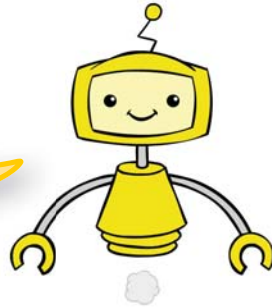


I beg to differ

We cannot always agree on everything, can we? Apparently, in Indonesia not only can you agree on everything, but you must! It is called *mufakat* and ensures that everyone is kept happy. I think we could do with a little more *mufakat* in the Smart household.



LINKS TO:
Stage 2, Module 10
Learning Object 2: *Me too*

PRIOR LEARNING:
Stage 1
Module 6 Work Sheet 2: *Are you suitable?*



1 Those in favour

When important decisions need to be made, people gather to express their opinions or debate an issue. This is the way our Westminster system of government operates. The word 'parliament' is derived from the verb 'to parley', which means to have a discussion or conference. In government, parleying takes the form of a debate. You are probably familiar with the expression, 'The Bill is being debated in the Lower House', meaning a proposal for a law is being debated by the Parliament.

In Australia, for a Bill to be passed into law, it must receive a majority of the vote in both the Lower House (House of Representatives) and in the Upper House (the Senate) of the Parliament.

This is not the case in Indonesia. There, a Bill is debated until consensus is reached. Consensus means that all sides of the debate must agree with the final decision. The process of debating to reach consensus in Indonesia is called *musyawarah*, and the resulting unanimous decision is called *mufakat*. Therefore the Indonesian decision-making process is called *musyawarah-mufakat*.

Note:

In Indonesia, at some levels of politics, women are excluded from the decision-making process. On the island of Bali, for example, at the village level, only the male heads of each family will sit cross-legged in the community pavilion or hall (*banjar*) to debate issues (*musyawarah*) and reach consensus (*mufakat*).

2 Arguing the point

Indonesian people do not argue or debate in a confrontational manner because these techniques may expose both the confronter and the confronted to potential humiliation. In a culture where harmony and the maintenance of 'face' is of utmost importance, debate is reserved, differing viewpoints are politely listened to, and consensus is sought. Therefore, an Indonesian debate would be categorised by phrases such as:

Saya mendukung pendapat ...

I support the opinion of ...

Saya setuju dengan ...

I agree with ...

Menurut pendapat saya ...

In my opinion ...

Menurut saya ...

According to me ...

Saya berpendapat bahwa ...

I am of the opinion that ...

Bagi saya ...

For me ...

Saya kira ... / Saya pikir ...

I think ...

(continued on following page)

2

(continued from previous page)

According to the President ...

Indonesia has experienced an era of reformasi since the end of Sukarno's era of 'Guided Democracy' in 1965 and the fall of the subsequent 'New Order' regime of Suharto in 1998. Despite their new-found freedom of speech and expression, Indonesians are still constrained by cultural conventions that make them reluctant to openly criticise their leaders, or forcefully express their opinions on sensitive matters. Elected officials and civil servants still tend to hide behind established procedures and policy, or adhere to the views of those in positions of authority.

Therefore, phrases such as the following still abound in official speech:

Menurut Undang-Undang Dasar 1945 ...

According to the National Constitution of 1945 ...

and

Menurut Bapak President ...

According to the President ...

3

Exercises

Exercise 1

Anna is sitting at home listening to her favourite radio station, *Radio Remaja*, while thinking about an incident concerning litter in the park earlier that afternoon.

An announcement about the topic for tonight's *Forum Remaja* talkback show catches her attention.

Finally, here is an opportunity for Anna to give her opinion on a topic about which she feels strongly.

Let's look at a number of listener responses, including Anna's:



Topik untuk dibahas di Radio Remaja malam ini adalah 'Kebersihan lingkungan merupakan tanggungjawab kita semua'. Para pendengar tolong hubungi RR di nomor telepon 579777892 untuk memberi komentar Anda.

Hai. Namaku Anna Smart. Aku pelajar dari Australia di SMP Harapan Bangsa. Aku sangat setuju bahwa kebersihan lingkungan adalah tanggungjawab kita semua. Sampah kadang-kadang memang menjijikkan tetapi kita tidak boleh membiarkan sampah itu begitu saja. Kebersihan lingkungan mencerminkan pribadi kita masing-masing jadi kita harus menjaga kebersihan.



