



Beginning Indonesian Language Guide



Bahasa Indonesia

Indonesia is united more than anything else, by its common language. The millions of people who live on the nations many thousands of islands, each with its own local language or dialect are able to communicate effectively using their national Bahasa. As a traveller, being able to speak a few words of Indonesian will assist you in your endeavours to get around, and will certainly endear you to the local people you meet.

Often, the greeting "Apa kabar?" (What's news?) will be used as well. The normal response would be "Baik baik saja, terima kasih" (I'm just fine, thank-you).

Take a look at our lists of words and phrases to get started (carry a phrase book while you travel). You will find it relatively easy, as words and letters in the Indonesian language (Bahasa Indonesia) are written using the same Roman characters as English.

[Our guide lists translations for some common words and phrases that may be useful to the visitor in Indonesia.](#)

Phrases...

Note: The phrases listed below are arranged in context, so that a question you might ask is typically listed as English - Bahasa Indonesia, while an answer or a question that may be asked of you is typically listed as Bahasa Indonesia - English.

Greetings and civilities

- Good morning - Selamat Pagi
- Good afternoon - Selamat Siang.
- Good evening - Selamat Sore.
- Good night - Selamat Malam.
- Goodbye - Selamat Tinggal.
- How are you? - Apa Kabar?
- I am fine - Kabar Baik.
- What is your name? - Siapa nama anda?
- My name is... - Nama saya...
- Nice to meet you - Senang berkenalan dengan anda.
- See you later - Sampai jumpa lagi.
- I do not understand - Saya tidak mengerti.
- I do not speak Indonesian - Saya tidak mengerti bahasa.

General

- Yes - Ya / Tentu.
- O.K. - Beres.
- No / not - Tidak / bukan.
- Thank you - Terima kasih.
- You're welcome - Kembali.
- Please - Tolong / Silakan.
- Please help me - Tolonglah saya.
- Excuse me - Permisi.
- Sorry - Ma'af.
- What time is it? - Jam berapa?
- This - Ini.
- That - Itu.
- Dari mana? - Where have you just come from?
- Tuan asal dari mana? - What country are you from?.
- Mau ke mana? - Where are you going?

- Be careful / attention - Hati Hati

Shopping

- Only looking - Lihat saja.
- I want to buy this - Saya mau beli.
- How much? - Berapa?
- How much is it? - Berapa Harganya?
- Expensive - Mahal.
- It's too expensive - Harganya terlalu mahal.
- Can you make it cheaper? - Boleh kurang harganya?
- What is your fixed price? - Harga pas berapa?
- Will you please leave me alone? - Sudikah anda membiarkan saya sendiri?

Eating

- I want the menu please - Saya mau daftar makanan minta.
- Tuan mau minum apa? - What would you like to drink?
- I would like to drink water / beer - Mau minum air / bir.
- Drinking water - Air minum.
- (Hot) Tea / coffee - Teh (panas) / kopi.
- Without sugar / milk - Tanpa gula / susu.
- With a little sugar / milk - Sedikit gula / susu.
- Tuan mau makan apa? - What would you like to eat?
- . I would like to eat (spicy) chicken fried rice / spring rolls - Mau makan (pedas) nasi goreng ayam / lumpia.
- I would like to eat banana pancakes please - Mau makan kue dadar minta.
- How do you say it in English? - Apa bahasa Inggrisnya (pointing to strange item on menu)?
- I want the bill (check), thank you - Saya mau rekening, terima kasih.
- The bill (check) please - Tolong bonnya.

