



LANGUAGE TOOLKIT INDONESIAN

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Bahasa Indonesian was established as the National Language of Indonesia in 1945 as a way to unify the many different languages and cultures of the Indonesian archipelago during decolonisation from the Dutch.

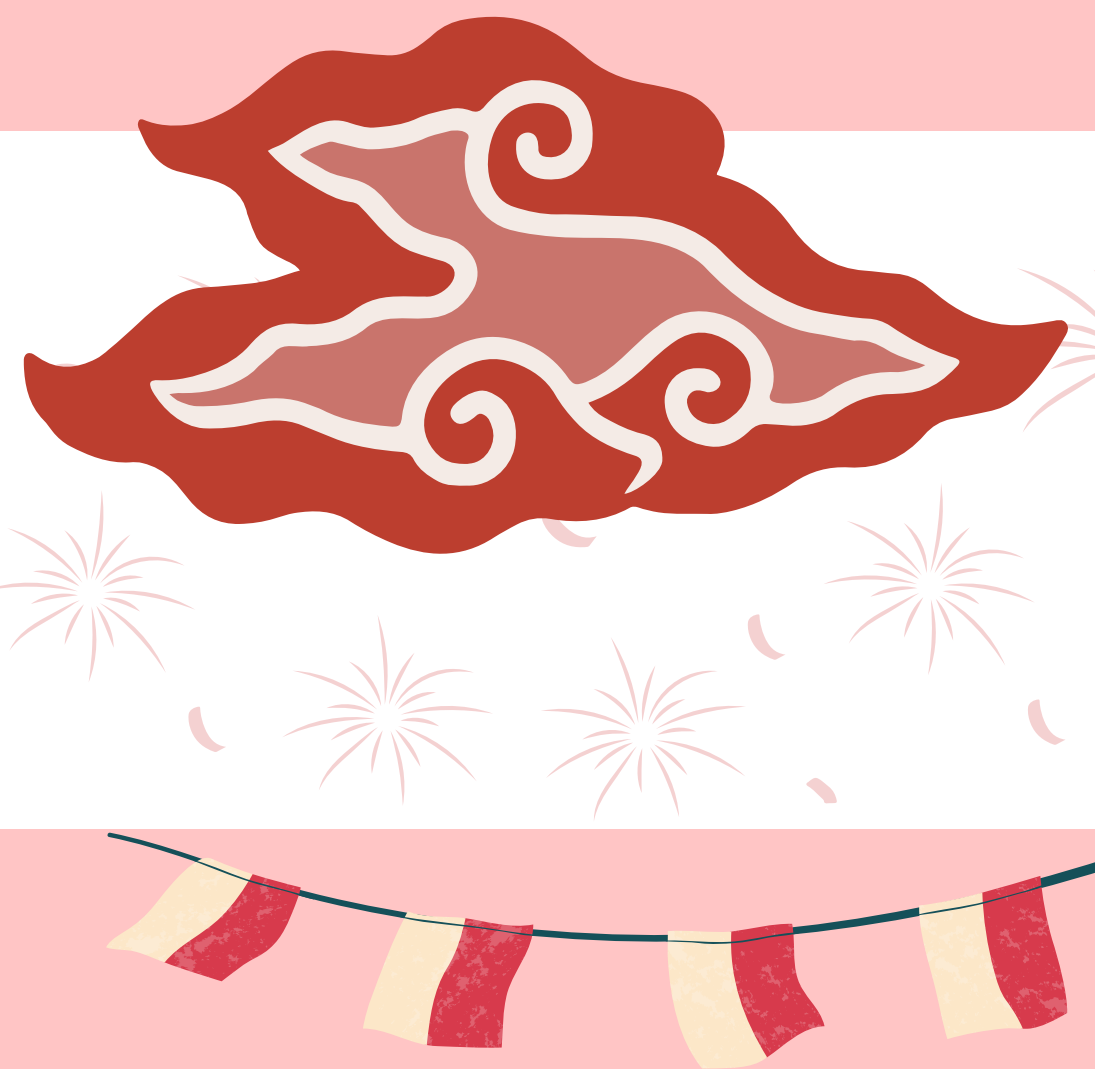
The language has strong ties and is derived mostly from Malay and it is also heavily influenced by Dutch, with about 3,000 loan words.

