



Indonesian

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

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acknowledgments

This 6th edition of Lonely Planet's *Indonesian phrasebook* is based on the previous edition by the Lonely Planet Language Products Team and translator Laszlo Wagner, who provided the translations and pronunciation guides as well as cultural advice. Laszlo left a life of teaching English to spend a decade or so in much of Asia, where he became captivated especially by the diversity and hospitality of Indonesia and the fascinating wealth of native languages spoken in the region.

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make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

finding things in this book

For easy navigation, this book is in sections. The Basics chapters are the ones you'll thumb through time and again. The Practical section covers basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. The Social section gives you conversational phrases, pick-up lines, the ability to express opinions – so you can get to know people. Food has a section all of its own: gourmets and vegetarians are covered and local dishes feature. Safe Travel equips you with health and police phrases, just in case. Remember the colours of each section and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the two-way traveller's Dictionary for the word you need.

being understood

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language. You don't even need to look at the language itself, but you'll get used to the way we've represented particular sounds. The pronunciation chapter in Basics will explain more, but you can feel confident that if you read the coloured phrase slowly, you'll be understood.

communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. 'Local talk' boxes show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. 'Listen for ...' boxes supply the phrases you may hear. They start with the language (so local people can point out what they want to say to you) and then lead in to the pronunciation guide and the English translation.

about indonesian 8

map	8	introduction	9
-----------	---	--------------------	---

basics 11

pronunciation 11

vowel sounds	11
consonant sounds	11
regional variations	13
word stress	14
reading & writing	14

a-z phrasebuilder 15

contents	15
adjectives & adverbs	17
articles	17
be	18
classifiers	18
demonstratives	19
have	20
imperatives	21
negatives	21
nouns	22
personal pronouns	23
possessive pronouns	24
prepositions	25
questions	25
there is/are	26
verbs	27
word order	27
glossary	28

language difficulties 29

numbers & amounts 31

cardinal numbers	31
------------------------	----

ordinal numbers	32
-----------------------	----

fractions & decimals	33
----------------------------	----

classifiers	33
-------------------	----

useful amounts	34
----------------------	----

time & dates 35

telling the time	35
------------------------	----

the calendar	36
--------------------	----

present	38
---------------	----

past	38
------------	----

future	39
--------------	----

during the day	39
----------------------	----

money 41

local languages of

Indonesia 44

map	44
-----------	----

local languages	45
-----------------------	----

balinese	46
----------------	----

benuaq	47
--------------	----

bugis	48
-------------	----

galelarese	49
------------------	----

javanese	50
----------------	----

lani	51
------------	----

minang	52
--------------	----

sasak	53
-------------	----

sundanese	54
-----------------	----

toba batak	55
------------------	----

toraja	56
--------------	----

practical 57

transport 57

getting around	57
----------------------	----

tickets	59
---------------	----

luggage	61
---------------	----

plane	61
-------------	----

bus, coach & minibus	62
----------------------------	----

train	63
-------------	----

boat	64
------------	----

taxi	66
------------	----

car & motorbike	67
-----------------------	----

bicycle	70
---------------	----

border crossing 71

border crossing	71
-----------------------	----

at customs	72
------------------	----

directions 73

accommodation 75

finding accommodation.....	75	video & photography.....	92
booking ahead & checking in.....	76	repairs.....	93
requests & queries.....	77	communications	95
complaints.....	80	the internet.....	95
checking out.....	80	mobile/cell phone.....	96
renting.....	82	phone.....	97
staying with locals.....	82	post office.....	99
shopping	85	banking	101
looking for.....	85	sightseeing	103
making a purchase.....	86	getting in.....	104
bargaining.....	87	tours.....	104
books & reading.....	88	business	105
clothes.....	89	senior & disabled travellers ..	107
electronic goods.....	89	children	109
hairdressing.....	90	travelling with children.....	109
music & DVD.....	90	talking with children.....	111
		talking about children.....	112

social 113

meeting people	113	responding to invitations.....	134
basics.....	113	arranging to meet.....	135
greetings & goodbyes.....	113	drugs.....	136
addressing people.....	115	romance	137
making conversation.....	116	asking someone out.....	137
nationalities.....	118	pick-up lines.....	137
age.....	118	rejections.....	138
occupations & studies.....	119	getting closer.....	138
family.....	121	sex.....	139
farewells.....	122	love.....	139
interests	123	problems.....	140
common interests.....	123	leaving.....	140
music.....	124	beliefs & cultural differences	141
cinema & theatre.....	125	religion.....	141
feelings & opinions	127	cultural differences.....	142
feelings.....	127	art	143
opinions.....	127	sport	145
politics & social issues.....	128	sporting interests.....	145
the environment.....	132	going to a game.....	146
going out	133	playing sport.....	146
where to go.....	133		
invitations.....	134		

