

6. Emotive Particles - Practice Exercise

This section gives you practice in understanding the functions of emotive particles presented earlier (in Section 5).

Below are 26 colloquial sentences / questions / mini-dialogues. For each one, (a) work out the overall sense of the utterance and (b) decide the most likely function of the *particle* within it. The particle is marked in **bold font**.

An Answer Key is at the end of the section.

1. (*giving someone a piece of food to taste*)
Gimana? Bagus **kan**?
2. (*finding a store closed unexpectedly*)
Udah jam sembilan, **kok** masih tutup ya?
3. (*chatting with a new acquaintance*)
+ “Gue ambil jurusan desain grafis.”
- “Oh, gitu. Masih berapa lama lagi **sih** kuliah lu?”
• *jurusan*: a stream of study [Not colloquial]
4. (*to a guest at your house*)
Lho, udah mau pulang?
5. (*starting to explain a problem*)
Begini **nih** masalahnya. Kemarin gue lupa ...
6. + “Jadi lu nggak mau jadi kaya?”
- “Mau **dong**. Siapa sih yang nggak mau dapet duit banyak?”
7. (*talking about a mutual acquaintance, Fitri*)
Kayaknya udah lama **deh** gak liat si Fitri.
8. (*talking about troubled relationship with girlfriend*)
Kalo dia bilang mau putus gue gak bakal heran. Cewek-cewek emang gitu **sih**.
9. (*looking at a photo of a group of people*)
Yang paling kiri namanya Sofi **kan**?

10. (*waiter in café to a tourist*)
Kok sendiri? Mana temennya?
11. (*thinking of getting rid of old computer*)
 Kalo dijual kayaknya nggak ada **tuh** yang mau beli.
12. Kalo disuruh milih **sih**, aku milih kerja di restoran aja.
13. Musik jazz tuh emang bisa bikin bosan tapi ini beda **lho!**
14. (*when proved to be correct*)
 Gue **kan** udah bilang gue nggak bohong.
15. (*social small talk question to an acquaintance*)
 Umurnya 22 **kan**? Kapan **sih** ulang tahunnya?
16. (*commenting on a film you saw*)
 Lucu banget **deh** filmnya.
17. (to friends who are dawdling about leaving)
 Ayo cepat **dong**. Gue mau pulang **nih!**
18. (to a friend who's failed their end-of-year exams)
 + "Udah bilang ama keluarga belum?"
 - "Udah **kok!**"
19. (*during quarrel with romantic partner*)
 Sejak kapan **sih** lo mikirin perasaan gue? Lo cuma mikirin lo sendiri aja!"
20. Itu urusan gue. Nggak usah ikut campur **lho**.
- *ikut campur* = interfere [Not colloquial]
21. (*discussing a male actor*)
 Orang bilang dia ganteng tapi menurut gue dia biasa-biasa aja **tuh**.
22. (casually taking leave of a friend)
 Udah ya, gue mau mandi dulu **nih**.
- "udah" is a common leave-taking gambit (roughly: 'that's it,' 'we're done')

23. (talking about pop songs)

Tahu **nggak** lagu tuh? Musiknya bagus, liriknya **sih** konyol menurut gue.

• *konyol* = silly, foolish, dumb [Not colloquial]

24. (discussing computer problem you're having)

+ "**File**-nya bisa langsung **didownload**."

- "Nggak bisa **kok**. Uda dicoba."

25. (comparing traits of ethnic groups)

Biasanya **kan** orang Jawa tuh lebih halus.

26. Pas gue balik ke ruma udah sepi banget. Mereka uda pergi **sih**.

Answer Key to Sentences 1-26 above

Note: With each answer a note is provided on the likely effect of the particle.

1. What's it like? Good, isn't it?

• *kan* here = a question tag like "isn't it?"

2. It's already 9 o'clock - how come it's still closed?

• *kok* here suggests surprise: similar to "Why..?" or "How come..?"

3. "I'm taking graphic design." "Oh, right. And how much longer is your course then?"

• *sih* probably makes this question sound less abrupt

4. Gosh, are you leaving already?

• *lho* expresses surprise here.

5. The problem's like this, *nih*. Yesterday I forgot ..."

• *nih* here adds emphasis

6. "So you don't want to be rich?" "Of course I do. Who wouldn't want to get a lot of money?"

• *dong* here adds emphasis, and suggests the hearer should know this already.

7. It seems like ages *deh* that I haven't seen Fitri.

• *deh* here emphasizes that it's true

8. If she says she wants to end the relationship I won't be surprised. That's what women are like, you know.

• *sih* at the end of clauses like this often helps create a matter of fact, explanatory tone

9. The one on the far left – her name's Sofi, isn't it?

• *kan* here = a question tag, like "isn't it?"

10. How come you're by yourself? Where are your friends?
 - *kok* here suggests surprise: similar to "Why..?" or "How come..?"
11. If I put it up for sale it seems there's no-one *tuh* who would want to buy it.
 - *tuh* here adds emphasis
12. As for what I'd do if I had to choose: I'd choose working in a restaurant.
 - *sih* here has the effect of "As for ..."
13. It's true that jazz music can be boring, but this is different *lho*!
 - *lho* here = an emphatic reminder that what you're saying is true
14. I told you *kan* I wasn't lying.
 - *kan* here suggests 'as you know', i.e. that the hearer already knows this.
15. You're 22, aren't you? And when's your birthday then?
 - *kan* here = a question tag like "isn't it"?
 - *sih* in this question probably makes it sound less abrupt
16. It was really funny *deh* that film.
 - *deh* here emphasizes that it is true
17. C'mon, hurry up! I want to get home *nih*!
 - *dong* here adds emphasis and suggests they should already know what you're telling them
 - *nih* adds emphasis
18. "Have you told your family yet?" "Yeah, of course I have."
 - *kok* here adds emphasis, and suggests the speaker is challenging the earlier implication that s/he might not have told the family.
19. And since when do you think about my feelings? You're just thinking of yourself.
 - *sih* here makes it sound as though the asker is not really interested in getting an answer – which in this context probably makes it sound harsher.
20. That's my own business. There's no need to interfere *lho*.
 - *lho* here is a kind of emphatic warning that what the speaker is saying is true
21. People say he's good looking but I reckon he's just ordinary *tuh*.
 - *tuh* here adds emphasis
22. Okay, then, I'm off to have a wash *nih*.
 - *nih* here adds emphasis
23. Do you know that song, or not? The music's good – (but) as for the lyrics, they're silly in my opinion.
 - *sih* here has the effect of "as for ..."
24. "You can download the file directly". "No you can't. I've tried."
 - *kok* here adds emphasis, and suggests that the speaker is challenging or contradicting the earlier idea
25. Normally *kan* Javanese are more refined.
 - *kan* here suggests 'as you know', i.e. that the hearer already knows this.
26. When I got back home it was already really quiet. They'd already gone, *sih*.
 - *sih* at the end of clauses like this often helps create a matter of fact, explanatory tone