Indonesian in One Day

A mini textbook

This textbook is for people who are going to Indonesia, or already live there, and want to start speaking fast. It is not a full grammar. It gives you what you need in the first days: how to read, how to build simple sentences, how to count money, bargain, order food, rent a room and a bike.

The book has eight short chapters. Each chapter ends with a mini quiz. The answers and a cheat sheet with the most useful phrases are at the end.

How to read the examples:

- Indonesian words and phrases are in **bold**, followed by a hyphen and the English meaning;
- an approximate pronunciation is given in quotes “…”. It appears only in Chapter 1: after that the reading rules are clear;
- the mark *coll.* (colloquial) means this is how people say it in everyday speech, while books and official texts use a different form.

Chapter 1. How to read Indonesian

Indonesian is written in the Latin alphabet. There are almost no reading rules. Almost everything is read the way it is written: each letter stands for one sound, and that sound does not change depending on its place in the word.

Vowels

Indonesian vowels are short and pure. In English, vowels often glide into other sounds (“no” sounds like “noh-oo”, “day” like “deh-ee”). In Indonesian they stay the same from start to end.

Letter	Sounds like	Example
a	a in “father”	**apa** - what “AH-pah”
i	ee in “see”, but short	**ini** - this “EE-nee”
u	oo in “food”, but short	**satu** - one “SAH-too”
o	o in “sport”, short and pure, never “oh-oo”	**motor** - motorbike “MO-tor”
e	two different sounds, see below	

Stress

Classic textbooks say that stress in Indonesian is weak and usually falls on the second-to-last syllable. Some people say there is no stress at all. Personally, with my ear for music, I usually hear it on the last syllable. Most likely this is because Indonesians like to stretch the last vowel, especially in the last word of a sentence.

The good news: stress here is weak. If you put it in the wrong place, people will still understand you.

The letter e: two different sounds

The letter **e** stands for two sounds, and the spelling does not show which one. You have to learn the sound together with the word.

Sound	Sounds like	Examples
Short, almost silent	The weak “uh” sound in “about” or “taken”	**besar** - big “b(uh)SAR” **kecil** - small “k(uh)CHEEL” **telur** - egg “t(uh)LOOR” **perempuan** - woman “p(uh)r(uh)m-POO-an”

Sound	Sounds like	Examples
Full, clear	e in “bed”	**meja** - table “MEH-jah” **sore** - evening “SO-reh” **enak** - tasty “EH-nah(k)” **besok** - tomorrow “BEH-sok”

The short sound is much more common. If you don’t know how to read e in a new word, read it short: you will be right more often.

Letters that are read differently

Letter	Sound	Example	Reading
c	always ch, as in “church”	**coba** - to try	“CHO-bah”
j	j, as in “jam”	**tujuh** - seven	“TOO-joo(h)”
y	y, as in “yes”	**sayur** - vegetables	“SAH-yoor”
g	always hard, as in “go”	**gula** - sugar	“GOO-lah”
ng	ng as in “singer”, without a g sound	**kosong** - empty	“KO-song”
ngg	ng + g, as in “finger”	**mangga** - mango	“MAHNG-gah”
ny	ny, as in “canyon”	**nyamuk** - mosquito	“NYAH-moo(k)”
sy	sh, as in “shop”	**syarat** - condition	“SHAH-rat”
kh	a rough h, as in Scottish “loch”	**khusus** - special	“KHOO-soos”
r	rolled r, as in Spanish or Italian	**rumah** - house	“ROO-mah(h)”

The letters k and h at the end of a word

k at the end of a word almost never sounds like a full English k. Your voice simply stops sharply in the throat, like the break in the middle of “uh-oh”. Linguists call this sound a glottal stop.

bapak - father “BAH-pah(k)”: it sounds like “bapa” with a sharp cut at the end.

h at the end of a word is pronounced as a light breath out. Do not drop it.

rumah - house “ROO-mah(h)”

p, t, k without a puff of air

In English, p, t and k at the start of a word come with a small puff of air. Hold your hand in front of your mouth and say “top”: you will feel it. In Indonesian there is no puff. The sounds are softer and closer to the p, t, k in “spin”, “stop”, “skin”.

tidak - no, not “TEE-dah(k)”
pagi - morning “PAH-gee”

Old spelling

Sometimes on old signs, in company names and in personal names you will see the old spelling, from before the spelling reforms of 1947 and 1972. Once you know the changes, these words are easy to read. For example, **doeloe** is simply **dulu** - before, first.

