

Please ... Please ... Please ...!!!

There are at least five ways to say please in Indonesian depending on the purpose for which you want to use “*please*”. Examine the Table below:

Variant of “Please”	Purpose of Variant
Sila(h)kan *	Is used when requesting somebody to do something pleasant. For instance, to enter, to sit down, to go ahead and eat and to go ahead and drink .
Tolong	Is used when asking someone to assist or help you. For instance, to get something for you, to do something for you or to help you in times of danger or distress (Help!!!!) .
Minta	Is used to politely request or order goods or services. For instance, “May I please have/order a ...” or “Can you please get/give/call/provide me with a ...”
Harap	Is used in signs asking people to comply or maintain order. For instance, “Please Keep Quiet”, “Please Queue Here” or “Please Do Not Smoke” .
Mohon	Serves the same purpose as “Harap” . Also used to ask for forgiveness .

* **Silahkan** can be spelt with or without a “*h*”.

Exercises:

Match the appropriate variant of “Please” with the sentence stem and write the answer in the space provided. The meaning of the resulting utterance is shown for you in English.

Variant of “Please”	Sentence Stem	Meaning in English
	... <i>duduk</i>	Please sit
	... <i>taksi</i>	May I please have a taxi
	... <i>panggilkan saya taksi</i>	Please call me a taxi
	... <i>Jangan Merokok (Sign)</i>	Please Do Not Smoke
	... <i>maaf</i>	Please forgive (me)
	... <i>makan</i>	Please go ahead and eat
	... <i>(mem)buka pintu (untuk saya)</i>	Please open the door (for me)
	... <i>Antri (Di Sini) (Sign)</i>	Please Queue (Here)
	... <i>minum</i>	Please go ahead and drink
	... <i>saya!!!</i>	Help me!!!
	... <i>maaf lahir dan batin</i>	Please forgive me outwardly and internally
	... <i>Jendela Ditutup Sesudah Kelas (Sign)</i>	Please close the windows after class
	... <i>masuk</i>	Please enter
	... <i>bayar di kasir</i>	Please pay at the cashier
	... <i>ambilkan saya segelas air</i>	Please fetch me a glass of water
	... <i>Tenang (Sign)</i>	Please Keep Quiet
	... <i>es the manis</i>	May I please have a sweet iced tea
	... <i>(meng)antar bagasi ke Kamar 201</i>	Please take my luggage to Room 201
	... <i>panggil dokter!</i>	Please call a doctor!
	... <i>tolong!</i>	May I please have some assistance.
	... <i>Bayar Di Kasir (Sign)</i>	Please pay at the Cashier
	... <i>Ruang Kelas Dibersihkan (Sign)</i>	Please Clean the Classroom
	... <i>menikmati filmnya</i>	Please enjoy the film
	... <i>Buang Sampah Pada Tempatnya (Sign)</i>	Please Dispose of Rubbish in Its Place
	... <i>mandi</i>	Please go ahead and bathe