

Dear Soon to be ETA,

Congratulations—you're coming to Indonesia!

When you applied to this program, you were not required to have any previous knowledge of the Indonesian language. Indeed, this may have been an early selling point for some of you—I will admit here that it was for me. I am writing this letter, however, to caution you against taking the lack of a language requirement to mean that learning Indonesian will not be critically important to your time here as an ETA.

Although your in-country orientation will include Indonesian language instruction, you will be doing yourself a great favor if you start studying before then. You should expect that most of the students and teachers at your school will not be communicatively competent in English. In some cases, even the English teachers you work with will struggle to communicate with you. The relationships you build within your school, then, will likely hinge on your proficiency in Indonesian. Beyond school, expect that all of your everyday transactions—from ordering a plate of *nasi goreng* to negotiating an appropriate price for your new motorcycle—will also demand at least a basic understanding of the language.

Here are a few places to start:

- Check out the Learning Indonesian podcasts to build up your basics pre-departure
- Tuttle Publishing makes good Indonesian-English dictionaries and phrasebooks
- Get in touch with former ETAs—they will be happy to share more language learning materials and tips with you

Selamat belajar!

Sincerely,

Sarah Munger, ETA 2010-2012, Sumbawa

Survival Bahasa Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

It's hard to motivate yourself to learn a new language when you're sitting comfortably on your couch in America. I know that when I received my grant, I made grand plans: I would spend the summer mastering basic Bahasa Indonesia, so as to ease my transition into a new culture. Unfortunately, life (and laziness) interfered, and I arrived in Indonesia with about ten words of Bahasa Indonesia to my name. The first week at your site will probably be completely overwhelming. You'll be introduced to dozens of people, towed around like a sideshow attraction, and probably be expected to sing current pop standards (do yourself a favor and brush up on your Justin Bieber). If the first week of your grant is during Ramadhan, you will have a lot of free time on your hands, as most people spend the day resting to save their strength as they fast. I desperately wanted to use that time learning Bahasa Indonesia, but didn't know where to start. So the ETAs of 2011-2012 have put together a Survival Bahasa Indonesia guide – what we wished we had known in the first day, first week, and first month of learning the language. Hopefully these phrases will make you feel a little more comfortable as you begin to figure out your life in Indonesia.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record through this guide, it is impossible to overestimate how much behavior, vocabulary and pronunciation vary by island, region, and village. In the process of putting together this guide, as different ETAs reviewed and revised this guide, the phrase, "Well, at my site..." was repeated countless times. We have tried to make this guide as neutral as possible, but as soon as you get to your site and start listening to how people talk, please feel free to disregard anything we say here in favor of adopting your local customs. The more you sound like a native of that area, the easier it will be for you to integrate. Indonesia's fascinating diversity is strongly reflected in its varied languages, so celebrate that and enjoy the journey.

Kathryn McNamara, ETA 2011-2012, Bandung, West Java

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NOTE ON PRONUNCIATION: Bahasa Indonesia can be read like English for the most part, but there are a few inconsistencies. "C" is always pronounced as a "Ch" sound, such as "Cheese." So **cukup**, meaning "enough," is pronounced "chookoop." The vowels are long vowels, so "A" has an "aah" sound; imagine a British newsman saying "ambiance," instead of the American "a" of "alley." "E" has the "ey" sound of "hey," but it can also sound like "uh," and sometimes the sound is almost undetectable. "I" sounds like "E," so "ice" read from an Indonesian perspective would be pronounced "ee-chey." "U" is also a long sound, like the "U" in "uniform," not the "uh" in "unfamiliar." "R" is rolled, like "arriba!" in Spanish. If there is a "K" at the end of the word, it indicates an abrupt cutoff to the vowel before it (linguists will

know it as a glottal stop – imagine yourself saying the word “bottle” in a Cockney accent. “G” is usually a hard sound, so “**pagi-pagi**” (early morning) is “paggee,” not “paji.” “Ng” appears in many Bahasa Indonesia words, and is difficult for many of us foreigners to pronounce – although we do it all the time in the middle or at the end of words, as in the examples of “sing” or “ringing.” The difference is that in Bahasa Indonesia this sound is much more common and often appears at the beginning of words . Try practicing words like “**ngomong**” – to talk – and getting the sound correct. Bahasa Indonesia is also very phonetic once you know the basic sounds, so don’t be surprised to see English words used in interesting ways – the “semen” signs adorning many roads are in fact advertising cement!

Note on word stress: While it can vary wildly, the standard prescription is that the stress falls on the second-to-last syllable – “**menikMAti**” (to enjoy, have fun), “**keluARga**” (family), “**deLApan**,” (eight), “**seKArang**” (now) – unless the second-to-last syllable is built around an “e,” in which case it moves to the end – **beSAR**, **keCIL**, **bekerJA** – and unless it’s given an accent mark (**Bahasa IndonEsia** has an accent mark on the “e”). And that first syllables that include “e”s almost always lose them in spoken language - “**selamat**” becomes “**slamat**,” “**keras**” (strong, violent) becomes “**kras**.”

## 1) BASIC GREETINGS

Depending on the site you’re placed in, greetings may vary. For example, at my *madrasah* (Islamic school), you do not enter a room without first saying, “**Asalaamu aleikum**,” to which everyone in the room replies perfunctorily, “**Waaleikum salaam**,” the traditional Arabic greetings for “Peace be upon you,” “And also with you.” You’ll soon figure out what is most common in your area, and you should be cautious at first because, while generally warmly-received, in some areas use of this phrase by non-Muslims is offensive. But wherever you go in Indonesia, there are basic greetings that will never go amiss.

- **Selamat** = Congratulations, but when coupled with a time of day, it means “good.” This is one of the words where the sound of the first “e” is almost undetectable, so the words ends up sounding like “slaa-mat.”
- **Selamat pagi** = Good morning (from early morning until about 10am)
- **Selamat siang** (pronounced “see-ang”) = Good day (from about 10 am to 3pm)
- **Selamat sore** (pronounced “soray”) = Good afternoon (from about 3pm to 6pm, or whenever it starts to get dark)
- **Selamat malam** = Good evening (from dusk through the night)
- **Asalaamu aleikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu** = this is the longer and more formal Islamic greeting. If you teach at a Muslim school, you will begin and end every class, meeting and activity with this greeting, so it helps to know. The first part, **Asalaamu aleikum**, is “peace be upon you,” and **wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu** means “and the grace of God and His blessing” in Arabic.

In America, we tend to quietly enter rooms in order to not disturb whatever activity is going on. In Indonesia, it is considered rude to not greet everyone, particularly if you haven't seen them yet that day. So err on the side of shaking hands with everyone, or at least nodding and smiling. You can follow up your greeting with "**Apa kabar?**" "How are you?" and its reply, "**Baik-baik saja,**" or just "**baik,**" "Fine."

When leaving, you have a lot of options. Again, in an Islamic community, **Asalaamu aleikum** works well when you are leaving, especially when addressing a large group. For non-Islamic contexts, most of the farewells are variations on each other that you can mix and match:

- **Sampai nanti** = Until later, see you later
- **Sampai jumpa lagi** (or simply **jumpa lagi**) = Until the next meeting, see you later
- **Dada** (informal, only use for friends and contemporaries) = Bye!