As the Lingua Franca, it uses a very consistent phonetic spelling system: each letter is pronounced as it is written.



WEBSITES & ONLINE LESSONS

- **Belajar BIPA** - learning resources from the Indonesian Government
- **LingoHut** - Free Full Beginners to Intermediate Indonesian Course
- **DLI Indonesian** - Free Beginners-Intermediate books/resources from the Indonesian Government
- **PeaceCorps** - online free course
- **Global Language Online Support System** - over 270 reading, speaking, listening and grammar activities



READING

For beginners:

- **Cerpen Mu** - Short Children's Stories
- **Majalah Bobo** - Children's Magazine (many PDF's can be found online!)
- **mylanguages.org** - practice your comprehension and translation skills by comparing texts in Bahasa to the same texts in English

When you have gained a foundational level of Indonesian, read online newspapers such as **The Conversation Indonesia** and **ABC News**.

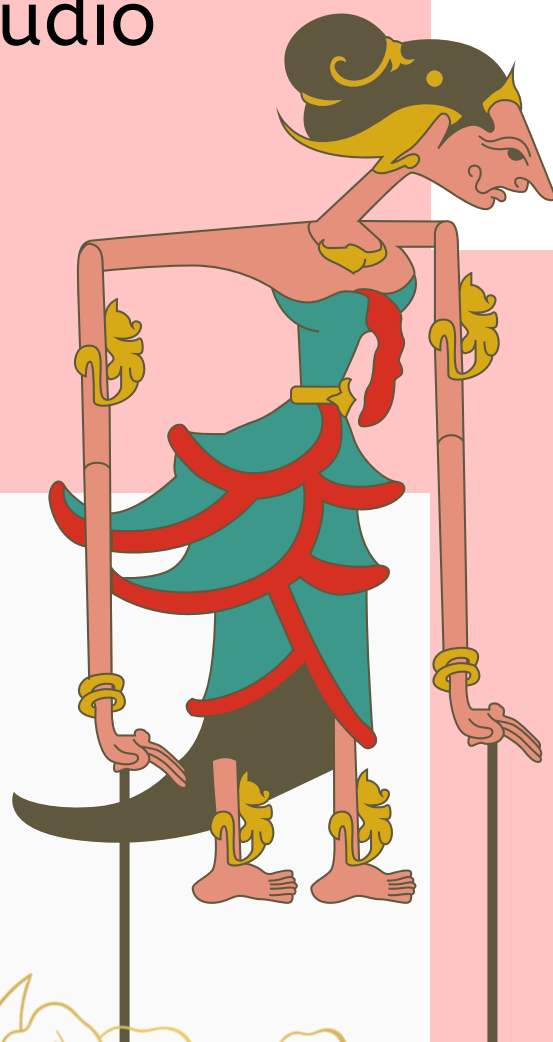
LISTENING

Listening to podcasts, movies and youtube videos are a great way to get a good sense of how conversational Indonesian works and sounds.



PODCASTS

- **Slow Short Stories Indonesian**
- **Bule Belajar Bahasa** - follow along as a non-Indonesian speaker gets taught Indonesian by a native speaker
- **Berizik** - Podcast introducing Indo-Pop
- **Selaksa Senja** - learn about Indonesian language, culture and traditional music
- **Speakindo.life** - native speakers tell you stories about their lives
- **SBS Bahasa Indonesia** - audio and news clips on current affairs (intermediate to advanced levels)



MOVIES

Indonesian Movies can be found across all streaming services! Here are some of our recommendations:

- **Laskar Pelangi** (Drama)
- **Cek Toko Sebelah** (Comedy)
- **The Raid** (Action)
- **Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas** (Drama)
- **Yuni** (Coming of Age/Drama)
- **Pengabdian Setan** (Horror)
- **Impetigore** (Horror)
- **The Raid** (Action)

