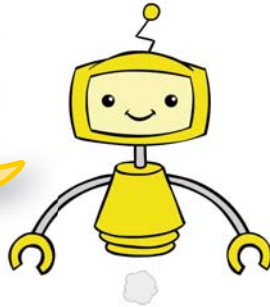


# More on agreeing and disagreeing

Who's right and who's wrong? It's all a matter of opinion, isn't it? Except when it comes to me; I'm always right!

Let's look at some more expressions for agreeing and disagreeing with others.



**LINKS TO:**

Stage 2, Module 10  
Learning Object 3: I agree

**PRIOR LEARNING:**

Stage 2  
Module 10 Work Sheet 1: *I beg to differ*



## Expressing agreement or disagreement

1

In English, we use expressions like 'that's right', or 'no, I don't agree with that', to express our opinions about a topic.

Indonesian has similar expressions. We heard these expressions used in Module 10, Learning Object 3, *I agree*.

<i>Aku setuju.</i>	I agree.
<i>Aku tidak setuju.</i>	I disagree.

These expressions can also be softened or intensified by using various adverbs of degree.

For example:

<i>Aku sangat setuju.</i>	I very much agree.
<i>Aku kurang setuju.</i>	I don't really agree.
<i>Aku sangat tidak setuju.</i>	I really disagree.

## Right and wrong: language and culture

2

Indonesian also has some direct expressions for stating whether something is right or wrong.

<i>Benar! Betul! or Tepat!</i>	That's correct! Right! or Exactly!
<i>Tidak benar or Salah!</i>	That's incorrect or Wrong!

However, you need to be careful about the context in which you use these expressions. These expressions can cause offence if not used appropriately.

You should already be familiar with the idea that language is part of culture and vice versa. This means that you need to have a good understanding

of the culture of the country to be able to use the language correctly.

When you use *tidak benar* or *salah* you are judging someone's action or opinion and saying that they are *objectively* wrong (rather than just being wrong in your opinion).

In Indonesian society, it is considered rude to pass judgment on someone of higher status than yourself, and to say, directly, that they are wrong.

When Indonesians disagree with a speaker in such an instance, they often avoid answering directly and give a vague *Ya*, 'Yes', response instead.

(continued on following page)

2

(continued from previous page)

If someone gives you this type of answer, you are not supposed to pursue the matter further. It is good manners to let it drop.

Obviously, there are cases where it is appropriate to use *benar* and *salah*, such as when a teacher is addressing a student, or any other situation where there are questions of fact involved, rather than opinion.

### Note:

For Indonesians, status and credibility are important. They go to great lengths to ensure that someone's image is not diminished by being humiliated, embarrassed, insulted, criticised, reprimanded, or by a sense of inferiority that has been engendered by the use of the wrong words.

Being sensitive to other people's fear of exposure and vulnerability is part of a widespread reciprocal understanding that supports each person's dignity and respectability. This way no one loses face.

3

## Exercises

### Exercise 1

You are the game show host on a very popular TV quiz show. Today's contestants are Peter and Anna Smart, Australians who live in Jakarta.

The prize for the winner is the latest-model mobile phone and a digital video camera!

**1.1 Peter and Anna each give an answer for every question. Fill in their answers and the game show host's responses with the appropriate expressions.**

**1.1.1 Apa nama ibukota Propinsi Jawa Tengah?**



Empty speech bubble for Peter's answer.

Empty speech bubble for Anna's answer.



Empty speech bubble for the game show host's response.

The game show host

Empty speech bubble for the game show host's response.

