

# **The Quick & Easy**

## **Bahasa Indonesia E-Course**

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## Lesson #1

Pronunciation - Indonesian uses the same characters as English and most letters are pronounced in the same way, so you already have a head start! But the best way to fine tune your pronunciation is by hearing and imitating the pronunciation of native speakers. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you either practice with a real live Indonesian person, if possible, or at least obtain recorded materials so you can become accustomed to the sound of bahasa Indonesia as it is naturally spoken. Doing so will also save you the frustration of trying to unlearn habitual pronunciation errors before they begin. See the Self-Study Resources box at the bottom of the page for some great audio resources.

In the meantime, please review these basic [pronunciation rules](#) (pdf file) for the Indonesian language. To read PDF files, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you need it, click here for [Free Download](#).

Vocabulary - Here are some of the most common words used in everyday situations. Say each word **out loud** at least three times. (Remember that the "a" has an "ah" sound NOT an "ay" sound.) Click on the link for [Lesson #1 Vocabulary List](#)

Conversational Phrases - You will use these expression every day.

Indonesians are known as very friendly people, so learn these phrases well since you will use them often. Read each one out loud.

**Selamat pagi (siang, sore or malam)** = Good morning (afternoon, late afternoon or evening)

**Apa kabar?** = How are you? (Literally, 'what's the news?')

**Kabar baik** = I'm fine. (Literally, 'the news is good')

**Siapa nama anda?** = What is your name?

**Nama saya ....** = My name is ...

**Saya senang bertemu dengan anda.** = I'm happy to meet you.

**Saya juga** = Me too.

**Sampai ketemu** = Good-bye (Literally, 'until we meet again')

Participate - Your turn! Using the vocabulary and the phrases above, answer the following questions. Don't be afraid to be creative! Write your answers out, IN INDONESIAN, then read them out loud. The answers will be provided in the next lesson.

1. Selamat siang! Apa kabar?

2. Siapa nama anda?
  
3. Someone has just given you a cool glass of water to drink. What would you say in gratitude? (remember, you must answer in Indonesian!)
  
4. Your host offers to give you something strange looking to eat. What can you say to politely indicate that you do not want to try it?
  
5. It is time to go home. How will you bid your host farewell?

Supplementary Activity - Tell your friends and family that you are trying to learn a little Indonesian and practice your greetings on them. If you want to make it fun, speak in Indonesian to them with lots of enthusiasm and expectation of a response. Not only is it great fun to see their confused expression, but they might even surprise you and want to learn how to respond in Indonesian as well. If so, you will have a language partner. Be sure to suggest that they sign up for this e-course too!

It is important that you get used to speaking Indonesian out loud as soon as possible, whether you are speaking to those who understand you or not. Verbalizing what you learn will give you more confidence and speed your progress. Be sure to check your pronunciation against that of native speakers as much as possible

(see Self-Study Resources below).

Now you are on your way! Practice what you have learned as you go through your day every day. Why not print out this lesson, as well as your vocabulary list. Carry them you for review while eating meals, waiting in traffic or while placed on hold when making a phone call. Consistent repetition in small doses produces big results!!

### SELF-STUDY RESOURCES

For your first **kamus** (ka-moos = dictionary), we suggest the pocket-sized [Tuttle's Concise Indonesian Dictionary](#) (English-Indonesian and Indonesian-English).

[Indonesian: Start Speaking Today \(Language 30\)](#) is an economical cassette hear-it-then-repeat-it type learning tool that includes two cassettes and a phrase dictionary / study guide booklet.

[Talk Now! Indonesian CD-ROM](#) An economical computer-based program that uses games and quizzes to make the learning process fun and relaxing.

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## Lesson #2

Vocabulary - If in doubt, don't forget to check the pronunciation rules

Especially try to remember that the "a" has an "ah" sound NOT an "ay" sound.

Click here for [Lesson #2 Vocabulary List](#)

Conversation - The following is a typical dialog one might have with a new Indonesian friend. Included in the conversation are some of the words you already began to use in Lesson #1.

Caution: As in most languages, certain combinations of words create phrases that may have a somewhat different meaning together than the words do individually. This is how expressions are formed. See if you can identify the ones included below by their context. Indonesian is a very contextual language. A good phrase book is helpful to learn the most common expressions. See the Resource Box below for our favorite.

**Cerita** (che-ree-ta = story): Sue and Iwan have met at the airport in

Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia.

Using the vocabulary from this lesson as well as lesson #1, see if you can translate this conversation. As you will see, it is not unusual for East to bump into West at times in Indonesia. Do any of the questions Iwan asks Sue seem rather surprising to you?