MUSIC

Follow the links to find some of our favourite Indonesian music playlists:

- **Indobops** (pop)
- **Rock & Alt Rock**
- **Indie pop**
- **70s & 80s**
- **Hiphop & Rap**



YOUTUBE

- **IndonesianPod101** - beginners lessons in topics like grammar and vocab
- **NessiJudge**: horror and history
- **Titan Tyra** - lifestyle and travel vlogger
- **EpicVice** - light news, a bit like BuzzFeed
- **Sacha Stevenson** - a Canadian living in Indonesia and making vlogs and sketches in Indonesian





SPEAKING

Speaking is perhaps the most important skill for language learning although it can be daunting. Use this [pronunciation guide](#) and this [alphabet pronunciation tool](#) to develop your accent.

If you're having trouble finding native speakers to practice with, join an online language exchange with **Tandem** or join the [Aloha Sydney Conversation Group](#), a language exchange that meets three times a week in Sydney (IG: @alohasydney).

If you need more speaking practice, get a low-cost online tutor on **iTalki**.



VOCABULARY

Develop your vocabulary with [this list](#) of the 2000 most commonly used Indonesian words, [this word bank](#) or these vocab [colouring sheets](#).

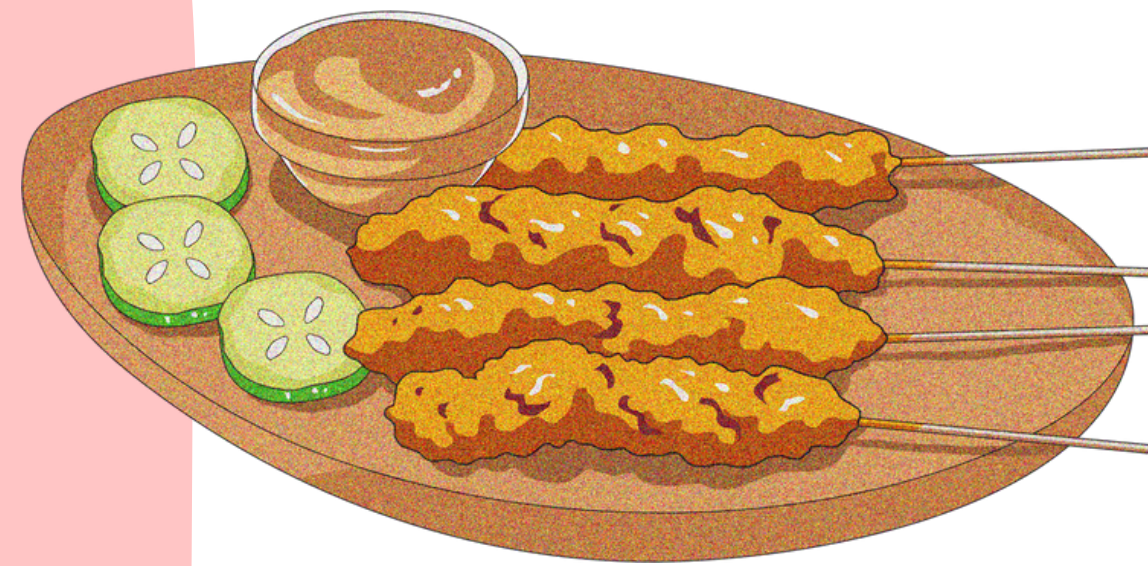
To retain vocabulary in your long-term memory, make spaced repetition flashcards with the app **Anki**.



FINDING YOUR COMMUNITY

Balai Bahasa Indonesia NSW is a cultural organisation affiliated with the Indonesian embassy and their Consulate in Sydney. Follow them [@bbbi.nsw](#) on Instagram and check [their website](#) to find information on upcoming culinary and cultural events. They also provide access to a [free library](#) of books and resources with their free membership!

The [Indonesian Consulate in Sydney](#) is always hosting events from historical discussions to music performances open to all.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Tired of staring at your textbooks all day? Put your Indonesian skills to good use and immerse yourself in Indonesian popular culture through social media.

