Chapter 11

NUMBERS AND TIME

11. NUMBERS and TIME

11.1 Numbers

Discussed in this section are the cardinal and ordinal numbers, fractions, mathematical functions and numerical classifiers.

11.1.1 Cardinal Numbers

(i) Introduction

The basic cardinal numbers are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>satu</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>dua</td>
<td>two</td>
<td>tiga</td>
<td>three</td>
<td>empat</td>
<td>four</td>
<td>lima</td>
<td>five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>empat</td>
<td>four</td>
<td>lima</td>
<td>five</td>
<td>enam</td>
<td>six</td>
<td>tujuh</td>
<td>seven</td>
<td>lapan</td>
<td>eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lapan</td>
<td>eight</td>
<td>sembilan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satu [one] has a combining form which is se-. This does not derive from satu, but from esa, also meaning "one", which is rarely used.

The root form for "tens" is puluh, and this combines with the preceding units to form multiples of ten. The word for "ten" is always sepuluh and never satu puluh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>separuh</td>
<td>ten</td>
<td>dua puluh</td>
<td>thirty</td>
<td>empat puluh</td>
<td>fifty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dua puluh</td>
<td>twenty</td>
<td>tiga puluh</td>
<td>forty</td>
<td>dll.</td>
<td>etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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To form divisions between multiples of ten from 20 to 100, the units 1-9 are added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dua puluh tiga</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>twenty three</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tiga puluh empat</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>thirty four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empat puluh lima</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>forty five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima puluh enam</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>fifty six</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dll.</td>
<td></td>
<td>etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The root form for "teens" in Malay and Indonesian is belas, and this combines with the units from 1-9 to form divisions between 10 and 20. The word for "eleven" is always sebelas and never satu belas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sebelas</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>eleven</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dua belas</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>twelve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiga belas</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>thirteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empat belas</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>fourteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima belas</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>fifteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dll.</td>
<td></td>
<td>etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The root form for "hundreds" is ratus, for "thousands" is ribu and for "millions" is juta. "One hundred", "one thousand" or "one million" may be expressed either with the prefix se- or with the full form, satu [one].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seratus</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>one hundred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seribu</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>one thousand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sejuta</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>one million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers may then be combined to form increasingly larger denominations, much as in English. Note that Malay and Indonesian do not use dan [and] as a connector between numbers in a sequence, something which is permissible in English. For example, the number 567 may be expressed in English as "five hundred and sixty seven". In Malay or Indonesian this is lima ratus enam puluh tujuh, not *lima ratus dan enam puluh tujuh.  

| 1,000,000 | satu juta | one million |
| 200,000   | dua ratus ribu | two hundred thousand |
| 30,000    | tiga puluh ribu | thirty thousand |
| 4,000     | empat ribu | four thousand |
| 500       | lima ratus | five hundred |
| 60        | enam puluh | sixty |
| 7         | tujuh | seven |

1,234,567

The preceding number reads as follows: satu juta, dua ratus tiga puluh empat ribu, lima ratus enam puluh tujuh [one million, two hundred and thirty four thousand, five hundred and sixty seven].

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To elicit cardinal numbers, the question word is berapa [how much] or [how many].

Berapa orang yang pergi? - Sepuluh orang.
How many people went? - Ten people.

11.1.1 Cardinal Numbers
(ii) Position in the utterance

Cardinal numbers precede the noun when they serve to count these nouns. They, however, follow the noun when they refer to a particular instance or occurrence. Compare the following.

- tiga muka / tiga halaman: three pages
- muka tiga / halaman tiga: page three
- lima kelas: five classes
- kelas lima: class five (as in primary school)
- tujuh latihan: seven exercises
- latihan tujuh: exercise seven

The common function of cardinal numbers is to count nouns. Consequently the normal position of cardinal numbers is preceding the noun in the noun phrase. This is the same position they take in the English noun phrase. The position of the numbers in the noun phrase is different from the position of the adjective and other modifiers (see Section 2.2.1 (iv)). Compare the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject NOUN PHRASE</th>
<th>Predicate VERB PHRASE</th>
<th>PREP</th>
<th>NOUN PHRASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dua keluarga</td>
<td>tinggal</td>
<td>di</td>
<td>satu rumah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two families</td>
<td>live</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>one house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER NOUN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NUMBER NOUN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two families</td>
<td>live</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>one house.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modifiers of degree take the same position as the numbers in the noun phrase. These include banyak [many], sedikit [a few] or [a little], cukup [enough] and beberapa [several].
Modifiers of degree may also follow the noun. This position following the noun places a type of comparative emphasis on the degree word. This comparison is made explicit by the phrase in parenthesis in Examples 7 and 8. It should be obvious in Example 9. Of the examples above, only beberapa cannot be moved to a position following the noun.
9. Bila saya sudah habis beli barang, saya tak ada wang cukup untuk bayar tambang teksi.

When I had finished shopping, I still had some money, but not enough money to pay the taxi fare.

9. Waktu saya sudah selesai belanja, saya tidak punya uang cukup untuk bayar ongkos taksi.

When I had finished shopping, I still had some money, but not enough money to pay the taxi fare.

11.1.1 Cardinal Numbers

(iii) Satu, suatu and salah satu

In Indonesian suatu is frequently used in place of satu when the meaning "one" is nonspecific (also see Section 7.1(iv)). It is close to the meaning "a" in English. Satu is used when counting. Suatu is not. While suatu is also used in Malay, it is far less common than in Indonesian. In Malay satu is more commonly used for both the meanings "one" and "a".

Salah satu means "one of" and is used when indicating one item out of a set of items. The satu in salah satu may be replaced by an appropriate numerical classifier (see Section 11.1.5). For example, salah seorang means "one of the people" and salah seekor means "one of the animals".

Compare the following utterances. The first two are examples of satu, the second two, examples of suatu, and the final two, examples of salah satu.

10. Satu lagi perkara yang dilakukan orang Inggeris ialah memindahkan ramai orang Melaka ke Pulau Pinang.

One other thing that was carried out by the British was to transfer many of the people of Malacca to Penang.

10. VOC mengadu-dombakan sesama bangsa Indonesia atau antara satu kerajaan dengan kerajaan lain.

The Dutch East India Company turned Indonesian ethnic groups against each other, or one kingdom against another.


One other result of the Dutch-English Treaty was that the Dutch no longer interfered on the Malay Peninsula.

11. Pasukan Diponegoro bergerak dari satu daerah ke daerah lain, dari satu medan pertempuran ke medan pertempuran lain.

Diponegoro's troops moved from one area to another, and from one battlefield to another.

