



Applies to most Nouns

**B**

## MeN-i

Words with the circumfix **meN-i** are transitive verbs. Like other forms of affixation, **meN-i** gives different meanings when attached to the base word. In this chapter we look at some of these meanings.

Unlike **meN-kan** words, which include transitive verbs and adjectives, **meN-i** words are only transitive verbs. There are no **meN-i** adjectives.

The main point to remember about **meN-i** verbs is that the object that directly follows the verb is conceptualised as a static location; that is, the object does not change location. Some examples later in this chapter will clarify this further.

### Various meanings of meN-i verbs

#### To apply or take off

BASE WORD	ENGLISH MEANING	MEN-I VERB	ENGLISH MEANING
air	water	mengairi	to water (rice field, not garden)
gambar	picture	menggambari	to draw a picture on something
gula	sugar	menggulai	to sweeten
kulit	skin	menguliti	to skin something
minyak	oil	meminyaki	to oil
obat	medication	mengobati	to treat with medication
sisik	scale	menyisiki	to scale (for example, fish)
tandatangan	signature	menandatangani	to sign
warna	colour	mewarnai	to colour in

*Handwritten notes:*  
 Bandung  
 Asmara  
 (Other illegible scribbles)

## To act in the manner of

BASE WORD	ENGLISH MEANING	MEN-I VERB	ENGLISH MEANING
baik	good	membaiki	to be good to someone
bintang	star	membintangi	to star in a film
bohong	lie	membohongi	to deceive
dalang	puppeteer	mendalangi	to mastermind
guru	teacher	menggurui	to patronise
jahat	bad, evil	menjahati	to treat someone badly
juara	champion	menjuarai	to win (games)
kasih	love, affection	mengasihi	to love, have affection for
ketua	chairperson	mengetuai	to chair, head
musuh	enemy	memusuhi	to treat as enemy
raja	king	merajai	to rule over
sponsor	sponsor	mensponsori	to sponsor
sutradara	film director	menyutradarai	to direct (films)
wakil	representative	mewakili	to represent

## To cause something to become what is indicated by the base word

BASE WORD	ENGLISH MEANING	MEN-I VERB	ENGLISH MEANING
basah	wet	membasahi	to wet
kotor	dirty	mengotori	to dirty
kurang	less	mengurangi	to reduce
luka	wound	melukai	to hurt (physical or emotional)

## Repeated action

Some meN-i verbs indicate that the action is done repeatedly to one or more objects.

BASE WORD	ENGLISH MEANING	MEN-I VERB	ENGLISH MEANING
ambil	get, take	mengambil	to get or take things
bakar	burn	membakari	to burn land or things
cium	kiss	mencium	to kiss repeatedly
garuk	scratch	menggaruki	to scratch repeatedly
gigit	bite	menggigiti	to bite repeatedly
pukul	hit	memukuli	to hit repeatedly
tebang	fell (trees)	menebangi	to fell many trees

most

can be used without

[-i]

but

loses

[+repeated]



## Contrast between meN-i and meN-kan verbs

Some meN-i and meN-kan verbs with the same base word have different meanings depending on how the object (the primary object, if there are two objects in the sentence) is perceived or conceptualised. As mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, the object in sentences with meN-i verbs is conceptualised as a static location; it does not change location. In contrast, the object in sentences with meN-kan verbs changes location; it moves from one place to another.

Notice below that in 1a the object (**saya**) is stationary, while in 1b the object (**radio itu**) changes location from where Bu Ratih had it before to a location closer to the table.

