move"

Pindah focuses more on moving from one place to another (change of location).

Dia pindah dari rumah orang tuanya ke apartment baru.	She moved from her parents' house to a new apartment.
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However, **gerak** focuses on the activity of motion, such as the leaves blowing in a breeze or animals moving around.

Jangan bergerak! Saya sedang mengambil foto kamu.	Don't move! I am taking your picture.
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Terutama

Utama means main, so **terutama** literally means mainly. **Terutama** is used to mean especially or principally. For example:

Keluarga Ani, terutama ibunya, sangat pandai memasak.	Ani's family, especially her mother, is very good at cooking.
Saya sangat suka makanan Indonesia, terutama sate ayam.	I really like Indonesian food, especially chicken satay.



Have you ever wondered how to say "Come on!" or "Let's go!" in Indonesian?

You can use **Mari!** or **Ayo!**

Mari kita makan!	Let's eat!
Ayo kita pergi!	Come on, let's go!
Mari kita belajar bahasa Indonesia!	Let's study the Indonesian language!



Aduh! can mean "Ouch!" or "My goodness!" – usually followed by expression of shock or dismay.

If someone found out that her friend just got into an accident, she might say...

Aduh! Apakah dia baik-baik?	My goodness! Is he alright?
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If someone just finished eating and is about to pay the bill, but she realized that she forgot to bring her wallet, she might say...

Aduh! Dompet saya ketinggalan di rumah.	Ouch! My wallet was accidentally left at home.
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In the last sentence, did you notice how it was worded to avoid embarrassment, accusation or blame? It is usually more polite to avoid assigning blame or cause to a person. In Indonesian, we often just say "something happened" in these situations.

It is also a good example of avoiding **saya** or **aku** as the subject of the sentence. It is polite to be humble in Indonesian.



Semoga and **harap** are both used to indicate hope. So, what's the difference?

Harap is usually used as a verb and **semoga** is used as the phrase "I hope that" or "hopefully."

Saya harap akhir minggu kamu menyenangkan.	I hope that your weekend is fun.
Semoga akhir minggu kamu menyenangkan.	



When something is good, we say **bagus** or **baik**. How about when it is not good?

In this case, we can say **kurang** (less than) or **tidak** (no/not) in front of any adjective, including **bagus** or **baik**, to express what we mean.

Kopi ini tidak enak.	This coffee is not delicious.
Kopi ini kurang enak.	This coffee is not delicious enough.
Kopi ini cukup enak.	This coffee is delicious enough.
Kopi ini lumayan enak.	This coffee is moderately delicious.



A nice way to refuse.

One of our Facebook readers pointed out that when she was traveling in Bali and touted by taxi drivers, it is not very effective to say **tidak** (no/not). When she said **tidak**, the taxi drivers would follow her and suggest that she might use the taxi later or the next day.

Instead, it can be better to say **Lain kali!** (next time). When she responded with **Lain kali!** the drivers would laugh and let her walk away.

Very useful tip! **Lain kali!** is definitely a polite, friendly way to refuse while maintaining a sense of good will. Of course, this works when you decline invitations as well. It can be more polite to say **Lain kali!** instead of just **tidak**.



What would you say if your Indonesian friend asks your opinion about something?

You can say **biasa saja** (ordinary, so-so) or **baik / bagus** (good). Or, if something is beyond good, you can say **sempurna!** (perfect!)

Pemandangan ini tidak hanya bagus tapi sempurna!	This view is not only good, but perfect!
Sejauh ini hari saya bagus.	So far my day is good.
Bagaimana harimu?	How is your day?



Fun Fact: Empty talk...

A useful phrase based on **omong** (to talk) is **omong kosong**. **Kosong** means empty. So, **omong kosong** means empty talk.

Itu omong kosong!	That's empty talk (nonsense)!
Dia/la hanya omong kosong!	He/she is just talking nonsense!



Want to speak like a local? Try using omong-omong when you speak with your Indonesian friends.

Omong-omong means "by the way", a useful sentence connector.

Omong-omong, kamu dari mana?	By the way, where are you from?
Omong-omong, apa nama kamu?	By the way, what is your name?

Have fun! Your Indonesian friends will be impressed.



Did you know that there are 3 forms of "No" in Indonesian?

Jangan	Don't (as in "Don't do that!")
Tidak	No (used to negate verbs and adjectives)
Bukan	Not a... (as in "This is not a ..."). Bukan is used to negate nouns.