## 2) PLEASE AND THANK YOU

Indonesians do not use "please" in the same way that we do in English. The literal translation of please, "**tolong,**" is closer to a plea (**Tolong bantu saya!** = Please help me!). In fact, when the root word "tolong" is used as a verb ("menolong") it means "to help." To be polite when asking something, such as when ordering food, or asking someone to pass the **sambal** (spicy chili paste that adorns every Indonesian meal), you should use **minta**, which conveys that you are asking someone to do something for your benefit. So at a restaurant, asking the waiter, "**Boleh saya minta nasi goreng?**" "May I please have the fried rice?" appropriately expresses "please." If you are conveying politeness to someone else, such as "Please, sit down," you use **Silahkan**, so **Silahkan, duduk**, is "please, sit down," and **Silahkan, masuk**, is "Please, come in." "Thank you" is **Terima kasih**, which we use the same way as in English, as is **sama sama**, "You're welcome." If someone is apologizing to you for a problem or mistake, a quick **tidak apa-apa!**, "No problem!" will do.

## 3) **SUDAH** (or **UDAH**) – ALREADY; **BELUM** – NOT YET

It's hard to overestimate the importance of these two words. You can conduct an entire conversation based around them. "**Sudah**" and "**belum**" usually go in front of a verb. They are frequently used as conversation starters. Where we would make small talk about the weather, Indonesians ask about your personal habits. So get used to having your answers down pat.

- **Sudah makan?** = Have you eaten already?
  - **Ya, sudah** = Yes, I have eaten
  - **Belum makan** (or just **belum**)

A frequent variation is **Sudah makan apa?** or What have you eaten? You can respond with **Sudah makan** plus the name of the food, i.e., **nasi** (rice), **sayur** (vegetables), **buah-buahan** (fruit), **roti** (bread), **mie** (noodles), etc. So you would say, **Sudah makan nasi sama sayur**, or I ate rice with vegetables.

**\*\*Cultural note\*\*** This doesn't apply everywhere, but in most places in Indonesia, rice is the main staple. If you haven't eaten rice yet, it means that you haven't eaten. So do yourself a favor and lie when someone asks at 7am, **Sudah makan nasi?** Just go ahead and say **sudah**.

- **Sudah mandi?** = Have you showered?
  - **Sudah** = Yes, I have showered
  - **Belum** = Nope, not yet

Note: Some ETAs wanted to stress the importance of replying **belum**, "not yet," instead of **tidak**, "no," to these questions. In the U.S., if someone asked if you had showered, "no" is a perfectly acceptable answer. However, if you answer **tidak** instead of **belum** in response to **Mr. Rem, sudah mandi?**, people may take it to mean that Rem never bathes!

- **Sudah menikah/kawin/berkeluarga?** = Are you already married?
  - **Ya, sudah** = Yes, I am married
  - **Belum menikah/kawin/berkeluarga** (or just **belum**) = Heck no

You will get this question all the time. Dating, relationships and marital status are some of the favorite subjects and fodder for gossip. So be prepared to have an answer when people ask **Kenapa/mengapa belum kawin?**, Why aren't you married yet? I used a variety of excuses, which got more convincing as my Bahasa Indonesia improved. But a good standard is **Saya masih muda/Saya terlalu muda** (I'm still young/I'm too young). Be careful when saying **muda** not to pronounce it **mudah**, which means easy, as in the opposite of difficult.

The other inevitable question – from your students, teachers, neighbors, people on the street – is **Sudah punya pacar?** or just **Punya pacar?** meaning, Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend? If you do (**sudah**), be prepared to share details. If you don't (**belum**), be prepared for people to suggest that you find someone here (perhaps themselves), or to offer their unmarried family members, neighbors and coworkers as potential matches.

#### 4) BASIC PRONOUNS

- **Saya** (or **aku** for speaking to friends, students, children – anyone informal) = I
  - **Saya suka makan nasi goreng** = I like to eat fried rice
- **Anda** (Always capitalized to show respect, or **kamu** for speaking to friends, students, children – anyone informal) = You
  - **Apakah Anda mahasiswa?** = Are you a university student?
- **Dia** = He/She
  - **Di mana Pak Harun? Dia di ruang guru.** = Where is Mr. Harun? He is in the teacher's room.
- **Kita** = We (including the person you are speaking to)
  - **Kita mau ke pasar tradisional** = We are going to the traditional market.
- **Kami** = We (excluding the person you are talking to)

- **Di Amerika, kami merayakan ulang tahun Martin Luther King, Jr.** = In America, we (meaning Americans) celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday.
- **Kalian** = You (plural)
  - **Kalian harus belajar Bahasa Inggris** = You all should study English.
- **Mereka** = They
  - **Mereka baru datang dari Jakarta** = They just came from Jakarta.

Note: Titles are often used in place of names and pronouns in Indonesia, and many people refer to themselves in the third person using their titles. Listen to the people around you and note how they address their superiors, peers, and friends and take your cues from them. For example, an older woman speaking to you might say, **Ibu baru pulang dari sekolah**, meaning that she herself just got home from school. Your friend Nolis may say, **Mau tidur di rumah Nolis?** to ask if you want to sleep at her house. Many of the titles may be from your local language, and so will be site-specific. You can always ask people what they want to be called, but for the most part, err on the side of being more formal and using titles in place of pronouns.

#### 5) IBU AND BAPAK - Addressing people around you

It's a good bet that it will take some time to learn everyone's names. Luckily, Bahasa Indonesia offers a great cop-out. Any woman older than you should be addressed as **Ibu**, even if you know her name. So **Ibu** (or **Bu**) Sry, **Ibu** Yati, **Ibu** Jane. Men are the same, only using **Bapak** or **Pak**: **Pak** Hanan, **Pak** Abidin, **Pak** Irfan.

- **Mbak** = young woman
- **Mas** = young man

Each region will have its own variations on these titles, especially if people use a local language more frequently than Bahasa Indonesia. But you can't go wrong with these.

#### 6) BASIC QUESTION WORDS

- **Siapa** = Who?
  - **Permisi Ibu, siapa nama?** = Excuse me ma'am, what is your name? (Note that in Indonesia, you say "Who's your name?" and not "What's your name?" when speaking of people. If you are asking the name of a place, for example, you would say, "**Jalan ini, apa namanya?**" or "This street, what is it called?"
- **Apa** = What?
  - "**Anisa, lagi (or sedang, if more formal) apa?**" = "Anisa, what are you doing now?"
- **Kapan** = When?
  - "**Kapan pulang ke America?**" = "When will you go back home to America?"
    - Only use "kapan for questions." If you want to say, "When I was a child," use **Waktu, ketika, or saat** – "**Waktu saya anak...**"
- **Di mana** = Where?