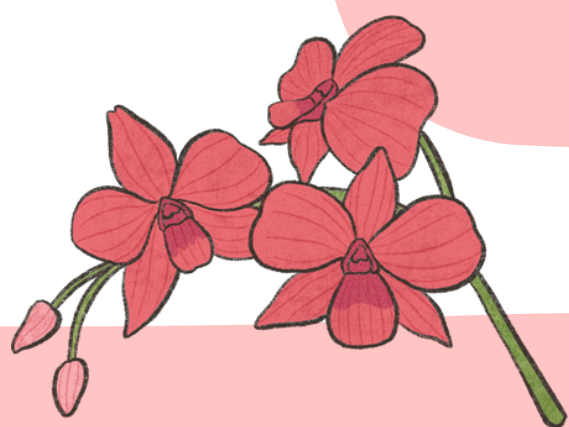
- [@memespongebobindonesia](#): Your favourite Spongebob Memes in Indonesian
- [@dagelan](#): Comedy and Entertainment
- [@bagihumor](#): Comedy
- [@masakmasaktranstv](#): Indonesian Cooking Series with recipes
- [@bikinlapertranstv](#): Learn about Traditional Indonesian Cuisine
- [@initalkshowofficial](#): Talkshow clips and performances including interviews with Indonesian celebrities, politicians, and popular figures.



TIPS AND TRICKS

1. Distinguishing formal & casual speech

With Bahasa Baku and Bahasa Gaul, Indonesian is known for its wide variety of colloquial forms which differ across each island. But no need to stress! The best way to learn is to slowly immerse yourself through social media, music, Youtube, and films.