Saya suka makan es krim coklat, bukan es krim vanilla. Jadi jangan kasih saya es krim vanilla karena saya tidak suka! Kamu suka es krim rasa apa?

I like to eat chocolate-flavored ice cream, not vanilla-flavored ice cream. So don't give me vanilla ice cream because I don't like it! What flavor of ice cream do you like?



Fun Fact: In Indonesia, **Awas!** means "Watch out!"

Did you know that in Mexico, the word for "Watch out!" or "Get out of the way!" is very similar -- "Aguas!"?



Fun Fact: Don't confuse **kepala** (head) with **kelapa** (coconut).

Es kelapa muda (young coconut water) is very delicious but you don't want to order **es kepala muda** in a restaurant.



Fun Fact: English and Indonesian share some ancient linguistic connections.

The Indonesian word for king, **raja** (from Sanskrit, the classical language of India) is from the same ancient root word as **rich**, **regent**, **regal**, **royal**, **reich** (German), **rex** (Latin) and **rike** (Swedish). When words share a common root, they're said to be **cognates**.

It is ultimately from a Proto-Indo-European root **reg-**, meaning "to straighten out" or "rule". The Proto-Indo-European connection between English and Sanskrit goes back to prehistoric times, at least the bronze age. Some linguists believe it may even date to the late stone age! So, at some point in the distant past, English and Sanskrit sprang from the same source and share many words in common.

Here are some other interesting ones...

Indonesian	Literal Indonesian	Sanskrit Source	English Cognate	Notes
arti, (meng)erti	meaning, understanding	artha	art	A learned skill. to practice one's art.
sama	same / equal / with	sama	same	
surya	sun	surya	solar	sun, sol in Latin
antara / atau	among / between / or	antarah / athava	inter- , other, alias, else	also related to aneka
maha	great / infinite	maha	major, mega-	
manusia	mankind	manusya	man, mankind	
baca	to read (originally aloud)	vaca	voice	vox, vocal
dana	donate	danam	donation	
dewa/dewi	a deity	devi	divine	
kepala	head	kapala	capital, cap	Also "head" through k->h shift.
madu	honey	madhu	mead (honey beer), Melissa (proper name)	
nama	name	naam	name	
suara	sound / voice	svara	swan and sound	swan - singing bird
utama	primary	uttama	ultimate	
aneka	various	anya	alias, else	as in "another"
budi	kindness/good deeds	buddhi	to bid	old sense, to pray or offer - bid farewell
mentari	minister (political)	mantari (councillor)	mentor	one who thinks (mind, mental)
wira	hero	vira	werewolf, virile	Man / powerful man
Wangsa	Dynasty	Vamsa	Family	
bahwa bumi	that earth	bhava bhumi	be	to exist/be the world/ existence
candra cendera	moon sweetheart	candra	candle	shining

These are just a small number of the direct Sanskrit borrowings dating back over 1600 years. Indonesian also has more recent borrowings from Persian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and, of course, English.



Fun Fact: Malam Minggu -- not what you think!

Do you know that “malam minggu” (literally: evening Sunday) means “Saturday night” (the night leading to Sunday)?

Semoga malam minggu kamu menyenangkan!	I hope your Saturday night is fun!
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Words at Work

For those who work in Indonesia, here are some useful words to know:

Bekerja	to work
Pekerjaan	job
Rekan kerja	coworker
Bos	Boss
Manajer	Manager
Gaji	salary
Lembur	overtime
Kantor	office (From the Dutch word for office, kantoor)
Perusahaan	company

Apa pekerjaan Anda?



Sleeping Policeman

How do you think you would say "parking lot", "shopping mall", a "shop" and "speed bump" in Indonesian?

Tempat parkir	Parking lot (parking place)
Lapangan parkir	Parking lot (parking field)

Mal / Pusat perbelanjaan	Shopping mall (center for shopping)
Toko	A shop
Polisi tidur	Speed bump (sleeping policeman!)



tertawa means “to laugh” and **tersenyum** means “to smile”

Halo teman-teman! Kamu punya rencana apa akhir minggu ini? Apa pun yang kamu lakukan, jangan lupa untuk tertawa dan tersenyum. Selamat akhir minggu!

Hello friends! What plans do you have this weekend? Whatever you do, don't forget to laugh and to smile. Have a nice weekend!