12. Dalam tahun 1941 Vyner Brooke memberikan suatu perlambagaan kepada Sarawak.

Keinginan untuk menguasai Aceh terhalang oleh Traktat London, yakni suatu perjanjian yang dibuat oleh Belanda dan Inggris pada tahun 1824.
In 1941, Vyner Brooke gave Sarawak a constitution. The desire to control Aceh was frustrated by the Treaty of London, that is an agreement between the Dutch and English in 1824.

13. Sarawak dan Sabah pada suatu masa dahulu menjadi jajahan kerajaan Brunei. Sarawak and Sabah at some (a) time in the past were under the control of Brunei.

13. Tak lama kemudian dalam suatu pertempuran di Meulaboh, Teuku Umar gugur. Not long afterward, in a battle at Meulaboh, Teuku Umar was killed.


When the French captured the Netherlands, the King asked the British to watch over their colonies in the East. One of the colonies was Malacca.

14. Pertama-tama VOC berusaha menguasai salah satu pelabuhan penting yang akan dijadikan pusatnya. Firstly the Dutch East India Company attempted to take over one of the important ports to be turned into its centre of operations.

15. Tidak lama kemudian Johor menjadi kaya serta maju dan mempunyai salah sebuah perusahaan membalak yang terbesar sekali di Asia pada masa itu.

Not long after, Johor became rich and progressive, possessing one of the largest lumbering industries in Asia at the time.

15. Kemudian salah seorang dari anggota Komisi Jenderal, yakni Van der Capellen, menjabat sebagai Gubernur Jenderal Hindia Belanda.

Then one of the members of the Commissariat General, that is Van der Capellen, took over as governor general of the East Indies.

11.1.2 Ordinal Numbers

(i) Introduction

Discussed in the section is the formation of ordinal numbers, the question word used to elicit such numbers, and the position of ordinal numbers in the utterance.

11.1.2 Ordinal Numbers

(ii) Formation

Ordinal numbers, with only one exception, are formed by prefixing *ke-* to the cardinal number. The only exception is *pertama* [first]. Examples from "1st - 5th" are given below, but no matter how large the number, the same pattern is used: *ke-* is prefixed
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to the cardinal number. *Keseratus*, for example, is "one hundredth", and *keseribu lima ratus* is "one thousand five hundredth".

| pertama | 1st | first |
| kedua | 2nd | second |
| ketiga | 3rd | third |
| keempat | 4th | fourth |
| kelima | 5th | fifth |
| dll. | etc. |

The ordinal number follows the noun which is counted.

1. *Orang yang kelima yang masuk bilik itu, abang saya.*
   The fifth person who entered the room is my older brother.

2. *Kereta yang pertama yang saya tengok, saya beli.*
   The first car I looked at, I bought.

It is possible to omit the *yang* which precedes the ordinal number with no change in meaning (see Section 2.3).

3. *Pintu ketiga di sebelah kiri itu, pintu bilik cikgu.*
   The third door on the left is the teacher's office door.

11.1.2 Ordinal Numbers

*(iii)* *Keberapa*

The question word which elicits ordinal numbers is *keberapa* which has no direct equivalent in English but would translate as "how manyeth" if such a word existed. *Keberapa* is translated as "which" when rendered into fluent English in the following examples. The literal translation using "how manyeth" is given in parenthesis.

4. *Orang yang keberapa yang masuk bilik itu abang encik?*
   *Which person* that entered the room is your older brother? (The how manyeth person that entered the room is your older brother?)

5. *Orang yang keberapa yang masuk ke ruangan itu kakak laki-laki saya?*
   *Which person* that entered the room is your older brother? (The how manyeth person that entered the room is your older brother?)
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5. Kereta keberapa yang encik tengok encik beli?  5. Mobil keberapa yang bapak lihat dan beli?
Which car that you looked at did you buy? (The how manyeth car that you looked at did you buy?)

More commonly, however, questions of this nature are asked with yang mana [which].

6. Orang yang mana yang masuk bilik itu abang encik?  6. Orang yang mana yang masuk ke ruangan itu kakak laki-laki bapak?
Which person that entered the room is your older brother?

7. Pintu yang mana di sebelah kiri itu pintu bilik cikgu?  7. Pintu yang mana di sebelah kiri itu pintu kantor Pak Guru?
Which door on the left is the teacher's office door?

11.1.2 Ordinal Numbers
(iv) Position in the utterance

Ordinal numbers follow the noun or noun phrase they refer to. All the utterances in Section 11.1.2 (ii) are examples of this. There are, however, numbers of the same form as the ordinal which precede the noun. The meaning conveyed by this structure is quite different. The meaning conveyed is "both of ..." or "the two (three, four) of ...".

Tun Razak and Datuk Hussein Onn are former Prime Ministers of Malaysia. Both of them (Those two people) held office in the 1970's.

Adam Malik and Umar Wirahadikusuma are former Vice Presidents of Indonesia. Both of them (Those two people) held office in the 1980's.

Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia are Southeast Asian nations. The four of them use Malay as an official language.

Malaysia, Singapura, Brunei dan Indonesia adalah negara di Asia Tenggara. Keempat negara itu menggunakan bahasa Melayu sebagai bahasa resmi.
Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia are Southeast Asian nations. The four of them use Malay as an official language.
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If the number prefixed with *ke-* were to follow the noun in utterances 8-9, it would become an ordinal number and would not convey the meaning intended. For example, *kedua orang itu* [those two people] or [both of them] would become *orang yang kedua itu* [the second person]. When the number follows the noun, in order to preserve the meaning intended in utterances 8-9, the prefix used must be *ber-* and not *ke-*. This is exemplified in utterances 10-11. With Indonesian utterances of this type the subject must be animate, that is, generally refer to people or animals. Why this is the case is not entirely clear, but for this reason only a Malay example is given for utterance 11.


   *Both of them* (Those two people) held office in the 1970's.


   *Both of them* (Those two people) held office in the 1980's.

11. .... *Negara berempat-empat itu* menggunakan bahasa Melayu sebagai bahasa resmi.

   The four of those countries use Malay as an official language.

11.1.3 Fractions

The divisions of whole numbers for which there are distinct words are *setengah* [one half], and *suku*/perempat [quarter]. "One half" is always expressed as *setengah* and never *satu tengah*. "One quarter, however, may be expressed as *sesuku* or *satu suku* in Malaysia. It is *seperempat* in Indonesia. "Three quarters" or "three fourths" is expressed as *tiga suku* or *tiga perempat*. These fractions may be combined, as in English, with whole numbers.

1 ½  satu setengah
    one and a half

2 ½  dua setengah
    two and a half

3 ¼  tiga sesuku / tiga seperempat
    three and a quarter

4 ¾  empat tiga suku / empat tiga perempat
    four and three quarters

When these combinations of whole numbers and fractions modify nouns, the whole number precedes the noun in Malaysia and the fraction follows. In Indonesia the complete number may precede the modified noun, or the fraction may follow as in Malaysia.

