

Can I try this?

'CAN' AND 'MAY':

In a previous module, you learnt that *bisa* (can) is used to express physical possibility and knowing how to do something.

For example:

<i>Saya bisa bersiul.</i>	I can whistle.
<i>Saya bisa berhitung sampai sejuta.</i>	I can count to one million.

However, in Indonesian, you cannot use *bisa* (can) to ask for, give or say you have permission. You must use **boleh**.

For example:

<i>Boleh saya pergi ke bioskop pada hari Sabtu?</i>	Can / May I go to the cinema on Saturday?
<i>Saya boleh datang ke pesta.</i>	I am allowed to come to the party.

QUESTIONS WITH **APAKAH** AND **BOLEH**:

In Module 1, Worksheet 5, you learnt about the general question word **apakah** which functions as a spoken question mark and is placed at the beginning of a question.

For example:

Apakah *Anda boleh datang ke pesta?* Are you allowed to come to the party?

However, **boleh** is also used at the beginning of a question. You can ask for permission using both *apakah* and *boleh* in the question. Or you can use *boleh* on its own. Both structures are correct. However, *boleh* on its own is used more frequently.

For example:

Boleh <i>saya minum ini?</i>	May I drink this?
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POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE RESPONSES:

Read these examples:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a) <i>Boleh saya minum ini?</i> | Can / May I drink this? |
| b) <i>Boleh. Silahkan.</i> | Yes. Please, go ahead. |
| Or, | |
| b) <i>Tidak boleh. Maaf.</i> | No, you're not allowed. Sorry. |

Notice that the question word *boleh* is repeated in the positive response and that *tidak* is used in the negative response.



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Think carefully before using *boleh* to give a negative response. The example on Page 1 would only be appropriate if you were responding to a younger sibling or a close friend your own age or younger.

In situations where someone older than you, or someone to whom you should show respect, asks you for something, you must be less direct. You must also have a good, honest reason for your refusal.

For example:

Teacher: *Boleh saya pinjam bolpen ini?*

Can / May I borrow this pen?

Student: *Oh, maaf Pak. Tintanya habis.*

Oh, sorry Sir. The ink has run out.

Exercises



1.

Read the questions from a) to h). Some of them ask about ability and others ask for permission.

Look at each question word and decide if the correct one has been used or not. If the question word is incorrect, rewrite the whole question on the line provided.

Also, complete all the responses by filling in the missing word. Refer to the vocabulary list on Page 4 for help.

a) *Boleh saya meminjam buku ini?*

_____, *silahkan.*

b) *Bisa kamu menulis namamu?*

_____. *Saya _____ menulis nama saya.*

c) *Boleh kamu melihat tanda itu?*

Tidak _____. *Tanda itu terlalu kecil.*

d) *Boleh saya makan kue itu?*

Oh maaf. Tidak..... Kue itu untuk kakak saya.

e) *Bisa saya pergi ke pesta besok malam, Bu?*

..... Tapi jangan malam-malam.

2.

The council has just issued a new set of guidelines concerning the watering of private gardens in suburban streets.

You live at No.6. The person down the road on the same side as you lives at No.22. Your neighbour directly across the road lives at No. 7

Read the list of guidelines in Indonesian on Page 4 and work out on which day and at what time you and your neighbours are allowed to water your gardens.

Then, fill in the calendar appropriately.

Hints:

- Note that each household is allowed to water their garden more than once a week.
- Watch out for guidelines saying when households are not allowed to water.
- You might need to readjust some calendar entries as you go.
- Refer to the vocabulary list for help.
- Monday has been completed for you as an example.

Can I try this?

- Rumah tangga dengan angka genap boleh menyiram kebun pada hari Senin, Rabu dan Jumat.
- Rumah tangga dengan angka ganjil boleh menyiram kebun pada hari Selasa, Kamis, dan Sabtu.
- Rumah tangga dengan angka genap atau angka ganjil tidak boleh menyiram kebun pada hari Minggu.
- Rumah tangga dengan angka genap antara dua dan dua puluh tidak boleh menyiram kebun sesudah jam 12:00 siang pada hari Senin, hari Rabu, atau hari Jumat.
- Rumah tangga dengan angka genap di atas dua puluh boleh menyiram kebun sesudah jam 12:00 siang pada hari Senin, hari Rabu dan hari Jumat, tetapi tidak boleh menyiram kebun sebelum jam 12:00 siang pada hari Senin, hari Rabu atau hari Jumat.
- Rumah tangga dengan angka ganjil di bawah dua puluh satu tidak boleh menyiram kebun sebelum jam 12:00 siang pada hari Selasa, hari Kamis atau hari Sabtu.

	Senin	Selasa	Rabu	Kamis	Jumat	Sabtu	Minggu
Jam 9 - 12	No.6						
Jam 12 - 6	No.22						

Vocabulary:

<i>meminjam</i>	to borrow
<i>menulis</i>	to write
<i>tanda</i>	a sign
<i>kue</i>	a cake
<i>pesta</i>	a party
<i>Jangan malam-malam.</i>	Don't stay too late into the evening.
<i>rumah tangga</i>	household
<i>angka genap</i>	even numbers
<i>angka ganjil</i>	odd numbers
<i>menyiram kebun</i>	to water the garden
<i>antara</i>	between
<i>sesudah</i>	after
<i>di atas</i>	above
<i>sebelum</i>	before
<i>di bawah</i>	below