Bahasa Indonesia  
Week 1

**Guide to Pronunciation of Indonesian**

Source: http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/guide\_to\_pronunciation\_FS.htm

You will need to LISTEN (to your teacher and to the audio for *Keren!*) to really pronounce Indonesian correctly, but the following guide will give you a rough idea how to sound words out. Unlike English, Indonesian is relatively consistent in matching sounds to spellings, but there are some exceptions to this, and there are several sounds that are tricky for English- speakers.

\*\*\*CLICK ON THE WORD TO HEAR IT PRONOUNCED\*\*\*

**Vowels**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***a*** like *a* in *father* | [*datang*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/datang.wav)*, [nama](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/nama.wav" \t "header)* |
| ***e***like *u* in *but****OR****\** | *[selamat](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/selamat.wav" \t "header), [senang](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/senang.wav" \t "header)* |
| ***e***between the *e* in *let* and the *a* in*late* | [*es*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/es.wav)*,*[*sore*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/sore.wav) |
| ***i*** like *ee* in *feet* | [*pagi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/pagi.wav)*,*[*siang*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/siang.wav) |
| ***o*** between the *aw* in *saw and the oe in toe* | [*kopi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/kopi.wav)*,*[*orang*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/orang.wav) |
| ***u*** like *oo* in *boot* | [*buku*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/buku.wav)*,*[*duduk*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/duduk.wav)*\*\** |
| ***ai*** like *ie* in *tie* | [*baik*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/baik.wav)*,*[*sampai*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/sampai.wav)*\*\*\** |
| ***au*** like *ow* in *how* | [*mau*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/mau.wav)*,*[*saudara*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/saudara.wav)*\*\*\*\** |

**\*NOTE: There is no rule to know which way to pronounce *e* in a particular word without hearing it first; your teacher will give you the correct pronunciation as you go along.**

\*\*the *u* in the second syllable of *duduk*sounds more like the *oo* in *book*)

*\*\*\**the*ai*in*sampai i*s often pronounced*ay*as in*day,*especially in Java

\*\*\*\*the *au* in *saudara* is often pronounced *oe* as in *toe*)

In other cases where two vowels are not separated by a consonant, just put the two vowel sounds together: [*siapa*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/siapa.wav)*= si apa*, etc. When a vowel is repeated, put a**glottal stop** (= the catch in your throat when you say "uh-oh!") between the vowels: [*maaf*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/maaf.wav)*= ma-af*.

**Consonants:**

**I. Consonants pronounced very much as in English:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *b* as in *bed* | [*bahasa*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/bahasa.wav)*,*[*mobil*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/mobil.wav) |
| *d* as in *dad* | [*duduk*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/duduk.wav)*,*[*saudara*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/saudara.wav) |
| *f* as in *feel* | [*foto*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/foto.wav)*,*[*maaf*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/maaf.wav) |
| *g* as in *good* | [*guru*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/guru.wav)*,*[*pagi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/pagi.wav) **NEVER as in giant** |
| *l as in lap* | [*lagi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/lagi.wav)*,*[*selamat*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/selamat.wav) |
| *m* as in *man* | [*malam*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/malam.wav)*,*[*selamat*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/selamat.wav) |
| *n*as in *nap* | [*Natal*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/natal.wav)*,*[*tahun*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/tahun.wav) **ALSO SEE *ng, ny*, below** |
| *s* as in *see* | [*siang*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/siang.wav)*,*[*kelas*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/kelas.wav) **NEVER as in *boys*** |
| *w* as in *well* | [*wayang*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/wayang.wav)*,*[*kawan*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/kawan.wav) **NEVER as in *where*** |
| *y* as in *yell* | [*yang*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/yang.wav)*,*[*Yogyakarta*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/yogya.wav) |

**II. Consonants pronounced somewhat differently than in English:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *j* like the *dy* in *Goodyear* | [*jumpa*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/jumpa.wav)*,*[*saja*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/saja.wav) |
| *k* like the *k* in *skate* | [*kopi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/kopi.wav)*,*[*es krim*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/eskrim.wav)*\** |
| *p* like the *p* in *spot* | [*pagi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/pagi.wav)*,*[*apa*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/apa.wav)*\** |
| *t like the t in stop* | [*tas*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/tas.wav)*,*[*itu*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/itu.wav)*\** |

*\*k, p, and t DO NOT have the puff of air they have in such English words as kill, put, and tap.*

**\*\*NOTE: When *k* comes at the END of a word, the sound is cut off sharply (like the glottal stop mentioned above): *baik, becak***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ng like the *ng* in *singer* | [mengerti](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/mengerti.wav), [senang](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/senang.wav) |

***\*\*NOTE: ng alone does NOT have the "hard" g, as in finger, which is always written as ngg in Indonesian: tinggal, penggaris***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ny like the *ny* in *canyon* | [banyak](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/banyak.wav), [artinya](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/artinya.wav) |

*Both ng and ny can be found at the BEGINNINGS of words:*[*ngopi*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/ngopi.wav)*,*[*Nyonya*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/nyony.wav)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sy like the *s y* in *pass your plate*, close to the *sh* in *show.* | [syukur](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/syukur.wav), [asyik](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/asyik.wav) |

***III. Consonants presenting special problems:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *c* like the *t y* in *get your feet off the table!*, close to the *c* in *cello* or the *ch* in *chat*,NEVER like the *c* in *cat* | [*cinta*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/cinta.wav)*,*[*becak*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/becak.wav) |
| *h* as in *house*, but it can also appear at the ENDS of words: | [*hari*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/hari.wav)*,*[*bahasa*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/bahasa.wav)*,*[*sekolah*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/sekolah.wav) |
| *r* like the *tt* in *butter* or *gotta*. It is usually a tap of the tongue behind the teeth, though it sometimes is more of a trill (like the *rr* in Spanish *arriba*, especially at the ends of words | [*rumah*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/rumah.wav)*,*[*saudara*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/saudara.wav)*,*[*kabar*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/kabar.wav) |

*The letters q, v, x, z are very rare in Indonesian, and are mostly found in words borrowed from English, Dutch or Arabic.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *q* similar to English *k* | [*Qur'an*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/quran.wav) |
| *v* similar to English *v* or *f* | [*veto*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/veto.wav)*,*[*Vitri*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/vitri.wav) |
| *x* like English *x* | [*xerox*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/xerox.wav) |
| *z* like English *z* or *j* | [*zebra*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/zebra.wav)*,*[*zaman*](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/zaman.wav) |

*Here is how you pronounce the alphabet in Indonesian:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ([Hear](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/abcdefg.wav) -->) | a = ah | b = bay | c = chay | d = day | e = ay | f = ef | g = gay |
| ([Hear](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/hijklmn.wav) -->) | h = ha | i = ee | j = jay | k = kah | l = el | m = em | n = en |
| ([Hear](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/opqrstu.wav) -->) | o = oh | p = pay | q = key | r = air | s = es | t = tay | u = oo |
| ([Hear](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/flin/pronunciation/vwxyz.wav) -->) | v = fay | w = way | x = eks | y = yay | z = zet |  |  |