Old	New	Example
oe	u	**doeloe → dulu** (before) **Soekarno → Sukarno** (the first president)
dj	j	**Djakarta → Jakarta**
tj	c	**tjinta → cinta** (love)
j	y	**Jogjakarta → Yogyakarta**
nj	ny	**njonja → nyonya** (madam)
sj	sy	**sjarat → syarat** (condition)
ch	kh	**achir → akhir** (end)

Mini quiz 1

1. Which letter in **cinta** sounds like “ch”?
2. In which word does e sound clear, like the e in “bed”: **besar** or **meja**?
3. How is the old word **tjoba** written today?
4. Does **ng** in **kosong** sound like “singer” or like “finger”?
5. How does the k at the end of **tidak** sound?

Chapter 2. How a sentence works

Word order

Word order is clear and fixed: subject, verb, object and everything else. Just like in English.

Saya pergi ke pasar untuk membeli makanan. - I went to the market to buy food.

Word for word: I / go / to / market / to / buy / food.

Verbs never change

A verb does not change for person or tense. **makan** - to eat: it means “I eat”, “he ate” and “we will eat”.

Saya makan. - I eat.
Dia makan. - He eats.
Mereka makan. - They eat.

When the time matters, you add a word:

Word	Meaning	Example
sudah	already (it has happened)	**Saya sudah makan.** - I have already eaten.
sedang	right now, in progress	**Saya sedang makan.** - I am eating right now.
akan	will	**Saya akan makan.** - I will eat.

Most of the time the time is clear from words like “yesterday” or “tomorrow”, and then you can skip sudah or akan.

Main word first, describing word second

Here Indonesian is the opposite of English. The noun comes first, then its adjective. The main word comes first, then the word that describes it.

rumah besar - house big, that is, a big house
motor baru - motorbike new, that is, a new motorbike

This is important. Don’t mix them up, or you can get some very unexpected results.

anjing (dog) + **makan** (to eat) = **anjing makan** - the dog eats
makan (to eat) + **anjing** (dog) = **makan anjing** - to eat a dog

If you put two nouns side by side, the second one describes the first.

air (water) + **mata** (eye) = **air mata** - eye water, that is, tears
rumah (house) + **sakit** (sick) = **rumah sakit** - hospital
rumah (house) + **makan** (to eat) = **rumah makan** - restaurant, eatery

“This” and “that”

The words **ini** (this) and **itu** (that) follow the same rule. Their place changes the meaning:

motor ini - this motorbike
Ini motor. - This is a motorbike.

rumah itu - that house
Itu rumah. - That is a house.

Whose: possession

“My”, “your”, “his” come after the noun, just like adjectives. For this you use ordinary pronouns (more about them in Chapter 4).

motor saya - my motorbike (motorbike I)
rumah dia - his house

In speech, people often add a short ending to the word instead of a pronoun:

Ending	Meaning	Example
-ku	my	**motorku** - my motorbike
-mu	your	**motormu** - your motorbike
-nya	his, her	**motornya** - his motorbike

How to ask questions

You can turn a sentence into a question just with your intonation. Here is a simple sentence:

Ini mangga. - This is a mango.

Say the same thing with a rising, questioning voice, and it is already a question:

Ini mangga? - Is this a mango?

You can also add the question word **apakah** at the start of the sentence:

Apakah ini mangga? - Is this a mango?

But people will understand it is a question from your voice alone. Apakah is more common in books and formal speech.

The main question words:

Word	Meaning	More in
apa	what	
siapa	who, whose	Chapter 4
di mana	where	Chapter 5
ke mana	where to	Chapter 5
dari mana	where from	Chapter 5
berapa	how much, how many	Chapters 3 and 6
kapan	when	
kenapa	why	
bagaimana	how	

Plural

The plural is made by saying the word twice. No need to repeat it more than twice.

kota - city, **kota-kota** - cities
kata - word, **kata-kata** - words

Two important rules:

- repeating the word is optional. Most of the time it is clear that there are many, and Indonesians simply say **kota**;
- if there is a number or a word like “many” or “several” before the noun, you don’t repeat it. **dua kota** - two cities, **banyak kota** - many cities. “banyak kota-kota” is a mistake.

Many, several, few

banyak - many, much. It works with any word: with things you can count and things you can’t.

banyak orang - many people
banyak nyamuk - many mosquitoes
banyak uang - a lot of money

beberapa - several, a few.

beberapa orang - several people
beberapa hari - a few days

sedikit - a little, a bit.

sedikit uang - a little money
sedikit air - a little water
sedikit pedas - a bit spicy

All the options again on one word:

semut - ant
semut-semut - ants
beberapa semut - several ants
banyak semut - many ants

Saying “not”

Indonesian has four words for “not”. Each one works in its own place.