*satu tahun setengah / satu setengah tahun* OR *setahun setengah*
    one and a half years

*satu kilo tiga suku / satu kilo tiga perempat*
    one and three quarters kilo
Other fractions are much less commonly used. These are formed by prefixing *per-* to the number.

- **pertiga** third
- **perempat** fourth
- **perlima** fifth
- **dll.** etc.

"One fourth" is expressed as *seperempat*, "two thirds" as *dua pertiga*, and "three fifths" as *tiga perlima*. While in Indonesia *seperempat* is commonly used, in Malaysia, *suku* is used almost to its exclusion.

These fractions combine with whole numbers as do the fractions for "quarter" and "half".

1 \( \frac{2}{3} \) satu, dua pertiga one and two thirds
3 \( \frac{4}{5} \) tiga, empat perlima three and four fifths

The decimal point is expressed in Malaysia as *perpuluhan* or *titik*. "Four point five (4.5)" is expressed as *empat perpuluhan lima* or *empat titik lima*. In Indonesia the equivalent of the decimal point is shown as a comma (4,5), and is expressed as *empat koma lima*. The decimal point in Indonesia, also referred to as *titik*, is used to mark divisions of 100. In Malaysia a comma would be used for this function. "Twenty thousand rupiah" is written as 20,000 in Malaysia and 20.000 in Indonesia.

### 11.1.4 Mathematical Formulas

The basic mathematical formulas are expressed as follows in Malaysia and Indonesia.

- **campur** \(^{M} \) / tambah + plus
- **tolak** \(^{M} \) / potong, kurang – minus
- **kali** x times
- **bahagi** \(^{M} \) / bagi ÷ divided by

The general word for "to count" or "to calculate" is *kira* \(^{M} \) in Malaysia and *hitung* \(^{I} \) in Indonesia, and the question and answer set for a simple mathematical problem may be expressed as follows.

1. **Tolong kira.** Tiga ratus \( (300) \) bahagi dua jadi berapa? - Tiga ratus \( (300) \) bahagi dua jadi seratus lima puluh \( (150) \).

   Please **calculate**. Three hundred \( (300) \) divided by two is how much? - Three hundred \( (300) \) divided by two is one hundred and fifty \( (150) \).

1. **Tolong hitung.** Tiga ratus \( (300) \) dibagi dua sama dengan berapa? - Tiga ratus \( (300) \) dibagi dua sama dengan seratus lima puluh \( (150) \).

   Please **calculate**. Three hundred \( (300) \) divided by two is how much? - Three hundred \( (300) \) divided by two is one hundred and fifty \( (150) \).
In actual conversation, of course, it is highly unlikely that the respondent would repeat
the question in the answer. The likely answer would be just *seratus lima puluh* [one
hundred and fifty].

It is also possible to introduce the question with *berapa banyak* or just *berapa* [how
much], immediately indicating to the listener that some form of calculation is expected.
A question of this form appears as follows. The answer could take any of the forms
discussed for utterance 1.

2. *Berapa banyak* tiga ratus bahagi dua?

   How much is three hundred divided by two.

   11.1.5 Numerical Classifiers

   Numerical classifiers are words placed before or after nouns which are counted.
   Examples in English are "loaves" in "two loaves of bread", "pieces" in "four pieces of
   meat", and "cups" in "three cups of coffee". It would not normally be possible in
   English to say "*two breads*, or "*four meats", although the expression "three coffees"
   is now quite common.

   The use of numerical classifiers in Malay and Indonesian is optional. In other words,
   its use is much like the choice we have in English between "three cups of coffee" and
   "three coffees". For example, *orang* [person] is the classifier for humans, and *ekor* [tail]
   is the classifier for animals. It is possible to say both *dua orang adik* and *dua adik* [two
   younger brothers], and *tiga ekor ikan* and *tiga ikan* [three fish].

   The numerical classifier is required when the number is placed after the noun, as in
   utterance 2. While this structure may appear odd from the viewpoint of English, it is
   quite normal in Malaysia and Indonesia when the speaker wishes to call attention first
   to the noun, and then to the quantity. The following are examples.

   1. Shariah ada dua orang abang, dan seorang kakak.

      Shariah has two older brothers and an older sister.

   2. Ramli tangkap ikan tiga ekor dan ketam lima ekor.

      Ramli caught three fish and five crabs. (Ramli caught fish, three of
      them, and crabs, five of them.)

   The following are some of the numerical classifiers in more common use. A complete
   list may be found in most standard Malay or Indonesian grammars. Each classifier is
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given with its literal meaning in English, followed by the words it is used to classify. Where there are significant differences in use between Malay and Indonesian, this is indicated as part of the description.

The use of numerical classifiers on the whole is stronger in Malaysia than in Indonesia. It is also fair to say there is a general levelling in the use of numerical classifiers in Indonesia. For example, a classifier such as *buah* is beginning to dominate areas where other classifiers were previously used. Examples are the growing use of *sebuah semangka* [a watermelon] and *sebuah kail* [a fishhook] where *sebiji semangka* and *sebentuk kail* reflect traditional usage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classifier</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>batang</td>
<td>rod for long rod-like objects such as pencils, trees, cigarettes, candles, teeth; also roads and rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bentuk</td>
<td>curve for curved objects such as rings, hooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biji</td>
<td>seed for all fruits and small round objects such as seeds, balls; (also eggs, sweets, crockery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bilah</td>
<td>blade for sharp, bladed weapons such as knives, axes, spears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buah</td>
<td>fruit for objects of indefinite size or shape, such as buildings, vehicles, furniture, books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butir</td>
<td>grain for small, round objects such as jewels, beads, bullets; (also eggs and spices such as cloves, cardamom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ekor</td>
<td>tail for animals, insects, fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helai</td>
<td>sheet for thin, flat objects such as cloth, clothing, blankets, paper; also leaves, a strand of hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaki</td>
<td>foot for objects with stems such as flowers, mushrooms; also umbrellas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keping</td>
<td>sheet for thin, flat, somewhat stiff objects such as wooden boards; (also a piece of paper, a photograph, a slice of bread, parcels of land)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ketul</td>
<td>lump for firm, generally small objects such as stones; (also Malay and Chinese cakes, pieces of meat, soap, bread rolls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuntum</td>
<td>bud for flowers, buds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lembar</td>
<td>strand for thin, fine objects such as thread, wire, a strand of hair; (also cloth, leaves, pages, paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orang</td>
<td>person for people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pasang</td>
<td>pair for things that come in pairs such as shoes, earrings; also two people, animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patah</td>
<td>break for words, phrases or proverbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>potong</td>
<td>cut for objects cut from a main piece such as pieces of cake, meat, bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pucuk</td>
<td>shoot for letters, firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>puntung</td>
<td>stump for short, stubby objects such as tree stumps, cigarette butts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ulas</td>
<td>covering for the meaty seeds of fruits such as durian, jackfruit, cempedak; also a clove of garlic and sections of plants which grow in a similar manner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.2 Time

Discussed in this section are the main divisions of the calendar, such as the year, month, week and day, relative time which shows relationships such as earlier or later, today and tomorrow, and clock time.

