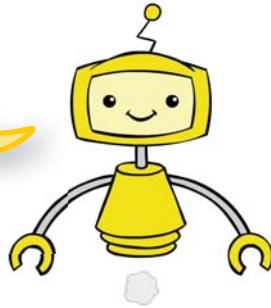


Postcards from Mars

LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 11
Learning Object 4: Holiday news

Humans aren't the only ones who love to go on holidays! Robots love to travel too, and oh, the adventures we have! I'm not sure you humans could handle it!

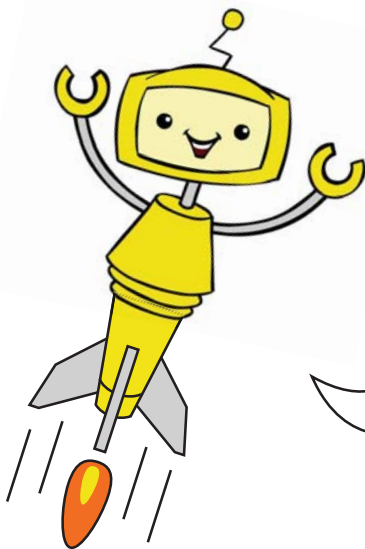


PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 11, Work Sheet 1: *A headline act*

Module 11, Work Sheet 2: *I've got a scoop!*



How about I show you some of the postcards I sent to Anna and Peter on my recent trip to Mars? Yes, Mars!

A month ago I learned from NASA that my mother and I are not one-off creations. Before I was assembled, my predecessors, led by my grandmother, were sent on a space exploration to Mars. They disappeared off the radar for several decades. When they were finally able to re-establish contact with mission control, I was asked if I would like to be the one to make first contact with my Martian ancestors. I was retrofitted with turbo-boosted rockets to help me make the journey to Mars in no time. Hang on to your seats for an insight into Martian culture.

A word on postcards

1

You are already familiar with many different genres of written texts, including narrative, procedural, and persuasive, just to mention a few. Postcards are a form of transactional writing: writing that is used to communicate ideas and information between individuals*.

A postcard is a card without an envelope that has a photograph or illustration on one side, and a space for the address and a handwritten message on the other.

Very often postcards are sent by individuals, who are on holiday, to their friends and family at home. Although the written text varies greatly in content from postcard to postcard, typical

topics include a description of the place visited, comments on weather and the feelings of the writer.

In Indonesian, it is common to write postcards in short sentences and use punctuation, such as exclamation marks, quite liberally (for example, !!!). Although postcards can range from flowing, poetically descriptive texts, evoking the senses and emotions of the writer, they can also be simple and minimal with few words (such as, 'MISS YOU!!!' or 'HAVING A GREAT TIME!!!') scrawled across the card.

*Source: Writing a-z.com

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1

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Common characteristics of postcards include:

date

12 Juli 2011

greeting

Halo Ibu Wati,

handwritten
body of
descriptive
text, usually
related to
the place
featured on
the postcard

Apa kabar? Semoga semuanya baik-baik saja di Jakarta. Aku sedang berada di Bali. Bali bagus sekali. Ibu pasti suka! Aku suah mengambil banyak foto. Nanti aku kirim beberapa foto kepada Ibu.

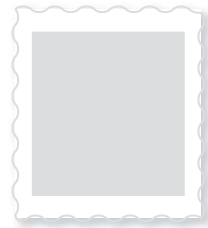
farewell

Salamku,

signature

Jenny

address



Kpd. Yth. Ibu Wati
Jalan Muwardi No.15
Grogol.
Jakarta Barat, 11550

image, usually relating to a geographical place (on the front of the card)



Postcards from Indonesia

2

The first recorded picture postcard in Indonesia contained an image of the National Palace during the Dutch East Indies colonial period, and was sent by a Dutch military officer from the Military Post Office in Batavia (old Jakarta)? Old picture postcards, particularly those depicting the period prior to Indonesia's Declaration of Independence are rare and highly sought after by collectors for both their monetary and their historical value. Many historians, architects, and researchers have used the cards to reconstruct the history of Indonesia.

Nowadays, Indonesian picture postcards are as varied and colourful (albeit more modest) as those found in Australia and commonly depict the varied scenery and cultures of Indonesia.

For people who don't live near tourist areas that produce postcards, the Indonesian postal service sells plain postcards (*kartu pos*) without any images and just line spaces for the address of the sender and the destination address (front) and for the message itself (rear). There is even a special, colourful version for teenagers known as a *kartu pos remaja* (teen postcard).

3

The context of tense

As you learned in Module 11, Work Sheet 1, *A headline act*, in Indonesian tense can be indicated by using either tense markers, such as *sudah*, *sedang* and *akan*, or time indicators, such as *kemarin*, *hari ini* and *besok*, or a combination of both of these.