Don't forget to read the dialog below out loud at least twice.

Iwan: Selamat siang.

Sue: Selamat siang.

Iwan: Apa kabar?

Sue: Kabar baik. Dan anda?

Iwan: Baik, Terima kasih. Nama saya Iwan. Siapa nama anda?

Sue: Nama saya Sue.

Iwan: Ibu Sue dari mana?

Sue: Saya dari Amerika.

Iwan: Selamat datang!

Sue: Terima kasih. Pak Iwan dari sini?

Iwan: Saya dari Bali. Apakah Ibu sudah ke Bali?

Sue: Belum, saya belum ke sana. Apakah Pak Iwan sudah ke Amerika?

Iwan: Ya, saya sudah ke New York.

Sue: Apakah anda suka New York?

Iwan: Ya, saya suka New York. Apakah Ibu Sue sudah menikah?

Sue: Ah.... saya belum menikah!

Iwan: Berapa umur anda?

Sue: Maaf, saya tidak mengerti bahasa Indonesia dengan baik!

Iwan: (with a smile) Anda sudah bicara bahasa Indonesia dengan baik!

Sue: Saya senang bertemu dengan anda.... (said while backing away.)

Iwan: Mau ke mana?

Sue: Jalan-jalan. Sampai ketemu, ya?

Iwan: Sampai ketemu.

This perfectly polite conversation likely felt to Sue like it had turned suddenly into an interrogation. In Indonesia, you may commonly be stopped on the street and asked your age, name, marital status, number of children and so forth at the first meeting of a perfect stranger. Such friendliness should not be taken too seriously and no offense will be taken if you prefer not to give a straight answer. Indonesians are just naturally interested in people, especially foreigners.



Were you able to translate the entire conversation? Does it make sense? The complete translation will be provided in Lesson #3.

Grammatical note - You may have noticed already that Indonesian is a rather simple but functional language. Part of what makes it easy is that it does not contain the form of "to be" that we use in English, such as "am" and "are". Based on the context, this is already understood. If you would like to understand the ins and outs of basic Indonesian grammar, check out the suggested references in the Self-Study Resources box below.

Supplementary Activity - Assuming you have already obtained a dictionary, grab a pad of small sticky notes and look up the names of the items you use during your daily routine around the house or in your office. Write the Indonesian names for those items on the sticky notes and attach them to each item. Every time you see or use those items, say the Indonesian word out loud. The visual, auditory and associated actions combine to impress the new words into your mind both at conscious and subconscious levels.

Answers to Lesson #1 dialog:

1. Selamat siang! Apa kabar?

**Kabar baik.**

2. Siapa nama anda?

**Nama saya ...**

3. Someone has just given you a cool glass of water to drink. What would you say in gratitude?

**Terima kasih.**

4. Your host offers to give you something strange looking to eat. What can you say to politely indicate that you do not want to try it?

**Terima kasih. Tidak.**

5. It is time to go home. How will you bid your host farewell?

**Sampai ketemu.**

## SELF-STUDY RESOURCES

### [Teach Yourself Indonesian: A Complete Course for Beginners](#)

This is a to-the-point academic book that concentrates on the grammatical approach to learning Indonesian. Good to have for reference.

[Lonely Planet Indonesian Phrasebook](#) Our absolute favorite phrasebook because it's so much more! There are entertaining cultural tidbits, as well as invaluable tips sprinkled throughout this pocket-sized book. The grammar section is also a great foundation for your continued study.

For your first **kamus** (ka-moos = dictionary), we suggest the pocket-sized [Tuttle's Concise Indonesian Dictionary](#) (English-Indonesian and Indonesian-English).

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## Lesson #3

Vocabulary - This week we will concentrate on question words, numbers, and a few other functional phrases. Don't forget to check and correct your pronunciation before committing these new words to memory.

Remember to say the words out loud as often as possible.

Click the link to retrieve the [Vocabulary List](#) for Lesson #3

Conversation - Okay, so we promised to show you how to turn the tables on those inquisitive Indonesians. Here's a secret: You can take control of the conversation if YOU ask the questions! Most question words can appear at either the beginning or the end of the sentence. See if you can translate these questions:

1. Anda tinggal di mana?
2. Berapa harga minuman itu?
3. Apakah Ibu di Amerika sudah lama?
4. Pak mau ke mana malam ini?

5. Berapa lama anda belajar bahasa Indonesia?

Now you try. How would you ask these questions in Indonesian?