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | a | <b>Bu Ratih mendekati</b><br><i>Subject</i> <i>Verb</i><br>Bu Ratih    approached | <u>saya</u><br><i>Object</i><br><u>me</u>                       | <b>siang tadi.</b><br><i>Adverb of time</i><br>this afternoon.  |
|   | b | <b>Bu Ratih mendekatkan</b><br><i>Subject</i> <i>Verb</i><br>Bu Ratih    brought  | <u>radio itu</u><br><i>Object</i><br><u>the radio</u>           | <b>ke meja saya.</b><br><i>Prepositional phrase</i><br>closer to my table.  |
| 2 | a | <b>Ibu mengantari</b><br><i>Subject</i> <i>Verb</i><br>Mother    brought          | <u>Bu Marni</u><br><i>Beneficiary</i><br><u>Bu Marni</u>        | <b>kue.</b><br><i>Patient</i><br>a cake.<br>→ Bu Marni stays where she is.  |
|   | b | <b>Ibu mengantarkan</b><br><i>Subject</i> <i>Verb</i><br>Mother    brought        | <u>kue</u><br><i>Patient</i><br><u>a cake</u>                   | <b>untuk Bu Marni.</b><br><i>Prepositional phrase</i><br>for Bu Marni.<br>→ The cake changes location from Mother's hands to Bu Marni's.          |
| 3 | a | <b>Ahmad menyirami</b><br><i>Subject</i> <i>Verb</i><br>Ahmad    waters           | <u>kebunnya</u><br><i>Object</i><br><u>his garden</u>           | <b>setiap sore.</b><br><i>Adverb of frequency</i><br>every afternoon.<br>→ The garden stays where it is.  |
|   | b | <b>Ahmad menyiramkan</b><br><i>Subject</i> <i>Verb</i><br>Ahmad    poured         | <u>seember air</u><br><i>Object</i><br><u>a bucket of water</u> | <b>ke pohon itu.</b><br><i>Prepositional phrase</i><br>on the tree.<br>→ The water changes location from the bucket in Ahmad's hands to the tree. |





## LATIHAN 1

### KOSAKATA (KATA DASAR = BASE WORD)

antar	to take something/someone somewhere
duduk	to sit
hadiah	gift
jauh	far
makam	grave
obat	medication
seberang	across
tabur	to sprinkle
tanam	to sow

### KOSAKATA LAIN (OTHER VOCABULARY)

boneka	doll
galak	ferocious
angkauan	to reach
sau	knife
ngai	river
tajam	sharp
ulang tahun	birthday
wol	wool

The following pairs of sentences contain **meN-i** and **meN-kan** verbs. Draw a simple picture to illustrate each sentence, showing whether the object remains stationary or changes location.

- a Saya akan pergi sebentar; jangan menduduki kursi saya ya.

b Adik mendudukkan bonekanya di tempat tidur.
- a Mereka mengantari saya bunga kemarin.

b Pak Harsoyo mengantarkan anaknya ke dokter gigi.
- a Dia menjauhi anjing yang galak itu. *Army has fierce dog*

b Bapak menjauhkan pisau tajam itu dari jangkauan anaknya.
- a Mereka berenang menyeberangi sungai itu.

b Petugas menyeberangkan anak-anak sekolah setiap pagi. *cross the road*
- a Bu Rani menanami kebunnya dengan jagung.

b Bu Rani menanamkan biji jagung di kebunnya.
- a Kakak menghadiah ibu topi wol untuk ulang tahunnya. *give (gift)*

b Pak Diman menghadiahkan sepeda kepada anaknya.
- a Dokter mengobati pasien kanker itu.

b Mereka pergi mengobatan anaknya ke dokter.
- a Mereka menaburi makam neneknya dengan bunga.

b Mereka menaburkan bunga di makam neneknya.

### Undifferentiated **meN-i** and **meN-kan**

Sometimes Indonesian speakers do not differentiate between **meN-i** and **meN-kan**, which can be confusing for some learners. Fortunately, there are not too many cases where this occurs. Here are some examples.

MEN-I VERB	ENGLISH MEANING	MEN-KAN VERB	ENGLISH MEANING
memanasi	to heat (for example, food, milk)	memanaskan	to heat (for example, food, milk)
memberati	to trouble or cause anxiety	memberatkan	to trouble or cause anxiety
memikiri	to think about	memikirkan	to think about
menamai	to name	menamakan	to name
mengingini	to want, desire	menginginkan	to want, desire
menyakiti	to hurt (feelings)	menyakitkan	to hurt (feelings)



## LATIHAN 2

Translate the following sentences with **meN-i** and **meN-kan** into English.