11.2.1 The calendar

(i) Introduction

The following sections look at divisions such as the year, month, week and day.

(ii) Years

The year is expressed as tahun. Years are counted, as in English, by using cardinal numbers: satu tahun or setahun [one year] and dua tahun [two years].

To ask how many years one has done something, or lived somewhere, or even how old someone is, the question is berapa tahun.

   
   How many years have you (Miss) lived in Malaysia? - Two.

2. Umur cik sudah berapa tahun? - Dua puluh satu.
   
   How old are you (Miss)? - Twenty one.

To ask for a particular year in which something was done the question is tahun berapa.
   In which year did Malaysia become independent? - 1957.

   In which year did Indonesia become independent? - 1945.

   In which year were you (sir) born? - 1969.

   In which year were you (sir) born? - 1969.

There are two ways of expressing the year. One is simply to count as you would an
ordinary number. This is shown in example 5. The other is to divide the number into
two groups as shown in example 6. This is the form most common in conversational
Malay and Indonesian as it is in English.

5. Tahun 1957: Tahun seribu sembilan ratus lima puluh tujuh
   The year one thousand nine hundred and fifty seven.

5. Tahun 1957: Tahun seribu sembilan ratus lima puluh tujuh
   The year one thousand nine hundred and fifty seven.

6. Tahun 1957: Tahun sembilan belas lima puluh tujuh
   The year nineteen hundred and fifty seven

6. Tahun 1957: Tahun sembilan belas lima puluh tujuh
   The year nineteen hundred and fifty seven

11.2.1 The calendar
   Months

Malaysia and Indonesia, for all official functions except those relating to religion, use
the western calendar and have borrowed the names of the months from English and
from Dutch respectively. It is common to precede the name of the months with the word
bulan [month] although, since this is redundant, it is frequently omitted in conversation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MALAY</th>
<th>INDONESIAN</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Januari</td>
<td>Januari</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Februari</td>
<td>Februari</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mac</td>
<td>Maret</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mei</td>
<td>Mei</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Juni</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julai</td>
<td>Juli</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogos</td>
<td>Agustus</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oktober</td>
<td>Oktober</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>November (or) Nopember</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disember</td>
<td>Desember</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For religious functions, the Moslem calendar is used. The months for this calendar have been borrowed from Arabic and are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MALAY</th>
<th>INDOENSIAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Muharam</td>
<td>Muharam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Safar</td>
<td>Safar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Rabiulawal</td>
<td>Rabiulawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Rabiulakhir</td>
<td>Rabiulakhir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Jamadilawal</td>
<td>Jumadilawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Jamadilakhir</td>
<td>Jumadilakhir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Rejab</td>
<td>Rejab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Syaaban</td>
<td>Syaban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Ramadan</td>
<td>Ramadan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Syawal</td>
<td>Syawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Zulkaedah</td>
<td>Zulkaidah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Zulhijah</td>
<td>Zulhijah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The years in the Western calendar are dated from the birth of Christ and are referred to as *Tahun Masehi*. The years of the Moslem calendar which date from Muhammad's flight from Mecca in 622 AD are referred to as *Tahun Hijrah* in Malaysia and *Tahun Hijriah* in Indonesia. These are abbreviated as *TM* and *TH* respectively in Malaysia and *M* and *H* in Indonesia. *TM* or *M* is equivalent to the English "AD".

The months of the western calendar are also commonly referred to in Malaysia by number starting from January which is *bulan satu* [month one]. This would be less common in Indonesia.

To ask how many months one has done something, or been somewhere, or will do something, the question is *berapa bulan*.

   
   How many months have (you) been studying Malay? - Six.

To ask for a particular date the question is *berapa hari bulan* in Malaysia and *tanggal berapa* in Indonesia.

   
   What date is Zainal going? - The fifth of March.

   *Hari bulan* is usually abbreviated *hb.* but the tendency now is to omit it from the abbreviated form of dates all together. Both *5 hb. Mac 1996* and *5 Mac 1996* are acceptable. In Indonesia *tanggal* is abbreviated *tgl*: *tgl 5 Maret 1996*.
To ask for the name of a particular month, the question is *bulan apa*.


What month did you arrive? - August.


What month did you arrive? - August.

### 11.2.1 The calendar

#### (iv) Weeks and days

The months are divided into weeks, *minggu*, and the week into seven days, *hari*. The names for the days are borrowed from Arabic. "Sunday", however, has an alternative borrowed from Portuguese. This is *hari Minggu*. It is common to precede the names of the days by the word *hari*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MALAY</th>
<th>INDONESIAN</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isnin</td>
<td>Senin</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selasa</td>
<td>Selasa</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabu</td>
<td>Rabu</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khamis</td>
<td>Kamis</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumaat</td>
<td>Jumat</td>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabtu</td>
<td>Sabtu</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahad or Minggu</td>
<td>Minggu</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To ask for a particular day the question is *hari apa*:


On what day do (you) intend to finish? - Saturday.


On what day do (you) intend to finish? - Saturday.

The day is divided into various notional parts, much as it is in English.

- *pagi* - morning
- *tengah hari / siang¹* - noon
- *petang / sore¹* - afternoon, evening
- *malam* - evening, night
- *tengah malam* - midnight

*Pagi* notionally refers to a time when the sun is inclined in the east, *tengah hari m* / *siang¹* to when the sun is high in the sky, *petang m* / *sore¹* to when the sun is inclined in the west, *malam* to when the sun has set, and *tengah malam* to the middle of the night. *Tengah hari* is used in Indonesia to refer to "noon". The general period of noontime is *siang* and this is the term that will be most commonly used. *Petang* in
Indonesia is regarded as more formal than sore and will commonly be heard in news broadcasts. Sore, however, is what will be used in conversation.

Both petang/sore¹ and malam may express the concept of evening. Petang/sore¹ may be used for the very early part of the evening when the sun is about to set or has just set, and malam to the later part of the evening. Daylight or daytime is expressed as siang and this is in opposition to night time expressed as malam. Also used in Indonesia is dini hari which refers generally to the period from midnight to dawn.

Modern society, however, has more clearly defined these notional terms, and these more precise definitions are carried daily on radio and television. Abbreviations for these terms are given in parenthesis where relevant. Since the Malaysian and Indonesian reference times are not completely equivalent, these are given separately.

MALAYSIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pagi</td>
<td>(p)</td>
<td>12:01 am - 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tengah hari</td>
<td>(tgh)</td>
<td>12:00 noon - 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>petang</td>
<td>(ptg)</td>
<td>2:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malam</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 12:00 midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tengah malam</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 midnight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDONESIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pagi</td>
<td>12:01 am - 11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siang</td>
<td>11:00 am - 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sore</td>
<td>3:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malam</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 12:00 midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tengah malam</td>
<td>12:00 midnight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.2.2 Relative Time

(i) Introduction

Relative time is time expressed in relation to the present. Discussed first are relative time divisions of a day, followed by divisions greater than a day.

(ii) Sekarang and tadi

The present is expressed as sekarang [now]. Within any one particular day, anything that happens previous to sekarang is referred to as tadi [earlier] or [a short while ago], and anything that happens afterward is referred to as nanti [later]. Sekarang, [now], however, is a much narrower concept in Malay and Indonesian than in English.

In English, in answer to a question such as "When did you do it?", it is possible to answer "I did it now" or "I did it just now". The equivalents of these expressions differ in Malaysia and Indonesia.
In Malaysia once the present is over tadi must be used to refer to an earlier action. Tadi may be modified by baru, literally meaning "new" but in this context translating into English as "just". Baru tadi translates into English as "just a short while ago", but means literally "just earlier". Baru tadi may be further modified by sekejap or sebentar which mean "a moment". Baru tadi sekejap or baru tadi sebentar translate as "just a moment ago" or "just now". It is also possible to say baru sekejap or baru sebentar.

In Indonesia tadi is also used to refer to an immediately past event. The equivalent of the Malay baru tadi, however, is baru sebentar [just a short while ago]. Baru saja or baru sekarang mean "just now".


When did (you) finish it? - Earlier/ Just a short while ago/ Just now.


When did (you) finish it? - Earlier/ Just a short while ago/ Just now.

Tadi is used to refer to all parts of the day earlier than sekarang. If sekarang [now] is in the evening, then the following references can be made: pagi tadi/ tadi pagi [earlier in the morning], tengah hari tadi/ tadi siang [earlier at noon], and petang tadi/ tadi sore [earlier in the afternoon].

In general, once a part of the day is past, tadi is used to refer to it. For example, when the following question is asked in the evening, Bila Aziz pergi ke doktor?/ Kapan Aziz ke dokter? [When did Aziz see the doctor], one possible answer is Pag i tadi/ Tadi pagi [Earlier in the morning]. In English, if asked the same question, we would reply "This morning". Pag i tadi/ Tadi pagi is, then, also equivalent to the English "this morning", even though this is not its literal translation. The preceding question may also be answered with pagi ini [literally: this morning], although this may lead to a certain amount of ambiguity which is discussed in Section 11.2.2(iii).

Tadi also has a narrative function in both in Malay and Indonesian. It is used to refer back to an element in a conversation that was previously discussed, and to an element in a narrative or text which was previously introduced. Tadi used for this function most commonly translates as "that" or "those" (also see Section 4.2.2(ii)). The following are examples:

2. Saya tak dapat naik bas pada pukul sembilan setengah. Sebab itu saya tak sempat masuk kelas. - Kelas tadi mula pukul berapa?

I was unable to take the nine-thirty bus. Because of that, I wasn't in time for my class. - What time did that class begin?

2. Saya tidak bisa naik bis yang jam setengah sepuluh. Karena itu, saya tidak sempat masuk kuliah. - Kuliah tadi mulai jam berapa?

I was unable to take the nine-thirty bus. Because of that, I wasn't in time for my lecture. - What time did that lecture begin?
3. The trees have to be tied up, especially when heavy with fruit since most of the fruit is unusually large. Besides that, this can also keep those fruits from lying flat on the ground, something which can affect the quality of the produce.

3. After the felling of the trees in the forest, the trunks, branches, twigs and leaves are left to dry for two months. Then all of that must be burned.

11.2.2 Relative Time

(iii) Demonstratives

Malay and Indonesian makes use of demonstrative adjectives to indicate complete parts of the day, as does English. Examples are: pagi ini [this morning], tengah hari ini / siang ini [this noon], petang ini / sore ini [this afternoon], and malam ini [this evening].

4. Petang ini ada filem tentang Malaysia.
   This afternoon there is a film about Malaysia.

5. Saya tidak balik makan malam ini.
   Ada banyak yang saya perlu baca di perpustakaan.
   I'm not going home to eat this evening. I have a lot to read in the library.

Whether the preceding utterances refer to events which took place in the past, or are yet to take place in the future can only be determined by the context of the utterance. In other words, when spoken in the evening, utterance 4 refers to an event that took place earlier in the afternoon. When spoken in the morning, however, it refers to an event which is yet to occur.

11.2.2 Relative Time

(iv) Tadi and nanti

The aspectual words tadi [earlier] or nanti [later] may be used to disambiguate potentially ambiguous utterances such as those in the preceding section. For example,
petang tadi \[tadi sore\] [earlier this afternoon] may only refer to an event that has already taken place, and nanti malam [later this evening] may only refer to an event which is yet to occur. Both tadi and nanti may follow as well as precede the part of the day modified depending on the emphasis intended. Petang tadi \[tadi sore\] [earlier in the afternoon] may also be expressed as tadi petang \[sore tadi\], and nanti malam [later in the evening] as malam nanti. Tadi tends to follow the part of day modified in Malaysia, and precede it in Indonesia.

6. **Tadi petang** ada filem tentang Malaysia.
   Earlier this afternoon there was a film about Malaysia.

7. Saya tidak balik makan nanti malam.
   Ada banyak yang saya perlu baca di perpustakaan.
   I'm not going home to eat later this evening. I have a lot to read in the library.

It should be remembered that *tadi* and *nanti* are equivalent to the English "earlier and "later" respectively, while *awal* \[lebih awal\] and *lambat* \[terlambat\] are equivalent to the English "early" and "late". *Tadi* and *nanti* refer to actions or events which take place within a particular day which are, respectively, earlier or later than the present. *Awal* \[lebih awal\] and *lambat* \[terlambat\] make no reference to a particular time of day, but simply make a statement that an action or event occurred early or late, that is, either earlier or later than expected. Students should be careful not to confuse these two sets of words as they are used very differently. The following are examples.

8. Ahmad makan awal hari ini sebab dia terlalu lapar.
   Ahmad ate early today because he was very hungry.

   Excuse me. I returned late because I wasn't in time to catch the bus.

10. Bakar makan tadi dan sebab itu dia tak lapar sekarang.
    Bakar ate earlier and because of that he isn't hungry now.

Excuse me. I'll return later, after eating dinner.

