

Learn2 Get By in Indonesian



Selamat datang right back at ya!



Indonesian? Yes, Indonesian. If you've ever been intrigued by the notion of travel in Southeast Asia, this is one language you should consider studying. Why? For a couple of very good reasons:

- **It's (relatively) easy.** Unlike Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean and the like, it doesn't require mastery of a new writing system. The grammar is among the simplest of modern languages, and pronunciation is almost always a snap.
- **It opens up a big part of the world.** Most Americans are surprised to find that Indonesia is the fourth most populous country on the planet, right behind the U.S. itself. That's a lot of new friends to make. And what's more, a lot of new ground to cover: the nation itself is spread over more than 17,000 islands that literally bridge the Pacific, in a territory that makes it neighbors with everyone from Thailand to Australia to Papua New Guinea. That's a country big enough to have dozens of fascinating subcultures, from the laid-back Hindus of Bali to the urbane Muslim of Jakarta. This is not your standard-issue Third World Country we're talking about.

But enough Chamber of Commerce-speak: let's learn you some language! The following is one of our celebrated "Get by Guides," designed not to make you fluent in the language, but to thrust the basics of day-to-day communication in your general direction.

Semoga berhasil! (Good luck!).

Step 1: Learn the basic pronunciation

	"C"	"G"	"H"	"KH"	"E"
	CH	HARD G	VERY SOFT	HARD K	UN- ACCEN- TED
AS IN	CHANGE	GIRL	NO SOUND	KICK	"U" IN "BUT"

Listening carefully to native speakers is a good way to grasp the sounds and inflections of Indonesian pronunciation. It's easy to follow as Indonesian is consistently phonetic--meaning that words and letters never veer from their assigned sounds. Unlike English, which gives us charming words like "thought," "drought" and "draught" to decipher, Indonesian is purely WYSIWYS, or "what you see is what you speak."

Indonesian is pronounced as it is read. It incorporates a Roman alphabet (that's the alphabet you're reading right now), which is, for the most part, pronounced similarly to English--with some notable exceptions:

"c" is pronounced as "ch," as in "change."

coba (cho-ba) = to try

cari (cha-ri) = to look for, to seek

"g" is always hard, as in "girl."

gaji = salary, wages

gula = sugar

"h" is pronounced very softly, sometimes not pronounced at all.

habis (a-bis) = finished

hidup (i-dup) = to live

"kh" is pronounced as a hard "k," as in "kitchen"

khabar = news

khusus = special

"e" is soft, like the "u" in "but"

empat = four

beli = to buy

Stress: Indonesian is spoken rhythmically with little or no stress. In words that have two or more syllables, a light stress falls on the penultimate syllable.

sa'ya (sa-YA) = I

te ta' pi (te-TA-pi) = but

ke ma' rin (ke-MA-rin) = yesterday

The weak "e" in open syllables is never stressed.
ke ma' rin (ke-MA-rin) = yesterday
kecil' = small

Words derived from foreign terms are stressed according to the Dutch or French usage.

presiden' (pray-si-den) = president
parlemen' (par-le-men) = parliament
demokrasi' (dey-mo-kra-si) = democracy
poli'si (po-li-si) = policy
ekonomi' (ay-ko-no-mi) = economy.

Step 2: Tackle the greetings and salutations



How do you do?

The word "selamat" is used in most Indonesian greetings. By itself, it means "congratulations," but when combined with other Indonesian words, the combination becomes a common greeting.

selamat datang = welcome (datang = come)

selamat pagi = good morning (pagi = morning until 11 AM)

selamat siang = good afternoon (siang = afternoon from 11 AM to 3 PM)

selamat sore (so-ray) = good afternoon (sore = 3 PM until nightfall)

selamat malam = good evening (malam = after dark)

selamat tidur = good night (tidur = sleep)

Often in ordinary speech, Indonesians shorten phrases or words by leaving out some parts of the words. Often you'll hear just "pagi" or "siang," without the "selamat" tacked on in the beginning, similar to the shortened "g' morning" or "mornin'" used in English. And although Indonesian is for the most part a phonetic language, you'll hear some slurring on very common words: selamat, for instance, will more often be sla-MAT than SE-la-mat.

Apa khabar = How are you?

Literally, "what's the news?" "Apa" means "what," and "khabar" is the word for "news."

Respond to someone's "Apa khabar?" with "Khabar baik" or "Baik baik."

Both phrases mean "I'm fine." "Baik" is also the word for "good."

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, good night

When taking leave of someone it is polite to excuse yourself by saying:

"Mori. Saya pergi dulu."

Literally, this means "Excuse me. I - go - first," but its intent is "Good-bye."

To say good-bye more informally, Indonesians use the phrase "Sampai jumpa lagi," which translates as "until we meet again," or "see you later." Also common is "da-da," a phrase derived from Dutch and the equivalent of the English "bye-bye."