Word	When to use it	Examples
tidak	with verbs and adjectives	**tidak mahal** - not expensive **tidak besar** - not big **Saya tidak minum alkohol.** - I don’t drink alcohol. **Saya tidak makan daging.** - I don’t eat meat.
bukan	with nouns and pronouns	**bukan saya** - not me **bukan dia** - not him, not her **bukan motor** - not a motorbike **bukan mobil** - not a car
jangan	a ban: “don’t do it”	**Jangan!** - Don’t! **Jangan makan!** - Don’t eat!
belum	not yet	**Saya belum makan.** - I haven’t eaten yet.

In speech, people very often say **nggak** or **gak** *coll.* instead of tidak.

> **Real-life Indonesian.** When a question has sudah (already) in it, Indonesians prefer to answer belum (not yet) rather than tidak (no). Belum leaves room for hope. To **Sudah menikah?** (Are you married yet?) the polite answer of a single person is **Belum** (Not yet).

Mini quiz 2

1. How do you say “a new house”?
2. Translate: **Saya sudah minum.**
3. What does **makan anjing** mean, and what does **anjing makan** mean?
4. Which “not” do you need in “not my car”: tidak, bukan or jangan?
5. Find the mistake: **banyak kota-kota**.

Chapter 3. Numbers and time

Numbers 1 to 10

Number	Word	Number	Word
1	**satu**	6	**enam**
2	**dua**	7	**tujuh**
3	**tiga**	8	**delapan** (*coll.* **lapan**)
4	**empat**	9	**sembilan**
5	**lima**	10	**sepuluh**

The main rule: se- instead of satu

When “one” comes before a place-value word (ten, hundred, thousand), you don’t say **satu**. You use the short prefix **se-** instead. This rule works for 10, 11, 100 and 1000:

Number	How it is built	Word
10	se + puluh (ten)	**sepuluh**
11	se + belas (the word for 11 to 19)	**sebelas**
100	se + ratus (hundred)	**seratus**
1000	se + ribu (thousand)	**seribu**
1 000 000	se + juta (million)	**sejuta** or **satu juta**

Numbers 11 to 19

You add the word **belas**, a bit like “-teen” in English. Only 11 uses se-.

Number	Word	Number	Word
11	**sebelas**	16	**enam belas**
12	**dua belas**	17	**tujuh belas**
13	**tiga belas**	18	**delapan belas**
14	**empat belas**	19	**sembilan belas**
15	**lima belas**		

Tens, hundreds, thousands

From here everything is built like a construction set: first how many, then the place-value word.

- **puluh** - the word for tens
- **ratus** - the word for hundreds
- **ribu** - the word for thousands
- **juta** - the word for millions

Number	Word
20	**dua puluh**
30	**tiga puluh**
200	**dua ratus**
300	**tiga ratus**
2000	**dua ribu**
10 000	**sepuluh ribu**
20 000	**dua puluh ribu**
100 000	**seratus ribu**
200 000	**dua ratus ribu**
2 000 000	**dua juta**

How to build any number

The parts go in order, from bigger to smaller, just like in English:

Number	How it is built	Word
21	20 + 1	**dua puluh satu**
25	20 + 5	**dua puluh lima**
99	90 + 9	**sembilan puluh sembilan**
150	100 + 50	**seratus lima puluh**
1500	1000 + 500	**seribu lima ratus**
25 000	25 thousand	**dua puluh lima ribu**
150 000	150 thousand	**seratus lima puluh ribu**

Prices in rupiah are usually big numbers, so you will hear the word **ribu** all the time. At the market people often drop it: if a seller says **dua puluh** for a bottle of water, they mean 20 000 rupiah.

A billion and more

From a billion on, numbers become very respectable: the prefix se- is replaced with the proper word satu.

satu miliar - 1 000 000 000 (a billion)
satu triliun - 1 000 000 000 000 (a trillion)

First, second, third

Ordinal numbers are made with the prefix **ke-**:

kedua - second
ketiga - third
kesepuluh - tenth

The exception: “first” is **pertama**.

Days of the week

Day	Word
Monday	**Senin**
Tuesday	**Selasa**
Wednesday	**Rabu**
Thursday	**Kamis**
Friday	**Jumat**
Saturday	**Sabtu**
Sunday	**Minggu**

Minggu means both “Sunday” and “week”.