- **“Permisi, di mana stasiun kereta api?”** = “Excuse me, where is the train station?”
- **Dari mana?** = From where?
  - **Anda berasal dari mana?** = Where are you originally from?
- **Kenapa/mengapa** = Why?
  - **“Kenapa Bu Nenden tidak ikut?”** = “Why is Mrs. Nenden not coming with us?”
- **Bagaimana/gimana** = How?
  - **“Bagaimana kegiatan yang kemarin?”** = “How was the activity yesterday?”
- **Berapa** = How many/much?
  - **Berapa umur?** = How old are you?
    - Note: In many contexts where we would use other interrogatives, Indonesians use **berapa**. For example, “How long will the event last?” = **Berapa lama acaranya berjalan?** Or “What is your phone number?” = **Berapa nomor hape Anda?**
- **Jam berapa** = What time?
  - **“Kelas mulai jam berapa?”** = “Class starts at what time?”
- **Ada** = Is there?/There is
  - **Ada** is not strictly a question word, but it is extremely helpful in daily life. You can frame it as a question – **“Ada bubur ayam?”** “Is there chicken porridge?” (typical breakfast food) - or as a statement – **“Ada,”** “Yes, there is.” People will often ask you questions about daily life in America, such as **“Di Amerika, ada macet?”** “In America, are there traffic jams?” You can either reply **“ada,”** or **“tidak ada,”** “there is/are,” or “there is/are not.”

When approaching someone to ask a question, the most polite way is to say, **“Ibu/Bapak, boleh tanya...?”** or “Ma’am/Sir, may I ask...?” They will usually nod or smile encouragingly, and then you can proceed with your question. Remember to thank them with **“Terima kasih!”**

## 7) BASIC QUESTIONS

Indonesian small talk is quite different than the small talk we’re used to. At times, commonly asked questions can seem rather invasive to Americans. However, most Indonesians will become very curious about you once they hear that you’re American. Below are some common questions and some easy answers. Don’t feel pressed to answer every question that comes your way; answer what you feel comfortable answering.

For example, don’t be surprised when people you have just met ask for your phone number – **Minta nomor hape** (from **HP**, handphone) **Anda**. You will develop your own system for dealing with these requests – some ETAs had two phones, one just for students and random acquaintances, some refused to give out their numbers, etc. It is important to be open and accessible, but people will also text and call you ALL the time, so it is essential to strike a balance so you don’t feel overwhelmed.

- **Dari mana/Asli mana?** = Where do you come from?
  - **Saya dari/asli Amerika.**

- **Sudah berapa lama di sini?/Berapa tahun di sini?** = How long have you been here?/How many years have you been here?
  - **Saya sudah tinggal di sini delapan bulan** = I have lived here for four months.
  - **Baru empat bulan** = Just four months.
- **Anda tinggal dimana?/Dimana tinggalan anda?** = Where do you live?
  - **Saya tinggal di Jl. Borobudur** = I live on Jl. Borobudur (If you're not comfortable giving your exact street address, you can give the name of the area)
  - **Maaf, saya belum tahu nama desa/perumahan/alamat.** = Sorry, I don't know the name of the village/neighborhood/address yet.
- **Tadi dari mana saja?** = Where did you just come from?
  - Baru dari sekolah = I just came from school
- **Mau ke mana?** = Where are you headed?
- **Ke mana saja** = To where-ever (a vague, but perfectly acceptable answer – the back-and-forth of conversation is more important than your answer usually). You can also put verbs here, such as **ke makan siang** = lunch/to eat lunch
- **Mau pulang?** = Are you going home/Do you want to go home?
  - **Belum** = Not yet
  - **Ya, saya mau pulang** = Yes, I want to go home/Yes, I am going home.
  - **Ya, permisi, saya pulang dulu** = Yes, excuse me. I am going home before you.

Note: In some Indonesian cultures, it is considered undesirable to leave before someone else or to be the first to leave. Ease your way out of a difficult or boring situation using **Saya pulang dulu/Saya pergi dulu**, meaning that you are taking leave of someone.

Note: if you are placed in a small town, it is likely that most people will know where you live after a few months. At that point, the questioner is no longer asking because they are curious, but because they want to know if their information is correct. Regardless of your efforts to control this information, your fellow teachers usually have no problem giving your address to complete strangers.

- **Anda agama mana?** = What is your religion?
  - **Agama saya Kristen/Katolik/Yahudi/Islam/Budha/Hindu/Agnostis/Ateis** = My religion is Christian, Catholic, Jewish, Islam, Buddhist, Hindu, Agnostic, Atheist
  - **Saya percaya pada Tuhan** = I believe in God.

Note: Many people in Indonesia see Catholicism and Christianity (which refers to Protestant sects) as different religions. If you choose to rectify this misconception, it is easiest to compare the two to Shiite (Shi'a) and Sunni Islam: one religion, two different ways of going about it.

Many people will assume you are Christian because you are from the U.S., and might not ask this question. However, be prepared to lie about your religion if you consider yourself Jewish, Agnostic, or Atheist. Some Muslims are openly antisemitic, and most Indonesians disapprove of those who doubt or do not believe in a deity of some sorts. This subject will be examined during in-country orientation.

## 8) NEGATING THINGS

The two most common ways to negate things in Bahasa Indonesia are **tidak** (or **nggak**, **gak**, or **ndak**), and **bukan**. **Tidak** is for verbs and adjectives, **bukan** is for nouns. It sounds like a strange delineation, but you'll soon get used to it.

An easy way to think about it is that **bukan** means "not a..." So if someone asks you while shopping, "**Anda mau yang mana? Yang ini?**", or "Which one do you want? This one?" You can say, "**Bukan, saya mau yang itu,**" or "No, I want that one." Or if you're spied out in the street with a friend of the opposite gender and a busybody slyly asks, "**Pacarmu?**" or "Your boyfriend/girlfriend?" you can firmly reply, "**Bukan**" – "Not my boyfriend/girlfriend."

As for **tidak**, you just place it in front of a verb or adjective, just like you're using **sudah** or **belum**. So if someone asks, "**Kemarin, anda pergi ke sekolah?**" "Yesterday, did you go to school?", you can simply reply, "**Tidak.**" Or to give more information, "**Tidak, kemarin saya di rumah,**" "No, yesterday I was at home." For adjectives, the same applies. When one of your students asks, "**Miss, Justin Bieber ganteng banget, ya?**" "Miss, Justin Bieber is so handsome, isn't he?", you can say "**Dia tidak ganteng, dia terlalu muda,**" "He's not handsome, he's too young." (Although in this case, it's probably best to lie to avoid seeing your students' crestfallen expressions, and say "**Oh ya, saya setuju, dia ganteng banget,**" "Oh yes, I agree, he is so very handsome").