Anna

(continued on following page)



Yuliana

Namaku Yuliana, pelajar SMP Negeri 6 Jakarta Selatan. Sampah itu menjijikkan dan bukan tugasku mengangkutnya. Biarkannya saja untuk diambil oleh para pemulung. Kan sampah itu merupakan mata pencarian mereka. Kalau kita semua mengangkat sampah, nanti pemulung tidak bisa mendapat penghasilan. Kasihan mereka yang bergantung pada sampah kita!

Namaku Reni. Aku pelajar SMP Negeri 12 Jakarta Barat. Aku sama sekali tidak setuju dengan pendapat si Yuliana barusan. Bagi saya itu pendapat gila yang kekanak-kanakan. Walaupun para pemulung berjasa mengumpulkan sampah untuk menjaga kebersihan, kita tidak dapat mengharapkan terlalu banyak dari mereka. Kita semua harus mengusahakan menjaga keindahan dan kebersihan kota kita Jakarta ini. Aku sangat setuju dengan pendapat si Anna dari Australia tadi.



Reni



Budi

Nama saya Budi, pelajar SMP Negeri 1 Rawamangun, Jakarta Timur. Jakarta adalah kota yang berpenduduk lebih dari 12 juta jiwa. Di mayoritas daerah kota ini tidak ada truk pemungut dan penghancur sampah seperti di negara maju. Maka dari itu, kita harus peduli untuk mengurus sampah kita sendiri. Kalau kita semua sependapat dengan si Yuliana tadi, kota Jakarta bisa dibanjiri dengan sampahnya sendiri. Bagi saya, kita sebagai warga Jakarta harus selalu sadar akan kebersihan lingkungan Ibukota kita ini supaya indah dan lestari.

Hai. Namaku Suyanto, pelajar SMP Negeri 18 Jakarta Pusat. Kasihan si Yuliana tadi. Dia tidak mau mengotori tangannya mengangkat sampah orang lain. Aku yakin di rumah dia mempunyai dua atau tiga pembantu yang mengurus segala sesuatu untuknya. Sadar diri Yulianna dan jangan egois! Kamu harus lebih bertanggungjawab dan mengikuti contoh baik si Anna orang Australia tadi!



Suyanto

(continued from previous page)

It seems that Anna, as a foreigner living in Jakarta, has received some praise from her fellow listeners for her views.

Read the listener responses one more time, then complete the exercises.

1.1 What key word appears most frequently throughout the listener responses?

What comments can you make about the meaning and structure of this word?

1.2 Highlight any key words or familiar vocabulary in the listener's comments in green.

Now use what you know to determine the topic of the radio Youth Forum.

1.3 Are there any key words that presented difficulties for you?

What strategies did you use to overcome these difficulties?

(continued on following page)

1.4 How many different arguments are put forward by Anna and the other listeners of the radio Youth Forum?

Summarise the main gist of these arguments.

1.5 Identify any phrases or expressions used that could form the basis of a slogan for an anti-litter poster or campaign.

Explain their suitability as slogans in anti-litter campaigns.

Exercise 2

Answer the following questions in **English**:

2.1 What is the process for decision-making in the Student Representative Council at your school?

2.2 Does everyone always agree on the decisions made?

2.3 If there are instances where agreement cannot be reached, how is the deadlock resolved?

2.4 How would you feel about the Indonesian process of *musyawarah-mufakat*?

Would it work in an Australian context? Explain your answer.

Exercise 3

Below is a 5Ks poster, which is seen throughout Indonesia. Its purpose is to encourage social stability and cooperation through the 5Ks:

- *Keamanan*
- *Kebersihan*
- *Keindahan*
- *Ketertiban*
- *Keluargaan*.



3.1 What part of speech are the words in the 5Ks, and from what base words are they derived?

3.2 Complete the table by writing the base words, the meanings of the base words, and the meanings of the 5K words derived from the base words.

<i>ke~...~an</i> word	Base word	Meaning of base word	Meaning of <i>ke~...~an</i> word

3.3 This poster would be displayed in nearly every primary school classroom in Indonesia.

What does this tell you about the message and purpose of the poster?

From your knowledge of anti-litter and other environmental education posters in Australia, do you find anything unique about the 5Ks poster?

3.4

3.4.1 Create three possible slogans, in Indonesian, that could be used on an anti-litter poster aimed at a teenage audience.

3.4.2 Insert one of your slogans into the space provided in the poster below.