1. What is your name?

2. How old are you?

3. What do you like to eat?

4. Is this food spicy?

5. When did you arrive?

Supplementary Activities - If you haven't resorted to this already, make your own flash cards using 3 x 5 index cards. Put one new word on each, with its English equivalent on the back. Carry the cards in your pocket wherever you go so they will always be handy. If you don't want to do it yourself, see another option in the Self-Study Resources box at the end of this lesson.

By using time-efficient flash cards, you'll be astounded at how quickly you will learn your weekly vocabulary words (as well as keep the previous lesson's words fresh in your mind). Just glance at one or two cards whenever you have a minute that would otherwise be wasted during your day (while on hold, stuck in traffic, riding

public transportation, etc.), or go through the whole batch of them when you have just 10 or 15 minutes in the morning or evening. Be sure to say each Indonesian word out loud whenever possible. Try to think of simple sentences where you can use the new words.

Lesson #2 Answers:

Iwan: Selamat siang. - **Good day.**

Sue: Selamat siang. - **Good day.**

Iwan: Apa kabar? - **How are you?**

Sue: Kabar baik. Dan anda? - **Fine. And you?**

Iwan: Baik, terima kasih. Nama saya Iwan. Siapa nama anda? - **Fine, thank you. My name is Iwan. What is your name?**

Sue: Nama saya Sue. - **My name is Sue.**

Iwan: Ibu Sue dari mana? - **Where are you from Ms. Sue?**

Sue: Saya dari Amerika. - **I am from America.**

Iwan: Selamat datang! - **Welcome!**

Sue: Terima kasih. Pak Iwan dari sini? - **Thank you. Are you from here Mr. Iwan?**

Iwan: Saya dari Bali. Apakah Ibu sudah ke sana? - **I am from Bali. Have you been there?**

Sue: Belum, saya belum ke Bali. Apakah Pak Iwan sudah ke Amerika? - **No, I've not yet been to Bali. Have you been to America?**

Iwan: Ya, saya sudah ke New York. - **Yes, I've been to New York.**

Sue: Apakah anda suka New York? - **Did you like New York?**

Iwan: Ya, saya suka New York. Apakah Ibu Sue sudah menikah? - **Yes, I like New York. Are you married?**

Sue: Ah....saya belum menikah! - **Ah...I'm not (yet) married.**

Iwan: Berapa umur anda? - **How old are you?**

Sue: Maaf, saya tidak mengerti bahasa Indonesia dengan baik! - **Sorry, I don't understand Indonesian well!**

Iwan: (with a smile) Anda sudah bicara bahasa Indonesia dengan baik! - **You already speak Indonesian well!**

Sue: Saya senang bertemu dengan anda.... (said while backing away.) - **I'm happy to meet you.**

Iwan: Mau ke mana? - **Where are you going?**

Sue: Jalan-jalan. Sampai ketemu, ya? - **Out and about. See you again sometime, okay?**

Iwan: Sampai ketemu. - **See you later.**

Did you notice these expressions?

**Dengan baik** = well (as in able to do something well)

**Jalan-jalan** = to be out and about. A vague answer when someone asks where you are going, which is a VERY common question, even asked of total strangers!

Learner's Tip - Whenever you understand the words that someone has said, but the meaning escapes you, it may be that that word combination forms an expression. Expressions are usually learned with experience, so don't be afraid to let the person speaking to you know that you don't understand ("Maaf. Saya tidak mengerti.") so that they can re-word what they are saying so that you will understand.

### SELF-STUDY RESOURCES

[Indonesian in a Flash](#) A ready-made set of over 400 flash cards with the most common words used in everyday speech. Each card is complete with definitions, derivative forms, and sample sentences in Indonesian and English.

[Instant Indonesian](#) This little book is a cross between flash cards and a phrase book. It teaches you to use 100 key words and phrases to express 1,000 ideas. Its small size makes it very handy.

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## Lesson #4

In Lesson #3 we learned how to count, which like anything, takes quite a bit of practice before you can rip off numbers without really thinking about it. In this lesson we'll get you cracking with some practical ways to use numbers every day!

One important use for numbers is telling the time. Syntax here is important but will become second nature over time (no pun intended 😊).

As you know, the word "jam" means hour. Numbers stated before the word "jam" mean a number of hours, but a number stated after "jam" means the time of day:

**Tiga jam** = three hours

**Berapa jam ke hotel?** = How many hours [does it take to get] to the hotel?

Whereas,

**Jam tiga** = three o'clock (or literally, hour three)

**Jam berapa di hotel?** = What time [will you be] at the hotel?



There are actually several ways of telling time, but the simplest in the beginning is very similar to what you are probably used to already.