## 9) NOMOR-NOMOR DAN TAWAR-MENAWAR (Numbers and bargaining)

- **Nol/Kosong** = zero; **Satu** = one; **Dua** = two; **Tiga** = three; **Empat** = four; **Lima** = five; **Enam** = six; **Tuju** = seven; **Delapan** (or just **lapan**) = eight; **Sembilan** = nine
- **Sepuluh** = ten ; **Sebelas** = eleven; **Dua belas** = twelve, **Tiga belas** = thirteen, **Empat belas** = fourteen, **Lima belas** = fifteen ...**Sembilan belas** = nineteen
- **Dua puluh** = twenty; **Dua puluh satu** = twenty one, **Dua puluh dua** = twenty two...**Dua puluh sembilan** = twenty nine
- **Tiga puluh** = thirty, **Empat puluh** = forty...**Sembilan puluh** = ninety
- **Seratus** = one hundred
- **Dua ratus** = two hundred, **Tiga ratus** = three hundred...**Sembilan ratus** = nine hundred
- **Seribu** = one thousand
- **Dua ribu** = two thousand, **Tiga ribu** = three thousand...**Sembilan ribu** = nine thousand
- **Seratus ribu** = one hundred thousand
- **Satu juta** = one million, **Dua juta** = two million, **Tiga juta** = three million, etc.

For most of us ETAs, we will quite obviously stick out as foreigners. As such, many people will try to give you the **harga bulai** (foreigner price). It's a good idea to go shopping with an Indonesian friend if you're going to the market until you get a sense of prices and you know when you're being cheated.

- **Berapa harganya?** = How much is it?

- **Permissi Mbak, berapa harganya buku itu?** = Excuse me miss, how much is that book?
- **Mahal** = expensive
  - **Harga itu terlalu mahal, Pak!** = That price is too expensive, sir!
- **Murah** = cheap
  - **Apa yang paling murah?** = What is the cheapest item?
- **Melihat-lihat** = just looking
  - **Saya melihat-lihat saja, Ibu** = I'm just looking, ma'am.
- **Wisawatan** = tourist
  - **Bapak, saya tinggal di sini, saya bukan wisatawan** = Sir, I live here, I am not a tourist.
- **Saya mau yang ini** = I want this one (can use when buying an item or ordering food)

#### 10) MENJELASKAN KELUARGA ANDA – DESCRIBING YOUR FAMILY

Definitely bring pictures of your family, either in hard copy or on your laptop. Not only will they be great for using in lessons, but people will love to “meet” your family members and get a sense of where you come from – parents, siblings, pets, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors. So it’s a good idea if you can talk about them.

- **Ibu** = mother, **Bapak/ayah** = father
- **Saudara laki laki** = brother
- **Saudara perempuan** = sister

Bahasa Indonesia gets quite specific with family members, and it can be confusing at first. **Saudera** means “sibling.” Adding **laki laki** (male) or **perempuan** (female) just specifies gender. More commonly, you use their age and gender in relation to you.

- **Saya punya satu adik laki laki** = I have one younger brother.
- **Saya punya empat adik perempuan** = I have four younger sisters.
- **Saya punya tiga kakak laki laki** = I have three older brothers.
- **Saya punya dua kakak perempuan** = I have two older sisters.

Possession in Bahasa Indonesia is quite simple – just put the pronoun behind the noun. So “my younger brother” would be **adik laki laki saya**. “Your mother” would be **ibu anda**. “He” and “she” are a bit different - “Her/his father” would be **bapaknya**, or **bapak dia**. “Our friend” would be **teman kita** or **teman kami** depending on if you include the person you are speaking to.

- **Nénék** = grandmother; **Kakek** = grandfather
- **Paman** = uncle; **Bibi** = aunt; **Sepupu** = cousin

## 11) ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS

Transportation in every site will be totally different. In Bandung, I use **angkot** to get everywhere – wonderfully cheap public vans that use fixed routes and stop whenever someone shouts “**Kiri!**” Other ETAs in more rural sites found it necessary to buy motorbikes to be more independent, or used taxis, **ojek** (local motorcycle drivers for hire), **becak** (bicycle carts) or **bemo** (public vans) in their daily life. People are usually very kind and helpful in helping you get where you need to go, but expect some hassle in getting a local price from taxi and ojek drivers when they see that you are a **bulai** (foreigner).

- **Permisi, di mana Jalan Dago?** = Excuse me, where is Dago street?
- **Saya mau ke SMA 6...gimana?** = I want to go to High School No. 6...how do I get there?
- **Pak, lewat Jalan Cijerah?** = Sir, does this route pass by Cijerah Street?
- **Saya di Antapani, bagaimana pulang ke Sukajadi?** = I am in Antapani, how do I get home to Sukajadi?
- **Belok** = turn
- **Kiri** = left; **Kanan** = right; **Lurus/terus** = straight
- **Sebelah kanan/kiri** = the right/left side
- **Maju** = go forwards
- **Mundur** = go backwards
- **Di sana** = there (referring to somewhere far away)
- **Di situ** = there (referring to somewhere within your sight)
- **Di sini** = here
- **Dekat** = near
- **Jauh** = far
- **Saya tersesat/hilang** = I am lost
- **Saya bingung** = I am confused

## 12) CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

Of course, the most ideal situation as an English Teaching Assistant is when you can use English in the classroom. But sometimes, if your students lack a grasp of even basic vocabulary, or you need help illustrating your directions, it helps to throw in a few words of Bahasa Indonesia to clear things up.

- **Berdiri** = Stand up!
- **Duduk** = Sit down!
- **Melingkungi/Buat lingkaran** = Make a circle!
- **Mohon perhatian** = Please pay attention!
- **Berikan pada saya** = Give it to me
- **Kembalikan** = Turn in, give back
- **Dengar** = Listen
- **Tulis** = Write
- **Baca** = Read

- **Katakan** = Say, speak out
- **Jangan tulis, dengar saja** = Don't write, just listen
- **Minggu yang lalu, apa yang kita pelajari? Siapa yang bisa memberitahu saya?** = Last week, what did we study? Who can tell me?
- **Harap diingat, berpartisipasi/aktif di kelas merupakan bagian dari nilaimu** = Please keep in mind, participation counts as a part of your grade
- **Jangan malu-malu kucing/Harus berani** = Don't be shy, speak up!
- **Apakah kalian memahami aturannya?** = Do you understand the directions?
- **Kita akan menulis paragraf, dengan minimal lima kalimat** = We are going to write a paragraph with a minimum of five sentences
- **Sudah bérés tugasnya, belum?** = Are you finished with the assignment, or not yet?
- **Kenapa kamu tidak menyelesaikan pekerjaan rumah (PR) ?** = Why did you not complete the homework?

### 13) SEXUAL HARRASSMENT - USEFUL PHRASES

We felt it was important to write this section because of what ETAs our year experienced. Not all of the female ETAs were sexually harassed, and for the most part, ETAs reported feeling safer in Indonesia than in American cities. Most of the attention you receive as a *bulé* (foreigner) will be overwhelmingly positive. We sincerely hope that you will not have to deal with any sort of unwanted attention. However, if the situation arises, remember that this is Indonesia, and the way we might conduct ourselves in America, like a direct brush-off, may not be the best solution here.

The most effective thing you can do is to form good relationships with the people in your community. Get to know your neighbors, particularly your RT (neighborhood head), if you can. Make friends with your local transportation guys, such as *ojeg* drivers. If someone is bothering you, and you let an influential group of neighbors know, they will likely deal with the problem for you. The same goes for teachers and administrators at school. Have several phone numbers you can call in an emergency for people who can be at your door in a minute or less, both men and women.

