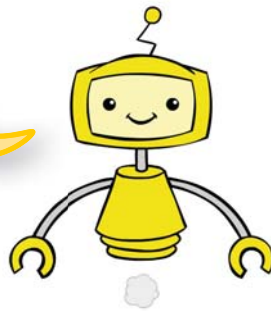


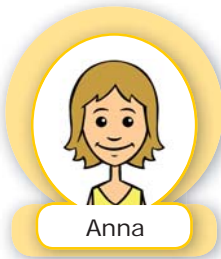
Please join us on our special day

Hey, Anna and Peter, take a squiz at this! My first ever wedding invite and I really, really wanna go! This rocks! I love a good shindig! Zak is goin' to the wedding, let the partaay begin! Oh, wait, I am 'cordially' what? RSVP? Black tie? Wedding registry? *Aku tidak mengerti!* I've never seen a wedding invitation before and I'd swear this is written in another language! Can you help me decipher this?



LINKS TO:
Stage 2, Module 15
Learning Object 3: These are mine

PRIOR LEARNING:
Stage 1
Module 12 Work Sheet 1 *Formal Invitations*



Anna

It's OK, Zak, I'll tell you all about wedding invitations. We'll read through it together and see if you are actually invited! Maybe they just want you to wear a black tie to wait on tables. Ha! Ha!

1 Wedding invitations

Wedding invitations are usually quite formal: in English, they are traditionally sent by the bride's parents, and a great deal of thought and care is put into their design.

In Europe, before the invention of the printing press in the mid-1400s, and partly because many people were illiterate, and paper was expensive and rare, weddings were usually announced by a town crier, who walked through the town ringing a bell and narrating all the important news of the day. Whoever heard the announcement was welcome to attend the wedding ceremony and the feast or party afterwards.

From the middle ages, however, wealthy families of the nobility commissioned invitations, which included images of the family crest, were sealed with wax using the family seal, and then hand-delivered by horseback, so that the delicate artworks were not damaged before they were received.

It was only around the period of World War II that commoners in England and Australia started using wedding stationery. This was around the time that famous advisers on etiquette, like Emily Post, started writing newspaper columns, and even books, about the 'correct' way to behave,

including the correct way to design and write a wedding invitation.

Modern wedding invitations vary a great deal, but most include some of the same information, and even some of the same design elements.

Design elements

Though no longer as elaborate or expensive as the wedding invitations produced for the nobility of the middle ages, today's English wedding invitations are still designed with great care. People pay particular attention to the choice of paper, the decorative images included on the invitation, the colours, and the font.

English wedding invitations often include images associated with weddings such as bells, pairs of wedding rings, doves, hearts, ribbons and flowers. Sometimes either the invitation itself or the envelope it is enclosed in will incorporate the initials of the bride and groom entwined in a fancy font. Some wedding invitations are printed on embossed or engraved paper, or on

(continued on following page)

glossy, thick card and might incorporate coloured paper, ribbon or even small three-dimensional objects like bells, hearts or horseshoes. Often, the colours and style of the invitation reflect the overall 'theme' of the wedding, such as how formal it will be, or what colours the bridal party will wear.

Content

Besides being a beautiful piece of design, wedding invitations are functional texts. They inform the recipient about the wedding, and what they should do to accept or decline the invitation.

Although they don't contain a lot of words, all of the text in an invitation is significant. Typical information in an English wedding invitation might include:

- **The names of the hosts:** The names of the person or people hosting the wedding; this is traditionally the bride's parents, but for modern weddings may also include the groom's parents. Sometimes, the bride and groom host the wedding themselves.
- **The names of the bride and groom:** The name of the bride and groom is provided in full. The bride's name comes first on the invitation, because, traditionally, it is her parents who are giving her in marriage to her future husband.
- **The date and time of the wedding**
- **The venue for the ceremony**
- **The venue for the reception**
- **The dress code:** Many invitations will specify what type of clothes should be worn. Options include smart casual, cocktail dress and black tie.
- **RSVP information:** How and when to respond to the invitation.
- **Gift registration:** Some invitations will include information about the bride and groom's gift registry. A gift registry is a list of items the bride and groom would like to receive as wedding gifts. A gift registry is traditionally designed to ensure that a bride and groom have everything they need to set up a home together after the wedding.

Indonesian wedding invitations

You may recall exploring an Indonesian wedding invitation in Stage 1, Module 12, Work Sheet 1, *Formal invitations*.

Like Australian wedding invitations, they can range from the simple to the expensive and elaborate in both design and language. Unlike invitations in Australia the vast majority of wedding invitations in Indonesia contain a range of formulaic religious phrases that are often quite long and elaborate. As religion plays an important role at all levels of Indonesian society and everyone is required by law to follow one of the five recognised religions, invitations of all faiths will, at the very least, have the expression:

hadir untuk memberi do'a serta merestui
attend to give your prayers and blessings

Typical information in an Indonesian wedding invitation might include:

- **The names of the hosts:** Traditionally both the bride and groom's parents host (*tuan rumah*) the wedding and send the invitations.
- **The names of the bride and groom:** The names of the bride (*pengantin perempuan*) and groom (*pengantin laki-laki*) are provided in full. The groom's name comes first on the invitation.
- **The date and time of the wedding:**
- **The venue for the ceremony:**
- **The venue for the reception:**
- **The dress code:** In Indonesia, it is not considered good etiquette to suggest a dress code for the guests; this is left to the guests' discretion. Whether it is a traditional wedding (*perkawinan adat*) or a western-style wedding influences what the guests will wear. At a traditional wedding the guests may choose to wear batik shirts and sarongs, whereas at western weddings a suit or smart casual attire would be more appropriate.
- **RSVP information:** Indonesian wedding invitations never contain a request for an RSVP. It is expected that everyone who is invited will attend. In Indonesia, family occasions are regarded as a high priority in peoples' lives. Such events justify absences from other obligations such as work. Relatives and friends will gather from all corners of Indonesia and overseas to attend weddings and other important rites of passage.
- **Gift registration:** There is no such thing as a gift registration informing the invited guests about the gifts the couple would like to receive. In fact, it is becoming increasingly common to include sentences such as the following in the fine print at the end of invitation:

(continued on following page)

1

(continued from previous page)

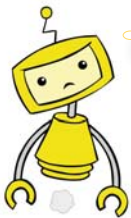
Dengan tidak mengurangi rasa hormat, kami sangat berterima kasih apabila ungkapan kasih yang akan diberikan tidak berupa cendramata atau karangan bunga.

Without belittling your respect, we would be very grateful if the expression of love that is given is not in the form of gifts or bouquets of flowers.

This request indicates in a polite manner that the married couple would prefer to receive financial donations in the place of gifts or flowers.

2

The language of wedding invitations



Zak seems to be confused by some of the language used in his wedding invitation. And it's true, wedding invitations usually contain more formal language than he is used to.

Zak's everyday speech is full of colloquialisms: informal, everyday speech that we use

in conversations. These are terms that we would not usually use in written texts or in more formal conversations. If we look at Zak's speech bubble on page 1 we can see many colloquialisms such as 'take a squiz', 'wanna', 'shindig', 'goin' and 'partaay'.

Luckily, you've seen invitations before, and once we have a quick refresher course you should be able to help Zak decipher his invitation quickly!

Indonesian invitations

Informal invitations

For occasions such as parties, social gatherings, religious or festive activities, simple invitations are used. These could take the form of emails, typed or handwritten cards, notes, or word of mouth.

Some common informal Indonesians expressions for issuing invitations include:

- *Apa / Apakah kamu ada waktu?*
Are you free?
- *Apa / Apakah kamu mau ...?*
Do you feel like ...?
- *Bagaimana kalau kita ...?*
How about if we ...?

Formal invitations

In Indonesia, formal invitations or *undangan* are usually only sent out for weddings. Some more formal ways of issuing an invitation include using expressions such as:

- *Saya mengundang Saudara ke ...*
I invite you to ...
- *Saudara diundang untuk menghadiri ...*
You are invited to attend ...
- *Kami meminta kesediaan Saudara untuk menghadiri ...*
We request the pleasure of your company at ...

In an Indonesian wedding invitation the phrases you may see include:

- *Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb. (Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh)* [Arabic]
Peace and prosperity with God's blessing be upon you.
- *Selamat sejahtera dan rahmat Allah ke atas kamu.*
Peace and prosperity with God's blessings be upon you.
- *Maha Suci Allah Penguasa seluruh Takdir. Atas Kemurahan-Mu perkenankanlah kami merangkaikan kasih sayang yang Engkau ciptakan di antara kami.*
Glory to Allah the Lord of all Destiny. In Thy Mercy allow us to unite in the affection which you have created between us. (From a Muslim wedding invitation)
- *Tuhan adalah awal dari segala sesuatu ... Ia lah, yang mengawali segalanya dalam hati kami, dan meneguhkannya dengan indah sesuai rencananya ...*
The Lord is the beginning of all things ... It was He who began everything in our hearts and confirmed it in accordance with His beautiful plan ...
- *Merupakan suatu kehormatan dan kebahagiaan bagi kami apabila Bapak/Ibu/Saudara/i hadir untuk memberikan do'a restu kepada kedua mempelai.*
It would be an honour and joy for us if you were present to give your prayers and blessings to the bride and groom.
- *Atas kehadiran dan do'a restu Bapak/Ibu/Saudara/i, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.*
We thank you for your presence and for your prayers and blessings.

Exercise 1

Read through Zak's Indonesian wedding invitation and answer the following questions in Indonesian:



Maha Suci Allah Penguasa seluruh Takdir Atas Kemurahan-Mu perkenankanlah kami merangkaikan kasih sayang yang Engkau ciptakan di antara duana amanah-Mu yang kami cintai:

Suyanto
Putra pertama Bp. Sarwandi dan Ibu Nuryati

&

Ayu
Putri pertama Bp. Hasnudin dan Ibu Azizah

Akad Nikah:
Hari / Tanggal: Jum'at, 20 Maret 2011
Pukul: 16.00 WIB
Tempat: Jl. Ir. Rahadi No.3 Pasar Pagi

Pasar Pagi, Maret 2011

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.
Lingkaran indah terukir di hati kami yang paling dalam mengiringi ta'zim dan munajat kami, semoga nikmat Allah SWT melimpah dalam acara Tasyakuran Pernikahan putra-putri kami yang insya Allah akan dilaksanakan pada:

Hari Jum'at, 20 Maret 2011
Pukul: 18.00 WIB
Jl. Ir. Rahadi No.3 Pasar Pagi
Jakarta Pusat

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
Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Kami yang berbahagia
Kel.Bpk. Sarwandi
&
Kel.Bpk. Hasnudin

Suyanto - Ayu

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

1.2 Where and when will the wedding take place?

(continued on following page)

Exercise 3

Here is an example of a typical English invitation. Read the invitation and answer the questions in English.



(continued on following page)

