

TENTU – words to do with ‘certain, definite’

* Saya **tentu** akan kembali ke Padang tetapi saya belum tahu kapan.

*I will **definitely** / **certainly** come back to Padang, but I don't know when yet.*

* Orang yang terlihat sehat **belum tentu** sehat.

*People who look healthy are **not necessarily** healthy.*

* Kami sudah **menentukan** tanggal pernikahan.

*We **have already set** / **decided on** a wedding date.*

* Tanggal pernikahannya sudah **ditentukan**.

*The wedding date has already **been set** / **decided on**.*

* Ada diskriminasi terhadap migran dari negara-negara **tertentu**.

*There was discrimination towards migrants from **particular** / **specific** / **certain** countries.*

Notes

* **tentu** (adj / adv.): definite, certain; definitely, certainly

[a very common phrase is “*belum tentu*”, meaning ‘not necessarily’.]

* **menentukan** (v): to determine (something), to set (sth.), to decide on (sth.). [i.e., to cause it to be “*tentu*”: definite.]

* **tertentu** (adj.): particular, specific, certain.

[“*tertentu*” means “particular, specific”. Unfortunately the English word “certain” can also be used to convey that meaning (e.g., “*certain* types of foods”), and that confuses some students into thinking, wrongly, that they can use the word “*tentu*” to mean “particular, specific”. But the word must be ‘*tertentu*’.]

Practice. Say it in Indonesian. For each word in bold use a TENTU word. (Be ready to choose between *menentukan* and *ditentukan* as needed.)

1. Next year I will **definitely** ask for a raise in wages. [with ‘kenaikan’]
2. This book can help you **to set** realistic goals. [with ‘tujuan’]
3. That subsidy will not **necessarily** help people to buy their own house. [with ‘belum’]
4. There are **certain** / **particular** fields of work that are rarely chosen by women. [with ‘bidang’]
5. S/he believes that the future **is determined** by fate. [with ‘takdir’]

6. Raising a child alone is **certainly** not easy. [with 'Membesarkan']
7. That fish market is extremely busy at **certain / particular** hours. [with 'ramai']
8. The president is still popular, but s/he will not **necessarily** win next year. [with 'belum']
9. We have to write an essay but I haven't **decided on** a topic. [with 'esai' and 'topik']
10. That regulation is **definitely** not fair for students from overseas.
11. Most children reject **certain / specific** types of foods. [with 'menolak']