- 1 Tadi malam polisi mendatangi rumah kami.
- 2 Produser film itu mendatangkan aktor dari luar negeri.
- 3 Ibu saya sedih memikirkan adik saya yang tidak mau sekolah.
- 4 Dillah memasukkan uang itu ke dompetnya.
- 5 Para demonstiran melemparkan batu ke kantor itu dengan marah.
- 6 Pencuri mulai mengambil barang-barang di rumah itu.
- 7 Siapa yang akan mengantarkan kamu ke sekolah besok?
- 8 Jane menangisi anjingnya yang mati.
- 9 Siapa yang meniduri tempat tidur itu tadi malam?
- 10 Bapak menaiki tangga itu pelan-pelan.

### Other **meN-i** and **meN-kan** contrasts

Some other **meN-i** and **meN-kan** words share the same base word but no obvious contrast in meaning, unlike those we saw in section 13.2. The best way to remember them might just be to learn them by heart.

#### MEN-I OR MEN-KAN VERB

#### ENGLISH MEANING

memperingati	to commemorate
memperingatkan	to warn, reprimand
mendahului	to overtake, to beat someone in something
mendahulukan	to put something or someone first (as in a line or traffic)
menyelamati	to congratulate
menyelamatkan	to save someone or something

### **MeN-i** and corresponding intransitive verbs

As discussed in Chapter 9, in some cases an intransitive verb can be transformed into a transitive verb by using **meN-** verbs suffixed either by **-i** or **-kan**. The meaning may be similar or it may change. Here are some examples with **meN-i**.

INTRANSITIVE VERB + PREPOSITION	ENGLISH MEANING	MEN-KAN TRANSITIVE VERB	ENGLISH MEANING
berdiam di	to live in	mendiami	to occupy, inhabit
bertemu dengan	to meet with	menemui	to go and see someone
duduk di	to sit on	menduduki	to occupy a position or territory
hadir di	to be present at, attend	menghadiri	to attend
marah kepada	to be angry with	memarahi	to be angry with, scold
masuk ke	to go into, enter	memasuki	to go into, enter
menikah dengan	to get married to	menikahi	to wed
percaya kepada	to believe in	mempercayai	to believe in, trust
sadar akan	to be aware of, conscious of	menyadari	to realise
suka akan/dengan	to like, be fond of	menyukai	to like, favour
tahu tentang	to know about	mengetahui	to know something



### LATIHAN 3

Translate the following sentences into Indonesian using either intransitive or transitive verbs with **meN-i**.

- I don't believe in ghosts. *\*Saya tidak percaya hantu.*
- I realised that I was wrong.
- They trusted me to buy the computer. *mereka mempercayai saya untuk membeli komputer*
- Ali went to see the headmistress.
- He married a girl from Surabaya.
- The Japanese occupied Indonesia from 1942 to 1945.
- They know my weakness.
- Twelve million people inhabit that territory.
- Don't be angry with me.
- They attended the protest last week.

#### KOSAKATA

hantu	ghost
kelemahan	weakness
kepala sekolah	head-mistress
protes	protest



### LATIHAN 4

Look at the following pictures, then write a simple caption for each one in Indonesian using either **meN-i** or **meN-kan** verbs.



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## Summary

- Words with **meN-i** are transitive verbs.
- The object of **meN-i** verbs is conceptualised as a static location.
- The **meN-i** affixation gives different meanings to the base word.
- Contrast between **MeN-i** and **meN-kan** verbs:
  - Some are contrasted in meaning: the object in **meN-i** does not change location, while in **meN-kan** it does.
  - Some **meN-i** and **meN-kan** verbs are not differentiated in meaning, while some others are.
  - Some **meN-i** verbs have corresponding intransitive verbs. Some of them have similar meanings, while others are quite different.