There are a number of ways of expressing the concept of early. These terms will be of particular use to students of Indonesian. While in Malaysia the term *awal* is very frequently used, the same is not true for the use of *lebih awal* in Indonesia, hence the need for a variety of alternative choices.

A direct to *lebih awal* is *lebih dulu*. You can also say *agak cepat* [literally: rather quickly] which means "earlier than expected". Other choices are dependent on specific points of time. *Agak pagi* means "early in the morning" and *agak sore* means "early in the afternoon". *Pagi-pagi or pagi sekali* means "very early in the morning". *Masih sore* [literally: it's still afternoon] means "early in the evening". There are also other alternatives as well.

11.2.2 Relative Time

**(v) Yesterday, today and tomorrow**

Relative time for divisions greater than a day is expressed in relation to *hari ini* [today; literally: this day].

Days which follow *hari ini*, that is, days which are yet to come, are referred to as *esok* or *besok* [tomorrow], or *lusa* [the day after tomorrow]. There are distinct words for other future divisions of time, but these are more rarely used. *Tulat*, for example, means "three days from now".

Days which precede *hari ini* [today] and therefore have passed are expressed as *semalam* [yesterday] and *kelmarin* [the day before yesterday] in standard Malay. *Kelmarin*, however, in the states of Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang and northern Perak in Malaysia means "yesterday" and *semalam* means "last night". This is also the usage in Indonesia where *kemarin* means "yesterday" and *semalam* means "last night".

The parts of the current day, *pagi* [morning], *tengah hari* [noon], *petang* [sore] [afternoon], and *malam* [evening] also combine with *esok*/*besok*, *lusa*, and *semalam* to indicate parts of these days. These words may either precede or follow the part of the day modified depending on the emphasis intended. The tendency is for these words to follow in Malaysia and precede in Indonesia. This is only a "tendency", and in reality both types of word order may be found in both countries.

**MALAYSIA**

| pagi besok  | besok pagi | tomorrow morning |
| pagi lusa   | lusa pagi  | the morning of the day after tomorrow |
| pagi semalam| kemarin pagi| yesterday morning |
 CHAPTER 11

tengah hari besok  
besok siang  
noon tomorrow

tengah hari lusa  
lusa siang  
noon of the day after tomorrow

tengah hari semalam  
keharan siang  
noon yesterday

petang besok  
besok sore  
tomorrow afternoon

petang lusa  
lusa sore  
the afternoon of the day after tomorrow

petang semalam  
keharan sore  
yesterday afternoon

malam besok  
besok malam  
tomorrow night/evening

malam lusa  
besok lusa  
the night/evening of the day after tomorrow

malam semalam  
keharan malam  
last night/yesterday evening

*Malam semalam* [last night] has a common alternative in Malaysia, *malam tadi* and in Indonesia, *tadi malam*. This is the only instance where *tadi* refers to a previous day, probably indicating that the day is not conceived of as a period from morning to night, but as a period from the previous night to the current night.

Relative time may also be shown in relation to the present day by the use of *lalu* or *lepas* to indicate days which have already passed, and *lagi* or *depan* to indicate days which are yet to come. *Lalu* means literally "to pass by". This is also true for one of the meanings of *lepas*. *Lagi* means "still, yet" or "more", and *depan* [in front] or [future]. *Lewat*, also meaning "to pass by", may be used in Indonesia to count days which have passed. *Depan* has a more restricted use in Malaysia and Indonesia and will rarely be found when days, weeks, etc. are counted. The following are examples.

*dua hari lepas*  
two days ago

*dua hari yang lalu*  
dua hari lewat

*tiga hari lagi*  
three days from now

*hari depan*  
some time in the future

These same expressions may be combined with all the divisions of the year to express past or future weeks, months or years.

*minggu lepas*  
last week

*minggu yang lalu*  

*minggu depan*  
next week

*seminggu lagi*  

dua minggu lepas*  
two weeks ago

dua minggu yang lalu

tiga minggu lagi  
three weeks from now

*minggu depan*  
next week

*empat bulan lepas*  
four weeks ago

*empat bulan yang lalu*  

*lima tahun lagi*  
five years from now

*tahun depan*  
next year

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11.2.3 Clock Time

(i) Introduction
The day is divided into jam [hours], the hour into minit / menit [minutes], and minutes into saat / detik [seconds]. Malaysia uses the 12 hour clock. Indonesia uses both the 12 hour and 24 hour clock. On the 24 hour clock, for example, 1:00 pm is expressed as 13:00.

(ii) Telling the time
To express a particular time, the hour is preceded by the word pukul [literally: to strike] or [to beat] in Malaysia and jam [literally: hour] in Indonesia. Pukul 9:00 (pukul sembilan) or jam 9:00 (jam sembilan), for example, is "9 o'clock". Pukul, however, is not exclusively Malaysian usage, and jam is not exclusively Indonesian usage. Pukul is considered formal in Indonesia and will commonly be heard on radio and television. Jam is also used in Malaysia. Although it is not common in conversation, it may be used on some formal occasions and in the media. The late night news in Malaysia, for example, is called Dunia Jam 10:00 [The World at 10:00].

Major fractions of the hour are expressed by suku / seperempat [quarter] and setengah [half]. There is a difference in how these terms are used in Malaysia and Indonesia. The following are examples.

9:15 pukul sembilan suku a quarter after nine 9.15 jam sembilan seperempat a quarter after nine
9:30 pukul sembilan setengah half past nine 9.30 jam setengah sepuluh half past nine
9:45 pukul sembilan tiga suku nine forty five 9.45 jam sepuluh kurang seperempat nine forty five

Fractions of an hour may also be expressed in minutes.

9:15 pukul sembilan lima belas minit - nine fifteen 9:15 jam sembilan lima belas menit - nine fifteen
9:30 pukul sembilan tiga puluh minit - nine thirty 9:30 jam sembilan tiga puluh menit - nine thirty
9:45 pukul sembilan empat puluh lima minit - nine forty five 9:45 jam sembilan empat puluh lima menit - nine forty five

The word minit / menit [minute] may be omitted since it is understood from the context. The time 9:15, then, may also be expressed simply as pukul sembilan lima belas.
In Indonesia the words lebih and lewat are also used to indicate minutes after the hour.

Fractions before the hour, such as "ten minutes to eleven" are expressed in a number of ways, most commonly with lagi [still] or [yet] preceding or following the minutes indicated. When used in Indonesia, lagi would follow, while in Malaysia it may take either position.

Since the lagi is understood from the context of the utterance, it is sometimes omitted in Malaysia. This omission results in expressions such as: sepuluh minit pukul sebelas [ten minutes to eleven].

In Indonesia, fractions of time before the hour are more commonly expressed with kurang [less] or [lacking]. Kurang may either precede or follow the hour as the following examples show.

