

'-kan' to express causation (membersihkan, mengembalikan, etc)

'-kan' is used to make many verbs meaning: to cause something to happen.

Many are based on an adjective. Most mean: to cause something to be [what the adjective says]. Examples:

Lia membersihkan kamarnya.	Lia cleaned her room.	(i.e. she caused it to be <i>bersih</i> : clean)
Polisi membebaskan Hadi.	The police freed Hadi	(i.e. they caused him to be <i>bebas</i> : free)
Dia menyelamatkan anaknya.	She saved her child.	(i.e. she caused it to be <i>selamat</i> : safe)

One special group is based on an adjective that describes a *feeling*. Examples:

Kabar itu mengherankan .	That news was surprising .	[i.e. it causes one to be <i>heran</i> : surprised]
Film ini membosankan .	This film is boring .	[i.e. it causes one to be <i>bosan</i> : bored]
Sikapnya mengecewakan .	His attitude is disappointing .	[i.e. it causes one to be <i>kecewa</i> : disappointed]

Note that we did *not* say (although we could have):

Kabar itu mengherankan KAMI.	That news surprised US.
Film ini membosankan PARA PENONTON.	This film bores THE AUDIENCE.
Sikapnya mengecewakan SAYA.	His attitude disappoints ME.

We just said “Kabar itu *mengherankan*,” etc. So, these *-kan* verbs are used like adjectives. And often they can be translated by English adjectives (such as “surprising”, “boring,” “disappointing”).

Many causative *-kan* verbs are based on an intransitive verb. Most mean: to cause something to do [the action of that verb]. Examples:

Dia mengembalikan buku.	He returned the books.	(i.e. he caused them to <i>kembali</i> : to return)
Dia membangunkan anaknya.	She woke up her child.	(i.e. she caused it to <i>bangun</i> : to wake up)
Saya menghentikan mobil.	I stopped the car.	(i.e. I caused it to <i>berhenti</i> : to stop)

Some are based on a noun. A number mean: to cause something to be [what the noun says]. Examples:

Dia mengorbankan kariernya demi keluarga.	[i.e. she caused it to be a <i>korban</i> : a sacrifice]
She sacrificed her career for her family.	
Kami mencalonkan Pak Gafur sebagai ketua.	[i.e. we caused him to be a <i>calon</i> : a candidate]
We nominated Pak Gafur as chairman	
Mereka merahasiakan pembunuhan itu.	[i.e. they caused them to be a <i>rahasia</i> : a secret]
They kept those killings a secret .	

When the base noun is a place, the most common meaning is: to cause someone to go to that place. Examples:

Mereka ingin menyekolahkan anaknya.	[i.e. to cause it to go to a <i>sekolah</i> : school]
Mr and Mrs Salim want to send their child to school .	
Para mahasiswa itu dipenjarakan .	[i.e. were caused to go to a <i>penjara</i> : a prison]
The university students were imprisoned .	

Exercise 1. Put a *-kan* verb in each space. Use these adjectives as the base words:

aman (secure) **panas** (hot) **bersih** (clean) **selamat** (safe) **kuat** (strong) **bebas** (free)

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| 1. Siapa yang mau <u>membersihkan</u> dapur? | Who's going to <u>clean</u> the kitchen? |
| 2. Ali angkat besi untuk _____ badan. | Ali lifts weights to <u>strengthen</u> his body. |
| 3. TNI belum _____ daerah itu. | The TNI has not yet <u>secured</u> that area. |
| 4. Para dokter _____ kedua anak sakit itu. | The doctors <u>saved</u> the two sick children. |
| 5. Dia _____ susu untuk anaknya. | She <u>heated</u> some milk for her child. |
| 6. Tentara itu _____ para sandera. | The army <u>freed</u> the hostages. |

Exercise 2 Use each 'feeling' adjective to make a *-kan* verb. Then translate the sentence.

- (bosan) Buku ini agak membosankan . = This book's rather boring .
- (heran) Keputusan itu _____ . = That decision _____ .
- (senang) Pesta itu cukup _____ . = _____ .
- (sedih) Cerita itu sangat _____ . = _____ .
- (kecewa) Nilai ujian Rina _____ . = _____ .
- (curiga) Suara itu _____ . = _____ .

Exercise 3. Make a *-kan* verb based on the 'bare' verb on the left. Then translate your sentence.

- Pak Yusuf belum kembali. Saya harus mengembalikan kemeja itu.
= I have to return that shirt .
- Saya mau mandi. Bu Yani _____ anaknya.
= _____
- Anjing itu sudah mati. Erna _____ lampu.
= _____
- Boleh saya masuk? Dia _____ kartu di mesin fotokopi.
= _____
- Saya kira dia masih hidup. Tuti _____ mesin cuci.
= _____
- Ari sudah keluar. Indonesia _____ koresponden itu.
= _____
- Dia masih tidur. Ibu Gah _____ anaknya.
= _____
- Saya bangun jam 8. Jono _____ adiknya.
= _____
- Dalam perang itu, Perancis kalah. Tentara Republik _____ Belanda.
= _____
- Pasien itu cepat sembuh. Dokter itu _____ banyak orang desa.

11. Bus itu berhenti.

= _____
Polisi itu _____ Maria di jalan.
= _____

Exercise 4. Put a *-kan* verb in each space. [Use the 'di-' form of the verb when necessary.]

penjara (a prison)

sukses (a success)

rumah (a house)

korban (a victim)

gudang (a warehouse)

rahasia (a secret)

sekolah (a school)

calon (a candidate)

1. Mengapa dia tidak dicalonkan sebagai Presiden?

Why wasn't she nominated as President?

2. Ali _____ selama 8 tahun.

Ali was imprisoned for 8 years.

3. 8.000 orang yang _____ dalam perang itu .

8,000 people were sacrificed in that war.

4. (slogan) Mari kita _____ Pemilu!

Let's make the General Election a success!

5. Mereka tidak mampu _____ anaknya.

They can't afford to send their child to school.

6. Mengapa beras itu _____ saja?

Why was that rice just stored in a warehouse?

7. Banyak karyawan yang _____

A lot of employees were laid off .

8. Laporan ini harus _____ .

This report has to be kept confidential.

Answer Key

Exercise 1: 2. menguatkan 3. mengamankan 4. menyelamatkan 5. memanaskan 6. membebaskan

Exercise 2: 2. mengherankan - 'is surprising' 3. menyenangkan - That party was quite enjoyable.

4. menyedihkan - That story is very sad(dening). 5. mengecewakan - Rina's exam mark was disappointing. 6.

mencurigakan - That noise is suspicious.

Exercise 3: 2. memandikan - Bu Yani bathed her child. 3. mematikan - Erna turned off the light.

4. memasukkan - S/he inserted a card into the photocopier. 5. menghidupkan - Tuti turned on the washing

machine. 6. mengeluarkan – Indonesia expelled that correspondent. 7. menidurkan - Ibu Gah put her child to

bed. 8. membangunkan - Jono woke up his little brother. 9. mengalahkan - The Republican army defeated the

Dutch. 10. menyembuhkan - That doctor cured many villagers. 11. menghentikan - The police stopped Maria

in the street.

Exercise 4: 2. dipenjarakan 3. dikorbankan 4. menyukseskan 5. menyekolahkan 6. digudangkan

7. dirumahkan 8. dirahasiakan