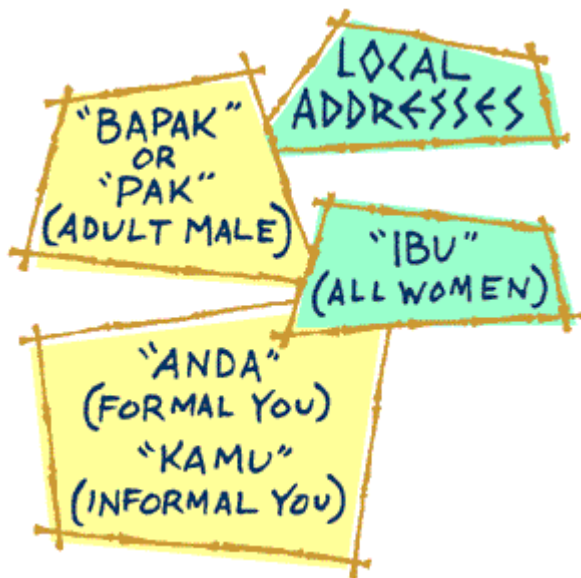
Other common farewells:

selamat tinggal = good bye (tinggal = stay)

selamat jalan = bon voyage (jalan = journey).

Step 3: Forms of address

Indonesians have a strong sense of social hierarchy, evident in the Indonesian language's many forms of addressing people. Each address corresponds to a hierarchical level, so it's a good idea to listen first to a native speaker address someone; addresses improperly used may cause offense.



"Bapak" or "pak" is the most common form of address for an adult male, much like "mister" or "sir" in English. The terms mean "father," and the "k" is pronounced very softly.

"Ibu" is used for addressing all women, particularly married and older women.

Indonesians tend to call people by their first names rather than last names. Hence it's common to hear "Pak John" or "Ibu Janet."

"Anda" is the formal term for "you." Use this form of the second-person singular with people you are meeting for the first time, people older than you and professional superiors.

"Kamu" also means "you," but it is used only in informal situations. Used when addressing close friends or children, it is similar to the "tu" form in most Romance languages. If there is any doubt about the appropriate phrase to use, use "anda."

Indonesians often address foreigners as "tuan" (sir), "nyonya" (madam) or "nona" (miss). While Indonesians may do so, you should not use these forms of address yourself.

The following two words are Javanese in origin, and their use outside Java is limited:

"Mas" (older brother) and "mbak" (older sister) are polite forms of address for someone younger than you or of the same age. The terms are commonly used in Java to address wait and shop staff and connote social inferiority.

Step 4: Painless grammar

Tenses

Rejoice! Indonesian does not have any tenses. The same form of the verb is used to indicate the past, present and future. The tense intended is usually clear from the context of the sentence. Indonesian is often called a "contextual language"--similar words and phrases are used in a wide variety of sentences. Differences in meaning are gleaned from the sentences' contexts.

saya makan = I eat or I am eating

saya sudah makan = I have already eaten

saya makan tadi = I ate just now

saya akan makan = I will eat

saya makan nanti = I will eat later

Gender

Rejoice again! There is no gender distinction in Indonesian pronouns. "He," "she" and "it" are all "dia."

Attributive adjectives are placed after the word they qualify.

anjing putih = a white dog (anjing = dog, putih = white)

kantor besar = a big office (kantor = office, besar = big)

kota kecil = a small town (kota = town or city, kecil = small).

Step 5: Interrogative words and phrases

apa? = what?

apa ini? = what is this?

apa itu? = what is that?

siapa? = who?

siapa ini? = who is this?

kapan? = when?

mana? = where?

di mana? = where is it?

dari mana? = from where?

ke mana? = to where?

yang mana? = which one?

bagaimana? = how?

berapa? = how much?

berapa harga? = how much is the price?

jam berapa? = what time is it?

ya = yes

tidak = no

tidak mau = I don't want

tidak bisa = cannot

tidak boleh = may not, should not

ada? = is there?

ada = there is

tidak ada = there is none/it's not there

bisa = can

boleh = may/permitted to

boleh sya coba itu? = May I try this?

silakan = be my guest/you are welcome

terima kasih = thank you

sama sama or kembali = you're welcome

permisi = excuse me, used when interrupting someone

ma'af = I'm sorry, used for all other instances

Some basic phrases

di mana ---? = where is ---?

di mana kantor pos? = where is the post office?

dari mana Pak? = where are you from, Sir?

mau ke mana? = where are you going?/where do you wish to go?

kapan datang di sini? = when did you arrive here?

siapa nama anda? = what is your name?

bagaimana saya bisa? = how can I?

kenapa tidak bisa? = why can't I?

saya mau = I want to

saya mai pergi ke = I want to go to ---. Pergi means "go."

saya mau beli ini/itu = I want to buy this/that

Basic introductions

siapa nama bapak/ibu? = what is your name?

