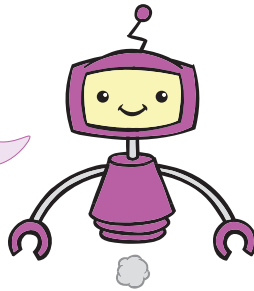


It's all in the past

For a language that has simplified the expression of tense by using tense markers and time indicators, Indonesian appears to be quite complicated. Mastering all of the markers and indicators is really making me tense! The past is the past! Why does it have to be the immediate, recent or distant past? Help!



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 8
Learning Object 4: *Sorry, what was that?*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2
Module 11 Work Sheet 4: *I've been to Uluru too*

1 Who controls the past controls the future

You have learned throughout Stages 1 and 2 that the past tense in Indonesian is expressed through:

- contextual clues
- tense markers and time indicators
- a combination of contextual clues and tense markers or time indicators.

Here's a reminder of the past tense markers and time indicators you already know.

Past Tense Markers

sudah / telah already
kemarin yesterday

Past Tense Time Indicators

pernah have been / done
kemarin dulu the day before yesterday
yang lalu last ... / ... ago
minggu yang lalu last week
dua minggu yang lalu two weeks ago

2 I'm just getting past it

Several past tense time indicators are used to identify whether an action has taken place in the immediate past, the recent past or the distant past. In Learning Object 2, *A slow connection*, you helped Anna compose an email by dragging items onto an email template. One such item was:

➔ For example:

Maaf, komputernya crash tadi.
Sorry, the PC crashed earlier.

Tadi is a time indicator for events in the recent past. It generally means 'earlier' and gives rise to a set of other expressions.

➔ For example:

tadi pagi earlier this morning
tadi siang earlier today
tadi sore earlier this afternoon
tadi malam last night

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Baru, which you may remember as an adjective meaning 'new', is also a time indicator for events in the immediate past.

➔ For example:

Anna baru pulang.

Anna has just arrived home.

Penerbangan keluarga Smart baru saja mendarat.

The Smart family's flight has just landed.

Baru-baru ini, Peter menang penghargaan untuk sebuah taman rekreasi yang dia rancang.

Just recently, Peter won an award for an amusement park design.

Peter baru saja pergi!

Peter has just gone (a minute ago)!

Finally, *dulu*, and its more formal variant, *dahulu*, are time indicators for events in the distant past or in former times.

➔ For example:

Dulu, waktu masih kecil, Anna dan Peter bersekolah di Scribbly Gum State School.

Previously, when they were still young, Anna and Peter attended Scribbly Gum State School.

Dulu Pak Smart bekerja sebagai insinyur logistik di kantor HBP di Brisbane.

Mr Smart used to work as a logistics engineer at the offices of HBP in Brisbane.

In children's literature and fairy tales, the tense marker *dulu* also gives rise to such expressions as:

Pada zaman dulu ...

Once upon a time ...

and

Pada zaman dahulu kala ...

In the days of yore ...

3 First and foremost

Dulu also has another function as a time indicator, which may seem contradictory to what you learned above. When the word *dulu* comes before a verb, it acts as an instruction to perform the verb before doing something else.

➔ For example:

Mandi dulu!

Have a shower first!

Makan dulu!

Eat first!

On the other hand, you can also use *dulu* to indicate that you need to do something else first.

➔ For example:

Mari, sarapan dulu!

Let's have breakfast **first!**

Saya mau sikat gigi dulu!

I want to brush my teeth **first!**

Dulu can be coupled with *baru* when you want to give a more detailed explanation. When coupled with *dulu*, *baru* means 'then' and is synonymous with *lalu*.

A popular expression in Indonesian advertising is:

Coba dulu baru beli!

Try first then buy!

In personal exchanges at home you will commonly hear expressions such as:

Makan dulu baru pergi!

Eat first then go out!

Sikat gigi dulu baru tidur!

Brush your teeth then to bed!

Another common, yet seemingly contradictory term is *nanti dulu*. *Nanti* means 'later' and *dulu* means 'first'. *Nanti dulu* means 'I'll do that later but there is something else I must do first'.

➔ For example:

Peter, tidur sana!

Peter, go to sleep!

Nanti dulu! Saya mau mengerjakan PR!

