

### 3. Colloquial prefixes on transitive verbs: Presentation

One basic feature has been deliberately omitted until now, as it merits separate treatment: sound changes for forming verbs.

You already know the set of sound changes to form transitive verbs in formal Indonesian, e.g. *tulis* → *menulis*. Colloquial Indonesian has its own set of sound changes, e.g. *tulis* → *nulis*.

Here is a table which displays this system of sound changes.

#### Colloquial prefixes on transitive verbs

INITIAL LETTER OF BASE	FORMAL VERB	COLLOQUIAL VERB
<u>a</u> mbil [vowel]	mengambil	<b>ng</b> ambil,
<u>b</u> antu	membantu	<b>nge</b> bantu, <b>mb</b> antu
<u>c</u> uci	mencuci	<b>ny</b> uci
<u>d</u> engar	mendengar	<b>nge</b> dengar, <b>nd</b> engar
<u>g</u> anggu	mengganggu	<b>nge</b> ganggu, <b>ngg</b> ganggu
<u>h</u> abis	menghabiskan	<b>ng</b> abisin [drops the <i>h</i> ]
<u>p</u> otong	memotong	<b>m</b> otong
<u>t</u> unggu	menunggu	<b>n</b> unggu
<u>k</u> irim	mengirim	<b>ng</b> irim
<u>m</u> arah	memarahi	<b>m</b> arahin
<u>n</u> ikmat	menikmati	<b>n</b> ikmatin
<u>n</u> yanyi	menyanyi	<b>ny</b> yanyi
<u>s</u> ewa	menyewa	<b>ny</b> ewa
<u>j</u> awab	menjawab	<b>nge</b> jawab, <b>nj</b> awab
<u>r</u> usak	merusak	<b>nge</b> rusak, <b>ng</b> rusak
<u>l</u> arang	melarang	<b>ng</b> elarang, <b>ng</b> larang
<u>w</u> arna	mewarnakan	<b>ng</b> ewarnain
<u>y</u> akin	meyakinkan	<b>ng</b> eyakinin

#### **-IN SUFFIX**

You might have noticed a strange suffix on a few words in the table above, namely, “-in”. This “-in” suffix replaces the formal suffixes *-i* and *-kan*. So e.g.:

- *ngabisIN* instead of formal *menghabisI*
- *ngewarnaIN* instead of formal *mewarnaKAN*

Indonesians irregularly add this “-in” suffix sometimes even when the formal verb would not have “-i” or “-kan”. So e.g. they sometimes write or say *ngebantuIN*, instead of *ngebantu*, despite the fact that in formal Indonesian we just say plain *membantu*.