



Lesson 2: You're Welcome Kembali

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. Indonesians are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Indonesia, chances are good that you'll both hear and use them.

In Indonesian "You're welcome" is Kembali. The word literally means "to return".

Another way, this time a more informal way, of responding to a phrase of gratitude is Sama-sama. The expression is made up of the word sama, which means "the same", said twice. In this case, sama-sama means "the same to you". So altogether we have sama-sama. Literally this means "the same to you".

The last way, this time the most formal way, of responding to a phrase of gratitude is Terima kasih kembali. This expression is made up of two phrases that we already know. The first two words make up the expression "thank you" in Indonesian, which again is terima kasih. The third word is kembali, which means "to return".

So altogether we have Terima kasih kembali. Literally this means "I'm returning the thanks".

PHRASES

Indonesian	English
Terima kasih kembali.	I'm returning the thanks.
Kembali.	You're welcome.
Sama-sama.	Same to you.

QUICK TIP

All the ways to say "you're welcome" in Indonesian, i.e. kembali, sama-sama, and terima kasih kembali, all involve the concept of reciprocity, which is an extremely important social value in Indonesian society. You can see this in the individual words, e.g. kembali 'to return' and sama 'the same'. So, when in Indonesia, if someone does a big favor for you, you are expected to return it in some way - it doesn't matter when, but it should happen. One of the greatest ways to do this is to host the initial giver personally when he or she happens to visit your country. Likewise, if you do a big favor for someone, he or she will have to return the favor to you in some way.

QUICK TIP 2

In some areas of Indonesia, don't be surprised if some people don't return your thanks (remember, that's "terima kasih") with any of the above expressions. Instead, these people might respond with a simple "ya" (yes). This is not meant to be rude at all. Instead, this may be a direct translation (linguists call them "calque") from their native languages, many of which do not have any phrases equivalent to "you're welcome". Instead, the appropriate response in many of those languages to expressions of gratitude is the equivalent of "yes". But, as a language learner, you should use the appropriate version of "you're welcome" any time someone offers you an expression of gratitude.