

Formal Invitations

Formal, elaborately designed, printed invitations, *undangan*, are only usually sent out for weddings in Indonesia. For other occasions, such as parties, social gatherings, religious or festive events, less elaborate invitations are used. These are often typed, hand-written or simply sent by word of mouth.

Nowadays, colourful, printed invitation cards with the text already included are becoming more popular for occasions other than weddings.

WEDDING INVITATIONS:

The wording on Indonesian wedding invitations is formulaic. A set of standard phrases is used. These phrases are often long and elaborate and many are religious expressions. The kind of language used is much the same from one wedding invitation to another.

Refer to the example of a formal Indonesian wedding invitation on Page 2.

The religion of the couple being married determines which religious expressions are used. These could be verses from the Koran (*Al-Quran*), the Bible or other religious texts. The invitation may often contain prayers and requests for the guests' blessings on the bridal couple.

Usually, only family and very close friends attend the wedding ceremony. Other guests attend the reception afterwards which can go on for several days. Guests are not expected to stay for the duration of the reception. They are free to leave whenever they like. What is important at an Indonesian wedding is that guests make the effort to attend the reception.

One element that is never included in an Indonesian wedding invitation is an RSVP request. This is because, generally speaking in Indonesia, no one is expected to write a formal reply to an invitation.

والله اعلم
بما نزلنا
من كتابنا

Maha Suci Allah telah menciptakan makhluk-Nya berpasang-pasangan,
Ya Allah jika Engkau memperkenankan putra-putri kami

Widya Putri

Putri dari Bapak / Ibu Hartono - Semarang

dengan

Joko Susilo

Putra dari Bapak / Ibu Darsono - Pemalang

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Merupakan suatu kehormatan dan kebahagiaan bagi kami, apabila
Bapak/Ibu/Saudara/i berkenan hadir dan memberikan do'a restu kepada
putra-putri kami pada Syukuran Pernikahan :

Minggu, 6 Juni 2004

Jam : 11.00 WIB

Tempat : Gedung "Balai Sasana Widya Praja"

Badan Diklat Propinsi Jateng

Jl. Setiabudi No. 201 A Semarang

Atas kehadiran dan do'a restu Bapak / Ibu / Saudara / i, kami mengucapkan
terima kasih.

Kami yang berbahagia,

Kel. Darsono

Widya & Joko

Kel. Hartono

Akad Nikah :

Sabtu, 5 Juni 2004, Pukul 09.00 WIB di Jl. Tembalang Baru VI /116 Semarang

OTHER FORMAL INVITATIONS:

Although wedding invitations contain standard, set phrases and expressions, the language used in invitations for formal occasions other than weddings, can vary somewhat. Less formal terms such as **atas nama...** (on behalf of...) and **mengundang** (to invite) can be used.

Once again, a written RSVP is generally not expected. However, if the person sending the invitation does request a response, the phrase **Harap membalas sebelum...** (Please reply before ...) followed by the date is included at the bottom of the invitation.

For example:

Atas nama Oz-Indo Logistik saya mau **mengundang** Bapak ke acara 'Selamat Datang'.

On behalf of Oz-Indo Logistics, I would like **to invite** you to a 'Welcome' dinner.

Harap membalas sebelum tanggal 15 Mei.

Please reply before 15th May.

Examples of other standard phrases are:

Atas kehadiran Anda kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Literally: For your attendance, we express our thanks.

Atas perhatian Anda kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Literally: For your attention (to this matter), we express our thanks.

Exercises



1. Answer the following questions in English.

a) What are formal, traditional wedding invitations usually like in Australia?

Formal Invitations

- b) Indonesian wedding invitations contain much religious language. What does this tell you about how religion is valued by many Indonesian people?

- c) Why do you think people are not expected to respond to wedding invitations in Indonesia?

- d) What might this mean for you if you were living in Indonesia and were invited to a wedding?

2. Here is an example of a formal invitation to a school's arts exhibition. Read it carefully. Don't worry if you don't understand every word. Look for key words and phrases and use strategies you know for reading for gist.

Notice that the example below contains many elements of Indonesian with which you are already familiar.

For example:

- the appropriate salutation (Module 8, Worksheet 7);
- the appropriate terms of address (Module 1, Worksheet 2);
- days, dates and times (Module 5, worksheet 7 and Worksheet 8);
- new expressions introduced on Page 1 of this worksheet.

**DEPARTEMEN PENDIDIKAN NASIONAL
SEKOLAH MENENGAH UMUM II JAKARTA
Jl Imam Bonjol 243 Jakarta 11310**

15 September 2010

Kepada YTH Bapak / Ibu

Dengan hormat,

Atas nama panitia, saya mengundang Bapak / Ibu untuk menghadiri Pameran Seni SMU II yang akan diadakan:

Hari / Tanggal: Jumat, 27 September, 2010

Tempat: SMU Negeri II, Jakarta

Waktu: Jam 09:00 sampai 15:00

Atas kehadiran Bapak / Ibu saya mengucapkan terima kasih.

*Hormat saya,
Ketua Panitia*

Budi Yuwono

Now, read the conversation on Page 5 between two school students. One, *Soni Gusman*, is the head of the school's organising committee for the art's exhibition. The other, is his friend, *Deni*.

Fill in the blanks on the invitation form on Page 5 using information from the conversation. You will need to 'read between the lines' a little in order to find out what is required. Use the sample invitation above as a guide.

Formal Invitations

- SG: *Hei Deni, apa kabar?*
D: *Baik-baik. Apa kabar, Soni?*
SG: *Baik. Tapi sibuk.*
D: *Mengapa?*
SG: *Besok, pada hari Sabtu ada acara formal di sekolah.*
D: *Acara apa?*
SG: *Ada pameran seni.*
D: *Benar? Pada jam berapa?*
SG: *Mulai pada jam delapan pagi, selesai pada jam enam belas sore.*
D: *Kamu akan mengundang siapa saja?*
SG: *Panitia akan mengundang orangtua murid-murid.*
D: *Hari Sabtu besok itu tanggal berapa?*
SG: *Tanggal 15 Oktober.*
D: *Pasti bagus, pamerannya. Murid-murid SMU Lima Jakarta pandai semua!!*
SG: *Benar! Hidup Sekolah Menengah Umum Limaaaaa!!!*
D: *Wah! Ini sudah hari Senin. Cepat! Kirim undangan!*

DEPARTEMEN PENDIDIKAN NASIONAL

SEKOLAH _____

Jl Diponegoro 43 Jakarta 11720

_____ 20.....

Kepada _____

Atas nama _____ untuk

menghadiri _____

yang akan diadakan: _____

Hari /Tanggal: _____

Tempat: _____

Waktu: _____ sampai _____

Atas _____

*Hormat saya,
Ketua Panitia*

Formal Invitations

Vocabulary:

<i>acara formal</i>	a formal event
<i>orangtua</i>	parents
<i>menghadiri</i>	to attend
<i>akan diadakan</i>	will be held / conducted
<i>hidup...!</i>	live (when used in an exclamation it means 'Long live...!')
<i>Cepat!</i>	Quick!
<i> kirim</i>	send