

Bahasa Indonesia Language Course: Meeting/Greeting people

Greetings and introductions, formal and informal

Introduction

This topic covers the language for meeting and greeting people, including formal and informal language use. Formal language is coded (F), informal language (I) and standard (used both in F & I) language is non-coded. It is best to focus on learning phrases and expressions and their meaning/function. Literal/gloss translations are provided for reference and not explained in depth but it can be discussed with tutor.

Key vocabulary and phrases

Salam kenal - lit. 'peace (let's) get to know', a phrase used when meeting someone for the first time, functionally akin to the English 'pleased to meet you' but said prior to introducing oneself.

Kenalkan (F) - 'Allow me to introduce myself' (lit. 'Get to know + *-kan**'). Said before saying one's name.

* *-kan*; a formal grammatical suffix.

Kenalin (I) - 'Let me to introduce myself' (lit. 'Get to know + *-in**'). Said before saying one's name. Informal version of *kenalkan*, can be used in informal settings (in friendly situations) but not in formal settings. To be avoided when unsure.

* *-in*; an informal grammatical suffix.

Nama saya... - 'My name is....'

Kenalkan nama saya.... - 'Allow me to introduce myself, my name is...'

Salam alaikum - 'Peace be with you', a Muslim greeting sometimes also used by non-Muslims when greeting a Muslim friend.

Apa kabar? - 'How are you?' (lit. 'What's news?').

Gimana kabarnya? (I) - 'How are you?' (lit. 'How is the news?'). A more relaxed greeting used with someone you know.

Pak Joko sehat? - 'Are you healthy, Pak Joko?' A familiar friendly greeting.

Selamat - 'Congratulations/safe', also a greeting word in collocation with other words (see below).

Selamat pagi - 'Good morning'

Selamat siang - 'Good noon' (11am-3pm)

Selamat sore - 'Good afternoon' (3pm - sunset)

Selamat malam - 'Good evening'

Selamat datang - 'Welcome'

Selamat makan - 'Enjoy your meal'

Selamat jalan - 'Safe travels'

Sampai jumpa - 'See you later'

Saya baik-baik saja - 'I'm well'

Saya baik-baik saja, terima kasih. - 'I'm well, thank you'

Text

Speaker A: ***Selamat pagi, kenalkan, nama saya John.***

Speaker B: ***Salam kenal, nama saya Joko. Pintar bahasa Indonesia Mr John!***

Speaker A: ***Baru sedikit saja Pak Joko, masih belajar.***

Speaker A: ***Jangan dipanggil Mr, panggil saya John saja.***

Speaker B: ***Wah hebat sekali John. Silakan, silakan.***

Semantic translation

Speaker A: 'Good morning, allow me to introduce myself, my name is John.'

Speaker B: 'Pleased to meet you, my name is Joko. Your Indonesian is good, Mr John!'

Speaker A: 'Just a little bit, Pak Joko, I'm still learning.'

Speaker A: 'Don't call me Mr, just call me John.'

Speaker B: 'Wow you're so great John. Please, please (come in / sit down).'

Literal/gloss translation

Speaker A: 'Good morning, get to know-kan, my name is John.'

Speaker B: 'Peace get to know, name my Joko. Smart language Indonesian Mr John!'

Speaker A: 'Newly a little just Pak Joko, still learning.'

Speaker A: 'Don't call Mr, call me John just.'

Speaker B: 'Wow great very, John. Please, please.'

Intercultural and linguistic information

Indonesians place their right hand in their chest after handshake, gesture of sincerity and heartfeltness.

Indonesians rarely say 'you' and instead use the term of address **Bapak/Pak + name**, when talking to adult male, and **Ibu/Bu + name**, when talking to adult female. Saying 'you' (**kamu, anda**) can be impolite and aloof. **Kamu** can be used with children but addressing them **Dek** (short for **Adik** - 'younger sibling') is friendlier. The Javanese term of address **Mas** and **Mbak** is commonly used throughout Java and Jakarta when talking to younger persons. In other regions, it is good to use the local terms of address. **Anda** is very formal and used in announcement, advertisement and when talking to strangers. **Bapak** and **Ibu** is universal and safe to use everywhere in Indonesia.

Examples:

Apa kabar Pak Joko? - 'How are you, Pak Joko?'

Apa kabar Bu Dewi? - 'How are you, Bu Dewi?'

Bapak/Ibu sudah makan? - 'Have you eaten?'

Permisi Mas/Mbak... - 'Excuse me, Mas/Mbak...' (Talking to young waiter or shopkeeper)