

Greetings and farewells

In Indonesian, as in English, greetings and farewells reflect the relationship between people, their age and differing degrees of formality.

The degree of closeness or formality is expressed through the words used in the greeting (verbal language) and through the gestures (non-verbal language) that accompany it.

Four formal greetings are used in Indonesian. They change depending on the time of day.

For example:

<i>Selamat pagi</i>	'Good morning' used from about 3 or 4 am to 10 am.
<i>Selamat siang</i>	Literally: 'Good mid-day' used from about 10 am to 3 pm.
<i>Selamat sore</i>	Literally: 'Good late afternoon' used from about 3 pm to 6 pm
<i>Selamat malam</i>	'Good evening' (as a greeting) or 'Good night' (as a farewell) used from about 6pm onwards.

You would most likely use the above greetings in formal or official situations such as at school with your teacher or with other older adults.

The abbreviated forms *Pagi*, and *'mat pagi* are often used with family and friends. In colloquial language, *'mat* is the abbreviation of *Selamat*.

When talking to older adults with whom you are familiar, shortened greetings such as *Pagi*, *Pak* or *Pagi*, *Bu* can be used.

You will also hear some familiar greetings such as *Halo* or *Hai*.

Introductions

In Australia, introductions are often followed by questions or statements such as 'How are you?' / 'Nice to meet you.'

In Indonesia, introductions usually begin with the word *Kenalkan* which literally means something like: Please allow me to introduce

When introducing yourself, say your name. In response, the other person states his or her name. Asking how the other person is or saying 'Nice to meet you' is not necessary.

For example:

A: <i>Kenalkan, Nama saya Peter.</i>	May I introduce myself? I'm Peter.
B: <i>Max.</i>	I'm Max.

When introducing someone else, use '*Kenalkan*' followed by a phrase such as '*Ini teman saya.*' This is my friend. Then, the two people shake hands and state their names.

For example, A is introducing Max to Yuli:

A: <i>Kenalkan. Ini teman saya.</i>	I'd like you to meet my friend.
B: <i>Max.</i>	I'm Max.
C: <i>Yuli.</i>	I'm Yuli.

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Non-verbal language

When greeting a person for the first time in Indonesia, it is usual practice to offer a gentle hand shake accompanied by a slight nod of the head and a smile. There is no need for a firm grip or strong shake of the other person's hand. An adult will extend their hand to a teenager or child when greeting them, as will children when greeting each other.

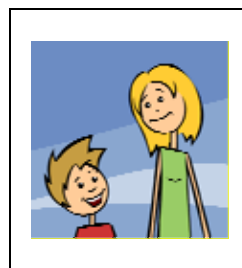
Read the following dialogues and see how the language used for greetings and farewells relates to the context.

Greetings:

Hai, Peter.
Halo, Anna.

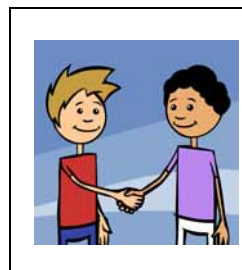


Selamat pagi, Bu.
Selamat pagi, John.

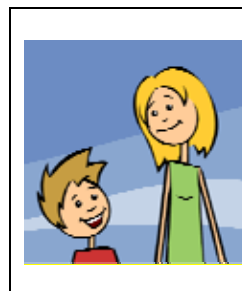


Farewells:

Sampai jumpa, Peter. (Literally: 'Until we meet again, Peter).
Sampai jumpa, John. Daa.



Permisi, Bu.
(Literally: 'Would you excuse me, Miss?')
Silahkan. (Literally: 'Please, go ahead.')



NOTE:

Daa or *daag* is an informal farewell often heard among friends and accompanied by a wave.

Use *permisi* when you are taking your leave from a person to whom you usually show respect, such as your teacher. The response is *Silahkan* which literally means 'Yes, I excuse you from the conversation / meeting'.



Exercises



1. Write the appropriate greeting for the time of day that is given.

- a) 11.00 am _____
- b) 8.00 pm _____
- c) 5.00 am _____
- d) 4.00 pm _____
- e) 1.00 pm _____



2. Sort the following words into greetings and farewells. One or two may actually go in both columns.

*Sampai jumpa! Halo! Selamat malam! Daa! Permisi
Selamat pagi, Pak (mat) pagi Hai!*

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3. Some of the above greetings and farewells are quite casual or informal. Which ones would you be more likely to use with your friends and family rather than with your teacher? Underline or highlight them in the table.



4. Read the following dialogues. Decide whether the situation is a formal or informal one and explain why.

Don't worry if you don't understand every word. Try to look for words that help determine the relationship between the speakers and what the situation might be.

- a) Hei, Sinta. Kenalkan, ini temanku.
Halo, namaku Sinta. Apa kabar?
Yuli. Baik-baik.

I think this situation is _____

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- b) Selamat pagi, Pak.
Oh, selamat pagi. Maaf, namamu siapa?
Saya Deni. Boleh saya tanya, siapa nama Bapak?

I think this situation is _____

- c) Maaf Bu, apakah ini koper Ibu?
Bukan Pak, itu bukan koper saya. Koper saya kuning.
Oh, maaf Bu.

I think this situation is _____

- d) Hei, Tin, ini kopermu?
Bukan, koperku kuning. Kopermu di mana, Tono?
Ini koperku.

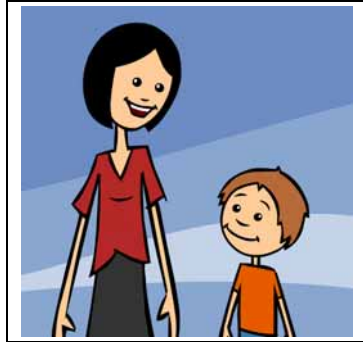
I think this situation is _____

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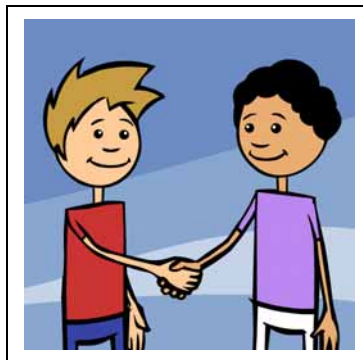
5. Look at the pictures below and write what you think is inappropriate about the accompanying dialogues.

a)



Primary school boy: *Halo, namamu siapa?*
Adult Female: *Nama saya Yuli. Siapa nama Bapak?*
Primary school boy: *Namaku Budi. Apa ini kopermu?*
Adult Female: *Ya, itu koper saya.*

b)



Teenage Boy 1: *Kenalkan, nama saya Peter.*
Teenage Boy 2: *Nama saya John.*
Teenage Boy 1: *Apakah ini koper Pak John?*
Teenage Boy 2: *Bukan, koper saya merah. Apakah itu koper Bapak?*
Teenage Boy 1: *Bukan. Itu bukan koper saya.*

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6.

- a) Imagine that two Indonesian teenage friends are greeting each other. What would they say and do?

- b) Imagine that an Indonesian teenager is greeting an Indonesian adult and they are meeting for the first time. What would the teenager say and do?



7. Reflect on the following questions.

- a) What is the difference between greeting a) and b)? Why do you think these greetings are different?

- b) How would you feel using the Indonesian ways of greeting?



8. Reflection on your own language and culture.

a) In Australian culture, when people greet each other, what do they usually say and do?

b) What messages are conveyed through words and actions when greeting and farewelling?

c) What are the similarities and differences between Australian greetings and Indonesian greetings?

d) There are greetings in all languages and cultures. Why do you think we greet others?
