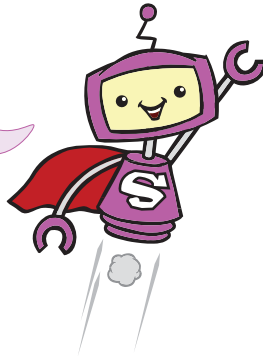


# I'd like to help out

Volunteering is such a noble and selfless pursuit. I should know, with all the tireless volunteer work I do helping out the human race by keeping an eye on Peter and Anna. Needless to say, I hover by the principle that it is better to give than to receive!



**LINKS TO:**

Stage 3, Module 9  
Learning Object 2: *Volunteer buddies*

**PRIOR LEARNING:**

**Stage 3**

Module 7 Work Sheet 2: *What's in a noun?*  
Module 8 Work Sheet 5: *That really suits you*

## 1 Give it your best shot

In Learning Object 2, *Volunteer buddies*, the volunteers used a number of colloquial expressions to talk about their abilities.

➔ For example:

*Saya lumayan pandai merancang poster.*  
I'm pretty good at designing posters.

*Saya cukup ahli membuat nasi tim.*  
I'm pretty good at making rice porridge.

The Indonesian language doesn't allow for either excessive praise or criticism when it comes to one's ability to undertake a task. Perhaps it has something to do with the importance that Indonesians place on humility and the maintenance of social harmony, as mentioned in Module 8, Work Sheet 5, *That really suits you*.

However, you can express a degree of ability with some simple phrases.

➔ For example:

*Saya pandai sekali ...*  
I am very good at ...

*Saya sama sekali tidak bisa ...*  
I am just not capable of ...

In most contexts, the first of these two comments could be viewed as arrogant (*sombong*). However, in particular contexts, such as emphasising your skills on a job application form, it is acceptable to promote your abilities.

When speaking of other people's abilities, there is no stigma attached to giving praise. However, Indonesians avoid being overly critical of others.

➔ For example:

*Dia pandai sekali ...*  
He is very good at ...

*Dia tidak begitu pandai / kurang pandai ...*  
He's not all that good at ...

## 2 *Kebanjiran* noun

In Module 7, Work Sheet 2, *What's in a noun?* you learnt about nouns formed by using *ke~ ... ~an* circumfix. Throughout the Learning Object, and in the remainder of this module, you will experience a *kebanjiran* (flood) of new *ke~ ... ~an* nouns. Most of these *ke~ ... ~an* nouns are thematically related to caring and to the personality traits of carers.

Let's explore these nouns and their derivations.

Base word	Definition	<i>ke~...~an</i> adjective	Definition
<i>ada</i>	to exist	<i>keadaan</i>	situation / condition
<i>ahli</i>	expert	<i>keahlian</i>	expertise
<i>giat</i>	active	<i>kegiatan</i>	activity
<i>harus</i>	must	<i>keharusan</i>	necessity / obligation
<i>mahir</i>	proficient	<i>kemahiran</i>	proficiency / adeptness
<i>mampu</i>	capable	<i>kemampuan</i>	capability
<i>sabar</i>	patient	<i>kesabaran</i>	patience
<i>sadar</i>	aware	<i>kesadaran</i>	awareness
<i>sehat</i>	healthy	<i>kesehatan</i>	health
<i>sempat</i>	have a chance to ...	<i>kesempatan</i>	opportunity
<i>wajib</i>	compulsory	<i>kewajiban</i>	obligation

## 3 How suitable are you?

*Cocok* and *pantas* both mean 'suitable' or 'appropriate'.

➔ For example:

*Peter cocok menjadi relawan di rumah jompo*  
Peter is suitable to become a volunteer at the retirement home.

*Anna pantas menjadi relawan di Sahabat Lingkungan.*

Anna is appropriately qualified to become a volunteer at Friends of the Environment.

A number of adjectives describing desirable personality traits for volunteers were introduced in Learning Object 2, *Volunteer buddies*. They are among the adjectives listed under *sifat-sifat positif* (desirable traits) in the following table, along with a list of *sifat-sifat negatif* (undesirable traits).

(continued on following page)

<i>Sifat-sifat positif</i>	<i>Sifat-sifat negatif</i>
<i>baik hati</i> (kind)	<i>egois</i> (selfish)
<i>bertanggungjawab</i> (responsible)	<i>kekanak-kanakan</i> (childish)
<i>jujur</i> (honest)	<i>malas</i> (lazy)
<i>lemah lembut</i> (gentle)	<i>tidak peduli</i> (uncaring)
<i>penuh belas kasih</i> (compassionate)	
<i>penuh perhatian</i> (caring)	
<i>rajin</i> (industrious)	
<i>sabar</i> (patient)	

## 4 I'm much obliged

In this learning object you were introduced to the statement:

*Pastikan bahwa kamu tahu cara mendaur ulang.*

Make sure you know how to recycle.

