

Indonesian in everyday situations

Module 1: Arrival

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

Arrival

Indonesian

Read & listen online ↗



Saya, kamu, Ibu, Bapak

Use **saya** for I. With a child or a friend, **kamu** means you. Address an older woman as **Ibu** or **Bu**, an older man as **Bapak** or **Pak**: **Dan Ibu?** means And you?

Indonesian has no grammatical gender. **Dia** can mean he or she. Verbs and descriptions stay the same for every person and for both learner sexes.

Indonesian needs no am/is/are before a name, noun identity or description: **Saya tetangga baru**. Greetings such as **Selamat malam** are learned whole.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Saya	Saya tetangga baru.	I am the new neighbour.
saya	Nama saya Becker.	My name is Becker.
malam	Selamat malam!	Good evening!

A pronoun replaces a person or thing, such as **saya** or **dia**. Indonesian needs no article like English a/the. Singular means one, without a compulsory noun ending.

Ada, tidak, bukan

Ada says there is or there are. **Tidak ada** says there is no: **Ada kafe di sini. Di mana?** asks where; **siapa?** asks who and **apa?** asks what.

Use **tidak** before a verb or adjective: **Dia tidak lapar.** Use **bukan** for a noun identity: **Ini bukan kunci saya.** A negative location can also use **bukan**: **Bukan di sini.**

Punya expresses possession in ordinary conversation. It does not change for person: **Saya punya kunci. Tolong** is a request word; **jangan** means do not and is initially a useful warning chunk.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Ada	Ada kafe di sini.	There is a café here.
Tidak ada	Tidak ada kunci di sini.	There is no key here.
siapa	Ini siapa?	Who is this?

Ini, itu, saya

Ini means this/these and **itu** that/those. They follow the noun in a noun phrase: **kunci ini.** Alone, **Ini kunci saya** means This is my key.

A possessor also follows the noun: **rumah saya, kunci kamu, kafe Bu Rina.** There are no articles corresponding to a/an/the and no gender agreement.

Tolong requests something or help. **Silakan** offers permission or invites someone to act. Learn **Kopi, tolong** and **Silakan makan** as everyday phrases.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
saya	Ini rumah saya.	This is my house.
kamu	Ini kunci kamu.	This is your key.
ini	Kunci ini besar.	This key is big.

A possessive expression identifies the owner: **kunci saya**, my key.

Tinggal, main, mau

Verbs keep the same form with **saya**, **kamu** and **dia**: **Saya tinggal di sini**, **Dia tinggal di atas**. There are no person endings.

Use **mau** before an action or destination: **Saya mau tidur**, **Saya mau ke kafe**. Common prefixed verbs such as **bekerja** can be learned as whole words beside the conversational **kerja**.

Kamu bisa main besok? is an early polite request chunk. **Bisa** means can; a full comparison with permission follows later. **Tidak** comes before the verb or modal.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
tinggal	Saya tinggal di bawah.	I live downstairs.
main	Budi main trompet.	Budi plays the trumpet.
mau	Saya mau tidur.	I want to sleep.

Indonesian has no inflected present tense. The same verb describes now or a routine, with context.

Di, kami, kita

Write the location word **di** separately: **di sini**, **di kafe**, **di atas**. **Di mana?** asks where.

Kami means we without the listener. **Kita** includes the listener. If Sari and Intan say they are helping you, they use **kami**. If you suggest going together, use **kita**.

Whose can be asked with **milik siapa?** or conversational **punya siapa?**. A noun may take **-nya** for a previously mentioned or clear owner/thing: **kuncinya** means his/her key or the key, depending on context.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
di	Saya tinggal di sini.	I live here.
bawah	Kafe ada di bawah.	The café is downstairs.
atas	Budi tinggal di atas.	Budi lives upstairs.

A preposition connects a noun to a place or relation; **di** introduces a location.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Saya tetangga baru.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

2 Ada kafe di sini.

Meaning: There is a café here.

3 Ini rumah saya.

Meaning: This is my house.

4 Saya tinggal di bawah.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 _____ tetangga baru.

- ☐ A Dia
- ☐ B Kamu
- ☐ C Saya

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

2 _____ kafe di sini.

- ☐ A Bukan
- ☐ B Siapa
- ☐ C Ada

Meaning: There is a café here.

3 Ini rumah _____.

- ☐ A saya
- ☐ B kamu
- ☐ C dia

Meaning: This is my house.

4 Saya _____ di bawah.

- ☐ A makan
- ☐ B tinggal
- ☐ C tidur

Meaning: I live downstairs.

5 Saya tinggal _____ sini.

- ☐ A di
- ☐ B dari
- ☐ C ke

Meaning: I live here.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

kamu saya

Ini rumah _____.

Meaning: This is my house.

makan tinggal

Saya _____ di bawah.

Meaning: I live downstairs.

ke di

Saya tinggal _____ sini.

Meaning: I live here.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1 Saya tetangga baru.

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

2 kafe sini. di Ada

Meaning: There is a café here.

3 rumah Ini saya.

Meaning: This is my house.

4 tinggal bawah. Saya di

Meaning: I live downstairs.

5 di Saya sini. tinggal

Meaning: I live here.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I am the new neighbour. You say:

- ☐ A Saya tetangga baru.
- ☐ B Kamu tetangga baru.

2 There is a café here. You say:

- ☐ A Ada kafe di sini.
- ☐ B Bukan kafe di sini.

3 This is my house. You say:

- ☐ A Ini rumah saya.
- ☐ B Ini rumah kamu.

4 I live downstairs. You say:

- ☐ A Saya tinggal di bawah.
- ☐ B Saya makan di bawah.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ① Saya tinggal di sini. | ⑤ A This is my house. |
| ② Ada kafe di sini. | ⑥ B I live here. |
| ③ Saya tinggal di bawah. | ⑦ C There is a café here. |
| ④ Ini rumah saya. | ⑧ D I live downstairs. |
| ⑤ Saya tetangga baru. | ⑨ E I am the new neighbour. |