Dress also plays a very important role in how you are perceived. Customs vary by each individual community, but until you are sure what is appropriate to wear, err on the side of being conservative – long skirts or pants, long or three-quarter sleeves, nothing too tight or suggestive. Wear a scarf to cover your chest if you wear a low-cut shirt. Indonesian girls can and do wear a variety of styles, but as Americans, we are often held to a different standard. Showing respect by your community will cause them to have greater respect for you.

Following, cat-calling, or being outright threatening is NOT acceptable behavior in Indonesia, and you should make it very clear that you know such behavior is inappropriate. Duck into a nearby shop or *warung* (food stall) if you are out, call your neighbors if you are at home. But when all else fails, here are some stock phrases you can use to deflect someone who is coming on too strong. It will be up to you to decide whether a polite deflection will handle the situation, or whether you feel truly threatened and need to make a scene.

- **Pak, budaya Hollywood tidak biasa di Amerika** = Hollywood customs aren't typical in America.
- **Saya orang beragama, ini tidak sopan** = I am a nice, God-fearing person, this is inappropriate (doesn't have to be true, but may make him think twice about bothering you)
- **Saya tidak mengikuti cara itu/Maaf, itu bukan gayaku** = I don't do things like that
- **Saya tidak nyaman/Saya takut** = I am uncomfortable/scared
- **Pak/Ibu, minta bantuan? Orang ini melecehkan/mengikuti saya! Tolong suruh pergi** = Can you please help me? This man is harassing/following me! Please make him go away.
- **Jangan lakukan itu! Pergi!** = Don't do that! Go away!
- **Jangan sentuh saya!** = Don't touch me!
- **Tolong lepaskan!** = Let go of me!
- **Maling!/Copet! Dia curi barang aku!** = Thief/pickpocket! He/she took my stuff! (Shouting **maling** may draw a crowd, the equivalent of shouting "Fire!" in the U.S.)

Again, it is very, very unlikely that you will ever be in a situation where using these expressions will be necessary. But a handbook on "Survival Bahasa Indonesia" wouldn't be complete without some guidance on what to do if you feel threatened.

## GLOSSARY

### 14) COMMONLY USED VERBS

Verbs in Bahasa Indonesia start out with a root, such as “**baca**,” and the prefixes and suffixes attached determine the exact meaning. So “**membaca**” is “to read,” “**dibacakan**,” is the passive construction “was read,” etc. For the most part in casual daily conversation, you can shed the complex grammar and just use the root. So “**Saya suka baca**,” is “I like to read.” To make a verb passive, just add **di** to the root. So **Buku ini sudah dibaca** means “This book has already been read.”

This is obviously oversimplified, as Bahasa Indonesia has a nuanced and complex system for verbs, depending on what prefixes and suffixes you add. You’ll discover it on your own as you go along and begin to figure out patterns though. For example, **meninggal** = to pass away/die; **meninggalkan** = to leave a person/place; **tertinggal** = accidentally left behind; **ketinggalan** = accidentally left behind.

Another good example, which illustrates the linguistic pitfalls you will occasionally fall into despite your best intentions, is based on the root **malu**, “shy/embarrassed/ashamed.” **malu-malu** = coy; **memalukan** = embarrassing; **mempermalukan** = to make embarrassed; **kemaluan** = genitals (similar to English, “privates”!)

Like **sudah** (already) and **belum** (not yet), entire conversations can be constructed around two Bahasa Indonesian verbs: **boleh** (translating to “may,” such as “May I?”, asking permission) and **bisa** (“can,” asking if it is possible to do something). If you don’t have the exact words for a situation, all you have to do is nod or point to what you want, and ask **Boleh?** The person you are asking will either reply, **boleh**, meaning, “Of course, go ahead,” or **tidak boleh**, meaning “No, you may not.” Same goes with **bisa**. So if you are at the laundry and need to get your clothes washed, you can ask the shopkeeper, **Baju ini bisa dicuci?** or “Can these clothes be washed?” Most likely, you will get a **bisa** in reply.

- **Ambil** = to take
  - **Silahkan, ambil minuman** = Please, help yourself to a drink
- **Baca** = to read
  - **Saya suka baca buku aksion, seperti Harry Potter** = I like to read action books, like Harry Potter
- **Bawa** = to bring
  - **PR bisa dibawa besok, kan?** = You can bring the homework (**pekerjaan rumah**) tomorrow, right? (Literally: The homework can be brought tomorrow, right?)
- **Bayar** = to pay
  - **Permisi, bayar di mana?** = Excuse me, where do I pay?
- **Belajar** = to study
  - **Saya lagi belajar Bahasa Indonesia** = I am currently studying Bahasa Indonesia
- **Beli** = to buy

- **Saya mau beli yang itu** = I want to buy that one
- **Berangkat** = to leave
  - **Maaf, Pak Nia sudah berangkat** = Sorry, Mr. Nia already left.
- **Bicara** = to speak
  - **Saya bisa bicara Bahasa Indonesia, tapi sedikit saja** = I can speak Bahasa Indonesia, but only a little.
- **Bilang** = to say, to tell
  - **Putri bilang ke saya kalau ada promo di Matahari** = Putri told me that there is a sale at Matahari (Indonesian department store)
- **Buat/bikin/lakukan** = to do/make
  - **Apa yang kamu lakukan?** = What are you going to do about it?
  - **Saya lagi bikin kue** = I'm making a cake
    - **Lakukan** is more formal, **bikin** and **buat** are more slang
- **Cari/nyari** = to look for, to search for
  - **Aku cari Bu Lilis, ada di sini?** = I'm looking for Mrs. Lilis, is she here?
- **Cuci** = to wash, to clean
  - **Hari ini, saya harus cuci rumah** = Today, I have to clean my house
- **Datang** = to come, to arrive
  - **Waktu saya datang ke Indonesia, saya tidak bisa bicara Bahasa Indonesia!** = When I came to Indonesia, I couldn't speak Bahasa Indonesia!
- **Dengar** = to hear, to listen
  - **Saya selalu bangun pagi-pagi ketika saya dengar Azhan** = I always wake up early in the morning when I hear Azhan (the call to prayer from the mosque)
- **Duduk** = to sit
  - **Boleh duduk di sini?** = May I sit here?
- **Habis** = to be finished, used up
  - **Airnya sudah habis, kita harus bawa lagi** = This water is all gone, we need to bring some more.
- **Harus** = must, should, have to
  - **Saya harus belajar lagi** = I need to study some more
- **Hidup** = to live, to be alive
  - **Suaminya masih hidup? Tidak, dia janda** = Is her husband still living? No, she is a widow
- **Hilang** = to lose, to misplace
  - **Aduh, kunci saya hilang!** = Oh no, my key is lost!
- **Ikut** = to join
  - **Kami akan ke cinema, mau ikut?** = We (excluding the person you're talking to) are going to the cinema, want to come?
- **Jalan-jalan** = to walk around, to go out
  - **Ayo, mari kita jalan-jalan!** = Come on, let's go do something!
- **Jatuh cinta** = to fall in love

