

ke-an and peN-an to make nouns (kebersihan, pembersihan, etc).

“Ke-an” is used to make many nouns. Generally, these nouns refer to abstract things (e.g. “beauty”, rather than concrete objects.

Many are based on an adjective. Most simply mean: the quality described by the adjective.

Examples:

[Public health slogan] Jagalah **kebersihan!**

Maintain cleanliness! [*bersih*: clean]

Kecepatan mobil itu 200 kilometer per jam.

The speed of that car is 200 kph. [*cepat*: fast]

The quality of being ‘bersih’ is ‘kebersihan’ (cleanliness). The quality of being ‘cepat’ is ‘kecepatan’ (‘fastness’; speed). And so on.

“peN-an” is also used to make many nouns. They come from “meN-” verbs, and nearly all mean: the act of doing what that verb says. Examples:

Penulisan buku itu sangat lambat. The **writing** of that book was very slow. [*menulis*: to write]

Pengajaran kimia itu penting. The **teaching** of chemistry is important. [*mengajar*: to teach]

We call these nouns *peN-an* nouns because the exact form taken by “pe” depends on the base word. The sound rules are the same as when forming ‘meN-’ verbs. So, for example:

* **tulis** → MENulis → PENulisan

* **ajar** → MENGajar → PENGajaran

Some ‘ke-an nouns have a matching ‘peN-an’ noun. In most cases, there is a neat contrast in meaning. the ke-an’ noun refers to a quality, while the ‘peN-an’ noun refers to an act. Compare:

Dia sangat menghargai **kebebasan**. She values **freedom** highly. (i.e. the *quality* of being free)

Dia ikut organisasi **pembebasan** Palestina. She joined an organisation for the **freeing** of Palestine. (i.e. for the *act* of freeing it; of liberating it.)

Other such pairs are:

kebersihan (cleanliness) vs **pembersihan** (the act of cleaning something)

kekuatan (strength) vs **penguatan** (the act of strengthening something)

keselamatan (safety) vs **penyelamatan** (the act of saving something)

Exercise 1. Say it with a ke-an noun. (Use this list of adjectives below to help you.)

kuat cepat merdeka cantik selamat kaya bersih miskin bebas

1. Saya kagum pada kebersihan desa itu. [cleanliness]
2. _____ keluarga itu luar biasa. [wealth]
3. Aktor itu terkenal dengan _____ nya. [beauty]
4. Bagaimana mengoptimalkan _____ komputer Anda? [speed]
5. Tanggal berapa tanggal _____? [independence]
6. _____ penumpang sangat penting. [safety]
7. Kamu tahu apa sih tentang _____? [poverty]
8. Sudah ada _____ pers di sana. [freedom]
9. Yang penting bukan _____ badan. [strength]

Exercise 2. Supply the right peN-an noun each time. Use this list of verbs to help you:

mengajar: to teach **membakar:** to burn **menjual:** to sell **membebaskan:** to free

menulis: to write **menembak:** to shoot **memakai:** to use **menutup:** to close **menemukan:** to discover

1. Bagaimana pengajaran di sekolah itu? “What’s the teaching like ...?”
2. Guru itu melarang _____ bahasa Inggris di kelas. “... the use of English”
3. _____ warga asing itu telah diumumkan. “The freeing of that foreigner ...”
4. _____ cabang bank sering terjadi di kota kecil.. “The closure of bank branches ...”
5. Anda setuju dengan _____ uranium ke luar negeri? “... the sale of uranium ...”
6. Ada berita tentang _____ dua mayat. “...the discovery of two bodies.”
7. Riset untuk esai ini mudah saja. Yang sulit, _____ nya. “What’s hard is the writing.”
8. _____ orang itu melanggar Konvensi Geneva. “The shooting of those people ...”
9. Kendi menonton upacara _____ mayat di Bali. “the burning of a body”, i.e. a cremation

Exercise 3. Say it using a ‘peN-an’ word from Exercise 2 each time.

1. [The closure of nightclubs] Isu penutupan klub malam selama bulan suci itu agak kontroversial.
2. [The use of dictionaries] _____ di ujian ini terlarang keras.

3. [the teaching of maths] _____ agak sulit dibuat menarik.
4. [important discoveries] Banyak _____ di bidang fisika tahun lalu.
5. [that burning of the US flag] Aksi _____ dilakukan di pusat kota.
6. [the sale of alcohol] _____ terlarang di negeri itu.
7. [Mysterious Shootings] Masih ingat “Petrus”? Artinya “ _____”.
8. [the freeing of slaves] Ada kampanye untuk _____.
9. [the writing of short stories] Pada dekade itulah _____ menjadi populer.

Answer Key

Exercise 1. 2) Kekayaan 3) kecantikannya 4) kecepatan 5) kemerdekaan 6) keselamatan 7) kemiskinan 8) kebebasan 9) kekuatan

Exercise 2. 2) pemakaian 3) pembebasan 4) penutupan 5) penjualan 6) penemuan 7) penulisan 8) penembakan 9) pembakaran

Exercise 3. 2) pemakaian kamus 3) pengajaran matematika 4) penemuan penting 5) pembakaran bendera AS 6) penjualan alkohol 7) Pemembakan Misterius 8) pembebasan budak 9) penulisan cerpen (*cerita pendek*)