

Personal pronouns

Pronouns are used instead of nouns when it is clear who or what is being spoken about. Pronouns that refer to people are called personal pronouns. In English, the first and third person plural pronouns are as follows:

First person plural pronouns	Third person plural pronouns
we (nominative case) us (objective case)	they (nominative case) them (objective case)

In Indonesian, the way of using personal pronouns is different from English.

Indonesian first person plural pronouns:

There are **two separate words** for the first person plural pronoun 'we' depending on whether the person being spoken to is included in the group or not.

- ***Kita*** is the word for 'we' when the person being spoken to is included. It means 'you and me' or 'you and us'. *Kita* is referred to as an 'inclusive' pronoun.
- ***Kami*** is the word for 'we' when the person being spoken to is **not** included. It means 'others and me but not you.' *Kami* is referred to as an 'exclusive' pronoun.

For example:

Kita mau ke Ancol.

We are going to Ancol.

(This includes the person being spoken to.)

Kami tinggal di Jakarta.

We live in Jakarta.

(This excludes the person being spoken to.)

Kita and ***kami*** are also used for the personal pronoun 'us'.

- ***Kita*** is used for 'us' when the person being spoken to is included.
- ***Kami*** is used for 'us' when the person being spoken to is not included.

For example:

Dia mau ikut bersama kita.

He wants to come along with us.

(This includes the person being spoken to).

Wahyu kirim kartu pos kepada kami.

Wahyu sent us a post card.

(This excludes the person being spoken to).

Indonesian third person plural pronouns:

- ***Mereka*** is the word for the third person plural pronoun 'they'.
- ***Mereka*** is also the word for the third person plural pronoun 'them'.

For example:

Mereka mau ke Ancol.

They are going to Ancol.

Saya mau ikut mereka.

I want to go with them.

NOTE:

Refer to the table on Page 2 for an overview of these pronouns.



Personal pronouns

Pronoun	Inclusive	Exclusive
First person plural 'we'	<i>kita</i>	<i>kami</i>
First person plural 'us'	<i>kita</i>	<i>kami</i>
Third person plural 'they'	<i>mereka</i>	
Third person plural 'them'	<i>mereka</i>	

Plural pronouns and ownership:

As with all the other pronouns and terms of address in Indonesian, *kita*, *kami* and *mereka* can be used to indicate ownership (our/their) by placing them after the noun.

For example:

<i>rumah kita</i>	our house (This includes the person being spoken to.)
<i>guru kami</i>	our teacher (This excludes the person being spoken to.)
<i>mobil mereka</i>	their car

NOTE:

The pronouns 'we' and 'they' are said to be in the nominative case. That is, they are the subject of the sentence.

The pronouns 'us' and 'them' are said to be in the objective case. That is, they are either the object (direct or indirect) of the verb or the object of a preposition.



Exercise



1. Anna is talking to Peter about a number of different activities that she and others will take part in.

Read what Anna says to Peter and decide whether he is included in the activities or not. Write your answer on the line provided.

For example:

Anna says to Peter: *Kita akan menonton film.* Peter is included.

a) Anna says to Peter: *Kami akan menonton film horor.* Peter is _____

b) Anna says to Peter: *Mereka mau pergi ke Monas.* Peter is _____

c) Anna says to Peter: *Kita akan pergi ke Taman Mini.* Peter is _____

d) Anna says to Peter: *Kami akan main sepak bola.* Peter is _____

e) Anna says to Peter: *Kita akan makan di restoran.* Peter is _____

Vocabulary:

akan will

mau want to