Here are some examples of reduplication:

Jalan-jalan	To go for a stroll
Makan-makan	To snack
Suka-suka	To do whatever he / she wants (usually in a negative way)
Jangan-jangan	Perhaps
Gucci-Guccian	Fake Gucci (also applied to other brand names)
Apakah ini Prada asli? Jangan-jangan ini Prada-Pradaan.	Is this a real Prada? Perhaps this is a fake Prada.



Here are some useful words for shoppers:

Toko	Shop
Pasar	Market
Pembeli	Buyer
Penjual	Seller
Belanja	To shop
Ambil	To take
Kasih	To give

Barang	Goods or items
Harga	Price
Harga pas	Fixed Price
Mahal	Expensive
Murah	Cheap
Tawar-menawar	The activity of bargaining (to bargain back and forth)
Boleh saya tawar?	May I bargain?
Kartu kredit	Credit card
Kartu debit	Debit card
Uang tunai	Cash



Jangan bingung!

Don't confuse the word **cuma-cuma** (free) with **cumi-cumi** (squid). And of course, the common one: **kepala** (head) with **kelapa** (coconut).

Saya mau pesan air kelapa muda bukan air kepala muda!



Jangan nangis bayiku!

Hari ini bayi perempuan kami, Kaylee, dapat vaksinasi karena kami akan pergi ke Indonesia di bulan Oktober. Kami bangga sekali dia tidak nangis!

Today our baby girl, Kaylee, got some vaccination because we are going to Indonesia in October. We are very proud she didn't cry!

Jangan khawatir tentang hari besok. Nikmati hari ini karena hari ini hanya terjadi sekali.	Don't worry about tomorrow. Enjoy today because today only happens once.
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Apa film terakhir yang kamu nonton?

Halo semua! Kemarin malam kami nonton film Gandhi, film yang menang Academy Awards pada tahun 1982. Film yang bagus sekali! Apa film terakhir yang kamu nonton?

Hello all! Last night we watched the movie Gandhi, the movie which won the Academy Awards in 1982. A really good movie! What is the last movie you watched?



Hari Ibu

Hari ini Hari Ibu di Amerika. Kami ucapkan Selamat Hari Ibu! Apakah kamu ingat beli bunga untuk ibumu?

Today is Mother's Day in the U.S. We wish you Happy Mother's Day! Do you remember to buy flowers for your mom?



Hari Kemerdekaan Indonesia

17 Agustus adalah Hari Kemerdekaan Indonesia. Selamat hari ulang tahun, Indonesia! "Bhineka Tunggal Ika."

The 17th of August is Indonesia's Independence Day. Happy birthday, Indonesia! "Unity in Diversity."



Independence Day Games!

Tanggal 4 Juli adalah hari kemerdekaan Amerika Serikat. Orang Amerika merayakan hari kemerdekaannya dengan kembang api. Tanggal 17 Agustus adalah hari kemerdekaan Indonesia. Biasanya, orang Indonesia merayakan hari kemerdekaannya dengan banyak permainan.

July 4th is America's Independence Day. Americans celebrate their Independence Day with fireworks.

August 17th is Indonesia's Independence Day. Usually, Indonesians celebrate their Independence Day with many games.

Panjang pinang (palm climbing) - Competitors have to climb the trunk to reach for prizes, such as clothes, money or even electronic appliances! Sometimes the trunk is covered with oil to make it difficult to climb.

Lomba makan kerupuk (cracker eating competition) - Big, traditional kerupuk crackers are hung on a string. The winner is the one who finishes eating their cracker first or eats the most crackers. Sometimes the string sways so it becomes difficult to bite the crackers.

If you have the chance to watch these games, please do it! It is fun and you will more likely to make some new friends.



Olympics

Semalam kami menonton pertandingan bulutangkis Olimpiade antara Indonesia dan Korea Selatan. Seru sekali! Apakah kalian akan menonton Olimpiade London? Apa olah raga atau atlet kesukaan kalian?

Last night we watched an Olympics badminton game between Indonesia and South Korea. Very exciting! Will you watch the London Olympics? Watch what sports? What is your favorite sport or athlete?



Liburan Musim Panas

Hi semua! Kami baru pulang dari liburan musim panas. Kami naik ke atas gunung dengan mobil dan melihat lautan Atlantik. Cantik sekali! Apakah kalian ada rencana bagus musim panas ini?

Hi everyone! We just came back from our summer vacation. We went to the top of a mountain by car and saw the Atlantic Ocean. Very beautiful! Do you have any good plan this summer?