Today, tomorrow, yesterday

Word	Meaning
hari ini	today (word for word “day this”)
besok	tomorrow. In speech it often means any time in the near future, starting from tomorrow
lusa	the day after tomorrow
kemarin	yesterday. In speech it often means any time in the recent past
sekarang	now

Word	Meaning
nanti	later
tadi	a little while ago, earlier today

What time is it

jam - hour, clock, watch
menit - minute
Jam berapa? - What time is it? At what time?

Time	How to say it	Word for word
3:00	**jam tiga**	hour three
3:10	**jam tiga lewat sepuluh**	three, ten past
3:30	**jam setengah empat**	half to four
3:50	**jam empat kurang sepuluh**	four minus ten

Be careful with halves. **Setengah empat** means 3:30: “half on the way to four”. If you speak British English, this is the opposite of “half four”, which means 4:30. Many people get it wrong and come an hour late.

To tell morning from evening, you add the part of the day:

jam tujuh pagi - 7 in the morning
jam tujuh malam - 7 in the evening

Open, closed, please wait

buka - to open, open
tutup - to close, closed
jam buka - opening hours

Jam berapa toko ini buka? - What time does this shop open?

Berapa menit? - How many minutes?
tunggu - to wait
Tunggu sepuluh menit. - Wait 10 minutes.
Tunggu sebentar. - Just a moment.

Mini quiz 3

1. How do you say 11, 100 and 1000?
2. Write in words: 35, 250, 75 000.
3. A seller says **lima puluh**. How much does the item most likely cost?
4. What time does a meeting start if you were told **jam setengah sembilan**?
5. How do you say “the day after tomorrow” and “Friday”?

Chapter 4. Meeting people and being polite

Greetings

Greetings are built from different combinations with the word **selamat**. Literally it means “safe, well”, and in combinations it becomes something like “good”.

Phrase	Meaning	When people say it
Selamat pagi	good morning	until about 11 am
Selamat siang	good day	from about 11 am to 3 pm
Selamat sore	good afternoon, good evening	from 3 pm until sunset
Selamat malam	good evening	after sunset
Selamat tidur	good night	before going to sleep
Selamat datang	welcome	

You can also just say hello, or the way Indonesians say it: **halooooo!!!**

Apa kabar? - How are you? (word for word “what news?”)
Baik. or **Kabar baik.** - Fine.

Thank you, sorry, please

Terima kasih - thank you. Word for word “accept love, care”. *Coll.* **makasih**.
Sama-sama - you’re welcome. More polite: **terima kasih kembali**.

Maaf - sorry, excuse me.
Permisi - excuse me, may I (to pass by, to get someone’s attention, to come in).

English “please” has two different words in Indonesian:

tolong - please, when you ask for something. **Tolong bantu saya.** - Please help me.
silakan - please, when you offer something. **Silakan duduk.** - Please sit down.

Personal pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural
1st person	**I** **saya** - neutral “I”, fits any conversation **aku** - for talking with people close to you	**We** **kita** - we, including the person you’re talking to (you and me) **kami** - we, without the person you’re talking to (us, not you)
2nd person	**You** **kamu** - informal you, for friends and people your age or younger **Anda** - polite you. Always written with a capital letter	**You (all)** **kalian** - you, several people
3rd person	**He, she, it** **dia** - ordinary, conversational **beliau** - respectful, about a respected person	**They** **mereka**

Mereka is one of the few words where I clearly hear the stress on the second-to-last syllable, not the last one.

Note that “he” and “she” are the same word in Indonesian: **dia**.

> **Real-life Indonesian.** Instead of “you”, Indonesians in conversation often use the person’s name or a polite form of address. The question **Bapak mau ke mana?** literally sounds like “Where does sir want to go?” and means “Where are you going?”. The word **Anda** is more common in ads and announcements than in everyday speech.

Forms of address

Address	To whom	Meaning
Bapak, short **Pak**	to a man older than you or a respected man	sir, father
Ibu, short **Bu**	to a woman older than you or a respected woman	madam, mother
Mas	to a young man (a custom from Java)	brother

Address	To whom	Meaning
Mbak	to a young woman (a custom from Java)	sister
Bli	to a man on Bali	brother
Mbok	to a woman on Bali	sister

You may also hear **tuan** (sir, master), **nona** (miss) and **nyonya** (madam, a married woman). These words sound formal and a bit old-fashioned.

Bapak and ibu work both as forms of address and as ordinary words:

bapak saya - my father
Bapak! - Sir! Father! (respectfully)
Bapak! Bantu saya! - Sir! Help me!
Bapak! Tolong bantu saya! - Sir! Please help me!

ibu saya - my mother
Ibu! - Madam! Mother!