- **Nadia gila banget karena dia baru jatuh cinta** = Nadia is so crazy, because she just fell in love
- **Jemput** = to pick up (transportation)
  - **Mas, saya di bandara, bisa jemput?** = I'm at the airport, can you pick me up? (to a young man)
- **Jual** = to sell
  - **Pak, lagi jual apa?** = Sir, what are you selling?
- **Kerja** = to work
  - **Bapak kerja di mana?** = Where do you work? (to a man)
- **Keluar** = to go out
  - **Bu Ika tadi keluar** = Mrs. Ika just left.
- **Kembali** = to return, to go back
  - **Saya akan kembali ke America pada bulan Mei** = I will go back to America in May.
- **Kenal** = to meet, to become acquainted with
  - **Ibu, sudah kenal Pak Rafi?** = Ma'am, have you already met Mr. Rafi?
- **Ketemu** = to meet, to encounter
  - **Aku tadi ketemu Gil di Jalan Soekarno-Hatta** = I just saw Gil at Soekarno-Hatta St.
- **Khawatir** = to worry
  - **Jangan khawatir, daerah ini aman sekali** = Don't worry, this area is very safe
- **Kirim** = to send
  - **Saya minta kirim surat ini ke America** = I want to send this letter to America.
- **Kumpul** = to gather, meet
  - **Mari kumpul besok, ya?** = Let's get together tomorrow, ok?
- **Lihat** = to see
  - **Tanpa kacamata, saya tidak bisa lihat apa-apa!** = Without my glasses, I can't see anything!
- **Main** (pronounced ma-yn) = to play
  - **Kamu tahu main badminton?** = Do you know how to play badminton?
- **Makan** = to eat
  - **Sudah makan nasi?** = Have you already eaten rice?
- **Mampir** = to visit, to drop in
  - **Silahkan, mampir dulu** = Please, come visit us!
- **Mandi** = to wash, to shower
  - **Dia mau mandi dulu, terus dia ikut** = He wants to take a shower first, then he'll join us
- **Masak** = to cook
  - **Saya senang masak tahu sama sayur** = I like to cook tofu with vegetables.
- **Masuk** = to enter, to come in
  - **Silahkan, masuk!** = Please, come in! (when inviting someone into your home)
- **Mati** = to die, to be extinguished (for objects, animals, or slang for people)
  - **Aduh, ada mati lampu!** = Oh no, the power has died/the electricity is out.

- **Hati-hati kalau kamu tidak mau mati di jalan!** = Be careful if you don't want to die in traffic!
- **Mau** = to want/to intend to do something
  - **Saya mau yang ini** = I want this one. **Mau ke mana?** = Where are you going?
- **Memberikan** = to give
  - **Dia senang saat memberikan hadiah** = He/she is happy when he/she gives gifts.
- **Menemukan (temukan)** = to find
  - **Saya menemukan kuncinya di dalam saku** = I found the keys inside my pocket
- **Menerima** = to receive
  - **Saya menerima tas ini dari teman** = I got this bag from a friend.
- **Mengajar** = to teach
  - **Aku mengajar Bahasa Inggris di SMA 6 Medan** = I (informal) teach English at Senior High School No. 6 in Medan
- **Meninggal** = to pass away
  - **Kakek mereka sudah meninggal dunia** = Their grandfather has already passed away.
- **Menjadi** = to become
  - **Masa depan, saya harap menjadi dokter** = In the future, I hope to become a doctor.
- **Merasakan** = to feel
  - **Kalau ada macet, saya merasakan frustrasi** = If there is a traffic jam, I feel frustrated
- **Merepotkan/ngerepotin** (more/less formal) = to put someone out, cause a problem
  - **Saya tidak mau merepotkan kamu** = I don't want to make you go out of your way.
    - The other easy way to say this is to use **buat** (from the very top of the glossary) = to cause/make, i.e. **Saya tidak mau buat kamu bermasalah** = I don't want to cause a problem
- **Minum** = to drink
  - **Mau minum apa?** = What do you want to drink?
- **Mulai** = to start, to begin
  - **Kenapa kelas belum dimulai?** = Why has the class not started yet?
- **Naik** = to ride, to take transportation
  - **Kamu sering naik motor?** = Do you (informal) often ride a motorbike?
- **Nongkrong** = to hang out
  - **Kalau akhir minggu, saya biasanya nongkrong sama teman-teman** = If it's the weekend, I usually hang out with my friends.
- **Pakai** = to use, to wear
  - **Hari Selasa, kita pakai seragam mana?** = On Tuesday, which uniform do we wear?
- **Pergi** = to go
  - **Saya pergi dulu** = I need to go now (appropriate for taking leave of people)
- **Pesan** = to order (at a restaurant)
  - **Mbak, boleh pesan?** = Miss, may I order?
- **Pilih** = to choose

- **Kamu harus pilih; mau yang mana?** = You have to choose; which one do you want?
- **Pulang** = to go home
  - **Mau pulang sekarang?** = Do you want to go home now?
- **Selasai** = to finish
  - **Saya sudah selasai kelas hari ini** = I have already finished class today.
- **Suka** = to like
  - **Saya suka main futsal** = I like to play indoor soccer (very popular in Indonesia)
- **Tahu** (pronounced “tau”, not to be confused with **tahu** the food, which is tofu) = to know
  - **Saya sudah tahu alamatnya** = I already know his/her address
- **Terjadi/jadi** = to happen
  - **Apa yang terjadi?** = What’s going on?
  - **Ada acara tadi pagi? Sayangnya, itu tidak jadi** = Was there an activity this morning? Unfortunately, it didn’t happen.
- **Tinggal** = to live, to stay
  - **Tinggal di mana? Saya tinggal di Jalan Borobudur** = Where do you live? I live at Borobudur Street.
- **Tulis** = to write
  - **Ok semuanya, mari tulis paragraf pakai lima kalimat minimal!** = Ok everyone, let’s write a paragraph using at least five sentences!
- **Tunggu** = to wait
  - **Anda lagi tunggu siapa?** = Who are you waiting for?

## 15) COMMONLY USED NOUNS

Date and time:

- **Hari** = day – **Hari libur/raja** = holiday
- **Minggu** = week – **Minggu depan** = next week; **Minggu yang lalu** = last week
- **Bulan** = month – **Ulang tahun saya pada bulan Januari** = My birthday is in January
- **Tahun** = year
- **Hari ini** = today
- **Besok** = tomorrow
- **Kemarin** = yesterday (or more generally, previously – **yang kemarin** = last time, previously)
- **Musim** = season (**musim hujan** = rainy season; **musim kering** = dry season – the only two seasons in Indonesia; **musim panas** = summer, **musim gugur** = fall, **musim salju** = winter, **musim semi** = spring)
  
- **Anak** = child; **anak-anak** = children – **Sudah punya anak-anak?** = Do you have children?
- **Apotek** = pharmacy