To ask for a particular time, the expression in Malaysia is pukul berapa and in Indonesia jam berapa.


   What time did Khadijah arrive? - Three o'clock in the afternoon.

   What time did Khadijah arrive? - Three o'clock in the afternoon.

To ask how many hours something has been going on or will be going on, the expression is berapa jam.


   How many hours was Khadijah on the plane before arriving? - Five hours.

   How many hours was Khadijah on the plane before arriving? - Five hours.
It is important not to reverse the order of pukulberapa\textsuperscript{M}/jamberapa\textsuperscript{I} when asking for a specific time. Don't say \textit{berapa pukul} or \textit{berapa jam}. Berapa pukul does not mean anything, but it is closest in meaning to berapa pukulan [how many strikes] and berapa jam means "how many hours".

11.2.3 Clock Time
(iii) Asking "when"

Malay and Indonesian speakers tend to make a greater distinction between pukulberapa\textsuperscript{M}/jamberapa\textsuperscript{I} [what time] and bila\textsuperscript{M}/kapan\textsuperscript{I} [when] than English speakers do. Pukulberapa\textsuperscript{M}/jamberapa\textsuperscript{I} is used when the speaker knows that the time period asked about is no greater than a day. Bila\textsuperscript{M}/kapan\textsuperscript{I} is used when the period of time under consideration is greater than one day.

For example, if you know that someone is leaving on a trip this evening, then you say Pukulberapa nak pergi\textsuperscript{M}/Jamberapa mau berangkat\textsuperscript{I} [What time are you going?]. If you ask someone Bila nak pergi\textsuperscript{M}/Kapan mau berangkat\textsuperscript{I} [When are you going?] then you are not aware of the departure date. The person you are speaking to may then respond Malam ini juga [This very evening].

When you ask someone a question with bila\textsuperscript{M}/kapan\textsuperscript{I} you do not expect to be given a specific time as an answer. This is different from English. In English it is perfectly acceptable to ask someone "When are you going?" and receive the answer "At five o'clock". In Malay or Indonesian if you ask Bila nak pergi\textsuperscript{M}/Kapan mau berangkat\textsuperscript{I} [When are you going?], you may receive any number of answers, but not the specific time. Some possible answers are: petang ini\textsuperscript{M}/sore ini\textsuperscript{I} [this afternoon], besok [tomorrow], bulan depan [next month], satu tahun lagi [in a year]. If you want to know the specific time of a departure or an event, for example, you ask pukulberapa\textsuperscript{M}/jamberapa\textsuperscript{I}.

To clarify further, there is a different set of expectations shared by a Malay or Indonesian speaker and listener than an English speaker and listener. For example, a Malay or Indonesian speaker asking the following question about a film knows that the film does not begin on that day and does not expect to be given a particular time as an answer. He or she expects an answer such as that in example 3.


\textbf{When} does the film about Malaysia begin? - Next week. \textbf{When} does the film about Indonesia begin? - Next week.

An English speaker, however, asking the same question expects to receive an answer which may or may not include a specific time. Answers such as "at five o'clock" or "next week" are equally acceptable.
11.2.4 Words for time

In English the word "time" is used in many expressions. A problem for students is finding equivalents for time expressions in Malay and Indonesian. In this section we look at a number of equivalent terms and present examples for each.

For the meaning "a long time" use lama [also see Section 12.22].

1. Melaka juga menyediakan gudang barang dagangan dan, dengan ini, barang dagangan tidak akan rosak walaupun disimpan lama.

Malacca also made available warehouses for trade items, and because of this, trading goods would not deteriorate even though they were kept a long time.

When something "has been (done) for a long time", the equivalent is sudah lama (also see section 3.2.1(ii)).

2. Pinggan, cawan dan mangkok yang kotor sudah lama ada di atas meja dapur dan mula berbau.

The dirty dishes, cups and bowls have been on the kitchen table for a long time and are beginning to smell.

To "take a long time" is makan masa yang lama or makan waktu yang lama, the first expression more common in Malaysia and the second in Indonesia.

3. Saya taruh hujung benang ke dalam mulut saya untuk bagi basah, tetapi makan masa yang lama sebelum saya berjaya masukkan benang ke dalam lubang jarum.

I put the end of the thread in my mouth to dampen it, but it took a long time before I succeeded in placing the thread into the eye of the needle.

An expression such as "the more time that passes" is makin lama or semakin lama (also see Section 8.5(v)).
4. Dengan cara ini sultan harap akan dapat balik setengah daripada kuasa mereka yang lama, tetapi sebenarnya semakin lama sultan-sultan itu semakin lemah.

In this way the sultans hoped to get back some of their old power, but actually, the more time that passed, the weaker the sultans became.


So there developed competition between the VOC and the traders of Makassar. The more time that passed, the more intense this competition became.

A direct English equivalent of "in a short time" or "soon" is tidak lama lagi. More commonly used, however, is the expression "in a moment" which is sekejap lagi in Malaysia and sebentar lagi in both Malaysia and Indonesia (also see Section 11.2.2(ii)).

5. Tolong kemaskan bilik. Tidak lama lagi ada tamu datang.

Please clean up the room. In a short time the guests are coming.

5. Tolong merapikan kamar. Tidak lama lagi ada tamu datang.

Please clean up the room. In a short time the guests are coming.

"A short time ago" is expressed as baru tadi (also see Section 11.2.2(ii)).


Mother, please put the light on outside. My friend will be coming soon.


Mother, please put the light on outside. My friend will be coming soon.

"Last time" is expressed as dulu, "next time" as lain kali, and "this time" as kali ini (also see Sections 8.3.(iv), 12.17).

7. Baru tadi saya beli sekotak rokok, tetapi saya belum buka lagi.

A short time ago I bought a pack of cigarettes, but I haven't opened it yet.

7. Baru tadi, saya beli sebungkus rokok, tetapi saya masih belum bukanya.

A short time ago I bought a pack of cigarettes, but I haven't opened it yet.

"Last time" my grades were twice as high as other people's. It's the other people who should do what I did, and not the other way around.

8. dulu markah saya dua kali lebih tinggi daripada markah orang lain. Sepatutnya orang lainlah yang ikut apa yang saya buat, dan bukan sebaliknya.

Last time my grades were twice as high as other people's. It's the other people who should do what I did, and not the other way around.

8. dulu nilai saya dua kali lebih tinggi daripada nilai orang lain. Orang lainlah yang seharusnya ikuti apa yang saya lakukan, dan bukan sebaliknya.

Last time my grades were twice as high as other people's. It's the other people who should do what I did, and not the other way around.
9. Saya tak tahu di mana jalan itu. 
Tolong tunjukkan jalan itu lain kali kita lalu.