Getting to know each other

Siapa nama Anda? - What is your name? (word for word “who name you?”)
Nama saya Anna. - My name is Anna.
Saya dari Australia. - I’m from Australia.

Who and whose: siapa

siapa - who.

Ini siapa? - Who is this?

If you put siapa after a noun, it means “whose”.

Ini motor siapa? - Whose motorbike is this?
Ini motor saya. - This is my motorbike.

Ini uang siapa? - Whose money is this?
Ini uang saya. - This is my money.

Saying goodbye

When you leave, Indonesians may say **hati-hati** to you, wishing you to be careful on the road.

Actually, **hati** means liver. In poetic language hati is used for “heart” and sometimes even “soul”. And **hati-hati** does not mean “a lot of liver”. It means exactly “be careful”!

Or **selamat jalan** - Have a good trip!

Textbooks say that the one who stays should wish a good trip (**selamat jalan**), and the one who leaves says “stay well” (**selamat tinggal**). In practice Indonesians rarely use selamat tinggal and prefer to simply say “see you”:

sampai jumpa - see you
sampai besok - see you tomorrow

Mini quiz 4

1. It is 4 pm and the sun hasn’t set yet. How do you greet someone?
2. Someone says **terima kasih** to you. What do you answer?
3. You and a friend tell a seller “we want to buy”. Which “we” do you need: kita or kami?
4. How do you ask “Whose motorbike is this?”
5. What does someone wish you when they say **hati-hati**?

Chapter 5. Where things are

di, ke, dari

Three small words answer three questions: where, where to and where from.

Word	Answers the question	Translation	Example
di	where?	in, at, on	**di pasar** - at the market
ke	where to?	to	**ke pasar** - to the market
dari	where from?	from	**dari pasar** - from the market

mana: where and which

mana - a question word meaning “which, which place”. Together with di, ke, dari it makes questions:

Di mana? - Where?
Ke mana? - Where to?
Dari mana? - Where from?

Di mana Denpasar? - Where is Denpasar?
Di mana (ada) warung? - Where is there a small shop or food stall?
Di mana (ada) pantai? - Where is the beach?
Di mana (ada) apotek? - Where is the pharmacy? (*coll.* **apotik**)
Di mana (ada) rumah sakit? - Where is the hospital?
Di mana (ada) jalan Batu Mejan? - Where is Batu Mejan street?

Mau ke mana? - Where are you going? (word for word “want to where?”)
Dari mana? - Where are you from? People usually ask this to find out which country you come from.
Saya dari Inggris. - I’m from England.

> **Real-life Indonesian.** For Indonesians **Mau ke mana?** is more of a greeting than a real question. You don’t need to explain your whole route. You can answer **Jalan-jalan** (just walking around) or simply wave in the direction you’re going.

ada: there is, to be

ada - a helper verb meaning “there is, to be, to have”. You can say it or leave it out.

With ada it is very easy to ask whether something is available:

Ada air? - Is there water?
Ada bensin? - Is there petrol?
Ada air panas? - Is there hot water?

Ada AC? - Is there air conditioning?
Ada kamar kosong? - Is there a free room?

Answers: **Ada.** - Yes, there is. **Tidak ada.** - No, there isn’t.

Left, right, straight

Word	Meaning
kiri	left
kanan	right
lurus	straight
terus	keep going, without stopping
belok	to turn
belok kiri	turn left
belok kanan	turn right
putar balik	turn around, make a U-turn
berhenti	to stop
dekat	near
jauh	far

Jauh? - Is it far?
Dekat sini. - It’s near here.

At crossroads you often see the sign **Belok kiri jalan terus**. It means: if you’re turning left, go ahead without stopping (even on a red light).

Here and there

Word	Meaning
ini	this
itu	that
di sini	here
di sana	there
di situ	somewhere between “here” and “there”

Classic grammar textbooks say that **di situ** means a place close to the listener and far from the speaker. In everyday spoken Indonesian it is roughly a place you can’t touch with your hand any more, but can still see.

Mini quiz 5

1. How do you ask “Where is the pharmacy?”
2. What does **Mau ke mana?** mean, and what can you answer?
3. How do you ask whether there is hot water?
4. Translate: **belok kanan, lurus terus**.
5. Which word do you need in “I’m going ___ the beach”: di, ke or dari?

Chapter 6. At the market

Price

Word	Meaning
harga	price
mahal	expensive
murah	cheap
harga mahal	high price
harga murah	low price

> **Real-life Indonesian. Harga murah** is literally “cheap price”. Yes, really! That’s why Indonesians, translating it word for word into English, often say “cheap price”.

Berapa? - How much?
Berapa harganya? - How much does it cost? (word for word “how much its price?”)
Berapa harga ini? - How much is this?

