

Bahasa Indonesia Language Course: Meeting/Greeting people

Appropriate language to use when giving or receiving a gift

Introduction

This topic covers the language when giving and receiving gifts, including thanking and using formal and informal words and expressions.

Key vocabulary and phrases

Tidak (F)	- 'No/not'. Used with verbs and adjectives (e.g. <i>tidak mau</i> - 'don't want to', <i>tidak lucu</i> - 'not funny').
Nggak/gak (I)	- 'No/not'. Informal alternative of <i>tidak</i> . Used in familiar situations (e.g. <i>nggak mau</i> - 'don't want to', <i>nggak lucu</i> - 'not funny').
Bukan	- 'No/not'. Used with noun phrases (e.g. <i>bukan itu</i> - 'not that one', <i>bukan saya</i> - 'not me').
Bertemu (F)	- 'To meet'.
Ketemu (I)	- 'To meet' Informal alternative of <i>bertemu</i> .
Sudah lama tidak bertemu (F)	- 'It's been a while.' (lit. 'Already long not meet'). This would be too formal when familiar with the person.
Sudah lama nggak ketemu (I)	- 'It's been a while.' Informal alternative of above.
Maaf	- 'Sorry'.
Sempat	- 'Have the chance to do something'.
Mampir	- 'Drop by/visit'.
Belum sempat mampir	- 'Haven't had the chance to drop by'.
Kerja	- 'Work'.
Sibuk	- 'Busy'.
Sekali	- 'Very'.
Tidak apa-apa (F)	- 'It's okay'.
Nggak apa (I)	- 'It's okay'. Informal alternative of above.
Juga	- 'Also'.
Ini	- 'This'.
Bawa	- 'Bring/brought'.
Kado	- 'Gift/Present'.
Untuk	- 'For'.
Aduh	- 'Oh no/auch'.
Merepotkan (F)	- 'Causing bother'.
Ngerepotin (I)	- 'Causing bother'. Informal alternative of above.
Banyak	- 'Many/much/a lot'.
Terima kasih	- 'Thank you'.
Sama-sama	- 'Your welcome'.

Bantu - 'to help'.

Kami - 'We/us'.

Text

Semantic translation

Speaker A: **Selamat malam Pak Joko, Ibu Dewi.**

'Good evening Pak Joko, Ibu Dewi.'

Speaker B: **Mr John apa kabar? Sudah lama nggak ketemu.**

'How are you Mr John? It's been a while.'

Speaker A: **Ya maaf belum sempat mampir. Kerja sibuk sekali.**

'Yes sorry haven't had the chance to drop by. Work has been so busy.'

Speaker B: **Ya nggak apa. Saya juga sibuk.**

'It's okay. I've been busy too.'

Speaker A: **Ini bawa kado dari Australia untuk Bapak dan Ibu.**

'We brought you a present from Australia.'

Speaker B: **Aduh ngerepotin. Terima kasih banyak.**

'You shouldn't have. Thank you so much.'

Speaker A: **Ya sama-sama. Pak Joko sudah banyak bantu kami.**

'Your welcome. You have helped me so much.'

Literal/gloss translation

Speaker A: 'Good evening Pak Joko, Ibu Dewi.'

Speaker B: 'How are you Mr John? Already long not meet.'

Speaker A: 'Yes sorry not yet chance to drop by. Work busy very'

Speaker B: 'Yes not what. I also busy'

Speaker A: 'This bring gift from Australia for Bapak and Ibu.'

Speaker B: 'Oh no causing bother. Thank you a lot'

Speaker A: 'Yes your welcome. Pak Joko already a lot help us.'

Intercultural and linguistic information

Gift giving is an important part of Indonesian culture. Indonesians bring gifts when visiting a place, coming home from a holiday, and when farewelling.

Remember, to be polite and friendly, instead of saying 'you' (*kamu, anda*), say their name (with term of address; *Bapak/Ibu*) instead (e.g. *Bu Dewi mau minum apa?* - 'What would you like to drink?').

In Indonesian grammar, base words inflect but do not conjugate. Therefore there are no past tense conjugations. For example, a word like *bawa* means both 'to bring', 'bring' and 'brought'.

Always use formal language in formal settings.

Indonesians do use informal language in formal settings but they know 'how to, when and why'. Stay with formal language until after many years of living in Indonesia when you'll have attained native speaker sociolinguistic confidence.

Using informal language in familiar settings breaks down distance and social barriers.