- **Baju/Pakaian** = clothes
- **Cinta** = love
- **Daerah** = area
- **Gereja** = church
- **Guru** = teacher – **Saya guru Bahasa Inggris** = I am an English teacher
- **Hujan** = rain – **Aduh, lagi hujan** = Oh no, it's raining
- **Kamar** = room; **Kamar mandi/kamar kecil** = bathroom
- **Lingkungan** = environment
- **Macet** = traffic, traffic jam – **Selalu ada macet di Jakarta** = there is always traffic in Jakarta
- **Mesjid** = mosque
- **Negara** = country
- **Pemerintah** = government – **Saya punya beasiswa dari pemerintah America** = I have a scholarship/grant from the American government
- **Perasaan** = feeling; **Rasa** = taste
- **Laki-laki** = boy, male – **Saya punya dua kakak laki-laki** = I have two older brothers **Orang** = person; **orang-orang** = people; **Perempuan** = girl, female – **Dia punya dua anak perempuan** = She has two daughters
- **Pekerjaan** = work – **Pekerjaan saya PNS** = I am a civil servant
- **Pengalaman** = experience
- **Pria** = man, male; **Wanita** = woman, female – **Ruang ini hanya untuk wanita** = This room is just for women
- **Rumah** = house
- **Teman** = friend; **teman-teman** = friends
- **Rumah sakit** = hospital
- **Sekolah** = school
- **Suami** = husband – **Suaminya kerja di Jakarta** – Her husband works in Jakarta; **Istri** = wife;
- **Toko** = store, shop

## 16) COMMONLY USED ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are very simple in Bahasa Indonesia – just stick one on after your noun. To negate an adjective, just put **tidak** in front of it. So **sopan** is “polite,” **tidak sopan** is “impolite.”

- **Aman** = safe
- **Aneh** = strange
- **Asin** = salty
- **Bahaya** = dangerous
- **Baik/Bagus** = good
- **Baik hati** = kind (literally “good heart”)
- **Beda** = different

- **Benar/betul** = true
- **Bérés** = finished, ready
- **Bersih** = clean
- **Beruntung** = lucky
- **Besar** = big
- **Bété** = grumpy – **Saya lagi bété** = I'm in a bad mood
- **Biasa** = normal, ordinary, usual – **Yang ini jadwal biasa?** = Is this a typical schedule?
- **Bosan** = bored; **Membosankan** = boring
- **Cantik** = pretty (girl)
- **Capek** = Tired
- **Cemas/groggi** = nervous
- **Cukup** = enough
- **Dekat** = near
- **Dingin** = cold (for weather and food)
- **Enak** = nice, delicious
- **Ganteng** = handsome (boy)
- **Gratis** = free
- **Indah** = beautiful (just for scenery, houses – not for people)
- **Jauh** = far
- **Jelek** = bad, horrible
- **Kecéwa** = disappointed
- **Kecil** = small
- **Kosong** = empty (glass, seat, room)
- **Kotor** = dirty
- **Lagi** = another (additional) – **Ada lagi?** = Is there another one?
- **Lain** = another (different) – **Lain kali** = another time, not now
- **Lancar** = fluent – **Maaf, saya belum lancar Bahasa Indonesia** = Sorry, I'm not yet fluent in Bahasa Indonesia
- **Luar biasa** = extraordinary, amazing
- **Mahal** = expensive
- **Malu** = shy – **Malu-malu kucing** = shy-shy cat; to make everyone laugh, accuse your students of being this if they won't speak up
- **Manis** = sweet
- **Marah** = angry
- **Menarik** = interesting; **Tertarik** = interested
- **Mengantuk** = sleepy
- **Murah** = cheap
- **Nyaman** = comfortable

- **Panas** = hot (for weather and food) **Sakit** = sick/sore, hurting – **Saya sakit perut** = I have a stomachache; **Saya sakit kepala** = I have a headache; **Hatinya sakit** = He/she has a broken heart
- **Pas** = exact, fit, precise – **Ada uang pas?** = Do you have exact change?
- **Pedas** = hot, spicy
- **Penuh** = full
- **Pintar** = smart, intelligent – **Baru dua bulan, tapi kamu sudah pintar Bahasa Indonesia?** = Just two months, and you're already good at Bahasa Indonesia?
- **Ramai** = crowded
- **Salah** = false
- **Sama** = same
- **Sedih** = sad
- **Sehat** = healthy
- **Senang** = happy
- **Siap** = ready (**Sudah siap?** = Are you ready to go?)
- **Sibuk** = busy
- **Sopan** = polite
- **Takut** = scared; **Menakutkan** = scary

#### 17) COMMONLY USED ADVERBS

- **Biasanya** = usually – **Biasanya, saya tidur pada jam sepuluh malam** = Usually, I go to sleep around 10 p.m.
- **Hanya/Cuma/Saja** = only, just
  - **Hanya** precedes the noun - **Hanya dua bulan lagi di sini** = Only two more months left here
  - Same with **Cuma** - **Cuma tiga orang per kelompok** = Only three people per group
  - **Saja** follows at the end of your noun, and may be shortened to **aja** - **Saya mau makan roti sama telur saja** = I just want to eat bread and eggs
- **Jarang** = rarely
- **Kadang-kadang** = sometimes **Sebelum** = before – **Sebelum saya datang ke Indonesia, saya mahasiswa** = Before I came to Indonesia, I was a university student
- **Sayangnya** = unfortunately – **Sayangnya, saya tidak bisa datang** = Unfortunately, I cannot attend (not to be confused with **sayang** when used as a term of affection – darling, sweetheart)
- **Secara** = in a \_ way (to add “-ly” to an adjective: **secara halus** = softly, **secara aman** = safely)
- **Selalu** = always
- **Sekali/Sangat/Banget** = very
  - **Sekali** follows the adjective – **pintar sekali** = very smart

- **Sangat** means the same as **sekali**, but goes before the adjective – **sangat bosan** = very bored
- **Banget** is an everyday version of **sekali/sangat** – **Dia ganteng banget** = Wow, he's gorgeous!
- **Sering** = often
- **Sesudah/setelah** = after
- **Tidak pernah** = never

## 18) COMMONLY USED PREPOSITIONS

- **Atau** = or – **Saya mengajar kelas 10-4 hari kamis atau hari jumaat?** = Do I teach class 10-4 on Thursday or Friday?
- **Dari** = from – **Bapak dari mana? Saya dari Maluku** = Where are you from, sir? I am from Maluku.
- **Dengan/Sama** = with – **Kamu tinggal sama siapa?** = Who do you live with?**Di** = in, at (only for physical places) – **Di mana Hawa? Dia di belakang** = Where is Hawa? She is in back.
- **Ke** = to – **Mau ke mana? Saya mau ke atas** = Where are you going? I'm going to the top.
- **Kepada** = in, at, towards (for people) – **Kepada bapak-bapak dan ibu-ibu, ada kegiatan hari rabu di kantor polisi** = To all ladies and gentlemen, there is an activity on Wednesday at the police station.
- **Pada** = in, at (for everything that is not places or people, especially dates) – **Pada sejarah America, ada banyak diskriminasi kepada orang hitam** = In American history, there is a lot of discrimination towards black Americans.
- **Selama** = for (when qualifying time) – **Saya sudah di Flores selama satu minggu** = I was in Flores for a week
- **Tentang** = about – **Boleh bicara dengan anda tentang masalah saya?** = May I speak with you about my problem?
- **Untuk** = for – **Aku beli buku ini untuk kamu** = I bought this book for you