I don't know where that road is. Please point it out the next time we pass by.


The King of Siam ordered the Sultan of Kedah to send soldiers and arms to Siam. This time the orders were not followed by the Sultan of Kedah.

In 1629, the second attack was launched. This time Mataram was better armed.

The general term for "a period of time" is masa or waktu, the first of these more commonly used in Malaysia and the second more commonly used in Indonesia (also see Sections 4.4.(iv), 12.8.2).

11. Perdagangan di Melaka merosot dalam masa pemerintahan orang Belanda.

Trade in Malacca deteriorated during the time of Dutch rule.

The people had to concentrate their attention, energy and time for months and months on the Culture System.

A "period of time" or "era" in historical reference is usually zaman, although masa or waktu may also be used. In Indonesia zaman is pronounced jaman and is sometimes written this way to reflect this pronunciation.


During the time of Vyner Brooke the situation in Sarawak was peaceful. There were no indigenous uprisings.

During the time of British rule in Indonesia, authority was in the hands of Lieutenant Governor General, Thomas Stamford Raffles.

"At this time" or "at that time" is expressed as pada masa ini/itu or pada waktu ini/itu.
"At the time of" is expressed as pada masa or pada waktu.
13. Kedah pada masa itu menghadapi banyak ancaman, baik dari luar mahupun dari dalam negeri. Kedah at that time faced many threats, both from within and from outside of the state.

One way of expressing "from time to time" is dari semasa ke semasa in Malaysia and sewaktu-waktu in Indonesia.

14. Keadaan di Sarawak tidak selalu tenang. Dari semasa ke semasa ada golongan tertentu bangkit menyerang pemerintahan James Brooke. The situation in Sarawak was not always peaceful. From time to time there were specific groups who arose to challenge the rule of James Brooke.

The spirits of one's own parents, from time to time, come and show themselves in dreams or through one's imagination.

There are a number of ways of expressing "at the same time." The most neutral statement is pada masa yang sama or pada waktu yang sama. This simply expresses the shared time of two occurrences.

15. Pada mulanya Pulau Pinang ialah ibu negeri bagi Negeri-negeri Selat, tetapi beberapa lama kemudian, pulau itu menjadi kurang penting. Pada masa yang sama Singapura menjadi bertambah berpengaruh. At the beginning, Penang was the capital of the Straits Settlements, but after a while, this island became less important. At the same time, Singapore became more influential.

Although the Cantonese began to migrate to Indonesia in groups at the same time as the Hakka, their situation was different.

If the underlying meaning of "at the same time" is "together", the best choice in Malay or Indonesian is bersama.


Cut Nyak Dhien melanjutkan perjuangan suaminya bersama pejuang-pejuang Aceh yang lain, termasuk seorang pejuang wanita yang bernama Cut Meutia.
CHAPTER 11

The government of the Malay states chose several leaders to head an expedition to deliver the "flowers of gold" to Siam. Usually there were other things presented as gifts at the same time as (together with) the "flowers of gold."

Cut Nyak Dhien continued the struggle of her husband at the same time as (together with) the other fighters of Aceh, including a woman fighter called Cut Meutia.

If the underlying meaning of "at the same time" is "all at once", then the best expression is sekali in Malay and sekalian in Indonesian.

17. Percayakah saya orang gaji? Jangan kurang ajar. Saya bekerja dan juga anak sekali.
Do you think I am a servant? Don't be so inconsiderate. I work and take care of the children at the same time.

Think before you speak. Do you think I am a servant? Don't be so inconsiderate. You know I work and take care of the children at the same time.

To be "on time" is expressed as tepat pada waktunya.

18. Bas biasanya datang lambat, tetapi kali ini datang tepat pada waktunya.
The bus usually comes late, but this time it came on time.

18. Bis biasanya datang terlambat, tetapi kali ini datang tepat pada waktunya.
The bus usually comes late, but this time it came on time.

To be "in time for" something is expressed as sempat. Sempat also means "to have the time to" and "to have the opportunity to" (also see Section 12.4).

19. Saya tak sempat tengok permulaan wayang malam Sabtu sebab kereta yang saya bawa rosak di tengah jalan.
I wasn't in time to see the start of the film on Friday night because my car broke down while I was on my way.

19. Saya tidak sempat lihat permulaan film malam Sabtu karena mobil yang saya bawa rusak di tengah jalan.
I wasn't in time to see the start of the film on Friday night because my car broke down while I was on my way.

20. Saya tak sempat belajar di perpustakaan tadi pagi sebab bis dari bandar datang lambat.
I didn't have the time to study in the library this morning because the bus from town arrived late.

20. Saya tidak sempat belajar di perpustakaan tadi pagi sebab bis dari kota datang terlambat.
I didn't have the time to study in the library this morning because the bus from town arrived late.
The exact equivalent of "many times" is *banyak kali* in Malaysia and *sering kali* in Indonesia.


How many times I go to see films depends on my money. If I have money, I go to see them *many times.*

The expression "many times", however, is far less frequent in Malay and Indonesian than it is in English. More commonly used in Malaysia is *biasanya* [usually] and in Indonesia, both *biasanya* and *sering* [frequently] if this is the underlying meaning of "many times."

22. *Biasanya ada barang-barang lain yang dihadiahkan ke Siam bersama dengan bunga emas itu.*

Usually there were other things which were presented as gifts to Siam together with the flowers of gold.

23. *Biasanya kita tidak bernasib baik, tapi kadang-kadang kita jumpa guru yang ikhlas dan bersimpati pada penuntut.*

Usually we are unlucky, but sometimes we find a teacher who is sincere and sympathetic to the students.

If the underlying meaning of "many times" is closer to "at all times" or "always", use *selalunya* or *selalu.*


The administrators in India always brushed aside the problems of the traders in the Straits Settlements and took a long time before taking any action. The king and nobles were annoyed and disillusioned with the Dutch because they always interfered with the affairs of the Kingdom of Mataram.

25. Kapal perdagangan di kawasan Sabah selalu diserang oleh kumpulan yang berasal dari jajahan-jajahan Brunei.

Merchant ships in the area of Sabah were always attacked by groups that originated from the territories under the control of Brunei.

"Sometimes" is expressed as kadang-kadang.


Sometimes we also find a row of houses located somewhat further inland which is separated from the first row of houses by a lane or muddy track.

"What time," referring to clock time, is expressed as pukul berapa in Malaysia, and jam berapa in Indonesia (also see Section 11.2.3 (ii)).

27. Di sekolah itu, nampaknya orang tak peduli pukul berapa kita datang, berapa lama kita belajar, atau pun berapa banyak kita belajar.

In that school, it seems as if people don't care what time we arrive, how long we study, or how much we study.

An Indonesian and Malay Grammar for Students (Mintz)