

Please join us on our special day

Answers

LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 15

Learning Object 3: These are mine

Exercise 1

Sample answers:

1.1 Who is hosting the wedding? What information tells you this?

Yang menjadi tuan rumah dalam pesta perkawinan ini adalah keluarga Bapak Sarwandi dan keluarga Bapak Hasnudin. Kita tahu itu karena nama-nama mereka tercantum di bagian akhir undangan.

1.2 Where and when will the wedding take place?

Pesta perkawinan ini akan dilaksanakan di Jl. Ir. Rahardi No.3 Pasar Pagi, Jakarta Pusat.

1.3 Is there a dress code stipulated for the wedding and if so what is it?

Di Indonesia biasanya tidak boleh meminta para tamu untuk berpakaian resmi atau tidak resmi ke pesta perkawinan. Keputusan seperti itu diserahkan kepada para tamu sendiri berdasarkan jenis perkawinan yang akan diselenggarakan. Misalnya, apabila perkawinan itu adalah perkawinan adat, kemungkinan besar para tamu akan berpakaian tradisional seperti kemeja batik untuk lelaki serta kebaya untuk wanita. Apabila acara perkawinan mengikuti gaya Barat, para tamu juga turut berpakaian Barat yang rapih dan sopan.

1.4 What would you wear if you were invited to this wedding?

Kalau saya diundang ke perkawinan ini, saya akan berpakaian yang sopan dan layak.

1.5 Using your knowledge of Indonesian wedding etiquette, how should Zak respond to accept this invitation?

Kalau Zak diundang ke pesta perkawinan ini, dia tidak perlu menjawab untuk memberitahukan bahwa dia akan datang ke pesta. Dia hanya perlu datang saja. Di Indonesia kita tidak perlu membalas atau menjawab surat undangan perkawinan.

Exercise 2

Sample answers:

2.1 What type of language is used in the invitation?

As is common practice with Indonesian wedding invitations, the language used in this invitation is very formal and religious. This can be seen by the use of phrases such as the following:

- *Kesan mendalam dan suasana bahagia akan terlukis indah di hati kami apabila Bapak/Ibu/Saudara/i berkenan hadir untuk memberikan do'a serta merestui langkah putra-putri kami.*
A deep impression of joy will be etched in our hearts if you are present to give your prayers and blessing to this undertaking by our son and daughter.
- *Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.*
Peace and prosperity with God's blessing be upon you.

2.2 What religion are the married couple and their families? How do you know this?

From the religious terms and phrases used in the invitation we are able to determine that this is an invitation to a Muslim wedding. For instance, the Arabic and Muslim term for God is Allah, whereas the generic Indonesian word for God is *Tuhan*.

The use of formulaic Arabic religious phrases such as *Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.* on the invitation also shows that the couple to be married are Muslims.

Exercise 3

Sample answers:

3.1 Compare the style and language used in the English invitation with the Indonesian invitation.

The English language invitation is written in formal, yet simple and straightforward language and in a single column. It does not contain any religious connotations or metaphors and simply invites the recipients to attend the wedding and asks them to respond to the invitation (RSVP) by a certain date. This wedding invitation is sent by the parents of the bride.

The Indonesian invitation uses formal religious and poetic language (as exemplified in 2.1 above),

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interspersed with Arabic words and phrases. It is presented in two columns. The first column focuses on the marriage ceremony, which is normally reserved for family and very close friends, and the second column focuses on the reception and on the great honour it would be for the hosts if the invited guest were to attend and give their prayers and blessings for the married couple. This invitation does not ask for a response (RSVP) because in Indonesia it is expected that people invited to events such as weddings will make every effort to attend. Wedding invitations in Indonesia are sent out on behalf of the parents of both the bride and the groom.

3.2 Does the content of English invitations differ from the content of Indonesian invitations? If so, how?

The English language invitation contains factual information about the timing and venue of the wedding and the dress requirements for the event. The RSVP request is clear and prominent at bottom of the invitation.

In the Indonesian invitation, the religious phrases and expressions, and the words expressing the gratitude of the parents if the invited guests would do them the honour of attending, are given a prominent position. Other details, such as the timing and venue of the wedding ceremony and reception, are inserted at the bottom of the page or interspersed between the other information. The Indonesian invitation does not contain an RSVP, nor does it contain information about dress standards. These are not considered necessary in Indonesian invitations.

3.3 What can you infer about the English and Indonesian wedding celebrations based on the language and content of the invitations?

From the language and content of both invitations we can infer that there are important differences in emphasis between Australian and Indonesian wedding ceremonies and receptions.

That the English language wedding invitation is a most important and formal occasion is shown by the decoration, wording, font style and (it must be assumed) the quality of the paper used. The English language invitation invites the guests to the church ceremony. However, the religious aspect of the ceremony is not prominent, perhaps out of respect to any guests who may not hold the same beliefs as the bride and groom or their families. The importance and formality of the occasion is shown by the fact that both parents of the bride are inviting the guests and are hosting the event. All guests to the formal part of the wedding ceremony are invited to attend the festivities afterwards.

The Indonesian invitation gives details about the formal part of the wedding ceremony, to which only close family are invited; and where the celebrations will be held afterwards, to which other guests are also invited. In Indonesia, it is assumed that guests

understand the conventions and will know to which parts of the ceremony they are being invited. The prominence of religious language in the invitation shows that in Indonesia marriage is considered a spiritual commitment and an obligation entered into at the Mercy of the Almighty.

In both cultures, a marriage is viewed as the culmination of one's duty as parents. The hosts and the bridal couple consider it a great honour that the invited guests will gather to share this moment of joy with them. In summary, it can be inferred from both invitations that weddings ceremonies are very important events, not only for the couple being married but for their entire extended family and friends.