

SMS language and emoticons

Exercises



1. As in English, abbreviations are very popular in Indonesian and save time when texting.

a) Use numbers or colours to match the Indonesian abbreviation to its full form and then the full form to the English meaning.

Indonesian		English
<i>aq</i>	<i>sibuk</i>	see you later
<i>bls</i>	<i>bahasa</i>	busy
<i>cu</i>	<i>sampai jumpa</i>	language
<i>gpp</i>	<i>aku</i>	I / Me
<i>kmu</i>	<i>kamu</i>	to reply
<i>sbk</i>	<i>nggak apa-apa</i>	it doesn't matter
<i>bhs</i>	<i>balas</i>	you

b) Explain the strategies you used to do this matching exercise.

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2. Emoticons are combinations of punctuation symbols used to communicate emotions. Indonesians like to use a mixture of Western and Asian emoticons.

Match up the emoticons with the Indonesian meanings below. Use an Indonesian - English dictionary if you need help with the vocabulary.

To help you work them out, Western emoticons are viewed as if you were tilting your head to the left whereas Asian emoticons are the right way up. They all represent facial expressions.

Emoticon	Indonesian
: -)	<i>mendengarkan musik</i>
: -(<i>terkejut</i>
^_^	<i>sedih (Western emoticon)</i>
T_T	<i>senang (Asian emoticon)</i>
O.O	<i>sakit</i>
>_<	<i>sedih (Asian emoticon)</i>
o_O	<i>senang (Western emoticon)</i>
d^_^b	<i>bingung</i>



3. Look at the list of Western and Asian emoticons. With a friend or on your own, tick the ones you prefer and then explain the reason for your choices on the lines below.

Western Emoticon	✓	Asian Emoticon	✓	Meaning
: -)		^_^		happy
: -(T_T		sad
:S		o_O		confused
;-)		^_~		wink
:[._.		depressed
:'-(ToT		crying

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4. You may have seen Western emoticons before and you probably even use some of them yourself but did you realise that there are such things as Asian emoticons?

Write a few ideas about why you think Indonesians use a mixture of Western and Asian emoticons.
