

Asking 'Yes/No' questions

There are two ways to ask questions in Indonesian.

1. Use a rising intonation at the end of the question.

For example:

Anda dari Australia?

The use of a rising intonation to ask questions is common in informal conversation.

2. Use the word *Apakah* at the beginning of the question.

For example:

Apakah Anda dari Australia?

Apakah is quite formal and in conversation is often shortened to *Apa* which is less formal.

Responding to 'Yes/No' questions:

When someone asks you if you are from a certain country or place, use *Ya* to answer 'Yes' or *Tidak* to answer 'No'.

For example:

Apakah Anda dari Jerman?

Ya, saya dari Jerman.

Or,

Tidak, saya dari Australia.

NOTE:

Tidak means 'not' as well as 'no'. It always comes before the verb and can be used to make a negative response.

For example:

Apakah Anda dari Jerman?

Tidak, saya tidak dari Jerman.



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Read through the following dialogues and see how to ask and answer Yes/No questions.

Dialogue 1: Asking someone your own age (informal)

Apa kamu dari Indonesia?

Ya, saya dari Indonesia.



Kamu dari Jerman?

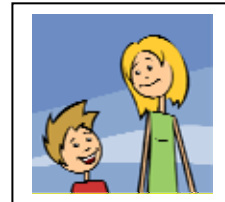
Tidak, saya tidak dari Jerman.



Dialogue 2: Asking an adult you do not know or an adult in a position of authority (formal)

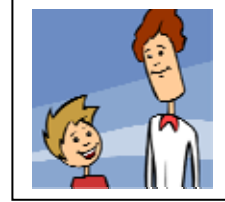
Apakah Ibu dari Australia?

Ya, saya dari Australia.



Apakah Bapak dari Jerman?

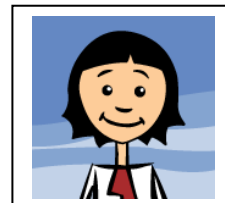
Tidak, saya dari Australia.



Dialogue 3: Asking about someone else

Apa dia dari Jepang?

Ya, dia dari Jepang.



Apa dia dari Cina?

Tidak, dia dari Indonesia.



NOTE:

Did you notice that there is no equivalent of the English verb 'to be' in the questions and answers above? In Indonesian, you don't say: I **am** from Australia. Rather, you say: I **come from** Australia.



Exercises



1. Write answers for the following questions.



a) Apa dia dari Jerman?



b) Apa dia dari Jepang?



c) Apa dia dari Australia?

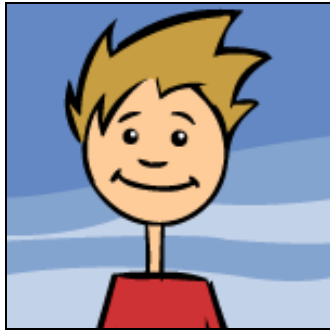


d) Apa dia dari Cina?



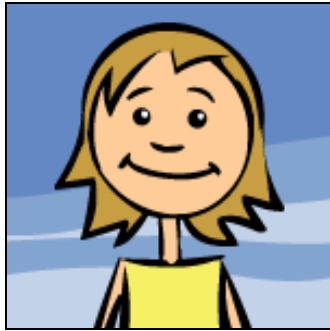
2. Write questions in Indonesian that would provide the following answers.

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a) _____ ?

Tidak, dia dari Australia.



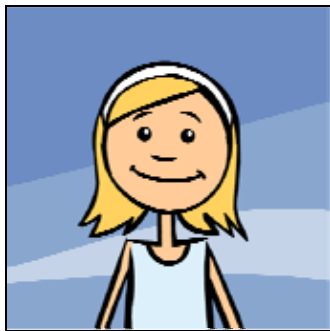
b) _____ ?

Ya, dia dari Australia.



c) _____ ?

Tidak, dia dari Indonesia.



d) _____ ?

Tidak, dia dari Australia.

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3. Extension

Who are the people you know whose nationality is different from your own?

Consider the people in your class and community or famous people you know about.

Find pictures or draw quick sketches of five of these people. Write their name and say where they are from.

Use a dictionary to find the nationalities you need. Try to use *orang* as well.

For example:

Ini Michael Phelps. Dia dari Amerika.

or

Ini Michael Phelps. Dia orang Amerika.