The ending **-nya** in harganya means “its” (Chapter 2). Here it works almost like the word “the”: “the price of this thing”.

More, less, another

Word	Meaning
kurang	less, not enough
lebih	more
kurang lebih	more or less, about
lagi	more, again
satu lagi	one more

What kind of item

Word	Meaning
bagus	good, nice (about things)
baik	good, kind (about people, about how things are going)

Word	Meaning
tidak bagus	not good
jelek	bad, ugly
besar	big
kecil	small
ukuran	size
ukuran besar	large size
ukuran kecil	small size
ukuran pas	the right size
baru	new (about things); recently
lama	old (about things); long (about time)
tua	old (about people), elderly

motor baru - a new motorbike
motor lama - an old motorbike
Berapa lama? - How long?

Buy, sell, pay

Word	Meaning
beli	to buy
jual	to sell
ambil	to take
bayar	to pay

Saya mau beli ini. - I want to buy this.
Saya ambil ini. - I'll take this.
Saya mau bayar. - I want to pay.

How to say "very" and "too"

Very can be said in two ways:

- **sangat** before the adjective: **sangat mahal** - very expensive;
- **sekali** after the adjective: **mahal sekali** - very expensive.

I use sekali more often, because I can decide while I'm talking whether to exaggerate or not.

Too is **terlalu**: **terlalu mahal** - too expensive. This word is very useful for bargaining.

Comparing: more expensive, cheaper

The comparative is made with the word **lebih** (more) before the adjective. “Than” is **daripada**.

lebih mahal - more expensive
lebih murah - cheaper
lebih besar - bigger
Ini lebih murah daripada itu. - This is cheaper than that.

The most

The superlative is made in two ways.

Add the prefix **ter-** to the adjective:

terbagus - the best
termahal - the most expensive

Or put the word **paling** (most) before the adjective:

paling bagus - the best
paling mahal - the most expensive

The prefix ter- also appears in other words with other meanings (for example, **tersenyum** - to smile). With paling you can’t go wrong.

Colours

Word	Colour
hitam	black
putih	white
biru	blue (both dark and light)
merah	red
hijau	green
kuning	yellow
abu-abu	grey (word for word “ash-ash”)
cokelat	chocolate, brown (*coll.* **coklat**)

Let’s bargain

Waduh! Mahal sekali! - Oh! That’s very expensive!
Terlalu mahal. - Too expensive.

Saya tahu harga pas. - I know the fair price. (*coll.* **tau**)
Berapa harga pas? - What is the fair price?
Berapa harga untuk orang lokal? - What is the price for locals?
Bisa kurang, Pak? - Can you make it cheaper, sir?
Boleh kurang, Bu? - Can you make it cheaper, madam?
Pak, tolong kurangi harganya. - Sir, please lower the price.

> **Real-life Indonesian.** On Bali you can call a seller your own age **Bli** (brother). It sounds friendly and helps with bargaining: **Bli, bisa kurang?** - Bro, can you make it cheaper?

Mini quiz 6

1. How do you ask how much this item costs?
2. How do you say “this is cheaper than that”?
3. What is the difference between **sangat mahal** and **lebih mahal**?
4. How do you say “the best” in two ways?
5. What colour is **kuning**, and what colour is **hijau**?

Chapter 7. Food and restaurants

Basic needs

Word	Meaning
mau	to want (I want, you want, he wants, they want…)
perlu	to need (I need, you need and so on)
makan	to eat
minum	to drink
lapar	hungry
haus	thirsty

Saya mau makan. - I want to eat.
Saya mau minum. - I want to drink.
Saya lapar. - I’m hungry.
Saya haus. - I’m thirsty.

Food and drink

The ending **-an** turns a verb into a noun:

makan (to eat) → **makanan** - food
minum (to drink) → **minuman** - drink

What kind of food

Word	Meaning
enak	tasty, delicious
kurang enak	not tasty (polite, word for word “not tasty enough”)
pedas	spicy
tidak pedas	not spicy
panas	hot (temperature)
dingin	cold

The words **tidak pedas** will be very useful if you’re not sure you can handle spicy food.

makanan pedas - spicy food
makanan panas - hot food

minuman dingin - a cold drink
makanan enak - tasty food
makanan tidak pedas - food that isn't spicy

Basic food and drinks

Word	Meaning
nasi	rice (cooked)
sayur	vegetables
daging	meat
ayam	chicken
ikan	fish
telur	egg
buah	fruit
mi	noodles (*coll.* **mie**)
roti	bread
gula	sugar
es	ice
air	water
air putih	drinking water (word for word "white water")
teh	tea
kopi	coffee
jus	juice
es krim	ice cream

> **Real-life Indonesian. Nasi** is only cooked rice. Uncooked rice is no longer nasi, it is **beras**. Just cook the rice, and it already has a new name. And rice still growing in the field is called **padi** (that's where the English word "paddy" comes from).

