

'-i' vs '-kan' verbs (memasuki vs memasukkan, etc)

With many verbs there is a neat contrast between *-i* and *-kan*. Look below:

Ari **memasuki** mesjid. Ari **entered** the mosque.

Ari **memasukkan** koin. Ali **inserted** a coin.

The Undergoer of “memasuki” is the mosque. *The mosque stays where it is*, while Ari enters it.

The Undergoer of “memasukkan” is the coin. *The coin moves*, when Ari inserts it.

Typically, with an “-i” verb: the Undergoer stays where it is, while the action is directed towards it.

Typically, with a “-kan” verb: the Undergoer moves from one place to another, while it is caused to do or used to do the action.

This contrast between *-i* and *-kan* applies to many verbs. It is a useful ‘rough rule.’¹

Another example of it:

Bu Ani **menawari** tamu itu teh. Bu Ani **offered** the guest tea.

Bu Ani **menawarkan** teh kepada tamu. Bu Ani **offered** tea to the guest.

The Undergoer of “menawari” is “tamu itu”. The guest stays in one place, while this action “menawari” is directed at him/her.

The Undergoer of “menawarkan” is the tea. The tea moves, as this action “menawarkan” is done.

To see that the Undergoer *moves* with a “-kan” verb, sometimes you need a little imagination. Examples:

- Mereka **meneriakkan** yel-yel. They **shouted** chants. (*teriak* = to shout)

The chants move because they fly through the air.

- Dia **menuliskan** kata “Merdeka!” pada tembok. S/he **wrote** the word “Merdeka!” on the wall.

The word “Merdeka” moves from the pen onto the wall.

When you use Passive, the same rule applies. But now the Undergoer, i.e. the thing which moves or doesn’t move, is on the *left* of the verb. E.g.

Passive → Ari **memasuki** mesjid. Ari entered the mosque.
 Mesjid itu **dimasuki** oleh Ari. The mosque was entered by Ari.

Passive → Ari **memasukkan** koin. Ari inserted a coin.
 Koin itu **dimasukkan** oleh Ali. The coin was inserted by Ari.

¹ The endings *-i* and *-kan* do not *always* contrast in this way. On a few verbs, *-i* and *-kan* have the same meaning. Examples: *menyesali* /*menyesalkan* (‘to regret something’); *menyakiti* /*menyakitkan* (‘to hurt someone’); *menamai* /*menamakan* (‘to name someone’)

Exercise 1: Choose **-i** or **-kan**. [Use a *di-* form of the verb when directed]

1. **tawar:** a) Dia menawari tamu itu teh. She offered the guest tea.
b) Dia menawarkan teh kepada tamu itu. She offered tea to the guest.
2. **masuk:** a) Ida _____ surat ke dalam kotak. Ida put the letters into the box.
b) Pak Halim _____ halaman. Pak Halim entered the yard.
3. **dekat** a) Dia _____ kursinya ke meja. She moved her chair closer to the table.
b) Ikan hiu itu _____ Yusuf. The shark approached Yusuf.
4. **tidur** a) Saya _____ ranjang saya yang baru. I slept in my new bed.
b) Dia _____ anaknya. She put her child to bed.
5. **duduk:** a) Mereka _____ kursi belakang. They occupied the back seats.
b) Siti _____ adiknya dulu. Siti sat her little sister down first.
6. **naik:** a) Bu Gah _____ harganya. Bu Gah raised her prices.
b) Ari _____ tangga pelan-pelan. Ari climbed the steps slowly.
7. **pinjam:** a) Dia _____ teman sepedanya. He lent a friend his bicycle.
b) Yudi _____ uang pada Hadi. Yudi lent money to Hadi.
8. **beban:** a) Dia _____ kami dengan tugas. He burdens us with tasks.
b) Dia _____ tugas pada adiknya. She loads tasks onto her sister.
9. **hadir:** a) Kita bisa _____ Pak Agus nanti. We can get Pak Agus here later.
b) Pak Agus tidak _____ rapat tadi. Pak Agus didn't attend the meeting.
10. **kawin:** a) Dia _____ anaknya dengan Pak Pian. She married her daughter off to Pak Pian.
b) Dia _____ pacar sekolahnya. He married his girlfriend from school.
11. **ludah** a) Dia _____ muka Riko. She spat in Riko's face.
b) Dia _____ biji pepaya. He spat out a pepaya seed.
12. **jauh:** a) Anak itu di _____ dari sungai. The child was moved away from the river.
b) Sungai itu harus di _____. That river should be stayed away from.
13. **teriak:** a) Maling itu di _____ warga. The thief was shouted at by the residents.
b) Slogan yang di _____ itu kasar. The slogans that were shouted were rude.
14. **datang:** a) Kampung itu di _____ pejabat. The kampung was visited by officials.
b) Beras itu di _____ dari India. The rice was imported from India.
15. **tulis:** a) Kata "tolong" di _____ nya. The word "help" was written by her.
b) Dinding itu di _____ slogan. The wall had been written on with slogans.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentence, using **-i** or **-kan**.. [Use the *di-* form of the verb when directed]

1. They **wrote on** his car in big letters. [**tulis**]

Mereka _____ **menulisi mobilnya** _____ dalam huruf besar.

2. She **sat** her child on a chair near the door. [**duduk**]

- Dia _____ di dekat pintu.
3. We had to **lift** the fridge onto the truck. [**naik**]
Kami _____ ke atas truk.
4. They all **shouted at** the driver. [**teriak**]
Mereka semua _____.
5. Jono **stays away from** Lina, because he's shy. [**jauh**]
Jono _____, karena dia pemalu.
6. Bu Dulah **offered** Anwar a job. [**tawar**]
Bu Dulah _____ pekerjaan.
7. The tiger slowly **approached** the farmers. [**dekat**]
Harimau itu _____ dengan pelan-pelan.
8. You have to **insert** a card (*kartu*) first. [**masuk**]
Anda _____ dulu.
9. I **was visited** by someone from the Census Office. [**datang**]
_____ di _____ dari Kantor Sensus.
10. The money **was lent** to Bu Lisa for school fees. [**pinjam**]
_____ di _____ kepada Bu Lisa untuk biaya sekolah.
11. She **was spat at** by a villager. [**ludah**]
Dia di-_____.

Answer Key

Exercise 1: 2a) memasukkan 2b) memasuki 3a) mendekatkan 3b) mendekati 4a)meniduri
4b).menidurkan 5a) menduduki 5b) mendudukkan 6a) menaikkan 6b).menaiki 7a) meminjami 7b)
meminjamkan 8a)membebani 8b) membebankan 9a).menghadirkan 9b) menghadiri 10a) mengawinkan
10b) mengawini 11a).meludahi 11b) meludahkan 12a) dijauhkan 12b) dijauhi 13a) diteriaki
13b).diteriakkan 14a)didatangi 14b) didatangkan 15a) dituliskan 15b) ditulisi

Exercise 2: 2) mendudukkan anaknya 3) menaikkan lemari es 4) meneriaki sopir 5).menjauhi Lina 6)
menawari Anwar 7) mendekati petani itu 8) harus memasukkan kartu 9).Saya didatangi seorang 10)
Uang itu dipinjamkan 11) Dia diludahi seorang desa.