diving.....	148	weather.....	153
fishing.....	150	beach.....	154
surfing.....	150	hiking.....	154
water sports.....	151	ecotourism.....	157
outdoors.....	153	wildlife & habitats.....	158

food.....161

eating out.....	161	alcoholic drinks.....	171
basics.....	161	in the bar.....	171
finding a place to eat.....	161	drinking up.....	173
at the restaurant.....	162	self-catering.....	175
at the table.....	166	vegetarian & special	
talking food.....	167	meals.....	177
methods of preparation....	168	ordering food.....	177
street food.....	168	special diets & allergies....	178
nonalcoholic drinks.....	170	menu decoder.....	179

safe travel.....189

essentials.....	189	women's health.....	198
emergencies.....	189	parts of the body.....	200
police.....	190	allergies.....	201
health.....	193	alternative treatments.....	201
doctor.....	193	pharmacist.....	202
symptoms & conditions....	195	dentist.....	203


dictionaries.....205

english-indonesian.....	205	indonesian-english.....	233
--------------------------------	------------	--------------------------------	------------

index.....251

indonesian



 official language

ABOUT INDONESIAN

kata pengantar

Indonesian, or *Bahasa Indonesia* as it's known to the locals, is the official language of the Republic of Indonesia. It's used in administration, education, business and the media, although less than 10 per cent of the population claim it as their mother tongue. For the majority of speakers it's actually the second language, but as such it represents a uniting force for the hundreds of ethnic groups scattered across the world's largest archipelago.

Indonesian, and its closest relative Malay, both developed from Old Malay, an Austronesian language spoken in the kingdom of Srivijaya on the island of Sumatra. The earliest written records of this Buddhist kingdom date from the 7th century AD. Over time Malay became the principal language of trade in the archipelago, a lingua franca for traders from China, India and

at a glance ...

language name: Indonesian

name in language:

Bahasa Indonesia
ba·ha·sa in·do·ne·si·a

language family:

Austronesian

approximate number of speakers: 240 million

close relatives:

Malay & related dialects

key country:

Republic of Indonesia

donations to English:

(run) amok, cockatoo, orang-utan

Arab nations. The Arab traders also brought Islam to the archipelago, and Malay was the language which disseminated it throughout the islands. Alongside Bazaar Malay, the language spoken by common Indonesians, a variety called Classical Malay held sway as the court language in the Muslim sultanate of Malacca and was prized as the language of literature.

The Dutch and British colonisers, the most successful of the European traders who arrived in the 16th century, consolidated the influence of Malay by using it to

communicate with indigenous populations. These contacts, together with the distinctions that emerged during the evolution of the language, ultimately resulted in the development of two separate modern forms – Indonesian (influenced by Dutch) and Malay (which borrowed more from English).

At the start of the 20th century, a modified version of Persio-Arabic script (in use since the 14th century) was replaced by the Latin alphabet under European influence. The term *Bahasa Indonesia* (Indonesian language) was first introduced in 1928 by the nationalist movement which aimed for the language's official recognition. Finally, with the Declaration of Independence in 1942, Indonesian was proclaimed the country's official language.

In addition to the vocabulary Indonesian adopted from its foreign interactions – such as *istana* (Sanskrit for 'palace'), *hakim* (Arabic for 'judge'), *meja* (Portuguese for 'table'), *mie* (Chinese for 'noodle'), *kantor* (Dutch for 'office') and *otomatis* (English for 'automatic') – it continues to be influenced by Indonesia's hundreds of languages known as *bahasa daerah* (local languages). For more information, see **local languages** on page 45.

Indonesian is usually described as an easy language to learn, thanks to its phonetic spelling, simple pronunciation and the fact that verbs don't change for tense and nouns don't change for singular or plural. It's also often said that it takes a lifetime to master, as you'll probably understand when you get into its plethora of affixes and infinite exceptions to rules.

As a starter, though, this book gives you the practical phrases you need to get by, as well as the fun social phrases that lead to a better understanding of Indonesia and its people. The contacts you make through speaking Indonesian will make your travel experience unique. Local knowledge, new relationships and a sense of satisfaction are on the tip of your tongue, so don't just stand there, say something!

abbreviations used in this book

a	adjective	inf	informal	pl	plural
adv	adverb	lit	literal	pol	polite
excl	exclusive		translation	sg	singular
f	feminine	m	masculine	v	verb
incl	inclusive	n	noun		