

Forming nouns from verbs

In Indonesian grammar, the terms 'verb base', 'noun base' and 'adjective base' refer to verbs, nouns, and adjectives that have not yet had prefixes or suffixes added to them.

Certain nouns can be formed by adding the suffix **~an** to a verb base. In this way, these nouns are directly associated with verbs. They are an important and very common type of noun in Indonesian.

For example:

- (i) If we add the suffix **~an** to the verb base **makan** ('to eat'), we form the word **makanan** which is a noun referring to the act of eating. Literally, it means 'that which is eaten' (food).
- (ii) If we add the suffix **~an** to the verb base **minum** (to drink), we form the word **minuman** which is a noun referring to the act of drinking. Literally, it means 'that which is drunk' (a drink).

Exercise



1. Read the list of verb bases and their meanings in the left-hand column below. Then go to the right-hand column where the verb bases have been made into nouns using the suffix **~an**. Write the new meaning beside each noun.

Example:

<i>makan</i>	to eat	<i>makanan</i>	food
a) <i>cuci</i>	to wash	<i>cucian</i>	_____
b) <i>lukis</i>	to paint a picture	<i>lukisan</i>	_____
c) <i>tanam</i>	to plant	<i>tanaman</i>	_____
d) <i>pakai</i>	to wear	<i>pakaian</i>	_____
e) <i>tulis</i>	to write	<i>tulisan</i>	_____
f) <i>baca</i>	to read	<i>bacaan</i>	_____
g) <i> kirim</i>	to send (via post)	<i> kiriman</i>	_____
h) <i> pikir</i>	to think	<i> pikiran</i>	_____
i) <i> masak</i>	to cook	<i> masakan</i>	_____
j) <i> potong</i>	to cut (e.g. a cake)	<i> potongan</i>	_____