The number of minutes after the hour will be understood without any clarification. You only need to use the word "kurang" (which means less) for minutes before the hour.

1:20 = jam satu dua puluh (Twenty minutes after one, or as we say, 'one-twenty'.)

12:40 = jam satu kurang dua puluh (Twenty minutes before one)

You could also get by with expressing 12:40 as jam dua belas empat puluh (twelve-forty) and be understood, though it is not as common.

Numbers are also used for addresses, sizes, dates and of course, prices. If you will be going to Indonesia, you will likely get lots of practice with big numbers, since even modest prices are usually in thousands of rupiah (Indonesian currency). One short-cut for getting by with larger numbers is by spelling them out, as in 354 (tiga-lima-empat for three-five-four).

You can also request that a number be written down ("Tolong tuliskan nomor itu"), which is the quick (but lazy) way out

if you get into a communication pinch. When using written numbers in Indonesia (as in Europe), the comma is used for the decimal. (e.g. 1,325.54 = 1325,54)

Another useful tip is to always remember to use the word "berapa" when asking a question where the answer will include a number, such as for dates, ages and addresses.

Vocabulary - The list of words for this final lesson will fill in a few of the gaps in your frequently-used vocabulary, but it doesn't have to end here! See the Self-Study Resources below for an exciting new way we have cooked up for you to almost effortlessly build your working vocabulary!

Click on the link to get the [Vocabulary List for Lesson #4](#)

Must-have phrases - These phrases will come to your rescue when all else fails.

**Tolong bicara pelan-pelan** = Please speak slowly.

**Tolong bicara itu sekali lagi** = Please say that again.

**Maaf, saya tidak mengerti bahasa Indonesia [dengan baik]** = Sorry, I don't

understand Indonesian [well].

**Apakah anda berbahasa Inggris?** = Can you speak English?

**Apakah anda mengerti?** = Do you understand?

Learning Activity - You now have enough of a working vocabulary to be able to come up with your own phrases and sentences. As you go through your day, try saying things to yourself in Indonesian instead of English in common situations. Whenever you see numbers, say them out loud. Or the next time a telemarketer calls and you don't want what they are selling, you can interrupt them and say:

**"Maaf, saya tidak mau."** (Sorry, I don't want that.)

Then hang up!!

By doing this you will really make your mind work to "pull out of thin air" the words you have been learning. If you stick with it, you will even find yourself beginning to THINK in Indonesian!! The best part is you can do this exercise anytime, anywhere. Get into the habit of actually saying the phrases you make up out loud, whenever possible.

Another great way to keep using and expanding your vocabulary is by stimulating the right side of your brain. Try listening to popular Indonesian music! This is a fun and easy way to learn.

If you spend much time in front of an Internet-connected computer, you can listen to Indonesian radio stations right at your desktop. But if that won't sit well with your boss, there are many CDs available online that you could get to listen to in your car or while exercising. See the Self-Study Resource Box below for more information.

Lesson #3 answers:

1. Anda tinggal di mana? **Where are you staying?**
2. Berapa harga minuman itu? **What is the price of that drink?**
3. Apakah Ibu di Amerika sudah lama? **Have you been in America long?**
4. Pak mau ke mana malam ini? **Where do you want to go tonight?**
5. Berapa lama anda belajar bahasa Indonesia? **How long have you studied Indonesian?**

Ask these questions in Indonesian:

1. What is your name? **Siapa nama anda?**
2. How old are you? **Berapa umur anda?**
3. What do you like to eat? **Anda suka makan apa?**
4. Is this food spicy? **Apakah makanan ini pedas?**
5. When did you arrive? **Kapan anda datang?** or **Anda datang kapan?**

You should be proud of yourself! You've done a great job and are well on your way to becoming a fluent speaker of Indonesian. But just because you have reached the end of this e-course, doesn't mean you should stop your studies!! You have started some great new habits and made amazing progress in only a few short weeks. You are living proof that even if you have a busy schedule, you can still learn this new language.

### SELF-STUDY RESOURCES

Build your vocabulary even if you don't have time to study!!  
Subscribe to our new [Word-A-Day Club](#) and receive a new word via e-mail each and every day. Even the busiest person has time to learn one new word each day. Each new word comes complete with its own definition, related words, and sample sentences. Start increasing your Indonesian vocabulary today! [Click here to join.](#)

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**Ebook BONUS:** Click this link to receive a [Bonus Vocabulary](#) list not included with the e-mail version of this course.

[Hello-Indonesia.com](http://Hello-Indonesia.com) is here to help with your continued language learning! We are constantly adding more interactive language learning resources to our web site. Be sure to visit us often so that you don't get left behind.