*Pastikan bahwa* is one way of expressing the imperative in Indonesian and is used to get something done. Sometimes Indonesians add the particle *-lah* to the verb to soften the imperative.

➡ For example:

*Pastikanlah bahwa kamu tahu cara untuk mendaur ulang.*

(Please) make sure you know how to recycle.

It is important to note, however, that the tone of voice you use is more important than adding a softening particle in determining the politeness of your request.

### Not yet ...

Indonesians are eternal optimists. They never answer questions about milestones that they have not yet achieved in their lives with *tidak* (no) or *tidak pernah* (not ever). Instead, they will say *belum* or *belum pernah* (not yet).

Indonesians are very forthright when asking personal questions about family.

➡ For example:

*Apakah Anda sudah kawin?*  
Are you already married?

*Ya, sudah!*  
Yes, already!

*Belum!*  
No, not yet!

*Apakah Anda sudah mempunyai anak?*  
Do you already have children?

*Ya, saya mempunyai dua putra!*  
Yes, I have two boys!

*Belum!*  
No, not yet!

If you are married but don't have children, Indonesians may ask questions about why you don't yet have children; for Indonesians these are not intrusive or impertinent questions, as many Australians would perceive them, but a way of showing interest and concern.

## Exercise 1

---

In Learning Object 2, *Volunteer buddies*, Anna reads the online blogs of Ria Irawan, Putri Jelita and Hari Agung, three Indonesian high school students involved in volunteer work. Anna is taking notes about the personal characteristics of each of the volunteers to help her decide which of them would be suitable 'volunteer buddies' for her.

**Read the blog entries below, and then complete the exercises that follow.**

### Ria Irawan

Apa kamu tertarik untuk membantu lingkungan? Beberapa bulan belakangan ini saya sangat khawatir dengan keadaan dunia saat ini jadi saya menemukan cara yang hebat untuk membantu. Sahabat Lingkungan membutuhkan relawan untuk membantu menggalakkan pengertian mengenai planet yang lebih bersih dan lebih hijau. Saya suka sekali biologi dan kesenian. Saya lumayan pandai merancang poster jadi saya membantu membuat poster-poster mengenai lingkungan. Kamu relawan macam apa? Apa kamu khawatir tentang keadaan lingkungan? Apa kamu bisa menolong dengan cara praktis? Sangat mudah menjadi relawan untuk lingkungan. Pastikan bahwa kamu tahu cara mendaur ulang. Kalau kamu bisa melakukan ini, tambahkan saya sebagai kontakmu.

### Putri Jelita

Minggu ini sudah genap dua tahun saya menjadi relawan di Rumah Jompo Merajut Usia. Sebuah pengalaman yang mengesankan tapi juga cukup menantang. Saya suka sekali bekerja di dapur. Saya cukup ahli membuat nasi tim walaupun kadang-kadang nasinya masih sedikit keras. Penghuni di sana suka nasi yang lembek, makin lembek makin bagus! Jadi saya harus pastikan bahwa nasi timnya lembek. Penghuni di sana benar-benar baik hati dan lemah lembut. Mereka senang sekali kalau saya main oboe untuk mereka. Relawan yang penuh belas kasih dan sabar selalu dibutuhkan di sini. Kamu relawan macam apa? Kalau kamu tertarik untuk menolong, tambahkan saya sebagai kontakmu.

### Hari Agung

Bekerja di rumah jompo menyenangkan. Saya bisa mengemudikan traktor dengan cukup baik jadi saya senang sekali mengurus lahan dan kebun di sana. Saya lebih suka beraktivitas di luar ruangan. Di dalam rasanya sumpek. Ada beberapa 'manula' yang agak cerewet, tapi tidak saya pedulikan. Kalau mereka tidak suka makan malam mereka, saya dapat makanan gratis! Tertarik untuk menjadi relawan di rumah jompo? Tambahkan saya sebagai kontakmu. Saya akan tunjukkan semua 'rahasianya'.

**Write down Anna's thoughts about the suitability of each candidate. The first comment has been started for you.**

#### 1.1 Ria Irawan

Ria Irawan cocok menjadi 'relawan pendamping'.

---

---

---

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**1.2 Putri Jelita**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

(continued on following page)



(continued from previous page)

---

---

---

---