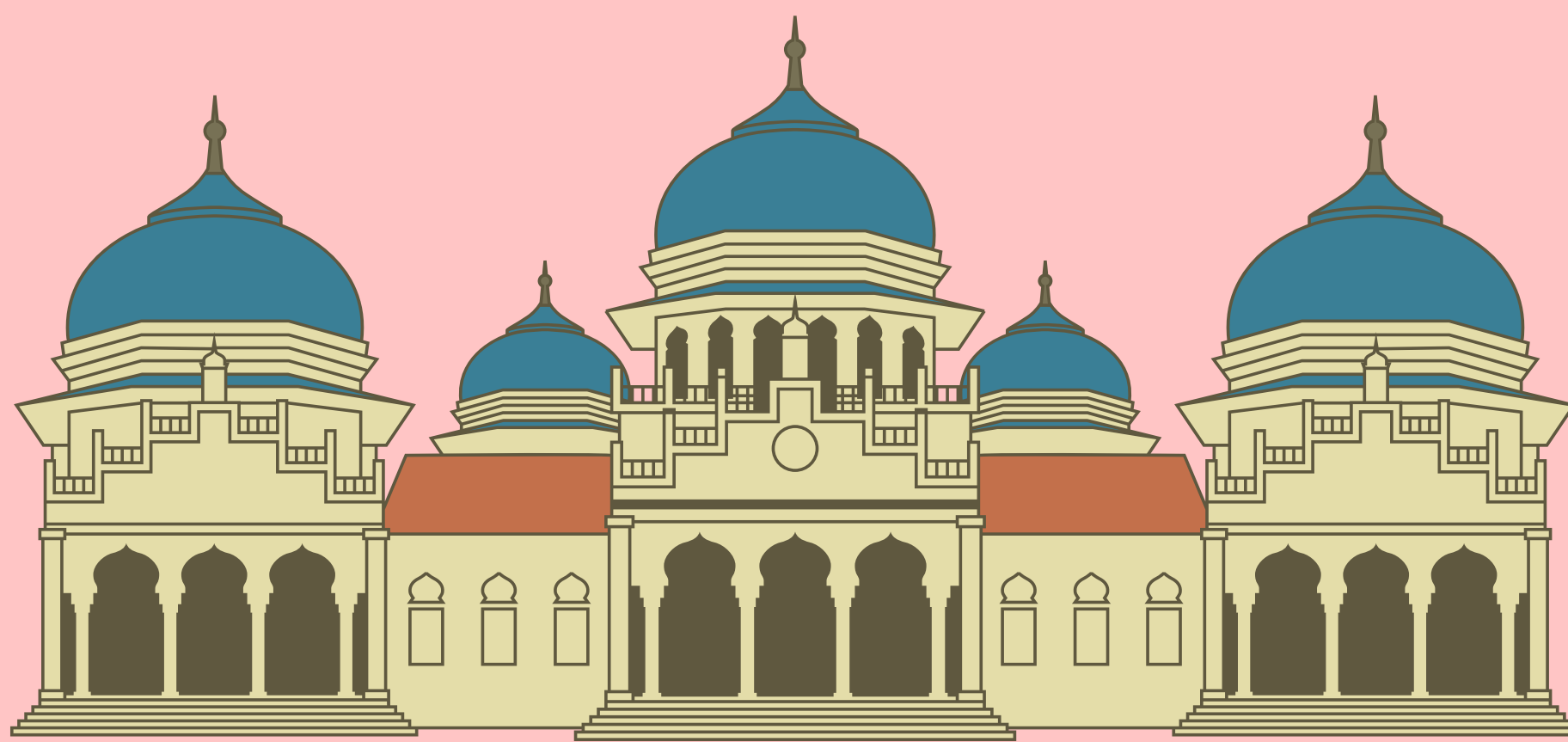
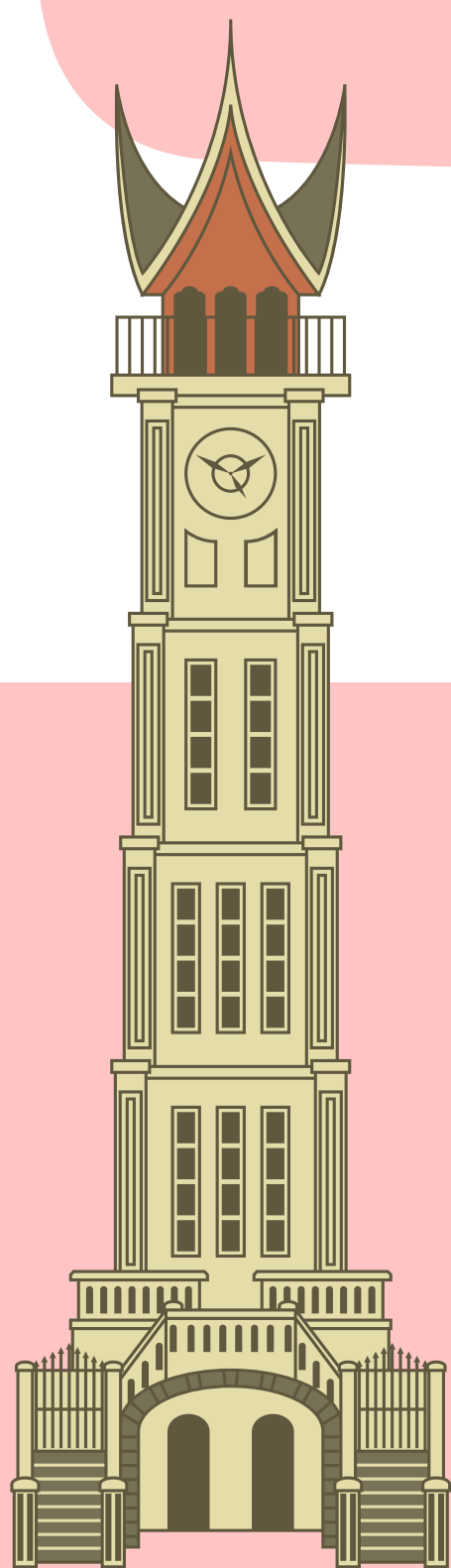
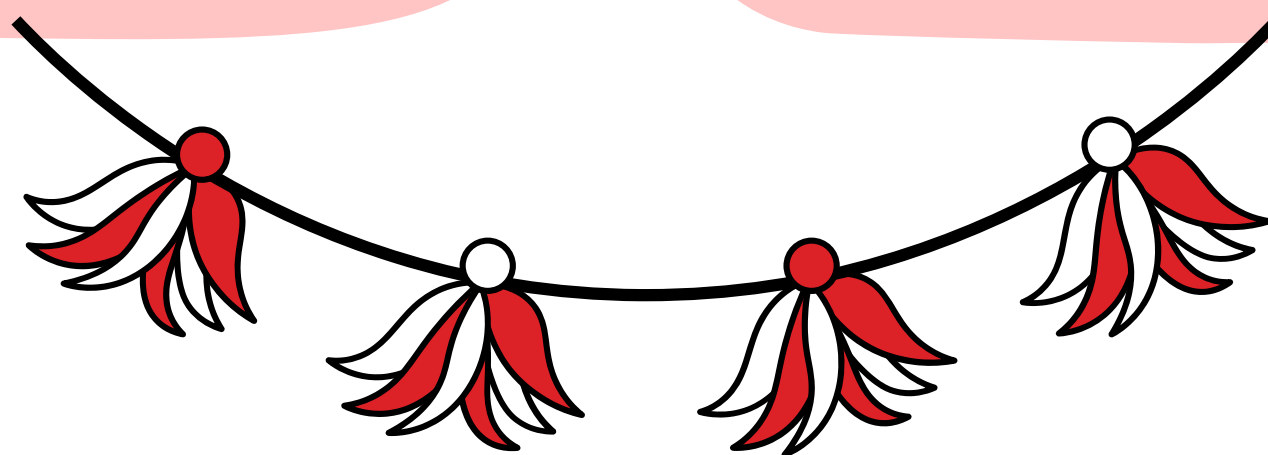


