

Bahasa Indonesia Language Course: Meeting/Greeting people

Asking and responding to basic questions

Introduction

This topic covers the language asking common everyday questions about, time, places, likes/dislikes and experiences, covering modal verbs, adverbs and adjectives.

Key vocabulary and phrases

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Mau | - 'Want' |
| Mau? | - 'Do you want some?' |
| Mau ke mana? | - 'Where are you going?' (lit. 'Want to where?') |
| Mau makan apa? | - 'What do you want to eat?' (lit. 'Want eat what?') |
| Mau coba? | - 'Want to try?' |
| Mau lihat? | - 'Want to see it?' |
| Suka | - 'Like' |
| Suka? | - 'Do you like it?' |
| Bisa | - 'Can' |
| Bisa? | - 'Can you do it?/Can it be done?' |
| Kapan? | - 'When?' |
| Jam berapa? | - 'What's the time?/At what time?' |
| Sudah | - 'Already' |
| Sudah? | - 'Is it done/finished?' |
| Pernah | - 'Have been/have done' |
| Pernah ke situ? | - 'Have been you been there?' |
| Pernah coba? | - 'Have you tried it?' |
| Pernah lihat? | - 'Have you seen it?' |
| Lama | - 'Long' (time duration) |
| Berapa lama? | - 'How long does it take?' |
| Berapa lama ke...? | - 'How long does it take to get to...?' |
| Sudah lama? | - 'Has it been long?/Have you been here long?' |
| Sudah lama nunggunya? | - 'Have you been waiting for a long time?' |
| Berapa harganya? | - 'How much does it cost?' |
| Bagus | - 'Good/nice' (appearance, functionality) |
| Bagus? | - 'Is it good?' |
| Enak | - 'Nice/delicious' |
| Enak? | - 'Is it nice/delicious?' |
| Apa itu? | - 'What's that?' |
| Kenapa? | - 'Why?' |

Text

Speaker B: **Mr John pernah coba Rawon?**

Speaker A: **Apa itu Rawon?**

Speaker B: **Itu makanan khas Jawa.**

Speaker A: **Belum.**

Speaker B: **Mau coba?**

Speaker A: **Ya mau.**

...

Speaker B: **Bagaimana? Enak?**

Speaker A: **Enak sekali. Saya suka.**

Speaker A: **Pak Joko pernah ke Australia?**

Speaker B: **Pernah sekali tahun 2007. Sudah lama. Saya mau ke sana lagi. Australia bagus.**

'I have once in 2007. It's been a while. I want to go again. Australia is nice.'

Semantic translation

'Have you tried Rawon Mr John?'

'What is Rawon?'

'It is a typical Javanese dish.'

'Not yet.'

'Do you want to try?'

'Yes I do.'

'How is it? Nice?'

'Very nice. I like it'

'Have you been to Australia Pak Joko?'

Literal/gloss translation

Speaker B: 'Mr John have try Rawon?'

Speaker A: 'What that Rawon?'

Speaker B: 'That food typical Java.'

Speaker A: 'Not yet.'

Speaker B: 'Want try?'

Speaker A: 'Yes want.'

Speaker B: 'How? Nice?'

Speaker A: 'Nice very. I like.'

Speaker A: 'Mr Joko have to Australia?'

Speaker B: 'Have once year 2007. Already long. I want to there again. Australia nice.'

Intercultural and linguistic information

Hospitality and providing food to guest is important in Indonesian culture. Don't be surprised when they put on a grand feast to welcome you. Make sure you take small samples of each dishes because they'll keep more food coming!

Traditionally Indonesians like to eat a rice meal with their hand. If you join them don't forget to eat with your right hand.

Be adventurous in trying exotic foods even if it's offal. It is polite to try local dishes.

Don't be shy in practising your Indonesian. Indonesians are very flattered when foreigners make an effort speaking their language and are not concerned if you make mistakes.

Listen and imitate the intonation of native speakers. Try out the melodies of expressions and phrases that you hear. It might mean you'll need to learn new sounds and train new phonological muscle activities.