However, in the absence of such markers we need to look at the contextual clues given around the

main action to determine whether the action took place in the past, immediate present or future.

For example, the sentence *Zak pergi ke Mars* could mean either 'Zak has gone to Mars' or 'Zak is on his way to Mars'. There is no way of knowing exactly which meaning is intended without looking at the contextual clues surrounding this action.

4

Exercises

Exercise 1

Read the following series of postcards sent by Zak electronically from Mars to Peter and Anna.

Complete the accompanying activities.

15 Februari 3319 (Tanggal di Mars)

Halo dari Mars!!!

Hanya mau memberitahu bahwa aku telah sampai dengan selamat! Perjalanan ke Mars lebih cepat dari perkiraan berkat mesin turboku yang baru!

Senang bertemu dengan nenek dan semua teman baruku. Mereka suka sekali permen jahe yang aku bawa dari Indonesia. Benar-benar populer! Sayangnya, tidak ada yang suka sambal terasi. Ya sudah, mereka yang rugi!

Jangan terlalu rindu kepadaku!

Aku akan segera menulis surat lagi!

xxx Zak

16 Februari 3319

Hai Anna dan Peter!

Sekarang jam 8 malam, sedang santai di kawah favoritku dan kupikir sebaiknya menulis surat singkat kepada kalian. Hari pertamaku di planet merah ini benar-benar menyenangkan! Cuaca agak sedikit gila. Tadi ada badai pasir yang besar dan aku hampir terhembus jauh-jauh sampai Phobos (salah satu bulan Mars seandainya kalian tidak tahu!). Akan ke pegunungan dengan teman baruku Marvin besok.

Peluk sayang,

Zak

PS. Aku kehilangan kantong permen jaheku yang terakhir di badai tadi. Mudah-mudahan nenek belum menghabiskan punyanya. Kalau tidak ada lagi aku harus pulang lebih cepat dari yang diharapkan!

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18 Februari 3319

Salam hei penduduk bumi!
Perjalananku ke Gunung Olympus hebat! Kalian bisa lihat dari foto bahwa tempat itu seperti pegunungan Alpen tapi lebih besar, lebih kering dan tentu saja lebih merah! Cuacanya sempurna sekali untuk meluncur dari pasir dengan papan luncur dan bukit pasirnya luar biasa! Aku dan Marvin sekarang penuh dengan garut dan goresan, tapi pengalaman itu benar-benar menyenangkan! Nenek akan marah besar kalau melihatku nanti!

Harus pergi dulu. Aku mau melihat ngarai setelah ini.

Rindu sekali kepada kalian!

Zak.

PS. Mudah-mudahan presentasimu sukses!

PSS. Hampir pingsan tanpa permen jaheku — kue Mars buatan nenek rasanya hambar kalau dibandingkan dengan permen jahe! liihh!

19 Februari 3319

Halo Anna dan Peter,
Ngarai Valles Marineris indah sekali dan sangat luar biasa. Sayangnya, aku merasa sakit sekarang dan seharian ini menderita sakit perut. Ini pasti karena makanan Mars yang berbeda! Rasanya aku menjadi penuh dengan gas! Ugh!!! Aku benar-benar rindu pada kalian. Aku juga rindu pada makanan yang enak-enak di sana. Rasanya aku mau memberikan apa saja untuk dapat sepiring besar kue serabi dan sebatang coklat favoritku sekarang! Nenek pikir bahwa aku sakit perut karena merindukan Bumi. Apa mungkin aku merasa lebih menjadi seorang manusia daripada robot?

Nggak sabar untuk bertemu kalian lagi!!!

Sobat terbaikmu,

Zak

Based on these texts, answer the following questions in Indonesian using the past tense as appropriate.

1.1 Where did Zak go on his trip and why?

1.2 When did he go?

1.3 What did he do while on his trip?

1.4 How was his trip? How did he feel while on his trip?

1.5 Why do you think he wrote so many postcards to Anna and Peter?

1.6 Based on your knowledge of Zak as a character and your knowlege of Indonesian postcards, write Zak's final postcard to the twins before his trip back to Earth, in Indonesian.

Postcard template with a writing area and a stamp placeholder.



Exercise 2

Presenting a news item

Anna and Peter had to present a news item to their class about a recent holiday. Now it's your job to take on the role of news reporter and turn Zak's trip into a news item to present to your class.

Be creative! Based on your knowledge of news reports in Indonesia you could turn this into a news segment for the Indonesian television evening news or an Indonesian newspaper article.

Don't forget, since you are the presenter or reporter, you will need to write your text in the third person singular (Zak), and don't forget to use the past tense!

