

Gunung api: Classifiers

In Bahasa Indonesia, classifiers are used in front of nouns to indicate how many of the noun there are.

The three most common ones are:

- o orang - used with humans
- o ekor - used with animals
- o buah - used with non-living objects

They are optional but most often used to mean “one of” something.

For example: seorang ahli = an expert, seekor oranghutan = an orangutan, sebuah buku = a book.

Task 1:

In *Pintu Indonesia* there is one text that contains all three of the most common classifiers in the one sentence. That sentence is written below with the classifiers missing.

1. Search *Pintu Indonesia* to find the text that this sentence came from. (Hint: the text is about a volcano.)
2. Locate the sentence which matches the one written below.
3. Fill in the gaps with the correct classifiers.
4. Translate the whole sentence into English.

Tidak ada _____, _____ binatang atau _____

pohon yang hidup terus sesudah pulau itu meruntuh ke dalam laut.

Task 2:

There are many more classifiers used in Bahasa Indonesia. Here are some others:

- o potong - used with a piece of something cut from a whole
Contoh: sepotong kueh = a piece of cake
- o biji - used with small round objects
Contoh: tiga biji bola = three balls
- o batang - used with long, tubular shaped objects
Contoh: dua batang coklat = two bars of chocolate

Looking at the examples of classifiers on this worksheet, make up a rule about how the *se_* prefix is used in bahasa Indonesia when attached to a classifier. Write your rule below.

Explain your rule to a classmate. Do the two of you agree on the rule? Change it if you think you can improve on it.

Task 3:

Look through other texts used in *Pameran* or *Pintu Indonesia* and find two other examples of classifiers being used.

1. Write the whole Indonesian sentence containing the classifier below.
2. Translate the sentence into English.

For discussion

Can you think of another way to show that there is more than one of something in Bahasa Indonesia?

How does English language indicate more than one of something?

Discuss your ideas with a classmate.