nama saya --- = my name is---

asal bapak/ibu dari mana? = where do you originate from?

saya dari India = I am from India

saya orang Amerika = I am an American

"Orang Jepang" is a Japanese person. Just "Jepang" or "Negeri Jepang" means Japan, the country; "Bahasa Jepang" is the Japanese language. "Orang," "negeri" and "bahasa" work similarly with the following:

Australi = Australian

Belanda = Dutch

Denmark = Danish

Inggeris = English

Italia = Italian

Kanada = Canadian

Muangthai = Thai

Norwegia = Norwegian

Perancis = French

Selandia baru = New Zealander

Sepanyol = Spanish

Suedia = Swedish

Suis = Swiss

Tionghoa = Chinese

Yunani = Greek

Step 6: Making requests

tolong = literally, to help

"Tolong" is used in asking someone to do something, used similarly to "please."

tolong kirim surat ini = please send this letter

tolong panggil taksi = please call me a taxi

boleh = literally, to permit

"Boleh" is used in asking permission and has the same connotation as the English "may I".

boleh saya lihat ini? = may I see this? (lihat = to see)

boleh saya bicara dengan ---? = may I speak to ---? (bicara = to speak)

minta = literally, to request.

"Minta" is used to order food and drink.

minta air minum = can I have water to drink? (air = water, minum = drink)

Responses

Possible responses to requests using the above are:

silakan = please, go ahead/be my guest

boleh = you may

tidak boleh = you may not

bisa = you can

tidak bisa = you cannot

Step 7: Directions

alamat = address

gedung = building

rumah = house/home

jalan = street

jalan raya = highway/thoroughfare

jalan tol = toll road/expressway

lewat = by way of/to pass by

belok = to turn

kanan = right

kiri = left

terus = straight

berhenti or stop = stop

putar = turn around/make a U-turn

saya mau ke --- = I want to go to ---

saya mau lewat --- = I want to go by way of ---

terminal bis di mana? = where is the bus terminal?

Watch out for these signs

Road signs

Awas! or Hati-hati! = Caution!

Dilarang masuk = No entry

Dilarang parkir di sini = No parking

Kurangi kecepatan sekarang = Reduce your speed

Other signs

Dilarang merokok = No smoking

Keluar = exit

Masuk = entrance

Penerangan = information

Berbahaya! = Danger!

Bayar di kas = pay at the cash register

Step 8: Food, drink and shopping

Rumah makan or restoran = restaurant

warung = small restaurant/eating small

makan = to eat

makanan = food

minum = to drink

minuman = a drink.drinks

makan pagi = breakfast

makan siang = lunch

makan malam = dinner



pisau = knife

garpu = fork

sendok = spoon

piring = plate

gelas = glass

mangkok = bowl

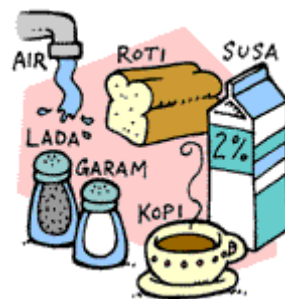
boleh lihat daftar makanan? = may I see the menu? (daftar = list)

saya mau pesan --- = I want to order ---

minta garpu dan sendok = please give me a fork and spoon

minta satu lagi = please give me one more (satu = one, lagi = more)

minta bon = please bring me the bill (bon = bill)



air (pronounced a-yer) = water

air minum = drinking water

nasi = cooked rice

telur = egg

roti = bread

gula = sugar

garam = salt

lada = pepper

ayam = chicken

daging = beef

susu = milk

kopi = black coffee

buah = fruit

Shopping

jual = sell

beli = buy

toko = shop

pasar = market

uang = money

tunai = cash

harga = price

mahal = expensive

murah = cheap/inexpensive

ukuran = size/measurement

harga ini berapa? = how much does this cost?

saya mau ini/itu = I want this/that one

ada warna yang lain? = do you have another color? (warna = color)

tidak mau = I don't want it/this

Numbers

nol, kosong = zero

satu = one

dua = two

tiga = three

empat = four

lima = five

enam = six

tujuh = seven

delapan = eight

sembilan = nine

sepuluh = ten

"Se-" is the prefix indicating one. "Puluh" is the suffix indicating ten and multiples of ten. So, "sepuluh" is ten. "Dua puluh" is twenty and "tiga puluh" is thirty.

"Belas" is the suffix for numbers in the teens. "Dua belas" is twelve, "empat belas" is fourteen.

dua puluh satu = twenty-one

dua puluh dua = twenty-two

tiga puluh lima = thirty-five

empat puluh enam = forty-six

ratus = hundred

seratus = one hundred

dua ratus = two hundred

tiga ratus dua puluh = three hundred twenty

empat ratus sembilan puluh tiga = four hundred ninety-three

ribu = thousand

seribu = one thousand

tiga ribu empat ratus = three thousand four hundred

juta = million

milyar = billion

-end-