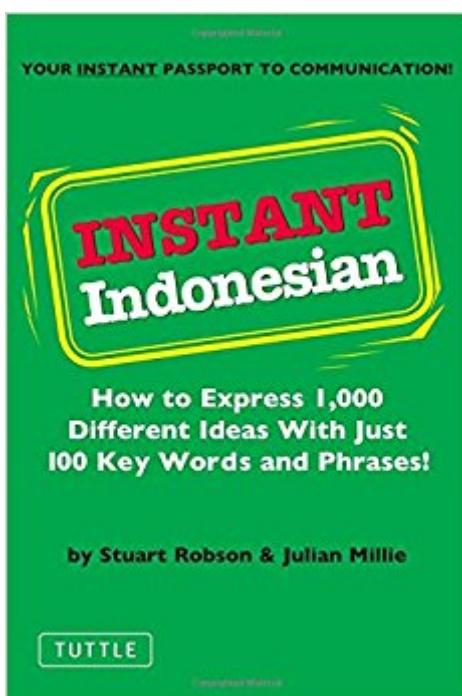


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# Instant Indonesian: How To Express 1,000 Different Ideas With Just 100 Key Words And Phrases! (Instant Phrasebook Series)



## Synopsis

Do you want to learn simple Indonesian quickly? Are you visiting Indonesia and need a handy and accurate guide for easy communication? If so, this is the phrase book for you. Instant Indonesian allows you to quickly and easily meet people, go shopping, travel, ask for directions, order food and drinks, and much more! Instant Indonesian is part of an exciting new series of phrase books that provides readers with a basic level of language teaching and the necessary skills to form their own sentences according to specific circumstances, perfect for business travelers and tourists.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A brilliant book for a beginner! 100 words are formally introduced (there's additional vocab at the end of the book) and examples given on how to use the words. While it takes time to digest and memorize all the words and their usage, the book is written in such a way that it does not intimidate the reader. A short introduction and commentary is also given on various important topics (e.g. culture, formal and informal behavior, etc)." [Goodreads](#)

Stuart Robson has been deeply involved with Asian studies for over 40 years. He has taught at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands and is a member of the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology. He is the author of the Javanese-English Dictionary (Periplus Editions, 2002), the only comprehensive English-Javanese dictionary. Now a resident of Australia, he has most recently been the head of the Indonesian Program at Monash University.

While it does teach many useful phrases, I gave this book 4 stars because of its inferiority to the Lonely Planet (LP) equivalent. Instant Indonesian has a brief dictionary in the back, but it is severely lacking. Fine, it's not advertised as a dictionary--but compared to the Lonely Planet Indonesian Phrasebook & Dictionary, it doesn't stand up to par. For example, Instant Indonesian has a table of contents in the front, from which you can direct yourself to what you want to talk about (e.g. greetings or shopping). On the other hand, LP has the table of contents and colored page edges, so you can immediately flip to whatever topic you want straight-away. As I recall, LP had more (and more practical) phrases as well. I specifically remember not using my Instant Indonesian book nearly as much as I had anticipated because of its difficulty to find the appropriate phrase (either because it was difficult or too time consuming to locate the phrase, or because it didn't have the phrase I wanted). Though in all fairness I don't own the LP version (a friend had it), so I have no clue if I \*actually\* would have used it more than the Instant Indonesian. Overall, I think Instant Indonesian is a good book that does what it promises, but would recommend the LP version over it.

I have a lot of experience learning various foreign languages. Indonesian fascinates me and I would love to become fluent, but I have to be realistic and admit that I just don't have time to do that! I have other languages that I am working on becoming completely fluent in, and which are more practical for me in my situation than Indonesian is. Yet I love Indonesian. I have studied it here and there before, but had trouble remembering the vocabulary and being able to put it together. This book is set up beautifully to help you grasp the vocabulary and get a very good idea of how to use it in different situations. Each chapter presents 10 head words to learn. For example, the first word is Selamat, which is a greeting. But in addition to just learning that main word, you learn how to use it in various situations, and so you end up learning a lot more than the 10 main words, and it seems almost effortless. So you learn Selamat Pagi, (Good Morning), Selamat Jalan (Have a good trip), and so on. There is only one thing that makes me give this book 4 stars instead of 5. And that is that it doesn't show you which syllable receives the stress. But if you listen to a couple youtube videos on Indonesian, you kind of pick up on the general sounds of it and it starts to come naturally. But I wish it would show you for each word where to accent it. But otherwise, it's excellent.

This is a good book if you want to start learning some basic Indonesian, where you start to construct your own phrases and expressions and perhaps engage in some simple conversations. It is somewhat less useful as a phrasebook where you just want to find the right phrase to ask

directions, place an order or buy a ticket. That stuff is all there but the book is not organised by categories to help you easily find the phrase you are after. Instead, by introducing key words and providing a number of simple sentences built from these words, it gives you the building blocks for constructing your own sentences. Don't be fooled into thinking that the book will only teach you 100 words. It is packed with far more than that, including short, interesting sections on eating & drinking, social etiquette, religion & culture, etc. It also has a large "additional vocabulary" section at the end. (For Kindle users, unfortunately the additional vocab is not searchable, which I found very frustrating and somewhat reduced the utility of the book.)

This book is well worth the money I paid for it. Don't be misled by the title of the book, it teaches you a lot more than 100 words in Indonesian! It takes a stepping stone approach that is quite easy to grasp and provides plenty of examples of how words are used. I find the examples really helpful in understanding how words are used and reinforcing meaning. Also there are numerous cultural notes within the book which are interesting and helpful. My only gripe with the book is the order of the chapters - it seems to be counterintuitive (for example you don't learn subject pronouns until halfway through the book and simple greetings aren't covered adequately at the beginning). Now, I understand this is supposedly done because of the way the language is structured, but speaking as someone who has learned 4 languages as an adult, I can tell you there are much better ways of structuring a language learning book. That aside, I think it's a great book to get you started and much better than a lot of what's out there.

This book has a different setup than most language phrasebooks I've come across, but can still be very helpful. It explains more of the concepts behind phrasing instead of just listing a word-to-word translation. It also provides cultural advice. It's fairly small, making it easy to throw into your bag or pack and take with you for your travels. I personally found it most useful in combination with another phrasebook/dictionary.

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