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

**1.1.2 Masa kini Republik Indonesia terdiri dari berapa propinsi?**

The game show host

Peter

Anna

**1.1.3 Sebutkan nama negara yang berbagi perbatasan dengan Indonesia.**

The game show host

Peter

Anna

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

**1.1.4 Siapa nama Presiden pertama Republik Indonesia?**

The game show host

Peter

Anna

**1.1.5 Berapa jumlah penduduk Republik Indonesia?**

The game show host

Peter

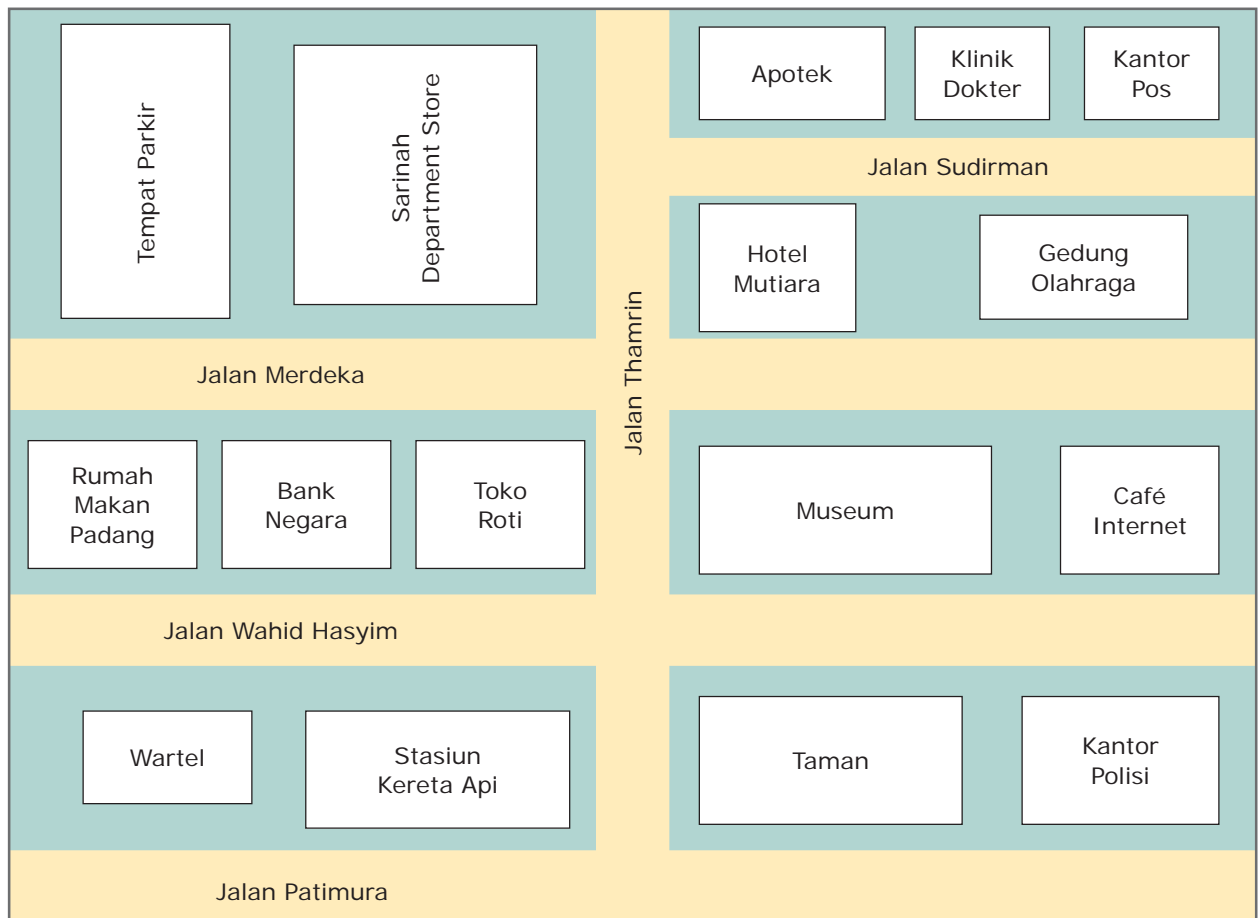
Anna

**1.2 Who won the quiz and what was the final score?**

---

## Exercise 2

Use the map below and answer the questions using expressions of agreement and disagreement as used in Blocks 1 and 2.



2.1 Klinik Dokter terletak di samping Apotek di Jalan Sudirman, bukan?

---

2.2 Rumah Makan Padang terletak di sebelah Museum di Jalan Wahid Hasyim, bukan?

---

2.3 Stasiun Kereta Api terletak di sudut Jalan Thamrin dan Jalan Patimura, bukan?

---

2.4 Tempat Parkir terletak di Jalan Merdeka di samping Toserba Sarinah, bukan?

---

2.5 Kantor Polisi terletak di Jalan Wahid Hasyim di seberang Wartel, bukan?

---