

Our household, our home

In this module you heard a number of people describe their households. They described the dwelling in which they lived, where it was located, and the number of people and pets in their family. This shows that there is a wide variety of different types of households all over Indonesia.

For most of us, the dwelling in which we live is more than just a shelter to protect us. We usually feel an emotional attachment to our 'home' whether it be a house, an apartment or a caravan. Some of this emotional attachment is reflected in the language we use. We say, for example, 'Home is where the heart is' and we refer to our 'Home Sweet Home'.

Indonesians also value their 'homes'. Although many of them leave their towns or villages and families in search of work in the larger cities, they usually return 'home' on special occasions such as *Ramadhan* or Christmas. When referring to this trip 'home', they use the phrase *pulang kampung* which literally means 'to return to the neighbourhood.'

The *kampung* is the community where they grew up, where many members of their extended family remain, where they formed relationships with neighbours along their street and at local places of worship such as the mosque, church or temple. For Indonesians, the notion of 'home' has a broader sense than it usually does for us.

In many regions of Indonesia, traditional styles of houses can still be seen. These styles of houses often reflect traditional Indonesian values towards the home and household. Some of these values, such as the importance of close contact with the extended family, are still adhered to in many regions of Indonesia. In urban areas, some of the traditional values are being replaced by more modern ones, such as an increasing focus on the individual.

Exercises



1.

- a) What did you notice about the different dwellings you saw in Learning Object 5 'Where is my place' and the apartments in Learning Object 1 'The apartment' and Learning Object 2 'Apartment hunting'?

- b) How does this compare with dwellings in Australia?

- c) What did you notice about the family members in the households you saw online? Who lived in each household?

2.

a) What do you think the expression 'Home is where the heart is' means?

b) You were introduced to the phrase *pulang kampung* on Page 1. What does this tell us about the meaning of 'home' for many Indonesians?

c) What does *pulang kampung* tell us about the value Indonesians place on community?

- d) How is this similar to or different from the way we value our neighbours and wider community?

3. Do some research and find out about traditional style houses in the *Toraja* region of Sulawesi, the *Minangkabau* region of West Sumatra and on the island of Bali.
- a) What is the Indonesian name for a traditional style house in this region?
 - b) What are some of the main architectural features of this style of house?
 - c) Choose one of these architectural features and say what traditional values or beliefs it represents.

The *Toraja* region of Sulawesi:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

The *Minangkabau* region of West Sumatra:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Bali:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____
