

Softening the imperative

In Module 3, you learnt about giving basic instructions using the imperative **lihat!**

To soften an instruction and change it into a polite request, you can use the word **tolong** which literally means 'help'. **Tolong** is placed before the verb and is used when you ask someone to do something for you. In the example below, the verb **isi** means 'to fill in'.

Example:

Tolong isi formulir ini. Please fill in this form.

In Indonesian grammar, *tolong* is called a 'softener' because it makes the imperative more polite. It can be translated as 'please'.

Exercises



1. a) Is the verb in the sentence *Isi formulir ini* the full form verb or the base word only? (Refer to Worksheet 4 if you're not sure.)

_____.

- b) Based on what you've learnt so far, what do you understand about the form of a verb when giving an instruction?

_____.

Hint: Look at the verb in 1 a) and the example *lihat* above. Compare them with the information in Worksheet 4.



2. In Learning Object 1: 'Checking In', the hotel receptionist used the softened form of the imperative to ask Mr Smart to fill in the registration form. To revise a little of what you have learnt so far, fill in the form below with your own information. (Look back at Learning Object 3: 'I Have a Reservation' to refresh your memory.)

Tolong isi formulir ini.

<p style="text-align: center;">Hotel Jayakarta Jakarta Kartu Registrasi</p> <p>Nama lengkap : _____</p> <p>Kewarganegaraan : _____</p> <p>Nomor kamar : _____</p> <p>Tanggal kedatangan : _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
