

Describing animals

You learnt previously that many *ber~* verbs are used to say what someone or something has.

Ber~ verbs are very useful when talking about physical features. In Learning Object 2 'At the zoo' and Learning Object 3 'What animal is that?' they are used to describe the physical features of animals.

The prefix **ber** is added to the **name** of any part of an animal's body to form a **verb**. This verb is then followed by an **adjective**.

For example:

- **ber** + **badan** (body) + adjective
Gorila berbadan besar. Gorillas have large bodies.
Tikus berbadan kecil. Mice have small bodies.
- **ber** + **warna** (colour) + adjective
Zebra berwarna hitam dan putih. Zebras are black and white.
Gajah berwarna abu-abu. Elephants are grey.
- **ber** + **kaki** (legs) + adjective
Kura-kura berkaki empat. Turtles have four legs.
Unta berkaki panjang Camels have long legs.
Kelinci berkaki pendek. Rabbits have short legs.

Other examples with **mata** (eyes), **belalai** (trunk) and **telinga** (ears):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Koala bermata cokelat.</i> | Koalas have brown eyes. |
| <i>Gajah berbelalai panjang.</i> | Elephants have long trunks. |
| <i>Kuda bertelinga kecil.</i> | Horses have small ears. |

NOTE:

- In Indonesian, the adjectives for size, length, colour and number come after the noun.
- When talking about animals in general there is no need to double the noun to form the plural.
- *Kura-kura* is not the plural of *kura*. A turtle is *kura-kura*. A butterfly is *kupu-kupu*.

Exercises



1. Look at this picture of an imaginary animal and read the three descriptions underneath. Choose the most accurate description of the animal and write the corresponding letter on the line provided beside the picture.

Refer to the vocabulary list on page 3 for help.



- a) *Binatang ini berasal dari Asia. Binatang ini makan bambu dan ikan. Dia berwarna hijau, putih, merah dan biru. Binatang ini berbatok besar dan berkaki dua. Dia berekor panjang yang berwarna merah dan hitam.*
- b) *Binatang ini berasal dari Asia. Dia berwarna hitam, putih, merah dan hijau. Binatang ini bertelinga kecil dan berhidung pendek. Binatang ini makan ikan dan roti.*
- c) *Binatang ini berasal dari Asia. Dia berwarna hitam, merah, abu-abu, putih dan hijau. Binatang ini makan bambu, daun dan ranting. Kadang-kadang binatang ini makan tikus juga. Binatang ini bertelinga besar, berbelalai panjang dan berbatok besar.*



2. The table below contains an assortment of Indonesian words for body parts, colours, sizes, lengths and numbers. Choose appropriate words and write detailed descriptions of the three animals listed on Page 3. Refer to the vocabulary list on Page 3 if you need some help.

Example:

Gajah: Gajah berbadan besar. Mereka berbelalai panjang dan bertelinga besar. Gajah berwarna abu-abu. Gajah berkaki empat dan bergading dua.

Body Parts	Colours	Sizes and Lengths	Numbers
<i>badan kaki telinga leher batok tanduk mata ekor hidung</i>	<i>cokelat hitam putih merah abu-abu kuning hijau biru</i>	<i>besar kecil panjang pendek</i>	<i>satu dua tiga empat</i>

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a) *Kura-kura:*

b) *Zebra:*

c) *Kerbau:*



3. Read this description and identify the animal. Then write its name in the box.

Binatang ini berasal dari Australia. Dia berbadan kecil dan berwarna abu-abu. Binatang ini tidak berekor, tetapi bertelinga kecil dua. Binatang ini berhidung hitam. Binatang ini makan daun.

Vocabulary:

<i>binatang</i>	animal
<i>mereka</i>	they
<i>telinga</i>	ears
<i>leher</i>	neck
<i>tanduk</i>	horns
<i>ekor</i>	tail
<i>hidung</i>	nose
<i>kerbau</i>	buffalo
<i>pendek</i>	short
<i>batok</i>	shell
<i>belalai</i>	elephant's trunk