## 19) MISCELLANEOUS USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

- **Agar/supaya** = in order to – **Orang-orang Indonesia harus kerja bersama agar menjadi negara sejahtera** = Indonesians must work together in order to become a prosperous nation
- **Akan** = indicating future, just add **akan** to a verb to make it future tense – **Saya akan pulang ke America pada bulan Mai** = I will go back home to America in May
- **Banyak** = many, much = **Ada banyak orang yang suka main futsal** = There are many people who like to play indoor soccer
- **Baru** = recently – **Saya baru dua puluh dua tahun** = I just turned 22; **Dia baru datang dari Surabaya** = He recently arrived from Surabaya

- **Bersama** = together
- **Daripada** = instead of – **Saya pilih Indonesia untuk biasiswa daripada negara lain karena Indonesia punya lebih banyak budaya yang menarik** = I chose Indonesia for my grant instead of another country because Indonesia has many more interesting cultures.
- **Depan** = indicating front, or future – **di depan rumah** = in front of the house; **minggu depan** = next week
- **Hati-hati!** = Be careful!
- **Jadi** = so, therefore
- **Jangan** = Don't – **Jangan takut!** = Don't be afraid! **Jangan masuk!** = Don't come in!
- **Kalau/Jika** = if – **Kalau saya minum kopi semalam-malam, saya tidak bisa tidur** = If I drink coffee at night, I cannot sleep
  - **Kalau** is the more commonly used word in everyday expressions, where **jika** is used to express a conditional statement using the subjunctive “were” and “would,” such as **Jika saya minum kopi semalam-malam, saya tidak bisa tidur**, “If I were to drink coffee at night, I would not be able to sleep.”
  - **Jikalau** = in the event of, used for speaking about hypothetical situations – **Aku ingin beli sebotol air lagi, jikalau kami habiskan semuanya** = I want to buy another bottle of water, in case we finish all of them.
- **Kapan-kapan** = sometime (especially useful if someone is inviting you to an activity you don't want to attend, just reply, **Ya, kapan-kapan**)
- **Karena** = because
- **Kurang** = not enough, not really – **Uang ini kurang** = this money is not enough; **Dia kurang cantik** = she's not really that pretty
  - If you want to say “less,” such as “Let's find a route that has less traffic,” use **tidak terlalu**, “not too much,” – **Mari cari jalanan yang tidak terlalu macet**.
- **Lagi** has two meanings: again/currently
  - Again: **Boleh ambil foto lagi?** = May I take another picture?
  - Currently: **Saya lagi di jalan** = I'm on my way; **Dia lagi buat PR** = He's doing his homework at the moment
    - **Sedang** is the more formal way to express “currently” that you often see in written texts
- **Lalu/Terus/Kemudian** = then, next, following
- **Lebih** = more – **Saya lebih senang kalau saya melakukan olah-raga** = I am more happy if I can do sports
- **Maaf** = sorry
- **Maksudnya/artinya** = meaning – **Kalau yang ini, apa artinya?** = This one, what does it mean?
- **Mari** = Let's...! – **Mari bicara Bahasa Inggris!** = Let's speak English!
- **Masa!** = Oh, really?
- **Mudah-mudahan** = hopefully (the Islamic version of this is **inshallah** = God willing)
- **Mungkin** = maybe

- **Nanti** = later – **Mau ikut ke mal? Ya, nanti saja** = Want to come to the mall? Sure, later.
- **Paling** = the most – **Apa yang paling enak?** = What is the most delicious?
- **Pernah** = ever
  - **Sudah pernah ke Yogyakarta? Tidak, saya belum pernah ke sana** = Have you ever been to Yogyakarta? No, I've never been there.
- **Salah satu** = one of – **Salah satu teman saya baru menikah** = One of my friends just got married.
- **Sebentar/nanti dulu** = hang on a moment, wait one second
- **Sedikit** = a little – **Saya bisa bicara Bahasa Indonesia hanya sedikit** = I can only speak a little Bahasa Indonesia
- **Sekarang** = now
- **Seperti/sebagai** = like, as – **Saya mau cari pria seperti yang itu** = I want to find a man like that one; **Hidup sehari-hari di Amerika tidak seperti di film** = Daily life in America is not like the movies
- **Silahkan** = Won't you?, Please (expressing politeness) – **Silahkan, duduk** = Won't you sit down? **Silahkan, makan** = Please, eat.
- **Tadi** = just this moment – **Ada Pak Harun? Dia tadi pergi** = Is Mr. Harun here? He just went out.
- **Tentu saja** = of course
- **Terserah** = up to you, do as you please
- **Yang lalu** = indicating past – **tahun yang lalu** = last year; **bulan yang lalu** = last month
- **Yang mana?** = Which one?

Note: Using **yang** – The word “that” in English actually has three meanings: that one (yang itu, that = yang), that person (orang itu, that = itu), he said that he's happy (dia bilang bahwa dia hepi, that = bahwa). So when you want to say, “Who is the person that I met yesterday?” use **yang** – **Siapa orang yang saya bertemu kemarin?** But for following a verb – “Did you know that he's already married?” or “She said that she would come,” use **bahwa** for a more formal, or **kalau** for a more everyday version – **Apakah Anda tahu bahwa dia sudah menikah?, Dia bilang kalau dia akan datang.** For a good website talking about the use of **yang**, go to <http://binsarind.wordpress.com/2010/09/30/the-use-of-yang/>

#### FINAL NOTE:

One of your most valuable possessions will be your English-Bahasa Indonesia dictionary, for studying in your leisure time or if you just need to insert a key word into a conversation. Some ETAs will recommend the John M. Echols and Hassan Shadily translations; the Tuttle Concise Indonesian Dictionary is also excellent, and small enough to carry around in a purse. It is also possible to buy an Alphalink electronic pocket dictionary, although even expensive Alphalinks are much less expansive than written dictionaries, and are often misleading because of their limited entries. For quick and easy lessons, we also recommend the small, travel-friendly *Instant Indonesian: How to Express 1,000 Different Ideas With Just 100 Key Words and Phrases*, as well as Sean and Cici's free Bahasa Indonesia podcasts on the Internet – [www.learningindonesian.com](http://www.learningindonesian.com). The ETAs of 2011-2012 recommend that you

do NOT buy Rosetta Stone for learning Bahasa Indonesia, because for the most part, we didn't find it helpful due to unnatural language use and culturally irrelevant examples. You will quickly discover the best way for you to study the language – carrying around a notebook, flash cards, putting up post-it notes around your house, etc.

We know that this may seem like an overwhelming amount of information, particularly if you are struggling to get a handle on the fact that you are moving to Indonesia, much less that you need to learn a new language! But it all depends on you, your interests, and your needs. In some cases, if your school is particularly advanced, it may not be terribly urgent for you to have a good grasp of Bahasa Indonesia. But in many cases, English will not be widely spoken in your area, and Bahasa Indonesia will be key for communicating with teachers and students, neighbors, and people in your community. We are here as cultural ambassadors, and a little bit of language learning goes a long way towards deepening your relationships in Indonesia. **Selamat sukses!**