Accommodation

- Simple accommodations in Bali are advertised as losmen, penginapan and wisma. Accommodations advertised as resorts and hotels are typically very similar to what would be expected in western countries. A new option for accommodation is villa's, which are becoming more common - and popular.
- The best hotel - Hotel paling baik.
- The cheapest hotel - Hotel paling murah.
- Mid-priced - Tidak mahal, tidak murah.
- Clean - Bersih.
- Are there rooms available? - Ada Kamar?
- Do you have a room? - Masih ada kamar kosong disini?
- Do you have any air-conditioned rooms? - Ada kamar dengan AC?
- A.C. - Air-conditioned
- Do you have fan-cooled rooms? - Ada kamar dengan kipas?
- Kipas - fan.
- What is the cost of the room? - Berapa ongkos kamar?
- What is the cost of this room? - Berapa harga untuk kamar ini?
- Two people - Dua orang.
- Including meals? - Termasuk makanan?
- Is there a toilet, bathroom? - Ada WC, tempat mandi?
- Bedsheet - Sprei
- Blanket - Selimut
- Towel - Handuk
- Soap - Sabun
- Can you wash clothes? - Bisa cuci pakaian?

Transport

- When is there a bus to...? - Kapan ada bis ke...?
- What time does it leave? - Berangkat jam berapa?
- How many hours to...? - Beraoa jam sampai...?
- Where is the airport? - Bandara dimana?

- What is the cost of a ticket to...? - Karcis ke...berapa?
- Can I have two tickets? - Saya minta dua karcis?

Directions

- Where is the toilet? - Dimana kamar kecil?
- Where is the beach? - Dimana pantai?
- Where is there a hotel? - Mana ada hotel?
- Where is there a restaurant? - Mana ada rumah makan?
- Where is the path to the waterfall? - Dimana jalan ke air terjun?
- Where is...? - Dimana...?
- How far is it? - Berapa jauh dari sini?
- Dekat - Near
- Jauh - Far
- What is the name of this street? - Apa nama jalan ini?
- Utara - North
- Selatan - South
- Timur - East
- Barat - West
- Kanan - Right
- Kiri - Left

Days of the week

- Sunday - Minggu
- Monday - Senin
- Tuesday - Selasa
- Wednesday - Rabu
- Thursday - Kamis
- Friday - Jum'at
- Saturday - Sabtu

Time of day

- Morning - Pagi
- Noon - Siang
- Evening / Night - Malam
- Yesterday - Kemarin
- Today - Hari ini
- Tomorrow - Besok
- Day after tomorrow - Lusa

Time

- Day - Hari
- Week - Minggu

Month - Bulan Months of the year

- January - Januari
- February - Februari
- March - Maret
- April - April
- May - Mei
- June - Juni
- July - Juli
- August - Agustus
- September - September
- October - Oktober
- November - November

Pronunciation...

The alphabet of Bahasa Indonesia is the same as English, the pronunciation of most letters is usually different, as is the emphasis, which usually places stress on the second-last syllable.

Use the alphabet below as a guide to pronunciation...

A (ah) B (bay) C (ch) D (day) E (eh) F (ef)
 G (gay) H (hah) I (ee) J (jay) K (kah) L (ell)
 M (em) N (en) O (oh) P (pay) Q (key) R (air-r)
 S (ess) T (tay) U (oo) V (vay) W
 (way) X (ex)
 Y (yay) Z (zet)

Numbers...

Numbers are not difficult to understand - the counting system is the same as in English, and the numbers are written using the same Arabic numerals. Numbers are of course encountered frequently, such as when dealing with money.

It is important to be able to count to ten. From there, the suffixes; "belas" (teens), "puluh" (tens), "ratus" (hundreds), "ribu" (thousands) and "juta" (millions) may be added to formulate larger numbers.

0 Nol	11 Sebalas	30 Tiga puluh
1 Satu	12 Dua belas	40 Empat puluh
2 Dua	13 Tiga belas	50 Lima puluh
3 Tiga	14 Empat belas	60 Enam puluh
4 Empat	15 Lima belas	70 Tujuh puluh
5 Lima	16 Enam belas	80 Delapan
6 Enam	17 Tujuh belas	puluh
7 Tujuh	18 Delapan	90 Sembilan
8 Delapan	belas	puluh
9 Sembilan	19 Sembilan	100 Seratus
10 Sepuluh	belas	200 Dua ratus
	20 Dua puluh	500 Lima ratus
	25 Dua puluh	1000 Seribu
	lima	
10000 Sepuluh ribu		1000000 Sejuta