Later! I want to do my homework first!

4 Rubber time

The concept of *jam karet* (rubber time) is culturally embedded in Indonesia, and lateness is tolerated because of the flexibility with which time is viewed.

There are two interesting time markers that reflect the notion of *jam karet*. The first is the word *sebentar*, which means 'in a moment'. The second is the word *nanti*, which means 'later'. These words give rise to many expressions.

➔ For example:

(Tunggu) sebentar!

(Wait) a moment!

Sebentar lagi.

In a few moments.

If you ask an Indonesian person when an action will take place, and they respond with *sebentar*, you

shouldn't expect the action to take place 'in a moment'. Indonesians say *sebentar* to put an end to questions about when something will happen. Similarly, when an Indonesian person tells you something will be done *nanti*, it may be some time until the action is performed. *Nanti* is an ambiguous and even evasive statement.

➔ For example:

Peter: *Anna, ayo bantu mencuci piring.*

Anna, come and help with the dishes.

Anna: *Sebentar, Peter!*

In a moment, Peter!

Peter: *Sebentar kapan?*

In a moment when?

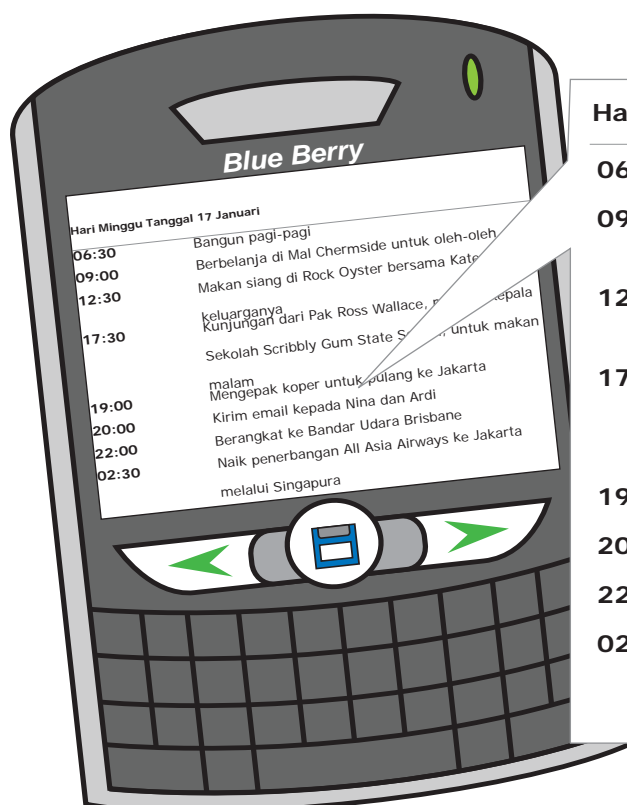
Anna: *Sebentar lagi!*

Just in a moment (stop asking)!

Exercises

Exercise 1

It's Sunday 17 January, the Smarts' final day in Australia before returning to Jakarta. Anna has her day carefully mapped out so that nothing is left to chance. Let's look at the entries on her electronic organiser for the day.



Hari Minggu Tanggal 17 Januari

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 06:30 | Bangun pagi-pagi |
| 09:00 | Berbelanja di Mal Chermside untuk membeli oleh-oleh |
| 12:30 | Makan siang di Rock Oyster bersama Kate dan keluarganya |
| 17:30 | Kunjungan dari Pak Ross Wallace, mantan Kepala Sekolah Scribbly Gum State School, untuk makan malam |
| 19:00 | Mengepak koper untuk pulang ke Jakarta |
| 20:00 | Kirim email kepada Nina dan Ardi |
| 22:00 | Berangkat ke Bandar Udara Brisbane |
| 02:30 | Naik penerbangan All Asia Airways ke Jakarta melalui Singapura |

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It's now 8pm in the evening and Anna is sending a final email from Australia to Nina and Ardi. As you can see from her diary, she has had a full and hectic day and is keen to tell her friends about everything that has happened.

Write Anna's email, using what you have learned in this work sheet about using time markers and indicators to distinguish between the immediate, recent and distant past.

To...	nina.sugianto@indomail.id
CC...	
Subject	Pulang besok ... yippee !!!