2. Verbs

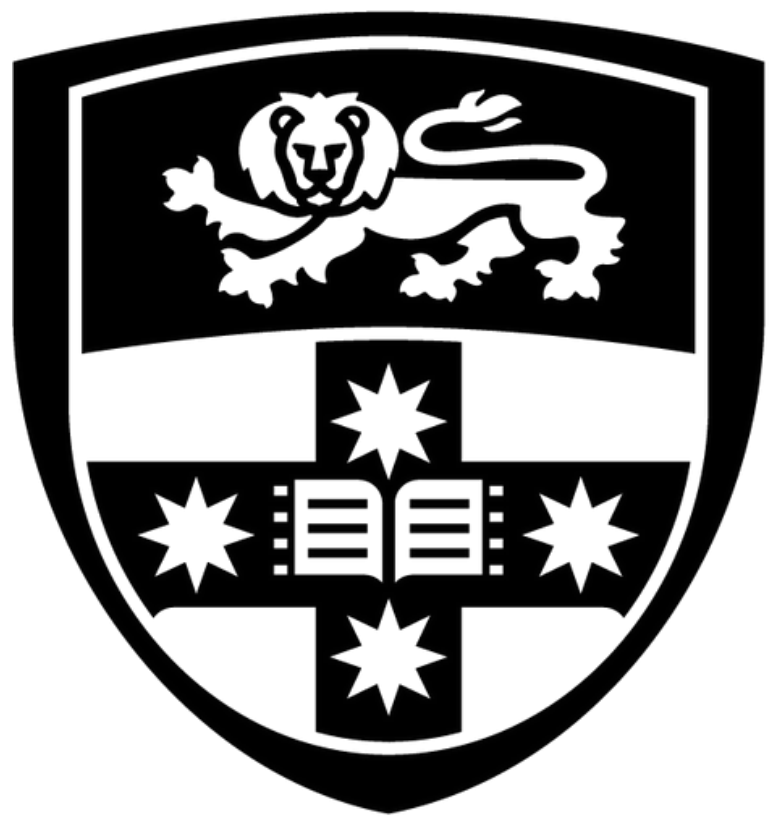
Indonesian verbs use a complex systems of affixes (a word attached to the verb) to show further meaning. **Here's** a handy guide if you recognise the verb but don't know the word attached to it.

3. Pronouns

Indonesian has many more pronouns from formal to informal to casual. Make sure to remember which ones to use in which context! **Here's a quick guide.**



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