Like, try

suka - to like, to love
Saya suka nasi, sayur dan daging. - I like rice, vegetables and meat.
Saya tidak makan daging, ikan dan telur. - I don't eat meat, fish or eggs.

coba - to try
Saya mau coba ini. - I want to try this.

At a restaurant

minta - to ask for. It is handy to start any request with this word.

Minta menu. - The menu, please.
Saya mau pesan. - I'd like to order.
Minta satu nasi goreng. - One fried rice, please.
Tidak pakai es. - No ice.
Tidak pakai gula. - No sugar.
Tidak pedas, ya. - Not spicy, OK?
Minta bon. - The bill, please.

Word for word, **tidak pakai** means "don't use". People say it when they want something left out of a dish.

Mini quiz 7

1. How do you say "I'm hungry" and "I want to drink"?
2. How do you ask for food that isn't spicy?
3. What is uncooked rice called, and what is cooked rice called?
4. How do you ask for coffee without sugar?
5. How do you ask for the bill?

Chapter 8. Housing and motorbikes

Where do you live

tinggal - to live, to stay somewhere

Tinggal di mana? - Where do you live?
Tinggal di desa. - I live in a village.
Tinggal di sini. - I live here.
Tinggal di sana. - I live there.
Tinggal di Canggu. - I live in Canggu.
Tinggal di Jimbaran. - I live in Jimbaran.

Streets and houses

Word	Meaning
jalan	street; to walk, to go
jalan-jalan	to go for a walk
jalan raya	main road
gang	lane, alley
pantai	beach
jalan pantai	beach road, the street by the beach
rumah	house
rumah baru	new house
rumah lama	old house
gedung	building

Rooms

Word	Meaning
kamar	room
kamar baru	new room
kamar besar	big room
kamar tidur	bedroom
kamar mandi	bathroom, shower room
kamar anak	children’s room

Word	Meaning
ruang tamu	living room
ruang makan	dining room
dapur	kitchen

Be careful: **kamar kecil** is not used for a small room, because it means toilet.

Renting a room

Ada kamar kosong? - Is there a free room?
Berapa harga per malam? - How much is it per night?
Berapa harga per bulan? - How much is it per month?

Washing

mandi - to wash, to take a shower or a bath

Saya mau mandi. - I want to take a shower.
Apakah kamu sudah mandi? - Have you showered yet?
Saya sudah mandi. - I've already showered.

> **Real-life Indonesian.** You'll be surprised how often your Indonesian friends ask you **Sudah mandi?** It's not because something is wrong with you or you "smell". Asking this is simply a normal thing in Indonesia.

Renting a motorbike

Word	Meaning
sewa	rent; to rent
sewa motor	to rent a motorbike
menyewakan	to rent out
disewakan	for rent (this is what signs say)

Motor disewakan. - Motorbike for rent.
Ada motor disewakan? - Do you have a motorbike for rent?
Berapa harga sewa per hari? - How much is the rent per day?

Don't confuse it with **disewa**: that is said about a motorbike someone has already rented.

Repairs and petrol

Word	Meaning
rusak	broken, broke down
perbaiki	repair it (the word comes from **baik** - good)
servis	repair, service (*coll.*)
bengkel	repair shop
ban bocor	flat tyre
isi	to fill, to top up
isi bensin	to fill up with petrol
isi angin	to pump up a tyre (word for word “fill up with air”)
ganti oli	to change the oil
ganti ban	to change a tyre
cuci motor	to wash a motorbike; motorbike wash

Motor saya rusak. - My motorbike broke down.
Di mana ada bengkel? - Where is there a repair shop?
Tolong perbaiki. - Please repair it.
Saya mau cuci motor. - I want to wash my motorbike.

Mini quiz 8

1. How do you ask “Where do you live?”
2. What does **kamar kecil** mean?
3. You see a sign **Motor disewakan**. What does it mean?
4. How do you say that your motorbike has a flat tyre?
5. How do you ask someone to fill up the petrol?

That’s it. This is enough to get by in your first days: at the market, in a café, at a repair shop and on the road.

Sampai jumpa, dear friends!

Cheat sheet

The most useful phrases on one page.

