

“Yang” with Passive

Sometimes “yang” is followed by a *meN-* verb. Example:

Dia orang yang **MEM**bantu kita tadi. She is the person who helped us earlier.

We said “orang yang **MEM**bantu”. This is because the “orang” did the action.

But what if we want to say, for instance, “She is the person who Ari helped”? You might be tempted to say it as: “Dia orang yang Ari *membantu*.”

But Indonesian doesn’t accept this. The problem is: “the person who Ari helped” actually *means* “the person who was helped by Ari.” And that is the only way Indonesian allows you to say it. So:

Dia orang yang dibantu oleh Ari. √ (Not: Dia orang yang Ari membantu. X)

This can seem strange at first, because in English we don’t need to say “the person who was helped by Ari”. We can express it as “the person who Ari helped”, instead. But no such structure exists in Indonesian.

Other examples:

(a) “The house which Lina will sell is very old” = “The house which will be sold by Lina...”

So:

Rumah yang akan dijual oleh Lina itu tua sekali. Not: “Rumah yang Lina akan *menjual* ...”

(b) “This is the magazine which I read” = “This is the magazine which is read by me”.

So:

Ini majalah yang saya baca. Not: “Ini majalah yang saya *membaca*.”

Yang often can be translated as “What”:

* *Yang* penting bukan uang.
What is important isn’t money.

* *Yang* jelas dia bohong.
What is clear is that he lied.

In this type of sentence, too, we must take care to use the passive when necessary. Examples:

* What that person saw ... = *Yang* dilihat orang itu... Not: *Yang* orang itu *melihat*... X
(i.e. “What was seen by that person...”)

* What we must look for ... = *Yang* harus kita cari... Not: *Yang* harus kita *mencari* ... X
(i.e. “What must be looked for by us....”)

Notes:

* To say “What I *know* (is) ...”, the technically correct way is “*Yang* saya ketahui...” (i.e. “What is known by me ...”). But many Indonesians, even many educated ones, often just say “*Yang* saya tahu...” instead.

* To say “What I don’t *understand* (is)...”, Indonesians say “*Yang* tidak saya MENGerti”. This is correct. It is passive: it means “What is not understood by me...”. *Mengerti* is a unique verb: it keeps its *meN-* prefix when it becomes passive.

Exercise 1. Use “yang” plus the right verb form (Active or Passive)

1. Anak yang kita lihat itu lucu sekali ya? [who we saw”]
2. Ini baju _____ [that Nani washed]
3. Dia mencari buku _____ [that you borrowed]
4. Orang _____ itu sudah pergi. [who took your money]
5. Apa _____? [do you usually eat?]
6. Apa dia guru _____? [who teaches in that SD]
7. Sepatu _____ di Italia itu sudah rusak. [that she bought]
8. Barang-barang _____ tidak boleh dipakai. [that haven’t been paid for]

Exercise 2. Say it with “yang”. Use Active or Passive as appropriate.

1. These is the dress I wear when there’s a party.
= Ini rok YANG saya pakai kalau ada pesta.
2. The letter Putu sent yesterday still hasn’t arrived.

3. (in a shop) I’d like this cloth that’s already been cut.

4. I want to meet the person who wrote that letter.

5. These are the magazines you asked for yesterday.

6. I think the bag they took was Bu Minah’s.

7. The money Samsul stole yesterday was more than 100,000 rupiah.

8. That girl listening to the radio lives near me.

9. The pupil who he hit is in the principal’s office now.

10. Is this the book you’re looking for?

11. These are the shoes that you want to try (on), aren’t they?

12. I phoned the friend who borrowed my bike.

13. The food Andita takes to school is cooked by her older sister.

Exercise 3. Say it in Indonesia with “yang”. Use Passive when necessary

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|---|----------------------------|
| 1. <u>Yang jelas</u> , kita harus mencari orang lain. | [What’s clear] |
| 2. Ya, itu benar. _____, saya memukul dia. | [But what isn’t true] |
| 3. _____, cuaca yang terlalu panas. | [What I hate] |
| 4. _____, mereka sudah selamat. | [What’s important] |
| 5. _____ adalah peran Australia. | [What I want to ask about] |
| 6. _____ adalah buku-buku ini. | [What helped us a lot] |
| 7. Membaca itu mudah. _____, menulis. | [What’s difficult] |
| 8. _____ adalah bahwa kita satu bangsa. | [What we must remember] |
| 9. _____ mengapa dia pergi. | [What I don’t understand] |
| 10. _____, sikap dia. | [What makes us angry] |
| 11. _____, banyak orang yang lapar di sana. | [What I know] |
| 12. _____ adalah nasib kita sendiri. | [What we must think about] |
| 13. _____, keterangan saja. | [What I’m looking for] |

Answer Key

Exercise 1 2. yang dicuci oleh Nani. 3. yang Anda pinjam. 4. yang mengambil uang Anda 5. yang biasanya Anda makan 6. yang mengajar di SD itu 7. yang dia beli 8. yang belum dibayar

Exercise 2 2. Surat yang dikirim oleh Putu kemarin itu belum juga sampai. 3. Saya mau kain yang sudah dipotong ini. 4. Saya ingin bertemu dengan orang yang menulis surat itu. 5. Ini majalah-majalah yang Anda minta kemarin itu. 6. Saya kira tas yang mereka bawa itu tas Bu Minah. 7. Uang yang dicuri oleh Samsul kemarin itu Rp 100.000 lebih. 8. Gadis yang mendengarkan radio itu tinggal di dekat rumah saya. 9. Murid yang dia pukul itu berada di kantor kepala sekolah sekarang. 10. Apa ini buku yang Anda cari? 11. Inilah sepatu yang mau Anda coba, bukan? 12. Saya menelpon teman yang meminjam sepeda saya itu. 13. Makanan yang dibawa ke sekolah oleh Andita itu dimasak oleh kakaknya.

Exercise 3 2. Tetapi yang tidak benar 3. Yang saya benci 4. Yang penting 5. Yang mau saya tanyakan 6. Yang sangat membantu kami 7. Yang sukar 8. Yang harus kita ingat 9. Yang tidak saya mengerti 10. Yang membuat kami marah 11. Yang saya ketahui 12. Yang harus kita pikirkan 13. Yang saya cari