Situation	Indonesian	English
Politeness	**Selamat pagi / siang / sore / malam**	Good morning / Good day / Good afternoon / Good evening
	Apa kabar? - Baik.	How are you? - Fine.
	Terima kasih. - Sama-sama.	Thank you. - You’re welcome.
	Maaf. / Permisi.	Sorry. / Excuse me.
	Tolong…	Please… (a request)
	Nama saya…	My name is…
	Saya dari…	I’m from…
	Sampai jumpa.	See you.
Understanding	**Saya tidak mengerti.**	I don’t understand.
	Pelan-pelan, ya.	Slowly, please.
	Ya / Tidak	Yes / No
Where and where to	**Di mana…?**	Where is…?
	Di mana ada apotek?	Where is a pharmacy?
	Jauh? - Dekat.	Is it far? - It’s near.
	Belok kiri / kanan, lurus terus.	Turn left / right, then straight on.
	Berhenti di sini.	Stop here.
Is there	**Ada…?**	Is there…? Do you have…?
	Ada air panas?	Is there hot water?
	Ada kamar kosong?	Is there a free room?
Shopping	**Berapa harganya?**	How much is it?
	Mahal sekali! / Terlalu mahal.	Very expensive! / Too expensive.
	Bisa kurang?	Can you make it cheaper?
	Saya ambil ini.	I’ll take this.

Situation	Indonesian	English
	Saya mau bayar.	I want to pay.
Food	**Minta menu.**	The menu, please.
	Saya mau pesan…	I’d like to order…
	Tidak pedas, ya.	Not spicy, please.
	Tidak pakai es / gula.	No ice / no sugar.
	Enak sekali!	Very tasty!
	Minta bon.	The bill, please.
Time	**Jam berapa?**	What time is it? At what time?
	Tunggu sebentar.	Just a moment.
	hari ini / besok / kemarin	today / tomorrow / yesterday
Motorbike	**Ada motor disewakan?**	Do you have a motorbike for rent?
	Berapa harga sewa per hari?	How much is the rent per day?
	Motor saya rusak.	My motorbike broke down.
	Di mana ada bengkel?	Where is a repair shop?
	Isi bensin.	Fill up with petrol.
Help	**Tolong!**	Help!
	Saya perlu dokter.	I need a doctor.
	Di mana rumah sakit?	Where is the hospital?

Answers to the mini quizzes

Mini quiz 1

1. The letter **c**: “CHEEN-tah”.
2. In **meja**. In **besar** the sound is short.
3. **coba** (tj became c).
4. Like “singer”: there is no separate g sound.
5. Your voice stops sharply in the throat: “TEE-dah(k)”.

Mini quiz 2

1. **rumah baru**.
2. I have already had a drink.
3. **makan anjing** - to eat a dog, **anjing makan** - the dog eats.
4. **bukan**: “car” is a noun. **bukan mobil saya**.
5. After banyak the word is not repeated: the correct form is **banyak kota**.

Mini quiz 3

1. **sebelas**, **seratus**, **seribu**.
2. **tiga puluh lima**, **dua ratus lima puluh**, **tujuh puluh lima ribu**.
3. Most likely 50 000 rupiah: at the market people often drop ribu.
4. At 8:30.
5. **lusa**, **Jumat**.

Mini quiz 4

1. **Selamat sore**.
2. **Sama-sama** or **terima kasih kembali**.
3. **kami**: the seller is not part of this “we”.
4. **Ini motor siapa?**
5. To be careful on the road.

Mini quiz 5

1. **Di mana apotek?** or **Di mana ada apotek?**
2. “Where are you going?” You can answer **Jalan-jalan** (just walking around) or name the place: **ke pantai** (to the beach).
3. **Ada air panas?**
4. Turn right, then keep going straight.
5. **ke**: it answers “where to?” **Saya ke pantai.**

Mini quiz 6

1. **Berapa harga ini?** or **Berapa harganya?**
2. **Ini lebih murah daripada itu.**
3. **sangat mahal** - very expensive, **lebih mahal** - more expensive.
4. **paling bagus** and **terbagus**.
5. **kuning** - yellow, **hijau** - green.

Mini quiz 7

1. **Saya lapar. Saya mau minum.** (or **Saya haus.**)
2. **Tidak pedas, ya.** or **makanan tidak pedas**.
3. Uncooked rice is **beras**, cooked rice is **nasi**.
4. **Minta kopi, tidak pakai gula.**
5. **Minta bon.**

Mini quiz 8

1. **Tinggal di mana?**
2. Toilet.
3. Motorbike for rent.
4. **Ban bocor.**
5. **Isi bensin** or **Tolong isi bensin.**